# LG discusses strategy to counter drug abuse menace

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday chaired the 5th UT level meeting of Narco Center Coordination (NCORD).

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh, senior officers of Police, J&K administration and concerned UT and central agencies.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the action taken on the directions passed during 4th NCORD meeting and discussed the comprehensive both for the UT and District Level initiatives to counter the menace of drug



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha chairing the 5th UT level meeting of NCORD on Monday.

The Lt Governor also discussed action plan prepared by the task force, headed by Special DG (Crime) A.K. Choudhary.

The Lt Governor called for enhanced coordination between all the security and drug law enforcement agen-

"The action plan of the task force highlights the UT administration's zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics." he said.

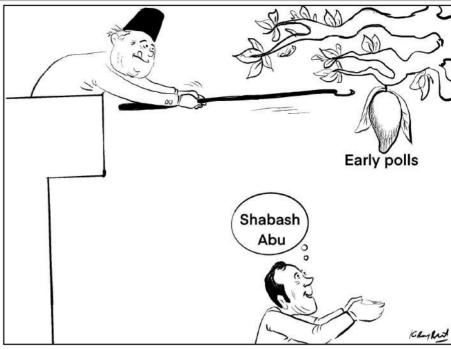
The Lt Governor called for stringent action against the drug traffickers, increased IEC activities, involvement

ty building of police officers and drug enforcement agen-

Higher Education and School Education department and concerned officers were directed to intensify awareness campaigns and Nasha Mukt Panchayat Abhiyaan a mass

movement. were issued to District officers to ensure effective use of the Nidaan portal and to follow the directions of the NCORD meeting in letter and spirit. During the meeting Special DG (Crime) A.K.Choudhary briefed the chair on the agenda points and the measures put in place to effectively tackle the menace of drugs.

R K Goyal, ACS, Home Department; RR Swain, Special DG CID; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt ADGPs; Governor; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other senior officers of Police and Civil administration also attended the meeting.



## Mayor Jammu flags off Sudhmahadev Chhari Yatra



Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Kumar Sharma flagging off Sudhmahadev Chhari Yatra from Jammu.

## Basohli being developed as hub for water sports, sustainable tourism: Secy

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Series of cultural festivities and other events on Monday marked commemoration of Environment Day by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Bani Basohli Development Authority at the Tourist Reception Centre, Basohli.

Pertinently, Department of Tourism under the leadership of Secretary Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, is committed in its endeavour to promote Off Beat Tourist destinations and adventure tourism. "Basohli, being an Off Beat Tourist destination and major water sports destination for the Jammu region, is being promoted for adventure tourism along with leisure and heritage tourism by the Tourism Department".

The day long celebrations began with an 'Eco-Tourism Awareness Rally' by the local school children under the theme of "Beat Plastic Pollution" which is the official campaign theme of



Secretary Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah felicitating a girl child.

2023' and is being globally celebrated with the hashtag #beatplastic pollution. The rally was flagged off from Atal Setu Bridge which culminated at TRC Basohli.

The festivities were formally inaugurated by Secretary Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah with launch of a plantation drive.

Development District Council Chairman, Kathua, Colonel Mahan besides Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai. Special Secretary, Tourism Department, Amarjeet Director Planning, Tourism, Yasir Balwan, Chief Executive Officer, Bani Development Authority Desh Raj Bhagat and Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Sunaina Sharma besides other officers of Tourism Department and district administration were present

The dignitaries also visited the departmental stalls and interacted with the artisans of local Handloom and Handicraft products which were displayed at the venue under the theme "Humari Kala Humari Pehchann".

Basohli

Painting exhibition was also organized on the occasion which received huge appreciation from the visiting dignitaries. Also, the Department of Handloom, J&K had put on a live display of tradition-

While speaking on the occasion, Secretary said that the Department of Tourism is committed towards promoting Basohli as a major tourist destination of J&K. The department shall make all endeavours to bring it to the global tourist map with modern day state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure, he added.

He said that all critical gaps that need to be worked upon, shall be addressed by the Tourism Department, especially under the aegis of Swadesh Darshan' and other similar schemes of the Union Tourism Ministry. He appealed all the stakeholders to join hands with the department to usher in an era of collaborative efforts to take Basohli to greater

The main highlight of the festivities was water sports activities organized by the

department during the event. Secretary along with his team of senior officers participated in water sports activities like Boating, Jet Skiing, Cruise along with local stakeholders.

The day long festivities also witnessed mesmerizing cultural performances by the artists of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages which included folk dance performances, song and music performances. The festivities concluded with the distribution of certificates among the participants of the Live Painting Competition in which first place went to Shivakashi Sharma, Rekha Rani fetched second place Aastha Billawaria secured third place.

Among others present on the occasion included Sumesh Sapolia, Chairman MC Basholi, Sushma Jamwal, BDC Plai, Sushma Thakur, BDC Dhar Mahanpur, Tejinder Singh DDC member Mahanpur, Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Tourism Publicity and officers and Handloom/ Handicrafts, Tourism departments and district adminis-

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Annual Sudhmahadev Chhari Yatra commenced from ancient Panibakhtar temple Jammu to Shiv Temple of Shri Shul Paneshwar Ji Maharaj, Sudhmahadev.

Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation, Rajinder Kumar Sharma along with Col. M L Thapa, Choudhary (Corporator) and former President Bar Association flagged off Chhari Yatra.

1008 Shri Damodar Dass Maharaj fromVrindaban took the Chhari to Sudhmahadev.

Talking to media, Maharaj said that this

place has its reference in various religions books such Shiv Puran also.

Chhari enroute Sudhmahadev welcomed by Shiv devotees in Kol Kandoli where hundreds of Shiv Devotees gathered to have darshan of Holy

In Chenani town, local Shiv Samiti welcomed the Chhahri Yatra with gar-

At Bus Stand Chennani, the artists came from Uttarakhand performed Shiv Tandav and Shiv

Chhari was Garlanded in Bashat Village by locals including Muslim brethren

At Sudhmahadev Town,

SSP Udhampur Dr Vinod Kumar, Tehsildar (Mela Officer) Ved Prakash, Naib Tehsildar Sudershan Kumar with Sarpanches and Prominent Citizens garlanded the Chhari Yatra.

Samiti Members Narinder Sharma, Varun Magotra Ram Magotra, Rajesh Behal. Raj Kumar Sodhi flanked by Chhari of Bagwan Shul Paneshwar Maharaj thanked thousands of Shiv Bhakts who welcomed the Chhari Mubarak enroute serving langer of delicioius food in Durgesh Nandni Langar.

## Union Minister Hardeep Puri visits B&J Hospital, State Cancer Institute Jammu

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister for Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday visited Bone & Joint Hospital and State Cancer Institute Jammu and took a stock ongoing works Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma,

Principal and Dean GMC welcomed Minister and all the dignitaries and said GMC Jammu is fast emerging as an exponential growing health care facility striving to be one of the best Healthcare institutions in the country.

With the start of the SCI & Bone & Joint Hospital, the Patients of Jammu province will be greatly benefitted and for providing the best cancer care services, she said adding that GMC has signed an MoU with Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai as per the directions of the LG J&K.

Dr. Jitender Mehta, Nodal Officer Bone and Joint (B&J)



Hospital and State Cancer Institute Jammu apprised the Minister about the completion of project. Dr Deepak Kumar, Dy

Medical Superintendent State Cancer Institute Jammu informed that OPD services in the department of Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Surgical Oncology and Pain/Palliative Care and Preventive Oncology have been made functional.

Dr. Sanjay Dogra gave a brief overview of the status of works and the proposed plan of operationalisation.

The Minister congratulated

Principal GMC and her team great team work and expansion and adoption of best healthcare practices by GMC and lauded the efforts of all the concerned officials.

Programme was attended by Jugal Kishore Sharma MP, Sat Sharma and Priva Sethi former Ministers. Narinder Singh, Parmod Kapahi Corporator and BJP District President Purnima Sharma. Ex Dy mayor Jammu, HoDs, Administrator AHJ, Medical Suptds. and faculty of various Departments, Dy Medical Superintendents and XENs Mechanical/Civil/ Electrical.

### MASROOR AHMAD

BUDGAM: With a significant improvement in weather conditions the cherry picking has begun in many parts of the central north and south Kashmir

The varieties of cherry are being harvested in Srinagar, Budgam, Sopore, Ganderbal and Shopian districts, but due to bad weather conditions this year fruit Mandi Parimpora received very less quantity of cherries.

Ghulam Qadir Bhat, a cherry dealer in Parimpora fruit Mandi told The State Times on Monday that this year we received very low quantity of cherries because weather conditions were not favourable throughout the Valley in past two months.

He said this year cherry farmers were expecting reap bumper crop but due to heavy hailstorm ranging in size from small to large stones causing significant harm to the Cherry, Strawberry including Apple orchards and other agriculture crops.

The sudden and destructive hail storm swept through dozen of vil-



lages across north and other parts of Kashmir.

Another cherry grower and dealer, Abdul Hameed Bhat of Batpora area of Srinagar told the State Times, that this year we are facing heavy losses and this is not only in north or south Kashmir but also in central parts of Kashmir like Budgam including parts of Srinagar where cherry fruit is cultivating like Theed, Harwen and Batpora.

According to Chief Horticulture Officer Ganderbal Kashmir Abdul Hameed, harvesting of cherry is in full swing, around 4700 hectares of land are under cherry cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the region produces annually around 13000 to 15000 thousand metric tons of cherries and are harvesting from different districts, while as this

year weather conditions was not as much as favourable this is the main reason that farmers are not satisfied

Over the past two years the farmers cultivation horticulture crops suffered losses, initially due to COVID-19 outbreak inclement weather conditions and last year due to continuous blockade of NH44 most of the fruit got damaged and now this year once again farmers are witnessing inclement weather and heavy loss-

Kashmir is famous for the Double and Makhmali cherries, double cherry is mostly used by food processing industry as canned cherry in Kashmir and out-side the valley as well.

The Kashmir Valley fruit Growers and Dealers Union has been pleading with the government to implement the crop Insurance Scheme so that there will be a little relief in the event of minor calamities, but the scheme is not yet implemented which may kindly be introduced in the interest of fruit growers.

### India witnessed massive infrastructural development Need to revive India's old culture and restore 'Sanatan during 9 yrs of BJP Rule: Kavinder

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

(WEST BONGAON BENGAL): Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir has asserted that India has achieved unprecedented heights in terms of infrastructure development through its 'Vikas Tirath' (Developmental Journey) at the national and international levels during the short span of nine years of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Govt at the Centre.

He said that the Vikas Tirath-Land port coming up at a cost of Rs. 2500 crore at Indo-Bangladesh Border proves the commitment of the B-JP Govt to development leading to huge economic thrust.

He stated this during his visit to Vikas Tirath Darshan at Petrapol Indo-Bangla Border, Bongaon in West Bengal. said India has achieved unprecedented



welcomed at Bongaon.

heights at the national and international level with priority focus on development and econ-

He said that the upcoming land port in this region along the Indo-Bangla border bears testimony to the Govt's commitment to equitable development in all the regions. He said that this land port project is going to give a massive boost to the economy of this region in particular and ultimately the nation at large.

He said that as on today

almost 8000 traders and 800 trucks are moving on daily basis along this border region and these numbers will get further multiplied once the port starts working. Earlier, the officials at the Indo-Bangla Border gave a marvelous presentation about the functioning of Border, which undoubtedly was the main attraction of the day-long hectic schedule.

Later: the senior BJP leader addressed a press conference at District Party Office. He said that the Modi Govt is all set for

a big victory in the 2024 Parliamentary polls as the Party has set a target to win at least 35 seats from West Bengal against the existing 18 held by it. He said that presently West Bengal has a total 42 Lok Sabha seats out of which 18 are in the BJP kitty and asserted that the next target of BJP in the upcoming 2024 elections is that of 35 seats which will be achieved by dint of hard work by the party's foot soldiers on ground besides the unprecedented achievements playing a vital role in achieving the set target. Later, Kavinder Gupta, while addressing bloggers and influencers meet, highlighted the achievements during the 9 years tenure of PM Narendra Modi. It is pertinent to mention here

that the senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta visited the Bongaon Organizational District as part of BJP's Maha Jana Samparak Abhiyan Prayas as Central leader.

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS** JAMMU: The sense of grati-

tude towards creation and nature is the first feature of Sanatan Dharma-Culture. Sanatan culture teaches us a sense of gratitude, which gives us new inspiration to move forward continuously.

This was stated by Jagadguru Shankaracharya ShriAvimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji Maharaj on Monday while addressing the devotees during Abhinandan programme at residence of JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla.

Revered seer Jammu today and welcomed by devotees from Jammu Airport to Raman Bhalla resi-

Addressing devotees. Jagadguru Shankaracharya said that Hinduism is beyond doubt proven to be the world's oldest religion.

"India is abode to the



dharma' principles: Jagadguru Shankaracharya

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla paying obeisance to Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Shri 1008 Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji Maharai

Dharma and Sanathan Hinduism is considered to be the way of life. Greatness of Hinduism is inclusiveness and well being of all reflected by saying Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavantu. Since centuries there has been attack on Sanathan Dharma in several ways which is continuing even today. Against all odds Hinduism stood due to the sacrifices, courage and unity of true sons of soil," Jagadguru Shankaracharya

Jagadguru Shankaracharya emphasized the need to revive India's old culture and restore 'Sanatan dharma' principles by spreading proper education in the country.

"Everyone has to work towards reviving the old culture of the country, not because we have to go back but because we have to bring back the 'Sanatan' principles and this is not possible without education," he said.

said Swami Vivekananda had said the

purpose of human life is the attainment of knowledge, and humility is the result of knowledge. Anyone who has humility cannot be looked down upon, he added. He said that public welfare is the basis of religion, religion inspires us to take public welfare forward.

Jagadguru Shankaracharya said all religions, cultures and creeds have come and ended in the world, many will come and go in the future too, but Chir Sanatan Dharma is still alive in the same state, so the only reason for this is the concept of public welfare, which gives us Sarve Bhavantu Sukhin: Sarve Santu Niramaya and Vasudhaiva gives the concept of Kutumbakam.

Restoring the glory of Vedas will ensure the welfare of the entire world and for this to happen we all have to dedicate ourselves to the cause.