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Yatri Niwas will..

and ensure a seamless experience, he added.
The Lt Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the devotees of Shri Amarnath; officials of the Shrine Board, all stakeholders and organizations associated with Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and the people of Jammu region for the commencement of the construction work of the Yatri Niwas.

"I am immensely grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board's Yatri Niwas at Jammu. This new facility will ease the lives of devotees embarking on annual pilgrimage of Baba Amarnath," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Union Petroleum Minister for approving 4-5 more Yatri Niwas under CSR initiatives for Baba Shri Amarnath Ji's devotees. This Seva of pilgrims on the holy pilgrimage is really appreciable, he said.

He also expressed gratitude to Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman ONGC and lauded the Board of Directors of ONGC for their outstanding support in realizing the dream of Yatri Niwas and Disaster Management Center at Jammu.

The Lt Governor impressed upon the executing agencies and all the workers engaged in the construction work to develop the Yatri Niwas as a centre of spirituality which will provide divine experience to the devotees.

"Baba Amarnath's holy pilgrimage is the highest peak of spiritual experience. The construction work of Yatri Niwas should be carried out with complete devotion and a grateful heart," the Lt Governor said.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are working with greater commitment and devotion to scale up the facilities including lodging, transportation, medical, and better connectivity for the safe and hassle-free pilgrimage of the devotees, said the Lt Governor.

DPR for Chandanwari-Panjtarni- Sangam Top-Baltal road being prepared by NHID-CL is at advanced stage. On completion, this road will provide smooth passage to the pilgrims, he observed.

Last year, the maximum number of 3.65 lakh pilgrims visited the Holy Shrine of Shri Amarnathji, since 2015. As many as 120 additional bank branches were added last year to facilitate the registration of the pilgrims and this year the registration facility is being provided through 542 branches across the country, he added.

In 2021, the initiatives of online Darshan, Hawan and Prasad were taken to facilitate the devotees. Moreover, Yatri Niwas at Chandrakot which was inaugurated in June last year accommodated around 50,000 devotees, he further said.

The Lt Governor said the work for upgradation of Yatra track has been done on a war footing and the work was resumed after snow clearance in March this year.

We are making dedicated efforts to strengthen communication connectivity. Telecommunication towers, Cell on Wheels are being installed by the telecom service providers, besides Army is laying an Optical fiber cable from Sonamarg to Holy Cave, he added.

Designed by School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, the Yatri Niwas is set for completion within 18-month time period.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairperson DDC Jammu; Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman, ONGC; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Padma Shri Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri; members of SASB; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration and a large number of people were present.

Baba Amarnath & Buda Amarnath Yatri Niwas President Pawan Kumar Kohli said that today's stone laying ceremony for construction of Yatri Niwas is the outcome of our demand to provide enhanced facilities to the yatrins coming to perform various Yatras in J&K UT.

One more is under construction at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar with three thousand capacity and the coming Bhawan at Majeen Jammu will give big relief to the Yatrins at the time of heavy rush at Jammu and particularly during their return journey when they are not allowed to stay at Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, he said.

Real estate summit..

Referring to the December 2021 first Real estate summit in Jammu, which opened the Union Territory to the country's investors - who signed 39 MoUs worth nearly Rs 19,000 crore for the development of housing, hotel and commercial projects, Puri said the ministry is holding one more summit in the coming times in Srinagar.

"The real investment potential of the region will be explored fully. The general feeling among the outside analysts was that the 21st century belongs to Asia but they have changed their opinion and are now saying that the 21st century belongs to India.

"Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and we are proud of it," he said, adding the Union Territory has great significance for the country and has witnessed a lot of development over the past nine years.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, the minister said, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a change in the ground situation at a very fast pace.

"The available data and specific figures of Jammu and Kashmir shows significant improvement in the security situation, which facilitates investment. The youth are qualifying in national level competitions and also actively take part in the economic resurgence," Puri said.

Asked about the delay in the assembly elections, he said the region is going through a transition phase and is coming out of a prolonged insurgency. "The progress is achieved because the security situation has improved and the concerned people will take the decision (on holding of much-awaited assembly elections)."

On regularisation of unauthorised colonies, he said this is a different issue and will be dealt with in the same way as other parts of the country.

On frequent hikes in petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices, the minister said India is importing 80 per cent crude oil and 50 per cent natural gas from outside to meet its requirements and therefore the prices of these entirely depended on international prices.

"Prime minister reduced the central excise duty twice in November 2021 and May 2022. The BJP-ruled states also joined in and provided concessions to the public but the states run by non-BJP parties made no concession," he said, adding the fuel prices in BJP-ruled states are lower than the non-BJP-ruled states.

He also blamed the previous UPA government for the price hike and said the government in 2012 came up with a novel way to keep the prices down by coming out with oil bonds, putting pressure on the new government.

On the question of freebies offered by several opposition parties to the people in their ruled states, he said there are two competing models before the public to decide.

"The Modi model of governance is development centric and includes 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', while the second model is of freebies model. It is basically the taxpayers' money, which is being misused," he said.

'Opposition politicizing Odisha..

2)," the Union Housing and Urban Affairs minister told reporters at the BJP headquarters here.

Responding to a question about the opposition attack on the central government over the tragedy which claimed over 275 lives and rendered over 1200 injured, he said despite all the safety measures, something can go wrong which is part of human existence.

"What was your reaction is all that matters. The rescue teams were at the spot within minutes and Modi also reached there. Railway minister camped there for 36 hours, the health minister and another minister of state were also there," Puri said, adding the government tried its best to help the victims and their families.

He said the damaged railway line was made operational within 51 hours but the opposition will not see all this as "they want to make a political point".

"They should go for self-introspection as this was not the first that such accident had taken place. NSG commandos took 10 hours to reach Mumbai from Delhi despite the November 26, 2008 terror attack beaming live on the television," the minister said.

On BBC's admission of having paid lower taxes than its actual liability following IT raids on its headquarters in Delhi in February, he said some "intellectuals and misguided" people in the country start condemning without knowing the facts.

"We have people who are not able to differentiate between espionage and freedom of press. Our laws are completely transparent and if you had to pay a tax, the slabs are completely clear. When notice is served to those avoiding taxes, they start hue and cry," Puri said.

The minister said he wants to assure the people that India is not only the largest democracy in the world but the country also has a robust democracy and "even if someone wishes, nobody can erode democracy in the country".

He said he did not want to make a detailed comment on the BBC but its previous actions makes it clear that it was in the "hands of people with an agenda on India".

Talking about the nine-year-achievements of the BJP-led government, he said the work is in progress to reclaim the cultural and historic legacy of the country and make it the world's largest economy.

"Many of the schemes and projects conceptualised in 2014 are either completed or nearing completion. Those talking about price hike are missing many points including

three core people living below poverty line and economically weaker sections who have been given affordable houses," he said.

Puri also talked about the challenging situation in the aftermath of the coronavirus outbreak, dry ration to 80 crore population, tap and electricity connections, making country defection-free and cleanliness drives.

"We are a 3.83 trillion dollar economy and are bound to surpass two other powers, having 4.1 and 4.3 trillion economies, in the near future and become the third largest economy in the world," Puri said.

He said by 2047 when India will complete its 100 years of independence, it will not only be a developed country but also free from colonial mindset.

On the recent action against wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, the minister said he is personally very sympathetic to them as his wife and two daughters are also feminist.

"They were holding protest was not a problem at all and nobody stopped them. The day when the new Parliament was being inaugurated, they along with some political elements decided to move (towards the parliament). Senior officials tried to solve the issue," he said.

Puri said section 144 CrPc was imposed there and when somebody breaks the law, action becomes necessary, he added.

Govt school principal..

Secretary School Education Department, Alok Kumar, asked the Director School Education to conduct the inquiry and submit a report.

"Pending inquiry into his conduct, Shabir Ahmad Mir, Principal Government BHSS Gund Hassi Bhat, Srinagar is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect in pursuance of Rule 31 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956. The said officer is attached with Director School Education Kashmir," the order read.

It said the Director School Education Kashmir shall conduct an inquiry into the matter and submit a detailed report along with his recommendations.

Modi Govt disbursed..

of #9YearsOfWomenLedDevelopment for the world to marvel at. India registered a record of disbursing 27 Cr. Mudra loans to women entrepreneurs who today empower the Indian economy with their womanly force," he said.

The loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY. These loans are given by commercial banks, regional rural banks, small finance banks, microfinance institutions and non-banking financial institutions.

The borrower can approach any of these lending institutions or apply online through the portal www.udyanimitra.in.

Sinha inaugurates SMVDSB's..

of Prasad boxes, Panchmewa Prasad and minimising the delivery time with real time tracking of Prasad.

Five dedicated Prasad Kendras cum Souvenir Shops have been made operational in

the last 10 months besides operationalization of 07 counters in existing establishments. A Modern Prasad Kendra cum Souvenir Shop was inaugurated at Bhawan by Lt Governor in the month of February this year. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Anshul Garg, CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; members of the Shrine Board and other senior officials were present.



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating SMVDSB's Prasad cum Souvenir Counter in departure area of Jammu Airport.

CRIME REPORT

Two narco smugglers nabbed with 13 Gm heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/KATHUA: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Tuesday nabbed two narco smugglers and recovered 13 grams of heroin from their possession.

As per details, a team of Police Station Pacea Danga led by SDPO North Sunil Kumar Kesar assisted by SHO Pacea Danga Insp. Sushil Kumar and In-Charge Police Post Chowk Chabutra PSI Anil Kumar while on patrolling duty near Peerkho area rounded up a suspected person namely Gourav Khajuria alias Gagan Pahadi, son of Late Prem Nath, resident of H. No. 91, Peerkho, Jammu During search, 08 grams of heroin was recovered from the accused. He was arrested and FIR No.73/2023 under section 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Pacea Danga.

Meanwhile, a police team led by Insp. Vijay Kotwal SHO Police Station Lakhampur during routine Naka checking at Animal Husbandry Lakhampur area apprehended one suspect namely Ravi Kumar, son of Surinder Kumar, resident of Kangryal Palli Morh Kathua who was coming from Punjab towards Lakhampur. On Physical search, approximately 05 grams of heroin (Chhitta) like narcotics was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and FIR No. 64/2023 under section 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Lakhampur.



Notorious thief evading arrest in multiple cases nabbed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MIRAN SAHIB: Police on Tuesday nabbed a notorious absconder/ thief who was evading arrest in multiple cases.

As per details, an information was received at Police Station Miran Sahib through reliable sources regarding the notorious absconder namely Sohan Lal, son of Tarsem Lal, resident of Vill. Chakroi Tehsil Suchetgarh Distt. Jammu who was evading his arrests in multiple cases.

On this, a team of Police Station Miran Sahib led by SDPO RS Pura Nikhil Gogna assisted by SHO Miran Sahib Insp. Zaheer Mushtaq raided at the said place and arrested the notorious absconder.

It is pertinent to mention that absconder was involved in case FIR No. 159/2019 under sections 454/380/201/IPC, FIR No. 04/2020 under sections 454/380/201/IPC and FIR No. 34/2021 under sections 454/380/IPC of Police Station Miran Sahib and was absconding in the said cases since long.

Finally the arrested absconder was produced before the Court of Additional Special Mobile Magistrate R S Pura and in compliance to the directions of Court the above said absconder was sent to Distt. Jail Amphalla under Judicial custody.



Three bootleggers nabbed with 129 bottles of liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/KATHUA: Police on Tuesday arrested three bootleggers and recovered from their possession 129 bottles of liquor from their possession.

Two notorious bootleggers were arrested by Samba Police with 90 bottles of liquor. They have been identified as Balbir Singh, son of Sardar Singh, resident of Talger Rehian Tehsil & district Samba and Kuldip Singh, son of Balkar Singh, resident of Talger Rehian tehsil & district Samba. FIR No. 149/2023 under section 48(A) Excise Act was registered against him at Police Station Samba through Police Post Rakh Amb Talli and investigation is underway. The arrests have been arrested by a police team comprising of Incharge Police Post Rakh Amb Talli PSI Vineet Singh Rukwal.

Kathua Police also arrested one bootlegger & recovered 39 bottles of illicit liquor from his possession. Police team led by Inspector Sunil Kalsi SHO Police Station Malhar during Naka checking at Katli area, apprehended one person namely Banta Singh, son of Hans Raj, resident of Malad Tehsil Lohai Malhar District Kathua who was involved in the illegal trade of selling illicit liquor at Katli as well as adjoining area of PS Malhar. During checking 39 bottles of liquor were recovered from his possession He was arrested and FIR No. 15/2023 under section 48 (A) Excise Act was registered against him at Police Station Malhar.

5 drug peddlers arrested; contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA/KULGAM: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Tuesday arrested 5 drug peddlers in Baramulla & Kulgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession. Besides, destroys poppy cultivation in Sopore.

As per details, a party of Police Station Sheeri at a checkpoint established at Dangerpora Market intercepted 03 persons riding a motorcycle bearing registration number DL9SB-5432. They have been identified as Shafeeq Ahmad Naikoo son of Gh Rasool, Yasir Ahmad Lone son of Fayaz Ahmad & Fayaz Ahmad Wani son of Ab Jabar, all residents of Dangerpora Sheeri. During search, 170 grams of Charas was recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and the motorcycle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

In a similar action, a party of Police Station Pattan at a checkpoint established at Nehalpora Cheksari Pattan arrested a drug peddler identified as Bilal Ahmad Shah son of Gh Nabi Shah resident of Kalsari Pattan. During checking, officers recovered 70 grams of Cannabis Powder & 5 Kgs of Poppy Straw from his possession. He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Meanwhile, a party of Police Station Qazigund at a checkpoint established at Wanpora intercepted a suspicious person carrying nylon bag who tried to flee from the spot after noticing the police party but was apprehended tactfully. He has been identified as Mohd Amin Bhat son of Abdul Rashid Bhat resident of Check Badwani. During search, officers were able to recover 02 Kgs of Poppy Straw from his possession.

Moreover, Police in Sopore along with Naib Tehsildar Sopore & Excise department, destroys poppy cultivation spread over vast area of land at Dharnambal in the jurisdiction of Police Station Tarzoo.

Regarding the incidents, cases under relevant sections of law have been



registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiated.

2 arrested, 2 vehicles seized for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police on Tuesday arrested 2 persons and seized 2 vehicles in Baramulla.

As per details, a party of Police Post Mirgund seized 02 vehicles (tippers) and arrested 2 persons for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Check Razak Khan Mirgund. They have been identified as Abdul Gani Bhat son of Ali Mohammad Bhat resident of Hardubani Kunzer & Sajad Ahmad Shah son of Abdul Majeed Shah resident of Gonipora Kunzer.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Pattan and further investigation has been initiated.

Missing person traced, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police on Tuesday traced a man and reunited him with his family members.

As per details, On June 2, 2023 as per complainant namely Nishant Mahajan, son of Mohinder Pal, resident of Ward No. 01 Kathua lodged a written report at Police Station Kathua stating therein that during the intervening night of June 1/2, 2023 his father namely Mohinder Pal, son of Amir Chand Rwent missing from home and accordingly a missing report was entered into the daily dairy and search was started to trace out the missing person.

Today, a team of Police Station Kathua led by Insp. Sudhir Sadhotra SHO Kathua traced the missing person and after completing legal formalities, he was handed over to his legal heirs.

Thief arrested; stolen gold ornaments, mobile phones worth over 10 lakh value recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Police on Tuesday worked out a case of theft recovering stolen property and gold ornaments worth over Rs 10 lakh rupees with burglar has also been nabbed.

In an official statement, Rajouri police said that on 19th of May, a written complaint was lodged by Mohd Sayeed son of Mehrab ud Din regarding theft of gold ornaments and mobile phones by some unknown person from his rented apartment near bus stand near Salani bridge of Rajouri.

In this regard FIR No 229 under section 457/380 IPC of Police Station Rajouri was registered and investigation of case was kick started by a team headed by SHO Rajouri Mohammad Showket Chowdhary. The investigation team headed by SHO Rajouri and also assisted by PSI Farah Jabeen Magray did strenuous efforts and after connecting various leads rounded up a suspect namely Zahir Shah son of Ashiq Shah resident of Koteranka Rajouri who after sustained questioning confessed for his involvement in the case and on his disclosure stolen mobile phones and gold ornaments worth rupees ten lakh 25 thousand have been recovered.



Green mission: 300 saplings planted inside Bhadarwah jail

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Over 300 saplings were planted inside district jail Bhaderwah in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Tuesday as part of a special plantation drive, an official said.

The drive, covering half-an-acre barren land, was carried out by the forest department in collaboration with jail authorities and National Cadet Corps (NCC) under the Centre's "Mission Life", divisional forest officer, Bhaderwah, Chander Shekhar said.

Various saplings, including those of Chinar and Cedar, were planted during the special drive which also focused on raising awareness among jail inmates and the accompanying students about the importance of green cover, he said.

NCC cadets of higher secondary school, Bhaderwah and jail inmates participated in the drive which also saw planting of saplings of ornamental and medicinal plants, the official said.

Jail Superintendent Mushtaq Malla said the campaign also aims at encouraging environment friendly practices like use of cloth bags for shopping instead of plastic bags and preserving drinking water besides planting more trees to reduce the impact of pollution.

Tariq Bhat's movie "Welcome to Kashmir" to release in Jammu PVR on Jun 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kashmir based Bollywood director Tariq Bhat made "Welcome to Kashmir" the first ever Kashmir's film released in Kashmir's cinema. Tariq Bhat is Bollywood film director from Kashmir, who has previously directed film "Zindagi Tumse (2019)" which is his debut film.

Now he is all set with another film "Welcome to Kashmir" which released successfully in Inox Cinema Srinagar and got a huge response. This film is now releasing in Jammu PVR on 9th June.