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LG flags off...

Nagar Jammu base camp in a cavalcade of 231 light and heavy vehicles. Eminent spiritual leaders; heads of religious organizations; public representatives; senior officers of Civil Administration, Police, Security Forces and Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, prominent citizens, and devotees in large number were present on the occasion.

The first batch of pilgrims was warmly received by the top district level officials and locals enroute the two base camps.

At Udhampur, the pilgrims were warmly welcomed by DIG Udhampur -Reasi Range Rayees Mohammad Bhat; Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai; SSP Joginder Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia and other officers, prominent citizens besides a large number of local people and other officers were also present at Kali Mata Mandir Tikri.

On the occasion, Information Department Udhampur arranged a themed based cultural programme involving students of Government Higher Secondary School and Sainik Cooperative Public High School Tikri.

At Ramban, the pilgrims were accorded a warm welcome by Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary; DIG DKR Range, Shridhar Patil; SSP Anuj Kumar; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR S. Harpal Singh and other concerned officers.

The welcoming ceremony was graced by the presence of notable dignitaries, including DDC Member Renuka Katoch and representatives of religious and social organizations.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the district administration has made comprehensive arrangements for the stay and security of the pilgrims. He mentioned that provisions for boarding and lodging have been put in place in case of halt of the yatra, while round-the-clock emergency medical facilities have been arranged along with the helpline counters.

Meanwhile, DIG Shridhar Patil reviewed the arrangements for the security and other facilities like sanitation, water, electricity, fire safety, and healthcare being provided to the pilgrims. He asked the concerned officers to ensure all basic and essential facilities are available for the convenience and safety of the pilgrims.

On reaching Navyug tunnel in Qazigund, the pilgrims were welcomed by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal and other officials from civil and police department, besides civil society members, trade fraternity; fruit growers and other local citizens.

In a gesture of hospitality, the pilgrims was received by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, as they reached Pantha Chowk in Srinagar.

The district administration has put in place comprehensive arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra. The elaborate preparations include enhanced security measures, medical facilities, and logistical support to cater to the needs of the pilgrims, DC said.

The District Administration Bandipora led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman extended rousing welcome to the first batch Yatries upon their arrival at Shadipora Transit Camp in Sumbal.

SSP Bandipora Lakshay Sharma and other senior officers of the district and local citizens were also present.

On reaching the Baltal Base Camp, the Yatris were warmly received. The welcome ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shiyambir; SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; Camp Director Baltal, SDM Kangan, local communities, and other officers from Civil and police administration.

Special arrangements have been made to ensure the safety, security, and comfort of all pilgrims as they begin their sacred journey to the revered Amarnath Cave Shrine.

In line with the commitment to providing seamless support, comprehensive measures have been implemented to address the needs of the pilgrims, including medical facilities, sanitation, and round-the-clock security.

The authorities are dedicated to ensuring a smooth and spiritually fulfilling experience for all participants in this year's Yatra.

The pilgrims appreciated the goodwill gesture of Civil and Police Administration for according them rousing reception and cooperation.

Amarnathji Yatra symbol...



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with prominent citizens, various stakeholders in Srinagar.

carrying forward the great tradition of serving pilgrims our ancestors followed with full devotion rests on the shoulders of all of you, he said.

"J&K has glorious heritage of harmony, tolerance and brotherhood. It is the land of almost all religions known to mankind. These values deeply embedded in society are expressed in this Yatra and everyone irrespective of religion and caste participates in serving the pilgrims," the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also spoke on the arrangements made by the administration, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Police, Security Forces and various stakeholder departments for the safe and secure pilgrimage of the devotees.

Referring tp the Traffic management related issues, the Lt Governor said the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has been directed to take comprehensive measures to provide resolution to ease traffic congestion, especially in Srinagar.

The Lt Governor also observed that the arrangements for Muharram have already started. The administration is taking all the stakeholders onboard for Muharram, he added.

Aftab Malik, Chairman, DDC, Srinagar; Safina Baig, Chairperson, DDC Baramulla; Mohammad Yousuf Gors, Chairman DDC Anantnag; Nuzhat Ishfaq, Chairperson DDC Ganderbal; Dr Darakshian Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board; civil society members, representatives of various organizations and community leaders shared their inputs and extended all support and cooperation to the administration in the peaceful and smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Lt Governor assured that the valuable suggestions received from various stakeholders will be incorporated for the convenience of the yatris and the general public.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and other senior officers were also present.

Drugs trafficking probe;...

the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against Peer:

Peer was arrested with six kg of heroin and cash amount of Rs 20 lakh by the Jammu and Kashmir Police during the course of checking at a checkpoint. Moreover, Rs 1.15 crore and 15 kg heroin were also seized from his relatives and associates by the NIA, the ED said.

Peer; the agency alleged, "in collusion with" his relatives Islam-Ul-Haq Peer, Syed Iftikhar Andrabi, Syed Saleem Andrabi and associates was involved in illegal drug trade for the purpose of furtherance of terror activities. He was arrested twice by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in similar cases.

A residential house in Bemina, Srinagar, was identified as proceeds of crime generated out of the illegal drug trade and this property was purchased in the name of his wife Syed Sadaf Andrabi, it said.

The agency issued a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach the house.

CEO meets recognised...

6 is exclusively for registration of new electors, Form 6A for inclusion of name in electoral roll by an overseas elector; Form 6B for capturing adhaar number by existing electors while Form-7 for objection to proposed inclusion/deletion of name in existing electoral roll with a slight modification that a provision of attaching death certificate has been incorporated. Similarly, Form 8 is for correction in electoral roll, shifting of residence (within or outside constituency), replacement of EPIC and marking of a person with disability.

The Chief Electoral Officer, while addressing the representatives, sought their cooperation to further improve the overall health and purity of electoral rolls.

It is pertinent to mention here that the citizens can verify and make changes/corrections in their electoral details by logging onto the National Voters' Service Portal. Besides, the registered voters should also check their enrolment status.

Pole underscored the robustness of the summary revision while highlighting the transparency of the entire process. He urged upon the political parties to co-operate with the district administrations so that an accurate and updated Electoral Roll for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir can be prepared.

A similar meeting with the registered unrecognised political parties shall be held separately.

Hiranagar encounter: 9...

two unidentified terrorists and one CRPF jawan dead, and a civilian was injured.

The DGP, flanked by Additional Director Generals of Police (ADGPs) M K Sinha and Anand Jain, regularised SPOs with ranks of constables and appointment letters at a func-

tion organized by the district police. The SPOs who were regularized include Amit Sharma, Karanveer Singh, Sumeet Verma, Anil Choudhary; Sham Lal, Pankaj Sharma, Mukesh Rajput, Lovepreet Jatt, and Sahil Singh.

"The SPOs were regularized for the good work they did. We have an SPO component in the police that must be taken care of separately and in a fast-forward mode. We went out of the usual procedure to regularize them on a fast track to reward them," DGP Swain told reporters.

He emphasized that when the resolve is strong, people come together. "The SPOs are performing well. We have an SOP to bring everyone together; whether SPO or otherwise, through conversion or felicitation," he said.

The DGP also appreciated the role of other police officers and said that medals and awards for other constables or officers would be proposed separately.

He said that the senior leadership of the police has decided to strengthen village defence groups in Kathua and other areas. "SPOs will also be strengthened," he added.

DGP reminisced about his tenure as Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Kathua district and praised the locals for their patriotism and bravery. "There is a feeling of homecoming. When I travel from here, I feel happy. My heart is filled with happiness because Kathua is a place where people are always filled with patriotism. I have served here as an SSP for two years and have seen people with a strong commitment to safeguarding their country. It is a natural behaviour among them," he said.

He further recounted stories told to him by the people about the 1965 and 1971 wars and how the people of Kathua stood firm against the enemy and fully supported the armed forces.

"They have performed exceptionally important roles during these periods. The Jammu and Kashmir Police come from the public of Kathua. Police and public work in close coordination and are a great power," he said.

Ganesh Dass, the father of SPO Sham Lal, who was regularized as a constable by the DGP, thanked the police and the DGP for the speedy steps in honouring the SPOs for their actions in eliminating terrorists and saving the village from a major tragedy.

"I never thought the DGP could elevate them to constables. He fought bravely and killed a terrorist. It is a great initiative. We are very happy. We thank the DGP and the police," he said.

Cloudburst hits Thathri...

with some vehicles trapped in the debris, they said.

STATE TIMES correspondent reported that the Batote-Doda-Kishtwar National Highway 244 also got blocked due to mudslide and slush on the highway. However men and machinery have been deployed to restore the highway.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh, a team of officers comprising ADC Doda, SDM Thathri along with Tehsildar Thathri immediately reached the spot and took stock of the situation.

Locals alleged that it is second incident in last 2 years and despite repeated pleas to Administration, nothing has been done so far.

DC Doda Harvinder Singh said that highway has been restored for single lane and administration is trying to get it fully restored at the earliest.

DC Doda said, "Fortunately there has been no loss of life in this incident but the houses of some people have been partially damaged and whatever loss is caused will be compensated and a team has been sent to the spot.

"PMGSY and R&B Department has also pressed their men and machinery to restore other link roads as well," DC added, saying that reportedly 2 houses are damaged in the incident, however water and mud has entered other houses as well and some vehicles also came under the debris.

"Every possible help will be provided to the people as teams are there to access the loss" DC informed.

Naya Jammu Kashmir...

"I am Valmiki" and Sumaiya Mir's "Women Athletes of Kashmir" clinching the second and third place respectively.

The consolation prize winners include Atul Vinod Duggal for "Viksit Jammu Kashmir", Irtizah Yousuf and Mantasha Binti Zahoor for "Naya Kashmir" and Raghunandan Singh Charak for "Unicorn". The selected films, showcasing the talent and creativity of the artists from Jammu and Kashmir, will be screened shortly.

Director Information and Public Relations, Jatin Kishore, congratulated the winners and the other participants of the completion. He also expressed gratitude towards the jury members for shortlisting and selecting the outstanding productions.

With this, the hugely successful and unique initiative of the Department of Information and Public Relations concluded on a very positive note.

The initiative was aimed at identifying local talent, encouraging them and giving them a platform to showcase their unique skills and immense potential to the fullest. The competition also envisaged showcasing of the positive developments and progress achieved in Jammu and Kashmir through the lens of local filmmakers.

The event caught the imagination of the local artists and filmmakers, who participated in large numbers in the competition with great enthusiasm.

50 yrs after...

seek a stay from the Supreme Court, which did not grant a complete stay. This legal predicament set the stage for the imposition of the Emergency, he added.

"Those who murdered democracy during the Emergency now hypocritically claim to be its guardians," he said, adding: "It is outrageous that the very people responsible for that dark chapter in our history now present themselves as the protectors of democratic values."

"Leaders like Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, and many others were arrested," he recounted.

He said: "Press censorship was imposed, and the publication of Indian Express was shut down. No one could write or say anything against the government. Thousands were forcibly sterilized, and Turkman Gate in Delhi was destroyed."

Highlighting the judicial compromises during this period, Chugh pointed out the example of Justice H.R. Khanna. He said, "Justice H.R. Khanna, who stated that fundamental rights cannot be suspended even during an Emergency, was not allowed to become the Chief Justice of India. RSS volunteers in jail were tortured, leading to many deaths."

He criticized the Congress for never apologizing for the Emergency and pointed out their discomfort during recent commemorations. "When a two-minute silence was observed in memory of those who died, the Congress was disturbed. What is the problem with discussing this dark chapter after 50 years?" he added Chugh called upon current leaders to remember the impact of the Emergency on their predecessors. "Akhilesh Yadav, Stalin, Kanimozhi, and Tejashwi should remember that their fathers were also in jail during the Emergency," he said, adding: "This is the Congress's true history-no faith in democracy, nor in democratic traditions." Reassuring the party's commitment, Chugh highlighted that the BJP, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, is dedicated to preventing such an event from happening again. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji and the BJP have clearly stated that there will never be an Emergency in this country again. No citizen's rights will be violated again under the rule of Dynastic politics," he said. He concluded by celebrating the resilience of Indian democracy and the electorate's response in the 1977 general elections, where Indira Gandhi faced significant losses. "The strength within this country defeated the dark chapter of Emergency, and on its completion of 50 years, we proudly acknowledge this and commemorate it so that such a thing never happens again", he said.

Govt working consistently...

the districts have a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism for ongoing schemes and they also look into needs and concerns of the citizens," the Lt Governor said

Responding to the complaint of Balwant Singh from Jammu pertaining to the issue of illegal mining in Panchayat Atham Mohra Pandoo, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officials to take strict action against the violators. Ajay Kumar from Danjasdhar Ramkote Kathua drew the attention of the authorities on the issues of construction of boundary wall at Government Middle School Mallar, village Danjasdhar zone Bhaddu. The Lt Governor directed for immediate measures for the construction of the said boundary wall to prevent any hazard. On the grievances of complainant namely Zubair Sultan, a resident of Seer Hamdan, Anantnag pertaining to construction of Seer to Nambal Bridge on river Lidder, the Lt Governor was apprised that the effective measures are being taken for the completion of the balance work Musharaf Naik, resident of Poonch who had registered a grievance regarding delay in issuance of Domicile and ST certificates thanked the Lt Governor for addressing his issue. A complainant from Ganderbal namely, Tanveer Ahmad Mir also expressed his gratitude to the Lt Governor for his intervention in making the defunct filtration plant functional at Buderkund. The Lt Governor further directed the District Administrations to ensure all facilities to Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrims and take necessary measures in advance regarding forthcoming Muharram. Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Forests; Principal Secretaries, Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

CAT directs regularization...

other counterparts, along with grant of Selection Grade Deputy Superintendent of Police with all consequential benefits.

CAT further directed that this action shall be completed within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order:

The Applicant joined J&K Police as Sub-Inspector on November 12, 1990 in armed wing of J&K Police and in-situ Promotion was granted in favour of applicant in the rank

of Sub-inspector after completing nine years service.

The applicant was promoted as inspector on March 31, 2000 vide PHQ J&K letter no. 972 of 2000 dated March 31, 2000. The applicant again got 2nd Insitu promotion in rank of inspector w.e.f April 1, 2009 vide PHQ J&K order 2107 dated June 26, 2010. On July 20, 2012, the applicant was promoted as In-charge Dy. SP in his own pay and grade vide Govt order No. Home 625 (P) of 2012 dated July 20, 2012 and was not confirmed as the matter remained hanging imbalance and on the request of home department vide Dy. Secretary letter dated November 4, 2020, Director General of Police, PHQ J&K furnished vigilance clearance and integrity certificate, in his Favour with a recommendation of regularisation of the applicant as Dy. SP to the home department which is evident from letter dated December 22, 2020 along with Govt order dated July 20, 2012.

CAT after hearing both the sides observed that the undisputed facts of the case are that the applicant was promoted as In-charge Deputy Superintendent, Jammu & Kashmir Police vide order dated July 20, 2012. While working in the Jammu & Kashmir Police, the applicant had joined the honorary post of Joint Secretary in the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association for which he was paid 12,000/- per month on account of conveyance. The applicant retired after attaining the age of superannuation on May 31, 2021. After his retirement, an inquiry was conducted in pursuance of a complaint made by one Desh Rattan Dubey that the applicant had accepted full-time assignment of Joint Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association in different spells between 2003 to 2016. During the inquiry, the allegations levelled against the applicant was found to be correct and subsequently, vide order dated November 16, 2022, it was ordered by the respondents that the amount which the applicant has drawn as remuneration from Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association shall be deducted from his pension, in terms of Article 168-A of Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services Regulations, 1956. As per the applicant, he has been punished twice for the same offence in as much as the respondents intend to recover the amount that was paid to him when he was holding the honorary post of Joint Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association, from his pension and on the other hand, the respondents have also not taken any action for confirming his promotion as Deputy Superintendent of Police, for which he was completely eligible. CAT further said that we do not find any infirmity with the order dated November 16, 2022 whereby the remuneration paid to the applicant from Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association has been ordered to be deducted from his pension. However, since the applicant has already been punished by ordering recovery from his pension, now the applicant cannot be put to double jeopardy by not considering his case for regularization of his promotion as Deputy Superintendent of Police. In view of the above discussions and the fact that the applicant has joined and worked in Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association without having permission of the competent authority and this action of the applicant is contrary to the rules and regulations. Therefore, CAT dismissed this Original Application and uphold the action of the respondents of recovering the remuneration received by the applicant from Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association, from his pension. The action of the applicant is irregular but not illegal, therefore it is not appropriate to penalize him twice, therefore, the respondents are directed to consider the case of the applicant for regularization of his promotion as Deputy Superintendent of Police w.e.f. the date he was entitled to be promoted on this post along with his other counterparts, along with a grant of Selection Grade Deputy Superintendent of Police with all consequential benefits. This action shall be completed within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

BSF chief reviews...

review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the preparations for the Amarnath Yatra in the wake of several terror incidents in the region recently.

Agrawal arrived here on a two-day visit to the BSF's Jammu Frontier to assess the security situation along the International Border; an official of the border guarding force said.

Sector commander and battalion commandants briefed the BSF chief in detail about the operational readiness of the troops deployed at the Samba border area, officials said.

Inspector General of BSF's Jammu Frontier D K Boora gave a comprehensive presentation to Agrawal, covering the crucial aspects of border security and BSF's strategies for maintaining domination along the International Border. Jammu region was rocked by four terror incidents in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts between June 9 and 12, resulting in the death of 10 people, including seven pilgrims and a CRPF jawan. Two terrorists were also eliminated in one of the encounters in Kathua district.

Two notorious drug smugglers booked under PIT-NDPS Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Sopore Police on Friday booked two drug smugglers under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining orders from the competent authority.

"The duo drug peddlers namely Nasir Ahmad Siraj, son of Nazir Ahmad Siraj, resident of Hanfia Colony Arampora Sopore and Mohammad Nadeem Mir, son of Mohammad Mubarak Mir, resident of Behranpora Rafiabad have been booked under PIT NDPS Act and lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal, Jammu," police spokesperson said. Pertinent to mention that many cases are registered against these drug smugglers and they did not mend their way and are still involved in drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to the local youth of the Police District Sopore.

General public appreciated the role played by the police in taking action against drug smugglers.

Theft case solved, accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: Ganderbal Police on Friday solved a theft case by arresting the accused person involved in the commission of crime. "On June 15, 2024, Police Station Kangan received a written complaint from Sub-Divisional Manager BSNL Ganderbal mentioning therein that some unknown persons have stolen 24 batteries from BSNL Tower at Mamar during the intervening night of June 14/15, 2024. In this regard, a case FIR No. 49/2024 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Kangan & further investigation was taken up," police spokesperson said. During the course of investigation, spokesperson added, a special team led SHO Police Station Kangan under the supervision of SDPO Kangan was constituted. While checking the technical evidences & CCTV footage, a suspicious vehicle (Tata Mobile) was spotted near the scene of crime, spokesperson said adding that while verifying the details of the aforesaid vehicle, the investigating team apprehended one person namely Nazir Ahmad Dar, son of Sonaulah Dar, resident of Rakh-e-Highgam Sopore A/P Pusiwari Naidkhai along with the aforesaid Tata Mobile vehicle bearing registration number JK05M-0894. During questioning, spokesperson said, the accused person confessed his involvement in the commission of the crime & disclosed that he alongwith his associates have jointly committed the crime. He also confessed that they later sold the stolen batteries to one scrap dealer at Sopore. Accordingly, all the 24 stolen batteries were recovered and seized two vehicles viz Mahindra Mobile bearing registration No. JK05M-0894 and Maruti car bearing registration No. JK05B 5388, which were used in the commission of crime, spokesperson said adding that further investigation is going on & more arrests are expected.

Cyber Cell Samba refunds defrauded amount of Rs 74,196

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Cybercrime Investigation Unit of Police in district Samba on Friday refunded defrauded amount of Rs 74,196 in an online financial fraud reported by the complainant. "A complainant namely Hari Om, son of Nattho Singh, resident of District Bharatpur, Rajasthan at present 122 CIFS Company, DPL Samba submitted a written application regarding online financial fraud of Rs 74,196 in which fraudster cheated him by installing third-party mobile app. I.e Flipkart via phishing link," police spokesperson said. The team of Cybercrime Investigation Unit under DySP Hqrs Samba headed by Inspector rank officer displayed relentless efforts and advanced technical skills, leading to the successful refunding all the defrauded amount of Rs 74,196 to the complainant, spokesperson said adding that further investigation is going on. It is pertinent to mention here that a total defrauded amount of Rs 4,84,106 has been refunded/liened by the Cybercrime Investigation Unit Samba since its inception.

3 held for hurting religious sentiments in Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police on Friday apprehend three individuals for offense against religious sentiments. "On June 27, 2024 around 1820 hrs, it was learnt through reliable sources that some person informing desecration of a cattle carcass lying in the general area of Ward 08, Triloke Di Chapri, Samba," police spokesperson said. Immediately, a case FIR no.176/24 got registered at PS Samba under relevant sections, spokesperson said adding that a special team headed by DySP Hqrs Samba was constituted along with SHO PS Samba and investigation was taken up. Police team reached on spot and took the same into custody. Using technical and physical aid, several suspects were zeroed in and were questioned. Meanwhile, two persons namely Rohit and Ajay, resident of Samba were apprehended and were put to sustained questioning. Upon this, they disclosed that they were hired by Rajan Sambyal, son of Jagdev Singh, resident of Garh Mandi, Samba to dispose off the body of his deceased cow. As a result, few body parts of cow carcass came into the notice of public thus hurting the religious sentiments of a particular community.

Further, all three persons have been detained and legal proceedings have been initiated under law, spokesperson said. Moreover general public is appealed not to fall prey to any kind of rumour mongering and desist from spreading any such content which can hurt the sentiments of public at large and has the potential of causing disturbance.