

Buddha Amarnath Yatra begins, over 1,000 pilgrims leave from Jammu



Buddha Amarnath Yatra being flagged-off from Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The first batch of 1,056 pilgrims on Friday left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for the Budhha Amarnath shrine in Poonch district, police said.

The pilgrimage was flagged off by Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh

"The pilgrimage to Buddha Amarnath shrine in Mandi hills of the Poonch district has begun from Jammu. The first batch left Jammu for the shrine this morning," a police officer said.

The yatra will culminate on August 8 with the departure of 'Chari Mubarak' from Shri Dashnami Akhara temple in Poonch. The temple of Baba Budhha Amarnath, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is also known as 'Chattani Baba Amarnath temple' and is located 290 kilometres northwest of Jammu.

Multi-tier security has been put in place at the route to ensure an incident-free yatra this year, officials said.

727 new COVID cases in J&K, 2 more die

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 727 fresh COVID-19 cases on Friday that raised the infection tally to 4,63,359, while new fatalities pushed the death toll to 4,768, officials said.

Of the new cases, 206 were reported from the Jammu division and 521 from the Kashmir division, they said.

There are 4,468 active cases in Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said.

So far, 4,54,123 people have recovered from the disease, they said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported nine fresh COVID-19 cases, pushing its infection tally to 28,852, officials said.

All the fresh cases were reported from Leh, they said. So far, 228 people have succumbed to coronavirus in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil, according to the officials.

They said the number of active COVID-19 cases in the union territory stands at 142.

Of the total 743 samples tested for the infection in Ladakh, 681 in Leh and 53 in Kargil were found to be negative, they said.

Fifteen people were discharged from the hospital in Leh and two from Kargil after being cured in the last 24 hours. With this, the total number of recoveries stands at 28,472, officials said.

Army rescues 26 trapped in flash flood at Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Army on Friday rescued 26 persons of several families who were trapped in a flash flood in a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

Acting on information about 26 members of several families trapped in a flash flood in the Chandak Bela area, army troops along with police and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) launched an operation to rescue them, they said.

After a day-long operation, they were rescued safely, they said.

J&K highway reopens for traffic; stranded vehicles, Amarnath pilgrims allowed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIAHAL/JAMMU: Vehicular traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway resumed on Friday after blockades caused by shooting stones and mudslides in Ramtan district were cleared, officials said.

"Jammu-Srinagar highway is through. Many stretches are still single way open for traffic and intermittent shooting stones still going on, a traffic advisory said.

It said stranded vehicles were being cleared and people are advised not to travel on the highway without confirmation from traffic police.

Convoys of Amarnath pil-

grims from Jammu have been allowed to move towards Kashmir valley, officials said.

The important iron tunnel passage set up in the most vulnerable stretch of the highway was damaged due to intense shooting stones on Thursday evening.

According to officials, mudslides and shooting stones struck the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, at Mehaar, Cafeteria Moore and Pantiyal areas.

The work is going on to clear the highway and ensure two-way traffic on it, they said.

SC collegium reiterates 13 names in 7 months for appointment as HC Judges; Govt appoints 8

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended 127 names for appointment as judges in the higher judiciary between December 1 last year and July 26 and out of these, 61 appointments were made, the government informed Lok Sabha on Friday.

Besides these 127 fresh recommendations, the top court collegium also reiterated 13 names in the same period of which eight appointments have been made, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said in a written reply.

"During the period December 1, 2021 to July 26, 2022, the Supreme Court Collegium has recommended 140 names (127 fresh and 13 reiterated).

Out of 127 fresh recommendations, 61 appointments have been made including extension of term of one additional judge and 66 cases which have been recommended by Supreme Court Collegium recently are at various stages of processing with the government," he said.

During the same period, 13 proposals were reiterated out of which eight appointments have been made, he added.

Filling up of vacancies in the high courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary, he said.

The process requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at the state and central level, he noted.

"While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of judges in high courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of judges and also due to increase in the strength of judges," Rijiju said.

Govt develops online facility for citizens to register, download Golden Cards

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To achieve 100% saturation of Golden cards, the Government has developed online facility for the citizens of J&K through which they can register for Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)-SEHAT scheme and download their golden cards at the comfort of their homes.

The citizens have to visit the website setu.pnjay.gov.in and register themselves with details

of ration cards issued by the Food and Supply Department, J&K and Aadhar Card and download their Golden cards. The initiative has been taken to ensure all the citizens get golden cards which provide 5 lakh health insurance cover.

Notably, the State Health Agency (SHA) recently rolled out an ambitious door-to-door exercise to achieve 100 percent saturation under the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY SEHAT scheme by the end of August month. Under the initiative of 'Gaon Gaon Ayushman', State Health Agency (SHA) has also started to reach out to even last mile villages which remain cut off from the rest of the world due to adverse weather conditions so as to percolate the benefits of the scheme down to every beneficiary.

Recently, Principal Secretary, Health and Medical Education, MK Diwedi in a high level meeting had directed for launching result oriented door-to-door campaigns in all

areas of J&K to achieve 100 percent saturation by end of August this year.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)-SEHAT scheme has crossed a major milestone of providing 5 lakh free treatments to the citizens of J&K UT recently. This Scheme has become a ray of hope for poor families who couldn't afford health treatment at high-end medical institutions of the country.

Recently a special initiative was launched for women and their families associated with JKRLM to provide them free treatment. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) SEHAT Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir provides health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers up to three days of pre-hospitalization and fifteen days of post-hospitalization expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: This was disclosed by Transport Commissioner, J&K, Bhupinder Kumar on Friday said the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) will soon link Pollution Under Control Certificate with Vaahan portal.

While chairing a review meeting of the officers of the Motor Vehicle Department, the Transport Commissioner directed the RTOs/ARTOs to immediately mobilise the resources to ensure that all the Pollution Checking Centres in their jurisdiction are made online and integrated with Vaahan. NIC was asked to immediately provide technical support, wherever required, so that the linking of PUC with Vaahan is ensured by 15, August 2022.

The delivery of online services of the Motor vehicle Department was also reviewed and it was emphasised to generate more awareness about the services in order to empower the general public to avail services in a hassle free manner. In this context, it was emphasised that celebration of Digital Week 2022 in every District headquarter was a great step towards bringing awareness amongst the general masses. It was impressed upon all the RTOs / ARTOs that awareness campaigns should continue and people should be encouraged to avail online services in

order to reduce footfall to the offices. Further, provision of faceless services was also deliberated upon.

The Transport Commissioner informed the officers present in the meeting that the drive for affixation of HSRP on every vehicle should continue and no laxity be shown to the defaulters.

The functioning of the Road Accident Victim Fund was also discussed and it was informed that in order to provide relief to the families of road accident victims, sufficient funds are available with the Deputy Commissioners and district wise review was taken. RTO /ARTOs were directed to ensure immediate disbursement of Accident Victim Relief to the bereaved families immediately and requirement of funds, if any, be communicated urgently.

Similarly, functioning of Integrated Road Accident Data (i-RAD) was also discussed and it was decided that the report submitted by the Police authorities for verification be reported within 24 hours by the concerned RTOs / ARTOs so that every road accident is analyzed holistically and necessary corrective measures are taken.

The meeting was attended by Additional Transport Commissioner, Additional Secretary, Road safety Council, RTO Jammu, RTO Kashmir, RTO Kashmir, Scientist "F" NIC and all ARTOs.

istered against him at Police Station Gangyal. The whole operation was done under the supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma.

Meanwhile, a party of Police Station Poonch laid a surprise Naka at Mangar for checking of vehicles and apprehended a suspect. During personal search 100 gm heroin like substance (Chitta) was recovered from his possession. The accused, on questioning disclosed his identity as Yasar Hussain, son of Sikandar Hussain, resident of Gursai, Tehsil Mendhar. Moreover a small weighing machine was also recovered from him. He was arrested and FIR No. 163/2022 under sections 8/21 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Poonch. During interrogation, he further disclosed that there is one more consignment of drugs which he has kept hidden near a place at Sagra village of Mankote. On his disclosure, a police team led by SHO Poonch Insp Ranjeet Singh Rao assisted by PSI Rohit Kumar Bhagat reached the spot and recovered another consignment of heroine like substance, weighing about 215 gm.

30 Kg opium recovery case: Vehicle owner arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Friday nabbed vehicle owner involved in 3 Kg opium recovery case at Police Station Gangyal Jammu. As per details, on July 9, 2022, a police team of Police Station Gangyal, while on Naka duty, recovered 3 Kg opium from a truck and registered FIR No 77/2022 under sections 8/21 of NDPS Act.

After this, a team of Police Station Gangyal under the supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma led by SHO Gangyal Insp Jogi Singh, after putting in hectic efforts and using various aids, generated input regarding vehicle-owner. Finally, the vehicle owner namely Manpreet Singh alias Sodhi, son of Late Jogi Singh, resident of Ward-1, Simbal Camp was arrested. During thorough questioning, he confessed his involvement in crime. It also came to fore that above mentioned truck owner was part of an opium supply chain and several online payments were made by him regarding opium purchase. It is pertinent to mention that accused was evading since opium was recovered from his truck by team of Police Station Gangyal. Further investigation of the case is going on to know about his other accomplices and to break drugs supply chain.

Absconding drug-pedaller nabbed, slapped with PITNDPS Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MIRAN SAHIB: Police on Friday nabbed an absconding drug-pedaller and slapped PITNDPS Act on him.

As per details, an information was received at Police Station Miran Sahib regarding a drug-pedaller namely Tajinder Singh alias Happy, son of Mohinder Singh, resident of Ward-4, Simbal camp, Miran Sahib who was evading arrest for a long time. Acting swiftly, a team of Police Station R S Pura under the supervision of SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh led by SHO Miran Sahib Insp Zaheer Mushtaq, after putting in strenuous efforts, arrested the accused.

It is pertinent to mention that accused is a notorious criminal and was involved in number of criminal cases including narcotic cases. Also a detention warrant under Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act 1998 was issued against him by Div Com Jammu in order to prevent him from further criminal activities. Finally, detention warrant of accused was executed and he was lodged in Central Jail, Kot bhalwal Jammu.

2 drug-peddlers arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Police on Friday solved a mobile snatching case by arresting three accused and recovered stolen property from their possession.

As per details, on July, 28, 2022 Police Station Budgam received a complaint from one Mohammad Dilshad, son of Mohammad Nayem, resident of Shunra Bihar, presently working as Mason at Nasrullahpora, Budgam stating therein that two unknown persons snatched his mobile. Accordingly, FIR No. 249/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation started.

After putting in strenuous efforts, Police nabbed two accused, identified as Shabir Ahmad Dar, alias Shah Chela, son of Ali Mohammad Dar and Abdul Rashid Rather alias Reshma Matoo, son of Mohammad Subhan Rather, both residents of Nasrullahpora involved in crime. On their disclosure, stolen property including 8 mobile phones, including an Oppo, 3 Redmi, a Realme, an Intel and an Arise N-72, were recovered from their possession. During further course of investigation, the arrested persons revealed that they used to sell stolen cell phones to a shopkeeper namely Irshad Ahmad Dar, son of Gulzar Ahmad Dar, residents of Pathanpora Nasrullahpora who was also arrested. Further investigation in the case is going on.

2 drug-peddlers arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from the society, Police on Friday arrested 2 notorious drug peddlers in Budgam and recovered contraband substance from their possession. As per details, acting on specific information about drug peddlers at village Gared Moud Budgam, a party of Police Station Budgam rushed to the spot and apprehended two drug peddlers who tried to flee from the spot. During search, 4 gm Heroin like substance and cash amounting to Rs 13,300 were recovered from their possession. The arrested drug peddlers were identified as Khurshed Ahmad Dar, alias Shil Punjabi and Gulzar Ahmad Dar, alias Gule Punjabi, both sons of Mohd Akbar Dar, resident of Nasrullahpora, Budgam. They were shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly, FIR No. 250/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation started.

Drug-pedller nabbed with 1.2 Kg poppy straw

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Police on Friday arrested a notorious drug-pedller and recovered 1.2 Kg poppy straw from his possession.

As per details, during routine checking and frisking, a party from Police Post Sool led by PSI Aushutosh Singh and Insp Nishant Gupta, under supervision of Kuljeet Singh, SDPO Katra and Amit Bhasin, SP Katra intercepted one Jamaat Ali, son of Abdul Haq, resident of Kheri Paroh, Tehsil Katra and recovered 1 Kg 200 gm poppy straw from his possession. He was arrested and FIR No. 217/2022 under sections 15/25 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Katra.

Theft case solved; accused arrested, stolen items recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Friday solved a theft case by arresting an accused and recovered stolen items from his possession.

As per details, a written complaint was lodged at Police Post Canal road by one Gopal Dass, trustee of Shiv Temple Canal Head regarding theft of gold ornaments

Two narco-smugglers nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/POONCH: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Friday nabbed two narco smugglers and recovered 321.5 gm heroin from their possession.

As per details, a team of Police Station Gangyal led by SHO Gangyal Inspector Joginder Singh Chib while on Naka duty rounded up a suspect, later identified as Gagandeep Singh alias Sonu, son of Inderjeet Singh, resident of Hakumat Colony, Dashmesh Nagar, Jammu. On search 6.8 gm heroin was recovered from the suspect. He was arrested and FIR No 83/22 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was reg-

