

Preparations for hoisting tricolour across J&K in full swing

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SRINAGAR: The preparations for hoisting Tricolour across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir are going on in full swing with great enthusiasm and fervor shown by common citizens.

Like other parts of the country, Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is being carried out across the nation so that the tricolour is hoisted at every house and office to mark India's 75th year of Independence.

As part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative of the government celebrating 75 years of Independence, various activities are being conducted by different departments and schools in every district of J&K.

Painting, National Anthem singing, essay competitions, quiz programmes, debates and seminars are being held in various Govt. Degree Colleges, schools besides, Tiranga Rallies, Flag hoisting on buildings as well as homes are also being held across the districts.

The spirit of young generation are so high that they have started preparations for the event many days before with regular rehearsals. Students are proactively participating in

various activities and events and are very excited to perform in upcoming Independence Day functions. The students are also taking part in quiz, essay, painting and debate competitions on varied topics of National Symbols, National Monuments, Freedom Struggle and other related topics.

The Department of Rural Development, FCS&CA, MCs, Poshan Mission and Health are also organising awareness programmes, Tiranga Rallies, Flag Hoisting ceremonies, highlighting the importance of the celebrations.

Similarly, other departments are also conducting programmes in order to spread the message of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign to all people.

Flags have been distributed across all the district and Tiranga has been hoisted on many establishments, private buildings and residences across the district besides preparations are also in full swing for the Mega event of Har Ghar Tiranga between 13th-15th August this year.

Rumysa Rafiq, Councillor, Khanabal Anantnag has asked the youth to take lead in HarGharTiranga campaign to show love for country.

Similarly BDC Chairman

Goudi Aarti Sharma says she is working closely with all departments, PRIs, social activists to make the #HarGharTiranga successful.

Echoing their views, a PRI member from Rajori says every citizen of country is proud of our flag which reflects our oneness and secular character. It also reminds us of sacrifices by brave hearts for the nation.

A resident of Bela Boniyar in north Kashmir's Baramulla district stated that he is very happy with this decision of the government.

Meanwhile Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) had launched the National Anthem Singing Competition-2022 for which entries were made open online between 1st August to 7th August, 2022.

Under this competition, the government had called upon the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to take part in the national anthem singing competition by submitting their entries through a google link.

The entries were made open under individual and group categories. Under the individual category, people in two subcategories, 13-18 years and above 18 years of age were allowed to take part in the competition

where as no age bar was kept for the group categories.

Speaking on this initiative, Director Information and Public Relations, Akshay Labroo said "Under this competition around 9,000 entries having around 50,000 participants were received from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir which is four times more than the entries received last year and almost equal submissions were received from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions".

He added that especially the districts of South Kashmir are leading and have given overwhelming response in the number of submission.

The winners of the competition will get cash awards of Rs 25,000, Rs 11,000 and Rs 5,000 for first, second and third prizes respectively besides getting an opportunity to perform National Anthem at the Divisional level Independence Day celebrations.

Meanwhile Jammu Administration is on its toes to make 'Har Ghar Tiranga' between 13th-15th August this year.

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Tiranga' event a grand success as 3.5 lakh Tricolors will be hoisted from August 13 to 15 across the district.

The preparations are in full swing to make 'Har Ghar Tiranga' a successful programme and the administration has to provide 3.5 lakh Tricolors to be hoisted atop every household, shops, government and private buildings between August 13-15, Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, said.

Avny said that as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', this Independence Day, with hoisting of Tricolor, the national anthem will also resonate across. The Ministry of Culture and the Self Help Groups (SHGs) have also provided the National Flags to meet the target of hoisting 3.5 lakh flags in the district, she added.

"Moreover under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan', the flags are also being distributed through ration depots in Jammu city and peripheries", the DC said.

SC transfers all FIRs against Nupur Sharma to Delhi Police

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed clapping and transfer of all present and future FIRs lodged across the country against suspended BJP spokeswoman Nupur Sharma to Delhi Police in connection with her remark on the Prophet during a TV debate show.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala also extended the interim protection from any coercive action to Sharma till the probe is concluded by the Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO) of the Delhi Police.

It said IFSO shall be at liberty to take assistance from other police forces to take the case to a logical end.

"Since this Court has already taken cognizance of the serious threat to life and security of the petitioner (Sharma), we direct that all FIRs against Nupur Sharma be transferred and clapped for the investigation to the

Delhi Police.

"In particular facts and circumstances, we clarify and deem it appropriate that the investigation is carried out by Delhi police. The petitioner shall be at liberty to pursue her rights and remedies by approaching Delhi High Court for quashing the current and future FIRs," the bench said.

The top court allowed Sharma to move Delhi High Court for quashing of FIRs lodged over her remark and said all future FIRs would also be transferred to Delhi Police for investigation.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Sharma, submitted that she was receiving summons from the West Bengal government despite the apex court order.

The apex court also refused the prayer of senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for the West Bengal government, seeking an investigation by a court-appointed SIT.

Guruswamy submitted the

accused cannot be allowed to pick the jurisdiction and her statement has caused maximum damage in West Bengal. Sharma's remark on the Prophet during a TV debate had triggered protests across the country and drew sharp reactions from many Gulf countries. The BJP subsequently suspended her from the party.

On July 19, the apex court granted interim protection from arrest till August 10 to Sharma in connection with the FIRs filed against her.

It had also protected her from any coercive action in the FIRs/complaints which may be registered or entertained in the future about the May 26 telecast.

On July 1, the same bench of the top court severely criticised Sharma for her controversial comments against the Prophet, saying her "loose tongue" has "set the entire country on fire" and that she is "single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country".

India to start supplying petrol with 20 pc ethanol from April 2023

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PANIPAT (HARYANA): India will start supplying petrol with 20 per cent ethanol at select petrol pumps from April next year and will ramp up supplies thereafter as it looks to cut oil import dependence and address environmental issues.

Oil Minister Hardeep Puri said a fifth of petrol will be made up of ethanol by 2025.

"E20 petrol (petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol) in some quantity will be available from April 2023 and the rest to be covered by 2025," he said.

India, which achieved the target of supplying petrol mixed with 10 per cent ethanol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) ahead of schedule in June this year, has advanced the target of making petrol with 20 per cent ethanol by five years to 2025.

The original target for doping 10 per cent ethanol, extracted from sugarcane and other agri commodi-

ties, was to be achieved by 2025.

Creating an end-use for the agri-crop residue would empower farmers and provide an additional income generation opportunity for them, Modi said.

Supply of petrol with 20 per cent ethanol will result in a saving of an estimated USD 4 billion annually.

The project will have zero liquid discharge. Through the reduction in the burning of rice straw, the project will contribute to a reduction of greenhouse

gases equivalent to about 3 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per annum, which can be understood as equivalent to replacing nearly 63,000 cars annually on the country's roads.

The plant is part of a long series of steps taken by the government over the years to boost the production and use of biofuels in the country.

Built at a cost of over Rs 900 crore by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the plant near the firm's Panipat refinery will turn about 2 lakh tonnes of rice straw (parali) annually into around 3 crore litres of ethanol.

India is the world's fifth largest producer of ethanol after the US, Brazil, EU and China. Ethanol worldwide is largely used for consumption but nations like Brazil and India also dope it in petrol.

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tonnes of crude oil was substituted and 1.34 million tonnes in the year prior to that. The volume was 0.27 million tonnes in 2013-14.

The highest ever quantity of 306.43 crore litres of ethanol has been procured by oil marketing companies in the current ethanol supply year (December 2021 to November 2022). This is up from 302.3 crore litre last year and 173 crore litre in 2019-20. Ethanol supply for mixing with petrol was 38 crore litre in 2013-14.

For a 20 per cent blend, 1,000 crore litres of ethanol will be required.

As the availability of ethanol increases, the equivalent amount of crude (used for petrol production) import is reduced.

The Centre had announced an additional duty of Rs 2 per litre on unblended fuels starting October 2022 to incentivise blending. That duty will no longer be effective as the target of 10 per cent blend has been achieved.

Apex committee
constituted for
successful organizing of
e-Governance conference

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JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review preparedness to combat the ingress of Lumpy Skin Disease, at the Civil Secretariat.

The ACS was apprised about the causes and symptoms of the Lumpy Skin Disease, which usually affects cattle, through a PowerPoint presentation. He was informed that several suspected cases have been identified by Animal Husbandry Department and very few cases have been confirmed, mostly from within the Jammu division. In each district, the department is taking samples rigorously and sending them for lab tests regularly, it was added.

Upon review, the ACS said that the public must be assured that there is no need to panic and that the government is taking every step to mitigate the disease. He directed all Chief Animal Husbandry Officers, their subordinate staff and veterinary staff not to leave their respective stations without permission.

The ACS directed that regular advisory, with well-defined 'dos and don'ts' be published for public information. Rapid Response Teams, doctors and paramedics must stay in touch with the farmers around the clock, he directed.

COVID: J&K reports

547 new cases

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SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday reported 547 new Covid cases, taking the infection tally to 4,71,374, while no fresh death due to the virus was reported, officials said.

While 70 cases were reported from Jammu division, 477 cases were reported from Kashmir, they said.

The death toll due to the virus was 4,776, officials said.

There are 4,927 active cases of the disease in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,61,671, they said.

According to officials, there are 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory.

It was directed by the ACS that the Animal Husbandry Helpline number, 1962, must be advertised and be active throughout the day and night. Door-to-door inspection and segregation of infected animals must be ensured by the veterinary officers. It was also directed that the department strategise 'ring vaccination' procedures for areas infested with the LSD.

Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir and Jammu were directed to provide adequate logistics, necessary equipment for sample collection and testing facilities etc to CAHOs. The Directors were asked to activate RTPCR labs and deploy extra staff if necessary per the guidelines of the Government of India.

The ACS took reviews of the availability of PPE kits, disinfectants, medicines and vaccines. The CAHOs were directed to submit a daily report containing information regarding number of animals sampled, tested and LSD confirmed cases.

The Directors were instructed to set up Division Level Monitoring & Surveillance Teams at both the divisions and submit consolidated reports daily. Those present at the meeting included Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Krishan Lal and Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Purnima Mittal among other senior officers, CAHOs and others.

Principal Secretary, Information Department; Principal Secretary, General Administration Department; Commissioner/Secretary, Transport Department; Commissioner/Secretary, Culture Department; Secretary, Tourism Department; Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department; Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu/Reasi and Registrar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra will be members of the committee and Commissioner/Secretary, Information Technology Department will be chairperson of the committee.

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"It is further ordered that the Information Technology Department shall be the nodal department for the conference," the order reads.

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