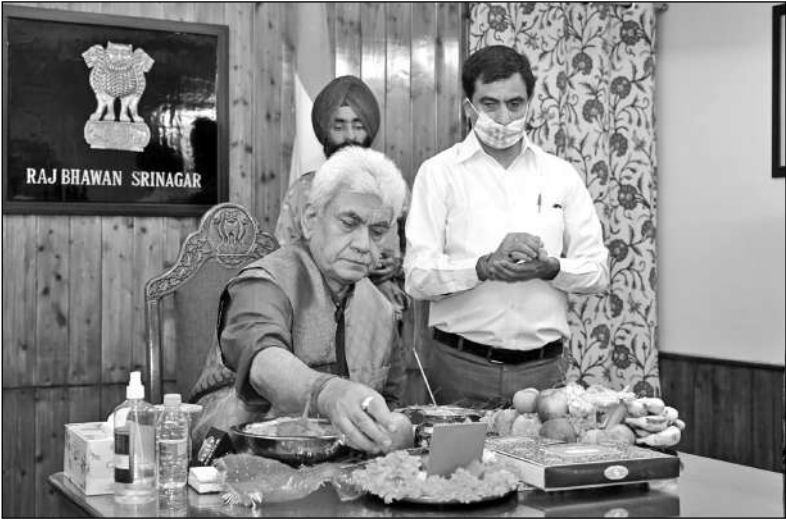


## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Sinha performs ‘Samapan...



LG Manoj Sinha performing 'Samapan Pooja' to mark end of annual Amarnath Yatra.

Shri Deependra Giri, Mahant Chhari-Mubarak Amarnathji led the Chhari Yatra accompanied by saints of Dashnami Akhada, and held the Chhari Poojan to mark the conclusion of Yatra 2022.

### 3.65 lakh pilgrims...

government and the media persons for their support in the successful conduct of the Yatra, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor enlisted various new initiatives taken for Shri Amarnathji Yatra which was resumed after two years due to Covid pandemic.

The carrying capacity of yatris was increased by 80 per cent as compared to previous years. Special arrangements were made across J&K to accommodate 1,25,000 Yatris in comparison to 70,000 Yatris earlier. A new Yatri Niwas at Chanderkote with 3600 capacity was opened for Yatris this year which proved to be a key facility in accommodating more yatris, even during inclement weather.

For the first time, RFID tracking of yatris was introduced which proved very helpful in tracking of the yatris, especially during the time of disaster on 8th July, many yatris could be traced using RFID technology.

240 per cent increase in the number of Toilets and unprecedented Sanitation arrangements ensured litter free and Open Defecation free Yatra. Moreover, 190 per cent increase in number of Beds in Hospitals, additional 100 bedded medical facility developed at each of the Base Camps and 50 beds installed additionally on each axis, 85 % increase in number of Oxygen Booths, besides two DRDO hospitals one each at Baltal and Chandanwari had aptly catered to the health needs of the yatris as well as locals and other stakeholders and saved many precious lives.

This year, Helicopter service was availed by the yatris from 4 sectors instead of 2 sectors. Two new heli sectors from Srinagar to Neelgrath and Srinagar to Pahalgam opened for Yatris. Free of cost Battery car service to yatris between Baltal and Domel; 200 per cent increase in number RO water purifier in each

camp and on the tracks; underground cabling on Baltal axis provided 3-phase 24x7 Power supply, back up Gen sets helped in providing enhanced facilities to the yatris.

PTZ cameras installed on yatra tracks for surveillance resolved many issues and helped in minute-to-minute monitoring of yatra. Prepaid system introduced for hiring of Pony, Pithhos and Palkis also prevented overcharging of yatris. Three times the number of Camp Officers deployed to effectively manage the Yatra. Daily Coordination meetings by CEO SASB with Divisional Commissioners, DCs, Camp Officers and other stakeholders yielded better results.

Integrated Command & Control Center (IICC) for quick monitoring and immediate response established at Srinagar with Nodal officers from all concerned Departments.

Volunteer students from Indian Institute of Technology- IIT Jammu rendered their service in yatra in Technological assistance. One Senior IAS officer deployed as Nodal officer for each Axis of the yatra.

To facilitate the yatris, the yatra registration was started on 11th April through both Online and Offline modes by 566 Bank Branches of SBI, PNB, J&K bank and Yes Bank throughout the country, said the Lt Governor.

Replying to a question of inclement weather conditions resulting in lessening the expected number of yatris, the Lt Governor said that no target numbers were fixed for the yatra. Arrangements were made in view of the anticipated increase of yatris since Yatra couldn't take place in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid.

As far as the question of presence of any lake over the cave, the Lt Governor said that experts were consulted in this regard and no water body was found there.

Pertinently, the 44-day Yatra started on 30th June (Ashad Shukla Pratipada) from both Pahalgam & Baltal Routes and culminated on 12th August (Shravan Pournima). The Pratham Pooja was performed by CEO SASB at Holy Cave Shrine on 14th June on the auspicious day of Jyestha Pournima.

The Lieutenant Governor flagged off the First Convoy from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu on 29th June and performed the Pooja on 30th June to mark the commencement of Yatra 2022.

### LG flags-off...

Hundreds of Shikaras under District Administration's Tiranga Utsav, carrying the Tricolour rowed together in the Dal Lake instilling the spirit of nationalism and peace, as part of the celebrations commemorating the 75 years of Independence.

The rally commenced with the Police Pipe Band playing the National Anthem. Pertinently, 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is witnessing huge participation of the people.

Aftab Malik, DDC Chairperson Srinagar; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Later, Sinha chaired a high level meeting with Deputy Commissioners and senior officials, at the Civil Secretariat, to review the preparations for 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, which will start from Saturday, August 13.

Har Ghar Tiranga is a celebration of spirit of Janbhagidari and Jan Andolan. Schools and colleges are organizing programmes recalling the contribution of freedom fighters and unsung heroes of the freedom struggle. It is turning out to be the biggest Jan Mahotsav on the earth. The journey of our future will now be defined by self-reliance and self-respect," Lt Governor said.

Observing that 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign in J&K is receiving overwhelming response from all quarters, the Lt Governor exhorted officials to encourage the

PRI members, prominent citizens, political parties, Youth clubs, government officials and common people to come forward and imbibe the true spirit of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

Amrit Kal Khand is a golden opportunity for retrospection and preparation for a leap into the glorious future, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor asked the Administrative Secretaries, DCs, SSPs, HoDs to lead the campaign and directed for organizing programmes of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign at prominent and iconic places, tourist spots, border villages, besides illuminating the most conspicuous buildings and spots all over the UT in tricolor.

He also instructed for identifying houses and families of freedom fighters, and conducting Prabhat Pheris involving students, NCC cadets and NSS volunteers, besides integrating Covid precautionary dose with the campaign.

The Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs shared the programmes being conducted in their respective departments and districts.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Dilbag Singh, DGP;. Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Administrative Secretaries; Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners; SSPs, besides other senior officers attended the meeting, in person and through video conferencing.

### Jammu's Manjawallas-Down...

be huge. Those in 60s and 70s now still fondly recall the days of Shivo and Laali.

With the change of times, skilled persons from Amritsar and other peripheral areas, engaged in Manja trade, entered into the booming Jammu market and started their Manja kiosks at different places near the GGM Science College, Satwari Chowk, B.C Road and the various other vicinities.

The Manja of those times was not considered harmful or hazardous to life, except for inflicting cuts on the fingers of the users, which too could be averted by taking safety measures like covering fingers. However, for the last few years, the traditional Manja makers are not seen anywhere, notwithstanding the fact that they used to be most sought after. Ostensibly, absence of the traditional Manja makers paved way for Chinese strings to take over the Jammu business, rendering skilled and unskilled workforce jobless, who otherwise used to work for the local and Punjab Manja makers, directly or indirectly.

Initially, the changing trend in the string trade did not catch the imagination of the administration but in the wake of the dangerous and hazardous fall out of the Chinese Manja, blanket ban was imposed on its sale and use. The violation entails a fine of Rs one lakh or imprisonment of five years or both. The penal measures, it appears, have not been taken seriously by the unscrupulous traders engaged in the business of Chinese Manja across the country, resulting in fatalities and casualties. This is a dangerous trend and brazen violation of the laws in-force and recommendations of the Green Tribunal. Such a trend has to be reversed in the larger interest of the travelling and commuting public. This is a seasonal crime, which is rampant during kite flying events held during different seasons across India. While in Gujarat, Karnataka and Rajasthan, people fly kites during the festival of Makar Sankranti, in Bengal kites are eagerly flown during festivals like Vishwakarma Puja, Akshay Tiritiya. Similarly, in most parts of the country, the kites are flown between Raksha Bandhan and Shri Krishna Janamashtami. In Delhi kite flying takes place on the Independence Day while in Punjab-Haryana belt skies dot with colorful kites on Baisakhi and Basant Panchami.

## J&K Govt restrains doctors from private practice during duty hours

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Friday directed doctors to restrain themselves from doing private practice during duty hours and other malpractices as this is in violation of the Civil Service Conduct Rules.

"It has been observed that certain Doctors borne on the establishment of Health and Medical Education Department are indulging into private practices during official hours as well as while they are on duty rosters in the Government Health Institutions. This is in violation of Civil Services Conduct Rules as well as various guidelines issued from time to time and also goes against the ethics of public service for which the doctors have been appointed by the Government," reads the order issued by Manoj Dwivedi, Principal

Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department.

It reads that it has also come to notice that certain doctors are recommending medical intervention in their private clinics instead of attending the same in the Government health institutions where they are posted. "This results into loss of public exchequer under Ayushman Bharat/SEHAAT scheme and hence tantamount to offence under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. This is also to be construed a misconduct and violation of Civil Services Conduct Rules," it added.

It further reads "It has further come to the notice of the Government that many doctors are indulging into private practice in other cities and towns which implies that they are not available

at their places of posting in case any emergency arises. The doctors who are skipping their duties and indulging into private practices in other places is also being viewed very seriously."

It added that it is, accordingly, impressed upon all HoDs and DDOS not to allow any doctor borne on the establishment of Health and Medical Education Department to indulge into these malpractices resulting into loss of Government exchequer and weakening of public services.

"Strict vigilance shall be kept and such cases will be recommended for strict action by the Regulatory Authorities. These instructions shall also apply to Para-medical staff who are found indulging in same practices. Monthly report in this regard will be furnished by all HoDs," it reads.

## MC Kathua President Naresh Sharma resigns

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Naresh Sharma, Municipal Council Kathua President tendered his resignation letter to MC Kathua Vice President Rekha Kumari on Friday.

In letter to Vice President, Municipal Council Kathua it stated that, "Naresh Sharma, son of Isher Dass, resident of Ward No. 6 Kathua, hereby tender my resignation from the position of President of Municipal Council Kathua on moral grounds. I leave behind a marvelous record of achievements in my tenure and I am happy to leave that legacy".

## Second batch of Mani Mahesh Yatra leaves from Bhadarwah

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: The second batch of ancient Mani Mahesh Yatra left Bhadarwah along with holy mace for onward journey to the holy shrine of Mani Mahesh in Bharmod of Himachal Pradesh on Friday.

A group of 500 devotees from villages Sengoi, Seri, Chakrabati, Taichan, Dradhu, Gutasa, Neota-Karyan, Tipri and Lehrote carrying holy maces proceeded from Vasuki Nag Temple Gatha to Khundi Maral through Bhadarwah-Chamba interstate Road, where they will stay for the night and then proceed further towards the shrine in Bharmod district of Himachal Pradesh.

It is important to mention here that the first batch with holy mace has already left Bhadarwah on 6th August on foot and will reach their destination on August 14.

The second batch of



Devotees leaving Bhadarwah on Friday.

devotees with Holy Mace will go via Bhadarwah-Padri-Chamba route on vehicles and will join the first Charri at Bharmod in HP tomorrow, thereafter they will reach Holy lake of Mani-Mahesh on 14th together to have Holly dip and offer traditional prayers.

However, another group of pilgrims will leave with holly mace on Janam Ashtami.

Beside local administration, the pilgrims were seen off by President Shri Santan Dharam Sabha Bhadarwah Virendar Razdan who also joined the holy mace till Sungli village.

Meanwhile, adequate security arrangements were made by administration for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the yatra.

## CRIME REPORT

### Bootlegger nabbed with 31 bottles of liquor

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MANDI: Police on Friday nabbed a bootlegger and recovered 31 bottles of liquor and 48 cans of beer from his possession.

As per details, during random Naka checking by Incharge Police Post Swazian, Kartik Raina and ASI Khurshid Ahmed of Police Post Sawzian, a vehicle (JK02 BH 7527) being driven by Imtiaz Khan, son of Mohd Din Khan, resident of W.No.5, Poonch was stopped for checking, after which 31 bottles of liquor and 48 cans of beer were recovered from it.

The accused was arrested and FIR No.107/2022 under sections 48(A) of Exceise Act was registered against him at Police Station Mandi.

### Drug peddler arrested, brown sugar recovered

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs, police on Friday arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

As per details, a party of Police Station Sopore during Naka checking at Adipora under the supervision of SDPO Sopore Furqan Qadir, intercepted a suspect identified as Safer Ahmad Lone, son of Habib-ul-lah Lone, resident of Adipora Sopore.

During search, 15 gm Brown Sugar like substance was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody. Accordingly, FIR No. 171/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Sopore and investigation started.

## Four gangs of fraudulent SIM-card vendors busted; 8 arrested

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major drive against gangs of SIM-card vendors operating in District Jammu and involved in selling of SIMs based on fake documents, forged identities, Police on Friday arrested a number of suspects involved in racket.

As per details, information was received at Police Station Akhnoor through reliable sources that some persons were involved in fraudulent selling of SIM cards by preparing false documents, forging & faking identity related papers & records and were dishonestly issuing SIM cards against a single photo to different persons. On this, FIR No.181/2022 under sections 420/465/467/468/471 of IPC was registered in Police Station Akhnoor and investigation started.

After this special police teams of Police Station Akhnoor under the supervision of SDPO Akhnoor Varun Jandial led by SHO Akhnoor Inspr Hilal Azhar assisted by PSI Zulfiqar Choudhary, after putting in strenuous efforts and with help of various inputs finally rounded up three suspects namely Dheeraj Kumar alias Jagatar, son of Pritam Lal, resident of Dhoun Chak Khour; Rajesh Kumar alias Sonu, son of Sobha Ram, resident of village Garar Tehsil Khour District Jammu and Rohit Sharma alias Lucky, son of Romesh Sharma, resident of Maira Tehsil Jourian District Jammu. During investigation, CAF/CDR of all such SIM cards were obtained and various persons were summoned for questioning. Accordingly, after questioning, three vendors were arrested for their involvement in issuing fake SIM cards to various persons within and outside UT of J&K. The role of other officials of Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio officials is also under scrutiny.

Similarly, information was received at Police Station Bishnah regarding some persons running a racket in which they first copy and paste a CQR number as well as other details of a voter viz name, address, parentage and then after filling information in a fake electoral card, generate a fake photo copy of a electoral card, for applying a new SIM and companies also issue SIM on aforesaid document. On this, a case was registered and investigation started.

After this, a team of Police Station ishnah under supervision of SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh led by SHO Bishnah Inspr Pawan Kumar, after putting in strenuous efforts and with help of various inputs, rounded up a suspect namely Sunil Sagotra, son of Satpal, resident of village Chorli, Tehsil Bishnah. It is pertinent to mention here that a large number of fake SIMs have been issued to both citizens and outsiders by the vendor and there is an apprehension that the number may increase in coming days.

Similar information was received at Police Station Bahu Fort through reliable sources that some persons were involved in fraudulent selling of SIM cards by preparing false documents, forging & faking identity related papers & records and were dishonestly issuing SIM cards against a single photo to different persons. In this regard, FIR No. 168 /2022 under sections 420/467/468/471 of IPC was registered at Police Station Bahu Fort and investigation started. After this, a team of Police Station Bahu Fort under supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari led by SHO Bahu Fort Inspr Nayat Ali assisted by PSI Sunil Singh and ASI Khalil Ahmed, after strenuous efforts and with the help of various leads, rounded up three suspects later identified as Subash Thakurb, son of

Bahadur Singh, resident of Kishtwar at present Bagh-e-Bahu; Deepak Kumar, son of Jeet Kumar, resident of Bagh-e-Bahu and Mohan Singh, son of Late Gopal Singh, resident of Channi Rama.

Moreover, a team of Police Station Gandhi Nagar constituted under the supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma and led by SHO Gandhi Nagar Inspr Pankaj Sharma also raided at suspected location as per the inputs generated regarding selling of SIMs using forged documents. FIR No.152/22 under sections 420/467/468/471 of IPC was registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar and an accused were arrested, identified as Sahil Kumar, son of Ashok Kumar, resident of Chowadhi Jammu. Further investigation of cases is going on and more arrests are likely to be made.

## Shopkeeper held with 17 bundles of banned Chinese Manja

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ARNIA: Police on Friday arrested a shopkeeper with 17 bundles of banned Chinese Manja (Gattu).

As per details, information was received at Police Station Arnia regarding sale of banned synthetic thread. On this, a team of Police Station Arnia under supervision of SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh led by SHO Arnia Inspr Devinder Singh raided a shop at Main Bazar near Arnia. During search, 17 bundles of Chinese Manja (Gattu) were recovered from shopkeeper; identified as Rakesh Kumar, son of Nagar Mal, resident of Arnia. He was arrested and FIR No. 76/2022 under section 188 of IPC was registered against him at Police Station Arnia. The arrest was made in violation of DM order regarding ban on sale of plastic/synthetic thread (Manja).

### Narco-smuggler nabbed with heroin

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Friday arrested a narco-smuggler and recovered 11 gm heroin from his possession.

As per details, a team of Police Station Gangyal led by SHO Gangyal Inspector Joginder Singh assisted by PSI Sanjeev Sharma while on Naka duty rounded up a suspect.

On search, 11 gm heroin was recovered from possession of accused, who was later identified as Sukhwinder Singh alias Shibu, son of Balwinder Singh, resident of Resham Garh Colony, Jammu. He was arrested and FIR No. 91/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Gangyal. The entire operation was done under the supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma.

### Thief arrested, stolen water tank recovered

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Friday solved a theft case by arresting an accused and recovered stolen water storage tank.

As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Station Gharota by one Davinder Singh, son of Late Kalyan Singh, resident of Agore Tehsil Bhalwal stating that some unknown persons stole his water storage tank.

On this, FIR No. 81/2022 under relevant sections was registered and investigation started.

After this, a team of Police Station Gharota under supervision of SDPO Akhnoor Varun Jandial led by SHO Gharota Inspr Rajesh Khajuria assisted by PSI Irshad Ahmad, after putting in strenuous efforts and with help of CCTV footage, technical inputs and human intelligence, rounded up a suspect namely Mohd Kafeel, son of Mohd Hussain, resident of Dhanu who confessed his involvement in crime.

He further informed that he sold the water storage tank to one Ram Giri Bakshi, son of Tulsi Giri, resident of Sheetala Mandir, Khanpur, Nagrota, which was later recovered from Sheetla Mandir area. The overall investigation was done under supervision of SP Rural Sanjay Sharma.

### Trucker arrested for smuggling bovines

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police on Friday successfully foiled an attempt to smuggle bovines by rescuing 20 bovines and arrested a smuggler.

As per details, acting on information received from reliable sources regarding illegal transportation of bovines, a team of Police Station Samba intercepted a truck (IIR73/3535) at check-point near Chichi Mata Mandir, Samba. During checking, 20 bovines were found laden in the truck, which were rescued.

The driver of vehicle namely Nursad Ahmed, son of Sajjad Ahmed, resident of Malk Morh Tehsil Mirzapur District Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh was arrested and FIR No. 211/2022 under section 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA was registered against him at Police Station Samba.

### Unidentified body found

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: An unknown male body, aged approximately 45 years, was found in river Chenab at Akhnoor. The body has been kept in mortuary of GMC Jammu for identification. Anybody, having any information regarding the person, may contact Akhnoor Police at 01924-252225.

