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J&K to get...

said. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K is creating a people-centric healthcare ecosystem that is more inclusive, equitable and accessible to all, especially in the far-flung areas, he said.

We have given priority to the health of every section of society. The Medicity project is not just a milestone in terms of investment, but a significant step towards accessible, affordable and quality healthcare, medical education and bringing J&K at the forefront of healthcare innovation, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor congratulated the entire team of Areesha Royal Hospital & Medical College and everyone associated with the project.

On the improvement in healthcare, Sinha said the AIIMS at Jammu is by and large functional while the AIIMS in Kashmir, which is coming up at Avantipora in Pulwama district, is expected to start functioning from next year.

"The highest per capita investment for public healthcare is in Jammu and Kashmir. Efforts have been made to ensure healthcare facilities in far-flung areas as well. Under the Ayushman Bharat, every family in Jammu and Kashmir has got a health insurance of Rs five lakh," he said.

Arshid Bhat, director of the project, said the construction work on the project will commence from March next year.

"We planned this project two years ago. We will set up a 500-bed hospital and a medical college... All the specialities will be there and nothing will be left out," Bhat said. This is the third Hospital coming in J&K in the private sector and two more such projects will come in the future, one each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions, it was informed. Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary Health and Medical Education; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Bhidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce; Arshid Ahmed Bhat, MD Areesha Royal Hospital Private Limited, senior officials and prominent citizens were present.

Two terrorists killed...

when they attempted to infiltrate into the Indian side to revive the activities of the proscribed outfit in the district. While the body of Munesh Hussain, the Hizbul commander, was retrieved along with a huge cache of arms and ammunition, that of his bodyguard could not be recovered as he managed to return to the other side of the LoC in the Degwar sector.

Sachin Kumar Vaishy...

staff of the district, emphasising their relentless efforts in handling a substantial workload. She extended her heartfelt gratitude to her personal staff, which also includes drivers and security personnel, for their unwavering support throughout her tenure.

Avny Lavasa warmly welcomed her successor, Sachin Vaishy and conveyed her optimism for his leadership.

In response, Sachin Vaishya, the incoming DC, expressed his commitment to build upon the foundations laid by his predecessor. "We will work together, following in the footsteps of the former administrator to address the challenges and harness the strengths of Jammu for its collective betterment," he stated.

The event concluded with expressions of goodwill from the district staff, including Patwaris and Girdwars, who extended their thanks to Avny Lavasa and wished her the best of luck for her future endeavours.

Sarore Toll Plaza...

of Sarore toll plaza on the Jammu-Pathankot highway in Samba district. Following the protest, vehicular movement remained suspended for several hours on the highway.

Led by YRS chief Vikram Singh, hundreds of activists raised anti government slo-

gans and held protest against the functioning of the toll plaza in Sarore. Some activists even tried to damage the plaza. Window panes at the plaza were damaged. However police and paramilitary forces, which were deployed in strength, dispersed them.

The activists then sat on dharna demanding a written assurance from the government for removal of the toll plaza as the work on the high way is under progress and this is illegal to collect toll when the road is in bad shape. A protestor even said the toll plaza has been set up in violation of the rules.

Police has arrested over 50 protesters including YRS chief Vikram Singh, and Ex-president Rajan Singh Happy. The YRS leaders have appealed to all Jammuites to remain united and gather at the Toll Plaza at 10:00 AM on Tuesday to continue the protest.

Today evening the senior police officers including DIG Jammu Shakti Pathak also visited the Toll plaza and met the protesters.

Addressing the protesters, DIG Pathak said, "Lieutenant Governor has said that he discussed the issue with the chairman NHAI and the matter will be resolved in the coming days. To this the protesters demanded written assurance and staged dharna.

Amarnath Yatra: 'Chhari...

custodian -- led a group of sadhus in performing the puja, they said. Giri now will carry the mace to the Amarnath cave shrine for a puja and darshan on the morning of Shraavan Purnima on August 31, the officials added.

The yatra will have night halts in Pahalgam on August 26-27, Chandanwari on August 28, Sheshmag on August 29 and Panchtarni on August 30, Giri said.

More than 4.43 lakh pilgrims have performed the Amarnath Yatra since the pilgrimage began on July 1. While the yatra has been uneventful so far, 48 pilgrims died of natural causes or accidents during the arduous journey.

The annual pilgrimage will culminate on August 31.

ACB exposes extortion...

Rs 3500 from a truck driver. The marked currency was recovered from Shah at the scene, serving as tangible evidence of the alleged extortion.

Disturbingly, the investigation uncovered that this extortion practice was not isolated. Multiple drivers who transport food grains for FCI came forward, alleging that they were compelled to pay bribes before their trucks were unloaded. Those who refused to comply reportedly faced significant delays.

Adding to the gravity of the situation, it was revealed that AbMajeed Sheikh, the alleged mastermind, is also accused in aRs 30 crore financial fraud case involving J&K Bank. The ACB had previously charge-sheeted him in connection with this bank fraud.

The investigation is ongoing, with ACB officials delving further into the network of individuals associated with FCI's Chandporagodown. It is anticipated that more arrests may follow as the ACB uncovers more layers of corruption within the organization.

These revelations underscore the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to root out corruption from critical sectors. The ACB's efforts, as the investigation continues, hold the potential to usher in a new era of transparency and accountability in FCI's operations.

BJP leader demands...

the large scale cases of grabbing of immovable property of displaced community called Kashmiri migrants in official parlance," Raina, a spokesperson of the J-K unit of BJP, told reporters here.

The former legislator demanded a time-bound action plan to evict the encroachers and land grabbers and restore the property to lawful owners.

He said the "encroachment of immovable property belonging to the displaced community in Kashmir Valley is a serious matter".

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (preservation, pro-

tection and restraint on distress sales) Act 1997, the competent authority is authorised to prepare details of the immovable property of the displaced community and take appropriate action including "use such force as is necessary for taking possession of such property" to evict unauthorised occupants of such property, he added.

"Unfortunately, the situation on the ground is different and victims are forced to visit the court of law for redressal of grievances", he said.

He claimed that some members of the displaced community were forced to enter into a sale deed under distress. "Various reasons for distress sales include the fear of losing the entire property to the grabber," he said.

It is therefore important and humane to declare these distress sales as null and void, he added. Even a parliamentary standing committee has recommended such an action, Raina claimed.

SC dismisses plea...

privileges to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and barred people from outside the state from acquiring any immovable property in the state.

It also denied property rights to a woman who married a person from outside the state. On August 5, 2019, the Centre decided to strip the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir of special status and bifurcate it into two union territories.

By abrogating Article 370, the central government had revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by the CJI is hearing arguments on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Sustainable dev goals...

his address stressed on the collective efforts of all stakeholders towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The occasion also marked the release of Operating Guidelines of National Capability Building Framework for PRIs, and Service level Benchmarks and Model Contracts for Gram Panchayats for Water Supply and Sanitation.

DDC Chairpersons; Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sunil Kumar, Union Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Mandeeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and PRI members from J&K and across the country were present.

Wreath-laying ceremony...

surviving the crash and is still undergoing treatment for critical injuries.

General Officer Commanding of the Army's Fire and Fury Corps, Lt Gen Rashim Bali, led the troops in paying homage to the slain personnel at a solemn wreath-laying ceremony.

"In a solemn wreath-laying ceremony, GOC Fire and Fury Corps and all ranks paid homage with full Military Honours to the Bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice, in the line of duty, at #Ladakh on 19 Aug 23," the Leh-based 14 Corps wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

It also shared several pictures of the GoC and other officers laying wreaths on the tricolour-wrapped coffins of the soldiers.

Leh-based Defence Public Relations Officer (PRO) Lt Col P S Sidhu said the mortal remains of the soldiers were flown to Chandigarh after the wreath-laying ceremony.

The bodies will be handed over to their next of kin for their last rites which will be performed at their native places with military honours, he said.

A police official identified the deceased soldiers as Naib Subedar Ramesh Lal, Lance Naik Tejpal Singh, gunners Manmohan Singh and Ankit of Haryana, Naik N Chandr Sekhar of Telangana, Havaldars Mahinder Singh Sikarwar of Madhya Pradesh and Vijay Kumar of Himachal Pradesh and Gunner Tarandeep Singh of Punjab and Gunner Bhoite Vaibhav Sampat of Maharashtra.

Students, senior citizens unite in rally to celebrate World Senior Citizens Day



NGO members along with students and senior citizens.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A large rally on Monday by the students of Naveen Shiksha Kendra School, Channi Himmat and the team of NGO SUPPORT to support Senior Citizens Service Support Club Chowadi was taken out in Channi Himmat, here.

Students carried banners, slogans and posters spreading awareness about showing love, care and respect for the senior citizens.

Students gave the message that we should not forget our parents and elders who helped us to grow and earn our living.

The Founder Chairman of the Senior Citizens Service Support Club, Dr Kasturi Lal Mahajan, Ashok Gupta President, Annil Suri Vice President, Maj. Gen. S K Sharma General Secretary, H C Vaid Finance Secretary and Dr Navneet Kour Executive Committee Member flagged off the rally.

Dr Navneet informed about the Senior Citizens Maintenance and Welfare schemes & the Senior Citizens Help Line no 14567 and briefed about the rights of Senior Citizens, beneficiary policies of the Government for the Senior

Citizen etc and marched through the areas from Dayal Bakery Channi Himmat (Co Sponsors Nalin).

S. Jain spoke wonderful couplets and quotes on senior citizens.

The refreshments were sponsored taken care by Main Sponsors Geetanji Saloon Channi Himmat for more than 200 students who participated in the rally.

The rally was concluded at Panch Mandir where children & Senior Citizens were served Halwa and refreshments. The team of NGO SUPPORT distributed wafers and chocolates to the participants of the rally .

The rally also helped citizens to know government laws to defend the rights of senior citizens . The Teaching Staff of NSK School & Volunteer Gurmeet Singh and Ramneet Kaur assisted the rally and the students. The SHO Channi Himmat also escorted the rally with his team and helped to manage the traffic.

NCC Group Commander Jammu visits 2 J&K Girls NCC Battalion; highlights women empowerment



Group Commander of NCC Group Jammu, Brigadier P S Cheema during visit to 2 J&K Girl NCC Battalion in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Group Commander of NCC Group Jammu, Brigadier P S Cheema, visited 2 J&K Girl NCC Battalion in Jammu on Monday.

An all-women contingent from the NCC is poised to make an indelible mark on the grand stage of the Republic Day Parade in Delhi on January 26, 2024.

This visit served as a platform to motivate and inspire the cadets of the 2nd J&K Girls NCC Battalion, filling them with a sense of pride and purpose as they prepare for this monumental occasion.

Brigadier P S Cheema emphasized the profound importance of the upcoming Republic Day Parade, where the all-women contingent will march on Krtavaya Path.

He encouraged the cadets to put their best foot forward during the selection process, underlining the powerful statement that this contingent will make.

The Group Commander extended appreciation to Col Nischal Salathia, Platoon Staff, Associate NCC Officers (ANOs), and the entire support staff for their unwavering commitment and dedication.

CSIR IIIM organizes Marigold Field Day under CSIR Floriculture Mission at Batote

BATOTE: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu on Monday organized Marigold Field Day under CSIR Floriculture Mission jointly with Department of Agriculture Ramban at Batote.

During the event, visit to the farmers fields at different locations were conducted and on farm appraisal on the performance of the crop cultivars of Marigold cultivated by different farmers under the mission was taken and scientific agro-advisories for achieving quality yield of the flowers were also provided to the farmer beneficiaries.

Interacting with the farmers, Dr Shahid Rasool, Nodal Scientist of the Mission, appreciated the farmers for their efforts and their decision to adopt the crops for the time and expressed his gratitude to the officers of the Department of Agriculture for their active support in the effective implementation of the mis-



Tejinder Singh Wazir, Member J&K Kisan Advisory Board interacting with farmers.

sion activities in the District. Ravi Sharma DAO Ramban, complimented the initiative of CSIR IIIM and assured of his support and coordination for the further expansion of the crops and hand holding of farmers in the district farmers.

Tejinder Singh Wazir, Member J&K Kisan Advisory Board, who was also present while appreciating the step of the CSIR for farmer empowerment through commercial floriculture and on-farm outreach programme of CSIR IIIM, emphasized on the production and post harvest man-

agement of the crops cultivated on scientific lines. Progressive farmers and members of women SHGs also participated. Earlier, an awareness programme on the scope and opportunities for argi-entrepreneurship in commercial floriculture was also conducted wherein 100 participants from different areas of Ramban converged.

Proceedings of the programme were conducted by Sudir Manhas, SDAO Ramban. Dr Ravinder Singh AEO, Sunil Gupta SMS, and various PRI representatives of the districts were also present.

Reasi Police organises Nukkad Natak on drug abuse under 'Meri Maati-Mera Desh' campaign



Locals witnessing Nukkad Natak at Reasi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Continuing series of events while commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav , It is a tribute to the Veers and Veeranganas who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country. Today on the directions of Sh. Amit Gupta-JKPS Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi, District Police Reasi organize a Nukkad Natak under Meri Maati-Mera Desh, Mitti ko Naman, Veeron Ka Vandan at Pouni.

Under the aegis of 'Meri Matti Mera Desh- Mitti ko

Naman Veeron ka Vandan', an awareness programme was organised and a nukkad Natak was also performed by Sargam Club, Samba at Main Chowk Pouni, in which prominent persons, local youth, students and shopkeepers were aware to combat drug abuse and the illegal drug trade and create a safer and healthier future for individuals and communities. Also major emphasis was given to promote strategies to prevent drug abuse and drug-related crimes so that message of drug prevention,

treatment, and rehabilitation can widely spread to every nook and corner.

Also people were motivated to curb the menace of drug abuse by providing their cooperation in the fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

SSP Reasi while sharing the details conveyed that Reasi Police is working on multi pronged strategy against the drug menace and taking every step possible to weed out this evil from the society which is harming our younger generation.

Nowshera Forest Division organises grooming session for associated SGHs

STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: To improve livelihood opportunities for local people living on peripheries of Nowshera Forest Division, a one day grooming session on making of handicrafts with chir needles and their value addition was held at Sunderbani. The session was attended by chairpersons and women members of all 15 SHGs associated with Chir handicrafts. The grooming session was started by Divisional Forest Officer, Nowshera Satyendra Maurya by shedding light on use of chir needles for making handicrafts and creating livelihood opportunities for women and girls in addition to their routine work.

Expert from GIRI Foundation Komal Koul informed the participants about various inputs for improving the quality of chir handicraft products. Using good quality material with precision and with good marketing skills, the

scope for this emerging handicraft industry can be expanded all over India, she said. At present GIRI foundation is working on marketing of chir needle handicrafts in Jammu.

The participants lauded the efforts of Nowshera Forest Division for holding such a series of livelihood improvement programmes for people living on the periphery of Nowshera Forest Division. They called for extending such training programmes to other remote areas of Reasi and Rajouri districts so that more women and girls may take benefit of such self employment generation activities in addition to their daily routine works.

Range Officer Sunderbani, Sudesh Kumar made all arrangements for smooth conduct of the one day grooming session. The programme was conducted under guidance of Conservator of Forests, West circle Rajouri Vivek Verma.

7th Bhajan Sandhya at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir Classical singer Ashutosh enralls devotees with Bhajans

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ashutosh Sharma, renowned classical singer, and his disciples enthralled devotees, with their soulful Bhajans, at the 7th Bhajan Sandhya, on Monday, in the on-going Sawan Mahotsav, in Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir.

Ashutosh, began by Ganesh Vandana, initiating a swell of devotional mood in the audience.

He elevated it to the spiritual ecstasy by singing Bhajans of Lord Ram, Lord Krishna and Mahadev. The rendition of Bhajans by Ashutosh, supported in form of chorus by Deepak, and disciples Mukteshi, Mohit Sharma, Pranav Sharma, Rahul Sharma and others, including little Master Laadu, created a unique synergy mesmerising devotees weaving a magical spell and spiritual euphoria.

Mohit Sharma, Pranav Sharma, Rahul Sharma, young disciples of Ashutosh, in their intricate musical



Classical singer Ashutosh singing Bhajan.

notes also regaled audience to sublime spiritual state.

Bhajan "Udh Jayega Hans Akela" a Bhajan of Kabir by Mohit Sharma in soulful voice elevated devotees in a transcendental state of spiritual ecstasy.

Brilliant support and performance by Guru Parshotam, on Pakhwaj, Rakesh Anand on flute, Pankaj Pradhan on Harmonium and Vinay on Tabla transformed the performances to a transcenden-

tal level leaving the devotees spell bound.

The brilliant performances in the ongoing Sawan Mahotsav, organised for the first time ever, in the mystical ambience of Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, has kindled devotional fervour in devotees. They have been thronging in large number to listen to live performances of national and international classical singers of this region and deeply appreciating them.