

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya begins at Vaishno Devi Shrine

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KATRA: Shat Chandi Maha Yagya began with onset of auspicious nine-day long 'Sharad Navratras' on Monday at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, amidst grand decorations organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

The Maha Yagya which is being performed by chanting of Vedic hymns with other religious ceremonies at the holy cave shrine for peace, prosperity, health, safety and well being of mankind, will conclude with Purna Ahuti on Mahanavami.

It is being telecast on Shradhha MII One channel from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM daily during Navratras.

K K Sharma, Member Shrine Board; Anshul Garg, CEO of the Board; Sudhir Bali, SDM Bhawan; Ajay Salaan, Asstt. CEO, besides, other senior officers of Board and a large number of pilgrims were present on the occasion.

On this festive occasion, as per the directions of Chairman (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), Shrine Board has been providing free pony and battery car services to 'Divyayog' devotees with special arrangements for their priority Darshans at sanctum sancto-



CEO, Shrine Board, Anshul Garg and others participating in Shat Chandi Maha Yagya.

rum by setting up of help desks for their convenience at various locations.

Noteworthy, RFID-based tracking and dispatching pilgrims in batches, a focused initiative of Shrine Board for Yatra Management to ensure their safety, comfort and ease of commutation has already been rolled out by the Shrine Board well before commencement of Navratras.

In addition, erecting welcome gates,

the Shrine Board has unveiled special self-points for the first time enroute the Holy shrine for the pilgrims to capture fond memories of their visit during Navratras.

Like in the past, the Board has also made elaborate arrangements to facilitate a much larger number of pilgrims who are likely to visit Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine during Navratras.

These arrangements include round

the clock water and power supply, sanitation and cleanliness, medicare and availability of special "fast related" food at the catering outlets of the Shrine Board.

Grand decorations are made at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it with indigenous-foreign fruits and flowers, as well as huge reception doors and pandals are installed in the Bhawan Area. Likewise, the illumination of the Bhawan area with attractive and colorful lights has also been done. The breathtaking and festive decorations are a special visual delight for pilgrims who trek about 12km from Katra to Bhawan.

Also, as was done in last year's Shardiya Navratras, this year's other special features of arrangements included Bhajan and Bhaint performances during morning and evening Atka Aarti by the renowned artists.

The CEO interacted with the pilgrims and enquired about the arrangements made by the board to facilitate them. He expressed satisfaction at the arrangements put in place for the pilgrims at Bhawan and Katra.

HC refuses to quash preliminary enquiry against Revenue official

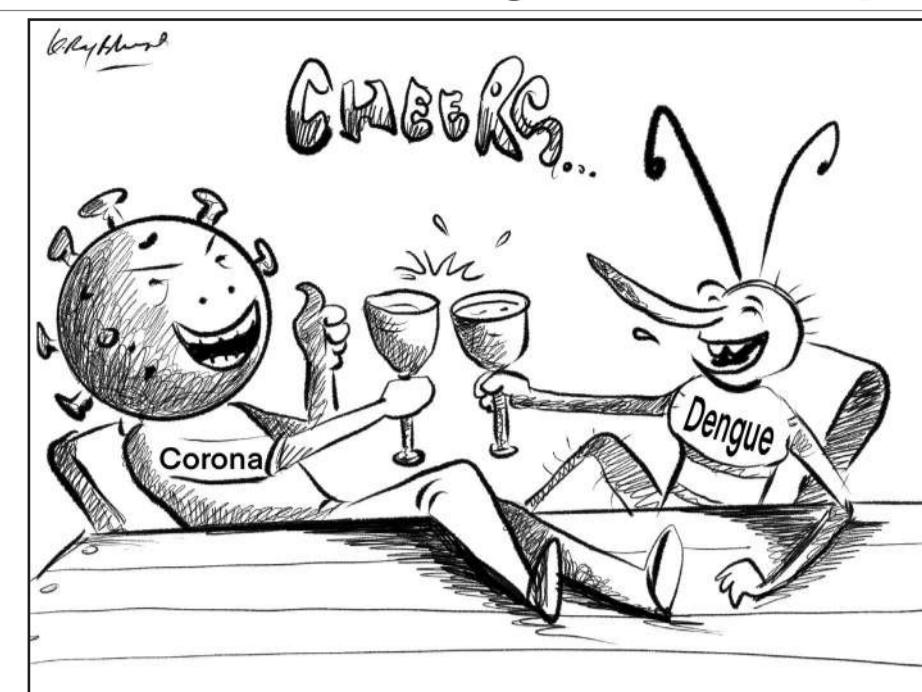
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JAMMU: Justice Sanjay Dhar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court while refusing to quash preliminary enquiry against revenue official, observed that purpose of verification of the complaints and holding of preliminary enquiry is to ascertain the veracity of the allegations made in the complaint, otherwise a public servant would be susceptible to reckless prosecution and no public servant would be able to take decisions in a free and fair manner.

This significant order has been passed in a petition filed Pardeep Singh for setting aside the impugned Advertisement notification No. 04.22 dated 27.07.2022 issued by the Service Selection Board and also seeking direction to the Service Selection Board to provide minimum qualification for direct recruitment to the post of Forester in terms of communication dated 15.11.2017 by not later than six months. It was also directed by the Court that since the respondents are in the process of amending the recruitment rules for the post of Forester (Direct Recruitment), they shall also ensure that the concerned, as projected by petitioners in the writ petition, is well registered and addressed to. The Writ Petition was accordingly disposed of by High Court.

It has been further been submitted by Sr. Counsel that as the respondents had themselves committed in the aforesaid judgement that they would amend the recruitment rules for the post of Forester in terms of communication dated 15.11.2017, they were duty bound to implement the same. The respondents had sought and were granted six month's time to bring the requisite change, however, even after a lapse of more than five years, they have not done the needful.

On the contrary, they issued fresh advertisement notification No. 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022 prescribing the same qualification of 10+2 which was there in the earlier notification, which is a clear violation of judgement passed by High Court of J&K. On the other side Rajesh Thappa AAG appearing for the respondents submitted that as the process of amendment of recruitment rules has not yet been completed, Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022 has been issued on basis of existing recruitment rules. The said notification does not preclude applicants from applying, even if they have qualification higher than 10+2. He



CAT stays selection process for Foresters (Jammu Div)

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JAMMU: The Central Administrative Tribunal stayed selection process in pursuance to Advertisement Notice No. 04.2022 dated 27.07.2022 to the extent of filling up of posts of Foresters (Jammu Division) figuring at serial no. 193. Court further ordered that in meantime, the respondents are at liberty to conclude pending recruitment rules amendment process.

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prayed for some time to verify the status of amendment process of recruitment rules pertaining to post of Forester.

Suresh Kumar Batra, Judicial Member of Central Administrative Tribunal after hearing both the sides, observed that from perusal of Order dated 04.12.2017 (supra), it is seen that the respondents had themselves placed on record the communication bearing no. PCCF/LO/2522 dated 15.11.2017 of Additional Principal Conservator, before the High Court and apprised the High Court that they would amend the recruitment rules for the post of Forester in terms of communication dated

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J&K Bank MD & CEO meets CEC LAHDC Leh, top officials of Ladakh UT Admn

Committed to contribute to unfolding growth story of Ladakh: Baldev Prakash



MD J&K Bank, Baldev Parkash during a meeting with CEC, LAHDC, Leh.

Priority sector lending, take lead role in implementing social security schemes and are committed to the economic development of the UT by scaling up our finances in projects mainly under green and renewable energy, tourism and horticulture etc. We are committed to reciprocate the trust and confidence that people and government of Ladakh have reposed in J&K Bank by contributing our part to the unfolding growth story of Ladakh". During his meeting with the Advisor to LG of Ladakh UT Umang Narula at Leh, Baldev said, "The main purpose of my visit to Ladakh is to cement and further enhance our relationship with the Government of UT - our important shareholder - by partnering in the socio-economic growth and development of the people of Ladakh." While emphasizing upon the

importance of digitization of banking and financial services for improving financial inclusion and facilitation of tourists, Umang Narula, Advisor to LG urged the Bank's leadership to augment their ATM network by installing new machines at tourist spots in rural areas and other locations. MD & CEO J&K Bank also held separate meetings with Commissioner Secretary (GAD) A K Sahu, Principal Secretary Dr Pawan Kotwal, Divisional Commissioner; Saugat Biswas and other senior administration officials.

Flanked by General Manager Sudhir Gupta and Zonal Head Ladakh Anghuk Dorje, Baldev also chaired a customer meet held wherein representatives of hoteliers, contractors, traders, transporters, manufacturers, government employees etc. interacted with him and put forth some valuable suggestions to further improve bank's services and footprint in the UT. While lauding him for having travelled by road all the way from Srinagar, they appreciated the MD & CEO's seriousness in improving services and encouraging business in a highly competitive banking ecosystem of Leh. Prominent customers who attended the meeting include Padma Shri Awardee Chewang Motup Goba, Ghulam Mustafa and Chairman Contractors Association Leh Toyot Tashi Chulichhan.

Meanwhile, during the visit MD & CEO also felicitated top ten branches of Ladakh zone for their outstanding performance.

ANTF Kashmir arrests 3 drug-peddlers, recovers huge quantity of contraband substances

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SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drug trafficking from its gross root level under the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan, The Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) Kashmir arrested three drug peddlers and recovered huge quantity of contraband substances from their possession.

"ANTF Kashmir (a specialized unit to check rising menace of drugs) has

recovered commercial quantity of one quintal and 93 Kgs of Poppy Straw in two back-to-back operations from three accused persons," SSP ANTF Vinay Sharma said adding that they have been identified as Satnam Singh, Shiv Kumar both residents of Ludhiana Punjab and Arif Rashid Bhat resident of Yaripora in District Anantnag.

The vehicles used in the commission of crime have

also been seized, he added.

Preliminary investigation

revealed that the arrested drug peddlers were going to sell the same contraband among the youth and other drug peddlers in and outside the UT of J&K, Vinay said.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at Police Station ANTF Kashmir and investigation has been initiated.

SSP Vinay Sharma

requested community members to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in their neighbourhood.

Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt as per law, he said adding that our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace.

Congress will sweep upcoming Assembly polls in J&K: Rajni Patil



AICC Incharge J&K, Rajni Patil and other senior leaders welcoming new entrants into party fold.

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JAMMU: Rajni Patil AICC Incharge for Jammu & Kashmir said that Congress party will sweep upcoming Assembly polls in J&K as people are fed-up of series of lies and false promises made by BJP leadership in the Union Territory. She was speaking during a joining programme at Katra wherein scores of political workers embraced Congress. The main face, who joined Congress was renowned social activist Bhupinder Singh, who along with scores of people came into Congress with a mission to make it a force to reckon with. Besides Rajni Patil, JKPC

President Vikar Rasool Wani, Working President Raman Bhalla, Uday Bhanu Chib, President J&K PYC, Mula Ram senior Congress leader and former minister also spoke on the occasion. Prominent among others present on the occasion include Shahnawaz Choudhary, Vijay Sharma Babbi, Rajesh Sadotra, Krishan Lal Bhagat, Pranav Shagotra, Rakesh Wazir, Jahanzaib Sirwal, Bilal Rashid, Pawan Raina, Charanjeet Bhagat, Shakesh Shah and Latish Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla accused the government of indulging in self-congratulatory rhetoric over Jammu and Kashmir. He said that UT Government has failed on all fronts in providing relief to the common people.

with bogus promises made by BJP and other parties' leadership and educate electorate about sincerity and dedication of Congress, which has a long and vibrant track record. Vikar Rasool Wani also welcomed Bhupinder Singh and his supporters in party and expressed confidence that his entry will strengthen the party at grass-root level.

Addressing the first-ever CSIR Leadership Meet attended by the Directors and Head of Departments of all the 37 CSIR labs across the country, Dr Jitendra said, the legacy of CSIR is built on the cumulative contribution of its several national laboratories and institutes. He said, each laboratory of CSIR is unique and specialising in as diverse

areas as genomics to geology, material technology to microbial technology and food to fuel.

The Minister also recalled how the laboratories came together during the COVID pandemic last year and developed several technologies that helped India's fight against COVID. The Minister said, the success stories of each lab must be brought to the fore of the country through a massive mass media campaign.

Dr Jitendra said, CSIR breakthroughs in areas like Drone, Heliborne technology, state of the art Sewage cleaning machines, Aroma Mission has opened up huge opportunities for developing

meaningful and equal stake partnership among Research, Academia and Industry. The Minister said, the state-of-the-art Heliborne survey technology with cooperation from Jal Shakti Ministry was applied last year in States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana and this could play an important role in positively contributing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Vision and Mission of "Hai Ghar Nal Se Jal".

Similarly, the mechanized sewage cleaning system developed by CSIR for wider dissemination will help in achieving the target of Global Centres of Innovations in the Amrit Kaal. He said, they must focus on emerging

innovations in areas like Hydrogen in the energy transition, Carbon capture and storage, Accessible solar power, Plastic recycling and Cheap energy storage. Dr Jitendra Singh said that there should be a Science Pavilion on the lines of DST and DBT at Pragati Maidan. He also urged the DG, CSIR to organize CSIR-Expo in various parts of the country to showcase its technological prowess to various states and industries, besides other stakeholders.

In conclusion, Dr Jitendra asked CSIR and all the science departments to explore S&T innovations needed in the next ten years to make India globally a frontline state in technological achievements and innovations. The Minister said, "We should not restrict our ambition to be the best in India but be the best in the world as India is blessed with the demographic dividend of youth and they can take up any challenge with the right training and motivation". Dr Singh called upon a pool of over 4,500 CSIR scientists to reorient and revitalise the organization to emerge as Global Centres of Innovations in the Amrit Kaal. He said, they must focus on emerging



Union Minister and Vice President CSIR, Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the first-ever CSIR Leadership Meet attended by the Directors of all the 37 CSIR institutes from across India, at New Delhi on Monday.