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## Azad announces 600 new health centres for J&amp;K

benefits. In order to further augment the rural health services, the Union Minister announced setting up of 600 new health sub-centres in the uncovered areas of the State. He also announced a provision of Rs. 60 crore for strengthening the drug testing laboratories to overcome the menace of spurious drugs in the State. He directed the Controller Drugs & Food Control

the benefit of the people, especially for the poor and rural areas. He said National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched to upgrade the health infrastructure particularly for rural areas. After the launch of this flagship programme a substantial improvement has been recorded in the health sector across the country.

The Union Minister said that UPA Government prioritized



Organization to submit a proposal in this regard within a week's time.

Minister for Medical Education, Taj Mohi-ud-Din and Minister of State for Health, Shabir Ahmad Khan were also present in the meeting.

The Union Health Minister said that under the newly launched Urban Health Mission Scheme, the primary health infrastructure of seven cities of Jammu and Kashmir would be upgraded, adding that cities like Baramulla, Sopore, Anantnag and Srinagar in Kashmir division and Udhampur, Kathua and Jammu in Jammu division would be covered in the first phase.

While taking detailed appraisal of all sponsored schemes and overall health scenario in the State, Mr Azad said that UPA Government in the Centre headed by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has accorded top most priority to the health sector and several schemes have been launched for

four major areas viz; road connectivity, education and health which were basic and fundamental needs of the people. During the past over some years substantial progress has been registered in these sectors. He said Centre brought hilly States including Jammu and Kashmir into the special category and provided adequate funds for improving these three sectors with negligible State share. He expressed satisfaction on the achievements in Jammu and Kashmir on the steps initiated by the State Government to improve the health scenario.

Expressing concern over the shortage of manpower, especially in the rural and far-flung areas, the Union Minister stressed the need for rationalization of staff strictly as per the work load of the institutions. He said under NRHM the Centre has already made substantial increase in the incentives of doctors and para-medics who will serve in the far-flung

areas, adding that all gaps should be filled with the posting of manpower under the programme. He also called for time bound completion of all on-going projects with judicious use of funds. He also called for strengthening the monitoring mechanism to ensure quality parameters and timely completion of projects.

Expressing concern over the

## Jammu yatis share nightmarish experience

vehicles at Hanuman Chatti. The 14 pilgrims who returned safely to Udhampur today included Pardeep Bakshi, Poonam Bakshi, Rishi Kumar, Ritu Khajuria, Parkash Premi, Rishi Khajuria, Sunita, Banshi Lal, Darshansa, Sushma, Poli Devi and Santosh.

The other 30 members of the group are also safe and they are on their way to Jammu, these pilgrims told Excelsior after their return. They said one batch from them might reach here tomorrow.

However, all the pilgrims, who returned here, complained of total collapse of Uttarakhand administration saying that it was only Army and ITBP jawans who rescued the stranded pilgrims otherwise the death toll could have been much more higher.

Alleging that there was no proper information with the Uttarakhand Government, Sharma said that no entry was made anywhere at any police naka of the vehicles carrying pilgrims on Chardham yatra "How the Government could ascertain the number of missing pilgrims or vehicles?" he asked.

Terming the figures given about the dead and missing totally baseless, Sharma said that the death toll could be much higher while the number of four wheelers and two wheelers washed away by floods has not also properly been ascertained by the authorities.

The group of pilgrims from Udhampur said that Uttarakhand Government had totally failed to make arrangements for pilgrims as there was no food, water at Pandukeshwar and when they tried to take refuge in a hotel there the manager charged Rs 2500 per head. Later they decided to stay in the vehicle for the night and ate biscuits which they had brought with them, they added.

They said when they woke up in the morning they were shocked to see that the hotel was washed away in flash floods. These pilgrims said that they stayed for four nights in the vehicle without food and only ate biscuits. They said as roads, bridges, hotels and vehicles have been washed away in flash floods they saw a helicopter of rescue team also crashing.

These pilgrims said that the shopkeepers charged Rs 50 to Rs 80 for one bottle of water.

## Chem paper cancelled, Bio postponed

Reports said that at six different centers in Srinagar, the invigilators found that the packets of D-series question paper in Chemistry were actually containing the Biology paper, which was scheduled to be held tomorrow. As soon as the mistake, apparently on part of the printer came into notice, the concerned authorities issued instructions for immediately arranging photo copies of the Chemistry paper for distribution of the same among candidates, who were also provided some extra time.

Due to leakage of tomorrow's Biology paper, the BOPEE announced postponement of the same and also cancelled today's Chemistry paper in view of the apprehension that it could also have got leaked while getting photocopied in six centers.

The six centers, where the

## Counter Infiltration Joint Team set up to check intrusion bids

was the case last year, number of the militants would automatically come down in the State," sources said but admitted that the militants and Pakistan Army would make all possible attempts for successful infiltration.

Troops said they have already taken all preventive measures to keep under check the new strategy of Pakistan Army to push the militants during the day time after having failed in their tactics of infiltrating the militants during the night.

## LAHDC to convey resentment on inadequate flights, inordinate delay in airport expansion

LAHDC as well as Ladakh Travel & Trade Alliance will lay stress on the Consultative Committee and Union Minister of Civil Aviation to encourage more aviation companies to launch air operations to Leh.

Sources informed that Hill Council has also decided to vociferously raise the issue of inordinate delay in the expansion of Leh airport and urge the Consultative Committee as well as Civil Aviation Ministry to get the work started on war footing basis.

"Funds for the terminal building at Leh Airport were sanctioned when Ghulam Nabi Azad was Minister for Civil

Later the Army and ITBP personnel rescued them after four days and they managed to reach their destination safely.

However there is no clue of three members of Sham Lal Gupta's family from Sarwal who too had gone to Kedarnath for the pilgrimage and had performed darshan on June 15. The last call they made to their family members at Jammu was on June 15 and since then there whereabouts are not known.

Sham Lal with his wife and brother-in-law had left Jammu on June 8 for Kedarnath yatra and had to return on June 20 but on the day of disaster the family had reached Gori Kund. The relatives of Sham Lal are camping at Rishikesh inquiring from the pilgrims who are returning from the Kedarnath but till date they could not get any clue of them.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Pardeep Gupta today contacted the Divisional Commissioner of Ghadwal Division in Uttarakhand to know about the fate of the pilgrims from J&K who had gone to Chardham yatra in Uttarakhand.

Mr Gupta said that Divisional Commissioner Garhwal Division informed him that they had so far no reports about the pilgrims of J&K who had visited the holy shrines in the State. However whenever any information is received by them the administration will accordingly inform the J&K Government.

The Divisional Commissioner, Garhwal Division also informed that the Uttarakhand Government has established a Control Room at Dehradun with number 0135-2710232 and people can seek information from there. Besides, one control room has been established in Uttarakhand CM's office having number 0135-2710334.

Mr Gupta gave his personal number to Divisional Commissioner of Garhwal asking him that in case they got any information about any pilgrim from Jammu they should share the same with him.

The Jammu Yatri Bhawan Haridwar also did not have any information about the yatis from J&K who had gone for the Chardham Yatra saying that no one contacted them from the State about their missing relatives so far.

## Two cops shot dead in Srinagar

rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation. The area was sealed immediately and traffic was diverted through M A Road and was restored after an hour. However, no one was arrested by the police.

A senior Police officer said that they had inputs about the militant strike in Srinagar and were on high alert since yesterday. He said that cordon and surprise security checks since yesterday were part of the security drill to prevent the attack.

It may be mentioned here that police and CRPF yesterday carried out surprise security checks and frisking of vehicles and passengers at several places across the city after they received inputs about the possible militant strike.

IGP Kashmir range, Abdul Gani Mir told reporters after wreath laying ceremony at District Police Lines Srinagar that security in view of Prime Minister's visit will be further strengthened. Prime Minister's visit is scheduled for next week.

"This attack is not related to the PM's visit. This is not the first such kind of incident. These

## NC failed to carry forward peace agenda: Mufti

in this region", he observed and told the gathering that it was during PDP led regime that Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University was opened where various job oriented courses were started.

"Our party has not only restored peace in the State but also laid a strong foundation for accelerating development in all regions and sub-regions," he said, while reminding that it was only during the PDP regime that equal treatment was given to all regions of the State.

Asserting that his aim was not to attain power but to make Jammu and Kashmir an "island of peace and show window of brotherhood and communal harmony", Mr Sayeed said and reminded that the PDP was formed with the aim to upholding the dignity and honour of the resident of the State.

Coming down heavily on present regime for its failure to solve day today problems of the people, he said that as far as per-

## Ready to foil terror design: Army

He was speaking to reporters after reviewing the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy at Dundigal near here wherein 185 flight cadets, including 21 women, got inducted into the mainstream of Air Force.

Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde recently said that there was a terror threat to the annual pilgrimage and the Government was taking precaution and sending additional forces to ensure safety and security of all pilgrims visiting the cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir.

Nearly two-month-long annual Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to begin on June 28.

Asked on the proposal to raise 'strike corps' in the North-East bordering China, Singh replied, "The case is in very

## PK gives response to emerging political situation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 22: Political Affairs Committee (PAC) of Panun Kashmir (PK) held a meeting to deliberate upon its responses to the emerging political situation. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prof M L Raina, Chairman, Political Affairs Committee. It was attended among others by Ashwani Kumar Chrungeo, President, Panun Kashmir, Virender Raina, national spokesperson, Kamal Bagati, organizing secretary, N M Gadoo, Vijay Qazi and Ramesh Kaul.

Ashwani Kumar Chrungeo, who returned after concluding his tour of three-states, briefed the Committee about the outcome of the tour. The PAC also expressed its deep condolences in respect of the Uttarakhand disaster victims and asked the Government of India to declare the disaster a national calamity.

Mr Chrungeo, said there is a lot of 'renewed clamour' for Indo-Pak talks to "settle" Kashmir issue, disregarding the fact of the matter that the so-called Kashmir dispute lost its relevance after the formation of Bangladesh in 1971. In so far as the cry of 'autonomy' and 'self-rule' is concerned, these slogans have lost their

## 3 absconders nabbed

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, June 22: The police arrested three absconders wanted in different cases during raids at various places today.

A police spokesman said that Khalid Hussain, son of Jalal Din, resident of Khanetar, wanted in case FIR No. 59/2008, Mohd Iqbal, son of Abdul Kabir, of Chela Dangri in Mandi booked under FIR No. 121/2003 and Farooq, son of Abdul Khaliq, resident of Rajpura Mandi wanted in case FIR No. 75/2008 who were evading arrest were nabbed from different locations by police since last night.

The teams under the supervision of SP Poonch Shamsheer Hussain conducted raids and nabbed these wanted criminals.

## Live grenade defused

Excelsior Correspondent

MENDHAR, June 22: Tragedy was averted as the alert security force men defused a live grenade at Chika Gali in teshil Mendhar today.

Reports said the security force men during patrolling noticed a live grenade tied with a tree by some miscreants at Chika Gali. The security personnel contacted their seniors. The experts from the Army later rushed to the area and defused the explosive. A possible tragedy was averted.

## Vehicle with bovine animals seized, 2 held

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, June 22: The police seized a vehicle loaded with two bovine animals and arrested two smugglers including a driver today.

A police spokesman said that Nowsheera police party led by SHO Yash Pal, intercepted a Tata Mobile vehicle bearing registration No. JK02AN/3692 at Thalka village and found two bovine animals loaded in it. The police seized the vehicle and arrested both the occupants including driver. They were identified as Abdul Haq, son of Munshi, resident of Jaglanoo and Kuldeep Singh, son of Lakhman Singh of Nowsheera area. A case was registered against them.

## 28 domestic cylinders seized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 22: In a major drive against misuse of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purpose, police today seized 28 such cylinders from tea stalls, dhabas and rehri in holy town of Katra, the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district.

SSP Reasi Raghubir Singh said a total of 28 domestic gas cylinders of Indane and HP, which were being used for commercial purposes were sealed during the raids conducted in Katra town.

The raids were aimed at preventing the misuse of domestic cylinders for commercial purposes.

Police parties headed by SHO Katra Inspector Sanjeev Gupta made the seizures.

Mr Singh said a total of 16 persons, who were misusing the domestic cylinders, have been arrested. A case has been registered against them at Katra police station for further investigations.

## Solar scam: Wansik to visit Kerala

NEW DELHI, June 22:

With Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy embroiled in a controversy after his personal staff were found allegedly involved in solar power scam, Congress high command today asked AICC general secretary Mooli Wansik to visit the State to take stock of the situation.

Wansik is the Congress general secretary in-charge of Kerala.

The high command's decision came as the image of the Congress-led UDF Government has been severely hit following the allegation of involvement of some members of Chandy's personal staff in the solar panel scam.

Wansik, who will visit the State on June 24, will convene a meeting of the party's State executive and Parliamentary party on June 25, party sources said.

He will also hold discussions with leaders of the Congress allies in the State, they said. (PTI)