

NEP-2020 will prove to be a game-changer: VP Naidu

NEW DELHI, July 26:

The National Education Policy-2020 seeks to restructure higher educational institutions of the country towards the changing needs of the knowledge economy, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said on Tuesday, asserting that it will prove to be a game-changer.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 75th Foundation Day celebrations of Delhi University's Hansraj College, Naidu observed that education must empower, enlighten and emancipate for the nation to move forward as one.

"The National Education Policy-2020 is set to transform the world of education. The NEP lays out an elaborate, layered roadmap for educational institutions in terms of charting the course of national development and seeks to restructure the higher educational institutions of the country towards the changing needs of the knowledge economy," he said.

"The policy will prove to be a game-changer. I am happy to learn that the Delhi University is implementing NEP-2020 from this session in right earnest," he added.

The NEP approved by the Union Cabinet replaces the 34-year-old National Policy on Education framed in 1986 and is aimed at paving the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems.

tems to make India a global knowledge superpower.

Choice between three or four-year undergraduate courses, multiple entry and exit options in degree courses, adding three-and-half crore seats in higher education institutions, which will now have a single regulator, discontinuation of M.Phil programmes and fixation of fees are among the higher education reforms outlined in



Vice President Venkaiah Naidu addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 75th Foundation Day of Hansraj College Delhi.

the new NEP.

During his address, Naidu said education holds the key to national development and emphasised the need for making quality education accessible and affordable to all.

The inauguration ceremony of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations marks the beginning of a series of academic and cultural events to commemorate this special year.

Naidu urged teachers to relate their teaching and curriculum with the real history of

India, its culture, its tradition, its folk arts and languages, dialects, and core Indian values.

"The commitment of the college to transmitting the richness and grandeur of Indian culture is laudable. I am told that apart from the main library of the college with modern facilities and resources, there is a separate library of rare Vedic literature and texts. I was also pleased to learn that the teaching and non-teaching staff along with students perform yajna every month," he said.

Hansraj College, one of the foremost institutions affiliated to the University of Delhi, was founded by the DAV organisation on July 26, 1948.

The first President of India, Bharat Ratna Dr Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the current campus of the college.

Lauding the commitment of Hansraj College in transmitting the "richness and grandeur" of Indian culture, the vice president expressed happiness that the values of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati and Mahatma Hansraj shape the moral vision of the college. (PTI)



Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma and others posing for a group photo after meeting to discuss Sanskrit Day celebration programme.

Preparations for World Sanskrit Day program finalized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: In connection with the World Sanskrit Day celebrations to be held on August 7 at Majestic Grand, Resort, Purkhu, Misriwala, Jammu, members of Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust today finalized arrangements for safety, health care and sanitation.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha will address the Sanskrit lovers at the celebration function on August 07.

The organizer of the program, Mahant Rohit Shastri, head of Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, said that Sanskrit language is a golden part of our rich culture and we should give our due contribution in the celebration of Sanskrit Diwas so that ancient language may flourish.

Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, who is the key player in organizing the event, said that

SC calls 'irrational freebies' by parties during polls 'serious' issue, questions Govt's hesitation on taking stand

NEW DELHI, July 26:

Terming as "serious" the promise of "irrational freebies" made by political parties during elections, the Supreme Court on Tuesday wondered why the Centre was hesitant about taking a stand on the issue.

The court also asked the Centre whether the view of the Finance Commission can be sought to deal with the issue after the Election Commission said it cannot regulate political parties on it.

"Why don't you say that you have nothing to do with it and the Election Commission has to take a call. I am asking whether the Government of India is considering it a serious issue or not? Why are you hesitating to take a stand? You take a stand and then we will decide whether these freebies are to be continued or not. You file a detailed counter (affidavit)," Chief Justice of India N V Ramana told Additional Solicitor General K M Natraj.

The bench, also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, was hearing a PIL

against the practice of political parties promising freebies during elections. The petitioner wanted the Election Commission to invoke its powers to freeze their election symbols and cancel their registration.

The bench, during the brief hearing, sought the views of senior advocate and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal, who was in the courtroom in connection with another matter, on the issue of freebies made during and after polls.

"This is a serious matter. Truly serious! The solutions are very difficult but the issue is extremely serious. It is the Finance Commission which gives out allocation to the states... They can take into account the debt of a state and the quantum of freebies. "Finance commission is the appropriate authority to deal with it. Maybe we can invite the commission to look into this aspect. We cannot expect the Government of India to issue directions to states. This is not possible and this will create a political issue," Sibal said.

Sibal said the Finance Commission can take an informed view with regard to freebies, their quantum and the financial condition of the state where the promises are sought to be implemented.

"Please find out from the Finance Commission as to whether this takes place. You find out who is the authority where we can initiate a debate or something. I will list it next week. We direct the Government of India to get instructions in this matter..." the CJ told the ASG.

At the outset, the counsel for the Election Commission referred to the reply filed in the matter and said that offering freebies before polls and their execution after the results are the policy decisions of political parties, and the Central Government and not the poll panel, will be the best suited for dealing with this issue.

The poll panel cannot regulate state policies and decisions which may be taken by the winning party when they form the Government, the counsel for the EC said.

On the other hand, the ASG insisted the issue needed to be dealt with by the EC.

Calling the matter "serious", the bench asked the Government not to hesitate from taking a stand.

Lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, who has filed the PIL, said the poll panel has the power to de-recognise and seize the symbol of political parties and they can be used to stop doling out of irrational freebies. (PTI)

India slams Pak, China move on CPEC projects

NEW DELHI, July 26:

India today slammed China and Pakistan for their efforts to encourage third countries to join projects relating to their multi-billion dollar connectivity corridor that passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In a sharp reaction, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said such activities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are "inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable", and will be treated accordingly by India.

New Delhi has consistently been critical of projects in the so-called CPEC projects which are in India's territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan.

At a meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination on Friday, Pakistan and China decided to welcome interested third countries to join the flagship CPEC initiative.

"We have seen reports on encouraging proposed participation of third countries in so-called CPEC projects. Any such actions by any party directly infringe on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Bagchi said.

"India firmly and consistently opposes projects in the so-called CPEC, which are in Indian territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan," he said.

"Such activities are inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable, and will be treated accordingly by India," he added.

The CPEC was launched in 2013 to improve Pakistan's road, rail and energy transportation infrastructure besides connecting its deep-sea port of Gwadar with China's Xinjiang province.

The CPEC is part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

India has been severely critical of the BRI as CPEC is part of the initiative. (PTI)



Artists performing musical event at Govt Girls Middle School Paloura in Jammu on Tuesday.

Musical play 'Ase Nasha Nai Karna' staged

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Social Welfare Department of J&K and Sangam Tru Art Production presented cultural 'Ase Nasha Nai Karna' in its 335th Tuesday Series at Govt Girls Middle School Paloura, here today.

During the program, a pledge was administered to more than 100 students and teachers by MC Kotwal, secretary of the Sansthan. A certificate of honour by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was also given to the Headmaster of the host school.

The programme was inaugurated by Neelam Manhas, Headmaster of the Govt Girls Middle School Paloura as chief guest of the event, while Mukla Bajaj and Priyanka Sharma were the guests of honour.

The artists staged various items including "Nasha Nai Kario Munde Kureio", "Bacho Bacho Tobacco Kola Bacho", "Nai Pee Shraban", "Bari Kharab Chutki", "Nahin Piya Tobacco Balma" and Nukkad play during the event.

The chief guest said that the

'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan' intends to reach out to the masses and spread awareness about substance abuse through various activities like awareness generation programmes, focus on higher educational institutions, university campuses and schools. The efforts of the organizers for making the awareness programmes colorful and effective was also lauded by the chief guest.

The artists also presented theme based songs which were written by Dr ML Dogra and the music was assisted by Raju Bajaj. The whole program was also recorded and uploaded on social media for the benefit of the people.

While presenting welcome speech, chairman Dr ML Dogra, said that it is a flagship campaign of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and has been valiently fighting against the baleful repercussions of substance abuse at the ground level with the support of local administration and master volunteers.

Usha Raina, Zulekha Farid, Afroz Aalam, Sunil Kumar Dalotra, Sanjeev Kumar and Rahul Kumar were part of the musical programme, while MC Kotwal presented vote of thanks.

On hunger strike in Tihar jail, Yasin Malik put on IV fluids, shifted to medical investigation room

NEW DELHI, July 26:

Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, who is on a hunger strike in Tihar Jail here for five days, is being given intravenous fluids and his health is being regularly monitored by doctors, officials said on Tuesday.

Malik (56), the head of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), began his indefinite hunger strike on Friday morning after the Centre did not respond to his plea that he be allowed to physically appear in a Jammu court hearing the Rubaiya Sayeed abduction case, in which he is accused.

Malik, who was kept in solitary confinement in a high-risk cell in Tihar's jail number 7, has

been shifted to the prison's Medical Investigation (MI) room where doctors are constantly monitoring his health status and updating officials about the same.

The JKLF chief is serving a life sentence in a terror-funding case.

"On Friday morning, Malik refused to eat anything. He is still on a hunger strike and his health is being regularly monitored by doctors. He is being given IV (intravenous) fluids since Sunday," an official said.

Appearing before a special CBI judge through a video-conference, Malik had said he wanted to physically appear in the case related to the abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, in 1989.

Malik had informed the court that he had written a letter to the government seeking his transfer to a Jammu jail so that he could physically appear in the case and contest the allegations against him. (PTI)

Girl found dead in canal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: A girl was found dead in Ranbir Canal near Bathera area, here today.

The deceased was identified as Simran (19), daughter of Kuldeep Singh of village Pargwal, at present Sua No 1 District Jammu.

After conducting autopsy by the Board of Doctors, the body of the girl was handed over to legal heirs for last rites.

Kanachack Police has taken cognizance in this regard.

Power Ministry organizes 'Bijli Mahotsav' at JKTDC Patnitop

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 26: The Ministry of Power in association with NHPCL Limited & JPDCL organized 'Bijli Mahotsav' at JKTDC Patnitop for Village



A dignitary addressing a function organized by Ministry of Power at JKTDC Patnitop.

Mandlotin.

The Bijli Mahotsav is being celebrated all over the country under the umbrella of Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power @2047 for more public participation and getting across the developments in the power sector to the citizens at large.

Lal Chand, Chairman, DDC Udhampur inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp in

the presence of respected public representatives and senior officials. Various cultural programmes, nukkad natak and screening of short films on the power sector were organized. The events also witnessed several beneficiaries sharing their experiences.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman DDC Udhampur told the gathering that the Government is trying to ensure the availability of electricity for all through various schemes. He said for the purpose, the Government has taken several steps in the last eight years. Saubhagya Yojana, DDUGJY, PM-Kusum Yojana are such public welfare schemes from which common people are getting benefited, he added.

P D Singh, SE, O&M (JPDCL) gave the gathering detailed information about the program being run for the public and highlighted the benefits of electricity schemes and the unprecedented growth achieved by the power sector over the past few years.

Numerous dignitaries graced the occasion which saw large turnouts of crowds from nearby villages and districts.

Three drug peddlers arrested with poppy straw, heroin

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: Jhajar Kotli and Miran Sahib Police arrested three drug peddlers and recovered poppy straw and heroin from their possession.

As per police sources, on specific information a team from Police Station Jhajar Kotli led by SHO Inspector Vikram Sharma under the supervision of SDPO Nagrota Pardeep Kumar and SP Rural Sanjay Sharma laid a naka at Suketar and intercepted a truck bearing registration number PB65AT-9968.

During checking, police team recovered 5,500 kilograms of poppy straw from the vehicle and arrested the driver, who was identified as Bhagat Ram, son of Tuli Ram of District Bilaspur Punjab.

A case under FIR Number 186/2022 under section 8/15/25 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Jhajar Kotli and

Police seeks help of general public

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: Gangyal Police has sought help of general public to identify a man, who died in accident here today.



As per police sources, a unidentified man was critically injured after a vehicle hit him near Kunjwani on July 22, 2022.

The profusely bleeding victim was rushed to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where he failed to respond to the treatment and succumbed to his injuries.

The body of the deceased has been shifted to mortuary of GMCH Jammu for identification.

A case under relevant sections stands registered at Police Station Gangyal and investigation has been set into motion.

Aryans announce admissions for 16th Academic Session

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJAPURA, July 26: Aryans Group of Colleges has announced admissions for its



16th academic session of 2022-2023.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group while giving information said that students who are interested in doing B. Tech, MBA, LLB, BA-LLB, BBA, BCA, B.Com, B.Sc (Agri), GNM, ANM, BA, B.Ed, MA(Edu), Diploma, B.Sc (MLS), B.Pharm, D.Pharm, B.Sc Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc Nursing, Paramedical etc can take admission after their 10th, 12th and graduation. The admissions

would be given on merit cum means basis. From 2021-22 session, Aryans Group of Colleges has started new paramedical courses including B.Sc Operation Theatre Technology, Medical Technology-Anesthesia & Operation Theatre and Cardiac Care Technology under IKG-PTU, Jalandhar.

The group is running Aryans College of Engineering, Aryans College of Law, Aryans College of Pharmacy, Aryans Business School, Aryans Institute of Management & Technology, Aryans College of Education, Aryans Degree College, Aryans Institute of Nursing etc.

Three arrested with stolen items

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: Bishnah Police arrested three thieves and recovered stolen items from their possession.

As per police sources, a complaint was lodged at Police Station Bishnah by Deputy Circle Operation Head UT J&K Ajmer Singh (Circle Jammu) stating that some unknown thieves decamped with tower batteries and other accessories from the plant installed at Chak Murar area.

Acting over the complaint, a case under FIR Number 125/2022 under section 379 IPC was registered at Police Station Bishnah and investigation started.

During the course of investigation, a team from Police Station Bishnah led by SHO Inspector Pawan Dogra was con-

stituted under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura Surinder Singh.

The team did strenuous efforts and finally arrested three thieves, who were identified as Sunil Sharma, son of Dev Raj of Kotli Charkhan, Tehsil Bishnah District Jammu, Surinder Singh, son of Avtar Singh of Mangu Chak, Simbal District Jammu and Vishal Gupta, son of Baldev Raj Gupta of Shastri Nagar District Jammu.

On their disclosure, stolen items viz Split AC, 2 TR Hitachi Compressors, Servo Stabilizer 15 KVA and 3 Phase with HP 501 were recovered.

Further investigation into the case is going on. The overall recoveries were made under the supervision of SP Headquarters Jammu Ramnash Gupta.

Further investigation of the case is going on.

56 Kg Bhukki recovered from vehicle on Mughal Road

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, July 26: Alert policemen recovered 56 kg of Bhukki (poppy flowers) from a Tata Mobile vehicle coming from Kashmir towards Jammu, in Surankote area of Poonch on Mughal Road today.



Three drug smugglers from Punjab nabbed by police along with 65 kg Bukki on Mughal Road in Poonch on Tuesday.

Excelsior/Romesh Bali.

Giving details official sources said that a Police party at Behrangalla led by PSI, Sushant Singh Sambaly, and ASI Mohd Maroof along with their team under the supervision of SHO Surankote laid a naka at Behrangalla to conduct the checking of vehicles along Mughal Road.

During checking a Tata Mobile vehicle, bearing Registration No. PB11CX- 8034 which was on its way from Kashmir towards Jammu was

signalled to stop for checking.

On thorough search of the vehicle, the police recovered plastic bags filled with Poppy flower(Bhukki) weighing about 56 Kilograms from one of the empty compartment of the Tata Mobile. The said vehicle has been seized.

Workshop on Health & Sanitation held

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 26: A one day workshop on 'Health and Sanitation' was organized by Udhampur Campus of University of Jammu (JU) in collaboration with JU Special Purpose Vehicle Foundation and J&K Science, Technology and Innovation



introduction by Dr. Kamani Dutta, Lecturer Commerce at JU Udhampur Campus.

The workshop started with welcome address by Dr. Shipra Gupta, I/C Economics, Udhampur Campus and Coordinator of the event.

Dr. Shikha Jearth, Medical Officer PHC Tikri and Dr. Arti

Bharat, Medical Officer (ISM) PHC Garhi were key resource persons.

There were 130 participants including rural folk and students of Udhampur Campus.

Dr. Shikha Jearth explained the importance of hygiene and antenatal care which serves as a key entry point for a pregnant woman to receive a broad range of services and should be initiated at the onset of pregnancy.

Dr. Arti Bharat explained the importance of health and sanitation.

Man arrested with Indian made pistol

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, July 26: Police arrested a man along with Indian made pistol.

As per official sources, a team from Police Station Poonch during checking at Aala Peer Chowk intercepted a person, who was moving under suspicious circumstances.

During checking, police team recovered Indian made pistol from the possession of the person and arrested him.

The arrested person was identified as Basat Muneer, son of Muneer Husain of Marah Surankote, at present Ward Number 13 Sheesh Mahal District Poonch.

A case FIR Number 160/2022 under section 3/25 Indian Arms Act (IAA) has been registered at Police Station Poonch and investigation taken up.

During checking, police team recovered Indian made pistol from the possession of the person and arrested him.

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