

Chief Secy inaugurates Rs 8.5 cr digital Cath Lab for SKIMS

Excelsior Correspondent SRINAGAR, Feb 11: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar cerned officers participated in person or virtually through video link. While speaking in this event



Chief Secy, Dr A K Mehta inaugurating digital Cath Lab for SKIMS.

Mehta today inaugurated the state of the art new digital cardiac catheterization lab for SKIMS, Soura here.

On the occasion Secretary, Health; Director, SKIMS; Director Health, Kashmir; HoDs of different departments of SKIMS and many other con-

Women without 'Mehram' can also apply Over 10,000 expected to perform Hajj this year: JKHC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 11: Over 10, 000 people are expected to perform Hajj this year from Jammu and Kashmir while per person expenditure to perform the Holy Pilgrimage is expected to be around Rs 3 lakh 70 thousand.

Safina Beigh, Chairperson J&K Hajj Committee (JKHC) told a press conference here that due to the abolition of the VIP quota this year, there has been an increase in the total number of people who would be able to perform Hajj.

While giving details, she said, out of the total number of quotas allocated to the

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Government of India, 80% will be allocated to the Haj Committee of India and the remaining 20% will be allocated to Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs).

About those who have performed the Hajj earlier through the Haj Committee of India, she said, such a person will not be eligible to apply. "In the case of Mehram for lady pilgrims and of companions accompanying pilgrims over 70 years of age, repeaters will be allowed on payment of additional charges as applicable from time to time."

Beigh said that lady pilgrims and 70+ pilgrims utilizing the service of a repeater as "Mehram" must give a solemn declaration and undertaking to the effect that no first-time "Mehram" is available in the family.

"The 70+ pilgrim must give a similar solemn declaration and undertaking in support of his/her accompanying pilgrim."

About the eligibility for Hajj, she said that the intending pilgrim must possess a passport issued by or before 10-03-2023 and that the Validity of the Passport must be 03/02/2024. "The pilgrim must be physi-

RTO launches special drives to check violations, recovers Rs 2.47 lakh fine

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 11: A team of Motor Vehicle Department headed by RTO Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra laid special naka at different locations on Jammu-Pathankot National Highways and routes of Jammu interior for violating the different visible offenses under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989.

Out of which 63 vehicles were challaned/compounded and an amount of Rs. 2.47 lakh was recovered from the violators.

The enforcement team comprising of Esha Chib, Mohammad Saleem ARTO (HQ), Jammu, Pawan Sharma ARTO (G), Tara Mani Sharma ARTO Flying Squad, MVD Inspectors, Rajiv Kundal, Anupam Gandotra, Ranjeev Bhasin and staff.

Convict in NDPS case awarded 3 yrs imprisonment

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 11: Additional Sessions Judge Udhampur Dinesh Gupta today awarded three years and ten months imprisonment besides a fine of Rs.20,000 to a convict in NDPS case.

Rahul Sharma, son of Hans Raj, resident of Ward number 17, near Santoshi Mata Mandir, Udhampur was booked in case FIR number 199/2019 at Police Station Udhampur after 5 kg and 100 grams of poppy straw was recovered from his possession. After the conclusion of the investigation, a challan was pre-

efficient and quality service . The Chief Secretary impressed on the health professionals to improve work ethics to improve satisfaction levels. He told them to work honestly and with integrity for the benefit of poor masses. He termed that the health sector is one of the foremost priorities of the LG administration and the days are not far when people from outside would visit J&K for treatment instead of local people going outside the UT.

The Director SKIMS, Prof Parvaiz Koul revealed that the new digital cardiac catheterization lab dedicated to public today has been installed in the premier health Institute of the UT at a cost of Rs 8.5 Cr. He further informed that the Cath Lab would surely enhance the capacity of the Institute to perform the advanced interventional cardiology procedures that is going to bring respite to large number of patients here.

It was informed that the Cardiology department of SKIMS is pioneer in J&K to do heart related procedures right from 1982, the year of its establishment. It was also informed that the Department has come a long way since then without losing its position of being the first choice among the patients for treatment.

It was informed that the department has long been doing the procedures like electrophysiological procedures, pacemaker removals, and other procedures. The department is said to be among the top Cardiology departments in the country in terms of its performance. The centre is the only one in the UT performing the complicated and paediatric interventions regularly.

The 30th edition of SATTE-2023 which was inaugurated by



J&K officers receiving award of Tourism Brand of the year for revival of Tourism at SATTE.

J&K awarded "Tourism Brand of the Year for Revival of Tourism" at SATTE

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 11: Achieving yet another milestone, the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Authority, Patnitop, Syed Sajjad Quadri, CEO Tourism Development Authority Pahalgalam, Alyaz Ahmad Naisroo, Deputy Director Tourism, Kashmir, Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Tourism Jammu and Anu Sharma, Under Secretary, Tourism Department J&K.

Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority, while speaking to the media, said that they had a fruitful interaction with the travel and tourism industry leaders who were keen to promote the J&K UT among the travellers.

J&K Tourism under the guidance of Secretary, Tourism Sarmad Hafeez also received certificate of honour in the category of Tourism brand of the year for revival of Tourism.

At the 5th edition of SATTE awards, Deputy Director Tourism, Patnitop, Syed Sajjad Quadri said that J&K has witnessed highest ever tourist footfall and is developing 75 new offbeat destinations. Also, the Government is focusing on homestays in these new destinations to maintain the scenic beauty and ecology of the areas.

The J&K stall put up by the Tourism Department was thronged by hundreds of visitors who evinces keen interest in the presentation and publicity material put on display particularly in Tourism sub sectors like adventure, nature, pilgrimage besides leisure tourism.

Over 20000 visitors including domestic and international sellers and buyers, tourism officials, heads of international tourism boards, hoteliers and aviation experts showcased their products and services to the global trade community at the three day event. During the convention, local travel and hospitality sector conducted business sessions with the visitors and the principal agents.

On the occasion, the Tourism Department also screened short films on different Offbeat destinations and on various themes for the visitors who were mesmerized to see stunning beauty and diverse tourism products of the UT.

Dr Jitendra among others pay obeisance

Sharda Murti to be installed at Teetwal temple on first Navratra

Excelsior Correspondent



Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh talking to reporters after paying obeisance to Sharda Murti at Noida.

JAMMU, Feb 11: Union Minister of State in PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh with independent charge of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh visited Kashmiri Sharda Bhawan in Noida to pay obeisance to Sharda Mata Murti that is on way to Teetwal in North Kashmir from Sringeri Mutth Kamataka.

Save Sharda Committee Kashmir (SSCK) began a trans nation yatra of carrying Sharda Murti from Sringeri in Karnataka to LoC Teetwal in North Kashmir on 24 January. The yatra has reached Noida after stay at Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Gurgaon.

Earlier, on invitation of Sringeri Dakshinayam Sharda Mutth, SSCK received Panchloha (5 metals) Sharda Murti for newly constructed Sharda Temple at LoC Teetwal. The members of SSCK are carrying the Murti in a newly purchased and decorated vehicle from Kashmiri Pandit Bhawans enroute various cities as per tour itinerary.

Notable at Noida Kashmiri Bhawan was presence of members of Yatra Temple construction committee, Ajaz Khan, Sardar Joginder Singh, Iftikhar Ahmed, who had come all the way from Teetwal with their families to join Sharda Yatra. SSCK head, Ravinder Pandita and Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh felicitated them on the occasion.

A large number of devotees are thronging the Bhawan at Noida daily. The yatra is scheduled to move next to Faridabad, then to Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jammu and finally to Kashmir. In Jammu the Sharda Murti Chariot will reach KP Sabha Apmphalla on February 17 at 12:30 PM and will remain for darshan at Sharda Temple, Bantalab from 17 to 23 February.

Head of SSCK, Ravinder Pandita said the Sharda Yatra temple, Teetwal, Kashmir is located on the pilgrimage route to Sharda Peeth PoJK. From ancient times, an annual pilgrimage to the Sharda Peeth took place on the Ashtami (eighth day) of Shukla Paksha (waxing phase) of Bhadrpadama month of the lunar calendar. A holy mace (Charri Mubarak) would be taken out from Teetwal

to Sharda Peeth. This was the official pilgrimage to Sharda Peeth, out of the four traditional routes (Keran, Liddervan-Jumangarh, Gurez, Teetwal), he added.

Pandita said the Sharda Yatra temple at Teetwal was destroyed/burnt down in the aftermath of the partition and the subsequent Tribal invasions which also resulted in the holy pilgrimage being abandoned. A



DC Avny Lavasa chairing a meeting in Jammu on Saturday.

DC reviews progress under BADP, Lakhpati Didi Yojna

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 11: Deputy Commissioner Avny Lavasa today convened a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of works taken up under Border Area Development Plan (BADP).

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed department wise review of the works. It was apprised to the Chair that of the 87 works taken up under BADP, 32 are complete and 42 are under progress, while 4 have been allotted and tendering process of other works is under progress.

The DC stressed on the concerned authorities to take all possible measures to accelerate the pace of the ongoing works on different projects for their time-bound completion. The Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to focus on execution followed by completion of allotted works without any delay. Later, the Deputy Commissioner also chaired a meeting regarding Lakh Pati Didi under NRLM. It is a scheme to empower the women, especially in rural areas by enhancing their earning over one lakh rupees per year. The Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned officials to spread awareness about the scheme to register a maximum number of women. She also discussed the initiatives which can be taken to enhance the earning of women. Along with other, CPO Yoginder Katoch, BDOs besides senior officers from concerned departments were present in their respective meetings.



BJP national general secretary, SC Morcha, Sanjay Nirmal and his JK UT president, Neelam Langeh addressing party workers at Kathua on Saturday.

Modi's policies forced Cong, NC, PDP to change course: Sanjay Nirmal

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Feb 11: The development and result oriented politics of BJP led Government at the Centre has forced divisive Congress, National Conference (NC) and PDP to change their course in a bid to counter popularity of Modi Government.

This was stated by Sanjay Nirmal, National general secretary, BJP SC Morcha while addressing a meeting of party workers here, today. Today's programme was organized under the chairmanship of Neelam Langeh, president BJP SC Morcha, J&K and former MLA.

The senior BJP leader Sanjay Nirmal, who was on two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, called upon the people to teach a lesson to Congress, National Conference (NC) and PDP which have ruled the State for last 30 years but done nothing for welfare of the people and the State and instead brought only miseries and problems for them.

He described the Congress, NC and PDP as "offenders" and called upon the people to teach them a lesson in the upcoming elections in the Union Territory by voting the BJP to power with majority.

Sanjay Nirmal asked party cadre especially the activists and workers to make the people aware about the party's achievements after it came to power at the Centre. He asked them to ensure that the benefits of various

schemes launched by the Union Government percolate right upto the grass roots level.

Neelam Langeh, in his address, said that the party's SC Morcha is working with great dedication in J&K with an aim to strengthen the base of the Party. He said after becoming president of SC Morcha, he has started his tour from Kathua district after which every district of Jammu region will be covered in coming days.

Langeh also assured the national general secretary that the whole BJP SC Morcha team of J&K will make all possible efforts in ensuring victory of the party in all the upcoming polls. He discussed strategies for the upcoming programmes in the UT in connection with upcoming polls.

He asked the party foot soldiers to make the people at grass roots level aware about how BJP led Government at the Centre has been successfully marching ahead to fulfill this nation building mission.

During the programme, a large number of people also joined the party fold in presence of Sanjay Nirmal and Neelam Langeh.

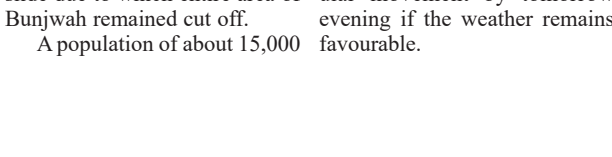
Meanwhile, Sanjay Nirmal along with Neelam Langeh also conducted a meeting of BJP SC Morcha Samba district.

Ramesh Chander, BJP SC Morcha president Samba unit apprised the senior leaders about their activities and assured to strengthen the base of Party across the district.

Rockslide blocks Dunadi-Bunjwah road

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Feb 11: Dunadi Bunjwah road here was blocked today due to huge rock-



Restoration of Dunadi Patnazi road. -Excelsior/Tilak Raj

The restoration work of the road was stopped keeping view the safety of men at work and the machinery as 7-8 big boulders posed slide threat due to their position. The concerned Executive Engineer and AEE were present at the spot till late in the evening. The road is expected to be made fit for vehicular movement by tomorrow evening if the weather remains favourable. A population of about 15,000

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