

We will destroy mafia in UP, says CM Yogi

Prabhat Ranjan Deen

LUCKNOW, Feb 25: Chief Minister of UP, Yogi Adityanath has said that his Government would destroy the mafia in the state.

The Chief Minister expressed grief over the Prayagraj incident while taking part in the assembly proceedings ahead of the discussion on the motion of thanks on the Governor Anandiben Patel's address on Friday and assured the house that no mafia would be allowed to flourish in the state.

Describing the Prayagraj incident as sad, CM Yogi said that the Government has taken cognizance of it and that the results of his Government's policy of zero tolerance for crime would be there for everyone to see very soon and no one should have any doubts about it.

Hitting out at the opposition Samajwadi Party in this context, CM Yogi said that the party has been nurturing mafias and the main accused in this case too became a Member of Parliament on a SP ticket. Is it not true that the accused against whom the FIR has been lodged, was made an MP by Samajwadi Party? You will raise all

the criminals, garland them and then blame others when a crime takes place. By doing this, you are just making a spectacle of yourself,



UP CM Yogi Adityanath speaking in Assembly.

Yogi said.

Without naming Mafia Atique Ahmed, CM Yogi said that he is a mafia supported by the SP and who has been punished for his criminal acts by the current government. Taking a dig at Leader of Opposition Akhilesh Yadav, CM Yogi said, 'you needed an excuse

for your misdeeds. They have been patronizing the mafia and criminals continuously. Crime runs in their veins. They haven't learnt anything except crime. The whole state knows this. And today, they have come to give clarification.'

CM Yogi added further that the mafia who has carried out this act is currently out of UP. He said that the accused became an MLA from Allahabad West in 1996 and an MP in 2004 and 2009 with the support of Samajwadi Party.

Pointing his gun on the Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the previous Government was skilled at playing 'games' of scams which include laptop scam 'game', gomti river front scam 'game' amongst others.

"The CAG report, which was recently released, cited a Rs 97,00,000 crore scam during his tenure. Muzaffarnagar riots, the Ramvriksha scandal in Mathura, burning the journalist alive, the Bundelkhand Crisis, the land mafia, and the recruitment scam were all such 'games' that occurred in the state during their tenure. In addition to this, there was also a game being played to have the terrorists' cases withdrawn. How far are these players going to take these games?"

Dr Jitendra inaugurates 'International Biotech Conclave', first-ever in Northeast

Excelsior Correspondent

IMPHAL (Manipur), Feb 25: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated here today "International Biotech Conclave", the first-ever in Northeast, of such high scale and such futuristic as well as global themes.

He said, for the first time since Independence, the North Eastern Region is organising an event involving over 700 International and national delegates, representing over 35 countries from across the world.

The Minister informed that "International Bio-resource Conclave" along with the 22nd Congress of the International Society for Ethno-pharmacology and the 10th Congress of Society for Ethno-pharmacology (ISE SFEC-2023) will be held from February 24-26, 2023 at the City Convention Centre, Imphal, Manipur with the theme "Reimagine

Ethnopharmacology: Globalisation of Traditional Medicine".

Inaugurating the International Conference, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it's heartening to note that this is happening



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking after inaugurating 'International Biotech/Bioresource Conclave' at Imphal, Manipur on Saturday.

in Manipur, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had over the last 9 years transformed Northeast from a terror tag to a peaceful development model. He also emphasised that earlier funds allocated to the Northeast did not reach the bottom level, but after Modi became the Prime Minister in May, 2014, funds are reaching to the real beneficiaries at the villages and being utilised for development.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Prime Minister has always given high priority to Northeast and other Hilly and Backward terrains since he assumed charge and added that Modi has visited the Northeast more than 50 times in the last 9 years, while the Union Ministers have also visited the North-Eastern Region more than 400 times.

Dwelling on the subject of the Conference, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) is organising the Conference in collaboration with Society for Ethnopharmacology, India and International Society for Ethnopharmacology, Switzerland. He praised IBSD for taking this initiative and said that this is happening for the development of bio-resources and traditional healer's practices of this region for societal benefit and livelihood generation.

The Minister added that this programme encouraged many entrepreneurs to promote unique bio-resources and traditional knowledge of this region and also informed that IBSD has set up Bio Incubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies (BioNEST) incubator at IBSD, Node Meghalaya to develop women entrepreneurship in Meghalaya.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, IBSD is working on therapeutic areas

like antiviral, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and insect repellents, anti-diabetic, anti-arthritis, bronchial asthma, gastro-protectives and immuno-modulation. He said, the institute has performed metabolomics studies of several medicinal plants with potential therapeutic effects for establishing their mechanism of action with network pharmacology and synergistic study and hoped that this research will lead to different transformational approaches from tradition for developing products, processes and technologies with local bio-resources. This will also help in development of traditional knowledge based therapeutic agents leading to socioeconomic development of the region as well as benefits to traditional health care practitioners, he added.

Dr Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary DBT said that the healthcare in India is at crossroads as several innovative and disruptive technologies are emerging at a very fast pace. He said, life expectancy in India is coming down and that is matter of concern for scientific and medical community.

Shekhar Dutta, former Governor of Chhattisgarh said in his address that India is home to many traditional medicine systems like Ayurveda, Siddha, and Part of Unani and Indian Civilisation was taking very keen interest in identifying and making use of bio-resources for medicinal use. He said, the need of the hour is to develop good collection, storage and finally good manufacturing practices with standardisation of Traditional Pharmacology.

In his address, Prof. Marco Leonti, Secretary, ISE & Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Cagliari, Italy said that India is taking huge interest in Ethnopharmacology and this is a very good sign that more and more research projects are being undertaken.

Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Director, IBSD underlined that to fulfil the vision of the Prime Minister for Atmanirbhar Bharat, IBSD has established linkages between traditional healers and the scientific communities for benefit sharing and promotion of start-ups with Ethno Entrepreneurships based on development of herbal medicinal based products, fermented foods, edible mushrooms and insects.

Indraneel Das, Vice President, Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata, India presented the Vote of thanks.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha handing over appointment letter to Suneel Pandith, wife of martyr Suneel Pandith.

LG hands over appointment letter to Suneel Pandith's wife

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 25: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today handed over appointment letter to Suneel Pandith, wife of martyr Sh Suneel Pandith.

Suneel Pandith was killed by

terrorists in Shopian.

The Lt Governor assured all possible assistance from the UT Administration to the family of the martyred civilian.

The family members of Suneel Pandith were also present at the Raj Bhawan.

Dulloo inaugurates Farmers' Field

Functionaries Training Centre at Maralian

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 25: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, today inaugurated first of its kind Farmers' Field Functionaries Training Centre and Strawberry Show at Government Grape Farm Maralian, R.S Pura.

Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Sevak, Director Agriculture Jammu, K K Sharma, Secretary, J&K Kissan Advisory Board, Abdul Hamid Wani, Joint Director Horticulture, C.I. Sharma, Chief Horticulture Officers of Jammu, Samba and Kathua, CCI Jammu, prominent members of Kissan Advisory Board, PRI members, Strawberry growers besides other officers and officials of the department were present on the occasion.

While addressing the participants, Atal Dulloo said that establishment of this Training Centre at Maralian will prove beneficial towards overall development of horticulture in the region. The training programmes to be conducted in the Center would acquaint the farmers with latest technologies in

cultivation of sub-tropical crops.

ACS also inspected strawberry show wherein strawberry growers from Jammu, Samba and Kathua participated with their strawberry fruit exhibits.

He appreciated the department and strawberry growers for adopting, promoting and popularizing this highly remunerative cash crop in Jammu division. He impressed upon the participants to keep close liaison with the departmental functionaries to take maximum benefit from the newly introduced Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) developed by Dr. Mangla Rai Committee.

On the occasion, Atal Dulloo presented sanction orders to the farmers of Jammu, Samba and Kathua district for availing financial assistance available under different components of departmental schemes.

During the programme, Director Horticulture Jammu informed that this Farmers' Field Functionaries Training Centre has been built with all requisite basic amenities. He also briefed about the progress made in adoption of cash crop in the region.



DIG U-R Range Mohd. Suleman Choudhary chairing a crime review meeting at DPL Udhamapur on Saturday.

DIG U-R Range chairs crime review meet

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 25: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Udhampur-Reasi (U-R) Range, Mohammad Suleman Choudhary today chaired a meeting to review the scenario of crime and security in the police district.

The meeting held at DPL Udhampur was attended by SSP Udhampur, Dr Vinod Kumar, Additional SP Udhampur, Anwar Ul Haq; DySP Headquarters, Gurmeet Singh among other police officers.

As per a statement, the SSP Udhampur, Dr Vinod Kumar presented a detailed scenario of District Udhampur on all agenda points including the achievements of the police in Udhampur in the recent past.

It said the meeting also reviewed Sub-Division-wise investigation of criminal cases registered in the district, inquest proceedings, crimes against women,

and the action taken against the drug peddlers.

The DIG U-R Range stressed upon the officers to work on mission mode to achieve the targets assigned by the higher-ups in the areas of investigation, law & order and other fields to reduce the pendency of crimes with special focus on investigation of cases registered under the NDPS Act, UAPA, and other crimes of heinous nature.

The DIG also laid stress on strengthening the Pairvi system. He asked the officers to ensure the presence of PWs in all the courts especially in NDPS and UAPA for timely delivery of justice.

He also asked the police officers for maintaining synergy and coordination with the other security forces working on the ground to ensure peaceful atmosphere in the police district.

The SSP Udhampur assured the DIG that all the instructions given in the meeting shall be implemented on the ground.

DC directs Forest Deptt to put anti-encroachment drive on hold

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 25: The Deputy Commissioner Anantnag has asked the Forest Department to put the eviction drive against forest land encroachers on hold.

The authorities in district Anantnag have served eviction notices to the people who are living on the forest land in the Nagras area of Qazigund.

The forest dwellers said that they were served with notices by the officials of the Forest Department a few days ago, asking them to vacate.

The dwellers said that they have been living in the area for the last more than 3 centuries and they have not encroached upon the land.

"We have been living here for three generations now, for 300 years and this is not a new encroachment. If there is anyone who guards these forests, it is the Gujjars," one of the residents, Riyaz Ahmad Chechi said.

He said that their sustenance and livelihood depend on the forests and that there is a connection between the Gujjar community and the forests. "There is a connection and due to that, we have been living here for ages. Our sustenance and livelihood depend on these forests."

*** Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

The residents said that the officials from the Forest department fixed notices on their houses, asking them to vacate which, they said, is not acceptable.

The concerned Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Muhammad Ramzan, however, said that they have put the eviction on hold.

"The Government has put on hold the evictions from the forest areas. After the issue came to my notice, I talked to the Deputy Commissioner and have issued an order directing all range officers to put on hold the eviction drive till further orders," he said.

DPIT imparts training for adoption of PMG portal

Project monitoring & supervision to get strengthened: Secretary Planning

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Feb 25: Team of Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIT), Gol today imparted online training to the Nodal Officers of all districts & departments of J&K for enabling the UT to monitor its projects through the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) Portal.

Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Dr. Raghav Langer chaired the meeting aimed at strengthening of project monitoring mechanism for UT sector projects.

Pertinent to mention that the Government has already constituted UT level Project Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary for accelerating the pace of execution of key Infrastructure Projects in the UT, with an anticipated investment of Rs. 10 or more. UT PMG team has been mandated to help to expedite issues, resolution, regulatory bottlenecks & fast tracking of approvals/clearance of UT projects under various sectors.

Secretary Planning, who is also the Member Secretary of the Committee apprised during the training session that various flagship/iconic projects of Gol are already being monitored on the Central PMG portal, which has been highly beneficial in timely res-

olution of issues esp those pertaining to different line agencies & where inter-departmental coordination is required.

Adoption of this portal for UT projects will provide a common interactive platform to various implementing agencies on real time basis for expediting completions. Dr Langer reiterated the importance of the tool and mentioned that supervisory authorities are able to keep track of project milestones to prevent time/cost overruns. Provision of dashboard alerts, auto pushing of emails etc are already integrated in the system; apart from self generated PERT/Gantt charts to monitor project progress.

He said that Chief Secretary J&K has issued strict instructions to all departments/agencies to ensure timely execution of works.

Central PMG portal has been one of the key reasons for the turnaround in infrastructure sector and timely completions of projects of more than Rs 500 cr, by the line agencies of Gol handling varied sectors like transport & highways, ports & shipping, power, urban development, health & family welfare, tourism, telecommunications & IT services etc. Presently 7155 issues pertaining to 2290 central projects are being monitored by Government of India on the PMG portal with a project value of more than Rs 66 lakh crores.

Justice Puneet Gupta visits District Court Complex Samba

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 25: Justice Puneet Gupta, Administrative Judge for District Samba, today visited District Samba for Administrative Inspection.

Sonia Gupta, Pr. District & Sessions Judge Samba, Anuradha Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Adnan Sayeed, Additional District & Sessions Judge Samba,

Singh Charak, Special Public Prosecutor Samba were also present.

Justice Gupta presided over the meeting of District Administration, Judicial Officers and Police Personnel to discuss the issues concerning the Administration of Justice. He stressed upon the Judicial Officers to ensure speedy delivery of jus-



Justice Puneet Gupta chairing a meeting.

Benam Tosh, Senior Superintendent of Police, Preet Simran Grover, Chief Judicial Officer, Samba, Rekha Kapoor Nischal, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Samba, Ananta Raina, Addl. Spl. Mobile Magistrate Samba, Poonam Gupta, Munsiff Samba, Urvashi Raina, Additional Munsiff Samba, Surinder Choudhary, Addl. Superintendent of Police Samba, Pawan Khajuria, Deputy Director Prosecution Samba, Sukhleen Kaur, Chief Planning Officer Samba, Javed Khwaja, Public Prosecutor Samba, Bhupinder

and to make best use of the concept of e-court in order to improve the efficiency of Administration.

Justice Gupta further added that all the organs of the District i.e. District Administration, Judiciary and Police have to work as a team to achieve the goal of effective administration of justice irrespective of caste, creed, race, religion, colour, language, gender etc. He also inspected District Court Complex, ADR Centre, Judicial Quarters and Chambers of Advocates and interacted with Bar Members of District Court Complex Samba.

JKAACL Festival of Plays opening marred by unruly audience behaviour

Lalit Gupta

JAMMU, Feb 25: Unruly 'invited young brigade' disturbed the opening performance of the Festival of Plays, which started at the Abhinav Theatre, here today.

Organized by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), the seven-play festival was inaugu-

Anupama, Amit Bhalla as Raju, Vinay Daggar as Verma ji, Savita Khajuria as Sheel Devi, Ishu Bharati Pandit as Nikku and Mannat Bhau as Mithu.

Vipan Guptas gave a good performance, Though did bring about the trauma of girl child but her loud pitch sounding almost shrieks became jarring that hin-



A scene from the play staged at Abhinav Theatre on Saturday.

rated by Secretary, Dept. of Culture, UT Dr Syed Abid Rashid in presence of Balwant Thakur, Mona Singh, Principal Commissioner Income Tax J&K and Bharat Singh Secretary, JKAACL, and senior artists and theatre lovers of the winter capital.

Today's play 'Gumshuda Sant ki Talash', written and directed by Rajnesh Gupta, and presented by Triple A, was about the exploitation of children woven in the backdrop of relevance of Gandhian philosophy. The plot revolves around twin poor children Nikku and Mithu, who work as domestic help in a rich Verma couple, and face inhuman treatment and torture. Their neighbor Mohan is a staunch follower of Gandhian philosophy. Mohan has a young son Raju who also adopts the philosophy of his father.

In turns of events, Nikku runs away and Mithu becomes pregnant. When Mohan comes to know that it was his son Raju who was responsible for Mithu's condition. Mohan disowns his son and adopts Mithu thereby proving his staunch belief to correct the wrong.

The cast of amateur actors included Vipan Gupta as Mohan, Rekha Sahra as Mohan's wife

dered the expected import of emotions.

The light and music were effectively used. The Spartan set arrangement and did bring out the ambience of a middle class house.

Tomorrow, the second performance on Feb 26, 'Aatek Ke Sakshi', is written by Rajesh Roshan Bhat and directed by Rohit Bhat and will be presented by Vomedh Rangmanch.

MVD Jammu recovers Rs 4.22 lakh fine from violators

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 25: A team of Motor Vehicles Department, headed by RTO, Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra, on Saturday laid special naka at different locations of Jammu-Pathankot and Jammu Srinagar National Highway to check the visible offences under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989.

The enforcement drive was carried out at different locations on National Highway from 02.00 am. More than 300 vehicles were checked and 84 vehicles were compounded/Challaned with Rs 4.22 lakh



DC Rajouri chairing NCORD meeting.

DC Rajouri reviews measures to control drug abuse

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Feb 25: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, on Saturday chaired the 8th meeting of the National Council for Reduction of Drug Demand (NCORD) to review the control measures initiated against drug abuse in the district.

The meeting held a detailed discussion on the issues raised in the previous meetings and ways to effectively tackle the problem.

It was informed that sub-divisional committees were holding regular meetings, anti-drug squads were being established in schools, and the Drug Control Department was conducting random inspections and suspending licences of medical shops for rule violations. The Deputy Commissioner urged the ACD to create Nasha Mukta Panchayats in the district and increase the intensity of inspections.

To ensure the proper prescribing of contrabands, the CMO was instructed to issue a circular stating that only psychiatrists can prescribe them, and the Drug Control Department would audit the prescriptions at medical stores. The Addiction Treatment Facility faculty were directed to start counseling drug addicts and make the rehabilitation center functional.

The Senior Superintendent of Police also spoke and highlighted the need to collaborate with the administration to make the district drug-free. It was decided to form Anti-Drug squads in each police station, and the SSP promised his full support in this regard.

The Deputy Commissioner then said that drug abuse is a serious problem that not only affects individuals, but also families and communities. He stated that it is essential to tackle the issue from multiple perspectives, including prevention, treatment, and enforcement. Prevention initiatives can include educational campaigns in schools and communities, as well as encouraging healthy activities and hobbies to discourage drug use.

Oxford report endorses study by Patanjali Ayurved

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 25: A report by Oxford University Press has endorsed the study conducted by Patanjali Ayurved Ltd that nasal drop Anu Taila cures infections.

The report stated that nature created bioactive matrices in a range of diverse and unanticipated ways that have never been replicated in laboratories and Ayurveda could be considered the ancient catalogue of this knowledge.

"This study advocated how the ancient Ayurvedic nasal drop Anu Taila alters the essential physiolog-

ical process of germination in C. Bethollethiae at a genetic as well as biochemical level. It significantly deferred germination and subsequent hyphal growth by modulating the expression of genes essential for the process and by reducing ROS generation," it mentioned.

The report formed after a study which provided an insight into the mode of action of Anu Taila against C. Bethollethiae, based on which further detailed experiments can be planned to design a combinatorial treatment regime against infection caused by this rare mucorale.