

Div Com reviews action plan to revive old Vaishno Devi Yatra route

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting of concerned officers today to review the action plan to revive the old Vaishno Devi Yatra route (Nagrota to Deva Mai).

Representatives of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pracheen Marg Shrinies Sanstha informed the Div Com that the old Vaishno Devi Yatra route was the only route to Vaishno Devi and groups of pilgrims used that route.

It was revealed that many ancient temples are on the route and pilgrims used to visit those temples during yatras during Navratras. They also discussed the significance and historical perspective of the ancient route, which passes through Jagdamba Mata Kheer Bhawani temple, Jagti, Durga Mata temple Pangali, Shiv temple Thandapani-Drabi, Shiv Shakti temple, Raja Mandleek temple and Raja Nowalgarh temple Marh, Kali Mata temple Gundla Talab, Ram Darbar, Shiv Temple Bamyal and Oli temple Chhapanoo-Bamyal.

The Div Com listened to the issues and gave necessary directions to the concerned department to take all possible steps to revive the route and ancient temples.



Div Com Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting to review action plan to revive old Vaishno Devi yatra route.

The Div Com observed that with the development of facilities, revival of ancient temples and route would boost pilgrimage tourism in the area.

He asked the Tourism department to publicize the ancient temples through hoardings at prominent locations to attract pilgrims so that Vaishno Devi pilgrims also visit these temples. The Secretary Academy of Art, Culture and Languages was directed to provide artists for jagrans and other performances at ancient temples during Navratras.

The Police and Traffic Departments were asked to ensure necessary security and traffic arrangements during navratras.

The Div Com asked the Chief Engineer PWD to immediately restore the road by filling potholes well before yatra.

Necessary directions were issued for the illumination of temples and sanitation in and around the temples.

The meeting was attended by

the Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta; Director Rural Development, Chief Engineers of PWD, JPDC, Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Deputy CEO SMVD Shrine Board, besides senior officers of Tourism, Police, Archives, Health, Traffic and other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioner Reasi participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Convener of INTACH, S M Sahni; Coordinator, Arvind Kotwal and other members of INTACH, President and members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pracheen Marg Shrinies Sanstha were also present in the meeting.

DLSA directs for FIR against sharing pictures of murdered victim

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 18: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam today directed the Budgam police to lodge FIR against those who shared pictures and revealed the identity of the victim of the shocking Soibugh murder case.

In an order issued, DLSA said that it has been observed that the media and general public have been circulating the videos of the recent victim of Soibugh Budgam, who was murdered brutally.

Moreover, the DLSA stated, the pictures of the victim and the videos of her autopsy have also been uploaded and circulated by a number of persons. "Thereby violating the right to privacy of the victim and her family."

Such actions of the above persons and agencies, DLSA said, are against the law wherein the identity of the victim is revealed and even her private videos have been uploaded and circulated including the video of the autopsy of the deceased victim, which, it said, is punishable under law.

"As such, the media and gen-

eral public is informed through the medium of this order to stop revealing the identity of the victim and also circulating her pictures immediately, failing which, the violators shall be booked under law."

Secretary DLSA Budgam Fauzia Paul told Excelsior that she visited the family of the victim and that they were aggrieved by the circulation of her (victim's) picture and private videos on social media.

"As such, the order was passed for securing the privacy of the victim and her family and for making the general public aware that such violation is punishable under law. The law forbids the revealing of the identity of the victim and nobody can upload or circulate private videos of the victim," she said.

The SSP Budgam, as per the order, has been directed to lodge FIR against the persons who have uploaded and circulated the pictures and videos of the victim.

Further, Special Mobile Magistrate Budgam has been requested to direct the concerned Social Media agencies to remove the pictures and videos of the victim from all social media platforms and also block the accounts of such violators.

14 promoted as look after CEO and equivalent

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: School Education Department today assigned look after charge of CEO and equivalent to 14 Principals and Equivalent besides transfers and postings with immediate effect.

As per the order, Shahnaz Chowdhary, Principal HSS Channi Himmat Jammu, has been posted as Principal DIET Anantnag while Kewal Krishen, DEPO Kathua has been posted as CEO Samba.

Geetu Bangotra, Principal GGHS Shastri Nagar Jammu, has been posted as CEO Udhampur and she will assume the charge on superannuation of the incumbent.

Kamal Kishore Badyal, HoD DIET Basholi Kathua, has been posted as CEO Anantnag and he will assume the charge on superannuation of the incumbent.

Sandra Malhotra, Principal HSS Nawabad Jammu, has been posted as Principal DIET Doda while Vijay Kumar Sharma, Principal GHSS Maglore Kathua, has been posted as Principal DIET Baramulla.

Pushap Kumar Sharma, Principal Model HSS Lambari (Rajouri) has been posted Principal DIET Pampore and Tahira Parveen, Principal GHSS Rehari Jammu, has been posted as Principal DIET Kulgam.

Romana Qazi, Principal GHSS Amira Kadal Srinagar, has been posted CEO Budgam

Millets can help tackle challenges of food security: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Mar 18:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said millets can help tackle challenges of food security as well as food habits and asked farm scientists to work towards increasing the share of nutri-cereals in the national food basket.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the 'Global Millets (Shri Anna) Conference', he said it is a matter of great honour for the country that after India's proposal and efforts, the United Nations declared 2023 as 'International Year of Millets'.

Modi said India is continuously working to promote millets or Shri Anna as a global movement.

Stressing that millets can be grown easily in adverse climatic conditions and without chemicals and fertilizers, the prime minister said India's millets mission will benefit 2.5 crore small and marginal farmers in the country.

"Today millets constitute only 5-6 per cent in the national food basket. I urge India's scientists and farm experts to work expeditiously to increase the share. We will have to set achievable targets for it," Modi said.



PM Narendra Modi during visit at the Global Millets (Shree Anna) conference at Subramaniam Hall in New Delhi on Saturday. (UNI)

Stating that the government has launched a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the food processing sector, he asked companies to take advantage of the programme to increase production of millet-based products.

Recognising the importance of millets or nutri-cereals, and creating a domestic and global demand along with providing nutritious food to the people, India spearheaded the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution for declaring the year 2023 as International Year of Millets.

The proposal of India was supported by 72 countries, and UNGA declared 2023 as International Year of Millets in March 2021.

Millet is a common term to categorise small-seeded grasses that are often termed nutri-cereals or dryland-cereals and includes Sorghum (Jowar), Pearl Millet (Bajra), Finger Millet (Ragi), Little Millet (Kutki), Foxtail Millet (Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Barnyard Millet (Sawa), Kodo Millet (Kodon) and other millets.

India produces more than 170 lakh tonne of millet, which is 80 per cent of Asia's and 20 per cent of global production. While the global average yield of millet is 1,229 kg/hectare, the yield in India is 1,239 kg/ha.

The prime minister also unveiled a customised postal stamp and Rs 75 currency coin on International Year of Millets (IYMI)-2023. (PTI)



Hyundai Electric IONIQ 5 being launched at AM Hyundai on Saturday.

AM Hyundai launches Hyundai Electric IONIQ 5

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: AM Hyundai, Signature Club Dealership of Jammu Region launched the Hyundai Electric IONIQ 5 at their flagship dealership on Bye Pass Road, Narwal, Jammu.

A press statement said that the new electric vehicle was unveiled by ADGP, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh in the presence of Chairman AM Group Jatinder Gupta and other dignitaries.

The IONIQ 5 boasts a unique exterior design with a pixel theme across and inside the vehicle. It features LED square-shaped headlights, flared-wheel arches with 20-inch alloy wheels, and pixelated rear LED tail lights with a light bar.

The interior is minimal and clean, with two 12.3-inch screens up top. The vehicle comes with ventilated and powered front seats, climate control,

vehicle-to-load function (V2L), six airbags, and a Level 2 ADAS safety suite. Under the hood, the IONIQ 5 is powered by a 72.6kWh battery pack, providing power to the motor, which produces 216bhp and 350Nm of torque. It has an ARAI-certified range of 631km on a full charge and can charge from 10-80% in just 18 minutes using a 350kW DC charger.

Hyundai promises a three-year or unlimited kilometres warranty, an eight-year or 1, 60, 000 Km battery warranty, and three-year roadside assistance. AM Hyundai is the only Hyundai dealership in Jammu to offer the Hyundai Electric Range of cars. Several social media influencers and media personalities were present at the launch, including RJ Shweta, Super Dancer 4 Finalist Arshiya Sharma, and Auto Vloggers AutoTech World, Tech Tripper (Amit).



Dignitaries and teachers during a training programme on Saturday.

DIET conducts training of teachers under Adolescence Education Prog

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIET) Jammu today organized one-day training of teachers under Adolescence Education Programme by J&K AIDS Control Society in collaboration with JKBOSE.

The program started with the bouquet presentation by Principal Roshan Lal and lighting of traditional lamp by the dignitaries namely Director Academics JKBOSE Prof Sudhir Singh, Joint Director SCERT Jammu Division H R Pakhroo, Deputy Director Academics JKBOSE Yasir Hamid Sirwal and Assistant Secretary JKBOSE Rajesh Singh.

The objectives of Adolescence Training Programme were delivered by Sugandh, Senior Lecturer followed by sessions on HIV/AIDS Modes of Transmission, Myths and Misconceptions, Life Skills and HIV Prevention by Prof Dr Meena Sidhu, HoD Blood Transfusion Medicine GMC Jammu and other eminent Resource persons Shifali Gupta, Senior Lecturer, Dr Alka Sharma, teacher, who delivered insightful sessions on Adolescent and Reproductive Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Exploring Life skills.

The training program was attended by 200 teachers from different schools of all 15 zones of District Jammu who will act as ambassadors in their schools and zones to implement the learning of the trainings in the field. The participants showed keen interest in making this AEP implemented fully in all schools enriching adolescents and achieving sustainable developmental goal along with four G20 themes. The program concluded with the vote of thanks by Coordinator Tripta Manyal, HOD.

98 bovines rescued in 24 hours, 9 smugglers arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 18: In a major success, Udhampur Police rescued 98 bovine animals and arrested nine smugglers during the last 24 hours.

Police team of police station Udhampur, headed by SHO Insp Rahgubir Singh, under the supervision of Addl SP Udhampur Anwaar Ul Haq and Gurmeet Singh DySP Hqs Udhampur, apprehended four bovine smugglers and rescued 27 bovine animals from their possession. These animals were being smuggled to Kashmir. In this regards, case FIR numbers 137/141/142/145 of 2023 U/S 188 IPC and 11 PCA Act have been registered at Police Station Udhampur.

Meanwhile, team of Police Station Chenani, led by Insp Sarweshwar Dev Singh under the supervision of SDPO Chenani Tahir Amin Sheikh foiled bovine smuggling attempt and rescued 30 bovine animals, which were being transported to Kashmir. One bovine smuggler was arrested and in this regard, case FIR number 47/2023, under section 188IPC 11PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Chenani.

SSP Udhampur Dr. Vinod Kumar-IPS said that measures to check bovine smuggling have been taken at large scale in district Udhampur and hundreds of bovines have been rescued and number of arrests have been made in the recent past.

As already reported, 41 bovines were rescued while four smugglers were arrested at Tikri yesterday.

Punjabi poetry collection by Balwinder Singh released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: A Punjabi poetry collection titled 'Yaadan' written by S. Balwinder Singh was released by Punjabi Lekhak Sabha-Jammu (PLS-J) here today in a function organized by PLS.

Padamshree (Dr.) Jatinder Udhampur, former Director Radio Kashmir Jammu was chief guest whereas Dr. Arvinder Singh Ann, former Additional Secretary JKAACL presided over the function.

Dr. Baljeet Singh Raina, president PLS-J; S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Sheeraza Punjabi and S. Balwinder Singh were present on the presidium.

Dr. Baljeet Singh Raina extended welcome address. A paper on the content and critical evaluation of the released book 'Yaadan' was presented by Dr. Gurpreet Kour.

Dr. Jitender Udhampur also expressed his views on the poetry of Balwinder Singh and elaborated on his poetry with recitation of pieces from the poems. Earlier writers Popinder Singh Paras, Harbhajan Singh Upasak, Suraj Singh Suraj, Suraj Parkash Ratan, Dr. Monojit, Dr. Baljeet Singh Raina, Rattan Singh Kanwal, Harjit Singh Uppal and S.S Chohalvi also addressed the gathering.

Proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Gurpreet Kour, general secretary PLS-J.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Jang S. Verma, press secretary PLS-J.



Police and civil officers during anti-drug campaign in Janipura on Saturday.

Anti-drug campaign held at Janipura

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Janipura Traders Association and Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan organized a Seminar on "Anti Drugs" & presented mega cultural program on "Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan" at JDA Complex, Janipura Jammu through Dogri Nukkad Natak "Nashe Cha Bacho."

A pledge was administered to more than 200 people. The programme was inaugurated by Harvinder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu. Among those present were, Kulbir Handa, SP Jammu City, Vikram Bhuu, SDPO Bakshi Nagar, Yashpal Sharma (Mantu), Surinder Sharma, Sunita Gupta, Rani Devi, all councillors and experts of various organization working for drug de addiction were also present on the occasion.

The program commenced with welcome Song "Sawagatam - Sawagatam". The day commemorated with sole aim of rejuvenating the traditional, Primitive Folk, Art, Culture of J&K Region in particular and Indian Nasha Nai Karo Munde Kureio", "Bacho Bacho Tobacco Kola Bacho", "Nai Pee Shraban", "Bari Kharab Chutki", "Nahin Piya Tobacco Balma", Nukkad, Skits, songs and dances were nation in general awareness items. The artists of BLSks presented Nukkad Play & theme based songs which were written by Dr. M.L. Dogra & the music was the composed by M.C.Kotwal & assisted by Raju Bajgal. The program was also recorded & uploaded online on Social Media for benefit of the peoples.

Welcome speech was given by Yash Pal Sharma, Counselor JMC ward no 36 who said the current statistics on the rise in suicides and mental health issues has led the Government to take the much required action for drug demand reduction.

Drug peddler booked under PIT-NDPS Act

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 18: Police have booked a notorious drug peddler under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining necessary sanctions from the authorities in Baramulla.

The notorious drug smuggler Basharat Rajab Dar son of Mohd Rajab Dar resident of Sheeri,



BJP president, Ravinder Raina addressing a party function at Jammu on Saturday.

T K Sharma along with supporters joins BJP

Modi Govt working hard to provide benefit to neglected: Raina

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: BJP JK UT president Ravinder Raina today said the Modi Government has worked hard to provide benefits to every neglected and oppressed section of society like PoJK refugees, WPRs, OBCs, STs, Women, Gujjar, Bakkarwals, Pahadis, LoC residents. This has attracted the love and faith of people of J&K in BJP," he added.

He was addressing a party function here, today in which Er T K Sharma an eminent social worker along with his large number of supporters joined the party.

J&K BJP general secretary, Vibodh Gupta, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan in charge Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, senior leader, Ex MLA Prof Garu Ram Bhagat, Ashok Khajuria and district president, Rekha Mahajan also attended the programme and welcomed Sharma into the party.

Raina, while taking him in party fold said that his joining is a significant addition to the party. He said BJP is confident that his vast experience will add immense value to the BJP team.

His unique insights and perspective will undoubtedly contribute to the party's ongoing efforts to build a strong and prosperous India.

Vibodh Gupta said that the party is committed to uphold the cherished agenda of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas by steering all segments of society, irrespective of caste, religion and region, on the path of progress and development.

Speaking on the occasion, Dil Bahadur Singh in charge Swachh Bharat Abhiyan JK BJP said that T K Sharma's decision to join BJP is a testament to his belief in party's ideology, values and vision for the future. He also said T K Sharma is a well known social worker as well and he is looking forward to work in a team spirit to realise the vision of strong and Swachh Jammu and Kashmir.

T K Sharma said that he is very much impressed by the work culture of PM Narendra Modi and his Mantra Sabka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas as well as selfless working of JK BJP chief Ravinder Raina.



Dr Saurabh Suran being presented with 'J&K SEED Startup Enabler Award' in Jammu on Saturday.

CSIR-IIIM incubator honored with 'J&K SEED Startup Enabler Award'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) - Technology Business Incubator in Jammu has been recognized with the 'J&K SEED Startup Enabler Award' for its support of the startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

A press statement said that the award was presented to Dr Saurabh Suran, Principal Scientist CSIR-IIIM, Jammu & Principal Investigator, IIIM- Technology Business Incubator and Er Ankush Varma, Coordinator, IIIM-Technology Business Incubator during the first J&K Start-up Event for Entrepreneurial Development (SEED-1).

The event was held at MIET College in Jammu and was organized by MIET in collaboration with FICCI FLO JK&L to celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship

and startup culture in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. During the award ceremony, Dr Suran informed the audience about the work carried out by the incubator to promote the startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

He said that since 2018, 82 startup companies have registered with the IIIM-TBI, including in-house, virtual, and out-

side incubates. Among them, 15 in-house incubates have reached the product development stage, and five startup companies have successfully completed the product development cycle and launched their products in the market.

Er Ankush Varma emphasized that the IIIM Incubator is committed to creating awareness among the local population of Jammu & Kashmir by promoting a biotech-based startup ecosystem.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com