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LG calls for...

He said, under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are making committed efforts to strengthen the core infrastructure in a planned and sustainable manner. While developing Srinagar Smart City, we have adopted human-centered approach and ensured elements of traditional art and culture, heritage, smart facilities, smart governance, and sustainability are based on social equity to provide high quality of life to the residents, he added.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor, Srinagar Municipal Corporation; Manoj Joshi, Union Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (joined through virtual mode) and Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary, MoHUA shared their views on the transformational journey of Srinagar city.

Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, J&K; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Athar Amir Khan, CEO Srinagar Smart City; Principal Secretaries from various States, UTs and Urban Transformation Experts also attended the inaugural session.

Five Jr scale...

Board; Mohammad Raffie, Jr. Scale JKAS, Excise & Taxation Officer; Eradication Wing, Jammu, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Social Welfare Department.

Mohammad Iqbal Mir, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary, School Education Department, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Cooperatives Department; Rubia Afroz Inqalabi, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary, Higher Education Department, has been transferred and her services are placed at the disposal of Rural Development Department.

Jahid Azad, Jr. Scale JKAS, BDO, Chitragam, Shopian, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Tourism Department.

Mehbooba Mufti re-elected...

seconded by former minister Abdul Gaffar Sofi. All the members of electoral college supported the nomination through a voice vote. The election process was held simultaneously in Jammu, which was connected to the Srinagar office of the party via a video link.

5 LeT terrorists...

and further details if any will be shared accordingly," the spokesperson added.

ADGP Kashmir has appreciated the role of Kupwara Police for generating the actionable input and the role of joint forces for swiftly tracking and neutralizing the infiltrating terrorists to defeat the nefarious designs of inimical elements who are hell bent to disrupt peace and harmony in the valley.

While officials maintain that infiltration attempts have come down significantly, attempts by terrorists to sneak into Indian territory have continued this year.

Two terrorists were killed in a failed infiltration bid four days ago in Uri sector. A total of 11 infiltrators were shot dead in June - four of them in Machhil sector and five in nearby Jumagund area of Keran sector.

EAM Jaishankar calls...

the projects in Pakistan as it is being laid through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). He said India shares deep civilisational ties with the people of the SCO region.

Currently, the SCO countries include India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

"The continuous movement of goods, ideas and people traversing the region has left indelible imprints on our customs, traditions, language and cuisine. These historical relationships should now create a template for greater economic cooperation," Jaishankar said

"To improve trade within the region, we need robust connectivity and infrastructure. Such initiatives should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries," he said.

"The Global South should not be saddled with unviable debt arising from opaque initiatives," Jaishankar said, in another jibe at China, which is accused of launching unviable infrastructure projects in countries like Sri Lanka and Pakistan, saddling those countries with debts.

At the same time, Jaishankar said that the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) could become "prosperity enablers."

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which many see as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, was jointly announced by the leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit in September.

The International North-South Transport Corridor is a 7,200-km long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road routes for moving freight between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

The Global South refers to countries often characterised as developing, less developed, or underdeveloped, primarily located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Beijing was the lender of choice for many nations over the past decade. Many borrowed heavily from China. There have been global concerns over debt traps and regional hegemony by China using its ambitious Belt and Road (BRI) infrastructure projects.

China is doling out huge sums of money for infrastructure projects in countries from Asia to Africa and Europe. The US' previous Donald Trump administration had been extremely critical of the BRI and was of the view that China's "predatory financing" is leaving smaller countries under huge debt endangering their sovereignty.

During its SCO presidency, Jaishankar said India focused on five new verticals of cooperation- Startups and Innovation, Traditional Medicine, Science and Technology, Youth Empowerment and Shared Buddhist Heritage. The response received highlighted the relevance of the chosen themes.

"We adopted a Statement on Cooperation in Digital Transformation and we have also institutionalized a Special Working Group on Startups and Innovation. India is also hosting SCO Startup Forum on a regular basis," he said.

EC will require...

electronic voting machines. The Law Commission, which is working on a report on holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies, had organised an interaction with the EC on its requirements and challenges for holding synchronised polls.

Sources aware of the interaction said much would depend on the number of polling stations set up when such an exercise takes place. When Lok Sabha and assembly elections are held simultaneously in some states, voters cast their votes in two separate EVMs. In the last Lok Sabha elections, there were 12.50 lakh polling stations.

The commission now requires around 15 lakh control units, 15 lakh VVPAT units and 18 lakh ballot units for 12.50 lakh polling stations.

An EVM has shelf life of 15 years.

While there was no official estimate available on how much these voting units cost, at the previous procurement rates also the total cost for one crore units will be in excess of Rs 15,000 crore, including over Rs 6,500 crore for VVPAT units.

The cost can go even higher if local body polls are also held together with Lok Sabha and assembly polls.

The high-level committee on "one nation, one election" headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind is examining holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats, keeping in view the existing framework under the Constitution and other statutory provisions.

According to sources, the poll watchdog in its interaction with the Law Commission also listed out challenges such as need for more warehousing facilities for EVMs.

Referring to the nearly one-and-half years of preparatory time, they said two public sector undertakings -- ECIL and BEL -- who manufacture EVMs would also need to be informed well in advance.

They said the semiconductor industry should also be stable to cater to the enhanced demand. When the interaction took place, there were problems related to the semiconductor industry which seem to have settled now, they pointed out.

The EC would also need time for "first-level check" (FLC) of EVMs before polls.

The EC has already commenced FLCs for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in a phased manner across India.

During FLCs, EVMs, including VVPATs, machines are checked for mechanical flaws by engineers of Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL).

Faulty machines are returned to the manufacturers for repair or replacement. A mock poll is also held to check the two machines in the presence of representatives of political parties.

Rashmi nominated In...

reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

J&K BJP celebrates...

Presidents Parmod Kapahi, Rekha Mahajan and Sunil Shastri, shared the stage.

Ravinder Raina said that 26 October is of great importance to every resident of J&K in a similar way as that of 15 August. He said entire Jammu and Kashmir (Including illegally occupied part of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh by Pakistan and China) was made inseparable part of Bharat. He said that the Accession was completed without any condition by Maharaja ji, but NC and Congress, who conspired against the unity of nation for their own vested interests propagated false narrative of theirs. He added that Maharaja Hari Singh ji was a hard core patriot who stressed for freedom internationally, which irked British and hence all the conspiracies were hatched.

Raina said that Pt. Nehru as first Prime Minister mishandled the affairs of J&K after taking the matter into his hands from Sardar Patel. He said Patriot Hari Singh ji was a true secular ruler; who served everybody; but was not allowed to enter J&K alive by the Congress.

On 27 October, our armies ousted Pakistan from J&K reaching far but Pt. Nehru announced unilateral ceasefire and leaving our own territory into enemy control. Today, PoJK residents, who consider Bharat as their nation, are hoisting Tiranga, which is a clear indication that PoJK will unite with us in coming time, added Raina.

Ashok Koul shared the minute details of events around before 1947 emphasizing on the role of RSS in Accession of Jammu & Kashmir citing important contributions of second Sarsangchalak of the RSS Guru ji Madhav Sadashivrao Gholwalkar and Balraj Madhok, Rai Bahadur Badri Das, Barrister Ranjit Singh, Madhav Rav Mule, Harish, Jagdish Abrol and others. He also cited relation of Bengal Andolan, Bung-Bung Andolan, 2-Nation theory by British.

He asked all to understand his character as a philanthropist and as a patriotic ruler: He said that Resident commissioner office was in Kashmir and he was not allowed to enter Jammu. In 1925 there were less than 1000 schools, before 1940 there were more than 20,000 schools, hospitals, temples were opened for all sections.

Shamsher Manhas said that practically British could not enslave J&K before 1947 but it was enslaved in 1947 by Pt. Nehru and Sheikh. While both were willing to break Bharat Mata into pieces, Mookherjee, Maharaja Hari Singh and Pt. Prem Nath Dogra saved J&K from bitter consequences.

Kavinder Gupta said that under conspiracy, Sardar Patel was not allowed to handle J&K affairs and Sheikh was given all importance. J&K was used a black mailing point afterwards by them for their own benefits.

Narain Singh said that the root of ill took birth in 1931 and Muslim league was created by Sheikh to break secular fabric of J&K. he also said that Cease-fire was deliberate attempt by Pt. Nehru to weaken J&K as a revenge.

Vibodh Gupta termed Accession Day as historic Day. He said that there were only two option in 1947 ie either to join Bharat or Pakistan and Maharaja Hari Singh signed the instrument to join whole of J&K with Bharat.

Rajinder Sharma stressed on the role of Maharaj Hari Singh in joining J&K with Bharat and Brig Rajinder Singh in saving J&K from Pakistan Army.

Proceedings were conducted by BJYM Incharge Munish Sharma.

New film policy...

the Lt Governor said the impeccable style and art of the celebrated actor and film maker gave a new meaning and respectability to the Bollywood.

In the second edition of The International Film Festival of Srinagar, 30 feature films, short films, documentaries from 17 countries were included for cinema-lovers.

On the occasion, the renowned film-maker, B Subhash was conferred with the prestigious KL Saigal Award.

Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL; Rakesh Koshan Bhat, Festival Director, TIFFS, prominent artists and film personalities were present.

Women empowerment pivotal...



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha honouring Women Achievers of Kashmir Division.

fields like Education, Law, Entrepreneurship, Social Work, Health, Literary, Sports, Journalism. Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Maj Gen Mohit Seth, GOC Kilo Force, senior officers from Army, eminent personalities from diverse fields and family members of women achievers were present. different ways at different times. Everyone looks different but their religion is the same. Their objective is the same. We are all one and will remain one," he said. "Saari duniya ka dharm ek hai, panth or sampradai alag alag ho sakte hain (There may be different communities and sects but the religion of the whole world is the same)," Bhagwat said. "Seers also belong to different sects but from within, they are all one. When we protect religion, religion protects us. The entire creation needs religion. We have no enmity with anyone. We carry the feeling of friendship with everyone. If religion ends then creation will end," he added.

Bhagwat also took part in a conference of seers of the Shri Krishna Gyan Mandir as its chief guest. He later participated in the silver jubilee festival of Shri Krishna Gyan Mandir located in Pant Vihar Colony.

There may be...

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ACD flags off Amrit Kalash Yatra from Poonch to Delhi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Assistant Commissioner Development, Abid Hussain Shah on Thursday flagged off the Amrit Kalash Yatra from Poonch to Delhi here from the premises of the DC Office.

The Kalash is being carried by the volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Poonch.

All the blocks of district Poonch contributed to fill the Kalash for the main event in New Delhi

Tehsildar headquarters Jhangir Hussain, BDO Poonch, Chetan Sharma, Programme Coordinator NYK, Mohammad Shafiq, Physical Education Master, Vijay Kumar beside volunteers of NYK were present on the event.

The yatra, scheduled from 23rd to 31st October 2023, is being organized under the "Meri Maati Mera Desh"

President KCCI, Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association call on Lt Governor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Javid Ahmad Tenga, President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Thursday.

A delegation of Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association led by Manzoor Pakhtoon also called on the Lt Governor and projected various welfare issues of Houseboat owners.

The Lt Governor assured delegations of appropriate redressal of their demands and issues on merit.



ACD Poonch, Abid Hussain Shah flagging off Amrit Kalash Yatra from Poonch.

campaign aimed to pay tributes to the Veer soldiers of the nation.

The Amrit Kalash Yatra holds immense significance as it symbolizes the deep-rooted connection between the Maati and Mera Desh. This yatra aims to promote patriotic fervor and strengthen the bond between the people and their homeland. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers in defending the sovereignty and integrity of our

nation. Speaking at the event, ACD Abid Hussain Shah highlighted the importance of Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign and emphasized the need to honor and respect our land and its defenders. He stated, "Meri Maati Mera Desh is not just a slogan but a heartfelt expression of gratitude towards our motherland. It reminds us that our land nurtures us, and it is our duty to protect and preserve it."

DC Kupwara flags off Amrit Kalash Yatra to New Delhi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan on Thursday flagged off the "Amrit Kalash Yatra" from the RDD Complex Kupwara to New Delhi as part of the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign in a patriotic and festive environment. The team of volunteers, from Kupwara district carrying soil and rice in Amrit Kalash(earthen pots) was flagged to Delhi, where a "Amrit Vatika" will be developed near the National War Memorial. The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the volunteers of Kalash yatra and extended her best wishes for a pleasant trip to Delhi. The flag-off ceremony was attended by ADDC Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan, ACD Kupwara, Hilal Ahmad Mir, ACP Kupwara, Dr. Mudassir, DIO Kupwara, Iftikhar Naseem, BDOs and other officials of RDD. Pertinently, Amrit Kalash Yatras were held in all the Panchayats and Municipal wards of Kupwara district in a festive and patriotic environment amid Dhol Nagadas. The soil and rice was collected from panchayats and ULBs in Amit Kalsh which were brought to Tourist Reception Centre(TRC) Kupwara in large processions before this final Flag off ceremony today.

Div Com reviews preparation for UT Foundation Day, Ekta Diwas celebrations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Thursday convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and HoDs to frame the plan to organise mega colorful activities to highlight the transition, development and achievements of last four years of UT of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion celebration of UT Foundation Day/ Ekta Diwas.

The activities shall showcase the hue of transformation of Kashmir Division through art exhibitions, paintings, debates, Run for Unity, selfies with developed projects, heritage sites besides the achievements by



Div Com Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri chairing a meeting.

individual departments.

The Divisional Commissioner on the occasion directed Director Colleges and Director Schools to ensure uploading of selfies by students and staff on the portal and sites.

To mark the Foundation Day, Director College will organize a mega event at

Amar Singh College while Director School Education will organize a grand function at SP Higher Secondary School, Srinagar.

Both Directors revealed that Painting Competitions, Quiz Sessions, lectures besides cultural parades and programme shall be organized during the event.

ADDC B'la Flaggs Off Amrit Kalash Yatra from GDC Boys Baramulla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: In a momentous ceremony held today, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf flagged off Amrit Mitti Kalash Yatra under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign, from Boys' Degree College Baramulla in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina, other district officers and a vast gathering of dedicated members from the civil society.

The ADDC flagged off

busses laden with volunteers from various sections of the district carrying Kalash (earthen pot) brimmed with Mitti (soil) collected from panchayats of 26 blocks and wards of 7 urban local bodies across the district.

The Yatra will halt at Sheri Kashmir International Convention Centre(SKICC) where the Kalashes from the other districts of the region will be collected.

From SKICC, the Yatra will embark on its final leg, bound for the national capital where it will participate in the national-level culmination pro-

gram of the campaign, where Mitti collected from across the nation will find its resting place in a symbolic Amrit Vatika at the end of the month.

Extending his best wishes to the volunteers, the ADDC encouraged them to make the most of this enriching experience in the national capital. He also stressed on the importance of being responsible citizens, as this campaign promotes love and respect for the nation and instills a sense of unity, motivating everyone to work diligently for the betterment of the nation.

ADDC Ganderbal flags off Amrit Kalash Yatra from Mini-Secretariat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: A flag-off ceremony of Amrit Kalash Yatra comprising of 9 Youth volunteers carrying the Maati Kalash of all Blocks and Municipal Council of the district was held today at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The Yatra was flagged off by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani in view of a grand celebrative function being organised by Divisional Administration Kashmir for assemblage of Amrit Kalash collected from Blocks/Municipal bodies of Kashmir Division.

Assistant Commissioner Development Ganderbal, Dr Bashir Ahmad, BDO Lar and other officials were also present on the occasion. The Amrit Kalash Yatra involved the collection of soil/mitti from each households across the district with much celebrative and patriotic enthusiasm symbolizing unity and dedication to the nation.

The campaign also marks the culmination of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', which began on March 12, 2021, witnessed extensive public participation across district Ganderbal.

Pertinently, Meri Mati Mera Desh' Campaign under the banner of Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahautsov aimed to pay tribute to the beloved motherland and the courageous Veers who have made the supreme sacrifice for the nation.