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Education for all...

introduced in the education sector and significant decisions taken in line with the National Education Policy to transform the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir in the last two years.

We are developing necessary infrastructure for girls' education, bridging gender gaps, developing Atal Tinkering Labs & Computer-Aided Learning centres, providing scholarships, extending handholding for individual growth and ensuring quality education for all sections of society, the Lt Governor added.

Leading educationists of the country have been invited to be a part of the Higher Education Council of J&K. We are preparing a pragmatic road map to enhance the potential of human resources, re-aligning the Higher Education ecosystem to meet the needs of present-day challenges and strengthening the academia-industry relationship, observed the Lt Governor.

Initiatives like Aao School Chalen Campaign, Talaash Survey, Teachers-Students mentorship programs are yielding favorable results. Today 70,000 boys and girls are taking vocational training in 14 different trades and 1420 Computer Aided Learning Centers in Upper Primary School are promoting Curiosity, Critical Thinking in children, he further added.

Uday Kumar, Group Editor Amar Ujala in his welcome address gave a detailed briefing about the endeavour.

On the occasion, the meritorious students of 10th and 12th standards were felicitated.

Rajinder Sharma, Mayor JMC; Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu; Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, School Education Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, besides senior officials, teachers, parents and students in large numbers were present.

Prof. JP Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Prof. Umesh Rai, VC Jammu University; Prof Bechan Lal, VC Cluster University Jammu and members of Amar Ujala group were also present on the occasion.

SC to set-up..

of petition of Hindu devotees, the lawyer said the trial court had rejected it and an appeal is pending in the Allahabad High Court.

On May 17, the top court had passed an interim order directing the district magistrate of Varanasi to ensure protection of the area inside the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex where a 'Shivling' was said to be found in the survey.

The apex court had also allowed Muslims to offer namaz in the Gyanvapi mosque.

On November 8, fast track court at Varanasi postponed till November 14 its judgement on a separate plea seeking permission to allow worship of the 'Shivling' claimed to have been found in the mosque complex.

On April 26, a lower court (civil judge-senior division) that was earlier hearing a plea by a group of women seeking permission for daily worship of idols of Hindu deities on the mosque's outer walls had ordered a videographic survey of the Gyanvapi complex and the Hindu side had claimed the Shivling' was found during the exercise.

However, the Muslim side has maintained that the object was part of the water fountain mechanism at the 'wazookhama' reservoir where devotees carry out ablutions before offering namaz.

The Supreme Court had transferred the case from the civil judge (senior division) to the district judge on May 20, saying looking at the "complexities" and "sensitivity" of the issue, it is better if a senior judicial officer with an experience of over 25-30 years handles the case.

District judge A K Vishwesh is hearing another case demanding a survey of closed underground places in Gyanvapi premises. This case will be heard on November 11.

J&K Police SI...

to certain candidates. The exam results were declared on June 4 this year. After the allegations of malpractice in the conduct of the exam surfaced, the Union Territory government constituted an inquiry committee to look into the matter.

"It was alleged that the accused entered into a conspiracy amongst officials of JKSSB, a Bengaluru-based private company, beneficiary candidates and others, and caused gross irregularities in the conduct of written examination for the posts of sub-inspectors.

"It was further alleged that there was an abnormally high percentage of selected candidates from Jammu, Rajouri, and Samba districts," the CBI has said.

The JKSSB allegedly violated rules in outsourcing the setting of the question paper to a Bengaluru-based private company, the agency had said.

According to an official handout, the Jammu and Kashmir government had constituted an Inquiry Committee to look into the issue. It was alleged that the accused entered into conspiracy amongst officials of JKSSB, Bengaluru based private company, beneficiary candidates and others, and caused gross irregularities in conduct of written examination for the posts of Sub-Inspectors. It was further alleged that there was abnormally high percentage of selected candidates from Jammu, Rajouri and Samba districts. Violation of rules by JKSSB was allegedly found in assigning the task of setting question paper to Bengaluru based private company. Investigation has revealed that the alleged payment of Rs.20 to 30 lakh(approx) by willing candidates and their families to the accused for accessing the question paper before commencement of the examination, the handout added.

Terror funding, recruitment ...

to provide monetary assistance to poor and needy families, Manhas said.

He (Dar) was actively involved in coordinating the funding for terror activities and aiding recruitment by organizing secret meetings in different villages where they would try and lure young people into terror activities, Manhas said.

The SSP said on Dar's disclosure five other persons were arrested.

He identified them as Wahid Ahmed Bhat, resident of Langate, Javed Ahmed Najar, resident of Singhpora, Baramulla, Mushtaq Ahmed Najar, resident of Sopore, Bashir Ahmed Mir, resident of Mundji area of Sopore, and Zubair Ahmed Dar, resident of Cheerkote.

The module was being coordinated by Pakistan based handlers to aid the operations of Tehreek-e-Ul-Mujahideen Jammu and Kashmir (TuMJK) in north Kashmir, the SSP said.

The modus operandi of the group was to go to different villages and conduct events and gatherings under the garb of the NGO and would collect money by asking for charity and also scout for potential soft targets as recruits, he said.

Manhas said the group was receiving instructions from across the border from Ghulam Rasool Shah alias Dr Shah Sab alias Manzoor Shah alias Gen Abdullah, who is a Pakistani based terrorist handler, Mohammad Sultan Peer, alias Tariq Peer, alias Yousaf Baloch, alias Osama, alias Qureshi, of Sulkoot Kupwara -- also a Pakistani based terrorist handler, and one person Mushtaq, alias Hamza.

A huge quantity of arms, ammunition, raw material to prepare IED and incriminating material including five pistols, 10 magazines, 49 pistol ammunition, and two grenades, were recovered from them, the SSP added.

A case under various sections of Arms Act, and UA(P) Act has been registered against all the individuals for further investigation, Manhas said.

Every vote in...

governments" at the Centre and the state have worked for the development of Himachal Pradesh, especially its long-neglected border regions.

"I want to see this development campaign touch the heights of the skies like the peaks of the Himalayas. I urge you earnestly to let the development journey of the state continue.

"This request is also because when I came to the Centre in 2014 and there was a government of another party in the state, they did not allow central schemes to progress here," he said.

The journey of Himachal's development began in 2017 when the BJP government was elected here, the prime minister said in his letter, saying, "We do not have to stop this journey."

Ever since the "double-engine government" took shape in Himachal, several schemes like Ujjwala, toilets and tap water connections in every rural household were aggressively implemented to ease the living of women and girls, he said. "We are reaping the benefits of these efforts."

"Today, the hill state has become a centre of progress and tourism instead of migration and troubles. We are also developing infrastructure related to agriculture and horticulture in the state and work is underway to raise job opportunities for the youth through industrialization," Modi also said in his appeal to the people of Himachal Pradesh.

The BJP cadre in the state intend to take this prime minister's letter door to door over the next two days.

"We will deliver this message of the prime minister to every person and household in the state in the next two days and reach out to 15 lakh households," said the BJP's co-in-charge for Himachal Pradesh Sanjay Tandon.

He visited several households in Shimla and handed over Modi's message.

He said the BJP held 20 rallies across the state with the party's national chief J P Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Anurag Thakur, Smriti Irani and Uttar

Pradesh and Uttarakhand chief ministers Yogi Adityanath and Pushkar Singh Dhami campaigning in the state on the last day.

"The swing factor is visible in the state," he said, claiming the BJP will win the election with a two-third majority.

Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jairam Thakur also addressed poll rallies and claimed that the people of the state will script history by re-electing the BJP in the state, just as other states like Uttarakhand, Goa and Uttar Pradesh had done.

Information warfare potential...

has increased the vulnerability of critical infrastructure.

"I would like to tell you that the conduct of our strategic policy should be moral. India does not believe in a world order where few are considered superior to others," he added.

"India's actions are guided by the very essence of human equality and dignity, which is a part of our ancient ethos and its strong moral foundations, give us our political strength. Even our freedom struggle was based on the bedrock of high moral values." Singh's comments came amid increasing concerns over China's aggressive military posturing along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as well as in the Indo-Pacific.

The defence minister said a strong and prosperous India would not be built at the cost of others. "Rather, India is here to help other nations realise their full potential."

Singh said if security becomes a truly collective enterprise, "we can think of creating a global order which is beneficial to all of us".

The defence minister also said realpolitik cannot be the fig leaf for being immoral.

"Rather, enlightened self-interest of nations can be promoted within the framework of strategic morality, which is predicated on the understanding and respect for the legitimate strategic imperative of all the civilised nations."

"It is for this reason that when we partner any nation, it is on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect. Forging relations comes naturally to India, as we work towards mutual economic development," Singh said.

Quoting Martin Luther King Jr, he stated that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere".

"The recent Ukrainian conflict showed how its ripple effects could adversely impact the whole world. Together, Russia and Ukraine export nearly a third of the world's wheat and barley, but this conflict had prevented grain from leaving the 'breadbasket of the world' and led to food crisis in various African and Asian countries," he said.

Key infrastructure like power generation and distribution is increasingly becoming more complex and there is a need for dealing with such challenges effectively, Singh said.

The energy sector, he added, is one of the main targets of cyber-attacks but it is not the only one; transport, public sector services, telecommunications and critical manufacturing industries are also vulnerable.

Singh emphasised that national security should not be considered a "zero-sum game" and that there is a need to create a win-win situation for all.

"We should not be guided by narrow self-interest which is not beneficial in the long run, but by enlightened self-interest which is sustainable and resilient to shocks," he said.

The minister said the world's increasingly interconnected financial systems are also at great risk.

"You all must be aware that in February 2016, hackers targeted the central bank of Bangladesh and tried to steal 1 billion dollars. While most transactions were blocked, 101 million dollars still disappeared.

"This was a wake-up call for the finance world that cyber risks in the financial system had been severely underestimated. Today, the assessment that a major cyber-attack poses a threat to financial stability is not a question of if, but when," he said.

The defence minister also threw light on the narrowing gap between internal and external security and said that new dimensions of threats are being added with changing times that are difficult to classify.

He asserted that terrorism, which generally falls in the category of internal security, is now classified in the category of external security as training, funding and arms support of such organisations are being carried out from outside the country.

Money in NPS...

the Centre to return the people's money under NPS for restarting OPS in their states.

Both the Congress-ruled states have notified the reintroduction of OPS for government employees and have said the Centre cannot hold back employees' money.

The Congress has also promised to restart OPS for government employees in Himachal Pradesh and this has become a major poll issue in this assembly election as there are 1.75 lakh government employees in the state.

Himachal Pradesh goes to the polls on November 12.

"As per law, the money in the central kitty of NPS cannot go back to state governments. It can only go back to the contributing workers. Can we change the law? It is the workers' money in the central kitty. That money has to go to the beneficiary individual workers and not to one authority and not to some other entity.

"I am not talking politics here. I am only talking about the law," said Sitharaman addressing the media in Shimla.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has been saying that the Centre has refused to return Rs 17,000 crore due to the state government employees enrolled under NPS after the state asked the Centre for it.

Baghel has said the Centre cannot hold that money back for long and the state government has sought legal opinion on the matter and may move court.

Sitharaman said it was the previous Congress government in Himachal Pradesh led by late chief minister Virbhadra Singh who discontinued OPS in 2003 and started NPS for government employees.

"You are asking us questions about OPS when the Congress governments here chose to retain NPS in their tenures," she said.

"Our party's national president is working out a solution on OPS," she said, alleging that it is the Congress which should be on the backfoot on the issue.

"Ask those who are benefitting as there are only 300 people who are getting the benefit in Rajasthan instead of 3 lakh employees in the state," she said.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur also addressed the Congress apologise to government employees in the state for discontinuing OPS, and thus it has no right to raise the issue of OPS.

"The Congress does not have the moral right to raise the issue of OPS, because it is the Congress government which signed the MoU to scrap OPS and start NPS," he said.

Sitharaman also clarified on the import duty on apples, saying as per WTO norms the maximum duty that can be imposed is 50 per cent, which India has done.

"India has imposed 50 per cent duty till the bound rate. You cannot impose more than the bound duty rate," she said, adding that to ensure imported apples do not affect the rates in northern part of the country, such apples are landed in far away places.

"The interests of apple growers have always been high on our agenda," she said.

Sitharaman urged the people of the state to repeat the BJP government as the state has progressed well in the "double-engine" government of both the state and the Centre.

Himachal has received more grants and tax devolution under the double-engine government to provide greater muscle to the state to tackle its finances, she said.

Citing figures, she said the state received Rs 80,679 crore from 2014-2019 under NDA rule and the devolution of tax and grants to Himachal is already Rs 70,400 crore between 2019 to 2022 even though 1-and-a-half years of the five-year term remains.

Against this, HP received only Rs 40,281 crore during 2009-2014 under the UPA rule, she said.

The finance minister also listed a host of central schemes through which the state has benefitted and said the state government has complimented those with their own schemes to cover more and more people in Himachal.

She also enumerated big projects like AIIMS in Bilaspur, bulk drugs park, medical technologies park, Renuka dam project and a host of promises made to people of the state, especially to women.

India's relationship with...

to keep pushing. Because it is tough or it is complicated, you don't say, well that's not going to happen," he said.

The external affairs minister hoped that there will be realisation in China that the present situation is not even in its interest.

"I keep on at it and I do genuinely believe that there will be, there should be a realisation that the present state of relations is not even in China's own interest," he said.

"We are doing a lot of things in terms of various policies and various pronouncements and the state of relations after all, ask yourself if you are an objective observer, looking at the state of relations would you suggest that everything is okay and this can carry on without any negative impact for the parties concerned, I don't think so," he added.

Jaishankar said there is no ambiguity in India's messaging to China.

"I don't think there is any ambiguity about our signalling and our messaging. They will weigh it from their interests and where they are but...it isn't just a matter of public sentiment, and public sentiment is strong...I think it is government policy, it is national thinking, public sentiment and strategic calculation. I do not think that the current state can continue without damage to the relationship," he said.

The ties between India and China nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

There has been no progress yet on resolving the standoff in the Demchok and Depsang regions of eastern Ladakh though the two sides withdrew troops from a number of friction points following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

JeI properties worth...

Gh. Ahmad Ahhr were the first to organize an Ijtima (religious gathering) at Badami Bagh Shopian in 1942 well before the first all India Ijtima of Jamaat-e-Islami at Pathankot in 1945. Pertinently, Amir-i-Jamaat Abdul Hamid Ganaie also hails from Shopian district," he said.

The spokesman said as many as 188 JeI properties across the UT of J&K are to be notified. "SIA has preliminarily identified numerous properties purchased or acquired by JeI worth hundreds of crores of rupees," he added.

CS exhorts global...