

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Cooperatives best medium...

youth & women and enable Cooperative-based economic model to realize the Mantra of 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi', the Lt Governor said.

Cooperatives need to address the challenges our rural economy and people are facing today and must offer financial and non-financial benefits. Since it is driven by the local members who understand the needs, it can have a greater impact on health, education, agriculture, credit, tourism, green energy and hospitality sectors, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor observed that the UT administration is laying special thrust on registration of Cooperatives, training and capacity building of the stakeholders, modernizing cooperative markets, bringing transparency in the system and creating new markets & enabling government departments to purchase directly from these markets.

We have registered 1006 Cooperatives in the last one year and 31,578 members were trained during Jan-Abhiyan. It shows that the determined efforts are being made to widen the network and ensure capacity building for professional functioning of the cooperatives, the Lt Governor said.

We are also determined to revive and revitalize the defunct Cooperatives. Recapitalization amount of Rs. 255.71 Crores in favour of three District Central Cooperative Banks were released to improve their fiscal health, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor maintained that Cooperatives also need to improve business viability and capacity to create employment and income to empower people. The creation of new cooperatives should be people-driven, the demand for new cooperatives must come from society and their success as a commercial entity will encourage others, he stressed.

The Lt Governor further underscored the need to promote close coordination among Primary, District, and State-level Cooperatives. Cross marketing efforts among Self-Help Groups and Handicraft Cooperatives can contribute to women empowerment and various income generating activities. Such efforts can transform Cooperatives in rural areas as vibrant entities, he added.

Sinha said that government's focus is on promotional drive for formation of new multi-purpose Cooperatives, reducing regional imbalance by increasing more Cooperatives per person and exploring new and commercially viable sectors.

He also called for replicating successful models of other states and preparing a comprehensive framework, keeping in mind the viability and the vulnerable sections of the society. There should be proper representation of members of deprived/marginalized sections in the Cooperative sector, he emphasized.

The LG further called for providing Capital infusion and market access to FPOs through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, and encouraging them to undertake construction of godowns, as being done in other States/UTs.

The Lt Governor also spoke on the efforts being made for establishing multipurpose and multidimensional PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) in every village.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor in his address said the motto of Sahkar Se Samriddhi is dedicated to the upliftment and benefit of the common man through cooperatives.

Atal Dulloo Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture production department on the occasion said Cooperative sector is being rejuvenated with renewed energy. He extended his greetings on the inauguration of the 69th All India Cooperative Week.

In her welcome address Yasha Mudgal, Secretary, Cooperative Department, highlighted the achievements of the department, and informed about the aims & objectives of the 69th All India Cooperative Week.

After three decades, J&K is witnessing the launch of Dairy Cooperative Federation which will explore the untapped potential of Milk production and processing, it was informed.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor handed over registration certificates to FPOs/Cooperatives, felicitated Cooperative Societies and also inspected the stalls set up by the Cooperative Department. A compendium of the Cooperative department was also released.

Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Administrative Secretaries, officers of UT Administration, besides representatives and members of cooperatives, students of Cooperative Schools were present.

Nehru's taking Kashmir...

this is a problem created from across the border but they could create this problem because someone on our side allowed them to do it," he said

The minister said he was pleased that today when he is in Kashmir, "we are talking about development. Some years ago, what we were dealing with was an entire cadre of professional stone pelters".

The minister, who is on a two-day visit to J&K, listed some of the development initiatives taken by the government in the Union territory after abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

He said that the Prime Minister's commitment to the development of J&K is turning into reality and work regarding the same is in full swing. He stated that the PM's development initiatives in J&K have created an emotional bond between the people and the country.

"Central schemes directly benefit the people and I am glad that work is going on at the ground level," the minister added.

Puri said people are investing in the economic development in the Union Territory of J&K because of the Central Government's farsighted decision to remove the bottleneck of Article 370 and 35A.

The Union Minister said that a new dawn of development is now set in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 that could be judged from the fact that 25 new National Highway Projects have been sanctioned to be built at an estimated cost of 11,721 crores, 168 MoUs have been signed amounting to 13,600 crores, seven new medical colleges have been sanctioned with medical seats increasing from 500 to 955, world's highest railway bridge constructed in J&K, Vande Bharat Express is in operation from Jammu to Delhi and tourist footfall increased to more than one lakh.

Puri further said that under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, some 12

lakh LPG connections have been provided under PM Ujjwala, 50,000 houses have been sanctioned under PMAY (U).

The Minister also said that the petroleum prices have seen a sharp rise from July 2021 to August, 2022 with 43 percent to 46 percent increase in USA and Canada while as India is the only country in the world where only 2 percent increase has been seen during that period. When many countries in the world are witnessing the shortage of fuel and exorbitant price rise, there is no shortage of fuel in India even in the remotest corners of the country, the Minister added.

Interacting with the district administration officers in Srinagar, Puri said that the centre is committed to achieving new milestones with respect to growth and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister reviewed the progress of work on various development projects and work done as per government schemes like PM Awas Yojana, PM Ujjwala, PM SVANidhi, SBM 2.0 and Amrit 2.0.

During the review meeting, the minister said that application of modern technology to solid waste management is the need of the hour and Srinagar will be among the cities where such strategies will be adopted on a priority basis. He said that there is a need to process the waste as per modern standards to avoid dumping it at one location, which is hazardous to the ecosystem.

Interacting with the beneficiaries of various centrally sponsored schemes, Puri said that there are many schemes and projects under Housing and Urban Affairs that people need to take advantage of. He added that we could now improve resource utilisation through the use of technology better than the earlier times.

Elaborating on the work undertaken in Srinagar under the smart city project, Puri highlighted that urban planning is essential as new settlements in cities have come up and there is a need to replace the old traditions to deal with the new challenges. He said that urban work has one litmus test that is to produce benefits for the citizens, and the voices of the people need to be heard for the same.

Commenting on the economic boost due to development in urban space, the minister said that the urban space had been neglected earlier and the government took the opportunity to reform this sector, which is evident from the fact that cities are now the largest contributors to the GDP of the country.

The minister was briefed about the redevelopment of the city by the district administration. He complimented the admin for working with dedication in order to bring about the timely completion of different projects. He advised district administrators and local bodies to take appropriate measures for dealing with solid waste management, discourage the use of single-use plastic and address the voices of people on a timely basis.

While handing over the sanction letters to the beneficiaries of various schemes, the Minister said that the benefits of development should reach the poorest at the grassroots level and the government is ensuring that it takes care of people in terms of any adversity.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K. Pole, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Ajaz Assad, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Athar Aamir and other senior officers of the district administration were present on the occasion.

Rijiju fires fresh...

too, in a roundabout way to somehow extricate Nehru" on the then prime minister delaying the accession of Kashmir.

The law minister made these remarks in an opinion piece for the News 18 portal, which he shared on his Twitter handle.

The fresh attack on the Congress slalwart came on his birth anniversary.

"Nehru was aware even in June 1947 that all that Hari Singh wanted was to join the Indian dominion. Nehru stated as much in his note to Mountbatten (the last viceroy of India)," Rijiju wrote.

He said it was time for the citizens of the country to rebuff attempts to falsify history and stand true to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The people of this region, along with the rest of India, deserve to know the truth of what actually happened during those tumultuous months and years," the minister wrote.

Bank loan fraud...

"commission of fraud, cheating, forgery, diversion and siphoning of funds or loans meant and allotted for business activity to Jhelum Infra Projects Private Limited, I D Sood Ispat Private Limited, New Jammu Flour Mills Private Limited and Jhelum Industries, all concerns related to or part of Raj Kumar Gupta group".

The loans, however, were "not used" for the intended purposes and were defaulted, the agency said.

Gupta had floated numerous concerns in the names of his family members and employees to "divert and siphon" off the cash-credit loan obtained by the above-mentioned entities, the ED said.

The agency had earlier attached assets worth Rs 20.21 crore in the case.

PWD SE, XEn...

and the road leading to GMC Doda is blocked due to a landslide.

However, another doctor said Kumar's condition deteriorated all of a sudden apparently due to internal injuries.

Kotwal said a preliminary investigation suggested that the accident occurred due to low visibility because of foggy conditions and heavy rainfall.

"Pained by the loss of lives due to an accident in Doda. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon. Directed the district administration to provide all possible assistance," Sinha wrote on Twitter.

Expressing condolences over the tragic road accident, Union minister Jitendra Singh termed the death of the R&B officials as a "huge loss to the department as well as the society."

Meanwhile, Chairman Democratic Azad Party & former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad also expressed shock at the untimely, accidental death of senior engineers and a driver in a road mishap in Doda district of the J&K UT. In his condolence message, Azad remarked that it was a matter of great sorrow and disbelief at the unfortunate death of Executive Engineer, Rafiq Shah, Assistant Executive Engineer, Kamal Kishore Sharma and their driver Mohammed Hafeez. The officers who died in this accident were too dedicated and known for their honest credentials. May God give them highest place in heaven. I pay my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Azad has urged Governor J&K to take effective steps to check

were registered at Police Station Khrew and investigation started.

During course of investigation, strenuous efforts were put forth by the investigating officers and examination of CCTV footage, collection of evidences resulted in identification of 2 accused involved in crime, who were identified as Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat, son of Wali Mohd Bhat, resident of Mughal Bagh Wanpol and Tariq Ahmad Dar, son of Bashir Ahmad Dar, resident of Banghdar Anantnag and subsequently arrested.

Bike-lifter arrested, stolen scooter recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR: Police on Monday arrested a bike-lifter and recovered stolen scooter from his possession.

As per details, during the investigation of FIR No. 169/2022 registered under sections 457/380 of IPC at Police Station Vijaypur, a team headed by SHO Vijaypur Inspn Tribhuvan Khajuria under the supervision of SDPO Vijaypur Priyanka Kumari arrested a suspect namely Abhi Jammoria, son of Avtaar Singh, resident of Gagore, Vijaypur. On disclosure of accused, Samba Police also recovered stolen scooter bearing registration Jk21B/2564.

26 bovines rescued, 6 smugglers nabbed

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI/UDHAMPUR: Drive against bovines smuggling in District Reasi continues as teams of District Police Reasi under supervision of SSP Amit Gupta laid special Nakas, arrested 5 bovine smugglers and rescued 5 bovines from their possession. 3 vehicles used for transportation of bovines were also seized.

During checking in Pouni area, teams of Police Station Pouni led by Insp Suman Singh under supervision of Iftkhar Ahmed, DySP Hqs Reasi intercepted 3 Tata mobiles (JK 20B/0521, JK20A/2731 and JK 11F/ 5231) and rescued 5 bovines which were being transported without proper permission. In this regard, FIR no 67 & 68 / 2022 under sections 188 of IPC & 11 (a) of PCA Act was registered at Police Station Pouni and investigation initiated. During investigations accused namely Azam Hussain, son of Mohd Hussain, Akash Bali, son of Sushil Bali, both residents of Nava Patrara, Tehsil Sunderbani; Kirpal Singh, son of Balwant Singh resident of Sayoor Tehsil Sunderbani; Tanveer Ahmed, son of Maneer Ahmed, resident of Kharal Reasi; Parkash, son of Nika Ram, resident of Khawas Rajouri were arrested. Arrests were made by police teams under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Iftkhar Ahmed & Surjeet Bhagat ASP Reasi.

Meanwhile, a party of Police Station Majalta headed by Insp Sohan Singh Bandral SHO Police Station Majalta under supervision of Anwaar Ul Haq Addl. SP Udhampur and Dr. Bhisham Dubey SDPO Rambag while performing Naka duty at Manwal checkpoint signaled a Truck (JK02AQ 3187) to stop for checking purpose. On checking, 17 bovines were found loaded in vehicle. The bovines were rescued, truck was seized but driver fled away taking advantage of heavy traffic. FIR No. 85/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Majalta and further investigation is in progress.

In another case, a party of Police Station Udhampur headed by Insp Raghbir Singh SHO Udhampur under supervision of Sahil Mahajan DySP Hqs Udhampur

road accidents and pass the directions to the traffic department to take adequate and stringent measures to check the recurrence of road accidents.

Veteran Journalist Gopal...

three months. Again during the second agitation during 1952-53, Sachar continued working with the party.

Ravinder Sharma Senior congress leader and former MLC has expressed deep shock over the sad demise of Shri Gopal Sachar, veteran journalist.

In a condolence message, JKPCC senior leader described Sachar as a living encyclopedia about the historical events especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

He was an upright and honest journalist who never compromised on principles and ethics.

"I had the privilege of his blessings as a journalist and learnt a lot from him in the history and events for the events of past century. I pay my humble tributes to him and pray for peace to his soul besides I share the grief of the family and journalist fraternity," Ravinder Sharma said.

Religious conversion by...

government and other one by Madhya Pradesh dealing with regulation of any forcible conversion by deceit, falsehood or fraud, money. These issues came before this court for consideration and the top court upheld the validity," Mehta said.

The solicitor general said forced religious conversions are rampant in tribal areas.

Many a time the victims are not aware they are the subject matter of criminal offence and would say they are being helped, Mehta said.

The top court observed there may be freedom of religion but there cannot be freedom of religion by forced conversion.

"The issue with respect to the alleged conversion of religion, if it is found to be correct and true, is a very serious issue which may ultimately affect the security of the nation as well as the freedom of religion and conscience of the citizens.

"Therefore, it is better that the Union government may make their stand clear and file counter on what steps can be taken by Union and/or others to curb such forced conversion maybe by force, allurement or fraudulent means," the bench said in its order.

It granted time till November 22, 2022 to the Centre to file its response on the issue and posted the matter for hearing on November 28.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking direction to the Centre and states to take stringent steps to control fraudulent religious conversion by "intimidation, threatening, deceptively luring through gifts and monetary benefits".

The top court had on September 23 sought responses from the Centre and others to the plea.

Upadhyay submitted in his plea that forced religious conversion is a nationwide problem which needs to be tackled immediately.

"The injury caused to the citizens is extremely large because there is not even one district which is free of religious conversion by 'hook and crook,'" the plea submitted.

"Incidents are reported every week throughout the country where conversion is done by intimidating, threatening, deceptively luring through gifts and monetary benefits and also by using black magic, superstition, miracles but Centre and States have not taken stringent steps to stop this menace," said the plea filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

The plea has also sought directions to the Law Commission of India to prepare a report as well as a Bill to control religious conversion by intimidation and through monetary benefits.

J&K: Major highways...

likely to prevail most of the day," an official of the meteorological department said. Srinagar and other areas in the plains of the Kashmir Valley were also lashed by the rains

The officials said all schools up to middle standard were closed for the day in Kishtwar and Doda district as a precautionary measure due to the prevailing weather conditions.

On the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, a transport department official said no traffic was allowed on it either from Jammu or Srinagar due to inclement weather in the morning.

The official said shooting stones from the hillocks overlooking the highway at Panthiyal, Nashri and Cafeteria Morh are hampering road clearance operations for early restoration of traffic on the strategic road.

Will contest next...

the welfare of its people post abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories in August 2019.

"They (BJP leaders) are saying that J-K has become an integral part of India post abrogation of Article 370 but here a parliament member is not allowed to visit this part of the country and restrictions are placed on me," he said.

Mann said he will raise the issue in parliament during its next session.

The MP said he has every right to visit any part of the country and is going to contest the next parliament elections from Srinagar in 2024.

"I will not give up my fight. If I am denied justice (by the court of CJM), then I will move the High Court and also the Supreme