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Public participation brings efficiency, transparency in governance: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said public participation brings efficiency, transparency and social justice in governance as he shared achievements of recently concluded fourth phase of the 'Back to Village' (B2V) programme.

In this month's Awaaz Ki Awaaz programme, he also talked about the reforms in agriculture and allied sectors and inspirational stories of young and promising entrepreneurs of the Union Territory.

"B2V is the reflection of our commitment to empower rural communities and strengthen partnership for holistic development. Public participation brings efficiency, transparency and social justice in governance," Sinha said.

Enlisting the achievements of the Back to Village-4 programme, the Lt Governor observed that every individ-



ual has a significant role to play in taking the government's developmental efforts to the grassroots and this year's unprecedented participation of common man in Back to Village programme has enabled the administration to successfully saturate 54 deliverables of 21 departments.

Around 96,000 Sehat Golden Cards were issued to provide health security benefits to 49,526 families; 5,914

Kisan Credit Cards were issued under the Jan Abhiyaan, and now the total number of Kisan Credit Card holders in the Union Territory has reached 12 lakh 84 thousand. As many as 277 new cooperative societies were registered and training was provided to 31,578 cooperative members. The 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' portal launched for the empowerment of land owners was accessed by near-

ly 9 lakh people and more than 7 lakh land passbooks were distributed.

An important task during the Back to Village programme was to identify and re-enroll school dropout children. More than 40,000 children have been identified and their admission in schools has been ensured. 211 camps were organized to ensure uninterrupted access to all facilities to the Divyangjan and 3205 Senior Citizen Clubs have been established. More than one lakh students participated in the Swachh Abhiyan under the My School My Pride program and Social Welfare Department included the left-out beneficiaries under various welfare schemes. We have emphasized on IT intervention to eliminate human interface under Jan Abhiyaan and citizens have been given information about 225 online services in all panchayats, informed the

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Heroin worth crores of rupees seized in Baramulla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces recovered heroin worth crores in Baramulla district, police said Sunday.

During a routine check at AD Post in Hathlanga area of Uri, security forces intercepted a suspicious looking man who tried to flee when they tried to approach him, a police spokesperson said.

When police searched him, he was found to have four packets of heroin-like substance worth crores of rupees in his possession, he said.

The person was identified as Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat, son of Mohammad Afzal Bhat, resident of Sahoora Uri, he said.

Bhat was arrested and taken to a police station where he remains in custody, he said.

A case has been registered and investigation set in motion, the spokesperson said, adding that the community members have been requested to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in

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LeT 'hybrid' terrorist killed in Anantnag; 3 ultras arrested in Srinagar

Huge cache of arms recovered from house in Kupwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A "hybrid" terrorist of Lashkar-e-Taiba, accompanying a police party for identifying a hideout, was killed in an encounter between security forces and ultras in Anantnag district on Sunday, police said.

"Hybrid" terrorists are not listed as ultras but are radicalised enough to carry out a terror strike and then slip back into routine life.

The "hybrid" terrorist, Sajad Ahmad Tantray alias Furqan, son of Mohammad Maqbool Tantray, resident of Shirpora Kulgam was involved in the killing of a non-local labourer at Rakhmomen in Anantnag's Bijbehara on November 12, a police spokesperson said.

He was arrested and during questioning, he confessed to his involvement in the labourer's killing. At his instance, a pistol used in the commission of the terror crime was recovered, the



spokesperson said.

Tantray also revealed information about the presence of terrorists in Bijbehara's Cheki Duddo area, he added.

On the basis of information provided by Tantray, the police said, a search and cordon operation was launched in Cheki Duddo. As the search party approached the hideout, it came under heavy firing from the hiding terrorists and Tantray was critically injured.

He was immediately shifted to a hospital in Bijbehara where doctors declared him

brought dead, they said.

The spokesperson said the cordon in the entire area has been strengthened with the help of reinforcements and the search operation is underway.

Tantray was earlier a terrorist associate of LeT and was involved in various crimes regarding which cases were registered. He was also detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) from June 2019 to December 2019, the spokesperson said. In a related development,

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Suspected drone detected near Jammu Airport; security agencies on high alert

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A suspected drone was detected by Air Traffic Control (ATC) radars near Jammu airport on Sunday following which an alert has been sounded in the city. The security forces have been put on high alert after suspected drone detection. According to preliminary information, the drone movement was at a 2-Km aerial distance in area when ATC radars detected it and subsequently, an alert was sounded. As per officials, an



alert has also been issued for Jammu Airport and Indian Air Force station near the airport.

It is pertinent to mention that two low-intensity IEDs were dropped from a drone at IAF base in Jammu last year on June 26, wherein two IAF personnel sustained minor injuries.

Three abducted girls recovered from Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three girls including two teenagers, who were reported abducted from Poonch six days ago, were recovered from nearby Rajouri district on Sunday, police said.

An information was received at Police Post Behramgalla in Poonch on November 14 that three girls aged 16, 17 and 20 years - have been kidnapped by unidentified persons, a police spokesman said.

Accordingly, he said a case under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Surankote and the investigation was taken up by Incharge police post Behramgalla Sub-inspector Sushant Singh.

During the course of investigation, all the angles were investigated thoroughly and few suspects were picked up and were put to sustained interrogation but no clue could be struck out, the spokesman said.

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 25.2°C Min: 9.2°C

Humidity

Max: 81 Min: 67

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 13.2°C Min: 3.2°C

Humidity

Max: 89 Min: 71

Sunset : 17:29 Hours

Sunrise : 07:06 Hours

Congress exploited tribals for votes: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DEDIAPADA: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday accused the Congress of exploiting the tribal community for votes, and said it was only after Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister that the country got its first tribal President in Droupadi Murmu.

He also alleged that poverty increased under the Congress rule even as the party had given a call of eliminating it.

"Congress only delivered speeches. It gave the slogan of eliminating poverty, but instead worked to eliminate the poor. It exploited tribals by garnering their votes. Despite 70 years of independence, not a single tribal brother or sister became the president of the country," Shah said, addressing a poll rally at Dediapada in tribal-dominated Narmada district.

"It was after Narendra Modi became



the prime minister that he worked to make Droupadi Murmu, a daughter of a tribal, poor family from Santhal pargana of Odisha the country's President," he said.

He said that Modi worked towards ending the division between the rich and the poor and delivered his first speech after becoming the prime minister.

"When Modi became the prime minis-

ter, his first speech was that his government will be for the tribals, Dalits, poor and OBCs. He did what he said. In eight years, Modi reserved a large portion of the budget for 80 crore poor people of the country," Shah said.

He said there is not a single village in the country that is now without access to electricity.

"Modi worked for uniting the country which was divided into poor and rich," he added.

Shah also took a swipe at the Gujarat Congress' election campaign highlighting its achievements when it was in power three decades ago, and said the opposition party did not do anything other than increasing poverty.

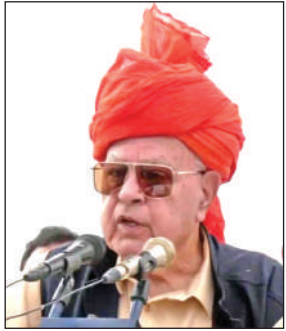
"Congress says 'Kaam bole chhe' (it is work that speaks). It has not been in power since the last 32 years. When the people of Gujarat

Hurt by criticism of Nehru, Indira Gandhi: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday slammed the critics of former prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi and said he was hurt by "derogatory remarks" against the towering national leaders.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he had a lot of respect for the two Congress stalwarts despite the fact that Nehru jailed his father and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Gandhi dismissed his govern-



ment in 1984.

"The role of Nehru during and after freedom struggle is praise worthy. He led the country in the freedom struggle and later when we were even dependent on a small

needle from outside, he laid the foundation of the industrial revolution and made the country atomic power.

"We used to import wheat from America which was not even good for animals. But Gandhi revolutionized the agriculture sector and we started exporting the surplus grains," he said.

Abdullah said the contribution of the two leaders in nation building is exemplary. "What India is today is because of Nehru and Gandhi." "Nehru jailed my father, while Gandhi dismissed my government..."

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Court denies bail to man accused of duping MBBS aspirants

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A court here has rejected the bail application of a man accused of duping MBBS aspirants of lakhs of rupees on the pretext of arranging medical seats for them in private colleges over the past 15 years.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Raja Mohammad Tasleem rejected the bail plea of Uttar Pradesh resident Sheel Kumar Shukla, saying the petition was devoid of merit. Shukla was arrested from Ghaziabad on October 11 after a long hunt.

"I am of the considered opinion that the accused is

not entitled to the concession of bail at this stage. Hence, the application at this stage seems to be devoid of any merit which deserves to be rejected," the judge said in his eight-page order.

Shukla was wanted in a case registered at the Budgam police station on July 8, 2007 following a complaint by Javed Ahmad Shah of Anantnag district's Mattan. Shah alleged that Ajay Jaiswal, who was running a branch of V V C Academy-New Delhi at Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, had promised to get his daughter admitted to a med-

ical college in Gwalior in return of Rs 10 lakh.

The complainant said he sold his land and paid Jaiswal Rs 3 lakh in cash on September 26, 2007 and another installment of Rs 5 lakh through cheque but neither his daughter got admission to MBBS nor was the money returned to him.

As part of investigation in the case, Jaiswal was arrested on December 8, 2007. He revealed he was just an agent of the academy, and Shukla, as its chairman, was sending people to him and taking money.

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Two minor brothers charred to death in Kupwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two minor brothers were charred to death in a fire incident in the Kupwara district, officials said on Sunday.

A fire broke out in the house of Mohammad Akbar Khan, a resident of the Devar area of Lolab in the north Kashmir district late Saturday night, the officials said. They said the fire immediately engulfed the whole house and adjoining structures. While the flames were doused after hectic efforts, the officials said, adding that the incident resulted in the death of Khan's two minor sons aged seven and five.

Jammu to wear a new look by June 2023: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Sunday said the face of Jammu is going to change for better by June next year.

"The city is fast changing its outlook and enhancing its value in terms of tourist appeal", the Chief Minister said while undertaking a whirlwind tour of the Jammu City, adding that the ongoing projects along with those under progress would give a massive facelift to the city and would emerge as a major tourist attraction.

Accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; MD, Cable Car Corporation; Executive Director, Mabarakh Mandi Heritage Society; Jt Commissioner, JMC and many other officers of Police and Civil administration, the Chief Secretary visited different works taken up under Smart City projects and meant to add to the beauty and anaesthetics of



Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta during visit to Mubarakh Mandi Heritage complex on Sunday.

the heritage city. Dr Mehta visited different project sites taken in hand under Smart City Mission. He took stock of the progress of work and simultaneously passed on several directions for early completion of

each of them.

At Mubarak Mandi, the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers to throw the completed portions of the heritage buildings open for public by mid December. He asked them to

start the cultural and other folk activities in the complex depicting the rich history and traditions of Jammu.

He also asked them to clear the complex from different construction material dumped there. He directed them to improve the landscape of the entire area and clear it of any hurdles or obstructions created during construction work.

On visiting the Tawi Barrage and River Front the Chief Secretary gave strict directions to complete the Barrage by June next year and complete the work on first phase of Tawi River development by then. He remarked that on completion these developmental works would be major tourist attractions in the city.

Dr Mehta also visited the Peer Kho Temple and Bahu Cable Car project. He examined the facilities being provided to the visitors there. He also inspected the site of the Peer Kho Lift and the allied works to be taken in hand

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BJP compelled other parties in country to talk about development during polls: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BOTAD (GUJ): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the BJP has compelled all other parties in

the country to talk about development as the main issue during elections.

Addressing a poll rally in Botad town in Saurashtra region of poll-bound Gujarat, the prime minister appealed to voters to reject those who always defame the state.

"Earlier, allegations about scams used to be the main issue during elections. But, after BJP's rise in Gujarat, the main issue has become

development instead of scams. We compelled all other political parties in the country to talk about development during polls," he said.

On the occasion, the prime minister promised youths that the entire belt covering Botad, Dholera and Bhavnagar will soon become Gujarat's "most happening industrial belt where even aeroplanes will be manufactured". He said the upcoming Assembly elections, scheduled to be held in two phases on December 1 and 5, will decide Gujarat's path for the next 25 years and not for just five years.

