

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Investing in J&K...

in the cities, he added.
Ease of doing business, less compliance burden, physical and digital connectivity and major policy reforms makes J&K an attractive trade and business location, he added.
The Lt Governor highlighted the thriving investment landscape of J&K and unique economic opportunities the UT has to offer in various sectors.
Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K has developed a strong investor-friendly environment, economic stability, highly skilled manpower and tremendous opportunities in tourism, hospitality, agriculture, horticulture, handicraft & handloom, IT and manufacturing, the Lt Governor said.
He said the unprecedented transformation in Jammu Kashmir in the last few years has created a conducive, secure and dynamic environment for long-term future for investments.

The Lt Governor also reiterated the commitment of the J&K Administration to promote entrepreneurial culture in the UT. Recently J&K received Gold Medal in the One District One Product ranking, which indicates strong local entrepreneurship, he said.
Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K gave a presentation on investment opportunities in Jammu Kashmir.
J&K Government through Industries and Commerce Department also inked MoUs with several industries.

The session was organized by Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) in collaboration with The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).
Harsh Sanghvi, Minister of State for Home and Industries, Government of Gujarat; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Chintan Thaker, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Gujarat; senior officers of J&K Government; members of ASSOCHAM and representatives of industries and business community were present.

J&K attracts investment...

and collaborations to transform J&K into a modern industrial region, the Lt Governor said.
J&K offer the best incentives and a supportive environment for the investors. I invite industry leaders to invest in Jammu Kashmir and contribute to the growth journey of the Union Territory, the Lt Governor further added.
Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit has become a powerful platform that will pave the way for new investment possibilities across the country, he said.
He also highlighted the significant role of National Education Policy in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat and driving the growth of the economy in the future.

Atal Setu a...

getting stalled and had given up hope that such projects would ever be completed. It was Modi's guarantee that the country will change," the prime minister further said.
Before 2014, mega seams were a topic of discussion while now mega projects getting completed is a topic of discussion, Modi said, adding, "Dreams are coming true ten years later. The sea bridge is a reflection of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India)."
The upcoming Navi Mumbai international airport, Mumbai coastal road, AURIC (Aurangabad Industrial City) in central Maharashtra's Marathwada region, the Mumbai-Delhi Industrial Corridor and the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project will boost Maharashtra's economy in the years to come, the prime minister said.
The Atal Setu was an important part of his government's "Viksit Bharat Sankalp" (resolve to make India a developed country), he said, adding that not just the country but the whole world was "looking at the bridge."
The Maharashtra government was implementing the "Modi guarantee" of women's welfare and empowerment with its 'Lek Ladki' and 'Mukhyamantri Nari Shakti' schemes, he said.
"Modi's guarantee begins when expectations from others cease to exist," he asserted.
Besides the mega structure, the PM launched, dedicated to the nation or laid the foundation stone of infrastructure projects worth more than Rs 30,500 crore in the Mumbai region and also inaugurated the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik during his day-long visit to Maharashtra.
He inaugurated the extension of a suburban rail corridor, a mega facilitation centre for gems and jewellery, and laid the foundation stone of a tunnel road in south Mumbai.
At a function in Ulwe in Navi Mumbai, Modi inaugurated the 14.60km Kharkopar-Uran stretch of the 27 km Belapur-Seawoods-Uran suburban corridor.

Earlier, addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Modi described India's present-day youth as the most fortunate generation of the 21st century, poised to take the country to greater heights during 'Amrit Kaal', and urged them to participate in the electoral process to "reduce" the influence of dynastic politics.
Modi said dynastic politics has caused immense harm to the country and appealed to the youth to get themselves enrolled as voters as soon as possible.
"India is the mother of democracy. If youth express their political views by casting their votes, the future of the country will be good. Better participation of youth in the democratic process will ensure a better future for the country," he said.
"If you participate in active politics (and electoral process), you will be able to reduce the influence of dynastic politics. You know that dynastic politics has harmed the country," he said.
He urged young people to promote local products and appealed to them to "stay away from drugs and stop using abusive words in the name of mothers and sisters".
Modi said India is harnessing its young population's energy and skills
"India is among the top five global economies. It figures in the list of top three start-up ecosystems because of the commitment and calibre of the youth," he maintained.
Cheapest mobile data in India amazes the people across the world, said the prime minister.
"We have to become the world's third largest economy and make India a manufacturing hub like the status we have achieved in the service and the IT sector," he said, adding the world looks at India as a country with a skilled workforce.
"I consider the youth of the 21st century as the most fortunate generation to take India to higher strides. You have the opportunity to create history, grab it," Modi said, addressing the gathering.
Modi said there are new employment opportunities in the country, start-ups are coming up, the emerging skill sector is booming and new IITs and NITs are being opened.
"The drone sector, animation, gaming, atomic, big highways, modern airports and Vande Bharat Express trains are all for you Now, the country is also leading in various sectors and the world is astonished by our progress -- be it Chandrayaan (moon), Aditya-L1 (solar) missions or the UPI payment scheme," the PM added.
Talking about Lord Ram's connection with Nashik, he said the Hindu deity spent a lot of time in Panchavati in the north Maharashtra city, located around 200km from Mumbai.
"I appeal to people to conduct cleanliness drives in all temples and pilgrimage centres by January 22 before the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya," the PM said.
During his visit to Nashik, the PM offered prayers at the famous Kalaram temple, dedicated to Lord Ram, and took part in bhajan' and kirtan' and played cymbals at the shrine. He also held a roadshow in the city.

Revision schedule for...

the schedule that special camps would be held at polling booth locations. The Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBO) comprising Village Level Workers (VLWs), Multi Purpose Workers (MPWs) and Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS) along with Assembly Booth Level Officers shall remain available with requisite forms and Panchayat Roll for guidance of electors on 27-28th January and 3rd -4th February 2024.

COVID-19 sub...

cases at 214, followed by Maharashtra (170), Kerala (154), Andhra Pradesh (189), Gujarat (76) and Goa (66).
Telangana and Rajasthan have recorded 32 JN.1 cases each, Chhattisgarh has recorded 25, Tamil Nadu 22, Delhi 16, Uttar Pradesh 6, Haryana five, Odisha three, West Bengal two and Uttarakhand one, according to the data.
A total of 1,013 cases of JN.1 have been detected till now across the 16 states and UTs.
The Centre has asked the states and Union territories to maintain a constant vigil amid an uptick in the number of Covid cases and the detection of the JN.1 sub-variant in the country.
The states have been urged to ensure effective compliance of the detailed operational guidelines for the revised surveillance strategy for COVID-19 shared with them by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
The states have also been asked to regularly monitor and report district-wise cases of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) from all health facilities for an early detection of a rising trend of cases.
The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest" given its rapidly-increasing spread, but said it poses a "low" global public health risk.
The JN.1 sub-variant of the coronavirus was previously classified as a variant of

interest (VOI) as part of the BA.2.86 sub-lineages, the parent lineage that is classified as a VOI, the world body said.

Suspected terrorists fire...

meeting chaired by Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi to chart out an anti-terror operation plan for the new year to foil design of terrorists in the region.
A similar ambush on Army vehicles took place in Poonch's Dhatya Morh in Dera Ki Gali area on December 21. Four Army personnel were killed in the attack.
Rajouri and Poonch districts, which were peaceful in the past, have witnessed targeted attacks by terrorists on the Army and civilians, they said.
Nineteen soldiers were killed in four attacks by terrorists in Rajouri and Poonch in 2023. The security forces have eliminated more than 30 terrorists in the two districts -- along the Line of Control (LoC) as well as in the hinterland -- last year.

Police committed to...

drug peddlers under PIT-NDPS Act and NDPS Act," Birdi told reporters in Baramulla during a visit to a drug de-addiction centre.
He lauded Baramulla police's action against drug peddlers.
"A lot has been done but we need to do a lot more and (do it) strictly so that the drug menace is uprooted from society," the IGP Kashmir said.
Before legal intervention, Birdi said, there is a need for societal intervention.
"I also appeal to the people to bring it to our notice if anyone is indulging in such activities. We need the cooperation of society to uproot this menace," he said.

Dir Information for...

This is necessary as the department is charged with the responsibility of generating public awareness about government schemes tailored for their socio-economic emancipation and development of their areas, he added.
Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Vevaik Puri, Joint Director Information, Jammu, Atul Gupta and Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam besides other officers and officials attended the meeting in person and virtually.
The Joint Directors of both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir elaborately explained about the working of all the wings.

Northern Army Commander...

work in synergy to achieve the desired outcome, eradicating roots of terrorism in the Poonch Rajouri area, they added.
The army commander appreciated the outreach of the security agencies to the people of Rajouri and Poonch district, commending them for the noble initiative of adopting Pir Topa as a model village under the 'Sadbhavana' initiative.
This is the fourth high-level security review meeting in the line to deal with the situation arising in Rajouri-Poonch region.
Rajouri and Poonch districts, which were peaceful in the past, have recently witnessed targeted attacks by the terrorists on the army and civilians, they said.
Nineteen soldiers were killed in four attacks by the terrorists in Rajouri and Poonch in 2023. However, the security forces have eliminated more than 30 terrorists in the two districts last year both on the Line of Control (LoC) as well as the hinterland. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was scheduled to review the security situation and development works in Jammu during his day-long visit here on January 9. However, the visit was deferred due to inclement weather conditions.
Shah had, however, taken stock of the security scenario of Jammu and Kashmir, especially Rajouri and Poonch districts, in a meeting held at New Delhi earlier on January 2.
Earlier, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on December 27 reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness of troops during his visit to Rajouri.
During the visit of Lieutenant General Dwivedi on Thursday, a comprehensive brainstorming session was carried out with the officers of Counter Insurgency Force Romeo, Delta and U-force and Ace of Spades division on the operational dynamics of 2023 and the prevailing security situation along the LoC and the hinterland in Rajouri & Reasi, the officials said.
The army commander emphasised that this endeavour must integrate the aspirations of the people and lead to comprehensive socio-economic development of the village.
Accompanied by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, he also visited a forward post in the Rajouri sector where he was briefed on the operational preparedness of the units deployed along LoC.
Lieutenant General Dwivedi commended the troops for their high morale and round-the-clock vigilance to thwart attempts by terrorists to disturb peace in the region. He urged them to continue working with zeal and dedication to ensure a stable security scenario for the developmental activities in the Union Territory to continue at the same pace.

Div Com chairs Board meeting of JSCL, Secy RDD discusses roadmap for inclusive dev, citizen empowerment reviews progress of major projects



Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing the 16th Board meeting of JSCL.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Chairman Board of Directors, Jammu Smart City Limited, Ramesh Kumar on Friday chaired the 16th Board meeting of JSCL here at JSCL office.
During the Board meeting, Rahul Yadav, CEO, JSCL presented the Agenda items before the Board for discussion, ratification and approval.
The Div Com reviewed the progress made under the

Tawi Riverfront Development Project and directed the concerned officials to resolve inter departmental issues for early completion of the project. He further desired to hold a detailed review meeting on the progress made under the said project.
The Div Com directed the concerned officials to hold regular meetings of all stakeholders to monitor the progress and expedite removal of bottlenecks, if any.

The Board also discussed the sustainability, maintenance and regulation of projects completed under Smart City Mission such as Integrated Command Control Centre, Integrated Traffic Management System, eBuses.
Reviewing implementation of different components, the Div Com inquired about the functioning of smart classes in the Schools built under Jammu Smart City Limited. The progress made under other JSCL projects like Heritage Trail from Mubarak Mandi Complex to Raghnath Nazari was also reviewed.
The meeting was attended by ADC Jammu, VC JDA, Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museum, SSP Traffic Jammu, officials from JSCL, PWD, Tourism, Education, Irrigation and Flood Control and concerned departments.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Friday conducted a detailed interaction with the heads of department to discuss action plan for rural development and citizen empowerment through various initiatives and schemes in the Union Territory. Detailed presentations were made by the HoDs about performance under various schemes, issues therein and interventions required.
Dr Shahid underscored the need for strengthening the institution District Development Councils and Local Self Government, innovation in rural development, convergence with other departments for maximisation of outcome based development in villages, fast track disposal of service related matters, conduct of DPCs, public grievance redressal and outreach, and effective inter-sectoral coordination.

He laid out the vision of Lt Governor Sh Manoj Sinha for measures to effectively ensure citizen engagement, tangible infrastructure development, youth empowerment, public outreach and inclusion of marginalised sections.
Secretary in RDD, Tariq Zargar made a detailed presentation about the status of MGNREGA implementation, administrative and financial status of schemes, challenges related to staffing and other issues. He informed that against the total outlay of Rs 1250 Cr during the FY 2023-24 funds to the tune of Rs 697 Cr were made available to the department out of which 97% expenditure has been registered. District wise performance corresponding to key indicators of the CSS were also discussed. It was informed that 2371 panchayats out of 4291 have been covered under Amrit Sarovar and efforts are being made for

saturation.
Director General, Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra made a presentation about the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen in the UT, including flagship initiatives and interventions. It was informed that under the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWM) 5979 villages have been covered while under the Greywater Management (GWM) 3009 villages have been covered. Jammu and Kashmir Rural Development Department is also endeavouring for Republic Tableau on the Swachhata mission.
Mission Director, Rural Livelihood Mission Indu Kanwal Chib made a presentation informing that the program is being implemented in 285 blocks across 20 districts, under which rural households have been mobilised into 87,563 SHGs, 6046 Vos and 538 Cluster Level Federations. Rs 422.39 Cr capitalization

has been provided to the community-based organisation. She elaborated on the plan to expand the SHGs footprints into service sector and commodity trade.
CEO IWMP Bharat Bhushan, made a presentation about implementation of Integrated Watershed Management Plan, Directors Rural Development Jammu Mohammad Mumtaz Ali, Director Kashmir Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Director Panchayati Raj Sham Lal Sharma, made presentation about the sectoral initiatives, progress under CSS and UT CapEx.
Director Finance Riyaz Ahmad Shah, COO Himayat Rajnish Gupta, Additional Secretary Sanjay Kumar Bhat, Additional Secretary (Legal) Pardeep Thakur, Joint Director(P&S) Kamal Kishore Sharma, Deputy Secretary Mohammad Farooq Khan, Deputy Secretary Sheetal Pandita

among others.
Detailed discussion was held about the Programs schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAAY-G), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Himayat, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan (RGSA) and others were scrutinised to assess progress and identify areas for improvement.
Discussions during the meeting addressed challenges in program implementation, exploring potential solutions. The role of Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs), especially those linked with National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and Central Technical Support Agency (CTA), was deliberated upon.

ACS Home convenes public grievances redress camp at Bishnah

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Home, RK Goyal, on Friday convened a public grievances redressal camp at Bishnah.
Vice Chairperson, District Development Council, Suraj Singh and DDC member, Davinder Kumar and locals attended the camp.
The participants projected their grievances and demands concerning development of their respective areas while seeking an early redressal of the same.
The issues and concerns projected during the camp inter alia included infrastructure development of local degree college, stream-

lining of ration card issuance and MGNREGA working and payments, desilting and maintenance of irrigation canals, development of Bishnah Bus Stand besides matters related to Revenue department.
ACS asked the concerned officers to initiate remedial measures to alleviate public inconvenience on account of lack of proper basic services. He emphasised strict adherence to timelines while executing various welfare and development programmes of the government.
He issued on the spot instructions to the concerned officers to deeply

examine the issues raised during the camp ensuring prompt redressal. He also asked them to conduct regular visits to the construction sites of development projects for effective monitoring. Goyal had a constructive discussion on pervasive issue of drug menace, exploring strategies to curb its impact and identifying hot spots for targeted intervention.
Others present on the occasion included Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, SSP Dr Vinod Kumar, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and Sub Divisional Magistrate, Jammu South, Atul Dutt Sharma.

GDC Kunjwani celebrates National Youth Day

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Red Cross Unit of Government Degree College Kunjwani, in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society, Department of Health & Medical Education, on Friday organized Speech Competition on 'Let's Youth lead for awareness of AIDS & Nation Building' to mark the 'National Youth Day'. The theme of National Youth Day 2024 is 'Youth for Digital India'. The event was organized under able guidance and supervision of Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Principal of the College.
At the outset, Dr. Ravender K Tickoo, Principal of the College made the students aware about the importance of the day and this year's theme. A large number of students participated in the competition with great zeal and enthusiasm. Insha Malik, Sem.I grabbed the first position; Jatin Kumar, Sem. VI clinched the second prize; Sourav Saini, Sem. IV and Lakshita Singh Chib, Sem. VI won the third prize. Cash prizes of Rs.1000, Rs.800, Rs.500 were awarded to the first, second and third prize winners respectively.
Welcome address was given by Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Convener, Red Cross Unit. Formal Vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Risha Kumari. The event was judged by Prof. Pooja Sharma, Prof. Shamshad Bibi and Dr. Rannik Kour.
All the faculty members witnessed the event, The students and staff members also watched the inaugural live webcast of 27th National Youth Festival 2024 at Nashik.

Chairperson KVIB chairs bankers review meeting

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Chairperson J&K Khadi Village Industries Board, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, on Friday convened a review meeting with banks and officers from KVIB, Jammu division.
It was informed in the meeting that a margin money of Rs. 122.84 crore has been released by KVIB for establishment of 5966 units thereby creating employment opportunities for 46558 persons during the current financial year. It was further informed that nearly 40% of the total cases settled during the current financial year are of women entrepreneurs.
Speaking on the occasion,

Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat reiterated that the government is committed to provide employment opportunities to aspirant entrepreneurs and unemployed youth to ensure sustainable development in the UT. She added that employment generation programmes viz. PMEGP and JKREGP have been devised to encourage entrepreneurship, empowering individuals to start their businesses and contribute to economic diversification.
Dr. Hina Bhat expressed confidence in commitment of the financial institutions in successful implementation of employment generation programmes.

Referring to large number of cases pending at financing banks, she advised bankers to pass on directions to financing bank branches to process the cases as per timelines fixed in the guidelines. She impressed upon the bankers to give preference to aspirants belonging to women and marginal sections of the society and process their cases on priority.
Chairperson emphasized on the need for improved collaboration among bankers and implementing agencies to ensure that the benefits of employment generation programmes percolate to the target population.