

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Rural J&K transformed...

the development of Baramulla District.

The Lt Governor inspected the stalls put up various departments and handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under different government schemes. He administered 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge to officials and the citizens.

He also flagged off a fleet of Garbage Collection Vehicles for rural areas of the district.

The demonstration of sports activities and cultural performances received special appreciation from the Lt Governor.

The projects inaugurated by the Lt Governor include Office Accommodation for Block Development Council Tangmarg; WSS Aglar; Retrofitting works of Water Supply Schemes at Sagipora Razakpora, Achabal Doabgah, Gund Dalwash, Gani Wani Manchkhud; Sub Stations and Improvement of LIT/ IIT Network in the District and Model School at Government Higher Secondary School Pattan.

The projects for which foundation stones were laid by the Lt Governor include Astro Turf for Football at Sheikh-ul-Alam Stadium; 8- Lane Synthetic Athletic track Surface at Tulibal Sopore; Installation of Blow Moulded Chairs for General Bipin Rawat Stadium; Spawn Production Laboratory in Public Sector under (HADP) for Mushroom Promotion in Baramulla and Laboratory Block at Government Higher Secondary School Authoora.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor dedicated the Baramulla Stadium renamed after General Bipin Rawat to the public.

Paying homage to the brave soldier and military strategist, the Lt Governor remembered the service of General Bipin Rawat in North Kashmir in various capacities and his immense contribution in peace, progress and prosperity.

Safina Baig, Chairperson, District Development Council Baramulla; Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports; Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; senior officers of Security Forces, Civil and Police administration; former PRI members; youth and people in large numbers were present.

Talking to reporters, the Lieutenant Governor asserted that Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) polls would "definitely" be conducted in the Union territory after the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) is implemented.

He alleged that those who deprived the local bodies of funds during their rule were now doing politics on the issue and want the situation to revert, but "we will not allow that".

"I want to tell those colleagues of mine who were Panchs, Sarpanches and ULB representatives - after the State Reorganisation Act came into force, the reservation of other backward classes was a constitutional necessity and the administration has started the process.

"I want to assure you that after concluding this exercise, ULBs and Panchayat polls will definitely be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. I want to assert that they will definitely be held," Sinha said.

Sinha said some people were indulging in politics over the delay in conducting the polls, but people know their intentions.

"Some people are doing politics over the issue. Those who choked ULBs and Panchayats have started remembering them now. I do not want to say anything, but, I think the people here know very well who those people are and what their intentions are. "They want Panchayats to return to the same situation and that everything should happen through them, but, I want to assure you that we will not allow that," he said.

Pakistani national held...

said. The man, aged around 20, was held near the Border Security Force's (BSF) Makwal post, they said. Security agencies are questioning the man.

Consecration rituals begin...

expected to be attended by 8,000 guests.

But only a handful of them will be allowed inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. The trust said there are seven adhivasas in the 'pran pratishtha' and a minimum of three adhivasas are in practice.

There are 121 'acharyas' who are conducting the rituals and Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid is overseeing, coordinating and directing all proceedings of the "anushtan". The principal 'acharya' will be Laxmikant Dixit of Kashi.

Over the next week, rituals like 'teerth poojan', 'jal yatra' and 'gandhadhivas' will take place. On Monday, the 'prayaschita' and 'karnakuti poojan' took place.

The Ram temple 'pran pratishtha' will begin at 12.20 pm on January 22 and is expected to end by 1 pm, temple trust general secretary Champat Rai told reporters on Monday. Settling a fractious issue that goes back more than a century, the apex court in a historic verdict in 2019 backed the construction of a Ram temple by a trust at the disputed site in Ayodhya and ruled that an alternative five-acre plot must be found for a mosque in the Hindu holy town. Prime Minister Modi performed the 'bhoomi puja' of the temple in August 2020, bringing to fruition the BJP's 'mandir' movement that defined its politics for three decades and took it to the heights of power.

Rehana Batul reviews...

revamped departmental website in November 2023, and the adoption of a new logo



Secretary Information Department, Rehana Batul reviewing functioning of department.

in July last year.

Joint Director (Headquarters), Vevek Puri provided a detailed presentation, offering valuable insights into the department's work profile and major policies, including Media Policy 2020 among others.

He informed the meeting about the department's successful participation in the International Film Festival 2023 in Goa. Secretary Batul praised the department, stating that over 300 film shooting permissions have been granted in Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing the department's commitment and responsiveness to the film industry both nationally and internationally.

Acknowledging the positive response from filmmakers during the festival, the Secretary remarked that DIPR's participation at IFF 2023 at Goa was wonderful, sending a positive message to filmmakers in India and abroad.

Expressing her vision for the department, she urged, "Trainings are crucial and should be a regular affair. The provision of the latest state-of-the-art equipment is essential for our staff to remain abreast of with ever changing environs."

"Collaboration with national premier institutions for trainings is a step forward," she added.

The Secretary also appreciated the routine work of the Public Relations section of the department for their dedication to providing real-time information and disseminating it to the public through press releases.

She emphasized that the PR wing of the department serves as the primary arm, responsible for disseminating programs, schemes, and other government initiatives exclusively to the public. The meeting extensively discussed issues related to journalist accreditation, newspaper empanelments/dempanelments, and the renovation of DIPR offices in districts, Jammu, and Srinagar.

DGP vows strict...

Addressing at the closing ceremony, the DGP said about 6000 brave- hearts from different forces of the country have made the supreme sacrifice, and over 1600 of them are from the J&K Police alone which speaks volumes of the commitment this force has shown in protecting the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

The DGP was particularly touched by the initiative brought forth by the brother of martyr Manjeet Singh, who first suggested organizing the tournament in Kathua in the name of the martyrs.

He also praised the then DGP Kuldeep Khoda, who institutionalized the idea and added that today we all witnessed the final of 12th edition of the event and expressed his happiness that in this edition 16 teams, 05 from J&K and 11 from other parts of the country participated.

The DGP emphasized that the institutional strength of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Pariwar with its full force is behind the families of fallen heroes and promised to continue supporting them as and when required.

The DGP soon after his arrival at the venue for the closing ceremony of the tour-

nament paid floral tributes to the fallen heroes of J&K Police by laying wreaths to them at the martyrs' gallery.

He commended the managing committee and sponsors for organizing the 12th Martyrs Memorial Cricket Tournament successfully and expressed his gratitude to the people of Kathua for their love, support, and active participation in honouring the martyrs of the J&K Police.

In his address, the ADGP Jammu highlighted the Jammu and Kashmir Police's commitment to organizing various sports events to pay tributes to the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country. He said that under the "Sevara" scheme, the J&K Police have been visiting the families of martyrs to interact with them, address their issues, and provide support.

He extended his gratitude to the organisers and their associate partners for unwavering support in making the tournament a success.

In his welcome address the SSP Kathua, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal highlighted the aim and objectives of the tournament.

The vote of thanks was presented by president Shaheed Welfare Committee Ravinder Singh Salathia who thanked the J&K Police for monetary support over the years. Pertinent to mention here that a total of 16 teams from different states of the country participated in the tournament with Verma Cricket Club Ludhiana winning the title today. The tournament was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Police in collaboration with Shaheed Welfare Committee Kathua. The Martyrs Memorial Cricket Tournament is a tribute to the sacrifices made by the valiant men of the J&K Police, and serves as an inspiration for the future generations.

The DGP J&K and other officers distributed prizes to the winners, runners up and outstanding players and mementoes to the persons and business units who provided help and assistance in successful conduct of the tournament.

DIG JSK Range Shakti Pathak, DC Kathua Rakesh Minhas, AIG Welfare PHQ Dr Abhishek Mahajan, SSP Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal, Principal PTS Kathua Manjeet Kour; AIG (T&P) PHQ Manoj Kumar Pandith, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu Vinay Kumar, President and members of Shaheed Welfare Committee, Gazetted, Non-Gazetted officers besides the huge gathering of cricket lovers witnessed the final match and attended the closing ceremony.

Over 34 Lakh...

also needs to be fast tracked across all districts.

While reviewing the status of registrations on the e-shram Portal, it was informed that over 34.3 Lakh workers of J&K have registered on the Portal till date.

E-Shram Portal which acts as a National Database of the unorganised workers has been launched by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India. The unorganised workers including migrant workers and domestic workers can register on the portal on self-declaration basis. Registration on the portal facilitates delivery of Social Security and welfare Schemes to the workers.

The Labour Commissioner called for sustained efforts by the officers in generating awareness among the workers regarding registration on the e-shram Portal and benefits associated with it and to ensure that no workers are left out. "Registration on the e-shram Portal will facilitate seamless delivery of benefits under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Man Dhan Pension Scheme (PM-SYM) and other UT and Central Government schemes to the workers". Charandeep Singh also reviewed the status of online services of the Labour Department wherein it was informed that the Department has fully switched to delivery of services through online mode and now these are being delivered via the J&K Single Window System. He underscored the need to ensure that the delivery of online services is seamless and timely. He emphasised on taking all stakeholders on board and urged officers to work earnestly for Labour Welfare to improve their working conditions, provide them social security benefits and raise their standard of living.

CS reviews implementation...

tendering and other modalities and focus on the establishment of different production units by the eligible beneficiaries.

He directed the two agricultural varisities to make short informational videos demonstrating the essential ingredients and processes of each agricultural activity for the awareness of farmers. He asked each Deputy Commissioner to generate awareness about the benefits of this program in their areas especially on the occasions of Block diwasheld across panchayats and attended by farmers in large numbers.

While speaking about this massive programDulloomade out that all the projects have been tailored out to bring maximum benefit to the farmers here. He observed that the projects are inclusive of different components for development of agriculture sector and many folds enhancement in the income of our farmers.

He advisedfor making the procedure for submission of applications simple, sticking purely to the guidelines delineated under the program. He asked for close monitoring of the progress by each PGMC chairperson in collaboration with the concerned Deputy Commissioner. He asked for meeting targets without fail as per the set timeline of this program.

The Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar threw light on different parameters and achievements made by department in implementation of the sub-projects. He delineated the key steps taken by the department for the successful grounding of different projects of this mega program here.

He revealed that under the first phase of the 'KisanSamparkAbhiyan' conducted between 24th of April and 31st August last year around 5,10,000 farmers were covered across 3697 panchayats. Moreover under block level youth orientation programme more than 19000 youth were contacted to map their skillsets and interests in farming. He also made out that the rest of panchayats are being covered under-phase 2nd to reach out to all the areas of the UT.

Regarding the implementation of the program it was given out that a number of steps had been taken for monitoring & evaluation of the projects, carrying of out-reach activities, redrafting of loan guidelines, focussed attention on application processing, holistic skilling, coordination between multiple agencies implementing same projects besides making specific interventions for impactful farm mechanization and making eligibility conditions more realistic and practical in nature.

On the occasion the district wise ranking as per different parameters of the program was depicted which was said to be a regular feature to be updated each month. It was said that the ranking was done on the number of applications received, approvals given and the percentage of rejections from each district.

Further it was made out that till now 52693 applications have been received on the Kisan Sathi portal with registration of 50662 farmers. It was apprised that 43831 applications have been received in Agriculture sector; 1214 in horticulture and 14472 in Livestock production.

The meeting also discussed the project wise monitorable indicators, challenges faced in its swift implementation and the possible solutions available for its smooth implementation in the UT.

Property of drug...

belonging to alleged drug peddler Mashooq Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Khudwani Qaimoh, Kulgam. The properties have been identified as illegally acquired using money from trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Situation good, but...

of terrorism. So, we are working in that direction," he added.

"This is a huge event. It is a very big day for the Army and perhaps for Baramulla as well because a stadium has been named after Gen Bipin Rawat. I am sure it is a very proud moment for the country and for the state of J-K that a stadium is being named after Gen Rawat who not only commanded 19 Infantry Division (in north Kashmir), but has a special place in the heart of the people of J-K," the Corps Commander said.

He said the Army would provide all the required help to improve the facilities at the stadium. "Its facilities will increase. Definitely, we will do whatever we will be required to. We will be involved in the improvement of the facilities for the stadium," he said.

IT Deptt fixes...

overcharging, 1472 CSC licenses have been cancelled in the past six months in J&K. Meanwhile, CSC-SPV J&K has been directed to set up more touch points for hassle free delivery of services besides sensitizing all Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) regarding notified rates.

Deputy Commissioners, who are the Chairman of District e-Governance Societies (DeGs) have also been asked to ensure strict enforcement of notified rates in their respective districts so that general public does not suffer on this account.

The government is delicately working towards ensuring that the citizens seamlessly avail all government services online with genuine charges at CSC Centres.

The inspection teams were led by Ajay Sharma, Under Secretary IT Department in Jammu division and Mohammad Iqbal, Deputy Director, Planning IT Department in Kashmir division.

Action against corrupt...

goes beyond devotion. According to him, Shri Ram is such a great symbol of good

governance that he can be a great inspiration for NACIN too.

"The NACIN's role is to provide a modern ecosystem to the country which will ease trade and business in the country," he said.

Ahead of Ram temple consecration in Ayodhya, PM Modi said whole country is immersed in Ram Bhakti".

Citing a report released by NITI Aayog, he said almost 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty in the last 9 years by the efforts of his government.

Modi expressed confidence that the poor of the country have the potential to defeat poverty if they are given the means and resources.

Cold wave in...

in Kokernag town settled at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 4.4 degrees Celsius.

The officials said a dry and largely snowless winter in Kashmir has resulted in freezing nights and warmer than usual days. In Srinagar; day temperatures were over eight degrees above the normal temperature for this time of the year; they said.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period, when a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably leading to freezing of water bodies and water in pipes.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, particularly the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

Kashmiri Song/Bhajan on Ram Mandir Ayodhya released

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a monumental celebration of cultural unity and religious devotion, a soul-stirring Kashmiri Bhajan titled "Ram Ji Vaati Panun Gar Lo Loo" dedicated to the Ayodhya Ram Temple has been officially released. The unveiling took place in Jammu, where the distinguished Advocate , Monika Kohli Ganju, did the honors, marking a significant moment for the community. The Bhajan, a lyrical masterpiece penned by the artist and poet Kanwal Peshin, intricately weaves together the threads of joy and reverence as it narrates the divine return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya. Scheduled for inauguration on January 22, 2024, the Ayodhya Ram Temple stands as the symbolic cornerstone of this musical tribute, meticulously organized by the eminent Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society headed by Er Kiran Wattal and orchestrated by the creative brilliance of Athrot Cultural Foundation Headed by Abhimanyu Peshin.

The genesis of this melodic odyssey traces back to the visionary Opender K Bali from Bangalore, where it found its melodic resonance at the renowned Vastata Music Productions in Srinagar. Guided by the musical baton of Pawan Kumar Koul, a harmonious ensemble, including talented locals, breathed life into the composition. The enchanting visuals were captured in the scenic backdrop of Jagti, Jammu, through the lens of the acclaimed DOP Boopinder Kumar Bhatt.

Advocate Monika Kohli Ganju lauded the organizers for their exceptional efforts in crafting a unique presentation that beautifully encapsulates the rich cultural tapestry and profound sentiments of the Kashmiri Pandit community. She extended her appreciation to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society and Athrot Cultural Foundation, recognizing their pivotal roles in bringing this musical opus to fruition.

The global release of the Bhajan promises to reach audiences far and wide through the Athrot Productions YouTube channel and The Modern Kashmiri Pandits Facebook page. Special Efforts of team members under the guidance of Dr Agnishekhar which include Rajesh Gupta, Prem Sharma, Pintoo Ji and MK Yogi were also applauded.

Delphic Council of JK organises Kavi Sammelan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In order to commemorate the onset of new year, 'The Delphic Council of Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with J&K Academy of arts, culture and languages organized 'Manjari-2024', a Multi Lingual Kavi Sammelan at KL Saigal Hall, Jammu. The programme was Moderated by Prof. (Dr.) Shahnavaz Parveen & Dr. Sushma Rajput in well disciplined and coordinated manner with professional skills.

Er. Ashok Singh President, Delphic Council of J&K and Secretary General of Indian Delphic Council, welcomed Trishita Kumari, Special Secretary, Department of Culture, J&K who was the Chief Guest on the occasion and Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary J&K Academy of Arts, Culture & Language, Jammu who was the Guest of Honour, Advisors. Poets, Guests from various disciplines of literary world. Trishilla Kumari, Chief Guest while speaking on the occasion, lauded the efforts of the Delphic Council of J&K who are working in 6 Art Categories of the Delphic Council in J&K and especially the dying Art & Culture which is the need of the hour.

Er. Ashok Singh, emphasized the role of languages that play an important role in country's development and J&K being a Multi Lingual UT, there is need for organising such multi lingual events, which cohesive the society and also bridges the gap between different cultures. Bharat Singh Manhas Secretary Cultural Academy while speaking said the J&K Academy is always at the forefront for collaborating with the organisations which are working for taking Art, Culture and Language of the UT to its newer highlights and assured the Delphic Council for all possible help in future also.

While proposing vote of thanks, Anila Singh Charak, Director Language Arts & Rhetoric thanked the chief guest and guest of honour, the participating poets and also, the organising team, comprising of Dr. Shanawaz from Cultural Academy, Dr. Ayash Arif Vice President, NN Thussu, Treasurer; Bishan Dass, Joint Secretary, Vijay Puri, Mohan Lal Bhagat SSP, Ankush Sharma and Shabir Mujahid Advisors of the Delphic Council, Dr. Sushma Rajput, Dr. Ghara Choudhary, Er. Nirma S Chohan Vinod Verma Directors of the Delphic Council and Randhir Singh and Sheetal Verma Deputy Director of Social Arts & Communication the Council.

The stage was taken over by the well-known poets Dr. Sushma Rajput, Randhir Singh, Bishan Singh Dardi and Meenakshi Kesar of Dogri Anila Singh Charak, Sanjeev Bhasin and Sheikh Mod Kalyan of Hindi, Prof. Shaad Ramzan of Kashmiri, Ayaz Rasool Nazki and Prof. Zaman Azuldar of Urdu Er. Nirmal S Chouhan of Bhaderwahi Naseem Akhter of Gojri and Sheikh Zahoor of Pahari.



Dignitaries during the programme.

Azad attends closing ceremony of T-20 tournament

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Former Chief Minister J&K and DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad along with General Secretary, former Minister of State R.S Chib and Jugal Kishore paid a visit to Udhampur to witness a T-20 cricket match at Subhash sports Stadium. They also presented trophies to the winner and runner-up team of T20 Tejamal Cricket Tournament. Winning Udhampur team was given a prize of Rs 1.5 lakh along with the trophy and the runner-up Ramban team was given a prize of Rs 1 lakh. Apart from this, trophies were presented to the winners and runners-up of the Jammu women's cricket team. After this, he paid tribute to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Domel Chowk and also honored some promising children.

Later, Azad met the delegations of various organizations at the house of DPAP District head Ashwini Khajuria and State Secretary Preeti Khajuria, in which prominent In particular, the pastors of all the churches headed by Pastor Ashish Mattoo of the Christian community of Udhampur, the Rajput community headed by Sanjeev Singh, Vice President of Udhampur Rajput Sabha, the Sikh community headed by Amarjeet, the youth of the Christian community headed by Honey Mattoo, Transporters under the chairmanship of Darshan Kumar, youth of Udhampur in large numbers under the chairmanship of Saksham, displaced people of Doda under the chairmanship of Pritam Kotwal, Panch and Sarpanch met and informed them about their problems.

Azad said "I hope that the central government will conduct assembly elections along with the Lok Sabha and their problems will be solved only when the representatives elected by the people come to power."

Swantradev Kotwal, Padma Shri Shiv Nirmohi, Chhajju Master, Hari Vallabh, Principal Vikram Gulati and Jagdish, besides Gaurav Chopra, Vishal Chopra from Jammu division of DPAP, Brij Mohan Sharma, Sanjeev Dubey, Ashwini Khajuria, Preeti Khajuria, Sachin Sharma, Kuldeep Manhas, Shriraj, Ashok Sharma, Neeraj Thappa, Shilpa Khajuria and Rosie Begum were present.

