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lending Banks/ Financial Institutions invoke the State Govt. Guarantee. This becomes liability of the State Government. The Guarantee Redemption Fund shall be utilized for meeting the payment obligations arising out of the guarantees issued by the UT Government in respect of bonds issued and other borrowings by the UT level undertakings or other bodies/ institutions.

The Administrative Council also took note of the Project Design Report (PDR) on Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIP) and progress made by the J&K Agriculture Production Department till date.

As per the proposal JKCIP shall be implemented in J&K in 90 Blocks across all 20 Districts over next 7 years with the support of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the tune of 100 million USD. The goal of the project is to contribute to the sustained increase in incomes of rural households by improving the competitiveness of farming operations.

The project objective is to improve the competitiveness of the famers through a value chain approach covering production, value addition and marketing coupled with business incubation with start-up/agri-enterprise support.

The total outreach of the project will be 300,000 households of which 141,000 will be women (47%), 90,000 youth (30%) and 30,000 vulnerable communities (SCs/STs) (10%) in total reaching 1.5 million individuals.

The project will have four interlinked components: (i) Climate-smart and market-led production; (ii) Agri-business ecosystem development support; (iii) Support to vulnerable communities; and (iv) Project Management.

The project will support the establishment of 45 new FPOs and strengthening of 56 existing FPOs. It will also support the training of 1,085 trainers and 16,200 farmers, 800 water management systems, 1,650 protected cultivation units and the expansion of niche crops in 2,805 ha covering 14,025 farmers.

The project, in consonance with the mainstreaming priorities of IFAD, supports the most vulnerable groups comprising STs, SCs, and fisher folks to diversify their livelihood options and to increase their levels of income.

'Rammay' Ayodhya set...

TV and online platforms as the Centre has announced a half-day off on January 22 and many others followed suit.

As authorities made final preparations in Ayodhya, considered the birthplace of Lord Ram, temples across the nation and abroad have announced special festivities on the occasion. From Washington DC to Paris to Sydney, these events are either being organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad or Hindu diaspora groups in 60 countries.

Ayodhya is bedecked with flowers as recordings of 'Ram dhun' played from loud-speakers on Sunday and townsfolk dressed as Lord Ram, Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman paraded the streets followed by delicious devotees and news camera crew.

Ceremonial gates depicting 'Jai Shri Ram' in floral patterns and illumination add to the aura of the city which has undergone a massive infrastructural growth after the 2019 Supreme Court verdict on the Ram temple issue.

The new 51-inch idol of Ram Lalla, sculpted by Mysuru-based Arun Yogiraj, was placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple last Thursday. Fourteen couples will be the "yajmaans" for the "Pran Pratishtha".

Temple Trust's general secretary Champat Rai said the entry into the temple will be from the east side and exit from the south side. The temple superstructure will eventually be three-storeyed -- G+2. Visitors will climb 32 steps from the eastern side to reach the main temple.

The temple complex, built in the traditional Nagara style, will be 380 feet long (east-west direction), 250-feet wide and 161-feet high. Each floor of the temple will be 20-feet-high and have 392 pillars and 44 gates.

The state government is pulling out all stops to prepare for the big day with police personnel deployed across the city as part of a multi-layered security plan. Multiple NDRF teams have also been deployed.

The administration has made arrangements to deal with any health emergency, especially in view of the biting cold. Beds have been reserved at city and district hospitals and the medical college here. Specialists from AIIMS have provided focused emergency response training to doctors.

The Ram temple has been decorated with "rich stocks" of flowers and special lights and the entire city is drenched in religious fervour.

Streetlights on flyovers have been decorated with artworks depicting Lord Ram as well as cutouts of bow and arrow, and ornamental lampposts carry designs themed on the traditional "Ramanandi tilak".

Ramlilas, Bhagwat Kathas, Bhajan sandhyas and cultural programmes are going on at different places here. The banks of the Saryu River are also decked up where thousands flock every evening for the "aarti".

On January 22, public sector banks, insurance companies, financial institutions and rural banks across the country will also remain closed for half the day. NSE and BSE have also announced a trading holiday.

While more than 7,000 people are on the list of invitees, the select list features 506 A-listers. Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan, business tycoons Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, and sporting icon Sachin Tendulkar are among the prominent people invited to the event.

Those attending the "Pran Pratishtha" also include people linked to the Ram Janmabhoomi agitation. Almost all opposition leaders invited to the ceremony have declined to be in attendance, with the Congress calling it a "BJP-RSS event".

DC Udhampur addresses issues of Saddal landslide victims



DC Saloni Rai interacting with Saddal villagers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral today visited Sui Chakhar to address the issues of the victims of the 2014 Saddal landslide.

The Victims comprising 65 identified affected families

have been allotted 5 Marla plot each in compliance with the order of J&K and Ladakh High Court and government's sanction and are presently residing in a disaster management building at Village Sui. A committee headed by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur constituted for the purpose, had allotted the land at the rate of 5 Marla per family at Village Mansar on April 1,

2022.

During the today's visit, DC Saloni Rai interacted with the victims, urging them to take possession of the allotted land at Mansar, where 71 plots have been developed by Govt. with all basic facilities like road, electricity and water supply. She asked them to construct permanent houses on the allotted 5 marla land and start their life afresh. The victims shared the challenges they are facing. The DC assured comprehensive assistance from the district administration. The Deputy Commissioner also conducted a thorough assessment of the proposed/identified sites in Mansar and Dabreh villages, which included a comprehensive review of the plots, electricity, water connections, and other essential facilities.

But there are others, not on the list, who are heading to Ayodhya in their unique ways -- walking, cycling and even skating -- covering long distances amid bone-chilling cold.

From Lord Ram image-adorned bangles to 56 varieties of "petha" and from traditional items like a 500-kg iron-copper "nagada" and the "Onavillu" bow to offerings of rice, ladoos and vegetables, a diverse array of gifts have arrived from across the country. Also featured in the gifts are special perfumes from Kannauj, 500-kg "kumkum" leaves from Amravati, grains collected at a Ram temple in Delhi, flowers from Bhopal and papers with Lord Ram written 4.31 crore times from Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara.

Other offerings include a 108-foot incense stick, a 2,100-kg bell, a giant lamp weighing 1,100 kg, gold footwear, a 10-foot-high lock and key and a clock that simultaneously denotes time in eight countries.

More than 3,000 gifts from Goddess Sita's birthplace in Nepal's Janakpur have also arrived. A Sri Lankan delegation brought a special gift from Ashok Vatika, a garden mentioned in the Ramayana.

From Nihang Singhs to ISKCON and temple trusts from across the country to locals in Ayodhya, community kitchens are being run here to serve "langar" food to devotees.

NIA arrests juvenile...

Mendhar tehsil. The spokesperson said that the terror attack case, which was initially registered at the Rajouri police station, was subsequently taken over and re-registered by the NIA on January 13 last year.

The investigations by the NIA revealed the involvement of the arrested juvenile, along with previously apprehended individuals Nisar Ahmed and Mushtaq Hussain, he said.

Hussain and Ahmed were arrested on August 31 last year and are currently lodged at the Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, in Jammu.

The duo provided logistical support to the terrorists for over two months, harbouring them in a hideout constructed on the directives of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) handler Saifullah alias Abu Qatal alias Mohd Qasim, the spokesperson said.

NIA officials, operating in the hilly terrains of Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi districts pursued leads in their search for the perpetrators.

A team of NIA officials also examined a large number of suspicious entities and later zeroed in on the accused persons who had provided logistical support to the terrorists. Investigations in the case are still under process, the spokesperson said.

Family members of the seven people killed in the terror attack have called for a protest in September against an alleged delay in action by security agencies over the incident.

Surge in registration...

stories of the citizens, the Lt Governor appreciated the effort of Bikram Singh of village Jhankar, Kathua for teaching new methods of farming to the people in his village. He is a living encyclopedia on integrated farming and is always ready to help others who want to secure the benefits of diversification, the Lt Governor said.

Ghulam Hassan Sheikh of Village Chambora, Budgam is full of unyielding determination. The strategic expansion or business diversification in his professional career such as handling the business of 'Carpets to Kashmiri Lal Mirch' is inspiring the other entrepreneurs, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor made a special mention of Ghulam Hussain Wani, a skilled carpet artisan from Srinagar, who has become a household name for his expertise in carpet repairs and is playing an important role in preserving the finesse of this rare art form. Nari Shakti is capable of creating possibilities from nothing. The story of Kaushalya Devi of Chenani, Udhampur reveals that Self-Help Groups have made a significant impact on the economic empowerment of women in rural areas, the Lt Governor said.

He commended the 'No Helmet No Petrol', a road safety campaign by District Administration Anantnag and Petroleum Dealer Association.

The unique endeavours of Nisar Ahmed, a resident of Mattan; Vishal Roudhan, a youth from Udhampur and Kulgam's Mahmooda Akhtar to connect fellow citizens and youth with social campaigns and promoting the ancient traditional art of hand embroidery also received appreciation from the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor voiced the suggestions received from Balwinder Salaria from Billawar, Kathua; Bandipora's Yasir Rashid; Varun Bharti from Kathua and Arjamend from village Nowpachi, Kishtwar regarding waste management in rural areas, clean cooking fuel, renewable energy and provision of telemedicine services in villages and steps to ensure public participation in the extension of telemedicine services. He directed the concerned departments to take immediate and appropriate action on the valuable inputs received from the citizens.

Man killed, 17...

Arnas Reasi, Mohd Jamil son of Abdul Ghani (37) of Narla, Mohd Sakhi Khan son of Sadhik Khan (54) of Keri Teryath, Maroon Khan son of Mohd Sakhi Khan (7) of Keri Teryath, Indu Devi wife of Joginder Pal (27) of Gulabgarh, Joginder Pal son of Baldev Raj (35) of Gulabgarh, Shakuntla Devi wife of Kamal Singh of Keri Teryath, Mamta Devi daughter of Kamal Singh (22) of Keri Teryath, Anu Devi daughter of Kamal Singh (24) of Keri Teryath, Fareena Begum wife of Sakhi and Fullan Begum (60) of Birpur some patients referred to government medical college hospital Jammu.

J&K Admin declares...

and re-open at 9 am on January 23. Vends and bars in hotels, restaurants, clubs,

banquets have been ordered to close at 11 pm on January 21 and re-open at 10 am on January 23, it said. It further said that any permission granted to serve liquor to an establishment or private person for any social occasions on January 22 "be treated as cancelled ab initio", it said.

Modi gives 'Wed...

which manages the Shri Khodaldham Trust-Kagavad, Modi said, "Is it appropriate to hold marriage abroad? Can't the marriage be held in our country? How much of India's wealth goes out."

"You should create an environment that this disease of getting married abroad does not enter your community. Why shouldn't the marriage take place at the feet of Ma Khodal (Goddess revered by the community). I would say 'Wed In India', like Made in India, Marry in India," he said.

He also appealed to the people to help promote tourism within the country. "As much as possible, tour your country first. If you want to travel, then travel within your country. Travel around your country, promote tourism in your country," Modi said.

The prime minister said the treatment of a serious disease like cancer is a big challenge for any person or family. The government has tried to ensure people do not face difficulties in the treatment.

"With this idea, around 30 new cancer hospitals have been set up, and work on 10 more cancer hospitals is underway," he said.

With early diagnosis being vital for the treatment of cancer, the central government has built more than 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs at the village level with stress on using these health centres to help in the early diagnosis of cancer; he said.

The government's effort have also helped women with the early detection of cervical and breast cancers at these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, he added.

The prime minister said the Ayushman Bharat Yojana launched by his government has helped more than six crore beneficiaries, a large number of whom are cancer patients.

The government also opened 10,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which provide medicines at a discount of up to 80 per cent, he said.

The number of PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras will be increased to 25,000, he said. The availability of medicines at low costs has helped patients save Rs 30,000 crore, Modi said.

The government has also regulated the prices of cancer medicines which has helped lakhs of patients, he said.

Modi also praised Gujarat and said the state has presented a model of big reforms in the health sector.

"In the last 20 years, Gujarat has made unprecedented progress in the field of health," he said.

The state has witnessed an increase in the number of medical colleges to 40 from 11 in 20 years, the PM said.

The number of MBBS seats rose five times, and PG seats three times. An AIIMS was set up in Rajkot, and the number of pharmacy colleges in the state rose to 100 from 13 in 2002, he said. The number of diploma pharmacy colleges in the state has also increased from six to 30 during these 20 years, Modi said.

"Gujarat has presented a model of huge reforms in the field of health. Community health centres have been opened at the village level and health services have been taken to the tribal and poor regions. People's trust in the 108 ambulance service has only become stronger," he said.

Modi also congratulated the Leuva Patidar community over the Khodaldham Trust set to complete 14 years of its existence in the next few weeks, and said it has worked to change the lives of lakhs of people through its service in the areas of education, agriculture and health. He appealed to the community members to work on nine requests -- save water; encourage digital transaction, cleanliness, promote made in India products, promote tourism within the country, natural farming, use of millets, take care of fitness, and stay away from drugs and other addictions.

Hardcore murder accused...

resident of Parnote Premnagar; Sahil Kumar alias Labbu, son of Sham Lal, resident of Paloura Jammu, Sushil Kumar, son of Sham Lal, resident of Paloura Jammu, Prabhjot alias Minni, son of Mohar Singh, resident of Gandoh district Doda at present Paloura Jammu, Naresh Sharma alias Chuchu, son of Raman Kumar, resident of Mahal Shah Ramgarh and Rahul Sharma, son of Sat Pal, resident of Rarian, Ramgarh.

A police party of Police Station Ramgarh rushed to Doda previous midnight and arrested Gilka from Panthan, Premnagar district Doda. Gilka was arrested in Akshay murder case of Gudwal Ramgarh FIR No. 93/2023 under sections 302, 148, 149 IPC, 3/4/25 Arms Act PS Ramgarh and on account of his escaping from police custody, one more case FIR No. 6/2024 under sections 224 IPC has been registered against him at Police Station Ramgarh. The hardcore accused Sahil Sharma alias Gilka has been involved and is involved in seven cases of heinous nature like attempt to murder, extortion, Arms Act, criminal intimidation and assaults cases registered in Police Station Vijaypur and Police Station Ramgarh viz FIR No. 39/2015 under sections 307, 341, RPC, 4/25 Arms Act PS Vijaypur, FIR No. 16/2016 under sections 504, 506 RPC, 3/25 Arms Act PS Vijaypur, FIR No. 141/2016 under sections 307, 341, 323, 34 RPC, 4/25 Arms Act PS Vijaypur, FIR No. 12/2022 under sections 382 IPC, 4/25 Arms Act PS Ramgarh, FIR No. 40/2022 under sections 341, 504, 506 IPC, 4/25 Arms Act PS Vijaypur, case FIR No. 93/2023 under sections 302, 148, 149 IPC, 3/4/25 Arms Act PS Ramgarh and FIR No. 6/2024 under sections 224 IPC PS Ramgarh. He was also evading detention under PSA since last one year.

Rangeel Thakur launches Jagmohan's Dogri Ram Bhajan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Renowned Classical Singer, Shashtriya Sangeet Guru and social activist Vijay Kumar Sambyal popularly known as Rangeel Thakur on Sunday launched Jagmohann Sharma's Dogri Ram Bhajan at his Aashram at Challani Bajalta here. The lyrics were written by Jagmohann Sharma and bhajia was sung by Singer Shubham Bannotra while the music was composed by Sunil Mastana Jammu. Jagmohann Sharma, Founder of WOS-Dogri who



has been doing a lot to promote Dogri among youth & children while talking about this Bhajan believes it as a miracle and blessing of Lord Rama that he could write it as he has no experience in poetry as yet . How all this hap-

pened is nothing but a miracle of Lord Rama that he could pen down something in his praise and welcome. Jagmohan said it was the intervening night of 7-8 January 2024 when all of a sudden he got up at 3 am.

Maj Gen Shailendra inaugurates Balini Bridge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 35 Projects including 29 bridges and six roads from the Dhak Bridge site in Uttarakhand.

The Dhak Bridge was physically inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri, while the other projects were inaugurated virtually by establishing an online connection to each of balance 34 sites.

In line with government policy of providing last-mile connectivity, project Sampark has embarked on rapid development of infrastructure in the Poonch, Reasi & Rajouri districts.

Out of 35 Infrastructure projects inaugurated, Project Sampark dedicated 10 newly constructed bridges costing approx 64



Maj Gen Shailendra Singh, Chief of Staff HQ 16 Corps inaugurating 130-meter-long Balini Bridge.

Crores to the Nation. In line, Maj Gen Shailendra Singh, SM, Chief of Staff HQ 16 Corps inaugurated the 130-meter-long Balini Bridge at Km 15.66 on road Jammu-Srinagar constructed by HQ 69 RCC. The construction work of Balini bridge was began on August 4, 2020 and it completed on

August 2, 2023. With the construction of this bridge, people of adjoining villages as well as army troops would benefit.

Chief Engineer (CE) SAMPARK Project Brigadier Neeraj Madan and OC 69 RCC EE Shankar Lal Tayal were also present on the occasion.