

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Govt determined to...

he said. Sinha underlined the significance of the successful G20 conclave and said, "It has showcased to the world Jammu and Kashmir's economic strength, business potential, cultural richness and tourism opportunities. On the other side, it has given a befitting reply to enemies of humanity and sponsors of terrorism."

The LG pointed out the region's victories over various challenges in the last five years, emphasising the goal of creating a new social setup for the younger generation.

"The major resolution of 2024 is to create a new social setup for the younger generation. The new society will give impetus to India in knowledge, skill and infrastructure to secure its place among the developed nations," he added.

He further said during the last four years, there has been a sea change in all aspects, particularly in social setup and economic empowerment. "It has proved that impossible is possible here", he said.

Jammu and Kashmir, the LG said, has become one of the fastest-growing regions in the country, registering a remarkable 35 per cent increase in the current year and surpassing the national average.

"Excise and stamp revenues have shown impressive growth rates of 30 and 11 per cent respectively", he said.

Highlighting the financial turnaround, Sinha said, "The Jammu and Kashmir Bank, which was in loss before 2019, has a profit of Rs 1,200 crore today. The NPA has gone down from 11 to 4.8 per cent."

He further said 34 lakh individuals have been registered on the portal for employment opportunities.

Regarding the power of grassroots democracy, the LG said, "The true power lies in the panchayat raj systems."

He reiterated the government's commitment to holding elections for panchayats and urban local bodies, highlighting the recent constitutional changes to ensure reservation for backward communities.

Providing a glimpse of the economic empowerment initiatives, Sinha said, "As many as 94,680 youths of Jammu and Kashmir have been granted financial support of Rs 1,384 crore for entrepreneurship initiative."

He stressed the need for youths to become job providers, contributing to the strengthening of the region's economy.

Sinha shared the government's success in self-employment, offering opportunities to 8 lakh people, and providing government jobs to over 33 thousand youth. The recruitment process to fill over 12 thousand vacancies is currently underway, he added.

He further said efforts are being made to transform Jammu and Kashmir into an industrial and tourism hub. "We are moving forward in Jammu and Kashmir, a power destination in all of its sectors", he added.

The LG highlighted sluggish development of Jammu in the past eras, and said, "Efforts have been made in the past to ensure development of Jammu and Kashmir. But Jammu and Kashmir was left behind. During the past few years, the investment and entrepreneurship revolution have been successful. We are at the forefront of economic growth".

He said after implementation of the new industrial policy, J&K has received Rs 48,000 crore investment proposals. It will touch Rs 60,000 crore soon, the LG asserted. "In February, we will be holding a groundbreaking ceremony for projects worth Rs 25,000 crore," he said.

Hitting out at some sections of people, he said they are being misled on the issue of change of land laws.

"These changes have been made for the benefit of farmers and others. Some people are spreading rumours about demographic changes to incite the others. I want to assure the people that like in hilly states, the safeguards have been put in place for lands," he added.

LG Manoj Sinha...

and several school contingents, Brass & Pipe Bands of Army, BSF, J&K Police, J&K Armed Police and Band Troops (Girl & Boys) of different Schools.

Tableaux by different departments on Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, Aajevika se Aatmanirbharta, Har Ghar Nal Se Jal, Vimalam Gramam- Swachhata aur Vikas ka Sankalp and PM- SHRI remained the highlights of the celebrations.

An impressive display of Aerobatics on Motorcycle by JKP dare-devils, Gymnastics, dance performances showcasing the history and heritage of Jammu Kashmir and celebrating the spirit of unity in diversity and national integration were also presented on the occasion.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor laid wreath at Police Martyrs Memorial and Balidan Stambh and paid tributes to the brave martyrs of Police, Army and CAPFs.

CS reviews progress...

Secretary, SDD; Deputy Commissioners; Director, SDD participated either physically or through Video Conferencing.

Regarding the smooth implementation of this scheme launched by PM for the handholding of the artisan class, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned DDCs to saturate the scheme in their areas. He directed for on boarding all the Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for registration of artists residing there.

He stressed on holding camps in villages and towns for making the registration process easy for the artists. He even asked them to give more focus to clearance of cases at both first and 2nd tiers so that these are sent for approval to the Ministry of MSME. He even called for accelerating the process to transferring the benefits to the artisans by providing them toolkits and credit linkages as per the scheme guidelines.

He advised the Skill Development Department to plan meticulously about the training program of the selected artisans. He sensitized them about the need of identifying both the trainers and the venues for imparting the necessary training to the artisans. He asked them to have close coordination with the district administration for making such planning and subsequent arrangements.

In their presentations the Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh and the Secretary SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan highlighted their roles in the given scheme. It was given out that the training has to be imparted by the SDD while the extension part like enrolment and registration has to be culminated by the Industries Department.

It was given out that in the UT some 1,71,093 applications had been received putting J&K at the 13th spot in the country. It was also given out that out of the 18 registered trades Tailoring has received majority of 95,093 applications followed by Carpentry (27,608), Masonry (25,5632) and Barber (5,295) applications.

Moreover it was given out that the trained artisans would be provided the toolkit costing upto Rs 15000 each and can also avail a loan of Rs 3 lakhs in two instalments. It was said that the departments would ensure that the necessary approvals at tier first and 2nd are given within a week or so.

Earlier in a meeting attended by Principal Secretary, PDD; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, S&T; Deputy Secretary, MNRE; MDs KPDCL/JPDCL; Representatives of NHPC and other concerned, the Chief Secretary took note of the Rooftop Solar Power Plants here.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary asked the concerned to ensure implementation of the scheme as per its guidelines. He asked for appointing Nodal Officers at both UT and district level for its smooth implementation here.

Dulloo asked them to identify all the buildings fit for installation of the solar rooftops. He also advised them to increase the expenditure besides taking other measures for evacuation of this energy to the grid.

It was given out in the meeting that it is envisaged that 100% government buildings in the UTs are to be covered under the rooftop Solar Programme. It was further informed that MNRE has nominated NHPC as a technical partners for assessment of potential and feasibility of Rooftop Solar under Government Sector in the UT of J&K.

The meeting was also apprised that the sites which are easily accessible are proposed to be taken up in the first year and others in the next calendar year. For meeting this objective MNRE has designated REC Limited as overall Program Implementing Agency (PIA) for Coordination with all stake holders to implement RTS programme across the country.

Dir. Information unfurls...

Information Officers, Administrative officer and other officials of the department were also present on the occasion.

On the sidelines of the celebrations, the Director along with the officers and officials of the department also paid floral tributes to Anil Kumar Abrol (Field Publicity Officer), Harbans Singh (Projector Operator) and Anchal Singh (Projector Operator) who attained martyrdom, while performing their duties around two and a half decade back on this day.



Director Information, Jatin Kishore saluting the National Flag.

You are architect...

talent of sons and daughters, its talent pool becomes enormous," Modi said.

A digital revolution has been taking place and it benefits the creativity of the youth the most, he said.

People were struggling for 2G and 3G infrastructure a decade ago while 5G and optical fibre network is now reaching every village, Modi said.

In a swipe at previous dispensations, he said they deliberately neglected the development of border villages and called them the last villages of the country.

Modi said his government has taken up their development in a big way and they will emerge as big tourist centres, noting that these villages are now seen as "first villages" of the country.

He noted that more than 400 village heads from border areas, which are being developed by the government under the 'Vibrant Villages' scheme, and more than 100 women from self-help groups are present at the event.

The prime minister said India now has the third largest start-up ecosystem, having over 1.25 lakh start-ups and more than 100 unicorns.

Lakhs of youngsters are getting quality jobs in these firms, he said, asserting that the digital economy will become the new strength and identity of India's young power.

A worthy government takes decision in the present keeping in mind future possibilities and has its priorities clear, he said.

The biggest beneficiary of his government's efforts to make India a developed country in 25 years will be not Modi but the youth studying now in schools and colleges, he asserted.

India has now become the second biggest mobile-phone manufacturer and importer, which has made it cheaper for the country's youth, he said.

Modi said his government has also ensured mobile data is available at a very affordable rate.

"In the past 10 years, India's digital economy has become a new source of strength for our youth," he said.

Noting that he himself was a NCC cadet, he told the members of the voluntary uniformed youth organisation that they highlight the idea of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat".

He said the rally is a boost to the spirit of "One World, One Family, One Future", noting that there were cadets from 10 countries in 2014 and their number has gone up to 24 this year.

HC of J&K...

wing of the High Court, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi and Justice Rajesh Sekhri. Besides, Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, their spouses also graced the occasion.

D C Raina, Advocate General, Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Achal Sethi, Secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, M K Sharma, Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice and other officers and officials of the registry of High Court also participated in the event. Also, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, Registrar Judicial, Jammu Wing of the High Court, the Bar President, High Court Bar Association, Jammu and Senior Advocates of Jammu and Officers of the Police and administration attended the event.

The contingent of Armed Forces played patriotic songs and tunes following unfurling of the tricolour in Jammu Wing of the High Court.

Chief Justice, N. Kotiswar Singh, distributed sweets among the members of the Armed Forces.

Similarly, the National Flag was also hoisted in Srinagar Wing of the High Court by Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who took salute at the March Past followed by playing of National Anthem/Patriotic tunes by the band.

The event was also graced by the august presence of Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh. Besides, Member, J&K Special Tribunal Srinagar, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Registrar Judicial, Srinagar Wing of the High Court, officers of the Police and administration, Senior Additional Advocate Generals and other Law Officers as well as the officers and officials of Srinagar Wing of the High Court also attended the event.

SSP Leh PD...

of transfer to UT of J&K, is relieved from the Union Territory of Ladakh, with the direction to report to Home Department, UT of J&K for further posting," reads an order issued by Dr Pawan Kotwal, Advisor of LG and Administrative Secretary, Home Department, Leh.

"Consequently, Shruti Arora, IPS (AGMUT:2018), Additional Superintendent of Police, Leh has been posted as Superintendent of Police, District Leh," it added.

RFID registration to...

convenience and ease of the devotees visiting the shrine remains the top priority of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB). Soon RFID registration will be started at Katra railway station which helps in managing long queue and chaotic conditions during peak rush," Chief Executive Officer Anshul Garg said.

He said that several countries will be set up at the railway station for registration. Garg, who is taking forward various development works to make pilgrims the best experience for the devotees coming from across the world, said, "The Board is also planning a laser show at Banganga based on Mata Ki Kahani for the pilgrims adopting conventional routes for the pilgrimage."

In addition, holding areas are being developed at Adhkuwari having the capacity to accommodate about 2500 to 3,000 pilgrims at any point in time, the official said and added this will provide ease and comfort to the devotees besides ensuring effective crowd management.

Garg said the construction of a new Vaishnavi Bhawan, which can accommodate 300 pilgrims on a daily basis is bound to give a new shape and structure to the comforts and convenience of the pilgrims visiting the holy shrine.

"The building with a timeline of 18 months once completed shall have provisions for Bhojanalya coupled with washrooms, aimed at making the stay quite pleasant and congenial," he added.

Garg said that based on the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Ujjain Mahakaleshwar Dham and Golden Temple, the illumination of facade by digitally-controlled, multi-coloured LED lights will be a permanent feature from the coning chaitra navratri at Darshni Deodi, Adhkuwari and main Bhawan.

These lights will reflect the grandeur of the shrine, he added.

Garg underscored that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has in its endeavor been developing and continually upgrading the pilgrim-centric facilities and with the determined efforts and blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi, the pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi had set a remarkable record in 2023 by witnessing the arrival of 95.22 lakh pilgrims, marking the highest number in the past decade.

He added that emphasis has been laid on yatra management for which adequate arrangements have been meticulously executed by the Board.

"These include Skywalk at Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan and the remodeled Parvati Bhawan which has proven to be instrumental in managing the surge in pilgrims. Besides, with the enlargement of the Atka area, the sitting capacity has been enhanced and every month about 20,000 to 25,000 pilgrims are able to attend the morning and evening prayers," Garg said. With the commencement of third langar facility at Bhairon Ji after Tarakote Marg and Sanjichhat, now about 8,000 to 10,000 pilgrims are availing free meals per day on the track, he added.

J&K transformed post Art 370 repeal: Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Saturday spelled out the broad contours of politico-developmental transformation in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, saying the Union Territory has proactively joined the country's growth story under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at Shakti Vandana National workshop at the party Headquarters, Udhampur with NGOs and Self Help Groups, Devender Singh Rana said the focus of the BJP led government at the Centre during the past decade in general and nearly five years in particular has been to steer out Jammu and Kashmir from the difficult situation on security front and to ensure equitable development.

"A huge transformation is discernible with peace paving the way for holistic development and the people getting opportunities to prosper and progress", Rana said, adding that concerted efforts are underway



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana addressing party workers at Udhampur.

to address the issues of the youth, the marginalized and weaker sections, farmers and women. He said the BJP is committed to remove the disparity between regions and sub-regions on the developmental front and opportunities for all to flourish. Rana referred to the path-breaking initiatives taken in the recent years with thrust on transforming the Union Territory that has unfortunately been subjected to neglect and deprivation by the successive governments in the past. Addressing the gathering Pawan Gupta, Sr BJP Leader and former minister referred in detail to the other path-breaking initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, One Nation-One Ration Card, StartUp,

Digital Bharat, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Jan Dhan Yojana, Izzat Ghar programme and much more, saying these schemes have changed the lives of the people.

BJP District President Arun Gupta, while speaking on the occasion, described the party as a mass movement, that stands for empowerment of the people and support from all sections of the society is the biggest strength that enables it to fight for the just cause of the people and stand steadfast in resolving issues confronting them.

Lal Chand, DDC Chairman, while speaking on the occasion referred to the Government's mega outreach programme of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Terror financing: ED files charge-sheet against Hizbul terrorists

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has filed a money laundering charge-sheet in connection with a terror financing case in Kashmir and has named some Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists in the complaint.

The prosecution complaint (charge-sheet) was filed before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Srinagar on January 25, the federal agency said in a statement.

The accused named in it include Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh, Mushtaq Ahmad Kambay and Mohammed Iqbal Khan, it said.

The court has taken cognisance of the charge-sheet and issued notice to the accused for initiation of trial, the statement said. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) case of money laundering stems from a July 2015 Jammu and Kashmir Police (Kulgam district) FIR against Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh, Mushtaq Ahmad Kambay, Mohd. Iqbal Khan, Mohd. Abbas Sheikh and Tauseef Ahmad Sheikh.

The FIR was registered under the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

Abbas Sheikh and Tauseef Ahmad Sheikh were killed in an encounter with security forces.

The accused were "raising funds for terrorist activities in the Kashmir Valley on the directions of terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, and thus, generated huge proceeds of crime".

A part of the proceeds of crime generated by the accused were found in the form of 33 gold coins and Rs 17.50 lakh cash, which was to be used in terrorist activities, it said.

Forest fire along LoC triggers landmine blasts

STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: A forest fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district triggered explosions in several landmines on Friday night, official sources said.

The fire occurred this evening in Balhnoi and Krishnagati sectors of the district, prompting army, locals and forest officials to launch an operation to contain it, they said.

Birthday of Swami Vishvatmanand Saraswati celebrated

STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI:

The birthday of his Holiness Atal Pithadishwar Shri Shri 1008 Rajguru Acharya Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishvatmanand Saraswati (SVS) Maharaj was celebrated with full enthusiasm and religious fervour at SVS Gyan Ganga Ashram, Shiv Kashi, Sunderbani. The celebrations commenced with 'Sapt Cheernjeevi Pujan' in the early morning followed by cultural programmes in which students from various schools and colleges of SVS Educational Trust across the state gave their participation and mesmerized the local audiences with their colourful programmes and performances. Union minister MOS PMO Dr. Jatinder Singh was the Chief Guest on the occasion while MP Jughal Kishore, National General Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh and State President of BJP Jammu and Kashmir Ravinder Raina were also present on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, Swami Ji stressed upon that we should never discriminate on the basis of colour, creed or religion.

While addressing the gathering, Union Minister MOS PMO Dr. Jatinder Singh said that Swami ji is doing tremendous job for the welfare of the society by giving education to many girl child of this border belt which also empowers the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao campaign.

The prominent personalities present on the occasion were former MLC Vibodh Gupta, constituency incharge BJP leader Randhir Singh, vice President Yuva morcha

J&K Yuvraj Singh, BJP mandal pardhan Sunderbani Nasib Singh, BJP district general secretary Pritam Sharma, Retired ADC Subhash Chander, BJP district convener retired captain Swaran Singh Virehakra, Nain Chand Sharma, Adv. Ashok Sharma, district president of VHP Darshan Lal, Shishupal Gupta, DC Rajouri Om Parkash, SSP Rajouri Amritpal Singh, ASP Nowshera Mohd. Raffi Giri, ADC Sunderbani Vinod Kumar Benhal, Tehsildar Sunderbani Kapil Kant Khajuria, SHO Sunderbani Rajesh Jasrotia and other offices of different departments.