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Country doesn't need...

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, he said, adding that sustainable development and sustainable solution paved the way for the party's big win in the just-concluded Assembly polls in Gujarat.

He said the Ayushman Bharat scheme was an example of social infrastructure development, while the Jan Dhan Yojana was an example of financial infrastructure development.

"Today is Sankashti Chaturthi. All good work is started after offering prayers to Lord Ganesh. I offer my salutations to the Tekdi Ganpati bappa (in Nagpur)," Modi said in Marathi at the beginning of his speech.

Modi said the Samruddhi Expressway will provide modern connectivity and promote businesses in 24 districts and farmers will benefit from the project.

Modi inaugurated the first phase of the Nagpur Metro rail project by taking a ride in the train between Zero Mile Freedom Park and Khapri stations with some students of the AIIMS, with whom he interacted on the way. Before boarding the train, he visited an exhibition on the project at the Zero Mile station.

After inaugurating the Samruddhi Expressway, he travelled on its 10-km stretch in a car. The length of the total project, officially named as 'Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg', will be 701 km. The stretch under the first phase is 520-km long.

He also laid the foundation stone of redevelopment of Nagpur and Ajni railway stations. Under the project, the Nagpur railway station will be equipped with enhanced waiting area and sitting capacity, a parking facility for two-wheelers and cars, 30 lifts, and 31 escalators to provide a world-class travel experience to passengers and boost socio-economic development in and around the station.

He laid the foundation stone of National Institute of One Health, Nagpur and Nag river pollution abatement project. He also remotely inaugurated the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) at Chandrapur and Centre for Research Management and Control of Hemoglobinopathies at Chandrapur.

Talking about the expressway, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said the work on six other expressways in Maharashtra was currently on and 150 'green highways' were being built at a cost of Rs 75,000 crore.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde spoke about the challenges faced in the construction of the expressway and described land acquisition as the biggest one. He also said that the expressway will be a game-changer for the state.

Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said his dream of the Samruddhi Expressway has become reality thanks to PM Modi. He said the land acquisition for the entire project was completed in nine months.

"Some leaders were opposing the project and inciting people not to give their land for it. However, with the consent of the people, the land acquisition process was completed in nine months," Fadnavis said.

Every family in...

the government wanted to identify through this database.

"There are a lot of problems in J&K which the government ignores. Now who the government is trying to identify through this database?" PDP leader Virendra Singh Sonu said.

However, the BJP welcomed the move and said the people who have to stand in queues to get various benefits and certificates will benefit once a verified database is prepared.

"The new database will be helpful in many ways as people have been alleging that Census 2011 was not correct and many people have been wrongly added under BPL category," he said, adding a similar family database is already there in Haryana and so there is nothing to worry about.

The vision document itself acknowledges that in the absence of coherent policies relating to data security and privacy, the progress of digital transformation is bound to be slow and fraught with several risks.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Security, M Y Kichloo said vulnerabilities and possibilities of cyber attacks will remain when it comes to digital storage of data.

"We will face the same problems in Jammu and Kashmir which are faced across the country viz- a-viz data. Whenever a database is prepared by the government, an IT audit is conducted by experts," he said.

As far as data protection is concerned, the officer said, the Jammu and Kashmir government will soon issue a notification under Section 70 of the Information Technology (IT) Act to declare all information structures of government offices and public sector undertakings as protected systems.

"In case of data breach, the quantum of punishment would be 10 years which would work as a deterrent," Kichloo said.

Chief Town Planner of the Jammu Development Authority Jagdish Raj Hans said the exercise would be helpful in more ways than just extending benefits of government schemes.

"Currently, JDA is conducting a socio-economic survey for revising the master plan and a door-to-door survey of nearly 9,000 households is being undertaken with the help of a Delhi-based consultancy firm. If a bigger database with all social indicators of families of J&K becomes available, then we would not have to do this sam-

ple survey," he said.

According to the vision document, over the next five years the government aims to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and equitability in the delivery of public services and all the functions of the government using emerging technologies.

Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu..

minister Anand Sharma, former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Himachal Congress affairs incharge Rajeev Shukla, state Congress Chief Pratibha Singh and senior leader Sachin Pilot were also present.

People in traditional attire gathered at the Ridge in large numbers to witness the ceremony. They danced to the tune of folk music and raised slogans of "Sukhu bhai zindabad". Some enthusiastic supporters lifted their probable ministers on shoulders to reach the venue. But no other minister was administered the oath of office.

Sukhu's family including his mother, wife and daughters were present at the swearing-in ceremony.

The state Cabinet can have a maximum of 12 ministers including the chief minister.

Hooda said the formation of a Congress government has infused new energy in the party. "When winds of change blow from the hills they go down to the plains," he said.

Sukhu's choice as the chief minister is being seen as the Congress giving the top post to a commoner, and also as the shifting of the party's power Centre from the Upper Himachal to Lower Himachal.

Sukhu, considered a rival of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh, hails from Nadaun in Hamirpur district and is the first Congress leader from Lower Himachal -- comprising areas merged in Himachal in 1966 such as Nalagarh, Una, Hamirpur, Kangra and lower hills of Kullu -- to occupy the top state post.

He will be the second chief minister from Hamirpur district, after the BJP's Prem Kumar Dhumal.

All former Congress chief ministers including Y S Parmar, Virbhadra Singh and Ram Lal Thakur were from the Upper Himachal.

A son of a driver in the Himachal Roadways Transport Corporation, Sukhu started his political career as a class representative at Government College Sanjauli during his student life rose through the ranks -- serving as NSUI state president, Youth Congress president, Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee president -- to become the chief minister of the state.

Pratibha Singh's supporters lodged their protest on the name of Sukhu and asserted their leader, who is MP Mandi and State Congress president, should be the chief minister. Singh later said they have accepted the decision of the party high command.

The Congress wrested power from the BJP in the hill state winning 40 of the 68 assembly seats. The polling was held on November 12 and the results were declared Thursday.

Work on Jammu's...

at Belicharana.The 1,500-metre-long and 600-metre-wide artificial lake, a first-of-its-kind here, will give a new dimension to tourism in Jammu city", the Mayor said.

He said the proposed gated barrage on Tawi is one of the three sub-projects of the lake project that was conceptualised to give a boost to regional tourism in Jammu by creating recreational activities like boating and water sports, besides enhancing the overall aesthetic look of the city.

The other two sub-projects, viz Tawi river development project and beautification and creation of tourist facilities are to be executed by the housing and urban development department and tourism department, respectively, they said.

The project, which was originally sanctioned at a cost of ₹70 crore by dovetailing funds from various sources, was stalled on account of the contractor's "inactivity" for seven years leading to cancellation of awarded tender and related cost escalation, they said.

The administrative council has sanctioned the revised project at an estimated cost of Rs 131.53 crore which includes additional grant of ₹73.34 crore and already incurred expenditure of ₹58.19 crore, while construction of the Sabarmati-type river front will cost the government 150 crore, they said.

"The work for Tawi river front has been started at a cost of Rs 150 crore and will be completed in 18 months period. The work is going on pace at the left bank, right bank and island of river Tawi", CEO, Smart City Jammu Ltd, Rahul Yadav told PTI.

About the delay, he said earlier there was no tender in place. "Now the tender is in place. There is funding meant for the project and work is going at a fast pace. Work will be completed as per the deadline. It is a prestigious project for Jammu and its tourism aspect", he said.

On completion, the project will promote water recreation and sporting facilities besides boosting commercial activities around the artificial lake which will create employment opportunities for locals and attract tourists to Jammu city.

Local Vikas Raina said he is looking forward to the city having an artificial lake.

"I was 20 when this project started in 2013. But it has crossed six-seven deadlines. With the new beginning on the project, we hope the project will be completed by April next year", Raina said.

Bharat Jodo Yatra: Rahul interacts with people, takes bullock cart ride in Rajasthan's Bundi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUNDI (RAJASTHAN): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday interacted with people and took a bullock cart ride here during the Rajasthan leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, even as party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and her husband Robert Vadra joined the march.

On the 95th day of the yatra that entered Rajasthan on December 5, Rahul Gandhi enjoyed bullock cart ride from Kotkhurd village to Deikheda village on Kota-Lalsot highway on Sunday morning.

When the former Congress chief started his padyatra from Baldevpura village, he noticed a bullock cart carrying a group of farmers waving to welcome him.

"Rahulji came to the cart and interacted with the farmers. He also listened to their

grievances," said Mahaveer Meena, a local Congress leader who was present on the cart with the farmers.

"I requested him (Rahul Gandhi) to ride the bullock cart, after which he climbed up on the cart, held reins and drove the cart for around 500 metres between Kotkhurd and Deikheda village on his way to Laban village," Meena said.

Rahul spent around 10 minutes on the cart, he said.

Meanwhile, Priyanka Gandhi and Robert Vadra joined Rahul Gandhi during the march in the evening from Laban to Lekhari railway station in Bundi district.

Actress Divyagana Suravanshi and actor Siddharth Thamboli also reached Bundi on Sunday evening and joined the yatra, district Congress vice-president Charnesh Sharma said.

Need to highlight contributions made by tribals in all spheres: RSS leader Hosabale

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHOPAL: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Sunday underlined the need for highlighting the extraordinary contributions made by tribal communities in various fields for the development of the country which he said largely remained unrecognised.

Speaking at a function, the senior Sangh leader also said great tribal freedom fighters who had been forgotten, are of late being praised, recognized and getting their due share of respect.

"But the contributions of tribal people in other fields need to be highlighted and documented," he said.

"Tribal communities have made extraordinary contribu-

tions in all fields trade and commerce, education, knowledge, and health. It had been recorded in history, but it is unfortunate for India that our education system did not bring (them) to society successfully," Hosabale said while inaugurating a skill centre at the new building of Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad in Bhopal.

He also unveiled the statue of tribal freedom fighter Tantya Bheel at the Parishad's campus. Hosabale said generations of indigenous people in Jharkhand are making steel.

"They possess an immense treasure trove of talent and knowledge," he added.

Hosabale said permanent exhibitions of great indigenous people, their talents, works,

KVK Reasi educates farmers on hydroponics technology

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Krishni Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the aegis of Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) is promoting and guiding the farmers on the hydroponics technology which is an innovative technique for the production of fresh organic vegetables. Many farmers, farm women, rural youths and officials are visiting the KVK, Reasi and taking keen interest in the technology after observing the results of hydroponics technology demonstrated at KVK, Reasi. According to Sr. Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi, Dr.Banarsi Lal ,hydroponics technology is very simple, labour and water saving and have the potential to attract the youths towards agriculture as their interest

is declining towards this sector. He said that the demand of organic, safe and high quality vegetables is increasing day-by-day and through this technology one can produce the quality vegetables consistently. He informed that through this technology plants get the nutrients in a uniform way and give outstanding results. He further said that hydroponics technology is an efficient method of farming in modern era when the climate is impacting the agriculture. He narrated that in hydroponics system, plants are grown without soil so there are least chances of infestation of insects-pests, diseases and weeds in the crop. He expressed that leafy vegetables crops such as lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard etc. can be grown hydroponically. He added that the crops like tomatoes, capsicum, cucum-

ber, strawberry etc. can also be grown in this system of farming. Dr.Suja Nabi Qureshi, Scientist said that waste areas in the house can be utilized for the hydroponics as the crops are grown in the soilless culture. He added that the hydroponics system can be very useful to produce the organic vegetables especially in the urban and semi-urban areas. He said that the plants in hydroponics system grow at a faster rate as compared to those grown in the conventional system. He added that nutrient rich solution is circulated through the automated electronic pump. Dr.Gurdev Chand, HOD, Division of Plant Physiology, SKUAST-J informed that the plants are grown in an inert substrate such as the perlite, cocount fibre, vermiculite etc. in the hydroponics unit. He said that in hydroponics technol-

gy we replace the soil and supply plants with all their nutrients requirement through water and a non-soil medium. He stressed on the commercial cultivation of organic vegetables in hydroponics as the crop gives better returns as compared to field vegetables. He also informed on the water use efficiency in the hydroponics system and said that even the landless people can also adopt this technology. He also guided on hydroponics system for fodder and aquaponics technology. He narrated that the hydroponics technology solves number of technologies such as lack of soil, space, water and even time. He further said that the hydroponics technique requires less space and has immense scope in future also. Many youths are showing keen interest towards this unique technology.

Two die of...

while others are being processed.

The officials said teams of the Health Department are monitoring the situation.

Director of Health Services (Kashmir) Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather also visited the area on Saturday along with a team of doctors, they said.

Water samples from the area have also been lifted and are being analysed, the officials said.

NC will be...

wrongs that the BJP has," the People's Conference chief said.

Lone said if any of his party leaders visit Delhi, the NC accuses them of holding secret meetings with the Centre, "But even if they (NC) sit on their (BJP's) laps, they say they are trying to save the nation".

"They were in foreign ministry only to save the nation. They are allowed to do anything, but we cannot," he said, taking a dig at NC vice president Omar Abdullah. Abdullah was the Union Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

Lone warned that times had changed and the NC leadership will face the consequences for their acts.

The People's Conference chief asked the people to bring about a change in themselves and discourage politicians who lie.

"Politicians lie, it is 99 per cent true. It happens everywhere, whether in America or London. But, people there bring down the politicians who do so. Our problem here is that we do not want to hear the truth and vote for those who lie. More the lies, more the votes. Unless you bring about a change in yourselves, we (politicians) will continue to lie," he said.

Earlier, NC leader Manzoor Ahmed Wani joined the People's Conference. He was the NC candidate from Khansahib and had secured around 16,000 votes in the 2014 assembly elections.

Modi Govt dedicated...

Life Certificate' to the pensioners using 'Face Recognition Technology' has been one of the drastic steps taken by the government for the convenience of the pensioners who were earlier facing many inconveniences regarding continuation of their pensions.

Appreciating SAKSHAM for organising this 'Divyang Parivar Maha-Samelan' at Kathua today, Dr. Jitendra said that this 'Maha-Samelan' organised is also a step towards 'Sankalp se Siddhi' and is the first-ever 'Maha-Samelan' organised so far for the welfare of Divyangs.

During the programme, Dr. Jitendra distributed kits among 10 TB patients adopted by him to take care of their daily needs to accomplish PM Narendra Modi's vision of TB Free India by 2025.

Also during the event, MD & CEO, J&K, Baldev Prakash contributed 100 wheel-chairs and 100 special tricycles under 'Corporate Social Responsibility' to 'SAKSHAM' in presence of Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra.

Besides thousands of Divyangs, the 'Maha-Samelan' was attended by National Joint Secretary, SAKSHAM Anurag Kumar,President SAKSHAM J&K Abhay Pargal, DDC Vice Chairman Kathua and Executive Member, SAKSHAM, Sh. Raghunandan Singh Babloo, Deputy Commissioner, Kathua and SSP Kathua.

Army's intervention helped...

generation, education and health, the village has set benchmarks and has presented itself as a model in the Union Territory, he said.

He said more women and youths are coming forward to be a part of projects run by the Army. The recently set up Chingam Youth Club provides an opportunity and platform to the youth to hone their creative talent and also widen avenues for further growth, the official said.

The facility, equipped with a computer training lab, library and sports facilities, inculcates a sense of unity and pride in the hearts and minds of the youth in the region, the official said.

"This Youth Activities Centre' is definitely a step towards providing much-needed basic sports and computer training infrastructure for the youth as also towards channelising youth energy in the right direction for the greater good of the society," he said. The Army adopted the village in 2020 in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently a multifarious campaign was launched which included awareness programmes to sensitise the village population on COVID-19-hygiene and importance of vaccination.

With the collective efforts of people, Army and the administration, Chingam village became the first one in the region to achieve 100 per cent vaccination of population in all age groups. The official said the Army roped in experts to make the youth aware of button mushroom cultivation and marketing of the product. He said a total of 327 youths attended an awareness camp on the Agniweer scheme for short-term recruitment in the armed forces from the village and adjoining areas and four local boys cleared the physical and medical tests and are now preparing for written tests, the official said. In the first such initiative, he said, Chenab Valley Cross Country Race was organised at Chingam on September 18 with an aim to inculcate and further promote sports spirit and identify and nurture the talent for higher levels.

Mining Department seizes Excavator involved in illegal excavation at Sahar Khad

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Mining Department on Sunday seized an Excavator involved in illegal excavation along Sahar Khad

Acting swiftly on inputs, the District Mineral Officer Rajinder Singh seized the machinery, here late in the evening.

On reaching the spot, it was found that the machinery had excavated over 600 MT muck from the Khad. As per the DMO Kathua, some photos of machinery excavating the illegal activity were doing rounds in the social media. Taking cognisance of the matter, the team on reaching the spot, seized the machinery. "This is third major action in the Sahar Khad from where 8 vehicles have already been seized by the Geology and Mining department during a night hour raid " the DMO informed . He further added that similar action shall be taken as and when required to curb the menace of illegal mining. The area of excavation was also measured by the officials of the mining department and found over 600 MT nallah muck lifted from the spot creating several pits and trenches in the Khad. The excavator seized by the Geology and Mining department was kept in the custody of police post at Bedian Patan till realization of the penalty.

Bid to smuggle bovines foiled; 10 animals rescued, vehicle seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In furtherance to tightening noose on bovine smuggling menace, Kathua Police under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua R C Kotwal rescued 10 bovines and seized one truck at Kharote Morh NH Kathua. As per the details, a police team led by In-Charge Police Post Hatli Ranbher Singh under the supervision of DySP Headquarter Kathua Shammi Kumar during routine Naka/Checking duty at Kharote Morh NH Kathua in its jurisdictional area noticed one suspicious Truck (JK02W-0975) coming from Punjab towards Kathua. During checking, the police team rescued 10 bovines from the said vehicle. On this an instant a case FIR 467/2022 under section 188/IPC 11 PCA Act was registered at Police Station Kathua.

Thieves target 12 shops in single night, decamp with cash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: Thieves targeted 12 shops in a single night at Hiranagar and decamped with cash. As per the details, on the night of December 11, 2022, shopkeepers of Hiranagar Morh lodged complained with Hiranagar Police that thieves have targeted their shops and decamped with cash and goods. The complaint shopkeepers include Rakesh Choudhary, son of Devi Dutta, resident of Swankha Morh vijaypur whose one bullet classic motor cycle, one apple tab was stolen; Mahajan Karyana store at Hiranagar Morh, stolen Rs. 2300 from shop; Mastu Barton Store at Hiranagar Morh, stolen Rs.3300 ; Bhagwan Maniyari Shop at Hiranagar, stolen Rs. 1200 ; Sharma Tea Stall at Hiranagar Morh, stolen Rs. 2400 and Siddhi Vinayak Traders AGL Tile traders. FIR No. 154/2022 under sections 457, 380 IPC at registered at Police Station Hiranagar and investigation is on.

