

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

within the youth and the community. The inaugural ceremony commenced with an engaging AV presentation by LEAD, setting the tone for the festivities, followed by a warm welcome and homage to Bharat Mata. The Mahotsav 2023 was graced by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the event, a detailed overview into the Memorandum of Understanding between LEAD and IIM, emphasizing its focus on promoting and encouraging entrepreneurship in the picturesque regions of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was presented.

Sunil Shah, Director, LEAD, in his talk, emphasized the importance of celebrating local excellence and preserving cultural heritage under the theme of Swadeshi, Swavlambhan & Sanskriti. He mentioned that the Grand Mahotsav serves as a pivotal platform, endorsing and empowering local businesses in alignment with the ideologies of Vocal for Local and Make in India.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted that the LEAD IIM Jammu Entrepreneur Conclave aims to tap into local potential, promote entrepreneurship, and foster unity and pride in Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh. He affirmed IIM Jammu and LEAD's commitment to sustainable development in the Union Territories, emphasizing free youth programs and the need for continuous self-improvement. He stressed on IIM Jammu's actively contributing to the economy and achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India an developed Nation by 2047 and thereby urging active participation in nation-building.

During the program, an Audio-visual of the state-of-the-art automated library that is functional at its permanent Campus was played along with the showcasing of Virtual tour of the Permanent Campus of IIM Jammu at Jagti.

CA Rakesh Gupta, Member, LEAD, emphasized on the core values of Self Reliance and Atmanirbhar Bharat as put forward by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.

Anil K Goel, Independent Director of J&K Bank, noted the program's uniqueness, being the first of its kind in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that Swalambhan revolves around connecting with others and linking it to the nation's self-esteem.

R. K Chhibber, Former CEO and Managing Director of J&K Bank, commented on the diminishing self-reliance in today's youth, attributing it to a lack of physical activity resulting in reduced brain engagement. He emphasized the ongoing necessity for young individuals to actively explore diverse entrepreneurial opportunities.

Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson of J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board, advocated against job hunting and instead encouraged female students to embrace entrepreneurship, become their own bosses, and actively contribute to the progress of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shakti Munshi, Director of JKSC, highlighted that the Entrepreneur Conclave organized by LEAD and IIM Jammu aims to promote entrepreneurship and cultivate a robust and healthy business ecosystem in the union territories of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of Srinagar Off-Campus at IIM Jammu, offered insights into the initiatives of IIM Jammu. He extensively discussed the diverse measures taken by the institute to establish a sustainable ecosystem in the Union Territory of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The event also featured a captivating Audio Visual of the Entrepreneurs followed by Panel Discussion with entrepreneurs ranging from Pooja Gupta (Nimbark), Shubham Sharma (Kaladi Factory), Mansi Sharma (Manukrishi), Arjun (Genetico), Vaibhav Sharma (Himalaya 360), Atul Banotra (Rach Smart Solutions), Shivang Satya Gupta (Espa Learn P Ltd.), and Abhimanyu. The interactive session with the audience was followed by the felicitation of speakers and the announcement of an entrepreneurship connect with IIM.

In conclusion, the inaugural session ended on a positive note with the vote of thanks proposed by Manish Ahluwalia, Director, LEAD.

India to be...

it. "But I congratulate him for already signing investment MoUs worth Rs 3.5 lakh crore with different companies. The two-day summit marks the beginning of many new things for Uttarakhand. After two decades of Uttarakhand's creation, I can say with confidence that Atal ji created it and Modi ji is building it," Shah said.

He asked investors to come to the state and unlock its limitless investment potential in various sectors, saying apart from the state government's investment-friendly policies, it has a corruption-free administration, which will help them.

Accompanied by Chief Minister Dhami, Shah visited the Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh in the evening to participate in the Ganga Aarti there.

Head of Parmarth Niketan Swami Chidanand Saraswati welcomed the two leaders as they arrived at the ashram to offer prayers to mother Ganga and seek its blessings.

Yoga guru Ramdev, former chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Akhara Parishad President Mahant Shri Ravindra Puri were also with them.

There should be...

Article 370 will be respected by the entire country. The Supreme Court heard the matter online, a bench headed by the chief justice of India heard the matter and gave an opportunity to both sides. We will accept and respect whatever decision the court takes," Raina said.

Earlier in the day, the BJP leader visited the residence of slain Jammu and Kashmir Police Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani, who was killed in a terror attack.

Wani was shot at by a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist when he was playing cricket here in October. He died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi on Thursday.

Raina visited the slain police officer's residence at Narwara in the Eidgah locality of the city.

Talking to reporters there, the BJP leader described Wani's killing as a heart-wrenching incident.

"He (Wani) was a very able person who always helped the poor and needy. It pains our heart. The enemies of peace, Kashmir and humanity have committed a huge sin. For how long will the blood of innocent people be spilled? This is intolerable. This is the murder of humanity and Kashmiriyat," he said.

CS reviews progress...

this yatra are practiced in each village and data fed into the portal. He asked for making the yatra interesting for all age groups including school children, women and old aged.

Dulloo also asked for insights from the concerned Deputy Commissioners and designated District Prabharies about the kind of activities carried out, demonstrations made and peoples participation in such activities. He advised the concerned agency to enhance the number of pilots for drone presentations besides stationing of VBSY vans at centralized locations in each village.

In his remarks the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, GoI, Rohit Kansal, who is also UT Prabhari for J&K showed his satisfaction about the performance of J&K so far. He made out that the gap between the actual activities happening on ground and those uploaded on portal shall be lessened by making the exercise real time doing so on daily basis by each Deputy Commissioner.

Kansal also asked for participation of people especially school children in quizzes by simply scanning QR codes on the VBSY van. He even stressed on giving due attention towards highlighting the success stories during this yatra in both print and electronic media here.

In his presentation the Secretary, Planning, Piyush Singla threw light on different activities carried out from 15th of November, when the yatra was started here in the UT. It was given out that till date in 2516 Gram Panchayats around 10,47,500 people have participated till date among whom 8,42,955 took Sankalp pledge and 1,25,7625 were 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' beneficiaries.

In addition it was revealed that 107 IEC vans are scheduled to cover all the panchayats here by visiting 2 panchayats each day. During the yatra around 1550 Ayushman Bharat Cards, 7224 Suraksha Bima Yojana, 1006 Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, 1908 Kisan Credit Cards besides thousands of other beneficiaries took benefit during the yatra period till date, as was added during this meeting.

Modi says women...

the party more enthusiastically in a number of state elections.

Modi's comments are seen as a swipe at the Congress and other parties which have been pushing for a caste census while the prime minister has asserted that the poor, women, youths and farmers are the four biggest castes whose progress will lead to a developed India.

He made the remarks while interacting with Priyanka Yadav from Darbhanga

in Bihar as she noted as to how a number of welfare schemes of the central government helped her family tide over the financial crisis following the Covid-19 outbreak as they received free grain and cash benefit as well.

He urged her to create awareness about government schemes in her village and expressed satisfaction that the "Modi ki Guarantee" vehicles is reaching every village in the country.

He stressed that any welfare scheme must reach every beneficiary for it to be successful and said such programmes were earlier confined to papers and ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Moitra breached trust...

popular leader with a global approval rating of 76 per cent, according to 'Morning Consult. He said it was because of the Prime Minister's commitment to poor and the deprived and providing them facilities like free foodgrain and gas connections etc that he is adored as a real leader of the nation.

"After the recently concluded assembly election results in five states, even an international poll has given thumbs up to Modi's guarantee and magic, which is about his model of governance and delivery," Chugh added.

Keep a hawk...

bent to disturb the atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

He directed for strengthening collaboration between different law enforcement agencies for seamless information sharing and joint operations besides, exploring innovative technologies to augment existing security infrastructure and response capabilities.

Highlighting the approach to combat the drug menace, Birdi said law enforcement agencies are committed to intensifying operations and adopting advanced techniques to dismantle drug networks.

The IGP reiterated the significance of community participation in maintaining vigilance and urged citizens to remain vigilant while assuring them of continued efforts to enhance security measures. He briefed the officers to ensure the highest standards of public safety and urged them to work impartially and take stern action against any violation of the law.

The security meeting was attended by DIG NKR Baramulla Vivek Gupta, SSP Bandipora Lakshay Sharma, Addl. SP Bandipora, Sandeep Bhat and other officers of the district.

India responded to...

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

Jaishankar also explained how India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, tried to create global awareness against terrorism or went ahead for cooperation under the Quad framework though there was a narrative that it could make somebody uncomfortable, seen as an oblique reference to China.

"If somebody else is uncomfortable, that's their problem," he said. "At the end of the day, we have to do what we have to do, however difficult and tough that is. It is about the confidence of being able to exercise choice after choice," he said adding such an approach will "define us as Bharat".

The external affairs minister also cited how India confronted the challenge of terrorism.

"There is no society which is more traumatised in the modern era than us when it comes to terrorism," he said, noting the Modi government showed a sense of resolution to "shape" global agenda on it.

Without specifically mentioning India continuing procurement of crude oil from Russia, Jaishankar asserted that its choices on energy purchases were driven by national interests.

"When it came to our energy purchases, our national choices and national interests were supposed to be subservient to the political correctness of other countries who by the way had made their own arrangements to soften the blow for themselves," he said.

India maintained purchase of crude oil from Russia notwithstanding pressure from the West to not do so in view of the Ukraine conflict.

Talking about the India growth story, Jaishankar said there is no question that the "world looks at us as an exceptionally strong area of growth".

"We have made big decisions but we are clearly poised to make many more. We have nursed big ambitions, we have implemented much of what we promised but again there are still a lot we have to achieve," he said.

"To me Vikshit Bharat -- it is both a vision to achieve as well as a set of specific goals and a short description of it would be to really how to make India a developed country in the next 25 years," he added.

The external affairs minister described the last five years as a "very traumatic for the world" and cited as reasons the "Covid shock", developments in Afghanistan following withdrawal of the US troops, the impact of Ukraine conflict, the ongoing violence in the Middle-East and the implications of the competition between the US and China on global supply chains.

Jaishankar said the world is today moving towards greater insecurity and more protectionism, adding the trading rules implemented globally in the last two-to-three decades have actually raised a lot of question marks about their effectiveness.

Today, we are really looking at what happens when trading rules are gamed and when competition has been unfair and when the insecurities of Covid-era have caused many geographies, many regions, big economies to talk about strategic autonomy, he added.

Jaishankar said while it is acknowledged that opening up to the world is good, but at the same added that "opening up to the world must happen only when there is a level playing field for our own industry at home".

"It cannot be at the cost of our industry and I think that is one message that the Modi government has given in a sustained manner over the last one decade," he said.

The external affairs minister described the industry leaders as "builders of national strength".

"I think that is a larger responsibility that must always be in your mind," he said.

Jaishankar also called on the big businesses to help India build its own supply chains.

"I think it is important, especially for big businesses in India to help build Indian supply chains, to support Indian vendors. Because at the end of the day, no country will be strong if it does not have its own supply chain, if it does not have basic requirements," he added.

4th National Lok...

cases under NI Act, Money recovery, etc., Pre-lokadalat sittings and pre-counselling sessions were organized well before the date of National Lok Adalat so that the parties may get ample opportunities for negotiation/dialogue with each other to arrive at a consensus. Apart from that, webinars and virtual meetings were organized to sensitize the officers of Legal Services Authorities/Committees, Panel Lawyers and PLVs about the importance of Lok Adalat as a mode for Alternate Dispute Resolution.

As per the information received from different Legal Services Institutions of various districts of UT of J&K, out of a total number of 1,21,018 cases that were taken up by 149 Benches in the day long National Lok Adalat by various courts across the UT of J&K, 1,07,869 cases were disposed of and an amount of Rs. 73,73,52,092/- was awarded as compensation/settlement amount in Motor Accident Claims, civil, criminal, labour disputes, Electricity and Water Bills cases, Land Acquisition, Family matters, cheque dishonor and Bank Recovery cases.

Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority while addressing the media persons appreciated the efforts of all the Judicial Officers, Secretaries DLSA's, Advocates, staff of the district and tehsil courts as well as Legal Services Institutions besides litigants for their whole hearted participation in the National Lok Adalat and playing an important role in settlement of cases.

He also highlighted the role of Para Legal Volunteers and the media, both print and electronic, in spreading awareness amongst the masses regarding the initiatives taken by Legal Services Authority Institutions for the welfare of downtrodden and marginalized sections of the society. He further informed that in the coming days a fresh calendar of activities shall be published including the dates for next year's National as well as Special Lok Adalats.

Srinagar records coldest...

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town minus 2.3 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 3 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological office said the weather would remain generally cloudy but mainly dry till December 11. It also predicted a dip in the night temperature by a few degrees.

From December 12 to 15, there is a possibility of light rain or snowfall at isolated places in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir; the office said.

SC verdict on Article 370 will meet expectations of J&K's population: DPAP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing hope that the Supreme Court judgment on Article 370 will meet the expectations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) on Saturday flayed the BJP-led government for delaying assembly polls and restoring statehood to the Union Territory.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its verdict on December 11 on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution which bestowed special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our party is fully confident that the apex court's verdict will do justice with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their expectations, sentiment and also take into account their welfare," DPAP general secretary and former minister R S Chib told reporters here.

Chib, who was flanked by the party's chief spokesperson Salman Nizami and Jammu provincial president Jugal Kishore Sharma,

said they are hopeful that the highest court in the country will ensure return of whatever was snatched from the people "unconstitutionally" on August 5, 2019.

Nizami said DPAP chairman Azad, as the leader of opposition in 2019, fought bravely on the floor of parliament against abrogation of Article 370 and later on the streets for the people of J&K.

"Azad roared like a lion on the floor of the house in the Parliament. He had already termed the move of August 5, 2019 illegal and unconstitutional," he said.

Sharma said the ground situation in J&K contradicts the BJP's claim of development and end of terrorism. "We have encounters happening everywhere. Security forces are losing their lives after the August 5, 2019 decision as well." Chib demanded immediate restoration of statehood and holding assembly elections. "The B-JP betrayed the people of J&K and the rest of the country on the Kashmir situation. The Article 370 revocation changed nothing but brought more terrorism and violence," he said.

Husband-wife, 2 more, charge sheeted in Rs 5 crore J&K Bank fraud case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A married couple and two others were charge sheeted here for their alleged involvement in swindling Rs 5 crore in loans from a Jammu and Kashmir Bank branch in Poonch district, an official said on Saturday.

The 496-page preliminary charge sheet was filed by the Crime Branch, Jammu, in a court here against Saleem Yusuf Bhatti, son of Mohd Yousaf, resident of Narol, Mendhar Poonch, the alleged mastermind of the scam, Mohd Altaf, son of Said Mohd, resident of Ari Mendhar Poonch and his wife Rukhsana Tabassum, and Zahida Parveen, daughter of Mohd Ikhtlaq, resident of Ari, Mendhar Poonch. A spokesman of the agency said.

The spokesperson said that Bhatti, who earlier worked as a contractual employee in the Integrated Water Management Programme (IWMPP) a central government sponsored scheme appropriated the money by misusing his position and misrepresenting facts. The Jammu Crime branch had earlier this year registered a case in the matter following a complaint by the J&K Bank, which alleged that Bhatti along with other illegally "activated" the inactive accounts of Watershed Committee at the bank's branch in Lassana village of Surankote tehsil in Poonch. Subsequently, the accused changed names on the accounts, fabricated fake salary certificates and confirmation letters issuing them to several non-existing employees, and managed personal loans, cash credit loans, and car loans in crores by presenting themselves as government employees, the spokesman said.

He said the accused also managed to open fraudulent government accounts at J&K Bank Branch Office Mendhar and Branch Office Bus Stand Mendhar.

According to the official, the accused first transferred money from different branches in the accounts of Watershed Committee and other fake accounts opened by them. They then "... issued fake authority letters instructing the branches to disburse & credit the salaries in individual accounts which were later on projected as Government Employees and thus they managed to obtain loans from different other branches of the bank thereby causing wrongful loss to the tune of Rs 5 crore," the spokesman said.

All these loans are now non-performing assets of the J&K Bank, the spokesman said, adding, efforts are on to identify other people involved in the scam.

New Rehari Welfare Society to hold meeting today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: New Rehari Welfare Society to hold a meeting on December 10 (Sunday) at 12:00 noon at Rana Rajinder Singh Park, New Rehari to discuss the welfare of Society and open election of the new office bearers of the society.

A handout issued by the society on Saturday stated that in the meeting issues like parking of vehicles by outsiders, sanitation of area, construction of temple, defunct street lights, menace of stray dogs, water supply problems, parking stickers for cars, and appointment of Chowkidar/Security Guard are discussing by the participants.

"There is apprehension that some anti-social elements disturb the meeting therefore police protection is necessary during the meeting," it stated and urged the police department to deploy some police personnel at the aforesaid venue of the meeting to stop any untoward incident.

The handout also appealed to all the people of the area and members of society to come in a large number and make the meeting successful. It also stated that anyone from the area will be contested for the post of president and other office bearers in the ensuing elections of the society. Earlier in the executive members meeting held today, all the members in one voice decided to hold elections for the new office bearers of the Society within two weeks for which further discussion is being held in the meeting of the Society on December 10.

The executive members who were present in the meeting included Surinder Singh, Anil Malhotra, Rajiv Mahajan, Gourab Kapahi, Surinder Gupta, Sandeep Sharma, Raju Mehta, Yogesh Pandoh (Manttu), Manik Gupta, Lalit Kumar, Vicky, Yashpal Gupta and Mohinder Singh.

Prize distribution-cum-form morning held at Shri Ram Universal School

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Shri Ram Universal School celebrated the Form Morning involving students of Form 2 to Form 5 in the school campus.

The event was graced by Shamsheer Singh Manhas, former Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha as Chief Guest. Shilpa Dubey (DDC Member Vijaypur) was the Guest of Honour.

Among other prominent dignitaries who attended the function, include Gaurav Charak (Principal Humanity Public School), Anku Charak (Vice Principal Humanity Public School), Sheeba Hashmi Sr. Lecturer English Higher Secondary School Jakh, Gulshan Sharma Master Govt. Hr Sec. School Jakh, Darshan Sharma Sr Lect. Govt Hr Sec School Purmandal.

The event commenced with the traditional lighting of lamp, followed by presentation of potted plants to the guests by the school Chairman Sanjeev Gupta and Rajni Gupta, Director of the school.

Col VK Sharma (Retd), Principal of the School, extended a welcome to the guests and the parents. The principal gave an insight about the concept of how Form Morning was differ-



School management along with mdal winners during the event.

ent from Annual Day Function organized by other schools.

Soon the somber environment got transformed into a vibrant digital landscape adorned with creative pop-ups that reflected our obsessive and compulsive usage of popular social media platforms. The mesmerising show was based on the theme social media with the tagline - "Experiencing Life Unplugged" trying to drive home the message about how happy the life was prior to the entry of various interactive digital platforms whereby each individual immaterial of age is lost in the virtual world.

The young Shriites tried to convey the virtues and values of social media in very novel ways. The extravaganza included some scintillating dance performances and absorbing musical performances by the amateur Shriites that left the audience spell bound. The Chief Guest acknowledged the remarkable contribution made by the School Management to providing an unmatched platform for the children of the region for their all-round growth. He advised the students to strive hard to be successful and make optimal use of the available state of art infrastructure and highly professional teachers. The Chief Guest gave away the prizes to the students and conveyed his best wishes to the students for their future endeavours. The core value song which represents "Shriiculture was the last item of the programme, Shivani Vaid Sharma, Headmistress of the school presented the vote of thanks.