

# People of J&K have natural connect with Modi: Dr Jitendra

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "People of Jammu & Kashmir have a natural connect with PM Modi".

This was stated here on Monday by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh while speaking to media during the on-the-spot final review of arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme at Maulana Azad Stadium here tomorrow.

The Minister was accompanied by senior officials of Govt of India and a team of J&K UT administration led by Divisional Commissioner Jammu.

"There is a huge amount of excitement on the eve of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu tomorrow, with the people eagerly awaiting his arrival", said Dr Jitendra Singh here. He said virtually every citizen of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir wants to be a part of the programme.

The Union Minister was speaking after reviewing arrangements for the Prime Minister's programme being held at M.A. Stadium in the city. Dr Jitendra Singh was briefed by the officials of the civil administration and security agencies about the elaborate and necessary arrangements being made for Sh Modi's public programme. "I am glad that both the society and the administration have got together to make adequate arrangements for it", he said.

The Minister said people from all over the UT are coming to participate in the event, particularly from ten districts of Jammu region. He informed that the people hailing from far flung districts, including Poonch, Kishtwar and Ramban, who will attend the programme will arrive in the city either tonight, whereas those



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, accompanied by senior officers of Central and UT governments, taking final review of arrangements for PM Modi's programme at M.A. Stadium, Jammu on Monday.

from neighbouring districts like Kathua and Samba will reach the venue tomorrow morning.

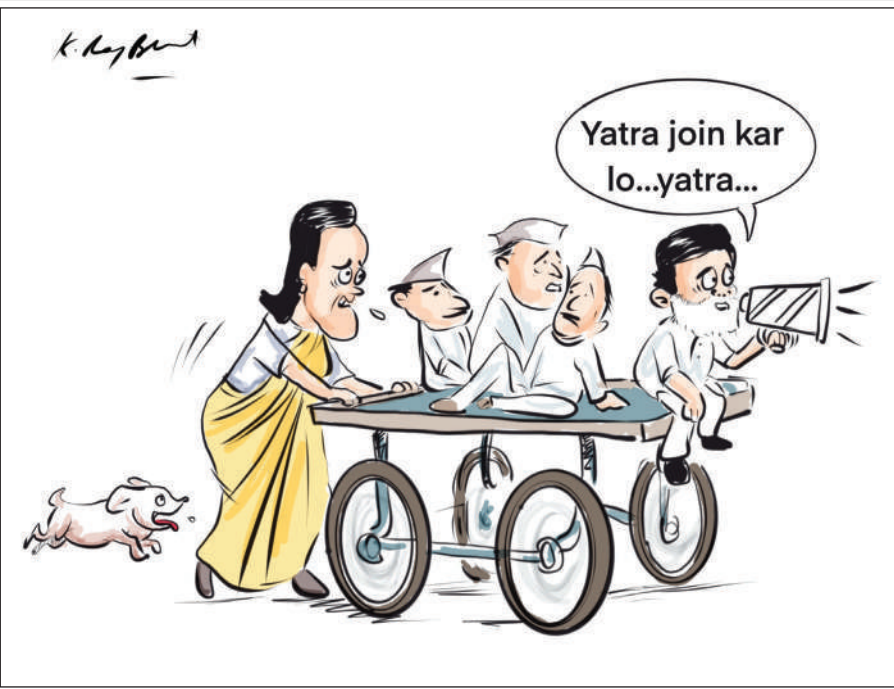
Dr Jitendra Singh said adequate arrangements with regard to accommodation, provision of refreshments and sanitation facilities for the invitees have been made so that they can attend the programme in a comfortable manner.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Prime Minister will inaugurate projects worth more than 30,000 crore rupees. He said these projects have been executed by the four minis-

ters of the government of India, namely Ministries of Education, Civil Aviation, Railways and Petroleum.

The Union Minister reiterated that Prime Minister Modi has accorded high priority to the infrastructure development of J&K. He said the establishment of two AIIMS, IIM, IIT and IIMC in the Union Territory is evidence of the huge amount of priority Prime Minister Modi gives to Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that the biggest ever development package for J&K in the last 70 years was granted by Mr Modi soon after taking over as the Prime Minister. Immediately after becoming the Prime Minister, Mr Modi was confronted with flood situation in the UT, and he navigated through the calamity, Dr Singh added. He said Mr Modi has not only given a huge amount of physical and financial support to the development of the region, but has also sought to break away the mental barriers that existed by bringing about the Constitutional changes which happened on the 5th and 6th of August, 2019, helping in mainstreaming of the UT.



## JKTPO generates sales worth Rs 1.3 Cr at Surajkund Intl Mela

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

FARIDABAD (HARYANA: Jammu and Kashmir pavilion received overwhelming response at the 37th Surajkund International Mela, held at Faridabad, Haryana while serving as a dazzling canvas displaying the grandeur of J&K's unique art and cultural heritage in various forms.

Under the aegis of Industries and Commerce Department, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) curated a spectacular display with 21 stalls dedicated to exceptional and world famous Handloom and Handicraft products of the UT. These stalls showcased the essence of J&K through major attractions such as pashmina shawls, Kani shawls and sozni artwork, hand-embroidered garments including pheran, colourful paper mache products, handmade silk carpets adorned with intricate patterns and other unique products. The visitors not only had the chance to witness these exquisite products but also engaged with the artisans themselves.

The JKTPO stalls became a hub of storytelling, where the dedication of craftspeople and the narratives behind each creation were shared with enthusiasm, creating an immersive experience for the attendees.

The Surajkund International Mela is a prestigious event on the international tourist calendar, attracting over a million



visitors, including thousands of foreign tourists. It is renowned as the largest crafts fair globally, showcasing the richness and diversity of India's handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric. Organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism, in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs, the 37th edition had the State of Gujarat as the Theme State. With participation from at least 20 countries and all states of India, the mela celebrated cultural exchange on a grand scale.

Highlighting the importance of preserving heritage crafts, the mela dedicated a special section to showcase traditional skills that are fading away due to machine-made imitations. Renowned national and international folk artists and cultural groups graced the open-air theatres, providing captivating performances throughout the event.

The JKTPO pavilion drew thousands of craft enthusiasts, generating sales worth Rs. 1.3

crore and 450 number of leads. The sales and leads together will facilitate generation of regular and ever expanding annual business for the artisans and entrepreneurs, thus creating a positive impact on economy of Jammu and Kashmir on long term basis. Riding on such successes, and recent astounding culmination of Jammu Trade Fair 2024, the JKTPO is gearing up for the mega JK Trade Show 2024, scheduled to take place in Srinagar in the coming months at scenic Government Arts Emporium Garden.

JKTPO has been at the forefront of advocating for local products, assisting artisans and nurturing business initiatives in J&K. It has actively participated in 15 exhibitions and trade fairs during the current financial year. Additionally, JKTPO has taken a leading role in arranging Buyer-Seller Meets, Business conclaves, and other initiatives to enhance market connections and opportunities for business entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Shiv Sena urges implementation of excise policy in letter and spirit



J&K Shiv Sena President Manish Sahni after submitting memorandum at Excise Department.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray (UBT) J&K President Manish Sahni on Monday submitted a memorandum to Excise Department to implement the Excise Policy 2024-2025 in letter and spirit.

He said that earlier distance of liquor shops from

educational institutions (from nursery class onwards) and religious places was by 500 meters. But it was later reduced to 200 meters and then 100 meters. And, now it has been reduced to 50 meters only, said Sahni, urging that though distance of 50 meters is quite less in city of temples still a compromise

on this will create a bad taste among the masses shattering their faith on the government.

Sahni further alleged that liquor is being sold above the rates fixed by the government though Excise Department is there to check the overcharges. This time the government has imposed huge fine and punishment over the overcharging giving a strong and strict signal to the department to curb the menace of overcharging.

Sahni said that the conversation with the officers of Excise Department was very positive and he hopes that our suggestions will be taken seriously.

President Women Wing Meenakshi Chhibber and General Secretary Vikas Bakshi also accompanied J&K Shiv Sena chief Manish Sahni.

## KVIB releases Rs 38.85 Cr margin money for establishment of 1606 units, employing 12260 persons



Chairperson KVIB Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat chairing a meeting.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson, J&K Khadi Village and Industries Board (KVIB), Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, on Monday convened performance review meeting of the board at Civil Secretariat here.

Dr Jagdish Chander, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, J&K KVIB, senior officers besides district level officers of the Board of Jammu division attended the meeting.

The meeting was informed that during the current financial year, a margin money of Rs. 38.85 crore has been released by J&K

KVIB for establishment of 1606 units thereby creating employment opportunities for 12260 persons. It was further informed that nearly 40% of the total cases settled during the current financial year are of women entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat emphasised for streamlining and easing application processing so as to give fillip to entrepreneurship in UT of J&K.

Reiterating government's commitment towards providing employment opportunities to aspirant entrepreneurs/unemployed youth, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat asked the district officers to undertake awareness and sensitisation campaigns so that more and more aspirants can avail benefits of employment generation programmes being implemented by the Board. She added that employment generation programmes like PMEGP and JKREGP have been devised to encourage entrepreneurship, empowering individuals to start their businesses and contribute towards economic diversification.

Referring to large number of cases pending at financing banks, she exhorted upon the concerned officers to follow up and ensure that the cases are processed as per timelines fixed in the guidelines.

The Chairperson emphasized the need for improved collaboration among bankers and implementing agencies to ensure that the benefits of employment generation programmes viz. PMEGP and JKREGP percolate to the target population.

## STD, ICAI organise Capacity Building Programme on GST

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir State Taxes Department (STD) in collaboration with Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on Monday organised a day long Capacity Building Programme on various provisions of Goods and Service Tax for State Tax Officers (STOs) at Excise and Taxation Complex here.

The programme was inaugurated by Commissioner, STD, Prediman Krishen Bhat in presence of Additional Commissioner (Administration & Enforcement), Jammu, Namrita Dogra and Additional Commissioner, (Administration & Enforcement), Kashmir, Shaheer Maqbool.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said that audit is very important component of taxation system and all the officers should be well versed with accounting



Commissioner STD, Prediman Krishen Bhat and others during the programme.

principles and other accounting procedures. He remarked that our audit observations should be based on facts, so that they can't be challenged.

Sharing his experience, the commissioner said that tax officers, who conducted audits, should be trained with the process and hoped that the workshop will clear all their doubts and make their understanding about this subject very clear.

The Commissioner highlighted that the session has been arranged to enhance subject knowledge of officers which will prove fruitful and sharpen their skills to learn new things.

In his address, Namrita Dogra expressed gratitude to ICAI representatives and said that this programme not only enhances the productivity of tax officers of the department but also promotes significant partner-

ship between the Chartered Accountant community for larger economic growth of the nation.

During the programme, resources persons from ICAI delivered interactive and informative lecture for STOs on various provisions of GST and its related aspects.

In the first session, ICAI's resource person, CA Archana Jain delivered interactive lecture on Audits, types of tax Invoices, debit and credit notes and thoroughly covered all aspects of Audit with live examples. She stressed on cross checking of all the invoices for proper scrutiny and strict to the laws written in rule books.

In the second session, CA Tarun Arora covered Input Tax Credit (ITC) and explained all the components attached with ITC. He deliberated in detail on scrutiny and analysis of ITC under GST.

## SLEC discusses RGSA Annual Action Plan for FY 2024-25

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Level Executive Committee (SLEC) headed by Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Monday reviewed the progress made during current financial year under RGSA and also discussed the Annual Action Plan under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) for FY 2024-25.

Secretary RDD emphasized the critical need to expand the Panchayat infrastructure and enhance the quality of capacity and training programs, ensuring tangible outcomes. Dr Shahid directed the formulation of a robust framework involving line department Heads of Department (HODs) to facilitate capacity-building initiatives aimed at comprehensively understanding RGSA schemes. He also emphasized the imperative need to develop the governance capabilities of PRIs, highlighting the pivotal role of elected representatives in driving SDG-oriented initiatives. Secretary RDD also stressed the need to enhance the capabilities of Panchayats for inclusive local governance, emphasizing the optimal utilization of resources and alignment with complementary schemes.

A detailed presentation by Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, highlighted the progress of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and suggested measures for further improvement.

These measures included training programs, ISO certification of Panchayats, and the use of e-applications.

The meeting was also attended by Director RDD, Kashmir; Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director RDD Jammu, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali; Director, Youth Services & Sports J&K, Subhash Chandra Chibber; Director, Social Welfare Department Jammu/Kashmir; Director School Education Department, Kashmir; Tassaduq Hussain Mir; Director School Education Department, Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma; Director Health Services Kashmir; Mushtaq Ahmad Rather; Director Health Services, Jammu, Additional Secretary Animal Husbandry, Latif Choudhary, Joint Director Planning Kamal Kumar Sharma; Deputy Secretary RDD, Sheetal Pandita, representatives from IMPARD and others also present on the occasion.

## Insertions made in the text of Preamble of Constitution don't violate "Doctrine of Basic Structure of COI

**But are amendments to Art 74 of COI by 42nd & 44th Acts of 1976 & 1978 with in "Basic Structure Doctrine" ?**

**Kesavananda Bharti case 13 Judge Constitution Bench Judgement had unfolded "Doctrine of Basic Structure" in 1973**

### ■ DAYA SAGAR

Even Art 368 has been amended , First < Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1971 s3 where under "Procedure for amendment of the Constitution" was substituted with the text Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and procedure therefor , (w.e.f. 5-11-1971); Clause- 1 inserted by s3 ; Art. 368 re-numbered as cl. (2) thereof by s. 3, ibid. (w.e.f. 5-11-1971; Clause -3 was added " Nothing in article 13 shall apply to any amendment made under this Article " inserted by the Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1971, s. 3 (w.e.f. 5-11-1971). Second vide s 55 of the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, s. 55 (w.e.f. 3-1-1977) were . added Section 4 { No amendment of this Constitution (including the provisions of Part III) made or purporting to have been made under this article [whether before or after the commencement of section 55 of the Constitution (Forty-second

Amendment) Act, 1976) shall be called in question in any court on any ground} and Section-5 (For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that there shall be no limitation whatever on the constituent power of Parliament to amend by way of addition, variation or repeal the provisions of this Constitution under this article.) but Section-4 has been declared invalid by the Supreme Court in Minerva Mills Ltd. and Others Vs. Union of India and Others 1980 where Section -4 has been held valid in terms of doctrine of basic structure of Constitution.

Similarly Art 74 (1st edition 1949 Art-74 said <" {Art-74(1) There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. (2) The question whether any, and if so what advice was tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court.">) of the constitution of India has been amended two times First 42nd Amendment Act of

1976 and Second vide 44th Amendment Act of 1978 ( The text <" There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions"> has been replaced by <" (1) There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice: [Provided that the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration. > ) where under the authority/ status of President of India as preserver, protector and defender of constitution in terms Oath taken by President under Art 60 ( Original Art-60 < - "I,



### A Look through the Mist Part-II

A.B., do swear in the name of God that I will faithfully execute the office solemnly affirm of President (or discharge the functions of the President) of India and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India." > ) has been very much "diluted" since President after that has to act only as per the advice of Council of Ministers where as in the original article President was not obliged to necessarily go only by the advice of the Council of Ministers but had the capacity to over rule even the parliament in case there were fears of damage to the basic structure of COI. Such like amendments surely are against the doctrine of basic structure of Constitution of India. Since the 42nd and 44th amendments to

Constitution of India involve a big question of the status and authority of the President to perform the role as a part of Parliament of India in terms of Art -79 ( Art 79 <"Constitution of Parliament-There shall be a Parliament for the Union which shall consist of the President and two Houses to be known respectively as the Council of States and the House of the People"> ) and as a preserver, protector and defender of Constitution of India (Original Art-60 < - "I, A.B., do swear in the name of God that I will faithfully execute the office solemnly affirm of President (or discharge the functions of the President) of India and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India." > ) such like amendments surely need review by supreme court of India before any unwanted events against the doctrine of basic structure take

birth Kesavananda Bharti case 13 Judge Bench Constitution Judgement professed and held that although all parts of constitution including Fundamental Rights were not outside Parliament's amending power, the "basic structure" of the Constitution can not be distorted even by a constitutional amendment. Hence the Judiciary can strike down any amendment made by Parliament that is against / in conflict with the " basic structure" of Constitution which has been the spirit of the judgement in Minerva mills case (1980) using the Basic Structure doctrine where inserting Section -4 in Art 368 by constitutional amendment was held invalid. Although the Kesavananda Bharti case 13 Judge Constitution Bench Judgment had not provided any relief in favour of the petitioner but had unfolded the Doctrine of Basic Structure of Constitution of India.

(The author is a Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K Affairs).