

J&K Raj Bhawan celebrates Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram Statehood Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan on Tuesday celebrated the Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha conveyed his hearty greetings and best wishes to the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on the occasion of their Statehood Day.

"I pray for the health, happiness and prosperity of the people and rapid development of these states," the Lt Governor said

He said the celebration of the auspicious occasion will



LG Manoj Sinha addressing during a function organized by Raj Bhawan to celebrate Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

further strengthen the socio-economic and cultural bond shared by Jammu Kashmir with the North Eastern states. Arunachal Pradesh and

Mizoram are the symbol of India's rich cultural heritage. The glorious legacy of literature, folk, art, festivals, sports, handicrafts of both the

States is the reflection of the unity in diversity of this great nation, the Lt Governor observed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has removed

the development gaps and connected the aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram with the aspirations of the nation, he said.

The Lt Governor also paid homage to the great personalities of the Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. I am confident that the younger generation will play an important role in realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Lt Governor further added.

Security forces Personnel and students from Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram living in J&K were the special invitees.



J&K beneficiary of 'Modi Ki Guarantee' of 2013: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "While the whole world today hails the credibility of 'Modi Ki Guarantee', Jammu & Kashmir is a beneficiary of "Modi Ki Guarantee" of 2013. J&K was among the first to receive 'Modi Ki Guarantee' at that time when during a public rally at the same venue Maulana Azad Stadium, Narendra Modi, who was yet to become Prime Minister then, had promised to open the doors of higher education for the youth of J&K and start IIT, IIM like institutions here and the promise is being realized today under his rule as PM".

This anecdote was narrated by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in his introductory speech at the MA Stadium here during PM Modi's rally. The providential recall left all the spectators amused and impressed.

Dr Singh hailed the world's most popular leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inaugurating, dedicating to the nation and laying the foundation stone of 220 projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore in a public function at the Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh delivering introductory speech at PM Modi's rally at M.A. Stadium, Jammu on Tuesday.

Dr Jitendra said, the projects relate to several sectors including health, education, rail, road, aviation, petroleum, civic infrastructure, among others and added that this reflects the highest priority Prime Minister accords to Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Singh said, soon after taking charge as Prime Minister in May, 2014, Modi had inaugurated the Mata Vaishno Devi Rail Katra Railway Station. The Minister also recalled that immediately after becoming

the Prime Minister, Modi was confronted with a flood situation in the UT, and he not only navigated through the calamity, but also spent his Diwali with the victims of the flood.

Dr Jitendra 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.

Referring to the developmental projects under Prime Minister, Dr Jitendra said, world's highest rail bridge, the Chenab Rail Bridge in the Reasi district of the Jammu, Asia's longest road tunnel, Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, also known as Patnitop Tunnel, North India's first River Rejuvenation Project Devika, North India's first Bio-tech Park and the Aroma Mission, which triggered the gainful Agri-StartUps are example of Prime Minister Modi's Vision and affection for the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

He pointed out that the Shahpur Kandi Project which had been stalled for several decades and it was the personal intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which enabled this anomaly to be corrected and the Indus Waters Treaty which was signed by the then Prime Minister in 1960 has been truly followed in letter and spirit only after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, as the major part of India's share of water from river Ravi was flowing into Pakistan.

Dr Singh said, social justice

was also accorded the highest priority by Modi Government and all sections of society like Gujjar-Bakarwal, Pahadis, women, Kashmiri Pandits all got their due rights.

Dr Jitendra said, the abrogation of Article 370 proved that "Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai". Similarly, after a wait of 500 years, people got a chance to visit Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. The Minister reiterated that "Modi's Guarantee is pure Guarantee".

He recalled that in December, 2013, in a Public Rally at the same Maulana Azad Stadium, Shri Narendra Modi promised to open the doors of higher education to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and the dream has been realized under his rule since May, 2014.

Dr Jitendra said, in the "Sankalp se Siddhi" and developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir, a Viksit Jammu and Kashmir all are equal partners and when the country celebrates the 100 years of its Independence in 2047, Prime Minister Modi's vision of the Jammu and Kashmir will shine like a crown in Bharat Mata's head.

Kashmir reels under snowfall, KPDCL engaged in restoration work

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Normal life has gone down the track after heavy snowfall was recorded for the first time in the Kashmir Valley during this season. Srinagar and other plains have been also receiving heavy snowfall since morning.

Due to heavy snowfall, far-flung and hilly areas have been cut off from district headquarters and many important roads stand closed and power supply in these areas has been disconnected due to heavy snowfall.

Meanwhile, Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mussarat Islam, on Tuesday said that KPDCLs frontline workers are fully geared up in post-snow restoration works, even as heavy snow has caused disruptions, especially in North Kashmir districts and some parts of South Kashmir.

In a statement released to the press, the MD said five 33 KV feeders out of 120 are presently under fault, while 76 out of 1118 HT 11 kV feeders are down, in view of heavy snowfall in parts of Electric Divisions Handwara, Baramulla and Kupwara, where damage to power infrastructure due to heavy snowfall has also been reported.

"Five 33 KV feeders under fault have been reported from North Kashmir districts of Kupwara and Baramulla. Efforts are on to restore the feeders but



the same would require road connectivity especially in those districts where upper reaches have been cut off due to snow," he said, urging consumers residing in these areas to exercise patience.

The statement added that 33 KV Gurez Line has been charged partially while as 33 KV tap lines Keran, Machhil and Tangdar is under fault. Similarly, 33 KV Wanpoh-Qazigund line is also charged partially. In 11 KV category,

39 out of the 76 feeders are under fault in Baramulla and Kupwara Districts, while as 12 in Budgam, 08 in Shopian-Pulwama. 05 feeders each are under fault in Srinagar and Anantnag-Pulwama districts, the statement added.

He further stated that all feeders in the capital city Srinagar are operational, along with majority of the 11 KV feeders in other districts like Ganderbal, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Shopian. MD KPDCL also directed SEs of O&M Circles and Executive Engineers of all Electric and STD Divisions to personally monitor restoration measures following heavy snowfall. He also emphasized upon the Sub Divisional Officers to ensure that the field workers take all safety measures by using safety gadgets (PPE) like helmets, gloves, harness belts, and using earthing roads while restoring power supply.

Presently, all Executive Engineers of Sub Transmission Division in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Sopore, Bijbehara are monitoring the status of Receiving Stations across Kashmir Division, the statement said.

MD urged the consumers to follow KPDCL's official media handles to get regular updates about restoration works currently underway. He said the figures will be updated in the evening and shared on its official social media platform.

SARAS Mela draws to a close: JKRLM celebrates empowerment of women entrepreneurs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The second edition of Saras Aajeevika mela Jammu a celebration of livelihoods, empowerment, and cross-cultural exchange, came to a grand conclusion on Tuesday at Bagh-e-Bahu in Jammu with overwhelming public participation.

The event, organized by the Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), showcased the talent and resilience of over 220 rural women from 15 different states, who actively participated in this grand affair.

The Mela was a true celebration of livelihoods and empowerment, highlighting the outstanding craftsmanship in handloom, handicrafts, and culinary arts from various corners of India. Visitors had the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of products, including exquisite handloom textiles, intricate handicrafts, and a delectable array of regional cuisines. The Mela which began here at the iconic Bagh-e-Bahu on Feb 10 continued till today, offering the visitors a myriad collection of hand made products and cuisines from across the country. .



Speaking at the concluding ceremony, Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib said that Saras Aajeevika mela serves as a platform for women from rural India to exhibit their skills and creativity, providing them with a significant opportunity to showcase their talent and entrepreneurial spirit. The event truly embodies the essence of empowerment and cross-cultural exchange, she asserted. "It provides a unique avenue for different states to come together, fostering mutual learning and promoting cultural harmony. The exchange of ideas, techniques, and designs is expected to give rise to innovative collaborations and creative synergies", she added.

The MD extended heartfelt gratitude to Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, for gracing the occasion with his presence, noting that his support served as a significant boost of encouragement to all participants. She also commended Commissioner Secretary RDD, Dr Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary for his visionary leadership throughout the event. She also extended sincere gratitude to all the participants, visitors, and various line departments who contributed for making Saras Aajeevika Mela Jammu a grand success. Emphasizing the importance

of Saras Aajeevika Mela, Additional Mission Director JKRLM Jammu, Mridhu Slathia, said, Saras Aajeevika exemplifies the collective efforts towards promoting women artisans and providing them with opportunities to thrive in a competitive market. By nurturing their talents and facilitating market access, this event instills confidence and economic independence among rural women, contributing to the overall development of the region.

The closing ceremony was attended by Additional Mission Director JKRLM Jammu , Mridhu Slathia, State Project Managers JKRLM, District programme Managers JKRLM ,Block Programme Managers JKRLM besides other officers and officials from the line departments.

It is to mention here that the Saras Aajeevika Mela 2.0.was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary on 11 February 2024. This was the second edition of Saras Aajeevika Mela organized in Jammu, where SHG women from across the country showcased their handicraft and handloom products along with regional culinary delights.

PM Modi inaugurates IIM Jammu Campus

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the state-of-the-art campus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) on February 20th, 2024, during his visit to Jammu.

Spread across 200 acres of land in Jagti, the campus reflects the Institute's commitment to providing high-quality management education and fostering inclusivity.

The momentous occasion was graced by the esteemed virtual presence of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Jammu, along with Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy, Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of the Union

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament, and distinguished guests. This event symbolizes a significant milestone in the Institute's unwavering pursuit of academic excellence and inclusivity.

A short film on the "Making of IIM Jammu: Brick by Brick," was shown.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing enlightenment, and auspiciousness, followed by a soul-stirring rendition of Saraswati Vandana by artists from JKAACL, invoking the blessings of the goddess of knowledge, wisdom, and the arts.

Padma Shri Dr. Milind K Kamble, Chairman of the Board of Governors, elo-



PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurating state-of-the-art campus of the IIM from Jammu.

quently captured the significance of this momentous occasion with his profound words, emphasizing, "The inauguration of IIM Jammu's permanent campus marks a monumental leap forward in our collective pursuit of fostering excellence in management education."

He also emphasized the collaborative efforts with Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship, to propel IIM Jammu into the top ten B-schools in the country.

He reiterated his vision of creating world-class infra-

structure, affirming that the institute has made significant strides towards this goal. He assured that in the times to come, the institute will continue to strive for academic excellence and overall institutional brilliance.

Deepak Mukadam, Former Member, Board of

Governors, IIM Jammu fondly reminisced about the humble beginnings of IIM Jammu, reflecting on the initial days when the land was allotted. As he spoke, attendees couldn't help but marvel at the remarkable transformation that has taken place over the years. What once

was a humble hilltop has now evolved into a world-class institute, rapidly gaining recognition on the international stage.

The journey of IIM Jammu is a testament to perseverance, dedication, and the unwavering pursuit of excellence.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, expressed that today marks a momentous occasion as IIM Jammu is inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He expressed gratitude to key stakeholders, including Dharmendra Pradhan, , Dr. Jitendra Singh and Manoj Sinha, for their support and guidance to IIM Jammu.

He also acknowledged the contributions of the Forest Department of Jammu and Kashmir and the

Department of Higher Education, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. He extended heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Milind Kamble, for his contribution to the institution.

On this occasion, he also expressed his gratitude to Shriram Dandekar, Former Chairman, BoG, IIM Jammu, and Deepak K Mukadam, Former Member, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu.

Driven by its vision to develop global leaders and entrepreneurs, he mentioned that IIM Jammu is committed to the progress of U.T of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, facilitating societal transformation, economic development, and thereby contributing to the nation's progress.