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LG unveils NABARD’s..

economy for unlocking its full potential by filling the gaps vis-à-vis infrastructure, human resources and financing.

"Our next big growth story is rural J&K, and we must ensure that rural economy actively participates in this growth process. We need inter-sectoral coordination to improve infrastructure, empowerment of women & employment generation and NABARD has a vital role to play in this endeavour", the Lt Governor said.

It was informed that in J&K, NABARD has been a vital driver of the rural economy by meeting the basic needs of infrastructure under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, where under 4178 projects have been completed in the last 26 years at a cost of Rs 8457 erores, focusing mainly on irrigation and rural connectivity.

Highlighting that Agriculture & Allied sector sustains over 70% of our population, the Lt Governor also announced that NABARD and J&K's Agriculture Department have jointly planned a development package of Rs 25,991 crore to improve agricultural inputs, farmers' income through easy availability of credit, technical up-gradation of agriculture and entire agriculture & horticulture production chain.

The Lt Governor noted that this comprehensive plan was in line with the vision of the Prime Minister to double the farmers' income. 'In J&K, 36 Farmer Producer Organizations have been formed by NABARD which are benefiting about 6,000 farmers and 26 more such organizations will be formed in this financial year, decisively advancing the development of a strong base of modern agriculture and horticulture in the UT', he added.

The Lt Governor expressed hope that NABARD will work closely with the UT administration in bringing self-reliance and efficiency in the Agriculture & allied sector. He noted that this year, the UT's Agriculture department is distributing new high yield variety of seeds to about 9 lakh farmers, besides targeting to link more than 33,000 farmers with farm mechanization.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor appreciated the role of NABARD in organizing and nurturing Self Help Groups engaged in creating employment opportunities and empowering women and marginalized sections of the rural population.

The Lt Governor also urged the officials of NABARD to collaborate with Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission, and in a planned manner, devise the expansion of already established 56,000 Self Help Groups under its UMEED programme, which presently connects around five lakh women. He said the expansion will open up new horizons for them and in turn boost their economic potential.

A. K. Sood, CGM, NABARD welcomed the participants and highlighted the contribution of NABARD in J&K. Surrender Singh, General Manager, NABARD, presented the vote of thanks.

Various products of NABARD supported Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Off-Farm Producer Organization (OFPO) and SHGs were also demonstrated at the venue. Handloom and handicrafts from NABARD supported Rural Marts in Kashmir, Honey and Walnut from Ramban, Mushroom from Kathua, Mushqbudji rice from Anantnag, SHG products from Samba etc. were displayed at the stalls.

Kamal P Patnaik, Regional Director, RBI; Baldev Prakash, Convenor UTLBC/ MD & CEO J&K Bank; Doifode Sagar Dattatray, Director; Animal Husbandry Department; Krishan Lal, Director Sheep Husbandry, Jammu, besides senior officers of UT administration, bank officers, members of SHGs, NGOs were present on the occasion.

India’s position on...

global order is anchored on international law, the UN Charter and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states, he said.

Jaishankar was replying to a question in Rajya Sabha.

"India's position on the Ukraine conflict has been steadfast and consistent. We have expressed deep concern at the worsening situation and called for immediate cessation of violence and end to all hostilities," he said.

Jaishankar's comments came in the backdrop of increasing disquiet in the West over India not criticising Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and abstaining from the votes at the UN Security Council in condemning the Russian aggression.

"In our conversations with global leaders at the highest levels, we have emphasised to all member States of the UN that the global order is anchored on international law, UN Charter and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states," he said.

"Our position on the situation in Ukraine in various international fora and bodies reflects this reasoning," Jaishankar said.

He said India, at the UN Security Council, has called for an urgent ceasefire and ensuring safe passage for stranded civilians

"As conveyed in our statements at the UN Security Council and the General Assembly, we have urged an urgent ceasefire and ensuring safe passage for stranded civilians," Jaishankar said.

"We have also highlighted the humanitarian assistance extended by India to Ukraine and its neighbours at this hour of crisis," he added.

Jaishankar also noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with the leadership of Russia, Ukraine, and its neighbours as well other major world leaders since the unfolding of the crisis.

"He conveyed our considered view to all parties concerned that there is no other choice but the path of diplomacy and dialogue," Jaishankar said.

Modi spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on February 26 and again on March 7.

"In these conversations, Prime Minister expressed deep concern about the ongoing conflict and resultant humanitarian crisis. The prime minister reiterated his call for immediate cessation of violence and noted that India has always stood for peaceful resolution of issues and direct dialogue between the two parties," Jaishankar said.

He said Modi also thanked the Ukrainian authorities for their facilitation in enabling more than 22,000 Indian citizens to return from Ukraine.

The external affairs minister also referred to Modi's phone conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 24, March 2 and March 7.

"President Putin briefed the prime minister on the status of negotiations between the Ukrainian and Russian teams. The prime minister welcomed the ongoing negotiations between Russia and Ukraine and expressed hope that they would lead to cessation of the conflict," Jaishankar said.

He said Modi suggested that a direct conversation between Putin and Zelenskyy may greatly assist the ongoing peace efforts.

Jaishankar said the safety and security of Indians in Ukraine was the top priority for the government.

"Even before the hostilities began, the safety of Indian nationals in Ukraine was our top priority. Accordingly, the evacuation of Indian national was undertaken on a mission-mode," he said.

"We were able to safely bring home 22500 Indian citizens including 147 foreign nationals belonging to 18 countries, from Ukraine since February," he added.

To a separate question, Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said over 18,500 Indian nationals were evacuated from Ukraine under the evacuation mission 'Operation Ganga' from February 26 to March 15.

"Around 4,000 Indian nationals departed from Ukraine by direct and indirect flights between February 1 to 23," she said.

Lekhi said around 40 to 50 Indian nationals are still present in Ukraine, of which only a few are willing to return to India. "Their return is being facilitated by the Embassy," she said.

Adityanath to take ...

Raghubar Das, Nishad Party leader Sanjay Nishad, Ashish Patel of the Apna Dal (S) presented support letters to the Governor:

The BJP-led had won 273 of 403 seats in the just-concluded Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. While the BJP got 255 seats, its allies Nishad Party and the Apna Dal (S) bagged 18.

Adityanath's swearing-in ceremony will be held on Friday at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium here in the presence of PM Narendra Modi and top BJP leaders.

There is, however, no confirmation about names of his deputies and the number of ministers in his second term.

As per constitutional provisions, there can be a maximum of 60 ministers in UP, including the CM.

A meeting of the newly elected party MLAs was held at Lok Bhawan here in the presence of Anit Shah.

In the meeting, the name of Adityanath was proposed for the post of the leader of the BJP legislature party by Suresh Kumar Khanna.

Baby Rani Maurya, Surya Pratap Shahi and others seconded the proposal.

Apna Dal (S) leader Ashish Patel and Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad were present with their MLAs in the meeting.

Adityanath thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party's central observers Shah and Raghubar Das.

Adityanath said he had no administrative experience when he became chief minister for the first time but PM Modi and Shah guided him to provide good governance in Uttar Pradesh.

The barrier that was seen in the implementation of schemes of the Centre in the state collapsed in the past five years, he said.

"People for the first time felt that houses for the poor could also be built. For the first time, it was felt that money can go directly into the account of the poor," he said.

President appoints two...

and later enrolled on Rolls of Advocates vide Certificate of Enrollment number 42-(A)/1991 dated 22/2/1993. Having standing of more than 28 years at Bar and having conducted and conducting cases on original, civil as well as criminal side, and also on appellate and writ jurisdiction side, Rahul Bharti had conducted and handled litigation of varied nature such as Industrial, Labour, Consumer, Cooperative, Revenue, Motor Accidents Claims, Banking, Taxation (excluding Income Tax), Arbitration & Service matters.

Born on January 1, 1973, Moksha Khajuria Kazmi started practice in Jammu wing of High Court in 1996 and Srinagar wing of High Court from 1999 to till date. She is presently standing counsel for Medical Counsel of India, J&K State Sports Council, Islamic University of Science & Technology and Myasa Network Solutions. Rahul Bharti and Moksha Khajuria Kazmi were designated as Senior Advocates of J&K High Court on December 2020.

Terror funding in...

conspiracy, accused are in contact with their foreign based handlers and upon their directions are engaged in gathering intelligence on vital installations, security forces as well as identification of target locations for launching of terrorist attacks. During investigation, searches were conducted at various places across Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal and incriminating documents/ materials and objects were seized," the NIA said in the application.

According to the NIA, investigation has revealed that certain official secret document of the agency was shared by accused IPS officer Arvind Digvijay Negi with Kataria through encrypted communication channels.

The NIA further submitted that investigation is being conducted against a number of suspects including the aforesaid accused on a number of aspects which will not be possible to conclude within the period of 130 days.

In the case, the NIA court recently sent Negi to judicial custody for allegedly leaking secret documents to an overground worker of LeT.

Number of terrorists...

of peace," Singh said. He appealed to the youngsters who have joined terror ranks to shun the path of violence.

"I want to tell those who are still on the wrong path, who are being instigated by our neighbour and are carrying guns and pistols to kill innocent people, that this path is not right in any way, but will lead to destruction. Shun this path. There is a need to follow the path of development and prosperity," the DGP said.

Asked about the steps being taken for the security of panchayat members, he said security measures have been initiated wherever there is a threat assessment by security forces. "Whenever the need arises, the measures will be strengthened," Singh said.

Murder of KPs...

for reconsideration of the verdict.

The organization had initially filed a writ petition in the top court seeking investigation and prosecution of several persons in connection with murders of Kashmiri Pandits during 1989-90, 1997 and 1998.

Besides seeking other directions, it had also sought transfer of investigation of all the FIRs and cases of murder and other allied crimes against Kashmiri Pandits in the years 1989-90, 1997 and 1998 to some other independent investigating agency like the CBI or the NIA or any other agency appointed by the top court.

The organisation had said in its plea that the Jammu and Kashmir Police had failed to make any progress in hundreds of FIRs lying pending with them.

The apex court had dismissed the plea in April 2017. Later, it had also dismissed the review petition filed in the matter.

In the curative petition, the organisation has sought reconsideration of the orders passed by the apex court.

It has also urged the apex court to hear and decide the writ petition afresh on merit by giving opportunity to both the parties.

.this court was not justified at all in dismissing the writ petition at the admission stage by merely on presumption that the instances refer to in the present petition pertain to the year 1989-1990, and more than 27 years have passed by since then and no fruitful purpose would immerge, as evidence unlikely to be available at this late juncture, it said.

The petition said that communal harmony is the hallmark of a democracy and no religion teaches hatred.

If in the name of religion, people are killed, that is essentially a shr and blot on the society governed by rule of law. The Constitution of India, in its preamble refers to secularism. Religious fanatics really do not belong to any religion. They are no better than terrorists who kill innocent people for no rhyme or reason in a society, the petition said.

It said the apex court had appointed a special investigation team (SIT) in the post Godhra riots case on the petitions filed before it.

The plea said in the review petition, the organisation had mentioned that in similarly placed cases of 1984 anti-Sikhs Riots, the court had taken cognizance even after a lapse over 33 years.

If the state's machinery fails to protect citizen's life, liberties and property and the investigation is conducted in a slipshod manner to help the accused persons, it is but appropriate that this court should step in to prevent undue miscarriage of justice which is perpetrated upon the victims and their family members, it said.

The plea claimed that the top court had failed to appreciate that more than 700 Kashmiri Pandits were murdered from 1989 to 1998 and FIRs were lodged in more than 200 cases, but not even a single FIR has reached to the stage of filing of charge sheet or conviction.

J&K Arms License...

Dayal Khajuria (Khajuria Arms) were also searched by the officers of ED and many incriminating documents revealing transactions between arms dealers/brokers with Govt. officials were obtained. It is revealed that many Senior Bureaucrats

of J&K are involved in criminal practices of issuance of Arms license in lieu of monetary considerations. The officers and officials of the Districts in connivance with private person(s) and others had fraudulently and illegally issued the gun licenses.

Sources of information revealed that a well-knit nexus was being run by the arms dealers/independent brokers/agents and Judicial clerks and Deputy Commissioner and Additional Deputy Commissioner of various districts and they has issued arms licenses illegally by flouting the norms, procedure and rules governing the subject in lieu of monetary considerations by abuse of their official position as public servants and every one, beginning from Agents to arms dealers, had their share in this monetary consideration beginning from the broker/arms dealers to judicial clerks to DC/ADC of various districts. ED has registered the case in Arms license matter in 2020 and since then several IAS, KAS officers and other Govt officials have been summoned and investigated.

Pertinent to mention here that Rajasthan Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) and Madhya Pradesh Police had initially unearthed the scam in 2017 and had arrested over 50 people, including an IAS officer, for their alleged involvement in the illegal issuance of arms licenses. According to Rajasthan ATS, over 3,000 permits were granted allegedly in the name of Army personnel.

The CBI had recently raided in Jammu and Srinagar houses of many serving and retired bureaucrats in connection with the scam.

J&K Mission Youth...

Manoj Kumar Dwivedi. The Task Force is headed by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department while the members of the committee include Administrative Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Administrative Secretary, Animal, Sheep, Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Administrative Secretary, Horticulture Department, Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmer's Welfare Department.

Other members of the committee are Administrative Secretary, PW(R&B) Department, Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, Administrative Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, Administrative Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, J&K, Managing Director, Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited and Managing Director, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited.

2 tourists among...

Hazratbal and Shahid Ahmad of Rainawari Srinagar.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic and unfortunate road accident in Ganderbal in which two tourists have lost their lives," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said, adding, "My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families, prayers for speedy recovery of the injured. Directed district Admn to provide all necessary assistance to injured."

Meanwhile, five persons including a couple along with their minor daughter got killed when a Eeco vehicle (JK14H-0952), they were travelling in, skidded off the road and fell into 150-ft deep gorge at Santhal at around 1630 hours.

The vehicle was on way from Ramnagar towards Santhal and driver namely Praveen Kumar (27), son of Sant Ram of Kela, Tehsil Ramnagar lost control over the vehicle, due to which it fell down into a gorge about 150-200 ft deep. Besides driver Praveen Kumar, his 16-month old daughter Preeti Devi, Lakshmi Devi (7 months old), daughter of Sanjay Kumar and Bishan Dass (52) son of Tej Ram of Kela, Ramnagar died on spot. While Rita Devi (24) wife of Praveen Kumar, their daughter Shivani Devi (4), Anjali Devi (23) wife of Sanjay Kumar got injured. Later Rita Devi also succumbed to injuries at SDH Ramnagar, an official said.

"In this connection, FIR no. 45/2022 under sections 279/337/304-A of IPC was registered and investigation started," a police officer said.

The other two injured were shifted from SDH Ramnagar to DH Udhampur for further treatment. The postmortem of all deceased were conducted at SDH Ramnagar, after which bodies were handed-over to legal heirs for last rites. Further investigation of case is going on.

"Deeply anguished to learn about loss of lives in a tragic road accident at Udhampur. My deepest condolences are with bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest. Directed district Admn to provide all necessary assistance" tweeted LG Manoj Sinha.

Meanwhile Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh also tweeted, "While attending Lok Sabha business inside the House, received news of tragic road accident in Ramnagar area of district #Udhampur: Came out and called-up DC Indu Chib. Four casualties so far. Injured being shifted. Offering all required assistance by every means".

Meanwhile, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari expressed grief over the unfortunate road accident resulting in the loss of two precious lives in Hari Ganiwan area of district Ganderbal.

In a condolence message issued to the press, the party president expressed unison with the bereaved families and prayed for eternal repose to the deceased.

He also demanded special treatment to the several others who got injured in the horrendous accident. He also urged the administration to look after the construction and maintenance on the major arterials that are mostly taken up by the tourists to commute in and across the valley.

Over 182.51 Cr...

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year, with the HCWs getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of the FLWs started from February 2 last year. The next phase of Covid vaccination commenced on March 1 last year for people above 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions. The country launched vaccination for all people aged above 45 years from April 1 last year. The Centre then decided to expand the vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 years of age to be inoculated against the viral disease from May 1 last year. The next phase of Covid vaccination commenced from January 3 this year for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years. The country began administering precaution doses of the vaccines to the HCWs, FLWs and those aged 60 years and above with comorbidities from January 10. The inoculation of children aged 12-14 years started from March 16.

J&K reports 31...

in Kashmir Division), 448742 have recovered and 4750 have died; 2327 in Jammu division and 2423 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 24169956 test results available, 453626 samples have tested positive and 23716330 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 35823 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases, the Bulletin said that Srinagar reported 22 fresh cases, Budgam 3, Baramulla and Anantnag district 2 cases each and Pulwama recorded one case while no case was reported from Kulgam Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Shopian districts during the past 24 hours.

Similarly, Udhampur district in the Jammu region reported one case while no virus related case was reports from Jammu, Doda, Kathua, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Ramban, Poonch, Reasi and Samba districts during the past 24 hours

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported two fresh Covid cases, raising its tally to 28,215, officials said. The active case count in the union territory declined to 26, they said.

No fresh death was reported in the past 24 hours, the officials said. The union territory so far has recorded 228 Covid-related deaths – 168 in Leh district and 60 in Kargil district, they said.

Two more patients were cured and discharged from hospital in Leh. With these, the total number of recuperated patients reached 27,961, the officials said.

IME celebrates World Water Day at Bhadarwah Campus

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Institute of Mountain Environment (IME), Bhadarwah Campus observed World Water Day on Thursday.

The occasion marked the deliberations on this year's theme 'ground water-making the unseen visible' in Lal Ded Auditorium Bhadarwah Campus.

While introducing the theme, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Head IME, underlined the importance of ground water in supporting the earth's life support system. He emphasized the issue and constraints that these ground-water sources face, particularly in hilly areas like Bhadarwah.

In his welcome address, Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector Bhadarwah Campus and Chairperson WWD -22 emphasized upon the importance of such international days having local relevance.

While referring today's theme, he urged the audience to be cautious in conserving the quality and integrity of these valuable natural resources.

Dr. Ravinder Kumar, the resource person, spoke about the status of surface water quality and its management in Neeru watershed, Bhadarwah, J&K.

He discussed the causes and effects of surface water degradation, as well as the strategies that can be adopt-

ed to minimise water quality degradation.

Another resource person, Vandana, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the potability of springs and public water distribution sources in Bhadarwah. She raised the possibility that the spring water, which looks to be safe to drink, may include physical, chemical, and microbiological contaminants that could cause public health problems, which are on the rise in the hilly towns like Bhadarwah.

Dr. Neeraj emphasized the importance of undertaking regular monitoring of these water bodies and requested administrative support in implementing the

institute's recommendations into action.

Dil Mir Choudhary (JKAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah, who was Chief Guest on the occasion, spoke eloquently about the connection between springs and mankind, stating that the water existed long before humans.

On the occasion, Showkat Matto (JKAS), Tehsildar, Bhadarwah and Guest of Honor, acknowledged the importance of the day.

Dr. Shayan Javeed from department of Economics, IME, Bhadarwah presented a formal vote of thanks. The proceedings were conducted by Asha Sohil.

Strengthen security measures, CT Operations to prevent terrorist violence against innocent people: DGP to officers

Goyal emphasises fast disposal of UAPA cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police, J&K, Dilbag Singh and Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department, Raj Kumar Goyal jointly chaired a high level security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir and reviewed the security scenario of the Kashmir valley.

SPL DG, CID J&K, R.R Swain, SPL DG CRPF Daljit Singh Chowdhary, ADG BSF P.V Rama Shastri, IG CRPF (Ops) Sector Kashmir, M S Bhatia, IG BSF Ftr: Hqrs Kashmir R.B Singh, IGP Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar, BGS Ops 15 Corps Brig K.S Grewal, DIG CKR Srinagar Sujit Kumar, DIG CRPF

South Srinagar Mathew A John, DIG CRPF North Srinagar Randeep Kumar Rana, DIG SSB Kashmir Ranjeet Singh, SSP Srinagar, SSP PCR Kashmir attended the meeting at PCR while Range DisG and all district SSSP including PDs of Kashmir Zone along with counterpart officers of CAPFs and JKAP/ IRP Commandants attended the meeting through video conferencing. DGP J&K, while addressing the meeting, directed the officers for strengthening the security measures against terror violence.

He stressed for effective counter measures regarding terror crimes and directed for further strengthening of the

security grids. Singh directed the officers for enhancing the communication within the ranks as also between the sister agencies for desired results.

He also directed the officers to ensure best possible security measures and drills to prevent the terror incidents directed against innocent people.

The DGP stressed for strict action against the OGWs and elements involved in anti peace activities. He directed for target oriented approach of areas of domination. Singh stressed for alertness and said that no space should be given to any subversive and pro terror elements and emphasized on revisiting the listed area and improving the area domination.

Raj Kumar Goyal appreciated the coordinated efforts of J&K police and CAPFs on anti-terror front. He stressed for keen documentation and fulfilling the technicalities of investigation of cases of special nature. He emphasized on quick disposal of UAPA cases.

He also directed for putting up proposals for strengthening the infrastructure of the Police Establishments particularly those sanctioned in recent times.

The officers representing different district and units briefed regarding the security measures put in place in the areas under their command. Recent trend of soft killing and hybrid terror module were also discussed during the meeting.

