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Mall of Srinagar...

a stronger and more prosperous future for the people of Union Territory," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister for new industrial development scheme.

Within 22 months of implementation of New Industrial Policy, we have received investment proposals from more than 5000 domestic and foreign companies. Every day, 8 companies have expressed their willingness to invest in J&K, the Lt Governor noted.

A new industry is becoming operational in the UT every day. Last month, 45 industries started their operations, he added.

Prime Minister has already done the groundbreaking ceremony for projects worth Rs 38,000 Crore. Those who raised questions on employment post August 2019, should introspect what they have done for J&K in the past decades. Only Rs 14,000 Cr industrial investment came to J&K since independence till 2019, said the Lt Governor.

In the last three years, we have registered phenomenal growth in different sectors and in terms of knowledge, physical and digital connectivity, Jammu and Kashmir has performed exceptionally well in the entire country, he added

The Lt Governor invited the Industry leaders from across the world to be a part of the new industrial revolution of Jammu Kashmir.

We have broadened the economic and social base of development and are offering best incentives across the country, land for industries, skilled labour, technical support, market connectivity, national and international air cargo facilities, raw materials, cheapest power, lowest crime rate, single window clearance, ease of doing business, he observed.

One lakh crore rupees worth highways and tunnels projects are going on in J&K UT. Kashmir will be connected to Kanyakumari this year. The flight operations in both Jammu & Srinagar airports have increased and international flight connectivity has been strengthened, observed the Lt Governor.

Today, peace is prevailing in Jammu Kashmir. Days of Hartals have become history now. World has witnessed the youth and people of Pulwama, Tral, Shopian coming out of their houses in huge numbers with national flags in their hands, he noted.

Jammu Kashmir has everything to offer to maximize the immense potential of the business. This decade belongs to Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor said.

Amit Jain, CEO Emaar said the Mall of Srinagar is one of our milestone projects and we are excited about the potential of it. As Emaar group, we bring along strong relationships with leading retail brands of UAE, most of which will be launching their presence in India through this initiative, he added.

It was informed that Emaar Group will develop One IT tower at Jammu and One at Srinagar.

The mega-mall is the first significant FDI investment in Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate investments in marquee projects as per the MOU signed between the governments of the UAE and India. Launched by Emaar and Magna Waves Buildtech, the mall is set to become operational by 2026.

In January 2022, during the Investor meet at Dubai, J&K Government entered into a bilateral agreement with various stakeholders and Government of UAE to deliver over a billion dollars worth of projects in the valley. These projects include the development of industrial parks, a medical college, a specialty hospital, logistics centres, IT towers, and multipurpose towers, in addition to the Mall of Srinagar by Emaar.

Eminent dignitaries, including Kailash Vijayvargiya, National General Secretary of BJP; Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of UAE; RR Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and. Nikhil Nanda, MD of Magna Waves Buildtech were present.

Bollywood actors Vivek Oberoi and Neetu Chandra were also among those present at the 'Bhumi Pujan' and foundation laying ceremony.

Neetu Chandra, who had acted in Akshay Kumar-starrer Garam Masala', said it was her first visit to Kashmir and she has been mesmerized by the beauty.

"As a film producer, I am looking forward I will do recall here, I am planning two films with my brother who is also a producer," she said.

Will quit if...

huge wealth by indulging in corruption, are opposing the imposition of property tax in the Union Territory, he said.

"The tax money, which is of the people, will be used for the benefit of the people. It will not be deposited in the consolidated fund of the Union Territory but in the local bodies' accounts.

"But some people raise a hue and cry. Someone said tax will be imposed in villages as well. Some of them have held responsible posts. How can municipal tax be imposed in villages?" he asked.

Sinha also said that no tax would be imposed on religious places.

"But some people have a habit of saying nonsense, these people have amassed huge wealth for four-five generations by indulging in corruption. The people opposing it (municipal tax) are the ones who give Rs 5 lakh every month for their properties in Delhi and Mumbai. The people of Jammu and Kashmir do not oppose it," Sinha said.

Of the 5.20 lakh households, 2.06 lakh have an area less than 1,000 square feet.

No tax has been imposed on such households, he asserted.

It means 40 per cent of the population will not have to pay the tax, he said.

The second category is 1,000-1500 square feet for which a yearly tax of only Rs 1,000 will be imposed, and that too in some specific areas of Srinagar and Jammu cities. In the rest of the districts, it will be a maximum of Rs 700, he said.

There are 1.01 lakh commercial properties in Jammu and Kashmir. A maximum annual tax of Rs 700 will be imposed on only 46,000 of these. Rs 2,000 will be taxed annually from 20,000 properties in the cities of Srinagar and Jammu. The tax will be lower in other districts, Sinha concluded.

Magisterial inquiry initiated...

wife and two children, were also present and demanded registration of an FIR against CBI in connection with his death.

"He was gentleman and apparently trapped in a false case If for the sake of argument, we believe that he was caught accepting bribe but that does not mean he should have been interrogated in such a way that led to his death," Saparch Sanjiv Kumar, also a neighbour of the deceased, told reporters.

He questioned the silence of the agency over the death of the policeman and requested the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and central government to ensure "justice with the family of the deceased".

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shakti Kumar Pathak said the police have started inquest proceedings into the case.

"It was a CBI trap and the death happened during this process. He collapsed and was taken by a police party to the hospital where he was declared brought dead by the doctors," he said.

He said the investigation is meant to unveil the truth which ultimately leads to justice.

‘People First’ is...

highlighted the contribution of K D Maimi of Poonch as a chronicler of history and culture of Jammu Kashmir. He has dedicated his life to the preservation and promotion of the linguistic heritage of the border areas, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also voiced the suggestions of citizens including of Parul Bandral from Jammu on organizing Medical Camps in far flung areas, Uzma Arshid from Kulgam and Supinder Kaur from Miran Sahib Jammu on malnutrition among women and children.

The Lt Governor noted suggestions received from Deepak Pargotra from Samba on making Jan Bhagidari as one of the viable measures to cleanliness drive and to fight malaria and dengue in the rural areas. Faizal Aijaz from Srinagar had suggested Jan Bhagidari for upcoming G20 Summit in J&K and Ashiq Hussain Ganaie of Pulwama had written on measures to promote sprinkler irrigation facility in saffron cultivation.

The Lt Governor issued directions to the concerned departments for taking appropriate action on the suggestions received from the people. He also apprised the efforts of various departments in ensuring services and welfare of people and called for collective efforts towards prosperity and development of Jammu Kashmir.

Infant kidnapped from...

the Ramkund area of Mankote tehsil," the spokesperson said.

Further investigation is underway, he added.

Punjab on alert...

in Jalandhar district when they tried to stage a 'dharna' over the previous days' action.

These detentions are apparently not part of the arrests' tally given by police 78 on Saturday and 34 more on Sunday. Earlier, police said nine firearms have also been seized.

The state remained on high alert. Security forces took out flag marches at several places including Ferozepur, Bathinda, Rupnagar, Faridkot, Batala, Fazilka, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Moga and Jalandhar in a show of strength.

The Punjab government also extended the suspension of mobile internet and SMS services till Monday noon. The official order, which exempted banking services, said this was to "prevent any incitement to violence and any disturbance of peace and public order".

Four of the arrested men were brought to BJP-ruled Assam's Dibrugarh by a 27-member Punjab Police team accompanying them, according to an Assam Police officer.

The men, now lodged in Dibrugarh Central Jail, were identified as alleged fund raiser Daljit Singh Kalsi, Bhagwant Singh, Gurmeet Singh and Pradhanmantri' Bajekta.

"Sometimes persons arrested in one state are sent to another state's jail," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters. "We will provide them all security in the jail," he said.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, soon after the Ajnala episode. Days earlier, Amritpal Singh had also made a veiled threat to Shah.

Security has also been tightened at Amritpal's native village Jallupur Khara in Amritsar, where his father Tarsem Singh said his son may have already been detained by police.

"He faces a threat to life," the fugitive's father said. "There is no information since yesterday. We feel he has already been detained."

Inspector General of Police Sukhechain Singh Gill said Amritpal Singh is still absconding.

"Whatever the Punjab Police does in this case will be within the ambit of law. Everybody has a legal right and can avail whatever remedies are available under the law."

He said police have acted in a transparent manner and Amritpal Singh was seen escaping at the "naka" laid for him in Mehatpur.

Jalandhar Police Commissioner Kuldeep Singh Chahal called it a game of "chor-sipahi" (robbers and cops).

"Sometimes, they manage to escape. But we will soon arrest him," he said, main-

taining that there was no lapse on Saturday.

The officer said Singh's vehicle was chased for 20 to 25 kilometres. There were narrow streets and "somehow he managed to escape by changing his vehicle".

Police have now registered an FIR against Amritpal Singh and his supporters for breaking through a police checkpoint and another related to the recovery of a firearm in the vehicle found in a Jalandhar village.

Amritsar Rural Senior Superintendent of Police Satinder Singh said another FIR was registered Saturday night under the Arms Act after the arrest of seven of the preacher's associates in that district.

Police warned that strict action will be taken against anyone spreading rumours, saying it was monitoring fake news and hate speeches from different countries, states and cities.

The crackdown follows the FIR registered a day after the storming of the Ajnala police station on February 23.

The preacher and his supporters were accused of spreading disharmony, attempt to murder, attacking police personnel and obstructing public servants in discharge of their duties.

Six police personnel, including a superintendent of police, were injured in Ajnala.

Opposition parties had flagged the incident as a sign of the Aadmi Aadmi Party government's failure to maintain law and order and expressed fears that Punjab could slide back to the days of Khalistan militancy.

Dubai-returned Amritpal became the head of 'Waris Punjab De', which was founded by actor and activist Deep Sidhu who died in a road accident in February last year.

14 injured as...

A rescue operation was immediately launched and the injured were shifted to a hospital. Two girls -- Zahira and Rukhsana -- suffered serious injuries and were later referred to Government Medical College, Rajouri for specialised treatment, the officials said. A case has been registered and further investigation is on, they said.

Half of 320...

Security for everyone has been a major concern for the community, he said.

"So, this accommodation is a good component by virtue of which the minority employees would feel secure. We hope it is completed soon. We also appeal to the government to ensure security for all of the minority employees," Raina added.

Muslims in the area have also welcomed the colony's construction.

"The Pandit colony is a welcome step. We welcome our Pandit brothers to live here like we used to, showcasing the age-old Kashmiriyat," said Tariq Ahmad, a local Muslim resident.

The Kashmiri culture and Kashmiriyat are "incomplete without our Pandit brothers", he said.

"Similarly, the Kashmiri Pandits are incomplete without Kashmir," he added.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir administration, transit accommodations for the Pandit employees are coming up in Srinagar; Baramulla and Bandipora districts and about 1,200 flats will be completed by December.

The Prime Minister's Package employees had gone on strike after one of their colleagues was shot dead by militants inside the tehsildar's office in central Kashmir's Budgam district last May.

The Pandit employees demanded relocation to Jammu till the security situation in the Valley improved. The government, however, said they could not be relocated or transferred as the posts were non-transferable. The government also threatened to withhold the salaries of employees who did not join their duties.

It, however, assured that all measures for the employees' security would be taken and they would be put up in secure locations.

None will be...

spared," Kumar added. Asked how was the person provided security on verbal orders when there were directions from the MHA contrary to that, the ADGP said the police is investigating the lapse.

"Standard operating procedures are already in place and instructions are given regularly. But, the police should not provide security on verbal directions. We do not do it. We are checking the lapse in the present case and action will be taken against the officer involved in this," Kumar said.

The police officer, however, refused to describe the case as fallout of intelligence failure. "There was negligence at the level of a field officer and action will be taken," Kumar said.

Kashmir's Tulip Garden...

Pune resident Vandana Rathii who visited the famous garden a day before her return flight said that it was one of the best moments of her trip to the Valley.

"It is a beautiful experience and one of the best moments of our visit to Kashmir, to have seen the tulip garden," Rathii said.

Formerly known as Siraj Bagh, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden was opened in 2008 by then chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Azad. Azad had conceived the idea to bridge the lean tourist arrival period between the winter and summer seasons in the Valley.

RSS Chief advises...

disturb the cycle of nature. Our farmers are worried. All their demands cannot be met, so the cost of cultivation has to be reduced. This is possible only with cow-based farming," Bhagvat said.

Exhorting the farmers to shun the use of chemicals, he added, "Our land has been ploughed for thousands of years. Yet, it is still fertile. We have seen the loss of agricultural production by increasing it indiscriminately.

"Chemicals being used in farming are entering our bodies and making us sick."

Bhagvat said the government might change the policies but the farmers will have to do the work to save agriculture and nature.

During his visit, the RSS chief also stopped by the ancient historical sites from the "Mahabharata" period in Hastinapur.

Central Govt notifies Animal Birth Control Rules 2023

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, defining the guidelines for the management and feeding of stray dogs. According to this, the onus of dedicating feeding points for such community animals in their localities and apartment complexes lies with Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) and Apartment Owners Associations (AOA), respectively.

The RWAs and AOAs will have to make necessary arrangements for the feeding of community dogs and cats residing in the premises or the area.

Bearing in mind the dog / cat population in the concerned area, RWA and AOA representatives shall designate feeding spots that have been mutually agreed upon.

"These feeding spots shall be far from children play areas, entry and exit points,

staircases, and should be in an area which is the least frequented by children and senior citizens. RWAs or AOAs should designate feeding times depending on the movement of children and senior citizens. The designated feeder shall ensure that there is no littering at the feeding location. Designated feeders are allowed to volunteer to help vaccinate the dogs, and to assist the animal birth control programme by helping catch and release the animals," the guidelines said.

It also said that in case of pets, the owner of the animal shall be responsible for deworming, immunisation, and sterilisation.

In case of street animals, the local authority shall be responsible for deworming, immunisation, and sterilisation, and may engage an animal welfare organisation to carry out the animal birth control programme in accordance with the rules.

J&K Judicial Academy organises seminar on ‘Principles of Evidence with Special Reference to use of ICT Techniques’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy on Sunday organized a one day seminar on "Principles of Evidence including Electronic, Forensic and Medico-Legal Evidence (Collection, Preservation & Production) with special reference to use of ICT Techniques during investigation and trials, Adopting Strategic Courses and Identifying Best Practices".

The seminar was inaugurated by Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy.

The seminar was designed for Judicial Officers, PPs, Additional PPs, CPOs, POs, Police Officers, Investigating Officers, and Medical Officers.

Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate and Cyber Law Consultant, Delhi who has delivered several talks on the subject of

Cyber Law in various prestigious institutions of India like National Police Academy, Hyderabad, CBI Academy, Ghaziabad, CDTI Jaipur, Ghaziabad and Chandigarh etc. was the resource person.

In his inaugural address, Justice Vinod Chatterji said that in today's techno-savvy environment, the world is becoming more and more digitally sophisticated and so are the crimes. Internet was initially developed as a research and information sharing tool and in an unregulated manner: As the time passed by, it became more transactional with e-business, e-commerce, e-governance and e-procurement etc. All legal issues related to internet crime are dealt with through cyber laws.

As the number of internet users is on the rise, the need for cyber laws and their application has also gathered great momentum, he asserted. He added that though a crime free society is perfect and exists only in illusion, it

should be constant attempt of rules to keep the criminalities lowest. Especially in a society that is dependent more and more on technology, crime based on electronic law-breaking are bound to increase and the law makers have to go the extra mile compared to the impostors, to keep them at bay. Director J&K Judicial Academy, M.K. Sharma, in his welcome address, gave an overview of the programme. He said that Cyber law responds to the unique challenges of the internet and other digital technologies. These technologies have created new opportunities for criminals, cyberbullies and others who would exploit the technology for their purposes. At the same time, they have also created new ways for people to share information and ideas and connect. He also stated that Cyber laws exist to protect people from online frauds. He further said that in order to sensitize the stakeholders in the administration

of justice with regard to principles of evidence including electronic, forensic and medico legal evidence with special reference to use of ICT techniques during investigation and trials, the J&K Judicial Academy has organized this one day seminar.

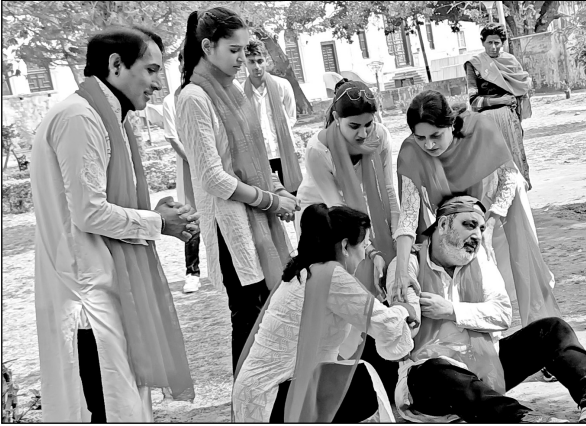
The day-long seminar was divided into two technical sessions and an interactive session for feedback.

The first technical session focused on the principles of evidence, including electronic, forensic, and medico-legal evidence, and the use of ICT techniques during investigations and trials. The second technical session covered adopting strategic courses and identifying best practices for digital forensics.

The seminar concluded with an interactive session during which the participants deliberated and discussed various aspects of the subject topic and raised queries which were satisfactorily settled by the resource person.

Shashi Verma said that whole Vishwakarma community should support Vandana Sagar Chargoitra, the newly appointed President of the wing. He also reiterated demand for granting a gazetted holiday on 'Vishwakarma Day'. Others present on the occasion included Puran Chargoitra (Vice Chairman), Rakesh Chalotra, Balwant Kataria, Ramesh Angotra, Captain Lal

Chand, Vijay Kumar, Joginder Angotra, Sham Chargoitra, R K Chalotra, Om Kataria, Ritika Chalotra , Sunita Kargotra, Parul Kargotra, Santosh Kargotra, Pushap Chargoitra, Kamini Chargoitra, Kamlesh Chargoitra, Komal Dhiman, Jyotsna Verma, Veena Chandel, Anita Verma, Veena Salgotra, Meena Malpotra, Chhelu Chandel, Naresh Kumari, Suman Lata and Shamli Kataria.



Artists performing during Nukkad Natak.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rangshala Theatre Group of Society (RTGS), Jammu staged Nukkad Natak "Nasha Mukti" at Manda Zoo Park, Mubarak Mandi and Rani Park, here on Sunday.

Organised by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Jammu and directed by Veena Dogra, Veteran Lady Actor/Director of

J&K UT, Nukkad Natak was written by Umesh Singh.

Staging of play at three places was a great success, a great applause received by the actors of RTGS from the audience presented at the three venues.

Play Nasha Mukti depicted that how consuming of alcohols and other drugs products which are being smuggled into the country is destroying the health of the youngsters.

Actors participated in the successful performance of Nasha Mukti were Chanehal Dogra, Amarjeet Kour, Nazuk Bhagat, Gautam Singh, Prity Chanjotra, Ashok Kumar, Kart Ayya and Umesh Singh. Videography/ Photography of the natak done by Sourav Bhagat, Neeraj Kumar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pradesh Vishwakarma Shaba (PVS) J&K (Women Wing) organised a mega conference on 'Women Empowerment' at Gurha Bakshi Nagar on Sunday under the chairmanship of Lakhpatri Rai (retired DC) while Neelam Bournay and Neelam Salaria were the Guests of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Lakhpatri Rai con-

gratulated organisers for holding the event and wished that women leadership will go a long way for welfare of society. Prominent speakers who shared their views on the occasion included Veena Chalotra, Nirmla Chargoitra, Sonia Verma, Sushma Verma, Ratna Chargoitra, Sonia Verma (Panch) and Santosh Chargoitra. All speakers stressed on participation of women in politics, armed

forces, sports and entrepreneurship. Vandana Sagar Chargoitra, the newly appointed President of Women Wing said that women should claim equal status by developing leadership qualities among them. "Our young girls are doing better and better in the field of education, polity, defence, judiciary, art and literature and much more is still awaited," she added.

