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far-flung areas. "I salute our doctors and Rotary Club members for their dedicated and selfless service to the people," the Lt Governor said.

He also appreciated the Health department for providing logistics and district administrations for extending all the support and co-operation. The collaborative efforts have ensured that the people of Rajouri and Poonch can avail the benefits of special surgeries without any financial burden, he said.

He urged the Rotary Club for organizing a similar special health camp for the people of Doda and Kishtwar.

State-of-the-art Health infrastructure, digital interventions, reforms introduced in the field of medical education and critical care have strengthened the healthcare ecosystem of J&K UT, he said.

We have laid special focus on four important aspects - Doctors, Drugs, Diagnostics and Delivery Mechanism. Under Sehat Scheme, the administration has spent a total amount of Rs 1735 crore on the treatment of the citizens till the first week of January 2024, the Lt Governor further said.

The Lt Governor directed the Secretary Health and senior officials to spread mass awareness on the facilities like Tele-MANAS and availability of doctors in hospitals and health centres. Institutionalised mechanism should be put in place to ensure quick response of the ambulance service, especially in far flung areas.

On the occasion, the family members of the beneficiaries of the health camp also shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to the Doctors, Rotary Club and the Administration.

Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Om Prakash Bhagat, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri; Ch. Mohd. Yasin, Deputy Commissioner Poonch; members of Rotary Club; Principal GMC Rajouri, HoDs, doctors, nursing staff and senior officials were present.

Sinha attends ‘Herath...

resolve of ‘Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi’.

Mahashivratri, which is celebrated as ‘Herath’ by Kashmiri Pandit community is an integral part of our rich cultural and spiritual heritage. May the festival usher in happiness, prosperity and well-being of all, he said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated Dr B N

Thusoo and Advocate Sunil Sethi with Gash Taruk Award 2024.

R K Bhat, President Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj, members of the organization and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present.

Modi, Amit Shah...

Chouhan and Biplab Kumar Deb -- also figure in the list which did not have many surprise omissions, as were in party's lists for previous polls, except in Delhi where four sitting MPs including Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi, former Union minister Harsh Vardhan and Ramesh Bidhuri have been dropped.

Bidhuri was recently in the news for his controversial comments against opposition MP Danish Ali. The BJP has also dropped Sadhvi Pragya Thakur from Bhopal and Union minister John Barla from Alipurduar. Union ministers Meenakshi Lekhi and Rameswar Teli have also been dropped from their constituencies.

The list of candidates for the 195 constituencies included nearly 155 seats the party had won in the 2019 polls. In this list, The party has dropped over 20 per cent of its MPs.

Seven ministers, who were members of Rajya Sabha and were expected to fight the Lok Sabha elections, have been fielded in the polls.

Jyotiraditya Scindia will contest from Guna (Madhya Pradesh), Sarbananda Sonowal from Dibrugarh (Assam), Bhupender Yadav from Alwar (Rajasthan), Rajeev Chandrashekar from Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), V Muraleedharan Parshottam Rupala from Rajkot (Gujarat) and Mansukh Mandaviya from Porbandar (Gujarat).

Announcing the names of candidates, BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde said they include 28 women, 47 persons below 50 years of age, 27 from Scheduled Castes, 18 from Scheduled Tribes and 57 from Other Backward Classes.

The first list has 51 seats from Uttar Pradesh, 24 from Madhya Pradesh, 20 from West Bengal, 15 each from Gujarat and Rajasthan, 12 from Kerala, nine from Telangana, 11 each from Assam, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, five from Delhi, three from Uttarakhand, two each from Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, and one each from Goa, Tripura, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Daman and Diu.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will fight again from Kota in Rajasthan and Shivraj Singh Chouhan returns to his former parliamentary constituency Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh, which he represented for five terms before taking over as the state's chief minister in 2005.

Union ministers Smriti Irani, who will fight from Amethi again, Jitendra Singh, Sarbananda Sonowal, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, G Kishan Reddy, Kiren Rijju, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Arjun Munda also figure in the list.

Modi had contested from Varanasi for first time in 2014 as he led the BJP to its maiden majority in Lok Sabha. Since then, Uttar Pradesh has become a saffron citadel, with the party sweeping Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the state.

Tawde said the party is confident that it would form the government for the third term under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi with a much bigger mandate.

He also said that the party has been working on further expanding its footprint across various states and also to strengthen the National Democratic Alliance led by it.

Bhopal MP Sadhvi Pragya Thakur, whose controversial utterances have drawn flak several times, has been dropped.

Bansuri Swaraj, the daughter of the late BJP stalwart Sushma Swaraj, will make her poll debut from the New Delhi seat, replacing Lekhi.

Kamaljeet Sehrawat has replaced incumbent MP Parvesh Verna from West Delhi, MLA Ranvir Singh Bidhuri has come in place of Ramesh Bidhuri from South Delhi while Praveen Khadhelwal, who heads a trading body, will contest from Chandni Chowk, edging out Harsh vardhan.

Manoj Tiwari is the only sitting MP from the national capital who has been retained. He will again contest from North East Delhi while the BJP is yet to name candidates for two seats.

Bhojpuri singer and actor Pawan Singh has been fielded from Ansool in West Bengal, currently represented by TMC leader and actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha.

The list for UP is full of sitting MPs with party leaders hinting that next lists may see some new names. The BJP had won 62 seats last time and is expected to contest from nearly 75 of its 80 seats in the coming polls, leaving some to allies.

In UP, the party has fielded former BSP MP Ritesh Pandey from Ambedkar Nagar, while Hema Malini, Ravi Kishan, Ajay Mishra Teni, Mahesh Sharma, SPS Baghel and Sakshi Maharaj are among those being repeated from their seats.

In Jharkhand, former Congress MP Geeta Kora has been fielded from Singhbhum (ST reserved).

Modi has set a target for the BJP to win at least 370 seats on its own in this Lok Sabha election and more than 400 for the NDA.

The BJP is looking to bolster its presence in southern states like Kerala, where it currently holds none of its 20 seats, and Telangana, where it had won four of its 17 seats in 2019. It has fielded actor Suresh Gopi from Thrissur in Kerala and is banking on some former BRS leaders to boost its tally in Telangana.

The Election Commission is expected to announce the poll schedule later this month and the elections are likely to be held in April-May.

Dr Jitendra, Jugal...

had defeated their Congress rivals by margins of over three lakh votes in the previous Lok Sabha polls.

While the Union minister was not available for his reaction, Sharma who was present at the party headquarters along with J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina and other leaders celebrated his candidature and thanked the party leadership for "reposing faith" in him.

"I am very thankful to the prime minister, home minister Amit Shah, party president J P Nadda and Raina for providing me another opportunity to serve the people. I will work with full dedication to ensure party's win," Sharma said.

In 2019, Sharma defeated Indian National Congress candidate Raman Bhalla by a margin of 3,02,875 votes after securing 8,58,066 votes from Jammu parliamentary constituency. He had also won the seat for the BJP in 2014 when he defeated Congress candidate Madan Lal Sharma by over 2.57 lakh votes after securing over 6.19 lakh votes.

Expressing satisfaction over Singh and Sharma's candidature from the two constituencies of the Jammu region, Raina said he is looking forward to win all five seats in the Union territory, given the massive development work undertaken by the prime minister.

"I am sure that we will win both seats of Jammu along with Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla Lok Sabha seats," he said.

A physician by profession, Singh retained Udhampur Lok Sabha seat defeating Congress's Vikramaditya Singh, the grandson of erstwhile Maharaja Hari Singh, by 3,53,272 votes.

As per officials, it was the highest margin of victory of any successful candidate in the erstwhile state. Singh had polled 7,24,311 votes against Vikramaditya Singh who got 3,67,059 votes. In 2014, Jitendra Singh had defeated former Union minister Ghulam Nabi Azad from the Lok Sabha seat by a margin of 60,976 votes. He was inducted in the Modi government as the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.

Govt releases Rs 272 Cr housing assistance for rural families under PMAY-G

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In line with the announcement of ensuring housing to rural poor in Jammu and Kashmir by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has released a significant amount of Rs 272.55 crore for disbursement among the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) through Direct Benefit Transfer. This amount included the central share of Rs 245.30 crore released by the Ministry of Rural Development recently.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, consistently reviewed implementation of the scheme for ensuring sustained efforts and targeted achievements on this account. The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has initiated a series of interventions at ground level for effective implementation of the scheme aiming at providing housing support to

vulnerable families in rural areas.

According to an official communication received here on Saturday in this regard, the Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, has disbursed Rs. 200 crore among the PMAY-G beneficiaries in last 10 days, facilitating payment of 1st installment to 3450 beneficiaries, 2nd installment to 24388 beneficiaries and 3rd installment to 9860 beneficiaries. This proactive approach of the LG administration reflects a strong commitment towards fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of Housing for All.

Significant to mention here that the department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj has been implementing the CSS PMAY-G since April 1, 2016, to provide monetary assistance to construct 3.37 Lakh pucca houses with basic amenities. Nearly, 187694 houses have been completed till date, of which, a record number of 59982

houses have been completed in 2023-24 only.

Further, 149,282 houses are at various stages of construction and the department is putting in strenuous efforts eyeing completion of ongoing houses in ensuing 06 months. The PMAY-G would fulfill beneficiaries' dream of a 'Pucca House' with basic amenities, boost their self-esteem, social status, and standard of living.

The welfare of the poor and vulnerable sections has always been top priority of the LG administration and in this endeavour, 138511 PMAY-G houses were sanctioned in June 2023 in the block level camps against a special target allotted by the Union Ministry of Rural Development, pursuant to personal efforts of the Lieutenant Governor.

As a sequel to this, the department has achieved successful saturation of Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) and Awaas Plus Permanent waiting lists, besides disbursing Rs.

1285.41 crore Housing assistance among the beneficiaries against an approved allocation of Rs 1726 crore.

To ensure comprehensive coverage, the Administrative Council, led by the Lieutenant Governor, took a significant decision to allocate five-marla land to land deprived families being covered under PMAY-G, ensuring their inclusion in the scheme. The UT Government remains committed towards providing additional assistance of approximately Rs. 400 crore to PMAY-G beneficiaries by the end of this financial year. Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhry, Secretary Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, has effectively mobilized field staff to meet scheme objectives promptly. He has initiated several innovative measures to facilitate efficient implementation, and ensure timely completion as well as quality of construction works.

2 dead, 6 injured as incessant rain pounds wide parts of Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two people were killed and six others injured in separate incidents as incessant rains pounded several parts of Jammu region for the second day on Saturday, officials said.

Over three dozen houses and other structures suffered damages due to gusty winds in the province, they said.

Suhunksha Devi, a resident of Batnass-Changa village of Bhalesa, died and her brother injured when the ceiling of their house collapsed due to a windstorm in Doda district, they said.

At least 10 other houses suffered damages in Gandoh tehsil of Doda district, and 15 more houses and other structures were damaged by windstorm in Trigam, Palmar, Mughal Maidan and adjoining areas in nearby Kishtwar district, officials said.

A fuel tanker driver was killed when he lost control and crashed his vehicle into a hillside amid heavy rain in Moud Passi in Udhampur district, they said.

Six people were injured when a boulder from a hillock hit a passenger bus at Manoor Gala in Rajouri district, officials said.

They said the bus was on its way from Mandir Gala to Rajouri and the injured passengers were rushed to a hospital. Officials said strong winds also damaged rooftops of three school buildings and a public health centre in Trigam, Kudji, Tank and Mangit in Khari tehsil, while rooftops of over a dozen houses were damaged in Sub-division Banihal, Ramsoo and Gool.

A religious school was also damaged when a tree fell on its building in the Batote area of the district, they said.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed concern over the widespread damage across several hamlets due to the inclement weather. Azad urged the Lt Governor-led administration to assess the damage and pay adequate compensation to victims.

A snowfall up to two to three feet was reported in high altitude areas including Pir Ki Gali in Poonch, Sinthan top in Kishtwar, Chatergala in Doda district over the past 24 hours, officials said.

A hail storm also hit various parts of Jammu during the day.

Parkash Singh joins as Naib Tehsildar Haveli

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Parkash Singh, Tehsildar has joined as Naib Tehsildar Haveli, Poonch in Poonch on Saturday . As per

sources, after the transfer of Naib Tehsildar Maroof Khan, Parkash Singh has joined as NT Poonch and on this occasion, he has assured to Poonch people to perform his best. Briefing media fraternity he said that has served as Naib Tehsildar at various places and now he will perform at Poonch hoping that people of Poonch will also corporate him. He has suggested to masses to visit online for any kind of services.



Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Parts of Bari Brahmna, Industrial areas, Palli Kaluchak and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Upper Roop Nagar, Lower Roop Nagar, Chinoor, Durga Nagar, Buta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 04 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to LaxmiPuran, SwarnVihar, Bharat Nagar, Ganga Nagar, Bantalab, Radio Station, BSNL, CRPE, Ayush Hospital and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 04 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Chatha, Bhour Camp, Peer Baba, Govindpura, Khandwal and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 04 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bikram Chowk, Polytechnic College, Gandhi Nagar Last Morh and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 04 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Premnagar, Thatri, Dhara, Gundoh and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 04 and 05 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bhaderwah and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 04 and 05 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Lakad Mandi, Patoli, Janipur Colony, Pamposh Colony, Ambredhar Nagar, High Court, Daily Excelsior, Statistical Office and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 05 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Dablehar, Paper Mill, R.S Pura Town, Badyal, Chowadi, Hospital and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 05 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Satyraiyan, Flora, BOP and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 06 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Channi Himmat and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 06 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Samba-I, PHE Industry and its adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 10.30 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Industry-II, Rakh PHE, Nilkamal and its adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 10.30 am to 2 pm.

27 Foresters prompted as ROs-II

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Departmental Promotion Committee headed by the PCCF (HoFF) Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department has cleared Forest Officials under different categories for promotion to the next level.

According to an official hand out, 27 Foresters have been promoted to the rank of Range Officer-II (Level- 6C). Similarly, nine Multi Tasking Staff (Class-IV) have been promoted to the post of Junior Assistants and one Junior Stenographer as Senior Stenographer.

The action of the Forest Department is in consonance with the policy of the UT Government to provide timely opportunities of career progression to the government officials, so as to motivate

them for better working and improved outcomes. It is pertinent to mention here that the department has promoted 41 Range Officers-II to the level of Range Officers-I (Gazetted Cadre) in the recent past. The promotions have been effected after a gap of more than three years at this level.

The Forest officials in general and association of employees in particular have expressed their happiness and feeling of satisfaction towards their senior officers for taking timely action to promote the officials. They have assured their senior officers to rededicate themselves for the effective protection of Forests and other natural resources of Jammu and Kashmir for the economic prosperity of people.

Div Com discusses measures for decongestion of BC Road, optimum utilisation of JDA Bus Stand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Saturday chaired a meeting to discuss measures for decongestion of BC road and optimum utilisation of JDA bus stand.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Transport Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, SSP Jammu, SSP Traffic Jammu, VC JDA, RTO Jammu, General Manager RTC and other concerned officers. Representatives of Tempo-Traveller Association were also present.

After threadbare discussion, the Div Com asked the RTO to designate departure- de-boarding Bays for busses operating on the



Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting on Saturday.

intra and inter-state routes.

The Div directed for taking the stakeholders on board for decongesting the BC Road. He directed for launching awareness campaigns by the concerned departments for making best use of the JDA Bus Stand through regulation and streamlining of parking. He also directed for conducting enforcement drives to curb illegal parking

alongside the BC Road to avoid traffic Jams.

The Div Com directed General Manager RTC for connecting with his counterparts in other states to install proper ticketing counters for passengers travelling to other states.

The stakeholders were further asked to initiate measures for full operationalisation of Inter Sate Bus Terminal at Narwal.

CAMPA panel finalizes Annual Plan of Operation for 2024-25 FY

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Forest Department has embarked upon an ambitious plan to scale up the afforestation of degraded forests in all 20 districts of J&K through Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

The CAMPA is a flagship plan under which afforestation of degraded forests is taken up by utilizing money received from different project proponents in view of diversion of forest land for these projects.

Primary focus of CAMPA is to create man made forests on degraded forest lands to compensate for the environmental loss caused by the diversion of forest land for developmental projects.

For 2024-25, the Executive Committee of J&K CAMPA finalized the Annual Plan of Operation fully prepared by different implementing agencies (DFOs).

The APO envisages to treat 9100 Ha. of degraded forest areas and other non-forest lands by taking up plantations of proposed indigenous tree species. Apart from this, 75.39 lakh low cost interventions like patch sowing, dibbling shall also be part of rehabilitation interventions.

In the APOs of 2024-25, the main thrust would be on soil and water conservation measures by harvesting the rain water to increase the water regime of those areas where water availability is low. Ponds, WHS check-dams and other such structures shall be created to harvest the rain water for wildlife protection.

A dedicated amount of Rs. 2923.58 lakh has been earmarked for next year's plan which includes thrust on rejuvenating the wetlands and

restoration of habitats in protected areas.

An amount of Rs. 978.00 lakh has been earmarked for development of nurseries to produce 109.37 lakh quality plants to be planted up in degraded forests, non-forest lands and to provide saplings to farmers and other stakeholders under TOF program.

The special thrust area under next year's CAMPA plan would be to take up the demarcation plan for forest boundary lines so as to strengthen the boundary lines to secure the forest lands against encroachments and illegal possessions.

The J&K Forest Department has created a large number of manmade forests under CAMPA plan in the last couple of years. As per 3rd party evaluation done during 2023, overall survival percentage of plantations has reached up to 65 % which is equivalent to any good plantations on national parameters.

Speaking on this occasion, PCCF & HoFF, Roshan Jaggi stressed upon all the implementing agencies to work in close coordination with common people, PRI representatives and other stakeholders for better outcomes of CAMPA works. He informed that regeneration of degraded forests, augmentation of fodder to local communities, improving the water regime through catchment area treatment plans, prevention of forest fires and removal of invasive woods would be the thrust areas for next year's CAMPA plan. He also informed that generation of livelihood to local people would remain at the centre stage of CAMPA implementation strategy. The plan shall be approved by National Authority of CAMPA, Government of India and is expected to be implemented from April 1, 2024.