

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Promising future awaits...

Jammu Kashmir this month on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day to share the resolve of Government of India to establish Gram Swaraj' across the country.

I hope that on this historic occasion, the peoples' representatives of all 4,290 Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir and every citizen will reiterate their commitment to walk on the path of self-reliance, development and peace, he added.

He highlighted how the 98-year-old shines as a beacon of hope for the elderly by running an Ayurvedic Medicine, Yoga and Physiotherapy Center for his peers, besides establishing a Senior Citizen Home and a Bal Ashram for orphans.

Sinha also highlighted the impressive stories of Sunita Devi, Sadaf Yusuf and Mehak Sharma, who are driving great positive change and exuding confidence in the society with their immense contributions.

"Our daughter Sadaf Yusuf from Anantnag, who is an IT graduate is working for women empowerment and making efforts to improve the quality of life of the women folk belonging to the deprived sections of the society. During the Covid pandemic, Sadaf had selflessly served the women, elders and students through tele-counselling. In collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, she is working on Health and Hygiene awareness programmes in the remote areas of Anantnag', the Lt Governor said.

Mentioning about Sunita Devi, a resident of Balargi village of Rajouri, Sinha observed that despite facing numerous challenges, she brought about a positive change in her life through UMEED Self Group and then went on to start a school for children from far-flung areas.

Termining Mehak Sharma of Reasi's Shapanu village as an inspiration for the women of Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha said that her novel efforts of setting up a flourishing dairy business have brought great change as it has encouraged other women from her village and nearby areas to replicate the idea.

Referring to an insight received from Vikas Sharma of Ramnagar regarding the provision of toilet facilities on the Highways, he noted that the suggestion accords well with our commitment to the construction of highway rest places and toilets.

While sharing another suggestion from Srinagar's Mehreen Altaf pertaining to the promotion and strengthening of Village and Cottage industries, the Lt Governor observed the Village and Cottage industries have been the backbone of the rural economy and highlighted the reforms introduced by the government for bringing a new revolution in the said sector.

Last year itself, the Karkhandar Scheme aimed at providing financial support and up skilling of artisans was started which has given a lot of impetus to the rural and cottage industries related to handicrafts. Apart from this, various rural and cottage industries are also being promoted through Khadi Village Industries Commission, Khadi Village Industries Board and Rural Livelihood Mission.

In the last one year, 3254 projects were assisted by the Khadi Village Industries Commission, which directly provided employment to 26,281 people. Similarly, the Khadi Village Industries Board had worked on 8500 different projects in a year and about 46,000 people were directly benefitted by providing financial assistance of Rs 190 crore. In addition to this, the Directorate of Industries of Jammu, and Kashmir Divisions have extended financial assistance of Rs 131 crore to 6299 projects and about 15,000 people engaged in small businesses got direct benefits.

To summarize, the lives of 88,170 people have been positively affected by giving benefit of Rs 386 crore under just one scheme. Instructions have already been issued to set up clusters of rural and cottage industries under SFURTI, on which work is going on at a fast pace. So far, 08 clusters have been created in the UT, he added.

The Lt Governor mentioned about the suggestion of Pankaj Atri from Vijaypur, Samba who has highlighted the need to transform the landscape of our society, by assigning dedicated spaces for the purpose of ushering youth related measures and progressive steps.

He appreciated Pankaj's suggestion regarding establishing "Student Farms" to give hands on technical training to students in agriculture and horticulture practices in every district and assured that instructions will be issued to the relevant departments for inclusion of the same in the vocational training.

Sinha also mentioned the suggestions received from Sourav Sharma from Samba, Aasief from Shopian, regarding Clean Campus, Safe Campus to prevent drug addiction and curtaining the spread of leaf miner pests respectively and conveyed his acknowledgment regarding immediate action on the issues.

Referring to the letter from Kulgam's Ehsaan Khaleeq highlighting the advantages of the recently announced pilot project of creating 'Special Women Cells' in 10 districts and calling for its extension to all the districts of UT, he called for collaborative efforts to end violence against women and linking all such special cells with self-help groups.

33,795 people have...

in Rehari, Katra, Reasi, Akhnoor and Samba in Jammu and Kashmir besides 316 other branches across the country, officials said.

They said the pilgrims have to submit an application, compulsory health certificate from SASB-designated hospitals, four photographs and a fee of Rs 120.

However, those who have registered for the yatra last year, but could not undertake the pilgrimage have to deposit only Rs 20 as fees, the official said, adding that those pilgrims who have crossed 75 years of age would be refunded Rs 100 which have been deposited as registration fee with the application last year after depositing the permit slip.

Besides PNB, the registration is also being done at designated branches of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, YES bank and State Bank of India.

Officials further said the registration and issue of yatra permit is being done on a first-come-first-serve basis for the yatra, which will culminate on the day of Raksha Bandhan (August 11).

The Amarnath Yatra was cancelled midway in 2019 ahead of abrogation of Article 370 in August that year, while only a symbolic yatra was observed during the past

two years due to the outbreak of the pandemic.

During this year's yatra, SASB has decided to put in place a daily route-wise pilgrims ceiling to 10,000, excluding those travelling by helicopters.

The board has also decided to extend the free-of-cost battery car service for the pilgrims at the 2.75 km-long Baltal to Domel stretch.

GMS Pounthal staff...

School Kathar Manwal till pending enquiry.

The case of Ashwani Kumar (Master) has been recommended for suspension by the Chief Education Officer Jammu to the Director School Education Jammu.

Court cannot act...

in history as a whole. As a history teacher, he/she has to teach in all the subjects of history, namely, Ancient History, Indian Ancient History and Culture, Medieval/Modern History, Indian Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology etc," the bench said.

Therefore, having studied and obtaining the degree in only one branch of history cannot be said to be having a degree in history subject as a whole, which was the requirement, it said.

"In the present case, the educational qualifications required have been specifically mentioned in the advertisement. There is no ambiguity and/or confusion in the advertisement providing educational qualification and the post for which the applications were invited (History/Civics).

"There cannot be any deviation from the educational qualifications mentioned in the advertisement. Once having found that the respective writ petitioners appellants herein were not having the requisite qualification as per the advertisement, namely, the Postgraduate/Bachelor degree in History, which was the requirement as per the advertisement and thereafter their candidature was cancelled, both the learned single judge as well as the division bench of the high court have rightly refused to interfere with the same," the bench said.

At 5-day conclave...

interact with the senior Army commanders and address the conference on April 21.

"During the conference, the senior leadership of the Indian Army will review the operational situation along the active borders, assess threats in the entire spectrum of conflict and undertake analysis of capability voids to further focus on capability development and operational preparedness plans," the Army said.

"Discussions on aspects pertaining to infrastructure development in border areas, modernisation through indigenisation, induction of niche tech and assessment on any impact of the Russia-Ukraine war are also scheduled," it said in a statement.

It said various agenda points recommended by regional commands will be deliberated upon by the senior commanders apart from proposals concerning improving works, financial management, introducing e-vehicles, and digitisation in the Indian Army.

As part of the conference, Boards of Governors meetings of the Army Welfare Education Society (AWES) and Army Group Insurance Fund (AGIF) will be organised, the Army said.

The conference is also a formal forum for senior leadership of the Indian Army to interact with the senior functionaries of the Department of Military Affairs and Department of Defence.

The officials said the commanders are also set to delve into infrastructure development along the LAC.

India has been ramping up infrastructure development in the border regions in view of China's building new bridges, roads and related structures in key sectors along the frontier.

India and China have been holding high-level military talks to resolve the face-off in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

On March 11, India and China held the 15th round of high-level military dialogue to resolve the pending issues in the region.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the sensitive sector. It is set to be the last Army Commanders' Conference to be chaired by Gen Naravane as his tenure as Army Chief is scheduled to conclude by the end of this month.

Jahangirpuri clashes: 2...

action against the culprits.

A large number of police personnel, including anti-riot force, were deployed in the violence-hit areas. Although shops and markets near the Jahangirpuri Metro Station remained open on Sunday, people mostly stayed indoors.

There was a heavy police deployment in C Block, the epicentre of the communal clash that left eight police personnel and a local injured Saturday evening.

Delhi Police held a meeting with members of local peace committees (Aman Committee) and asked them to appeal to the people to maintain calm.

Meanwhile, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) sought registration of FIR against those who allegedly involved children during the violence.

Police said they have recovered a pistol from one of the accused -- Md Aslam (21), a resident of a slum cluster in Jahangirpuri's CD Park -- which he allegedly used during the commission of crime.

They said there was stone-pelting and arson during the clashes between two communities. Some vehicles were also torched.

A Delhi court on Sunday sent two men, including the 21-year-old man who allegedly fired a bullet that hit a sub-inspector in the violence, to police custody.

Duty Magistrate Divya Malhotra sent Aslam and another co-accused Md Ansar to police custody till Monday, while the other 12 accused were sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

Army organises quiz competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Army organised a "Quiz Competition" for local children at Tender Feet School, Keri, in District Rajouri on Sunday. The competition was aimed at motivating children from border areas towards enhancing their knowledge base and instill competitive spirit in them.

The quiz was keenly contested by participating teams, drawn from various local schools of the area. While the students were enthusiastic to take part in the competition and wanted more such events to be conducted, the teachers expressed gratitude towards Army for its continuous support in motivating the youth and children in the AoR to achieve excellence in the various fields.

Vaishya Samaj holds meeting, discusses issues related to community

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of J&K Vaishya Samaj was held under the chairmanship of Sham Lal Langar, President J&K unit and discussed various issues related to the upliftment of the community.

In the meeting held here today, Sham Lal said that today the Vaish community in all sphere of life is establishing new standards of success not only in production & distribution but in education, arts, medicine, technology, politics, administration, journalism etc. He said in all these fields they have achieved notable distinction and registered their presence. Despite doing so much & being so helpful the community has not been given due recognition by the previous



Members of Vaishya Samaj after the meeting in Jammu.

government. The reason is simple that it is not organised. It does not speak in one voice-the united one. The UPA government has always took this community for granted and exploited it for its own vested interests, he added.

So if the Vaish Community has to save itself from the administrative harassment

and also to regain its high and respectable place again in the society, then it has to be united and be one.

Langar informed the Jammu and Kashmir body will also be framed in coming days for the welfare of the community.

Langar appealed to the community members to come forward and take pledge to

lay the foundation stone of the golden future of the community and participate in the growth of the nation and making our nation the world leader in coming days", he added .

General Secretary Varinder Gupta, Working President Kirti Gupta and other senior members of the community were present in the meeting.

Balwant Thakur promoting Indian Cinema in Mauritius in a big way

■ AGENCY

PORT LOUIS: In his mission of promoting India in Mauritius, the cultural diplomat of India to Mauritius Balwant Thakur has initiated various modes of promoting Indian cinema particularly the Bollywood in Mauritius in a big way.

Recently he released a book 'Bollywood and its global impact', started a monthly cine series, talk shows, Indian film festivals and now facilitating Indian film making in Mauritius. In a joint collaboration with Mauritius Film Development Corporation, Balwant Thakur has already envisaged various projects of mutual thrust largely aimed at promoting Indian cinema in Mauritius.

A film unit from Bollywood is already in Mauritius starring Kartik Aryan, Kirti Sanon, and Paresh Rawal to shoot action packed musical film 'Shehzadaa'. In a meeting with the unit members, Balwant Thakur assured all help in coordination with Mauritius Film Development Corporation which facilitates the shootings of foreign films in Mauritius in addition to the development of local film industry.

Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian culture which is world's biggest cultural centre headed by Balwant Thakur as its director holds many promotional events aimed at projecting Indian cinema in Mauritius.

Various exclusive festivals



Balwant Thakur accompanied by the Managing Director MFDC interacting with Bollywood actor Kartik Aryan.

including Raj Kapoor film Festival, Dilip Kumar Film Festival, Amitabh Bachhan Film Festival have already been held here. IGCIC has planned to hold a festival of Indian films shot in Mauritius. 'Chandi Sonai' was the first Bollywood film feature film starring Sanjay Khan and Parveen Babi was shot here in 1976 and then

followed series of the visits of Indian film crews to this mesmerising paradise island on earth. Interestingly the nodal body MFDC is mandated to promote film making in Mauritius and also provides subsidy to the film makers who produce films here using their locations, equipments and other facilities.

Vishwakarma Sabha constitutes Mahila Wing

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To further strengthen the organization, Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha J&K UT on Sunday constituted an ad-hoc committee of the Mahila wing of the Sabha.

The Mahila wing was constituted during a meeting of the Sabha at its headquarters at Gurha Bakshi Nagar in the presence of senior members of the Sabha including Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha President, Shashi Verma.

Vandana Sagar, Sonia Verma, Neelam Verma, Madhu Chagotra, and Renu Bala are nominated as members of the ad-hoc committee of

the Mahila wing of Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha.

Shashi Kanta Verma and Neelam Salaria are nominated as members of the ad-hoc committee of the district Kathua wing of the Sabha.

Leaders of the Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha said that the Mahila wing of the Sabha has been constituted to ensure the participation of womenfolk in the activities of the Sabha. They hoped that with the setting of an ad-hoc committee of the Sabha, the participation of women would be enhanced in the activities of the Sabha.

Speakers emphasized the need of



Newly constituted Mahila wing of Sabha.

eradicating social evils like dowry, female feticide, drug addiction, etc. They said that women can play an important role in eradicating such evils.

Speakers also stressed educating all sections of the society, especially women for the overall growth of the society and nation.

The Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha

All the accused in the case were produced before the court and the police alleged that Ansar and Aslam were the main conspirators who got to know about the 'Shobha Yatra' and hatched up the conspiracy.

This is the first communal flare-up in the national capital since the February 2020 riots in northeast Delhi which had left over 50 dead and scores injured.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Usha Rangnani said an FIR was registered Saturday under sections 307 (attempt to murder), 120 B (criminal conspiracy), 147 (rioting) and other relevant Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act sections. "In total, 21 persons have been arrested and two juveniles have been apprehended. Three firearms and five swords have been recovered from the possession of the accused," she said.

Delhi Police said the case has been transferred to Crime Branch which with the help of the district police will carry out further investigation in the case.

"One of the accused persons, Aslam fired a bullet that hit a sub-inspector of the Delhi Police. The pistol used by the accused during the commission of crime has been recovered from his possession," Rangnani said.

Aslam has also been found to be involved in a case registered at the Jahangirpuri Police Station in 2020 under sections 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code, she added.

The area remained tensed amid the police presence, with B and C blocks heavily barricaded.

Narrating his ordeal, Mohammad Aquib, a shopkeeper who stays just beside the mosque in the area, said, I was terrified to see that situation and immediately rushed to shut my shop. I was worried for my family. My wife and four children stay on the floor above the shop. All of us were so scared that we managed to have our meal at 2 am after breaking our fast."

Deependra Pathak, Special Commissioner (Law and Order-Zone 1), said, "Fourteen persons have been arrested so far and investigation is on. Further process of identification is being done based on CCTV and other video footage."

"Right now, the situation is totally under control. We have our additional force deployed here. We have done peace committee meetings and are also in touch with prominent residents of the areas. They gave assurances that they would maintain peace in their respective areas," he added.

Police said flag marches are being carried out along with foot and motorcycle patrolling across all the district. Drones were also used in the process to oversee the activities and ensure no untoward incidents take place, they added.

PALLI VILLAGERS UPBEAT...

borders post the abrogation of the special status of J and K and bifurcation of the erstwhile state in August 2019.

He had celebrated Diwali with the Army jawans on October 27, 2019, at Rajouri and November 3, 2021, at Nowshera sector in Jammu division. His last visit to Jammu and Kashmir as a state was on February 3, 2019, when he had visited all three regions including Jammu, Srinagar and Ladakh and launched projects worth thousands of crores.

Modi is also expected to launch industrial investments worth Rs 70,000 crore and inaugurate and lay foundation for some developmental projects including two power projects.

Ravinder Sharma, local sarpanch affiliated with the BJP, said the village started witnessing the transformation after the central government successfully conducted the panchayati elections in November-December 2020 and empowered the grass-roots level institutions by facilitating the three-tier panchayat raj system.

Our village set on the path of development amid free flow of funds and the prime minister's visit only speeded up some of the pending works, Sharma, who last year received the best sarpanch award on Republic Day, told PTI.

The launch of the electric bus service by the State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) from the village to Jammu and the installation of the first ATM was a long pending demand of the panchayat, he said, adding the work on providing every household with tap water was going on for the past one year.

We are feeling proud that the prime minister has chosen our village to address the nation on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day. The village witnessed a lot of work over the past one month as officers of almost all departments are either camping in the village or regularly visiting to oversee the progress of developmental works, Bunty Kumar, a local, said.

He said almost all the households were connected with the tap water and are also being provided solar panels to ensure an uninterrupted power supply.

Meena, a teacher, is also ecstatic over the renovation of the government high school building and said both the students and teachers are working together to paint the walls and classrooms with various messages.

Vikram, another resident, said the village pond was restored along with the Panchayat Ghar with upgraded facilities including computers and internet connection, while the playfields are also being developed at a fast pace.

We are looking forward for the visit of the prime minister and want every part of the union territory is developed like our village, he said.

J&K records 12...

fungus) in the union territory as no fresh case was reported since Saturday evening.

Meanwhile, the Covid infection tally in Ladakh remain unchanged at 28,239 with no new case reported in the last 24 hours, officials said.

As many as 2,773 tests were conducted in Leh and Kargil on Saturday and all the results returned negative, they added.

The Union Territory currently has eight active cases six in Leh and two in Kargil -- officials said. Ladakh has recorded a total of 228 COVID-19 deaths 168 in Leh and 60 in Kargil since the outbreak of the pandemic. A total of 28,003 patients have recovered from the disease so far, officials added.