

!! 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.

Terming Mehak Sharma of Reasi's Shapani 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 new revolution in the said sector.

Last year itself, the Karkhandar Scheme aimed at providing financial support and upskilling 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, Aasif 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 Rehri, 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

Balwant Thakur promoting Indian Cinema in Mauritius in a big way**■ AGENCY**

PORTE 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 'Shehzada'. 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 Bachchan Film Festival have already been held here. IGCIC has planned to hold a festival of Indian films shot in Mauritius. 'Chandi Sona' 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.

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

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.

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



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.

The Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha

also felicitated the newly elected vice president and general secretary of the Press Club of Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal and Dinesh Manhotra.

The Sabha also honoured the chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee of the Jammu Municipal Corporation Raj Kumar Tarkhan.

The programme was organised under the Presidentship of Shashi Verma, Vijay Kumar General Secretary PVS and all the unit presidents, their members were also present, stage was handled by Jagdish Raj.

Other Prominent Personalities who

graced the occasion are Lakshpat Rai Chairman PVS Jammu, Rattan Lal Chagotra Vice Chairman PVS Jammu & Vice President Akhil Bhartiya Vishwakarma Maha Sabha and Puran Chagotra Vice Chairman PVS Jammu.

Others members of PVS Jammu included Shan Chagotra, Rakesh Chagotra, Jagdish Kalgotra, Charanjeet Chagotra, Joginder, Amarjeet Chagotra Advocate, Ashwani Angotra Advocate Vinod Jarai and many other members of Pardesh Vishwakarma Sabha attended the said meeting.