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Govt aims to connect young generation with craft tradition: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has said his administration aims to connect youngsters with the craft tradition and provide them with training and financial assistance for its growth.

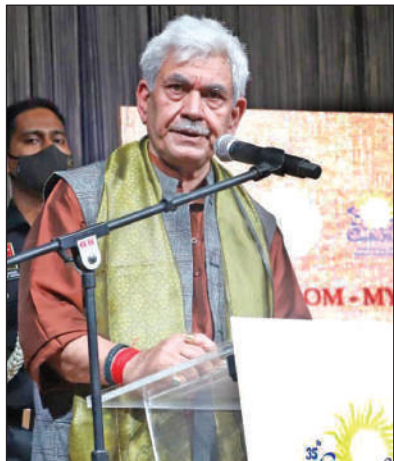
Speaking at the Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Faridabad in Haryana, Sinha said the unique cultural and artistic heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, and priceless handicrafts and handlooms evoke admiration the world over.

Jammu and Kashmir is the theme of the world's biggest fair to promote craftsmen, handicrafts and handlooms, in which around 20 countries are participating, an official spokesman said.

The Lt Governor said his administration has unveiled several new initiatives under the integrated handicraft development and export promotion scheme to expand the market of traditionally handmade products, boost employment opportunities and ensure social security for artisans.

The unique cultural and artistic heritage of J&K, and priceless handicrafts, handlooms evoke admiration world over, observed the Lt Governor.

"Our aim is to connect young genera-



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Faridabad on Sunday.

tion with crafts tradition and provide them with training, design, financial assistance and such other infrastructural support as are required for its growth," he said.

He appreciated the earnest efforts put in by everyone associated with the Mela to provide a common platform to the various regions across the country to showcase their crafts, culture, cuisine

and heritage.

The Lt Governor highlighted the endeavours of the Union Territory for promoting the handicraft and handloom sector, besides providing platforms to the local artisans at national and global markets.

Sinha noted that Jammu and Kashmir is the theme partner of the fair after a gap of 22 years with Uzbekistan being the partner country.

"I hope that the rich craft tradition of Jammu and Kashmir and mutual understanding between different nations, states, cultures and crafts persons will be deepened through such initiatives," he said.

During his visit, the Lt Governor interacted with artisans of Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated the government's commitment to provide every possible assistance to those artisans who have been hit due to global pandemic.

About 60 stalls have been allocated free of cost to the artisans of Jammu and Kashmir. During the past ten days, around 5 lakh people have already visited the Mela, especially the cultural events, paintings, and mouth-watering cuisines of J&K which are popular amongst visitors.

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LG Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

Sinha pays obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday paid obeisance at the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and released a Bhajan and Web-Series on Maa Vaishno Devi at the SMVD Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

The Lt Governor also released the biography of well-known entrepreneur, J C Chaudhry, who facilitated the making of the Bhajan

and web-series on Maa Vaishno Devi.

The Lt Governor congratulated the family members of Ramanand Sagar and CEO, SMVDB for contributing to the making of Bhajan and Web Series on Maa Vaishno Devi.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor extended his wishes on the auspicious occasion of Navratri and prayed for peace, progress, prosperity, and well-being of

the people.

Underlining the significance of the pious days, the Lt Governor said that nine days of Navratri inspire us to move towards the Vedic way of life. He said that the values of Yoga and Meditation are being adopted all across the world and people are getting familiar with different aspects of spirituality.

The Lt Governor further said that the Prime

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J&K fruit growers blame Horticulture Deptt for crop losses

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAL/JAMMU: Fruit growers of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district accused the horticulture department of having failed to provide them enough pesticides and information about disease forecast and other modern technologies, leading to loss of crops every season.

Local authorities, however, said they have not received any such complaints, and assured prompt action to resolve any issues.

Bhadarwal valley which is popular for growing aromatic plants is one of the largest

producer of apple, walnut and pears in Jammu having 5,913, 4,222 and 1,399 hectares under the cultivation of the three fruits, respectively.

Owners of the orchards said they are expecting a bumper crop this season due to increased flowering on their trees. However, they said the potential of this region was not fully realised despite the central government's focus on increasing farmers' income across the country.

"We are hopeful of a bumper crop due to

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Two non-locals shot at by terrorists in Pulwama

LeT modules busted in Bandipora, 5 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Terrorists on Sunday evening shot at and injured two non-local persons in Pulwama district, police said.

"At about 7.15 pm, terrorists fired upon two non-local persons namely Dheeraj Dutt and Surinder Singh -- both residents of Pathankot, Punjab, at Nowpora in Litter area of Pulwama," a police official said.

He said they were shifted to District Hospital Pulwama in injured condition, where from Singh was referred to SHMS hospital in Srinagar. Further details are awaited,

the official said.

Meanwhile, two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) modules were busted and five militant associates were arrested in Bandipora district, police said.

Based on specific information, police along with security forces arrested four terrorist associates in the north Kashmir district, a police spokesman said.

He identified them as Irfan Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Ashtangoo, Irfan Ahmad Jan, a resident of Qazipora, Sajad Ahmad Mir and Shariq Ahmad Mir, both residents of the Arin area of

Bandipora.

Two Chinese grenades and incriminating material were recovered from their possession, the spokesman said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that they were involved in providing mobile sim cards and logistic support to active terrorists in the district, he said.

A case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation into the matter is in progress, the spokesman said.

In another incident, police along with security forces arrested one terrorist associ-

ate at a checkpoint in the Rakh Hajin area of Bandipora.

He has been identified as Irfan Aziz Bhat, a resident of Hajin, the spokesman said.

One Chinese grenade was recovered from his possession, he said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested accused was in close contact with Pakistan-based terrorist Umer Lala and was directed to carry out terror attacks in the Hajin area, the spokesman said.

Bhat was also in contact of the killed terrorist

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J&K records 20 fresh COVID cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday reported 20 fresh cases of COVID-19, taking the infection tally in the union territory to 4,53,813, officials said here.

Of the fresh cases, five were from Jammu and the rest from Kashmir division, they said.

Fifteen of the total 22 districts in the union territory did not report any fresh case.

There are 167 active cases of the disease in the union territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,48,896, the officials said.

The COVID-19 death

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BJP follows 'justice for all, appeasement to none' dictum: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The BJP follows the uniform fair dictum of "justice for all, appeasement to none" and it has introduced a new culture of politics especially aimed at the welfare of the poor and the marginalised, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Sunday.

Speaking ahead of the 42nd foundation day (Sthapana Divas) of the BJP on Wednesday, Singh said his party has been working hard to ensure ease of living for all in the country.

Describing the BJP as the only truly democratic party born after the independence of the country in the context

of needs and requirements of contemporary India, he said it is a matter of research to understand how the BJP started with just two members in Lok Sabha after the 1984 elections, and today has 303 members in the 17th Lok Sabha.

Singh, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), said this has been possible because the BJP is not a mere political party but an idea which is seeded in the minds of every nationalist Indian and follows the uniform fair dictum of "justice for all, appeasement to none".

As the largest political party in the world, he said,

the BJP has vindicated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work culture of full-time devotion with absolute sincerity and round-the-clock dedication to work for the deprived.

Inspired by Modi, the BJP has actually introduced a new political culture in India, which other political parties are seeking to emulate for their survival, the minister said.

The BJP was founded in 1980 by the leaders of the erstwhile Jana Sangh, which had merged in 1977 with the Janata Party -- an amalgam of several anti-Congress parties.

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India overshoots export target; achieves USD 417.8 billion exports in 2021-22

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Merchandise exports from India have reached USD 417.8 billion in the current financial year. This figure excludes the figures from non-EDI Ports and adding that, it is likely to exceed \$418 billion, an all-time high in India's export history.

India has achieved highest monthly value of merchandise export in March 2022 amounting USD 40.38 billion, an increase of 14.53% over USD 35.26 billion in March 2021 and an increase of 87.89% over USD 21.49 billion in March 2020.

The exports have witnessed a significant growth in non-



Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal addressing a press conference in New Delhi. Commerce Secretary, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam is also seen.

► Engineering Goods exports see 45.5 pc growth in 2021-22

► Wheat exports likely to exceed 10 million tons in 2022-23

► Crises like COVID and war could not diminish the spirit of Team India

petroleum goods also in April 2021-March 2022 which was USD 352.76 billion, an increase of 32.62% over

USD 266.00 billion in April 2020-March 2021 and an increase of 29.66% over USD 272.07 billion in April 2019-March 2020.

Addressing a press conference today, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal said that India had truly gone from 'local to global' in response to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call.

The Minister said that every Indian should be proud of the pace at which India is achieving 'atmanirbharta' while ensuring that

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Displaced KPs will be able to return to valley soon: RSS Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kashmiri Pandits will be able to return to their homes in the valley soon, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday, asserting that work is on to create a conducive atmosphere so that they are never displaced again.

He also praised The Kashmir Files' movie, saying it has created public awareness across the country and outside about the reality behind the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley in 1990.

Addressing members of the Kashmiri Pandit community virtually on the last day of the three-day Navreh' celebrations, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief said that the time has come for fulfilling the pledge of returning to their homes in the Kashmir valley.

It won't take many days for the fulfilment of our pledge of returning to the valley. It will come true very soon and we have to continue making attempts in this direction. Our history and our



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat addressing members of Kashmiri Pandit community on Sunday.

great leaders should serve as the guiding light and inspiration for all of us, Bhagwat said in his over half-an-hour speech.

Referring to his participation in the Kashmiri Pandit festival Herath' (Shivaratri) in 2011 in Delhi, he said the community had taken a pledge on

the occasion that they will return to their homeland.

Challenges do come in everyone's life ... We are in a situation where we were displaced in our own country three-four decades ago. What is the solution? he said and added, "We will not succumb and see our pledge fulfilled by returning to our homes".

He referred to Israel and said the Jews struggled for 1800 years for their homeland. Nothing much was done in 1700 years by them for their pledge, but over the past 100 years, the history of Israel saw it achieving its target and also becoming one of the leading countries in the world.

We (Kashmiri Pandits) have had to live in different parts of globe despite the fact that Kashmir is an integral part of India. We can live anywhere but we cannot forget our homeland, he said.

Bhagwat said The Kashmir Files' movie has highlighted the reality of Kashmiri Pandits before the world.

He said the removal of Article 370

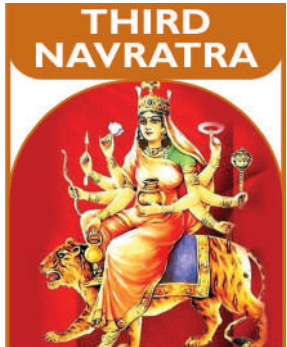
"opened the way for the return of the pandits to the Kashmir valley".

The time for your return to the valley as a Hindu and a Bharat Bakt' is approaching you have faced displacement in the past but in future, nothing like this should happen with you, he said.

"Work is in progress to create such an atmosphere where you will feel secure and live peacefully with your neighbours like in the past and nobody will be able to dislodge you again from there.

Anyone making any such attempt will not escape punishment. There are people (among the Muslim community) with whom you were enjoying good relations. We have to defeat extremism and live peacefully with everyone, he said.

The RSS chief said it will take some time and we will enjoy the fruits at the appropriate time which will facilitate you to return to your homeland on your own conditions.



THIRD NAVRATRA

Maa Chandraghanta
Chandraghanta is the third incarnation of Maa Durga and worshipped on third Navratra. Maa Chandraghanta has weapons in her hands. She rides on Tiger. This day has specific significance as on this day the soul of worshipper enters in 'Manipur Chakra'. By the blessings of this Devi one gets rid of enemies, bad souls besides getting politeness & courage. Mantra to be recited nine times on this day is :-

"Om Kleeng Hareng Aing Bhagwati Chandraghanta Mam Sarvam Bandhan Naashe Naashe Swaha"

ॐ क्लीं ह्रीं ऐं भगवती चन्द्रघंटा मम सर्वम् बन्धन नाशय नाशय स्वाहा

Ramzan Mubarak



J&K Bank sets-up special currency counter at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Bank has opened a special counter at its business unit at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan to offer fresh currency notes and exchange facility to devotees, an official spokesman said.

The special counter was inaugurated by the banks' managing director and chief executive officer, Baldev Prakash, and chief executive officer the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Ramesh Kumar, at Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the shrine, the spokesman said.

Kumar appreciated the bank's role in providing conveniently accessible ATM services along the track to the shrine.

Prakash thanked the shrine board for its support and reiterated the bank's commitment to provide easily accessible services along with facilities of fresh cash and exchange of notes on special occasions like Navratra.

