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PM's five resolves...

at University of Jammu.

The event is being organized by the University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Hindustan Samachar and Cluster University of Jammu.

"The great challenge of transforming the country can be achieved by adopting the five resolves and achieving the targets to build a developed nation which our forefathers had envisioned," added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor called upon the citizens and all stakeholders to adopt the "Panch Pran" call given by the PM Narendra Modi to move towards the golden era and to build a prosperous and welfare society.

"The age-old civilizational values based on 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah'- everyone should be happy and prosperous- will continue to guide us in the making of modern India. Welfare of others is the core philosophy of our cultural heritage that will show the way to prosperity," said the Lt Governor.

Amrit Yatra calls for dedication, determination and above all, it calls for faith in the abilities and centuries-old wisdom of inclusivity. Young men and women must work towards harnessing the tremendous capacities of various sectors to shape the destiny of our nation, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor highlighted the efforts to fulfil the resolutions of Prime Minister and to make Jammu Kashmir a major contributor in socio-economic development of the nation.

"J&K has made significant all-round progress and our economy is growing stronger by the month. The recent reforms have begun to unleash the untapped productivity and have succeeded in improving the quality of life for the people," said the Lt Governor.

Several structural reforms and collective efforts of people with the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat are playing an important role by spearheading the cause of sustainable development, he added.

Underlining the unprecedented growth registered in various sectors, the Lt Governor said the Physical, Knowledge and Digital connectivity has infused a sense of self-confidence in the society and helping the administration to promote sustainable and equitable development.

Speaking on the accelerated pace of project completion, the Lt Governor noted that 50,627 projects were completed in 2021-22 and in FY 2022-23 we are hoping to cross 70,000 projects. He said the five resolves will ensure rapid economic development and creation of vast network of infrastructure for sustained growth.

Ajay Kumar Singh, Press Secretary to President of India in his keynote address said that the Prime Minister's Panch Pran will put India in the league of most developed nations in the next 25 years.

Highlighting Prime Minister's five resolves, Singh said the people have to concentrate on their resolves and strength. We must take up the responsibility of fulfilling all the dreams of the freedom fighters by embracing those Panch Pran by 2047 when the country celebrates 100 years of independence. The responsibility of building a developed India lies with each of us, he added.

It is the combination of sociology and psychology added to traditional notion of development that makes the development process more effective and transformative. The Indian model of growth would be radically different from the rest of the developed nations and would have unique features of inclusivity and social justice, he said.

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor University of Jammu, highlighted the key features of the Panch Pran Utsav. The 3-day long event will cover lectures by prominent experts, showcasing of documentaries and exhibitions of cultural heritage, it was informed.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated the Panch Pran exhibition and Pledge was administered to fulfil the five resolves of Prime Minister. A Newsletter of Jammu University was also released.

Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, JMC; Prof. Beehan Lal, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal; Padma Shri Balwant Thakur; Arvind Madrikar, Chairperson Hindustan Samachar; Administrative Secretaries; prominent personalities, senior officers and students were present on the occasion.

SP Traffic Jammu...

Jammu, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," reads an order issued by Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.

Govt defers restructuring...

2023 dated January 6, 2023 is deferred till further orders." reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

Rahul main reason...

party last year over differences with the leadership.

Asked if Rahul Gandhi is the reason why he is not in the Congress, Azad said, "Yes. Not me alone, but at least a few dozen more - both young and old leaders." "Once you are in the Congress, you are spineless," he observed, adding that "you have to get operated".

Azad also said leaders should not be forced when top leadership is going to appear before any probe agency, like it is done now. He cited the example of former prime ministers when leaders went along with them voluntarily when they appeared before any Commission of Inquiry or probe agency and no whip was issued, unlike today.

"I don't mind if anyone goes to Surat along with Rahul Gandhi, but you cannot force the leaders to come. But today, a whip is issued, which should not be done forcing everyone to accompany... There are a lot of orthopedies today," he said while elaborating his "spineless" remark.

Azad also took a dig at some Congress leadership running the show in the party today saying, "I am 2000 percent more Congressi than those who run (politics) on Twitter. I am 24-Carat Congress by conviction, they are not even 18 Carat." On whether he would like to rejoin the party, he said, "But, they don't want people like us. They want those who are fast on Twitter and are claiming that after Bharat Jodo Yatra the party will get 500 seats." He said he was angry at those leaders who are "destroying" the party today.

Asked if Sonia Gandhi gave him a call to return to the Congress fold, he said, "kaash agar Sonia Gandhi ke haath mein hota to hum yahan aate nahin (I wish if that was in the hands of Sonia Gandhi, we would have been sitting here today)... Sonia Gandhi cannot decide." On whether Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge would decide on his re-entry, he said, "no way".

And if Rahul Gandhi wanted his return, Azad said "it is too late. I know the working style of the present leadership." "Congress leaders dub me who has been 'Modified', but I am 'Azadi-fied'," he noted, asserting that he may have left the Congress party but his objectivity has not gone.

The former leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha said Indira Gandhi was a 24x7 politician and Rajiv Gandhi, though being a reluctant leader initially, was also totally into politics and 24 hours were less for him once he finally decided to enter politics.

"I wish Rahul Gandhi would have worked 1/50th of what Indira Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi did, he would have succeeded," he said while training his guns on Rahul Gandhi.

He also noted that politics is first a commitment to oneself, to people, to party and to country, and one has to rise to the occasion when required and when there is party work.

"Time does not wait for anyone. Politics is survival of the fittest," he said, adding that he may not like Prime Minister Narendra Modi or his ideology but he is a 24-hour politician and one should not ignore that while fighting with him.

On the ordinance brought out by the UPA government in 2013, he said, "We brought the ordinance because we knew that one should be ready that other parties will be in power too and they would use it against us. It was a weak cabinet and it should have gone ahead by bringing a law and should have stuck by its decision of bringing the law even after Rahul Gandhi dismissed it as nonsense and tore it," he said.

"It was a wrong thing on the part of the Congress party and decided to keep mum at the time...Rahul Gandhi would have been saved today through that only. The one who tore it, it got applied on him now. He should have realised it then..."khud kiye aapne deewaron mein suraakh, ab koin jhaank rahe hain to shor kyon (after you cre-

ated holes in your own wall, when people are watching through them then why raise a voice now).

On whether he would go with the BJP if his party was in a position to form a government, he said, "Why are you jumping the gun." He also recalled that they have had an alliance with the National Conference and the PDP, asserting that the BJP may get a maximum of 25 seats, but there are other 65 seats left for him to ally with.

"In politics no one is untouchable. In politics, no one is permanent friend, no one is permanent enemy. These days nobody is untouchable in politics," he said.

Asked why he is allowed to keep his house at a time when Rahul Gandhi has been asked to vacate his official bungalow, Azad said, "I was attacked by militants 26 times in Punjab and 16 times in Jammu and Kashmir when I was chief minister." "I have been given the house because of home ministry's orders (on threat perception).

"I have been giving water, power and other bills including on my security from my own pension".

CBI registers case...

Pura, unknown public servants and others under section 120-B read with 420, 467, 468, 471 of IPC and section 13 of PC Act 1988 and same was entrusted to Vikas Ranot, Inspector CBI for investigation.

Terrorist hideout unearthed...

parties recovered four detonators, cordtex wire (detonating cord), five magazines of AK assault rifle, two pistol magazines, LMG ammunition belt box, 292 rounds of assorted ammunition and several other related items, he said.

"Given the rusted condition of the seized material, it seems the hideout was an old one (when terrorists used to operate in the area over a decade back). The graph of militancy is on decline in Ramban and only a few isolated incidents have taken place in the district over the last several years," the officer said.

Referring to a grenade attack outside a police post in Gool in August last year, Kumar said that was the last militancy-related incident reported in the district.

He said the search operation was carried out on reliable information and an outcome of the public outreach programme of police and security forces.

"Army, police and other security agencies are dominating the higher reaches by patrolling the areas (to maintain vigil) as passes are opening up with the melting of snow," the DSP said.

Union Govt sanctions...

Force (CRPF) and the Jammu and Kashmir Police, they said.

Z+ security is the highest level of security in India.

The Union Territory Police will take care of his security (Z+) in their jurisdiction while the CRPF will ensure the cover at other locations (Z).

Later in the day, Bukhari said he was a "Z+ category protectee since 2015."

"The security is based on threat perception and it is constantly reviewed by security agencies... it is no favour or luxury to me," he said.

A contingent of about 20-24 armed personnel will work in shifts to ensure round-the-clock security for Bukari, who was till now a protectee in the UT list and now has been brought to the central list.

The home ministry sanctioned the cover on the recommendation of a threat analysis report prepared by central intelligence and security agencies, they said.

Bukhari was earlier with the People's Democratic Party (PDP), headed by the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti. He left the outfit to float his own Apni Party in March 2020.

CS reviews progress...

Jaisawal bridge will be fully completed by 10th April while the Ramban flyover will be completed around 15th April.

CS directed the concerned to speed up the pace of work so that these projects are completed at the earliest and commuters have a safe and less time consuming journey along Srinagar-Jammu highway.

CS said that these links will not only reduce the travel time of commuters, but will also completely bypass the difficult landslides and shooting stone prone areas along the stretch.

CS also inquired about the shooting stones at the T5 tunnel. He said that the debris due to landslides and shooting stones should be cleared forthwith as soon as it's occurrence. He enjoined upon them to augment resources for maintenance of this road till the works are completed.

Chief Secretary also directed the authorities to completely do away with the halting of trucks at Nagrota and Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway to ensure seamless movement of HMTs by June. He directed the Divisional Commissioner Jammu/Kashmir to frame a plan in this regard in the next week.

He said that the paraphernalia of National Highway is good enough so as not to stop any vehicle unnecessarily.

HM terrorist, JEL...

Trust in the form of educational and religious donations. He channelized the funds to his co-accused, Amir-e-Jamaat (Head of JEL J&K) Ganai to further the banned outfit's anti-India agenda," the spokesperson said.

The NIA said Shamshi also conspired with Mir, who originally is a resident of Rajouri district.

"Mir sent funds to Shamshi from Pakistan through hawala channels and he used these funds to organise propaganda meetings to motivate individuals to engage in secessionist and terror activities," the official said.

In February 2019, the Centre had banned JEL for five years under anti-terror laws on grounds that it was "in close touch" with militant outfits and was expected to "escalate secessionist movement" in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

A notification banning the group under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs after a high-level meeting on security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hundreds of JEL activists were arrested in a major crackdown across Jammu and Kashmir following the ban, which came just months ahead of the abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile state and its bifurcation into two Union territories in August 2019.

2 accused in...

offered a reward if the information led to their arrest.

The official said using technical surveillance and human intelligence, and after a lot of efforts, both the accused were arrested in th evening from the Old Town area of Baramulla. They are in custody of the Baramulla police station, the official said.

Investigation into the case is going on, police said.

Telangana BJP Chief's...

was deeply involved in corrupt practices.

Chugh said people of the State were fed up with KCR and his family rule in Telangana and the time has come for him to pack up and leave the government.

SC refuses to...

us to lay down the general principle of law is again a very dangerous proposition. Once we have the facts in a case or group of cases then we can lay down law not just for that case but as a general principle," said the CJI while refusing to entertain the plea.

"The difficulty in your petition is that you are trying to extrapolate the statistics into binding legal guidelines which effectively would apply. You are aware of the fact these statistics pertain only to politicians. At the same time you are aware of the fact that the guidelines cannot apply only to the politicians. Politicians do not have higher immunity," the bench said.

Sensing its disinclination, senior advocate A M Sighvi, appearing for the political parties, sought permission to withdraw the petition which was granted.

"Learned counsel seeks permission to withdraw the plea at this stage. The petition is accordingly dismissed as withdrawn," the bench ordered.

The bench said it is always willing to take up "a single case or a group of cases" where a political leader has been targeted to silence the voice.

"Come to us with one or more cases together we will certainly deal with this," the bench said.

It said the remedy to the allegation that the space for political opponents has shrunk lies in the "political space" itself and not in courts.

The top court was not in agreement with the submission that in cases which do not relate to bodily injuries and provide for a sentence of not more than seven years pre and post-arrest guidelines needed to be framed.

For arrest and remand, the political parties have been seeking adherence to the triple test which deals with the 'determination as to whether a person is a flight risk, whether there is a reasonable apprehension of the tampering of evidence, or the influencing/intimidation of witnesses'.

At the outset, Singhvi referred to certain statistics while trying to drive home the point that opposition leaders have been targeted by federal investigative agencies from 2014 to 2022 and that there has been a 600 per cent increase in CBI and ED cases.

"Between 2014 and 2022, 121 political leaders have been probed by the Enforcement Directorate out of whom 95 per cent are from opposition parties," he claimed.

The Narendra Modi government first came to power in May 2014.

The CBI has probed 124 political leaders and out of these, 108 are from opposition political parties, Singhvi claimed.

The bench observed, by and large, the conviction rate in India is "abysmally low" and asked whether it can say there should not be any investigation keeping in mind the statistics.

"Your statistics are there and there is no question with that...this is the petition filed by 14 political parties. Now you give us some statistics and can we therefore say that because of these statistics there should be no investigation and there should be immunity from the investigation," the bench observed.

It then referred to the principle of equality and gave an example of press freedom, while asserting the fundamental right is equal for all.

"Ultimately even the press has no higher freedom than what is available to a common citizen under Article 19 (1) (a) (freedom of speech and expression) of the Constitution. A political leader is also basically a citizen and therefore as citizens we all are amenable to the same law," it said.

The court said as the parties have conceded that political leaders do not enjoy immunity like other citizens, it cannot pass general directions.

185 outsiders bought...

information provided by Ladakh, no land has been bought by outsiders in the UT.

"As per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, a total of 185 people from outside the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have bought land in the UT during 2020, 2021 and 2022," he said replying to a written question.

While, one person bought land in 2020, 57 bought in 2021 and 127 in 2022, he said. The Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated on August 5, 2019, and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two UTs -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Following the Constitutional change in October 2020, the Union Home Ministry issued a notification stating that any Indian citizen can buy land, except agricultural, in municipal areas of Jammu and Kashmir without being a domicile.

The minister said as per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, a total of 1,559 Indian companies, including multinational companies, have made investments in the UT.

However, no Indian companies, including multinational companies, have invested in UT of Ladakh during the last three years.

Theft at district...

Police have analysed the crime scene with the assistance of a forensic team, and are also analysing technical evidence, they said, adding some suspects have been rounded-up for questioning.

Rajouri Senior Superintendent of Police Amritpal Singh suspended ASI Tariq Mehmood, SgCt Mohd Shafiq, and Special Police Officers Ghulam Nabi, Mohd Munshi and Murtaza Khan for dereliction of duties.

An inquiry has also been initiated, they added, adding a breakthrough is expected very soon. The inquiry will be conducted by Rajouri deputy superintendent of police.

Govt to extend e-office to all offices, create online census management system

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The budget for 2023-24 fiscal will further strengthen the e-governance initiatives of J&K government with emphasis on extending e-offices to all offices besides creation of online census management system.

J&K's e-Governance policies have shown tremendous improvement elevating the citizen satisfaction level regarding implementation of schemes and programmes being launched by the UT administration for their socio-economic emancipation.

"The accelerated digital transformation and adoption of emerging technologies by the UT dispensation has greatly helped the administration become more open, transparent and develop new delivery models to ensure people can access e-Services conveniently".

The government has kept a provision, in this budget, for introducing an intelligent framework for ensuring an amazing Intelligent Ticket Management System by JKRTC for smooth, hassle free journey of passengers.

The budget also proposed creation of e-invoice system of GST, GST Data Triangulation and transition of GST IN into GST Prime besides extension of E-Bill system in PWOMAS to other departments. Besides, 445 services have already been offered in online mode across all the departments and many of them are being integrated with the quality check and feedback-seeking mechanism. These services are also being on boarded on the digital portal of e-UNNAT, Service Plus and Digi Locker platforms for the ease and free access of the general public.

In another milestone towards e-governance, e-way bill would be linked to Fastag and VAHAN for smooth journey of commuters on national highway.

According to an official spokesperson, the government will create single unique helpline to address the concerns of people of J&K.

"Jammu & Kashmir tops among all the Union Territories of India in e-Governance services delivery, which has also enabled the UT to save around Rs 200 crore annually that were used to be incurred in carriage of physical files during the annual durbar move between the two capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar".

J&K has become the first UT in the country to have Good Governance Index and was also first to launch District Good Governance Index for 20 districts of the Union Territory.

In a short span, the government has taken a giant leap in creating user-centric service delivery system and paperless administrative functions through e-Office.

"Technology has redesigned the rules and procedures bringing accountability and transparency in the system and enabling us to provide services more effectively and efficiently," the official added.

J&K's unemployment rate declines from 6.7 pc in 2019-20 to 5.2 pc in 2021-22: Economic Survey Report

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir declined from 6.7 per cent in 2019-20 to 5.2 per cent in 2021-22 while the urban unemployment rate dipped by 1.1 percentage points, according to the Economic Survey Report 2022-23.

The report, released by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta recently, stated that the labour force participation rate was 61.5 per cent in 2021-22 as against 56.3 per cent in 2019-20, while the worker population ratio has increased to 58.3 per cent in 2021-22 from 52.5 per cent in 2019-20.

"Unemployment Rate on usual status in Jammu and Kashmir has declined from 6.7 per cent in 2019-20 to 5.2 per cent in 2021-22," it said.

Drawing a comparison between national and regional levels, the report said that at the all-India level, the labour force participation rate and worker population ratio have increased to 55.2 per cent and 52.9 per cent in 2021-22 respectively from 53.5 per cent and 50.9 per cent in 2019-20.

"Labour force participation rate, and worker population ratio have also improved in both rural and urban areas in 2021-22 as compared to 2019-20 for Jammu and Kashmir. The quarterly urban unemployment rate of Jammu and Kashmir has declined to 13.5 per cent in October-December 2022, from 14.4 per cent in October-December 2021 as per quarterly bulletin," it said.

"The government has been working on improving life and dignity of the workforce by protecting and safeguarding the interest of workers, promoting their welfare and providing social security both in organised and unorganised sectors," it said.

The report further said that 100 per cent saturation is being ensured in terms of linking workers to different social security schemes of the government.

Focusing on Mission Youth, it said the initiative is aimed at providing a vibrant medium for the engagement and empowerment of youth through systematic interventions in the domains of livelihood generation, education, skill development, psychotherapy, social engagement, sports and recreation.

Under the Youth Volunteer Programme, more than 5,000 youth clubs stand constituted to strengthen the social fabric for drug de-addiction and other social issues, the report added.

The new skill development policy has been launched which is aimed to provide an umbrella framework to align them to common standards and link skilling with demand centres. "Seventy-eight new job-oriented trade units have been introduced in ITIs along with the introduction of heritage craft trades," it said.

