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LG exhorts citizens...

of the G20 meeting will inspire the generations of Jammu Kashmir and infuse new enthusiasm, new confidence in the society to build future Jammu Kashmir, he added. Sharing the inspirational example of government-public partnership in development, the Lt Governor appreciated the District administration Bandipora, residents and Pune-based civil society group for their unique initiative to transform Aragam village situated on the banks of Wular lake.

Aragam will soon be converted into country's largest Book Village with active participation of the local community. Apart from books in 6 different languages, old manuscripts and paintings will also be available in the libraries, which will introduce tourists to ancient history and folk culture of J&K, he added.

The Lt Governor congratulated the farmers of Sagam village, Anantnag for reviving Mushkbudji the heritage crop, known for its aroma. The efforts of Sagam Mushk Budji Farmers Producer Company will provide a new fillip to the farming of one of the most cherished and valued products of J&K, he said.

The Lt Governor shared the success stories of Neelam Rani and Gowhar Jabeena, the women entrepreneurs from Kathua & Anantnag, and Rohit Salaria, a young entrepreneur from Udhampur.

Gowhar Jabeena of Anantnag has established 'Green Posh Nursery Unit', the first Kiwi nursery in Kashmir Division. Her achievements in this unexplored sector are inspiring the locals and budding entrepreneurs, said the Lt Governor.

The entrepreneurial zeal of Kathua's Neelam Rani has not only empowered the local womenfolk but has also widened the market reach of the Basohli Pashmina Shawls, he added.

The Lt Governor said the young entrepreneurs like Rohit Salaria of Udhampur with their efforts are inspiring other youth to become job giver and to create more space for young entrepreneurs. Rohit Salaria has set up a food processing unit under PM's Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme.

He lauded the renowned artist Sohan Singh Billawaria for training budding artists and also promoting rich legacy of Basohli painting.

The Lt Governor also shared the suggestions of Kulgam's Dr Rizwan Rumi and Ehsan Qudus of Pulwama regarding developing an institutional mechanism to raise awareness, skilling, and financial support to young entrepreneurs in horticulture sector.

He made special mention of valuable inputs received from Saima Mushtaq of Srinagar and Jammu's Sanchaita Pradhan to promote the famous folk arts and crafts of rural Jammu Kashmir. Doda's Humerah Balwan, Ridham Gupta of Samba and Jammu's Apurva Mishra had written on empowerment of the girl child. Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh of Anantnag and Dr. Kumar Sourabh of Jammu suggested active participation of youth in water conservation and lake rejuvenation.

The Lt Governor issued directions to the concerned departments and officials for taking appropriate action on the suggestions received from the citizens.

NIA arrests JeM...

conspiracies being hatched by terrorist organisations based across the border to destabilise India through terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

"Malik was in constant touch with a Pakistan-based JeM commander. Investigations have revealed that he was passing on secret information, especially regarding the movement of troops and security forces, to the Pakistan-based commander," the spokesperson said.

The official said various incriminating documents showing his involvement in the furtherance of terror activities were recovered from his possession at the time of his arrest.

The National Investigation Agency registered the terror conspiracy case suo motu on June 21 last year to unearth the conspiracies hatched by cadres and overground workers of various terrorist organisations on the directions of their commanders based in Pakistan, the spokesperson said.

"It involves collection and distribution of huge consignments of narcotics, cash, weapons, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including remote control-operated sticky/magnetic bombs," the official said.

The spokesperson said IEDs and explosives are often delivered from across the border using drones and are also being assembled locally in order to execute terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The attacks are mainly targeted at minorities and security forces personnel," the official said. The NIA said such conspiracies are being hatched both physically and in cyberspace with the overarching aim of disturbing peace and communal harmony, engaging in terrorist acts, and waging a war against the Government of India.

Tirupati Balaji Temple...

largest temples in the Jammu region and is expected to boost religious and pilgrim-age tourism in the Union territory.

The Jammu temple will be the sixth Balaji Temple constructed outside of Andhra Pradesh, with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) having previously built temples in Hyderabad, Chennai, Kanyakumari, Delhi, and Bhubaneswar.

"We have almost completed the construction of the temple and it will be inaugurated on June 8 and will be thrown open for the devotees free of cost. The rituals will start from June 3," TTD Chairman Y V Subba Reddy said.

Reddy, who inspected the temple in Jammu, said, "Whatever system and practice being followed in Tirumala, will be followed here as well."

The TTD has built the Tirupati Balaji Temple at a holy place. It falls on the route between Jammu and Katra, where Mata Vaishno Devi temple is located, Reddy said.

The temple's construction is part of a broader initiative by the TTD to establish multiple Balaji temples across the country. The project in Jammu, located amidst the picturesque Shivalik forests in Majeen, has made remarkable progress and is nearing completion in less than two years, a commendable achievement.

The TTD is building Balaji Temples all over the country. So, those who are unable to visit the Tirupati Balaji Temple in Andhra Pradesh, can visit these temples in their cities, he said.

"62 acres of land has been allocated by the Jammu and Kashmir government in 2021 and we started the construction work the same year. We are nearing its completion," he said.

"We have been dedicatedly working on the construction of the Tirupati Balaji Temple for the last two years. The temple is constructed entirely with stones while the idols are made of cement." Rabbani, the works incharge from Andhra Pradesh, told PTI.

Sachin Narayan, a member of the works team from Andhra Pradesh, expressed, "I am involved in the construction of the Balaji Temple here. It will be completed within a month. The temple is beautiful and is being constructed by the TTD. It is indeed a remarkable temple."

While the majority of the civil works, including the temple's structure, have been finished, the final phase involves the installation of some remaining portion of tiles and finishing touches to the interiors. It is estimated that it will take an additional two to three months to complete the entire complex, including the necessary infrastructure.

Narayan further explained, "The entire temple is being constructed using stones, and the domes are made of cement. This is why it took some time. The entire complex will be completed in two to three months."

The temple primarily utilises granite cut slabs for the temple, walls and flooring, which are sourced from Kotappa Konda in Andhra Pradesh. Over a hundred skilled workers from Andhra Pradesh are tirelessly working to meet the deadline and ensure the temple's completion before the inauguration.

The aim is to inaugurate the Jammu temple ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, which starts on July 1.

Bhod Raj, a local worker, affirmed, "The temple will be completed before the Amarnath Yatra. We are committed to finishing it."

Ajay Kumar, a stone finisher from Andhra Pradesh, told PTI, "We are currently working on the construction of the Tirupati Balaji Temple. We are focused on the stone slabs for the flooring. The rest of the work has been completed, and we are now working on the final floor. The large stone slabs are being brought from Andhra Pradesh, cut into slabs, and used for the construction."

Bhod Raj, a crane operator, said, "My role is to lift the large blocks of stones, get them cut into slabs, and transport them to the temple premises for use. I have played a significant part in the temple's construction by ferrying these massive stone slabs."

"We have all the facilities in the Jammu temple. Soon we will have a Vedic school here. Pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi temple can also visit the Tirupati Balaji Temple," TTD Chairman Reddy said.

PM Modi in...

visit underscores the close friendship of India with the Pacific Island countries.

"A grand beginning of an important visit! PM @narendramodi arrives in Port Moresby on what is the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Papua New Guinea. Accorded a 19-gun salute, guard of honour & ceremonial welcome. As a special gesture, PM James Marape received PM Modi at the airport," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagehi tweeted.

On Monday, Modi and Marape will host the third summit of the Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). The summit will take place at a time when China is making efforts to enhance its military and diplomatic influence in the region.

"I am grateful that all 14 Pacific Island Countries (PIC) have accepted the invitation to attend this important summit (FIPIC)," Modi had said earlier.

FIPIC was launched during his visit to Fiji in 2014.

The FIPIC Summit will see participation from leaders of 14 countries. Normally all of them rarely converge together due to connectivity and other issues, sources said. PIC includes Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Modi will also hold bilateral talks with Marape and meet Bob Dadae, the Governor General of Papua New Guinea. He will also meet New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins.

Chugh welcomes CBI...

were burnt alive.

Tytlar instigated, incited, and provoked the mob assembled at Gurudwara Pul Bangash at Azad Market, Delhi which resulted in the burning of the Gurudwara and killing of three Sikh people, apart from burning and looting of shops on November 1, 1984.

Chugh said as there is evidence on record regarding this it exposes down and re-establishes the Congress conspiracy against the Sikhs.

It was a calculated inhuman conspiracy against the Sikhs in which more than 3000 of them were brutally killed. All this was done at the behest of the Congress high command which must also be brought to book, he added.

Srinagar decked up...

Centre (SKICC) -- the venue of the meeting -- has been given a massive facelift with the G20 logo painted on walls and hoardings installed to welcome the delegates, they said.

The officials said Gulmarg tourist resort in north Kashmir, where a meeting is also scheduled, has been beautified too.

Authorities are taking no chances and have beefed up security across the valley in view of the G20 meeting.

Elite NSG and Marine Commandos are helping the police and the paramilitary forces to secure the venues of the event, the officials said.

They said massive sanitisation and area domination exercises have been carried out in the areas around the venues, along the route and in vulnerable spots of the city. Security forces have been deployed in large numbers to ensure an incident-free event, the officials said.

Scanners and sniffer dogs have been pressed into action to check for any explosives or IEDs, they added.

Vehicles passing through the city are being randomly checked to ensure that no subversive elements manage entry into the city, the officials said.

The administration is pulling out all stops to put on a grand show, they said.

G20 Tourism Working...

and deliberations on final deliverables and there are two key deliverables of the Tourism Working Group, which include GOA Roadmap for Tourism as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) and G20 Tourism Ministers' Declaration.

This is the only working group meeting taking place in Srinagar as part of G20 effort with excellent response from all the member countries, all the invited countries and the international organisations, having the highest participation registered compared to the first two Tourism Working Group Meetings at Rann of Kutch and Siliguri.

Arvind Singh further said, G20 member countries, invited countries, and international organizations will give valuable inputs and feedback on these two draft documents and after negotiations with G20 Member Countries on these drafts, final versions will be placed in the 'Fourth Tourism Working Group Meeting'.

Singh informed, the '3rd Tourism Working Group Meeting' will deliberate on the five key priority areas namely Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, MSMEs and Destination Management. These priorities are key building blocks for accelerating the transition of the tourism sector and achieve the targets for 2030 SDGs.

Arvind Singh said that a side event on 'Film Tourism for Economic Growth and Cultural Preservation' will be organized on 22nd and 23rd May 2023, focusing on strategies to promote film tourism in J&K. The event will witness the participation of G20 member countries, invited countries, international organizations, and industry stakeholders. He also said that a draft 'National Strategy on Film Tourism' will be unveiled to provide a roadmap for harnessing the role of films in promoting tourist destinations.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Chief Coordinator G20 said, Tourism Working Group has the broader objectives first to present India's rich and diverse cultural identity to the world and to promote tourism potential of India to the world. We have tried to bring in the sustainable tourism, eco tourism, adventure tourism etc. what is actually relevant to J&K, Shringla added.

Shringla further said, the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to ensure that the message of India's G20 Presidency is taken down the grassroots level through Jan Bhagidari process and lot of efforts were made to sensitise the people of this country about G20.

Chief Secretary J&K, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta said, the change in J&K is evident on ground with the arrival of highest number of tourists (18.8 million) in 2022.

300 new tourist destinations to come up in Jammu and Kashmir seeing the influx of tourists with each destination providing enough to the tourists, said Sh. Mehta.

Dr. Mehta further said, the influx of highest number of foreign tourists to Jammu and Kashmir is a healthy sign for tourism in J&K.

During the 3rd Tourism Working Group meeting, the delegates will also visit the Art and Craft Bazaar organized by the State Government showcasing local handicrafts, work of artisans, signifying the importance of community participation. The delegates will also have 'hands-on' experience through DIY Activities at the Craft Bazaar.

During the press conference, it was also informed that the Ministry of Tourism is also promoting local products of Jammu and Kashmir by handing below souvenirs to delegates from ODOP like Paper Mache Box, Saffron from Pampore, Kawa Cups and Brass Spoon, Walnuts from Anantnag, Shopian and Kupwara.

This G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar aims to strengthen economic growth, preserve cultural heritage, and promote sustainable development of the region. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, welcomes the participation of delegates from G20 member countries, invited countries, and international organizations to collectively work towards advancing the tourism sector and achieving the UN sustainable development goals 2030. The G20 event presents a unique opportunity to highlight the tourism potential and cultural richness of the region. A detailed presentation about the event was also made by Additional Secretary, Rakesh Verma, Additional Director General PIB Region, Rajinder Chaudhry and Secretary Tourism J&K, Syed Aabid Rasheed Shah were also present at the media briefing.

Massive searches in...

houses of terrorists who moved to Pakistan 15-20 years ago and those who have returned to the Union territory via Nepal, slain ultras, militant sympathizers and supporters and other suspected persons in Banihal and Khari tehsil of Ramban, they said. No one was arrested during the day-long operation, the officials added.

In DPAP only...

Caravan of peace and development launched by DPAP

Azad said that his party has no space for nepotism and favoritism like in Congress where merit was undermined to accommodate blue eyed people on top positions. He said in DPAP only people can grow out of hard work and loyalty and everyone will be offered a desired position in the party.

"Only merit will prevail," Azad said.

He expressed dismay over the G20 summit not being held in Jammu also though it is a welcome step to provide an opportunity to Kashmir to host this international event. "Alongside Kashmir; the GoI should have also arranged a meeting of G20 members in Jammu as well to boost its economy and tourism", he added.

Meanwhile, DPAP leader Saddam Nabi Azad, while speaking on the occasion said that he feels blessed to have joined active politics and getting an opportunity to work for the people of his home state, specially his home town.

"Bhaderwah is my hometown and I will be the first voice for its people and will always defend the rights of this district," he said. He said his priority is to work and find opportunities for educated youth who even after securing higher degrees find no employment opportunities," he said.

Among others present on the occasion were Vice Chairman G.M. Saroori, General Secretary Abdul Majeed Wani, Working Committee Member M. Aslam Goni, Provincial Vice President & Working Committee Member Naresh Gupta, Sr Leader DPAP Saddam Nabi Azad, Iqbal Kohli DDC, Secretary Farooq Shikari, Zonal President P.R.Manhas, Distt President Asif Gattu and others.

Woman pilgrim dies...

the famous shrine atop Trikuta hills, around 1 pm, the officials said.

A total of 30 passengers, including women and children, were travelling in the vehicle on their return journey after offering prayers at the shrine.

Rescuers comprising local volunteers and police teams rushed to the spot immediately after the accident and evacuated the injured to Community Health Centre Katra, where Nitika of Jaipur was declared brought dead, the officials said.

They said 11 of the 24 injured persons were later referred to the Government Medical College Hospital Jammu for specialised treatment.

In a message, ADGP Singh said, "Some terror groups on social media sites are claiming it as terror incident. There is no terror angle. As per the version of driver and passengers/eyewitnesses, the driver lost control of the vehicle due to a sharp curve and overspeeding resulting in the accident."

For unemployed and...

Times, and sensing fears in view of forth coming 2014 November J&K Legislative Assembly elections. But the relief was very short lived since Mufti Mohd Sayeed lead PDP-State Government once again through SRO 202 of June 30, 2015 came out with J&K Special Recruitment Rules, 2015 - SRO-202 where under during first five years probation period , the appointee (all non gazetted posts and some nominated gazetted posts) was entitled only to wages equivalent to minimum of the scale of pay without any entitlement of annual increments, Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, Transport Allowance, CBA, CHSA, and City Compensatory Allowance .No doubt with the awareness about bads generated by civil society the probation period was reduced during President Rule in UT of J&K from 5 to 2 years vide S.O 192/ 194 of June 17, 2020 but to add to woes of the needy the rules were then extended to even gazetted services unless a particular recruitment is specifically exempted by government. Even Doctors (Minimum Qualification MBBS) who had accepted reduced pay were appointed against substantive field posts vide Order No. 4 7 -HME of2019 Dated: January 14, 2019 (921 Medical Officers (Level-9/52700-166700 with terms of probation governed by SRO-202 of June 30, 2015) and under No 938- JK(HME) of 2020 Dated December 31, 2020 (459 medical officers with two year probation period and other service conditions in terms of S.O 192 of June 17, 2020 probation of 2 years.}. One would well assess indirect bad affect of such policies 1 (i) the employers in the private sector too could exploit the job seeking youth by paying them less salary since general opportunity in government too was with low salary (ii) economic compulsions of under employed would keep him/ her under stresses which would also adversely affect the quality of the services one had to offer in a office or a school (iii) and like. Any now surely there have been very pleasant change in the recruitment rules for government employees after 2019 in the UT of J&K & UT of Ladakh (though a little late but surely a very considerate change worth building belief in intentions of government) with the issue of SRO S.O. 425 on September 6, 2023. Ofcourse number of capital intensive projects / investment have also been promoted/ permitted / attracted after 2019 by government in all regions of erstwhile state of J&K in the private sector too which are surely going to create more job opportunities in private sector reducing dependence on government sector with better cost to company opportunities since government too has started divorcing recruitment policies that unfairly have been exploiting the economic needs of job seekers.

It is hoped that may be undoing the practices of under employing professionally qualified job seekers as also rest in schemes like Rabar e Zeerat and as in Rehbar e Taleem too may be under review , rather it should be in view of the fact that Government has been very seriously launching more & more projects also in the road infrastructure sector (like making travel on highways like Jammu through Srinagar to Ladakh blockage free throughout the year) as well as tourism sector in all the regions.

Centre announces Implementation...

Disease Control Programme/Livestock Health & Disease Control Programme.

Recognizing the importance of this development, there is a clear understanding of need to upgrade the software's structure and platform to effectively address the challenges faced by veterinarians, paravets, and other stakeholders in utilizing the IT-based system. Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo on Sunday expressed gratitude to the Union Government for selecting Jammu & Kashmir among first states & Union Territories to implement the program. He emphasized that over 90% of bovines in the region are already tagged and registered on the INAPH portal, ensuring a seamless transition of data from INAPH to NDLM in Jammu & Kashmir. The primary objective of this mission is to actively engage farmers in the digital ecosystem and maximize the utilization of data for disease prediction, analysis, and prevention. Dulloo emphasized that clear instructions should be disseminated to all users of INAPH application in the UT, urging them to promptly upload any pending data on the INAPH portal prior to the launch of the new digital platform. Under this program, to ensure a seamless transition, District Nodal Officers, nominated by the respective Heads of Departments of Animal/Sheep Husbandry, will receive training from NDLM trainers on May 23rd. These officers will subsequently conduct multiple training sessions for all INAPH users and other relevant stakeholders within the Union Territory, guaranteeing their readiness for the new digital platform. Integrating data will facilitate the creation of a breeding program focused on achieving high-quality germplasm suitable for various agro climatic conditions in Jammu & Kashmir.

Furthermore, the NDLM portal will play a crucial role in implementing the Dairy Development project of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP). The online platform features an inbuilt ration balancing and milk recording module that will assist in ration balancing for six lakh dairy animals and annual milk recording for 30,000 dairy animals through Pashu Sakhis (A-A-Help Workers).

The program aims to establish a comprehensive open-source, API-integrated database that encompasses both static and dynamic information about each tagged animal. This includes crucial data such as vaccination records, breeding details, commercial activities, and other relevant information, which will be recorded in real-time by the respective stakeholders, including veterinarians, paravets, and farmers.

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board, has conceptualized this initiative called 'Bharat Pashudhan,' under the guidance of office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India. The iSpirt Volunteer team, renowned for their work on designing the UIDAI Aadhaar, has been actively involved in mentoring and guiding the project's design. Bharat Pashudhan envisions a cloud-based, secure, credible, and integrated database system built on open-source architecture. Through an API-based integration environment, it aims to seamlessly connect all stakeholders, ensuring efficient information exchange. The primary objective of NDLM is to empower farmers by providing them with technological tools to fully utilize government facilities, schemes, and avail livestock-related services in line with the vision of Digital India. The upgrade of e-Gopala app will enable farmers to access essential information about their animals and take advantage of services like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and e-rupi based facilities. The integration of data will further facilitate the development of a breeding program aimed at achieving high-quality germplasm that is well-suited for diverse agroclimatic conditions. Bharat Pashudhan, by seamlessly integrating animal data with processing and manufacturing data, will ensure a complete chain of product traceability, which is a vital factor in boosting dairy and livestock exports. The database will contain comprehensive disease and treatment data in a format suitable for AI/ML applications, enabling disease modelling, prediction, analysis, and further research to ensure effective disease monitoring and control. The implementation of the Bharat Pashudhan-National Digital Livestock Mission in Jammu & Kashmir is set to revolutionize the livestock sector by establishing a farmer-centric ecosystem driven by technology. This mission aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of livestock management in the region through the establishment of a digital database, improved farmer services, and timely information updates. The comprehensive integration of data within the database will enable better disease monitoring and control, facilitate the development of high-quality germplasm, ensure product traceability, and boost dairy and livestock exports. The farmer empowerment initiatives, including the upgraded e-Gopala app, will provide farmers with access to critical information and government services, contributing to the overall development and growth of the livestock sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

Kashmir becoming favourite location for film-makers again: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The change in Jammu and Kashmir over the past few years has raised the confidence of the film industry, which is now keen to make the Valley a prized location for movie making, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Sunday.

Singh, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, said Jammu and Kashmir's return to normalcy has led to an increase in tourism, which also has had an effect on film-making in the Valley.

The G20 meeting in Srinagar, beginning on Monday, has a session on Film Tourism for Economic Growth, he said.

"The very fact that the G20 is being held here (Srinagar) is itself an indication of the change that has happened over the last few years, particularly, following the pathbreaking and very decisive initiatives taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Singh told PTI in a video interview.

Singh said shooting a film at a tulip garden in Holland would not be the same as filming at a tulip garden in Kashmir as the costs would be much lower here.

"In Kashmir, within a radius of a few kilometres, you have fountains, lakes, plateaus, hillocks, snow-clad peaks. I am sure this is going to open up. The confidence building has also happened because of the very successful tourist season we had recently," Singh said.

He said Kashmir was one of the favourite destinations for Bollywood post-Independence.

"It had a versatility of locations and was very cost effective. There were a series of movies which were shot in Kashmir. Then suddenly everything came to halt in 1990. Those movies which were in the midst of production actually had difficulty in finding alternate locations," he recalled.

"A few years ago, it was almost a taboo visiting Kashmir. Such kinds of events had virtually come to a halt since 1990," he said.

Recently, film star Shah Rukh Khan was in the Kashmir Valley to shoot for "Dunki", directed by Rajkumar Hirani.

