

# Kashmir essential part of Modi's New India journey: Dr Jitendra

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Tuesday that Kashmir is an essential part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's New India journey. It is time to avail of the enormous new openings initiated over the last eight years, which are shaping the destiny of 135 crore Indians, under the able guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

The Minister was addressing a public gathering at an event "Gareeb Kalyan Sammelan", organised at Beheshte Zahra Park to mark the completion of eight years of the Modi Government in the service of the nation.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that a three-tier system of government has been introduced for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir in seventy years and it will not be long before people get to see and feel the benefits of such a system.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister deliberated on different centrally sponsored schemes and different initiatives launched by the Modi Government to ensure equitable development of people of Jammu and Kashmir; some-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh presiding over an administration meeting in Budgam on Tuesday.

thing which they had been deprived of for long for no fault of theirs.

The Minister also distributed benefits under Mudra, PM Svanidhi, Ayushman Bharat, PMAY-G and various agriculture and horticulture related schemes and distributed various logistics among them.

The Minister later on also interacted with the District and Sectoral Officers in a meeting convened in New Conference Hall Budgam. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Budgam Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza through PowerPoint presentation highlighted the overall district profile, major achievement of various departments in sectors including power, water supply, roads, social wel-

fare, Agriculture, Horticulture and allied activities. The Minister took stock of the status of various sectors including health, education, water supply and construction of roads among others.

On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh laid e-foundation of different development projects including Watalpora-Wahpora road, upgradation of Gariend-Wadwan road, and upgradation of Dajimalik Gund, Punch Gund, Nijloo Wahpora including Mamgund Road. E-foundation was also laid for one receiving station at Ompora Budgam.

The Minister also e-inaugurated OPD Block, Operation Theatre and Wards at SDH Nagam, additional accommodation for Model Higher Secondary School Chadoora, the

Minister said that the district has the biggest assets in the form of agriculture, horticulture and other allied activities. He said that in this direction, more areas need to be explored so that maximum resources are tapped for socio-economic development of the public.

The Minister emphasised upon holding of massive awareness campaign and instructed KVK Budgam, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines and SKUAST to hold joint seminar cum awareness programmes in the near future to give further boost to agricultural activities across district Budgam. Some villages in Budgam shall be identified and developed as solar villages, the Minister announced.

An awareness cum training programme on eco-friendly and sustainable farming methods and demo and distribution of solar pumps by Science and Technology Department was also held at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall on the occasion.

Commenting upon the potential of Budgam, the

## Bhim Singh passes away



## Delhi Govt to provide free power supply to KPs' shops in INA market

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi government will provide free electricity connections to shops run by Kashmiri Pandits in INA market here. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Tuesday. All expenses from installation of transformers to electricity connections will be borne by the Kejriwal government and the entire work will be completed within a month. Earlier, a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits had apprised Kejriwal about the issue of power connections in the market. The delegation had informed the chief minister that there were more than 100 shops of Kashmiri Pandits in INA market, and they had been shifted several times previously because of various construction activities.

## Time for Kashmiris to rise against Pakistan, its proxies: Rana

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Saying enough is enough, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana on Tuesday observed that selective killings are acts of terrorism aimed at creating disharmony, adding people of Kashmir, particularly the civil society must come out strongly and openly against Pakistan and her proxies who are responsible for such dastardly killings.

Rana hoped the people of Kashmir will come forward to restore pristine glory of the Valley that has received huge dent by the alien gun culture over the past three decades.

He strongly condemned the yet another barbaric killing of a school teacher in Chawalgam area of the Kulgam district by terrorists and said the inhuman act speaks of a sinister campaign to create fear psychosis, instability and discord between the communities in order to keep the Valley boiling. This is an attempt to scuttle the process of normalisation that has resulted in fillip to economic activities in the Valley in recent times. He said this is an uncomfortable situation for Pakistan and its lackeys, who are desperate to reverse the positives achieved by the security forces with the cooperation of the people. The enemies of peace are, therefore, working overtime to revert back the Valley to the dark tunnel again that has already undergone colossal damage to its culture, heritage and way of life of the people, who essentially believe in amity and brotherhood, he said.

Rana also decried the attempts of creating alibis and providing cover fire to the perpetrators of lunatic violence by disgruntled elements in terms of raking up non-issues like talks with Pakistan etc to further their political agenda. In their nefarious pursuit, they are causing much harm to Kashmir peace and normalcy. He hoped the people will see through their game plan and unequivocally raise their voice against terror ecosystem.

"Was the crime of Rajni Bala to educate young children so grave and unpardonable to warrant bullets in the chest", Rana asked, adding that the people will not tolerate such an abuse to their glorious heritage, known the world over. He said terrorism has no place in the civilized society and exuded confidence that ultimately the monster of terror will eat up the vitals of its mentor.

Rana said such acts of dastardly violence will not deter the Nation's resolve to uproot terrorism, punish the perpetrators and their handlers. He said terrorism is on its last leg in Kashmir and those struggling to give it a new life will perish.

The senior BJP leader conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family, prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to all her nears and dears to bear this irreparable loss.

## Untimely rains, hailstorms cause extensive damages to Horti, Agri sectors in Valley

### ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Frequent rains, hailstorms and gusty winds have left Valley farmers in dire straits, as orchards in Shopian, Kulgam, Kupwara, Baramulla and Budgam districts suffered great damages, approximate about 30 per cent to 40 per cent. On April 24, thunderstorm along with massive hailstorm occurred at many places of North Kashmir, which wreaked havoc in many villages of Baramulla and Kupwara district causing damage to apple orchards and walnut trees.

Hailstorm lasted for about 8 minutes which resulted in heavy damage to apple, walnuts, cherry and vegetable at numerous villages including Puthwari, Nowgam, Reshwari, Yahama, Mawerbal, Lawoosa, Qalamabad, Audoora, Shatgundbal and Drangsoo. Again on April 26, another strong hailstorm hit parts of Srinagar, including Tangmarg and Gulmarg. In Tangmarg, the hailstorm was witnessed for about 5 to 7 minutes while it lasted for more than 10 minutes in Gulmarg, which caused damage to standing crops and orchards.

Another hailstorm within two days in South Kashmir damaged apple fruit and buds in about a dozen of villages. Orchardists said that hailstorm lasted for around 25 minutes in afternoon and damaged 50 to 80 percent of the apple crop in. The villages which were affected due to the hailstorm include Kapran, Vehil, Chak Nowgam, Chak Kachdoora, Kanjullar, Dangam, Wangam, Pandushan and other adjoining areas.

The dry spell in March and first week of April has already caused problems for fruit-growers. March, which is usually considered wettest month, saw very few spells of rain this year. Experts believe the current dry spell is a result of global warming. "The dry spell and then untimely heavy rains with thunderstorms and hailstorm is caused by global warming and Kashmir is also witnessing the same effect," said an officer of Sher e Kashmir University of Agricultural sciences and Technology.

A horticulture official said that the department is constituting a team to access extent of losses. DG Horticulture also shared few pictures showing how the hailstorm had caused damage to orchards at different places. Meanwhile, as per forecast issued by Meteorological (Met) Department for next 24 hours, a brief spell of rain/thunderstorms may occur at some pockets and there is no forecast of any major rain spell for next few days.

## Nation Resolves To Ensure Benefits Of All Schemes Reach 100% Women



- More than 11.5 crore toilets made life easier for women
- More than 9.5 crore households got tap water connections
- 68% beneficiaries of MUDRA scheme are women
- 9.17 crore gas connections for women under Ujjwala Yojana
- Financial assistance to over 2.4 crore pregnant women and lactating mothers under PM Matru Vandana Yojana
- 3.11 crore free antenatal check-ups conducted under PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
- Paid maternity leave increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks
- 2.73 crore Sukanya Samridh Yojana accounts opened
- Practice of Triple Talaq abolished
- Permanent commission for women in Armed forces



“Today, the priority of the country is on improving the lives of women. We are putting emphasis on lessening the difficulties of our mothers and sisters and ensuring their full participation in the development journey of India.”

- Narendra Modi -

