

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!**Terrorism exported by...**

Ecological sensibilities, conservation of natural inheritance, sustainable lifestyle and holistic approach for an environment-friendly development path can strengthen our capacity to deal with the environmental crises and reverse the environmental degradation, the Lt Governor observed.

We are an intrinsic part of nature. For our future generations, everyone must contribute to maintain the delicate balance of nature. Ecological harmony, pragmatic steps like synergy between economic growth and environmental protection for projects can effectively address climate change, added the Lt Governor.

Highlighting J&K Government's consistent efforts towards environment protection, the Lt Governor noted that the protected area network is around 12% of the geographical area which is more than double the national average of 5%. "Our focus is the industrial environment through nature based solutions" he added.

In J&K, with active participation of PRIs and the people, the administration is implementing innovative programs like Green J&K Drive, Har Gaon Hariyali, One Beat Guard, One Village, City Biodiversity Index , Paed Lagaye Har Beti Ke Naam, Forest Huts for Sustainable Tourism, Trek Routes etc for protecting and increasing the forest cover, besides promoting green and sustainable systems through interventions in agriculture, alternative energy resources, preventing erosion in forests, fighting pollution and encroachment of rivers and ponds, he added.

The Lt Governor called upon the Forest Department to start Green Innovation Program at Universities of J&K, IIT Jammu and NIT Srinagar to promote Green Innovation among the youth.

He also urged all DCs, PRI representatives and J&K Rural Livelihood Mission to start the process of giving a 'Green Label' on products of all Self Help Groups after passing the tests and validations. He further asked the PRI representatives to identify the works related to restoration of the ecosystem in their respective panchayats.

The Lt Governor asked the Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations to develop Smart Cities as Climate Smart Cities and run a "City with Nature" a year-long campaign with public participation to prevent water, air and plastic pollution. He further advised all the government departments to achieve the goals of bringing an end to the use of single-use plastic, and strengthening the Waste Management System.

He directed the concerned officers to complete the remaining work of LED bulb installation in all the offices within the next 15 days.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, while speaking on the occasion, called upon the people, especially the younger generation to take effective measures for protection and conservation of environment.

Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology And Environment ; Dr Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council, and Rakesh Kumar, Director Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing highlighted the deliverables of the department aimed at protecting the environment and increasing the green cover in J&K.

T Rabi Kumar, Additional PCCF Kashmir delivered the vote of thanks.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released a special cover by the Department of Posts, GoI in commemoration of 111 years of foundation of Kashmir Forest Training School Chittnera.

The Lt Governor presented awards to the winners of "GreenLIFE Contest" and launched the prototype of GreenLIFE mobile application - an initiative which will motivate people to reduce their daily carbon footprint.

Various publications on Environment and Biodiversity conservation included Wetlands Inside Forest, Geospatial Monitoring of Dal Lake, Framework Note on Disaster Resilient Cities for Jammu & Srinagar; 'Jungle JaiVividhata' by J&K Biodiversity Council, besides Nature Asset Maps of Smart Cities of Jammu & Srinagar and short films and videos on Wetlands of Forests; 'One Beat Guard, One Village Program' were also released to mark the day.

Earlier, on his arrival, the Lt Governor inspected the stalls installed by the various departments and school students, and also planted a sapling.

D V Mahesh, Chief Postmaster General, J&K Circle; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; senior officers, besides PRI members, representatives of several NGOs, teachers and students from various schools were present on the occasion.

Road diversion issue...

establishment with the village sarpanch and civil administration representatives on the issue of diverting of traffic from the road Tiger Hill Gate- Kotli and Mangiani Villages due to security reasons," a defence spokesperson said.

A mutual consensus was arrived on at the meeting. The duration of the closure of the road notices to be given to village heads through civil administration before closure by army authorities, restrictions, and exemptions were discussed at the meeting, he said. It was decided that monthly meetings between village heads and army authorities will be held regularly, he said. "The Indian Army stands firm with the populace of Jammu and Kashmir and is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our citizens," the spokesperson said.

Centre following policy...

step to resolving a problem is to acknowledge that it exists.

The party which is running the show at centre is living in denial. It wants everyone to keep their heads down and pretend all is well in Kashmir, including Kashmiri Pandits, he said.

Abdullah asked party workers to work in tandem to make the party stronger at the grass root level.

Earlier, he made a brief stopover at Hir Pura on Mughal road and met a number of party's local unit functionaries.

National Conference has witnessed rocky roads since its very inception but with the overwhelming support of people, it was able to tide over those challenging periods.

As long as people are with us, no power can dislodge the National Conference which is not just a party, but a movement, he said.

The same day, Abdullah also visited Sawijan-Gagrian near zero line in the district to condole with the bereaved families who lost their members in a road accident the previous day.

Four people, including a minor girl, were killed and seven others injured when a cab fell into a gorge in Sawijan village on Saturday.

Meeting the families, Abdullah offered special prayers for the deceased, and also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured, a party spokesperson said.

49 people killed...

Medical College Hospital or CMCH) morgue, police sub-inspector at the facility Mohammad Alauddin told reporters.

Doctors at the state-run CMCH, which accommodated most of the wounded people, said the fate of over a dozen of the burn-injured patients was uncertain due to their critical wounds.

Dozens more including firefighters are being treated at the Chattogram Combined Military Hospital (CMH) while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered military helicopters to bring the critically wounded patients to Dhaka for better treatment.

Hospitals in the area are overwhelmed, with crowds of people waiting in hallways for treatment.

Pictures of the aftermath showed the twisted remains of metal shipping containers and the collapsed roof of a warehouse.

Chattogram Divisional Commissioner (DC) Ashraf Uddin said that families of the deceased would be given USD 560 (Taka 50,000) by the DC office, and USD 224

(Taka 20,000) would be given to the families of the injured, the Daily Star newspaper reported.

Bangladesh's parliament, which met on its maiden budget session on Sunday, adopted a condolence motion over the tragedy.

Officials and witnesses speculated that the firefighters were initially unaware that the depot stored chemicals to cause blasts while video footage which went viral showed a teenage boy doing Facebook live and moments later virtually vanishing alongside the firemen.

"The deafening explosions turned the sky a blazing orange throughout the night, a resident in the neighbourhood told a TV channel adding that the explosions threw several people metres away from where they were standing.

The residents said the explosions rocked the neighbourhood within a nearly four-kilometre radius around the inland container depot which has been operating since May 2011.

A pungent odour in the air forced rescuers to cover their noses in masks while they also complained of itchy eyes apparently due to chemicals.

Officials said the depot -- a site with 21 acres of land -- stored around 4,000 containers, many filled with garments destined for Western retailers.

In a statement, Mujibur Rahman, director of the BM Container Depot, said it was not clear what caused the fire. "But I think the fire started from the container".

"Arrangements are being made to ensure that the injured get the best treatment. We will bear the entire cost of the treatment. Those who were injured in the accident will be given the maximum compensation," Rahman was quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper.

"In addition, we will take responsibility for all the families of all the victims," he added.

Bangladesh has a history of industrial disasters. Past industrial tragedies have often been attributed to safety lapses.

Last year, a fire engulfed a food and drink factory in Bangladesh, killing at least 52 people.

In February 2019, a blaze ripped through a 400-year-old area crammed with apartments, shops and warehouses in the oldest part of Dhaka and killed at least 67 people.

In 2012, about 117 workers died when they were trapped behind locked exits in a garment factory in Dhaka. The country's worst industrial disaster occurred the following year, when the Rana Plaza garment factory outside Dhaka collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people. Another fire in Old Dhaka in a house illegally storing chemicals killed at least 123 people in 2010.

Dozens of seized...

cars and over a dozen two-wheelers were completely gutted in the fire," an official of the fire and emergency department said.

JK reports 4...

the Bulletin informed that Jammu reported three cases and Rajouri one case while as no other district across the Union Territory recorded any fresh case.

BJP suspends Nupur...

not, in any manner, reflect the views of the government of India. "These are the views of fringe elements," the Indian Embassy quoting him said.

With its members' inflammatory comments stoking protests in the country, including violence in Kanpur, and drawing strong reactions from abroad, the BJP swung into action to control the damage.

Before cracking the whip on the two members, the ruling party also issued a statement underscoring its respect for all religions and their revered figures.

Party general secretary Arun Singh said in a statement that the party is strongly against any ideology which insults or demeans any sect or religion.

The BJP does not promote such people or philosophy, he said.

The BJP statement, however, made no direct mention of any incident or comment.

The statement announcing action against Sharma and Jindal also made no particular reference to their controversial remarks.

The opposition Congress claimed the BJP's action against its leaders is "placatory" and taken following "threats from external powers".

In his statement, BJP's Arun Singh said, "During the thousands of years of history of India every religion has blossomed and flourished. The Bharatiya Janata Party respects all religions. The BJP strongly denounces insult of any religious personalities of any religion." India's Constitution gives the right to every citizen to practice any religion of his or her choice and to honour and respect every religion, he said.

"As India celebrates the 75th year of its Independence, we are committed to making India a great country where all are equal and everyone lives with dignity, where all are committed to India's unity and integrity, where all enjoy the fruits of growth and development," the BJP leader said.

The communication to Sharma from the party's disciplinary committee secretary Om Pathak said she has expressed views contrary to the party's position on various matters, which is in clear violation of its constitution.

"Pending further inquiry, you are suspended from the party and from your responsibilities, assignments if any, with immediate effect," it said.

The communication from Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta to Jindal said his views on social media vitiate communal harmony and are in violation of the party's fundamental beliefs.

He has acted against the party's policies and ideology, Gupta said.

"Your primary membership is immediately terminated and you are expelled from the party," Gupta said.

Jindal said that he had tweeted asking a question to those attacking and insulting Hindu deities and it was not aimed at hurting the religious sentiments of any community.

After the action, Sharma unconditionally withdrew her controversial statement made in the TV debate and claimed that her comments were a reaction to "continuous insult and disrespect towards our Mahadev" (Lord Shiva).

Both Sharma and Jindal said it was never their intention to hurt anyone's religious feelings.

In a statement posted on Twitter, Nupur Sharma said, "I have been attending TV debates for the past many days where our Mahadev was being insulted and disrespected continuously. It was mockingly being said that it is not Shivling but a fountain. The Shivling was also being ridiculed by comparing it to roadside signs and poles in Delhi." She was apparently referring to the claims of Hindu groups about the presence of a Shivling at the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi.

She added, "If my words have caused discomfort or hurt religious feelings of anyone whatsoever, I hereby unconditionally withdraw my statement. It was never my intention to hurt anyone's religious feelings." Muslim groups have been holding protests demanding action against Sharma. Cases have been filed against her in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Pune, accusing her of hurting religious sentiments.

Both Sharma and Jindal also requested people on Twitter not to disclose their addresses, saying they and their families are facing threats.

Their messages were apparently in reaction to some users sharing the party's communications to them on the action against them, as the letters carried their addresses too.

After the BJP's action, its minority cell head Jamal Siddiqui said it showed the "actual face" of the party and sent a message to the rank and file that no one would be allowed to violate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas'.

Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, however, accused the BJP of pushing India into a dark age of religious polarisation to "serve its parochial political agenda in the short term".

"The placatory expulsion of two key members and spokespersons of the BJP from

its primary membership, done obviously under duress of threats from external powers, exposes the much touted 'muscular posturing' and positioning of the BJP and the Modi government," he said in a statement.

Bukhari denounces targeted...

and Dogra employees working in the valley, Bukhari said it is not a matter of which community or region the victims belong to.

Innocent killing is like murder of humanity. We strongly condemn such killings and will do whatever possible (to mobilize public support against such incidents). The government should also fulfil its responsibility and ensure foolproof security to vulnerable citizens, he said, adding it is not a question about Kashmiri Pandits or Muslims as lives of both are in danger, but since the Kashmiri Pandits are in minority, the fear among them is much more .

On the upcoming annual Amarnath yatra, the Apni Party chief said it is a historic pilgrimage and was conducted even during the peak period of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir in 1990s.

Earlier, he lashed out at the BJP and alleged that all resources of the Union territory were being sold to outsiders.

Bukhari also described senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad as the tallest leader of Jammu and Kashmir and said his party will be fortunate if he decides to be a part of it.

India's efforts to...

availability of water, to remove the damage that is happening to the soil due to less groundwater, and to stop the continuous erosion of soil due to the reduction of forests.

Farmers earlier lacked information about the type of soil, deficiency in soil and how much water is there, he said, noting that his government launched a huge campaign to give soil health cards to them to overcome the problem.

A campaign to conserve 13 big rivers has also started in the country, and along with reducing pollution in water, work is also being done to plant forests on the banks of rivers, he said, noting that this will add a forest cover of 7,400 sq km.

Praising natural farming, Modi said it offers solution to some of our biggest problems.

The government has decided to encourage natural farming in villages situated on the banks of Ganga which will make it a huge corridor of natural farming, he said.

This will not only make our farms chemical free but the Namami Gange campaign will also gain new strength.

India is working on the goal of making 26 million hectares of barren land fertile by 2030, he added.

Modi said due to the PM National GatiShakti Master plan logistics system and transport system will be strengthened and that will lead to reduction of pollution.

Multi-modal connectivity work on more than 100 waterways will also help in reducing pollution, he said, noting this will create lot of green jobs.

The 'Save Soil Movement' is a global initiative to increase awareness about deteriorating soil health and bring about a conscious response to improve it, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had said in a statement.

The movement was started in March by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, who embarked on a 100-day motorcycle journey passing through 27 countries, it said, adding that June 5 marks the 75th day of the journey.

AAP holds 'Jan...

to protest against the killings of Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley.

"I want to tell Pakistan to stop its petty tactics. Kashmir was ours and will always be a part of India... if India decides, then Pakistan will not exist," he said at the rally.

The spate of targeted killings in Kashmir started in May this year which included that of Rahul Bhat, a clerk, who was shot dead inside the tehsildar's office in Chadoora tehsil of Budgam district.

Of the eight targeted killings since May 1, three victims were off-duty policemen and five were civilians.

Kejriwal said he will seek time from Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the issue and know the Centre's plan to stop the killings in Kashmir.

He said Kashmiri Pandits are being forced to leave their homes, a repeat of what happened in the 1990s. Whenever the BJP is in power in Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmiri Pandits are forced to leave the Valley, he alleged.

"This shows the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cannot handle Kashmir and it only knows how to do dirty politics. Please do not do politics over Kashmir.

"The BJP government has failed to provide security to Kashmiri Pandits. They do not have any plan but just hold meetings. Many meetings were held on the issue and now everyone wants to know the action plan," he said.

Carrying placards that read "India will not tolerate the killings of Kashmiri Pandits", the protesters raised "Bharat Mata ki Jai" slogans and demanded justice for the Kashmiri Pandits being targeted by terrorists.

"Whenever a killing takes place in Kashmir, it is said that the Union home minister is holding a high-level meeting. But where is the action plan? What is the plan? Kashmir wants an action plan. Yesterday, I saw that a three-hour-long high-level meeting was held. There have been too many meetings. Please take some action on the ground. People are dying," Kejriwal added.