

VC NITI Aayog appreciates brisk digital transformation in J&K; rankings of UT's administrative units



Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, Suman Bery chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: On his visit to J&K, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, Suman Bery, reviewed the developmental scenario in J&K to explore thrust areas in presence of Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and other senior officers to help J&K realize the vision of Viksit J&K @ 2047.

During the interactive session, the VC expressed his appreciation for the best practices that have been implemented in the Union Territory (UT) over the past couple of years, which have enhanced the responsiveness and transparency of the administration.

He specifically noted the remarkable digital transformation that has taken place within a span of just two years, enabling the delivery of all services online. Additionally, he commended initiatives such as the compilation of the District Good Governance Index and rankings of Panchayats and Blocks based on key developmental parameters, emphasizing their significance as noteworthy practices.

The VC also observed that NITI Aayog is a platform to share knowledge and good practices among States/UTs to realize the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. He stressed that the institutional and governance dimensions, supported by financial imperatives, are crucial in shaping the

nation's future as envisioned by the Prime Minister.

Mr Bery further noted that all the programmes devised by the UT are designed to enhance the quality of life for citizens and build trust in governance systems, ultimately fostering the development of a modern society aligned with the Aspirational agenda set by our nation for itself. He called for adoption of sustainable models of development, gradually reducing reliance on fossil fuels and adopting alternatives to it.

He assured that NITI Aayog shall be willing to extend support to J&K and mentioned possible areas of cooperation. He suggested that J&K should retain its natural advantages to achieve its aim of being one of the top 50 Global tourist destinations.

He also suggested factoring in risks and uncertainties while formulating developmental plans to be future ready. He highlighted the need for promoting organic agriculture and high density plantations as a way forward. He highlighted the need for a diversified economy, besides the undisputable strength in tourism and horticulture, as a risk mitigation measure, as brought out by Covid-19 experience.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary informed the Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog

about the transparency and accountability framework like BEAMS, e-tendering,

mandatory Administrative Approvals and Technical Sanctions along with physical verification of projects which have accelerated pace of development in the UT. He highlighted that with nearly the same level of capital expenditure, UT has achieved completion of 10 times more works than what was accomplished prior to 2019. Dr Mehta maintained that J&K is shedding all possible constraints to adopt the path that is progressive and improves the quality of lives of people. He outlined that J&K has by now adopt-

to achieve excellence in every sector.

He maintained that J&K has not attempted to invent the wheel afresh; instead it has tried to customize the technology adopted elsewhere to rapidly ascend the ladder of development. He stated that the LG Administration has made it a focal point to put the interests of people ahead of everything which is the sole guiding principle to help it to attain new heights of progress with each passing

dividends of peace are clearly visible in the functioning of schools and colleges, tourist arrivals, sports activities, developmental momentum etc.

Later on, NITI Aayog also dwelt upon the structure and framework of a UT Institute of Transformation, supported by NITI Aayog, as part of a reimagined planning department of the UT, which would be key to shaping its journey towards a Viksit J&K @ 2047.

all the laws enacted by the Parliament. He said that the UT has junked all the convoluted thinking to be a competitive entity.

The Chief Secretary also apprised the VC, NITI Aayog about the landmark developments the UT has embraced in the shape of Back to Village, My Town My Pride and robust grievance redressal mechanism to bring government at the doorsteps of people. He revealed that the UT government is well on the path

month. He remarked that it is the fruit of the vision and direction given by the Lieutenant Governor that the UT has completed more than 92000 works previous year, made all services online, covered whole population under health insurance scheme (PMJAY Sehat), achieved high ranking in road construction under PMGSY, Amrit Sarovar, Nasha Mukh Bharat, SDGs and dozens of other sectors and schemes rolled out in the country.

Bery calls on Lt Governor



Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog Suman Bery meeting with LG Manoj Sinha.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog met the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Wednesday.

He discussed with the Lt Governor the J&K Vision Document for Viksit Bharat @ 2047 and the way forward.

They also discussed various important matters including Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HDAP); potential PPP projects and Asset monetization, and funding on the pattern of North-Eastern/Himalayan states for externally-aided projects.

Fully geared up to ensure smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra: BSF DIG

STATE TIMES NEWS
SUCHETGARH: Border Security Force personnel are fully geared up to ensure smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir which is scheduled to start on July 1, a senior officer said here on Wednesday.

Hundreds of BSF personnel participated in a yoga session held at the Oterio Border Outpost here on the occasion of the International Day of Yoga.

"We want our soldiers to stay healthy and fulfil their duties efficiently. We have included yoga in our daily routine and it helps our soldiers stay stress-free," said BSF Deputy Inspector General Chiter Pal on the sidelines of the event here.

About the upcoming Amarnath pilgrimage, the DIG said, "Our biggest challenge is Amarnath Yatra which is starting



from July 1. We have made full preparations for that. Our jawans are fully geared up and alert."

The annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir will continue till August 31. The journey can be undertaken through two routes the traditional 48-km route through Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steep Baital route in the Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

Vijay Diwas: Army to undertake motorcycle expedition from Kohima to Kargil

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Army is undertaking a motorcycle expedition from Nagaland capital Kohima to Kargil War Memorial in the Union territory of Ladakh to commemorate the commencement of 25th year of Kargil Vijay Diwas, a defence spokesman said.

The expedition, from July 3 to 26, will traverse across 3,700 kilometres of the nation's northern borders, from north-east to north India with mesmerising and challenging landscapes, the spokesman said.

He said the event is heralded by collection of sacred soil of the fallen bravehearts from battlefields of Drass to be offered to their families at their home towns, across eight states and two Union territories.

"The sacred soil collection event was graced by Brigadier D K Badola (retd) and Army officers of Parashu brigade of Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps on Jun 20," the spokesman said.

He said the expedition which is being led by brave Mashkoh warriors will be flagged off on July 3 from Kohima by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command and will be flagged in on July 26 during the Vijay Diwas celebrations.

"The expedition is first of its kind, aimed at connecting the two extremities of our nation from Northeast to Ladakh, harnessing the collective resolve of our troops hailing from areas along the northern borders towards safeguarding the integrity of their motherland."

"The event is also a tribute to the brave soldiers of the Northeastern region who fought valiantly in the icy frontiers of Ladakh and made the supreme sacrifice in defending our borders. The team will also interact with sections of society highlighting the role of the Army in nation building, motivating the youth and addressing the grievances of our veterans and Veer Naris," the spokesman said.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on July 26 to commemorate India's victory in the 1999 Kargil war and to pay homage to the fallen heroes.

As a run-up to the event, a trekking expedition from Pihyang, Leh to Hunder Dok, Pratap Pur was also undertaken by Ladakh Scouts battalion of Fire and Fury Corps.

The expedition team comprising 16 members traversed a distance of 42 kilometres, in three days over rugged and challenging terrain, crossing the formidable Lasero La located at an altitude of approximately 18,000 feet, the spokesman said.

He said the expedition was flagged off from Leh on June 15 by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi. The expedition was flagged in on June 20 by Chief of Staff, Fire and Fury Corps, who interacted with the soldiers and commended them for their spirit of adventure.

Ram Mandir may open for devotees on Jan 24 next year

STATE TIMES NEWS

AYODHYA: Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is likely to open for devotees on January 24 next year after the consecration of Ram Lalla idol which will be a 10-day ritual starting January 14, chairman of temple construction committee Nripendra Mishra said on Wednesday.

The ground floor work of the three-storey Ram temple has been completed, Mishra said, adding the temple Trust has decided to start the process of the consecration of Ram Lalla on Makar Sankranti (January 14). "Between January 14 and January 24, a 10-day ritual of Ram Lalla's 'pran pratishtha' (consecration) will be observed," Mishra told reporters here. The temple Trust has got some auspicious days from astrologers for the consecration process. Sources in the Trust said that the astrologers have given the dates of 21, 22, 24 and 25 January as auspicious days. The idol of Ram Lalla may be consecrated on January 22, as it is said to be the best date, the sources said. Authorities of the Sri Ram Jambhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust will invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the consecration ceremony during which the idol of Ram

Lalla will be installed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. Trust general secretary Champat Rai said that a request letter signed by Trust president Mahant Nitya Gopal Das will be sent to the prime minister. "As no date has been fixed for the consecration of the idol, the PM will be asked to give his permission regarding any favourable date between December 2023 and January 26, 2024," Rai told reporters.

Mishra said that the main door of the sanctum sanctorum and the 161 feet high peak of the temple will be covered with gold. According to Trust general secretary Rai, three sculptors are working on three types of stones to carve idols of Ram Lalla and the most attractive idol will be selected for installation at the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. Sculptors Ganesh Bhatt and Arun Yogiraj are working on different stones from Karnataka while Satya Narayan Pandey from Rajasthan is working on the best quality Makrana marble.

The three sculptors are working at three different places of Ayodhya under tight security and no outsiders are allowed to enter their workshops, Rai said.

IASOWA J&K celebrates 9th "International Day of Yoga"

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: IASOWA J&K on Tuesday celebrated the 9th International Day of Yoga 2023 at Dachigam National Park under the guidance of the President IASOWA J&K, Dr. Amita Mehta.

Dr. Manu Bhatnagar, Rashmi Singh, Rajni Kumar, Ruchi Gupta, Ankita Kar and other guests were also present during the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Amita, who is an environmentalist, emphasized on the importance of yoga in our daily lives. She highlighted that yoga beneficial for our physical and mental well being and improves quality of our lives.

Dr. Amita also said that the theme of this year's International Day of Yoga 2023 "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," represents our shared



IASOWA members performing Yoga Aasan at Srinagar.

desire for "One Earth, One Family, One Future." She added that this day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the holistic approach Yoga offers to well-being of mankind.

President IASOWA discussed with its members that Yoga helps in finding balance in our fast-paced, modern lives and encourages physical, mental, and spiritual harmony.

Dr. Mehta added that

Yoga also fosters mindfulness, stress reduction, and overall health and vitality.

During the celebrations, Ayush team gave details of how the particular yoga mudras are beneficial to treat particular diseases and highlighted its role in preventive health care.

The Members also discussed with Ayush team that yoga asanas really work as corrective measures for many problems.

College on Wheels: 1,100 women students from J&K to go on educational tour across India

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Around 1,100 women students from different universities of Jammu and Kashmir will go on a "college on wheels", a rail journey, to different parts of the country later this year, Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai said on Wednesday.

"This will be an educational tour and not a pleasure trip. No expenses will be charged from the students who will work on their self-chosen projects during the journey likely to take place at the end of October or early November," Rai told reporters here on the eve of a special convocation at the university. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who will be coming here on his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, will be the chief guest at the convocation.

The programme will see felicitation of students

from 2016-19 and 2017-19 batches with 265 gold medals and 211 PhD degrees. Rai lauded J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also chancellor of the University, for releasing funds in advance for the 'college on wheels.'

"We are in talks with the Navy chief to facilitate the visit of the students to INS Vikrant in Mumbai, and Goa shipyard and docks. We have already spoken to the Director of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, who will apprise the students about their research labs," he said.

Rai said ISRO chairman has also accepted the varsity's proposal to allow the students to visit their station and take them to Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. "The students will be drawn from different universities and colleges across Jammu and Kashmir. The girls are being taken first," he said.

He said that 10 students under the guidance of one mentor will study the problems being faced by people at each place of their visit. Two bogies of the train will be converted into libraries, he added.

Asked about the delay in holding of convocations, Rai said the university is holding another special convocation followed by a regular convocation to complete the backlog.

"Whatever the reasons for delay in holding of convocations, we will try to ensure that they are held on a regular basis," he said.

The VC also spoke about various initiatives like opening of a centre for skill, innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship development centre the varsity has undertaken.

He said the university has also created the Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, and a centre of excellence for promotion of Dogri and introducing the Directorate of Hindi.

JKSC conducts screening of women hockey team



Member of JKSC along with Women Hockey team.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) today conducted screening of the junior women team selected by the Hockey J&K for the 13th Hockey India Junior Women National

Championship to be held at Raurkila in Odisha from June 27 to July 7. The screening was conducted by the Divisional Sports Officer of the JKSC, Ashok Singh at K K Hakku Stadium, here.

Among those present were

Dr Jagandeep Singh, Rajinder Singh, GS Bakshi, Ishan Sharma (treasurer Hockey J&K), Supinder Deep Singh Bakshi (general secretary Hockey J&K), Daljeet Singh (executive member) RP Singh Sarna and Dr Anitpal Singh.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on said that for the first time, the average disposal time of public grievances by Central Ministries & Departments has reduced to 16 days, as registered in May 2023.

The Minister was speaking after releasing "Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index" (GRAI) 2022 here on Wednesday.

Dr Jitendra also noted with satisfaction that there has been a decline of almost 50% in the average disposal time for Central Ministries/Departments from 32 days in 2021 to 18 days in 2023 and further to 16 days in May this year.

Progress in May, 2023 alone showed 1,16,734 grievances redressed by Central Ministries/Departments, with an average disposal time of



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, chairing a meeting at Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi on Wednesday.

16 days per grievance. The number of disposed Public Grievance cases has consistently increased, crossing 1 lakh cases per month multiple times.

"The adoption of the 10-Step CPGRAMS reforms resulted in a significant decrease in the average time for grievance disposal. These reforms have

enhanced the efficiency, accountability, and accessibility of the grievance redressal process, benefiting citizens and improving public service delivery," he said.

The Minister said the reforms have also positively impacted the disposal of State Public Grievances cases on the CPGRAMS portal, cross-

ing 50,000 cases per month since September 2022.

Dr Jitendra also called for a more robust human interface mechanism including Counselling post-resolution of the grievance. The Minister called upon the DARGP to devise a program for various offices & states to effectively monitor the

qualitative and quantitative disposal of grievances.

The Minister also commended the DARGP for making the CPGRAMS portal available in 22 scheduled languages along with English so that the common man could avail of its benefits.

He also underlined the need to integrate state portals and other government portals with CPGRAMS and name it more uniformly for seamless accessibility.

During the programme, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) 2022 in the presence of V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARGP and senior officers of the Department, along with nodal officers of Public Grievance of various Ministries/Departments/PSBs/PSEs and State officers.