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J&K has accepted...

those who brought guns to Kashmir were not well-wishers of the people here.

Later, inaugurating or laying foundation stones of various development projects in Kashmir Valley, Shah said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was peaceful now and the successful hosting of a G20 meeting in Srinagar proved it.

He said the development funds used to go into the pockets of a few earlier but now all those deserving are getting the fruits of development.

He said that when it was decided to hold a meeting of the G20 in Srinagar, many people offered various comments and some, including former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, made various predictions.

"But all these predictions were proved wrong as the G20 meeting in Srinagar was held successfully," he said and appreciated the Jammu and Kashmir administration headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for it.

He also said the successful hosting of the G20 meeting would give a big boost to the tourism industry in Kashmir.

The meeting of the G20 tourism working group was held in Kashmir last month.

The Home Minister claimed that during earlier regimes, funds meant for the poor and farmers used to go into the pockets of a few.

"Many in Jammu and Kashmir have big houses in foreign lands and many used to go for 45-60 days' vacations in foreign countries. Where did this money come from? This was money meant for the poor," he said.

Now development funds are reaching actual beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer (DBT), he said.

In the last four years, the government built about 1.86 lakh houses for people in Jammu and Kashmir and Rs 23,000 crore was given to beneficiaries of various schemes through DBT.

The home minister also appealed to people to come forward and join hands in the march for development and fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

UPA Govt was...

"(Narendra) Modi replaced the UPA government, which was involved in scams worth Rs 12 lakh crore. The prime minister has laid a strong foundation for a corruption-free India," he said, addressing a public rally here.

"Three families ruled Jammu and Kashmir for decades together and there was no development due to Article 370. As many as 42,000 people died due to terrorism and they are saying we should have kept Article 370 safeguarded," Shah said.

The Home Minister said he wanted to ask NC president Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti that who is responsible for the death of the 42,000 people because their parties were in power in the erstwhile state at that time.

"Under Modi, the noose around terrorism has been tightened," he said, adding that under the prime minister's leadership, Jammu and Kashmir has started its journey on the path of progress.

Shah, who started his two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir by paying tributes to BJP ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee at the party headquarters here, said it was the latter's sacrifice, motivation and pledge that there is no Article 370 today in Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory has been completely integrated with the country.

"Mookerjee is also credited with connecting West Bengal with India. He resigned as a minister (in 1953 from then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet) to launch his campaign for 'ek desh mein do vidhan, do pradhan aur do nishan nahi challenge' (there cannot be two sets of law, two chiefs and two symbols in a country) and reached Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Alleging that Mookerjee was killed in Jammu and Kashmir after his arrest for entering the region without a permit, Shah said his soul would be in peace after the abrogation of Article 370.

He also remembered the role of Pt. Prem Nath Dogra in the nationalist struggles in Jammu & Kashmir.

He said India is celebrating nine years of PM Modi's rule. He said there is not even a single corruption allegation against Modiji in 9 years of governance as it has worked hard to end corruption in the system.

The Modi government has reached every needy person who was neglected for all previous years, while he counted the major development works in J&K undertaken recently. He said that J&K has progressed on the path of development.

Whole J&K population is getting the benefits of Ayushman Gold Card. He mentioned the Tirupati Bala ji temple, which has been opened recently.

He said gone are the days, when the three families would rule and ruin J&K.

Lauding people for turning up in good numbers for the rally despite the scorching heat, the Home Minister said "a new Jammu and Kashmir is in the making under the Modi government".

Referring to a terror incident and the subsequent reaction of Mufti, he said, "I want to tell Mufti and Abdullah that there has been a 70-per cent drop in terror activities during the nine years of the NDA rule (in Jammu and Kashmir), compared to the previous 10 years of the UPA government.

"Under the 10 years of the UPA government, 7,327 terror incidents took place, whereas the number stands at 2,350 in nine years of the NDA government."

Shah said 2,056 civilians were killed in Jammu and Kashmir when the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was in power at the Centre from 2004 to 2014, while the number stands at only 377 under the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

The number of separatist-sponsored calls for strikes dropped to 32 after the abrogation of Article 370, while there has been a 90-per cent decline in stone-pelted incidents, he said, adding, "This shows that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is improving and all sections of the society, including the deprived Gujjars and Paharis, are getting their rights and justice."

Lauding Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and security forces for a successful conduct of a G20 meeting in Srinagar last month, he alleged that some political parties joined Pakistan in opposing the event and added that it has proved to be beneficial in conveying the message that the situation has improved Jammu and Kashmir.

"The tourist footfall in 2022 touched 1.88 crore, which is a record. During the rule of the three families, not even 50 per cent of such an arrival was recorded," Shah said.

He said 28,000 youngsters have been given government jobs in a transparent manner since 2014, while 51,000 have been provided with self-employment opportunities and 70,000 others linked to the "Mission Youth".

An industrial package of Rs 28,400 crore has been given to Jammu and Kashmir by the BJP government, the home minister said, adding that the youngsters who had stones in their hands earlier have now been equipped with laptops and they are re-writing their future as also taking care of the country's future.

"The investment (in Jammu and Kashmir) is growing after the introduction of the industrial policy, the industrial land allotment policy, the private industrial estate development policy, the food processing, handicraft and handloom policy, the new film policy, the tourism homestay and sports policy," he said.

In his address that lasted for more than 20 minutes, Shah also talked about the successful conduct of the Panchayati Raj Institution polls and said 32,000 panches and sarpanches are taking Jammu and Kashmir forward on the path of progress.

The home minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several projects prior to his address.

"Today, three projects worth Rs 84 crore -- a bone-and-joint hospital at Bakshi Nagar, a grid station and road widening from the Dogra chowk to the K C chowk -- were completed, while foundations stones were laid for projects worth Rs 309 crore, including a Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory in Samba," he said.

Shah said 97 lakh people have benefitted from the Ayushman Bharat Yojana or the national health protection scheme in Jammu and Kashmir, which is the only part of the country where all the citizens are entitled to its benefits.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration is spending an amount of Rs 2 crore on the scheme on a daily basis, which is meant for poor people in other parts of the country, he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday paid obeisance at the newly constructed Tirupati Balaji temple in the Majen area here, officials said.

Shah arrived here in the morning on a two-day trip to Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister first went to the BJP office at Trikutanagar and paid his respects to Jan Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his death anniversary.

After addressing a public rally in the Bhagwati Nagar area of the city, Shah headed for the Tirupati Balaji temple, built in the lower Shivalik range on the outskirts of the city.

Accompanied by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Home Minister offered prayers to Lord Venkateshwara, while the priests chanted shlokas, Thalari Ravi, the PRO of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), told PTI.

Shah and Sinha also partook in the prasadam offered at the temple, Ravi said.

The Home Minister expressed his happiness about visiting the Balaji temple during his stay, he added.

The temple of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy was inaugurated by Sinha, Union ministers Dr Jitendra Singh and G Kishen Reddy on June 8.

Initially, Shah was scheduled to virtually inaugurate the temple but could not take part in the event due to some indispensable work, Sinha had said during the inauguration event.

While he was at the party office in Trikutanagar on Friday, Shah held discussions with BJP leaders to gather feedback on the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday laid the foundation stone of a central forensic science laboratory in Samba and inaugurated several development projects in Jammu.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Mayor JMC Rajinder Sharma and others shared the stage with the Union Minister; while he laid the foundation stone for many projects and addressed the mammoth rally.

Addressing an event here, Shah highlighted the progress being made in Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He listed various projects being implemented in the region.

These include the forensic science laboratory in Samba having a budget of Rs 100 crore, 41 water supply schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Ramban and Kishtwar with a combined cost of Rs 157.47 crore, a multi-storey parking facility at the Doda bus stand at a cost of Rs 32.46 crore, a bone and joint hospital in Bakshi Nagar (Rs 40.86 crore), a grid station (Rs 17.77 crore), and the upgradation of the road from Dogra Chowk to KC Chowk with an investment of Rs 25 crore.

Shah also released a book highlighting the achievement of the government in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Jammu and Kashmir, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is progressing on the path of development, and a new Jammu and Kashmir is taking shape," he said.

Shah appreciated the initiatives to promote industrial growth and tourism in Jammu and Kashmir through policies on industries, films, homestays and houseboats.

These efforts have resulted in increased investments in the region, accompanied by a continuous rise in tourist footfalls, he said.

He announced the successful distribution of "Golden Health" cards which are benefiting approximately 97 lakh people.

In the past nine years, nine new medical colleges and 15 nursing colleges have been established, significantly expanding medical education, he said.

Additionally, the number of degree colleges and engineering colleges has risen from 96 to 147, with the inclusion of an IIT and an IIM in Jammu.

VC NITI Aayog ...

business environment. Various stakeholders, including the Houseboat Owners Association Land other tourism stakeholders, and the hospitality sector; highlighted the urgent need for infrastructure upgradation to cater to the growing demand of tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir.

They highlighted the positive impact of the recent G20 event, which created awareness and publicity about the region.

The Vice Chairman acknowledged the significance of this event and assured the stakeholders that their concerns would be considered for resolution.

Furthermore, representatives from the agriculture and allied sector provided valuable insights and raised several concerns during the session.

These concerns included processing of C-Grade apples, road connectivity, establishment of horticulture estates, and the need for incubation centers. Farmers engaged in dairy, poultry, and sheep farming also expressed their viewpoints, contributing to a comprehensive discussion on the challenges faced by the agricultural community.

Besides, an academic delegation also had the opportunity to present their issues before the Vice Chairman. They called for infrastructure development to enhance skilling programs, emphasized the importance of research, and sought liberal funding for educational institutions. Additionally, they urged for the establishment of a Law University to support the legal education sector in the region.

The Vice Chairman assured all stakeholders that their issues and demands would be thoroughly discussed and considered for appropriate action.

The interactive session was moderated by Secretary Planning Development and Monitoring, Dr Raghav Langer.

Others who attended the event included Secretary Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Director Tourism Kashmir, Planning Department officers, heads of various departments, representatives of associations, farmers and stakeholder groups.

J&K witnessing new...

will be opened. These cinema halls will also become the center of information and exchange of ideas for the youth, he added.

The aspiration of youth is our biggest strength in developing progressive and inclusive Jammu Kashmir: We are fully committed to provide all the resources for their holistic growth and development, the Lt Governor further said.

The Lt Governor urged the people of Jammu Kashmir to actively contribute in the successful conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra, starting from 1st July and make it as successful as the G20 summit.

The innovative edu-infotainment digital movie theatre at TRC Kishtwar is the collaborative effort of District Administration Kishtwar, Kishtwar Development Authority and Picture Time to address the public demand and provide facilities of recreation to the people.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar; senior officials, various stakeholders, youth and people from all walks of life attended the inaugural ceremony, in person and through virtual mode.

Infiltration bid foiled...

out disruptive activities aimed at causing harm to innocent civilians. However, due to the timely and effective response by Army & Police, their plans were foiled, and a significant threat to peace and stability in the area was neutralized.

In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation is in progress. Extensive search of the area is being carried out and further details if any will be shared accordingly.

ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar lauded the exceptional bravery, professionalism, and strategic planning exhibited by the joint team of Army and Police during the operation. Their coordinated efforts, meticulous execution, and swift response resulted in the neutralization of four unidentified terrorists, effectively averting a potential threat to the region's safety and security and saving the future of youth from the drug abuse. ADGP Kashmir also acknowledged the relentless dedication of the joint forces, in safeguarding the nation against terrorism. He added that this successful operation is a big blow to the narco-funding and other terror plans of the terrorists.

Chugh reviews ongoing...

complimented each leader for working round the clock to successfully conduct the programme allotted to each one of them. He said that they worked as a bridge between the party and the people for taking the achievement of Narendra Modi at the doorsteps of a common citizen.

Mission Youth an...

Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration thrice, briefed the Secretary DARPG and made a detailed presentation highlighting the schemes like Mumkin, Tejasvini, Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative, Parvaz and other projects under Mission Youth. He highlighted the role played by secretaries of stakeholder departments, Deputy Commissioners as heads of DLTF, Employment Department, Banks, Universities and other institutions.

Secretary, Youth Services and Sport, Sarmaad Hafeez made a presentation about massive youth participation under LG Rolling Trophy and various other sports initiatives launched in coordination with Mission Youth. He underscored the approach of convergence between departments ensured for effective youth engagement.

Secretary, Employment, Rehana Batool elaborated about the role played by the District Employment & Counselling Centres in coordination with departments, spreading awareness and undertaking youth engagement programme. District officers of the department also shared their experiences.

Deputy Commissioner and Chairman DLTF Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmed discussed about proactive approach adopted by the district administration in empowering youth through Skilling, education, entrepreneurship and offering opportunities through competing initiatives. He shared success stories from various areas of the district and engagement ensured at village level for popularising various schemes, initiatives and programs.

Director JKEDI Aijaz Ahmed Bhat, Director Employment Nisar Ahmed Wani, Director CCPS Kashmir University Prof Geer Mohammad Ishaq, Addl DC Kulgam, Dy Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir, Dy Director and OSDs of Mission Youth, Deputy Directors Employment, Consultant and Counsellors associates with Mission Youth held an engaging interaction with Secretary DARPG and shared their experiences. Beneficiaries from various schemes and youth vol-

unteers also shared their experiences and responded to queries of the Secretary DARPG.

India, US to...

over a decade, representing certain key sectors of the economy such as steel, aluminium, renewable energy, solar products, and certain key export-related measures. This mutually agreed solution negotiated by both sides marks the culmination of protracted negotiations, and it is unprecedented in WTO history, the commerce ministry said.

He also said that as a result of the agreement, exports of certain steel and aluminium products from India to the US would get an exemption from additional duties.

"They (US) have assured us that all exclusion (from additional duties) requests that India makes or US importer makes...They have given an assurance that at least 70 per cent of all such requests for steel and 80 per cent of all such requests for aluminium for products originating from India will be excluded from the additional process of Section 252 (of a US law)," Goyal said.

These remarks assume significance as in 2018, the US imposed 25 per cent and 10 per cent import duties on certain steel and aluminium products, respectively, on grounds of national security.

The US administration had imposed these duties using Section 232 of an act that permits the president to restrict imports.

In retaliation, India in June 2019 imposed customs duties on 28 American products, including chickpeas, lentils, almonds, walnuts, apples, boric acid, and diagnostic reagents. India had also filed a complaint against the US in WTO on imposing these duties.

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) said that the two countries "have agreed to terminate six outstanding disputes" at the WTO.

On India's decision to remove retaliatory customs duties on certain American products like chickpeas, lentils, almonds, walnuts, apples, boric acid, and diagnostic reagents, USTR Katherine Tai said that these tariff cuts will restore and expand market opportunities for US agricultural producers and manufacturers.

Trade experts stated that the move will help boost two-way commerce and strengthen economic ties.

Welcoming the decision, think-tank GTRI co-founder Ajay Srivastava said it is expected that the agreement also includes a commitment from the US to eliminate additional tariffs on steel and aluminium imported from India.

The US is the largest trading partner of India. In 2022-23, the bilateral goods trade increased to USD 128.8 billion as against USD 119.5 billion in 2021-22.

According to WTO rules, a member country can file a case in the Geneva-based multilateral body if they feel that a particular trade measure is against the norms of the world body.

Bilateral consultation is the first step to resolving a dispute. If both sides are not able to resolve the matter through consultation, either of them can approach the establishment of a dispute settlement panel.

The panel's ruling or report can be challenged by WTO's appellate body.

Interestingly, the appellate body is not functioning because of differences among member countries to appoint its members. Several disputes are already pending with this body. The US has been blocking the appointment of the members.

Further, the joint statement also said that India has highlighted its interest in the restoration of its status under the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme, which could be considered in relation to eligibility criteria determined by the US Congress.

On this, Goyal said that India and the US have agreed to discuss New Delhi's demand for restoration of GSP benefits to domestic exporters and now both sides will commence discussions to find a solution.

GSP allows eligible developing countries to export duty-free goods to the US. A number of Indian products from sectors such as chemicals and engineering were getting duty-free access to the US market under the GSP, introduced in 1976.

The US has assured that they will consider that and "we will discuss that and find some solution," he added.

But ultimately it's the US Congress which will have to take a final decision "but discussions will now commence on that issue," he told reporters here.

Modi during Egypt...

conflict in the 1970s. In his departure statement on June 20, Modi said, "I am excited to pay a State Visit to a close and friendly country for the first time."

"We had the pleasure of receiving President Sisi as the Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations this year. These two visits in the span of a few months are a reflection of our rapidly evolving partnership with Egypt, which was elevated to a Strategic Partnership' during President Sisi's visit.

"I look forward to my discussions with President Sisi and senior members of the Egyptian Government to impart further momentum to our civilizational and multi-faceted partnership. I will also have the opportunity to interact with the vibrant Indian diaspora in Egypt," Modi said.

Deepak posted as...

Magistrate, Katra. "He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Katra, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," it added.

IPS Sudhanshu relieved...

of Home Affairs, Government of India's Order issued vide F.No. 14020/01/2023-UTS.1 dated June 8, 2023, he is relieved with immediate effect, to take up his new assignment," reads an order issued by Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner/ Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.

Amway India champions Holistic Wellness  
Harnessing Synergy of Nutrition and Yoga

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Driven by the unwavering commitment to enhance the quality of people's lives, Amway India, one of India's leading FMCG Direct Selling companies, embarked on a mission to empower individuals in adopting healthier lifestyles.

As India eagerly embraces the annual celebration of International Yoga Day, Amway India took the center stage in emphasizing the profound significance of nutrition and yoga in achieving holistic wellbeing. With a vision to help people live better, healthier lives, Amway strives to ignite a transformative journey. And, as part of which Amway India organized series of virtual and physical yoga sessions along with expert speaker programs covering close to 2000 fitness enthusiasts across the country. The program was designed to spread the message on optimal health with a combination of good nutrition and regular physical activity such as yoga practices.

While reflecting on this occasion, Gursharan Cheema, Sr. Vice President, North & South, Amway India, said, "At Amway, we are steadfast in our conviction regarding the transformative power of nutrition and physical activity as the cornerstones of optimal health and wellness. As a global leader in nutrition, we firmly believe that wellness is multi-dimensional, encompassing physical, mental, emotional health and adequate nutrition. Good nutrition, an active lifestyle, and inner well-being are all interconnected. In recent times, the discussions around gut health have gained significant momentum, highlighting the undeniable link between the brain and the gut, also known as the 'second brain'. The food we eat can have a profound impact on our body and mind, hence the right diet can bring us in the right frame of mind when processed through a healthy medium of gut. Towards this, Amway, powered by Nutrilite, reinforces the importance of balanced and nutritious diet, as well as managing stress through practices like yoga or meditation. Yoga is as much about the body as it is about the mind, an ancient practice which has long recognized the connection between the gut and brain, predating the scientific understanding of the gut-brain axis influencing mood, emotions, and overall well-being."

He further added, "Studies indicate that incorporating traditional herbs into yoga practice can yield enhanced results, offering positive health benefits. For centuries, Indian traditional herbs have been known for their physiological benefits. In light of this, we have Nutrilite Traditional Herbs Range, which includes products such as Nutrilite Tulsi, Nutrilite Amalaki, Vibhitaki & Haritaki; Nutrilite Brahmi; Nutrilite Ashwagandha; and more to support immunity, mental agility, digestion etc. The range brings together the Best of Nature, the Best of Science with the Best of Indian Traditional Wisdom, offering assured level of Purity, Safety and Potency of herbs."

In North, the team celebrated International Yoga Day with a virtual campaign #ButFirstYoga with the aim to learn the art of balancing the Mind Body and Soul

With a growing focus on preventive health, Amway is committed to empowering individuals to take charge of their health and well-being. Amway's Nutrilite is the world's No. 1 selling vitamins and dietary supplements brand with a strong legacy of over 90 years in the plant-based approach to supplementation. Recognizing that wellness begins from within, Amway India have been promoting the concept of holistic well-being through its EARN philosophy which rests on 4 key pillars - Exercise, positive Attitude, Rest, Nutrition. Nutrilite, by Amway, has been continuously striving to help people achieve their health and wellness goals.

