

J&K Govt taking all steps to make farmers entrepreneurs par excellence: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday shared various key interventions and necessary steps being taken by the Jammu and Kashmir Government to make the farmers of the Union Territory entrepreneurs par excellence.

Participating in the 'Paddy Transplantation Festival' at Bijbehara, Anantnag, the Lt Governor also highlighted the efforts of the UT Administration, under the guidance of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, to empower the farming community and to rejuvenate the agriculture and allied sector.

"Paddy cultivation is the backbone of J&K's economy and our farmers with their unwavering commitment are playing a vital role in ensuring food security and maintaining the agrarian tradition," the Lt Governor said.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for dedicating Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) worth Rs.5013 Crore. He said the



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha participating in the 'Paddy Transplantation Festival' at Bijbehara, Anantnag.

HADP and its 29 projects are being implemented for creating a strong and commercial-

ly viable agriculture and allied sector.

The Lt Governor reaffirmed

that the policies and projects of the Government under HADP are based on the principles of economy, equity and ecology to put J&K on a new trajectory of growth, almost doubling the output of the sectors, boosting exports and making agriculture and allied sectors sustainable.

In Kashmir Division, an area of 1,27,167 Hectares would be brought under paddy cultivation this year and total 2,94,821 Hectares of net area under cultivation during Kharif Season, he observed.

The Lt Governor directed the officials to ensure timely supply of critical inputs, promoting innovative technologies, and to tap the potential of diversification and intercropping to improve farm productivity. He informed that the administration is going to launch the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan 3.0, soon.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the important role of educated youth, experts, officials and farmers of J&K in agriculture & allied sector.

He commended the District Administration Anantnag for

providing a huge chunk of land to industries department and facilitating the establishment of CA stores in the district. Addressing the issues pertaining to development of Jablipora Fruit Mandi, the Lt Governor informed that the project in this regard has been approved.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor e-inaugurated various components worth Rs 3.13 cr established under HADP. He visited the stalls put up by various departments and farmers and distributed sanction letters to

beneficiaries under different schemes. Progressive farmers also shared their success stories and expressed gratitude to the Administration for support and assistance.

Mohammad Yousuf Gorsi, Chairman DDC Anantnag; Shaileendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Syed Fakhrudin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag; HoDs, senior officials, farmers, stakeholders and people in large number were present.

ABVP holds protest against recent terror attacks in Jammu region

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In response to the recent surge in terrorist attacks in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Mahanagar staged a protest at Parade Chowk, here on Wednesday.

The protest aimed to condemn the escalating violence and the role of Pakistan-funded terrorism in the region. Demonstrators burned an effigy of Pakistan, symbolizing their outrage and demand for stringent action.

In the past 80 hours, Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed three separate terrorist attacks, raising



ABVP activists talking to reporters during a protest.

significant concerns about the region's security.

Arman Khajuria, Secretary of ABVP Jammu Mahanagar, expressed deep concern over the escalating violence.

"The continuous attacks by terrorists are a serious threat to the safety and security of our citizens. It is imperative that we take strong action against those responsible and their sup-

porters. We demand a thorough CBI inquiry into these incidents to ensure justice and accountability," he said.

Manik Goswami, Joint Secretary of ABVP Jammu Mahanagar, emphasized the need for unity and vigilance.

"The recent attacks are a stark reminder of the ongoing threat posed by terrorism. We must remain united in our efforts to combat this menace and ensure the safety of our people. Our protest today is a call for action and justice," he said. Harish Sharma, another Joint Secretary of ABVP Jammu Mahanagar, called for a stronger response from the government.

"The government must

take decisive measures to tackle terrorism and its supporters. The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve peace and security. We urge the authorities to conduct a comprehensive CBI inquiry to bring the perpetrators to justice," he said.

The prominent person who were present there at the moment where Chahat Anand (NEC, ABVP), Divyansh Jandyal (Office Secretary, ABVP Jammu Mahanagar), Deepali Goswami (RKM Convenor, ABVP Jammu Mahanagar), Ishika Mahajan, Varun Manhas, Rajan Singh, Atiya, Sannak Shrivats, Nitesh Dalmotra, Aryan, Akash and Chaitanya Magotra.

Sudden spurt in terror attacks exposes Govt claims, firm action needed: Bhalla, Ravinder

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress on Wednesday strongly condemned the series of terror attacks and questioned the sudden spurt in terror incidents, on the eve of Shri Amarnath Yatra and Assembly elections which is worrisome, take firm action to check rising terrorism, which has been spreading in entire Jammu.

Expressing sympathies with those martyred and injured, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla and Senior Vice President and Media Incharge Ravinder Sharma said that it is total failure of Centre & UT administration on the security situation and their hollow claims stand exposed at the cost of innocent lives.

Bhalla said that situation has worsened the Jammu province for the past two years, especially in Rajouri-Poonch but now it has spread tentacles in other parts engulfing the entire Jammu province in terrorism.

Bhalla said the Amarnath Yatra is starting month end and assembly elections are due, this sudden spurt is very surprising and worrisome.

Sharma termed the emerging situation as worrisome as the security network in Rajouri-Poonch has been weakened to claimed normalcy in past few years leading to rise and revival of terrorism.

He said that Govt. under the wrong impression of normalcy withdrew the army and the security posts and weakened

the Village Defence and Self Defence mechanism and as even licensed weapons of people are not being renewed.

The agitated people at Treyth near Kandla (Reasi) raised these demands forcefully with the DDC and complained about the weakening of village defence and self defence system leading to free situation for terrorists and people were scared.

He raised these demands of locals and besides upgradation of health infrastructure at Treyth and other adjoining areas of Kalakote and Reasi.

The Congress fully supported the Govt and security forces for firmly dealing with terrorism and to ensure safety of innocents and jawans.

Bukhari concerned over two terror incidents in Kathua, Doda

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari has expressed concern over the terror related twin incidents in Kathua, and Doda.

Expressing his displeasure over the incidents, Bukhari said that these terror incidents aim to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in Jammu region by targeting the civilian population, and security forces.

"The Govt should take a tough stance, and the security forces should ensure the peace is not disturbed and communal harmony is maintained," he said.

He further asked the people to remain vigilant from the elements, who are trying to disturb peace, and help the security forces in maintaining a peaceful atmosphere.

"The Govt should keep close monitoring of the situation in

Jammu region's three districts i.e., Reasi, Kathua, and Doda Districts where these terror related incidents have been reported in the last over 72 hours," he said.

He suspected that these terror incidents seem a conspiracy against the strong Govt of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Condemning the terror attack in Kathua, he also expressed solidarity with the family members of CRPF personnel namely Kabir Dass, who was martyred at village Seda Sohla in Hiranagar in Kathua District.

Meanwhile, Vice President, Aijaz Ahmed Khan has strongly condemned the terror incident in Reasi in which a bus carrying Shiv Khori pilgrims was targeted.

He also condemned the terror incidents in Kathua's Hiranagar and Doda district in

which a CRPF person was martyred, and several security force personnel injured in Doda respectively.

General Secretary of the Party, Vijay Bakaya also expressed shock over the surge in terror incidents and alarmed the authorities that they should act carefully to foil any kind of the nefarious designs of the anti-national elements.

"These incidents have the potential to create panic in the society and hurt communal harmony," he added, expressing faith at the capability of the J&K Police and security forces that they would handle the situation.

Other leaders of the Party from Kathua and Doda including President Kandil (Bani-Basohli), Yasar Choudhary have also condemned the terror incidents and termed it a threat to the peace in the region.

World Day against Child Labour: Virtual seminar held

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Labour Department on Wednesday organized a virtual seminar with the theme 'Let's Act on Our Commitments: End Child Labour' to commemorate 'World Day Against Child Labour'.

The seminar witnessed participation of senior officers of Police, Labour, Social Welfare and Health Departments, Chairpersons and members of district Child Welfare Committees, members representing Juvenile Justice Boards, representatives of Child Line, Advocacy groups, Traders Federations and other stakeholders working in the field of Child Labour across all the districts of J&K.

Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh, in his address, touched upon the theme emphasizing the need for collective action to eradicate child labour and protect children from exploitation. He said



abolition of Child Labour is enshrined in the Constitution besides Acts and Laws have been enacted on the issue. Recently, India has ratified the two main conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO) on Child Labour which mandate countries to take immediate effective measures to secure prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency, he added. He further said that the conventions also necessitated fixing of a minimum age for entry into work or employment besides establishment of national policies for elimination

of child labour. He added that enactment of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 further strengthened the legal framework against child labour by expanding prohibition of employment of children below 14 years in all occupations and processes, except where the child helps his family in non-hazardous occupations or sectors.

Charandeep Singh said despite legislative measures and efforts by the governmental and non governmental organizations, child labour remains prevalent across the country, particularly in rural and informal sectors. He emphasised the importance of conducting extensive awareness campaigns besides ensuring continuous monitoring and strict enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with child

labour laws and swift interventions in cases of violations.

Detailed presentations on various topics was also made during the seminar with Assistant Labour Commissioner, Anantnag, Peer Zameer Ahmad, speaking on the topic 'Child Labour Policies', Assistant Labour Commissioner, Kupwara, Arshid Qadir on 'Role of Statutory and Law Enforcement Bodies' and Assistant Labour Commissioner, Udhampur, Sapna dwelling upon the role of various stakeholders in eradication of Child Labour.

In his concluding remarks, the Labour Commissioner called for collective dedication towards eradicating child labour which has been a dark stain on society, depriving countless children of their childhood and robbing them of

the chance to receive an education and a better future.

"By recognizing the socio-economic factors that contribute to child labour; providing support and resources to vulnerable families, empowering them to overcome poverty and securing a better future for their children through commitment and collaborative initiatives can bring an end to this injustice" the Commissioner maintained. He said that the seminar was conducted to mobilize stakeholders and fostering collaboration to create a world free from child labour.

Deputy Labour Commissioner, Jammu, Kashmir and Central, Inspector of Factories Jammu and Kashmir, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Labour Officers and Labour Inspectors of all districts participated in the seminar.

Dire need to wipe out growing terrorism in Jammu region: SSP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party (SSP) JK UT expressed his anguish and pain on rapidly growing terrorism in Jammu region.

He condemned cowardly, inhuman and dastardly attack by terrorists on innocent pilgrims in Reasi district, resulting in loss of ten valuable lives and injuries to 30 persons.

Over last two years 32 soldiers have attained martyrdom in Poonch and Rajouri districts and recent attack in



Reasi indicates that Pakistan along with its proxies has succeeded in shifting the epicenter of terrorism from Kashmir to Jammu Region, he said. Emboldened by their success, they may move in to Ramban

and other districts of Jammu region, unless appropriate and stringent measures are taken by the government to nip the bud on urgent basis.

Coming Amarnath Yatra and assembly elections are likely to result in more attack and government has to come in proactive mode, completely shedding the reactive mode. We have no options but to seal the LOC, strengthen our intelligence,empower VDCs ,ensure area domination with emphasis on human intelligence and come down heavily on sleeper cells, OGWs and

sympathiser with strict and exemplary laws to ensure no local support is provided to local and foreign militants. For eradication of militancy additional forces and intelligence resources must be deployed on ground.

DCs and SSPs must be accountable for their districts and dovetailed in anti militancy operations.Recent election and huge participation by people in voting process, clearly define that issue now is less political and military centric. A retired general from army needs to be

brought in as Lt Governor alongwith two military advisors,one each in Kashmir and Jammu regions who directly report to Lt Governor. Unified Command already existing needs to be revitalized to counter the double whammy of terrorism and narco terrorism.

Desperate situation need desperate measures, hence seamless integration of all resources,in a well coordinated manner will yield desired results in our fight of complete wiping out of terrorism in JK UT.

Raina slams Farooq for advocating dialogue with Pakawistan

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday criticized National Conference president Farooq Abdullah for advocating dialogue with Pakistan and asked "what type of talks will be held with an enemy nation which has destroyed Jammu and Kashmir through its sponsored terrorism".

He said the BJP would respond to Pakistan only in the same language which it understands.

"Abdullah should stop advocating for Pakistan which had bled Jammu and Kashmir and brought destruction to the region by training, arming and pushing terrorists into this side to kill innocent citizens. Instead of condemning Pakistan, showing it the mirror and exposing its black face to the world, he is advocating dialogue which is highly

regrettable," Raina said. Earlier in the day, Abdullah told reporters in Srinagar that terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir will not end unless talks are held with Pakistan.

"I have always said that terrorism is not going to end unless there is an understanding between the two nations (India and Pakistan). Terrorism will continue and we will have to face it. The tragedy is that innocent people are getting killed... and that is unfortunate," Abdullah said. The National Conference leader said that "more innocent people would lose their lives unless we wake up and find a solution to this".

"We are the ones facing tragedies. Innocent people of the state are facing tragedies and a reflection of this happens in the rest of the country. I hope they realise that the time has come to end this," he added.

The BJP leader said that Abdullah should tell the people whether Pakistan is behind the bloodshed which is happening in Jammu and Kashmir or not.

"Pakistan Army is conducting training for the terrorists and providing them weapons before pushing them into Jammu and Kashmir," Raina said, adding having sympathy for Pakistan is not good and instead Abdullah should boost the morale of the Indian Army, police and paramilitary forces and salute their sacrifices for safeguarding the region by fighting terrorism.

"You (Abdullah) are a former chief minister; a former Union minister and you know Pakistan is behind the bloodshed in J&K. What type of talks can be held with an enemy (nation) which is involved in bloodshed. We will respond to Pakistan in the same language it understands," the BJP leader said.

HMIL dignitaries visit AM Hyundai



Dignitaries from HMIL visiting AM Hyundai at Jammu on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AM Hyundai, the largest Hyundai dealership in Jammu & Kashmir, hosted dignitaries from Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) for an exclusive visit. Chairman of AM Group, Jatinder Gupta, along with Managing Director Sanjay Mahajan, and Directors Ankur Mahajan and Akshay Mahajan, warmly welcomed and greeted the HMIL representatives.

The visiting HMIL dignitaries included Jatinder Tiwari, Vertical Head Field Service, Kishor Chaudhari, Zonal Parts & Service Manager North, Vinod Kumar,

Regional Parts & Service Manager North 1 along with Nitin (TPSM).

Their visit to AM Hyundai Jammu was marked by a tour of the dealership's facilities, including a preview of the new state-of-the-art workshop currently under construction, aimed at enhancing service offerings for Hyundai customers.

The HMIL representatives expressed their satisfaction with the standard operating procedures at AM Hyundai.

They were highly impressed with the dealership's infrastructure and commended the continuous efforts to enhance customer satisfac-

tion. The dignitaries appreciated AM Hyundai's commitment to providing a modern and sophisticated service experience, ensuring customers leave delighted after servicing their vehicles.

AM Hyundai's new workshop, designed with cutting-edge technology and customer-centric amenities, is a testament to the dealership's dedication to maintaining high standards of service excellence. This initiative reflects AM Hyundai's ongoing mission to elevate customer experiences and reinforce its position as a leader in the automotive service industry.

IGNOU offers Post Graduate Diploma in Mental Health

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Discipline of Psychology, School of Social Sciences (SOSS) at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is offering a Post Graduate Diploma in Mental Health (PGDMH). This program is designed to provide learners with a strong foundation in the field of mental health. Through in-depth study of a broad range of psychological issues and concerns, the PGDMH aims to equip graduates to address the growing need for mental health services. The main highlight of the programme is Capacity Building which helps to train professionals in mental and physical healthcare to better address the mental health needs of the community. The Flexible Learning in Open and Distance format allows students to study at their own pace.

The Course Structure of the programme covers various aspects of mental health, including fundamentals, disorders, special areas, services, and an internship.

The eligibility of the programme is Master's Degree in Psychology, Social Work, or Nursing, Medical Graduates (Allopathy, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy, Yoga & Naturopathy), or Bachelor's in Dental Surgery (BDS). Admissions are carried out twice a year in July and January admission cycles.

The programme is structured in such a way that it covers various aspects of mental health, including fundamentals, disorders, special areas, services, internship which aim at fulfilling the mental health requirements of people keeping in mind the shortage of mental health personnel in India.

"We are in the midst of the ongoing July 2024 admission cycle for which the last date is June 30, 2024 and I call upon all the prospective learners of this specialized programme to avail this opportunity and enroll themselves well before the last date", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.