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Development not possible...

in Export Promotion index and improving 13 positions in overall ranking. With its rapidly growing economy, expanding market and industrial base, J-K is determined to construct a strong edifice of export ecosystem, he said.

Sinha said Jammu Kashmir region possesses several comparative advantages like climate and rich art and craft culture.

The Lt Governor said every district of J-K is blessed to have local products with potential to go global. Nine GI tagged products, more than 50 export potential products have been identified and institutional mechanism is created in all the districts to provide support for export promotion, he added.

District Export Plans prepared by DGET and Industries Department is a huge leap in the campaign of AtmaNirbhar Bharat, which is connecting rural and urban India equally with the mainstream of economic development. It will help village industries, handloom industries of Jammu and Kashmir to achieve great strides in the export sector, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor also called upon the stakeholders to change marketing approach and focus on becoming exporters of finished products instead of just being the suppliers of raw materials.

I am confident that through the institutional mechanism of District Export Promotion Committees established in all the districts, we will fix the targets, take appropriate action on the support given to the local industries and efficiently convert Export Plans to Export Actions, cementing strong and economic foundation of the UT, he said.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, India started campaigns like Make in India, Vocal for Local, AtmaNirbhar Bharat and today the ranking of Ease of Doing Business has significantly improved, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said that in the last two years, UT administration has taken several steps to identify and promote the exports of local products, resulting in a 54% increase in exports in 2021-22, as compared to 2020-21.

The Lt Governor also called upon the stakeholders to change marketing approach and focus on becoming exporters of finished products instead of just being the suppliers of raw materials.

The G-20 summit to be held next year will provide such a "historic opportunity to all of us to display the great tradition of the UT to the world and open new vistas to tap the ever-growing global market for handicrafts," he said.

The Union Minister of State Patel, while speaking on the occasion, termed it as an important step towards realizing the Prime Minister's vision of making the districts of J-K strong economic hubs, besides giving further impetus to the exports from the Jammu and Kashmir region.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is committed to strengthen each district of Jammu and Kashmir to optimally leverage their potential through District Export Hubs, she said.

Patel said the District Export Plans of the UT of J-K shall provide single source access to all stakeholders, industry and sector-wise exports data, along with user-friendly detailed data analysis.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K underscored the need for making constant improvements to meet the modern day requirements, besides giving a dedicated focus on market expansion, scaling product range and new designs.

Santosh Sarangi, Director General of Foreign Trade spoke on the broad contours of the export scenario in J&K. He also highlighted various segments of the District as Export Hubs scheme including financial assistance, monitoring mechanism, proposed outcome, workflow etc.

Dr Devansh Yadav, Managing Director, JKTP, in his welcome address, gave a detailed briefing on the aims and objectives of District Export Plans.

On the occasion, J&K Trade Promotion Organization signed MoUs with Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council (WWEPC), Swasti (Walmart Vriddhi) and Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council, for developing woven segment in J&K, Capacity building of MSMEs and promotion of electronics & computer software business in the UT.

Nidhi Munjal, Vice President, Supplier Development - India, Walmart, said, "We are pleased to announce our partnership with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and support their efforts to grow and build a robust MSME ecosystem. Through our Walmart Vriddhi program, we are eager to provide high impact training along with equal opportunities for MSMEs to access online and offline markets domestically and internationally. This partnership will be significant for our ongoing efforts to help make local MSMEs competitive and self-reliant."

Jagjeet Harode, Senior Director & Head - Marketplace, Flipkart, said, "At Flipkart, we continue to make strategic investments in Jammu & Kashmir to further grow and strengthen supply chains. Our projects and programs such as Reach Project and Flipkart Samarth are already established well in Jammu & Kashmir. Through these projects and programs, we are committed to expanding the domestic eCommerce marketplace and providing access and support to new sellers, MSMEs, domestic manufacturers, Indian artisans, weavers, and handloom workers on our platform."

N Raghunathan, Co-founder, and Mentor, Swasti, said, "This partnership with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir will significantly improve the growth and development of local MSMEs. Through the Vriddhi program, we are dedicated to helping small businesses accelerate their growth and become more resilient to changing business environments, while enabling them to better participate in national and global supply chains."

The Lt Governor and the Union MoS also conferred Export Awards to Best performing Export Houses of J&K.

Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Exporters, Entrepreneurs, senior officials from UT and the Central Government, besides various stakeholders were present on the occasion.

Soldier shoots colleague...

weapon, killing Ibrar on the spot and injuring two other soldiers, the sources said. Later, Ahmed fired at himself and he succumbed to injuries at a hospital, they added. The injured soldiers are undergoing treatment at a hospital, the sources said. They said a court of inquiry (CoI) has been ordered into the incident.

Magisterial enquiry ordered...

hereby informed that if any person has any kind of information regarding the subject. He/She may submit or record his/her statement in the office of SDM Lolab within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice.

Conducting Magisterial Enquiry under section 176 CrPC in the anti-militancy operation at Chandigarh Lolab on 19th of June 2022 and killing of 04 militants thereof. Undersigned has been appointed as enquiry officer to conduct the magisterial enquiry in the above mentioned subject. In this connection General Public is hereby informed that if any person has any kind of information regarding the subject. He/She may submit or record his/her statement in the office of undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice.

Rubaiya Sayeed identifies...

Special Judge and during the course she identified Malik, who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment in a terror funding case, and three others as her abductors.

Ahead of Rubaiya's statement, Malik had appeared in the same case on July 13 during which he asked the court for ensuring his physical appearance so that he could cross question the witnesses in the case or else he would sit on indefinite hunger strike in prison.

Malik told the court that he was awaiting a response from the government till July 22 failing which he would start his indefinite hunger strike.

The JKLF chief is at present lodged in the high-security Tihar Jail after he was sentenced by a special NIA court in Delhi in May. He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with the 2017 terror-funding case registered by NIA.

Rubaiya was abducted near Lal Ded Hospital on December 8, 1989 and freed from captivity five days later on December 13 after the then V P Singh government, supported by the BJP at the Centre, released the five terrorists in exchange.

Other charged in the case are Ali Mohammed Mir, Mohammad Zaman Mir, Iqbal Ahmad Gandoor, Javed Ahmad Mir, Mohammad Rafiq Pahloo, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Wajahat Bashir, Mehraj-ud-Din Sheikh and Showkat Ahmad Bakshi.

During the investigation, accused Ali Mohammad Mir, Zaman Mir and Iqbal Gandoor voluntarily confessed before a magistrate about their role in the Rubaiya kidnapping. Besides, four others made confessional statements before CBI's Superintendent of Police.

"Since the accused persons besides admitting of their own guilt have also narrated about the participation of other accused persons namely Malik, Javed Ahmed Mir and Mehraj-U-Din Sheikh, which can also be used against them as one of the pieces of evidence," the court had said in January last year.

The 10 are among the two dozen accused named by the CBI in its chargesheet filed before the court. Among the others, top JKLF commanders Mohammad Rafiq Dar and Mushtaq Ahmad Lone are dead and 12 are absconding. These are Halima, Javed Iqbal Mir, Mohammad Yaqub Pandit, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, Khursheed Ahmad Dar, Basharat Rehman Noori, Tariq Ashraf, Shafat Ahmad Shangloo, Manzoor Ahmad, Gulam Mohammad Taploo, Abdul Majeed Bhat and Nissar Ahmad Bhat.

In March 2020, the special court framed charges against the JKLF chief and six others in another case related to the gunning down of four IAF personnel on the outskirts of Srinagar in January 1990.

Next hearing of case slated for August 23

Advocate Anil Sethi, legal assistant of Rubaiya Sayeed said that she has identified four accused including Yaseen Malik in her kidnapping case. He said that Rubaiya Sayeed will surely be present in court on August 23 provided Yaseen Malik is also instructed to be that day.

Idol of Lord...

Every year, nearly 20,000 to 25,000 pilgrims from Doda, Udhampur, Kathua and Ramban districts visit the high-altitude meadow between July and September after the snow melts to offer prayers.

As per initial investigations, the idol might have been damaged due to frosting as it is made of concrete and is in the open, a senior officer who visited the spot and is part of the investigation said.

"The idol remains under snow at sub-zero temperatures. A picture clicked in April also shows some signs of wear and tear on the idol," he said.

The administration has appealed for calm and requested people not to fall prey to exaggerated social media reports.

Earlier, officials said the FIR had been registered in connection with a vandalised idol.

On Monday, an idol of Lord Hanuman was found damaged at Dhamlar-Morha village in Mahanup, triggering a protest by locals. Prior to that, a temple was vandalised in the Sidhra area of Jammu on April 8, followed by a similar incident at Vasuki Naag temple in the upper reaches of Doda district on June 5 and the alleged damaging of an idol in Kathua district on July 12. (PTI)

Ladakh accords grand...

Teachings in Ladakh if everything goes well. Devotees are eagerly waiting to listen to the teachings of His Holiness The Dalai Lama once again.

Head-on collision...

As Toshi Devi (42), wife of Devi Ditta, resident of Badhur Khan, Bishnah; Ajay Kumar (33), son of Bachan Lal, resident of Naugran and Ghari Ram (35), son of Garib, resident of Naugran. While the injured were identified as Raj Kumar (34), son of Ram Lal; Preeti Devi (32), wife of Raj Kumar; Manvi Devi (8), daughter of Raj Kumar; all residents of Naugran Kotli Miran Sahib; Reenu Devi (25), wife of Kallu, resident of Badhur Khan, Bishnah; Sonia Devi (6), daughter of Kallu, resident of Badhur Khan, Bishnah; Mintu Kumar, son of Subash Lal, resident of Badhur Khan, Bishnah; Avani Devi (5), daughter of Kallu, resident of Badhur Khan, Bishnah and Kunal. All injured were shifted to GMC Jammu for treatment. Police has registered a case for investigation.

NIA Court dismisses...

which has been constituted by the Government of Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related cases. State Investigation Agency (SIA) has begun a war against the mentors of these types of false narratives.

J&K reports 149...

cases, Jammu 57, Udhampur 09, Kupwara 05, Ganderbal 04, Samba and Kathua districts three cases each, Baramulla and Anantnag two cases each, Poonch, Budgam and Pulwama reported one case each while no other district across the Union Territory reported any fresh case.

Meanwhile, Ladakh's COVID-19 tally has climbed to 28,602 with 14 fresh cases recorded in the past 24 hours, officials said.

All the fresh cases were reported from Leh, they said.

So far, 228 people have succumbed to COVID-19 in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil, according to the officials.

The officials said the number of active COVID-19 cases stands at 59 -- all in Leh.

As many as 419 samples were tested in Ladakh. Of these, 324 samples from Leh and 80 from Kargil tested negative, they said.

Four more people recovered from the viral disease in Leh. With this, the total number of recoveries in Ladakh increased to 28,315, the officials said.

They said 2,263 passengers were screened at the Leh airport; 879 people, including drivers and helpers of trucks and light motor vehicles, were screened in Leh's Khaltse; and 365 people were screened at the Upshi checkpost on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway.

Kishtwar to become...

Minster said, makes Kishtwar region as one of the biggest power hubs of North India. He also announced 100 percent reservation for locals in unskilled jobs for these projects and promised to give preference to local talent in skilled manpower requirement.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, before 2014, road travel to Kishtwar was cumbersome and on the slightest landslide, the Doda-Kishtwar road got blocked. But today, the road travel time from Jammu to Kishtwar has reduced from over 7 hours in 2014 to less than 5 hours now. Similarly, he said, during these 8 years, Kishtwar has come up on the Aviation Map of India and has been sanctioned an airport under Centre's UDAAN Scheme, which nobody had ever imagined.

The Minister said, Kishtwar has got an AYUSH Hospital, while Padar was given a Kendriya Vidyalaya under Centre's RUSA scheme, because the then State Government had declined to do so.

Overall, in the erstwhile Doda district of which Kishtwar was a part, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's first-ever National Institute of High-Altitude Medicine is coming up in Bhaderwah and centrally funded Medical College has already started in Doda. Similarly, three new national highways including Khilani-Sudhmaladev Highway, a series of Degree Colleges, mobile towers enroute Machail Yatra and other remote areas have also come up during the Modi government, he said.

Dr Jitendra called upon the citizens to motivate the youth to avail maximum benefit of the StartUp avenues in Aroma Mission, Purple Revolution and Lavender cultivation, which has already picked up in the neighbouring Bhaderwah and is seen as a hitherto unexplored source of livelihood.

Dr Singh said that areas like Jammu and Kashmir, North-Eastern States and other hilly States suffered on many counts during the last 60-65 years, due to myopic policies of the successive Central Governments, but soon after the Modi government took over in 2014. Prime Minister had stated that every effort would be made to bring the North Eastern region, J&K and other backward regions at par with the more developed regions of the country.

Dr Jitendra said here today that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will always be credited for having introduced a new work culture in India wherein each of the pro-poor and public welfare schemes were designed in such a manner so as to reach the most needy or the last man in the last queue, regardless of cast, creed, religion or vote consideration. Similarly, considering the emerging scenario of contemporary India, Modi has constantly boosted Startups who should be capable of earning their own livelihood, he said.

Dr Singh said revolutionary schemes like Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana, Jan Dhan, Ujjawala, Sauchalaya, PM Awas, Har Ghar Jal, Har Ghar Bijli and Ayushman have reached every nook and corner of the country including in hilly and difficult terrains like Kishtwar. He said, people are getting the benefits of welfare schemes without any discrimination, unlike in the past, when appeasement policy was rampant. The Minister emphasised that these welfare measures brought smiles of people out of the clutches of abject poverty and gave them a life of dignity.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Jitendra Singh said, areas with unexplored potential like Kishtwar, North-East and other hilly regions will play a pivotal role in the next 25 years of India's journey and these regions, rather than the saturated states, will propel India as a frontline nation in the world, when it celebrates 100th year of independence in 2047.

BJP President Pradip Parhar, senior BJP leader Tariq Keen, veteran leader Capt Hukum Chand and former Minister Sunil Sharma were among others who addressed the rally. All of them profusely appreciated Dr Jitendra Singh's hard work and commitment in getting several development projects for Kishtwar and his constituency.

Parliament House can't...

of the party in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh was among the first ones to take to Twitter to attack the government.

"Vishwaguru's latest salvo - D(h)arna Mana Hai," he tweeted, sharing a copy of the circular issued on July 14.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar slammed the decision of prohibiting demonstrations and dharnas in the precincts of Parliament House, calling it an attack on democratic rights of elected representatives.

CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury also took to Twitter to criticise the government and alleged that these are attempts to muzzle the voice of democracy.

"What a farce. The attempts to muzzle the soul of India, its democracy and its very voice will fall flat," he said.

After the opposition uproar over the circular, Speaker Birla told reporters that political parties should refrain from making allegations without ascertaining the facts.

"It (such circulars to members) is a process. This practice has been going on for a long time," he said, adding that this has been going on since 2009 and even before.

"My appeal to all political parties is that in the Parliament or state assemblies they should abstain from making charges and counter-charges without ascertaining the facts. Our endeavour should be to strengthen democratic institutions, as all of them work with accountability," Birla said, adding that the effort is to ensure that all members freely but responsibly express their views.

"I urge all political parties should abstain from making allegations on any democratic institution without any basis," he also said.

Addressing a press conference in Nagpur, Pawar said "Any attack on democratic rights will not be tolerated" and added that opposition parties are meeting in New Delhi on Saturday to discuss the issue and frame a collective stand.

In a tweet in Hindi, Yechury also said, "the more useless the government, the more cowardly it is. Democracy is being mocked, by issuing such dictatorial orders. Protesting in the Parliament House Complex is a political right of the MPs which is being violated."

Another opposition leader Manoj Jha of RJD shared the circular and sought the immediate intervention of the Rajya Sabha Chairman and the Lok Sabha Speaker.

"Bringing a Parliamentary Bulletin to say that we cannot hold a dharna inside the Parliament. It is an attempt to take parliamentary democracy to the grave. We demand that the Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman should intervene immediately," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

TMC's Mahua Moitra took a swipe at the Prime Minister for holding a religious ceremony "on top of the new Parliament building".

"Btw Honourable MP Varanasi performed a religious ceremony on top of new Parliament Building just four days ago," Moitra said in a tweet.

Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi while sharing the circular on Twitter asked, "Will they come for Parliamentary Questions next? PS: Hope this isn't an unparliamentary question to ask."

Opposition members have in the past demonstrated inside the Parliament complex and have also staged protests near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi there.

The circular on dharnas comes amid opposition outrage over another bulletin listing out certain words as "unparliamentary" which was issued by the Lok Sabha secretariat.

The circular on the usage of some terms in Parliament has also drawn flak from the Opposition which claimed that every expression used by them to describe how the BJP was destroying India has now been declared unparliamentary.