

Preparations for hoisting tricolour across J&K in full swing

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The preparations for hoisting Tricolour across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir are going on in full swing with great enthusiasm and fervor shown by common citizens.

Like other parts of the country, Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is being carried out across the nation so that the tricolour is hoisted at every house and office to mark India's 75th year of Independence.

As part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative of the government celebrating 75 years of Independence, various activities are being conducted by different departments and schools in every district of J&K.

Painting, National Anthem singing, essay competitions, quiz programmes, debates and seminars are being held in various Govt. Degree Colleges, schools besides, Tiranga Rallies, Flag hoisting on buildings as well as homes are also being held across the districts.

The spirit of young generation are so high that they have started preparations for the event many days before with regular rehearsals. Students are proactively participating in

various activities and events and are very excited to perform in upcoming Independence Day functions. The students are also taking part in quiz, essay, painting and debate competitions on varied topics of National Symbols, National Monuments, Freedom Struggle and other related topics.

The Department of Rural Development, FCS&CA, MCs, Poshan Mission and Health are also organising awareness programmes, Tiranga Rallies, Flag Hoisting ceremonies, highlighting the importance of the celebrations.

Similarly, other departments are also conducting programmes in order to spread the message of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign to all people.

Flags have been distributed across all the district and Tiranga has been hoisted on many establishments, private buildings and residences across the district besides preparations are also in full swing for the Mega event of Har Ghar Tiranga between 13th-15th August this year.

Rumysa Rafiq, Councillor, Khanabal Anantnag has asked the youth to take lead in HarGharTiranga campaign to show love for country.

Similarly BDC Chairman

Goudi Aarti Sharma says she is working closely with all departments, PRIs, social activists to make the #HarGharTiranga successful.

Echoing their views, a PRI member from Rajouri says every citizen of country is proud of our flag which reflects our oneness and secular character. It also reminds us of sacrifices by brave hearts for the nation.

A resident of Bela Boniyar in north Kashmir's Baramulla district stated that he is very happy with this decision of the government.

Meanwhile Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) had launched the National Anthem Singing Competition -2022 for which entries were made open online between 1st August to 7th August, 2022.

Under this competition, the government had called upon the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to take part in the national anthem singing competition by submitting their entries through a google link.

The entries were made open under individual and group categories. Under the individual category, people in two subcategories, 13-18 years and above 18 years of age were allowed to take part in the competition

where as no age bar was kept for the group categories.

Speaking on this initiative, Director Information and Public Relations, Akshay Labroo said "Under this competition around 9,000 entries having around 50, 000 participants were received from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir which is four times more than the entries received last year and almost equal submissions were received from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions". He added that especially the districts of South Kashmir are leading and have given overwhelming response in the number of submission.

The winners of the competition will get cash awards of Rs 25,000, Rs 11,000 and Rs 5,000 for first, second and third prizes respectively besides getting an opportunity to perform National Anthem at the Divisional level Independence Day celebrations.

Meanwhile Jammu Administration is on its toes to make 'Har Ghar

Tiranga' event a grand success as 3.5 lakh Tricolors will be hoisted from August 13 to 15 across the district.

The preparations are in full swing to make 'Har Ghar Tiranga' a successful programme and the administration has to provide 3.5 lakh Tricolors to be hoisted atop every household, shops, government and private buildings between August 13-15, Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, said.

Avny said that as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', this Independence Day, with hoisting of Tricolor, the national anthem will also resonate across." The Ministry of Culture and the Self Help Groups (SHGs) have also provided the National Flags to meet the target of hoisting 3.5 lakh flags in the district," she added.

"Moreover under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan', the flags are also being distributed through ration depots in Jammu city and peripheries", the DC said.

India to start supplying petrol with 20 pc ethanol from April 2023

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PANIPAT (HARYANA): India will start supplying petrol with 20 per cent ethanol at select petrol pumps from April next year and will ramp up supplies thereafter as it looks to cut oil import dependence and address environmental issues.

Oil Minister Hardeep Puri said a fifth of petrol will be made up of ethanol by 2025.

"E20 petrol (petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol) in some quantity will be available from April 2023 and the rest to be covered by 2025," he said.

India, which achieved the target of supplying petrol mixed with 10 per cent ethanol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) ahead of schedule in June this year, has advanced the target of making petrol with 20 per cent ethanol by five years to 2025.

The original target for doping 10 per cent ethanol, extracted from sugarcane and other agri commodi-

ties, in petrol originally was November 2022.

On the occasion of World Biofuel Day on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the 2nd generation (2G) ethanol plant here.

The plant is part of a long series of steps taken by the government over the years to boost the production and use of biofuels in the country.

Built at a cost of over Rs 900 crore by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the plant near the firm's Panipat refinery will turn about 2 lakh tonnes of rice straw (parali) annually into around 3 crore litres of ethanol.

Creating an end-use for the agri-crop residue would empower farmers and provide an additional income generation opportunity for them, Modi said.

The project will have zero liquid discharge. Through the reduction in the burning of rice straw, the project will contribute to a reduction of greenhouse

SC transfers all FIRs against Nupur Sharma to Delhi Police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed clubbing and transfer of all present and future FIRs lodged across the country against suspended BJP spokeswoman Nupur Sharma to Delhi Police in connection with her remark on the Prophet made during a TV debate show.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala also extended the interim protection from any coercive action to Sharma till the probe is concluded by the Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO) of the Delhi Police.

It said IFSO shall be at liberty to take assistance from other police forces to take the case to a logical end.

"Since this Court has already taken cognizance of the serious threat to life and security of the petitioner (Sharma), we direct that all FIRs against Nupur Sharma be transferred and clubbed for the investigation to the

Delhi Police.

"In particular facts and circumstances, we clarify and deem it appropriate that the investigation is carried out by Delhi police. The petitioner shall be at liberty to pursue her rights and remedies by approaching Delhi High Court for quashing the current and future FIRs," the bench said.

The top court allowed Sharma to move Delhi High Court for quashing of FIRs lodged over her remark and said all future FIRs would also be transferred to Delhi Police for investigation.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Sharma, submitted that she was receiving summons from the West Bengal government despite the apex court order.

The apex court also refused the prayer of senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for the West Bengal government, seeking an investigation by a court-appointed SIT.

Guruswamy submitted the

accused cannot be allowed to pick the jurisdiction and her statement has caused maximum damage in West Bengal. Sharma's remark on the Prophet during a TV debate had triggered protests across the country and drew sharp reactions from many Gulf countries. The BJP subsequently suspended her from the party.

On July 19, the apex court granted interim protection from arrest till August 10 to Sharma in connection with the FIRs filed against her.

It had also protected her from any coercive action in the FIRs/complaints which may be registered or entertained in the future about the May 26 telecast.

On July 1, the same bench of the top court severely criticised Sharma for her controversial comments against the Prophet, saying her "loose tongue" has "set the entire country on fire" and that she is "single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country".

PDC BoD approves revival of Mohura SHP at Rs 133.50 Cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Vivek Bhardawaj on Wednesday chaired the 81st meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited at Civil Secretariat here.

The Board of Directors, accorded its approval to the award of EPC contract for execution of 10.5 MW (2x 5.25 MW) Mohura Heritage Hydro Electric Project, located in Tehsil Boniyar, District Baramulla at the estimated cost of about Rs 133.50 crores

The Mohura SHP, a run-off river scheme was constructed in 1905 in Kashmir on river Jhelum at Boniyar, 35 km downstream of Baramulla,

with an installed capacity of 4 MW, later enhanced to 9 MW. It was the second hydroelectric project in Asia.

The LG Administration is very keen to revive this century old project and the Board of Directors has approved the implementation of the project today. The project is slated shall be completed in 42 months.

Vivek Bhardawaj, who is also Chairman of the Board directed that all necessary approvals like forest clearance, MHA clearance etc for the projects of the corporation should be ensured at an earliest.

Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Nitishwar Kumar directed that the project should be commissioned on time without any delay.

The Board also confirmed the allotment of the contract to M/s. Oriental Insurance Company for the insurance of 900 MW Baglihar HEP - Stage-I & Stage-II for the policy period from 16-07-2022 to 15-07-2023.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Raghav Langer, Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department; Raja Yaqoob Farooq, Managing Director, JKSPDC; Manoj Tripathi, CPES, CE, HPM, Central Electricity Authority, Ms. Santosh Kumari, Director Finance, JKSPDC; Ms. Raheela Wani, Executive Director (Electric); Sh. Jankar Nath, Executive Director (Civil); Sh. Sunil Gupta, Company Secretary; besides other officers of the Corporation.

Modi taunts Cong over black clothes protest, says ‘black magic cannot end your bad days’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PANIPAT/NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday took a swipe at the Congress over its recent black clothes protest against price rise, saying resorting to 'black magic' cannot end the opposition party's 'bad days' and help it earn the trust of people again.

Dedicating to the nation a Rs 900 crore second generation ethanol plant at Panipat in Haryana, Modi also renewed his attack on the culture of freebies for votes, and said they are a spoke in India's effort to become self-reliant and a burden on taxpayers. Without naming Congress, he said some out of frustration resorted to 'black magic' on August 5.

"On August 5, we saw how some people tried to spread 'black magic'. These people think that by wearing black clothes they can end their despondency. But they do not know that by engaging in witchcraft, black magic and superstition, they cannot earn the trust of people again," Modi said.

The Congress staged nationwide protests against rising prices on August 5 with its leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi wearing black clothes in Parliament and outside.

"Some people think wearing black clothes can ward off their pessimism and negativity but they don't know that they can resort to any such tactics but can't win back people's confidence," he said.

In an apparent reference to the Congress, Modi also

said that "black magic cannot end your bad days".

The Congress hit back at the prime minister over his 'kala jadu'(black magic) remark, saying while the country wants him to talk about their problems but 'Jumlaajeevi' keeps saying just anything.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared a picture of Modi in black clothes and said he is making a pointless issue about black clothes.

"They could not do anything to bring black money, now they are making a pointless issue about black clothes. The country wants the prime minister to talk about their problems, but 'Jumlaajeevi' keeps saying anything," Ramesh said in a tweet in Hindi.

In his speech, the prime minister also attacked certain opposition parties for engaging in politics of freebies, saying such things would only do a disservice to the nation as it hampers investment in new technology.

He said that if there is selfishness in politics, then anybody can even promise free petrol and diesel.

"Such steps will amount to depriving our children of their due and prevent the country from becoming self sufficient. Such selfish policies will put more burden on honest tax payers of the country," Modi added.

Those who promise freebies will never will able to find resources for investment in new technologies, he said. "This is not a right policy but misleading one; this is not in national interest but it is against the

nation; this is not nation building but an effort to push back the country".

The prime minister further said that people who have a tendency to avoid problems by adopting short-cuts for political selfishness can never solve the problems permanently.

Those adopting short-cuts may get applause for some time, and may gain political advantage, but that does not solve the problem, he said.

Adopting a short-cut will definitely result in a short-circuit, he said, adding that instead of following short-cuts, our government is engaged in permanent solutions to the problems.

The Supreme Court had on August 3 also asked stakeholders like the Centre, Niti Aayog, Finance Commission and the RBI to brainstorm on the "serious" issue of freebies announced during elections and put forth constructive suggestions to tackle this practice, saying no political party will oppose such handouts or like to debate it in Parliament.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday also cautioned against announcement of populist measures by political parties on the eve of elections, and said the 'freebie culture' has led to deteriorating financial health of many states. However, parties like the Telangana Rashtra Samithi(TRS) and the Aam Aadmi Party(AAP) have said welfare of poorer sections of society is not a freebie and welfare measures taken by governments should continue.

While 70 cases were reported from Jammu division, 477 cases were reported from Kashmir, they said.

The death toll due to the virus was 4,776, officials said.

There are 4,927 active cases of the disease in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,61,671, they said.

According to officials, there are 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory.

Dulloo reviews preparedness of AHD against Lumpy Skin Disease

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review preparedness to combat the ingress of Lumpy Skin Disease, at the Civil Secretariat.

The ACS was apprised about the causes and symptoms of the Lumpy Skin Disease, which usually affects cattle, through a PowerPoint presentation. He was informed that several suspected cases have been identified by Animal Husbandry Department and very few cases have been confirmed, mostly from within the Jammu division. In each district, the department is taking samples rigorously and sending them for lab tests regularly, it was added.

Upon review, the ACS said that the public must be assured that there is no need to panic and that the government is taking every step to mitigation of the disease. He directed all Chief Animal Husbandry Officers, their subordinate staff and veterinary staff not to leave their respective stations without permission.

The ACS directed that regular advisory, with well-defined 'dos and don'ts' be published for public information. Rapid Response Teams, doctors and paramedics must stay in touch with the farmers around the clock, he directed.

PD&SJ Kupwara chairs 2nd meeting of UTRC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: As part of nationwide campaign initiated by National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) and being carried forward through SLSA and DLSA, Principal District & Session Judge (PD&SJ) Kupwara, Tasleem Arief on Wednesday chaired second Under Trail Review Committee (UTRC) meeting for district Kupwara, here.

The members of the Committee including Deputy Commissioner/District Magistrate Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir, ASP Kupwara, Pradeep Singh,

Secretary DLSA, Muzamil Wani, CMO Kupwara, Bashir Ahmad Teli, Superintendent District Jail, Shahbaz Ahmad and suggested member Syed Jahangir, PP attended the meeting.

The meeting was initiated with the presentation of highlights of the scheme, NLSA SOPs and new campaign by the chairperson.

The Secretary DLSA introduced agenda and the list of inmates prepared for discussion in the committee.

During the discussion, the Committee was informed that out of total recommended cases in the previous UTRC, 7 UTPs

have been released and others are in process of being released.

The meeting was informed that their bail applications are under consideration and their release is expected soon.

The Secretary DLSA prepared a fresh list of 6 under trial inmates for consideration of various points out of 16 for their release.

The Committee also made various recommendations during the course of the meeting and was informed that fresh review of the cases shall be taken in the next meeting of UTRC as per the calendar issued by NLSA.

Apex committee constituted for successful organizing of e-Governance conference

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday constituted an apex committee for ensuring successfully organizing of the 25th National e-Governance conference which is scheduled to be held on November 25 and 26 this year at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Kakryal, Katra.

As per order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Finance Department will be chairman of the committee.

Principal Secretary, Information Department; Principal Secretary, General Administration Department; Commissioner/Secretary, Transport Department; Commissioner/Secretary, Culture Department; Secretary, Tourism Department;

Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department; Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu/Reasi and Registrar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra will be members of the committee and Commissioner/Secretary, Information Technology Department will be Member Secretary of the committee.

"It is further ordered that the Information Technology Department shall be the nodal department for the conference," the order reads.

