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Will strike last...

country which itself is living in misery, can't do any good to the people", the Lt Governor added.

He also spoke about thousands of youth in Tral Pulwama who paid homage to freedom fighters and reverberated the sky with slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

The Lt Governor said that in August 2019, the Prime Minister bestowed the UT with a gift of a new dawn of development and prosperity. For 70 years, the socio-economic system of Jammu and Kashmir was facing a serious crisis and in the last three years, the UT has achieved great strides in the direction of reducing the gap between villages and cities that had only widened in the last 7 decades.

He said that the implementation of 73rd and 74th Constitution amendments have given a new lease of life to grassroots democracy in J&K.

"We are determined to realise Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Poorn Swaraj through Gram Swaraj. Devotion of the three Fs - Funds, Functions and Functionaries have truly empowered the PRIs to fulfill their mandated role", the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor further observed that even though the three-tier system was implemented late in the UT, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a great and effective example in this system and today, the step towards institutionalization of the offices of DDCs and BDCs, at a cost of Rs. 44.92 cr, will further strengthen and accentuate the efficiency of the Panchayati Raj system, making it the engine of community development in future.

In all, the Rural Development Department has approved the construction of 20 DDC and 285 BDC offices. 137 BDC offices will be set up in the Kashmir division and 148 BDC offices in Jammu division. The process of housing construction of all the respected DDC chairpersons has been accelerated, it was informed.

The Lt Governor also outlined that for effective implementation of developmental plans and policies at the grassroots level, ample resources have been kept at the disposal of PRIs. When the budget of Jammu and Kashmir was presented in the Parliament of the country this year, the goal of strengthening good governance and grass root democracy was placed at the top of the list of priorities, he added.

On the construction of Amrit Sarovars, the Lt Governor said that the UT administration has been successful in building and rejuvenating Amrit Sarovars within the timelines and much more than the set target under the Mission Amrit Sarovar which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India on the eve of National Panchayat Day at Panchayat Palli, Block Bari Brahma, District Samba, UT of Jammu and Kashmir on 24th April 2022.

'The pace of creation, rejuvenation of water bodies remains as quick to fulfill the PM's vision of 75 Amrit Sarovar in each district', the Lt Governor added.

Noting that 3444 sites have been identified and work started on 1500 Sarovars and 1000 Sarovars have been completed, the Lt Governor expressed his gratitude to all Stakeholders and common citizens for realizing the vision of the Prime Minister in this Amrit Kaal Khand.

Underlining that our tradition and culture identifies water as a symbol of purity and life, the Lt Governor said that Amrit Sarovars will create a new environment of economic security and prosperity for the farmers and all those engaged in other activities as these rejuvenated water bodies will act as perennial sources of water for sustaining livelihoods, especially in rural areas.

The Lt Governor urged the PRIs to rejuvenate and develop more Amrit Sarovars in their respective districts, besides laying specific emphasis on the responsibility of the PRIs and administrative officers to ensure that rural devel-

opment is well planned, with a balance of demand and supply and benefits percolating to all sections.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also highlighted unique initiatives of administration that have revolutionized the public service delivery in the UT and enhanced transparency and accountability in the system.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, congratulated the PRIs, members of Self Help Groups, and people of J&K for the new initiatives. He said that the government is making dedicated efforts for the better present and glorious future of the people of J&K.

The Chief Secretary also called for developing a mechanism bringing closer the government departments, PRIs, representatives & rural people. He also highlighted various schemes and programmes under which the UT of J&K has achieved 100% saturation.

Maneep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, in her welcome address threw light on the significance of the new initiatives which were initiated on the occasion.

She further informed that Self Help Groups has manufactured four lakh Flags for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

Dr. Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, said that the target of planting 1.5 cr saplings under Green J&K Drive will go a long way in benefiting the rejuvenation of Amrit Sarovars.

Nuzhat Ishfaq, DDC Chairperson Ganderbal; Aftab Malik, DDC Chairperson Srinagar; Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; RK Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department, and CEO Mission Youth; Dr Raghav Langer, Secretary Planning Department; Indu Kanwal Chib, Mission Director, JKRLM; Deputy Commissioners; PRIs; HoDs, senior officials, members of SHG groups were present on the occasion, in person and through virtual mode.

Railways unveils overarch...

completion of the 'golden joint' has been a long journey.

The term 'golden joint' was coined by the civil engineers on worked on connecting the two ends of the deck of the bridge, he said.

Roughly, the 1.3-km bridge, which is being constructed at a cost of Rs 1,250 crore, is 98 per cent complete with the completion of the 'golden joint', officials said.

The bridge is located 359 m above the Chenab riverbed and is 30 m higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, they said.

The bridge forms a crucial link in the 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal, which is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla section of the Kashmir Railway project, the officials said.

For constructing the bridge, pylons were erected on either side of the river and two auxiliary self-propelled cable cranes were used to tow temporary auxiliary ropes across these pylons, according to the officials.

More than 1,300 workers and 300 engineers have been working round the clock to complete the bridge, the officials said.

The construction started in 2004 but the work was stopped in 2008-09 to consider the aspect of safety of rail passengers in view of frequent high velocity winds in the area, they said.

Once completed, the bridge will be able to withstand winds with speed up to 260 kmph and will have a lifespan of 120 years.

Hizb chief's son...

in providing false information for seeking a passport.

Full dress rehearsal held across Jammu Division with patriotic zeal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The district administrations on Saturday conducted full dress rehearsal across Jammu Division witnessing impressive Parades and a colorful cultural programme depicting the rich heritage and diverse culture of the Country.

SAMBAL: The Full dress rehearsal for Independence Day (ID) was held at Rani Suchait Singh Sports Stadium, Arazi amidst fanfare, enthusiasm and patriotic zeal.

The event saw participation of a large number of locals with due adherence to Covid SoPs.

The National Tricolour was hoisted by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Suram Chand Sharma at 0855 hours, followed by inspection of the parade.

Earlier, as many as 15 contingents from Govt/ pvt Schools and police and para-military including NCC/ NSS & Army band participated in the parade.

Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Abhishek Mahajan, ACR, DIO, CPO, DYSSO, CEO besides other District and Sectoral Officers were also present.

KATHUA: The full dress rehearsal for 76th Independence Day was held in Kathua at Sports Stadium where contingents of Police, CRPF, Army, NCC cadets presented an impressive parade.

The rehearsal started with hoisting of National Flag by Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Pandey followed by inspection of the parade.

SSP Kathua, R.C Kotwal, ADC Atul Gupta besides other senior officers of district administration were present on the occasion.

DODA: The Full dress rehearsal in connection with the celebration of Independence day 2022 was held at Sports Stadium Doda.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr R K Bharti, after inspection of

the parade took salute at the march past of contingents drawn from the JKP, IRP 5th Bn, CRPF, SSB, FPF, School children, NCC Sr and Jr wing and District Police band.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Ashok Shrama, Senior Superintendent of police Kishtwar Shafiq Hussain, ADC (in-Charge) Inderjeet Singh Parihar, besides other civil and police officers remained present on the occasion.

RAMBAN: Full dress rehearsal for 76th Independence Day celebration was held with patriotic zeal at District Police Line Ramban.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADD), Rajinder Sharma hoisted the National Flag and inspected the Parade.

Contingents, including the Army band, Police, CRPF, IRP and School children took part in the Parade. The ADDC inspected the parade and observed the band drill and other programmes.

DDC Councilor Ramban Rakesh Thakur, Addl. DC, Harbans Sharma, Addl. SP, Rajni Sharma, ACR, Gias-Ul-Haq, and several other senior officers were also present on the occasion. The proceedings of the program were ably conducted by Raj Singh Raju.

POONCH: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Dr. Basharat Hussain took salute and hoisted the National Flag on the occasion of Full dress rehearsal for Independence Day Celebrations here at Sports Stadium. During the inspection of the Parade, Addl. SP Mushtaq Ahmed was also present with ADC.

The ADC took salute from the march past presented by the contingents of CRPF, JKP, JKAP, J&K Police (QRT Commander), JKIG, NCC and NSS of Govt. Degree College and different school students and Band Party.

By SP, DAR, Sachin Gupta was Parade Commander, while Inspector Kamal Singh was 2nd in Commandant. ASP, Mushtaq Ahmed, DIO Poonch, Vishaldeep Chandan, DIO Poonch, Vishaldeep Chandan,

DYSP, Operation, Manish Sharma, DySP Head Qtr Nawaz Ahmed, CEO Education, Bishamber Das, besides administrative and sports officers were present on the occasion.

UDEHAMPUR: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Mohammad Syed Khan today took salute at an impressive march past of 28 contingent drawn from J&K Police, SKPA, Volunteer Home Guard, NCC and Civil Scouts, besides Police Band presented at the full dress Rehearsal held at Government PG Degree College (Boys) Udhampur.

The Full Dress Rehearsal commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag by the ADC at 9: Am, which was followed by singing of the National Anthem.

REASI: Additional Deputy Commissioner Abdul Star unfurled the National Flag and took salute at the impressive march past presented by the contingents of J&K Police, CRPF, IRP, JK Home Guard, NCC Boys Higher Secondary School, Girls Higher Secondary School and NCC Degree College Reasi.

A Cultural programme was also presented wherein students of different educational institutions participated in the full dress rehearsal.

Dwivedi posted as Jt Secy in DoPT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary Health Department, J&K Manoj Dwivedi has been posted as Joint Secretary at Centre in prestigious DoPT for 5 years deputation. "Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, IAS (UT 1997) has been appointed as Joint Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), from the date of assumption of the charge of the post, for a tenure of five years or until further order, whichever is earlier," reads the government order.

The Lt Governor observed that in a short span of time, Self Help Groups have emerged as a powerful tool for women empowerment and socio-economic transformation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department, and CEO Mission Youth, said that the government with its various schemes and programmes are reaching out to youth and women to realize the vision of inclusive development.

He informed that J&K Government with OYO group has established 280 home-stays in the UT.

Nuzhat Ishfaq, DDC Chairperson, Ganderbal; Aftab Malik, DDC Chairperson Srinagar, Sh

Ankit Gupta, CEO, OYO India and Sh Siddhartha Dasgupta, President, Corporate Affairs, OYO attended the launching ceremony.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary; Dr Raghav Langer, Secretary Planning Department; Dr. Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; Indu Kanwal Chib, Mission Director, JKRLM; Deputy Commissioners; PRIs; HoDs, senior officials, members of SHG groups were present on the occasion, in person and through virtual mode.

Social activists present National Flag to ADGP Jammu



Social activists Parvinder Singh, Sandhya Gupta and Sunny Singh presenting Tricolour to ADGP Mukesh Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To celebrate 75 years of Indian Independence under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Social Activist Parvinder Singh Happy along with Sandhya Gupta Chairperson Women Club "Meri Pachaan" & Sunny Singh presented National

She is alleged to "have links with foreign people who have been indexed by the Indian security and intelligence to be on the payrolls of the ISI". Also her involvement in ferrying consignment of money for funding anti-India activities in Jammu and Kashmir has been reported, the officials said.

'Bitta Karate' has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2017 in a case related to terror-funding. He was also involved in the killings of several members of the minority community in the early 1990s.

Also sacked from the government is Dr. Muheet Ahmad Bhat, posted as a scientist in the Post Graduate Department of Computer Science in Kashmir university. He is alleged to have been found involved in propagating secessionist-terrorist agenda in the university by radicalising students for advancing the programme and agenda of Pakistan and its proxies.

Majid Hussain Qadri, a senior Assistant Professor in Kashmir University, is alleged to have a long association with terror organisations including the banned Lashker-e-Taiba. He had earlier been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act and figures in number of FIRs related to various terror cases.

Around 40 employees have been dismissed so far from the government services in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent among them being the two sons Salihuddin and tainted Deputy Superintendent of police Devender Singh (now removed), who was caught with a most wanted terrorist and two others along Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

Officials said the sacking was effected after the Lt governor was satisfied, upon considering facts and circumstances of the cases and based on the information available, that the activities of these employees warrant dismissal from service under provision of Article 311 (2) (C) of the Constitution.

Under this provision, the sacked employees can only approach the High Court with their plea against their dismissal.

The process of dismissal began in April last year, a week after the Union Territory administration constituted a committee to investigate allegations of involvement of government employees in anti-State activities, and recommend dismissal of those found involved.

Where there's a...

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 in all the districts and Tiranga has been hoisted on many establishments, private buildings and residences across the districts besides preparations are also in full swing for the Mega event of Har Ghar Tiranga between today till August 15.

CRPF personnel injured...

Police Force (CRPF). A cordon-and-search operation has been launched to nab the culprits, they added. The grenade attack came two days after four soldiers were killed in a pre-dawn strike by two terrorists on an Army camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign: District Administration to shine Tricolour from every house of Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the target to cover every house of Jammu with the Tricolour, more than Three Lakhs National Flags have been distributed in district Jammu so far as the district machinery gears up for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to commemorate the 75th year of India's Independence, under which the Tricolour will be flown at every private and commercial establishment as part of the 75th anniversary of the country's Independence from 13th to 15th August 2022.

While 50 thousand tricolours prepared locally under the Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Mission (Umeed) by 3500 self-help groups of the district have been distributed. For hassle-free distribution, the district administration has made the Tiranga available from the Block Development offices, Rations Depots and from sanitation supervisors at Rupees Twenty. Besides, Tiranga is also made available at all the government and private schools in the district.

Schools and Colleges can be seen all around the district taking part in different awareness activities, Rallies and walkathons have been organized starting from the district level and right up to the block level.

The campaign, running under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa, has seen major awareness initiatives across the district. Chief Education officer Jammu has organized awareness activities involving all the schools of the district through essay competitions, National Anthem singing competitions and Rangoli competitions based on the themes of freedom struggle, Ideas and actions @75 that have shaped India and achievements @75 showcasing evolution and progress across different sectors. Awareness Rallies by the children of the different schools can easily be seen across the district with the Tiranga. A mega rally was also organized by school children from Raghunath Mandir to Mubarak Mandir. Schools and Colleges can be easily seen all around the district taking part in different awareness activities, Rallies and walkathons have been organized starting from the district level and right up to the block level. The Rural Development Department has conducted special Gram Sabhas to generate mass rural awareness about the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and has distributed Tiranga in rural areas through Block Development offices and public representatives. Activities on Amrit Sarovar have been launched in each block of the district.

The historical monuments and iconic sites of the Jammu district have been covered with the Tricolour. Tawi Bridges, Bahu fort and Mubarak Mandir Heritage complex can easily be seen lighted up with Tricol