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PM Modi stands...

an international icon has connected the last person in the queue with the mainstream of development is unparalleled. He has not only influenced the country's economy, socio-political, cultural revival, national and global policy but also bridged the urban-rural divide and established equality and fraternity which sets him apart from the other greats of Indian Politics, the Lt Governor said.

His politics is transformational in the true sense which has changed the way the world looks at India today. Equally important is the widespread popular support he continues to receive for his visionary initiatives focused on upliftment of the under-privileged and making India Aatman-Nirbhar, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor said, Prime Minister, by making better use of communication tools, social media, not only ensured easy access of government programmes, but has institutionalized feedback mechanism to better understand the needs of the general public. This two-way communication of top leadership has made every citizen an active stakeholder in the governance.

Narendra Modi has shaped a new era of Indian politics with his solemn focus on development of the last man on the ladder of social development. Through his Bottom Up approach in administration & converting individuals as stakeholders in the development journey, PM has ensured public-centric polity in the country, the Lt Governor noted.

The author has also explored the unique welfare programmes of the Modi government in last 8 years and its impact on the life of the common people which has never happened before in the whole world at such a speed and scale. Under the Garib Kalyan Program, revolutionary initiatives like Food Support, Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana have been implemented on the ground, the Lt Governor added.

Prime Minister's efforts have also fulfilled the dreams of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and the revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Today every citizen of J&K has got equal rights; fear-free, corruption-free system has been established and for the first time in the ranking of development, Jammu and Kashmir is competing with other developed States/UTs of the country, the Lt Governor said.

Harivansh Narayan Singh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Ram Bahadur Rai, President, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) Trust; Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan, Professor of History and Environmental Studies, Ashoka University; Prof. Ramesh C Gaur, HoD, Kala Nidhi, IGNCA; writers; intellectuals and prominent public figures were present on the occasion at Samvat Auditorium, Janpath Building.

Ailing Congress taking ..

was "forced out" of the party.

He stressed that he will not join the BJP as it will not help his politics in Jammu and Kashmir. The former Congress leader said that he would soon set up a new party in Jammu and Kashmir as the assembly elections could be announced anytime.

"I can only give my best wishes to the Congress, but it needs medicines more than my wishes. And, these medicines are being provided by compounders instead of doctors and there is a need for specialists," Azad told reporters.

"The leadership has no time for setting things right in the party. The Congress is providing such leaders in states and promoting those who are making people quit rather than uniting them with the party," he alleged.

The party's foundation has turned very weak and the organisation can fall anytime, Azad claimed while citing it as a reason why he and some leaders quit the Congress now.

"There are people who do clerical work in the Congress and do plants against leaders," he said while attacking those who have attacked him in the organisation. "I have been forced to leave my home as we were not heard within."

Azad took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, saying it was the former Congress chief who begged Modi in Parliament and thus it was he who was "entangled" with the prime minister.

On post-poll alliance, Azad said there are other parties also and the new organisation can align with them too.

Continuing his attack on Rahul Gandhi, he said, "It seems he does not have the aptitude for politics. We tried to make him a leader and made many efforts in this regard."

Azad said Modi is merely an excuse and they were riling ever since he and 22 other Congressmen wrote to Sonia Gandhi in August 2020. After that letter, there have been many meetings and "we put forth our views before Sonia Gandhi but none of our suggestions was implemented".

He also questioned the DNA of those who put question marks on him and accused those leaders in the Congress of conspiring and "planting news" against party leaders and thus weakening the organisation.

Azad alleged the Congress is "sinking" further every day and people are quitting the organisation, as they are feeling so frustrated that they are looking for any small alternative.

"We will set up a small unit in Jammu and Kashmir soon," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister replied to a question on his future prospects. He, however, clarified that he has not chalked out his national-level plans yet which will be formulated in the coming days.

Terming his resignation letter only a "tip of the iceberg", Azad indicated that he will continue to attack the organisation.

Azad also said that he did not sleep for six days before and after writing the G-23 letter because "we gave blood for the party" but it is "saddening to see that people in the Congress are useless that they do not know about us".

Azad was a CWC member and part of the group of 23 dissident leaders who had written to Sonia Gandhi in August 2020 seeking large-scale reforms and an organisational overhaul, including elections at all levels.

He said his respect for Sonia Gandhi is the same as was 30 years ago and it is the same for Rahul Gandhi since he belongs to the family of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

Ninety per cent of leaders had left the party and only his group was left, Azad claimed, adding ex-MLAs and former ministers have all come with him, otherwise they would also have left and joined the BJP or others.

MODI DISPLAYED HUMANITY...

twist by some "illiterate" Congressmen and their emotions expressed in the House were about the tragedy and not for each other.

"I assumed that Modi sahab was a crude man as he did not have children or his own family... and would not care but at least he has shown humanity," he said and narrated the heartrending aftermath of the grenade explosion inside the Gujarat tourist bus. "When the chief minister of Gujarat called, I was crying loudly. He heard me crying and he was told that I cannot talk right now and have to treat those who are injured." "When I talked to the chief minister to ask for two planes, one for the dead and the other for the injured and I again cried... he (Modi) turned emotional while referring to my state," Azad said. Recalling Modi's tears in the Rajya Sabha, Azad said he also broke down when the prime minister spoke about the tragic incident and his response.

CRIME REPORT

5 vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which police team of Police Stations Nagrota, Arnia, Bishnah and Police Post Jourian acted stringently on specific inputs and raided at different locations in their respective areas and seized 5 vehicles involved in illegal mining.

The seized vehicles included a tractor-trolley (JK02CC-2309) seized by Nagrota Police; a tractor-trolley & a trolley without registration number seized by Arnia Police; two dumpers (JK21-G- 3786 and JK02CS 5551) seized by Bishnah Police and a tractor (JK02CS-1299) seized by Jourian Police. DMO Jammu was also intimated about the same. The recoveries were made by SHO Nagrota In-charge Vishva Partap, SHO Arnia In-charge Sumit Sharma, SHO Bishnah In-charge Vikram Sharma and In-charge Police Post Jourian PSI Karnail Singh in their respective jurisdictions.

Two theft cases solved; 3 arrested, stolen items recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Monday solved two theft cases by arresting three accused persons and recovered stolen items.

As per details, information was received at Police Station Channi Himmat regarding theft at Sector-1, Channi Himmat, Jammu. As per reports, an unknown person, after breaking mirror of vehicle no JK02BR 0026, stole purse containing

some cash, credit/ debit cards, driving license, Aadhar card, Central University card. In this regard, a case under relevant sections was registered and investigation started. After this, a team of Police Station Channi Himmat under supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari led by SHO Police Station Channi Himmat In-charge Deepak Katoch, after putting in strenuous efforts and with help of various CCTV footages of area, rounded up an accused namely Guginder Lal, son of Desraj, resident of Extension Trikuta Nagar Jammu. During search, stolen items along with three more stolen purses were recovered from his possession.

Similarly, another theft case was solved by Police Station Bishnah, lodged on complaint of one Bunty Kumar, son of Ramesh Lal, resident of Harsa Dabber, Bishnah stating that on August 26, 2022 some unknown thieves entered his shop and decamped with 2 gas cylinders and Rs 600 cash. Accordingly, FIR No. 141/2022 under sections 454/380 of IPC was registered at Police Station Bishnah and investigation started.

After this, a team of Police Station Bishnah under the supervision of SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh led by SHO Bishnah In-charge Vikram Sharma, after putting in strenuous efforts, arrested two accused namely Parwinder Singh, son of Jasbir Singh and Rohit Kumar, son of Late Jagar Ram, both residents of Harsa Dabber, Bishnah. On questioning accused confessed their crime and on their disclosure stolen items were recovered.

Drug-peddler arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Continuing its efforts to curb menace of drugs from the society, Police on Monday have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

As per details, a party of Police Station Khansahib at a checkpoint established at Yarikha intercepted a vehicle (Tata Sumo) bearing registration No JK03-8539 driven by one

16 JKAS officers...

"Sanction is accorded to the promotion of the 15 Special Scale officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service to the Super Time Scale of JKAS in pay level 14 (144200-218200) with effect from August 5, 2022," reads another order. As per order, the JKAS officers who have been promoted to Super Time Scale include Mohammad Harun, Jatinder Singh, Sajad Hussain Ganai, Anoo Mallotra, Nitu Gupta, Predinen Krishan Bhat, Tariq Ahmad Zargar, Bhawani Rakwal, Smita Sethi, Anuradha Gupta, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, Raman Kumar Kesar, Bashir Ahmad Khan, Khalid Jahangir and Deepika Kumari Sharma.

Consequently, Mohammad Harun is designated as Secretary in the Tribal Affairs Department.

Chugh asks leaders...

the ground level situation and have fixed schedules of Pravas in various areas. He also asked them to report every important and prominent social and political development in their respective areas.

Ravinder Raina focused on the need of exemplary work by the BJP workers. He said that the party activists need to multiply their efforts to further strengthen the party at grass root level.

He said that the party activists have to work within the masses so as the malicious campaign initiated by certain selfish political parties can be countered effectively.

Ashok Koul sought the details of various organizational and political programmes undertaken by the party leaders in their respective districts.

Ashish Sood discussed details of the recent organizational programmes of party with the party leaders.

Four more Congress...

Party from Doda, including its district president Asgar Hussain Khanday, district general secretary Virender Kumar Sharma and district vice-president (women's wing) Promila Sharma, resigned from the primary membership of the party and extended their support to Azad, who hails from Bhaderwah town in Doda.

Former Jammu and Kashmir deputy chief minister Tara Chand, former ministers Abdul Majid Wani, Manohar Lal Sharma and Gharr Ram and former MLA Balwan Singh met Azad in Delhi and are likely to announce their loyalty to him on Tuesday after resigning from the Congress, a source said.

Over a dozen prominent Congress leaders, including former ministers and legislators, besides hundreds of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, municipal corporators and district and block-level leaders have resigned from the party to join Azad, who will soon launch a national-level political outfit from Jammu and Kashmir.

DB directs filing...

moto Public Interest Litigation and monitor the prayers made from time to time. The petitioner before the Supreme Court has prayed that to all the States and Union Territories to constitute Police Commission to deal with allegation of police action, redressal of grievances of police and to make recommendations for the welfare of police force. "Directions to the States and Union Territories to fill up the vacant posts in the Police and State Armed forces so that the police forces does not remain overburdened", the petitioner had prayed. He had also sought directions to all the States and Union Territories to provide for periodic training and up-gradation of police force and to fix the working 2 hours for the police personnel.

Surrendered terrorist detained...

are prejudicial to maintenance of public order.

PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

As per the dossier prepared by Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma, Wani is reportedly involved in anti-national/anti-social activities and creating law and order problems in Banihal tehsil.

Wani is a surrendered terrorist, who had joined militancy in December, 1999 and crossed (exfiltrated) illegally across the border via Saban (Poonch) for arms training in Pakistan, from where the subject went to Afghanistan (Rishkoor Place) for further training, the dossier said.

After training, it said Wani infiltrated into India in March 2002 through Maind, Poonch border and reached Srinagar and remained an active commander with code name Khalid but was arrested a year later from Lakhnupur along with some arms and ammunition and hawala money.

The dossier said he was lodged in Kot Bhalwal jail Jammu till 2005 and was again arrested by a special cell of Delhi Police in 2007 in a case related to unlawful activities (prevention) Act. He was convicted and remained in Tihar Jail from 2007 to 2014. His brother is lodged in Lucknow Jail since 2008 and was sentenced to life imprisonment (in a separate case), the dossier said, adding his activities are very harmful and highly prejudicial for the peace, prosperity, tranquility, integrity and security of J&K, particularly in Banihal. It accused Wani of instigating and provoking the general masses particularly youth of Banihal and adjoining areas against the Government and disturbing the peaceful atmosphere. He is also trying to create communal tension.

However, Wani's wife Noureen Begum said her husband is living a normal life after his release from the prolonged detention.

He is not involved in any type of anti-national or anti-social activities, she claimed, requesting the district administration Ramban and police to relook into his case and order his release. He is the father of a son and a daughter who are below five years of age. He is the only bread earner in the family, she said.

She said he was picked up from his village on August 3 and detained in police station Banihal before he was sent to Kot Bhalwal jail on August 25.

New mechanism for...

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, the senior-most judge in the Supreme Court, was sworn in as the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Saturday.

As CJI, Justice Lalit will have a short tenure of 74 days and demit office on November 8 on attaining the age of 65 years. Justice D Y Chandrachud, the senior-most judge after Justice Lalit, is next in line to be the country's top judge.

NEET-PG counselling...

seats. Though the ministry has not announced the revised schedule, official sources said the counselling is likely to begin in the third week of September.

"...the NEET-PG Counselling, 2022 was scheduled to commence from September 1. However, National Medical Commission (NMC) is in the process of issuing new letter of permissions (LoPs) for the current academic year and the same will be concluded till September 15.

"Hence, in order to include more seats in the counselling for the benefit of the candidates, it has been decided by the competent authority to re-schedule the NEET-PG Counselling, 2022 which was scheduled to commence from September 1," the ministry said in a notice.

Also, regulatory inspections in some medical colleges are underway, sources said.

Police launches Bhang/ cannabis destruction drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from society, Police in Sopore carried out a wild Bhang/ cannabis destruction drive in Watergam and its adjoining areas.

A police party from Police Station Dangiwacha headed by SHO Dangiwacha accompanied with Incharge Police Post Watergam along with Naib Tehsildar Watergam and officers/officials from Excise department destroyed Wild Bhang/ cannabis spread on about 10 Kanals of land. General public has appreciated the action of Police and urged to continue such drives in nearby areas also.

Body found from canal in suspicious circumstances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBAL: A body was recovered from Ravi Tawi canal in Ragchuk village, Ghagwal Panchayat of Samba district on Monday.

The body out was taken and shifted to morgue for autopsy. The deceased was identified as Kewel Krishna, son of Gyan Singh, resident of village Thathi, Tehsil Marheen, district

Usually, the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Postgraduate), NEET-PG, is held in January and the counselling starts in March. But because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the delay in last year's admission process, this year's exam was held on May 21 and results were declared on June 1, a senior official said.

This year's PG counselling is likely to be held for around 52,000 seats. Students who have qualified in the exam will be able to fill their choices with respect to courses and colleges during the counselling process for admission to the all India quota seats, state medical and dental colleges, central and deemed universities.

The PG counselling will commence for all central universities, deemed universities and 50 per cent of the all India quota and 50 per cent of the state quota of both medical as well as dental colleges simultaneously, officials said.

Govt to allocate...

development projects and initiatives apart from mandatory formulation of Tribal Sub-Plan in all sectors. He asked the departments to ensure 100% saturation under various schemes by covering all tribal families and ensure benefit reaches to the migratory population.

CS directed all the departments to formulate Tribal Sub-Plan out of their overall budget allocation in consultation with Tribal Affairs Department and conduct regular outcome evaluations to ensure that gaps in welfare and development of tribal population are promptly redressed. This is first time that all departments in J&K will be formulating Tribal Sub-Plans. Departments will allocate specific funding for tribal villages under CSS, CapEx, NABARD, loan component and other special schemes.

It was decided that funds proportionate to tribal population in Jammu & Kashmir shall be earmarked specifically by all the departments and districts under both Centrally Sponsored Schemes and UT CapEx for focused development in tribal villages. Special emphasis will be laid on beneficiary oriented schemes and welfare infrastructure with priority to road connectivity, power supply, drinking water, healthcare and education.

The SEC approved plan for 134 tribal villages to be developed under the Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) as Model villages during current financial year for which Gap Funding of Rs 20 Lakh/village will be released by tribal affairs departments while all other departments will converge by allocating 4