

CEO J&K Bank inaugurates bank's Bengaluru Cluster Office

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: With a view to attain greater efficiency and productivity in its Rest of India operations, J&K Bank on Tuesday commissioned a full-fledged Cluster Office in Bengaluru. MD & CEO, J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash on Tuesday inaugurated the suitably equipped office of the Bank in presence of Bank's Divisional Head (Rest of India) Rakesh Koul amid a gathering of valuable clients and other senior bank officials.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash said, "I see the establishment of a full-fledged Cluster Office here as a harbinger of welcome change in the Bank's strategic business stance. In its far-reaching decision to increase focus on the business outside J&K, the Bank has already put



MD & CEO, J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash inaugurating Cluster Office in Bengaluru.

in place such offices in Mohali and Lucknow."

"We plan to increase our business in strategic places outside J&K and for that to happen a

properly delegated structure has been put in place to garner, monitor and supervise the business operations of the Branches. The idea is to provide best services to our cus-

tomers through quick disposal, reduced TAT and leverage the Bank's outreach in real-time", he added.

He further said that the Bank has already reviewed and revised some of its financial products to accommodate the changing needs of the business besides different segments of society in the country.

Earlier, MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash interacted with some of the valuable customers of the Bank to obtain their feedback and seek suggestions for the improvement of services and products offered by the bank. The meeting was attended by Divisional Head besides valuable customers of various Bengaluru branches.

"Now that we plan to scale up our lending outside J&K with special focus on retail and reputed corporates, I would urge all of you to expand your business relationship with us. I can assure you of swift disposal of viable business proposals besides best-in-class services and products that have been devised to meet your growing aspirations", said the MD & CEO.

On the occasion, the customers expressed their gratitude to the MD & CEO for sparing his valuable time and appreciated the Bank for extending its helping hand to its customers whenever they faced any difficulty, especially during

the Covid pandemic. They also commended the professional conduct and personal connect of the Bank staff while providing services to customers in an easy and hassle-free manner.



Dr Jitendra interacts with DCs, reviews countrywide Beach cleaning campaign

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday interacted with 46 Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates from 9 Coastal States, reviewed the ongoing countrywide 75-day Beach cleaning campaign or Coastal CleanUp campaign and asked them to assist in this mass movement, which has been initiated by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences and involves all the concerned Central Ministries, State Governments as well as civil society organisations. The Minister said, the District Collectors can create a sustainable campaign and truly build a crescendo by involving all sections of society as the "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar" campaign is the longest and largest beach cleaning campaign in the world, which has already caught the imagination of the masses and nation. Underlining the "whole of government" approach to make the coastal clean-up campaign a grand success, Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh holding a virtual interaction with Deputy Commissioners from Coastal States, at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi on Tuesday.

Singh asked the District Collectors to rope in NGOs, citizen groups, children and youth forums, corporates, non-profit organisations, the Municipal Corporations of the Coastal States and environment activists. He also lauded the role of District Collectors for making a multi-department campaign to have maximum participation from all sections, particularly the student community and youth of the country.

He said, on 17th April, which incidentally is also birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated as "Sewa Divas" in the country, a massive clean-up drive will be carried out at 75 beaches across the country with 75 volunteers for every kilometre of the coastline. He sought active cooperation from all stakeholders to achieve the target to remove 1,500 ton of garbage, mainly single use plastic from the sea coasts on 17th September 2022.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed the District Magistrates that 75-day long campaign launched from 5th of July by

Ministry of Earth Sciences will culminate on "International Coastal Clean-up Day" on 17th September 2022.

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Several villages still not receiving tapped water supply in Valley

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

KOKERNAG: The Har Ghar Nal Se Jal scheme was launched in August 2019 as a big public infrastructure programme of Modi Government's second term. Despite claims that the administration is working hard and very soon every household in valley will get tapped water supply, there are still many areas without either fresh or tap water.

Anderwan village in Sagram area of Kokernag, district Anantnag is an example in this regard. This village lies barely 20 Km away from district headquarters and is located on a hillock comprising mud houses scattered across adjacent mountains. Having around 150 households comprising more than 400 inhabitants, the village has never seen a proper water supply. The womenfolk of area are forced to go downhill to fetch water from a polluted source, be it winters or any other season. "We have been fetching water in pitchers

from a pond some 3 Km down the hillock. It takes more than three hours of daily schedule to collect and bring water for our households while for some who live in upper mountains, it takes more time," a local woman said.

Hamla Pati Rajwar, which is just 12 Km away from Handwara is also facing problem of water supply. According to locals, Jal Jeevan Mission of the government is of no use to them. "Even today, women walk long distances to get water from a well located in middle of a dense forest, which is not drinkable. The fetching of water is not the only concern or trouble we face on daily basis, there is threat of wild animals also, especially in winters," a local stated. An official from Jal Shakti department, while acknowledging that there are still some villages in Kashmir valley which are suffering due to unavailability of potable water supply, claimed that woes of people in respect of water supply will be addressed soon.

Narendra Modi has been 1st to lay routes for all-round empowerment of subjects of 'J&K'

► India celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and steps in Azadi Ka Amritkaal

► C.O 272 of August 5, 2019, C.O 273 of August 6, 2019 & Act-34 of 2019 are Empowerment Tools

► Ladakh to Kanyakumari is Bharat

■ DAYA SAGAR

By the time in 2014 when NDA-II Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi as Prime Minister came to power the affairs related to Indian state of J&K were free for anyone to name the way one would desire to the extent that even those who suggested that there should be a common control of India and Pakistan on some affairs concerning the areas of the erstwhile princely state of J&K were considered as main stream opinion makers. What to talk of anti India forces/foreign powers even those individuals who held 'separatist' ideologies could conduct their activities since the J&K affairs had been pushed into variety of confusions. In addition militant / terrorist activities aided and abetted by Pakistan too had set some roots. The people of J&K, particularly those in Kashmir valley were very much lost in confusion and myths about their local identity as well as identity with respect to India republic. A very large local population of Kashmir valley that belonged only to a particular 'religious' community had been staying away from their hearths for more than nearly 25 years by then which could well depict the state of affairs

in J&K when Modi ji took over as Prime Minister of India. To be brief common man of J&K was in way living in an environment where there was need not only for economic empowerment of common man of J&K but there was need for empowerment at ideological, political, constitutional & administrative levels and Narendra Modi though had immediately in 2015 set on the task for taking on the real feels / routes for the needed empowments but it was on 5th August 2019 that Modi government took the first firm strides.

It is not out of place to mention here that it was on October 17, 2014 Mufti Mohd Sayeed had said while addressing his party workers in Srinagar that J&K Assembly was an empowered institution when at that time in all other Indian states there was political reservation for Schedule Tribes (ST) where as those who had been holding reins of governance in J&K had denied political reservation to even ST permanent resident of J&K and had even denied totality of fundamental / human rights even to the woman permanent residents (PR) of J&K who could not even choose a life partner of 'her choice' (leave aside the state of the Indian citizens who

were not in the category of PR of J&K). At the same time the local leadership who had been holding reins of governance upto 2014 have been trumpeting day in and day out that Indian state of J&K had special status in constitution of India in terms of Art-370 and also Art-35A was ask there to benefit the Indian citizens categorized as permanent resident of J&K even to the extent of violating the fundamental rights of other Indian citizens, one would ask such leaders that in case it was so then why even all the permanent residents of J&K did not have on ground all of their fundamental rights secured and there were shortage of experts in institutions like medical colleges. Simple answer could be made that the local leadership has been spending all energies in only sending messages that J&K was not as good an Indian state as are Punjab or UP, so called 'specials' were more used as distancing symbols and very less as welfare tools/ provisions.

Particularly after 1957 the 'democratically elected' leadership that had been ruling J&K state belonged mostly to Kashmir valley and had been emotionally exploiting

even the common people of Kashmir valley often describing Kashmireyat as identity of J&K who have been too innocent to sense the losses otherwise they were suffering. They have been in a way suffering for over seven decades from a virus of @Myths@ about the erstwhile princely state of J&K and the J&K as a state of Independent Republic India / Union of India after accession more since the Princely state of J&K had delayed accession (for reasons as were explained by him his letter of October 26, 1947 addressed to Governor General of India the government of Pakistan believing that J&K was a Muslim majority princely state & Kashmir valley had nearly 95 % Muslim population engineered open aggression on State on October 22, 1947 from Muzaffarabad side but the designs of Pakistan did not succeed since the local Kashmir valley population instead opposed the intruders, The resistance that Pakistani forces faced from the local Kashmiri

people did earn appreciations from the Indian masses bringing the Kashmiri leaders in more of focus. Since in democratic India state governments were to be formed based on majority in Legislative Assembly the Delimitations for J&K legislative assembly were not honestly drafted after 1957.

The subjects of Indian state of J&K were in a way kept caught in a web woven with the strings of regionalism / communalism under the influence of myths cultivated by their own leadership after the process of electing democratic governments was started in 1957. The proportions in Legislative Assembly were almost unfairly/manipulated /duplicated as they were in the J&K Constituent Assembly (which had been made on adhoc basis but still the then in 1950 leaders from Kashmir Valley had been sincere in their feel for the people of all regions of J&K which could be seen from the fact that although the Constituent Assembly had more members from Kashmir Valley (43) AND had less members from outside Kashmir Valley (30 Jammu region + 2 Ladakh region) but while drafting the Constitution the Constituent Assembly in Section-50 kept

less elected members in Legislative Council from Valley (12) but more for the areas outside the Kashmir Valley (14 J + 2 L).

Those who had eye on seats of governance kept the innocent masses entrapped in regional / communal / sectoral controversies in the name of special status / reasons for delayed accession / princely state of J&K having acceded to India with the choice local people particularly of Kashmir Valley Where as the people outside Valley that had comparatively more of backwardness and where the distant backward area too had very large Muslim population remained devoid of timely development and adequate share in the government/ administration . Not only that in Kashmir Valley also the locals were kept lost in regional controversies and myths of special status / special rights / two nation theory and common people / backward people there too kept on suffering of poor representation in senior administration/ministerial levels even when they were voting in the name of Kashmiriyat/ special status.

To be continued.

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