

LG addresses Joint Session of ICCR, IAUS

Our future goals must focus on commercial agriculture: Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday addressed the Joint Session of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Indian Agricultural Universities Association at Shalimar Campus of SKUAST-Kashmir.

The session was attended by Vice Chancellors of various universities, experts from India and young leaders from 9 countries and deliberations were held on redefining agricultural education to leadership, entrepreneurship, employment and discovery.

In his address, the Lt Governor shared the revolutionary transformation taking place in the Agriculture & allied sectors.

He said the new innovation in Agricultural science and technology has been continuously evolving and Agri 4.0 technology, its application and research is breaching new frontiers.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha releasing Srinagar Declaration of the Indian Agricultural Universities Association, a Multi-institutional MoU among all State Agricultural universities.

"J&K's Agriculture & allied sectors powered by Holistic Agriculture Development Program are offering multi-fold growth opportunities to our farmers and agri-entrepreneurs," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor congratulated the members of Agricultural Universities, Agri-Entrepreneurs, experts and faculty of SKUAST and hardworking farmers of our country for robust growth in the sector.

"Our Agricultural universities with their futuristic and courageous initiatives are leading the path of dynamic

economic growth, excellent collaboration and increasing global cooperation to redefining agricultural education and skill development," he said.

He said the success of SKUAST in promoting Agricultural Education through international collaboration, assistance in policy-making, entrepreneurship is a living proof that given a proper enabling environment, our experts and scientists working in this important sector are second to none.

Highlighting the reforms introduced across the sectors, the Lt Governor said,

under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir has come a long way in the last four years.

From new highways, rural roads to agriculture and industry 4.0 technology we are witnessing the beginning of a qualitative change and tremendous growth in every sector; he said.

The Lt Governor also made valuable suggestions for sustainable and commercially viable agriculture sector.

Our future goals must focus on commercial agriculture; bringing rural innovation into mainstream, encourage inter-disciplinary

approach, inspiring youth for integrated farming and transformation of our universities into the cradle of future entrepreneurs, he said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released Srinagar Declaration of the Indian Agricultural Universities Association, a Multi-institutional MoU among all State Agricultural universities as a part of the educational reform program of SKUAST.

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations also spoke on the occasion and shared his views on increasing global cooperation in the agriculture sector.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehra, Chief Secretary; Dr Nazir A Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Dr RC Agrawal, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and senior officers were also present.



Waqf Board executes MoU with HDFC Bank for e-rentals & e-donations

We are committed to continue reforming Waqf: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A significant reformative initiative has been taken by the J&K Waqf Board to streamline its revenues accruing from its commercial assets. A Memorandum of Understanding to switch over to online mode of rent and donation collection was executed today between J&K Waqf Board & HDFC Bank in presence of Waqf Board Chairperson (Minister of State, J&K) Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, & Branch Banking Head North (Senior Executive Vice President HDFC) Arun Mediratta, at Sonwar Srinagar on Thursday. The MoU is aimed at bringing all the Waqf property users on online platform so that rentals from all commercial assets are received on time through easy-to-use online facility without involve-



JKWB Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi and Branch Banking Head North Arun Mediratta after signing MoU.

ment of Waqf field staff. Simultaneously, HDFC shall put in place e-donations facility through Payment gateways on J&K Waqf Board Website.

Dr Andrabi highlighted the targets achieved viz-a-viz rent collection & resolution of property disputes in the interest of Waqf revenues over the last one year. The Waqf Chairperson also reiterated the commitment

of J&K Waqf Board for mobilisation of donations from the rest of the country and abroad for funding of Health & Education Sector initiatives of Waqf in J&K.

On the spot, Dr Andrabi handed over a cheque worth One Crore to the HDFC authorities to mark the beginning of business partnership with HDFC Bank.

Cong holds protest over detention of YRS activists demanding removal of toll plaza

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress workers on Thursday held a protest and allegedly tried to enter a jail in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district against the detention of 'Yuva Rajput Sabha' (YRS) activists who are demanding the removal of the Sarore toll plaza. Scores of Congress workers, led by former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, gathered in Kathua town and marched towards the jail to meet the detained YRS activists. However, police stopped them before they could reach the jail, officials said.

At least 27 activists of YRS were detained for violating restrictions around the Sarore toll plaza. Authorities had imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which forbids the gathering of four or more people at a particular place, in and around the toll plaza late Monday night.



Senior Congress leaders leading protest at Kathua.

The YRS is demanding the removal of the toll plaza on the Jammu-Pathankot national highway in Samba district, claiming that it was illegally set up to collect toll from the common people.

Congress leader Chand lambasted the BJP government at the Centre for imposing taxes on the people amid unprecedented price rise and unemployment.

"We want their release. The government is crushing the voice of common people for

every genuine cause. The BJP has utterly failed to safeguard the rights of the Jammu people and save them from all sorts of undue harassment," he told reporters here.

He also targeted the J-K administration for detaining the YRS leaders for holding a "peaceful protest" demanding the removal of the toll plaza.

In Samba, members of various organisations held protests and blocked traffic for hours on the highway.

BJP is true companion of common people: Sham



J&K BJP Vice-President, Sham Sharma listening to public issues.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "BJP, the true companion of the common people, works for fair, firm and long lasting solutions to their issues", said Sham Sharma, J&K BJP Vice-President, here on Thursday.

J&K BJP Vice-Presidents Sham Sharma (former minister) and Chander Mohan Gupta (former Mayor), accompanied by BJP Incharge Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Dil Bahadur Jamwal, were listening to the grievances of a large number of people from different areas of Jammu and Kashmir at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar.

They presented issues regarding drinking water supply under JJM scheme, repair of drainage systems, development of parks, replacement of streetlights, familial issues, renewing the Gun licences, construction of link road etc.

Sham said that unlike other opportunistic political parties, BJP is the true companion of the common people. BJP has worked for fair, firm and long lasting solutions to all the issues of masses in the past and is committed to find and provide the best solutions to all the issues, whether they are personal, development or other issues.

Chander Mohan Gupta said that BJP has always reached the people at their doorsteps to know their issues. He said that the needy and the aggrieved people keep visiting the party headquarter with all types of issues and party leaders have sincerely tried to find solutions to every single issue they are presented with.

Dil Bahadur Jamwal carried out the grievances camp proceedings and diarized the issues presented in the camp.

Customer friendly services, safe banking and protection of public money is mission of J&K Bank: MD/CEO Baldev Prakash

■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank is working to provide much more safe banking system, technical and error-free services in a customer-friendly environment, so that no bank customer faces any problem in future. This was stated by MD and CEO Jammu and Kashmir Bank Baldev Prakash in a press briefing immediately after the 85th Annual General Meeting of Shareholders at SKICC.

The MD and CEO J&K Bank said that "We are ready with the latest m-pay platform we call it m-pay delight plus, this is working at closer working group as of now in a testing stage and within a week or so customers will be able to the state of the art new m-pay platform which will be providing you a lot of features which they do not have as of now."

Giving the answer of, uproar on social media that bank is sealing properties of NPA account holders in the valley, the MD/CEO said, "The SARFAESI act is applicable all over the country and because of Article 370 it was not properly implemented in the Jammu and Kashmir. Now we have start doing it selectively against those who are not come forward for depositing the money despite the reminders in a specific time, and bank want to make it clear in an unprecedented manner last year we have launch back to back three OTS schemes and those schemes are having lot of liberal terms and are offering a lot of sacrifices from banks side, so lot of J&K bank customers have taken benefit of that scheme but a few customers despite our request have not come forward for availing the benefit of those OTS scheme".

CEO said, with lot of heavy heart, we have left with no option for those customers who are not coming forward for depositing the public money and we have



to resort to the use of SARFAESI action and at this point the bank would like to make it clear that all the SOPs defined in SARFEASI Act are properly implemented and a human approach is always implemented by our teams.

From the past few days Jammu and Kashmir Bank customers have been allegedly claiming that J&K Bank employees are not treating the common man as a valued customer.

Since customers have written to the Head of the branches, that Jammu and Kashmir bank staff are not working in a customer friendly environment. Due to this reason people are switching their bank from J&K Bank to other banks, which can lead to loss for the bank.

Regarding the issue, the MD and CEO made it clear the bank has a sop very well defined about the misbehaviour of staff and stringed action has initiated against those staff who were the instances of misbehaving are proved.

If a customer encounters any such case in any branch, the customer should take up matter with respective authorities, so that stringent action can be taken against those staff members.

J&K State Flag never had Same Constitutional Position as Union Flag (Indian Nation Flag)

Let process of uprooting myths about identities of erstwhile Indian state of J&K & Bharat take a start

■ DAYA SAGAR

J&K' has suffered a lot over more than last 7 decades even after having landed in a sovereign democratic republican environment as a state of Union of India. In spite of all the governments having sworn on oath to work for peace & stability still the unfair turbulences have consumed major bulk of their energies / efforts. For all this the reasons more lie in the fact that the Prince of the erstwhile Princely state of J&K had delayed the accession of state with India for more than two months till the state was attacked by Pakistan openly from Kashmir valley side on 22nd Oct 1947 (hoping that Muslim majority Valley will openly support 'Pakistan' invasion but that did not happen at all). Ofcourse the Prince of J&K did sign the same text of Instrument of Accession as was signed by other princes still the delayed accession, the circumstances under which Maharaja of J&K acceded to India, the invaders do not receiving any support from local population of Kashmir Valley & the reasons for delay as were explained by Maharaja in writing did place the socio political environment in J&K at a 'particular' pedestal. After 1947 no doubt the foreign agencies and a few local elements carrying anti India ideologies too have been working to emotionally exploit the local people in the name of regionalism / communalism / historical notes but

there have been some political wrongs expressed / supported by even those leaderships which did not disown J&K as a state of Union of India/who did not raise any questions on the truthfully total accession of the erstwhile princely state of J&K to India but instead have been highlighting the failures of the Pakistani invasion from Kashmir Valley side /delays in accession and demography of J&K promoting 'siege' theories on the accession of J&K to India due to which some myths had taken roots in the lanes of J&K (particularly Kashmir Valley) and such political parties nursed their political plans with those myths.

The myths had/have been like (i) J&K had Constitutionally a special Status in India and Art370 of Constitution of India is the only link (bridge) (between J&K and India (ii) It was due to special status that J&K had a separate / own Constitution), (iii) No law made by Parliament of India is applicable to J&K unless that was accepted by J&K Legislature / Government and (iv) It was due to special status that J&K had a separate /own Flag.

Since no adequate counter corrections / explanations were given by Indian political leadership in power or out of power to the myths cultivated by local political leaders (mostly taking lead from Kashmir valley) the myths like J&K having a special status in Constitution of India did set firm and

emotional roots in J&K. No doubt it was on 11-03-2015 that in reply to Rajya Sabha starred Q*138 (whether it is a fact that through Article 370, the Constitution gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir?) Government of India had in a written reply informed the Nation that J&K State of Indian Union has no any special status as per Constitution of India (a): In the Constitution of India, there is no mention of 'Special Status to Jammu and Kashmir'. Article 370 provides for 'Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir') but even after that many from the government / many in the media / many political leaders have been saying that J&K 'has' special status and many media had been / is reporting that with the issue C.O 272 on 5 August 2019 and C.O 273 on 6 August on 2019 "special status" of J&K has been taken away. Such inferences if are still drawn the emotional links that the myths had earlier created are surely going to be hurt ,which will feel un happy on losing so called special status. So all must very carefully express opinions on J&K affairs particular with respect to what happened in August 2019. The real facts in simple language have to be taken to common man of J&K (even all over India) with patience and calm , particularly in relation the myths



A Look through the Mist Part-I

about special status / Art370/ separate constitution/ separate flag so that the process initiated for return of peace & stability in J&K is achieved early .

It was on 05-08-2019 that the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) order 2019 C.O 272 of date 05-08-2019 was made by the President of India under the provisions of Art370(1) of Constitution of India to supersede Constitution (Application to J&K) Order,1954, it was on 06-08-2019 that President of India issued Presidential Notification under C.O.273 of 06-08-2019 making use of Art 370(3) to modify Art-370 , Bill No. XXIX of 2019 -The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament of India on 6th August 2019 (Act No: 34 of 2019 assented by President of India on 09-08-2019) and the same are under judicial review before a 5 Judge Constitution Bench of Court of India.

The five Judge Constitution Bench (Chief Justice D.Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B.R Gavai & Surya Kant) otherwise had on 12-07-2023 while passing several procedural directions and ordering that hearing on the clutch of petitions will be held on a day-to-day basis w.e.f 2nd August 2023 except on Mondays and Fridays (days for hearing

miscellaneous matters in the apex court) too has said that Centre's affidavit filed on 10-07-2023 (Monday) with regard to the conditions prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir after the August 5, 2019 notification will have no bearing on the constitutional issue to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench. Good that no goods or bads, no commitments or promises, no historical events or opinions earlier to 1947 are made part of proceeding which could otherwise push socio political local environment into unwanted emotional conflicts / controversies / political traits. So let me not discuss the technicalities/ other issues related to above here and leave that to the wisdom of supreme court.

Let me take the liberty to just discuss here the "myth" of J&K having a Separate Flag. The 'position'/status of State Flag with respect to National Flag / Union Flag is neither described in the Constitution of India nor in Section-144 of the Constitution of Indian State of J&K(The Flag of the State shall be rectangular in shape and red in colour with three equidistant white vertical strips of equal width next to the staff and a white plough in the middle with handle facing the strips).Any how a J&K state government circular of 12th March 2015 had made a mention of Delhi Agreement of 1952 wrt state flag . Without going into the constitutional and statutory validities

of the said Delhi Agreement of 1952, let us have a look at para / Clause -IV of the said agreement that does have some indirect reference as regards the 'position'/ status of the State flag viz viz National / Union Flag . The Delhi agreement at para / clause -IV says, "..... it was agreed by the State Government that the State flag would not be a rival of the Union flag; it was also recognised that the Union flag should have the same status and position in Jammu and Kashmir as in the rest of India,...." .

Therefore, even as per Delhi Agreement of 1952 the said 'State Flag' did not have the same (equal to) position (constitutional status) as the Union Flag / National Flag has could not be named as separate state flag. Delhi agreement said that state flag 'would not be a rival of the Union Flag' and that the Union flag should have the same status and position in Jammu and Kashmir as in the rest of India. So J&K having a Separate flag of own has been a myth but it was not well disposed /contested by any national party or officially . Such misconceptions of earlier times should not be allowed to flow even now and surely should be very patiently and humbly explained to dismantle their roots so that no one feels having lost anything special after 5 August 2019.

(The author is a Sr Journalist &analyst of J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).