

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Govt to create...

NHPC power project and work on 33kV line has been expedited and work on infrastructure for inter-connectivity between the villages has started, he added.

The Lt Governor informed that the administration has decided to extend Kisan Sampark Abhiyaan by 15 days and impressed on the officials to connect more farmers from Gurez with the endeavour.

Sinha congratulated the people of Dard-Shin community and applauded the efforts of the Indian Army for this extraordinary initiative in Amrit Kaal.

"The centre is a unique tribute to preserve and promote the glorious artistic heritage of Dard-Shin tribal community and to provide glimpses of its rich culture to the world," the Lt Governor said.

India's first museum for Dardis traces the journey of Shina culture, languages and Gurezi way of life. I believe Shanon Meeras will become the centre of attraction for travelers visiting this best off-beat destination of India, he said.

Various sections of the museum will provide an opportunity to travellers, historians to explore tangible and intangible art and a vibrant space for community to tell their stories and showcase traditions, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor appreciated the joint effort of Army, District Administration and the Tourism Department for acknowledging the immense contribution of Dard-Shin community in nation-building.

The Army had partnered with reputed institutions of the country to build the museum. It has a mix of digital displays, exhibits, artifacts, textiles, interactive boards and various sections including Dardistan, Kishanganga River, Gurezi way of life, Language Section, Symbiotic Relationship with Indian Army, Souvenir Section and AV room. The Sand Art will display the operation ERAZE - Indian Army operation for liberation of Gurez in 1948.

Open Air Amphitheatre having a capacity of 150 people has been constructed on the banks of Kishanganga River for performances by the local cultural dance groups during weekends. Museum also has a website and a rich social media presence.

At Gurez, the Lt Governor also met with various public delegations including PRI representatives, members of Hoteliers and Youth Club Associations and assured them time bound redressal of their genuine issues and grievances.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor flagged off Dawar - Drass - Darchik car rally connecting the Dard community of Gurez to Ladakh, and unveiled a Shina Language Primer for promoting the use of Shina mother tongue amongst children of Gurez.

He also flagged-in Vajr Top Expedition by Indian Army carrying soil of Vajr Top as a contribution to 'Meri Maati Mera Desh'.

Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C Northern Command; Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr. Owais Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, senior Civil, Police and Army officers, PRI representatives, members of Tribal Community, students and local residents were present.

Article 370: Centre...

the second limb of the argument that the Constituent Assembly (CA) of J-K was, in reality, a legislative assembly as proviso to Article 370 specifically mentioned that it (CA) brought certain subjects into the fold of the state upon its approval.

Mehta, said, "The Constituent Assembly of J-K was for all purposes functioning as the state legislature apart from framing a subordinate document called 'the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir' also made legislations by passing several laws."

He said the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, in the exercise of its limited powers, approved and adopted the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir which was nothing but a "legislative piece" for internal governance with the overarching application of the Indian Constitution.

The solicitor general further submitted that the effect of Article 370 was such that by the administrative act of the President and the state government, any part of the Constitution of India with respect to J-K can be amended, altered or even "destroyed" and new provisions can be created.

He said that after the 42nd amendment, the words "Socialist" and "Secular" were not made applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Even the word "Integrity" is not there. Fundamental duties were not there, which exists in the Indian Constitution.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Constitution provided for a separate provision for permanent residents of J-K in Article 7. It removed references to Scheduled Tribes from Article 15(4). Other Articles 19, 22, 31, 31A and 32 were applied with some modifications," Mehta said.

He referred to another contentious provision, Article 35A, of the Indian Constitution that gave special rights to only permanent residents of the erstwhile state and said it was discriminatory, to say the least.

"Under the provision (A-35A), people like sanitation workers working in the erstwhile state for decades were not given equal rights like that of permanent residents of J-K.

"This discrimination continued till the provision was abrogated in 2019. Non-permanent residents of J-K were not able to purchase lands, could not avail scholarship, employment in the state government," he said, urging the court to look into issues from the "eyes of people".

CJI Chandrachud deciphering Mehta's submissions said that by enacting Article 35A, they took away fundamental rights of equality, liberty to practice profession in any part of the country and even granted immunity from legal challenges and the power of judicial review.

"People were misguided by those - who were supposed to guide them - that this was not a discrimination but a privilege. Even today two political parties are before this court defending Article 370 and 35A," the Solicitor General said.

Mehta submitted that the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir needed to be repealed because it could not co-exist with the Indian constitution.

"On November 21, 2018, the legislative assembly of the state was dissolved but there was no contemporaneous challenge by any political party or any citizen or leader.

"Till, today there is no challenge to the dissolution of the assembly," he said, adding that despite there being no challenge, arguments were made by the petitioners' side that the action was "arbitrary".

Mehta added that on June 20, 2018, under Section 92 of the J-K Constitution, the Governor's rule was imposed in the state due to the failure of constitutional machinery in the state and only one petition challenged it after 14 months.

"No political party challenged the governor's rule or dissolution of the assembly. We are being called at midnight in this court for a hearing on forming governments, but here there are no challenges.

"Yet, arguments have been made that how can the governor dissolve the House. I am unable to understand the hollowness of the arguments," he submitted, adding that in J-K, Governor's rule has been imposed eight times and President's rule three times.

The hearing remained inconclusive and would continue on Tuesday.

On August 24, commencing their arguments in support of the abrogation of Article 370, the Centre had asserted there was no "constitutional fraud" in annulling the provision that accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Several petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

Congress strong enough...

in J&K. "The UPA-I and UPA-II had prepared a roadmap and ensured enormous development and employment in J&K, but the BJP policies are contrary to that. With the result, the developmental process started in J&K received severe setbacks," Patil added. She reiterated that the Congress would not compromise on people's aspirations and would do its best to restore the confidence and trust of the common citizens in J&K.

Over 5 lakh job...

forces to conduct their operations more efficiently and effectively and better manage a wide range of security duties across the entire country.

Through this Rozgar Mela event, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is recruiting personnel in various CAPF's such as CRPF, BSF, SSB, Assam Rifles, CISF, ITBP and Narcotics Control Bureau as well as Delhi Police, the officials said.

The MHA has filled up around one lakh posts through Mission Recruitment, out of which about 87,000 vacant posts have been filled up in CAPF's, they added.

Three bills to...

CM Eknath Shinde, Goa CM Pramod Sawant and Administrator of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Prafull Patel.

It was also attended by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and other ministers, chief secretaries from the states in the Western Zone, the

Union Home Secretary, Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat and other senior officials.

"After the passage of the three new Bills - Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill 2023, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita Bill 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill 2023 - recently introduced by the Modi government in Parliament, no case can continue for more than two years, which will result in elimination of 70 per cent negative energy," Shah said in his address.

"All states should work towards creating necessary basic infrastructure and capacity for the implementation of these laws," Shah said.

The BJP-led Centre introduced these three new bills in the Monsoon session of Parliament to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act.

"The Western Zone is an important zone of the country and with a contribution of 25 per cent to the country's GDP, this region is the hub of finance, IT, diamond, petroleum, automobile and defence," Shah said.

States in the Western Zonal Council share long coastlines dotted with highly sensitive institutions and industries and there was a need for sustained efforts towards ensuring tight security, the Union Home minister said.

Some crucial issues discussed were 'transfer of land related issues, issues related to water supply, operationalization of auctioned mines, cash deposit facility at Common Service Centre, coverage of villages by bank branches/Postal Banking facilities, speedy investigation of cases of sexual offence/rape against women and children, implementation of the scheme of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious disposal of rape and POC SO Act cases, the release said.

Shah said Zonal Councils provide the opportunity for personal interaction at the highest level amongst the members and serve as a useful forum for resolving issues of difficult and complex nature in an atmosphere of amity and goodwill.

Through discussion and exchange of views, the Zonal Councils help in developing a coordinated approach among the states on important issues of socio and economic development, he asserted.

Shah asked Zonal Council member states to work sensitively on three issues of national importance, namely 'POSHAN Abhiyaan', reducing the dropout rate of school children, and taking benefits of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to the poor. "After the recent success of the country's Chandrayaan mission, the whole world is praising the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). In the last nine years, with his foresight, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only given a new direction to India's space sector; but has made a time-bound program and framework to take the country to the forefront of the world in the field of space by 2030," he said.

On the occasion, Shah inaugurated an e-resource web portal to facilitate functioning of Zonal Councils.

The portal is a repository of the important documents, including minutes and agenda of various meetings of the Inter-State Council as well as its Standing Committee since its constitution on May 28, 1990 and Zonal Councils and their Standing Committees since they were formed in 1957, the release informed.

Economy on growth...

and had the potential to create 13-14 crore new jobs.

Citing the example of the pharmaceutical industry, the prime minister said the sector worth Rs four lakh crore at present is expected to grow to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2030.

"What does it mean? It means that in this decade the pharma industry will need a lot of youth. There will be opportunities for employment," Modi said.

He said the automobile and the auto component sector too was on the growth path and will require youth power to propel it.

The food processing industry, which was worth approximately Rs 26 lakh crore last year, was bound to rise to Rs 35 lakh crore in the next three-and-a-half years.

"With expansion comes increased employment opportunities," he added.

Citing the example of Uttar Pradesh, he said good governance in the state has led to establishment of the rule of law, which has in turn brought in a lot of investments.

"In an atmosphere of security, the establishment of the rule of the law speeds up development, instills confidence in the people and brings in investments," he said.

However, the states with rising crime rates witnessed fewer investments and shrinking of employment opportunities, Modi said.

"A new era of transformation can be witnessed owing to the efforts of the government in the last nine years," the prime minister said.

He said India clocking record exports last year was a sign of the increased demand for Indian made goods in the global market.

Modi noted that production has gone up, employment has increased and the income of the family has seen a rise.

India, he said, has become the second largest mobile manufacturing nation in the world and the country was now focusing on other electronic gadgets.

"India will replicate the success of the mobile manufacturing sector in the IT and hardware manufacturing sector. The day is not far when Made in India laptops and personal computers will make us proud," the prime minister said.

He said the government was laying emphasis on procuring Indian made laptops and computers, and as a result, production of the gadgets has increased.

The new recruits, who were handed over letters of appointment on Monday, will be joining in various positions such as constable (general duty), sub-inspector (general duty) and non general duty cadre posts in various organisations under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The prime minister referred to the new recruits as 'Amrit Rakshak', who will not only serve the country but will also protect it.

CS inspects NH-44...

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar; Inspector General of Police Traffic, Bhim Sen Tuti; DIGs of DKR and Traffic Range Jammu, Deputy Commissioner Ramban and SSP NHW, RO NHAI, along with many other senior officers of different departments were also present on the occasion.

During the first leg of his tour, Chief Secretary inspected the progress of work on 2.3km Banihal Viaduct, which will bypass the Banihal town and facilitate smooth movement of traffic on the National Highway. He emphasized upon the NHAI to ensure that the work on the project is completed by December this year. He also passed standing instructions to NHAI to blacktop the link road towards Banihal Market, till the bypass is completed.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary stopped at Lambar, on Banihal Expressway, and passed directions to use the handover /takeover site of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra - 2023 as truck holding area, keeping in view the increasing movement of fruit laden trucks from Kashmir valley towards Jammu and rest of the country.

Emphasizing upon strict adherence to stipulated timelines, Dr. Mehta asked Regional Officer NHAI to ensure completion of 6.2 km Sher Bibi viaduct, Tunnel T-4, 4.2 km Digdol twin-tube and the additional two tubes of Ramban flyover, as this new infrastructure will further decrease the travel time between Srinagar and Jammu. He advised NHAI to explore the possibility of hassle-free two-way movement of HMVs between Tunnels T-3 and T-5.

The road between T-3 and T-5 had caved-in following incessant rains in the first week of July earlier this year during SANJY 2023. NHAI had developed a temporary ramp to restore the movement of vehicles.

The Chief Secretary also passed directions to NHAI to complete the T-5 viaduct and underpass near Magerkote within the stipulated timeline.

Later, the Chief Secretary arrived at the Conference Hall of District Administrative Complex, Ramban where he took a detailed developmental review of ongoing works in the District. He reviewed the progress of District Capex including Area Development Fund (PRI/DDC/BDC Grants) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. While reviewing the progress of the flagship Jal Jeevan Mission programme, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioner to ensure that all allotted works are started on ground so that the targeted 57,600 households are provided with functional hand-tap connections.

The Chief Secretary expressed concern over the slow pace of FHITC generation in the District and refixed the target of 7,000 FHITCs per month for the next 3 months to saturate the scheme. The Chief Secretary also directed the Deputy Commissioner to scale up ISA activities in the District by integrating principle stakeholders like Pani Samitis, PRIs, Aanganwadi workers, ASHA workers and the general public.

The Chief Secretary was informed that all 88 schemes, including 262 works have been tendered and allotted in the District, which includes critical components like GSR, laying of pipes and non-critical components like Slow Sand Filtration Plants.

The Chief Secretary stressed upon the distribution of Field Testing Kits amongst the PRIs so that the quality of water is regularly checked at Panchayat level. He also called for strict monitoring of parameters on Jal Jeevan Mission Dashboard.

On Capex Budget indicators, the Deputy Commissioner assured the Chief Secretary that the District will achieve its target of 2607 works under different components, adding that more than 2100 works have been tendered, out of which 393 have been completed.

Highlighting the role of PRIs in laying a strong edifice for a clean panchayat, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioner to ensure expeditious disposal of legacy waste, visible cleanliness all around and development of newly-constructed Amrit Sarovars into Amrit Vatikas. He also advised the Deputy Commissioner

to focus upon the cleanliness of those panchayats which are on the axis of the NH-44, keeping in view the movement of thousands of passengers, in close coordination with the NHAI. "The toilets on NH-44 need to be cleaned on daily basis and passengers should be advised not to litter," he added.

Pointing out key gaps in the education sector of the District, the Chief Secretary asked the Deputy Commissioner to take steps to bring down the drop-out rate of students at Upper Primary and Higher Secondary level. He directed the Deputy Commissioner to send a detailed report on the functioning of the education sector with focus on manpower shortage, upgradation of schools from Middle to High and High to Higher Secondary level and improving the quality of education and attendance of the teaching faculty.

While reiterating the significance to invest in education sector; Dr. Mehta passed directions for sharing list of all such school buildings which have either been declared unsafe or require urgent repairs in the District.

Deputy Commissioner informed the Chief Secretary that a list of 140 such schools has been shared with the Education Department that require repair and renovation in order to ensure safety and security of students and staff.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the District's rise to number 1 rank in the UT of J&K in POSHAN Abhiyan. However he passed directions to the Deputy Commissioner to liaise between POSHAN, Health, and Education Departments in identifying severely anaemic children between the ages of 0 to 6 years for taking necessary pre-emptive measures to improve their health condition.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also briefed the Chief Secretary about various road projects under PMGSY, PWD and NABARD sectors. The Chief Secretary emphasized upon quality work and strict adherence of the contractors to Defect Liability Period. The Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress of Ayushman Bharat/SEHAT scheme, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, National Rural Livelihood Mission, MGNREGA and PMAY-G/U.

Later, the Chief Secretary also met the District Development Council led by Chairperson Dr. Shamshad Shan, along with members of the Municipal Council, Ramban. While receiving various memoranda from the PRIs, the Chief Secretary assured them of speedy redressal of the issues raised.

Before his departure, the Chief Secretary distributed customised motorised tri-cycles (Scooters) amongst the specially-abled beneficiaries as part of the Rehabilitation Council Scheme.

Fillip to MICE...

Miss World India, Sini Shetty; Miss World England, Jessica Gagen; Miss Asia, Pricilia Carla Saputri Yules; Chairman and CEO of Miss World Organization, Julia Eric Morley and her team; Rouble Negi, founder Rouble Negi Art Foundation.

The visit of these Beauty Divas was curated by the Tourism Department in collaboration with Rouble Nagi Art Foundation.

The visit of these celebrities is expected to give a further push to MICE tourism in J&K which is already witnessing a very encouraging scenario after the successful holding of 3rd Working Group meeting of G 20 countries here in May this year. The G 20 event which has proved to be a game changer and a transformative event for the local tourism has led to an increased footfall of foreign travellers visiting the UT which has gone up several notches after the successful event. Several national and international corporate bodies and companies have planned their events in UT and many high profile dignitaries have visited the region in the meantime.

In such a scenario, this visit by renowned beauty queens of the world to Kashmir is going to draw the attention of global tourism market to what J&K is offering in terms of natural beauty, corporate events, wedding tourism, local craft and cuisine besides positioning J&K as a destination to hold major global and corporate events. This is expected to upscale the local tourism, craft and economy like never before.

This positive turn around in the tourism scenario has been achieved with a focused direction and attention from Prime Minister, Narendra Modi whose personalized leadership has led to such a transformative change in the tourism sector of the UT. Home Minister, Amit Shah and Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha have continuously been evaluating the progress of this positive change and guiding the Department in achieving the desired results.

The delegation held an informal chat with the media here.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman, PME, Jamil Saidi described Kashmir as the crowning jewel of India which has a special place for him. He said the majestic landscape and warm people here reminds him of unity in diversity. He thanked Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha and the Tourism Department for hosting them.

Replying to a question, Saidi said J&K is poised to host such major global beauty and corporate events for which he complimented the people concerned.

The visit of global Beauty Divas to Jammu & Kashmir promises to be a blend of elegance, artistry and cultural exchange. Embracing the ethos of art, culture, and international allure, the visit will not only showcase the region's picturesque landscapes but also provide a global platform for local artists and artisans to interact.

During the visit, divas are expected to immerse themselves in Jammu and Kashmir's scenic beauty and local artistry with an opportunity to engage with the local community, highlighting the region's unique heritage.

Meanwhile, Miss World, Karolina Bielawska and other international beauty pageant winners called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, earlier today.

Karolina Bielawska was accompanied by Miss World Caribbean, Emmy Pena; Miss World America, Shree Saini; Miss World India, Sini Shetty; Miss World England, Jessica Gagen; Miss Asia, Pricilia Carla Saputri Yules; Chairman and CEO of Miss World Organization, Julia Eric Morley. They shared the experience of their visit to Kashmir Valley. The Lt Governor discussed with the international beauty pageant winners the tourism potential of J&K UT and its emergence as a favourite destination for hosting major international events.

The visit of the international beauty pageant winners was organized by the Tourism Department in collaboration with Rouble Nagi Art Foundation.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary Tourism Department; Rouble Nagi, Founder Rouble Nagi Art Foundation and Jamil Saidi, Chairman PME were also present during the interaction at Raj Bhawan.

Man commits self...

not a Pujari (priest) of any temple as reported, the police said, adding the general public is advised not to pay heed to baseless statements.

"It is further assured that a fair and in-depth probe is going on into the matter and action as per law of land is being ensured," they said.

Awareness event on hazards of drug abuse held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In order to address the menace of drugs and to sensitize the masses about the prevalence and means of prevention of drug abuse, JKSTIC, department of science and technology Udhampur and Rural Development Department, Block Panthal organized an awareness camp on the topic "Drug abuse and drug addiction" at Panchayat Community Hall Sirakotla in Block Panthal.

In this awareness camp various institutes from society like colleges, school, Hospital came forward and took oath for eradication of drugs from society.

Dr. Bhamu Partap Singh, Senior Consultant Internal Medicine, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super speciality hospital raised awareness during his lecture about the impacts of drug, symptoms and controlling measures. Dr. Prabhas



Organisers along with students during the programme.

the youth are extremely susceptible to drugs and we must urgently deal with the problem of drug abuse.

Shruti Khanna District Coordinator, Department of science and technology, in her address awarded that the drug problem is a complex issue that affects millions of people world wide. Many people who use drugs face stigma and discrimination which can harm their physical and mental health.

The aim of this camp is to raise awareness about the importance of treating people who use drugs with empathy and provide necessary voluntary services to get rid of drugs.

Member of District Development Council, Rajinder Mengi, Chairman Block Development Council Chander Mohan Singh joined the event while the welcome address was presented by Manoj Raina, BDO Panthal. The whole event was organised by Mehak Chowdhary, BDO Trainee at Panthal.