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Admn aims to...

J&K's culture. It will serve as a platform for organizing buyer-seller meets creating opportunities for enhancing local business & exports on a permanent basis by connecting local artisans with a multitude of markets, he added.

He said that the Haat will empower the local entrepreneurs to build successful businesses by providing high-quality training programs, advisory services and this access will help people achieve economic self-sufficiency through small business development, besides promoting local heritage & tourism.

"I believe that Jammu Haat can bring about a massive change in the handicraft, handloom and local industry at the grassroots level in Jammu", the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor said that the tradition of handicrafts, handlooms has been part of our society for the last ten thousand years. "Our primary focus is to scale up the local industries of handloom and handicrafts to global level", he added.

The Lt Governor noted that the UT government is not only committed to the preservation and development of local art but also for the social and economic upliftment of lakhs of people associated with the handicraft sector in J&K.

He recalled that the Karkhandar scheme started in August this year aimed to create a bridge between traditional crafts and market, besides training the artisans, weavers associated with this rich heritage. The scheme broadly aims to revive the languishing crafts; upscale the learning techniques of trainees; improve the wages of the craftsmen through collectivization and creating linkages with producer organizations to inculcate entrepreneurial skills and aptitude to the trainees.

"Under the 'Karkhandar' scheme during the training beneficiaries will be given an honorarium of Rs 2,000 per month and an additional Rs 25,000 to buy raw materials and other items. After the training, all the craftsmen and weavers who want to start their own unit will be provided all possible financial assistance from the administration", the Lt Governor said.

Besides extending financial support to the people associated with local crafts, the UT government is making sustained efforts to promote the branding of GI tagged handicrafts on priority basis so as to provide international market to the artisans through e-commerce. Very soon Basohli painting, Basohli pashmina products, Kishtwar loh and Chikriwadi craft will also get the GI tag, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor said that a major part of the Udhampur Industrial Estate has been reserved for women entrepreneurs. Similarly, Jammu Haat will also act as an exclusive hub for Women Entrepreneurs associated with small and medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), and will play an important role in the Sustainable Economic Growth of the entire region", he added.

The Lt Governor said that the UT government is making committed efforts for youth empowerment, especially women, through programmes like Hausla, Himayat, Mumkin, Parwaz, Umeed, Tejaswini, Sankalp, Saath, Rise Together etc. Besides, youth clubs have been established in all panchayats, making the Youth a partner in the governance process and UT's development. In the last few months, around 20,000 youth have been empowered financially to start their enterprises, he added.

The Lt Governor announced the extension of financial assistance to the artisans and youth who want to start their enterprise in the field of traditional crafts or any other small scale industrial unit.

"There will be no limit as far as the numbers are concerned. We will reach out to every person. In Jammu division our aim is to provide financial support to two lakh artisans and youngsters willing to start their own business," he added.

The Lt Governor said that under 'One District One Product' scheme, PM Narendra Modi has transformed the economically backward districts into engines of inclusive development with the promotion of local skills and arts.

The Lt Governor lauded the efforts of Industries department, which worked with full dedication and fulfilled the years old demand of the people of Jammu.

Earlier, Anoo Malhotra, Director Industries and Commerce read the welcome address; Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce, and Ankita Kar, Managing Director J&K Trade Promotion Organization gave an overview of the efforts of the government in promoting trade and commerce in the UT. Jugal Kishore, Member Parliament; Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation; Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu Baser Khan, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr. AK Mehta, Chief Secretary; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anshul Garg, DC Jammu besides HoDs Entrepreneurs were present on the occasion.

Two cops among...

Jaffer Hussain Butt of Kishtwar was arrested in a case that is presently under investigation of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The probe has revealed that Butt provided his car to Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists and facilitated their safe movement in his hometown, the officials said, adding that he is currently on bail since August 30.

Teacher Abdul Hamid Wani of Bijbehara in Anantnag district was also among those dismissed from service. It is alleged that before joining government service, he was a district commander of terror group Allah Tigers and propagated secessionist ideology, the officials said.

They said he had reportedly secured the employment without any selection process by leveraging Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) influence. He was a key speaker and organiser in the 2016 agitation following the killing of terrorist commander Burhan Wani.

A junior assistant in the Roads and Buildings Department, Mohd Rafi Butt of Kishtwar, is accused of having provided logistical support to Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists in Kishtwar; besides providing a safe environment to them to execute terror plans. He figures in an FIR registered by the NIA and is presently on bail after being arrested, the officials said.

They said teacher Liyaqat Ali Kakroo of Baramulla was appointed in government service in 1983 and was arrested in 2001 with an explosive substance. The probe against him revealed that he was a locally-trained terrorist.

Forces ready to meet any security challenge: Army Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army is continuously monitoring the situation in the country's neighbourhood and is ready to meet any security challenge that comes its way, Army Chief General M M Naravane said on Wednesday.

Addressing the AIMA National Management Convention, the Chief of Army Staff noted that the army is prepared to tackle even a dual-front war if the need arose.

He highlighted that the Indian Army was making rapid strides in changing itself from being a manpower intensive army to a technologically empowered one in order to keep an edge over opponents.

"We always continue to do a regional and environmental scan and based on that scan we do keep reviewing what threat perceptions could be. Based on those threat perceptions, we recalibrate our possible responses.

"That is always work in progress and we will always be prepared to meet whatsoever security challenges that come due to this changed situation," Gen Naravane said.

He was responding to a query on how the Indian Army views the return of Taliban in Afghanistan and what it could mean for the country's security.

Asked about the Chinese incursions and how the

Indian Army is changing its strategies and capabilities to face the situation, he noted: "As we go along, we will also be continuously monitoring the developments in various regions, whether it is land based, space based and based on these changes, we will continue to refine our operational strategies."

He pointed out that the nature of war remains constant and it is the character of war that keeps changing over a period of time.

"...the nature of war is constant, the nature of war will always be to impose your will on the opponent...the methodology of imposing that will keep changing," Gen Naravane said.

He further said: "So this is work in progress and I would like to ensure everyone that we are nowhere behind as far fighting in the newer

the other, that is going to be the strategy," he said.

Gen Naravane further said with changing times, the Indian Army is also working on all aspects of future warfare.

"It has been our endeavour over the last many years to slowly and steadily change ourselves from a manpower intensive army to technologically empowered one. This change cannot happen overnight.

"This change obviously would happen when technological capacities improve, as and when sophisticated weapons keep getting inducted and once we train on them and graduate using these hi-tech weapons," he noted.

He further said: "So this is work in progress and I would like to ensure everyone that we are nowhere behind as far fighting in the newer

domains of cyber, space and such aspects. We are on our way in incorporating all this big data, AI, quantum technologies. You name it and we are working on all these aspects and how to incorporate them into the characteristics of the war."

Gen Naravane also said the army has made rapid strides in honing skills in new technologies and has partnered with the industry and academia, including IITs, in this regard.

"Our officers are even attached with these institutions so that in no way should we lag behind. The industry, academia and the top notch technology institutions have (been) more than willing to come forward to meet our futuristic requirements. So we are well on the way. We are no way lagging behind," he stated.

To a query regarding the army's preparation for a multi-front war with China and Pakistan, he said: "All of us know that to our North and West we have unsettled borders and obviously with these unsettled borders, there are challenges that we face."

"But these challenges are not insurmountable and if the need arises, we will be always ready to tackle both these challenges at the same time," he said.

"Of course, there would always be a primary front and a secondary front and the focus would be on the primary front as we try to contain the secondary front. And that is the overall strategy as far as we are concerned. Act on one, contain

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