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Govt aims at...

in the nation's development journey, said the Lt Governor.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the UT Government is making dedicated efforts to bridge the gap between the aspirations of the citizens and the administrative delivery for the development of an inclusive society in Jammu and Kashmir.

Last year, we decided to distribute a total of 4000 motorized tricycles to provide universal access, accessibility and a dignified life to the specially-abled across the UT. 1000 motorized tricycles were distributed in the first phase in the month of July this year and this has brought a paradigm shift in the lives of those 1000 beneficiaries. The government is committed to reach out to all those seeking assistance, noted the Lt Governor.

Diyangan in J&K have been brought under the ambit of Pension Scheme. There was no integrated system for physically and mentally challenged people. For the first time, Jammu and Kashmir has been linked with the National Trust Portal so that they are given all the facilities and rights granted to them by the Central Government, added the Lt Governor.

Social Welfare Department is implementing a comprehensive plan to reach out to the beneficiaries and a special enrolment campaign was launched. With the dedicated efforts, the number of beneficiaries receiving the pension benefits has doubled, observed the Lt Governor.

The Central Government Act for the Welfare of the Senior Citizen which was not applicable in J&K prior to August 2019 has been implemented. Elderline helpline is meeting their needs and geriatric wards have also been started for the care of the elderly in all the district hospitals, observed the Lt Governor.

There has been an increase of 206% in the scholarship to the children of poor families as compared to 2018-19. Till 2018, only 9500 girl children got the benefit of Ladli Beti Scheme. In three years, more than 1 lakh girl children have been linked with this program and Rs 150 crore has been transferred directly into their bank accounts.

Earlier, financial assistance for marriage of poor girls were provided to 100-200 beneficiaries, but we have covered 9309 such beneficiaries in one year with overall financial assistance of Rs 37.15 crore, the Lt Governor noted.

Our ancient texts are a beacon of light for humanity. The source of our prosperous present and future is deeply rooted in Sanskrit scriptures. I convey my best wishes to Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan for social service and promotion of Sanskrit, the Lt Governor said.

Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Shri Adhokshajanand Dev Tirtji Maharaj, while speaking on the occasion, appreciated the development works carried out by UT Administration, especially for the promotion of Sanskrit. He also lauded the government's arrangements for this year's Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Not only the government, but everyone should come forward to serve mankind, he added.

Prof J.P Sharma, VC SKUAST-Jammu, in his address, highlighted the initiatives taken by the University while discharging social responsibility.

Sham Lal Sharma, former Minister, while complementing the organizers for the camp, said that this message should be conveyed to every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir so that the maximum number of needy persons can be helped.

Vinod Bagrodia, Chairman, Mahavir Seva Sadan and Abha Bagrodia Trust, Kolkata expressed his gratitude to all the stakeholders for organizing the free artificial limbs and calipers distribution camp.

He further informed that a total of 130 beneficiaries received artificial limbs and calipers in the camp.

Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor JMC; Prof. Ravinder Kumar Sinha, VC, SMVDU; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Vivek Gupta, DIG; Madan Mohan Jha, Director, Central Sanskrit University Jammu; KK Sharma, Director Agriculture, Jammu; Jitendra Dev Sharma, Trustee, Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan; Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust; Deepak Gupta President, Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market, Jammu, senior officials and eminent citizens from all walks of life were present on the occasion.

SCO members should...

the SCO member states.

Modi's emphasis on full transit rights comes amid Pakistan's reluctance to provide such a facility to India for trade with other countries such as Afghanistan.

It is for the first time Modi and Xi came face-to-face since the start of the border stand-off between India and China in eastern Ladakh around 28 months back.

In his remarks, Modi said the pandemic and the Ukraine crisis have caused many disruptions in global supply chains, leaving the world facing "unprecedented" energy and food crises.

The prime minister said the SCO, with almost 30 per cent of the global GDP and 40 per cent of the world's population, has an important role to play in global economic recovery.

Highlighting India's growth trajectory, Modi also said that the Indian economy is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent this year, which will be the highest among the world's largest economies.

"India supports greater cooperation and mutual trust among SCO members. The pandemic and the crisis in Ukraine have caused many disruptions in global supply chains, leaving the world facing unprecedented energy and food crises," he said.

"The SCO should strive to develop reliable, resilient and diversified supply chains in our region. For this, better connectivity will be required, as well as it will also be important that we all give full rights of transit to each other," he said.

In his address, Chinese President Xi conveyed China's congratulations to India for assuming the SCO presidency from Uzbekistan.

"We will, together with other member states, support India during its presidency," he said.

Referring to the food security crisis across the globe, the prime minister pitched for promotion of the cultivation and consumption of millets.

"The world today faces another major challenge and that is ensuring the food security of our citizens. One possible solution to this problem is to promote the cultivation and consumption of millets," he said.

"Millets are a superfood that has been grown for thousands of years, not only in SCO countries, but in many parts of the world, and is a traditional, nutritious and low-cost alternative to the food crisis," Modi said.

The prime minister said the SCO should consider organising a 'Millet Food Festival'.

Talking about economic cooperation, the prime minister said the role of the SCO has become very important when the whole world is facing the challenges of economic recovery after the pandemic.

"We are making progress on making India a manufacturing hub. India's young and talented workforce makes us naturally competitive. India's economy is expected to grow at 7.5 per cent this year, which will be the highest among the world's major economies," Modi said.

The prime minister also talked about India's focus on proper use of technology in its people-centric development model.

"We are supporting innovation in every sector. Today there are over 70,000 start-ups in India, of which over 100 are unicorns. This experience of ours can be of use to many other SCO members as well," the prime minister said.

"For this purpose, we are ready to share our experience with the member countries of SCO by establishing a new Special Working Group on Startups and Innovation," he added.

The prime minister said India today is one of the most affordable destinations for medical and wellness tourism in the world.

"The WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine was inaugurated in Gujarat in April 2022. This will be the WHO's first and only Global Center for Traditional Medicine," Modi said.

"We should increase cooperation on traditional medicine among SCO countries. For this, India will take initiative on a new SCO Working Group on Traditional Medicine," he said.

Following the summit, the leaders signed the Samarkand Declaration and adopted a package of documents.

The SCO Heads of State Council adopted statements for cooperation in areas of climate change, reliable, sustainable and diversified supply chains, and on ensuring global food security and international energy security.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Over the years, it has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

Single list of...

of the SCO member states, strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

"In accordance with their national laws and on the basis of consensus, the member states will strive to develop common principles and approaches to the formation of a single list of terrorist, separatist and extremist organisations whose activities are prohibited on the territories of the SCO member states," said the Samarkand declaration signed by the leaders of the member states on Friday.

Briefing reporters later, Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said that each of the SCO member states was very very clear in recognising the threat that this challenge poses to the region and beyond.

To counter the threat of chemical and biological terrorism, the SCO members called for the compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons. "They stress the importance of the early destruction of all declared stockpiles of chemical weapons," the declaration said.

India takes over...

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"As a result, #SCOSamarkandSummit, India will host next SCO summit as a chairman

of Organisation in 2023. We will do our best to assist India, our strategic partner, in the implementation of this responsible mission," Uzbek Foreign Minister Vladimir Norov tweeted.

The summit in Samarkand also saw the participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Iran's Ebrahim Raisi, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif among other leaders from the Central Asian countries.

Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulated India for taking over the rotating Presidency of the Beijing-based eight-member regional grouping.

"Here I wish to express China's congratulations to India on assuming the next SCO presidency. We will, together with other member states, support India during its presidency," he said at the summit.

Launched in Shanghai in June 2001, the SCO has eight full members, including its six founding members, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.

Over the years, it has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India has been admitted as a permanent member of the SCO at the Samarkand summit.

Sajjad Lone wanted...

the Congress and the National Conference (NC).

The PDP-BJP government headed by Mehbooba had earlier collapsed in June 2018 after the BJP pulled out of the coalition.

Malik said he had told Lone, "That is not the Governor's role and I will not do it. The Supreme Court will flog me. The next day the Supreme Court will say you summon the House. You will lose. I will not do this."

The Governor said it seemed that the PDP-NC-Congress combine may have had a majority but "foolishly" they had not held a formal meeting or passed a resolution or given a letter of support "to the lady (Mehbooba)".

Malik told "The Wire" in an interview that he had spoken to the then Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley about the situation and sought directions from the Centre. He said he had told Jaitley that if he got a letter from Mehbooba Mufti staking claim to form the government, "I am bound to call her for oath".

The Centre had not given him any advice and told him to do what he thought was appropriate. He had then dissolved the Assembly in November 2018, Malik said.

Mehbooba Mufti wanted to reach the governor's house with the support of 56 MLAs which included the Congress and the NC, but the letter could not be delivered as the fax machine of the Raj Bhavan in Jammu was out of order.

SC trashes 13,147...

in-person were not "cured".

The cases got the diary numbers prior to the year 2014, and the list included a case filed way back in 1987.

These petitions just sat idly in the Registry, adding to the ever growing pendency.

As per the data uploaded on the Supreme Court website, there were as many as 70,310 pending cases as on September 1, 2022. These included 51,839 miscellaneous matters and 18,471 related to regular hearing.

The order by the Supreme Court registrar said the parties to the cases seemingly do not intend to prosecute the litigations any further as they did not cure the defects even after a lapse of several years.

"These bunch of 13,147 unregistered but diarized cases have been registered prior to the year 2014, to be precise before August 19, 2014. These cases had been filed more than 8 years ago. As per the practice then in vogue, the matters had been returned to the counsel/petitioner-in-person for rectifying the defects noticed in the matters respectively. They have never been rectified ever," the order said.

"For all the reasons discussed hereinabove, I am constrained but to hold that there is no valid and a plausible reason to allow the aforesaid matters to be received for registration. I decline to register the aforesaid diary numbers," it noted.

The court official said, in consonance with the earlier practice no papers were retained by the registry while notifying the defects. The counsel would file a complete set of pleadings only after curing all the defects so notified. It was only after August 19, 2014 a provision was made to retain one copy of the plaint and court fee stamps with the Registry.

Under the old rules, the parties concerned were to cure the defects within 28 days, which was extended up to 90 days.

"The parties have failed to take any effective steps for years at end to rectify and cure the defects so notified. The statutory period for curing the defects is well over. Seemingly the parties do not intend to prosecute the lis (litigation) any further. Umpenteen numbers of years were allowed to the parties to cure the defects, but to no avail," the registrar's order said.

Security at Mata...

security of the area, they said.

A joint long-range patrols of police and CRPF have also been launched round the clock in the entire area of Katra and Bhawan and its surrounding areas, the officials said.

The DIG also directed to conduct a joint security drill of security forces for the security of the shrine and its surroundings.

"Character antecedents of pony porters and other people entering the town should also be checked on priority to segregate suspicious elements," he said, adding social media should also be monitored.

Navratri is a nine-day Hindu festival celebrated with great zeal across the country. It will commence from September 26.

GCAB approves adoption...

towards creating health history of the patients starting from those of students in our schools. He urged them to make it convenient for every person to register for the scheme at his doorsteps. He maintained that the scheme should be saturated fully in both urban and rural areas.

He exhorted upon them to conduct the Governing body meetings quarterly for timely confirmation of intervening decisions taken during this period. He made out that both audit and accounting of the scheme should be strengthened at every level for maintaining transparency in the effective implementation of this welfare scheme.

Dr Mehta advised the health agency to study the claims of other states to make the scheme more sustainable and promising for the beneficiaries. He asked them to work out the best sustainable model in consultation with different stakeholders for extending maximum benefit to the needy patients of the UT.

The ACS, Finance made out that the administration did best to extend the health benefits uninterruptedly to the people. He reiterated that it is the endeavour of the administration to devise policy that is in the best interest of people.

The meeting was informed that among the 196149 received claims amounting to Rs 353.74 crores, 147180 claims amounting to Rs 236.84 crores had already been disbursed with 35536 claims under the process at various EHICPs.

It was further revealed that 25.74 lakh eligible beneficiary families has been insured for the current policy period. It was given out that a premium amount of Rs 1840 per family is paid by government to provide free health care in 209 local hospitals (118 public+91 private) to our population across the 20 districts of J&K. Highest average claim size of Rs 18004 has been registered in this policy period from 15th of March to 31st August this year, as was informed in the meeting.

Earlier in the 4th Governing Council meeting of State Health Agency, J&K held on 08.11.2021 it was decided that State Health Agency, J&K will go ahead with the fresh tendering process by using Model tender document issued by National Health Authority.

A tender document for selection of Insurance Company for implementation of AB PM-JAY/AB PM-JAY SEHAT was floated. Pre-Bid meeting was held on 23-11-2021 at NHM Office Old Secretariat Srinagar in which following five insurance companies participated including IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Co. Ltd, Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Pvt. Ltd, United India Insurance Company and National Insurance Company.

It was found that four Insurance Companies have submitted their bids including Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Pvt. Ltd, National Insurance Company, IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company, the meeting was appraised.

The committee had deliberation as per GFR 2017. The procurement process for selection of an insurance service provider for implementation of ABPM-JAY/ABPM-JAY SEHAT has followed the "transparency, competition, fairness and illumination of arbitrariness in the procurement process/NIT has been advertised widely. Further it was ensured that the qualification criteria indicated is very minimum and used the same qualification criteria notified by National Health Authority.

The text of the bidding document was self-containing and comprehensive without any ambiguities besides all the clarifications, modifications have been notified to the bidders and also placed on the www.jktdtender.gov.in. The bidders are provided sufficient time to prepare and submit their bids, in this case, 22 days of time has been provided.

As stipulated in NIT a pre bid meeting was organised and the minutes of meeting was circulated. The technical bids were opened publicly as stipulated in bidding document. Bids received were evaluated as per the criteria notified in NIT, the meeting discussed.

Amidst a technical evaluation carried out by Central Tender Committee, it was found that three out of four bidders viz IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Company, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company, National Insurance Company are meeting the requirements and hence qualified in the technical evaluation stage.

The financial bids were opened on 08-01-2022 PM and the IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Company Ltd. was found to be lowest (L1) bidder with the quoted rate of Rs 1840/- per family (Annexure B).

Since the policy with Bajaj Allianz GIC was expiring on 25th December 2021, the State Health Agency, J&K was compelled to seek an interim arrangement to ensure no disruption in services to the people of J&K. In normal course of time, the tendering process takes a minimum of one month to complete and in order to ensure that there is no disruption of the service to the people of J&K.

the services, it was deemed proper that a suitable arrangement be established with the current insurer in compliance of the directions received.

In furtherance, the State Health Agency also requested Bajaj Allianz GIC to consider the request for extending the current policy from 26th December 2021 onwards. In response, the Bajaj Allianz GIC intimated that they are ready to continue to implement the scheme for the duration requested on the price quoted by them @ Rs 3,261.60 per beneficiary family unit, on Pro-Rata basis for the period for which coverage is requested as they have already quoted this bid price in the new tender process, as was stated in the council meeting.