

Sinha dedicates 120 feet tall National Flag to nation at Pulwama

"Tricolour symbol of one nation, one emotion, one identity"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday dedicated a 120 feet tall National Flag to the nation at Pulwama.

The Lt Governor unfurled the tricolour and received the Guard of Honour at Mini Secretariat, Pulwama.

Tricolour is the symbol of one nation, one emotion and one identity. It is the honour and pride of our great nation, is the reflection of dreams of our forefathers and the aspirations of our youth, the Lt Governor said. On the occasion, the Lt Governor laid foundation stone for various youth-oriented projects in the district worth Rs 9.11 crores, including District Youth Centre costing Rs 4 crores, District Youth Library at a cost of Rs 2 crores, and Counselling Centre for Competitive Examinations costing Rs 1 crore under Youth Engagement Programme of Mission Youth; Establishment of rural BPO and ITES Academy under TSP worth Rs 2 crores and construction of Youth Club cum Coffee Shop and Public Park at Nikas Pulwama costing Rs 11.63 lakhs.

Waqf to formulate action plan to make properties, assets in Chenab valley productive: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Sunday toured Ramban district & inspected many properties & assets of J&K Waqf Board at Ramban & Banihal. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner of Ramban Muzzarat Islam, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi visited many sites of Waqf and took stock of the utility & productivity of these assets. Dr Andrabi met many public delegations and discussed Waqf management related issues with them. Waqf Board Chairperson thanked the Deputy Commissioner for his assurance to help the Board in ground verification of the status of assets so that a faultless digital record base is created in the district. "Waqf assets in Chenab valley have suffered a lot during past decades and we have decided to formulate a potent action plan to make

Valley witnessing record tourism footfall after three decades

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Kashmir hospitality sector is recovering from losses after 14-year long wait, as a record-breaking 20.5 lakh tourists, including 3.65 lakh Amarnath Yatris visited Kashmir in first eight months of 2022.

After three decades, Kashmir is attracting hordes of tourists, and as per experts, the golden era of Kashmir tourism, when it was a popular destination for visitors, has returned back. A total of 16.84 lakh tourists, including foreign tourists visited Kashmir till August ending, said Tourism Department official, adding that about 10,500 among 16.84 lakh tourists were foreigners, while 3.65 lakh were Amarnath Yatris. He further told that 2 million tourists represent an all-time high for Kashmir and predicted future growth. The Valley's tourist sites such as Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Sonamarg as well as all hotels and guesthouses in Srinagar experienced 100 per cent occupancy, while occupancy rate for house-boats was between 70 and 80 percent.

Post-COVID, the sector has recovered brilliantly in recent months with up to 100 flights landing per day at Srinagar's airport. Srinagar International Airport recorded highest flight



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha welcoming by students during visit to Pulwama.

The Lt Governor said that the new initiatives are aimed to empower the youth, enable self-development, sharpen skills and help them to realize their dreams. The District Youth Center will provide modern facilities for sports, entertainment and skilling for the youth.

On completion of the District Youth Library, the local youth will get better educational support and facilities like reading space, book bank, digital library, smart classroom and discussion room, said the Lt Governor. Empowering the youth, providing quality education and preparing them to be the future leaders is our top-most priority. The Counselling centre will act as a one-stop

The younger generation

must aim big. They have the ability, the power to bring revolution and transform the world. All the youth must work together to build a fear-free, corruption-free, drug-free and job-oriented J&K and take a pledge to defeat the nefarious designs of the neighboring country, said the Lt Governor. Human resource has an important role in our Integrated Action Plan for Jammu and Kashmir, and only by developing its core capability we can create a modern society, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of the Mission Youth towards youth engagement, developing creative leadership, extending handholding to thousands of youth and providing a right medium for the youth to grow and prosper.

Under the Mumkin program, 4482 young boys and girls of Jammu and Kashmir have been given mini commercial vehicles and they have also provided employment to other people, besides becoming self-reliant, noted the Lt Governor.

Financial assistance of Rs 100 crore under Tejaswini program has been provided to 3500 women to fulfill their

dreams of becoming entrepreneurs. The Tejaswini have also provided employment opportunities to about 50,000 other women and men. Programs like Parwaaz, Rise Together, Super 75 are changing the lives of lakhs of youth in Jammu and Kashmir, he added. The Lt Governor also urged the younger generation to join the efforts of the UT Government to weed out corruption from J&K. If you get any information about corrupt practices, immediately inform by sending a message to Anti-Corruption Bureau's WhatsApp number, he added.

A historic day for J&K UT! Inaugurated Multipurpose Cinema Halls at Pulwama and Shopian.



Dr Jitendra to lead high-level Joint Ministerial delegation to USA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh will lead the Joint Indian Ministerial official delegation of Ministry of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Science & Technology on a 5-day visit to USA, to participate in Global Clean Energy Action Forum and also to interact with eminent academicians as well as Indian diaspora.

Dr Jitendra will be leaving for Washington tomorrow evening on the first leg of the American tour and from there he will proceed to Pittsburgh and later New York.

The joint convening of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM13) and Mission Innovation (MI-7) will take place from 21st to 23rd September at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America.

In a departure statement, Dr Jitendra said, he is looking forward to very close engagements at the Plenary and Roundtables of Global Clean Energy Action Forum, especially in the light of recent breakthroughs in the areas of Clean Energy Technologies both at home and abroad.

He said, in the post-COVID era and the recent vagaries of Climate Change challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been strongly advocating close coordination and collaboration in clean energy solutions for the betterment of mankind. On 20th September, Dr Jitendra will hold an important Roundtable with senior executives of about 35 companies and federal representatives associated with Geospatial, Space, Earth & Ocean Science, Pharma and Biotech Sectors to be organized by US-India Business Council at U.S.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh briefing media about his upcoming 5-day visit to the USA at New Delhi on Sunday.

Chamber of Commerce headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Minister will invite the companies to explore and invest in these most happening sectors after unlocking some sectors and liberalization of FDI norms. The Minister is likely to interact with key US Federal officials over dinner at India House to be hosted by Indian Ambassador. On 21st and 22nd September, Dr Jitendra will have several engagements at the Global Clean Energy Action Forum, where he is likely to underline India's commitment to a low-carbon future that aims to transform the energy landscape of the country by accelerating clean energy innovations under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

At the 1st Roundtable on Sustainable Bioenergy and Bio-refineries on 22nd September, Dr Jitendra is expected to speak about India's plan to work towards transforming the energy landscape with significant clean energy share. Significantly, India has, by 2030, agreed to reach 500 GW Non-fossil energy

capacity, shift 50% of energy requirements to renewable energy, lower overall anticipated carbon emissions by 1 billion tons, reduce carbon intensity of the economy by 45% over 2005 levels and finally achieve net zero emissions by 2070.

At the 2nd Roundtable on Net Zero Built Environment with Connected Communities on 22nd September, Dr Jitendra will be expected to elaborate on India supported research development and deployment of technologies with an investment of 34.3 million USD during the last decade. He may also share information regarding India's strengthening of R&D infrastructure as well as bilateral and multilateral collaborations through R&D programs in the field of Building Energy Efficiency and Smart Grids. On 23rd September, there will be a Main Stage Event on "International Collaboration to Accelerate the Clean Energy Transition", where Dr Jitendra Singh will speak on the role of sustainable biofuels playing a key role in reducing GHG emissions from the transport sector. He will also outline India's efforts through the Department of Biotechnology in supporting R&D innovations in Advanced Biofuels and Waste to Energy technologies.

Same day, there will be a side event on "India Clean Energy Showcase", where Dr Jitendra Singh will intervene to share the Government of India's ambition and action to move towards a clean energy future.

On the final leg of tour, in New York on 24th September, the Indian Embassy has arranged Dr Jitendra Singh's interaction with eminent Diaspora over Community Reception, before he returns to India late same evening.

Cardiovascular diseases & treatment accessibility, a paradigm shift: Dr Sushil

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To celebrate birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to create more awareness about the ill effects of Cardiovascular Disease, a day-long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp was organised at Devi Dwaras Mandir, R S Pura in association with all Bazaar Association R S Pura.

The camp was inaugurated by Dr Sushil Sharma along with Dr Narendra Singh (National Secretary BJP) and other prominent members of the area.

Dr Sushil said that there can't be a better gift to the common masses of India other than the Ayushman Bharat Yojana which has unleashed its unprecedented potential in management of complex coronary interventions free of cost to patients with cardiac ailments which previously used to be accessible to only small chunk of patients and people of the Union Territory are benefitted the Most by Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

While interacting with the people, Dr Sushil stated that the Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs) are

the leading cause of mortality at a global level (31%) as well as in India (27%).

Above this, 78% of all non-communicable disease (NCD) deaths and 85% of premature adult NCD deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, Dr Sushil added.

He further added that the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, now called the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), aims to be one of the world's largest health insurance schemes. This initiative has been designed to meet sustainable development goals and its underlining commitment, which is to "leave no one behind."

Since its inception major beneficiaries have been patients suffering from cardiac ailments as cardiac interventions usually used to cost in lac which are now done free of cost in hospitals and same is being done in department of cardiology SSH Jammu under the guidance of Dr Sushil Sharma where thousands of complex cardiac interventions have been done free of cost under this scheme.



Dr Sushil Sharma inaugurating awareness cum health check-up camp.

More than 350 patients were examined, evaluated and advised during the camp. ECG, Blood Sugar, HbA1C was conducted and medicines were also given as per the requirements.

Prominent members of the area Vinay Gupta (Distt President BJP), Om Prakash, Sachin Chopra, Brijeshwar Singh, Surat Singh, Natha Ram, Sudesh Kumar, Naveen Gupta, Ramneek Singh, Chandan Chabra and Vijay Sharma appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his

team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health check up camp in their area.

Others who were part of this camp include Dr Nasir Ali Chodhary (Cardiologist), Dr Dhaneshwar Kapoor, Dr Gagandeep Singh (Ortho) and Dr Sukhil Raina.

Paramedics and volunteers include Kamal Sharma, Gourav Sharma, Maninder Singh, Ranjeet Singh, Rajkumar, Harvinder Singh, Milan Kapoor, Mukesh Kumar and Akshay Kumar.

Mission Smart City should not be seen by States as means for simply extracting money from Union

Some Smartness can be generated even without spending extra money, why should not JSCL do that?

■ DAYA SAGAR

Smart City Mission-2015 is being operated as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) where in 2015 it was decided that Central Government will give financial support to the Mission to the extent of Rs. 48,000 crore over five years i.e. on an average Rs. 100 crore per city per year where an equal amount, on a matching basis was to be contributed by the State/ULB. In the first year, Government (GOI) had proposed to give Rs.200 crore to each selected prospective Smart City to create a higher initial corpus.

After deducting the Rs. two crore advance and A&OE share of the MoUD, each selected Smart City was to be given Rs. 194 crore out of Rs. 200 crore in the first year followed by Rs. 98 crore out of Rs. 100 crore

every year for the next three years.

The purpose of conceiving Smart Cities Mission was in a way to improve the quality of life of people through support to local area development, improving the quality & delivery of services by public institutions and harnessing & making use of technologies for smartness.

The process initially laid for selection of a prospective Smart City to be supported under the Mission clearly showed that it was the present money use efficiency and service delivery level of the existing public institutions of the applicant city that mattered for selection of a city to participate in the 'race' for consideration as an applicant for Stage -I and then it was the vision & projected commitment of the city as would reflect from the proposals submitted

A Look through the Mist Part - I

after Stage-I that would matter for being one among the 100 cities that would be selected by Government of India in Stage-II.

There is no universally accepted definition of a Smart City. The conceptualization of Smart City, may vary from city to city and country to country, depending on the level of development, willingness to change and reform, resources and aspirations of the city residents and above all the commitment level of the government / public infrastructure providing social, physical and economic securities as well as services like education & health to the community.

The mission Smart City was in 2015 in a way said to contain a wish list of infrastructure and services aiming at incremental comprehensive development of institutional, physical, social and economic infrastructure adding on layers of 'smartness' within 5 years (2015-16 to 2019-20).

Anyhow there appear to have been some changes made/compromises done for selection of cities for funding by government of India. Jammu and Kashmir State was given sanction for cities under Smart City Mission by the Union Ministry of Urban Development vide Communication No.K-15016/157/2015-SC-1 dated June 28, 2017 and The State Government had vide Order No.1081-GAD dated August 21, 2017 constituted two

like.

Even without spending money we can add to smartness in case we actively see to delivery of services.

Going by the present state of affairs it appears that those responsible for conducting Mission Smart City Jammu see smartness more in spending the funds provided by government (particularly government of India) as fast as possible since in Jammu city the civil works are going on for changing the tops of pavements / footpaths, painting / decorations on the walls where ever immediately available and like . Hope works being done will not suffer of lack of maintenance funds in times to come.

To be continued...

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