

LG inaugurates recommencement of balance work of Tawi Barrage

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated the recommencement of balance work of Tawi Barrage.

The Lt Governor said that recommencement of Tawi Barrage is a significant occasion for Jammu City. The ambitious project, which was hanging fire more than a decade, will enhance scenic beauty, increase tourism potential of the city of temples and it will also ensure creation of recreational spots for people, he added.

Today's initiative is a part of the government's endeavour to develop urban centers as engines of economic growth and make the cities ecologically and economically sustainable. The new and robust infrastructure will cater to tourists as well the local population, making the citizens partners in the conservation and development of water bodies, the Lt Governor observed.

The project, envisioned as a small tribute to our age-old traditions of maintaining rivers and water bodies will also provide solution to water supply problems by enhancing the water table of the city, the Lt Governor further added.

Noting that the legacy of project delays in J&K has hampered the economy of the region and kept people away from the basic facilities, the Lt Governor asserted that Project delays which were earlier considered a norm is now a thing of the past. The UT has achieved new strides in project implementation, while only 9229 projects were completed in 2018-19, more than 50000 projects have been completed in 2021-22, registering a substantial



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha during inauguration of the recommencement of balance work of Tawi Barrage at Jammu.

five-fold increase, the Lt Governor observed.

After August 2019, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, development of Jammu and Kashmir has become top priority of the government. Our major concern at the same time has also been to ensure that the aesthetic and cultural heritage of the UT is preserved and protected, the Lt Governor said.

It was informed that after studying the partially constructed part and examining the flood level of 2014, the team of IIT Roorkee had given its recommendations regarding the technical aspects of the project. Subsequently, various experts and stakeholders were roped in and a comprehensive roadmap was prepared to develop the Tawi Barrage into a major tourist attraction.

Pertinently, the proposed Tawi Barrage will create a pondage of 1.41 million cubic meters. It will be an auto mechanical and manual operated gated barrage controlled through SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) sys-

tem and the project is scheduled to be commissioned by mid-July 2023.

The Lt Governor lauded the efforts of public representatives, civil society groups, district administration and various stakeholders for their efforts in rejuvenating the water sources and ponds in the UT.

"Mission Anurit Sarovar is witnessing participation from all sections of society. It is our collective responsibility to preserve and protect our water sources", he added.

The Lt Governor also called on the stakeholders to tap the potential of water sports in the Tawi which will generate opportunities for commercial activities and create employment avenues for the local population.

Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, we are making constant improvements in the basic facilities to meet the modern needs and aspirations of the people of UT. I can confidently say that in the coming few years, the city of Jammu will emerge as a new model of sustainable development, added the Lt

Governor.

The Lt Governor also expressed his satisfaction about the 3506 number of development projects completed in Jammu district in the last financial year, which were highest across all the districts.

In this financial year, the capex budget for the development of Jammu district is about Rs 1443 crore and we have set a target to complete 4115 development projects, he added.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary speaking on the occasion highlighted the tourism projects going on in Jammu and the expected tourist arrival after the completion of Tawi Barrage, which is going to be a major attraction in Jammu city. He further said the pace of project execution in J&K has increased manifold since the last couple of years.

Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department delivered the welcome address. Hamesh Manchanda Chief Engg I&FC presented the vote of thanks.

Jugal Kishore, Member Parliament; Surjeet Singh Slathia former minister; Ravinder Raina, President BJP J&K attended the occasion.

Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor, JMC; Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu; Ashok Kumar Parnar, Principal Secretary, ARI and Trainings Department; Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Syed Aabid Rashid, Mission Director, JJM; Rahul Yadav, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation besides other senior officers and citizens were present on the occasion.

Article 370 restoration not easy, needs collective struggle: Farooq Abdullah



Cells play key role in elections: Ravinder Raina

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ravinder Raina president J&K BJP discussed threadbare the enhancement of functioning of party Cells with senior party leaders who are given new responsibilities to enhance the Cell working.

Ashok Koul general Secretary organization, former Dy CM Dr Nirmal Singh, former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, former Minister Sat Sharma, Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia, senior leader Davinder Rana, Rakesh Mahajan Incharge all cells & Ved Sharma Co-Incharge all cells attended the meeting.

Ravinder Raina welcomed the senior leaders for the



President J&K BJP, Ravinder Raina chairing a meeting.

responsibilities given in cells and focused upon them to strengthen cells on grass root level. All members assured to the president that they will work hard and fulfill the expectations of central as well as state level.

Ashok Koul finalized the schedule to start work from

state level to district level up to Mandal level.

Rakesh Mahajan provided overall briefing about the working of cells at state as well as district level.

Ved Sharma Co-incharge all cells assured senior leaders for their full Co-operation at every stage.

Dulloo discusses preliminary high-level observations with New Zealand delegates over small ruminant sector in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday held a meeting with Expert Delegates from New Zealand G2G (government to government) to discuss the preliminary high level observations by the team over small ruminant sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Director Agribusiness Group New Zealand, Dr Stuart Ford; Science Impact Leader, AgResearch Ltd, Dr Warren King; Senior BDM, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, New Delhi, Sudha Palit, Secretary in APD J&K, Director Sheep Husbandry

Kashmir/Jammu, Technical Officer (A) APD and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

The Expert Delegation wrapped up the survey of the small ruminant sector in J&K and shared their inputs and feedback with the ACS during their presentation and presented several observations.

In its presentation, the team of experts complimented the existing government farms and observed that these farms are leading in terms of their purpose which is to produce genetic material and have a very good repu-

tation amongst the breeders. They suggested that in order to develop sheep farms it would be appropriate to enhance their systems to incorporate better feeding so that they are able to fully express their generic potential and deliver maximum potential production and financial results. Developing model sheep farm

They also suggested leading edge technologies like Artificial Insemination and ET besides expressing their desire to collaborate with the J&K in the marketing of wool and mutton.

The expert delegation expressed willingness to provide assistance with

fodder production and balanced nutrition and can also help in establishing modern laboratories and disease diagnostic facilities and to share their expertise in improving selection for meat and wool production, significant advantages to advance and expand current skill set with greater education opportunities.

While speaking at the session, the ACS said post the preliminary observation, the team is required to make an Action plan wherein several require-

ments of different components like introducing new breeds, meeting local demands, etc can be incorporated. He said that there is also a need to identify gaps and to plug in those gaps so that purposes of setting labs are fulfilled.

He added that these things can be part of an action plan, and a lot more needs to be done like how to improve on breeds to make sheep farming an attractive occupation for farmers and said J&K needs support.

Swachhta Pakhwada campaign begins at JK SCERT Jammu



Joint Director SCERT, H.R Pakhroo and others carrying out cleanliness drive.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Swachhata Pakhwada" as a part of "Swachhata Abhiyan" was initiated, with the objective of celebrating a fortnight with intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata-meaning Cleanliness. To support this great initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to create an awareness about the need of cleanliness, Joint Director HR Pakhroo along with the staff JKSCERT Divisional Office Jammu took oath for Swachhata today on 1st September 2022. Pakhroo motivated the staff to believe in the dictum that cleanliness is next to Godliness. He further added that charity begins at home and with this a cleanliness drive was initiated in the premises of SCERT wherein all the members on staff participated with great zeal and enthusiasm.

Coop Deptt issues NoC to UMMCL for operations in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Cooperative Department of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday issued NoC to Unati Multipurpose Multistate Cooperative Society Limited (UMMCL) for operations across Jammu and Kashmir.

The NoC was issued to UMMCL by Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal after more than three months of discussions and deliberations, in presence Regional Director, NCDC, Col Ashish Mohan and Registrar Cooperatives J&K, Shafiqat Iqbal.

On behalf of UMMCL, the NoC was received by its promoters Jyoti Saroop and Vikrant Dogra.

Speaking on the occasion, Yasha Mudgal said that UMMCL is proposed multistate cooperative working in places like JKUT, Ladakh UT, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and

Rajasthan. She highlighted that the core objective of this cooperative society is to build self sustainable agri supply chains with its model of FARM-FACTORY-FORK. She also remarked that UNATI which is one of the celebrated cooperatives in India will help newly formed FPOs and cooperatives in JK-UT in terms of market linkages, processing technical know-how and much needed handholding.

She further said that this tie-up will boost the morale of 100s of newly formed FPOs and Cooperatives in JK-UT.

Speaking on the occasion, Jyoti Saroop said that the major suffering in the agriculture sector is unorganized value chain and as a result the farmer being at the bottom of this value chain earns less. He added that UMMCL has plans to integrate whole value chain at one platform by reviving the traditional supply chain to boost agri-economy.

Governments make statements on reforms in PSEs but so far reforms have remained 'limited by' statements only

■ DAYA SAGAR

It was in 2012 vide O.M NO. I/Mix(2012)-P & Dated 10.08.2012 in pursuant to the agreement reached between high powered group of Govt and members of joint consultative committee of the employees associations that J&K government through Finance Department requested Management of all the Public Sector undertakings (PSUs) to look into the demands of their employees including that of the arrears on account of the 6th Pay Commission but a proviso was also laid in a way directing that while taking any decision in this regard, the internal resource position shall necessarily be taken into consideration by the PSUs as State Govt will not bear any liability on account of the 6th Central Pay Revision or the payment of arrears on that account. Question could be asked when a PSE has to pay the wages from own sources only what for is government making such advice ? Immediately after that it was reported

on 18-10-2013 in media that as per The Comptroller and Auditor General of India's report presented in the then J&K legislature on 5th April 2013 of the 16 PSU in red (total money they owed to government was mentioned as Rs. 1,450.46 crore) where J&K Power Development Corporation topped the list with the cumulative borrowing of Rs. 816.03 crore, followed by the J&K State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC). Most of the PSEs had their accounts in arrears for years. Not only that It was reported on 23-07-2017 that according to Comptroller and Auditor General(CAG) 33 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of J&K state had shown accumulated loss of Rs 2433.70 crores along with 17% increase in debt during 2015-16 financial year ; out of the 33 PSUs in the state, three had become defunct and the government has been sitting on recommendations of committees to close them even when as per CAG PSUs were not contributing to the state

economy and not meeting the intended objectives, 11 PSUs had shown a loss of Rs 156.69 crores during 2015-16. The CAG report while coming down heavily on the working of the PSUs also said that 7 PSUs had not submitted their accounts since their inception (J & K state forest corporation since 1996-97) , Debt of PSUs had increased from Rs 4429.09 crores in 2014-15 to Rs 5328.65 crores in 2015-16 With 183 accounts of PSUs being in arrears during 2015-16 the audit of only 28 accounts was done since others were not ready although Accountant General requested (May 2016) to the Chief Secretary to frame a time bound schedule to finalise the accounts but there has been no action on this front and CAG had awarded 'unqualified certificates' to 4 of the 28 accounts submitted by the PSUs along with pointing out a mismatch between the figures of loans and guaran-

tees furnished by the PSUs and that of the Department of Finance , to quote PSEs had shown loan of Rs 1965.62 crores while the Finance accounts showed only loans of Rs 764.14 crores. Employees of all most all PSEs had been regularly seen demanding even payment of wages in time.

Questions were asked and are still asked in 2022 that when all most all government companies had been / and are mostly headed by CEOs who may be sent on deputation from government departments / or even if one was/is picked up (rarely) from some PSU that too was of someone's liking only without routing the selection through even the Bureau of PSEs why should the axe fall only on the PSE cadre families ? In October 2021 it was observed that that a number of J&K PSUs are having Managing Directors / CEO on deputation from the J&K Government like Smita Sethi a JKAS Officer on deputation is Managing



A Look through the Mist

Director J&K SIDCO, J&K SIDCO has not regular MD and charge is held by MD SIDCO JKAS , Arun Manhas JKAS is MD of JKSAIDC, Hashmat Ali Yatoo JKAS is MD of J&K Handicrafts (S&E), Corporation, Hashmat Ali Yatoo JKAS MD HSEC hold additional charge of Handloom & Handicrafts Corp., Mohd Akbar Wani JKAS is the MD of Cable Car corporation Ltd , Angrez Singh Rana JKAS is the MD of JKRTC , Ajay Kumar Sharma KAS is MD of JK Financial Corporation , Mohd Saleem JKAS is MD of J&K SC, ST and OBC devt. Corp., Mohd Shahid Saleem Dar JKAS is MD JKHB, Vikas Kundal IAS (2013) is MD of J&KPC, Dr. Basharat Qayoom (IAS) is Managing Director Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (KPDCL).

The Board of Directors also comprises of most of the of members from government only. Position in September 2022 may not much different as regards the position of accounts , the management

policies , CEOs , BoD's etc. The reports of different committees appointed at occasions for study and reforms must be lying uncare . Should not the bad state of affairs be answered by the Government and not by the local PSE cadres.

No doubt LG Manoj Sinha and CS A.K. Mehta has been regularly expressing their serious concern for cultivating seriousness in the conduct of public affairs and it is being hoped that the affairs concerning the PSE enterprises of the UT too shall receive their focused attention to save any further unwanted support from the state exchequer as well as the future of the families of public sector cadres which may be living under socio-economic stresses , ofcourse with active role given to Bureau of Public Sector Enterprises.

To be Continued
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