

A true leader of masses remembered on his birthday

Dogra Rattan Rishi Kumar Koushal : Always fought for people's cause

To honour his contribution, Reasi main chowk was renamed as Rishi Kumar Koushal Chowk

Rishi Kumar Koushal was born on September 5, 1926. At the age of 15, he moved to Jammu and took admission in Shri Ranbir Hr. Sec. School, Jammu. He lived in Brahman Sabha, Jammu and studied in Science College. He left his college in 1945 to become a whole time (Pracharak) of RSS. Koushal served in RSS for about 8 years. During 1947, Rishi Kumar Koushal worked for rehabilitating and providing relief to up-rooted persons of Rajouri and Reasi Tehsils.

In the year 1980, Koushal kicked off an agitation demanding district status for Reasi. He pledged that he would not shave his beard till the demand was fulfilled. On September 6, 1988, a day after Rishi Kumar Koushal's birthday, Reasi saw a great dharna against the then J&K government demanding the district status for Reasi.

After 26 years of fight and struggles for the district status, Koushal succeeded in 2006 when the then Chief minister of the J&K state Ghulam Nabi Azad cut the first hair of his beard personally out of respect towards him and in celebration for successfully achieving the status of



district for Reasi.

A true Dogra, Koushal lived a very simple life. His entire life was dedicated to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He was awarded with Dogra Ratan in

the year 2008 by the then J&K Governor.

Rishi Kumar Koushal worked for rehabilitating and providing relief to the up-rooted persons of Rajouri and Reasi Tehsils. The



Dogra Rattan Rishi Kumar Koushal alongwith his family members. (file pic)

services rendered by the late leader for the cause of his constituency in particular and J&K in general will always be remembered by the generation to come.

In 1962, Rishi Kumar Koushal was first elected to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly from Reasi and was re-elected in 1972 and 1977 as Jana Sangh candidate, as he was a hugely popular mass leader.

Late Rishi Kumar Koushal was

one of the towering personalities of Jammu & Kashmir, who fought for the cause of people throughout his life. Prior to his political career, Rishi Koushal served the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for about eight years and held prestigious positions in the organisation.

He was General Secretary of the organisation from 1958 to 1967, Vice-President Pradesh

Jan Sangh in 1967-69, Pradesh Secretary, Jan Sangh from 1969-72, and Secretary & whip of the Jan Sangh Legislature group 1962-67, Koushal said adding that besides this, Rishi Kumar Koushal was the President Beopar Mandal Reasi in 1951-53, elected Chairman TAC Reasi from 1954-61. He was closely associated with provincial and local Sanatan Dharam Sabha activities and

was a staunch supporter of the "Bhartiyata" preached by Swami Vivekananda and Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee. He was also imprisoned six times for two and half years in connection with the Praja Parishad and Jan Sangh movement in the erstwhile state.

Veteran leader Rishi Kumar Koushal had a distinguished political career and was known as the true leader of the masses. He not only worked for his constituency but was known for extending his helping hand beside, using his good offices for the redressal of grievances faced by common man.

Late Rishi Kumar Koushal, father of Raman Koushal, Dr Vipin Koushal and Vivek Koushal always adopted a human approach rather than political considerations while working for the people. On June 6, 2017, Rishi Kumar Koushal passed away. On Dec 26, 2021, BJP State General Secretary (Org.), Ashok Koul had unveiled the statue of Dogra Rattan Rishi Kumar Koushal at Reasi. To honour his contribution, the famous Chowk of Reasi was renamed as Dogra Rattan Rishi Kumar Koushal Chowk.

Fastest and fifth largest: India's economy is unstoppable

ANURAG SINGH THAKUR



It may be coincidental, but it is nonetheless of profound satisfaction for every Indian that India has surpassed Britain to emerge as the world's fifth largest economy in the 75th year of its independence from British colonial rule. This achievement also comes at a time when Britain is struggling to shore up its plummeting economy and firefighting soaring inflation which has pushed up cost of living to levels never imagined by the UK, Europe and the West. Economists who have been relentlessly critiquing the Indian economy are stumped that they failed to foresee Britain's, and indeed much of the West's, woes. To paraphrase French President Emmanuel Macron, the days of abundance are truly over for them. And they could just about be beginning for us.

Bloomberg, which first broke the news of India surpassing Britain to become the world's fifth largest economy, contextualised it in colonial terms of a coloniser being left behind by its erstwhile colony. The Emperor was stripped of both empire and glory long ago; over a period of time Great Britain shrank into little England; but its economy remained strong and the UK firmly held

its place in the list of top five economies. Offensive as the colonial reference in the Bloomberg report no doubt was, it also underscored how a country that was left battered, bruised and bleeding by its British rulers in 1947, had steadily risen to reclaim that which was lost: economic prosperity and clout.

It would be in order to reiterate that the British colonisation of India was essentially about the economic exploitation of this country and the transfer of wealth from India to Britain. Seventy-five years ago, when the Tricolour replaced the Union Jack on 15 August 1947, India's share of the world GDP had fallen from 24.4 per cent in 1700 to paltry 3 per cent. Britain prospered while India was pushed further into poverty. It is important to recall these numbers to understand the stunning rise of India in the last eight years which have seen Prime Minister Narendra Modi making major policy shifts to put the national economy in top gear and making up for the lost decades when successive Governments dallied with Soviet era-style state control and grossly underestimated the potential of Indian enterprise, choosing to ignore aspirations for restrictions.

In 2014, Prime Minister Modi buried the past and launched a future that would address the many aspirations of Indians, unleash their potential, and place this great nation on a trajectory of growth while ensuring that the last per-

son in the last row is a beneficiary of a wealthier and prosperous India. These eight years have witnessed the impact of the steady changes brought about by PM Modi, making the India Story the most relevant in the world. Statistics by themselves tend to tell a partial story. India has emerged as the fifth largest economy in terms of nominal GDP clocking in at 13.5 per cent in the first quarter of FY 2023. If we were to factor in purchasing power parity, India's GDP makes it the world's third largest economy, behind the US and China. All available indices and projections suggest that while the GDP of others will either stagnate or decline, India's will continue to rise. Which means India will maintain its lead and increase the pace of closing existing gaps.

The two successive Covid-19 pandemic years severely impacted India's economy, as they did economies globally. They were years of adversities which PM Modi converted into opportunities. His foresight prevented India from going the way of others by splurging money and squandering resources. Instead, he opted for a cautious and prudent approach, targeting expenditure on job-generating infrastructure projects and promoting incentive-based schemes for industry to regain momentum. The Production Linked Incentive scheme worth Rs 2 lakh crore has begun to show results. These measures came in the backdrop of PM Modi

ensuring a vastly improved ease of doing business, policy stability, revised labour laws, and a hugely popular and the world's largest digital payment system, apart from leveraging India's technology pool, encouraging start-ups and unicorns, and directly engaging with global investors and industries. While the emphasis was no doubt on getting the economy back on rails and pushing for a rise in GDP which had taken a beating during the lockdown years, PM Modi did not forget those who bore the brunt of the pandemic - the poor and the underprivileged. The world's largest free food programme with almost two-thirds of India's population receiving free rations, coupled with the world's largest Covid-19 vaccination drive, helped India's economy to recover from the pandemic's ravages and gain both speed and scale.

In 1947, India was a disinherited nation. As we enter the 25 years leading up to 100 years of freedom, our nation's 'Amrit Kaal', we stand stronger and more prosperous. Today India is the world's leading consumer of smartphone data, it ranks second in terms of Internet users, and it is the world's third largest consumer market clocking in at number two on the Global Retail Index. The very fact that India is the third largest consumer of energy underscores its booming economy. From importing Lancashire products 75 years ago, there has been spec-

tacular rise in the export of Indian textiles. We are now robust participants in global trade, surpassing previous export records and touching Rs 50 lakh crore this year. Our merchandise export has crossed Rs 31 lakh crore. A country that once lived on the mercy of PL 480, exports food to the world today.

The list of Modi Government's success stories is long. It would suffice to mention that more than 100 billion-dollar companies have been created and new companies are being added every month. The valuation of unicorns created in the last eight years is Rs 12 lakh crore. Under PM Modi's indefatigable leadership, India has grown from a few hundred to 70,000 start-ups. Yet, growth and prosperity have not been uneven: 50 percent of the start-ups are in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Much of these successes are driven by the Digital India revolution ushered in by PM Modi. In 2014, India had 6.5 crore broadband subscribers; today, there are more than 78 crore subscribers. The introduction of GST has served entrepreneurs well while plugging gaping holes in tax collection.

But India is not merely about chrome and glass malls showcasing its rising prosperity. Nobody understands this better than PM Modi. Hence his focus has been on reducing poverty, which is happening. A recent IMF study tells us how extreme poverty and consumption

inequality have sharply declined. Housing and healthcare for the poor have had a remarkable impact on social development indices, as have a slew of schemes ranging from providing subsidised LPG to the underprivileged, to bringing potable water on tap in every rural household. Mudra loans and other associated programmes have given a push to self-employment opportunities that not only create micro enterprises but also generate jobs. Compared to global energy price increases, India is better placed; the post-pandemic turbulence has least impacted ease of living.

PM Modi's vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat' has slowly but steadily taken shape and form. It is a vision that involves both Government and people - a joint effort, or 'Sabka Prayas'. This Bharat is self-confident and 'atmanirbhar', ready to meet challenges and overcome adversities. Crossing the twin milestones of emerging as the fifth largest economy and the fastest growing economy is no doubt a stupendous achievement for India and Indians. From this point on we begin our journey on the road to achieving PM Modi's goal of creating a \$5 trillion economy. It can now be said confidently that India shall cross this milestone too in the next two years. It's happening.

[The author is a Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports].

Shiksha Niketan celebrates Teachers' Day



Students presenting cultural programme on Teachers' Day celebration.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiksha Niketan School celebrated Teachers' Day at Jeevan Nagar Jammu.

The school paid tribute to former President of India, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan.

Vijay Koul (Ex-teacher), Ranjana Jamwal (Ex-teacher), Gagandeep Singh (Revenue Deptt.) and Rishiek Mengi (Director of Pushp-Vatika) were guests on the occasion. They appreciated the nation-builders who nurture the

young talents by imparting unimpeded flow of education to the students. Various cultural activities were performed by the students. The students of primary wing and senior secondary wing threw light on the life and achievements of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan.

Harish Sharma (Headmaster of SNS Jeevan Nagar Jammu) stated that respect for teachers has always been a characteristic feature and a tradition of our country. Principal, Rameshwar

Mengi lined the importance of teachers day in the contemporary scenario. He also highlighted the back-breaking efforts of all the teachers & staff of the school. He commemorated all the teaching staff present there and told that his teachers were resilient enough that no challenge could stir their morale to thwart them from imparting quality education.

The function was culminated by felicitating all the teachers and menial staff by worthy guests presented in the occasion.

Two days Sankalp Naya Hi-Life Expo concludes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The two days Sankalp Naya Hi-Life Expo closed on Sunday with the committed response from the organizers and exhibitors.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu was the Chief Guest on the closing ceremony while S K Garg, Director Jammu Airport, Sunaina Mehta, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Dr A.K Kapoor, Chairman Sankalp Naya Avtaar, PB Kapoor, Vice

Chairperson Sankalp Naya Avtaar, Dr. H.S Soodan, Skin Specialist, Anil Kapahi, Secretary Amar Singh Club Jammu, Gurvinder Singh, Chartered Accountant, Sunit Kumar, GM, J&K Bank Jammu Division, Baldev Prakash, MD & CEO J&K Bank, Rama Kant Khajuria, PRO J&K Bank, Poonam Sethi, President Sparkles Women Club, Taruna Singh, Rashmi Anand, Pankaj Kohli (Kohli Events), Arti Mahajan, Amar Chouhan were the Guests of Honour during the closing ceremony. Also present were

Kawaljeet Kour Anand, Chairperson Taran Educational Trust, Sonali Dogra, International Folk Singer, Kritika Khanna, First Female Para Rover, Dr. Zenia Bhassan, Entrepreneur, Arun Sharma, President French Club and Moksha Abrol-Wedding Planner.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu congratulated the organizing Team of Sankalp Naya Avtaar for their well organized and planned exhibition exhibiting the different brands all together under one roof in a systematic manner.

He said that budding entrepreneurs's role models in uplifting trade & commerce and such platforms are guiding tools for lots of upcoming projects for youth and explorers. He added that the Govt of India has launched various projects, schemes for the youth, women entrepreneurs for their growth in business development and also has come up with various business opportunities



Organizers felicitating Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu.

for the progress of the nation.

He said J&K UT under the leadership of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is boosting the business industry and also promoting tourism for the growth of the business entrepreneurs and in coming years, J&K will be one of the leading business cities of the nation where young entrepreneurs will be benefitted.

S. K Garg, Director Jammu Airport appreciated the efforts put in by the organizers for the conduct of two days expo. He said Exhibitors are creating lots of job opportunities for youth through expo like this and

definitely such Expo's aren't only for business but actually a mode of promotion for various brands and to the extent idea building for youth for their upcoming projects.

The two days Expo was sponsored by Astro Mahindra, Chahal Artesia Resorts & Banquets, Legno Furniture House and media partners were State Times, The Excel Express, Jammu Bulletin, 92.7 FM, Dee Dee Reprographics and Sunil Sharma-Kishore Kumar of Jammu.

The Expo which was inaugurated on 3rd of September, 2022 by Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairman KVIB

where in around 60 leading brands of Jammu were the exhibitors exhibiting their stalls. This event had 05 categories like Exhibitors, Kids Zone, Automobile, Builder and lip smacking food stalls. Sankalp initiative was to fulfill all your Shopping to Luxuries Desires and to best food cravings for a family with a kids zone to make kids relax and enjoy with their siblings and friends till the time their parents will shop from the best brands of Jammu at one platform.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rahul Kapoor, Director Sanakalp Naya Avtaar said that the motive behind organizing this biggest event of 2022 Sankalp Naya Avtaar - A Hi Life Expo 2022 in Jammu on September 3 & 4, 2022 (Saturday & Sunday) at Chahals Artesia Banquets and Resorts, Deeli Road, Marble Market, Jammu was to provide a platform to the society to come, shop, enjoy, entertain, refresh along with mouth watering delicacies of Jammu.

GDC Udhampur holds training workshop on 'Tools and Techniques for Springshed Management'

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A training workshop on "Tools and Techniques for Springshed Management" was hosted by Department of Geology and Department of Environmental Science at Government Degree College (Boys) Udhampur which was organised by National Institute of Hydrology, WHRC, Jammu and sponsored by National Mission on

Himalayan Studies under the overall supervision of Principal of the college, Prof.(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta. The workshop was started with some words of wisdom by Worthy Principal, Prof.(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta. The workshop was conducted to generate awareness among the students and staff of the college about the natural water springs of the Tawi river catchment

area which includes the Udhampur and Jammu region of UT of Jammu & Kashmir. All the attendees were made aware of the vulnerability of these natural water springs, their current condition and the development of adaptive measures for sustaining Tawi River.

A team of Scientists from the Department of National Institute of Hydrology interacted with students

and delivered Lectures related to springs, its importance and the remedial measures to preserve this natural source of water.

The team of Scientists consisted of Dr. P.G. Jose (Scientist 'E', NIH, WHRC-Jammu), Dr. S.S. Rawat (Scientist 'E', NIH Roorkee) and Dr. D.S. Bisht (Scientist 'B', NIH, WHRC-Jammu). An Online interactive session with Prof.(Dr.)

Naveen Hakhoo was also held in which he interacted with the students and made them aware of the Geology related to Natural water springs and the Tools and Techniques used in Geology. The Workshop was held in collaboration with the Department of Geology from which Prof. Anil Kumar Thappa and Prof. Rajesh Singh Manhas along with Prof. Asha Sohil and Dr. Ranjan Sharma from

Environmental Science department. Other faculty members who were attended the workshop was Dr. Sanjay Singh, Dr. Jasmeet Kour, Dr. Richa Sharma and Dr. Jang Bahadur. The workshop was conducted smoothly under the guidance of Prof. Babu Lal Thakur and Prof. Kamal Kishore. Vote of thanks was given by Prof. Asha Sohil (H.O.D Environmental Sciences).