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LG terms NEP..

the collaboration between teachers and students, the Lt Governor said.

"Students don't just need the degree, they need education and it is possible only with increased involvement and collaboration with teachers", he added.

Highlighting the major initiatives of the University of Jammu, the Lt Governor attributed the establishment of Special Purpose Vehicle Foundation in November 2020 as a major milestone and a significant step towards promoting a culture of Start-ups, Industry-Academic Partnership, Innovation and Incubation in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lt Governor said that the establishment of Guru Nanak Chair was in line with the National Education Policy, as it was a major initiative to re-establish the significance of our invaluable cultural heritage. The ancient wisdom by saints and seers and contribution of great scientists is what actually forms the foundation of modern India, he added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor urged all the teachers to dedicate themselves to opening the minds of their students to new ideas, stirring curiosity and nurturing creativity by creating an open environment for their growth and eventually facilitating in building a new society in future.

The Lt Governor also released the Dogri Translation of the Indian Constitution, done by Prof Archana Kesar and her team of Dogri writers and translators, Prakash Premi, Yashpal Nirmal, and Nirmal Vikram under the legal guidance of Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Registrar, University of Jammu and Dean Faculty of Law.

Prof Dinesh Singh, Chancellor K.R. Mangalam University and former Vice Chancellor Delhi University, who was the Special Guest on the occasion, spoke at length about the traditional Upaniadic System of learning of India which produced great minds and spiritual leaders who understood the essential role of education which was to anchor the individual in his own sense of self which further led to excellence. He also stressed on transdisciplinary learning and collaborative projects. Citing the example of great scientists, he underlined the importance of social utility of knowledge and how practical experience also plays an important role in the growth of education and knowledge.

Earlier, welcoming the Chancellor and Lt Governor on the historic occasion, Vice Chancellor, Umesh Rai gave an overview of the path-breaking initiatives taken by the Lt Governor to revamp the education ecosystem in the UT. He further gave an overview of the strides taken by the University since its inception in 1969. He also spelled out broad contours of academic activities strategized for the years to come, keeping in view the emerging trends in the field of education.

The Vice Chancellor also thanked the present and former faculty, people from the civil Society and all other stakeholders of the University for their contribution in making this University the best seat of higher learning in this part of the country.

A wide variety of Cultural activities were also showcased by the students, alumni and eminent artists of Jammu on the occasion.

Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor, JMC; Prof. Ravinder Kumar Sinha, VC SMVDU; Prof J.P. Sharma VC SKUAST-Jammu; Prof Bechan Lal, VC Cluster University Jammu; Prof. Qayyum Hussain, VC Cluster University Srinagar; Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof BS Sahay, Director IIM Jammu; Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu attended the foundation day ceremony. Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Purnima Sharma, Dy. Mayor, Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu along with senior officials, faculty members of the university and students were also present on the occasion.

BJP, opposition leaders...

as the voters as per the law.

Savhney, however, said the opposition parties made it clear to the Election Commission and the BJP that they will forcefully oppose any attempt to provide voting rights to non-locals to impact the next assembly elections.

The meeting witnessed heated argument towards the end when senior BJP leader and former minister Sat Sharma, during his speech, supported the inclusion of non-locals in the voters' list citing the Representation of Peoples Act, an insider said.

National Conference provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta said they are somewhat satisfied with the clarification of Kumar, though "we need to remain alert and keep an eye on the exercise".

"Our main objection was where this figure of 25 lakhs has come and whether security forces are also included in it. Kumar first denied having given the number but later said he was withdrawing his remark which is of satisfaction," he said, adding since J-K falls under the Disturbed Areas Act, the security personnel cannot vote in the local elections here.

PDP leader Pervez Waffa said they are not satisfied with the clarification, given the BJP's "opt repeated attempts to compromise the demography and facilitate outsiders".

The party put forth a suggestion to include a political worker in the team at booth level to identify the non-locals so that they are not included in the list, he said.

Defending the stand of the BJP, Sat Sharma said the party favours conduct of the SSR in accordance with the law of the land.

"Anyone eligible to vote, whether local or non-local, should be given his right. The Representation of Peoples Act came into force in J-K after the abrogation of Article 370 (in 2019) and accordingly, the West Pakistani refugees, Gorkhas, Valmiki are eligible to vote along with other Indian citizens who are ordinary residing here," he said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) boycotted the meeting with its leaders led by former minister Harsh Dev Singh staging a sit-in outside the Election Commission office, raising serious concern and objections on mode of its working.

The protesters alleged that the commission has become a "frontal wing" and a "mouthpiece" of the BJP.

"We are boycotting this meeting in the interest of Jammu and Kashmir..all these meetings are just eyewash and an attempt of election commission as well as BJP to befool the people and to revalidate their right of ruling this region through its bureaucratic setup which has already put J-K in a mode of uncertainty and chaos, Singh said.

He said dozens of such meetings have been held in the past but not even a single suggestion of opposition political parties was taken on board by the Election Commission and only those decisions are implemented which are decided in the rooms of the BJP.

Farooq asks J&K...

our unique identity. But if all of us chose to stay in our homes, there is nothing that can save us," he said.

On the elections, likely to be held next year, he said they were not just about electing a government, but, "It is about protecting our identity and dignity. We have to send such representatives to the legislature who would not trade-off people's dignity and honour."

Abdullah said there was no substitute for his party in protecting the regional pride and dignity.

"The National Conference has long been seen as a tell-tale symbol of the region's political and developmental aspirations. Our people, whether they are Kashmiris, Dogras, Gujjars and Paharis, remain deeply attached to their sense of history and to their identity. People's immense faith in our party is a reckoner of profound disillusionment of people with the policies of the ruling dispensation. The best way to resist such forces is through a democratic process," he said.

Meanwhile, intensifying its outreach programme, the NC held a workers' convention in Shopian, where top brass of the party, including Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah were present.

The convention comes a day after senior politician Ghulam Nabi Azad held his maiden rally in Jammu after quitting the Congress.

NC's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said the workers' conventions had nothing to do with "new entrants" into local politics.

"We have been holding these conventions... Today, it was South Kashmir; next will be north and central Kashmir," Sadiq said.

The aim of these meetings is to strengthen the party at the grassroots and make people aware of our agenda, he added.

Asked if Azad floating his own political party had the NC top brass intensifying its outreach, Sadiq said everyone had the right to contest elections.

"However, we, at the National Conference, want the anti-BJP bloc to stay united," he pointed out.

7 die as...

vehicle, the SSP, who supervised both the rescue operations, said.

Piyush Kumar of Chinta was rescued in a critical condition, he added.

The latest deaths in road accidents came just a week after eight residents of Bonda village were killed when their taxi plunged into a 300-foot gorge in the Chatroo area of adjoining Kishtwar district.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives in the two accidents. "The two unfortunate road accidents in Doda are deeply distressing. Extremely pained over the loss of lives. Condolences to families of the deceased. My prayers with the injured. Directed district administration to ensure best possible treatment to the injured," Sinha said in a tweet.

Union minister Jitendra Singh, a member of the Lok Sabha from the Udhampur constituency, which also covers Doda and Kishtwar districts, has assured the victims' families of full assistance.

ONDC, JKTP join...

Companies, Retailers, Artisans, FPOs and Industry Association of UT.

Managing Director JKTP, Khalid Jahangir while addressing the participants and experts emphasized that e-commerce is the new future of business ecosystem and there is need for business community adopt this as soon as possible, adding that the volume of trade through digital platforms has witnessed upward trend and is likely to change face of trad-

ing pattern. Through ONDC sellers will be able to expand their business to new markets with an increase in the visibility of their products to more buyers connected with ONDC.

Director Handlooms and Handicrafts, Kashmir; Mahmood Ahmad Shah, said that e-commerce has huge potential in the field and Handloom & Handicrafts to connect local artisans to markets of the world.

Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir; Saloni Rai congratulated JKTP and ONDC for conducting such workshops on e-commerce and said that e-commerce is the next big thing especially after Covid pandemic. She emphasized on targeting Self help groups on e-commerce platforms.

The workshop was led by Shireesh Joshi, Chief Business Officer ONDC. He said "ONDC aims to increase the number of sellers in e-commerce platforms to 20 Lakhs and consumers to 20 crores in next 5 years." He further mentioned that Jammu and Kashmir is one of the first UT/State which has taken the initiative of boarding its entrepreneurs on ONDC platform. He also briefed on the boarding process on ONDC.

Network partners of ONDC viz. e-Samudaya, My Store and GOFRUGAL Technologies had one to one networking sessions with sellers, artisans and entrepreneurs and also briefed them about benefits and the onboarding process. The workshop received good response from local sellers and entrepreneurs.

Hijab ban: Can...

prescribed for the students .." it said.

Hegde underlined what the apex court will hold in this case would have a bearing on the education of a large section of society. He also referred to the provisions of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K M Nataraj said the issue is very limited and it pertains to discipline in educational institutions.

When the court asked him "how the discipline in a school is violated if a girl child wears hijab?", the ASG said, "Somebody in the guise of his religious practice or religious right cannot say that I am entitled to do this therefore I want to violate the discipline of the school".

Advocate General of Karnataka Prabhul Navadgi referred to the state government's order of February 5, 2022 by which it had banned wearing clothes that disturb equality, integrity, and public order in schools and colleges which some Muslim girls had challenged in the high court.

Hegde argued it was not the state but educational institutions concerned that prescribed uniforms.

"This government order does not interdict any of the rights of the students," he said during the arguments which will continue on September 7.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who also appeared in the matter; referred to Article 145 (3) of the Constitution and said it is a matter of considerable importance. The article relates to the minimum number of judges required to decide any substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.

On whether wearing hijab is an essential practice under Article 25 of the Constitution, the bench said, "The issue can be modulated little bit in a different way. It may be essential, it may not be essential."

"What we are saying is whether in a government institution you can insist on carrying your religious practice. Because the Preamble says ours is a secular country," the bench observed.

During the arguments, the bench observed that if the Karnataka Education Act does not permit prescribing dress code, then the question would be whether the Act prohibits dress code.

"Can the students come in minis, midi, whatever they want," the bench observed.

Hegde said the executive power of the state cannot be in violation of the fundamental rights.

The apex court had last week issued notice to the Karnataka government on these pleas.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Karnataka, had said a question of law was involved in the matter and no counter may be required to be filed.

Several petitions have been filed in the apex court against the March 15 verdict of the Karnataka High Court holding that wearing of hijab is not a part of the essential religious practice which can be protected under Article 25 of the Constitution.

The high court had dismissed the petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from the Government Pre-University Girls College in Udupi, seeking permission to wear hijab inside the classroom.

The prescription of school uniform is only a reasonable restriction, constitutionally permissible which the students cannot object to, the high court had said.

In one of the pleas filed in the top court, the petitioner said the high court has erred in creating a dichotomy of freedom of religion and freedom of conscience wherein the court has inferred that those who follow a religion cannot have the right to conscience.

"The high court has failed to note that the right to wear hijab comes under the ambit of the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. It is submitted that the freedom of conscience forms a part of the right to privacy," it said.

Challenging the February 5 order of the government, the petitioners had argued before the high court that wearing the Islamic headscarf was an innocent practice of faith and an Essential Religious Practice (ERP) and not a display of religious jingoism.

Holistic education will...

means wisdom, love, curiosity and creativity. Dr Radhakrishnan had a very clear message - "Teachers are not those who give knowledge to the students, but in the true sense, teachers are those who prepare the students for the future challenges", observed the Lt Governor.

With the same spirit, the National Education Policy prepared under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the biggest revolution of the last 75 years with the potential to kindle the curiosity, creativity and scientific thinking through quality learning among the students, he added.

Asserting that the last two years have been a period of transformation for education sector in Jammu and Kashmir; the Lt Governor said that new reforms, policies and schemes in line with National Education Policy have redefined the entire education system and made the schools a centre of quality learning while restoring the teachers' respect in the society.

The Lt Governor noted that initiatives like Teachers-Students mentorship programme, Aao School Chalein Campaign, Talaash Survey, 500 Atal Tinkering Labs, modern skills training, scholarship programs, computer aided learning etc are bringing real transformation in the educational eco-system.

Dedicated efforts are being made for bridging the gender gaps and ensuring that the quality education is accessible to common man. Necessary infrastructure for girls' education has been established and in only one year, 14 hostels for girls have been developed, he added.

We are providing all necessary resources for individuality and independent thinking to grow in students and enhance their learning outcome. As many as 70,000 boys and girls are taking vocational training in 14 different trades and 1420 Computer Aided Learning Centers in Upper Primary Schools are promoting independent thinking in children, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor asked the younger generation to draw inspiration from the life of great personalities like Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and learn higher values of life, make new discoveries and new innovations and dedicate themselves towards nation building.

Any form of violence has no place in a civilized society. We all, in unison must condemn the despicable killings of the innocent teachers, observed the Lt Governor.

There is also a need to ignite the feelings of national integration, righteousness and non-violence among the younger generation. Debates, Essay Writing and other such competitions on the theme of "Truth and Non-Violence" will be organized in educational institutions across the UT, announced the Lt Governor.

Students who excel in these competitions will be awarded on 2nd October to commemorate the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajeev Rai Bhattacharjee, Advisor to the Lt Governor said that teachers ignite curiosity and sow the seed of knowledge and wisdom in students. He also highlighted the reforms introduced in the education sector in J&K in the last two years.

Tassaduq Hussain Mir, Director School Education Kashmir in his welcome address highlighted the invaluable role and contribution of teachers in laying a strong foundation for the future.

Earlier, the Lt Governor inspected the stalls put up by the students of various schools, and appreciated the students for showcasing the traditional artifacts, heritage, art, crafts and culture of Jammu Kashmir.

Manisha Sarin, Secretary JKBOSE, senior officers of UT administration, a large number of teachers and students were present on the occasion. Students and teachers from across the UT also joined through virtual mode.

Migrant KP bodies...

in Kashmir; Youth 4 Panun Kashmir and Samiti Delhi -- will also launch an online petition to seek support of people from across the country.

The Supreme Court had on September 2 asked an NGO that raised the issue of the alleged genocide of Hindus and Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir during 1989-2003 to make a representation before the Centre and appropriate authorities.

In its plea, the NGO 'We the Citizens' sought the constitution of a Special Investigation Team to identify the perpetrators who were involved in, or aided and abetted the alleged genocide.

The plea was heard by a bench of Justices B R Gavai and C T Ravikumar.

"The four Pandit organisations met to chalk out the strategy post the Supreme Court's direction on the petition to deliver justice to Kashmiri Pandit and the Sikh community on

their genocide and ethnic cleansing in Kashmir.

"The representatives of these organisations agreed that the government shall be approached immediately, highlighting the issues and demands of justice," the organisations said in a joint statement.

"It is an irony that while Pakistan has been the cardinal provocateur of the genocide against Hindus of Kashmir, the Government of India during last three decades has been the primary motor behind their denial of genocide. Any policies that contribute to denial of genocide of Hindus of Kashmir are in fact crimes against humanity and should be immediately stopped," the statement said.

The statement highlighted their demands which include enactment of a genocide prevention bill, initiating the formation of a tribunal to investigate the crimes of genocide, and return and rehabilitation of the community.

It also includes the creation of a centrally administered place for the settlement for the displaced Kashmiri Pandit, and the relocation of PM package employees outside the Valley to avoid target killings of Hindus in the valley.

Bullet-riddled body...

them. It is pertinent to mention that one of the deceased's brother namely Ashiq Nengroo is a terrorist of JeM outfit and presently in Pakistan. His second brother, Abbas Nengroo was an active terrorist who got killed in an encounter in 2014 in Pulwama while as his third brother namely terrorist Reyaz Negroo is lodged in prison for his involvement in Jammu terror attack case who used to ferry terrorists from Jammu to Kashmir valley through his owned trucks. Moreover, one of his truck carrying three terrorists was intercepted at Jajjar Kotli Jammu and all them were killed in an encounter on spot.

Pakistan army accepts...