

G20 ‘Bharat-Middle East-Europe Corridor’ redeems post-Partition India’s quest: Dr Jitendra

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NEW DELHI: Briefing the media about the outcomes of the just concluded G20 India Summit and the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh made a special mention of the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and said "G20 Bharat-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor" redeems post-Partition India's quest for an extended and deeper connectivity in the region". It will address obstacles created by Pakistan's denial of over-land access and China's reported connectivity designs in the region, he said.

"Personally, it instantly took me to the 'Kabuliwala' days of pre-Partition India", he said, striking a sentimental chord.

The signing of an MoU on IMEC was announced by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi after co-chairing a special event with the US President Mr. Joe Biden on Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh briefing the media after the conclusion of G20 Leaders Summit, at New Delhi on Sunday.

(PGII) and IMEC, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi yesterday.

The IMEC comprises an Eastern Corridor connecting India to the Gulf region and a Northern Corridor connecting the Gulf region to Europe. It will include a railway and ship-rail transit network and road transport routes.

The MOU on IMEC was signed by India, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, European Union, Italy, France and Germany.

Quoting Prime Minister Modi, Dr Jitendra said better connectivity not only results in increased trade, but it also serves as a source of growing trust. The IMEC will help overcome the obstacles created by Pakistan and China's own designs, he said.

"So, India has found a way out whereby it would not only connect for reasons of economics, but also connect for the reasons of greater cohesiveness among the world community," said Dr Jitendra Singh.

Dr Jitendra said the G20 Delhi Declaration dealt with contentious issues like Ukraine "without being evasive and in a very justifiable way".

"The Declaration admits that the G20 mandate is to act as a forum for economic cooperation, but at the same time, since the aftermath of the war results in economic distress, "we note with deep concern the immense

human suffering and adverse impact of wars and conflicts around the world".

The Union Minister said that the Global Biofuels Alliance to be led by India, Brazil and the United States, as leading biofuel producers and consumers, will greatly help achieve the MDG Goals of India turning Net Zero by 2070.

Hailing the admission of the African Union into the G20, the Minister said the New Delhi Summit amply demonstrates that "the world today is ready to be led by India under Prime Minister Modi who has gone down in history for converting G20 into G21."

"He has established India's role as a nation which is no longer going to be led, but is ready to lead," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's Presidency of the G20 was inclusive, rich in content and enormous in scale.

"G20 was spread over 60 cities and more than 220 meetings were held," he said.



Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj stages Shri Krishan Leela at Dewan Mandir

Geeta Bhawan Delhi felicitates Chairman, officials of Dewan Mandir



Chairman Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj, Yudhvir Sethi and others felicitating a dignitary.

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JAMMU: The talented artists of the Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj, Jammu, mesmerized the audience with their captivating performances, which vividly depicted the different roles and characters of Lord Krishna. The spiritual and cultural extravaganza took place at Dewan Mandir in Jammu, leaving the attendees spellbound.

On the occasion, Parshotam Dadhichi, President of Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Jammu; Ved Parkash Sharma, Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha; Ramparsad Sharma, President; Gopal Sharma, General Secretary of Geeta Bhawan, Delhi; Anil Masoom, President; Sat Sharma, General Secretary; Ramnik Mahajan, Secretary; Bharat Bhushan Sharma; Sanjeev Kermi; Vijay Sharma; Pawan Sharma; Ashok Gupta; Narang; Sanjay Gupta; Shiv Kumar Sharma; Bodhraj Sharma; and Krishan Lal

Sharma were present.

The performance was a heartfelt dedication to Lord Krishna, who symbolizes love, wisdom, and the eternal connection between humanity and the divine. Through their exceptional artistry and dedication, the performers illuminated the profound impact of Lord Krishna's life on the spiritual and cultural fabric of society.

On the occasion, senior functionaries of Geeta Bhawan, New Delhi felicitated the officials of Shri Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj for their role in promoting the Hinduism. Parshotam Dadhichi, President of Sanatan Dharam Sabha appreciated the artists and management of Shri Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj for showing and preserving the rich culture heritage.

Yudhvir Sethi, Chairman of Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj, shed light on the Natak Samaj's mission and

functioning. He mentioned that the Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj is performing Ramleela for the last more than 155 years at Dewan Mandir which is a fine blend of cultural and religious commitment that not only is keeping our traditions alive but also bringing people of all faiths together on one single platform.

He emphasized that the Natak Samaj welcomes artists from all religious backgrounds, fostering an inclusive environment where diverse talents can flourish. He said such events served as a testament to the organization's commitment to preservation and promoting cultural and spiritual traditions through the medium of art and performance.

Sethi stressed the importance of connecting the younger generation with the rich cultural heritage of the region to ensure that this invaluable legacy is passed down to future generations.

Primary prevention outweigh medications and interventions in cardiac ailments: Dr Sushil

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JAMMU: In view of the ever increasing incidence of cardiac ailments and lifestyle diseases Head Department of Cardiology Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health Checkup camp at Village Mandal, Panchayat Katvalta, Block Purmandal, Samba for educating masses regarding the importance of primary prevention in decreasing mortality and morbidity associated with cardiovascular diseases.

More than 250 people were screened; evaluated, diagnosed and free medicines were given as per the requirements.

While interacting with the people, Dr Sushil Stated that Despite being largely preventable, cardiovascular diseases causes more than 20.5 million deaths every year. An estimated 80% of cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, is preventable. The main elements of CVD prevention are healthy diet, physical activity, avoiding tobacco. There are many risk factors associated with heart disease and stroke. Some risk factors, like family history, cannot be modified,



HoD Cardiology SSH, Dr Sushil Sharma with his team examining patients.

while others, like high blood pressure, can be modified through lifestyle interventions and treatment. Millions of people worldwide struggle to control the risk factors that lead to cardiovascular disease and many others remain unaware that they are at high risk.

He elaborated that despite a fall in the proportion of CVD related deaths over the last 40 years, the rate of decline is slowing while morbidity from CVD is rising. The ability to identify those at risk of CVD allows for risk factor modification through primary prevention. There are a number of factors that affect a person's risk of developing CVD including increasing age, gender, family history and ethnicity which are

non-modifiable. There are also a number of factors in terms of lifestyle and pharmacological interventions that have been demonstrated to affect CVD risk and are modifiable including hypertension, obesity, tobacco smoking, diet, exercise, cholesterol levels, alcohol intake and diabetes mellitus control.

He stressed that the most substantial reductions in major cardiovascular events are seen at commencement of exercise, with subsequent increases in level of exercise providing further benefit though diminishing returns are noted at upper extremes of exercise intensity. Everyone should get started with these eight tips to boost heart health Don't smoke or use tobacco, Get moving: Aim

for at least 30 to 60 minutes of activity daily, Eat a healthy diet, Maintain a healthy weight, Get quality sleep, Manage stress, Get regular health screening tests, Take steps to prevent infections.

He further added that the most important behavioral risk factors of heart disease and stroke are unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use and harmful use of alcohol. These behaviors can lead to raised blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, overweight and obesity, which can in turn be measured in order to assess an individual's risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

While individual choices play a part in these behaviors, government and policy mak-

ers also play an important role in ensuring people have access to the tools they need to live a healthy life, including clean air, affordable healthy food, and well-planned urban spaces that encourage an active lifestyle. Health policies that create environments where healthy choices are not only available, but also affordable, are essential for motivating people to adopt and sustain healthier lifestyles, he said.

Prominent members of the area Sapna Sapolia (Sarpanch), Des Raj (Naib Sarpanch), Jitender Dogra (Panch), Ranjana Kumari (Panch), Ram Pal, Rasal Singh, Dyan Singh and Ram Saroop appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac Awareness Cum health checkup camp in their area .

Others who were part of this camp included Dr Venkatesh Illepun and Dr. Dhaneshwer Kapoor Paramedics and Volunteers who were part of the team included Vikas Kumar; Raghav Rajput, Ranjeet Singh, Maninder Singh, Paramveer Singh, Rajinder Singh, Gourav Sharma, Jatin Bhasin, Manoj Sharma, Amnish Dutta and Nirvair Singh Bali.

DM Jammu sets concise deadlines for JJM works

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JAMMU: District Magistrate Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chaired a meeting to evaluate the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission works in the district today.

During the meeting, the District Magistrate received comprehensive updates on the status of tender issuance and work allocations under the Jal Jeevan Mission. In a bid to expedite project commencement and completion, the District Magistrate set concise deadlines for the assigned tasks.

The meeting saw participation of officials, including Superintendent Engineers and Executive Engineers from the Jal Shakti Department and the Irrigation & Flood Control Departments.

To ensure seamless execution and the removal of any potential impediments, the District Magistrate directed the respective Sub-Divisional Magistrates to oversee the works within their respective territorial jurisdictions. They were specifically instructed to compile lists and mobilise necessary resources to streamline JJM initiatives. The SDMs were told to employ all available means within their capacity to guarantee adherence to predetermined timelines.

In addition to fostering cooperation among all stakeholders, the District Magistrate emphasised the need for maintaining work quality while expediting project execution. As per his directives, weekly progress reports are to be submitted to ensure transparency and accountability. Acknowledging the importance of community engagement, District Magistrate Vaishya urged officials to address the genuine concerns of local residents during the course of project implementation.

The meeting's attendees also included the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, District Forest Officer besides other officers.

■ MASROOR AHAMAD

SRINAGAR: As per figures, there are more than eight lakh artisans in Jammu and Kashmir, dealing with different types of handicrafts. The crafts include Pashmina, Carpets, Papier Mache, Wood Carving, Crevel, Copper Antique, Needle work or Sozni , Nanda Sazi, Chain stitch, and Kani Shawls making etc.

Despite GI Tag and several steps like taken by the LG Administration to strengthen the handicraft and other sectors in Kashmir , but wood carving sector; Carpet sector; Paper Mache or handloom are going down day by day as influx of similar products from Saharanpur of UP state , and the artisans and craftsmen are struggling to compete as cheaper alternatives are increasingly flooding the market.

Kashmiri artisans who have kept the handicrafts trade alive are facing the most difficult times, three decades of unrest has affected the already financially weak artisans as they literally have no work to do. Artisans have carried forward their centuries-old legacy but are in fear who will inherit it as the new generation is not paying attention to the art.

Owner of the Ambassador Wood Carving Centre Srinagar , claims he too abandoned the craft due to low wages and raw material.

"As artists did not get fair compensation for their art, it became hard for them to survive



and earn a livelihood. Some artisans , who car-

Walnut wood carving a dying legacy due to low wages

More attention needed to revive it on modern lines: Artisans

ried on this legacy of figurine art as long as they could, quit," he said.

"This art takes a lot of time and the raw material, the wood. These are the reasons artisans are giving up this art and I am one of those," he said. The value of the wood differs with the wood from the root being the most expensive.

"Some of the pieces used to take more than a year to complete. As this art takes a lot of hard work, dedication and time, unless they get good pay, artisans cannot survive and eventually give up. I believe that the art is going to become extinct because no one is learning it," he added.

"When I started learning this art, I was very young and was eager to learn" he Prototype said. Nowadays the newer generation is not paying attention to this art, making me worried about future of this art. I want to teach people, but no one is interested because learning this takes a lot of time, and people are impatient these days.

Another artisan said, "Our family has been in this business for the last 200 years, it is a premium art in Kashmir. This craft is expensive and only high-end customers buy it. Walnut wood carving is a delicate craft process that is unique and valued in Kashmir due to the availability of walnut trees. Kashmir, after all is

India's only walnut basket with an altitude of 5500-7500 feet above sea level. Kashmir is now among the few places in the world where walnut is still available.

"The wood is hard and durable, with even texture which help in fine and detailed work. Low pay has been the top factor for the younger people's waning interest in the craft, even though it has a decent demand in international markets," he said.

"The government too hardly did its part and paid no attention to it," artisan said.

He said this craft has immense potential in local, national and international markets but the government has failed to show serious concern.

"Another reason for the art being on the verge of extinction is that the government pays the least interest in effective collaboration and implementing new ideas that were offered by us. No one came to learn about this art because authorities did not bother to revive it," he added.

Senior officials of the Department of Handicrafts Kashmir said, department has felicitated many artisans for their work and is also encouraging other artists to take up the craft. He admitted the wood carving craft has been in decline for years, but now the government is trying to revive it on fast track mode.

Apni Party gears up membership drive in Doda



JKAP Provincial Secretary and In-charge membership, Dr Rohit Gupta with others at a programme.

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DODA: Apni Party has geared up its membership drive in Doda with a motive to strengthen the party cadre at grass root level in the hilly district.

As per a press release, a meeting was organized by the district committee members

in Doda at their office in Doda City. The meeting was chaired by Provincial Secretary, and In-charge membership, Dr Rohit Gupta along with State Secretary, Mohinder Parihar and District President Doda, Saleem Magrey.

The meeting was also

attended by Sheikh Mohammed Shafi, Adil and other leaders of the party.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the policy and agenda of the party that is being implemented and people are being educated about the developmental policies of the Apni Party.

In this meeting, the district committee informed about their membership drive, and door to door campaign that has been launched across the Doda District. Dr Rohit Gupta reviewed the party's working along with Mohinder Parihar and District President Doda, Saleem Magrey during a threadbare discussion.

In his address, Dr Gupta stressed on strengthening the party by educating the people about the policy and programmes of the party. "The party is committed for upliftment of the people of all regions equally," he added.

Similarly, Mohinder Parihar also asked about the strengthening and streamlining of the party in the district.

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ANANTNAG: Urging New Delhi to uphold the constitutional rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including their right to choose their own representatives to serve, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Sunday, called for the immediate holding of assembly elections here without further delay. He was speaking at the event of a public rally in Anantnag town in south Kashmir today.

Asking people not to fall prey to the traditional parties, especially those who have dynasties and their leaders, Apni Party president said, "Anantnag district has the distinction of being politically



Apni Party President, S.M.A Bukhari with party leaders in a convention at Anantnag.

sensitive, as the people of this region have always been vibrant in their political activities. This area has produced a range of political leaders, including several chief ministers for Jammu and Kashmir. However, over the past few years, you have supported leaders who imposed family rule in this region. It is your

responsibility to be more cautious this time and not to further encourage dynastic politics." "These political dynasties were responsible for eroding the region's political and constitutional status much before the BJP government finally abrogated Article 370 on August 5, 2019. They have been complacent in harming

the interests of this region and its people over the course of years and decades," he added.

Bukhari promised that the Apni Party, if it gets the public mandate in the upcoming assembly elections to serve the people, would transform J&K's socio-political and economic scenario for the better.