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Unprecedented infra investments...

The Lt Governor congratulated the District Administration Ganderbal and the public representatives for making remarkable progress in the diverse fields. He also commended the local Administration for its efforts in employment sector and for reducing the male-female literacy gap.

Increased female literacy will be a force multiplier in pushing forward the socio-economic development of J&K UT. It is heartening to see progress in youth entrepreneurship and Self Help Groups, the Lt Governor said.

Dedicating the VIKALP- Venture Incubation and Knowledge Application Launch pad centre at Government Degree College to aspiring Youth of the District, the Lt Governor said the Centre will provide potential entrepreneurs a conducive environment for idea incubation, business development and innovation.

I am also confident the beneficial impact of entrepreneurial activities on society will be manifold, he said.

The Lt Governor called upon the people of Ganderbal to not get misled by those elements who are trying to create disruption in peace and development process.

Today the development is not confined to a select few. Recruitments are being made only on merit and in a transparent manner. We are initiating the process of recruitment soon and the vacant posts will be filled in the coming six months, he said.

The Lt Governor impressed on the district officials and public representatives to ensure the effective implementation of schemes like PM Vishwakarma and Ayushman Bhav. He also called upon every section of the society, especially the youth to actively participate in Gandhi Jayanti celebration events.

The Lt Governor felicitated the outstanding students and the citizens for their exemplary contributions in their respective fields. He also interacted with the locals present there and listened to their demands and issues.

He congratulated the District Administration, public representatives and the people of Ganderbal on the inauguration and launch of various projects.

Coffee table books on Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2023 and Mashal-e-Gash were also released.

Earlier, the Lt Governor inaugurated various projects at Government Degree College Ganderbal including 12 classroom additional accommodation, Multipurpose Hall, Gym cum Health Centre and VIKALP- Venture Incubation and Knowledge Application Launchpad. He laid the foundation stone for 50-bedded Hostel for Girls at GDC Ganderbal and released a booklet on VIKALP Incubation Policy.

The various projects inaugurated by the Lt Governor today include - Bus Terminal Complex at Beehama, Ganderbal; Cafeteria MC Ganderbal; Sind View Point and Amrit Sarovar Beautification at Beehama. He also laid the beautification of area around Clock Tower Ganderbal.

The projects of Jal Shakti Department worth Rs 13.50 crore inaugurated by Lt Governor were MGD WTP Ganderbal town; Water Supply Schemes for Ganderbal town (Phase II), Kurag Daragpora, Gogjigund Malikpora and Ang Mammur.

Nuzhat Ishaq, DDC Chairperson Ganderbal; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shyambar, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal; Sujit Kumar, DIG CKR Srinagar; Adv Altaf, President Municipal Council Ganderbal, PRI members and senior officers were present.

Search operations underway...

operations are being conducted in the Nowshera, Gagrote and Kangota areas of Rajouri district and the Gulpore, Ajote and Deriyar areas of Poonch district. Security personnel are also checking vehicles coming from border areas, they said.

11 DySPs transferred...

SDPO Manjakote, Intiaz Ahmed, SDPO Thanamandi as DySP IR-14th Bn, Manoj Kumar, DySP IR-22nd Bn as DySP JKAP-6th Bn, Khaliq Hussain, DySP CID CI Rajouri as SDPO Thanamandi, Parupkar Singh, DySP DAR Rajouri as SDPO East Jammu, Ishaq Alam, DySP AC HG Budgam as SDPO Tangmarg, Ghulam Hassan, awaiting adjustment, has been transferred and posted as DySP SDRF-1st Bn, Deepak Jasrotia, awaiting adjustment, has been transferred and posted as DySP CIO Rajouri, and Mohd Shoket, awaiting adjustment, has been transferred and posted as DySP DAR Rajouri.

LG, Army, police...

the LG wrote in a post on X. Singh's body was recovered from the Gadole forest area of the south Kashmir district on Monday.

The J-K LG led several officers, including the chief secretary, DGP and General Officer Commanding of the Army's Srinagar-based Chinar Corps, in paying their tributes to the fallen soldier at the Chinar Corps headquarters at the Badamibagh Cantonment here.

"Hon'ble LG of J&K and #ChinarCorps Cdr along with numerous other dignitaries have laid wreaths at BB Cantt today to pay homage to the Braveheart, Sepoy Pardeep Singh of 19RR Bn who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty while fighting with terrorists in Operation Garol, Anantnag," the Chinar Corps said on X.

"The mortal remains of the martyr would be laid to rest with full military honours at his hometown. In this hour of grief, the Indian Army stands in solidarity with the bereaved family and remains committed to its dignity, safety and well-being," the Army said.

Portal for regular departmental...

of the state police - the recommendations for initiating RDA against public servants are received in the GAD.

"Detailed guidelines for institution of RDA and timelines for conducting the same have been issued from time to time. However, it has been noticed that the guidelines

as well as the timelines are not being followed by departments, resulting into protracted delay in conclusion of the cases.

"The delay in finalisation of departmental proceedings leads to undue advantage or harassment to the charged official and such delays on one hand help the guilty official(s) in evading penalty, while unwarranted delays prolong the agony of the official(s), against whom proceedings may not sustain and is/are finally exonerated," Verma said.

He said the portal shall contain electronic data related to RDA cases in digital format with a unique ID which shall be accessible to all the departments concerned and disciplinary authorities, with an overall realtime monitoring of the cases by the GAD.

The portal contains templates of draft chargesheets, order for appointment of inquiry officer, relevant notices, circulars and guidelines for aiding the departmental proceedings.

Consistent with the timelines prescribed for various stages of departmental proceedings till the conclusion of RDA cases, the portal has a unique feature to generate alerts, wherever any requisite stage of proceedings exceeds the prescribed timeline, he said.

"In case of any deviation or delay at any stage of the proceedings, responsibilities shall be fixed upon the concerned, who shall be liable for action as warranted under rules," Verma said.

He said each department shall nominate a nodal officer, not below the rank of deputy secretary, who shall be responsible for uploading cases and their progress at various stages of proceedings, regular monitoring of the cases and liaisoning with the GAD.

In another circular, Verma took a serious note of the delay in submitting reports by various inter-departmental committees constituted from time to time for examining important issues requiring inter-disciplinary consultation or deeper analysis of various facets.

"Many committees since their constitution have either not held any significant deliberations or have not even managed to meet, resulting in an inordinate delay in submission of report(s). This situation is repugnant to the purpose of constituting such committees, and prolongs disposal of issues/matters connected thereto, a matter which has been viewed seriously by the authorities," he said.

AC approves land...

has also been accorded for transfer of 47 Kanals 13 Marlas of land at Chadoora, Budgam in favor of Animal and Sheep Husbandry department for establishment of milk processing infrastructure.

The establishment of milk processing infrastructure shall bring multifaceted benefits that encompass economic development, job creation, improved nutrition, food security, and the enhancement of agricultural practices. It will upgrade the dairy industry by promoting the overall well-being of communities and economies.

The dairy industry on J&K holds immense potential for UT's economy, providing employment opportunities and contributing to the local population's wellbeing. With increasing demand for the dairy products and per capita availability of milk being lower than many milk potential states, the dairy sector is poised for significant growth in the UT in coming years.

Meanwhile, the Administrative Council also, approved the transfer of land measuring four Kanal at Bangi Nowgam, Anantnag in favour of Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for establishment of Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI).

Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), an initiative of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, aims to create dedicated infrastructure in each district of the country to impart training and skill up-gradation of rural youth geared towards entrepreneurship development. RSETIs are managed by banks with active co-operation from the Government of India and State Governments.

These offer Skill Development programmes in various avenues. The programmes pertain to agriculture, product programmes (like dress, design, bakery), automobiles, radio/TV repairs other programmes related to skill development and general programmes of skill development for women.

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrated...

Mandir, we do a yagya which lasts for about 12-14 hours," Tickoo said.

Later in the evening, an eco-friendly idol of Lord Ganesha was immersed in the river Jhelum at Ganpatyar, which the local community said, was being done for the first time after the eruption of militancy in the valley in 1989.

A procession was taken out for the idol immersion.

"We are celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi with religious fervour. This year, we took out the jhanki (procession) after a very long time. This immersion is happening for the first time after turmoil," Nikhil Tickoo, a Kashmiri Pandit, said.

"We feel very happy that the new generations have got connected with our culture as they had not known about this before. A message is also sent across the country that such festivities happen in Kashmir as well," he added.

Kalpna Pandita, a woman of the same community, said the visarjan' (immersion) was being done after about 30 years.

"We only held puja these years, but not the immersion. We are very happy that we could immerse the idol in the river," she said.

NC not against...

in Budgam. Asked if it would impact the prospects of the party in J-K, Abdullah said party has no dearth of female leaders of calibre.

"How will it impact? Do you think we have no women who will stand in the polls on the reserved seats? There is no dearth of female candidates in the NC anywhere. We have a women wing and they have left no stone unturned in their fight.

"We will have no impact because of any bill. We only suffer because the rulers here fear the polls. They have become uncrowned kings. They do not want to conduct the

election. The danger is from them who are running away from elections," he said, in an apparent reference to the LG administration imposed by the Centre.

CS sets Gandhi...

Swachh J&K. The Chief Secretary impressed upon the officers to go through the programme charted out for the 'Swachhta hi Sewa' campaign 2023 and prepare for its implementing. He asked the Deputy Commissioners to sensitize their sectoral officers about their roles and tasks to be accomplished.

Dr. Mehta stressed the crucial need for prioritizing cleanliness in urban areas and tourist destinations, as they serve as the UT's public image. He strongly advised implementing all essential measures to ensure that our villages and towns are visibly clean and hygienic.

Regarding the land allotment to the PMAY beneficiaries, as per the survey made in 2018, the Chief Secretary emphasized on accelerating the process further. He directed for handing over these land patches as per the scheme to these identified landless families before October 2nd so that they can take the construction work in hand before the onset of winters.

During the review of the Ayushman Bhava campaign, Dr. Mehta directed the health department to conduct screenings for all Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) prevalent in the UT among the adult population. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of screening girl children for anemia to ensure they receive necessary supplements, ultimately aiming to make J&K 'Anemia Mukti' in the future.

Dr Mehta also took review of the saturation of old age pension scheme implemented by the Social Welfare Department. He asked for providing such pension to each eligible person before Gandhi Jayanti this year.

During the review, Dr. Mehta assessed the progress of various initiatives, including the newly launched Vishwakarma scheme for artisans in 18 identified trades. He emphasized the importance of raising awareness about this scheme among the masses. Furthermore, he called for consistent follow-ups on the 'Bhrashtachar Mukti J&K' and 'Nasha Mukti J&K' programs to eliminate these societal issues.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary was informed by Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners about their future plans and past performance on community-driven initiatives. It was given out that J&K has recently been declared as the ODF+ Model category under SBM and on 2nd of October high performance districts/blocks/panchayats will be recognised besides rewarding the SafaiMitras.

Later on the Chief Secretary took review of the arrangements to be made for the celebration of Eid-Milad-un-Nabi here. He asked the Divisional Administration to ensure that proper arrangements are made for celebration of this festival with religious fervour. He asked for making arrangements of power, water, cleanliness and medical care especially around the shrines where the festival is observed.

Parliament moves into...

earlier in the day, Modi called for expanding the canvas to build a stronger India, and said all reforms and new laws going forward must have rising aspirations of the country as their priority.

"Is it possible to draw a big picture on a small canvas? No! In the same way, we cannot mark out the picture of 'Bhavya Bharat' if we have a small canvas of thinking."

Modi urged the members to reaffirm the commitment to make India a developed nation by 2047 and described the move into the new Parliament building as a new beginning towards a new future.

Dressed in colourful attire, members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha got their group photograph clicked in the old Parliament building with its circular design and an impressive colonnade of 144 creamy sandstone on the first floor, hours before the legislative proceedings shifted to the new Parliament House. The old building was opened on January 18, 1927 by Lord Irwin -- the then British viceroy -- amid fanfare.

Women members turned up in colourful sarees, while most of their male counterparts preferred white kurta-pyjamas with vibrant waist-coats for the photo-session.

Led by Prime Minister Modi, several MPs walked from the old to the new Parliament building after the Central Hall event. Modi was flanked by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and B-JP chief J.P. Nadda. NDA MPs also raised slogans like 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Vande Matram'.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also walked to the new Parliament separately.

Holding a copy of the Constitution, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, along with Rahul Gandhi and several other Congress and opposition leaders, entered the new complex.

The National Emblem made of bronze has been cast at the top of the Central foyer of the new Parliament building which boasts of a palette of colours and architecture that takes its cue from everything Indian, from ancient to medieval.

The new structure, inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi on May 28, has artwork narrating India's democratic traditions from the Vedic period to the present day.

The tender to construct the new Parliament building was awarded to Tata Projects in September 2020 at an estimated cost of Rs 861 crore. Later, the cost rose marginally due to certain changes. The new Parliament House has a built up area of 65,000 square metres and has two chambers - an 888-seater Lok Sabha, which can accommodate 1,272 members for the joint sitting of both the Houses, and a 384-seater Rajya Sabha chamber.

At the Central Hall event, Speaker Birla urged parliamentarians to engage in meaningful and positive debates while making laws and fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of the country to make India a developed nation.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar called for burying the strategy of "weaponising" disturbances and disruptions in parliamentary functioning, saying these are antithetical to democratic values.

"As we march into the new Parliament building, we must enhance cooperation and consensual approach. Time for us to bid farewell to confrontational stance and resolve to ever keep national interest uppermost," Kharge said parliamentarians should commit to preserving constitutional values and ideals.

BVM Udhampur organizes Gyan Vigyan Mela



Students displaying science projects during the Mela.

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Gyan Vigyan Mela was organized at the cluster (Sankul)level in Bhartiya Vidya Mandir High School, Udhampur Nainsu in which students of five schools participated (Bhartiya Vidya Mandir Udhampur Nainsoo, BVM Thathi, BVM Adarsh Colony, BVN Kirmoo Ramnagar and Sharda Peeth Rishi Model School Battal Ballain).

The event was organized by the teachers of the school under the supervision of the school Principal Renu Sharma. The chief guests of which were the members of the School Management Committee, Anil Khajuria and Ashok Kumar.

In the event, students presented models based on mathematics, Science and computers Model, Innovative Models and students

explained about the models in detail.

A quiz competition was organized among the children in which the teacher asked questions to the children according to their subject. Different experiments and debates were also presented by the children.

The children who stood first were honored with prizes. And now these children will go to Sant Bal Yogeshwar Bharatiya Vidya Mandir Phinter Billawar (CBSE) School for the provincial level/Prant Level competition.

Principal of the school, Renu Sharma said that all the students should work hard and participate in the competition organized by Vidya Bharti at the provincial level/Prant Level and prepare to go to the national level.

Terrorism cannot be eliminated through tourism: Panun Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Panun Kashmir leaders asked Government of India why security personnel continue to be targeted by terrorists despite claims that terrorism in the region is on the decline.

They also question the reasons behind prolonged encounters with terrorists and whether recent violent incidents against security forces were the result of encounters or ambushes.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, chairman PK Dr Ajay Churangoo emphasized that terrorism cannot be eliminated through tourism, suggesting that the government's focus on promoting tourism in the region is not an effective strategy against terrorism.

He argued that the gov-

ernment's propaganda of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir does not defeat the ongoing Jihadi war.

Panun Kashmir highlighted what they see as significant security failures in the region and calls for accountability. They specifically mentioned the disarming of Village Defense Committees (VDCs) and demand answers from the government regarding these actions.

Panun Kashmir called for a change in the government's policy, emphasizing that separatism and terrorism cannot be solved solely through financial investments.

He argued that terrorism and separatism must come with high costs, while patriotism and peaceful behavior should be incentivized.

Ten-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival commences at Shri Raghunathji Temple

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The vibrant and auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi festival has commenced with great fervor and devotion at Shri Raghunathji Temple, marking the installation of the idol of Bhagwan Ganesha in the temple premises. The festival, celebrated with immense enthusiasm, commenced on Tuesday will continue for ten days.

On the occasion, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Secretary of J&K Dharmarth Trust and a former IPS Officer, performed the traditional Puja Archana of Bhagwan Ganesha at Shri Raghunathji Temple during the installation ceremony.

The Secretary along with Temple Priests and devotees offered heartfelt prayers for



Ashok Kumar Sharma, Secretary of J&K Dharmarth Trust and others commencement of festival.

the peace and prosperity of the Union Territory. He said Bhagwan Ganesha, revered as the embodiment of wisdom and the remover of obstacles, holds a special place in the hearts of devotees. He said this festival aims to seek blessings from the deity for a harmonious and obstacle-free life.

The Head Priest of Shri

Raghunathji Temple further elaborated on the festival's significance, highlighting how it instills a sense of spirituality among the devotees. He emphasized that this ten-day long festival serves as a reminder of the values of faith, unity, and devotion, bringing communities together in joyous celebration.

Infamous Arms Licence Scam: J&K Govt fails to submit status report despite DB's directives

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the much publicized Public Interest Litigation (PIL No. 09/2012) titled Sheikh Mohd. Shafi & Anr V/s Union of India and Ors highlighting the lackadaisical approach of the Govt. of J&K in granting/processing prosecution sanction in corruption cases involving Senior Bureaucrats, the General Administration

Department (GAD) has failed to place before the court the current status of two CBI cases bearing FIR Nos. RCCH G051201850006 and RCCH G05120185007 (Infamous Arms Licence Scam) as the Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Puneet Gupta vide order dated June 2, 2023 had directed Sr. AAG S.S. Nanda appearing for

Govt. of J&K to file a Status Report as regards aforesaid two CBI FIR's before the next date of hearing i.e July 26, 2023.

However, the needful was not done and the Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice M.A. Chowdhary on August 21, 2023 on the request of Sr. AAG S.S. Nanda had reluctantly allowed two weeks further time to Govt. of

J&K for doing the needful and the matter was kept for hearing on Sept. 18, 2023. Despite the opportunities granted by Division Bench on two consecutive hearings, the GAD has failed to file the latest status of the two CBI FIR's regarding Infamous Arms Licence Scam wherein CBI has prima facie found the involvement of several IAS officers serving in J&K.

DSGI Vishal Sharma appearing for DOPT, Govt. of India on 2nd June, 2023 informed the Division Bench that the prosecution proposal of IAS Officers allegedly involved in Arms Licence Scam was received from J&K Govt. by DOPT in April, 2021 and in view of several deficiencies, the said proposal was returned by DOPT in December, 2021 to the Govt. of J&K to rectify the defects and

resubmit the proposal of prosecution sanction through Single Window System as per the new guidelines issued by DOPT, Govt. of India. DSGI Vishal Sharma had also placed on record the various communications showing several reminders issued to J&K Government to expedite the submission of the rectified prosecution proposal with regard to IAS Officers

allegedly involved in Arms Licence Scam. He further submitted that ball is in the Court of J&K Government and the needful has to be done by the said Government only. It is worthwhile to mention herein that the Govt. of J&K has already granted prosecution sanction against the JKAS Officers in the said scam but with regard to IAS Officers, the Govt. of J&K has not

reverted so far to DOPT, Govt. of India. Even the Govt. of J&K has failed to comply the directions of the Division Bench issued on June 2, 2023 and August 21, 2023. Due to paucity of time, the Division Bench headed by Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh could not consider the matter on Sept 18, 2023 and the matter has been renotified for November 6, 2023.