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India will soon...

"But when it was organised (in the early years), the then central government showed indifference to Gujarat's development. I have always talked about India's development through Gujarat's development, but those in power at the Centre had also associated Gujarat's development with politics," Modi said, in a veiled swipe at the UPA government.

Then ministers in the central government would tell him that they would attend the event, but later refuse, "perhaps after pressure from the top", he said, claiming further that instead of extending support, "they were busy creating hurdles" and foreign investors were warned not to go to Gujarat.

Despite this, foreign investors visited Gujarat because they could experience "good governance, fair governance, policy-driven governance, an equal system of growth and a transparent government in daily life," he said.

When the first Vibrant Gujarat Summit was held in 2003, he was a first-time chief minister and had faced crises such as the 2001 earthquake, collapse of cooperative banks and the 2002 Godhra tragedy and state-wide violence in its aftermath, Modi said.

"Those with an agenda" predicted that youth, industry and business will leave Gujarat, the prime minister said, claiming that there was a "conspiracy to defame" the state globally.

The summit, nevertheless, became a medium to showcase Gujarat's decision-making process, showcase the industrial capacity of India, and also its cultural tradition to the world, he said.

From a few hundred participants in 2003, today more than 40,000 delegates from over 135 countries participate in the summit, Modi noted.

In today's deeply connected world, financial cooperation among institutions is rising fast, and Gujarat already has GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), the prime minister said, adding "we should increase our effort to make GIFT City a globally competitive financial market place."

"This is the time for India to make a roadmap to become a developed, self-reliant country," he added.

Speaking later at Bodeli town in tribal-dominated Chhotaudepur district, where he launched projects worth more than Rs 5,000 crore, Modi said he does not have a house in his name, but "lakhs of daughters" of the country became house-owners thanks to his government's initiative.

"Today I am satisfied because my government has built four crore houses for people across the country. Unlike the past governments, a house for the poor is not just a number for us," he said.

"Lakhs of houses were built and registered in the names of women. Though I don't have a house in my name yet, my government made lakhs of daughters house-owners," the prime minister added.

The PM said World Bank president Ajay Banga was so impressed with the Gujarat education department's command and control centre in Gandhinagar, called as Vidya Samiksha Kendra, that he urged him to start such centres across the country, and said that the World Bank is ready to be a part of the project.

The new National Education Policy (NEP), which was left in limbo for three decades, was finally introduced by his government, he said.

The opposition "indulged in the politics of reservation instead of working to improve the education scenario in the state," Modi added.

The BJP government in Gujarat has built five medical colleges, two universities and 25,000 new classrooms in the entire tribal belt starting from Ambaji to Umargam, he said.

Speaking at a program organised by the BJP in Vadodara city to thank him over the passage of the bill reserving 33 per cent seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women, Modi alleged that opposition parties "stalled" the bill for three decades, and now they were trying to divide women on the lines of caste and religion when the bill had been passed.

Opposition leaders indulged in "match-fixing" in the past to ensure that the bill did not get Parliament's nod, he said.

"Do not be under the impression that they (opposition) have changed their attitude. They have now supported the bill because they were afraid of you. They did everything possible to stall the women's reservation bill for three decades. Just check their past track record. They made all types of excuses, tore apart the bill and did all sorts of drama in the past," he said.

Our economy stands...

society and today we stand at the threshold of a new era with rising aspirations and united in resolve to make 21st century, India's century," the Lt Governor said.

At the commemoration event, the Lt Governor shared the efforts made by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister for inclusive development.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor honoured the veteran members of Jan Sangh and also felicitated the children from tribal community, supported by the Utthan Foundation Trust, who had excelled in various sports disciplines.

Sachidanand Rai, President Utthan Foundation Trust; members of the Trust; eminent personalities, youth and people in large numbers were present.

Comprehensive approach from...

Cr has been allocated for agriculture credit to farmers and it shows that the gov-

ernment's top priority is to unlock the growth potential of the agriculture and allied sector, he added.

The Lt Governor also shared the agricultural reforms and farmer-centric policies introduced in the UT of J&K over the past few years.

He also called for adopting sustainable development measures to effectively tackle the threat of Climate change.

The Lt Governor highlighted the significant contribution of Swami Sahajanand to farmer's movement and his role in empowering small and marginal farming community, transformation and rejuvenation of agriculture sector to fulfill the development ambitions of a large section of society.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is implementing the vision of Swami Sahajanand and has given the agriculture and allied activities new impetus. Agriculture budget has gone up by 5.7 fold as compared to 2013-14, credit flow to farmers stepped up and Rs.1 Lakh Crore allocated to Agriculture Infrastructure Fund," the Lt Governor said.

Prof. (Dr.) V K Rai, Principal Swami Sahajanand PG College; Dr Neerja Madhav, renowned author; Prof Udayon Misra, Principal LBS PG College Mughalsarai; Prof Chandrakanta Rai and prominent personalities from all walks of life were present.

Navratri festivities to...

comprehensive review of the preparations for the upcoming annual Navratri festival, they said.

He also conducted a thorough review of the town's beautification, sanitation, essential services, traffic management and emergency services and instructed officers to ensure cleanliness from Domel to Katra town throughout the Navratri festivities. Kumar said the festival would attract more tourists and promote religious and pilgrimage tourism in the region.

NIA crackdown on...

of Punjab; Rohtak, Sirsa, Fatehabad and Faridabad districts of Haryana; Sri Ganganagar, Jhunjhunu, Hanumangarh and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan; Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh; Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar districts of Uttarakhand, the spokesperson said.

Raids were also carried out in the southeast district of Delhi-NCR and Chandigarh, he said.

Besides Dalla, others under the NIA scanner in these raids were notorious gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi, Sukha Duneke, Harry Maur, Narender alias Lali, Kala Jatheri and Deepak Tinu, the spokesperson said.

The raids were the seventh in the series of such crackdowns launched by the NIA following the registration of five cases since August 2022, including the two new registered against organised criminal gangs in July this year.

The cases relate to conspiracies of targeted killings, terror funding of pro-Khalistan outfits and extortion by gangsters many of whom are lodged in jails or are operating from various foreign countries, the spokesperson said.

Investigations have revealed that these conspiracies were being hatched in jails in various states and were being executed by an organised network of foreign-based operatives.

These conspiracies included the sensational killing of Maharashtra builder Sanjay Biyani, mining trader Mehal Singh and international Kabaddi player Sandeep Nangal Ambia in Punjab last year, the spokesperson said.

The official said many of the criminals and gangsters who were earlier leading gangs in India have fled abroad in recent years and are now carrying out terror and violence-related activities from there.

"These criminals have been engaged in planning and commissioning serious crimes, including contract and revenge killings, in association with criminals lodged in jails across India. These groups have been carrying out targeted killings and raising funds for attacks and other nefarious activities through smuggling of drugs and weapons, hawala and extortions," the spokesperson said.

The official said the spotlight on these gangs got sharper after reports of several prisons becoming havens of the deadly nexus and hubs of gang wars which recently resulted in violence and murder inside Goindwal Jail.

The NIA had earlier conducted similar raids at over 370 locations, leading to seizure of 38 arms, including four lethal weapons, along with 1,129 rounds of ammunition.

The agency has so far frozen 87 bank accounts and attached 13 properties, besides seizing 331 digital devices, 418 documents and two vehicles.

Also, two absconders have been declared designated individual terrorists, and 15 accused as Proclaimed Offenders and Red Corner Notices (RCNs) issued against nine others as a result of NIA's efforts to destroy and dismantle the deadly nexus between terrorists like Dalla and dreaded gangsters and drug smugglers, the spokesperson said.

Bank guard killing...

they said. According to the officials, the raids are a part of the central agency's investigations into the killing of bank ATM guard Sanjay Sharma.

Sharma was gunned down by terrorists in Achan area of Pulwama in February this year.

No timeline for...

It had said various committees and commissions have made suggestions to deal with the situation of a hung Parliament or Assembly, where no political party has

the majority to form a government.

These panels have proposed that the prime minister or a chief minister may be appointed or selected in the manner in which a speaker of the House is elected.

Now, the present law panel has started working further on the subject.

The Law Commission's report on the POCSO Act deals with the issue of age of consent.

Over the years, the POCSO Act, which defines a child as a person aged below 18 years, has often come in conflict with the role of consent in determining the nature of relationships between adolescents.

Last year, the Delhi High Court said the intention behind the Act was to protect children from sexual exploitation and that it was never meant to criminalise consensual romantic relationships between young adults.

The court made the observation while granting bail to a boy who married a 17-year-old girl and was apprehended under the law that was enacted in 2012.

The Law Commission, which is constituted every three years, advises the government on complex legal issues.

LG greets people...

occasion of Milad-un-Nabi bring peace, prosperity and happiness to all and inspire us to follow the path of righteous living and work for the welfare of all".

Chugh demands whitepaper...

He said it was unprecedented and the State government needs to explain it because Punjab cannot be held to ransom by the Bhagwant Mann government.

J&K to Sikkim...

from over 750 entries received from 315 districts of 31 states and Union territories. Around 80 villages were assessed at the national level, and 35 of them have been chosen as the 'best tourism villages' in three categories -- 5 (Gold), 10 (Silver) and 20 (Bronze).

The 'Best Tourism Village Competition' helmed by the tourism ministry were held in three stages, and entries were sought at district level, state level and finally at the national level.

The winners in Gold category are Dawar village in Jammu and Kashmir, Sarmoli village in Uttarakhand, Reiek Village in Mizoram, Kanthallor Village in Kerala and Madla Village in Madhya Pradesh.

In Silver category, the winners included Lepakshi village in Andhra Pradesh, Sarodhadadar in Chhattisgarh, Hemis in Ladakh and Raghurajpur in Odisha.

In Bronze category, the winners included Biswanath village in Assam, Talao in Haryana, McCluskieganj in Jharkhand, Hampi in Karnataka and Khokhra in Madhya Pradesh.

The competition identified villages based on themes like arts and crafts, heritage and sustainability, the video said.

Central Nodal Agency provided handholding to villages, districts and states at different levels of competition.

The tourism villages were evaluated on parameters such as cultural and natural resources, economic sustainability, environment sustainability, governance and prioritisation of tourism, health, safety and security, promotion and conservation of cultural resources, social sustainability, tourism development, value chain integration, and infrastructure and connectivity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March had said that "out-of-the-box thinking" and "long-term vision" can take tourism to new heights, and added that villages in far-flung areas of India have now come up on the map of tourism.

"Our villages are becoming centers of tourism," he remarked.

Addressing a post-budget webinar on 'Developing Tourism in Mission Mode', he had also said that the central government had started the Vibrant Village Scheme for the villages situated along the border, and emphasised the need to support businesses such as homestays, small hotels and restaurants.

Northern Army commander...

The Army commander was briefed by officials of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on the ongoing Himank and Vijayak projects related to construction of critical road infrastructure in Ladakh.

The Army commander also lauded the troops for their relentless efforts.

SPO dies, 3...

hospitalised, they said.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives of Police Personnel in a tragic road accident.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor said, "Deeply pained by the loss of lives of Police personnel in a tragic road accident in Ramban. My thoughts are with the family members who lost their loved ones. Praying for the early recovery of the injured. I have instructed the authorities to provide all possible assistance required".

Farooq to chair...

of all opposition parties to attend the meeting that will be chaired by Abdullah. "Leaders of opposition parties are scheduled to meet on 3rd October 2023 at 2:30 pm at the Jammu residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah to discuss the political situation," he said.

DDC Doda reviews physical, financial status of works

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: District Development Council Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotval chaired a meeting of the Council here in the conference hall of DC offices complex to review physical and financial achievements of works taken up under DDC, BDC and PRI grants.

Commissioner Secretary to the Government, RDD, Mandeep Kaur also joined the Council meeting virtually.

Status of sector wise tendering process, allotment of works, works started on ground, and works completed were discussed in detail in the meeting.

The meeting was informed

that out of 2670 sanctioned works, 2509 have been tendered, 1449 taken up on the ground and a few of them completed and dedicated to the public. The Chairman sought Department wise and work wise progress from the concerned functionaries. The bottlenecks hampering the progress on some of the sanctioned projects, and works which are not feasible were discussed in detail in the meeting.

Besides, working, targets and achievements under PDD, JSD (PHE), PWD, Education, Health, Forest, I & FC, RDD and other departments were assessed and the necessary directions

were issued to improve the public services delivery. Some of the additional works identified by the Councillors were discussed in the meeting, and the intending departments were directed to submit their feasibility report in two days for necessary approval and execution of the works.

The issue of rationalization of teaching staff and adjustment of newly recruited 124 contractual teachers were also discussed. It was informed that till date 95 teachers have been adjusted in the schools with dire need of teachers. The Chairman urged the officers and Engineering departments to work in synergy and gear up

the men and machinery to come up to the expectations of the people. He impressed upon the officers to ensure the consultation of PRIs for identification and execution of the work in their jurisdiction to safeguard the public interest. The meeting was attended by Vice Chairperson DDC Doda; BDC Chairpersons; DDC Councillors; ADDC Doda (CEO of the Council); SE PWD; SE PDD; SE PHE (JSD); ACP Doda; DFO Doda; DFO Bhaderwah; DFO Batote; DIO DIPR Doda; XENs of PWD, PDD, Jal Shakti & REW, AD Planning, besides, other concerned officials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: The District Administration Samba, in collaboration with the Tourism Department, Municipal Council, Samba, and the NSS wing of Government Degree College, Samba, organized a major Cleanliness and Plantation Drive in the Samba Fort today, marking the celebration of World Tourism Day.

The Cleanliness and Plantation Drive involved activities to enhance the beauty and hygiene of the historical Samba Fort and the surrounding area. Participants planted trees, cleaned up litter and worked together to create a cleaner, greener environ-



Abhishek Sharma, DC Samba planting sapling.

ment for both tourists and local residents to enjoy.

"We are delighted to celebrate World Tourism Day by taking concrete steps toward preserving our natural heritage and promoting responsible tourism," said Abhishek

Sharma, DC Samba. "Samba Fort is a significant historical site, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure its upkeep for future generations." The Deputy Commissioner, Samba later roped a sapling in the fort to

commemorate the theme of this year's world Tourism Day i.e. Investing Green. While interacting with students, the deputy Commissioner urged them to visit the tourist sites of the District and a pledge was taken to keep them clean with leave no trash policy. The event saw enthusiastic participation from locals and officers from District Administration including Tehsildar Samba, Sh. Shabeer Ahmed Malik, District Tourism officer, Dr. Rajesh Raina, CEO, Municipal Council, Sh. Amit Chowdhary and N.S.S Coordinator, GDC Samba beside officials of various departments, locals and tourism stakeholders.

Cleanliness, plantation drive conducted in Historic Samba Fort to Commemorate World Tourism Day

Div Com reviews implementation of schemes, progress of dev works in Jammu Distt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday chaired a meeting of district officers, focusing on the evaluation of ongoing development projects, including implementation of Central Sponsored Schemes, departmental schemes and other developmental initiatives in Jammu District. The meeting was held in PWD Guest house Jammu.

At the onset of the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya presented a comprehensive overview of the district's developmental profile.

The DC apprised the Div Com about the current status of ongoing schemes of each department through power point presentation.

The Divisional Commissioner was given a detailed briefing on the physical and financial accomplishments under District Capex, UT components as well as updates on the major projects, development works underway in the district.

While reviewing performance of RDD, the Div Com directed Executive Engineer REW Jammu to float tenders of all works under DDC, BDC & PRI grants. "Works under District & UT Capex budget should also be tendered and early completion of all developmental works in approved plan must be ensured", the Div Com added.

The Div Com reviewed in detail the progress under the schemes being implemented by Social Welfare, Rural

Development, Urban Local Bodies, PWD, PMGSY, JPDCL, Jal Shakti, School Education, Agriculture and Allied departments, employment, ICDS, Industries, Sheep husbandry and Animal Husbandry.

Stressing on synergy among stakeholder departments, the Divisional Commissioner tasked the Deputy Commissioner to convene a meeting involving ACD, CEO, BDOs, XEN REW, XEN PWD (R&B) and contractors to ensure that development targets are achieved within the stipulated time frame.

While taking note of meagre expenditure by some sectors, the Div Com directed to achieve the financial targets within the shortest possible time, and directed for 100

percent expenditure under different schemes.

Discussing Rural Sanitation works, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for evolving an effective mechanism through Common Service Centers (CSCs) for the better maintenance of rural assets.

Reviewing the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), the Divisional Commissioner instructed the Rural Development Department to prioritize the allocation of houses to landless individuals and ensure the success of the AWAS Plus scheme. He also directed municipal authorities to accelerate the saturation of PMAY-U cases in urban areas.

Regarding the progress of

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for achieving 100% saturation and prioritizing the construction of Tube Wells. "Increase the men and machinery to complete works at the earliest", the Div Com asked the department.

Discussing road connectivity, the Divisional Commissioner called upon the Engineers of PMGSY, PWD, and REW to expedite ongoing road projects and ensure timely maintenance. He also stressed on filling of potholes, cleaning of dividers, bush cuttings.

While reviewing Social Welfare schemes, the Div Com Highlighted the need to address issues faced by pensioners, the Divisional Commissioner asked for

hosting sensitization cum awareness camps to educate beneficiaries. He also reviewed the status of scholarships being offered to the students.

Emphasizing the creation of self-employment opportunities, the Divisional Commissioner directed for formulating the district employment plan and urged the early implementation of beneficiary-oriented schemes aligned with market demand and skilled workforce mapping.

Similarly, the Div Com also reviewed the progress made under other schemes like PM Kisan, KCC, Soil Health Card, PMDP, PMKSY, PMSSS, PMAGY, ISSS, NSAP, scholarship schemes, BADP etc.

Issues impeding the devel-

opmental projects were also discussed threadbare in the meeting wherein the Div Com said that inter department coordination is a must to resolve developmental bottlenecks and timely completion of works. He asked the officers to work in tandem to achieve set targets in set timelines for the larger public interest. Regarding the power scenario in the district, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Chief Engineer JPDCL to expedite the work on argumentation of power infrastructure and ensure round-the-clock electricity supply.

The Divisional Commissioner called upon all departments to adopt a public-friendly approach in their operations and underscored the importance of digital

penetration across the district. The Div Com also reviewed measures to control drug abuse. The SSP gave a detailed account of measures taken to control drug menace. The Div Com stressed on organising awareness camps in villages, schools and colleges. While reviewing the working of the mining department, the Div Com directed DMO Jammu to liaison with police & Revenue officers for curbing illegal mining in Jammu district.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai; Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandan Kohli; ADC, Harvinder Singh; ADDC, Romesh Chander; CPO, Joginder Katoch; besides HoDs, district officers of all the key departments.