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**PM's 'mantra' of 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi' will help improve rural economy: LG**

strong pillar for economic and social development of the poor & marginalized sections, he added.

"Today, the Dairy sector is making enormous social and economic contribution and developing vibrant ecosystem of rural milk producers through Cooperative Societies & Self-Help Groups to generate significant economic activity & employment, the Lt Governor said.

He appreciated the endeavour of the Saran Dairy Producer Co. Ltd for bringing together the unorganized rural milk producers under the structure of Dairy Cooperative Societies, Self-Help Groups and providing them an opportunity to earn a better livelihood.

He further called upon the women Self-Help Groups to join this noble initiative in large numbers to become socially and financially empowered.

All the stakeholders, dairy units must come together to support small & marginal farmers, youth and women to create a strong and vibrant force of dairy entrepreneurs in the country, the Lt Governor observed.

"It will be a significant step to

strengthen the spirit of cooperation. The Prime Minister's mantra of 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi' will guide us on our path to improving the rural economy and protecting the interest of the farmers," he said.

The Lt Governor called upon the dairy farmers & milk production units to focus on value-addition to meet the increasing market demand and to make the sector more lucrative.

Total milk production had reached 221 million tonnes in 2022 from 138 million tonnes in 2013 which has also increased the income of the farmers and other stakeholders associated with the sector, he noted.

The growth rate of milk production in India is more than 6% per year which is more than the milk production rate of other countries. There has also been an increase of 6% in the number of total milch animals which is an encouraging sign for the dairy sector, added the Lt Governor.

Kumar Rakesh, Director Saran Dairy Producer Co. Ltd, milk producers, farmers and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present on the occasion.



Traffic moving on Srinagar-Leh highway. -Excelsior/Shakeel

**Srinagar-Leh NH opened in record 68 days: DG BRO**

officially opening the highway, hailed the hard work of BRO officials and men in overcoming the tough challenge of opening the Zojila Pass.

"It was due to the hard work of BRO officials and men that we were able to throw the pass open in a record number of 68 days. For the past three years, we have been breaking our own records," he said.

The General said that their efforts would be to make the road through in just two months, "BRO officials and men are fully acclimatized and familiar with the area. No equipment was damaged during the road opening process," he said.

The DG said the early opening of the Srinagar-Leh highway will help save Rs 7 crore a day for the Government. He also pointed out that "people of Ladakh can come to Srinagar through this road and carry out their economic activities. This road helps to send defence equipment including guns, bullets, and tanks besides troops to Ladakh. Similarly, the early road opening helps give an economic push to the Ladakh region which remains cut off from the rest of the world for six months," the DG said.

According to Lt General Chaudhary, the locals who work with the BRO are being provided with adequate wages, shelter, and food, as well as warm clothes. "Some people are [working] with us for the past 25 years. We are like

a family," he said.

The DG said the early opening of Zojila and Razdan Passes will facilitate the augmentation of the supply of essential goods and services for the people of Ladakh and Gurez Valley.

Public Relations Officer (Defence) Lt Col Emron Musavi said there has been a strategic requirement of minimising the closure during winter with a renewed focus on infrastructure and augmentation of connectivity to the northern borders.

He said BRO accordingly ensured the pass was kept open for traffic till as late as January 6, creating a new record. "The advantage accrued by keeping the pass open till this late can be assessed by the fact that almost 13,500 vehicles crossed it between the end of November 2022 and January 6, 2023," Musavi said.

He said dry weather in the first week of February accelerated snow clearance and widening of the road surface was carried out. "Trial convoys of vehicles successfully passed through Zojila on March 16... thereby ensuring it remained closed for only 68 days."

The PRO said Razdan Pass, which provides the only road connectivity between Gurez and Kashmir, was reopened after 58 days. "Other important Passes at Sadhna, Pharkiyani Gali, and Zaminara Gali have been kept open throughout this winter."

**2 pilots martyred in helicopter crash**

from Missamari in Assam's Sonitpur district to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.

The flight encountered "inconducive weather" and was returning to Missamari when it crashed, he said.

"The helicopter lost contact with Air Traffic Control (ATC) around 9.15 am. Five search parties of the Indian Army, SSB and ITBP were immediately launched. The wreckage of the aircraft was found near Banglajalp east village of Mandala," Rawat said.

"A Court of Inquiry is ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident," he added.

Rohit Rajbir Singh, Superintendent of Police, Special Investigation Cell (SIC), said villagers had found the crashed chopper ablaze in Dirang, and informed district officials.

"Villagers from Banglajalp at Dirang located the chopper around 12.30 pm," Singh said.

The area has no mobile connectivity and the weather is extremely foggy with visibility as low as five meters, he said. (PTI)

**T5 tunnel at Panthyal opens for traffic**

of shooting stones which have consumed numerous human lives, they said.

Over the past couple of years, a temporary iron and steel tunnel at the crucial stretch provided some relief to the people travelling on the highway. But the rolling stones continued to cause frequent disruptions in the smooth movement of traffic.

"The T5 tunnel at Panthyal was opened for two-way traffic which will now move smoothly without the fear of disruption from falling rocks," Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam said.

The four-laning project of the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was started by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in 2011.

The work that includes a

**Unemployment rate for male 1.4%, female 4.8% in Ladakh as per last PLF Survey**

employers for creation of new employment and restoration of loss of employment during COVID-19 pandemic.

"The terminal date for registration of beneficiaries was March 31, 2022," he said.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the Minister said, was launched by the Government for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY, he said, collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities.

"The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes is being implemented by the Government with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore, for a period of 5 years starting from 2021-22 which have potential for creating 60 lakh new jobs," he further said.

The Union MoS Labour and Employment, Rameswar Telu said that the PM Gati Shakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by seven engines, namely, Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure. This approach is powered by Clean Energy and Sakba Prayas leading to huge job and entrepreneurial opportunities for all.

"Government is also implementing Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) since June 1, 2020 to facilitate collateral free working capital loan to street vendors to restart their businesses, which were adversely impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

He further said that the Government of India is encouraging various projects involving substantial investment and public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) etc. for employment generation.

"Besides these initiatives", the Minister said, "various flagship programmes of the Government

**Top oppn leaders to visit J&K; extend support for Assembly polls, Statehood**

The delegation informed the CEC and other members of the Commission that the Government has been claiming of restoring normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir and that now the onus is on the EC to hold Assembly elections. "We asked why was the Commission not taking note of the plight of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who are without elected Government for the last more than four years," Farooq said.

The 13-member delegation of representatives from Congress, PDP, Panthers Party, Awami National Conference, CPI, CPI(M), and others first had detailed meeting with the opposition parties' senior leaders, including NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Sitaram Yechuri of CPI(M), Manoj Kumar Jha of RJD, T R Baalu of DMK and others at the Constitution Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi at 1 pm.

During the hour-long meeting,

**HC directs for implementation of SWM bylaws**

the updated status report and action taken report with regard to notifying the SWM bylaws and their implementation but the same has not been done.

It is noted that the court has passed several orders whereby the authorities were directed to give the court the details of notification of the SWM bylaws and their implementation and despite the repeated orders nothing has not been done on the issue till date.

The respondents were also required to inform the Court with regard to implementation of the Solid Waste Management bylaws in the Union Territories of Ladakh. "In the interest of justice, we give one opportunity to the respondents to file the status reports / action taken reports regarding the notification of the Solid Waste Management bylaws in all local authorities in both the Union Territories within two weeks" the Court had said.

The DB today directed A R Malik senior AAG on behalf of J&K UT and T M Shamsi on behalf of Ladakh UT to file the latest status report and action taken report on the issue of implementation of SWM in both the UTs positively.

The petitioner-NGO has raised an important aspect of public health hygiene of the both UTs due to non-implementation of the provisions of the SWM rules of 2016 as a result Model SWM bylaws stood framed by J&K Housing and Urban Development Department but notification and their implementation by local authorities are

sources said that the J&K delegation apprised the national leaders about prevailing situation in the UT and demanded restoration of democratically elected Government as well as Statehood.

The delegation also apprised about the burning issues such as increasing unemployment, no transparency in recruitment process, imposition of Property Tax, eviction drive etc. They explained that Assembly election was the only solution to address all the problems being faced by Jammu and Kashmir.

National leaders of opposition parties assured all support to the J&K delegation and said that the issues would be raised inside as well as outside the Parliament.

During the meeting, sources said, Farooq Abdullah invited the national leaders to visit Jammu and Kashmir after the month of Ramadan and take stock of the prevailing situation in absence of elected Government in UT.

Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Public Health Engineering as well as the Department of Tourism have to submit details of SWM and steps taken to address the issue of Solid Waste generated in the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture in both the UTs.

As regards the generation of Solid Waste in all tourist resorts and generated in the Irrigation and Flood Control Department in the course of seasonal rains, these departments are under direction to file responses with regard to implementation of SWM rules 2016.

They have to give details of establishment of SEM as also the SWM System for which proposal has been floated and if it is not confirmed, the details shall be submitted before the court. Court has found the earlier status reports filed by departments of HUDD, Tourism, RDD, Horticulture, Agriculture, SMC and JMC are of early 2019. These departments were under direction to update their reports with regard to the issue of SW management and compliance of the directions of court.

Talking to the media persons after the meeting, the senior leaders said that there was unanimity over restoration of Statehood and conducting Assembly elections in J&K.

"We all have agreed on the issues. We are ready to visit Srinagar to share the pain of the people of J&K and to give them assurance," said NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Farooq Abdullah also briefed the media persons on the occasion and said: "We are all together for restoration of Statehood and on the issue of why elections are not being held in J&K when the situation has normalized."

Later, the delegation of leaders from J&K met the Election Commission of India and submitted a memorandum demanding Assembly elections in the Union Territory. In the memorandum submitted to the poll panel, the J&K leaders said that in disregard to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, an unrepresentative and unaccountable bureaucracy is allowed to run the Government to the discomfort and inconvenience of the general public.

The memorandum, signed by NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechuri, AAP MP Sanjay Singh, RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha, DMK leader T R Baalu, CPI MP P Santosh Kumar and others, said the Election Commission is under the Constitutional obligation to hold Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation said that any further delay in holding Assembly elections would amount to denial of fundamental and democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and a breach of Constitutional obligations.

"The Panchayat elections and

elections to other public representative institutions cannot be a substitute to Legislative Assembly elections and the Government and that matter, the EC cannot avoid and delay of Assembly elections on that ground," read the memorandum, adding that had it been so, there would be no need to conduct Assembly elections in States, as the EC is with due dispatch and punctuality, as is evident from recently held Assembly elections in Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland and the elections scheduled to be held in Karnataka.

The opposition leaders said in each case, the argument though, inherently specious, could have been that as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were in place there was no need to hold Assembly elections.

Maintaining that the Assembly polls would be the first and important step towards restoration of all the Constitutional rights and fulfillment of political aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the opposition leaders urged the CEC to announce Assembly elections in J&K without any further delay and notify the polls schedule so that the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are restored.

Besides Farooq Abdullah, the delegation from J&K comprised of NC MP Hasnain Masoodi, Harsh Dev Singh, (JKNPP), Ravinder Sharma (Congress) Taranjit Singh Tomy (AAP), Rattan Lal Gupta (NC), Gulchain Singh Charak (President Dogra Sadar Sabha), S Amrik Singh Reen (PDP), Hari Singh (CPI-M), Muzaffar Shah (ANC), Sunil Dimple (Mission Statehood), I D Khajuria (IDP), Gagan Pratap Singh (JKNPP), Manish Sahni and Vikas Bahal (Shiv Sena-Uddhav Bala Saheb Thackeray) and Sukhdev Singh (CPI-M).

**Democratic institutions under threat, saner voices being muzzled by BJP: Patil**

Referring to the party activities in J&K, Patil said that the party leadership would monitor the active participation of all the functionaries and leaders to ensure the involvement of all party workers in the programmes to further strengthen the organisation at all levels. She said that party would gear up its activities in the districts and constituency levels to highlight the policies and programmes of the party and expose the 'wrong policies' of the BJP Government and its failures on different fronts.

party under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Patil sought redressal of grievances of the people saying that the Government has failed to ensure basic facilities to the people. She further said that the BJP Government failed to lay emphasis on required facilities to the people on priority. She said people are living a difficult life and want an end to their miseries. She said Congress is an instrument of service to the people and will continue to remain



Senior AICC leaders Rajni Patil, BS Solanki and Manoj Yadav being received at Jammu Airport by JKPC leaders Raman Bhalla and Yogesh Sawhney on Thursday.

She said that the party would solidly stand with all aggrieved sections of society in their ongoing struggle for justice and due rights and would fight for safeguarding their interests against the BJP Government's policies.

She appreciated the Congress workers and leaders who were on the street for the last eight years against the anti-people policies of Modi Govt during all these years. She said that the loyal party workers shall keep the flag of the party high in every situation. Patil asked the party leaders and workers to work unitedly to strengthen the

at the forefront to highlight the genuine needs concerning the people for their resolution.

Earlier, JKPC working president, Raman Bhalla, former Minister Yogesh Sawhney along with other Congress leaders accorded warm welcome to AICC Incharge J&K Rajni Patil, former Union Minister & AICC Observer for 'Hath se Hath' campaign, Bharat Singh Solanki and AICC joint secretary, Manoj Yadav at Jammu Airport on their three day J&K visit. They will review the organizational affairs and activities during their stay here.

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"Besides these initiatives", the Minister said, "various flagship programmes of the Government

received in the financial year 2022-23 till January 2023 end is 129, of which 125 grievances have been resolved," told the Union MoS Labour and Employment.

On the Ladakh MP's enquiry about any legislation to protect the interest of unorganised sector workers in Ladakh, Rameswar Telu said, "the Government has formulated the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 with a view to providing social security and welfare of the unorganised workers of India without any prejudice to the workers of any particular States/UTs."

On whether the Government is providing all mandatory facilities to the labourers in Ladakh and the details thereof, the Union MoS said the Administration of UT of Ladakh ensures that all mandatory facilities to the labourers are provided by the Employer and Principal Employer.

"After the formation of UT Ladakh, the labour Department of UT has initiated construction of Labour-Sarai-cum-facilitation centres at various places. Timely inspections for implementation of various labour laws in the UT in order to protect the rights of labourers are also conducted," he said.

"Further as far as labourers in the central sphere are concerned, all applicable labour laws are being enforced in the UT of Ladakh through the field offices of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central)," he added.



DGP Dilbag Singh chairing a security review meeting in Rajouri on Thursday.

**Neighbour trying to involve local youth in drug menace: DGP**

strengthening the intelligence network at the grassroots level.

Singh also enjoined upon the officers to put in more efforts to track down the terrorists responsible for the deadly attack on Dhangri village early this year. Seven people were killed and 14 others injured when terrorists attacked the village on January 1.

Directing alertness on borders and hinterland, the DGP emphasised on using the border Special Police Officers (SPOs) for creating a strong intelligence network besides utilising the services of Village Defence Guards more efficiently and in an organised way to counter terrorism.

"Pakistan is using all methods to involve our youth in the drug menace but regular seizure of various consignments of narcotics has spoiled its evil intentions. Stern action and synchronised efforts of all forces will definitely

demolish the whole network of drug trade," he said.

Dilbag said Pakistani agencies are indulging in narcotics and weapons smuggling besides transportation of cash across the LoC for funding terrorist activities.

"Many of such consignments have been intercepted by police and the security forces," Singh said, emphasising on strengthening checkpoints on national highways to stop transportation of drugs and weapons as well as other criminal activities.

The spokesman said the officers of the twin border districts briefed the police chief about the present security scenario along the LoC and in the hinterland.

They also presented a detailed briefing about the ongoing anti-terror operations and security grid developed post Dhangri incident, he said.

**WEATHER**

<b>JAMMU:</b>	
Partly cloudy	
<b>TEMPERATURE</b>	
Max:	29.4 Degree C
Min:	15.4 Degree C
<b>RELATIVE HUMIDITY</b>	
RH-I (Morning):	53.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	31.0 per cent
Sunset on Friday:	06.41 p.m
Sunrise on Saturday:	06.39 a.m
<b>Srinagar:</b>	
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers	
<b>TEMPERATURE</b>	
Max:	18.3 Degree C
Min:	5.5 Degree C
<b>RELATIVE HUMIDITY</b>	
RH-I (Morning):	61.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	43.0 per cent
<b>LEH:</b>	
<b>TEMPERATURE</b>	
Max:	9.2 Degree C
Min:	-3.6 Degree C

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**CINEMA**

<b>APSARA AUDI:</b> 1. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR (HINDI) - 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 04:00 PM, 07:00 PM, 10:00 PM
<b>PARA AUDI:</b> 2. PATAHAN (HINDI) - 9:45 AM, 12:45 PM, 03:45 PM, 06:45 PM
<b>HAR Theatre:</b> KALI JOTTA - 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:30 PM
<b>PVR KC AUDI 1:</b> 1. DEMON SLAYER: TO THE SWORDSMITH VILLAGE - 11:00 AM, 2. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY (HINDI) - 1:30 PM, 3. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR (HINDI) - 4:25 PM, 4. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY (HINDI) - 7:55 PM, 4. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR (HINDI) - 10:50 PM
<b>PVR KC AUDI 2:</b> 1. SHAZAMI FURY OF THE GODS (HINDI) - 9:05 AM, 2. NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (PUNJABI) - 12:00 PM, 3. SHAZAMI FURY OF THE GODS - 2:45 PM, 4. ZWIGATO (HINDI) - 5:40 PM, 5. SHAZAMI FURY OF THE GODS - 8:05 PM, 6. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY (HINDI) - 11:00 PM
<b>WAVE CINEMA AUDI 1:</b> NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (PUNJABI) (UA) - 09:45 AM, 2. SHAZAMI FURY OF THE GODS - HINDI (UA) - 12:15 PM, 3. NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (PUNJABI) (UA) - 3:00 PM, 4. SHAZAMI FURY OF THE GODS (ENG) (UA) - 5:35 PM, 5. NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (PUNJABI) (UA) - 8:20 PM, 6. SHAZAMI FURY OF THE GODS (HINDI) (UA) - 10:50 PM
<b>WAVE CINEMA AUDI 2:</b> 1. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR (UA) - 10:00 AM, 2. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR (UA) - 01:10 PM, 3. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY (UA) - 04:45 PM, 4. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR (UA) - 7:30 PM, 5. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR (UA) - 10:40 PM
<b>WAVE CINEMA AUDI 3:</b> 1. ZWIGATO (U) - 10:05 AM, 2. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY (UA) - 12:20 PM, 3. KABZAA (HINDI) (UA) - 3:00 PM, 4. ZWIGATO (U) - 5:45 PM, 5. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY (UA) - 8:00 PM, 6. NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (PUNJABI) (UA) - 10:45 PM
<b>PLATINUM CINEMA AUDI 1:</b> 1. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR - 10:10 AM, 2. (2D) SHAZAMI FURY OF THE GODS (ENG) - 1:00 PM, 3. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY (HI) - 03:30 PM, 4. (2D) SHAZAMI (ENG) - 6:00 PM, 5. ZWIGATO (HINDI) - 8:30 PM, 6. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR - 10:30 PM
<b>PLATINUM CINEMA AUDI 2:</b> 1. (2D) SHAZAMI FURY OF THE GODS (HIN) - 10:30 AM, 2. NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (P) - 1:00 PM, 3. (2D) SHAZAMI FURY OF THE GODS (HIN) - 3:25 PM, 4. ZWIGATO (HINDI) - 5:50 PM, 5. TU JHOOTHI MAIN MAKKAR - 7:50 PM, 6. NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (P) - 10:45 PM
<b>PLATINUM CINEMA AUDI 3:</b> NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (P) - 10:00 AM, 2. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY - 12:30 PM, 3. NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (P) - 3:00 PM, 4. NIGAH MARDIA AYI VE (P) - 5:30 PM, 5. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY - 8:00 PM, 6. KABZAA (HINDI) - 10:30 PM

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