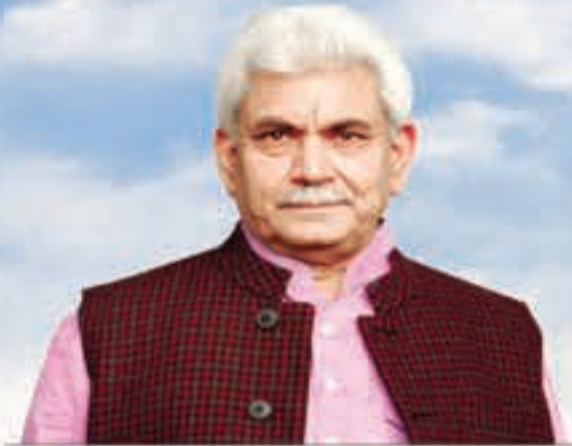




सत्यमेव जयते
Government of
Jammu & Kashmir



Khush-haal
Jammu Kashmir

Aman aur Taraqqi ki Nayee Tasveer



Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu Kashmir

Launch and Dedication to the Nation of
Development Projects
worth ₹**6400** crore

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

- Holistic Agricultural Development Programme (HADP) of the UT Government
- 52 Projects including Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine under the PRASHAD/Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Government of India
- Launch of 'Dekho Apna Desh' People's Choice Tourist Destination Poll
- Launch of Short-listed Challenge based Destination Development Sites
- Launch of 'Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign'
- Distribution of 1041 appointment letters

- HADP will equip about 2.5 lakh farmers in J&K with skill development via dedicated Daksh Kisan portal
- About 2000 Kisan Khidmat Ghars will be established under HADP
- Boost to Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied Sectors
- Tourism projects spread across the country will enhance overall experience of tourists and pilgrims with world class infrastructure and amenities

March 7, 2024 | 12:00 Noon
Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar

Watch the event live on DD NEWS

Uttar Pradesh's Spectacular Growth Story



The Industrial development and creation of employment opportunities being witnessed in the state are the result of better law and order, good governance, and election of good public representatives, emphasizing that, when intentions are good, results are also good.

- Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

UP has undergone a meteoric rise in the past seven years, achieving palpable progress across various sectors like law and order, infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Under the Yogi government, the state has become India's second-largest economy, fueled by transparent governance and swift execution of strategic plans. Its business-friendly environment, bolstered by robust security, ample land, and a burgeoning consumer base, has attracted substantial domestic and foreign investments. The February 2023 Global Investors Summit yielded memorandums of understanding exceeding Rs 40 lakh crore, with projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore already breaking ground at GBC@4.0. Throughout the process, policymaking and implementation have prioritized the well-being of women, youth, marginalized communities, and farmers, with rigorous monitoring ensuring impeccable quality across all initiatives.



In the last seven years, crime has reduced in UP and business culture has expanded. An environment of trade, development, and trust has developed in UP in the last seven years.

- Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Women Empowerment



- Gas connections were provided to 1.75 crore families under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Free gas cylinder on Deepawali & Holi.
- 54.44 lakh women benefited under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.
- 7,276 criminals were punished under the Crime Against Women and POCSO Act.



- 99.55% of complaints were resolved on women's helpline 1090.
- More than 2 lakh women received loans through the Pradhan Mantri Svanidhi Yojana.
- The pension of destitute women increased from ₹ 500 to ₹ 1,000 per month, more than 31 lakh women benefited.
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana benefited 17.53 lakh daughters.
- Over 1.5 lakh women were appointed to government positions.

Farmers Welfare



- The State leads in milk, sugarcane, sugar, ethanol, potato, mango, and amla production.
- Completion of 20 projects, among which Ban Sagar, Arjun Sahayak, and Saryu Canal are prominent, has resulted in the creation of more than 23 lakh hectares of additional irrigation potential, thereby benefiting over 44 lakh farmers.
- From 2017 to January 29, 2024, around 48 lakh sugarcane farmers were paid more than Rs 2,36,793 crore.
- Sugarcane Clinic' and 'Agriculture Investment Center' are established and operational at the headquarters of sugarcane committees.



- Loans totaling Rs 36,000 crore were waived off for 86 lakh farmers.
- Distribution of 37 lakh Kisan Credit Cards
- The ban on providing new private tube well connections in the dark zone has been lifted, resulting in advantages for close to one lakh farmers.
- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana has facilitated the transfer of around Rs 68,139 crore to the accounts of 2.68 crore farmers via the DBT system.
- 2,51,607 farmers registered under PM Kisan Mandhan Yojna
- More than 11 lakh cows have been protected through the establishment of 6,484 cow shelters.
- Installation of 51,744 solar pumps under PM KUSUM Yojana.
- Financial assistance to farmers for installation of submersible pumps in all 75 districts
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Kisan Samridhi Yojana implemented with Rs 602 crore

Mission Rozgar



- More than 6 lakh youth got government jobs under a fair and transparent recruitment process.
- Employment opportunities were provided to more than 2 Cr. people in the MSME/private sector.
- More than 1.65 Lakh individuals were recruited by the Police Department.



- Appointments were made for more than 1.65 lakh teaching positions.
- Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission trained 1.215 million youth, while 4.13 lakh found employment in esteemed companies.
- The Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana and the One District One Product Skill Upgradation and Toolkit Scheme contributed to the creation of approximately 4.08 lakh jobs.
- October 2023 in the financial year 2023-2024, 7,418 people were employed, and capital investment loans of Rs 1,854.88 lakh were allocated to 408 beneficiaries.
- Employment on a contract basis to more than 3.75 lakh youth.
- Through UP Investors Summit-2018, work on investment projects worth more than Rs. 4.28 lakh crore has started so far, employment to more than 15.52 lakh people.
- Projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore launched through Ground Breaking Ceremony 4.0; 34 lakh people will get employment.

Education on top priority



- Under the School Chalo Abhiyan, 1.92 Cr. children were enrolled.
- Rs 1200 per student is distributed every year to cover expenses related to bags, dresses, sweaters, shoes, socks, and stationery for school children.
- 75 Government Polytechnics are currently in the process of being established or under construction.
- 'Operation Kayakalp' has strengthened and modernized over 1.40 lakh primary and upper primary schools.



- Arrangement of free coaching under Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana for preparation of competitive examinations.
- A total of 20 lakh tablets/ smartphones have been distributed to talented students.
- More than 2 lakh tablets were distributed to teachers of council schools.
- Over 2 lakh aspirants from disadvantaged segments and weaker sections have benefited so far from free coaching provided by the Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana to prepare for competitive exams.
- Around 40 lakh girls studying in 44,000 upper primary schools and 746 Kasturba Gandhi Girls Schools have been trained in self-defence as part of the Rani Lakshmi Bai scheme.
- The Diksha App provides high-quality study materials for all subjects, catering to students from class 1 to 12.

Unwavering Commitment to Law and Order



- 71,476 Criminals were Nabbed Under the Gangster Act, while 897 were Under the NSA.
- Compared to 2016, dacoity cases in 2023 dropped by 87%, robbery by 76%, murder by 43%, rioting by 65%, and kidnapping for ransom by 73%.
- The anti-land mafia portal in the state received 3,72,039 complaints regarding illegal occupation, out of which 3,70,748 were successfully resolved. As a result, 66,872 hectares of land have been reclaimed from encroachment.
- A total of 8,54,634 CCTV cameras were installed as part of Operation Trinetra's surveillance network.
- Cybercrime units have been established in every police station.
- Agra, Ghaziabad, Prayagraj, Lucknow, Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida), Varanasi, and Kanpur have transitioned to the Commissionerate system.
- The formation of women PAC battalions in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, and Badaun has been completed, while preparations are in progress for the establishment of five more battalions.



PM Modi's Kashmir Visit- Hopes High for Positive Changes

KO POLITICAL EDITOR

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Srinagar, his first since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, has generated some buzz, not just in the Kashmir valley but across the country. That the visit comes in the run-up to general elections which the BJP seems poised to win has also contributed to the hype. And it is likely that the PM's address at Bakshi Stadium in the heart of Srinagar to an expected massive gathering of people would put more media focus on Kashmir. Beyond the buzz, hype and the

political goal of the visit, the PM's speech in Srinagar towards the fag end of his second term caps one of his government's most unprecedented steps - the repeal of the constitutional provision that granted J&K its special status within Indian Union. And as the PM lands in Srinagar on Thursday morning, he would have every reason to be satisfied with the outcome of the move that was billed as deeply fraught when it was carried out on August 5, 2019.

Kashmir has come a long way since the revocation of the Article 370. Security-wise also,



the situation has transformed to a large extent. This has happened incrementally over the period with

violence declining sharply, reaching its lowest last year. In reply to a query in J&K in early

KASHMIR HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE REVOCATION OF THE ARTICLE 370. SECURITY-WISE ALSO, the situation has transformed to a large extent. This has happened incrementally over the period with violence declining sharply, reaching its lowest last year.

February, Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Nityanand Rai said in parliament

that the security situation has shown a significant improvement since 2019. He said that in 2019, "the number of terrorist initiated incidents were 153 that came down to 126 in 2020, 129 in 2021 and 125 in 2022."

"In 2023, only 46 such incidents were reported," the reply read.

According to the minister's data, 80 security personnel lost their lives in 2019, 63 in 2020, 42 in 2021, 32 in 2022 while only 30 were killed in 2023. Similarly 157 militants were killed in 2019, 221 in 2020, 180 in 2021, 187 in 2022 and 73 in 2023. This shows more | [More on PII](#)

KO ANALYSIS

KU, CUK Postpone Exams Scheduled For Today

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir and Central University of Kashmir Wednesday postponed all exams that were scheduled to be held on March-07 (Thursday).

The Assistant Controller of Examinations of KU said that all the examinations of the university which are scheduled to be held on March-07-2024 stands postponed.

It said that the fresh dates shall be issued soon.

Meanwhile, CUK in a communique

Live Telecast Of PM's Speech

255 Blocks Set Up With Big Screens

Agencies

Srinagar: Bharatiya Janata Party's J&K president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday said that 255 blocks of the Union Territory are equipped with big screens for the live telecast of PM Modi's speech, and Bakshi Stadium will be filled to capacity as people are arriving in large numbers.

"Prominent stadiums of Srinagar like SKICC, Sher-e-Kashmir and other large parks and grounds will be prepared for the live telecast of PM's speech, as it is set to be a historic rally in the history of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. He said that | [More on PII](#)

PM MODI'S VISIT

PM To Dedicate 5000 Cr To Boost Agriculture Economy In J&K

Participate In 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir' Program

Dedicate To Nation Holistic Agriculture Development Programme

1,400 Crore Under Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD Scheme

Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine

43 Projects to Develop Pilgrimage, Tourist Sites Across India

Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign

Appointment Orders to 1,000 New Govt Recruits of J&K

Interact with Beneficiaries of Various Govt Schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil multiple development projects and address a public meeting in Srinagar today during his first visit to Kashmir after his government abrogated the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave special rights to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an official statement, Modi will attend the "Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir"

HADP programme is expected to equip about 2.5 LAKH FARMERS with skill development.

programme at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium and will dedicate to the nation Rs 5,000 crore programme - the 'Holistic Agriculture Development Programme' - for boosting agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir, an official handout said here on Wednesday.

Modi will also dedicate to the nation and launch multiple projects worth over Rs 1,400 crore under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) scheme, including the project for 'Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine', Srinagar.

He will also launch the 'Dekho Apna Desh People's Choice Tourist Destination Poll' and 'Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign'. The prime minister will also announce tourist destinations selected under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme.

Besides, Prime Minister Modi will distribute appointment orders to about 1,000 new government recruits of Jammu and Kashmir and will also interact with beneficiaries of various government schemes, including women achievers, lakhpatis | [More on PII](#)

Bakshi Stadium Draped In National Tricolour Marine Commandos To Patrol Water Bodies

Agencies

Srinagar: The Bakshi Stadium here has been draped in national tricolour for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit today even as stringent security arrangements have been put in place to ensure the high profile event passes off peacefully. The officials said that tight security

arrangements have been made for the visit of the prime minister, which will be his first to the valley since abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The security forces have been deployed in numbers all along the routes to be taken by Prime Minister Modi during his stay in Srinagar while barricades have been established at many places | [More on PII](#)

IGP Traffic Announces Route Plan

Roll Number Slips To Be Treated As Passes For Students

Srinagar: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Srinagar tomorrow, the Inspector General (IG) Traffic, Bhim Sen Tuti stated that the roads leading to the venue will remain closed for public transport.

Addressing media persons, IG Traffic said that starting from 4:00 AM until 7:00 PM on March 7, the traffic movement from Jehangir Chowk to Rambagh and Rajbagh to LD Hospital-Tulsi Bagh route will be restricted.

"Motorists travelling between Jehangir Chowk and Rambagh are advised to use alternative routes through interior roads, specifically the Rambagh-Hyderpora-Moomina Bad-Batmaloo road instead of the Solina-Magarmal Bagh axis," said the IGP Traffic.

Also, traffic assistance points will be stationed at strategic locations to facilitate smooth movement along these routes, he added.

Similarly, motorists travelling from Radio Kashmir-Rajbagh and adjacent areas towards Solina-Rambagh are advised to take the M/RR Road-Jehangir Chowk Batmaloo-Moomina Bad-Hyderpora route instead of the Rajbagh-Jawahar Nagar-LD Hospital-Tulsi Bagh Road axis.

Additionally, movement of vehicles from | [More on PII](#)

2022 HAWAL ACID ATTACK CASE

Court Awards Life Sentence, 40 Lakh Fine To Convict

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court on Wednesday sentenced a man to imprisonment for life and imposed a whopping Rs 40 lakh fine on him, two days after holding him guilty for throwing acid on a 24-year-old woman in Hawal area here in February 2022.

"Keeping in view the plight of the victim, one would feel that the ancient theory of punishment vis. eye for eye would only meet the ends of justice in this case but, that is not permissible now in the civilized society

like ours which is governed by the law," said Principal Sessions Judge Srinagar Jawad Ahmad while pronouncing imprisonment for life to the convict, Sajid Altaf Sheikh (Rather) son of Mohammad Altaf Sheikh (Rather) of Khalpora Buchwara Dalgate Srinagar.

Referring to the Supreme Court of India's judgment, the court observed that "stricter yardstick while awarding sentence" in cases of violent crimes against the women was to act as "deterrent." "In the instant case the brutal inhuman acid attack by the convict on | [More on PII](#)



Submit Property Returns Before March 17 Or Face Action: Govt Warns Employees

Agencies

Srinagar: The Government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has issued a stern warning to its employees, stressing that failure to submit property returns before March 17 will result in legal consequences under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and its associated

regulations. According to official sources, a significant number of employees have yet to meet the extended deadline for the submission of property details.

Initially, mandated by Circular No. 36-JK (GAD) of 2023 and subsequent notifications, all government employees in Jammu and Kashmir were required to file their | [More on PII](#)

'TRIPLE-THERAPY METHOD'

FCIK Appeals PM To Rejuvenate Ailing industry In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of Prime Minister's visit to Kashmir, the Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has called for his attention to the ailing industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir, appealing for a revival through a proposed triple-therapy method, along with additional measures. This approach encompasses earmarking 25% funds from the Central Industrial Scheme for existing industries, substantial procurement of identified industrial goods from local enterprises under the Public Procurement Policy, and the establishment of a structured mechanism to facilitate hassle-free credit flow and banking services for MSMEs.

While hailing the vision of PM Modi for industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir with his approval for an incentive scheme of 28400 Crores in 2021, the apex chamber said that booking of expenditure under the scheme would take place only after setting up of new



enterprises on ground which was likely to take some time owing infrastructural constraints though the UT government was putting in hard efforts for the same.

FCIK has solicited approval of Prime Minister for earmarking 25% of CIDS-2021 for around 40000 existing industrial units towards their revival, rehabilitation, diversification, expansion, scaling up, modernization and upgradation. The sum earmarked could be utilized for incentives provided under the CIS besides funding the incentives provided under UT government schemes and policies including those of revival of sick units, turnover incentive, GST

reimbursement etc.

The FCIK expressed confidence that upon their rejuvenation, the existing units had the potential to bounce back with renewed vigor and energy to contribute in the economic development and employment generation of J&K in consonance with the vision and efforts of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

"The new initiative would pave way for optimum capacity utilization of the existing units which doesn't surpass even the break-even point presently" stated FCIK.

Shakeel Qalandar, former President of FCIK, expressed that it has been their stance for decades that the government should compensate for business interruptions in units. "In the case of shutdowns and curfews, we need to place the responsibility on the government as it has failed to protect the business industry from such occurrences. Why hasn't this been addressed in recent years? What has changed? It is the will of the government that is keeping | [More on PII](#)

Kashmir Fruit Growers Pen Open Letter To PM

Welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his visit to Kashmir, the valley's fruit growers on Wednesday urged him to consider implementing the market intervention and crop insurance schemes. Bashir Ahmad Basheer, chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, said they warmly welcome PM Modi to Srinagar and hope that steps will be taken for the welfare of the | [More on PII](#)

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Govt To Adapt 30 Villages Around Wular Lake



Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to adopt at least 30 villages around the Asia's second largest Wular Lake in North Kashmir's Bandipora district for solid waste management.

An official from the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) told Kashmir Observer that the department has as of now adopted three villages out of 30 on the pilot bases for the solid waste management.

The three villages are Saderkoot payeen and Garoora. The authorities are considering the addition of another village. Project Coordinator, WUCMA,

Owais Farooq Mir said that the idea is to arrest all the solid waste that goes into Wular.

"We will implement the model in three villages and if it becomes successful, we will replicate it in other villages as well," Mir said.

Notably, all solid waste carried by the Jhelum River flows directly into Wular Lake. In addition to the waste from the Jhelum, the refuse from 30 villages located around the Lake also finds its way into it, contributing to water pollution.

Mir said that it will be a 'full proof model' that includes—collection, segregation and the proper disposal of solid waste, according | [More on PII](#)

IN ADDITION TO THE WASTE FROM THE JHELUM, THE REFUSE FROM 30 VILLAGES located around the Wular Lake also finds its way into it, contributing to water pollution.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 07-03-2024

PM's visit

As prime minister Narendra Modi embarks on his first visit to Kashmir today following the repeal of Article 370, the political landscape is abuzz with anticipation. The visit promises to be a significant milestone, marked by the unveiling of multiple developmental projects aimed at fostering economic growth, particularly in the agri-economy, and enhancing tourism infrastructure in the Union Territory.

A focal point of the Prime Minister's itinerary is the "Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir" program at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium. Here, the PM is set to inaugurate initiatives amounting to nearly Rs 5,000 crore, specifically designed to bolster the agri-economy. The "Holistic Agriculture Development Programme" (HADP) is poised to be a game-changer, encompassing horticulture, agriculture, and livestock husbandry. The comprehensive initiative is expected to provide training to approximately 2.5 lakh farmers, establish 2,000 farmers' service centers, and create robust value chains for the welfare of the farming community.

The PM will also launch nationwide projects in the tourism sector, exceeding Rs 1,400 crore. Under the "Swadesh Darshan" and "PRASHAD" schemes, he will unveil projects like the integrated development of the revered Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar. This aligns with his vision to elevate the overall experience for tourists and pilgrims visiting key pilgrimage and tourism sites across the country.

As Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness a series of development projects, it is essential to recognize the transformative impact of these endeavors on the lives of its residents. The concerted efforts to address various facets of development – be it religious, tourism, employment, or agriculture – reflect a comprehensive and inclusive approach that aims to uplift the region and its people.

The reverberations of the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, which led to the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, are still felt. The visit, therefore, assumes great political significance, with the Lok Sabha elections looming and opposition parties seeking clarity on the prospects of Assembly polls in the region. Jammu and Kashmir has been without an elected government since 2018, and the call for a return to democratic governance has been gaining momentum.

Prime Minister Modi's visit provides a platform to address these concerns and underline the government's vision for the political future of Jammu and Kashmir. The region has undergone significant constitutional changes, and the time is ripe for a renewed commitment to democratic governance.

OTHER OPINION

Decoding the script

The Genome India Project, a project funded and coordinated by the Department of Biotechnology, announced that it had finished sequencing 10,000 Indian genomes. This means that the complete genomes – the DNA blueprint that constitutes and maintains human bodies – from 10,000 individuals were analysed to create a 'reference' Indian human genome. India first sequenced a human genome in 2006. In a way, the latest enterprise would be akin to the creation of the first ever detailed map of India – with all political units, key geographical and topographical features – as opposed to a world map prepared elsewhere, with India just one of several countries and devoid of granular detail. Are 10,000 individuals representative of a country of over a billion? Surely not. But for now, it is the best there is and forms a vital template, the basis on which many more insights can be prised. The most immediate application is in combating disease. In 2009, geneticists in India, as part of an international collaboration, discovered that an aberration in a protein, MYBPC3 (cardiac myosin binding protein C), was correlated with a high risk of heart failure. This genetic variant was present in approximately 4% of those of Indian ancestry – a higher than expected number given that this problematic variant is rare.

India has close to 4,500 population groups and the subcontinent's history of being ordered along caste lines through endogamy implies that rare genetic variants, many harmful, that ordinarily through the course of evolution ought to have died out, persist. When the Human Genome Project published its reference 'human genome' in 2003, at a cost of nearly \$3 billion, it rang with a 'brave-new-world' promise of humanity having finally decoded the secrets of the genome, mapping every awry gene to a disease and a future of 'personalised medicine'. Much of Genome India's sales pitch reflects similar promises. However, the subsequent decades have tempered such expectations. For one, only a small fraction of disease is monogenic (determined by a single gene). Despite advances in knowledge of how rare, inherited genes caused debilitating disease, little could be done as the necessary medicines, if discovered, were usually too expensive for those in need. In other words, genome sequencing only opened up new realms of complexity. While Genome India should go beyond the 10,000 mark, it must also be truly democratic. The findings ought not be locked up in the ivory towers of academia and should involve imaginative collaborations with scientists, students, technology companies, ethicists and social scientists to push forward India's understanding of itself.

The Hindu

Modi Must Push for Green Investments in J&K

Investments in sustainable tourism, organic farming, renewable energy, waste management will create more jobs and ensure sustainable development of J&K



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

With an aim to encourage people to install solar panels on their rooftops, the 2024-25 Interim Budget has provided for a budgetary allocation of Rs 10,000 crores in this sector. This is a massive 110% increase from Rs 4,757 crore allocated towards the solar energy sector in the financial year 2023-2024.

On February 1st 2024, the Union Finance Minister Sitharaman announced this from the floor of the parliament while presenting the interim budget. The Finance Minister also said that the Centre will offer viability gap funding (VGF) for certain wind energy projects, introduce mandatory blending of compressed biogas in natural gas products and strengthen the electric vehicle ecosystem in steps towards India's commitments to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2070. Soon after the massive budgetary allocation in the solar energy sector, the Government officially launched "PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana." This scheme is projected to entail an investment of Rs 75,000 crore in India in the coming years.

Prime Minister Modi, while announcing the launch of this renewable energy scheme on social media platform X, reiterated the government's commitment to providing 300 units of free power to 10 million beneficiary households.

"In order to further sustainable development and people's well-being, we are launching the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. This project, with an investment of over Rs. 75,000 crores, aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month," he said in a tweet.

Subsidized Electricity from Clean Energy

At a time when installation of smart meters is being severely criticized in J&K and people have to pay huge electricity bills, PM's Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana will be a game changer in J&K in the coming years. The BJP lead Govt at the Centre seems focussed on free or subsidized electricity.

To popularize this centrally sponsored scheme at the grassroots level, the village Panchayats and municipalities will be incentivized to promote rooftop solar systems in their respective jurisdictions. This scheme according to experts will lead to more massive decrease in the power bills and will also ensure employment generation as well.

"From substantive subsidies, which will be given directly to people's bank accounts, to heavily concessional bank loans, the Central Government will ensure that there is no cost burden on the people. All stakeholders will be integrated into a National Online Portal which will further convenience," PM Modi said in another post on X

Rs 18000 annual savings

While presenting the interim budget, the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the 10 million beneficiaries of this new scheme would be able to get 300 units of free power through the rooftop solar installations and this would result in an annual saving of Rs15,000-18,000 per year per family approximately. The Union Finance Secretary T V Somanathan after the presentation of the budget also added that the government has provisioned Rs10,000 crore for rooftop solar in the budget.

The Union Power Minister R K Singh who also holds the charge of New and Renewable on February 2nd last month said the subsidy for rooftop solar installations had been hiked from 40% to 60% under the new scheme. The Govt of India is planning to implement this scheme through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) established by central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) designated for each state.

India's national statement at COP 28th

Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, while presenting India's national statement at COP 28 in Dubai on December 9th 2023, had said that India has been at the forefront of supporting action-oriented steps at the global level in response



At a time when installation of smart meters is being severely criticized in J&K and people have to pay huge electricity bills, PM's Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana will be a game changer in J&K in the coming years

to climate change. He told the august gathering that the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi gave a call to the world to join Mission LiFE – Lifestyle for Environment which bears testimony to India's action-oriented approach.

He highlighted the Green Credit Initiative created and the historic pact of adoption of the Green Development Pact by the G20 nations as part of the New Delhi Declaration. Union Minister also while throwing light on the GreenHouse Gas Emissions -GHG said that India has finalized its Third National Communication based on GHG inventory of 2019 along with Initial Adaptation Communication.

"In our endeavour to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions, India has successfully reduced the emission intensity vis-à-vis its GDP by 33% between 2005 and 2019, thus achieving the initial NDC target for 2030, 11 years ahead of the scheduled time. India has also achieved 40% of electric installed capacity through non fossil fuel sources, nine years ahead of the target for 2030. Between 2017 and 2023, India has added around 100 GW of installed electric capacity, of which around 80% is attributed to non-fossil fuel-based resources", The Union Minister added.

Green Investment in J&K

Planet earth is facing several challenges like global warming, climate change, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, and pollution. This is

more severe in the Himalayan region especially Jammu & Kashmir.

The best investment in J&K is to invest towards sustainable development. As PM Modi is already committed towards clean and green energy and massive budgetary allocations have been made in these sectors especially solar energy, wind energy, compressed biogas - CBG etc. I believe all these sectors have a huge scope in J&K as well as Ladakh. PM Modi must encourage investments in these sectors. Other sectors which will strengthen the green investment in J&K are sustainable agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, dairy, sheep and goat farming etc.

There is a great scope to invest in waste management and sustainable tourism as well. It will create job opportunities in different sectors such as clean energy, green transportation, and sustainable tourism. The growth of this sector will also increase the demand for green jobs and will create opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship in the sustainability sector. The sustainable agriculture or horticulture practices with least use of pesticides will promote soil health and reduce land degradation. This will also strengthen our biodiversity, wildlife and all our natural ecosystems which are right now under severe threat.

As per the draft Wind Power Policy of Govt, J&K has an installable wind energy potential of 5311 MW at 50m height and 5685 MW at 80m height but not even 5 MW of electricity is generated in J&K from wind. On the contrary, 10,000 MW of electricity is generated from wind in Gujarat and Tamilnadu. Similarly from Dal lake weeds, horticulture and agriculture waste large quantities of compressed biogas -CBG can be manufactured but this option has not been explored. Govt can seek huge investments in electric mobility, setting up eco lodges and setting up organic vegetable and fruit farms

Conclusion

Prime Minister Modi's slogans like One sun, One world, One grid; One earth, One family, One future has to be transformed into a reality. Infact, by doubling the budgetary allocation towards the solar energy sector and allocating huge funds for setting up compressed biogas plants or increasing electric mobility across India, the Govt has already started fulfilling its commitments.

At a time when Kashmir valley is losing its fertile agricultural land to non-farm activities and our streams are getting over-exploited with mining and some are getting choked with solid and liquid waste, I see a dark future for Kashmir. At this crucial juncture, PM Modi can resolve these issues to help Jammu & Kashmir's environment to breathe for many centuries to come.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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VIKSIT BHARAT Jammu and Kashmir's Stride Towards Economic Prosperity

KO Web Desk

As India embarks on its journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 under the visionary framework of Viksit Bharat, the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) stands as a shining example of progress and potential. Over the past few years, J&K has made significant strides in industrial growth, aligning itself with the nation's ambitious goals.

One of the most striking aspects of J&K's development story is the surge in industrial investment, showcasing a robust commitment to economic advancement. Proposals totaling 90,000 crore have flooded in, promising to not only inject vitality into the economy but also generate employment opportunities for over 4 lakh citizens. This influx of investment underscores the growing confidence of both domestic and international stakeholders in the region's economic prospects.

In the fiscal year 2022-23 alone, J&K realized investments worth 2153 crore, indicating a steady pace of economic development and a tangible impact on the ground. This steady flow of investments serves as a testament to the conducive business environment cultivated within the region.

A significant milestone in J&K's economic journey was the securing of its first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) project, marked by the introduction of the 'Mall of Srinagar' and two IT Towers. This landmark achievement attracted 500 crore in FDI, signaling international confidence in the region's economic potential and opening new avenues for



growth and collaboration.

Furthermore, the establishment of a Single Window System has streamlined administrative processes, offering over 170 services online and facilitating ease of doing business. This initiative not only simplifies bureaucratic hurdles but also underscores the government's commitment to fostering a business-friendly ecosystem.

The Micro, Small, and Medium

Enterprises (MSME) sector in J&K has emerged as a beacon of resilience and growth, experiencing a remarkable 54% increase in exports. This sector's exponential growth not only contributes to the region's economic prosperity but also highlights the entrepreneurial spirit and innovation thriving within J&K.

As Jammu and Kashmir charts its course towards economic prosperity, it stands shoulder to shoulder

with the nation in its quest for development by 2047. The concerted efforts and strategic initiatives undertaken in the realm of industrial growth serve as a testament to J&K's unwavering commitment to realizing the vision of a prosperous and vibrant India. With each milestone achieved, J&K paves the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for its people and the nation as a whole.

Empowering Communities

The Impact of PMAY In Jammu and Kashmir

KO Web Desk

by rural communities.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) stands as a beacon of hope for millions of low and moderate-income families across India, aiming to provide them with access to affordable housing. In the picturesque landscape of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the PMAY has emerged as a transformative force, ushering in a new era of security and dignity for its residents.

Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide

J&K, with its diverse population and unique blend of urban and rural communities, faces distinct challenges in housing provision. The PMAY addresses these challenges through its dual components: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY-G). By catering to both urban and rural populations, the scheme ensures inclusivity and equity in housing development.

Transformative Impact in Rural Areas

In the rural hinterlands of J&K, where access to basic amenities is often limited, the PMAY-G has been a game-changer. With a targeted approach, the scheme aims to uplift the living standards of the rural poor by providing them with pucca houses equipped with essential facilities like toilets, electricity, and clean drinking water.

The success stories emerging from villages across J&K bear testimony to the transformative impact of PMAY-G. From Kathua to Baramulla, families once grappling with the harsh realities of kutcha houses now find solace in sturdy pucca structures, shielded from the vagaries of weather. The scheme's convergence with other initiatives, such as the Saubhagya Scheme and Ujjwala Yojana, further enhances its effectiveness in addressing multifaceted challenges faced

Empowering Urban Dwellers

In urban centers like Srinagar and Jammu, where rapid urbanization often outpaces infrastructure development, PMAY-U plays a pivotal role in providing affordable housing solutions. By extending credit-linked subsidies to eligible beneficiaries, the scheme makes homeownership a reality for many who would otherwise struggle to afford it.

The testimonials of beneficiaries, like Mehnaz Akhtar and Ganesh Chander, underscore the profound impact of PMAY on their lives. For them, owning a home was once a distant dream, but thanks to the government's proactive measures, it has become a tangible reality. These narratives not only celebrate individual achievements but also highlight the collective triumph of communities empowered by government schemes.

Toward a Viksit Bharat

As J&K marches towards a brighter future, PMAY stands as a shining example of the government's commitment to inclusive growth and development. By addressing the fundamental need for shelter, the scheme lays the foundation for holistic progress, empowering individuals and communities to realize their full potential.

In conclusion, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has emerged as a catalyst for change in Jammu and Kashmir, providing a ray of hope to millions of marginalized families. Through its multifaceted approach, the scheme addresses the unique needs of both urban and rural populations, fostering inclusive development and empowering communities.

As we celebrate the achievements of PMAY, let us also reaffirm our commitment to building a Viksit Bharat, where every citizen has access to safe and affordable housing.

From Economic Revival to Social Empowerment, J&K Shines Bright

KO Web Desk

In a remarkable testament to resilience, innovation, and inclusive governance, the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has emerged as a beacon of progress and prosperity. With a comprehensive approach spanning economic revitalization, social empowerment, and infrastructural development, the region has undergone a transformative journey under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The successful conclusion of the G20 summit in Srinagar not only showcased the economic prowess of J&K but also dealt a resounding blow to terrorism, fostering a climate of peace and stability. The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra witnessed unprecedented participation, setting a new record and highlighting the enthusiasm of the populace towards economic growth and development.

Under the able leadership of PM Modi, initiatives like the Holistic Agriculture Development Program and the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme have ushered in a new era of agricultural prosperity. With a focus on innovation and sustainability, J&K is set to become a hub for agricultural excellence, with GI-tagged products like Sulai Honey and Bhaderwah Rajmah gaining international recognition.

The industrial revolution sweeping across the region has attracted substantial investments, paving the way for job creation and economic empowerment. With investment proposals exceeding Rs. 90,000 crores and the development of 46 new industrial estates, J&K is poised to emerge as a manufacturing powerhouse, contributing significantly to the 'Made in India' initiative.

The administration's commitment to grassroots democracy is exemplified by the establishment of a strong three-tier Panchayati Raj system, empowering local governments and strengthening grassroots governance. Initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana and the National Education Policy are revolutionizing the education sector, ensuring holistic development and global competitiveness of students.

Efforts to bridge the digital divide have led to a digital revolution, with over 1,000 public services now available online, promoting transparency and efficiency in governance. The successful implementation of the e-Shram portal and the Prime Minister's Shram



Yogi Maandhan Yojana are ensuring the welfare of workers in the unorganized sector, providing them with social security and dignity.

The dream of railway connectivity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is set to become a reality, with significant progress on projects like the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and the Akhnoor-Poonch road. The construction of tunnels, flyovers, and bypasses under the Prime Minister's Development Programme is enhancing connectivity and fostering economic growth across the region.

The Jal Jeevan Mission has ensured access to clean tap water for every household, earning J&K the distinction of 'High Achievers' at the national level. Infrastructural upgrades in the health sector, including the development of new AIIMS and State Cancer Institutes, are revolutionizing public health services, ensuring access to quality healthcare for all residents.

J&K's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty continue to attract tourists from around the globe, with a record influx of visitors in 2023. Initiatives like the granting of industry status to the tourism sector and the

International Film Festival of India are promoting J&K as a premier tourist destination and a hub for filmmaking.

The resettlement and welfare of minority communities, including Kashmiri Pandits and refugees from West Pakistan, are key priorities for the administration. Land ownership rights for refugees and initiatives like the Prime Minister's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana are empowering tribal communities and rural women, fostering socio-economic development and inclusive growth.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, under the guidance of Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, witnessed an unprecedented participation of almost 4 million people, setting a new milestone in public engagement and enthusiasm towards economic development. The administration's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and job creation has resulted in economic assistance totaling Rs. 1384 crores being provided to 94,680 young entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir. Merit-based recruitment processes and initiatives like the Holistic Agriculture De-

velopment Program have further bolstered the region's economic growth, generating employment opportunities for thousands of youth and bringing monumental changes to the lives of farmer families.

The ambitious plans for infrastructural development have transformed the landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, with significant progress witnessed in projects like the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and the Akhnoor-Poonch road. The construction of tunnels, flyovers, and bypasses is not only enhancing connectivity but also stimulating economic growth across the region. Moreover, initiatives like the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana have ensured rural connectivity, linking all rural settlements as per the 2011 census data, and laying the foundation for inclusive development.

The administration's focus on grassroots democracy has resulted in the establishment of a robust three-tier Panchayati Raj system, empowering local government institutions and strengthening grassroots governance. Initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana and the

National Education Policy are revolutionizing the education sector, ensuring access to quality education and skill development opportunities for students across Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, the digital revolution has streamlined governance processes, with over 1,000 public services now available online, promoting transparency and efficiency in service delivery.

Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty continue to captivate tourists from around the world, with initiatives like GI tagging for handicrafts and the International Film Festival of India further promoting the region as a premier tourist destination. The region's offbeat tourism destinations have witnessed a significant influx of visitors, contributing to the strengthening of the local economy and showcasing the diverse cultural fabric of Jammu and Kashmir.

The administration's commitment to the welfare of marginalized communities, including Kashmiri Pandits, refugees, and tribal communities, is evident in initiatives like the granting of land ownership rights and the implementation of welfare schemes like the Prime Minister's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana.

As Jammu and Kashmir embarks on a journey of progress and prosperity, it serves as a shining example of inclusive governance, economic resilience, and social empowerment. With a holistic approach encompassing economic revitalization, infrastructural development, and cultural promotion, the region is poised to realize its full potential and emerge as a model of growth and development for the nation. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, J&K is truly shining bright, illuminating the path towards a brighter, more prosperous future for all its residents.

With meticulous planning and strategic implementation, Jammu and Kashmir has embraced a new era of progress and prosperity. From economic revitalization to social empowerment, the region has witnessed remarkable transformations under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The successful conclusion of the G20 summit in Srinagar served as a global platform to showcase the economic strength and cultural richness of J&K, while also delivering a resounding message against terrorism and extremism.



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