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LG participates in 'shramdaan', says garbage-free cities a reality now

of Shikaras and participated in the cleanliness drive at Char Chinar.

At Golden Island in Dal Lake, the LG interacted with school students and encouraged them to become 'Swachhagrahi'.

SMC Mayor Junaid Mattu, LG's advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, chief secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, senior officials and eminent personalities from diverse fields participated in the shramdaan.

Several other civil society groups and organisations were also present.

Azad dispels 'rumours' about being next J&K LG

tourism potential of the region.

"Inflation is on the rise. It is true that inflation is not specific to India. Europe has the highest inflation but they have other means to tackle it. We are a poor state. Unemployment is on the rise. There are no jobs. Government is advertising posts but interviews are not held. Educated youth have no jobs and their parents have exhausted their savings on their education," he added.

"One Tulip Garden has provided livelihood to thousands of people. As CM, I had a plan to develop 10 to 12 tourist locations in each district of Jammu and Kashmir. I had plans of providing loans to people for setting up homestay facilities which could provide earning opportunities to them," he said.

Azad asked party leaders not to make personal attacks against opponents.

"I have said earlier also that we were subjected to a political fraud but why should I comment on someone's appearance?" he said.

He demanded the death penalty for those involved in running drug mafia in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Drug abuse has become a major problem. Many people have become millionaires by dealing in drugs. They should be hanged to death," he said.

In one year DPAP emerged as major, effective alternative political party: Azad

He said his return to regional politics was aimed at building Jammu and Kashmir as an epicentre of peace and prosperity.

He said he rejected many offers like the seat of Rajya Sabha and other portfolios only because he shares the concerns of common people in the Union Territory and vowed that all the socioeconomic issues will be addressed if he is elected to power

Azad said that while the people of Jammu and Kashmir remember his tenure as Chief Minister as golden era of development, if in upcoming elections he got the mandate again the speed of development activities will be further accelerated.

"This time not three shifts but in four shifts development works will be taking place. That will enhance job opportunities for both skilled and non skilled labourers. Those who are migrating from the UT in search of jobs will get opportunities to earn their livelihood at home," Azad said.

"We will not mislead people on fake promises and promise them sky and deliver nothing. We want to tell them truth and ensure whatever we speak is delivered on ground," he said.

Azad said that due to fake promises and emotional politics, the development issues had taken the back seat. "It is imperative to engage with the people and began a healthy politics instead of playing over emotions and securing power for personal gains. I believe it is my duty and responsibility to guide my people towards the path of peace, prosperity and development to ensure all coming generations have secure and safe future," he said.

The DPAP chairman said he will ensure all the people of J&K that he will defend their political and economic rights and will lead from the front whenever needed.

He said DPAP is not just a political party fighting to gain power but an ideology, belief and a mission to restore and secure the socioeconomic rights for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the belief and the trust of people in just one year has taken the party to new heights and it is in itself a record that in just 12 months DPAP is a household name.

On the Occasion Working president Congress from Bandipora Basharat Bohroo, Ghulam Rasool Ex Chairman MC Sopore joined DPAP.

Among others, who were present on the occasion, included Taj Mohiuddin Treasurer, G.M.Sarooir Vice Chairman, Ch Haroon Khatana Gen Secretary, Mohd Amin Bhatt Provincial President, Mohd Yousef Gorsi Chairman DDC, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nazami, Gulzar Wani Zonal President, Shoab Nabi Lone Distt president Bara-mulla, Spokesperson Adv Saleem Parray Shafiq Shabnam Provincial Gen Secretary, Bilal Peer Zonal President, Sujada Bashir Spokesperson, Distt President Amir Bhatt, Khalid Tufail, Haji Musadiq, Arif Maqbool, Er Nazir Ah Yatoo, Muneer Ah Mir, Gn Nabi Palpuri, Ayoub Thakur, Altaf Dar, Waseem Yaqoob, Asghar Khan, Khurshid Bhatt, Gh Nabi Parwana, Firdous Nabi, Aqib Khanday, Mushtaq Khanday, Zameer Ahmed, Amir Rasool, Shubi Jaan, Bilal Khan, Ghulam Mohiuddin Bhatt, Javed Iqbal, Sajjad Ahmed and others.

Sinha greets people on Gandhi Jayanti

and ideals and his philosophy of Non-violence and Peace is relevant today as never before," the LG added.

"On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, let us take a pledge to follow the path of peace, truth and non-violence, and strive to remove social inequities in our society," he said.

Northern Command conducts Army Air Defence Conclave

Army Air Defence, Indian Air Force, and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) brainstormed and reviewed joint strategies for a comprehensive approach to counter evolving air threats and ensure national security," posted Northern Army Command on X.

Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi witnessed the equipment display and interacted with the participants.

The conclave was held in the backdrop of the evolving air threats in the region, including the increasing use of drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by adversaries.

The participants discussed a range of issues related to air defence, including threat assessment, sensor integration, weapon system integration, and command and control.

Govt suspends DSP Adil, ASP Gowhar

218 and 221 of IPC at Nowgam police station.

The order stated that he shall remain attached with Zonal Police Headquarters, Kashmir, during the period of suspension.

In a separate order, the home department ordered suspension of additional superintendent of police, Budgam, Gowhar Ahmad Khan with immediate effect.

"Pending enquiry into his conduct, Gowhar Ahmad Khan, ASP, Budgam, is hereby placed under suspension with im-

mediate effect. It is further ordered that the officer shall remain attached with Zonal Police Headquarters, Kashmir, during the period of suspension," reads the order.

GST collection rises 10 pc to over Rs 1.62 lakh cr

11,613 crore (including Rs 881 crore collected on import of goods).

The revenue in September 2023 was 10 per cent higher than the GST revenue of Rs 1.47 lakh crore in the same month last year, the finance ministry said in a statement.

"During the month, revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 14 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. It is for the fourth time that gross GST collection has crossed Rs 1.60 lakh crore mark in FY 2023-24," it said.

Commercial LPG cylinder price hiked by Rs 209

or 5.1 per cent, in the national capital to Rs 118,199.17 per kl from Rs 112,419.33, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase comes on back of the steepest-ever 14.1 per cent increase (Rs 13,911.07 per kl) effected on September 1, and a 8.5 per cent or Rs 7,728.38 per kl increase on August 1.

The fourth straight increase in prices of jet fuel, which makes up for 40 per cent of an airline's operating cost, will increase the burden on already financially strained airlines.

On July 1, ATF price had gone up by 1.65 per cent or Rs 1,476.79 per kl. In four increases, ATF prices have gone up by a record Rs 29,391.08 per kl.

Alongside, oil firms raised the price of commercial LPG – the one used in establishments such as hotels and restaurants – by Rs 209.

A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder will now cost Rs 1,731.50 in the national capital and Rs 1,684 in Mumbai.

The increase reserves most of the Rs 157.5 per cylinder cut in commercial LPG price effected on September 1 and Rs 100 cut effected from August 1.

Saudi contract price (CP), the benchmark used for pricing of LPG, has increased following a firming up trend in crude oil prices witnessed in last few weeks over supply concerns.

Oil companies, which had on August 30, cut domestic LPG rates by Rs 200 per 14.2-kg cylinder, did not change the price of 14.2-kg cylinders.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise cooking gas and ATF prices on the 1st of every month based on the average international price in the previous month.

Petrol and diesel prices continued to remain on freeze for a record 18th month in a row. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62 per litre.

State-owned fuel retailers are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily, based on a 15-day rolling average of benchmark international fuel prices, but they haven't done that since April 6, 2022.

Prices were last changed on May 22, when the government cut excise duty to give relief to consumers from a spike in retail rates that followed a surge in international oil prices.

Modi pitches for blending 'well-being & health' in cleanliness drive

Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, more than 9.20 lakh sites across the country have been adopted for the mega drive.

In a recent episode of "Mann Ki Baat", Modi appealed for "one hour of shramdaan (or voluntary labour) for swachhata" on October 1 by all citizens and said it would be a "Swachhanjali" to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his birth anniversary.

Wielding a broom, Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in a cleanliness drive in Ahmedabad. BJP chief JP Nadda also took part in the drive in Delhi's Jhandewalan area.

Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath participated in cleanliness drive 'Swachhata Pakhwada' in Sitapur.

Taking part in the "shramdaan (voluntary labour)", Union Power Minister RK Singh told reporters, "We (Centre) have taken a resolve to make the country clean. It is a big challenge but we will do it."

Union ministers and BJP leaders across the country grabbed brooms and took part in the 'Swachhata hi Seva' campaign.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel participated in a cleanliness drive in Ahmedabad. BJP MP Dinesh Sharma, who also took part in a clean drive, said "swachhata (cleanliness) has become the face of the country."

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari took volunteered for a cleanliness activity in New Delhi.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi said it held cleanliness drives at 500 locations across the national capital.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, urging people to join the drive, said in a post on X, "Come, let's create a new history! At 10 am today, let's volunteer for an hour, paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi through cleanliness."

"Scan or visit local cleanliness programmes to join. Dream of a #GarbageFreeIndia Together, we'll make it happen," he said.

Cricketers such as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma also appealed to the people to come together for "Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" and join the largest citizen-led movement to strengthen the resolve towards cleanliness.

BJP MP Meenakashi Lekhi said, "We hope that people stay connected with the Swachh Bharat Mission that was launched by PM Modi."

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who took part in a 'Swachhata Pakhwada' in Lucknow, said such events are being organised across the country on the prime minister's appeal. He appealed to everyone to participate in the drive.

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said NGOs, market associations, self-help groups, faith groups, trade bodies and private sector companies, among others, volunteered for the "shramdaan" in more than 22,000 market areas, 10,000 water bodies, 7,000 bus stands/toll plazas, 1,000 gaushalas, 300 zoos and wildlife areas and various other locations in rural and urban India.

Among the states, Uttar Pradesh adopted more than a lakh sites for cleanliness drives while Maharashtra will conduct the programme in over 62,000 locations, including the beaches, religious places, schools, colleges and water bodies.

In Telangana, temples of historical significance were cleaned during the drive.

Rs 300 cr worth cocaine seized at Ramban, 2 held

Banihal on Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

"At about 10.30 pm on Saturday, Ramban police led by SSP Mohita Sharma intercepted one vehicle at Railway Chowk, Banihal, coming from Kashmir towards Jammu and recovered about 30 kg cocaine, having an approximate value of Rs 300 cr in the international black market and apprehended two persons," officials said.

The successful recovery resulted in the busting of a narco-terror module, the officials added.

A case under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered at Ban-

ihal police station and investigation had been set into motion, officials said.

"This operation was developed on intelligence generated by SSP, Ramban, and her team who have been continuously waging war against drug smugglers and peddlers," officials said.

"A total of 104 cases (under NDPS Act) have been registered in 2022 while 36 such cases were registered in 2023 till date following the recovery of 2,500 kg poppy straw, 10 kg charas, 200 grams heroin and 200 tablets," officials said, adding that 158 accused had been arrested and three detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in NDPS Act.

The arrested smugglers were identified as Sarabjeet Singh of Jalandhar and Honey Basra of Phagwara in Punjab.

While three kilograms of the narcotic was found hidden on the top of the vehicle, 27 kg was recovered from their luggage, officials said.

Officials said the smugglers had tried to escape when signalled to stop and were chased and subsequently arrested.

The high-grade cocaine, smuggled from across the border, was being taken to Punjab, the officials added.

Indo-US relationship will go to Moon like Chandrayaan, maybe even beyond: EAM

the support of the US.

"As the host, when things go well, the host always gets the credit. It's reasonable. But, the G20 could not have come together if all the members of the G20 did not work for its success," he said.

"The contribution, the support and the understanding that we got from the US to make a successful G20, I think that is something I would certainly like to recognise in public in Washington DC," Jaishankar said amidst applause from Indian-Americans.

"So, it may have been our success in a literal way, but I think it was the G20 (nations) success. To me, it was also a success of the India-US partnership...please keep giving this partnership the support it needs, the support it deserves and the support it expects. And I can promise you that this relationship, like the Chandrayaan, will go to the moon, maybe even beyond," he said.

Jaishankar said that the human bond between the two countries makes the bilateral relationship unique.

"Countries do business with each other. Countries do politics with each other. They have military ties, they do exercises, and they have cultural exchanges. But when two countries have that deep human bonding, that's a completely different ballgame. That is today the defining characteristic of our relationship," he said.

He said the people remember Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the US in 1985, Manmohan Singh's visit in 2005 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's several visits.

"But I have to say that this one (PM Modi's recent state visit) was different, it was different in optics, and if you ask me what has changed, I would say India and the US earlier used to deal with each other and now they work with each other," he said.

He recalled the recent collaborative endeavours between the two countries, all starting with the letter 'I'. These initiatives include the India-Middle East Economic Corridor, I2U2 (India, Israel, the US, the UAE), Indo-Pacific cooperation, and the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET).

"Alphabet 'I' is very good for the US, certainly," Jaishankar added.

He said the contribution of the diaspora in building the bilateral relationship is something fantastic.

"There are no words that can capture it. It is on that foundation that today we are looking ahead for...A new hope on the horizon...So, I think when we look at the horizon, we see fantastic possibilities out there, and it's the community which is going to deliver on that," Jaishankar said.

He recalled that when PM Pandit Jawar Lal Nehru came to the US in 1949, there were 3,000 Indian Americans, when PM Indira Gandhi came in 1966, there were 30,000 Indian Americans, when PM Rajiv Gandhi came in 1985 there were 3,00,000 Indian Americans, when PM Modi came there were more than 3 million Indian Americans and it's grown to almost 5 million.

"If there is something unique about our relationship it is the human bond that we have. The role, responsibilities and commitment of the diaspora to the India-US relationship is commendable," he added.

The minister said the India of today is different from what it was earlier.

"I want to share with you that this is truly a different India for which I speak. It is an India, which as you heard from others, is capable of the Chandrayaan-3 mission," he said. "It is an India which was able to pull off the most spectacular G20 and prove those who said that we will not be able to get 20, I don't want to say quarrelling nations but 20 countries with different positions, to come to the table together," he said.

This is an India, which showed during the Covid pandemic that it could not only look after its people but could extend its hand to more than a hundred countries across the world, he said.

"I want to say in many ways, if there is a spring in our step, a confidence in our voice, a sort of squaring of our shoulders, there are very good reasons for it," he said.

"Because it is built today on 10 years of hard work...There are domains where our capacities have doubled or tripled," he said.

"The new India is an India of Chandrayaan, it's an India of CoWIN, it's an India of 5G. This is really what we are capable of, and it is this India today that the United States also sees. It is this India with which the United States actually has an appetite for working, much more closely," said Jaishankar.

Remembering Mahatma Gandhi ahead of his birth anniversary, he said calling him an extraordinary man would be the understatement of this century.

"He said so many things so tellingly. But at the end of the day, if we ask ourselves what was the message, the mes-

sage at the end of the day was about doing the right thing, about doing the decent thing, and about leaving no one behind," he said.

"Gandhi's message is very complicated, but its essence is very, very simple," Jaishankar said.

Major cache of arms, ammunition recovered near LoC

curity forces to maintain peace and security in the region," the officials added.

"A meticulously planned operation commenced in the suspected region, marked by its challenging terrain and the ever-present threat posed by anti-national elements. The collaborative effort of Army and Kupwara police was executed with precision and dedication, reflecting their determination to safeguard the nation," officials said.

During searches, forces came across a natural cave. Its search led them to the recovery of a large quantity of arms and ammunition illicitly transported across the Line of Control (LoC), the officials added.

The recovery included one AK rifle along with four magazines, two UBGLs, two hand grenades, 26 UBGL grenades, 2,088 AK rounds, one silencer, 900 grams of PEK, 27 detonators, 19 commercial detonators with wire, two booster charges, two explosive devices, 10 modified mechanism devices, four 9V batteries and one ICom radio set.

"The recovery is a testament to the vigilance and proactive stance adopted by Army and police in curbing the inflow of arms and ammunition into the hands of terrorists operating in the region. It highlights the commitment of our forces to thwart any attempt to disrupt peace and security in the valley," officials said.

"The recovery operation demonstrates the dedication of our security forces to protect our borders and ensure the safety of our citizens. Their relentless efforts in intelligence gathering and swift action have undoubtedly made our nation more secure," the officials added.

The hideout was later destroyed by the forces.

Hafiz Saeed's close associate gunned down in Karachi

his routine evening walk in Karachi.

Sources said that Pakistani agencies are making significant efforts to portray both Zia ur Rehman and Mufti Qaiser as religious clerics with no connections to Hafiz Saeed and his LeT.

Previously, another individual linked to the ISI, Paramjit Singh Panjwar, who is the leader of the Khalistan Commando Force, was also killed.

In February, Hizbul Mujahideen suffered a blow when its launch commander and a close associate of Syed Salahuddin, Bashir Peer, was killed in Rawalpindi by unknown assailants near the ISI headquarters and the military garrison.

He was shot at close range and succumbed to his injuries on the spot.

Following these recent killings, Pakistan's ISI has relocated several of its "assets" to secure locations, causing unease within the country's military-industrial complex.

Approximately a dozen of these individuals have been moved to designated "safe houses" by the ISI.

The need for caution in safeguarding these assets became even more apparent due to the earlier killings of two additional Lashkar operatives: Abu Qasim Kashmiri in Rawalkot and Qari Khurram Shehzad in Nazimabad in September.

Rahman, a suspected terrorist associated with LeT, was reportedly killed on September 12, with local police discovering 11 cartridges, some of which were of 9mm caliber.

He had been operating as an administrator at Jamia Abu Bakar, a seminary used as a front for his terrorist activities.

The Pakistan Police labeled the murder as a 'terrorist attack,' suggesting the involvement of homegrown "militants." Additionally, investigators are exploring the possibility of gang rivalry as one of the potential motives for the assassination. Rahman's killing follows a series of attacks on religious preachers in Karachi, all linked to terror groups through the ISI, and involved in radicalising and mobilising youths towards India.

Kavinder leads Swachhata Abhiyan cleanliness drive in Jammu Cantonment area

tions to maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the city. This gesture of appreciation was followed by a tree plantation drive in the children's park, graced by the presence of defence officers. Subsequently, a thorough cleanliness drive was initiated to further enhance the overall sanitation of the area.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta highlighted the importance of Swachhata Abhiyan and emphasised the crucial role played by sanitation workers, commending their unwavering dedication and hard work in ensuring the city's cleanliness.

He urged people to embrace cleanliness as an ongoing commitment rather than a one-day event. He appealed to everyone to incorporate cleanliness into their daily routines and make it a top priority, not only within their homes but also in their surroundings, promoting a clean and green environment.

Gupta reiterated the unwavering commitment of the Modi-led central government to the welfare of the common people and urged public to join hands in realising the vision of a clean and green nation. He recalled the launch of mega Swachhata Abhiyan across the nation by PM Modi a few years ago.

He encouraged citizens to actively support the PM's vision for a clean and green nation.

Those who participated in the cleanliness drive included Vinay Gupta, Narinder Koki, cantonment's vice-chairman Bharat Bhushan, principal director, defence estates, Anuj Sharma, senior additional director general Meena Bali-mane Sharma, deputy director, defence estates, Abhijit Sanap, officiating defence estates officer, Jammu, Irfan Hafiz, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Cantonment, Akhil Bihari, Dr Gurbinder Singh, Dr Jyoti, Dr Shweta, Dr Anjana, Onkar, Surinder, Safayai, Jasbir, Dushant, Rakesh, Ankush, Varun Sharma & Naresh Kumar.

Doda CEO President, other employees organise Swachhata Rally in Doda

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
DODA, OCT 01

Today, President Sh. Ved Prakash Gupta, Councillors, Executive Officer Sh Yousuf-Ul Umar MC Doda, and other employees, along with sanitation workers, initiated a Swachhata Rally from the Town Hall. Students actively participated, and the public joined along the way.

The Rally reached the Tehsildar office, where Tehsildar Smt. Afsha Afreen joined. DSP and SHO Doda welcomed the rally, and offi-



cers at the police station also participated in Shramdaan. EO MC Doda delivered a lecture on Swachhata

at the end, boosting enthusiasm among students who then chanted slogans for Swachhata Hi Seva. Later,

Govt. Boys HSS Doda took pledges for Shramdaan for Swachhata, joined by students from other schools.