



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to huge crowd at Palli Gram Panchayat in Samba district on Sunday. Also seen are Union Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh, Union MoS in PMO Dr Jitendra Singh and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. More pics on page no. 3.

‘Elimination of distances of heart, resources our big priority’

PM reaches out to youth, says they will not inherit problems faced by their elders

Sanjeev Pargal

PALLI (SAMBA), Apr 24: On his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A and conversion of erstwhile State into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today reached out to the youth saying they will not inherit the problems faced by their parents and grandparents.

He said distances whether of hearts, languages, customs or of resources, their

***Watch video on
www.excelsiornews.com**

elimination is our very big priority today.

Modi was addressing a huge gathering at Palli Panchayat here, about 17 kilometres from Jammu, in Samba district, on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day.

Modi inaugurated and laid foundation

Modi launches Rs 20,000 cr worth projects in J&K from Palli

stones of several projects worth around Rs 20,000 crore for the Union Territory. He also met a business delegation of

Palli becomes 1st carbon-neutral Panchayat

The nondescript hamlet of Palli in Samba district of Jammu region today became the country’s first ‘carbon-neutral Panchayat’ with Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicating

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

United Arab Emirates (UAE) as industrial investments in Jammu and Kashmir reached to the tune of around Rs 38,000 crore. The investments are expected to touch Rs 70,000 crore in next six months.

UT presenting new example in development, democracy

“The youth of the Valley, your father and mother, your dada and dadi, your nana and nani, had lived a

Sidelights

* The audience, who had started reaching venue of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s rally at Palli Panchayat in Samba district as early as 6 am, were left disappointed as they could not hear the speech of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Union

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

life of trouble (museebat). My youth, you will not live such a life of trouble. I assure this,” Modi said in a message to the Kashmiri youth.

He said that youth of Jammu and

Kashmir should trust his word, and highlighted the peace and development initiatives taken by the Government in the past

Sea of humanity turns up at village

A sea of humanity turned up to hear Prime Minister Narendra Modi here in his first public appearance in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370 giving special status to

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

few years.

“Projects worth Rs 20,000 crore related to connectivity and electricity have been inaugurated here today. In a bid to

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

Palli becomes 1st carbon-neutral Panchayat

to the nation a 500 kilowatt solar plant, installed in a record time of nearly three weeks.

The Prime Minister said that Palli has shown the way to the country by becoming carbon neutral.

“With the inauguration of a 500 KW solar power plant at Palli, it is moving towards becoming the country’s first Panchayat to become carbon-neutral ...The people of Palli have demonstrated what ‘Sabka prayas’ can do,” Modi said.

“People of Palli have helped in the project. They have also provided food to people engaged in the project,” he said.

All 1,500 solar panels put up in a total area of 6,408 square metres will provide clean electricity to 340 houses in the model Panchayat under the Central Government’s ‘Gram Ujya Swaraj’ programme, officials said.

“It is a red-letter day for us. With the blessings of Narendra Modi, the village has entered into the history of India as the first carbon-neutral solar village. We thank the Prime Minister for choosing this hamlet across the country,” Palli villager Gurdeep Singh said.

From the macadamized roads to the recently launched electric bus service, the village located just 17 km from the winter capital Jammu is witnessing a major transformation

Sea of humanity turns up at village

the erstwhile State and its bifurcation into two Union Territories in August 2019.

Though Modi visited border areas of Rajouri district of Jammu region to celebrate Diwali with Army troops twice on October 27, 2019 and November 3, 2021, his visit to Palli Panchayat, 17 kilometres from Jammu, on the occasion of the National Panchayati Raj Day was marked with massive sloganeering in his support by enthusiastic participants.

The organizers had made arrangements for over one lakh people at the sprawling fields to accommodate the people who turned up in large numbers since early morning from all parts of the Union Territory. Thousands of Panchs, Sarpanchs, Block and District Development Council members and members of Urban Local Bodies from Kashmir also attended the event.

Both Mayors, Chander Mohan Gupta (Jammu) and Junaid Azim Mattu (Srinagar), along with senior BJP leaders including UT president Ravinder Raina, former ministers and legislators were also among the audience.

A group of Pahari-speaking people were seen chanting slogans in support of the demand for Scheduled Tribe status, while many youngsters were on their tenterhooks throughout chanting “Modi Modi”.

“This is the love of the people from all sections of the society

with an upgraded Panchayat Ghar, renovated Government high school building, a new pond and improved playgrounds and electric bus ride.

Palli’s Sarpanch Ravinder Sharma, who interacted with the Prime Minister, told him that village has LED bulbs, solar cookers and solar stoves.

Asked by the Prime Minister whether the village has solar pumps for irrigation of farmlands, Sharma said that 10 such pumps have been installed and 40 more will be installed in the next phase.

Prime Minister asked the villagers to celebrate the birthday of their hamlet after fixing a date for it.

“You should always celebrate the birthday of the village. All people who belong to the village and are living should be called back to participate in the celebrations,” Modi said.

Sharma said that April 24 is the Palli village’s formation day and they will celebrate its birthday.

The Prime Minister suggested to villagers to go for organic farming which will be beneficial for them.

The solar project was completed at a cost of Rs 2.75 crore in a record time, officials said. The electricity generated will be distributed to the village, having a daily requirement of 2,000 units, through the local power grid station.

for their Prime Minister... the people love Modi from the core of their heart and have turned up in large numbers to welcome him,” Raina said.

Naseema, a BJP’s Pahari activist from Tangdhar in North Kashmir’s Kupwara district said they are hopeful of getting the Scheduled Tribe status under the Modi Government along with early construction of the Sadna tunnel to facilitate round-the-year traffic to the border town

“We also want the Government to turn border villages into model villages. The roads on the other side of the border are in good condition compared to our roads...a message needs to be conveyed to Pakistan by constructing better roads and providing other facilities,” Sartaj, a Panch from Tangdhar said.

DDC Poonch member Choudhary Afzal Gani said it is a proud moment for the people of J&K that Prime Minister has chosen J&K for the observance of the National Panchayati Raj Day but the Government needs to do more for full empowerment of the Panchayati Raj Institutions otherwise the dream of grassroots democracy cannot be fulfilled.

Ashok Kumar Parihar, another DDC member from Drabshalla in Kishtwar district, said the Prime Minister is well aware of the issues and problems of J&K and “we are hopeful that he will take J&K to new heights of development as promised by him.”

‘Post Aug 2019, golden period for J&K’

Security forces engaged in finishing terror, says LG

Excelsior Correspondent

PALLI (SAMBA), Apr 24: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said today that security forces are engaged in destroying terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and this is the first Government which doesn’t believe in buying peace but will establish peace in the Union Territory.

Addressing the gathering here in Samba district in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sinha lauded Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army and other security forces for the work being done by them.

“This is the first Government which doesn’t believe in buying but establishing peace. Our security forces are engaged in destroying terror ecosystem in J&K,” Sinha said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir

was dreaming of ‘Ek Vidhaan, Ek Nishaan’ for last 70 years which was fulfilled by the Prime Minister who made 1.20 crore people of J&K as partner of real development in the UT.

Describing “post August 2019” as “golden period of Jammu and Kashmir”, Sinha said now there is no discrimination with anyone and listed series of measures taken by the Government for welfare of the people and boost development works.

“During last 32 months, Jammu and Kashmir has been marching towards new era because of the commitment of the Prime Minister to take it to new heights of development,” he added.

***Watch video on
www.excelsiornews.com**

Sinha said during last six

months, 80 lakh tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir breaking record of last 15 years.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir is not only marching ahead but competing with developed States of the country though once it used to be far behind in different rankings. He attributed this progress to reforms introduced in J&K post August 5, 2019 (when the Central Government had scrapped special status of erstwhile State and bifurcated it into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh).

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi for establishing three-tier Panchayati Raj System in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time in 70 years, Sinha said J&K had Rs 5136 crore Capex budget in 2020-21 which went up to Rs 12,600 crore in 2021-22 and it has now

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

Security forces engaged in finishing terror, says LG

further been raised to Rs 22,126 crore for districts for this year i.e. 2022-23.

“Credit for all this goes to the Prime Minister,” he said.

This has also been a golden period for industrial development in the Union Territory after the Prime Minister announced Rs 28,400 crore worth Industrial Development Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

“During last 70 years, Jammu and Kashmir received total investments in private sector to the tune of Rs 15,000 crore while during last just one year it got Rs 52,155 crore worth industrial investments,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

In the next six months, the investments are likely to cross Rs 70,000 crore which will generate 5-6 lakh jobs.

Sinha said under the leadership of Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir is marching toward development.

“While in 2018-19, 9229 projects were completed at the cost of Rs 67,000 crore, in 2020-21, the Government completed 21943 projects by spending Rs 4,000 crore less i.e. Rs 63,000 crore. In 2021-22 financial year, 51,891 works have been executed with 20-25 percent less expenditure,” he said.

He said not only the

Government has increased five times speed of works but has also made system accountable and transparent in such a manner that even a person sitting in the villages can watch them on his mobile telephone.

“Presently, we are spending Rs one lakh crore on road and tunnel infrastructure. Earlier, 1500 kilometre roads were constructed in an year but the figure has now gone up to 3200 kilometres,” Sinha said.

Similarly, he added, prior to 2019, 2000 kilometres road were blacktopped in a year. However, during last financial year, 6625 kilometres road length was macadamized.

In 2017, Jammu and Kashmir figured at 11th place in Pardhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana while presently it is at Number 3 in the entire country, the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also referred to construction of two near Airport terminals in Jammu and Srinagar.

“On an average, 105 flights are operating daily from Srinagar airport while last month, 1346 record flights operated from Jammu Airport,” Sinha said.

He added that 12,000 jobs have been given in last one year in most transparent manner while process for selection of 9278 more has been completed.