

Mehbooba dedicates Bikram Chowk flyover to people

***Flags traffic, solid waste management as challenges to admn**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 6: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti inaugurated the 1.5 Kilometre long Bikram Chowk to Women's College flyover in the winter capital here today.

Built at a cost of Rs. 77.54 crore, the flyover has been constructed by Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) and it would ease the heavy traffic movement in the area particularly towards airport, Gandhi Nagar and other city areas.

Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh; Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta; Minister for Forests, Choudhary Lal Singh; Member Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma; MLA, Rajesh Gupta; senior officers of divisional administration and ERA were present on the occasion.

After the inauguration, the Chief Minister drove through the entire stretch of the flyover and inspected the works.

Addressing a gathering after the inauguration, Mehbooba Mufti said the need for giving the heavy traffic in the city a vent was earnestly felt and hoped with the operationalisation of the flyover the problem of



Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti inaugurating flyover in Jammu on Saturday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

developmental process in the province by creating an atmosphere of hate.

Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh in his address said the commitment and dedication with which the project has been concluded is a reflection of the Coalition Government towards the developmental needs of the State. He said the Government is keen to develop all the regions of the State on equal footing.

Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta; Member Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA, Rajesh Gupta also spoke on the occasion.

ments which have the potential of attracting heritage lovers to the city and added her Government is working towards that.

Complimenting the people of Jammu for having maintained communal harmony and brotherhood despite provocations, the Chief Minister said nobody would be allowed to disturb the peaceful atmosphere and mischief mongers would be dealt with sternly. She said whosoever takes law in own hands would be dealt with appropriately and cautioned people against nefarious designs of some negative elements who want to derail the

developmental process in the province by creating an atmosphere of hate.

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traffic congestion would be arrested by a great measure.

The Chief Minister described traffic congestion and solid waste management as the two major challenges to civic administration in the State. She said with the addition of more vehicles on roads, issues of parking, routes and road management are becoming more pressing for civic authorities with each passing year.

Mehbooba Mufti advised the concerned departments to adopt a holistic and futuristic policy for traffic management which would accommodate the needs of coming times as well. She hoped with the proper execution of Rs. 80,000 crore Prime Minister's Development Plan, these issues would completely be addressed in the State.

The Chief Minister said with the completion of parking lots in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar the traffic congestion would be arrested by a great measure. She directed proper registration and rehabilitation of the vendors on city roads and providing them alternative spots to clear the pavements and footpaths.

Mehbooba Mufti said many other big projects are in the pipeline for completion in the winter capital. She said the city has a good treasure of forts and monu-

Modi most powerful leader, only he can bring J&K out of crisis: CM

Asserting that Kashmir problem has not developed overnight but was there for past 70 years, Mehbooba, however, said the situation aggravated as the result of pent up anger due to failure of the UPA Government to continue with the policy started by the previous NDA Government headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Jammu and Kashmir during her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's rule between 2002 to 2005.

Giving credit to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed for starting the "chapter of peace" in Jammu and Kashmir in 2002, the Chief Minister said both of them tried their best to bring Kashmir out of this unfortunate situation and were successful to a large extent in shortest period of time.

"There was ceasefire (along Indo-Pak border) during Vajpayee's rule. There were talks with then Deputy Prime Minister, Incharge Home L K Advani (in Kashmir). There was beginning of the process of opening (cross -LoC) roads," she recalled and said even militancy declined during that period and there was peace on the borders.

"These were not small developments. But unfortunately Mufti was out of the Government and Vajpayee ji left, and the process came to grinding halt," the PDP leader said and charged that UPA regime at the Centre and the State Government did not carry forward the process thinking "everything is peaceful and there is no need to do anything further".

"There was pent-up lava. It started to come out when the youths were out on the streets in 2008 and then 2009 and 2010. This lava has now spread to the streets and we are forced to face this situation in the form of volcano," the Chief Minister said.

She added that though her Government was trying to improve the situation in Kashmir, there are some forces which do not want it (return of peace).

"Mufti sahib, who had seen a dream, shook hands with the Prime Minister of our country Narendra Modi, who has got the mandate of the people," she said.

Mehbooba said nobody will

be allowed to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the State.

Those who take the law into their own hands will be dealt with appropriately, she said.

Without naming bovine smugglers or cow vigilante groups, she called upon the IGP Jammu, who was present at the function, to take action against the both.

She cautioned people against the nefarious designs of some "negative" elements, who want to derail the developmental process in the State by creating an "atmosphere of hate".

Complimenting the people of Jammu for maintaining communal harmony and brotherhood despite "provocation", the Chief Minister said nobody will be allowed to disturb the peaceful atmosphere, and mischief-mongers will be dealt with sternly.

Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh said the Government will take every step to ensure security and peace in the Valley.

"Our focus (on the State) has not changed. Kashmir has been facing challenges not because of the Coalition Government. The situation in the Valley has been there for long," he told reporters after inauguration of Fly Over project.

Singh was reacting to the Centre's directive to the State Government yesterday to confiscate the equipment of cable operators allegedly airing unauthorized Pakistani channels in the State and take action against them.

On a video showing two alleged Special Police Officers (SPOs) being tortured by militants, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "Pakistan is playing a game in Kashmir. Terrorists are playing a game. Kashmiris are being terrorized. But the people of the State want peace and the tourism season to be normal."

The BJP leader said the Government was doing its best for the development of the State.

"The Rs 70 crore-flyover in Jammu is the biggest gift the State can receive. From parking lots to ring roads, the Government is doing its best for the development of the State. Our main focus is to bring peace and security to the people of the state," he said.