

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Modi's personal efforts...

anniversary of Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, a leader from J&K who worked for the total integration of the state with India along with Mookerjee by raising the slogan of 'ek nishan, ek vidhan and ek-pradhan'," the home minister said.

"On August 5, 2019, the Modi-led government took a historic decision and revoked the discriminatory article 370 paving the way for the development of lakhs of people of J&K who have faced injustice over the years," he said.

"It was our dream, the dream of Mookerjee and Dogra and we are happy that this dream was fulfilled in our lifetime and it was only possible because of Modi," Shah said.

He said the credit for setting up grassroots level democracy in J&K for the first time in 70 years goes to the BJP which conducted a successful panchayat, block and district development council polls along with urban local body elections.

"Anyone can become a minister and even the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir. The pahadis were being used as a vote bank but not given due representation. Now even their representative stands a chance to be the chief minister," he said.

He said that with the revocation of the controversial article, the people who have suffered immensely and faced injustice have been given their due rights.

"Now the Sikhs, Mahajans, Khatris and others have got the right to buy and sell land. West Pakistani refugees, Gorkhas, Valmikis got the citizenship rights and various other communities including Gujjars and Pahadis who were deprived of reservation rights and benefits of forests act got the benefits guaranteed by the constitution," he said, adding the women also got their rights back with the abrogation of the Article 370.

Various central laws were implemented in Jammu and Kashmir as the focus of the BJP government is to ensure development and prosperity of every citizen of the union Territory, he said. "Efforts are on to ensure gas connection to every household along with electricity and water tap connections."

"The new phase of development under the leadership of Modi has started in J&K but attempts are being made by mimical elements to create a hurdle. I have come here to assure you that nobody will be able to create a hurdle and disrupt peace and development," Shah said.

In an apparent reference to the killing of 11 civilians by terrorists in targeted attacks across Kashmir this month, he said some people are raising questions about the prevailing security situation in the UT but "I want to answer them with facts and figures".

"Between 2004 and 2014, a total of 2,081 civilians were killed with average deaths of 239 annually. From 2014 till September this year, 239 civilians unfortunately lost their lives which accounted 30 deaths per year. The figures are down but we are not satisfied," the home minister said, adding "We want to build such an atmosphere that not a single person loses his life and the terrorism is wiped out."

He said a new phase of development has started which cannot be stopped by anyone.

"Jammu and Kashmir is placed in the heart of the prime minister and under his government, there will be no injustice, discrimination or appeasement, he said.

Shah said the time for sidelining the people of Jammu has come to an end and now both Kashmir and Jammu will be developed together.

"Jammu has borne the brunt of discrimination for years together. Now there will be no injustice with anyone and both Kashmir and Jammu will be developed together and the developed J&K will strengthen India, he said.

Listing various steps taken by the government since the formation of the BJP government at the Centre, he said five lakh jobs are being created in Jammu and Kashmir, while 25,000 people have been provided government jobs in the past two years through service selection board.

"The three families used to say who will come and invest in J&K.... Till date, we have got an investment of Rs 7,000 crore in Jammu and Rs 5,000 crore in Kashmir. And when we came out with a new industrial policy, the three families who have deprived the people of J&K of various benefits, started raising questions.

"We have had Rs 12,000 crore investment due to the efforts of the prime minister and are looking forward to an investment of Rs 51,000 crore by the end of 2022, he said.

Targeting the three families, he said they were asking what the government is going to give to J&K. "We have a long list of what we have given to J&K and the people know it very well but the people of J&K are demanding an answer from them as to what they have given to J&K despite ruling the erstwhile state for the past seven decades. Have you thought of anyone else other than your own family members.

He said soon after Modi became the prime minister, he released a Rs 55,000-crore financial package, of which Rs 33,000 crore has already been spent on various developmental projects.

Shah referred to the opening of medical colleges, setting up of nursing training institutions and AIIMS and said 500 students used to complete their MBBS degrees earlier but now 2,000 students are pursuing medical courses in J&K with the sanctioning of seven new colleges.

Referring to the inauguration of the new campus of IIT-Jammu, the home minister said he was surprised to witness such a beautiful campus. He lauded the efforts of the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who was also present there along with Union minister Jitendra Singh and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

Shah said he talked to the directors of IIT, IIM and AIIMS Jammu and asked them to set up a satellite campus for training of local youths so that more of them get admission in these institutions.

He said he talked to the 35,000 youths who got jobs, education and skill upgradation under various centrally sponsored schemes and expressed hope that their active involvement would take J&K to new heights.

The home minister also talked about various achievements under rail and road projects and said the people of Jammu used to take their children to Delhi to enjoy a metro ride but "they do not need to go there anymore as we are bringing Metro to Jammu and Kashmir within next two years".

He talked about the Delhi-Katra expressway, sanctioning of Rs 700 crore for a new airport and said the government is also planning to set up helipads in all district headquarters to promote religious tourism.

Shah also praised the Prime Minister for the "successful campaign" against the coronavirus and said people were apprehensive how India will tackle the situation after the outbreak of the pandemic in view of weak health infrastructure.

"Modi fought the virus in the best possible way which led to the minimum loss of life," he said.

Shah said Jammu and Kashmir is the only place in the entire country where all the people are covered by Ayushman Bharat PM-Jay Sehat scheme.

Protect country without...

with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, visited Makwal border Out Post (BoP), where he met the BSF jawans and spent some time with them, officials said.

He was received by the BSF's Additional Director General (ADG) N S Jamwal. The minister also presented some gifts to jawans and interacted with them, they said.

During the interaction, he praised the dedication of the security personnel towards defending India.

"On the behalf of all the countrymen, I salute the bravery of our security forces and express my gratitude," Shah said in a tweet later.

The minister said that the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi is fully devoted to the welfare of the security personnel guarding the country and their families.

"I want to tell everyone that you should protect the country without any worry. The Modi government will take care of your families", Shah said.

Shah later visited Makwal hamlet, the last village on IB in Jammu to know about the living conditions of the villagers, they said.

He interacted with villagers and admired their resilience.

Shah also visited border bunkers, where the residents take shelter during cross-border shelling.

"As much as a citizen living in the national capital has the right to the resources of the country, so do the citizens living in the border villages (on the resources of the country)", he said.

Civilian killed in...

police said. They said the CRPF retaliated the fire and during cross-firing one person was killed.

Further details are being ascertained, they added.

Taking to Twitter, National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah said the policy of shoot first will further alienate people.

He was shot dead & his bag has no weapons or explosives, he's carrying fruit & vegetables. This policy of shoot first will further alienate people. This is no way to make friends with the people or the youth of Kashmir, Omar said. He was referring to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on Saturday that he wanted to make friends with the youth of Kashmir.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said it was sad that the armed forces operate with such impunity in Kashmir.

Another innocent civilian killed allegedly by CRPF in Shopian today. It's sad that armed forces show little restraint & operate with such impunity. My heartfelt condolences to his family, she wrote on Twitter.

Condemning the killing of the civilian, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami asked the authorities to probe the incident thoroughly to fix the responsibility.

Govt doesn't believe...

-- the way the Union home minister conveyed to us in the security meeting -- I want to reassure you that it is our prime duty and responsibility to safeguard the life and properties of 1.25 crore people of this UT, particularly those belonging to the minority community," he said.

The LG also mentioned the killings of 11 civilian in the valley in October alone. Five of those killed were labourers from Bihar, while three, including two teachers, belonged to minority communities in Kashmir.

Jammu-Srinagar highway...

in Ramban district. Malik said the road clearance operation was sped up early Sunday morning after improvement in the weather to reopen the highway, which was mainly blocked at Cafeteria Morh, Maroog and Peera.

He said the road was cleared for one-way traffic in the afternoon and accordingly, the stranded vehicles were allowed first from Jammu to Srinagar and then Kashmir to Jammu.

No fresh traffic was allowed from either Jammu or Srinagar, the officer said, adding that subject to fair weather and better road conditions, light motor vehicles would be allowed from both sides on the highway.

JKPSC conducts CCE-2021...

tier arrangements with strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols. All Examination Centres were sanitized and the candidates were also made to undergo thermal scanning before entering into the Examination hall.

Keeping in view the importance of COVID appropriate behavior and to avoid any last minute inconvenience, all the candidates were directed to report at the Examination venue at least two hours in advance for which JKPSC had made wide publicity through print and electronic media.

According to JKPSC, 30888 candidates were eligible for taking the examination, out of which 20777 candidates appeared for General Studies Paper-I and 20624 appeared for General Studies Paper-II and the total percentage of attendance today stood at 66.78 in all the 85 Centres in both the Divisions.

The Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination has been designed as three stage process and today's Examination was first stage to be followed by the Mains Examination in which the candidates shortlisted after the Preliminary stage shall appear.

The Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission thanked the UT Administration and Police Authorities for their cooperation and also complimented the Observers, Supervisors, invigilating and support staff involved with the conduct of Examinations for their untiring efforts to ensure smooth and successful conduct.

Kashmir snowfall: 2...

for 8 km to reach the location, the officials said.

"At 0500 hours on October 24, one body was located on the spot, while another person died during the trip back," they said.

Two people survived and are being treated for hypothermia and shock, the officials added.

Parts of the valley, especially the higher reaches in south Kashmir, received moderate to heavy snowfall on Saturday.

The snowfall and rains, which started late on Friday night, triggered a mudslide that hit a tent set up by nomads in Noorpura in Tral area of Pulwama district, leaving three people, including two women dead, and one critically injured, they said.

The nomads belonged to Reasi district in the Jammu Division, the officials added.

Poonch counter-insurgency...

operation additional reinforcements were sent and the body of Mustafa has been retrieved from the encounter site, the spokesperson said, adding the operation (to neutralise the hiding terrorists) is in progress and legal process has been initiated in connection with the killing of the Pakistani terrorist.

Officials said Mustafa, a resident of Rawalakot in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, was lodged in Kot Bhalwal jail for the last 14 years and was shifted to Mendhar on police remand after investigation revealed his link with the hiding terrorists.

Mustafa had sneaked into this side from the same route before he was arrested from south Kashmir, the officials said.

The operation in the forest areas in the twin border districts commenced on October 11 when terrorists ambushed a search party killing five soldiers including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in Surankote forest of Poonch before another gunfight in nearby Thamamandi on the same day.

On October 14, the terrorists struck again and killed four soldiers including a JCO in Nar Khas forest in Mendhar as the security forces extended the cordon and search operation to neutralise the fleeing terrorists.

Drones and helicopters were pressed into service to assist the marching troops, which included para-commandos, in the jungle at a distance of four km from the Line of Control (LoC), the officials said.

Ten persons, including two women, were detained for questioning after it came to light that they allegedly provided logistic support including food and shelter to the terrorists, the officials said.

An Army official said on Saturday that a major part of the forest was cleared and now the search area is restricted to a location housing a number of natural caves.

There was no contact with the terrorist after the initial gunfights on October 11 and October 14. The search area was expanded in search of the terrorists, the official had said, hoping to conclude the operation with the clearance of the natural caves within a day or two depending on the weather conditions.

Traffic between Mendhar and Thamamandi along the Jammu-Rajouri highway remained suspended as a precautionary measure for the ninth day on Sunday in the wake of the ongoing operation.

Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region have witnessed a rise in infiltration attempts since June this year, resulting in the killing of nine terrorists in separate encounters.

72 fresh COVID...

daily Media Bulletin, out of 331638 positive cases, 866 are Active Positive (144 in Jammu Division and 722 in Kashmir Division), 326343 have recovered and 4429 have died; 2175 in Jammu division and 2254 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 15947738 test results available, 331638 samples have tested positive and 15616100 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 33,688 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 3745695 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 7500 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 866 in isolation and 450985 in home surveillance. Besides, 3281915 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Top Army commanders...

emerging security and administrative aspects to chart the future course for the Indian Army in the backdrop of the situation along the borders and challenges imposed by COVID-19 pandemic," the Army said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to address and interact with the top commanders of the 13 lakh-strong Army.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari are also scheduled to address the senior leadership of the Indian Army on avenues for promoting tri-service synergy, the Army said.

The Army commanders are also expected to deliberate on various reform measures recommended by separate internal committees, the people said.

They said the discussions on the situation in eastern Ladakh and ways to further bolster India's military preparedness in the region are likely to dominate the conference.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The tension escalated following a deadly clash in the Galwan Valley on June 15 last year.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in the Gogra area in August and in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in February this year.

The last round of military talks on October 10 ended in a stalemate, following which both sides blamed each other for the impasse.

In a strong statement after the 13th round of talks, the Indian Army said the "constructive suggestions" made by it at the negotiations were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor could Beijing provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the sensitive sector.

Farooq expresses surprise...

meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi a few months ago in which he took up these issues.

Modi had at that point of time asserted that the gap between New Delhi and J-K

would have to be bridged by winning over the hearts. Hearts cannot be won by undermining the status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was bifurcated and then downgraded, the NC leader said while addressing a public meeting at Mendhar in Poonch district.

Defending the BJP-led NDA government's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Shah had on Saturday said August 5, 2019 was written in golden letters in the history of Kashmir.

He had reiterated that elections would be held in J-K after the delimitation exercise to be followed by restoration of statehood.

"Elections will happen. (Politicians from Kashmir want that) Delimitation be stopped. Why? Because it hurts their politics. Now, such things will not stop in Kashmir.

The youth of Kashmir will get opportunities, so a right delimitation will be done, which will be followed by elections and then the status of the statehood will be restored. I have said this in the country's Parliament and this is the roadmap," Shah had said.

Abdullah further said it must have happened for the first time that a state is transformed and downgraded as a Union territory.

The urges and aspirations of the people have to be satiated for lasting peace, he underlined.

Pitching for India-Pakistan dialogue, the NC president said peace