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### J&K is new...

in the district, the Lt Governor said the 20 major infrastructural projects worth more than Rs 3144 Cr are under execution in Kupwara, which will be the key to future growth, bring prosperity to the population in rural and urban areas and expand the base of local market and promote entrepreneurship.

In the last Financial Year, 2444 development works were completed, and the first ever grid connectivity for Keran and Machil in 73 years was provided during 2021-22 enabling 19 Panchayats close to LoC to chart new pathways of progress and prosperity to secure their future as well as that of future generations, he added.

The Lt Governor reiterated the resolve of the UT Administration to tap the huge tourism potential of Kupwara.

"We have given a big boost to tourism sector to transform socio-economic condition of the people of this beautiful region and to provide expanded opportunities to youth," he said.

The Lt Governor called upon PRI representatives to motivate farmers and connect them with PM Fasal Bima Yojana and other agriculture-related schemes. He further stressed on Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in the district to facilitate the creation of Farmer Producer Organizations.

It should be the collective endeavour to ensure that at least 6000 youth are engaged with self-employment ventures this year and start their entrepreneurial journey, he said.

Responding to the demands projected by the PRI representatives, the Lt Governor assured that every possible step will be taken to strengthen the mobile connectivity and augment sports facilities in the district.

He further called upon the citizens to discharge their responsibility towards the government by paying for the services. Capable people should pay their power bills then only the government can waive off the bills of the poor, he said.

Irfan Sultan Panditpori, Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara and other PRI and ULB representatives expressed their gratitude to the Lt Governor-led UT Administration for addressing the development needs of the people of Kupwara.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary reiterated the commitment of the administration to tap the potential of the district across the sectors.

The projects worth Rs 26.84 crores inaugurated by the Lt Governor include construction of NTPHC at Nowgam, Langate; construction/ upgradation of Dhani Tadd upto Prada Pandov road at Tangdar; upgradation of 5-km road from Pandithpora Langate via Al Maqsood Colony Hajan; construction of 08 roomed building at HSS Warnow Lolab and Water Supply Schemes at Machil, Athrota and Tangdar. Vijay Kumar; ADGP Kashmir; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary Revenue; Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara; Riyaz Mir, President Municipal Council Kupwara; members of PRIs and ULBs; senior officials and people in large number were present.

### Sinha directs officials...

provision of online consultation of medical services must be made available wherever required, he said.

The Lt Governor directed Chief Engineer PWD to prepare SoPs for snow clearance and to ensure round-the-clock connectivity during the winters. He also enquired about road maintenance and safety analysis of bridges.

Emphasizing on meeting the power supply needs of the people, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officials for maintaining proper stock of transformers. He directed that damaged transformers should be replaced within 12 and 24 hours in urban and rural areas respectively.

Taking stock of the status of infrastructure projects, the Lt Governor asked the concerned officials to ensure time-bound completion of the projects, speeding up the execution of Transit accommodation.

He also directed the District officers for effective implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

The Lt Governor also appraised the status of ongoing projects under Jal Jeevan Mission; road connectivity; PM KISAN; sanitation campaigns; Samridh Seema Yojana, NCD screening, public outreach programmes, extension of financial assistance and saturation of deliverables by different departments.

The meeting was attended by Irfan Sultan Panditpori, Chairman, DDC Kupwara; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Piyush Singla, Secretary Revenue; Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara; HoDs and senior officials.

### J&K recorded major...

he added. The Home Minister said tough decisions taken by the Narendra Modi government have yielded very good results in handling challenges posed by cryptocurrencies, hawala, terror-funding, organised crime syndicates and narco-terror links.

Still a lot more is to be done, he said inaugurating the two-day anti-terror conference organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

"All anti-terror agencies will have to adopt such a ruthless approach that new terrorist organisations cannot be formed," he said.

Shah said there is a need to not only combat terrorism but also dismantle its entire ecosystem, and for this "we must work with the spirit of the whole of government and 'Team India'".

He said under the leadership of Modi, the central and state agencies have succeeded in firmly curbing all forms of terrorism in the country in the last nine years.

He said the task of NIA, anti-terror squads and state task forces should not be limited to investigation but they should also think out of the box and take innovative measures to counter the terrorism.

The home minister said the fight against terrorism requires collaboration from the global level to the grassroots, involving various states within the country, as also international cooperation.

He said to deal with terrorism, the Centre and the states, their agencies and inter-agency cooperation will have to think in vertical and horizontal ways.

The home minister also awarded medals to NIA officials for excellence in service.

Shah said model anti-terrorism structure should be established under the purview of NIA, the hierarchy, structure, and SoPs of investigation of all anti-terrorism agencies in all states should be made uniform for better coordination between central and state agencies.

He said that to deal with terrorism, the Centre and the states, their agencies and inter-agency cooperation will have to think in vertical and horizontal ways.

Shah said the government has prepared many database verticals in the last five years.

All the agencies of the Centre and the states should make multidimensional and artificial intelligence-based use of the database, only then will we be successful in the fight against terrorism, he said.

The database should be used for investigation, prosecution, prevention and action, the home minister said and stressed upon every police station as well as young police officers to make their maximum use.

He asked the NIA and the Intelligence Bureau to prepare common training module for all central and state-level counter-terrorism agencies, so that uniformity can be brought in the methodology of fighting against terrorism.

He said the number of terrorism incidents in 2001 was 6000, which reduced to 900 in 2022.

Praising the NIA for achieving more than 94 percent conviction rate, Shah said more work is needed in this direction and asked all the states to take steps to increase the conviction rate.

Highlighting major successes in the fight against drugs, he said during Operation Samudragupta, conducted this year by the NCB, narcotics worth more than Rs 12,000 crore were seized simultaneously.

Apart from this, 10 lakh kg of drugs have also been disposed of, he said.

Shah said terrorism has no boundaries and no state can face terrorism alone and collective effort will be needed to root out this evil. He suggested making five actionable points in every session of the two-day conference to be sent to the home ministry.

### All measures in...

the region have been successful.

"See we are prepared for any eventuality and all measures are in place," Air Officer Commanding (AoC) Jammu, Air Commodore S S Rawat told reporters here to a question on drone threats.

On being asked about the success rate of IAF's surveillance operations, Rawat said most of the operations are successful. The IAF is deployed for such operations in coordination with the Army, Rawat added.

On the flash floods in Sikkim floods, the AoC said security forces and the administration are doing their best. "Whatever is possible is being done. We have sympathies with them," he said.

Another official added that the IAF personnel are trained for such rescue and relief operations. AoC is empowered to conduct any such operation, he said.

Fourteen bodies have been found so far while 102 people, including 22 Army personnel, remained missing after a cloudburst over Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim triggered a flash flood in the Teesta river basin.

### Govt bans jailed..

activities with an intention to create a separate Islamic state.

"The leader or members of the JKDFP have been involved in raising funds through various sources including Pakistan and its proxy organisations for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, and sustained stone-pelting on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir," the officer said.

He said the JKDFP and its members by their activities show sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional setup of the country, indulging in unlawful activities which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, security and communal harmony of the country.

"There have been a number of inputs showing linkages of the JKDFP with banned terrorist organisations, the JKDFP and its members have been involved in violent terrorist activities with an intent to create a reign of terror in the country, thereby endangering the security and public order of the state, and its anti-national activities also show disrespect and disregard to the constitutional authority and sovereignty of the State, hence an immediate and prompt action is required against the organisation," the notification read.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said the central government is of the opinion that if there is no immediate curb or control of unlawful activities of the JKDFP; it will use this opportunity to continue with its anti-national activities, advocate secession of Jammu and Kashmir; escalate its insurrectionary activities including attempt to carve out an Islamic State out of the territory of the Union of India by destabilizing the government established by law.

### Patwari arrested red...

and accepting the bribe amount of ₹10000 from the complainant. He was arrested on the spot after completing all formalities. Further investigation into the case is going on.

### Over 71 Kanals...

Likewise, in Zooninar village in Eidgah Tehsil, a Revenue Team headed by Tehsildar, Ishfaq Ahamd Khan retrieved 08 kanals of State land under survey no. 1266 Minworth Rs 40.74 crore from the illegal occupants.

In South Tehsil of the District, a team headed by Tehsildar, Moean Azhar conducted an anti-encroachment drive in Shivpora area retrieved 27 marlas of land under survey no. 168 min and 169 min from the encroachers.

Similarly, in Gund Hassi Bhat and Khushipora villages of Central Shalteng Tehsil 02 kanals and 09 marlas of State Land has been evicted under the supervision of Tehsilda Shalteng Kaser Ahmad from the land grabbers under survey no. 156min and 895/281. In Chanapora Tehsil as many as 05 kanals of State land was also evicted from land grabbers in Rawalpora village under survey no. 1959 and 1960 under the supervision of Tehsildar Chanpora, Saqib Saleem.

With regard to anti-encroachment drives undertaken in Srinagar District today, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar applauded the efforts of the Anti-encroachment squads and has asked them to continue the anti-encroachment drives in their respective jurisdictions to retrieve the encroached land which in normal course is to be utilised for public purpose.

### China's assertiveness more...

play its "strategic autonomy" card well.

"The strategic autonomy may be relevant to exploit opportunities rather than to take care of your threats. That's where the future should lie. We should be thinking about opportunities more," he said.

"This all what I said comes with a little bit of a caveat because of the northern neighbor. In this strategic calculus, India will have to take into account the emergence of China as a major power," the Chief of Defence Staff said.

"China's assertiveness is more evident with its rise. India has a major dispute on its northern borders with China and will have to play the strategic autonomy card..." he added.

Referring to disruptions in the global geopolitical order, Gen Chauhan also underlined the need for India to continue maintaining "strategic autonomy" in its approach and highlighted how New Delhi was moving forward from its approach of "non-alignment" to an era of being a "Vishwa-mitra" -- a friend to the world.

He also cited India's nuclear tests in 1998, its "neutral and a nuanced" stand on the Russia-Ukraine war and the decision to go ahead with procurement of S-400 missile systems from Moscow notwithstanding threats of sanctions as examples of the country exercising its "strategic autonomy".

"I believe that India has transited ahead from non-alignment of yesteryears to self-alignment as you said to maybe multi-alignment," he noted.

The Chief of Defence Staff also summarised India's journey of being non-aligned to that of exercising strategic autonomy.

"If I were to summarize the journey of India from non-alignment to exercising of strategic autonomy, it can be based on what I can say is three S. First is securing India. Next is self-reliance. And lastly, shaping the environment to India's advantage and benefit," he said.

Gen Chauhan also elaborated on economic aspects of global geopolitics and that the global balance of power can be shifted by economic alignment and even issues like morality, righteousness and convergence of global interests.

"In India's famous epic Mahabharata, Lord Krishna shifted the balance of power towards the Pandavas. His military might went to the Kauravas but it was only his righteousness and sage advice which shifted the balance of power," he said.

"And ultimately the Pandavas emerged victorious in that particular war. We as a nation have utilised the G20 platform to leverage soft power to play a dominating role. So these are also important facts we must keep in mind when we take strategic decisions on how to get aligned in future," he said.

Gen Chauhan said the global geopolitical environment is currently in a state of flux and India must exercise its options looking at its national interests.

"The world I believe is transiting between two orders. The old order is withering away and the shapes and no one knows the contours of this new order and how it will shape in the long run," he said.

Gen Chauhan also cited the financial crisis, disruptions in the global supply chains due to COVID-19, food and fertilizer shortages due to Russia-Ukraine conflict, the situation in the South China Sea as some of the manifestations of the geopolitical and geoeconomic flux.

### Modi slams Congress...

of some 11 crore non-existing persons were removed from government records as benefitts were being availed of in their names.

"This figure (11 crore) is more than the population of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh," he said.

His government formed the triumvirate of Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar number and mobile connection to decimate the "corrupt network of Congress" and prevent the theft of more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore, and that was the reason Opposition parties were feeling a heartburn, the prime minister said.

Prior to 2014, major scams used to make headlines, he said, adding that his government ensured that women get gas connections through the Ujjwala scheme for cooking food instead of using the smoky chulha or wood-fired stove that was a health hazard.

### Bribery can never...

J B Pardiwala, Sanjay Kumar and Manoj Misra.

Mehta urged the court to not go into the immunity aspect under Article 105 of the Constitution and said, "The offence of bribery is complete when a bribe is given and accepted by the lawmaker. It can be tackled under the Prevention of Corruption Act."

"I am of the opinion that anything that is clearly proscribed by the statute, cannot have a refuge under these Articles (105 and 194). I do not think any responsible government or public authority can take that stand," attorney general Venkataramani said.

The top-most government law officer, however, added the elected representative must be free to perform legislative functions without being impaired or exposed to undue "extortions and coercion".

"Parliamentary privileges are not personal immunity but occupational immunity. They are provided to ensure that the duties of representatives may be carried out perfectly. This immunity is not meant to place a Member of Parliament above the law, but to protect him from possible groundless proceedings or accusations that may be politically motivated..." solicitor general Mehta said.

At the outset, senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan referred to several judgements and said the consistent point in all was that "nobody enjoys protection against criminal prosecution".

He dealt with the submission that legislators needed immunity as they were often targeted for their acts inside the House.

"So, while balancing this, you (SC) have to be careful of ensuring that legislators get the immunity which the Constitution intended... If we are doing

that, then we have to have some kind of formulation or test on the basis of which we determine the immunity that is deserved," he said.

He then referred to the recent alleged hate speech made by BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri in the Lok Sabha and said, "Unfortunately, Your Lordships must have seen a live example of this two weeks ago, when a gentleman hurled expletives in Parliament. I don't know if the phrase 'parliamentary language' can be used anymore after this."

The parliament ensured that those words were struck off, but in my view it was a crime, he said.

"So an action of criminal defamation would not lie on the basis of the speech" the bench asked the lawyer.

The senior lawyer responded, "In my view, No. Our hands are tied. Obviously, we find it repulsive. The court's hands are also tied because that is the deference we give to the parliamentary process."

The bench said, possibly, the court cannot get into this and say that these offending words of the MP were "unnecessary for the speech".

"We expect responsible Parliament and parliamentarians to expect more stringent action," the senior lawyer said.

Another senior advocate Vijay Hasaria supported the reconsideration of the 1998 verdict and gave the example of pendency of more than 5,000 criminal cases against lawmakers.

The court told him it was dealing with the limited issue of bribery in relation to votes cast and speeches made in legislatures.

"Privilege must be interpreted in a manner that will not let criminality among politicians or political class flourish, and will curb criminalisation of politics," he said.

The solicitor general focussed his submissions on the offence of bribery as defined under the Prevention of Corruption Act and said if the offence is completed outside the House, then the court does not need to go into the aspect of immunity enjoyed by a lawmaker for acts done inside the legislature.

"Of course, this is on a very strong footing that bribery is complete outside the house," the bench said.

## J&K by and large peaceful, SFs working with resolve to demolish remnants of terror: DGP

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is by and large peaceful and security forces are working with commitment to demolish the remnants of terrorism in the Union Territory, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said on Thursday.

Singh was interacting with a joint party of police, Army and Central Armed Police Forces that was part of Wednesday's encounter in which two terrorists were killed in Kulgam district.

The police chief appreciated the swift and clean operation of tracking down and eliminating the terrorists.

"Jammu and Kashmir Police, in tandem with other security forces, are working with great commitment and resolve to demolish the remnants of terrorism ... We are committed to provide a better and secure environment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have seen the worst times of Pakistan-sponsored disturbance and destruction during the last three decades," he said.

Singh presented rewards to the personnel who were part of the Kulgam encounter.

The police chief said jawans and officers working in Jammu and Kashmir have been displaying indomitable courage while fighting different challenges, strengthening peace in the Union Territory.

The senior officer said he is proud of the dedication and commitment exhibited by one and all in maintaining peace and order in the Union Territory and added, "We have to respond to each and every evil design of terrorists dictated from across the border more strongly."

Singh stressed on utilising technical and human resources in tracking and eliminating the remaining terrorists.

He also directed monitoring and vigilance of terror support systems to demolish the ecosystem.

Barring a few instances, the Union Territory is by and large peaceful, the police chief said, congratulating the personnel from the police, other security forces and people for their joint efforts.

Singh also cautioned the forces and the people about the conspiracy of Pakistan which, he said, has been making continuous attempts to disturb peace and tranquility of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also directed to take the war on drugs to the next level as "Pakistan is now using drugs to generate funds for terror activities and to harm our young generation".

## LPA is not maintainable against an order passed by a Single Judge of this Court in exercise of criminal jurisdiction

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Chief Justice N Kotishwar Singh and Justice Rajesh Sekri holds that LPA under Rule 12 of the Letters Patent Rules of this Court is not maintainable because there is no provision in the Letters Patent Rules to entertain an intra court appeal against an order passed by a Single Judge of this Court in exercise of criminal jurisdiction.

DB while dismissing the LPA, observed that Chief Justice is vested with the powers to constitute a larger bench and make a reference only if conditions of Rule 33 of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Rules, 1999 are satisfied.

This order has been passed in LPA filed by one Rohit Sharma against whom An FIR came to be registered against the appellant, by respondent No.2, on the directions of learned Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Doda (hereinafter referred to as the trial court), on an application preferred by respondent No.1, in terms of Section 156(3) of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1989 (for short, Cr.P.C.). The appellant invoked inherent jurisdiction of this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to implore for quashment of the said order dated 24.08.2023, passed by learned trial court, which petition came to be dismissed by learned Single Judge of this Court on September 4, 2023.

The appellant has invoked Rule 12 of Letters Patent Rules for quashment of both the orders dated 04.09.2023, passed by learned Single Judge of this Court and 24.08.2023 passed by learned trial court on multiple grounds urged in the memo of appeal. DB after hearing both the sides observed that it is by far a crystallized position of law and no longer remains res Integra now that in terms of Rule 12 of Letters Patent of J&K, intra court appeal against an order passed by a Single Judge of this Court, in exercise of inherent powers envisaged under Section 482 Cr.P.C., is not maintainable.

## Care Nature & Environment Society & Fahad Mir Foundation organise plantation drive

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Care Nature & Environment Society, in collaboration with the Fahad Mir Foundation, organized a plantation drive at the Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) in Vijaypur on Thursday. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Director of PTTI, along with his staff officers and trainees, participated in the drive. Director PTTI highlighted the significance of planting trees, as massive destruction of vegetation has occurred during the expansion of highways, widening of roads, and extensive constructions. We are facing challenges of global warming, natural calamities, excessive rains, and extreme climate changes everywhere. He added that the J&K Police has raised a slogan, "One Jawan One Plant," which is being implemented recently by the DGP of J&K, Dilbagh Singh, at PTTI Vijaypur. Speaking on the occasion, Gagan Mahajan, a social activist and entrepreneur, emphasized the need to plant more and more trees and also nurture them until the trees survive. Ruchi Chouhan, Secretary of the NGO, along with the members and volunteers, conducted the second plantation drive. The NGO has planted more than 100 trees. The first plantation drive was conducted at IIT Jammu by the NGO. Seema Kakryal from the Labour Department also took part in the plantation drive. Social activist Imran Sheikh founder of Dast E Maddadgar has joined hands for the initiative , along with young Activist Tanya Sharma. Sabreen Mir, Abhishek Bhadwal, Nitish Sharma, Kuldeep Sharma, and Gourav also joined in.



Dignitaries along with PTTI officials during the drive.

