

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Cong turned entire...

after launching various developmental projects of Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation. At the event, Shah said PM Modi came up with a holistic approach and brought an urban development policy and formulated various other policies for providing facilities to all the cities.

Thanks to the urban development policy, Gandhinagar is developing as a Smart City having all such facilities, he said.

"Prior to 2014, there was no policy or project for urban development in the country. It was PM Modi who launched numerous projects for urban development. Some of the key projects include e-Governance, Smart City Mission, CCTV network, AMRUT Mission, RERA, Metro, solar panels and electric buses," Shah said.

Peace-loving nation...

preserve peace. Peace-loving nation like India should have enough teeth". He also quoted a couplet from a poem by national poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar to emphasise his point.

He highlighted four aspects related to defence and military scenario in the context of India -- future, empowerment, catalysing exports and ingenious innovations.

He recalled the first-ever future warfare course that took place last month in New Delhi.

"We are not trying to replicate how advanced militaries are going to fight their wars, actually we are trying to find how we are going to fight our wars. Because our environment, our threats, our geopolitical situation, our geography, everything is unique to us. And, we are going to find unique solutions, which suit us," the CDS added.

Later, the defence minister addressed the gathering at the SIDM event.

Singh also presented the SIDM Champion Awards which recognises outstanding achievements in defence manufacturing.

He termed the awards as a reflection of the dedication and excellence of Indian manufacturers, which will serve as a benchmark for best practices in the sector.

CS reviews convergence...

Officers of their department. These officers will be responsible for ensuring that the benefits of all schemes are effectively communicated and delivered to registered workers. He also emphasized the importance of identifying eligible families for their comprehensive coverage.

Dulloo called upon the departments such as Social Welfare, Health, and School Education to work in collaboration to facilitate these workers with their respective departmental schemes. He underscored the need for an integrated approach towards worker welfare, ensuring that all relevant sectors contribute to the wellbeing of registered workers.

The Secretary informed the Chief Secretary that the department is actively collaborating with the Social Welfare Department to roll out various social security schemes for the registered workers. This partnership aims to provide a robust support system, ensuring that workers receive the benefits they are entitled to, he added.

Earlier, the Secretary delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing the current statistics on registered un-organised workers and their distribution across different sectors. He outlined the eligibility criteria for registration and highlighted the sectors covered under the e-Shram initiative, underscoring the government's commitment towards supporting labourers in diverse fields across different departments.

India consistently advocated...

Defence Ministry. He underscored peaceful coexistence and comity among nations, and drew upon the ancient Indian philosophy of humankind's symbiotic existence in harmony with nature as a way ahead in the exploration and management of marine resources.

Singh reiterated India's unwavering resolve to a rule-based international order, respect for international law and adherence to the principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, describing them as the "cornerstones of foreign policy".

"India has consistently advocated for a peaceful resolution to disputes and has sought to promote cooperation among nations in the Indo-Pacific, with a strong emphasis on the centrality of ASEAN in fostering regional dialogue, stability and collective growth," he said.

The minister also underscored India's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the vital international maritime routes.

The engagement with regional partners, including joint exercises and information-sharing initiatives, is aimed at strengthening the collective maritime security framework, he added.

Singh underlined that the Indian armed forces, especially the Navy, has been at the forefront of cooperative endeavours with countries of the region, and are continuously working towards building their capacity and capabilities.

"While India's endeavour for maritime cooperation continues, its interests are not in conflict with any other country. At the same time, interests of any other nation should not come in conflict with other nations. This is the spirit in which we must work together," he added.

The defence minister pointed out that the rapidly evolving global maritime landscape is shaped by shifting power dynamics, resource competition and emerging security threats.

He added the emergence of the Indo-Pacific theatre reflects a visible balancing of global power.

"The Indo-Pacific region has emerged as the world's most dynamic geopolitical zone and is the centre of gravity of the economic and strategic interests. It also carries a degree of pre-existing international tension, rivalry and conflict," the minister said.

While some challenges are of local nature, many challenges have global ramifications, he underlined.

"With respect to marine resources, we are witnessing a significant increase in geopolitical competition. As populations continue to grow, the demand for marine resources has surged, leading to heightened tensions and competition among nations," he added.

Sharing insights on the subject of 'global commons', the natural resources such as the ocean, outer space, climate, clean air, etc., which is shared by all of humanity, Singh said these are essential to maintain a sustainable planet.

He stressed on the need to create a balance of competing interests, which can offer numerous ecological, economic and social benefits transcending national boundaries.

Singh also touched on the concept of 'tragedy of the commons', a scenario where individuals, acting in their own self-interest, deplete shared resources, leading to collective ruin.

He termed it as a "looming threat", which can only be dealt with if the international community comes together and acts swiftly for sustainable management of shared global commons.

"Evidence of this tragedy, including environmental degradation, over-extraction of certain resources, and increasing geopolitical tensions is already visible. We are witnessing localised incidents of conflict and a wider undercurrent of international tension in recent years," said Singh.

"As the world transforms from an industrial world to a technological world, from a fossil fuel-based economy to renewables, this threat is only going to increase, unless we take pre-emptive steps to control possible damage," he added.

In his address, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi emphasised the relevance of the oceanic spaces, specifically the Indo-Pacific, for India's economic growth and security.

Stressing that India's maritime policy of SAGAR envisioned collective prosperity and security for all in the region, he advocated collaboration and cooperation as the principal means to achieve this end-state.

Singh also released a book titled 'Maritime India: Temporal and Spatial Continuum', published by the National Maritime Foundation (NMF).

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan; Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi; IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh; Chairman, NMF Admiral Karambir Singh (retd); DG, NMF Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan (retd); senior officials of the ministry, foreign delegates and representatives of think-tanks of India and abroad attended the event.

The IPRD is an annual apex-level regional strategic dialogue of the Indian Navy which aims to sequentially flesh out the seven spokes of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

This year, the three-day conference opened on a vibrant and intellectually stimulating note on October 3. Through its central theme of 'Resource-Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific', this year's conference focuses on

'Marine Resources' and 'Maritime Security' pillars of IPOI.

The IPRD-2024 is being organised by the Indian Navy in association with NMF as its knowledge partner.

Cong opposes 'move'...

Any such a move is an assault on democracy, the people's mandate, and the fundamental principles of the Constitution," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) senior vice president and chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma told reporters here.

Flanked by working president Raman Bhalla, he expressed disapproval and opposition to fight it tooth and nail.

They emphasised that such attempts highlight the BJP's desperation to manipulate numbers, despite lacking the means to form the government.

"Under the constitutional framework, the lieutenant governor must act upon the aid and advice of the council of ministers. Misusing the provision of nomination to alter majority or minority status post-election would be detrimental," Sharma said.

He said according to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, the LG has the power to nominate five MLAs, including representation from Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) refugees.

"However, under the constitutional framework, he must act upon the aid and advice of the council of ministers. Nominating MLAs before the formation of the government would be a misuse of this provision and could unfairly shift the balance of power in the assembly," he said.

He asserted that the Congress-NC alliance is expected to secure a comfortable majority and any premature nomination would be undemocratic and a betrayal of the people's vote.

Sharma emphasised that the nomination process should only begin after the new government takes office and recommends candidates for the positions. He also criticised the BJP for promising adequate representation in the assembly for PoJK refugees, KPs and other minorities but failing to deliver.

"The example of Sikkim's assembly model, where Buddhist monastic communities enjoy reserved seats. We are questioning the BJP's logic in proposing only one seat for the PoJK community against an earlier commitment of eight seats," he said.

The Congress leaders strongly condemned the attempted attack on former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand at his residence in Khour. They criticised the police for inaction despite the Election Commission's acknowledgment of Chand's complaint.

They raised concerns about the safety of candidates and the general public if such incidents go unchecked.

Need to catch...

"I am very confident that as far as human angle is concerned, as far as our people behind the machine are concerned, we are way ahead of them," he said.

"As far as technology is concerned, we may not be so good as of now. We have lagged. We were better than them in technology some time back. But have lagged in that and we need to catch up," he said.

"As far as production rates are concerned, we are way behind. We need to catch up with that. And that will happen over a period of time. It cannot happen overnight," he said.

On the eastern Ladakh standoff between India and China, the IAF Chief said the situation remains same as it has been for the last one-year-plus, but noted that the development of infrastructure "on the other side has been very rapid."

"We are trying to match up with it. We are upgrading our airfields. There are new airfields coming up," he said.

The Chief of Air Staff underlined the importance of India becoming self-reliant in weapons and other systems and said it is important to face future security challenges.

"On the whole, IAF has got a vision. By 2047, we should have the entire inventory being either produced in India or developed and produced in India," he said.

"In a conflict situation when 200 to 300 missiles are fired in one day, then you have to have manufactured them in India. You cannot afford to have them procured from outside," he said.

His comments came when asked about Iran firing over 200 missiles into Israel a few days ago.

The IAF Chief said his force also has issues of supply chain breaking down because of the ongoing wars.

"We have components which come from these regions. So maintaining those equipment is a challenge," he said, in an apparent reference to the Russia-Ukraine war.

On the Tejas programme, the IAF Chief said the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) must produce 24 aircraft as promised.

"The HAL has to keep the promise of building 24 aircraft per year. If that promise is kept, I think the delays can be caught up with," he said.

The IAF has placed an order with HAL for 83 Tejas Mark-1A aircraft. The deliveries were to begin in March. However, not a single aircraft has been delivered yet.

To a question, Air Chief Marshal Singh said three units of S-400 missile systems were delivered by Russia and it promised to deliver the remaining two units by next year.

He said the IAF is procuring a plethora of weapons systems including surface-to-air guided weapons.

Former Judicial Officers...

The Chief Justice expressed gratitude for their warm greetings. He stated that "It is an honour to step into this role, and I am deeply committed towards upholding the values of justice, fairness and integrity. He further stated that together, we can work towards a judiciary that not only meets the needs of our community but also sets a benchmark for excellence."

The event concluded with a call for unity and cooperation among all members of the judicial community, highlighting the shared goal of fostering a just society. Registrar General, Shahzad Azeem and Principal Secretary to Chief Justice M.K. Sharma were also present on the occasion.

Significance of peace...

society will progress, while the country will also move ahead."

Recalling her growing up years, she said, "After studying in my village, I went to Bhubaneswar for further studies. Had I not got a hostel seat, my education could have been interrupted."

"Today I am standing in front of you only on the strength of my education. Therefore, I request everyone to get their children educated."

Governor Bagade and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma were also present at the event. Earlier, the president paid tribute to Govind Guru at his Samadhi in Mangarh Dham.

Criminal cases shouldn't...

Pradesh government seeking its response on the plea, it said, "In the meantime, coercive steps should not be taken against the petitioner in connection with the subject article."

The bench noted in its order that the petitioner is a journalist and he published an article with a "casteist tilt" on officers deployed in responsible positions in the state.

It further noted that following the article, an FIR was registered against him.

"The counsel for the petitioner would read the contents of the FIR to say that no offence can be said to be made out by the said FIR. Yet the petitioner is being targeted and since the story was posted on X (earlier Twitter), it might result in multiple other FIRs," the bench noted in its order.

The top court posted the matter for hearing after four weeks.

In his plea, Upadhyay has alleged that registration of the FIR against him was a clear attempt to "misuse" the law enforcement machinery of the state to "silence his voice" and it should be quashed to prevent any further harassment.

The plea, filed through advocate Anoop Prakash Awasthi, claimed that after his client did a story titled 'Yadav Raj versus Thakur Raj', he was named in the FIR registered at Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on September 20.

It said the FIR was filed under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 353 (2) (statements conducing to public mischief), 197(1)(C) (publishing imputations or assertions prejudicial to national integration), 356(2) (punishment for defamation) and 302 (uttering words etc. with deliberate intention to wound religious feelings of a person) and under the provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

The plea said the story, even when taken at its face value, did not disclose the commission of any offence. "The reason for approaching this court is the threat of legal action by the official X handle of UP Police and the petitioner is not aware as to how many other FIRs are filed against him on the issue in the State of Uttar Pradesh or anywhere else," it said.

Missing lady traced

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Friday traced a missing woman and reunited her with her family. As per details, On August 21, 2024 family of one lady approached Police station Janipur, Jammu with a written application that their family member, lady (name withheld) is missing since morning. In this regard Police Station Janipur entered the report of missing in Daily Dairy vide DDR No. 3 Dated 21/08/2024 and started search for the said lady.

During strenuous efforts to search the missing lady, look out circulars and messages were flashed to all police station to seek help to recover the said lady. However SHO PS Janipur using his human as well as technical intelligence recovered the said lady today on 04.10.2024 and was accordingly handed over to her family after completion of legal formalities.

2 inter-state narco smugglers arrested; 14.2 kg poppy straw recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police team from Police Station Udhampur headed by its SHO while performing routine vehicle checking duty at naka point Jakhani, NHW, stopped one vehicle (Truck) bearing registration number PB02CC-9645 for checking purpose. During checking of said vehicle, 01 bag having approx 14 kg 220 grams of poppy straw like substance was recovered from the possession of the driver of the vehicle namely Mahen Singh, son of Gurmukh Singh, resident of Dalleke, Shalura Amritsar, Punjab and his associate namely Chanan Singh, son of Ashok Singh, resident of Dalleke Shalura, Anjala, Amritsar Punjab who has been arrested on spot. On this, a case vide FIR No. 404/2024 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act stands registered in P/S Udhampur and further investigation was set into probe.



Crackdown on illegal mining, 4 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, especially during election period, Jammu Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

In an operation which was carried out at different locations in South Zone of District Jammu, PP Phallain Mandal under PSI Harish Chander detained 02 vehicles loaded with sand seized under illegal mining, while PP Chatha under PSI Karnail Singh seized 01 vehicle. It is important to note that some vehicles had no registration number on them. On other hand, PP Greater Kailash under PSI Wasim Bhatti seized 01 truck/dumper.

In all, 03 vehicles have been seized in jurisdiction of PS Satwari and 01 vehicle has been seized under jurisdiction of PS Gangyal of South Zone by JKP.

After detaining of these vehicles District Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal actions.

Cyber Cell solves 3 online cyber frauds

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Cyber Cell of DPO Jammu settled three online frauds exhibiting professional display of Skills.

A complaint regarding financial fraud to the tune of Rs.77,000/- was received in cyber cell in which fraudster asked victim to work from home and victim lost hard earned money.

In another complaint, the complainant received a Fake call from fraudsters posing himself as a customer care of credit card and got Rs. 50,127/-transacted from his account.

In yet another incident a complaint regarding online financial fraud of Rs.1,55,550/- in which the complainant received a fake credited text message and lost his money.

With the timely intervention and showing the professional excellence meticulously, Cyber Cell DPO Jammu started timely investigations into the complaints through its professional wings specifically trained for the purpose and within stipulated time the teams constituted for the cause settled all the cases by displaying an ultimate display of professional excellence. The teams put on hold an aggregate amount of Rs 2,35,583/- out of Rs.2,82,677/-, which otherwise could have been misused and fraudulently transacted for various unfair means.

DroneAcharya FPV drones set high altitude, top speed record in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations, which has supplied First-Person View (FPV) drones to the Indian Army, has reached a major milestone by setting a top speed and new benchmark of flying at an altitude of over 17,000 feet, one of the highest ever recorded in Ladakh.

Unparalleled in the 7-10-inch category, DroneAcharya's First-Person View (FPV) drones also achieved a top speed of 129 km per hour, far exceeding the required minimum of 60 km per hour, and covered a range of 6.39 km, surpassing the five-km target set by the Army.

DroneAcharya demonstrated the capabilities of its FPV drones at Wari-La, a high-altitude area in Ladakh, showcasing their effectiveness in operations.

"The company's first-person-view or FPV drones recorded an altitude of over 17,000 feet (604 metres above launch altitude), possibility the highest in the

recent history at such altitudes in Wari-La in Ladakh," an official said.

"Inducted into the Army in April 2024, FPV drones are now part of the forces and recently it has achieved this milestone," Prateek Srivastava, co-founder and managing director of DroneAcharya, told PTI.

He praised the achievement as a significant milestone for the company.

"This record-setting accomplishment is a huge achievement for us. It highlights our innovation and commitment to providing the best technology for the Indian armed forces," Srivastava said.

DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations Ltd has demonstrated the capability of its drones to be deployed in security and counter-insurgency operations by performing quick manoeuvres and scaling very high altitudes in very short time, he added.

He said the drones, prepared on short notice,

demonstrated their ability to meet and exceed the military's stringent parameters. Built for high-speed manoeuvrability in extreme environments, DroneAcharya's FPV drones are ideal for military use.

"These drones, which can operate with or without GPS, are equipped with water resistance, electromagnetic hardening and advanced targeting capabilities," he said.

They are suitable for a range of military applications, including reconnaissance, arsenal delivery and kamikaze strikes, he added.

Major General (Dr) Mandip Singh (retd), president of Strategic Alliances at DroneAcharya, emphasised the importance of this achievement.

"The ability of our drones to operate at extreme altitudes and in challenging environments demonstrates DroneAcharya's potential to provide innovative and reliable solutions for the Indian armed forces," Singh said.

Home Ministry rejects suggestion that attempt being made to curtail powers of new Govt, CM in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Home Ministry on Friday strongly rejected the suggestion that there is an attempt to curtail the powers of the soon-to-be-elected chief minister or the next elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, saying there is not even an iota of truth in it.

The strong statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah's Office came after former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah asked bureaucrats in the Union Territory to resist any pressure to "further disempower" the incoming elected government.

In response to Abdullah's post on X, Shah's office took to the social media platform to say, "Mr @OmarAbdullah's tweet is misleading and speculative in nature. There is not even an

iota of truth, as there is absolutely no such proposal." In a post on the microblogging site, the former chief minister said, "The BJP has clearly accepted defeat in J-K. Why else would the chief secretary be assigned the duty to change transaction of business rules of the government to curtail the powers of the chief minister/elected government and assign the same to the LG?"

The Home Minister's Office (HMO) said the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019 passed by the Parliament of India provides for notifying the transaction of business rules, and the same was notified in the year 2020.

"The people of J&K have wholeheartedly supported the efforts of the Government of India to bring in a democratically elected government

through the historic free and fair election process in which the citizens participated enthusiastically," it said.

In his post on X, Abdullah also said that he got the information from within the Jammu and Kashmir administration secretariat. "Officers would be well advised to resist any pressure to further disempower the incoming elected government," he said.

The three-phased polling to the Jammu and Kashmir assembly concluded on October 1 with 63.88 per cent of voters exercising their franchise. The results of the elections will be announced on October 8.

The erstwhile state was bifurcated under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019 on August 5, 2019, into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.