

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Won't spare terrorists...

vibrant J&K. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, efforts have been made to fulfil the hopes, aspirations and dreams of the youth of Jammu Kashmir," the Lt Governor said.

Emphasising the significant role of the younger generation in nation building, the Lt Governor called upon the youth to work with team spirit while following the ideals and values of the founding fathers of the country for peace and progress of J&K.

"The combined power of the youth ignited by desire and determination to carve a new destiny for the society will be the most powerful strength in the journey of 'Viksit Bharat' and a joyous, peaceful, prosperous Jammu Kashmir," he said.

Sharing key reforms and initiatives of the Government in the past few years, the Lt Governor highlighted the need to channelise the energy of the youth towards achieving the common goal of development and peace.

When the energy of the youth and their dynamic actions are channelised for development, cultural and social activities, then they not only work towards realizing the true potential of the region but also their consciousness, creativity, innovation and their courage impacts various developmental sectors, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also urged the youth to carry the message of peace and contribute in counter-radicalization and prevention of drug addiction.

Among the many challenges facing our youth is the challenge of drug addiction. Drug-free J&K is a step to ensure our youth realize their true potential and with the hard work shape their tomorrow, he said.

The Lt Governor commended the Save Youth Save Future foundation for working tirelessly for Youth empowerment. "I am confident the young generation will fulfil the dream of modern J&K and help the society to achieve developmental aspirations," he said.

During the interactive session, the Young Panelists from diverse backgrounds shared their views on the present scenario and transformational journey of Jammu Kashmir.

Responding to the issues and demands put forth by the youth, civil society members and various sections of society, the Lt Governor assured that appropriate action will be taken to redress the genuine issue projected by them during the interaction.

He further called upon the people to identify and isolate anti-national elements and those disrupting the peace.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the young achievers, social workers and prominent citizens for their contribution to the society.

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Maqsood-Ul-Zaman, DIG NKR Baramulla; Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Chairman, Save Youth Save Future Foundation, prominent citizens, members of Save Youth Save Future Foundation and youth in large number were present.

Highlights...

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Confident young generation will fulfil dream of modern J&K, help society to achieve developmental aspirations.

Following Vajpayee Ji's...

India and Pakistan and said the former Indian premier was the first leader to take the bold step of visiting Lahore by bus, initiating the Delhi-Lahore Bus Service. "During that trip, he even visited Minar-e-Pakistan, a challenging gesture from any Indian leader. At the border, he famously stated, 'Friends can change, but not neighbours.' I doubt that in today's climate, anyone would say such a thing," Omar recalled.

The Chief Minister praised Vajpayee's initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between Kashmir and the rest of India, citing his well-known commitment to "Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat" (humanity, democracy, and the Kashmiri identity).

"Whenever Jammu and Kashmir faced difficulties, he consistently advocated for dialogue as the path to peace. Despite facing significant obstacles, he extended a hand of friendship. When he spoke about Jammu and Kashmir, he emphasized 'Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat, and Kashmiriyat'-humanity, democracy, as the essence of Kashmir," he said about Vajpayee's tenure as PM.

Omar said that Vajpayee had believed that people on both sides of the divided Jammu and Kashmir should meet, and he opened roads to facilitate that connection.

"Sadly, those roads have since been closed, and it seems today that there's an effort to widen the gap rather than bridge it," he added.

The chief minister said that if we had followed the path outlined by Vajpayee ji, we might not have been in the difficult situation we face today. "He is gone, and with him, we seem to have lost our direction," he said.

The Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reflected on the autonomy resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, which was subsequently returned by the central government.

He noted that while the resolution was initially rejected, former Prime Minister Vajpayee later acknowledged that the decision may have been made hastily.

In response, Omar said, Vajpayee appointed Late Arun Jaitley as the minister to initiate dialogue with Kashmir, signaling a willingness to engage on the matter.

"It's true that the Autonomy Resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was sent back by his government. However, he later felt it was done in haste, which is why he appointed a cabinet minister to initiate dialogue on the matter. At that time, the late Arun Jaitley, who was the Law Minister, was tasked with starting discussions on the resolution," Omar said and added that with "Vajpayee ji's intentions for Jammu and Kashmir, we had no contradictions-his commitment to peace and dialogue was unquestionable."

Omar also remembered former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee as a figure of great integrity. "Chatterjee ji was a politician who lived by his principles, a rarity in today's politics. His legacy of steadfast values and commitment to the people is something we should all aim to emulate."

The Chief Minister also paid respects to the broader group of 57 leaders being remembered in the assembly, many of whom he had known personally or professionally.

"Among these departed, I have known 45 of them, either directly or indirectly. Each one has made invaluable contributions to Jammu and Kashmir. Their service is something we should learn from and be inspired by."

While concluding, the CM emphasized the importance of honouring these leaders by carrying forward the values they stood for, drawing lessons from their dedication, principles, and service to Jammu and Kashmir and to India as a whole.

Personal loss to...

I became Chief Minister in 2009, he once again stepped into the role of advisor. Through every twist and turn, his dedication never faltered," he said.

The Chief Minister's eyes glistened with unshed tears as he reflected on Rana's unwavering commitment to the party.

"He never complained when I reshuffled the ministries or when he was tasked with organisational work. His loyalty to the National Conference was unwavering, and his hard work was evident to all," Abdullah said.

He made a gesture towards the opposition BJP benches and said, "You all witnessed it; wherever he was sent - be it Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, or Gujarat - he excelled."

Abdullah shared a glimpse into Rana's humble beginnings, reminiscing "he started with a small Maruti service station where he was often seen in mechanic uniform, diligently cleaning vehicles."

"That was the essence of Devender - hardworking and humble which led to him being a successful businessman with an empire of showrooms but he always remained grounded," he said.

As the Chief Minister continued, his voice broke, a sign of the depth of his sorrow. "In my 25-26 years of politics, many have come and gone, but the departure of Devender Singh Rana has left a profound impact on my heart. "Today, I regret not realising how seriously ill he was; I would have sought to mend our relationship. Unfortunately, that opportunity never came, and now, we gather here to pay our tributes," he said.

Abdullah's heartfelt words echoed through the assembly, capturing the essence of a friendship that transcended politics. "His loss is not just a political one for me; it is deeply personal. The regret of his departure will remain with me for the rest of my life."

Terrorist killed, 2...

opened fire on the security forces, who retaliated. In the exchange of fire, a terrorist was killed, while an Army jawan and a CRPF trooper were injured, the official said.

He added that the injured were taken to a hospital and the operation was underway.

Embezzlement of Mid...

amount of Rs 7,07,495 into official accounts of 14 schools covered under MDM Scheme in Education Zone Mawar District Kupwara.

"The accused managed the release of excess payment in favour of schools by resorting to escalation of amount in different advices and later on received the amount back from MDM incharges of schools in cash on pretext of depositing it back into the official account but instead misappropriated and embezzled same," ACB official said.

Accordingly on the culmination of preliminary enquiry, official said, a case FIR No 14-2024 U/S 5(1) (c), 5(1) (d) r/w section 5(2) of JK PC Act Svt. 2006 was registered at P/S ACB Baramulla against the accused public servant Abdul Rashid Dar and investigations were set into motion.

Immediately after registration of case search warrants were obtained from the Court and in pursuance to which searches are being conducted simultaneously at three different locations in Handwara in presence of executive magistrates and independent witnesses, official said adding that further investigations are going on.

After disengagement, India...

military standoff between the two armies.

In Canberra on Tuesday, Jaishankar: "The immediate part which awaits us is what we call the de-escalation, which is the build up of forces along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)."

Both the countries have bigger troop deployment than existed along the LAC before 2020, "so we have negotiations ahead of us," the External Affairs Minister said.

The ties between the two Asian giants nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

"What India and China negotiated on October 21 was the last set of what we call disengagement agreements, which essentially means that after the summer of 2020, Chinese and Indian troops have been deployed along the LAC in distances which were extremely concerning," he said.

"The priority has been to find ways of separating the troops, which is why the word disengagement."

He listed 'having them (the two armies) go back to their normal operating basis as far as possible' and also resuming patrol "in the way in which it used to be done in 2020," were the last set of agreement and said, the expectation is that the patrolling would resume there, which in fact, "is happening as we speak."

The disengagement chapter is done, its implementation "will happen in the coming days to everybody's satisfaction."

During this period (post 2020), India-China relationship was also "very profoundly affected," because it has always been an assumption on India's side that peace and tranquillity in the border areas is a prerequisite for the development of bilateral ties, he mentioned.

He also drew attention to what was agreed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in their first bilateral meeting after five years, that the foreign minister and the National Security Advisor would meet their counterparts and find ways to normalise the relationship.

"And how do you establish an equilibrium between yourselves at in the border, border areas, which happens to be disputed as well, as well as establish a working relationship in on other issues," he said and termed them as "a very complex set of issues" that require a "lot of thinking and management."

Jaishankar also spoke about how India balances its position as a member of both the BRICS bloc, which he explained is non-west but not anti-west, and QUAD.

Highlighting the importance of the Indian diaspora, the Indian minister said the change in India-US relations can be almost completely correlated with the growth of the diaspora in the United States and asked Australia to learn from it.

The more the diaspora is made comfortable, the more they are seen as equal partners in Australia, the more they are likely to serve, actually, almost as the ballast of the growing relationship, Jaishankar added.

Speaker asks MLAs...

off your mobile phones. We have to uphold the dignity and sanctity of the House," Rather said after the obituary references in the House.

The National Conference leader also warned that he would ensure that the rules of the Assembly are followed by the members.

"I request you to cooperate. If any member does not cooperate, I will be forced to take action," he said.

J&K admin gears...

engaging with local communities to ensure that eligible residents, especially newly-eligible voters, are registered and able to exercise their voting rights. Any discrepancies or grievances arising during this process are to be promptly addressed.

As part of the special summary revision of the panchayat electoral roll, a draft will be published on November 11. The period for filing claims and objections (including for additions, deletions, corrections and transpositions) will run from November 11 to December 9.

Special camps are scheduled from November 16 to December 1 to facilitate public participation, and claims and objections will be resolved by December 24. The final panchayat electoral roll for 2024 will be published on January 6 next year.

The revision, which uses January 1, 2025, as the qualifying date, aims at creating an accurate and up-to-date electoral roll to support a transparent and fair democratic process at the grassroots level, the officials said.

Notably, these elections fall under the jurisdiction of the Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commission, not the Election Commission of India, the officials said.

The last panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir were held in 2018 after a gap of several years. The term of the Panchayati Raj institutions expired on January 9 this year.

This will also be the first panchayat election since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019, with around 35,000 panchayat representatives elected, including approximately 4,490 sarpanches, across the Union Territory.

However, clarity on the exact timing of the next municipal and panchayat polls is awaited as the Centre has prioritised conducting a delimitation exercise.

Army to hold...

soldier-general duty and 45 vacancies for clerks and tradesmen in the Territorial Army.

The recruitment rally is open to candidates from 31 tehsils of Jammu division, including Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, and Jammu districts, for soldier general duty, the spokesman said, adding the candidates from the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are eligible to apply for clerks and tradesmen positions.

"The rally will offer opportunities for young individuals to showcase their skills and contribute to the nation's defence. The Indian Army and civil administration of Jammu and Kashmir have joined hands to ensure the smooth conduct of this rally," the spokesman said.

He said the Army also expects this rally to be a grand success and enable the youths of the region to earn the honour of serving their motherland as 'Sons of Soil'.

CS for clearing...

concerned to rationalise the staff deployed for authentication of cases and their subsequent cross-checking so that the cases from both public and private hospitals are processed at a reasonable pace without facing any undue delays.

While stressing on strict monitoring of the claims to check their genuineness, the Chief Secretary asked for looking into the district wise coverage of NFSA families with that of the Gold Cards issued against the persons in those families.

He also advised the Department to empanel new hospitals that have forayed into operation here in J&K especially those of national repute. He specified that such steps are going to enhance the quality of services besides encouraging other players to join the fray.

While speaking in the meeting, the Secretary H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, made out that keeping the severity of the patients into consideration the authorization in favour of Dialysis and Onco-Surgeries are being prioritized by the Department.

He also laid out the action plan for speeding-up the approvals of pre-authorizations in a time-bound manner. He reiterated that measures would be taken apace to clear the backlog as the directives issued by the chair.

It was also revealed that during the current policy period starting from 15th of March this year almost 2,65,000 pre-authorizations had been made and 2,51,487 claims submitted for payment.

It was further apprised that in terms of manpower, SHA has increased it to a larger extent and in coming days more medics, accounts personnel are going to be

deployed for making the process more seamless and time-bound for the easement of general public.

550 indigenous Asmi...

Prasad Bansod of the Indian Army in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The weapon is being manufactured indigenously by Lokesh Machines Limited in Hyderabad, it said.

"The 'Asmi' machine pistol is a robust, compact and reliable weapon designed for close-quarter battles and specialised operations," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) said on X.

The Army further explained that the pistol's unique semi-bullpup design allows for single-handed operation, functioning both as a pistol and a submachine gun.

"This 100 per cent Made-in-India weapon's induction demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Indian Army to Atmanirbhar Bharat, propelling the nation toward self-sufficiency in defence manufacturing," the Army said.

According to the specifications, the gun, which features an eight-inch barrel and a 33-round magazine firing 9mm ammunition, is set to arm the Special Forces for close-quarter battles and specialised operations in the Northern Command's operational area.

Lokesh Machines Limited was awarded the contract in April this year to supply 550 9×19mm Asmi machine pistols to the Army's special forces in the Northern Command.

CM's sons watch assembly proceedings for first time

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's two sons Zahir and Zamir watched the legislative assembly proceedings for the first time on Tuesday.

In their 20s, both Zahir and Zamir Abdullah -- Omar's sons with his estranged wife Payal Nath -- are lawyers by profession. They arrived at the legislative assembly complex here and watched the proceedings during obituary references. The fourth generation Abdullahs sat beside Nasir Aslam Wani," the advisor to the chief minister.

Both Zahir and Zamir actively took part in the campaign for the assembly elections in the family's bastion Ganderbal from where their father contested and won.

They had joined him in electioneering even during the parliamentary polls which Abdullah lost from north Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency.

In the assembly polls, the duo was actively seen canvassing for their father, meeting and interacting with party workers in the Ganderbal assembly segment.

The Abdullah scions also gave public speeches when they addressed a party workers' gathering in the central Kashmir district. They listened to the workers and assured them they would themselves see to it that their genuine concerns are addressed.

They recently also attended the party's youth meeting at the NC headquarters in Jammu. They visited the party's students' union office and interacted with youth activists.

However, both of them have said they have no plans of joining politics as they are too young and want to learn first.

Maj Gen A P S Bal takes over as GOC of Delta force in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Major General A P S Bal took charge as General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Counter-Insurgency Force 'Delta' in the Chenab Valley region of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

He succeeds Major General Upkar Chander. "Major General APS Bal, SM (Sena Medal) assumed the command as GOC CIF (Delta)," the Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

He honoured bravehearts by laying a wreath at the war memorial here and extended his best wishes to all ranks, encouraging them to uphold the highest standards of operational preparedness at all times, it said.

Based in Batote, the Delta force was raised on September 5, 1994. It has been instrumental in countering terrorism in the Chenab Valley districts of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban.

Army commander reviews operational preparedness of forces in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Army's northern commander Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar on Tuesday visited Rajouri to review the operational preparedness of the forces in the border district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Lt Gen Kumar's visit to Dera Ki Gali in Rajouri comes a day after he visited the Akhmoor sector where three hardcore terrorists were killed in a two-day-long operation on October 28 and 29.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, northern command was accompanied by General Officer Commanding of Jammu-based 16 Corps, also known as White Knight Corps, Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, they said.

The Army Commander commended the troops for their exemplary professionalism and exhorted all ranks to uphold the highest standards of operational readiness, the Army's northern command posted on X.

Discarding redundant colonial practices should be judiciary's guiding principles, says Prez Murmu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday said that equal justice and getting rid of redundant colonial practices should be the guiding principles for the country's judiciary.

Terming the Supreme Court as the conscience-keeper of Independent India, she said the apex court has developed a jurisprudence that is rooted in Indian ethos and realities. Addressing an event here, Murmu said the members of the Constituent Assembly would have thought about the events of the decades behind them just as "we are looking back at the last 75 years of our judicial history".

"The experience of suffering imperial arrogance, like those caused by the bitter opposition to the Ilbert Bill and the passage of the Rowlatt Act, would have hurt their sensibility. They conceived the judiciary of Independent India as an arm of the social revolution which would uphold the ideal of equality," she said.

Murmu said equal justice and getting rid of the now-redundant colonial practices "should be the guiding principles for our judiciary".

While continuing with the useful aspects of the pre-independence jurisprudence, "we should remove the legacy over-burden", the President said while releasing three publications of the Supreme Court of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The released publications are "Justice for Nation: Reflections on 75 Years of the Supreme Court of India"; "Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion"; and "Legal Aid Through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India", according to a statement issued by the President's office.

Murmu said the book titled 'Justice for the Nation', captures the high points of the Supreme Court's 75-year journey.

"It also describes the impact of the Supreme Court on various aspects of the lives of the people. Our justice delivery system must strengthen our onward march as a just and fair society.

"I am glad to observe that the report on the working of legal aid cells, released today, is devoted to the legal aid clinics operating in law schools in our country," she said. The President said such legal aid clinics contribute to imparting holistic legal education to the country's youth and sensitise them to the needs of the vulnerable segments of society. "The status of undertrial prisoners has been an abiding concern for me. I am happy that the report on the prison system, released today, seeks to understand the role of the judiciary in reducing the number of undertrial prisoners," she said.