

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Got vital leads...

the process to tighten them up is on, under which the people involved in terrorism in any way are being notified as terrorists at an individual level.

"This will definitely have an impact...the world comes to know that person's profile. The national and international platforms, the groups of countries, which work on counter-terrorism, they also come to know about them and what they have done. It helps to tighten their noose at the national and international levels," he said.

On Rahul Gandhi-led 'Bharat-Jodo Yatra', the DGP said there are no inputs of a possible threat and that adequate security will be provided to the march when it reaches the Union territory.

"The Yatra will enter Jammu from Punjab in a day or two. For a few days, the march will be in different districts of Jammu and then it will enter the Kashmir Valley.

"The Yatra will be in Kashmir for three to four days. We have discussed that (in the security review meeting). We have discussed the arrangements at the range-level and the district-level. Whatever security measures need to be taken, they will be taken," Singh said.

Asked if there was any threat input about the Yatra, the top cop said, "There is no such input."

To a question on whether the Yatra will be allowed on foot, he replied that it will be regulated in such a manner that people do not face any inconvenience.

"These things will be regulated because there is traffic and other things. A huge yatra can cause inconvenience to people as roads can get blocked. This is a Yatra and is taken both on foot as well as using vehicles.

"Our endeavour will be to take forward the march with vehicles wherever there is a single road, and in rest of the places, the participants may be advised to walk on foot where the roads allow," Singh said.

He asserted that the Yatra can be "guided from the security point of view as well wherever it is needed".

DGP Singh also said that measures will be put in place for smooth celebration of the Republic day.

VDC member resorts...

the official said, many people of the area got suspicious that there was some movement of militants, following which a local VDC member also fired in air:

He said following firing by the VDC member a team of security forces also rushed to the spot.

SEC extends 2...

eligible persons for getting themselves registered as voters in the Panchayat Electoral Roll. It is pertinent to mention that a comprehensive revision of Panchayat Electoral Roll with 01.01.2023, as qualifying date has been taken up in all Panchayat Halqas of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir:

Further, the Commission has informed that the dates regarding final disposal of claims which is January 30, 2023 and the final publication of Electoral Roll which is February 10, 2023 shall remain unchanged.

Nadda gets extension...

committed leadership and contributions, and extend the best wishes for his future term," Shah said.

With Nadda set to lead the party during the Lok Sabha elections, he will be following the footsteps of his predecessor Shah, whose tenure was also extended so as to allow him to spearhead the organisation during the 2019 polls.

Shah expressed confidence that the BJP, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party chief Nadda, will achieve a bigger win than the last general elections.

The minister lauded Nadda's leadership, saying he connected the party organisation with the service of people during the COVID-19 outbreak.

"During the pandemic, our party has done a lot of significant works under Nadda-ji's leadership; be it about providing food and rations to the poor or taking people to hospitals for check-ups and treatment," he added.

Shah further said that throughout Nadda's leadership term, the BJP has worked on the principle of 'Seva Hi Sangathan' right from the booth till the national levels.

Noting that the party won many state assembly polls under Nadda, Shah said the BJP won 73 assembly bypolls out of 120 held during his tenure.

It was under Nadda's leadership that the BJP performed well in Bihar, and again formed the government in Maharashtra and Haryana, he added.

The BJP won assembly polls in Assam, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh during Nadda's tenure as the party president, Shah said, adding that it also formed the government on its own for the first time in Goa.

"Talking about the recent victory in the Gujarat assembly polls, Shah said, "Under Nadda's leadership, the BJP organisation converted Modi's magical leadership into votes and the party registered a record-breaking victory by winning 156 assembly seats."

He further said that the booth strengthening programme and the 'Vijay Sanklap Rally' are among the biggest takeaways of Nadda's leadership.

Nadda had become the BJP president on January 20, 2020 for a term of three years.

Due to the first outbreak of the pandemic and elections, the BJP's organisational polls could not take place on time, Shah noted.

Only after the organisational polls are conducted in at least 50 per cent of states, the process of electing a president for full three-year term begins, party leader said.

A new president will be elected after the party's internal election process, which is likely to start after the next Lok Sabha. The BJP's constitution allows two consecutive full terms to an incumbent.

Misappropriation of cement...

during his tenure/period between April 2001 to March 2006, committed the misappropriation of 4364 cement bags and 12.97 quintal of steel amounting to Rs.9,21,735/- and Dr Bharat Bhushan, who was BDO of the Block Barnoti, under whose supervision accused-2 was working, facilitated and allowed him to fabricate the record by authenticating fake/double entry in the concerned register. "The allegations against Dr Bharat Bhushan per se are generalized as Dr Bharat Bhushan had the tenure as BDO Barnoti between 05-10-2002 to 19-06-2004, so it is impossible and impractical that he (Accused No.1) facilitated the misappropriation and criminal misconduct on behalf of the accused No.2 beyond his tenure. While as during the tenure of accused no.2 there were two more BDOs who had discharged their duties during the check period of main accused person (Accused No.2) but those BDOs namely P S Rathore and Dr. Sunil Sharma have not been implicated but cited as witnesses for the reason that they were instrumental in highlighting the mischief of the accused No.2 (storekeeper) but no such document is on record that these two left out BDOs have written to the higher authorities about the pilferage in the government stock as BDO Barnoti but the letter dated 24-02-2006 which is part of the record on the basis of which recovery of Rs 3,27,980 was recovered from the accused-2 suggest that the said letter was issued by the ACD Kathua on the directions by the then Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj of J&K Govt., in which another person designated as Senior Assistant of the same BDO office Barnoti was also shown as defaulter of 1076 cement bags but prosecution is silent on the second defaulter. It appears that the six investigating officers, who conducted the investigation, did not bother to go deep into the surfaced facts in a professional way but they believed the statements of left out BDOs. In this case I have also observed that the prosecution while coming into the conclusion that there were fake/double entry of the Challan in the stock issuance register; which conclusion while going through the other part of the Challan/charge sheet suggest that duplicate GRs were printed by the main accused (storekeeper) which alleged fact has been also highlighted by prosecution witnesses namely Amarjeet Singh, Sham Lal Verma, Manish Jandiyal in their statements too but the so called six professional investigating officers have not ruled out the same, thus giving rights to reasonable suspicion regarding the investigation.

The court further observed that the prosecution has been able to seize only 7 files out of total 71 work files for the reasons best known to the prosecution. "The prosecution highlighted the non-cooperation of the storekeeper but never resorted to the procedure of search and seizure provided under Criminal Procedure Code. Also as per the record, there are proper indents with respect to most of the alleged fake/double entry challans but no investigation in this respect was conducted with respect to the concerned persons who made requisitions and approvals of the said indents. That the Audit report of the office of BDO Barnoti dated 08-06-2007 for the check period November 2002 to January 2007 was even not looked into during investigation wherein detailed Siphoning ,irregularities, discrepancies and the loss of supervision of higher officers was highlighted. Furthermore in this case the tabulations given under different schemes, given in the charge sheet, is also not strictly matching with the outcome of the investigation vis-a-vis cement bags/steel except double entry of the single challan. It is settled law that fair investigation gives rise to fair trial. Therefore, in the given facts and circumstances and in the interest of justice, this court is of the view that the charge sheet does not disclose the complete factual position vis-a-vis complicity of the accused and other persons if any, into the misadventure. Consequently the charge sheet is, therefore ordered to be returned for further investigation/clarification in the light of the observations made hereinabove in the proceeding paras. However; taking into account the time period that has lapsed already, it is directed that further investigation be completed within a period of three months positively," the Court directed.

LG hands-over...

"We stand with the family of late Puran Krishan and committed for their well-being

in the future," observed the Lt Governor:

The family members of Puran Krishan Bhat were also present at the Raj Bhawan.

Modi says India’s...

dedicate itself to the country's development and turn "amrit kaal", the 25 year period to 2047, into "kartavya kaal" (era of duties).

Sources said he also cautioned the party against any sense of "overconfidence" and cited the example of the BJP's loss in Madhya Pradesh in 1998 despite the unpopularity of then Congress government led by Digvijaya Singh. Modi was then a key minder of the BJP's organisational affairs in the state.

He also suggested party workers refrain from making unnecessary remarks on irrelevant issues such as movies as they put the party's development agenda on the back-burner, the sources said.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis told reporters that Modi, in his address to the BJP national executive meet, emphasised on reaching out to all sections of society and said his speech was not of a political leader but of a statesman underlining that kept the nation above the party.

The BJP is no longer merely a political movement but a social movement as well that is working to transform socioeconomic conditions," Modi told the executive, he said.

The prime minister said people in 18-25 age group have not witnessed the political history of India and are not aware of "corruption and wrongdoings" that took place under previous governments.

"So, they need to be made aware. Let them know about the good governance of the BJP," he said in an apparent swipe at the previous dispensations at the Centre.

Fadnavis said Modi also advised the party to conduct special programmes of its different 'morechas', especially in border villages so that it can connect with people there more and ensue that the government's developmental schemes reach them.

"The prime minister's speech was inspirational. It guided us as well as showed us a new roadmap. He asked us to dedicate every moment of our life to advance the country's development. Only by converting the 'amrit kaal' into 'kartavya kaal', the country can be taken forward," the Maharashtra leader said.

Emphasising on environment conservation, Modi instructed party workers that on lines of 'Beti Bachao' campaign they have to start 'Dharti Bachao' (save earth) campaign, Fadnavis said adding that the Prime Minister underlined the need to reduce dependency on fertilisers.

Modi referred to the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, which was recently held in Varanasi, to celebrate ancient spiritual ties between the two regions and asked party members to connect with different cultures.

"Only those who take a pledge go on to create history. The BJP has to take a pledge and also to create history," he said.

Two heroin suppliers...

said. "They used to smuggle Pakistan-made heroin from Punjab and used to supply it to the youth in Marheen, Hiranagar, Kathua, Samba, Sarore, Bishmah, RS Pura and many other areas of Jammu province," the officer said.

The police also seized Rs 24,420 from the duo, Tosh said, adding that a case under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act had been registered.

Focus on sanitation...

the water bodies to be developed under it although the requisite target of 75 AmritSarovars in each district has long been achieved in the UT.

Regarding the employment generation for youth the Chief Secretary directed the DCs to ensure that all the applicants of self employment are provided the necessary assistance. He observed that J&K is marching ahead with the goal of saturating the self employment like wage employment in the UT. He stated that till March this year every youth aspiring and eligible for the self employment should be catered by the administration without any delay. He maintained that the government is also determined to equip its youth with relevant skill sets so that they find easy to find jobs once industries are established here under the single window system of New Industrial Policy set to attract an investment of over Rs 60000 Cr.

Dr Mehta also took appraisal of activities and progress achieved under 'Mission Youth'. He made out that the beneficiaries under this mission should act as agents of change in the society. He advised the officers to bring success stories before public for ingrainin confidence among others about taking advantage of different self employment opportunities offered by government under different programmes.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary also gave out that those eligible for ration under Garib Kalyan Yojana are going to get their food grains free of cost under NFSA. He revealed that the system is smoothly working in the whole of country and in J&K the same is going to provide food security to thousands of our eligible families as well.

Kashmir experiences sub...

south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, while the minimum in Kupwara, a frontier district, settled at minus 4.3 degrees Celsius 7.4 degrees below the normal, the officials said.

Pahalgam in Anantnag district, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, registered a low of minus 11.8 degrees Celsius down from minus 10.2 degrees Celsius. The minimum was 4.6 degrees below normal for this part of the season.

This was the lowest night temperature of the season so far at the tourist resort. The resort was also the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minimum temperature at the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district went half a degree up from the previous night's minus 12 degrees Celsius to settle at minus 11.5 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological office said the weather will remain mainly dry across J-K till January 18. There will be a further decrease in the night temperature till that time.

It said, a few western disturbances are likely to affect J-K from January 19 to 25.

The weather will remain cloudy from January 19-21 with chances of light rain or snow over isolated to scattered places mainly over higher reaches.

However, it said a much higher intensity precipitation will occur from the night of January 22 to the forenoon of January 24 and there is a possibility of widespread moderate snow in plains of Kashmir (with rains in Jammu) and moderate to heavy snow over middle and higher reaches.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day harshest weather period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent. Chillai Kalan begins on December 21 and ends on January 30. The cold wave continues even after that with a 20-day-long 'Chillai Khurd' and a 10-day-long 'Chillai Badhta' following it.

J&K Admn grants...

hoisting the national flag in Srinagar. It has so far covered Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab.

"The yatra will enter Lakhnpur (in Jammu and Kashmir) from Punjab on Thursday evening. The flag handover ceremony will take place near Maharaja Gulab Singh's statue between 5.45 pm and 6.15 pm.

"After halting for the night, Gandhi will lead the yatra from Hatli Morh in Kathua from 7 am the next morning," Patil said.

The rally will reach Jammu on January 23. "We are planning a rally in the city and have applied for permission from the administration. We are hopeful of getting it as well," the Congress leader said.

She said a Congress delegation met the Additional Director-General of Police on Tuesday and discussed in detail the yatra's security aspects.

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and leaders of other parties will join the yatra in Lakhnapur; Patil said, adding former minister Lal Singh had also expressed his desire to welcome the yatra.

"National Conference Vice-President Omar Abdullah will join the yatra after it crosses the Banihal tunnel into Kashmir, while People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti has informed that she and her mother and daughter would also join," she said.

Patil said anyone who believed in Gandhi's ideology of uniting the country and the philosophy of the Congress were welcome to be part of the yatra.

She said many people had expressed reservations about the response to the foot march in Jammu and Kashmir but "I want to tell them that the yatra will be a grand success here as well like it generated the response while moving from various states".

The Congress leader said Gandhi would leave Jammu for Kashmir on January 24, crossing Udhampur and Ramban towns.

Asked whether the Congress expected any leaders to join the party during the yatra, she said Gandhi had made it clear that the march was apolitical and only meant to unite the country against hatred.

However, the party will inform Gandhi about pressing issues such as the government's land eviction drive and the demands of Kashmiri Pandits, she added.

Several delegations are also expected to meet Gandhi during the yatra, Patil said. A 40-member delegation from Ladakh will brief the Congress leader about their problems, she added.

Gandhi is also likely to address two press conferences -- one each in Jammu and Srinagar.

Two ex-DAP...

Vikar Rasool Wani at the party headquarters.

Former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, former minister Peerzada Mohd Sayeed and former MLA Balwan Singh who returned to the Congress fold early this month after leaving the Azad-led party were also present.

"With today's joining of 60 activists, mostly basic and founding members of DAP, about 70 to 80 percent of the workers who had switched to the newly floated party

under some influence have returned to the Congress fold," Wani told reporters.

DAP General Secretary Khatana and his son resigned from the DAP on January 10. Patil extended best wishes to the new entrants and assured them that they will get due honour in the party.

"The Congress leadership is of the view that they had gone on two months leave and are now back to work. We will move forward together and strengthen our party," she said.

She claimed that more leaders from the DAP are rejoining the party in the coming days.

Others leaders who joined Mohammad Khaleel (Ex MLA), Dwarka Nath Sharma (BDC Chairman Khada Valli), Madan Lal Sharma (District Rural General Secretary), Om Prakash Sharma (District Rural General Secretary), Jagaatar Singh (Ex President Khour), Daljeet Singh (Ex President Pargval), Jagdish Raj (Ex President Samwah), Kali Dass (Ex President Bhalwal Brahmana), Bansilal Gupta (Ex PCC Member), Tarsem Chand (Ex Councillor), Karan Bhagat (Ex Councillor), Neelam Rani (Ex Councillor), Shamsher Singh Chib (Ex District President Jammu Rural), Deep Bhardwaj (Ex Congressmen, Contested Corporation Election), Kulbushan Singh Janwal (President DAP Jammu North), Raman Sharma (Sr DAP leader Balwal), Rampal Sharma (Sr DAP leader), Jai Kumar Sharma (Vice President DAP Jammu North), Darshan Mottan (VP DAP Jammu Rural), Darshan Mehra (Founder Member of DAP), Dr Bansilal (Vice President DAP from Marh Constituency), Kulbushan Kumar (Ex President Municipal Committee Parole Presently Councillor W. No 4 Parole Kathua), Dr Sarat Chander Sharma (Founder Member DAP), Rakesh kumar (Founder DAP Member), Shiv Kumar Sharma (Retired SO Jammu Municipal Corporation, founder Member DAP), Bashir Ahmad Bhatt, Gh. Mohd Padder, Mohd Shafi Malik, Peer Mushtaq Ahmad, Mohd Ashraf Chouhan, Haji Mohd Abdullah Mir, Gh. Mohd Baba, Mushtaq Ahmad Padder, Haji Nissar Ahmad Sheikh, Haji Mohd Yousuf, Mushtaq Ahmad, Toub Chouhan, Bansilal Raina, Basheet Ahmad Shah, Baba Gulzar; Gh Mohd Wani, Abdul Rehman , Basharat Khatana, Shambu Nath and Asha Chandan (all founder members DAP).

JSCL to conduct...

the engineers of JSCL," he added.

The CEO further added that the initiative will play a vital role in maintaining high quality and safety standards as the number of projects like Tawi Riverfront Development, Complete Street Development projects, Improvement of Junctions and others are at various stages of completion.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar has also directed JSCL to never compromise the quality standards of the projects.

Earlier, the contract agreement was exchanged between Additional CEO, JSCL, Hitesh Gupta and officials of M/s MSV International Inc. here at Jammu on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional CEO, JSCL, Hitesh Gupta Hitesh Gupta said that the agency will doubly ensure that the tests performed in the field lab are accurate and without error.

He added that the agency will also be responsible for periodic inspection of works and suggest measures, if any, required for the overall improvement of the project in terms of adherence to norms and quality parameters.

Police to verify...

by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Samba, Benam Tosh to in-charges of border outposts at a high-level security review meeting, they said.

The Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led 'Bharat-Jodo Yatra' will enter Jammu and Kashmir on January 19 and pass through Samba district as well, the officials said.

The Samba SSP directed the officers to verify the identities of inhabitants of border areas in their jurisdictions and ensure that no movement of any outsider goes unchecked, they said.

At the meeting, Tosh laid emphasis on better coordination and synergy among all agencies concerned, especially during the Republic Day celebrations in areas situated along the IB. The officers were further directed to strengthen checkpoints on highway as well as on border roads in addition to organising joint surprise checkpoints at selected places, the officials added. There was discussion on the present security scenario and the officers were advised to mobilise all available resources to generate actionable intelligence and conduct regular mock exercises in the border areas and strategic locations.

Kashmir problem will...

be able to progress and be strong "unless we are one".

The 85-year-old politician was speaking during a book release event. The book, "A Life in the Shadows A Memoir", has been written by former RAW chief A S Dulat who retired from service in 2000.

"India is a unique country and it is that because we all think together...we have to return to Gandhi's India...the division has to end if the nation has to progress," Abdullah said. "The country will never be strong unless we are one," he said.

The "problem of Kashmir will not die...and I am sorry to say, terrorism will stay unless we talk to our neighbour and find a true solution," Abdullah said without taking the name of Pakistan. He said he had given the same message of both the countries being "united and of building bridges", when former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had sought his opinion before he travelled to Pakistan in 1999.

The prime minister (Narendra Modi) of today has "said openly that war is not a solution for anything", he said, adding the Russia-Ukraine war was a case in point.

The former CM of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir expressed unhappiness at some of the current developments taking place in the country.

"Look at the institutions, Governors, look at the Lt Governor...how they are playing with the Constitution...I could never think of this," he said. Dulat, a retired IPS officer of the 1965 batch, reiterated the same feelings during the event as he said that "terrorism (in J&K) will not go away unless we engage with Pakistan." This (terrorism in J&K) will go on and on and on, the former head of the Research and Analysis Wing, India's external intelligence agency, said.

Darbar Move may have ended but Kashmir vendors keep annual date with affordable winter wear in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Braving chilly weather and foggy conditions, people from Kashmir have put up carts selling new and used winter wear in several parts of Jammu city, which was a regular sight during the now-scrapped Darbar Move.

Hundreds of Kashmiri youngsters have lined the streets in the Panama Chowk, Bahu Plaza, Gujjar Nagar, B C Road, Belicharana and the Gandhinagar areas of the city, continuing their 'annual practice'.

The more than 150-year-old biannual tradition of "Darbar Move" shifting of the civil secretariat between the two capitals of Jammu and Kashmir used to witness over one lakh people from Kashmir, mostly government employees and their families, throng Jammu in winters to avoid the chilly and harsh weather conditions in the Valley.

The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha-led administration stopped the practice in June 2021 after moving to e-office to ensure smooth functioning of the civil secretariat in the twin capitals across the year; saving Rs 200 crore per year on shifting of the offices.

The vendors from Kashmir vendors said they throng Jammu to sell warm clothes every winter.

"We come here every winter to sell warm clothes to the people of Jammu. We will continue this practice as the people here are still coming forward to buy them," Ishtiyaq Ahmed, a resident of South Kashmir selling used winter wear at Belicharana, told PTI. The Kashmiri vendors were all praise for the people of Jammu for their warmth and said they would continue their practice of coming here every winter to sell clothes even though the Darbar Move has stopped.

For many residents of Jammu, it is an opportunity to get winter clothes at affordable prices. "We come here to get these warm clothes as they are affordable for middle-class people. We await their arrival," Jammu resident Sham Sunder said.

The practice of 'Darbar Move' -- under which the state government used to function in Jammu during the six months of winter and in Srinagar during summer - was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872 to escape the extreme weather conditions in the two regions of the erstwhile state.

The practice continued even after the Independence with the aim of providing governance benefits to both the Kashmir and the Jammu regions. It involved moving voluminous files between Jammu and Srinagar and thousands of employees between the two cities in hundreds of buses and trucks.

After the Darbar Move came to an end, the Jammu business community said it was facing financial losses. Arun Gupta, president of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the move has killed the source of business and livelihood for many Jammu traders. "Our Kashmiri brothers and sisters would come here every year and spend money on shopping which gave a boost to our economy, but from last year, we have been incurring losses," he said. Hotel and lodge owners in Jammu have also raised concerns over the loss of business over the past two years and demanded the immediate restoration of the 'Darbar Move'.

"The business in Jammu used to thrive before the start of the direct train to Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine, in 2014. The COVID-19 outbreak and the government's decision to end the Darbar Move dealt a severe blow to our business," president of All Jammu Hotels and Lodges' Association Pawan Gupta said earlier.