

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!**

**Terror-free, fear...**

ensuring Rule of Law, and a safe and secure environment for the people. I wish you victory in every mission," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to the brave-hearts of J&K Police and the jawans of other security forces who have laid down their lives for the nation.

He highlighted that the J&K Police, working under extremely challenging circumstances, is playing a significant role in the country's internal security, ensuring the integrity of the nation and safety of the citizens of Union Territory.

Speaking on the new emerging security challenges, the Lieutenant Governor entrusted upon J&K Police to use the innovative tools to enhance its capabilities in countering disinformation and dealing with cross-border cyber threats.

Modern technology like Artificial Intelligence tools have changed the security landscape. Challenges of disinformation and deep fakes, remain major concerns, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called for better use of technological tools to maintain law and order and remain constantly vigilant for effective monitoring and respond to challenges in real time, while also anticipating and analysing changes in the criminals' Modus Operandi to remain a step ahead. "We need to shift our tactics from reactive nature of policing to proactive nature of policing," he said.

"Narco-terrorism, social media weaponization, disinformation campaigns have also emerged as big threats to internal security and harmony in the society. I call upon young police officers to work with new ideas, new tools, and lead the fight against Narco-terrorism, Drug trafficking, cyber-crime and counter radicalization," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that one more column of prosecution be added to the achievements and it should be ensured that the investigation of every crime is taken to its logical conclusion.

"Investigation and successful prosecution are important weaponries of effective policing. The responsibility of J&K Police is not limited to just neutralizing the terrorists, but also eliminating the divisive elements and those aiding and abetting terrorism and separatism," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the J&K Police for its civil action programmes. Garib Dass, Director, Udhampur Police Academy briefed about the program and various activities conducted during the Training course.

The Lieutenant Governor took the ceremonial Salute and inspected the parade. He also felicitated the new recruits who excelled during their training.

An oath was administered to the passing out DySPs for performing their duties with dedication and honesty.

DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary, Home Chandrakar Bharti, senior officials of Police, Security Forces and civil administration and family members of the passing out DySPs were present.

Lal Chand, Chairman, District Development Council, Udhampur; Balwant Singh Mankotia and Sunil Bhardwaj, Members of Legislative Assembly and prominent citizens in large number were also present on the occasion.

**HIGHLIGHTS...**

terrorists, but also eliminating divisive elements and those aiding and abetting terrorism and separatism

Asks young Police officers to work with new ideas, new tools, and lead fight against Narco-terrorism, Drug trafficking, cyber-crime and counter radicalization

Narco-terrorism, social media weaponization, disinformation campaigns have also emerged as big threats to internal security and harmony in society

Calls for better use of technological tools to maintain law and order, effective monitoring and quick response to challenges in real time, while also anticipating and analysing changes in criminals' Modus Operandi to remain step ahead

We need to shift our tactics from reactive nature of policing to proactive nature of policing.

**Ten drug peddlers...**

drug peddlers, were arrested after 6.1 gm of heroin was recovered from their private vehicle during checking at Rehambal along Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Udhampur; a police spokesman said.

He said another wanted drug peddler Rajrupinder Singh was arrested along with 7.38 gm of heroin near Tikri in Udhampur.

He was seen coming on foot from Katra side when he was intercepted and subjected to frisking by a police party, the spokesman said.

He said another drug peddler Darshan Singh was arrested from Galak village in Billawar tehsil of Kathua district following recovery of 1.7 gm of heroin from him.

One more drug peddler, Naresh Kumar alias Kutti was arrested and 3.08 gm of heroin was seized from him near border police post Chakroi in Suetgarh area of Jammu district.

Four separate cases under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were registered against all the five arrested accused and further investigations are on, the spokesman said.

According to reports from Srinagar, police have arrested five alleged drug peddlers, including a married couple, from various parts of the city in the last few days.

The police arrested an auto-rickshaw driver Waseem Sheikh and his wife Uzma Waseem following the recovery of a substantial quantity of narcotics from their auto at Zaldagar in Srinagar on Tuesday, a police spokesman said.

"During the course of investigation led by the Maharaj Ganj SHO, it came to fore that the married couple used their rickshaw and family cover to deceive authorities while selling narcotics among the youth," he added.

A case under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 has been registered and further investigation has been initiated.

The spokesman said an alleged drug peddler, Waseem Bafanda, was arrested on Friday following the recovery of narcotics from his possession at a checkpoint at Sazgaripora in the Zadibal area of the city.

"During further investigation, two more individuals, identified as Waqar Ahmad Duloo alias Koter and Mohammad Rafiq Pattoo, were arrested and a substantial quantity of contraband substances was recovered from their possession," he said.

**Property of terror...**

property (four marlas of land) situated at Syedabad in Pastoonarea of Tral," a police spokesperson said.

"The action was taken under section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The property was identified as belonging to a terror handler during an investigation conducted by Awantipora police," the spokesperson said.

He said Ahmad is involved in promoting and reviving terrorist activities by pushing into the country arms and ammunition for activating local terror networks.

**Bypolls in Nagrota...**

On Delhi elections, the CEC said the last date to file nominations is January 17 and the scrutiny of nominations will be done by January 18.

Candidates will be able to withdraw their nominations till January 20.

"It is a single-phase election... We have deliberately kept polling on a Wednesday so more people come out to vote... like we did in Maharashtra. The entire election process will be completed by February 10," Kumar said at a press conference.

Of the 70 seats in Delhi, 58 are general and 12 reserved.

According to the electoral roll, Delhi has 1.55 crore voters -- 83.49 lakh men, 71.74 lakh women and 1,261 transgender persons.

There are 25.89 lakh young voters, 2.08 lakh first-time voters, and 830 above the age of 100, Kumar said.

More than 13,000 polling stations will be set up in Delhi, he said.

In the 2020 polls, AAP won 62 seats and the BJP eight while the Congress drew a blank.

"There are two more parliamentary constituencies -- Basirhat in West Bengal and Visavadar in Gujarat. In both the cases, there are election petitions pending and, according to rules, we cannot do byelections till then," he added.

Election petitions can be filed against the winning candidate in the respective state high courts within 45 days of declaration of results.

**"DIFFICULT TO DEFINE..."**

a freebie is," Kumar said. He, however, added that while such announcements were made, people should also be aware of the state's fiscal health.

"It is necessary to see what is the fiscal health of a state... What is the debt-to-GDP ratio? How much will you borrow on that promise? How much is the financial cost of this promise?" Kumar said.

"...We cannot mortgage the future of future generations, this is a very very serious issue," he said.

"Our performa is on our website, this is high time it is accepted and legal answers are found but our hands are tied at the moment because the matter is subjudice," he added.

The CEC also urged candidates and political party leaders to refrain from making remarks against women and involving children during poll campaigns.

Kumar was asked about the recent comment made by BJP leader Ramesh Bidhuri against Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Bidhuri, the B-JP candidate from Kalkaji, sparked controversy when he had said he

would make the roads in his constituency "like Priyanka Gandhi's cheeks", if elected.

While not taking names, Kumar said the Election Commission would ensure no remarks were made against women when the Model Code of Conduct was in force.

"Any remarks against women should not be made, we have issued very strict guidelines... We condemn this but only when Model Code of Conduct is in place," he said.

"Children should not be associated (with campaigns) at all... We will not allow anti-women remarks," he added.

"On one hand we are trying to bring more and more women to the booth... If you speak in such a manner about mothers and sisters, it is shameful," he said.

**Bharatpol will help...**

He said this provision would simplify the process of extraditing convicted criminals from foreign countries to India.

"Combined with the capabilities of the Bharatpol portal, this new measure will empower the Indian law enforcement agencies to bring fugitives to justice, no matter where they hide," Shah said.

Bharatpol will bring all central and state law enforcement agencies on a common portal, streamlining the processing of all requests for international assistance through Interpol, including the issuance of Red Notices and other colour-coded Interpol notices.

"In the past, criminals based abroad have committed crimes in India and remained out of reach of our laws. Some criminals have committed crimes in India and escaped.

"Time has come for us to use modern systems to bring under our legal net the criminals committing a crime from abroad and fugitives who have escaped from the country after committing a crime here," Shah said.

The home minister urged the CBI to take the lead in ensuring its widespread training at the grassroots level which will strengthen the judicial system, enhance transparency and improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement efforts.

Noting that the Bharatpol will assist state police forces by facilitating collaboration with law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in 195 countries through real-time information sharing on such crimes, Shah asked the CBI to raise awareness among law enforcement agencies about Interpol notices and institutionalising this system rather than leaving it on an individual officer.

He said the new system has the transformative potential to address crimes such as drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism.

Shah pointed out that one of the key benefits will be access to 19 types of Interpol databases to state LEA, enabling young officers to analyse data, develop crime prevention strategies and apprehend criminals more effectively.

The home minister also distributed Police Medals to 35 CBI officers and officials who have been awarded the President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service and the Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation.

Among the recipients was former CBI joint director Amit Kumar, now posted as Chhattisgarh Police ADG, who led the probe into the coal scam that resulted in convictions in a number of cases. Kumar was selected for the coveted President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service on the occasion of Republic Day last year.

Joint Director Vidya Jayant Kulkarni, who supervised the investigation into the disproportionate assets case against former Telecom minister A Raja, among other cases, and DIG Jagroop S Gusinha, who supervised the investigation into the killing of Dhanbad judge Uttam Anand, ASP Mayukh Maitra, ASI Subhash Chandra and Head Constable Sreenivasan Illikkal Bahuleyan also received the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service from the Home Minister.

As the National Central Bureau for Interpol in India, the CBI is a designated body to facilitate international cooperation with Interpol on criminal cases in collaboration with various law enforcement agencies nationwide. The CBI coordinates with the central, state and Union Territory LEAs through dedicated officers in these forces known as Interpol liaison officers (ILOs).

These ILOs work in conjunction with unit officers (UOs), who typically hold positions such as superintendents of police, police commissioners or branch chiefs within their respective organisations.

Currently, communication between the CBI, ILOs and UOs is primarily conducted through time-consuming traditional methods, including letters, emails and faxes, which have now been done away with in Bharatpol.

The portal has built-in templates and a wizard that will also allow ground-level officers to draft Interpol-related requests in conformity with the requirements of the global body.

"A lot of times, state police officers sent requests with terminology not used in the Interpol. This portal has in-built templates to curb that practice, which will minimize time wasted on such to-and-fro communication," an official said.

The system was needed with the growing prevalence of transnational crimes like cybercrime, online radicalisation, drug trafficking and human trafficking that necessitate rapid and real-time international assistance in criminal investigations.

In the last three years, the CBI has brought back around 100 fugitives from abroad, which was approximately the total number of absconders brought in the last 20 years, a senior official said.

**Attack on Hotel...**

to assist them in the assault. However, seven days after the incident, the identities of most of accomplices remain unknown, raising questions about the efficiency of the investigation.

"This is a serious lapse," said a local resident. "How can the police not identify the people who were openly attacking the hotel staff in public?"

The Aggarwal brothers, along with one identified accomplice, Arun Choudhary, have been named in FIR 1/25 under sections related to assault and grievous injury. However, the lack of arrests and the failure to identify all attackers have drawn widespread criticism.

The incident has also brought renewed attention to the controversial history of the Aggarwal family. Rakesh Aggarwal, the father of the accused, was previously linked to the infamous Anara sex scandal, tarnishing the family's reputation further.

Locals argue that this incident reflects a pattern of misuse of influence and disregard for the law by the Aggarwal family.

Facing mounting public pressure, police officials still assure swift action. "We are committed to bringing the Aggarwal brothers to justice. No one is above the law," said a senior officer.

Despite these assurances, the public's patience is wearing thin. Protests and demonstrations are being planned by civil society groups to demand accountability. "This isn't just about one case," said a protester. "It's about ensuring that people in Jammu feel safe and that justice is delivered without bias or delay."

**Restoration work continues...**

snow clearance on inner roads and lanes. Electricity restoration almost complete with 100 per cent of 33 kv and 99 per cent of 11 kv feeders restored," Abdullah said in a post on X. The Kashmir valley and some areas in the Jammu division recorded moderate to heavy snowfall on Sunday, leading to road closures and snapping of electricity supply in many places.

**Jammu police raid...**

questioning and legal action is being taken as per the law of the land, the spokesman said, adding FIRs are registered at the concerned police stations under relevant sections of law.

Superintendent of Police, South Jammu, Ajay Sharma said the raids were conducted on the orders of the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu following large-scale complaints about illegal and suspicious activities at the spa centres which have seen a mushroom growth in the recent past.

The joint search parties conducted a thorough search of the Spa centres to ensure that no immoral activities were going on, he said.

The whole operation was conducted by SDPO East, SDPO South and SP South under the supervision of SSP Jammu Joginder Singh.

The officer said there were also reports that the order of the District Magistrate to ensure proper police verification of the tenants was not followed.

Referring to the arrest of two persons in Channi Himmat area on the charges of rape in August last year, he said a girl from Bihar, working at the spa centre, had accused her employer of rape before pushing her into immoral activities.

**RSC starts inspection...**

which will connect Kashmir with the rest of the country after nearly three decades of stupendous work.

Deshwal's visit comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Jammu Railway division from New Delhi, paving the way for efficient management of train services in the northernmost region of India.

The railway officials said the CRS conducted a statutory inspection of Katra-Reasi section and also visited the Anji Khad bridge, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, in Reasi district soon after reaching Katra this morning.

Deshwal will be visiting the iconic arch bridge over Chenab at Kauri -- the world's highest railway bridge -- before to and fro speed trial of Katra-Banihal by CRS Special on Wednesday afternoon, the officials said.

On January 4, a successful trial run of an electric train was successfully conducted on Katra-Banihal section. The railways has conducted six trials over the past month on various segments of the track, including the two major milestones of Anji Khad

Bridge and Chenab bridge.

The officials said the CRS will submit a report after the conclusion of his two day inspection, which will guide further action on starting train services to Kashmir.

Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned in phases with the first phase of the 118 km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18 km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013, 25 km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014 and 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangaldan stretch in February, last year.

The work on the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was also completed in June last year, leaving a total of 17-km stretch between Reasi and Katra and this section was finally completed in December 2024.

The officials said the dream project to link Kashmir by train was started in 1997 and has missed several deadlines given geological, topographical, and meteorological challenges.

**Railways unveils Vande...**

"It has advance heating systems which prevent freezing of water tank and bio-toilet tanks, provide warm air for vacuum system as well as laboratories and ensures air-brake system functions optimally for smooth operations even in sub-zero temperatures," said Dileep Kumar, Executive Director (Information & Publicity) Railway Board.

He added, "It has embedded heating elements in the windshield so that the driver's front lookout glass gets automatically defrosted ensuring clear visibility in hard winter conditions."

Board officials said that apart from climate-related features, it has all other amenities that the existing Vande Bharat trains have -- fully air-conditioned coaches, automatic plug doors, mobile charging sockets etc.

By connecting the Kashmir Valley more effectively to the national railway network, the train is a symbol of India's dedication to bridging geographical and economic gaps, a press statement of the Railways said.

**6.8-magnitude quake...**

County in Xigaze in Tibet Autonomous Region in China at 9:05 am Tuesday (Beijing Time). The US Geological Service, however, put the quake's magnitude at 7.1.

At least 95 people have been confirmed dead and 130 others injured as of 3 p.m. Tuesday (local time), state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered all-out rescue efforts to carry out relief and rescue operations in the affected areas.

Xi ordered utmost efforts to treat the injured and urged efforts to prevent secondary disasters, properly resettle affected residents, and handle the aftermath work effectively.

Following the quake, China Earthquake Administration launched a level-II emergency service response and sent a work team to the site to assist with disaster relief efforts.

Xizang Autonomous Region also issued a level-II emergency response to the quake. Some 22,000 disaster relief items, including cotton tents, cotton coats, quilts and folding beds, together with special relief materials for high-altitude and frigid areas, have been dispatched by central authorities to the quake-hit area.

Over 1,500 local firefighters and rescue workers have also been dispatched to the ground.

Xigaze also known as Shigaste is close to the border with India. Shigatse is considered one of the holiest cities of Tibet. It is the traditional seat of the Panchen Lama, a key figure of Tibetan Buddhism whose spiritual authority is second only to the Dalai Lama.

The epicentre was located in Tsogo Township of Dingri County, which has a population of approximately 6,900 people within a 20-km radius. There are 27 villages within this area.

Official data show Dingri County has a population of over 61,000 people. The epicentre is located 90 km North-East of Lobutse in the Khumbu Himalayan range of North-East Nepal. The quake struck at a depth of 10 km, according to a report issued by the China Earthquake Networks Centre, state-run Xinhua reported.

In his message, President Xi said it is essential to strengthen earthquake monitoring and early warning, promptly allocate emergency rescue supplies, expedite the repair of damaged infrastructure, ensure that the basic needs of residents are met, and guarantee a safe and warm winter for all.

China refers to Tibet as Xizang, part of the Himalayan region.

The Tibetan plateau is known to be prone to heavy earthquakes as it sits right over the place where the tectonic Eurasian and Indian plates meet, often colliding with huge force.

Shigaste also suffered significant damage in the massive 8.1-magnitude quake that devastated Nepal in 2015. Eighteen people were killed and 55 injured in the Shigaste region when a massive 8.1-magnitude quake hit Nepal and the wider Himalayan in 2015.

Meanwhile, in Nepal, the strong earthquake forced people to run out of their houses. It was felt in Kavrepalanchok, Sindhupalanchok Dhading and Solukhumbu districts as well.

Many people came out of their houses due to panic in Kathmandu. People witnessed buildings, trees and electric wires on the streets shaking for some time.

However, a Nepal Police spokesperson says that so far they have not received any information regarding any human casualty.

An official at Shankhuwasabha District Administrative Office said a two-storey building made of stone was damaged in Kimathanka Rural Municipality of the district due to the earthquake.

As the epicentre lies in Tibet, stronger tremors were felt by people living in Northern Nepal, Nepal Police spokesperson Bishnu Adhikari said.

At least half a dozen tremors with magnitude ranging from 4 to 5 were also recorded within a time span of an hour around 7 am, according to the USGS report.

The tremor was strong enough to terrorise people in Nepal, who recalled the 2015 great earthquake that killed 9,000 people.

**OGW among 2...**

a police spokesman said. Abass is an OGW and involved in various illegal criminal activities, while five FIRs under various sections of Indian Penal Code stand registered at police station Rajbagh since 2019 against Ali, who is a notorious bovine smuggler. Both the accused were detained under PSA on the orders of District Magistrate, Kathua after police prepared their dossiers to curtail their activities, the spokesman said.

**Strict enforcement of laws, proper treatment, mass awareness key to tackle drug menace: CS**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday emphasised strict enforcement of relevant laws, proper rehabilitation of victims and massive awareness generation to effectively tackle the drug menace in the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary, while chairing the 12th UT Level NCORD Committee meeting, advocated the significance of collective approach in combatting this challenge.

Present in the meeting were DG, Police, Principal Secretary, Home, ACS, Jal Shakti Department, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, ADGP Crime, ADGP, Headquarters, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu, ADGP, Jammu, IGP Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Secretary, Health, Secretary, RDD, Secretary, Law, Zonal Director, NCB, Deputy Commissioners, District SSPs, representatives from BSE, ED, SLA and other senior civil and police officers while outstation officers participated online.

Dulloo emphasised the need for making collective efforts by the civil administration and Police department to eradicate this evil from the society. He maintained that strict action against the drug dealers would act as an effective deterrent for the people involved with this illicit practice. He called upon the investigation and prosecution agencies to prepare strong cases against such unscrupulous elements. He observed that sometimes tardy investigations and weak prosecutions lead to early acquittals of the arrested persons. He exhorted upon the police department to enhance the capacity of both Investigation Officers and Public Prosecutors so that the cases framed against the culprits succeed in making convictions in the court of law. The Chief Secretary also enjoined upon the department to be strict against the police officers found defaulting on framing strong cases against the drug dealers. He also made out that the government employees found involved in NDPS cases should be taken to task as per the laws in vogue.

He enquired from each SSP about the bails/acquittals challenged in higher judicial forums. He said that all bails/acquittals orders passed should be assailed in higher courts.

He remarked that the motive of each investigation should be to turn the case into successful conviction by following the requisite SoPs throughout the case proceedings right from seizure. He also quoted several Supreme Court directions passed to secure the nation from falling prey to this threat.

He said that the burden of proof in NDPS cases lies on the accused so here police should use the enforcement laws much effectively to rid this region from the affliction affecting us badly. He also directed for audit of each case resulting into acquittals so that responsibility of any loophole found in the case is fixed properly.