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J&K cities, towns...

of local economies, he added.

The Lt Governor emphasized on accelerating the speed and scale of the development to meet the requirements of the increasing population. He directed the H&UDD to conduct periodic review of the projects to ensure that these projects are completed within the timeframe.

The township shall be self-contained with building infrastructure for businesses, offices, commercial and institutional buildings, hotels and other facilities designed to make living and working comfortable, added the Lt Governor.

It is pertinent to mention that a Medicity and a new High Court Complex are coming up adjacent to the township that will make the whole area another bustling centre of activity in the vicinity of Srinagar. The Township will also have clusters of planned housing with neighbourhood level health and education facilities. "Shehjar Heights" Housing Colony at Benima will have peripheral road network with pavements, club house with swimming pool and gymnasium, community hall, shopping mall.

Observing that housing is the most important component of city's development and also defines the culture of that city, the Lt Governor stressed that infrastructure being developed must reflect our cities' aesthetic and cultural values.

Satellite townships and housing colonies will accelerate economic activities in J&K, supplement our efforts to overcome challenges of urbanization and provide better housing facilities to the people. It will also generate large-scale skilled and unskilled employment, he added.

Seamless service delivery, housing and infrastructure development as per people's needs should be a major component of the master plan. We also need to change our approach and special attention should be paid to fulfil needs of the citizens living in towns, the Lt Governor noted.

The Lt Governor also called upon the elected public representatives and common citizens to play their important role in the successful conduct of G20 presidency events. He also sought suggestions from them to make the visit of delegates and people coming from across the world memorable.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC and Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary also spoke on the occasion and underscored the need to develop satellite townships and housing colonies to meet the growing housing requirements of the urban population.

Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department, briefed on the newly launched housing projects.

Aftab Malik, DDC Chairperson Srinagar; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Mohammad Ajaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner SMC; Dr Haris Ahmad Handoo, VC Srinagar Development Authority and other senior officers from Banks, Police and Civil Administration were also present on the occasion at Kashmir Convention Centre.

Sinha conducts on-site...

supply and other additional works.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Revenue Department; Dr Sehrish Asgar, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; Dr Owais Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, and other concerned officials were present.

9 KPs killed...

community, he said. Replying to another question, Rai said the Union home ministry has spent about Rs 2,815 crore for various aspects of security in Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years.

The minister said Rs 1,267 crore was spent in 2019-20, Rs 611 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 936.095 crore in 2021-22.

65 of 67...

including the recent Coimbatore blast incident. "Fairness and transparency in investigations by the NIA is evident from the fact that from 2019 to 2022 (up to December 2, 2022), judgment has been pronounced in 67 cases, out of which, conviction has been obtained in 65 cases and two cases have ended in acquittal," he said in a written reply. Rai said the NIA is mandated to investigate and prosecute offences of grave nature affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of state, friendly relations with foreign states, matters relating to international treaties, etc., as specified in its schedule cases having gravity including national and international implications are entrusted to NIA without any bias or prejudice.

Elements trying to...

Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh and ADGP Police Headquarters, M K Sinha, also reviewed the security scenario of the district in the officers meeting besides interacting with public representatives, a police spokesman said.

Singh emphasised on strengthening of checkpoints on Mughal Road, linking the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian, and also on Jammu-Srinagar national highway to keep a check on the trafficking of drugs and weapons and other criminal activities.

"We have been moving forward successfully (in the fight against terrorism) and have now reached a final stage to realize the peaceful Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said people in J-K have understood the designs of anti-peace elements and are not responding to any sponsored bandh call. He also appreciated the people of the district for maintaining the highest level of brotherhood.

Asserting that the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir is peaceful, Singh said the next elections will be conducted in a peaceful atmosphere as hartals and stone-pelting have become a thing of the past.

However, he said, attempts from Pakistan to push terrorists into India and revive terrorism in peaceful areas are continuing. But police and other security agencies are alert to the threat and are foiling their designs.

Singh was talking to reporters after inaugurating two newly-constructed buildings.

"All elections in the past five years were conducted peacefully and so the coming elections will also take place in a peaceful atmosphere," the police chief said, responding to a

question about assembly elections likely to take place next year.

Jammu and Kashmir had witnessed by and large peaceful polling in parliamentary, panchayat and urban local bodies elections in 2019 followed by first-ever district development council elections the following year.

Though the election commission is yet to fix a date for assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir; there are indications suggesting that the voting might take place next year.

Panchayat and urban local bodies elections are also completing their full term next year and the state election commission has already called for revision of panchayat electoral rolls.

"The situation is very good and we are hopeful that it will improve further with time. People are not facing any hardship. There is no highhandedness from police or any other security forces and we are also ensuring that there is no interference in the day-to-day activities of the public from any side," the DGP said.

He said hartals (strikes), stone-pelting and closure of schools and colleges have become a thing of the past and today, the youngsters are focused on their studies, career building and they are getting good jobs.

"People are performing their normal activities without any threat or fear," Singh said.

Asked about the situation in Poonch and Rajouri, the police chief said, "Since the two districts share the border with Pakistan, there are continuous attempts from across the border to push terrorists and revive militancy in peaceful areas."

"Pakistani agencies are continuing with their immoral activities and are trying to spread terrorism to peaceful areas. Infiltration attempts are continuing and sometimes they are able to cross the border successfully," the DGP said.

He said the two districts witnessed long search operations after the successful infiltration from Pakistan last year.

"This year, we conducted a number of successful operations to scuttle infiltration attempts. The conspiracy from across the border is to revive terror activities by pushing Pakistani terrorists but security forces are alert and certain elements who managed to sneaks in were neutralised," Singh said.

Lauding the residents of Loran, he said they did not allow a foothold to terrorists when militancy was alive in Poonch.

"We had a meeting with the panchayat representatives and our discussion was focused on the attempts from Pakistani agencies to revive militancy," he said, adding that the stooges working for the enemy are being neutralised from time to time to maintain peace. He said the public representatives also raised minor issues related to their developmental needs which will be taken up with the concerned civil authorities.

Search ops to...

believed to be terrorists, in the village around 4 am, the officials said.

After getting information, Police along with Army immediately launched a joint search operation in the village and adjoining areas but there was no trace of the suspected persons so far, they said. The officials said the operation is in progress when last reports were received.

SC to consider...

conflicted each other and therefore, the current bench of five judges could not hear the issue. Disagreeing with the petitioners, the bench had said it was of the opinion that "there is no conflict between the judgements".

SIU conducts searches...

warrants from Court for two different locations of the district, they said.

They said the searches were conducted at the residential houses of two accused involved in a case registered under various sections of IPC, Arms Act, and UAPA.

The search was conducted in the residential houses of Shahbaz Ahmad Thoker, a resident of Waghama Bijbehara and Subzar Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Marhama Halimpura Bijbehara. During the searches, the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) Anantnag gathered relevant information and the role of these accused in the commission of the crime is being examined. Proper SOPs were followed during the raids, the officials said. These raids are carried out to eliminate the terror ecosystem in the district by identifying various over-ground workers and supporters of terrorism. These raids will continue in future also for the logical conclusion of all UAPA cases, they added.

Inflation to further...

watching and making periodic interventions and taking measures to keep inflation under check to ensure that the poor do not have to bear the extra financial burden, she added.

Several supply-side measures have been taken by the government to address inflation, including reduction in excise duty by Rs 8 per litre on petrol and Rs 6 per litre on diesel on May 21, 2022, prohibition of export of wheat products, imposition of export duty on rice, and reduction in import duties, she said.

In addition, the government has imposed stock limits on edible oils and oil seeds, and the inclusion of soya meal as an essential commodity in the schedule of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and imposition of a stock limit on soya meal.

The finance minister stated that there is no fear of stagflation as far as India is concerned.

Stagflation is a phenomenon when there is slowdown in economy and high inflation, she said, adding, retail inflation has come down below 6 per cent to 5.8 per cent and the wholesale price index at 21-month low of 5.85 per cent in November.

India is the fastest growing economy and lower inflation with forebearance limit, she added.

With regard to fiscal deficit, the finance minister said the government would be able to meet the fiscal deficit target of 6.4 per cent of the GDP for the current financial year.

The government is committed to the path of fiscal consolidation, she added.

On declining value of the rupee against the US dollar, she said, "Every report has told you that Indian rupee has only strengthened against the dollar...we have performed much better than many other emerging market economies."

Exchange rate of the Indian Rupee (INR) is market-determined. INR, which had earlier weakened by 8.7 per cent against the US dollar till October 19, 2022 has since pared some of the losses and its depreciation stands at about 6.9 per cent in the current financial year till November 30, 2022.

During the course of action as many as 16 erring traders were penalised with a sum of rupees 18100.

Besides, one poultry shop has been sealed and police complaints against three vegetable sellers and one fruit seller were also lodged in concerned Police stations for violation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

It is pertinent to mention here that during the current financial year in the entire valley, an amount of Rs 8183980 has been collected as fine from 17584 erring traders.

Besides, 224 establishments have been sealed and police complaints against 20 defaulters also stand lodged for violation of the set norms.

Moreover, the erring lot has been reprimanded to remain careful in future.

"The drive will continue in the same passion in future as well & whosoever found violating the norms will be brought to justice", AD said.

He added that in case of any complaint, people may contact on toll free number 18001807011.

Theft case solved; accused arrested, stolen property recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: Police in Pulwama have solved a theft case by arresting an accused person involved in the commission of crime and recovered stolen property.

As per the details, on December 7, 2022, Police Station Litter received a written complaint from one person namely Abid Hassan Khan son of Mohd Ahsan Khan resident of Gund Achan stating therein that his bike (JK13C-5721) has been stolen by some unknown person/persons from Sideo Lassipora. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No.115/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Litter and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, many suspects were called for questioning in which one person identified as Waseem Ah Rather son of Ab Salam Rather resident of Tahab Bonegam confessed his involvement in the commission of crime. On his disclosure, officers investigating the case also recovered the stolen bike. Subsequently, he has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Case of attack on crusher manager: Attempt to murder registered against attackers, raids on to nab them

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police have registered an attempt to murder case against attackers in connection with the attack on the crusher manager over the mining issue under Lakhnupur Police Station of Kathua district. On the other hand, the injured have been admitted to the hospital in Punjab for treatment where he has had two operations. Police said that raids are being conducted to arrest the accused.

Two incidents happened within a month in Kathua district. In which first vandalism was done by entering a crusher and in that context also a case was registered in Kathua police station, but accused have not been arrested.

In second case, Crusher Manager Sandeep Mahajan alias sonu has been attacked by two persons with sharp edged weapon.

Gandhi Nagar dacoity...

Badayana, Adampur in Jalandhar, Raja Singh alias Raja son of Gurdev Singh of Panwali Dasuya, Hoshiarpur and Pinto Singh son of Krishan Lal of Abohar, Punjab to police remand till December 19, 2022. Police produced accused before the Court and court after perusal of the CD file, granted police remand till December 19, 2022.

Petition regarding dearth...

proposal for creation of 24 posts, the Finance Department has granted concurrence to the proposal, but the proposal for the creation of 334 posts has been forwarded to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (GOI). This issue requires clarification from the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. In view of this, Division Bench directed the Secretary to Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Union Territory of J&K shall file a detailed affidavit clarifying the above mentioned aspects and also with regard to the steps undertaken by the Department in furtherance of financial concurrence for the 24 posts mentioned above.

3-year UG...

options, flexible degree options with single major, double major, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary education, integration with vocational courses, internship, skill and ability enhancement courses", he said.

The UGC chief said that under the four-year undergraduate degrees, graduates will not require a Master's degree to join Ph.D programmes.

On when the FYUP is expected to be fully implemented, he said that "there is no deadline but we will continue to work with higher education institutions to implement the FYUP as soon as possible" and assured the three-year courses will not be discontinued till the four-year programme is fully implemented.

"Some universities, such as the Delhi University, have already implemented the FYUP. Many other universities are working on implementing it from the 2023 academic session. In a few years, many universities will adopt this. They need to do this to attract the best students to their programmes," Kumar said.

Counting the benefits of the FYUP, the UGC chairma said, "The first advantage is that they do not have to do a Master's degree to join a Ph.D programme. They can also take a single or double major to gain a deeper knowledge of a given discipline."

"Since multidisciplinary courses, ability enhancement courses, skill enhancement courses, value-added courses, and internships are embedded in the FYUP, it will enhance the opportunities for students to take up employment or go for higher studies," he said.

The UGC on Monday notified the curriculum and credit framework for undergraduate programmes which will provide students with multiple options for entry and exit, a choice between single major and double major and interdisciplinary choices of subjects. The framework has been developed by revising the existing Choice Based Credit System.

Under the programme, students will only be able to pursue a four-year honours degree rather than a three-year course like the present. Honours degrees will also be offered in two categories -- honours and honours with research.

NC will not...

conduct the polls in the Union territory, he added.

"We will see to it whenever elections take place. But I have been saying this, we will not beg for these elections," Abdullah said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the NC would be ready whenever the Centre decides to conduct polls in the Union territory. The party is ready, but "we will not beg for it", he said.

"BJP members are scared, they do not have the courage to conduct the elections. Let them find the courage, plunge into the fray and then we will see where people stand," Abdullah added.

Asserting that the party's public meetings were not a signal to its workers that the elections were approaching, the NC vice-president said party leaders were meeting with workers in an endeavour to strengthen the organisation, identify loopholes and plug them.

On criticism over his remarks on Tuesday that the NC will revoke the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) after it forms the government in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said.

"I have been continuously saying it for the last few years. I think I said it in the 2019 parliamentary polls as well, and I stand on this. When the NC forms the government, we will remove this law from the statute," he added.

On the government's latest order asking all outgoing lessees to immediately handover possession of the land taken on lease, the NC leader said it was very "unfortunate".

"I understand the leases have expired and they (government) want to renew those leases, but those people who have kept these institutions, structures, and businesses running in very difficult times, they should get first priority.

"Let the government fix the rates, ask the lease holders to renew at such rates, and if they cannot do that, then let the government look out for others. How is it justified that you want to vacate them from there first," he asked.

The government aims to vacate them as it wants to bring people from outside, Abdullah claimed.

72 feet high Tricolour unfurled at Mamun military station in Pathankot