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Stringent steps being...

to empower every section of the society and made all the citizens, especially the youth as agents of change and providing equal opportunities to the aspirational society. Youth are scripting J&K's bright future. The administration has taken many steps to create supportive schemes and policies to speed up economic development and to meet the aspirations of our young population, the Lt Governor said.

We have removed the difficulties that had cropped up in the implementation of people-friendly governance, setting up new businesses and industries. It is our responsibility to provide equal opportunities to all, added the Lt Governor.

With setting up of an unprecedented 21,640 new manufacturing and service units and the creation of over 1.70 lakh jobs, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme - PMEGP has emerged as the most powerful medium to contribute to society, he noted.

The Lt Governor also spoke on the revival and promotion of Jammu Kashmir as preferred film-shooting destination and the strong bond it shares with Mumbai Film industry.

On the occasion, the distinguished guests and key speakers also shared their views on the transformative changes taking place in Jammu Kashmir.

SIA seals properties...

legal action. These are as a result of investigation of case FIR number 17 of 2019 U/S 10, 11 and 13 of Police Station Batmaloo being investigated by the agency, the officials said.

Property of LeT...

of revenue and police officials under relevant sections of the CrPC on orders of the judicial magistrate, Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda, Abdul Qayoom said.

He said the police is in the process of initiating proceedings against other local terrorists who have infiltrated to Pakistan and trying to lure youth through the virtual mode or social media to join terror activities and revive militancy in the district.

The SSP said Rashid went to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in 1993 and returned after getting arms training with an intention to carry out subversive activities.

"After his infiltration from Pakistan, he remained active along with other dreaded and hardcore terrorists and was found involved in number of attacks on civilians and security forces besides incidents of arson and explosions in the district.

"Apart from that, a number of local youths were instigated and recruited by him into militancy," the officer said.

He said another terrorist commander Mohd Amin alias "Khubaib" of Thathri was initially motivated and recruited by Rashid.

"Amin is also at present operating from Pakistan and making desperate attempts to revive terrorism in the Chenab valley - Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts of Jammu region.

"He masterminded a number of terror-related incidents, including IED blasts, drone dropping and smuggling of weapons in the recent past," he said.

Both Rashid and Amin managed their ex-filtration to Pakistan over a decade back and have been declared as proclaimed offenders by the local court.

A number of FIRs are registered against them at various police stations in Doda and other districts of the Jammu region, the officer said.

States to share...

also highlighted that arms are being smuggled into Bengal from neighbouring states and coordinated steps are needed to check this menace.

Shah, who is the chairman of the council, was accompanied by five home ministry officials at the meeting that began around 11 am and lasted for a little over two hours. Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Odisha's Naveen Patnaik skipped Saturday's session. Shah later met the Bengal CM at her chamber on the 14th floor of the secretariat, the official said. The Union minister left for Shillong soon after the meeting, the official added.

Situation along LoC...

incident during 2022," the ministry said.

In a significant move aimed at reducing tensions, the Indian and Pakistani armies on February 25 last year announced that they would cease firing across the LoC while recommitting themselves to a 2003 ceasefire agreement.

"This year, Pakistan's attempts to push in terrorists have resulted in 12 infiltration attempts being eliminated along the LoC. Eighteen foreign terrorists were eliminated in these attempts and large quantities of arms and ammunition recovered," the ministry said.

It said though the situation improved, Pakistan continued to retain the infrastructure for the proxy war.

"However, Pakistan continued to retain proxy war infrastructure and intent to prosecute Proxy War in J and K. Functionality of training camps, presence of terrorists in launch pads and continuing infiltration attempts vindicate persistent intent of Pakistan," it said.

"Pakistan continues to exploit narco-terror nexus to radicalise and motivate innocent youth undertake targeting of vulnerable civilians using pistols and grenades," the ministry said.

It said the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness consistent improvement since the abrogation of Article 370.

"The 'Whole of Nation Approach' has resulted in a reduction of violence, stone pelting and agitations in the Kashmir Valley," it said.

"Incipient normale has resulted in a consequent focus on tourism with 3.65 lakh pilgrims visiting the holy Amarnath shrine and a significant increase in the number of tourists visiting the Valley in 2022," it said.

The ministry said the "incident-free" conduct of Amarnath Yatra this year is not only a "testimony of the robust security architecture in the valley but also vindicates the desire for peace amongst locals and their willingness to reap its dividends and the locals of Kashmir deserve due credit for this."

It said the situation along the international boundary in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab largely remained peaceful.

Azad-led DAP...

Nizami were appointed as six working committee members, the party said, adding Mohiuddin and Chib will continue to be treasurer and general secretaries as appointed earlier. Imran Zafar, Sujada Bashir, Nirmandeep Singh, Sanjay Manhas, Firdous Nabi and Sharik Saroori have been nominated as Spokespersons while Vishal Chopra (Print media), Ashwani Hama (Electronic media), Wasem Dar (Kashmir), Advocate Heena Sultan (Kashmir), Randeep Bhandari (Chenab Valley), Sanam Shah (Peer Panchal) as Media Coordinators & Additional Spokespersons and Ashutosh Raina, Rehana Anjum, Wasim Ganai and Raja Haq Sohil as Social Media Coordinators.

The party said all vice chairmen, general secretaries, treasurer and both provincial presidents would be members of the working committee, while all secretaries will be special invitees to the committee. Chib will be general secretary in-charge media and communication department, it said.

Indian Army displayed...

Services Tax (GST), Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and agricultural reforms, he said the trend of opposing any decision and scheme for the sake of opposition should stop as it is not a good sign of a healthy democracy.

The Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a fresh clash in Yangtse area of Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang sector on December 9, in first such major flare-up after the deadly hand-to-hand combat in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

"When I am saying we aspire to become a superpower, it should never be construed that we want to dominate over countries in the world. We do not have any intention to even capture one inch of the land of any country," he said.

"If we want to become a superpower, then we want to become a superpower for global good and prosperity. The world is our family," he added.

The defence minister also referred to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's famous remark in 1985 that only 15 paise of every rupee meant for the welfare of the down-trodden reaches them and said now, with some systemic changes, the entire rupee goes to the people.

"I am not doubting his (Rajiv Gandhi's) intention. He genuinely expressed his concerns. I can now say that because of some changes in the system, now if 100 paise is sent from above, that entire 100 paise reaches the poor or people of the country," the defence minister said.

Referring to the Indian economy and its growth in the last eight-and-a-half years, Singh said the country has entered the category of 'fabulous five' from 'fragile five', coined by investment firm Morgan Stanley.

"India is now among the top five economies of the world. It took us 31 years from 1991 to become a USD three trillion economy. I am confident that the next three trillion dollars are going to be added in the next seven years," he said.

Singh listed out a number of reforms undertaken by his ministry to strengthen the Indian defence sector, including simplifying FDI norms and increasing the limit to 74 per cent under the automatic route and 100 per cent under the government route.

He added that 68 per cent of the capital procurement budget has been earmarked for the domestic industry in 2022-23 to promote the participation of the private sector.

He exhorted the captains of domestic industry and foreign original equipment makers to invest in the defence sector and become integrated in the global supply chain.

He pointed out that the reforms have delivered desired results and defence exports have registered a seven-fold increase in the last six years.

Singh said all efforts are being made to increase defence production from USD 12 billion to USD 22 billion by 2025.

"It is a golden period for the defence sector as it has demonstrated its capabilities by manufacturing fighter aircraft, aircraft carriers, main battle tanks and attack helicopters," he said.

"Indian defence industry is growing by leaps and bounds and is making its global presence felt. It is attracting not only big corporates but also start-ups and MSMEs. Many start-ups have emerged in recent years," Singh noted.

The defence minister also said that India's economy was among the six-seven large economies during the time of Independence and when China witnessed a new system following the 1949 revolution, its GDP was less than that of India.

Singh said though India and China kept marching together till 1980, the neighbouring country went ahead riding on economic reforms.

"In the year 1991, economic reforms started in our country too. But China has made such a long jump in a short time that, except the US, it has left behind all other countries of the world in the pace of development," he said.

"India returned to the list of top 10 economies in the 21st century. But the kind of development that should have happened in India was not happening," the defence minister said, adding a new era of development began in 2014 when Narendra Modi became the prime minister.

Singh said when Modi took charge of the government, the Indian economy used to be the ninth largest economy globally and the size of the Indian economy was about two trillion dollars.

"Today India's economy has become the fifth largest economy with a size of three and

half trillion dollars," he said.

In his address, Singh also gave a detailed account of the achievements of the Modi government in areas of infrastructure, health, education, banking, trade and investment, foreign direct investment and overall economic reforms.

"Remember the time of 2013, when investment firm Morgan Stanley coined the term 'Fragile Five' which is the five countries of the world whose economy was faltering badly. The countries in this 'Fragile Five' were Turkey, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and India," he said.

"Today India has moved out of the category of 'Fragile Five' and joined the 'Fabulous Five' economies of the world," he said.

Singh said India's stature has increased significantly on the world stage under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Now India is working on setting agenda on the world stage, he said.

At the same time, the defence minister talked about some problems facing the nation including inflation.

He said inflation has gone up due to disruptions in the global supply chain and other logistical bottlenecks resulted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine conflict.

"The problem of inflation is before us as a major issue. In fact, the world had not fully recovered from the supply chain disruptions and logistical bottlenecks caused by COVID-19, when the Ukraine conflict came before us," he said.

"Whatever may be the reason, if the problem is in front of us, then we have to find a solution for it. Not only India, but the economy of the whole world is passing through a very difficult phase, but if you see, inflation is less in India as compared to other major countries," he said.

Trust us to...

Chandrabud said. A bench led by CJI Chandrabud on Friday dealt with a plea of a man from Uttar Pradesh called Iqram who was to suffer a jail term of 18 years in nine minor cases of theft of electrical equipment of the state electricity department.

The top court set aside an Allahabad High Court order and directed that Iqram's jail term of two years each in nine cases would run concurrently instead of successively. It was irked that neither the trial court nor the high court took note of the "miscarriage of justice" and set things right.

Referring to the case, the CJI on Saturday said the high court said, "sorry we can't do anything at all, because the trial judge hasn't, in terms of section 427 of the CrPC directive, said that the sentences would run concurrently".

"We had to intervene yesterday, in a seemingly innocuous case of a simple citizen of the nation. The point which we make is sermonising apart, trust us to be guardians of the liberties of our citizens," he added.

The CJI further said there is no case which is "small enough, or big enough" for every court in the nation, be it the district judiciary, the High Court, or the Supreme Court, "because it is in us that the confidence of the citizens, in the due process of law and the protection of liberty, rests".

GST Council agrees...

Minister Conrad Sangma, on the issue submitted its report only a couple of days back.

The report of the GoM was not even circulated to GST Council members, he added. He further said the Council agreed to raise the threshold of launching prosecution to Rs 2 crore from the present Rs 1 crore.

Also, the GST on husk of pulses was reduced to nil from 5 per cent.

The GST Council is the highest decision making body of the one-nation, one-tax Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. It is headed by the Union Finance Minister and all states and UT are represented in the body.

Rajouri firing victims...

Commissioner Vikas Kundal, Deputy Inspector General of Police Haseeb Mughal and other senior civil and police officers joined thousands of people in the cremation of the deceased at the local crematory. The cremation passed off peacefully without any untoward incident, an official said. "The incident in Rajouri is very unfortunate. Condolences to the bereaved families. The price of a life cannot be set in monetary terms but still, I announce an ex-gratia relief of Rs five lakh for each affected family." Lt Governor Manoj Sinha posted on Twitter. Leaders of different political parties visited the bereaved family and demanded a time-bound probe into the incident and adequate compensation to the families of the deceased.

Regional Passport Office holds Special Passport Mela

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Special Passport Mela on Saturday was organised by Regional Passport Office, Jammu under the Ministry of External Affairs in order to bring down the waiting period of appointment cycle for submission of applications for passport under normal category.

Eventually, 198 applications were processed during the Mela.

In the Mela, the usual process of scrutinization and verification of essential documents, capturing of photographs & biometrics (fingerprints), etc. under the normal category was conducted from 9:00 AM to 5 PM for applicants, who had booked their respective appointments for the designated day & time.

Apart from this, a dedicated counter/help desk was there to assist all such applicants to get their services in an easy, convenient and quick manner.

Regional Passport Officer, Rajesh Kumar has advised all citizens to apply their respective applications through www.passportindia.gov.in or mobile App mPassport Seva, which can be downloaded from Android and iOS application stores. RPO has advised applicants not to deal with any agent and warned to avoid any third party or intermediary.

Skater Ankush becomes National champion for 4th consecutive year

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Asian Bronze medalist Ankush Kohli of Hospitality & Protocol Department, Jammu became National champion for 4th consecutive year in 60th National Roller Skating Championship, held at Bangalore. The star performer Ankush Kohli thanked his department, especially his officers for letting him to pursue his goals.



PRB 2 Border Battalions issue final notice for candidates to produce NCC certificates

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: It is for the information of all those 107 candidates whose list is uploaded on Jammu and Kashmir Police official website (www.jkpolice.gov.in) are informed to submit their valid NCC certificates till December 23, 2022.

The candidates belonging to District Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Rajouri and Poonch shall submit their valid NCC certificate only in the office of SSP Security office Jammu.

The candidates belonging to District Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara shall submit their valid NCC certificates in the offices of SSP Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara respectively.

The notification further reads that no such claim regarding production of NCC certificate shall be considered after the stipulated date.

CRIME REPORT

Drug-peddler arrested, contraband recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs, Police on Saturday arrested a drug peddler in Ganderbal and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

As per details, a party led by SHO Police Station Ganderbal under supervision of DySP Hqrs Ganderbal during cordon and search operation at Gadoora recovered crushed Cannabis with seeds like substance from a Tin Shed of one Ab Majeed Bhat, son of Gh Mohammad Bhat, resident of Baran Patti, at present Gadoora. The accused was arrested for his involvement in crime and shifted to police station where he remained in custody. Accordingly, FIR 334/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Ganderbal and further investigation started.

4 gamblers arrested, stake money seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: Acting tough against social crimes, Police on Saturday arrested 4 gamblers and seized stake money from their possession.

As per details, acting on a specific information about the presence of gamblers in Vippara area of Hajin, a party led by SHO Police Station Hajin raided specific site and arrested 4 gamblers, who were identified as Bilal Ahmad Shah son of Ab Aziz Shah, Feroz Ahmad Goroo son of Mohd Hayat Goroo, Intiyaz Ahmad Reshi son of Gh Rasool Reshi and Manzoor Ahmad Shah son of Gh Mohd Shah, all residents of Khomina, Baharabad, Hajin.

Officers also seized stake money amounting to Rs 6,890 and playing cards from the gamblers. They were shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly