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### Backbone of terrorism...

Rs 38,000-crore investment at a groundbreaking ceremony.

"You be assured and I am saying with full responsibility that over Rs 70,000 crore investment will be made in Jammu and Kashmir in the coming years," Sinha said.

### No salaries to...

steps to address their issues," he said.

Sinha said all deserving employees have been promoted, fulfilling their long-pending demand. "The list for promotion from non-gazetted to gazetted posts was forwarded to the Public Service Commission which informed that they were appointed in 2015, while they have already cleared the list of general category employees till 2014 and their list is in pipeline," he said.

Sinha said there is only one genuine issue of concern which is of their accommodation.

"Earlier, there were some issues related to land but it was cleared and tenders floated to complete the project for their accommodation at secured places. As many as 1,200 of them will be provided accommodation by April, and 1,800 more flats will be given during the next financial year," he said.

He said their security is the priority of the administration.

"We have cleared their (protesting employees') salaries till August 31, but it cannot be done that they will be paid their salaries by sitting at their homes. This is a loud and clear message to them and they should listen and understand it," he said.

He said the J & K administration has full sympathy with them and is ready to provide them security or any other assistance.

Referring to the protesting reserved category employees who are also camping in Jammu and demanding their relocation, he said, "They should also keep in mind that they are Kashmir division employees and cannot be transferred to Jammu."

However, he said the chief secretary has framed a committee to look into their demand. "And I assure them that if there is any chance, we will frame a policy accordingly."

### Announces 3 new...

territory administration constituted an apex committee for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors and the committee came with a comprehensive plan in the form of 29 projects covering all the sectors in a record time of five months.

"The unique thing about these projects is that they not only have been prepared by some of the finest brains in the country but their formulation was undertaken in a consultative mode as well ensuring that the opinion of all stakeholders including our

### List of sector wise approved projects

S. no	Project Name
<b>A. AGRICULTURE SECTOR</b>	
1.	Development of Seed and Seed Multiplication chain in PPP mode
2	Promotion of Niche crops in UT of J&K
3	Promotion of Vegetables/exotic vegetables under open & hi-tech protected cultivation
4	Strengthening Agri-Marketing System in UT of J&K
5	Promotion of medicinal/aromatic plants on commercial basis
6	Promotion of Apiculture
7	Technological interventions to strengthen Sericulture in J&K
8	Promotion of Nutri cereals (Millets)
9	Farm mechanization and automation
10	Promotion of mushroom cultivation
11	Promotion of Oilseeds
12	Formulation of 300 FPOs
13	Adoption & promotion of integrated farming system (IFS)/Integrated Livelihood systems (ILS) in UT of J&K
14	Promotion of commercial floriculture in UT of J&K
15	Development of rain fed areas of J&K
16	Alternate Agriculture System for sustainability
17	Sensor based smart Agriculture
18	Minimizing pesticide use in Agriculture
19	J&K soil & land resource information system
20	Innovative approaches in agriculture extension
<b>S.No Project Name</b>	
<b>B. HORTICULTURE SECTOR</b>	
21	Production of Designer Plants for promotion of HD plants and rejuvenation of orchards
22	UT level food processing program for development of clusters for specific products of J&K
<b>C. LIVESTOCK SECTOR</b>	
23	Dairy Development in J&K
24	Reorienting priorities: Self-sufficiency in mutton production in J&K
25	Roadmap for poultry development in J&K
26	Technological interventions for Fish Seed and Trout Production in UT of J&K
27	Promotion of wool/pelt processing and marketing
28	Development of fodder resources for UT of J&K
<b>D. EDUCATION / SKUSTA</b>	
29	Support to Human Resource Development for Technological backstop for Sustainable and Accelerated Transformation of Agriculture

farmers are taken," Sinha said.

He said he is confident that a new revolution in the agriculture and allied sectors is on the anvil.

"The agricultural output which stands at Rs 37,600 crore shall increase by over Rs 28,142 crore to reach more than Rs 65,700 crore per year, with a resultant increment in sectoral growth rate to 11 per cent," he said.

Sinha said the interventions shall create employment opportunities for over 2.8 lakh youths and establish around 19,000 enterprises.

On the Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme, Sinha said Jammu and Kashmir is going to select the most backward 285 panchayats -- one panchayat in each block -- for their holistic development.

"An array of key parameters for the preparation of Panchayat Development Index to rate the various panchayats of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on socio-economic indicators concerning the lives of the people residing in the rural areas has already been identified," he said.

He said a total of 100 measurable indicators have been identified across nine sectors, which shall give insight of existing status and incremental progress over a period of time.

He said an additional financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh shall be provided to the selected panchayats under the scheme for its further development.

Under the Aspirational Towns Development Programme, he said the Urban Reform Incentive Fund (URIF) will incentivise reforms in municipalities.

"Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Development Index-2022 is a tool to assess the development of urban local bodies across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir against the normative development benchmarks.

"While J&K MDI will act as a guide to evidence-based policy making, catalyse action to achieve broader developmental outcomes, including sustainable development goals, assess and compare the outcomes achieved by municipal bodies, give citizens an insight into the functioning of local bodies and build a dialogue between the stakeholders, URIF will provide necessary financial incentive to municipalities to undertake reforms in their journey of becoming aspirational towns," he said.

### Defends new land...

"We came out with the new laws based on the Supreme Court ruling".

Sinha also said, "Some people are trying to mislead the public (on the issue)."

His remark was an apparent reference to the opposition by almost all regional parties -- the National Conference, People's Democratic Party, People's Conference and the Apni Party -- that have termed the new laws an attempt to settle outsiders in Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370.

On Union Health Minister Mansavita's letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, requesting him to ensure Covid protocols during his ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra, Sinha said, "We have no intention of stopping anyone's yatra."

The yatra is scheduled to enter Jammu and Kashmir next month.

"Many things were stopped during Covid. A decision (to allow or disallow the yatra) will be taken depending on how the situation is next month," Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor said there was freedom for political and democratic activities in the Union Territory but not anti-nationalism.

"If any activity against the country is going to take place, it will be stopped," he said.

Asked whether his administration planned to waive Kisan Credit Card loans because of losses suffered by farmers due to the inclement weather, he said the time for waivers had gone.

"Farmers' incomes in Jammu and Kashmir over the past two years have increased manifold. Today, our farmers are placed third in the economy chart after Punjab and Haryana."

"Our farmers will have the highest income in the country in the next five years," he said.

### Ten suspended revenue...

dated 02.07.2022; Ravinder Bhagat, the then Patwari, Patwar Halqa Akhnoor Khas, District Jammu suspended by Financial Commissioner, Revenue vide order No.172-FC(Rev) of 2022 dated 03.08. 2022; Raja Asif Farooq, the then Patwari Brain Nishat suspended by Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar vide Order NO.02-DCS of

2022 dated 10.3. 2022; Jameel Hussain Khan, Patwari Halqa Baghati-e-Shoor, Eidgah, Srinagar suspended by Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar vide Order No.14-DCS of 2022 dated 13.05.2022; Ajiaz Ahmad Bhat, the then Patwari Tehsil Wakura suspended by Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal vide order dated 07.10.2021 issued under endorsement No. DCG/Estt/471/2021 dated 07.10.2021; Harbans Lal, Patwari suspended by Deputy Commissioner, Jammu vide order No.DCJ/Adm/PP/841-44 dated 17.09.2010; Monish Dev Singh, the then Patwari Halqa Kanachak suspended vide order No ADC/ADM/PS/2021-22/2307 dated 07.12.2021; Nazakat Ali, the then Patwari Halqa Khokhly Kathua placed under suspension on 07.12.2018; Ashok Kumar, the then Patwari Patwar Halqa Jassore, RS Pura Jammu placed under suspension on 15.01.2022; Romesh Chander, the then Patwari Patwar Halqa Bhaddu of Tehsil Billawar suspended by the Deputy Commissioner, Kathua in 27.01.2020.

"The above mentioned officials shall continue to be attached at their present place of postings till further orders," the order stated and added, "The Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K/concerned Deputy Commissioners are requested to post the officials on non sensitive posting."

### J&K Bank mute...

added. Another staffer said the modus-operandi adopted by the fraudsters indicates the involvement of insiders, who cannot absolve themselves of the responsibility. The nexus seems deep and widespread as the mystery remained wrapped for months together. Despite the expose, the Bank has not come forward to reassure its clientele about their investments to be safe and action against the gangsters.

**STATE TIMES** had on December 19 reported an exclusive story 'Over Rs 15 Crores embezzled by J&K Bank; car loans on fictitious salary slips' on the fraud by the fraudsters during the Bank of crores of rupees by adopting an innovative mechanism.

An executive feared that there might be similar other frauds which need to be probed by intensifying internal audit mechanisms and deputation of specially formulated teams to vulnerable branches.

An account in the name of National Horticulture Mission was opened through an e-mail last year in Mendhar Branch of the J&K Bank as a government account, which started operating with deposits of lakhs of rupees purportedly from the government. Consequently around 40 more individual bank accounts of the employees were opened and the salaries from the main account were transferred to the account of each employee. After a few months, the employees, though fictitious, used their salary slips and bank statements, applied for car loans from various J&K Bank branches at Rajouri, Gangyal, Jammu University Campus and Shalamar Road in Jammu. The loans were approved and luxury cars were purchased by the so-called employees. An Audi car purchased on loan from Jammu landed in probe as one of the loanees stopped paying installments after two months and subsequently on initial inquiry the loanee's address also turned out to be fictitious. On initial probe, other loanees' addresses too were found to be fake. This raised eyebrows of J&K Bank's management which started an internal probe and found that the main account was also fictitious. There is no such organisation under name and style "National Horticulture Mission," being run by the UT or central government. The Vigilance cell is now making all out efforts to gather all the evidences while the Bank management has not so far decided to handover the case to police for detailed probe and fix the responsibility of bank officers and to book the fraudsters, who used fake documents to embezzle over Rs 15 Crore.

However, the Bank management continues to be tightlipped over this major scandal. According to latest reports, the matter has not been brought to the notice of law enforcing agencies after lodging an FIR.

### Tral almost free...

have shunned the path of violence and destruction

"Tral has become an abode of peace now. An atmosphere of development and prosperity has been established again here like in other areas. Tral is almost free from militancy and I want to congratulate the people for that," Director General of Police Dilbag Singh told reporters in Tral.

Many of militancy's poster boys, including Burhan Wani and Zakir Musa, hailed from Tral area.

Without naming anyone, Singh said those who took the path of militancy, never returned to their homes.

"I congratulate the youth that they have shunned the path of violence and destruction and are now treading the path of peace and prosperity. I want to tell them that this is the right path and they should not be misled by anyone to take up the wrong path because those who trod the wrong path, faced immense difficulties, and did not come back," he said.

Both Wani and Musa were killed in separate encounters with security forces.

The DGP said the people have to become stakeholders of peace to support the police and civil administration.

He said the youth of Tral have set an example by participating in a grand event of unfurling national flags and singing patriotic songs in Tral in August this year as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign' under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. "It is mentioned everywhere that the people Tral today stand for peace and prosperity," Singh added.

### Gadkari, LG Sinha...

Devi shrine and provide better infrastructure and mobility to the citizens.

The meeting also reviewed the ongoing National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) & National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) projects in J&K UT and steps have been taken to resolve various issues related to projects.

Keeping in view the tourist influx at prominent tourist places like Sonamarg during the winter season, and also to ensure uninterrupted connectivity to the locals, the meeting deliberated upon the measures to keep Sonamarg open for the public in winters.

Giving special impetus to surveillance and monitoring of vehicular movement, NHAI & NHIDCL will install CCTV cameras on its highways.

NHIDCL's works related to Shri Amarnathji Yatra were also reviewed and directions were passed for the completion of the ongoing works to ensure smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage.

The Lt Governor said J&K administration is giving utmost priority to infrastructure development in the Union Territory and various steps are being taken for timely completion of ongoing projects.

"The priority of a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir is modern infrastructure and modern connectivity. Our prime objective is to create facilities for people to ensure sustained economic growth and social upliftment," the Lt Governor said.

### Jammu Admn suspends....

Girdawar has been placed under suspension by the District Administration today on 21-12-2022 as it was found that illegal mutation over JDA land had been entered and attest in violation of rules by them" the authorities said.

They further said that the suspended officials have been attached in the office of Sub Divisional Magistrate Akhnoor and Chowki Choura respectively. Sub Divisional Magistrate, Akhnoor has been appointed as enquiry officer to conduct a detailed enquiry in the matter and furnish report within 15 days.

### Development core agenda...

them about DAP's political agenda.

Azad also met the youth delegation who joined the party on the occasion. He said India is a country with majority of its youth population.

"No political party can afford to ignore this majority population and grow. DAP has decided to have representation of youth since it is our future," he told the youth delegation.

Azad further said that to strengthen the secular values in Jammu, its youth share the major responsibility.

"Jammu is a city with rich socio-cultural values. It accepts and welcome people from all communities, religion and cultures due to which its economy is growing. Our youth have a responsibility to strengthen this spirit and our party workers will lead from the front," he said.

He told the delegations whenever the elections in Jammu Kashmir are held, our workers will have to lead from the front for a change and ensure DAP is winning with thumping majority to form the government to protect the jobs and land rights for locals. He said no fight can be fought and won if it is not led by youth.

"Our youth have a major role in social and economic transformation and India's future is relying on its youth unlike other countries," he said.

### Criminals involved in...

work effectively if they are powerless.

"Powers have been given to security forces, but some states have said that their powers have been taken away. If we do not give powers to our agencies, how will they be able to work? We must have faith in our security forces, those politicising the issue are supporting drug trafficking," the Home Minister said.

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spelled out a zero-tolerance policy against the drugs trade and has set a goal of a drugs-free India for the Home Ministry. "We will have no stone unturned in fulfilling this goal," the minister said.

He said the Modi government has a zero-tolerance policy against the narcotics trade and the financing of terrorism from its profits, and every effort was being to eliminate the menace.

"We have mapped the drug network across the states. No matter how big the criminal is, in the next two years there will be a situation where they will be behind bars,"

Shah said.

He said the battle against drugs was delicately poised and urged states to fight the menace together with the central government, keeping aside politics.

Shah said the issue of drug menace is a serious one as it destroys lakhs of families. Profits from illegal trade are also used to finance the acts of terror and the presence of dirty money is detrimental to economy.