!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

LG inaugurates Rs...

the needs of our expanding economy, the government is upgrading transmission & distribution infrastructure that will also enable us to generate productive employment opportunities for youth, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and Union Power Minister for their continuous support in strengthening the power sector in J&K. The upcoming Rs 12,922 cr power sector project for the UT will increase the total availability of electricity in the system, especially for the household, industries and agriculture sector.

The Lt Governor said that Jammu & Kashmir, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is moving towards fulfilling the dream of a better life for every citizen.

We are working on an unprecedented scale in building new infrastructure and improving the facilities available to the citizens, he added.

"Government will not rest till J&K truly becomes one of the country's best developed regions, which the entire nation can be proud of", said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor congratulated the officials of Power Development Department, the people of Samba and the adjoining areas on the commissioning of new power projects.

PDD is making efforts to reduce T&D losses and bring them within reasonable limits. The department has achieved praiseworthy results. However, due to power theft, honest consumers who pay their electricity bills regularly are bearing the brunt of the cost of theft by other unscrupulous elements. We need to sensitize people to pay their bills on time and help the government to make power sector financially viable, the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor also made a special mention of Jagmohan Sharma, Chairman JPDCL for highlighting the core issues of power sector in the UT.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted how the new projects will benefit the people of Samba, Kathua, and adjoining areas.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K has entered into the era of equitable development and the change is clearly visible on ground with the rapid implementation of several development projects, he added.

Keshav Sharma, DDC Chairperson Samba expressed gratitude towards the Lt Governor led UT Government for strengthening the power infrastructure in the area. He also highlighted various public issues, especially the development of the border areas.

Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and Principal Secretary, Power Development Department delivered the welcome address and highlighted the ongoing efforts of PDD across the UT.

The JKPTCL projects worth Rs 153.42 cr inaugurated today includes 160MVA, 220/66 kV Samba Grid Station including 220KV D/C Jatwal- Samba Transmission Line; 160MVA, 220/66 kV Kathua-II (Ghatti) Grid Station including 220KV D/C LILO of Thein-Hiranagar Transmission Line; LILO-I of 220 KV D/C Hiranagar-Bishnah Transmission Line from 400/220 KV Grid Substation Jatwal and 1x50MVA, 132/33KV Grid Station Battal-Manwal including 132KV D/C Hiranagar-Battal-Manwal Transmission Line, under PMDP and PMRP.

Moreover, 18 power distribution projects (11 in Samba and 7 in Kathua) costing Rs 63 cr under various centrally sponsored schemes including 66/11 KV 33/11 KV Substations and installation of additional power transformers were also e-inaugurated on the occasion.

The projects will improve the Power Supply and reduce the transmission losses, it was informed.

Shiv Anant Tayal, Managing Director, JPDCL presented the Vote of Thanks.

Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Vivek Gupta, DIG JKS Range; Anuradha Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Samba; Abhishek Mahajan, SSP Samba; Dr RP Singh, Chairman JKPCL; Balwan Singh, Vice Chairman, DDC Samba; BDC Chairpersons; PRI and ULB representatives; former legislators; officials of PDD and people in large attended the inaugural ceremony.

Ex Cong Minister...

abuse of norms by the people wielding political influence.

According to reports, the RTI activist, Mohammed Sadiq Poswal has lodged a complaint with the police against former Minister Abdul Majeed Wani, a resident of Doda at present residing at Channi Rama for threatening him for exposing the illegal construction.

"I sent message and pictures to Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Commissioner (JMC) and in just two hours, I got a threatening call from highly influential former Congress minister Abdul Majeed Wani", Poswal told STATE TIMES.

He said he has provided the audio clip of threat call to the police for action, as may be deemed appropriate not only with regard to my security but also for taking cognizance of the illegal construction taking place.

The incident has cast shadow over the role of the Jammu Development Authority, which seems to have preferred to look to the other side while the former Congress minister was carrying out 'illegal construction'

RTI Activist Poswal has made a detailed complaint to both the JDA and the JMC. According to sources, the matter is concerning the Jammu Development Authority.

Poswal's complaint states, "I am here with a complaint against Former Minister Abdul Majeed Wani R/O Doda at present Channi Rama (Sunjwan) Jammu who today morning called me from his mobile No.9906070786 and threatened me that why you have send SMS to JDA/JMC regarding illegal construction on bypass road opposite Wave Mall. Today morning a complaint in shape of SMS with pics of site was sent by me to JMC commissioner and within 2 hours a threat call was received from highly influential former Congress minister Abdul Majeed Wani".

"It is pertinent to mention here that palatial bunglow of Abdul Majeed Wani is also constructed on state land and his name had come in illegal occupants list which was prepared last year. The matter of present illegal constructions was brought to the notice of concerned authority but due to influence of former minister nobody dared to stop illegal construction on a state land, comprising Khasra No.331/264 of village Channi Rama, Jammu. Screen shot of my SMS and the audio recording is enclosed here with for perusal.

So, kindly look into the matter urgently and order to book him ((Abdul Majid Wani) as per life threaten law etc. because he is highly influential Congress leader and former minister cum businessman. He can do anything with my life which is now under threat from him", the letter concludes.

Govt blocks 54...

HD, Beauty Camera - Selfie Camera, Rise of Kingdoms: Lost Crusade, Viva Video Editor, Tencent Xriver amongst others. Other apps that have been banned, as per fresh orders, include Garena Free Fire Illuminate, Astracraft, FancyU pro, MoonChat, Barcode Scanner - QR Code Scan, and Lica Cam.

The crackdown marks the first such step taken this year after a massive sweep against the Chinese apps in 2020.

In June 2020, the government had banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including the hugely popular TikTok and UC Browser, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country.

The 2020 ban -- that had come in the backdrop of stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh with Chinese troops -- was also applicable for WeChat and Bigo Live, besides Helo, Likee, CamScanner, Vigo Video, Mi Video Call Xiaomi, Clash of Kings as well as e-commerce platforms Club Factory and Shein.

Thereafter, the government banned 47 more Chinese apps that were clones and variants of the apps blocked earlier.

In September the same year, the government blocked 118 more mobile applications, including the popular gaming app PUBG, terming them prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and defence of the nation. The banned apps in that lot included Baidu, Baidu Express Edition, Tencent Watchlist, FaceU, WeChat Reading and Tencent Weiyun, besides PUBG Mobile and PUBG Mobile Lite.

On Monday, the sources said the IT ministry received a request for the blocking of 54 apps from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the emergency provision envisaged in Section 69(A) of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

As per the report shared by MHA, these apps are either the cloned version or having similar functionality, privacy issue and security threats as alleged in previously blocked 267 apps by the government in 2020.

The government had initially blocked 59 apps on June 29, 2020 followed by 47 related/cloning apps on August 10, 2020 and 118 apps were blocked on September 1, 2020. Another 43 apps were blocked on November 19, 2020.

The sources said the real-time data collected by these apps are being misused and transmitted to servers located in a hostile country. This will enable them to compile huge personal data to mine, collate, analyse and profile by the elements who are hostile to the sovereignty and integrity of India and for activities detrimental to national security, they added.

In addition, there are other serious concerns as some of these apps can carry out espionage and surveillance activities via camera/microphone, accessing fine location (GPS) and do malicious network activity similar to previously blocked apps, the sources said.

The latest app list also includes Equalizer; Music Plus - MP3 Player; Volume Booster - Loud Speaker and Sound Booster; Isoland 2: Ashes of Time Lite; Onmyoji Chess; Onmyoji Arena; AppLock; and Live Weather and Radar Alerts.

Cop suspended for...

said Abbass had been placed under suspension and an inquiry was ordered in reference to the January 25 communication of the director general of police, prisons.

"...the government, in exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 31 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 read with Rule 353 of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Rules, 1960 hereby places Abbass under suspension with immediate effect," the order read.

However, the order did not provide any specific reason for his suspension.

"The director general of police shall, in terms of the extant rules, initiate departmental inquiry against Abbass and submit the report of inquiry along with the findings on each charge, with supporting documents to the administrative department within two months," the order read.

Kabra said till the suspension order remains in force, the headquarters of the suspended policeman would be the Jammu armed police headquarters and he will not leave the premises without obtaining the permission of the additional director general of police, armed police.

The order said Abbass shall be entitled to subsistence allowance, as admissible under rules.

Modi leads nation...

country will never forget the sacrifice of the brave CRPF jawans killed in Pulwama in 2019. I pay my tributes to them."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also paid tributes to the CRPF jawans and said their memory will motivate India to fight the "evil of cross-border terrorism".

"Tributes to the brave jawans who made the supreme sacrifice at Pulwama. Their memory will always motivate us to fight the evil of cross-border terrorism. Today, and always, the nation will remember," he tweeted.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the sacrifice of CRPF jawans killed in the Pulwama terror attack will not go in vain and asserted that "we will ensure answers are given".

"We can never forget the martyrs of Pulwama. Their sacrifice and that of their families will not go in vain -- we will ensure answers are given. Jai Hind," Gandhi tweeted in Hindi.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also paid tributes to the CRPF personnel and resolved to eliminate the menace of terrorism in the union territory.

At an event at Lethpora in Pulwama district, Additional Director General (ADG), CRPF, D S Chaudhary, led the officers and jawans of the paramilitary force in paying tributes at the martyrs' memorial, about 25 km from Srinagar.

"Every year we come together here on this day to remember the 40 brave jawans who lost their lives in Pulwama (attack). We remember their sacrifice and pay tributes to them from the bottom of our hearts, Chaudhary told reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony.

The CRPF officer said the endeavour of the force is to maintain peace in the valley and not let the sacrifices of their personnel go in vain.

Similar functions to pay tributes were also held in across Jammu region as locals joined CRPF personnel to remember the sacrifice of the jawans.

"The martyrs sacrificing their lives for the country belong to the whole nation and we should remember them with open heart and keep politics aside, a CRPF officer said at a memorial gathering inside a camp in Jammu.

LG pays tributes....

forever be grateful to our brave soldiers of @crpfindia and their families," Sinha said in a tweet.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir administration is determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

Days after the Pulwama attack, the Indian Air Force carried out a retaliatory air strike inside Pakistan's Balakot on February 26, 2019, targeting a terrorist training camp of the JeM.

BJP Govt lacks vision & road map to address issues of J&K people: Congress

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: Continuing membership drive with the slogan "Aayo Chalein Congress Ke Sath, Badlein Pradesh Ke Halaat" in RS Pura on Monday organized by JKPCC SC Department Chairman, Karan Bhagat JKPCC Chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir alongwith JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla attacked the BJP-led central government for allegedly failing to protect people's jobs and lands in the union territory.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include NSUI National President Neeraj Kudan, General Secretary Manmohan Singh, Vice Chairman Gurdarshan Singh, OBC Chairmen Suresh Dogra, Ex Youth President Pranav Shagotra, Transport Department Chairmen Gajan Singh, PCC Secretary Sanjeev Panda, Sr. Vice president Distt Rural Sarpanch Ravinder Singh, former MP TS Bajwa, Vice President Distt, Mohan Ch, Rural Block President Sham Mehra, Block President Kuldeep Bhagat, Sunil Dutt, Pawan Bhagat, Diwan Chand, Sahil Shavotra, Madam Susma, Sarpanch Bachan Singh beside others.

Bhalla pointed out that there was total chaos and confusion among people as BJP leadership has failed to remove peoples' apprehensions.

"On the one hand, there is complete uncertainty in J&K, while on the other hand people are confronting with failure of the administration to solve day today problems", he said, adding that various parts of J&K are facing scarcity of basic amenities and dilapidated condition of lanes.

"Even after considerable time since Panchayat elections, the development activities in rural areas have come to a standstill due to non-availability of funds. Panchayats are virtually defunct and rural populace is crying for development," Bhalla said.

Bhalla further said that Congress party workers must create awareness among the general public about the failures of the government and the drawbacks of not having the status of being a state.

LG Ladakh meets Dr Jitendra, seeks Snow Sculpture Start-Up technology

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, R.K Mathur on Monday called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh and sought Snow Sculpture StartUp technology which, he said, could be provided by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of the Science & Technology Ministry headed by him.

The Minister assured the LG that Snow Sculpture will be introduced in Ladakh in a big way, which would not only create StartUp and job opportunities for the locals but could also emerge as a huge attraction for winter tourists.

Pertinent to mention that, of late, the outdoor snow art and snow related vocational avenues have gained currency in the cold climate and snow clad regions in other countries of the world.

Recently, the UT government had facilitated the first-ever Ladakh Ice and Snow-Sculpture Workshop

LG Ladakh, R.K. Mathur calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi on Monday.

2022 on February 11. It was organised by Kangsing Snow and Ice Sculpture Association in association with Ladakh Police at Sangtakchan near Tsogsti on the way to Chilling.

LG, RK Mathur while attending the concluding ceremony, had remarked, "I see no logic in leaving Ladakh in winters. This is the time to earn here."

Dr Jitendra thanked the Ladakh Administration for taking a decision to start the commercial plantation of "Leh Berry" from April-May this year.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Science & Technology is promoting "Leh Berry" which is an exclusive food product of the cold desert and also a means of wide-ranging entrepreneurship as well as self-livelihood.

the height of above 15,000 feet. This also includes "Sanjeevni Booty", locally known as "Sola" which has a very high life saving and therapeutic properties.

Dr Jitendra Singh conveyed to LG, Ladakh that Department of Atomic Energy will set up facilities in the UT for Gamma Irradiation Technology for preservation/shelf life extension of fruits and vegetables. He was happy to note that for the first time huge quantities of Apricot was exported to Dubai. Dr. Singh said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave high priority to the young Union Territory of Ladakh which has enabled the sanction of new University, Professional Colleges and other institutions. He said, the opening of Zojila Pass is a huge relief for the local population.

Lieutenant Governor thanked the Minister for having responded to the Union Territory government's request for training of officers and staff by DARPG, which already conducted two extensive training sessions. He also requested for posting of more number of AGMUT Cadre officers in Ladakh in view of the new centrally sponsored projects and schemes having been initiated.

Dr Jitendra referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ladakh in May 2018, wherein the PM had strongly advised for widespread cultivation of sea buckthorn, which is also the source of "Leh Berry".

He said, CSIR will also develop harvesting machinery to be used by local farmers and self-help groups, as currently only 10% of berry is being extracted from the wild sea buckthorn plant.

Dr Jitendra said that local entrepreneurs will be provided gainful employment through farming, processing and marketing of about 100 odd products from sea buckthorn plant like jams, juices, herbal tea, vitamin C supplements, healthy drinks, cream, oils, and soaps in a completely organic manner.

Mathur also informed that commercial cultivation of three medicinal plants will begin this spring season at

CRIME REPORT

3 drug peddlers arrested across Kashmir; contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to curb menace of drugs, Police in a series of actions has arrested 3 drug peddlers in Ganderbal, Awantipora & Handwara and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

As per details, a party from Police Station Kheerbawani, at a checkpoint established at Shallabugh, intercepted a suspect identified as Umar Rashid Laway, son of Ab Rashid, resident of Shallabugh, Ganderbal. During checking, 3.7 Kg crushed cannabis was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody.

In Awantipora, a police party from Police Station Pampore at a checkpoint established at Kadlabal Pampore, intercepted another suspect identified as Mohd Ayoub Akhoon, son of Bashir Ahmad Akhoon, resident of Tulbagh Pampore. During checking, 5.7 gm Heroin was recovered from his possession. He was also arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody.

Meanwhile in Handwara, 4 Kg cannabis was recovered during search operation launched by police parties of Police Post & PC Langate in village Guloora Langate. The contraband was concealed in a suspicious bag at a shop belonging to one Mohd Akbar Malik, son of Mohd Abdulla Malik, resident of Guloora. The accused was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law were registered at respective Police Stations and further investigation is on.

Forest team seizes illegal saw-mill at Rah Salyote

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: A special team constituted by Neelima Shah, Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera seized an illegal saw-mill operating at Rah Sehyot during a nocturnal raid, during intervening night of February 13- 14, 2022. Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera has constituted a special team at Sunderbani Forest Range to raid suspicious places where illegal activities are observed.

The team comprising Block Forest officer Dharamsal/Devak Ved Paraksh, Block Forest and other staff, under supervision of Rakesh Verma, Range Officer Sunderbani conducted the raid. A case has been filed in this connection and further legal action will be taken as per law. The whole operation was conducted under the direct supervision of Vivek Verma, Conservator of Forests West Circle Rajouri and Neelima Shah, Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera.

Rs 29,200 fine recovered from COVID SoPs violators

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: As per District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr, Suresh, the Health Department on Monday administered COVID vaccine doses to 1,248 persons including 978 children in 15-17 years age group. Continuing the enforcement drive to implement COVID protocol across the district, the Enforcement teams fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance.

The enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs 29,200 taking the total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs 91,60,050. The Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking COVID vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 3,753 samples including 760 RT-PCR and 2,993 RAT samples besides administering COVID vaccine to 1,248 persons at various dedicated Vaccination Centres.

Weapons recovered near LoC in Mendhar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: A joint team of Police and Army on Monday recovered a cache of arms near Line of Control (LoC) in Deri Dabsi village of Mendhar of Poonch. The recovery was made during a search and cordon operation jointly conducted by Jammu and Kashmir police and Army in Deri Dabsi village along the LoC in Mendhar. The recovery included a AK-47 rifle, one magazine, 2 Pistols, 2 Pistol magazine. FIR No 29 under section 7/25/26 of Indian Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Mendhar and investigation started.

Two drug peddlers nabbed with Charas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Police on Monday nabbed two drug peddlers and recovered 790 gm Charas from their possession.

SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom said that under operation 'Sanjeevani', a party from Police Station Thathri led by Insp Amrit Katoch, SHO Police Station Thathri laid a special Naka at Haneja, Thathri. During routine checking/frisking a suspect was intercepted and during checking/frisking, 750 gm narcotics substance (Charas) was recovered from him. On enquiry, he disclosed his identity as Ayaz Ahmed, son of Abdul Qayoom, resident of Bhalwana, Tehsil Mahalla. FIR No. 23/2022, under sections 8/20 of NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Thathri. Investigation is going on to ascertain his forward/backward links. Recovery of Narcotic substance (Cannabis) and arrest of accused was made under supervision of Meer Gafoor SDPO Bhadarwah and Raj Kumar Incharge Addl SP Bhadarwah.

Meanwhile, on a specific information a Naka was established Pahalgam Sigdi Mugalmaidan by Insp Parvaiz Khanday SHO Chatroo accompanied by PSI Vishal Singh under supervision of DySP DAR Kishtwar Zia-Ul-Haq. On checking of a suspect, 40 gm cannabis (Charas) was recovered from his possession. The accused, identified as Mohd Yousaf, son of Asdullah Chopan, resident of Pahalgam Sigdi, was arrested and FIR No. 16/2022 under relevant sections of NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Chatroo.