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CAPFs have 'decisive...

Force, the Sashastra Seema Bal are among the CAPFs. Of them, the CRPF is the country largest paramilitary force.

Praising the CRPF for playing a key role in the fight against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir, naxalism, and extremist forces in the northeast, Amit Shah asked the paramilitary force to prepare a roadmap for meeting future challenges.

CRPF is not only a central armed police force but every child of the country loves it for its bravery and courage. Whenever riots happen anywhere in the country, the deployment of the CRPF gives satisfaction to the people," said Shah at the CRPF day parade.

The love and respect earned by the CRPF, the country's largest paramilitary force, is due to the sacrifices, dedication and devotion of its personnel, Shah said.

"Whether it is naxal-infested regions of central India, Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir or extremist forces in the northeast, the CRPF has played a key role in the elimination of such groups and restoring peace in all the three regions, Shah said. Shah said the CRPF has played an appreciable role across the country and asserted that there will be no need for redeployment of CRPF in the three regions in the next few years.

"I am sure that we will be able to restore peace and if it happens, the credit will go to the CRPF jawans. I am saying it with confidence that ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, the work done by CRPF is self-explanatory," he said.

There was a time in the 1990s when extremism in the northeast and Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir was at its peak and everyone in the country was concerned.

Within two decades, the CRPF with its dedication, devotion and determination fought the battle against the anti-national forces who are now on the verge of extinction," he said.

"As home minister, I congratulate the bravery shown by you in the violence-hit areas of the three regions. It is because of your professional handling of the situation that the countrymen are breathing in a peaceful atmosphere, he said.

The prime minister has set a target of making India a USD 5 trillion economy and it will be achievable when the internal security is strong, Shah said, adding We are satisfied of the role of the CRPF.

I ask the Director General of CRPF Kuldip Singh to prepare a roadmap to meet upcoming challenges by modernising the force and procuring the latest equipment," Shah said, adding that the CRPF has to be made a modernised, capable and effective force.

"We have to work in this direction and I am sure the CRPF under the leadership of Kuldip Singh will take it forward," he said.

He lauded the CRPF for its contribution in ensuring free and fair elections in the country, saying "Whether it is Lok Sabha or Assembly elections, the force has the biggest role to play. Free and fair elections are the soul of democracy.

The home minister also praised the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and said its handling of riots by using minimum force is a reflection of its training.

If we analyse the riot situation before and after the setting up of the RAF, you will see RAF has emerged as a successful force to deal with the situation. They are now training reserve police battalions in states and they are working together which are providing good results, he said.

Praising the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha-led Jammu and Kashmir administration, he said it was successful in bringing industrial investment worth Rs 33,000 crore on the ground, implementing all components of the Prime Ministers Development Package and launching a crusade against corruption by taking action against officials and also improving the system.

He also hailed the administration for achieving 100 per cent saturation in various projects including Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal' and Har Ghar Bijli' and said the roads constructed over the past five years to provide connectivity to villages and laying of new highways have set a new record.

Seven new medical colleges, two All India Institute of Medical sciences, 21 water supply schemes and above all the impartiality in every sphere are some of the achievements of the government, he said while congratulating Sinha and his administration.

CRPF Raising Day...

women contingent. "Today this force of 3.25 lakh jawans should rededicate itself to internal security and the security of the nation and resolve to carry forward the great history of the CRPF," Shah, who was wearing an orange turban, said in his address during the parade.

He said the government has decided that annual parades of all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) will be held in different parts of the country.

Amit Shah reviews...

counter-terrorism operations and monitoring activities of terrorists from jails. The Home Minister ordered further strengthening of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Jammu & Kashmir to choke narco terrorism.

Amit Shah said the security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero cross-border infiltration and to eliminate terrorism completely in order to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

Need to identify...

of Jammu and Kashmir. NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah always maintained that a day will come when there will be a leader in every street and corner of Kashmir. The prevailing circumstances have attested to his forewarning, Abdullah said. "Today, we see mushrooming of political parties and leaders in every nook and corner of Kashmir.

The risky political vacuum created by the decisions of August 2019 cannot be filled by such airdropped leaders. It is a genuine popular representative government that will meet the challenge of instilling faith in the hearts of people," he said. Abdullah said in spite of their failures to make inroads into Kashmir even with the help of their A and B teams, the "communal forces" are now up to creating leaders in every mohalla, street and village.

"It is a warning sign for us. The people of Kashmir must remain cautious of such forces who want to divide our society on regional, religious, communal, and sectarian lines," he said.

AB PMJAY SEHAT: Proving miraculous towards ensuring free medicare to numerous hapless poor, needy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme has emerged as a ray of hope for numerous poor families who cannot afford health treatment at prestigious and premier medical institutes of the country.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration, in its endeavor to provide optimum benefit of this miraculous healthcare scheme to people of Jammu and Kashmir, launched the SEHAT scheme in convergence with AB-PMJAY by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

J&K government's efforts supported by central government have done a commendable job in providing succor to all sections of the society through a network of innovative and people friendly programmes launched in the UT. Jammu and Kashmir being demographically disadvantaged and inaccessible attention received focused

attention of both the governments in welfare and development of people here.

Pankaj Kumar, a 26 year old youth, who since his

childhood had been working in the fields of his fellow villagers to feed his family, feels privileged to narrate his tale of struggle in getting his leg surgery done free of cost through AB-PMJAY Sehat scheme.

Narrating his ordeals, Kumar recalled that how distressed and hapless he was when he got his leg broken while working in his house to repair the wall of his courtyard. "I was extremely shattered after this accident and was more than worried about my old parents; who will look after them now," Kumar said. "Doctors asked my family to arrange money for surgery of my leg. I knew we had no savings and it was beyond my reach to meet the expenses for my treatment", Kumar added.

Then, I came to know about Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) scheme through one of my neighbors which came as a ray of hope for the whole family making an end to our woes.

After completing all the requisite formalities, a golden card was issued in my favour and I had my surgery under PMAY SEHAT card

Transforming J&K

for launching this poor friendly scheme.

As per official figures around 29 Lakh beneficiaries have been registered so far in Jammu division. The Health Department has expedited the registration process as the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha has set the deadline for March 31, 2022 for completing the registration process.

It is pertinent to mention here that Ayushman Bharat, a flagship scheme of the Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This initiative has been designed to meet Sustainable

free of cost. "It was not less than a miracle, SEHAT card helped us a lot, as our financial condition was not good and my treatment was almost impossible without this scheme," he maintained while expressing gratitude to Center and UT government.

The SEHAT scheme pro-

vides health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers medical procedures including oncology, cardiology, nephrology etc and covers up to three days of pre-hospitalization and fifteen days post-hospitalization expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

In yet another pro-people initiative, the State Health Agency (SHA) started an initiative 'Gaon Gaon Ayushman' to reach out to even last mile villages which remain cut from the rest of the world due to adverse weather conditions so as to percolate the benefits of the scheme down to every beneficiary.

To ensure hassle-free regis-

Terrorists hurl grenades...

shifted to SMHS Hospital here, an official said.

Akram is a native of Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh. He stays at Arihal in Pulwama, the official said.

Govt closes inquiry...

It added, "a preliminary inquiry was conducted by the DGP, J&K, which established sheer negligence and culpability on the part of the delinquent officer. Accordingly, vide communication bearing No. Legal/GB-57/2017/85870-71 dated November 29, 2017, the DGP, J&K recommended initiation of departmental action against the delinquent officer."

Accordingly, as contemplated under Rule 33 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, vide Government Order No.1661-Home of 2018 dated December 13, 2018, Vivek Gupta, IPS, the then I/C DIG, JSK Range was appointed as an Inquiry Officer for conducting an inquiry into the charges levelled against the delinquent officer.

"The Inquiry Officer submitted his report on November 30, 2019 and concluded that the charges levelled against Tabassum Parveen (now retired), the then DySP Crime Branch Jammu, (I/O of the case), were substantiated. The report of the inquiry officer was examined, with reference to the facts of the case, evidence brought on record and conclusions drawn by the inquiry officer. The matter was, accordingly, placed before the Competent Authority along with all the material for a decision," it added.

"Now, therefore, the report submitted by the inquiry officer in pursuance of Government Order No. 1661-Home of 2018 dated 13.12.2018, is accepted and the inquiry ordered against Tabassum Parveen, the then DySP Crime Branch Jammu, (Now retired SP), is closed and a penalty equivalent to 'Fine of one month's pay' (calculated as per last pay drawn), as provided under clause(ii) of Rule 30 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 read with Article 168-A of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956, is imposed on the delinquent officer, which shall be deducted from her pension," it added.

(of the policemen) to keep Jammu and Kashmir safe. The Modi government is committed for the welfare of all the policemen and their families, he said in a tweet in Hindi.

The minister also interacted with family members of the martyr personnel, a Raj Bhavan spokesman said.

He said Shah handed over the appointment orders to Pooja Devi (Panchayat Secretary in Jammu district), Ifra Yaqoob (orderly cum chowkidar in industries and commerce department), Aabid Bashir and Mohsin Mushtaq (followers in J&K police).

Pooja's husband -- selection grade constable Rohit Kumar --laid down his life during an anti-terrorist operation in village Sehpora-Parwan in Kulgam district on January 12. The encounter resulted in the elimination of a dreaded Pakistani terrorist Babar. Ifra is the daughter of head constable Mohammad Yaqoob Shah, who was martyred in a terrorist attack on a police vehicle on August 13, 2014 at Galander-Pampore in Pulwama. Aabid is son of constable Bashir Ahmad Sheikh who martyred in a terrorist attack on a police party at Rabtar bridge in Ganderbal on the intervening night of January 29-30, 2000.

Mohsin is the son of follower Mushtaq Ahmad who lost his life in a cross-fire between terrorists and a BSF patrolling party at Kuman in Bandipora district on May 9, 1993. In retaliatory action, one terrorist was also killed.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union minister Jitendra Singh and Director General of Police Dilbag Singh were present on the occasion, the spokesman said.

Interacting with the families, Shah said the entire nation is proud of the courage and commitment shown by these brave security personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Shah, during his last visit to Jammu and Kashmir in October, 2021, had visited the house of martyr Inspector Pervaiz Ahmad Dar in Srinagar. He had also handed over an appointment letter to the wife of slain Inspector Arshad Khan in 2019.

Strategic Srinagar-Leh...

the officials said. Zojila is a strategic pass that provides a vital link between the Kashmir valley and Ladakh, and it is key to operational preparedness of the armed forces. It remains closed mostly for about six months due to heavy snowfall. This year, it was cleared off in record time, they said.

"This pass remains closed mostly for about six months. But last year, we decided to keep it closed for a minimum period of time. We kept it closed for about 110 days only last year and there were many benefits. This year, we re-opened the road in 73 days," Lt Gen Chaudhary told reporters here.

He said the highway was kept open till January 4 this year, after which it was closed for traffic following heavy snowfall.

"It has now been re-opened in record time. This is a huge achievement and both Project Beacon, which manages the highway in J-K, and Project Vijayak, which manages it in Ladakh UT, have done it," he said.

The BRO DG said re-opening the highway sooner has many advantages strategically as well as from the socio-economic angle.

"From the strategic point of view, maintenance, including ammunition, logistics or anything else, for our troops deployed in Ladakh will reach in time now. It will also expedite the transportation of fresh vegetables, medicines etc to the people of Ladakh. This will increase trade and commerce there, and people are very happy," he said. Lt Gen Chaudhary said a study found that the government can save around Rs 7 crore per day by opening the road sooner.

"We saved about Rs 400 crore -- the money spent on air transportation -- by reopening the road sooner," he added.

A defence spokesperson said snow clearance operations on the highway recommenced on February 15 by projects Beacon and Vijayak of the BRO.

After sustained efforts, the connectivity across Zojila Pass was initially established on March 3, and after that, improvement of road surface was carried out for safe passage of vehicles, he said.

Alive to threat...

IB and the Line of Control.

We are placing (anti-drone) systems and in the coming times we will be able to neu-

tration of all eligible beneficiaries under the scheme, the SHA set up a network of more than 8000 Common Service Centres (CSCs). The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is being stationed in villages for ensuring 100% registration and awareness activities at the grassroots level in association with PRI representatives and ASHA workers.

In the remote Kandi block of Rajouri, officials used to

trek 6 and more hours to register locals for golden card under AB- PMJAY SEHAT scheme.

"This is really a poor friendly scheme which proved to be a boon for those who could not afford expensive treatments due to lack of money. With this scheme now even poor can get high quality treatment even in private hospitals," Abdul Razak Khan, a local resident of Rajouri said while showering praise over present dispensation for launching this unique scheme.

Abdul Majeed Ganie, a poor resident of Yaripora village, is another beneficiary of this marvelous healthcare scheme who also termed the

initiative as an incredible help to those who just could not even think of expensive treatments and rather used to succumb to their ailments for lack of necessary finances. "I will always remain indebted to hospital administration who informed me about the scheme and central and UT government for launching this scheme for poor," Ganie asserted.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, said that the J&K government is committed towards accomplishing the goal of best healthcare for all. "We are determined to ensure that the new healthcare facilities in various districts promote social equality and its benefits reach our brothers and sisters living in far-flung areas", Lieutenant Governor maintained.

"Earlier, a privileged few were enjoying medical facilities in big cities and abroad while the majority of the population did not have access even to ordinary health care facilities. But

with the commitment towards public health, we

ensured high quality medicare for all", Sinha asserted.

to prepon the opening of road by the end of March, which otherwise was made accessible for visitors around mid April every year.

As Bhadarwah Development Authority (BDA) failed to initiate the process to restore tourism activities in Bhadarwah, Administration and R&B Deptt took the initiative with a view to revive the tourism industry after seeing encouraging footfall of the tourists from as early as February in Bhadarwah Valley after heavy snowfall.

Rizwan Wani, JE R&B BC

Division Bhadarwah, said

that we have started snow

clearance since last month and we are trying to get it

open till the end of this month.

R&B expedites snow clearance on Bhadarwah-Chamba road



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: To revive tourism by opening roads towards tourist destinations, R&B Department

Bhadarwah expedites snow

clearance work on

Bhadarwah-Chamba road, to

open it for visitors by end of March.

In order to revive the

tourism industry which suf-

fered due to coronavirus pan-

demic since last 2 years,