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Centre approves Rs... in CVPPL, the statement said.

NHPC will invest Rs 681.82 crore from its internal resources.

The project is to be commissioned within a span of 54 months. The project will result in direct and indirect employment for around 2,500 persons, the statement said.

With the project, the Union Territory will get free electricity worth around Rs 4,548.59 crore during its 40-year life cycle. J&K will also receive benefit to the tune of Rs 4,941.46 crore through water usage charges during the same period.

To make the project viable, J&K government will provide exemption of water usage charges for 10 years after commissioning, reimburse state's share of GST and give waiver of free power at the rate of two per cent per year in a decremental manner.

CBI court denies...

for extraction of bribe amount from him which though not a huge amount, was still demanded by accused and accepted. Same was allegedly recovered from him in a trap laid upon him, the prima facie presumption under section 20 of PC ACT thereby proving commission of offence under Section 7 of PC ACT 1988. "With consideration that likelihood of hampering of investigation and tampering of evidence by the accused, whose statements have not been recorded particularly the departmental witnesses, the public interest is definitely not going to be served if individual right of the accused to bail is given precedence over collective interest while striking the balance of interests in the case," with these observations, the Court rejected the bail plea.

Dr Farooq Lone...

2019 and S.O. 3937 (E) dated 31st October, 2019, read with Order issued in terms of sub-clause (i) of clause (e) of the Proclamation issued by the President dated October 31, 2019 and all other provisions enabling in this behalf, the Lieutenant Governor of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is pleased to direct that Dr Farooq Ahmad Lone, IAS (Retd), Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, shall perform the duties of the Chairman, as an interim arrangement, till further orders," reads S.O. 216 notification issued by issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

"This notification shall take effect from April 28, 2022," it added.

BSF launches intensive...

day before the encounter.

According to officials, one of the arrested accused had also disclosed that he had also ferried a group of four terrorists from the IB to Kashmir earlier this year, sending alarm bells ringing in the security establishments.

A senior BSF officer said no breaches in the border fence were noticed during the stepped up operations which also saw the troops looking for underground cross-border tunnels all along the IB over the past five days.

The BSF is manning about 192 km of IB and Line of Control (LoC) alongside the Army and is keeping a tight vigil to scuttle any attempt of infiltration of terrorists, smuggling of weapons and narcotics and drone activity from across the border, he said.

Anti-tunnel drives along the IB are a regular feature to frustrate the nefarious designs of the enemy nation. The drive is presently underway within 400 meters of the border fence all along the IB in Jammu sector, the officer said, requesting anonymity.

Last year, the force detected two tunnels across the international border in Kathua district, taking the total number of such structures unearthed by the force in the past decade in Jammu sector to 10.

The BSF is keeping a tight vigil on border in view of the continuous attempts by enemy forces and anti-national elements to push terrorists and smuggle weapons and narcotics. The threat posed by the use of drones by Pakistan is also being taken care of, the officer said.

Interacting with media persons visiting the International Border amid the ongoing operation, another BSF officer said they are checking the whole area manually and also using sophisticated gadgets to eliminate any threat.

Wherever we have a doubt, the area is being checked minutely and a round-the-clock vigil is maintained. The BSF is also patrolling the area with special equipment which detect even the slightest movement of small animals, he said.

With the mercury in Jammu hovering around 40 degrees Celsius for the past few days, the officer said, It is a routine for us to perform our duties in scorching heat, severe cold conditions and rainy season. We are trained for that and we do it routinely to keep our nation and the countrymen safe.

Admitting that the search and vigil along the IB have been intensified after the recent encounter in Jammu, another jawan said, They always perform their duties with full responsibility. Over the past few days, there has been an increase in duty hours due to intensified operations.

The BSF personnel were seen patrolling the area along the border fence and also using iron rods to check wild grass and bushes for the possible underground tunnel.

The anti-tunnel drive is going on up to 400 meters from the border fence. The tunnels have been dug in the past from the Pakistan side to push terrorists. We are alive to the threat and the anti-tunnelling operation is part of our duty, he said.

He said they are making every effort to keep the borders safe and ensure no infiltration takes place. If the borders are safe, our countrymen are safe as well.

Besides detecting two tunnels, the BSF killed five infiltrators, detained three others and recovered a huge cache of weapons, narcotics and fake currency notes last year.

Army-run school ...

it's certainly not like any other state where they bulldoze the houses of minorities & not allow them the freedom to dress as they want. Our girls will not give up their right to choose," Mehbooba tweeted.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said it was an attempt to gain political mileage.

"In this country, everyone has the freedom to follow his or her religion. It is enshrined in our constitution that we are a secular country which means all religions are equal. I don't think any government should interfere in this.

This is playing with such a danger that can piss problems for the country. We would like that such decisions should not be taken. The people of all faiths should be free to follow their own religion," the former J and K CM said.

"We hope that the effort to bring Karnataka into Jammu and Kashmir is stopped

JKP's Civic Action Programme DGP releases Rs 4.36 Cr for conducting Bharat Darshan tour of J&K youth

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police Headquarters J&K under the leadership of the Director General of Police (DGP), J&K Dilbag Singh is continuously providing funds for organizing various Civic Action Programmes at UT, Zone, Range and Districts Levels for conducting different social, sports, and cultural activities for general public particularly for the youth of J&K.

As a part of this effort, the DGP J&K vide Police Headquarters Order No. 1492 of 2022 has released an amount of Rs 4.36 crore in favour of 20 Police District heads of UT for conducting Bharat Darshan tour programme.

Under this initiative a group of 100 youth from each district of J&K will be sent to different cities of the country and the tour will be covered by air.

The programme is aimed to enrich the knowledge of youth by visiting historical places and other modern marvels of India.

Under this tour programme, a group of youth from Jammu, Samba will be visiting Delhi and Bangalore and the group from Kathua, Ramban will be visiting Delhi and Mumbai.

Similarly, a group of youth from Udhampur and Reasi will be visiting Delhi and Kolkata, and the group from Rajouri and Poonch will be visiting Delhi and Hyderabad, a group of youth from Doda and Kishtwar will be visiting Delhi and Chennai.

Group from Srinagar and Ganderbal will be visiting Delhi and Kolkata, and from Budgam and Bandipora will be visiting Delhi and Mumbai.

A group of youth from Baramulla including PD Sopore and Kupwara including PD Handwara, Anantnag and Pulwama including Awantipora, Rs 21.40 lakh each have been released for Shopian and Kulgam under this order.

Pertinent to mention here that Jammu and Kashmir Police under its Civic Action Programme has sent around 3000 youth from across the J&K on Bharat Darshan Tours from 2017 to 2021 to different stations & cities.

As per the order Rs 20.40 lakh each have been released for Jammu and Samba, Rs 21.90 lakh each have been released for Kathua and Ramban, Rs 23.40 lakh each have been released for Udhampur and Reasi. Similarly Rs 17.50 lakh each have been released for Rajouri and Poonch, and Rs 20 lakh each for Doda and Kishtwar. Rs 22.30 lakh each have been released for Srinagar and Ganderbal and Rs 22.70 lakh each for Budgam and Bandipora. An amount of Rs 24.20 lakh each has been released for Baramulla including PD Sopore, Kupwara including PD Handwara, Anantnag and Pulwama including Awantipora, Rs 21.40 lakh each have been released for Shopian and Kulgam under this order.

Pertinent to mention here that Jammu and Kashmir Police under its Civic Action Programme has sent around 3000 youth from across the J&K on Bharat Darshan Tours from 2017 to 2021 to different stations & cities.

forthwith," he added.

Abdullah said it was wrong on part of the school to issue such a diktat.

"The reason given is just not right. This school did not start yesterday. These teachers (who are wearing hijab) must have been interacting with the students earlier also. What changed overnight?" he asked.

Modi flags higher...

on Ukraine, and called for better Centre-states coordination in economic decisions.

Supply chain has been impacted and challenges have been rising, he added.

Modi said the Centre had reduced excise duties on petrol and diesel in November to reduce its price burden on people. It had also urged to reduce VAT, which is imposed by states, and transfer the benefits to people, he noted, adding some states do so and some did not.

Mostly BJP-run states slashed VAT by different margins, taking the cue from the Centre. Most opposition-ruled states did not reduce the VAT, while the Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi did it much later.

In his remarks, Modi cited the example of Karnataka and Gujarat, both ruled by the BJP, saying they have suffered revenue loss of nearly Rs 5,000 crore and Rs 3,500-4,000 crore respectively by reducing VAT but they did so to help people. Their neighbouring states did not reduce the VAT, he added.

States like Maharashtra, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala-all ruled by different opposition parties- have not reduced VAT for some reasons, and prices there are higher than other states, he said.

"I am not criticising anyone but am praying to you for the welfare of people of your states...I urge you to reduce VAT now even after a delay of six months to benefit people," he said, with chief ministers of most of these states listening.

In Chennai, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai, petrol prices (per litre) are over Rs 111, Rs 118, Rs 119, Rs 115 and Rs 120, he said, noting that they cost much lower at Rs 102 in the union territory of Daman and Diu, Rs 105 in Lucknow, Rs 106 in Jammu, Rs 105 in Guwahati and Rs 103 in Dehradun.

Noting that the Centre anyway shares 42 per cent of its revenue with states, the prime minister said it is his "special request" to these chief ministers to reduce VAT.

However, opposition-ruled states did not agree with the prime minister's assertions.

After the meeting, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters in Kolkata, "Today's interaction with PM Narendra Modi was completely one-sided and misleading. Facts shared by him were wrong. We have been providing a subsidy of Re 1 on every litre of petrol and diesel for the last three years. We've spent Rs 1,500 crore on this."

In Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala's Finance Minister K N Balagopal said the increase in petrol and diesel rates was due to the cess and surcharge levied by the Centre.

Maharashtra's Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's office issued a statement saying, "It is not correct that prices of petrol and diesel are going up because of the state government's VAT." Thackeray stated.

In his remarks, Modi also mentioned the "manifold" increase in fertilizer prices due to its rise globally, and India depends on its import.

The government does not want to transfer the burden to the farmers, Modi said, asking states to give top priority to people's interests.

The opposition has often blamed the central government for high fuel price, while the BJP has cited rising crude cost in the international market for this and also attacked the states run by rival parties for not doing enough.

Gap between 2nd...

that antibody levels wane after about six months from the primary vaccination with both doses and giving a booster increases the immune response.

All those above the age of 18 who have completed nine months after the administration of the second dose are eligible for the precaution dose.

"Taking into account the scientific evidence and findings of the studies done here and internationally, the gap between the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine and the precaution dose will most likely be reduced from the current nine months to six months soon. A final decision will be taken based on the recommendations by the NTAGI which is set to meet on Friday," a source in the know of the developments told PTI.

India began administering precaution doses of vaccines to healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10.

The government removed the comorbidity clause making all people aged above 60 eligible for the precaution dose in March.

According to health ministry data, 5,17,547 precaution doses have been administered in age group 18-59 years so far.

Besides, 4736567 healthcare workers, 7447184 frontline workers and 14545595 individuals aged 60 and above have taken the precaution shot.

India on April 10 began administering precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years at private vaccination centres.

Apollo hospital to...

(State Administrative Council) had said.

Jammu and Kashmir is set to become the top investment destination in the country as it races up to various infrastructure projects and is reaching out to foreign and domestic investors through several forums and industrial summits, the officials said.

Investors from foreign countries, particularly the Middle East, are keen to invest in J&K, which Jammu and Kashmir has not received in the last 75 years, they added.

Before arriving in Palli village in Samba to participate in the National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met a large delegation from UAE.

The Prime Minister said that a new story of development is being written and many private investors are interested in Jammu and Kashmir.

"For seven decades of independence, private investment of only Rs 17 thousand crore could be made in Jammu and Kashmir. But, this investment is now reaching around Rs 38,000 crore," he said.

The Jammu & Kashmir administration has worked hard to convince Dubai-based investors to explore investment possibilities in the Union Territory.

10 JKAS officers...

Magistrate, Padder, Kishtwar, holding additional charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Padder has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Kishtwar; Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjust-

ment in the GAD has been posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Jammu; Bilal Mukhtar Dar, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, as Deputy Director, Information (PR), Srinagar; Manu Hansa, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, as Deputy Secretary, School Education Department; Nasir Mahmood Khan, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, as Assistant Commissioner (Nazool), Srinagar. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Srinagar.

Chand Singh, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD has been posted as Deputy Secretary, Transport Department; Jaffar Hussain Sheikh, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD as Deputy Secretary, GAD; Lekh Raj, JKAS, Tehsildar Kashtigarh as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Assar, Doda. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Assar, Doda in addition to his own duties.

Omar welcomes SC...

and appealed to the Chief Justice of India to hold the hearings on a fast-track basis.

"We welcome the decision of the Supreme Court to constitute a bench after the summer vacation. We understand that due to COVID-19, the petitions could not be listed earlier but we would now request the CJI that the hearings be held on a fast-track basis.

"Since August 2019, many changes have taken place, which should not have happened. Any further delay would mean that it would be difficult to reverse the changes," Abdullah told reporters here.

The Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 on August 5, 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Abdullah was interacting with the youth leaders of the NC at the party headquarters here.

Asked if the meetings were related to elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the NC vice-president said there was no connection.

"I am meeting youngsters to understand what they think and what problems they face," he said.

Asked about the delimitation commission's report, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said his party has told the panel that its very existence is illegal.

"We have put before the delimitation commission that its existence itself is illegal. We have challenged the reorganisation act, which means that the delimitation commission has also been challenged.

"That is why we want fast-tracked hearings and a judgment by the court," he said. Abdullah said NC had put forward various suggestions before the commission, but those were ignored.

"Whatever happened has happened. Let the final report come, then only we will have a detailed chat with you on this," he said.

"We are told not to use loudspeakers for azaan. Why? We do not tell you that you should not use loudspeakers at temples. You are telling us halal meat should not be sold. Why? We are not forcing you to eat. Show me where a Muslim has forced a non-Muslim to eat halal.

"It is just that you have a problem with our way of life. Why?" he asked.

Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir had acceded to a secular nation.

"This was not the India we had acceded to. We had acceded to a secular India where all religions were equal.

"We were not told that one religion will be treated as superior to others. Had we been told this, may be our decision would have been different," he said.

Asked if the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) will contest the election as an alliance, Abdullah said it was for the leaders involved to decide.