

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Markets in Srinagar...

the Lt Governor said, the Polo View market is just the beginning. In coming days, Srinagar Smart City is developing similar markets in areas like Residency road, Lal Chowk, and the old city, he added.

"The holistic approach in developing urban infrastructure is focused on Individual's well-being, new avenues and opportunities for the people for more diversified incomes, improved service delivery, mobility, cleanliness and to achieve the objectives of sustainable urban development," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the steps taken to fulfill the aspirations of all 40 ULBs of Kashmir Division.

"We have put people at the centre of cities and the projects both development and solid waste management, are offering unprecedented opportunity to improve the lives of millions of urban residents," he said.

The newly inaugurated projects are the testimony to our commitment to improve urban environment, he further added.

Referring to the development journey of J&K over the past few years, the Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the unparalleled growth of the UT.

Today, economic development is gaining new momentum, pace of completion of projects has increased 9 times and every section of the society is feeling empowered, said the Lt Governor.

Citizens are now co-constructing policies so that infrastructure projects are developed as per needs of the people, he added.

The Lt Governor called upon the elected representatives of the ULBs and the common people to work shoulder to shoulder with the administration in the mission to rejuvenate the cities and make them more vibrant, efficient, clean and sustainable.

Infrastructure should become a strong base to improve the quality of life of every citizen. We must ensure that infrastructure development meet the needs of the 21st century and reflect the priceless heritage and traditions of our cities, the Lt Governor said.

He further emphasized on encouraging maximum public participation in beautification of cities and Swachhata campaigns.

At the Polo View, the Lt Governor interacted with the shop-keepers and presented a token of appreciation to the Traders association for their cooperation.

H Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department gave a detailed overview of the projects inaugurated today.

Mathora Masoom, Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir informed about the ongoing projects for the development of urban areas of the region.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Athar Amir Khan, Commissioner SMC and CEO Srinagar Smart City; ULB members, senior officials and prominent citizens were present.

HC stays judgment...

petitions involving 2,396 writ petitioners who are seeking stay on operation of the judgment pending final adjudication of the present letters patent appeal.

The court said the VDG scheme is meant to be an exercise in building an attitude of self help in security matters amongst the local population. The aim is also to supplement the ongoing efforts of the security forces in dealing with militancy, acts of subversion and transborder movements, it said.

"It is a manifestation of the will of the people to actively participate in the efforts to thwart the threat being posed to national security and integrity. The identification of men comprising these groups, support to them and the level of their motivation would be of utmost importance," it said.

"In the ultimate analysis, the success of the scheme would depend on the quality of men who would form these groups and the will behind these men," the court observed.

The division bench said the core policy purpose of founding the new scheme of 2022, by all implication and inferences, stayed the same as that of the 1995 scheme, but certain structural and operational amends or alterations with respect to VDGs have been brought into play.

While the old scheme comprised and consisted of SPOs and other members, bearing a strength of 15 in each group, under the 2022 scheme, a VDG is envisaged to have a maximum intake number of 15, bracketed in two categories, it said.

SC directs Centre...

Sector Undertakings, institutions, bodies, etc. have constituted ICCs/LCs/ICs, as the case may be and that the composition of the said Committees are strictly in terms of the provisions of the PoSH Act," the bench said.

"It shall be ensured that necessary information regarding the constitution and composition of the committees, details of the e-mail IDs and contact numbers of the designated persons, the procedure prescribed for submitting an online complaint, as also the relevant rules, regulations and internal policies are made readily available on the website of the concerned authority/ Functionary/ Organisation/Institution/Body, as the case may be," the bench said, adding the information furnished shall also be updated from time to time.

The top court's direction came while hearing a plea filed by Aureliano Fernandes, a former head of department at Goa University, challenging an order of the Bombay High Court regarding allegations of sexual harassment against him.

The high court had dismissed his plea against an order of the Executive Council of Goa University (Disciplinary Authority) which dismissed him from services and disqualified him from future employment.

The top court set aside the high court order noting procedural lapses in inquiry proceedings and violation of principles of natural justice.

Issuing a slew of directions, the top court said similar exercise shall be undertaken by all the statutory bodies of professionals at the apex level and the state level (including those regulating doctors, lawyers, architects, chartered accountants, cost accountants, engineers, bankers and other professionals), by universities, colleges, training centres and educational institutions and by government and private hospitals/nursing homes.

"Immediate and effective steps shall be taken by the authorities/ managements/employers to familiarize members of the ICCs/ LCs (Local Committees)/ ICs (Internal Committees) with their duties and the manner in which an inquiry ought to be conducted on receiving a complaint of sexual harassment at the workplace, from the point when the complaint is received, till the inquiry is finally concluded and the Report submitted.

"The authorities/management/employers shall regularly conduct orientation programmes, workshops, seminars and awareness programmes to upskill members of the ICCs/LCs/ICs and to educate women employees and women's groups about the provisions of the Act, the Rules and relevant regulations," the bench said.

It directed the National Legal Services Authority(NALSA) and the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) to develop modules to conduct workshops and organise awareness programmes to sensitise stakeholders and adolescent groups.

"The National Judicial Academy and the State Judicial Academies shall include in their annual calendars, orientation programmes, seminars and workshops for capacity building of members of the ICCs/LCs/ICs established in the High Courts and District Courts and for drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to conduct an inquiry under the Act and Rules.

"A copy of this judgment shall be transmitted to the Secretaries of all the Ministries, Government of India who shall ensure implementation of the directions by all the concerned Departments, Statutory Authorities, Institutions, Organisations etc. under the control of the respective Ministries," it said.

The bench also directed that a copy of the judgment be transmitted to the Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories who shall ensure strict compliance of these directions by all the concerned Departments.

"It shall be the responsibility of the Secretaries of the Ministries, Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of every State/Union Territory to ensure implementation of the directions issued.

"The Registry of the Supreme Court of India shall transmit a copy of this judgment to the Director, National Judicial Academy, Member Secretary, NALSA, Chairperson, Bar Council of India and the Registrar Generals of all the High Courts. The Registry shall also transmit a copy of this judgment to the Medical Council of India, Council of Architecture, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Institute of Company Secretaries and the Engineering Council of India for implementing the directions issued," it

said.

The top court directed the Centre and all states and Union Territories to file their affidavits within eight weeks for reporting compliances.

Jammu DDC chairpersons...

of peace is that DDC and BCC elections were successfully held there for the very first time and 280 representatives were elected.

He said that with these measures, local people got faith in democracy, that's why today the development plans are reaching the ground.

DDCs chairpersons said that the Modi government has ushered in a new era of development in J&K which has given a new vision to the UT.

They expressed their thanks for the development work being done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jammu & Kashmir.

They said that the Modi government has initiated several development projects which will benefit the people of Jammu & Kashmir for the decades to come.

Chugh also listened carefully to various development issues raised by the public representatives from Jammu & Kashmir and said that he would be more than happy to pursue these plans for the betterment of the people of J&K.

On this occasion, he issued a statement in the media and said that there was a good discussion in the meeting on the Panchayat level, the lowest unit in democracy and the DDC representative group.

He said that these are the same representatives who work to make the country's plans accessible to the common people on the ground.

Many representatives including Bharat Bhushan, Dhanantar Singh Kotwal, Colonel Maan Singh, Keshu Dutt, Raghunandan Singh and Sandeep Singh Manhas were included in this group of people's representatives.

G20 will be...

accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Balwal, found out about the difficulties of the personnel besides guiding them in performing their job in pressing circumstances.

"This is a high-pressure job but, in the end, we have to be 100 per cent alert. Any failure can prove costly," Kumar told the police personnel on duty.

Talking to PTI Video, Kumar said the police force is completely geared up to meet any challenge.

"Generally, we have a naka (checkpoint) for 365 days but whenever an important event happens, every one of us is on the roads to ensure that people sleep peacefully.

"The number of checkpoints has definitely increased and many of my senior officers are moving around the city in the last 15 days. Today, I have come out myself to boost their morale and stand next to my jawans on the road," Kumar said.

He said patrolling is part of maintaining night domination of the areas and helps in countering any threat of a terrorist sneaking into the city from South Kashmir.

He accepted that there is a threat from terror groups in view of the forthcoming G20 meeting.

"Obviously, the threat is there but what are we here for? Let us not forget the motto of J-K Police that says 'A saga of sacrifice and courage'. Nothing untoward will happen," Kumar said.

Kashmir will host the third G20 tourism working group meeting from May 22 to 24. The first working group meeting on tourism was held at the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat in February and the second one in West Bengal's Siliguri in April.

This is the first international meeting being held in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Kumar also went into the interiors of the Nowgam area in Srinagar where the threat, mainly from the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group, has been higher. He met the police and CRPF personnel posted there and took stock of the situation.

During his visit to the area, Kumar pointed to an under-construction building and directed the officers to post a sniper there to ensure that the eventuality of a suicide terror attack is averted.

The Valley's top police officer also pointed out that women cops were also present in the likelihood that female passengers need to be searched.

"We are religiously following all the Standard Operating Procedures and are hopeful that the event will pass off peacefully," Kumar said.

He also said some preventive arrests of overground workers and suspects were made as a precautionary measure.

Imran Khan gets...

March when police raided Khan's Lahore residence to arrest him. The IHC's decision to grant Khan a two-week reprieve from arrest came hours after he warned of countrywide unrest if he was arrested again.

Khan, 70, arrived at the court amid tight security and underwent the biometric identification process and other formalities.

The hearing was delayed for nearly two hours due to security reasons.

Earlier, the two judges left the courtroom amid pro-Khan slogan shouting by a lawyer. The upset judges later announced that the hearing will resume after Friday prayers.

Dawn News reported that Khan's lawyers had filed four additional requests which urged the IHC to club all the cases against the PTI chief and to direct authorities to provide details of the cases registered against him.

Khan was arrested after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) issued an arrest warrant against him.

The Al-Qadir Trust corruption case is about the setting up of Al-Qadir University for Sufism in the 2019 Sohawa area of Jhelum district of Punjab.

Khan is accused of looting Rs 50 billion from the national treasury in the case.

The former prime minister, along with his wife Bushra Bibi and other PTI leaders, is facing a NAB inquiry related to a settlement between the PTI government and a property tycoon.

Khan's arrest by paramilitary Rangers sparked widespread protests across Pakistan, prompting the deployment of the Army here as well as in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces. The violent protests left at least eight people dead.

In an informal interaction with journalists during the hearing break, Khan said that he will not resist if his bail plea is rejected.

Khan maintained that he was "abducted" and was shown the warrant for his arrest while in custody.

"This is the law of the jungle. It looks as if martial law has been declared," said the former premier," he said.

The PTI chief said he was assaulted with a baton but maintained that NAB's "behaviour was fine" during his detention.

Khan said he was inside the premises of the IHC when he was arrested and "they had no justification" for the act.

The PTI chief did not respond to a question about his experience of being arrested.

Terming his arrest "abduction", he said that the warrant was shown to him after he was taken to the jail.

Speaking to media persons during the hearing break, Khan's lawyer Babar Awan clarified that the lawyers who started chanting slogans were not related to PTI.

Awan, talking with the media outside the IHC, said that the PTI chief's "life is in danger".

He maintained that there are certain people who fear that if Khan is released, their jobs will be at risk.

"That is why Punjab Police has come from Lahore," he added.

Separately, Khan's supporters clashed with police which stopped them from going anywhere near the IHC building.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday questioned the Supreme Court's granting of relief to its 'ladla' Imran Khan, saying its 'double standards' have led to the death of justice in Pakistan.

"When he (Imran) was presented in court yesterday, the CJP said it is good to see you. And, he said this in a case of corruption," he said.

"If you want to keep favouring this ladla (pampered), then you should also release all the dacoits behind bars in the country. Let this be free for all," he said while addressing the federal Cabinet on Friday.

Describing Khan and his party as "liars", Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday slammed the Opposition for pushing the cash-strapped country towards "destruction".

Khan is facing over 120 cases across the country, including for allegedly committing treason and blasphemy and inciting violence and terrorism.

He was ousted from power in April after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting

him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

He is the only Pakistani prime minister to be ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament.

Pakistan situation will...

and Balochistan provinces.

"Whatever the situation is in Pakistan, it will not have any impact on the situation of Jammu and Kashmir. Whatever Pakistan has done in the last 30 years, it will fall into its own pit," BJP general secretary organisation, Jammu and Kashmir, Ashok Koul, said.

He also told reporters that the regional parties in the Union Territory are worried about Pakistan and had made statements that the worsening situation there would have an adverse impact on Jammu and Kashmir.

"They are just harping on their old tunes. as far as India's stand on the relationship with Pakistan is concerned, it is as it was that unless they stop supporting militant activities, India cannot think about having dialogue with them," Koul said.

On exit poll surveys for the Karnataka assembly elections giving an edge to the Congress over the BJP, Koul said winning or losing an election will not have any impact on his party. "Wherever elections are conducted, someone wins and someone loses. But, we believe that the BJP will come out as the number one party in Karnataka," he said.

In the past, like in the cases of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the BJP leader said, it has been seen that exit poll surveys showed something but it did not happen.

"We believe in our work and determination, and we will come out as victorious. Winning or losing elections will not have any impact on the BJP," he said.

To a question about the delay in assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Koul said the situation in the Union Territory is comparatively better than it was before the abrogation of article 370 in 2019.

He said that as far as assembly polls are concerned, the BJP is always ready for an election. "Those who are levelling allegations against the BJP, they are themselves losing ground, as you can see day in and day out people are changing parties," Koul said.

"I have heard that the J&K's chief electoral officer is preparing for panchayat and local body elections and maybe, assembly elections will be conducted along with these polls as the whole Election Commission machinery is busy with the preparations. The assembly elections will be announced anytime," he claimed.

Koul said it cannot be said when assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir, but it could be held along with the panchayat polls or the parliamentary elections or even before.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti have expressed worries about the "dangerous" situation in Pakistan, claiming it will affect India.

Work on delayed 4...

to the Covid-19 pandemic and land acquisition and other issues where many houses and structures had to be demolished", GM said.

People hope that company will meet the deadline and make this fully stretch operational. They say that several patches of the road are in very bad shape due to a delay in ongoing work.

Sandeep Khajuria, a local resident, said that the project should be completed within the time frame.

"We also want express highway should be made but within the time given to us by the Government. Akhnoor highway was supposed to be made this year but it's not completed yet. We have to face a lot of problems due to this but we are waiting for good things to happen soon", he said.

Another local resident Ratan Langhe said that this road touches the border and this road is important for people especially patients while shifting them from Akhnoor, Poonch, Rajouri etc. "It is very important for our border security", he said

Once completed, the highway will cut travel time between Jammu and Akhnoor by half.

Proud of these...

feel they could have done better in the Class XII exams -- you have so much more to look forward to in the coming times. One set of exams doesn't define you. Harness your talents in areas you are passionate about. You will shine," Modi said in another tweet.

G20 delegates to...

acting as ambassadors for our region," he added.

He also commended Director Tourism Kashmir and his team for their relentless efforts in organizing these remarkable activities.

He expressed his appreciation for their commitment to creating additional attractions for tourists, with initiatives like the hot air balloon ride further enhancing the allure of the picturesque city of Srinagar.

Earlier, speaking at the launch of tourism related activities, Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq said that the event marked a significant step towards enhancing the region's tourism offerings.

He said that the series of pre-G20 activities in Srinagar are not only set to captivate visitors but also serve as a testament to the vibrant and inviting atmosphere of Jammu and Kashmir.

"As the G20 event approaches, the region eagerly awaits the opportunity to showcase its unique blend of natural beauty, rich culture, and warm hospitality to a global audience," he added.

2,500 mobile toilets...

from Lakhapur in Kathua district to the shrine.

"Over 940 toilets will be set up at the Baltal axis and 1,345 toilets at the Pahlagam axis," an official said and added that 1,370 personnel, including sanitation workers and supervisors, will be deployed for managing these toilets.

The officials said that an additional 120 toilets will be set up at the Yatri Niwas and at other locations in Jammu city.

Lakhapur, which is the entry point to Jammu and Kashmir, will also have more toilets this time, they said.

Tenders for installation of the mobile toilets have been floated, the official said. Deputy commissioners of Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, Ramban, Anantnag, Srinagar and Ganderbal districts have been asked to share details on requirement of toilets, the officials said.

Engineers of the Jal Shakti department will also be involved during the installation of toilets to ensure that there is no shortage of water during the yatra.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration will also prepare a contingency plan to accommodate 7,500 pilgrims in Kathua district in case of inclement weather or any other emergency, the officials said.

For smooth issuance of RFID tags to registered pilgrims, the administration has increased the number of counters at different locations to control the rush at the Jammu Base camp, they said.

Steps for scientific disposal of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes, including plastic waste, will also be taken, they said.

Gulmarg all set...

high-profile event. It is worth mentioning here that the grand event will have a large impact in the history of Baramulla district and there will be no curbs anywhere while schools, colleges and the markets will remain open.

The traffic on all routes will ply normally and to facilitate the foreign delegates, a proper traffic advisory will be issued in advance.

Welcome boards and signages were erected in Gulmarg. The road to Gulmarg from Srinagar, the Narbal-Gulmarg stretch, is being given a new look. To enhance the aesthetic value of the existing structures, footpaths and medians have been developed, traffic roads are being furnished, hoardings are installed and government buildings and commercial building walls are being painted in the district.

Meanwhile, all the developmental and beautification works are being supervised by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar. She has asserted that the stage is set and all preparations are in the final stage. Dr Sehrish exhorted the departments to push for a double shift of working in all the existing works in a time bound manner.

She emphasized on greater coordination and synergy among line departments for timely completion of developmental activities in Baramulla.

Moreover, the DDC issued instructions to concerned authorities for grass cutting along roads, routes, footpaths, closing manholes with lids, colour iron grills, making water fountains functional, smooth operation of streets lights, removing of debris and construction material from roads so that the establishments get charm and to boost aesthetics.