

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! India’s water will...

country. There was a time when, before taking a big decision, it was thought, 'what would the world think? Will we get votes or not?' And decisions and big reforms languished due to such reasons," Modi said.

He said the country does not move forward like this and it advances when the basis of decisions is 'Nation First'.

In the last decade, India has moved forward with this mantra, and the results are there for all to see, he said.

"Our government has taken decisions which had been languishing and did not see the light of day due to a lack of political willpower," he said.

Modi said direct benefit transfer weeded out 10 crore fake beneficiaries, saving Rs 3.5 lakh crore.

CM launches JK...

initiative. The Chief Minister said, "Whatever we can do to simplify the retirement process and post-retirement of our employees, I think that is a responsibility that lies on our shoulders. Employees who have served J&K and its people for long years, they deserve a simplified process. And the more we do for our employees, I think the more we need to appreciate it."

Congratulating the officers and extending his best wishes to all pensioners who will benefit from the initiative, the Chief Minister said that verification of pensioners also needs to be made pensioner-friendly as every year pensioners have to prove that they are still alive and have to submit various documents and to visit offices in person. "So this initiative, I think, is something that all employees will appreciate," he said.

Highlighting the inclusive nature of the portal, he said it also covers ex-legislators who are pensioners. "So my suggestion would be that together with the Assembly Secretariat, some sort of briefing material can be sent out to all the ex-legislators, so that they are aware of this change and how better to utilize it," he added. Acknowledging the challenges faced by employees nearing retirement, he noted that the last few months of service are often consumed by paperwork. He emphasized that more often than not, efforts are made to post such employees close to Srinagar or Jammu to ease their transition. "With this initiative, I believe that process will be simplified. Now, going ahead, what we must always try and do is to ensure that employees get their dues on time," he said.

The Chief Minister also pointed out that timely disbursement of dues-such as GP fund-is a recurring concern among employees. "So for that, in the Finance Department, we are working closely to ensure that these sort of issues are resolved. But generally, clearly, the initiative that has been taken today, I think, is a welcome one," he remarked.

Earlier, Director General Accounts & Treasuries Fayaz Ahmad Lone presented an overview of the Pension Suvidha Portal. The portal supports the digitization of pension records for 2,40,000 pensioners under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). He added that data collection was executed through multiple modes: treasury visits for 2,31,127 pensioners, home visits for 7,002, video calls for 1,819 pensioners residing abroad, and postal notices to 9,513 individuals. The portal captures comprehensive data including name, date of birth, service details, and photographs of pensioners.

Notably, he said, the initiative has helped identify and rectify several anomalies, including pension disbursement after death in some cases, duplicate dearness allowance payments, and premature cessation of recoveries.

He informed that the objectives of the portal include streamlining and digitizing pension processing, enhancing efficiency and transparency, reducing paperwork, reconciling pension disbursement with banks, and enabling real-time tracking of pension application status.

Key features of the portal include early SMS and email alerts issued eight months before an employee's retirement, online application submission with required document uploads, and integration with JKHRMS and JKPaysys for service and salary details. It is also linked with the offices of the Accountant General and J&K Bank for seamless electronic data exchange.

The portal facilitates the issuance of PPOs, provides post-retirement services tracking, and supports online KYC updates and the use of Jeevan Pramaan for life certificate submission.

The streamlined workflow involves eight stages: registration, application submission by the employee, DDO review and approval, sanction by the Pension Authority, submission to the AG's office, authorization and PPO number issuance, payment processing by the Treasury, and final completion.

The portal engages a wide range of stakeholders. Retiring employees can initiate and monitor their pension cases, while DDOs and Pension Authorities are responsible for verification and processing. The Accountant General's office authorizes PPOs, treasuries handle payments, and pensioners can view disbursement details, request for revision, and apply for transfer of pension accounts online.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also handed over a settled pension case to Ragubhir, a retired employee who superannuated on 30th April this year.

Govt notifies cashless...

at any designated hospital for an amount up to one lakh fifty thousand rupees per victim for a maximum period of seven days from the date of such accident," it added.

According to the notification, the treatment under this scheme at a hospital, other than a designated hospital, shall be for stabilisation purposes only and shall be as specified by the guidelines.

As per the notification, the State Road Safety Council shall be the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme for that state or Union Territory and would be responsible for coordinating with the National Health Authority for adoption and utilisation of the portal for onboarding of designated hospitals, treatment of victims, payment to the designated hospital on treatment and related matters.

The government has also set up an 11-member steering committee under the road secretary to monitor the implementation of the scheme.

The committee will comprise CEO of National Health Authority, and additional secretary of MoRTH as members.

On March 14, 2024, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had launched a pilot programme in Chandigarh which was later expanded to six states to provide cashless treatment to road accident victims.

Recently, Road Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari had said that there were 4.80 lakh road accidents in 2023, resulting in 1.72 lakh deaths.

Now What?...

they know war is not a game but an end game for many including Pakistan.

We daily come across statements from the Home Minister and more so, from the Prime Minister himself that the terrorists and their perpetrators will not be spared. They will be given such punishment which will be beyond their imagination. All this has put the latter's reputation at stake as well. I am not supposed to make any supposition as to when and what the action will take place; what is going to happen now; will India buckle under pressure from some countries and let Pakistan go scot free? How our Prime Minister, who had stood up to many difficult situations in the past, also acts and reacts now? No friends; I am not a television anchor or a specialist in the war games. I am an academician and I only think: Now What?

(The author is former Principal GGM Science College and former Chairman, J&K BOSE)

VPN use banned...

service providers (ISP) operating in the district. The SSP Doda shall ensure implementation of this order in letter and spirit," the spokesperson said.

In another order issued by Doda Additional District Magistrate Anil Kumar Thakur, strict prohibitory orders were issued against hate speech, provocative statements and acts that incite violence.

"No individual, digital platform, representative of community, organization, or group shall deliver, publish, or circulate any hate speech, objectionable remark, or irresponsible statement in public places, through print, websites, electronic media, or on social media platforms," the order read.

Also proscribed were acts that incite violence, hatred, or enmity between different communities, religious groups, or social segments by any means of communication.

"No person/individual through himself/herself or through any of the digital platforms/social media shall carry out real-time coverage (live telecasting) of any activity that has potential of causing communal hatred, public order issues or spreading misinformation.

"All public meetings, rallies, or processions likely to draw public gatherings must obtain prior permission from this office," the order said.

The orders will stay in force for two months, unless withdrawn earlier.

The Doda Senior Superintendent of Police has been asked to take necessary measures for the strict enforcement of this order.

Pak troops target...

districts out of seven border districts of Jammu and Kashmir. So far, there has been no firing reports along International Border in Samba and Kathua districts.

The latest round of cross-border firing further undermines the ceasefire agreement reached in February 2021, which is now largely seen as ineffective due to Pakistan's frequent violations across the 740-km-long LoC.

The latest hostilities began in the northern districts of Kupwara and Baramulla in the Kashmir Valley, before spreading southwards to Rajouri, Poonch, Akhnoor, and the Pargwal sector along the International Border in Jammu district. The firing affected five border districts -- Baramulla, Kupwara, Poonch, Rajouri, and Jammu.

Since the night of April 24, hours after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty in response to the Pahalgam terror attack-Pakistani troops have repeatedly targeted Indian positions along the LoC, beginning in the Kashmir Valley and quickly expanding to the Jammu region.

In a series of retaliatory measures, Pakistan blocked its airspace for Indian carriers, shut down the Wagah border crossing, suspended bilateral trade, and warned that any diversion of water under the Indus Waters Treaty would be considered an "Act of War."

The February 2021 agreement was a reaffirmation of the original 2003 ceasefire understanding. However, the ground situation has deteriorated significantly, with ceasefire norms routinely flouted by Pakistani forces.

India and Pakistan share a 3,323-kilometre-long border, divided into three segments including the International Border (IB), stretching about 2,400 km from Gujarat to Akhnoor in Jammu, the 740-km-long Line of Control (LoC) from Jammu to Ladakh, and the 110-km-long Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) that divides the Siachen Glacier region from NJ9842 to Indira Col.

Pakistani intruder arrested...

the Chakan-Da-Bagh area shortly after he crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and entered Indian territory, the officials said.

Preliminary questioning revealed that Waqas had inadvertently crossed the LoC from his village on the other side, they said.

No incriminating material was recovered from the intruder at the time of his arrest, they added.

CS pushes for...

Pension Yojana (APY), saturation of unbanked rural areas, priority sector lending, credit flow to MSMEs, agriculture sector initiatives including Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), and skilling interventions undertaken through Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) established in the UT.

While reviewing the current status of population coverage under these schemes, the Chief Secretary also took stock of the compliance on earlier directions issued to financial institutions. He directed the concerned agencies to ensure saturation of all identified unbanked rural centres before the stipulated deadline of June this year.

Stressing on the need for prompt and efficient claim settlements, Dulloo observed that the success of these social security schemes should be judged not merely by the number of beneficiaries enrolled, but also by the speed and effectiveness of claim settlements.

He emphasized that financial institutions must instill confidence in public by providing full assistance in processing and settling their genuine claims, and proactively reaching out to families, especially in case of the death of insured members, to ensure timely support.

To ensure the schemes reach the most deserving, the Chief Secretary directed for the inclusion of Self Help Group (SHG) members registered with JKRLM and their families under all applicable social security schemes. He also instructed for coverage of registered building and construction workers under Atal Pension Yojana, with the premium to be borne by the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board here.

Dulloo also called for formulation of a focused strategy to enhance credit flow under the priority and MSME sectors, ensuring that all banks meet the targets assigned to them. He also enquired about the progress in rolling out the 'Gramin Credit Score' system for agricultural lending on the lines of the CIBIL score used for individual borrowers.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed IT-enabled financial interventions such as the distribution of RuPay Debit Cards under PMJDY and Smart Cards for KCC beneficiaries. He assessed progress made in designing loan products to promote High-Density Plantation, rural homestays, and properties identified under the Svamitva Yojana.

Further, he sought an update on the Credit Grievance Redressal Portal, being developed for the convenience of all bank customers in the UT. He was informed that the portal is ready for launch and will soon be made operational to facilitate efficient resolution of customer grievances.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, highlighted the noteworthy performance of J&K Bank, stating that it had achieved an 11% year-on-year growth in its business, significantly reduced its Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) to 3.37%, and brought down its cost-to-income ratio to 58% from the earlier 71%. He appreciated the bank administration for these achievements and termed the performance as satisfactory and commendable.

Managing Director, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, also shared important statistics on the implementation of social security schemes across the UT. As the lead bank and Convenor of UTLBC, he detailed the bank's efforts to popularize financial inclusion schemes and expand credit outreach to the priority sectors.

He pointed out that the latest statistics clearly reflect significant improvement over the figures presented in the previous review meeting held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. He pointed out that the UT has recorded significant strides in financial inclusion and social welfare coverage as per the performance data for various centrally sponsored schemes thereby highlighting the growing participation of citizens and strong involvement by banking institutions here.

In its presentation the Convenor UTLBC, Rayees Maqbool revealed that J&K currently hosts2,197 brick-and-mortar bank branches in addition to 5,135 Banking Correspondents (BCs) and a network of 2,661 ATMs operated by 37 banks and financial institutions ensuring that one banking touch point is available per 1,227 of population.

The meeting was apprised that efforts are underway to fully cover the remaining 21 URCs identified by RBI here under tier 5 areas (population under 5,000) with banking touch points. It was given out that 150 additional Gram Panchayats are scheduled to be covered by May 15, 2025, by J&K Bank.

Regarding the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), an accident insurance scheme for citizens aged 18-70 years saw 6.04 lakh enrollments during FY 2024-25; reaching the cumulative coverage of 23.57 lakh beneficiaries in the UT.

About the performance J&K Bank had registered 2.29 lakh accounts, SBI (1.27 lakh), and HDPC Bank (39,096) with 285 claims settled with Rs. 5.69 Cr disbursed during the year.

With respect to Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)offering life insurance for citizens aged 18-50years an impressive number of 2.47 lakh new enrolments were done during the previous financial year with cumulative coverage reached 9.67 lakh and settlement of 668 claims with Rs. 13.34 Cr disbursed during the previous financial year.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)targeting unorganized workers also registered a significant progress with 24,230 new account openings, cumulatively reaching 2.48 lakh accounts since inception.

UNSC members call...

Sources here told PTI that members of the 15-nation Security Council raised "tough questions" for Pakistan at its informal session. It was advised to sort out the issues bilaterally with India, they said.

The sources added that there was broad condemnation of the terrorist attack and recognition of the need for accountability.

Some members specifically brought up targeting of tourists on the basis of their religious faith, the sources said.

UNSC members refused to accept the "false flag" narrative and asked whether Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba was likely to be involved.

The closed-door meeting that lasted about an hour and a half did not take place in the UNSC Chamber where Council members sit at the horse-shoe table, but in a consultation room next to it.

Sources added Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the situation also failed. Many members expressed concern that Pakistan's missile tests and nuclear rhetoric were escalatory factors.

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad told reporters that the country's objectives were "largely served and achieved" at the meeting.

He said the objectives of the closed consultations included enabling the Council members to have a discussion on the deteriorating security environment and rising tensions between India and Pakistan and to have an exchange of views on how to address the situation, including avoiding confrontation that could have serious

consequences and the need for de-escalation.

Ahmad thanked Council members for their engagement and their calls for restraint, de-escalation and dialogue. He said that while Pakistan does not seek confrontation, "we are fully prepared to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity".

Pakistan also raised the issue of India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. "Water is life, not a weapon. These rivers sustain over 240 million Pakistanis," he said.

Ahmad said at the meeting Pakistan reiterated its "commitment to peaceful, cooperative relations with all our neighbours, including India".

"We remain open to dialogue based on mutual respect and sovereign equality," he added.

"In view of the gravity of the situation, the calls for dialogue, de-escalation and peaceful resolution of disputes, such as by the Secretary-General, and what we also heard from the Council members today are most pertinent," Ahmad said.

Four killed, 44...

"Pained by the loss of lives due to tragic road accident in Poonch. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray for a speedy recovery of those injured in the accident," he said.

The Chief Minister also expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the swift and complete recovery of all those injured in the accident.

"... Immediate directions have been issued to ensure the best possible medical care and full support to those affected. I have also requested (minister) Javed Rana to visit the site and personally oversee the relief efforts," Abdullah said in a post on X.

Earlier, Rana said the government will provide all necessary support to the accident victims.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic bus accident... I have spoken to Divisional Commissioner Jammu and instructed him to ensure immediate assistance, including airlifting critically injured to GMC Jammu. JK Government will provide all necessary support to those affected," Rana said in a post on X before leaving for Poonch.

According to an official spokesperson, the district authorities responded swiftly and launched rescue and medical relief operations. The injured were shifted to nearby medical facilities for treatment.

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch, who also serves as the Chairman of the District Road Safety Committee, has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh each for the families of the deceased. This compensation will be disbursed from the Road Safety Victim Fund.

The district administration has extended its deepest condolences to the bereaved families and assured to provide all necessary assistance.

Notorious drug peddler arrested with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police team from Police Post Tikri led by its ICPP while performing routine vehicle checking at Tikri naka point stopped one bike bearing registration number JK14F-5344 for checking purpose which was coming from Jammu towards Udhampur.

Upon conducting a thorough frisking of the rider, the police team recovered 3.61 grams of heroin (chitta) like Contraband substance from his possession who has been arrested on spot.

The arrested individual has been identified as Abhishek Sharma S/O Narinder Sharma R/O Mand, Tikri, Udhampur

On this, a case vide FIR No. 63/2025 U/S 8/21/22/ NDPS Act stands registered in P/S Rehambal and further investigation was set into probe.

Missing woman reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police recovered one missing lady in the jurisdiction of PS Billawar and reunited her with family members.

On 05-05-2025 one person resident of Dambra Tehsil Mahanpur Distt. Kathua came Police Station Billawar and lodged a written complaint regarding missing of his daughter in law age about 23 years. On receiving a complaint a missing report entered at this P/S Billawar vide GD No. 07 dated 05-05-2025 and a team of P/S Billawar led by SHO Billawar Insp. Zaheer Mushtaq under the supervision of SDPO Billawar Neeraj Kumar searched various places and checked Road side CCTV camera installed and with the help of technical assistance along with timely human intervention, recovered the missing lady After completing all legal formalities the said missing Lady handed over to her legal heirs.

6 dumpers indulged in illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Cracking a whip on illegal mining and transportation of minerals, J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Sh. Shobhit Saksena IPS seized 06 vehicles (06 Dumpers) indulged in illegal mining at Dinga Amba-Hiranagar area of PS Hiranagar.

A Police team of PS Hiranagar under the guidance of SDPO Border and SHO PS Hiranagar during patrolling/checking in its jurisdictional area at Dinga Amba-Hiranagar area seized 06 Dumpers indulged in illegal mining(transportation of minerals i.e Carrying Sand without any legal permission. Meanwhile all the 06 vehicles indulged in illegal mining were seized & immediately handed over to the officials of the Geological and Mining department Kathua.

OGW booked under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a significant step toward maintaining peace and public order in the region, District Police Poonch has booked Mohd Qayoom, S/O Dost Mohd, R/O Qasba, Tehsil Haveli, District Poonch under the provisions of the Public Safety Act (PSA). He has been identified as an Over Ground Worker (OGW) involved in activities detrimental to the security and integrity of the region. His continued presence and actions posed a serious threat to the maintenance of public order and tranquility in the area.

After thorough investigation and compiling of intelligence inputs, the dossier was submitted and PSA detention order is obtained in accordance with legal provisions. Acting swiftly on the order, District Police Poonch detained the individual and shifted him to District Jail Rajouri, where he has been lodged under preventive detention.

The action under PSA is part of the sustained efforts by District Police Poonch to curb the activities of anti-national elements and their sympathizers. The police remain committed to ensuring peace, law and order, and the safety of all law-abiding citizens.

Notorious drug peddler booked under PIT NDPS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: In its continuous war and firm commitments against drug menace, Ramban Police booked one more notorious Drug Peddler namely Kali Singh Son of Tej Ram resident of Kharkooni Damote Tehsil and District Ramban, in Preventive detention under the provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act for his repeatedly involvement in selling and distributing Contraband Narcotics among the populace of Ramban and its adjoining areas.

On the directions of Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban Shri Kulbir Singh-JKPS, dossier of said Kali Singh was prepared and was submitted to Competent Authority for its approval.

Subsequently, the Case was duly processed and after obtaining sanction from the Competent Authority, the said drug peddler has been detained under PIT NDPS Act and lodged in District Jail Udhampur .

The said accused Kali Singh was a threat to the peaceful environment, who often tried to involve youth of the area in drug addiction.

Police secures forfeiture of vehicle belonging to notorious bovine smuggler

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Continuing its intensified crackdown on bovine smuggling, Udhampur Police has achieved a significant breakthrough by securing the forfeiture of a vehicle earlier attached as part of a investigation.

A Tata Mobile bearing registration number JK14K-1765 worth approximately Rs.10 lakhs owned by habitual bovine smuggler Arshad Khan S/O Kalu Ram R/O Rathian was earlier attached under FIR No. 22/2025 registered at Police Station Chenani under Section 223 of BNS and Section 11 of the PCA Act. The vehicle identified as proceeds of crime, was attached under Section 107 of the BNSS with due court's approval.

In a first-of-its-kind action under the new criminal laws in the UT of J&K. The Hon'ble Court has now ordered the forfeiture of the said attached vehicle under Section 107(6) BNSS. The restoration plea filed in the matter was rejected.

Further, the District Magistrate Udhampur has been directed to supervise the distribution of the vehicle's value, giving due priority to J&K Bank's claim. Any surplus amount will be forfeited to the Government.