

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

LG Sinha calls...

Lt Governor said the key initiatives such as Urban Rejuvenation and Smart Cities campaign, urban planners are discovering a more holistic development of cities to enhance quality of life.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor made some valuable suggestions focusing on addressing the challenges of urbanism and ensuring quality living for all citizens. He urged the High-Level Committee to create balance between modern facilities and natural heritage and focus on quality living space in future urban planning.

The Lt Governor also emphasised on the need for sustainable urbanism and comprehensive, all-inclusive urban development, urban resilience and future readiness.

He impressed upon stakeholders and community to take dedicated measures to unlock urban potential and bridging the gap in rural and urban facilities on priority. In this regard, the Lt Governor called for giving fresh impetus to the economic activities and quality of life in satellite cities and rural areas, with increased physical and digital connectivity.

The ecological potential of cities will become the basis of their economic potential in future. Public amenities and spaces should be accessible and inclusive with focus on developing commercial hub to create employment and business opportunities, he said.

The Lt Governor suggested for inclusion of citizens' feedback and unpredictable weather patterns in urban planning and development policy, besides strengthening the multi-modal integrated transportation and response system of city management.

He further underlined the need to put dedicated focus on connectivity, technical infrastructure, green infrastructure, communication infrastructure, environmental protection and public safety during the planning process.

Keshav Verma, Chairman, High-Level Committee on Urban Planning lauded the Lt Governor led UT Administration for transforming the urban landscape of Jammu Kashmir.

Urban Planning Experts also shared their views on the reforms needed in urban planning and development.

Satish Chandra, Chairman, J&K Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA); Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; members of High-Level Committee and RERA, Urban & Town Planning experts and senior officials were present.

HIGHLIGHTS...

» Ecological potential of cities will become basis of their economic potential in future. Public amenities, spaces should be accessible and inclusive with focus on developing commercial hub to create employment and business opportunities

» Gap in rural -urban facilities should be bridged on priority

» Economic activities, quality of life in satellite cities and rural areas should be given fresh impetus with increased physical, digital connectivity

» Urges High Level Committee to create balance between modern facilities, natural heritage and focus on quality living space in future urban planning

» 2-day long deliberations during Srinagar Conclave with all states, Urban Planners and recommendations will help in formulating final report of the Committee on reform in urban planning in country

‘Make in India’...

With 130,000 startups in India, including 100 unicorns, our experience can be useful to others, a Ministry of External Affairs statement cited the prime minister as saying in his remarks.

"When it comes to geo-economics, the need of the day is to create multiple, reliable and resilient supply chains. This is an important takeaway from the Covid experience. 'Make in India' can add to engines of global growth and help democratise the global economy. India is open to partnering with others in capacity building, especially nations of the Global South," the statement said.

The prime minister said technology not only held great promise in his times but was increasingly a game changer in both development and security. "The digital era needs more trust and transparency. AI and Cyber security raise crucial issues of their own," he said.

"When it comes to medical and wellness tourism, you may be aware that World Health Organisation has set up a Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat. In SCO, India has taken the initiative for a new SCO Working Group on Traditional Medicine," the prime minister said.

"Enhancing education, training, and capacity-building are key pillars of India's international cooperation. We are committed to further building on them, be it with the C5 partners, or those of 'Neighbourhood First' or the extended neighbourhood."

"India has shown that digital public infrastructure and digital financial inclusion can make such a huge difference. Both were discussed during our SCO Presidency. They also expand the scope for international cooperation, involving SCO members and partners," he said.

"While standing resolute on challenges, it is equally important to actively and collaboratively explore avenues of progress. The current global debate is focused on creating the new connectivity linkages that would better serve a rebalanced world," he said.

"If this is to gather serious momentum, it requires the joint efforts of many. It must also be respectful of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and be built on the foundation of non-discriminatory trade and transit rights to neighbours," he said, in a veiled jibe at China, whose President Xi Jinping was present at the summit.

China has invested billions in various power projects and road networks in Pakistan under the USD 65 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

The CPEC is opposed by India as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

For the SCO extended family, "we flag the progress made on Chabahar port recently through a long-term agreement between India and Iran. This not only holds great value to landlocked Central Asian states but also de-risks commerce between India and Eurasia," Modi said.

India and Iran in May signed a 10-year contract for the operation of a terminal at the strategically important Chabahar port in Iran, a move that will boost regional connectivity as well as trade ties.

This is the first time India will take over the management of an overseas port that will also have a multiplier effect on trade among India, Iran and Afghanistan as efforts continue to directly tap the potential in Central Asia, bypassing neighbouring Pakistan.

Talking about Afghanistan, Modi said India and its people have a historical relationship with Afghanistan that is the bedrock of the ties between the two countries. "Our cooperation covers development projects, humanitarian assistance, capacity building and sports. India remains sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the Afghan people," Modi said.

The prime minister also touched upon granting English the status of a third official language, which he said was crucial as more countries sought association with SCO as Observers or Dialogue Partners.

"We must strive to communicate better and deepen our consensus."

Congratulating the Kazakh side for hosting a successful summit, Modi said India as a 'Vishwa Bandhu', or the friend of the world will always strive to deepen cooperation with all its partners.

The prime minister also extended its best wishes to the success of the upcoming Chinese presidency of SCO. India became a member of SCO in June 2017 at a summit in Kazakhstan.

Jailed Er Rashid...

to Delhi and back.

During their parole periods, they can neither speak to or address the media on any issue or make any statements. Their family members also cannot make a statement in any form of media, according to their respective orders.

While Singh, a Khalistani sympathiser who heads the 'Waris Punjab De' outfit, has been allowed to meet his family in Delhi, Rashid's family can only attend his oath taking.

The parole for Rashid, who has been in jail since 2019 after his arrest in 2017, was granted by a court in Delhi and that of Singh by the district magistrate of Amritsar from where he was arrested in April 2023 for barging into a police station in February and clashing with police personnel in a bid to free one of his aides from custody.

Both Singh and Rashid accompanied by security personnel at all times during their parole periods.

Singh will "not enter the territorial jurisdiction of any place other than New Delhi during the period of temporary release", his parole order stated.

"Amritpal Singh or any of his relatives shall not be permitted to videograph any statement of Amritpal and/or circulate any such statement in any electronic form," according to the order.

He will also "refrain from doing any action or making any statement that is prejudicial to national security", it stated .

"The relatives of Amritpal, as defined under Section 2 (c) of the Punjab Detenue (Condition of Detention) Order, 1981, shall be allowed to meet him during the period he is housed in New Delhi," the order for Singh stated.

The Delhi Police and Punjab Police have been directed to coordinate with the secretary general of the Lok Sabha for procedures inside the Parliament complex.

The name of Rashid, a former MLA, cropped up during the investigation of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who the NIA had arrested for allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Kashmir valley.

The NIA had filed a charge sheet against several individuals, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin in the case. Malik was awarded life imprisonment by a trial court in 2022 after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

Singh styled himself after slain Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and is in jail along with nine of his associates under the National Security Act.

Besides them, TMC's Shatrughan Sinha is also yet to be sworn in as member of the Lower of House of Parliament.

'Isolate and expose'...

Delivering Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks at the 24th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of State here in the Kazakh capital, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who was physically present at the meeting, recalled that one of the original goals of the SCO is to combat terrorism.

"Many of us have had our experiences, often originating beyond our borders. Let us be clear that if left unchecked, it can become a major threat to regional and global peace. Terrorism in any form or manifestation cannot be justified or condoned," he told the summit, which was attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russian President Vladimir Putin among others.

He said that the international community "must isolate and expose those countries that harbour terrorists, provide safe havens and condone terrorism", in an apparent reference to Pakistan and its all-weather ally China which has often put on hold on proposals in the United Nations to blacklist the Pakistan-based wanted terrorists.

"Cross-border terrorism requires a decisive response and terrorism financing and recruitment must be resolutely countered. We should also take proactive steps to prevent the spread of radicalisation among our youth," he said, adding that the joint statement issued during India's Presidency last year on this subject underlines New Delhi's shared commitment.

Later, Jaishankar delivered Prime Minister Modi's remarks at the extended format Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State where he spoke about challenges, saying terrorism would surely rank foremost for many of us.

"The truth is that it continues to be used by nations as a tool of destabilisation. We have had our own experiences with cross-border terrorism. Let us be clear that terrorism in any form or manifestation cannot be justified or condoned. Harbouring terrorists must be strongly condemned," he said, adding that the SCO must never waver in its commitment. "We cannot have double standards in this regard."

He also said that the SCO extended family shares a commitment to reform the current international order. "This is only possible when those efforts extend to the United Nations and its Security Council. We hope that in the near future, we can develop a strong consensus on the way ahead," he said.

When it comes to geo-economics, the need of the day is to create multiple, reliable and resilient supply chains, he said, adding that India is open to partnering with others in capacity building, especially nations of the Global South.

Noting that the current global debate is focused on creating the new connectivity linkages that would better serve a rebalanced world, he said if this is to gather serious momentum, it requires the joint efforts of many.

"It must also be respectful of sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and be built on the foundation of non-discriminatory trade and transit rights to neighbours," he said, in an apparent reference to China which is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes with several countries.

China has invested billions in various power projects and road networks in Pakistan under the USD 65 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, which is opposed by India as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

He also said that the progress made by India in developing Iran's Chabahar Port not only holds "great value" to landlocked Central Asian states but also "de-risks" commerce between India and Eurasia.

He described the SCO as a principle-based organisation, whose consensus drives the approach of its member states, and said the grouping occupies a "prominent place in our foreign policy".

"At this time, it is particularly noteworthy that we are reiterating mutual respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, equality, mutual benefit, non-interference in internal affairs, non-use of force or threat of use of force as a basis for our foreign policies. We have also agreed not to take any measures contrary to the principles of state sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

He also said that climate change is a prominent concern before the world today and India is working towards achieving a committed reduction in emissions and building climate-resilient infrastructure.

"In this context, during India's SCO presidency, a Joint Statement on emerging fuels, and a Concept Paper on de-carbonization in the transportation sector were approved," he added.

During last year's annual climate conference, Prime Minister Modi said India has already declared to achieve Net Zero by 2070. It plans to reduce emissions intensity by 45 per cent by 2030 and increase the share of non-fossil fuel to 50 per cent.

He also reminded the audience that the SCO needs to make "technology creative" and apply it to the welfare and progress of societies.

"India is among the countries to formulate a National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence and the launch of an AI Mission. Our commitment to 'AI for All' is also reflected in working within the SCO framework on a Roadmap on AI cooperation," he added.

Modi congratulated the Kazakh side for successfully hosting the summit and also conveyed India's best wishes to China for the next presidency of the SCO.

He also expressed "deepest condolences" for the tragic demise of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and others in the helicopter crash.

With nine member states -- India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - the Beijing-based SCO has emerged as an influential economic and security bloc and one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. Belarus joined as the 10th member.

Kazakhstan is hosting the summit in its capacity as the current chair of the grouping.

LAC must be...

of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh to stabilise and rebuild bilateral relations."

Jaishankar also underlined the need for fully abiding by the relevant bilateral pacts and protocols reached between the two sides in the past for management of the border.

"Met with CPC Politburo member and FM Wang Yi in Astana this morning. Discussed early resolution of remaining issues in border areas. Agreed to redouble efforts through diplomatic and military channels to that end," Jaishankar said on 'X'.

"Respecting the LAC and ensuring peace and tranquility in the border areas is essential. The three mutuals - mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest - will guide our bilateral ties," he said.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

"Both Ministers agreed to continue and step up meetings of the diplomatic and military officials of the two sides to take forward their discussions to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest," the MEA said.

"To that end, they agreed that the Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) should hold an early meeting," it said.

It said the two ministers agreed that the "prolongation" of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side.

"The external affairs minister highlighted the need to redouble efforts to achieve complete disengagement from the remaining areas in eastern Ladakh and restore border peace and tranquillity in order to remove obstacles towards return of normalcy in bilateral relations," the MEA said.

"He reaffirmed the importance of fully abiding by relevant bilateral agreements, protocols, and understandings reached between the two Governments in the past. The Line of Actual Control must be respected and peace and tranquillity in the border areas always enforced," it said.

The Jaishankar-Wang talks came amid the dragging border row in eastern Ladakh that entered its fifth year in May.

"The two Ministers also exchanged views on the global situation. The external affairs minister extended to FM Wang Yi India's support for China's Presidency of SCO next year," the MEA said.

According to rough translation of a statement issued in Beijing, Wang said the two

sides should view bilateral relations from a strategic height, strengthen communication, properly handle differences, and ensure that China-India relations develop along a healthy and stable track.

"We are willing to follow the series of important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, respect each other, understand each other, trust each other...and explore the correct way for the two major neighbours to get along," he said.

"We must adhere to positive thinking, on the one hand properly handle and control the situation in the border area, on the other hand actively resume normal exchanges, promote each other and meet each other halfway," he added.

Stressing that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Wang said both sides have the responsibility and obligation to inherit and carry forward the spirit of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and inject new contemporary connotations into them.

"Both China and India are countries in the Global South, and we should work together to oppose unilateral bullying, resist the division of camps, uphold the common interests of developing countries, and make due contributions to regional and world peace and stability," he added.

The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in a standoff since May 2020 and a full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

The two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff.

India has been pressing the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas.

The two sides held the last round of high-level military talks in February.

Though there was no indication of a breakthrough at the 21st round of talks, both sides agreed to maintain "peace and tranquility" on the ground and continue the communication on the way ahead.

DB directs Govt...

along with Amit Gupta, represented the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Petitioners Mohd Anwar Choudhary S/o Sahib Din R/o Raikaban A/P Gujjar Nagar, Jammu and others have filed the instant petition seeking a declaration that The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024 (Act No. 3 of 2024) ("Amendment Act") is unconstitutional, void, and inoperative as it is manifestly arbitrary and violative Article 14,15,16,21 and 342 of the Constitution of India. Via the Amendment Act Parliament has included communities of " Pahari Ethnic Group", "Paddari Tribe" , "Koli" and "Gadda Brahmin" in the list of Schedule Tribes in respect of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, without any reasonable justification or empirical data.

The petitioners challenged the impugned order No :03 of 2024 dated 12th February 2024. Senior Advocate P N Raina J A Hamal Advocate & Ankit Dogra, Advocate appeared for petitioner while Vishal Sharma, DSGI for Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Registrar General of India and KDS Kotwal, Dy. AG vice , Amit Gupta, AAG for Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The petition urged that "Pahari Ethnic Group","Paddari Tribe" , "Koli" and "Gadda Brahmin" who have been included in the list of ST of Jammu and Kashmir even though they are neither have tribal characteristic , nor nomadic nor do they face any social backwardness, caste stigma nor are they educationally and economically backward. Such inclusion in ST list of J& K if not set aside will set a wrong precedent and open the floodgates for inclusion of various linguistic communities / geographical locations. in the country on linguistic basis.

The petition also challenged the SO 176 issued by the Department of Social Welfare Government of Jammu and Kashmir, whereby a criteria was chalked out for issuance of ST Certificate on the basis of language, self- declaration, area, and certification by Namardars and Chowkidars, directly contravenes the esteemed Supreme Court directions with regard Scheduled Tribe Certificates . The petition further challenged that newly added ST communities have been granted 10% Reservation while they merely constitute 8.2% (As per 2011 Census).

Meanwhile Court allowed two CM No.2948/2024 is an application seeking impalement of Shahid Ashraf S/O Abdul Aziz R/O Kandi Tehsil Kotranka District Rajouri and J&K Pahari Cultural Development Society through its Secretary, Amir Shazad and impleaded both as party respondent in the writ petition in view of no objection from the petitioner side.

Temple vandalism case...

and detained 43 persons including 24 suspects in connection with the act of vandalism at a religious place in the Dhamari area of Arnas," Reasi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mohita Shamma told PTI.

She said that they are being questioned as further investigations into the case is going on.

Union Health Secretary's...

AIIMS, and the 24x7 Diagnostic Lab (for pathological, microbiological, and biochemistry tests).

These additions mark significant progress, bringing AIIMS Jammu closer to commencing its OPD services for the general public. The Secretary also inaugurated and appreciated the inclusion of an "Indoor Navigation System" for the ease of patients to reach their desired department/destination noting that this is the first



AIIMS to have such a facility.

The Secretary visited the Emergency Services, ICU, Operating Theatres, AYUSH Block, Night Shelter, and Sports Complex.

The tour continued with visits to the J&K Bank, Jan Aushadhi, and Amrit Pharmacy. The day concluded with a visit to the Shopping Complex, Mess, and Residential Complex, showcasing the living quarters for staff.

A key highlight of the visit was the Secretary's address to the staff, residents, C-DAC team, Patient Care Managers, Patient Care Coordinators, and faculty.

The Secretary engaged in meaningful discussions with faculty members, encouraging them to persist in their pursuit of knowledge and service.

The Secretary commended their dedication and hard work, emphasizing the importance of continued excellence and innovation in healthcare and education. Additionally, a tree plantation ceremony was held, symbolizing growth and a greener future for AIIMS Jammu. The Joint Secretary, Ankita Bundela Mishra, commended the progress made so far and expressed confidence in the timely completion of all pending tasks.

Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, the Executive Director & CEO, stated, "The Union Health Secretary's visit has invigorated the AIIMS Jammu community, infusing new energy and dedication into our on-going efforts. The interaction and encouragement from such a distinguished personality have fuelled our drive to achieve greater heights in our mission to provide world-class healthcare and education."

The Director expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Union Health Secretary for his valuable time and insights. He further added, "The Secretary assured full support from his end to address any roadblocks related to manpower sanctioning and equipment procurement. He also received feedback from CPWD and ACIL, provided his valuable input for expediting the remaining work. This visit marks a significant milestone in the journey of AIIMS Jammu, reinforcing our resolve to continue making a positive impact on society."

Basharat Bukhari rejoins...

the PDP, especially Mehbooba Mufti," he said.

The PDP expressed confidence that Bukhari's return would strengthen the party.