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We won't spare...

Minister Narendra Modi is fulfilling the dream of Mahatma Gandhi. Since 2019, he has been building a fear-free, terror-free J&K, which would make its place among the developed states and UTs as a symbol of peace," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated the resolve of the Government of India, Police and the security forces to completely wipe out the entire terror ecosystem and establish a lasting peace in Jammu Kashmir:

"Our policy is peace, driven by the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. We believe in establishing Peace and not buying Peace. India has always followed the path of peace. Indian State authority has been completely established in J&K. Today, the common citizens of Kashmir have understood that their future lies with India. Our youth are being guided towards building a more prosperous future for J&K and their growing involvement is instrumental in this transformative journey.

The local terrorist recruitment is at an all-time low. The decisive action against terrorism and their facilitators and thorough investigations against those trying to radicalize the youth has ensured that peace prevails.

A month-long peace march is organised in the Kashmir valley every year to commemorate Puja Bapu's birth anniversary. Gandhi Jayanti, Teachers Day, Har Ghar Tiranga, Independence-day celebrations and numerous other national integration programmes across the UT reflect that J&K is reclaiming its legacy as a land of peace. Youth are now conscious of the fact that J&K of Bapu's dreams is J&K of unity and peace.

This wind of change has rattled the terrorist nation Pakistan and it constantly tries to hurt the soul of India and its cultural-spiritual fabric. Aim of Pahalgam terrorist attack was to stall economic progress of UT as well but we are marching ahead with renewed strength.

Terrorism is in the DNA of Pakistan and they continue to spread it. The entire global society must unite against this terrorist country Pakistan. We are determined to completely wipe out terrorism and remnants of the terror ecosystem. We will not spare anyone who speaks the language of terror outfits. Strict action will be taken against such elements. Those behind the Pahalgam terror attack have been identified. NIA is investigating and soon the perpetrators will meet the same fate as other top terror commanders," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lientenant Governor, in his address, also highlighted the transformation across the sectors in J&K UT under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said the era of Post Abrogation of Article 370 represents a defining moment in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. "The Union Territory has marked significant milestones, over the past few years, creating new paradigms for inclusive development. Our economy has doubled in the last 5 years," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

HIGHLIGHTS...

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Another batch of pilgrims...

tight security arrangements. While 3,593 pilgrims are heading in a convoy of 139 vehicles for Pahalgam base camp, 2471 pilgrims on board 95 vehicles have preferred the Baltal route for their yatra.

Properties of 3...

The action was carried out in connection with a case registered under various sections of Indian Arms Act, and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, he said.

The spokesperson said the properties attached belonged to Manzoor Ahmad Chopan alias Rayvees, a resident of Harwani Khansahib (two-storey house), Mohammad Yousuf Malik alias Molvi, a resident of Chewa Budgam (two-storey house along with 5 kanals and 13 marlas of land), and Bilal Ahmad Wani alias Umer, a resident of Nagbal Khag (land measuring 19.5 marlas).

These terrorist handlers, operating from Pakistan, have been actively orchestrating and facilitating terrorist activities in the region for several years, the spokesperson said.

He said the attachment of their properties is a part of the ongoing efforts to dismantle the logistical, financial, and operational networks of terror outfits and their cross-border sponsors. This decisive move sends a strong message to those involved in anti-national activities that such actions will invite strict legal consequences, he added.

CM launches 'Project...

Commending the affordability framework of the program, he added, "To make all types of surgeries for women available at a capped cost of ₹13,000 is a commendable effort, especially for families who otherwise find treatment costs overwhelming."

The Chief Minister also underscored the importance of compassion in healthcare delivery. "Doctors must prioritise patient care above all else," he remarked. "Similarly, private hospitals must do their part in ensuring that treatment is not out of reach for the common citizen. Affordability should not be an afterthought, it must be part of the design."

He acknowledged the ongoing contributions of government hospitals, which continue to provide essential services across Jammu and Kashmir despite operational and infrastructural challenges. "Our public institutions remain pillars of healthcare delivery, and I hope more such initiatives, whether from public or private sectors, are taken up in the spirit of public service."

Dr. Jasbir Kaur, who conceptualised Project 13-13, expressed gratitude for the support extended to the program and reaffirmed its focus on community care. "This initiative is about ensuring dignity and access in women's healthcare. It's our way of giving back," she said.

The event marks the beginning of Project 13-13's implementation at National Hospital Jammu. Though limited in scope to a single institution, the initiative has been widely appreciated for its targeted approach and its potential to inspire similar models of accessible healthcare elsewhere.

Cong should learn...

the status of India as one of the leading nations in the world.

Rahul Gandhi, Chugh said, seems to fear that his secret ties with China are not exposed. "On the international platform India has sounded one and all how the Pahalgam massacre was engineered. The Prime Minister has spread this message across the world and the Foreign Minister is taking the Prime Minister's message further", Chugh added.

Terrorist killed recently...

told reporters at the Akhnoor police station near here.

On June 26, JeM terrorist Haider, code-named Maulvi, from Pakistan, was killed in a gunfight while three of his associates managed to escape, taking advantage of inclement weather, challenging topography and dense forest in the Basantgarh area.

However, the DGP declined to give the exact number of terrorists active in the forest areas of the Jammu region and said "that number cannot be given in the public domain".

The DGP, along with Inspector General of CRPF Gopal Sharma; Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti; and Deputy Inspector General of police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, Shiv Kumar; visited Akhnoor police station to felicitate the personnel for receiving the prestigious 'Award of Excellence' from the Ministry of Home Affairs in the annual ranking of police stations in J-K for 2024.

Handing over the award to the police station, the DGP hailed the officers and men posted at the police station for their rapport with the public and said the successful operation in the Akhnoor sector early this year was the result of timely input received from the public.

"Police cannot be successful without the support of the public. The public support makes all difficult tasks easy, otherwise there will be challenges," he said, lauding the Jammu police for their outstanding performance against the drug menace, bovine smuggling and gangsters.

He also lauded the exceptional performance of the then Station House Officer (SHO) Tariq Ahmed, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Mohan Sharma and Superintendent of Police Briresh Sharma for their outstanding leadership and dedication in 2024. He extended his best wishes to incumbent SHO Sanjeev Chib and SDPO Varinder Gupta for continuing the legacy of excellence.

Drones are new...

the security forces, they said.

The shift from human networks to drone technology is a new frontier in asymmetric warfare, with Pakistan's ISI also intensifying its efforts to push terrorists across

the Line of Control (LoC) with the help of drones, the officials said.

Some of the terrorists holed up in heights in the Kashmir region, as well as in Kishtwar and Rajouri, have been using these drones for maintaining surveillance over the approaching troops, they said while citing it as a reason for the little success in past counter-terror operations.

The drones, in some instances, are believed to be carrying dry ration for the holed-up terrorists in the higher reaches of the Jammu region, the officials said.

The use of drones by terrorist groups to target vital installations in Jammu and Kashmir began on June 27, 2021, when two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) struck buildings at the Jammu airport, marking a significant escalation in the conflict.

Post 2017, the use of drones initially for drug smuggling and later for arms dropping along the International Border in Punjab was viewed by the officials as the first step before shifting their use for direct attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

The officials said the ISI is leveraging drone technology for precise real-time situational assessments ahead of infiltration attempts.

The officials also said that under the new strategy, the ISI has been using drones for monitoring the presence of the army along the Line of Control or the International Border; identifying vulnerabilities and analysing terrain to assist terrorists in crossing the LoC while minimising the risk of detection.

There were credible inputs that in third week of May this year, ISI officials and top terrorists of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed outfits in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) had a meeting during which focus was laid on increasing recruitment and the 'importance of drone surveillance along the LoC to monitor conditions prior to infiltration attempts, the officials said.

They said there were plans to replace active guides with local residents from PoK or Pakistan to manage infiltration routes more effectively.

The officials said that ISI was working on a detailed plan for the terror outfits that included relocating terror training camps and launching pads within PoK and constructing underground bunkers in preparation for potential armed conflict with India.

This move from ISI is believed to be a response to "Operation Sindoor," in which the Indian Air Force targeted and destroyed nine terror facilities in PoK and Pakistan which included the headquarters of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba terror groups.

The rise of drone technology has opened a new and dangerous chapter in global terrorism, with UAVs now being used by terror groups for a variety of nefarious operations, including intelligence collection and the delivery of explosives.

A report from the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), a nonprofit professional association dedicated to serving America's Army, said, "Once Pandora's box was open, bad actors adapted quickly and began using drones to plan and conduct attacks."

The report had said that terrorist organisations are learning lessons from previous conflicts and are continuously adapting their methods. The first use of drones by terrorists was by the Islamic State during military operations in Iraq's Mosul, where they deployed UAVs for both reconnaissance and bomb dropping.

As seen in past conflicts, these groups are learning and evolving their tactics. The rapid advancements in drone technology and its increasing accessibility provide new avenues for terror outfits to sow fear and execute attacks, complicating counter-terrorism efforts, the officials said.

Indian Railways sanctions...

of the Jammu region. This strategic project underscores Indian Railways' commitment to bolstering infrastructure and improving accessibility to key destinations.

Fake gun licence case...

Disposing of the petitions seeking quashing of the additional FIRs, Justice Rajnesh Oswal on July 11 said there was no merit in the pleas, agreeing with the argument of the Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli, who vehemently opposed the plea.

The judge also said the FIRs registered with Thanamandi and Kandi police stations are required to be investigated by the SIT already constituted by the government. "Accordingly, Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, is directed to transfer the investigation in the two FIRs to the same SIT, constituted to investigate the earlier case registered at police station Janipur," the high court said.

It directed the Inspector General of Police to monitor the SIT probe and ensure that it is concluded as expeditiously as possible and the final report is filed before the competent court in accordance with law.

Search launched in...

guide them to some place, they said.

A villager was reportedly intercepted by two suspected persons near the Kandi area of the border belt of Hiranagar on Tuesday night and accordingly informed police. The police and the Army swung into action, and the entire area was immediately cordoned off by their joint parties. A search operation was launched in the early hours of the day. The operation continued on Wednesday, with more reinforcements sent to the area.

Cabinet clears PM...

facilitate availability of long-term and short-term credit.

The 100 districts will be identified based on three key indicators of low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less credit disbursement.

The number of districts in each state/UT will be based on the share of net cropped area and operational holdings. However, a minimum of 1 district will be selected from each state.

The release further said committees will be formed at district, state and national levels for effective planning, implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

A District Agriculture and Allied Activities Plan will be finalised by the District Dhan Dhaanya Samiti, which will also have progressive farmers as members.

The district plans will be aligned to the national goals of crop diversification, conservation of water and soil health, self-sufficiency in agriculture and allied sectors as well as expansion of natural and organic farming. Progress of the Scheme in each Dhan-Dhaanya district will be monitored on 117 key Performance Indicators through a dashboard on a monthly basis.

As the indicators of these 100 districts improve, the national indicators will automatically show an upward trajectory.

Commenting on the scheme, Anish Shah, Group CEO & MD, Mahindra Group, said, "The Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana is a bold and visionary step toward transforming Indian agriculture at the grassroots level. By focusing on 100 districts with targeted support and convergence across schemes, this initiative has the potential to unlock rural prosperity, drive crop diversification, and accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices."

8 new bills...

on Operation Sindoor and US President Donald Trump's claims of having averted a nuclear war between India and Pakistan by mediating a ceasefire.

The four other new bills are the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, the Indian Institute of Management (Amendment) Bill and the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill.

The government is also expected to present the Income Tax Bill, 2025 during the Monsoon session. The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in February and was referred to a Select Committee of the Lower House. The panel adopted its report on Wednesday and is likely to present it in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The government is also set to seek Parliament's nod for an extension of the President's Rule in Manipur and place the Demand for Grants of the state for the approval of the House.

The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024, the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 and the Indian Ports Bill, 2025 are pending before the Lok Sabha for approval.

J&K witnessed unprecedented...

99% of villages with a population above 250 (based on the 2001 Census) have been connected. In PMGSY-IV, more than Rs 4,000 crore has been sanctioned to connect the remaining villages listed in the 2011 Census," LG Manoj Sinha said.

On the education and healthcare front, the LG said, Jammu and Kashmir now has premier institutions like IIT, IIM, NIIFT, AIIMS, and seven new medical colleges—all made possible due to the Prime Minister's vision.

In the power sector, he said, we used to have a generation capacity of 3,450 MW. Over the past five years, projects exceeding 3,100 MW have been sanctioned, and they will begin generating power soon. Transmission and distribution capabilities have also improved significantly.

Tourism has seen a boom, with around 2.38 crore tourists visiting last year alone, he said adding that this not only strengthened the economy but also generated employment.

"Earlier, private investment in industry was minimal-around Rs 14,000 crore. Thanks to the new industrial scheme introduced with the Government of India's support, investment worth Rs 10,000-12,000 crore has already been realized. Projects worth another Rs 28,000-30,000 crore are at various stages of development, creating further job opportunities," Sinha said.

From a governance perspective, he said, "Reforms like BEAMS and GFR have been implemented. More than 1,140 services are now available online in Jammu and Kashmir. Land records have been digitized. In agriculture, which supports about 70% of the population, we launched a Holistic Agriculture Development Plan in 2022, aiming to double the sector's contribution to GDP within five years. With the help of India's top agri-experts, 29 targeted projects were created under this plan, which are now progressing well. In every sector, significant development has taken place under the guiding policy of "Peace, Prosperity, Progress, and People First."

On the issue of security and terrorism, he said, a major shift has occurred.

The Home Minister has consistently led security reviews and issued clear policy directions. The shift in approach is clear—we no longer "buy peace," we "establish peace." Our security forces, including the J&K Police, Indian Army, and CAPFs, have created an atmosphere where shutdowns and hartals no longer happen at Pakistan's command. Nightlife has returned. Stone-pelting incidents have ceased. Local militant recruitment has fallen sharply, and top commanders of various terrorist outfits have been eliminated," the LG said.

"Pakistan, unable to tolerate the peace and prosperity in J&K, has continued to push terrorists across the border," he said adding that however, our security forces are fully alert and have responded firmly.

"Where earlier more than 150 locals joined terrorism each year, this year only one person has done so. Last year, the number was around six. This indicates that the progress of the last five to six years has restored people's trust. More people are now stakeholders in peace and beneficiaries of prosperity," Sinha said.

"We are also focusing on terror victims. At a recent event in Baramulla, I met several families affected by terrorism. It was a deeply emotional experience. Many of these families had not received financial assistance, jobs, or even had FIRs registered. Some had their homes or land illegally occupied. We've now decided, in consultation with senior officials, to extend financial assistance and government jobs to eligible victims. At the Baramulla event, 40 people received job appointment letters. Cases without FIRs are being examined, and the police are actively registering them where due. Those interested in self-employment will receive help through the PM Mudra Yojana. Efforts are also being made to recover properties that were encroached upon. This is a government-wide, humane approach to provide justice, dignity, and healing to victims whose voices went unheard for decades," the LG said.

On Operation Sindoor, Sinha said, the Prime Minister made it clear-it is not over. The LG said Prime Minister emphasized that "terror and talks cannot go together," "terror and trade cannot go together," and "water and terrorism cannot flow together...PM stated that any act of terror will be treated as an "act of war."

"Our armed forces are on full alert and capable of facing any situation, as the country and the world saw recently when terror camps were destroyed in a swift operation. When Pakistan attempted to strike a military establishment, we responded with a clear message: everything in Pakistan is within our reach. The use of indigenous military equipment has further bolstered national confidence and global recognition," the LG said.

Speaking on "New Kashmir," he said, it is a region with peace and without hartals.

"No longer do we follow calendars from across the border. Instead, academic calendars are released. Cinema halls are functioning again. Muharram processions have resumed after 33-34 years. People of all religions-Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians-celebrate their festivals together. The Amarnath Yatra is progressing peacefully. Youth are finding employment. As I said earlier, the economy has doubled. There is a growing aspiration among youth to participate in the vision of a developed India, just like in the rest of the country," Sinha said.

On the matter of relations between the Chief Minister's Office and the LG's Office, he said, "My relationship with the Chief Minister is cordial. As far as powers are concerned, the J&K Reorganisation Act clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the LG and the elected government. If there is any confusion, it's being addressed through correspondence, and it will be resolved. I know my limits and never act beyond them."

Regarding concerns raised by Mehbooba Mufti about dismissals under Article 311 being targeted at a specific community, he said, "I must clarify-dismissals have occurred across communities. Religion has no role in this. The provision exists to protect the state from internal threats. Every case is investigated thoroughly. Not a single person has been dismissed without a prior record of terror involvement or conviction. Several have served jail terms. We ensure no innocent is ever harmed, but those who have endangered national security will face action."

On census and delimitation, the LG said, "The national process is now underway. Once completed, we can discuss how it will impact J&K. As for my five-year tenure, I feel satisfied that I've used my abilities and worked with honesty to bring peace and development to Jammu and Kashmir; improve its economy, and create jobs for the people. I also take pride in the fact that the authority of the Indian state is now fully established in J&K and that the region is completely integrated with the rest of the country. That, I believe, is a historic achievement."

As far as policing and security powers are concerned, he said, "Jammu and Kashmir is a border state with a challenging neighbour. Therefore, it is essential that the Union Home Ministry continues to monitor law and order. Once conditions normalize further, the Ministry will surely review the situation.

Kharge, Rahul write...

"It is important to recognise that while there have been instances of Union Territories being granted statehood in the past, the case of Jammu and Kashmir is without precedent in independent India. This is the first time a full-fledged state has been downgraded to a Union Territory following its bifurcation," the letter said.

"Your goodself has, on multiple occasions, personally reiterated the government's commitment to restoring statehood. In your interview in Bhubaneswar on 19 May 2024, you stated: 'The restoration of statehood is a solemn promise we have made and we stand by it'. Again, while addressing a rally in Srinagar on 19 September 2024, you reaffirmed: 'We have said in Parliament that we will restore the region's statehood'," the two leaders said.

The Union government has also made similar assurances before the Supreme Court in the Article 370 matter, submitting that statehood would be restored "at the earliest and as soon as possible", they pointed out. "In view of the foregoing and aforementioned, we urge upon the government to bring forward a legislation in the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament to grant full statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," Kharge and Gandhi said.

"Additionally, we request that the government bring forward legislation to include the Union Territory of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution," they said. This would be a significant step towards addressing the cultural, developmental, and political aspirations of the people of Ladakh, while safeguarding their rights, land, and identity, Kharge and Gandhi said. The letter comes a day after the top Congress leadership decide to raise issues such as the Pahalgam terror attack, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and rising atrocities against women in the country during the Monsoon session starting July 21.

Two dead as tempo traveller falls into gorge in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: A passenger vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge near Gumri in Kargil district of Ladakh on Wednesday, leaving two dead and 15 others injured. The tempo traveller was en route to Srinagar from Drass when the accident occurred here around 5:45 am.

A joint rescue operation by police, army and local volunteers was launched immediately after the accident. Two persons were found dead on-the-spot and 15 others were rescued in an injured condition and shifted to hospital, the officials said, adding condition of eight of the injured was stated to be serious.

8 injured after vehicle crashes in Shopian

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Eight people were injured after their vehicle crashed in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Wednesday, officials said. The vehicle, carrying 12 passengers, skidded off the road near Padpawan on the Mughal Road in the south Kashmir district, they said.

They said the vehicle was on its way from Rajouri in Jammu to Kangan in Ganderbal district in central Kashmir.

Yasin from J&K appointed Secretary in Puducherry

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yasin M. Choudhary (IAS), a proud son of Jammu & Kashmir, appointed as Secretary in the Union Territory of Puducherry, with the significant responsibility of handling five key departments.

Yasin Choudhary has had an illustrious administrative journey in J&K, holding impactful positions such as ADC Pulwama ,Deputy Commissioner, Shopian ,Poonch, Managing Director, KPDCI,JPDCI, and notably, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM).

During his tenure as MD NHM, he built a remarkable track record by implementing the maximum number of centrally sponsored health schemes and programs in true spirit, significantly enriching the healthcare ecosystem of J&K. His visionary leadership ensured quality healthcare services reached the grassroots-serving people and communities with commitment and compassion.

