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J&K's GSDP expected...

cent (Rs 1675 crore) of which is allocated for Health and Medical Education. Infrastructure Sector Rs. 11664.45 crore, of which 35% (Rs 4062 crore) is allocated for Public Works, Economic Sector Rs. 6943.20 crore of which 54 per cent (Rs 3731.54 crore) major chunk will be used on Rural Development; Capital Expenditure contribution towards GDP is 14.01 per cent. While GSDP for the year 2024-25 has been projected at Rs 2,63,399 crore, which shows a growth of 7.5% over GSDP of 2023-24, the tax/Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio for 2024-25 has been projected at 7.92 percent which is higher than previous year's 5.68 percent.

Key Challenges &...

- started to physically monitor and verify all developmental works through independent officers.
- 9. The UT government undertook Aadhar seeding and Biometric verifications systematically for cleaning databases of welfare schemes. The UT government also ensured cost savings through competitive procurements through the GEM and e-Tendering.
- 10. These reforms have helped reduce leakages to the tune of Rs. 400 crore per year.
  - Effective Fiscal Management
  - 11. During the past few years, the UT government has improved the budgetary transparency. The UT government has repaid power sector dues of about Rs. 28,000 crore which were pending and rising for several years.
  - 12. For the first time in 77 years, UT contributed to the contingency funds created by RBI; viz. the Consolidated Sinking Fund and Guarantee Redemption Fund.
  - Major Outlays under Budget 2024-25
    - 1. Rs. 9400 crore for subsidy and budgetary support for purchase of power from the National grid and the Power purchase agreements with power generation companies.
    - 2. Rs. 3983 crore for Construction of roads & bridges under PMGSY, CRIF, NABARD loan schemes & Bridge scheme.
    - 3. Rs. 1875 crore for rejuvenating school education infrastructure and services through funding of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), career counselling services, and setting up of modern schools for quality education with PM SHRI funding Agriculture and Allied sectors
      - Establishment of 2,000 Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) for providing facilities to the farming community at their door step. Reinvigorating Agriculture and allied sectors through Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) by strengthening seed systems, boosting production and productivity, creating agri-business ecosystems and securing livelihoods through enhanced jobs and income creation.
      - Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
        - Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 400 lakh mandays to be generated.
        - Under HIMAYAT training of around 7000 candidates to be completed.
        - 12,000 additional Self Help Groups (SHGs) to be formed during 2024-25.
        - 600 new panchayat ghars to be constructed under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSa) with 100% internet connectivity.
        - 2.60 lakh mandays of training to Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSa).
        - 80,000 houses to be constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G).
        - 06 Villages to have solid/liquid waste management facilities in order to become clean with litter and plastic free.
        - 26,000 hectare area to be treated with completion of 1,800 works under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) during 2024-25.
      - For Rural Sector, an allocation of about Rs 3731.54 crore has been made under capital expenditure for the year 2024-25.
      - Tourism and Culture
        - Border Tourism in areas of Kashmir valley like Gurez, Keran, Lolaband Teethwaleta. has received domestic tourist arrival of 1.5 lakhs during 2023.
        - New initiative for development of infrastructure and basic amenities in 12 off-beat tourist destinations, 6 each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions, with objective of enhancing tourism appeal and expanding local business and job opportunities.
        - Development of Keran as border tourist village.
        - Development of Tosamaidan and Sitharan circuits.
        - Development of Duggar Dani village at Samba with the traditional set up in the form of "mock village".
        - Construction and installation of 130 meter (425 feet) high National Flag mast at Patnitop.
        - Completion of revival and restoration of 75 identified heritage sites/cultural sites.
        - Establishment and operationalization of 8 cultural centers.
        - Development and modernization of Shri Pratap Singh (SPS) Museum Srinagar.
        - Promotion and propagation of sufism in Jammu and Kashmir through structured programmes including operationalization of state-of-the-art Suffiana School at Srinagar.
        - Digitization of all libraries.
      - For Tourism and Culture sector, an allocation of about Rs 519.70 crore has been made under capital expenditure for the year 2024-25 which is Rs 205.45 crore more than revised allocation of 2023-24.
      - Forestry and Environment
        - Planting of 190 lakh native trees and 100 lakh low cost greening interventions aimed to restore ecosystems, prevent soil erosion and enhance biodiversity.
        - All 78 urban Local bodies of Jammu and Kashmir to have at least one Nagar Van, Nagar Vatika or an Eco Park.
        - 10 lakh saplings of local, medicinal and economic importance species to be distributed among the farmers for planting to augment trees outside forests and improve livelihood.
      - Cooperative Sector
        - Establishment of Micro Food Processing Units for creating employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.
        - Construction / Establishment of Mini Super Bazaars at District / Village/Block Level.
        - Construction of 6 Grain storage units in 6 districts which are deficit in grain storage facility under the Scheme "World's Largest Grain Storage".
      - For Cooperative sector, an allocation of about Rs 25 crore has been made under capital expenditure for the year 2024-25 which is Rs 5 crore more than revised allocation of 2023-24.
      - Health and Wellness
        - Two Cancer Institute's at Jammu and Srinagar to be made fully operational during 2024-25.
        - Enhancing DNB Seats to 400 thereby improving the availability of Specialists.
        - Health records to be saturated by creation of ABHA For Health and Medical Education Sector; an allocation of about Rs 1674.51 crore has been made under capital expenditure for the year 2024-25.
      - Education Sector:
        - 2,176 new Kindergartens to be established to attain saturation in all the 13,804 schools in phased manner.
        - Separate annual library grant ranging from `5,000 to `20,000 covering schools from Primary to Senior Secondary for purchase of books under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
        - Only fortified rice to be served to about 8.95 lakh students at elementary level (I to VIII) under Mid-Day Meal Scheme for improving nutritional health of students.
        - Social / Tribal Welfare:
          - All persons with disability to be covered under Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme.
          - Transit accommodations to be established for transhuman tribal population which includes accommodation for 150-200 families, community kitchens, medical dispensaries, veterinary dispensaries, community toilets and livestock yards.
          - 186 villages, having 500 scheduled tribe population, to be covered under "Pradhan Mantri Adidarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)" scheme.
          - Sports and Youth Initiatives
            - 75 lakh youth engagement in various sports events to be held at the Panchayat, Block, District, UT and National level during 2024-25.
            - 20 national sports events to be organized in 2024-25.
        - Power Sector:
          - The Government of India is supporting to enhance Power Generation

from 3500 MW to about 6500 MW till 2026-27. So far, Government of India has provided equity share of Rs. 2430.60 crore to the UT for development of 04 new Hydro Electric Projects.

- Gurez valley in northern Kashmir which remained without electricity since Independence has now been connected to the electricity grid during last year.
- Housing and Urban Development
  - 05 Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) with sewerage treatment of capacity of 65.33 MLD are under implementation.
  - Under AMRUT 2.0, UT Water Action Plan for 153 projects of 78 ULBS has been completed. This includes 99 projects for water supply connections aiming to provide 2.25 lakh new tap household connections. Also 50 projects for rejuvenation of water bodies to be undertaken.
  - For Road and Bridge Sector, an allocation of about Rs 4061.74 crore has been made under capital expenditure for the year 2024-25 which is Rs 118.87 crore more than revised allocation of 2023-24.
  - Industrial Development
    - The Central Government has rolled out the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) since 2021 with an outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore for industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir. Total 889 units with proposed investment of Rs 18,185 crore and employment of 46,857 have already started work on the ground. Till date investment worth Rs.6600 Cr has been realised on ground.

Terror module busted...

Lateef, Kasim Din, son of Shahin Din and Khadim alias Qazi, son of Baza, resident of Kattal, Bhadu, Billawar.

Describing the arrests as a significant breakthrough, the spokesperson said these operations are part of ongoing efforts by the police to counter terrorist activities and dismantle their networks.

"The kingpin of the module, Lateef, was in active communication with terrorist handlers across the border and played a crucial role in receiving foreign terrorists who illegally entered India via the Samba-Kathua sector," the spokesperson said.

Besides providing initial shelter and logistical support, the module guided terrorists to the mountainous and jungle areas of the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda districts, particularly around Kailash mountain, a tri-junction area.

During interrogation, module members disclosed that the terrorists killed in the Gandoh encounter had received assistance from the module to evade detection until they reached the upper reaches.

The spokesperson said that over 50 individuals from the local community, residing in temporary summer huts for grazing purposes, were questioned for coming in contact with the foreign terrorists.

Only a few among them did not report the matter to the police while some even accepted money from the terrorists in return for favours, police said.

Those who reported their contact with terrorists to the police promptly are considered innocent.

However, others with prior connections to terrorists and their handlers are being investigated for liability, the official said.

Police have urged the public to promptly inform them about any interaction with terrorists and a failure to report such a matter is not only a criminal offence but also risks affecting access to government benefits, cautioned the police spokesperson.

Security forces widen...

Kumar Yadav and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma.

This encounter is a grim reminder of a similar operation in the general area of Kokernag last September, during which four security personnel, including Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish and Deputy SP Humayun Bhat were killed in the week-long engagement with terrorists.

Two terrorists, including a senior commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), were also neutralised during that operation.

Security forces have ramped up their efforts in the woods of Kokernag after an encounter in Doda district on July 15 that resulted in the deaths of four soldiers, including a captain.

It is believed that the terrorists involved in the recent Anantnag incident may have crossed over from Kishtwar district after escaping the confrontation in Doda.

Giving details of the current operation, a Srinagar-based defence spokesperson said that on August 5, it was confirmed through human and electronic means that terrorists responsible for atrocities in the Doda region in July have sneaked across the Kishtwar range into the Kapran-Garol area in south Kashmir.

Fresh batch of...

nine children left in eight buses and two light motor vehicles (LMVs) amid chants of "Bum Bum Bhole", "Har Har Mahadev" and "Jai Shri Ram".

The yatra commenced on August 7 and is scheduled to conclude on August 20.

Punjab CM colluding...

Mann government has been protecting and shielding them even at a time when the Centre was ready to contribute fairly to the development projects in Punjab.

"It seems that the AAP government is in collusion with the disruptive elements to ensure that no development projects are undertaken in the State", he said.

Chugh demanded the Chief Minister to "behave responsibly to the people of the State and their welfare" instead of indulging in partisan politics.

JU ranks 50...

just an honour but also opens up new opportunities for the university through special privileges under various governmental and UGC schemes. This recognition underscores the commitment of the University to provide top-quality education and establish a culture of academic excellence, he added.

Prof Rai expressed his joy over this achievement, attributing it to the leadership, vision, and support of the Chancellor, University of Jammu and Lieutenant Governor of JKUT Manoj Sinha.

"This accomplishment makes us immensely proud and is evidence of our collective dedication to continuous improvement and innovation in all aspects of higher education," said Prof. Rai.

He also extended his gratitude to the Higher Education Department and Finance Department of the Government of JK UT for their relentless support, which has been crucial to the university's success.

LG congratulates...

and SKUAST-J have also achieved impressive rankings. SKUAST-K secured 10th rank whereas, SKUAST-J secured 20th. IIT Jammu and IIM Jammu have also been ranked among the top 100 Engineering and Management Institutes, respectively."

Shambhu border protest...

lay down the modalities for partial opening of highway, initially for the purpose of ambulances, senior citizens, women, girl students, essential services and daily commuters of nearby areas," the court said.

It said if both sides are able to resolve such modalities, they need not wait for any order of this court and implement the resolution immediately.

It was hearing the Haryana government's plea challenging the high court order asking it to remove within a week the barricades at the Shambhu border near Ambala where protesting farmers have been camping since February 13.

The Haryana government had set up barricades on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway in February after the 'Samyukta Kisan Morcha' (Non-Political) and 'Kisan Mazdoor Morcha' announced that farmers would march to Delhi in support of their demands, including legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their produce.

The bench posted the matter for resumed hearing on August 22 and said it will pass an order that day for setting up a multi-member committee which will talk to all the stakeholders and find a solution.

"Now that we are intervening to an extent, which normally we don't do, we intend to constitute a committee which will go at the site, hear them (farmers) and both the state governments. Take the views of all the stakeholders and then suggest a holistic view," it said.

The bench appreciated the initiative taken by both the Haryana and Punjab governments for suggesting the names of "totally apolitical" people for the proposed panel who have rendered "commendable services" in their respective fields.

During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Haryana government, requested the bench to stay a direction of the Punjab and Haryana High Court by which it has ordered a judicial commission to probe the extent of force used by police during a clash between the protesting farmers and Haryana security personnel in February in which a farmer Shubhakaran Singh lost his life.

Anti-infiltration grid...

Their strength is now higher," Sinha said.

Police and security forces have completed their preparations on this front, Sinha said.

The three-tier security grid along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) is being strengthened with additional deployment of BSP troops and nearly 1,000 recently trained border police personnel, backed by Village Defence

Groups (VDGs), officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain, who is monitoring the deployment of border police personnel and the training of VDGs in border and hinterland regions, said the anti-infiltration and anti-terrorism security setup will have nearly 1,000 newly trained policemen.

"People should not..."

abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A as the beginning of a historic era of peace and development.

In 2009, the Narendra Modi government annulled the articles that granted special rights to the then Jammu and Kashmir state, which was also divided into two Union territories.

"The abrogation of Article 370 was historic. It has begun a new chapter of peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir. We have tried our best to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir is at the forefront, that every individual's aspirations are fulfilled, and, most importantly, that stability is established here," he said.

The lieutenant governor noted that the administration had achieved significant success in this regard.

"The era of discrimination has completely ended. Marginalised communities such as refugees from (erstwhile) West Pakistan, Valmikis, Dalits, tribals, and particularly women, have been granted their rights. If Article 370 had not been abrogated, more than 50 per cent of the population here would not have received their rightful entitlements," he said. "This is a major transformation."

Sinha also took a dig at political leaders who criticised the government on the issue.

"This country runs by the Constitution and my constant expectation from those who have taken an oath to uphold it is that they understand why a new era has begun," he said.

The lieutenant governor also claimed that the administration had made strides in controlling corruption.

"I am not saying that corruption has been entirely eradicated but we have taken significant steps to control it. Jammu and Kashmir has the highest number of online services in India and our tax collection has also increased considerably," Sinha said.

He claimed that the pace of work had increased tenfold and the administration was actively working to address the people's issues and aspirations.

"Capital expenditure in Jammu and Kashmir has increased substantially, with work ongoing on roads and other projects worth lakhs of rupees. Rail and road connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir has improved significantly and further work is underway," he said.

SC concerned over...

bodies and state-level councils for all allied health care professions which are not governed and covered by the National Medical Commission, Dental Council of India and other regulatory bodies till 2021.

The Act includes health care professions and professionals of medical laboratory and life sciences, trauma, burn care, and surgical/ anesthesia-related technology, Physiotherapy etc. "We direct the Union and states to take necessary steps to implement the Act within two months; (2) The Health Ministry shall within two weeks convene an on-line meeting of all the secretaries of state for Health and Family Welfare to lay down roadmap to implement the Act," ordered a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

Warning that failure to implement the provisions of the Act may lead to coercive measures, the bench said the "infrastructure is set up by all the states and UTs and the provisions are to be made functional in letter and spirit".

It directed all states and UTs to submit compliance reports with the secretary of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in a tabular format before the next date of hearing.

The bench asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, representing the central ministry, to file the reply to the PIL within two weeks.

Notorious gangster Royal Singh arrested with prohibited arms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A police team of Police Station Peer Mitha Jammu, led by SHO Police Station Peer Mitha apprehended notorious criminal Royal Singh, son of Manjeet Singh, resident of Mohalla Dalpatian Jammu, with prohibited arms and ammunition. In this regard FIR registered at P/S Peer Mitha and investigation started.



Crackdown on illegal mining, 8 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH/SAMBA: In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Poonch Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

A Joint team of BPP AJOTE led by PSI ANIL SHARMA and Mining Department detained 03 vehicles bearing Registration No JK12C2498, JK02AX7592 and JK128328.

After seizing of these vehicles District Mining Officer was informed and these vehicles were Seized for contravention of MM (R&D) Act, 1957.

Apart from this BPP Ajote destroyed the heaps of sand gathered through illegal mining along with the team of mining department at Ajote.

The whole operation was carried out under the close supervision of SHO Insp. Kunal Singh, Dy. SP Hqrs Poonch Pankaj Sudan Addl. SP Poonch Mushim Ahmed, under the Overall Supervision of SSP Poonch, Yougal Manhas.

Samba: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Police has seized five vehicles in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur and Police Station Samba which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO PS Vijaypur and SHO PS Samba while performing patrolling duty in their respective jurisdictional areas, have seized five vehicles including three dumper bearing registration Nos. JK21G-9245, JK21K-2595, JK21H-6765 and two tractor trolleys without registration No. which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

Man held for selling banned Nylon thread

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Based on reliable information about sale of dreaded Nylon thread (Gattu), a police team of PS Domana led by Insp. Sushil Choudhary, SHO PS Domana conducted raids in the shops of kite sellers in Marh Domana area.

During raid, Police party seized 05 rolls of Nylon thread (Gattu) from the shop who was engaged in selling Synthetic Nylon thread made in China which is banned in District Jammu.

The shopkeepers were identified as Sanchit Kumar S/O Subash Chander R/O Mandlika Mehra Marh Domana, Jammu. In this regard FIR under relevant section of law stand registered against above said shop keeper and further investigation is underway.

CIU Kishtwar recovers online defrauded amount of Rs 2.01 lakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: District Police Kishtwar has reaffirmed its commitment to combating cybercrime by successfully solving case and recovering online defrauded funds amounting to Rs 2,01,262 (Two lakh one thousand two hundred sixty-two rupees).

In a recent breakthrough, the Unit resolved a case involving multiple online frauds, recovering Rs 2,01,262 (Two lakh one thousand two hundred sixty-two rupees). The reported scams included mobile recharge frauds, unauthorized third-party app installations, and malicious Telegram links promoting fraudulent trading apps like Aviator, Happybet, 11winner, and Skywinner.

Upon receiving complaints, the Cybercrime Investigation Unit launched an immediate and detailed investigation, leveraging advanced technical methods to trace and recover the defrauded funds.

The swift actions of the Unit led to the recovery of ₹2,01,262 (Two lakh one thousand two hundred sixty-two rupees). Investigations continue to retrieve additional funds, with promising leads in several cases.

Since its inception, the Cybercrime Investigation Unit Kishtwar has successfully recovered a total of Rs 36,19,768 (Thirty-six lakh nineteen thousand seven hundred sixty-eight rupees), from various online scams, underscoring its effectiveness and commitment to combating cybercrime.