

Strict security measures on LOC, IB imperative for peace: DGP

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To have an on spot assessment of various issues pertaining to border areas including Counter-Infiltration/terrorism operations, measures and general security scenario along LoC, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Wednesday visited North Hill Headquarters 18th Sikh Battalion in North Kashmir's Kupwara District and Farkiyuan Brigade Headquarters and had detailed interaction with the senior army officers at both the locations. The DGP during his day-long visit to these border areas reviewed security, law & order scenario, besides winter preparedness of forces from infiltration point of view and also with regard to the increase in ceasefire violations.

The DGP was accompanied by IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar.



DGP Dilbag Singh interacting with security force officials at LoC.

He was received by GOC 28 Div Major General A S Aujla and SSP Kupwara Ambarakar Shriram Dinkar at Zangli, Kupwara. During the visit, the DGP was given an operational briefing at Farkiyuan by Brig K Mohan Nair of 268 Infantry Brigade of Keran Sector and at North Hill Post by Col. Kuldeep Karpe CO 18 Sikh about the status of terrorist launchpads along the LoC, security situation on LoC, and hinterland.

Various measures for strengthening the security of the border grid and hinterland

were discussed threadbare.

Appreciating the efforts of the units deployed in border areas in achieving better results on various fronts, the DGP said, "Our troops are working day and night with full alertness and commitment and are successfully combating the menace of terrorism and providing a better security environment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir." He said that forces have to remain on the constant vigil and alert so that any evil attempt to disrupt peace in Jammu and Kashmir is effectively foiled.

Dilbag commended the forces for Robust Anti-Infiltration Grid, action against OGWs, narcotics and weapon smuggling. He also appreciated troops for tight vigil along the LoC. The DGP urged the officers to maintain surveillance on the elements trying to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere and take all preventive measures.

"We have to deal with these elements firmly by using the latest technology and also counter their negative propaganda," he said.

He complimented the presence of uniformed women army personnel conducting screening at Nakas to prevent use of females as couriers of narcotics and weapons.

Singh impressed for further strengthening relations with the people of border areas and emphasized to continue good teamwork with full coordination and synergy at various lev-

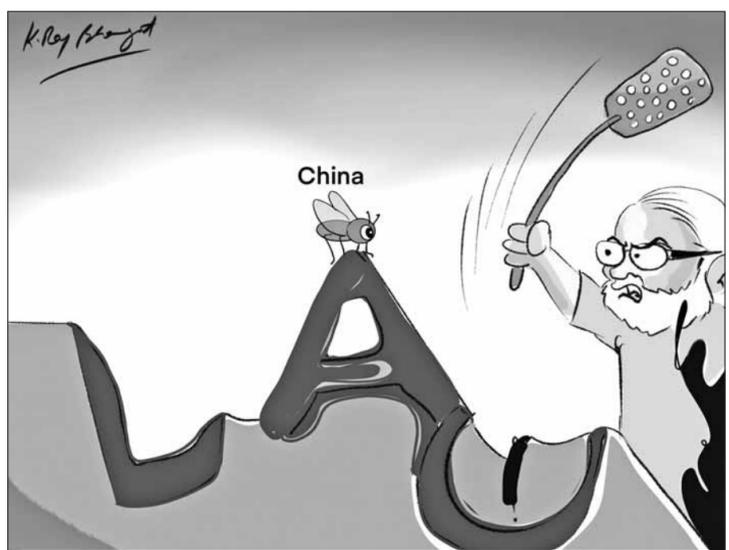
els among police army and other security forces.

He said that close liaison between the J&K Police and security forces has borne good results and are very imperative for foiling terrorist activities which are encouraged on the behalf of Pakistan.

He said that better coordination, synergy between the forces yielded good results so far.

"Cooperation of the people with the forces has helped in maintaining sustained peace and these relations should be strengthened at all levels to defeat ill designs of inimical elements," he said.

The DGP said that forces have to continue their peace efforts with even more dedication by ensuring a peaceful and secure environment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have been victim of Pakistan sponsored terrorism for many years now.



Central Portal's COVID grievance disposal time around one day: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: With the oral replies and starred questions having been suspended for the current session of Parliament in view of COVID, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh stated in a written reply in Lok Sabha on Monday that the average disposal time of grievance in the Department of ARPG in Union Ministry of Personnel has progressively improved over the last six years. For example, during the COVID pandemic, the exclusive grievance redressal option made available at the Central Portal ensured redressal of every grievance at an average disposal time of 1.4 day, he stated. He said the Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG) in the Cabinet Secretariat has a mechanism to entertain representation from a public complainant who says he is not satisfied with the response received from the concerned Ministry/Department within a reasonable period of time. The number of public grievances received, actually redressed and pending for redressal during the last three years. The reply also gave statistical details of the same.

In reply to another question, Dr Jitendra stated that in order to mitigate the hardships to candidates seeking Government jobs by providing the same platform to all candidates, and with a view to set a new standard of equity and inclusiveness in recruitment, the Government has set up the National Recruitment Agency (NRA), vide order, dated 28.08.2020. The NRA will be an independent autonomous organization to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for certain categories of posts in



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking during interview on Northeast

Central Government, for which recruitment is carried out through the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

The NRA will conduct only the preliminary screening of candidates through the CET. Based on the score obtained in the CET conducted by NRA, candidates may appear in the domain-specific examinations/tests to be conducted by SSC, RRBs & IBPS respectively for the actual recruitment. Meanwhile, in an electronic interview on Northeast, Dr Jitendra Singh cited another Lok Sabha reply of his to say that, as part of the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package, funds have been released to aid and enable the North Eastern States to ramp up testing facilities, augment hospital infrastructure, conduct surveillance activities along with procurement of essential equipment, drugs and other supplies.

Sasan hails Farooq's statement in LS over inclusion of Punjabi as official language in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference Provincial Vice President Gurdeep Singh Sasan on Wednesday welcomed the statement of the party President Dr Farooq Abdullah in the Lok Sabha (LS) with regard to inclusion of the Punjabi as one of the official languages of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, Sasan said Dr Farooq Abdullah has represented the right thinking view of the country and assailed the attempts of undermining Punjabi, a most loved and spoken language of millions across the world.

He said the statement of the

visionary leader Dr Abdullah evoked immense response by the parliamentarians.

He described non-inclusion of Punjabi as Jammu and Kashmir's official language is a conspiracy that will be exposed at the right time. He hoped the people will unitedly fight for a rightful place to Punjabi as per their wishes and aspirations.

Sasan urged the administration to repeal the list of the official languages of Jammu and Kashmir and issue a fresh notification which includes Punjabi as one of the official languages.

This is the least the government can do for assuaging hurt sentiments of millions, he added.

Instead of providing employment, Govt snatching limited opportunities from youth: Tarigami

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: More than a year after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was revoked, the government is yet to create even a single job. Instead it has withdrawn more than 1000 posts that were advertised under SRO 202 during the past two years. This was stated by Mohammad Younis Tarigami, communist party of India (Marxist) in a statement issued on Wednesday.

The government's decision, he said, is unfortunate as instead of providing employment, it is even snatching the limited opportunities. The government should revoke its decision as soon as possible, he demanded.

On 28 August 2019, when Kashmir was under lockdown after the abrogation of Article 370, then governor Satya Pal Malik announced that 50,000 jobs would be made available for the youth in next three months.

Similarly, in March, the government in the Parliament announced that it proposes to fill up 50,000 vacant posts in

J&K.

And when the government decided to issue domicile certificates in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, it claimed that the haste was because it was planning to hold a massive recruitment drive, Tarigami said.

However, he said, all these promises have proved a hoax and the unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir continue

to suffer immensely. They feel betrayed and annoyed by the repeated false promises, he added.

Those who were already earning their livelihood were deprived of it, he said adding that thousands of casual labourers, need-based daily-wagers, scheme workers and others were without wages for the last more than a year.

ACB produces charge-sheet against former BDO in graft case

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) produced charge-sheet against ex-BDO Sopore in the Court of Special Judge Anti Corruption Baramulla on Wednesday in graft case.

As per an official spokesperson, the ACB presented charge-sheet against Ab Rashid Ahanger, ex-BDO Sopore in a case registered vide FIR No. 09/2019 in the Court of Special Judge Anti Corruption Baramulla. The instant case was registered against the accused Ab Rashid Ahanger, the then Block Development Officer Sopore, who was caught red handed by ACB while accepting a bribe of Rs 2,000 from a Daily Rated Worker for releasing his wages in his office on 22-05-2019. The accused was arrested on the spot and was subsequently released on bail by the orders of the Court of Special Judge Anti Corruption Baramulla, he added.

During investigation it was proved that the accused official had demanded money several times from the daily rated wagger for releasing his wages, he told.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As per Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle, Jammu JPDCL, that to carry out the work for execution of works under PMDP scheme, the power supply to Suhagpur, Marhol, Powal and its adjoining areas will remain affected on September 17, 19 and 21 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that for reconducting of 11 KV feeder alongwith other allied electrical works, the power supply to Industrial Area Hatli Morh will remain affected on September 17 and 19 from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

GMCs Srinagar, Baramulla to start paramedical degree courses

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government Medical College Srinagar and Government Medical College Baramulla on Wednesday got NOC / affiliation from University of Kashmir for starting Degree Courses in various Paramedical Branches with intake capacity of 140 and 80 seats respectively. The various branches to be started in Government Medical College Srinagar include B.Sc in Medical Lab Technology, B.Sc Operation Theatre Technology, B.Sc Renal Dialysis Technology, B.Sc Radiography Technology, B.Sc Anesthesia Technology.

Dr Samia Rashid Vice-President J&K Paramedical Council (JKPC) & Principal Government Medical College Srinagar said that the proposal for starting these courses was submitted by J&K Paramedical Council to the Administrative Department, which was approved by the State Administrative Council in October 2019. She congratulated team of J&K Paramedical Council for the achievement and especially thanked Financial Commissioner Atal Dulloo for his unconditional

support in starting of these courses. She further said these courses are being started for the first time and earlier the students had to travel outside J&K to pursue these courses. She reiterated the fact that there would not be any additional financial implication as all these courses shall be conducted in various Departments of GMC Srinagar with existing faculty. Dr Samia Rashid also expressed gratitude towards Vice-Chancellor and Prof Mohi-UD-Din Sangini Dean CDC University of Kashmir for their support. Dr Nasib Chand Digra President J&K Paramedical Council congratulated Principal GMC Srinagar Dr Samia Rashid & Principal GMC Baramulla Dr Abdul Hameed for the achievement. He said that these courses will

J&K gets quick response vehicles for fire fighting

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: For fast and timely containment of the accidental fires in the congested areas J&KERA (Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency) under its World Bank funded JTFRP (Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project) has provided 17 Quick Response Vehicles (QRV) to the Fire and Emergency Services Department. These 17 QRVs (Quick Response Vehicles) worth Rs1.73 crores for fire-fighting and nearly 26 more which will include 17 MPFT (Multi-Purpose Fire Tenders) apart from 09 regular Fire tenders are going to be added to the fleet soon. The Jammu and Kashmir is set to get a major fleet of modern, compact fire tenders that could improve response time to provide a cutting edge to fire and rescue services in J&K.

The Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (JKERA) under the component of Strengthening of the

Disaster Management Capacity of the World Bank funded JTFRP is taking up the much needed modernization of the ageing fleet of fire tenders and equipping it with advanced fire-fighting materials. The officials at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services said that with the addition of these vehicles under JTFRP, the fire fighters of the department could serve even in the narrowest of lanes in congested areas of the Srinagar and Jammu cities which are prone to accidental fires.

"This is a really useful addition to our fleet. With these vehicles, we can now cater to different and difficult fire accident-prone areas across Jammu and Kashmir with accuracy," said, Bashir Ahmad Shah, Deputy Director, Fire and Emergency Service, headquarter Srinagar.

"We have received 17 mini-vehicles (QRVs) from JTFRP and more latest and sophisticated firefighting equipment are

coming. I am sure that it would be a shot in the arm of our firefighting team to operate in busy areas and ensuring better results," he said. He said that 17 quick response vehicles that were received from JTFRP have been distributed to several districts across Jammu and Kashmir.

"The quick response vehicles, which would be stationed in every divisional and district headquarters has a foam tank and fire extinguisher to douse the fire in congested areas where normal fire tenders would find it difficult to enter for want of adequate space," Shah said, adding "These vehicles are also useful for handling oil fires, besides it has a 60 litres mounted tank which contains foam."

Chief Executive Officer, JKERA/JTFRP, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah appreciated the firefighters for their proactive role in firefighting and for remaining at the frontline in the battle against COVID-19.

DAYA SAGAR

In the UT of J&K now as a general rule the conditions of service as laid under S.O 192 (J&K Probationer - Condition of Service Pay & Allowances and Fixation of Tenure Rules 2020) could also apply to even recruitments made for KAS/KPS/Engns through PSC unless in a particular case directions for exemption from S.O.192 are issued (Rule-9 exemption for a certain class/category of post/ service). Earlier condition of no increment / no allowances during probation period was only for non gazetted post and only those gazetted posts that are particularly included from case to case but now in UT of J&K the condition of no increment / no allowances during probation period is for all post except those gazetted post that are particularly ordered for exclusion from the scope of S.O 192. The payment of pension in the conventional manner as was the practice for those appointed before 2004 (GOI) / 2010 (J&K) has already been discontinued for new appointees which had already put the youth aspiring for government jobs to great disadvantage since the new system based on "employers contribution" to a Fund nowhere can

Table-A			
Retiree	Date of Retirement	Basis Pay + DA before retirement	Basic Pension + DA on retirement
Mr X VKK AEE	30-04-2013	30-04-2013:: (35770 +25754=61524)	01-05-2013 ::(17885+14308=32193)
**Mr Y VKK CE	30-04-2013	30-04-2013 ::(52310+41848=94158)	01-05-2013 ::(26155+20924=47079)
*Stenographer	28-02-1990	28-02-1990::(2250 +Say 800= 3050)	01-03-1990 :: (1074 +409 = 1483)
Junior Engineer	30-06-2002	30-06-2002 (11025 + 5464 = 6089)	01-07- 2020 :: (5472+2681 = 8153)

*A supervisor/junior manager in a PSU retired in 2002 would have got not more than Rs.300000 Lac to 4 Lac out of employer contribution plus interest and had he/she put that in a fixed deposit return would have been then just Rs.2500/ pm even if we take 10 % interest in 2002 which in June 2020 is just 6 % for Sr. citizen (return to such 2002 retiree in June 2020 will be only Rs.1500/PM.) ** A senior Officer or PSU Director retiring in 2002-03 would have got not more than Rs.6 to 7 Lac as one time employer contribution with interest, that amount put in FDR then would be getting return of just Rs.3000/pm or so in June 2020 .Imagine what unfair treatment even IAS officers of 2004 batch are going to get under the new contributory fund scheme replacing erstwhile pension scheme. No doubt those in bureaucracy who have proposed such amendments in service conditions to those heading Political Governments have retained pension for their self.

Table-B	
Wage elements	Class-IV SL-1
	CEA upto 4500 max/pm + CHSA upto 13500max / pm Pay Scale 14800-47100
	Regular Entitlement
TOTAL During 1st Year	**21037 +CEA +CHSA
*Likely TOTAL During 2nd Yr	**increment 400, **DA increase 10% **23007 +CEA+CHSA

match the earlier system of pension. It is painful that governments these days instead of putting checks on mis use of resources collected through taxes/ levies in a democratic set up so as to improve the money use efficiency instead prefer to employ job aspiring youth in govt services by under paying them (see Table-B) like laying down policies as in SROs 202 (Jammu and Kashmir Special Recruitment Amendment Rules-2015) ,S.O 184(Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to Class-IV Special Recruitment Rules-2020) ,S.O 192(Jammu and Kashmir Probationer - Condition of Service Pay and Allowances and Fixation of Tenure Rules 2020) ,S.O 193 (17-02-2020 - Amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to Class-IV Special Recruitment Rules-2020 - amending S.O 184) , S.O 194 (17-06-2020 -Jammu and Kashmir Special Recruitment Amendment Rules-2020 - amending SRO-202) of UT of J&K and discontinuing the practice of payment of system of Defined Benefit Pension (see Table-A) and replacing that with a new restructured defined Contribution Pension System for new entrants to Central Government service after 2003 (except to Armed Forces) and imposing additional taxes. But at the same time spending resources simply out of political decisions in shape of pensions of Rs 500 or 1000 per month to those having 'no' source of income / free ration to BPL (definition may not be known to many and many BPL may be found standing liquor shop Qs)/ FREE GAS subsidy stoves etc/ transfer of a few hundred INR in accounts of 'poor' (allegedly more to exploit the needy & to buy goodwill for the votes at public cost) without keeping close check on identification/disbursement involving independent vigilance / social organisations; even spending huge sums on purchase & maintenance of highly priced (even 10 to 15 Lakh) vehicles / cars for officers / minister / judges where as the requirement could be in general met with low price car like Alto 800 (less than 3 Lakh).Even if the intentions of the political leadership of the day are fair still unless the norms for BPL like categories are made publicly known to common man and Social some Scheme of Social Audit with the involvement of Social organisations (not funded by Government) is put in place for welfare schemes like old age pension, widow pension, gas stoves , low value economic support , health subsidies, small grants to farmers the assistances of the type as mentioned herein could be alleged being also not put to fair use at the cost of the taxes paid by common man.

Who is the most exploited element of the society where the governments are appointed through a multiparty democratic system ? Surely is the same needy , qualified and unemployed Young in India whose innocence and simplicity is exploited by the political 'elder' so cleverly by simply saying Bravo for selflessly carrying political ambitions and programmes of one political / social group or the other. The political 'elders' must hence look for reviewing the recruitment rules like S.O 192(Jammu and Kashmir Probationer - Condition of Service Pay and Allowances and Fixation of Tenure Rules 2020) , S.O 193 (17-02-2020 - Amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to Class-IV Special Recruitment Rules-2020 - amending S.O 184) , S.O 194 (17-06-2020 -Jammu and Kashmir Special Recruitment Amendment Rules-2020 - amending SRO-202) of UT of J&K; and also consider reinstalling the retirement pension for government employees.

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