

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Govt determined to...

transport facilities to residents in far-flung areas and connect them to major towns of the UT and other states.

The new addition of trucks in the fleet of JKRTC will ensure timely transportation of food grains and other essential commodities to common man, he added.

Underscoring that full utilization of opportunities for economic growth is possible only with a robust transportation system, the Lt Governor said that the decision of augmenting the existing fleet of JKRTC with 226 new buses and 277 trucks was taken last year with an aim to connect the people of different regions in J&K and provide better transportation facilities to the traders and business owners.

Listing four main forces behind the promotion of local businesses in J&K viz raw material, workforce, capital, and market, the Lt Governor said that the transporters provide a connection between these four.

Subsidy of Rs 5 lakh was also provided to transporters for replacing buses older than 15 years. An amount of Rs 1.75 crore was given under the scheme to strengthen the transport sector in J&K and make it modern, he added.

Under Mumkin scheme, the youth of J&K are being connected with sustainable livelihood opportunities and provided with commercial vehicles at zero margin money. Apart from bringing a change in their lives, this program will also strengthen the transport system of the UT, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said that providing various government services and facilities online is key to a transparent and corruption-free governance system.

The Lt Governor noted that many important steps have also been taken in last one year under the Road Safety Fund which includes 620 road safety awareness camps, equipments, motorcycles, and interceptor vehicles been given to traffic police for better road safety management.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr. AK Mehta, Chief Secretary; Hirdesh Kumar, Commissioner Secretary to Government; Pardeep Kumar, Transport Commissioner; Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Sandeep Choudhary, SSP Srinagar; besides Senior officers of the UT administration were present on the occasion.

India should initiate...

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit, the National Conference leader said, "I am sure PM Modi will be taking all the leaders including US President Joe Biden. There is no doubt that terrorism is eating the whole world. But who started terrorism? Who annexed Iraq? Who bombed Libya despite UN warnings? Which terrorist organisation has destabilized other countries?"

Acknowledging that terrorism is a global threat, Abdullah said that to ensure that all countries are safe, "all powerful countries must collectively ensure that no nation is vulnerable."

The National Conference leader also urged the Center to initiate dialogue with farmers and enact new laws for the agriculture sector with farmers' inputs.

Reacting to the statement of the former Chief Minister, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has flayed NC President Dr Farooq Abdullah for advising the government to start dialogue with Taliban.

In a statement issued here, the BJP leader said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is known for his dexterity in having good relations with the countries and Dr Farooq Abdullah need not advise him on tackling the regime controlling Afghanistan at the moment. He said that Farooq should first set his own house in order before giving sermons to others.

2 new airports...

land size. He said that since a special focus is being given on development of both air and road connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, a major road network including highways, ring road, tunnels and other projects are being constructed across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The Minister said that the development of connectivity shall bring more tourists to J&K and promote local craft. He said that the promotion of tourism and crafts shall boost economic activity and prosperity of people of J&K.

Scindia said that under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, an era of peace, progress and development has already started in Jammu and Kashmir and all the three regions including Ladakh have come on track to become number one in construction and development in the country.

He said that among other major projects, work was going on in full swing on ring road worth Rs 3000 crore, while as 100 percent households are being supplied electricity now, made possible by current dispensation.

The Minister said currently 82 percent population is connected and being supplied tap water; however, the government is committed to cover all households in near future.

He said that the Modi led government was not only successful in curbing corruption in J&K but sectors including health, education and others have also flourished in the UT during these years.

Present on the occasion, various DDC and BDC members, sarpanchs and other PRIIs spoke on the occasion and raised their demands.

The demands raised by the members included bridging developmental gap between urban and rural areas, construction of degree college and AYUSH Hospital in Harwan, development of area for rural tourism, better health and education facilities, deduction in power and water tariffs, loan waivers for drivers among others.

DC Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Assad, SSP Srinagar, ADC Srinagar, officers from RDD among others were also present on the occasion.

Talking to reporters, the minister said that international flight operations are likely to resume at the Srinagar airport as efforts are on to start services between here and Sharjah.

The first international flight connection from Srinagar to Sharjah (in the United Arab Emirates) will be started soon. Efforts are on so that international travellers come directly to Srinagar. This will be a historic decision, not just for Jammu and Kashmir, but the whole country, he added.

The minister said a new cargo terminal at the Srinagar airport, constructed at a cost of Rs 15 crore, will be made functional on October 1.

On the issue of landing operations at the airport here, he said the civil aviation ministry and the Jammu and Kashmir administration will hold discussions with the defence ministry for the installation of CAT-II ILS system for overcoming flight cancellations due to bad weather.

Sinha, Union Minister...

told reporters that he has requested Sinha to consider reducing the VAT on aviation turbine fuel to one per cent which will help in attracting more airlines to Jammu and Kashmir.

"It will be a boost for the tourism and development of Jammu and Kashmir as more flights will translate into more connectivity and more tourists," he said.

Scindia said the Lieutenant Governor has also assured to transfer 122 acres of land needed for expansion of the Jammu airport to the Airport Authority of India by October 10.

"On the same day, feasibility and design studies will be started," he said. Scindia and Sinha also discussed ways of using helicopter services for promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir as it being done in states like Uttarakhand.

On surging air ticket prices during the winter season, Scindia said he will have the alleged cartelisation investigated.

"We will stop it if there is any cartelisation. Also, the best way to check this kind of practice is increasing the connectivity. We are taking steps in that direction," he added.

J&K reports 143...

COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 31 from Jammu Division and 153 from Kashmir Division.

Besides this, 81.32 percent of the population above the age of 18 years has been vaccinated across Jammu and Kashmir.

The officials informed that no new case of Mucormycosis has been reported during the past 24 hours, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 46 in the UT of J&K.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 328881 positive cases, 1563 are Active Positive, 322897 have recovered and 4421 have died; 2173 in Jammu division and 2248 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 14616040 test results available, 14287159 samples have been tested as negative till today.

Till date 3505587 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 7039 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1563 in isolation and 461788 in home surveillance. Besides, 3030776 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Meanwhile, five more people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Ladakh, taking the overall infection tally in the union territory to 20,776, officials said.

Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil - since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. As many as 20,405 patients have recovered till date.

The officials said 5,253 people were tested for COVID-19 in the twin districts on Friday and five of them returned positive result. All the new cases were reported from Leh.

Five COVID-19 patients were discharged in Leh in a 24-hour span, the officials said, adding the number of active cases in Ladakh stands at 164 that included 161 in Leh and three in Kargil.

Rs 60,000 Cr...

have observed and personally witnessed that the local youth of Kashmir are full of talent and skill. They need to be inspired, show interest in getting highly skilled training, be energetic as there are enormous opportunities of employment generation available," the Minister said.

The Minister said about 8 lakh new jobs were created since 1st April 2020 to 30th April 2021 in IT and manufacturing sectors. He said it is our mission, goal and solemn promise to strengthen the entrepreneurship diversification as it has a great economic prospects to absorb youth in various fields. The Minister appealed aspiring youth to be committed, positive in approach and remain enthusiastic to realize and fulfill every dream.

Principal Secretary Skill Development Department Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, DC Budgam S.A. Mirza, Director Skill Development Department, SSP Budgam, Principal ITI Budgam and other District Officers were present on the occasion.

The Minister said ministers visiting U.T of J&K have an objective to check the situation relating to developmental and other aspects on ground. This is PM's initiative and revolutionary first of its kind mission particularly for UT of J&K, the Minister added.

He said "We came here with professional objective and ambition to deliver; our visits shall emerge result oriented." The Minister appreciated concerned authorities that work done in skill development is enormous but still needs more boost and push. Budgam has potential and talent which they have showcased through incredible skills, he added.

The Minister inspected automobile training centre of ITI Budgam. He also inspected the stalls installed by the skilled youth demonstrating and displaying manufacturing skills, talent and professionalism in respective art and trades.

Later, the Minister presided a meeting of officers convened at Conference Hall Budgam where a detailed review of each sector was under taken scheme wise. The DC Budgam through a detailed power point presentation presented developmental and welfare scenario of the District.

The Minister while going through the details appreciated the District Administration and its officials in achieving the given targets, despite facing inconveniences due to COVID 19 crisis and other circumstances. He impressed up on the District Administration to continue its engagements with same spirit, conviction and dedication.

The Minister appreciated the extreme professionalism shown by District Administration officials in implementation of centrally and state sponsored schemes under the able leadership of DC Budgam. District Budgam shall be pilot district for introduction of new skill development courses, the Minister announced. These courses will take district to next level of achievement, the minister said.

During the meeting various deputations from across the district including political representatives, PRIIs, school students, common citizens apprised the Minister about their issues and grievances verbally as well as by submitting memorandums. The Minister patiently listened to all individuals/deputations and assured them of early redressal of all genuine issues. On the occasion the Minister also launched mobile application Aurzov (Healthcare mobile app.), Meri Awaaz (water bodies conservation), Covid Care service Budgam and e-Services Portal.

Countries using terrorism...

for ensuring that no country "tries to take advantage of the delicate situation in Afghanistan and use it for its own selfish interests."

"Today, the world is facing an increased threat of regressive thinking and extremism. In such a situation, the entire world must make science-based, rational and progressive thinking the basis for development. In order to strengthen a science-based approach, India is promoting experience-based learning, he told the UNGA meeting.

"On the other hand, countries with regressive thinking that are using terrorism as a political tool must understand that terrorism is an equally big threat for them, Modi said in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

Pakistan's neighbours, including Afghanistan's previous government and India,

Two brothers, juvenile arrested with 8 Kg Ganja

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Saturday achieved a major success by apprehending 3 notorious inter-state narco- smugglers including a Juvenile and recovered 8 Kg Ganja from their possession.

As per details, a Naka was established for routine checking near Railway bridge, Panama Chowk by Trikuta Nagar police where three persons, coming on foot from Narwal side towards Panama Chowk, were signaled to stop for checking. Instead of stopping, they tried to run away from the spot but were chased and subsequently overpowered by alert cops. On their search, 8 Kg high grade Ganja was recovered from their possession which they were carrying in different bags.

The trio was arrested and was identified as Laxman Dass Vaishnav alias Ajay and Parshotam Dass Vaishnav, both sons of Gautam Dass Vaishnav, resident of Village Pondi Tehsil Nawagarh, Chhattisgarh and a Juvenile (name withheld). FIR No. 313/2021 under sections 8/20 of NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Trikuta Nagar. Police team led by Insp Deepak Pathania SHO Trikuta Nagar and assisted by PSI Farmeen Choudhary and PSI Murtza Rehman made arrest/recovery under supervision of Bikram Kumar SDPO City East, Deepak Digna SP City South Jammu. On directions of SSP Jammu, Chandan Kohli, a special drive has been launched to break chain of evil menace of drug which is being appreciated by public of Jammu.

Rs 21,900 fine recovered from SoPs violators in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Continuing enforcement drive to implement COVID protocol across the district Ramban, the Enforcement teams on Saturday fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance. The enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs 21,900 taking the total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs 54,60,100.

The Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain phys-

ical distance besides taking COVID vaccination doses at their nearest CVC. District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr Suresh informed that as many as 3510 persons were administered first and second COVID vaccine doses across Ramban district.

As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr. Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 1,464 samples including 336 RTP-PCR and 1128 RAT samples besides administering COVID vaccine to 3,510 persons at dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

As per details, on September 23, 2021, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Kanha Chak by one Piyare Lal Mehta, son of Beli Ram Mehta, resident of Swaran Bihar, Purkhoo, Bhalwal, Jammu stating that on September 22, 2021 at about 2200 hours his neighbours namely Vicky Bhat, son of Jiya Lal Bhat and his wife Sweety Bhat; his father Jiya Lal Bhat and mother Kamlesh Bhat,

all residents of Swaran Bihar, Purkhoo restrained their way and jointly attacked him and his nephew (Bhanja) namely Vijay Bhat, son of Mohan Lal Bhat, resident of Swaran Bihar, Purkhoo, Bhalwal, Jammu, due to which they received serious injuries while his nephew was shifted to GMC Jammu and then further referred to Ludhiana for treatment. On this, FIR No 136/2021 under sections 307/341/323/504/506 of IPC and 4/25 of Arms Act was registered at Police Station Kanha Chak and investigation started.

After this special police teams of Police Station Kanha Chak under the supervision of SDPO Domana Kousheen Koul were constituted. The team led by SHO Kanha Chak Insp Vishav Partap Singh, after strenuous efforts and with help of CCTV footage, arrested accused namely Vicky Bhat and his wife Sweety Bhat. On their disclosure, a sharp-edged weapon was recovered and seized.

Four top leaders of the Haqqani Network are holding key positions in the interim Taliban government which includes at least 14 Cabinet members blacklisted by the UN. Under India's Presidency last month, the UN Security Council adopted a strong resolution reiterating the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan, including those individuals and entities designated pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), and notes the Taliban's relevant commitments.

At the time, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla had said that the resolution underlines terrorist individuals and entities designated by UN Security Council (resolution) 1267. This is of direct importance to India."

"Needless to say the adoption of the resolution is a strong signal from the Security Council and the international community on its expectations in respect of Afghanistan," he had said. In his speech, Prime Minister Modi said that the world must fulfil its duty by providing help to the people in war-torn Afghanistan where women, children and minorities are in need. "At this time, the people of Afghanistan, the women and children of Afghanistan, and the minorities of Afghanistan need help. And we must fulfill our duty by providing them with this help, Modi said.

Last month, India had warned that a "grave" humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the war-torn country and everyone is concerned about the increasing violations of fundamental rights of the Afghan people.

Biden for India's...

Minister Modi, applauded India's strong leadership during its UN Security Council Presidency in August 2021, according to the US-India Joint Leaders' Statement issued after their meeting in the White House on Friday.

In this context, President Biden also reiterated US support for India's permanent membership on a reformed UN Security Council and for other countries who are important champions of multilateral cooperation and aspire to permanent seats on the UN Security Council, it said.

President Biden's support provides a big boost to New Delhi's push for the reform of the powerful UN organ as India has been at the forefront of efforts at the United Nations to push for an urgent long-pending reform of the Security Council, emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member.

India in June asserted that the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on UN Security Council reforms can no longer be used as a smokescreen, as the General Assembly decided to roll over the IGN work to the next UNGA session and agreed to include an amendment proposed by the G4 nations of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan.

At present, the UNSC comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent member countries which are elected for a two-year term by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The five permanent members are Russia, the UK, China, France and the United States and these countries can veto any substantive resolution. There has been growing demand to increase the number of permanent members to reflect the contemporary global reality.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Modi, President Biden also reaffirmed US support for India's entry to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the joint statement said.

The NSG is a 48-member grouping which regulates global nuclear commerce.

Ever since India applied for the membership of the NSG in May 2016, China has been insisting that only those countries which have signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) should be allowed to enter the organisation.

India and Pakistan are not signatories of the NPT. After India's application, Pakistan too has applied for the NSG membership in 2016.

China maintains that there would be no discussion on India's entry into the NSG before reaching a specific plan on non-NPT members' participation in the elite grouping, as it declined to give a timeline to reach a consensus among member states on this issue.

President Biden's support to India's permanent seat in the UNSC assumes significance as last month, State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference that the US values "working with India at the United Nations, including in the context this month of the Security Council."

Responding to a question on whether the Biden administration thinks that India should be a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Price said that the US supports building a consensus for a "modest" expansion of the Council for both permanent and non-permanent members, provided it does not diminish its effectiveness or its efficacy and does not alter or expand the veto.

"We believe that a reformed Security Council that is representative, that is effective, and that is relevant is in the best interest of the United States and all of the UN member states," Price had said.

In their talks on Friday, Prime Minister Modi and President Biden also welcomed the extension of the Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development to leverage the combined capacities of India and the US to address global development challenges around the world, particularly in the Indo-Pacific and Africa, the statement said.

They renewed their close relationship and charted a new course to advance the partnership between the world's largest democracies. They also affirmed a clear vision that will guide the US-India relationship forward, the statement added.

Ex-Hizb terrorist...

11 days, they said. A police spokesman said a special police party, on specific information, carried out raids at various suspected locations and arrested Dulla who was presently putting up at Kundwar village in Chatroo area.

Dulla was wanted in a militancy-related case registered against him at police station Chatroo in 2002 but was evading arrest, he said.

He was produced in a local court which sent him to judicial custody, the spokesman added.

Earlier, two former militants turned absconders -- Nazir Ahmad of Budhar-Bonjwah and Abdul Gani alias "Mavia" -- were arrested after a long hunt of 12 years and 19 years on September 15 and 17, respectively.



2 dead, 2 children injured in Digdole mishap

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Two persons were killed while two children were injured when a car in which they were travelling rolled down into a Nallah on Jammu-Srinagar highway in Ramban district on Saturday evening.

As per the details, a Ford Figo rolled down near Digdole area, resulting in on the spot death of two persons and injuries to two children who were shifted to District Hospital Ramban.

One of the deceased persons has been identified as Intiyaz Ahmed Qadri (40), son of Ghulam Rasool, resident of Batpura Khanabal Anantnag while identity of the other, a girl, is yet to be ascertained.

The injured children have been identified as Mohsin Ahmed (5), son of Intiyaz Ahmed Qadri and Anayat Ahmed (10) son of Mohammad Iqbal Qadri. The search and rescue operations are still underway.

Youth ends life by jumping into river

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 24-year-old man died after allegedly jumping into Basantar river in Samba district on Saturday, police said.

Deepak Kumar, a resident of Goran village, died on the spot after getting hit with dried-up river bed, a police official said. He further said that body was recovered by a joint team of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) & police and taken to a hospital for conducting post-mortem. The motive of youth behind such an extreme step was not known immediately, the official said.

