

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!****Will change dev...**

Kashmir and Ladakh will be around Rs 1.4 lakh crore, the road transport and highways minister said.

The Union minister for road transport and highways also said all the projects undertaken by the BJP-led central government should be completed before the 2024 general elections.

He said there will be no compromise on the quality of the construction.

Gadkari also said that in the past two years, the Modi government has been able to do the same amount of work related to road projects in Jammu and Kashmir that earlier took 50 years.

"I have told them (executing agency) to complete the work on Zojila tunnel by December 2023 so that Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) inaugurates it before January 26 (2024). The deadline of 2023 is also because we have the (Lok Sabha) polls in 2024," Gadkari told reporters at a press conference at the tunnel site here.

He said that after the completion of the Z-Morh tunnel, the local tourism economy will get a boost.

Gadkari noted that tourism is the sector where 49 per cent of capital expenditure happens on the employment generation.

About the Zojila tunnel, he said it will not only be the longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia but also the world's highest tunnel at the height of 11,575 feet above the ground.

Saying that there was no such word as impossible in his dictionary, Gadkari said he was sure the fresh deadline would be met on the treacherous landscape.

The Union minister said after the completion of both the tunnel projects, the travel on Srinagar-Leh and Manali-Leh highways would be a lot easier.

"This will be a heaven... This highway is a lifeline for the people (here) and these tunnels will ease their sufferings. The aim is to increase the economic growth, employment potential and promote handloom and handicrafts," he said.

The travel time on these routes will be substantially reduced after the completion of the projects, he added.

The travel time on Zojila pass is 3.5 hours currently but through the tunnel, the journey can be completed within 15 minutes, he said.

"Not only for the people here, the tunnels will also bring ease for the pilgrims of the annual Amarnath Yatra here," he said.

He also said the ministry will study whether a second tube can be added to the project and was also seeing how to further ease the journey to the Holy Cave of Amaranth.

Asked whether the speed of construction work of the Z-Morh tunnel increased after Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh became Union territories, Gadkari said, "These issues are for you to evaluate (ye sab baaten apke adhyam aur chintan ke liye hai)."

The project cost of the Z-Morh tunnel is Rs 2,300 crore.

The 6.5-km-long Z-Morh tunnel project is under the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

For the Z-Morh tunnel, there is a five-km approach road and the tunnel is 6.5-km long and is bi-directional. It also has an escape tunnel for emergencies.

Gadkari also said he has directed the officials of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to take a beautification project on the Srinagar-Leh and Srinagar-Jammu highways.

He also announced that he will try to organise a conference of travel companies from across the country especially Maharashtra around the tunnel sites.

"It will help bring in tourism to the place," he said.

Gadkari also said the ministry was studying a proposal to construct a rope-way from Sonamarg to Thajwas glacier and seven lakes to increase the tourism potential in the area.

On a question about the construction works on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway which remains cut off due to landslides every now and then, Gadkari said there have been some problems, but those are being taken care of.

"The consultant on that has failed and we are taking action. More funds have been allotted and we have changed the designs, and the work on it will be completed in the next two years," he added.

He assured that the after two years, the travel time between Srinagar and Jammu will be about three hours.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, P.K. Pole, IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, DDC Chairperson Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishtiaq, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Krittika Jyotsna and officers/ Officials of NHIDCL were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, Ladakh Lt Governor Radha Krishna Mathur and Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan along senior officers of local administration and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) received Gadkari on his arrival at the eastern portal of the Zojila tunnel.

**J&K Govt constitutes...**

regulation of poplars in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir," read an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioners/Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, the Poplar Commission will be headed by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) as its Chairman while Regional Director, Social Forestry Department, Kashmir will be its Member Secretary.

Other Members of Commission include Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Director, Social Forestry Department, J&K; Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu; Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir; Dean, College of Forestry, SKAUST Kashmir; Dean, College of Forestry, SKAUST, Jammu; Director, Forest Research Institute, J&K or his/her representative; Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla or his/her representative (Research Expert); General Secretary, South Kashmir Wood Suppliers Union; President, Pencil Slats / Block Manufacturing Association, Kashmir; Dr. R.C. Dhiman, Expert; Aasifah Padroo, Addl. Advocate General, J&K High Court, Srinagar (Legal Expert); Nadeem Qadri, NGO, Environment Lawyer; Two Farmers/Nursery Growers Associated with cultivation/production of Poplar (representing South and North Kashmir to be nominated by PCCF/ Director, Social Forestry Department; and Special Secretary (Technical), Forest, Ecology & Environment Department.

"The Commission shall advise the government on various aspects of introduction, cultivation, utilization and regulations of Poplars in Jammu and Kashmir," the order stated and added "It shall formulate a policy on poplar cultivation as directed by High Court in response to PIL No.834/2015 c/w OWP No.2383/2018 vide Order dated March 26, 2019."

**56 SDRF personnel...**

resulted in promotion of 56 SDRF personnel to their next rank.

The notice added that among 56 personnel, one has been promoted to the rank of Sub-inspector, ten as ASIs, five as Head Constables and forty as Selection Grade

**Power shutdown****STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that power supply to Bishnah Town, Kotli, Dabba Deoli, Sarore and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 29 from 09 am to 01 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Kotli, Jabwali, part of Arnia, Trewa & its adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 29 from 09 am to 04 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Smailpur, Badhori, Meen Charkan and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 29 from 09 am to 02 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Smailpur, Raya, Gurah, Manda, Bateria, GREF, Sua No. 1, Gharkha and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 29 from 08 am to 02 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Billawar, Manda, Phinter, Parnalla and adjoining areas of Baggan shall remain affected on September 29 from 09 am to

04 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Rannagar, Chowki, Majouri and Basantgarh shall remain affected on September 30 from 09 am to 04 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution), JPDCL O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Logate Industry, PHE, Sahar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 29 and 30 from 09 am to 04 pm.

Joint Director, Hem Raj Pakhroo presented the welcome address and explained the purpose and aim of the

Directorate attended the workshop.

While giving a patient hearing, the Director assured them that the department is fully committed towards their socio-economic upliftment

Later in the evening, the Director also inspected Poultry project Belicharam and various other offices in the complex and took stock of their functioning.

The Director was accompanied by the officers of the department during the visit.

**DAH Jammu inspects dairy, poultry farms****STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Soon after taking over as Animal Husbandry Department Jammu, Dr. Sagar D. Doifode on Tuesday visited various dairy and poultry farms of Marh and adjoining areas of Jammu district.

During his visit, the Director interacted with the farmers and took first hand information about the on ground impact of the welfare schemes being run by the department and also enquired about any difficulties

being faced by them.

While giving a patient hearing, the Director assured them that the department is fully committed towards their socio-economic upliftment

Later in the evening, the Director also inspected Poultry project Belicharam and various other offices in the complex and took stock of their functioning.

The Director was accompanied by the officers of the department during the visit.

Constables, DGP-cum-Commandant General, HG/CD & SDRF, J&K has congratulated the promoted officials and encouraged them to perform with similar zeal and enthusiasm in future.

**Anti-infiltration operation...**

life be spared. As is the ethos of the Indian Army, after taking due precautions, he was taken into custody alive," the official said.

The apprehended infiltrator has given his identity as 19-year-old Ali Babar Parra, resident of Okara district in Pakistan's Punjab province.

"He has admitted to be a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba and was trained in Muzaffarabad," he added.

He has revealed that he was trained for three weeks at Khyber camp, Ghadiwala in Muzaffarabad in 2019, the officer said.

He was recalled this year for some important task and was told by his handlers that he has to do drop supplies at Patti. But when we went through the recoveries and modus operandi, it shows that they had come here for some kind of a strike which went beyond the drop of supplies, the official said.

The Army official said the infiltration attempt was made along the Salamabad Nala, which was the same route used for the 2016 suicide attack on the Uri garrison.

"The infiltrating column was supported by the Pakistani side with three porters bringing supplies till the LoC," he said.

The official said movement of such large number of people cannot take place without active complicity of the Pakistan Army deployed on the other side.

Major General Vats said there has been an increased movement at the launch pad across the UT, respectively.

**J&K records 95...**

the infection and were discharged from hospitals on Wednesday, raising the recovery count to 20,431, they said.

All the five new cases were reported in Leh, the officials said.

A total of 1,050 samples in Ladakh, comprising 583 from Leh and 477 from Kargil, tested negative for the coronavirus in the last 24 hours, they said.

The count of active COVID-19 cases stands at 144 and four in Leh and Kargil districts of the UT, respectively.

**Centre extends nationwide...**

continued focus on the five-fold strategy i.e. Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to COVID-appropriate behaviour, to safely navigate through the festive season and avoid the possibility of a surge in COVID-19 cases.

He said the state governments and UT administrations should continue with their vaccination programme with a focus to accelerate vaccination of eligible age groups and prioritisation of the second dose to eligible beneficiaries.

The home secretary urged the chief secretaries to issue directions to the district and all other local authorities concerned to take necessary measures as advised in the union health ministry advisory for prompt and effective management of COVID-19.

"I would also advise that orders issued by the respective state governments and UT administrations or district authorities in this regard should be widely disseminated to the public and to the field functionaries for their proper implementation," he said.

The number of fresh coronavirus cases was recorded at below 20,000 (18,795) in India after 201 days on Tuesday, taking the country's COVID-19 tally to 3,16,97,581, while the number of active cases declined to 2,92,206, the lowest in 192 days, according to the Union health ministry.

A total of 18,795 fresh COVID-19 cases were registered in a span of 24 hours, while the death toll due to the viral disease climbed to 4,47,373 with 179 more fatalities, the lowest in 193 days, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 AM.

**38 Tehsildars transferred...**

Posting on repatriation from UT of Ladakh as Tehsildar Jammu; Major Singh, Tehsildar Paddar as Tehsildar Bhagwali District Doda; Rohit Kumar Jr. JKAS awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Paddar; Mohammad Mubashir Bhat Jr JKAS, Tehsildar Karna as HQA in the office of IGR J&K; Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, Jr JKAS, HQA in the office of IGR J&K as HQA in the office of DC Budgam; Syed Eyaq Qadri Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Karna; Javid Ahmed Sheik Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Banihal as Tehsildar Tangmarg; Nisar Rasool, Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Tangmarg as Tehsildar Marwah District Kishtwar; Intiaz Ahmed Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Pargwal as Tehsildar Banihal; Manjeet Singh Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Pargwal; Showkat Hayat Mattao, JKAS, Tehsildar Chowki Choura as Tehsildar Bhaderwah; Raman Jandial, Jr. JKAS awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Chowki Chowra; Yasir Arifat Chowdhry, JKAS, Tehsildar Dudu Basantgarh has been transferred and posted in the office of Financial Commissioner (Revenue), J&K.

Karanjeet Singh, Jr. JKAS awaiting orders of posting has been posted as Tehsildar Dudu Basantgarh; Chander Shekhar Sharma Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Thathri as HQA in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar; Sahil Randhawa Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Thathri; Mohd. Farooq Khan, Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Maira Mandrian as Tehsildar Rafiabad, District Baramulla; Mamta Sudehshan, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Maira Mandrian; Farooq Hussain Butt, Tehsildar, HQA in the office of DC Jammu as Tehsildar Ramgarh, District Samba; Amit Upadyaya, Tehsildar Bhalwal as Tehsildar Khari District Ramtan; Ashok Kumar Chakravarty, Tehsildar Khari as Tehsildar Bhalwal; Gourav Sharma, Tehsildar Kathua as Tehsildar Mendar District Poonch; Vikram Kumar, Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Mendar as Tehsildar Kathua; Sumit Kohli, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar, Kotranka, District Rajouri; Suresh Singh, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Bhalwal; Paramdeep Singh, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Latti, District Udhampur; and Vipan Kumar, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting has been posted as Tehsildar Pancheri, District Udhampur.

**Sacking employees on...**

including links to militancy and separatism.

Six government employees, including two policemen, were dismissed from service on September 22 for their alleged links to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

About the sacking of employees on the grounds that they were appointed without following the laid down procedure, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the previous governments gave jobs to the people so that they could earn a living. "It is not as if we had taken money or there was corruption (in recruitment). We gave jobs to people so that they earn a living. Now, if they are sacking them, what will their children do? How will they meet everyday needs?" Abdullah said.

In response to a question, the Lok Sabha member from Srinagar said he has not received any information about the next meeting of the delimitation commission

for Jammu and Kashmir.

"As a Member of Parliament, I have to sit in the delimitation commission but so far I have not received any information," he added.

Asked about restoration of statehood and special constitutional status to Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said "We want to do it in a Gandhian way".

"The case is before the Supreme Court. There has been no hearing. What can we do? We can't throw stones. We want to do it the Gandhian way," he said.

**No need for...**

has been rendered infructuous by subsequent developments that have taken place since it was filed on May 27, 2021, during the second ways of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a matter of policy, walk-in registrations have been permitted. Hence, no directions are necessary for the petition under Article 32 of the Constitution. The petition is disposed of," the bench said, in its order.

Similarly, the bench also termed as infructuous the prayer of another PIL filed by advocate G S Mani, seeking direction to Centre and all States and UTs to ensure that proper medical treatment and facilities are being provided to non-COVID-19 patients like heart patients, pregnant women, having the disease with Kidney, Liver and lungs and patients waiting for major and minor medical operations and surgery during the lockdown period.

The bench told Mani that he has filed his petition in May this year and now that lockdown is over, his plea has also become infructuous.

"The first prayer has been rendered infructuous since the lockdown has ended. The second prayer is overbroad since a general direction to enforce fundamental rights has been sought. In the circumstances, the petition is disposed of since no directions are necessary at this stage," the bench said, in its order.

The top court, however, granted him liberty to approach the court in case of any necessity in the future.

Mani in his plea has claimed that due to the COVID-19 lockdown situation patients are struggling to get proper medical treatment and they are not getting admission, proper medical treatment, and facilities in government and private hospitals in all the States and UTs due to heavy rush in COVID ward.

Many hospitals have stopped their emergency ward treatment and postponed major surgeries. Many non-COVID patients need regular treatment and care, he said in his plea.

**Shah Faesal IAS...**