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J&K secures Rs 10,637 cr worth 19 mega road, tunnel projects (cr), construction of 2-L bridge over Rambiarā at Shopian on NH-444 (Rs 71 cr) and various other projects, including road safety projects.

The Ministry has also sanctioned preparation of DPR/Feasibility Study for various NH works to be up in next 3 years. These include widening and upgradation of NH-444 from Srinagar to Qazigund (63 km), construction of 2L+PS road from Shopian to Magam on NH-701A (75 km), construction of 10.80 Km long Panjtarni tunnel including approach (31 km), development of Dmail- Kātra-Bāmā NH-144 to 4-L specifications (82 km).

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah too thanked PM Modi for approving the road and tunnel projects for the Union Territory.

"In a major achievement, my government has got Rs 10,600 cr worth of road and tunnel projects approved by the union government. I am grateful to PM Modi and MoRTH Minister Nitin Gadkari for their continued support as we try to steer J&K on the path of progress, development and connectivity," Abdullah posted on his personal X handle.

A similar message was posted on the official handle of the chief minister.

Abdullah said that the Jammu and Kashmir government would work in close coordination with the road transport and highways ministry to ensure timely execution of these vital infrastructure projects.

Puri calls for doubling efforts to combat global menace of terrorism

ista memorial was unveiled on June 23, 1986, at the first anniversary of the bombing and consists of a garden, a sundial, and a rounded stone wall inscribed with the names of each person who died.

Family members of the passengers and crew of the plane gather every year at various memorials set for the victims.

According to RTE, the Irish public service broadcaster, some 60 relatives of the victims were represented at the annual ceremony on Monday in Ahakista near Bantry, the nearest point on land to the crash site.

"The ceremony at the memorial monument began with a minute's silence at 8.13 am, the exact time the explosion occurred on Air India Flight 182. It was followed by tributes from the families and Hindu and Christian readings," it said in a report.

Pak extends airspace ban for Indian aircraft

by Pakistan.

According to a NOTAM, or Notice to Airmen, issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority, the ban has been extended from June 23 to July 23.

"Pakistan airspace not available for Indian registered aircraft and aircraft operated/owned or leased by Indian airlines/operators including military flights," it said.

India's strikes as part of Operation Sindoor triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with the cessation of on-ground hostilities after an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10. However, the bilateral ties have not yet improved even when the ceasefire has been holding on.

Govt notifies Judicial Service Rules

read with proviso to article 309 of the Constitution of India and all other enabling provisions in this regard, the L.G, in consultation with the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission has been pleased to make the rules, regulating the promotion and service conditions of members of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Judicial Service."

"These rules may be called the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Judicial Service Rules, 2025," the notification says and adds: "These rules shall come into force on the date of their publication in the official gazette."

Rains trigger landslide on Mata Vaishno Devi track

near Satya view point along the Himkoti route when there was no movement of pilgrims, officials said.

The shrine board immediately pressed its men and machinery into service to clear the debris which was spread over more than 30-ft area, the officials added.

GPS 'spoofing' forces AI flight to return to Delhi

arranged from Delhi nearly six hours later, and the flyers reached Jammu well beyond the schedule.

Spoofing is a technique that involves deliberate tampering with the GPS signals, which are crucial for pilots to navigate the aircraft. This malicious act ends up guiding them to false locations.

Flight No. IX 2564 departed from Terminal 3 of IGI at 11.05 am and returned to the starting point at 1.28 pm, reveals flight tracking website, Flightaware. The Airbus 320 had reached up to Jammu but was unable to land there and returned.

It has been understood that since the location bordered Pakistan, the pilot took extreme caution to return rather than end up landing in some spot in the hostile neighbour's territory.

Op Sindoor achieved all objectives, injected fear among terrorists: Rajnath

wards becoming a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.

"This book will become a means to achieve the 2047 goal of making a Viksit Bharat. It is a karma granth of India's development journey," Singh said.

Singh in his address also made a reference to Operation Sindoor launched by India in May in retaliation to the Pahalgalam terror attack.

Operation Sindoor achieved all objectives, he said.

It also succeeded in injecting fear into the minds of terrorists, the defence minister said.

The event was also attended by Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State L Murugan, both of whom joined Singh on the dais for the formal release of the book.

To avenge the April 22 Pahalgalam terror attack, that left 25 Hindu tourists and a local dead, Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 when Indian military targeted terror hubs in Pakistan and PoJK, killing over 100 terrorists, including some belonging to the family of designated terrorist and Jaish-e-Mohammad founder Azhar Masood at Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

Global conflict rooted in 'over ambition': Gadkari

"Our heritage, legacy and history is so rich that our country was never authoritarian and expansionist. However, there is a kind of uncontrollable over ambition that is leading to the conflict in the world today, and a need has arisen to send a message of world peace and humanism in the world," he said.

The union minister was speaking at the inauguration of Shri Saraswati Karad Hospital, constructed by MIT Group of Institutions.

Asserting that India must become 'Vishwa Guru', Gadkari said, "Our ethos does not preach 'my welfare' or 'my family's welfare' but it talks about the world's welfare." The minister is in Pune to attend various events.

NIA gets 5-day remand of 2 OGWs who harboured terrorists

their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever.

The NIA has booked them under section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

To avenge the attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 & targeted nine terror hubs in Pakistan and PoJK, killing over 100 top terrorists. Pakistan had reacted by targeting civilian areas and defence installations in J&K but all its attacks were detected and foiled by the India's air defence system. A ceasefire was announced between the two countries on May 10.

After the attack, Army and police had launched a major search and combing operation in the forests of south Kashmir and Kishtwar district in Jammu division, while also announcing a Rs 20-lakh reward for providing information about the terrorists but they remained untraced. Over two thousand people were picked up across Kashmir for questioning. Many of them were released but many were booked under Public Safety Act.

The investigators had uncovered involvement of three terrorists and police released details of two foreigners and a local. The terrorists were identified as Adil Hussain Thoker, Hashim Musa and Adil Bhai.

Hashim Musa, alias Suleiman, and Ali Bhai, alias, Talha Bhai are Pakistani nationals. Police said both of them had been active for the past one or two years in south Kashmir. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy outfit of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgalam attack.

Further investigation in the case was underway, officials said.

PM's dynamism, willingness to engage 'prime as-set' for India: Tharoor

Modi's energy, dynamism and willingness to engage remains a prime asset for India on the global stage but deserves greater backing."

"The diplomatic outreach following 'Operation Sindoor' was a moment of national resolve and effective communication. It affirmed that India, when united, can project its voice with clarity and conviction on international platforms," said the Congress leader, who led a multi-party delegation to the US and four other countries to convey India's stand following the Pahalgalam terror attack and the military operation.

Tharoor said the lessons learned -- the power of unity, the efficacy of clear communication, the strategic value of soft power and the imperative of sustained public diplomacy -- will undoubtedly serve as guiding principles as India navigates an increasingly complex international landscape, leveraging its three Ts -- tech, trade and tradition -- and always striving for a more just, secure, and prosperous world.

He said the aftermath of the April 22, 2025, Pahalgalam terror attack and India's resolute response through 'Operation Sindoor' presented a critical juncture for the nation's foreign policy.

"While the immediate military action was decisive, the subsequent diplomatic outreach was equally, if not more, vital in shaping global perceptions and consolidating international support," he said.

"Leading one of the seven all-party parliamentary delegations to five countries in the Western Hemisphere - Guyana, Panama, Colombia, Brazil and the United States - offered me a unique vantage point to reflect on the lessons learned from this intensive period of public diplomacy," Tharoor said.

One of the most striking takeaways was the power of national unity in projecting a strong foreign policy voice, he said.

The very composition of the delegations, featuring Members

of Parliament (MPs) from diverse political parties, different states and varied faiths, was a potent message in itself, Tharoor said.

"It underscored that when it comes to national security and confronting terrorism, India speaks with one voice. This transcended domestic political differences, imbuing our message with greater credibility and gravitas in the eyes of our international interlocutors.

"Whether engaging with the President of Guyana or the US Vice-President, the collective resolve of India, represented by its varied political spectrum, resonated deeply," he asserted.

The delegations' primary objective was to provide clarity on 'Operation Sindoor', its rationale, the targeted nature of India's initial strikes against terrorist infrastructure, its calibrated and measured nature, and its avoidance of any harm to civilians and even to Pakistani military facilities, he said.

"We meticulously explained that India's actions were a legitimate exercise of self-defence, a necessary response to persistent cross-border terrorism. The success of this narrative was evident in the shift witnessed in several capitals.

"For instance, Colombia's retraction of its initial statement expressing condolences for supposed civilian casualties in Pakistan and its subsequent reaffirmation of support for India's sovereign right to self-defence was a significant diplomatic victory, directly attributable to our detailed and persuasive engagements," he said.

Tharoor also talked about the engagements in Washington DC.

"Even as a Pakistani delegation was simultaneously present, we found US representatives, including those who met the Pakistani officials, echoing our concerns and urging decisive action against terror groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed," Tharoor said.

Following the Pahalgalam attack, Tharoor has been making comments on the India-Pakistan conflict and the diplomatic outreach that are at variance with the stand of the Congress, which has been questioning the government over US President Donald Trump's claims of mediating a ceasefire between the two countries.

He has often drawn criticism from his own party and jibes aimed at him by Congress leaders for his stand.

People won't tolerate if you belittle Oppn: Kharge to Modi

his absence from the all-party meetings convened after the Pahalgalam terror attack.

Kharge said the Prime Minister's absence reflects his scant respect for the opposition.

Addressing a public gathering here, Kharge remarked that the country was going through a difficult phase.

"Recently, Pakistani terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgalam. In response, the Indian armed forces carried out strikes on terror facilities inside Pakistan and eliminated the terrorists," he said.

He alleged that while the entire nation and the armed forces worked in unison to defend the country, some individuals tried to take personal credit.

"Had they served in the Army as a captain, colonel, or lieutenant colonel, we would have appreciated them for doing a great job and fighting for the country. But that is not the case," Kharge said, without directly naming anyone.

Kharge was in Raichur along with Chief Minister Sidaramaiah, Congress ministers, and MLAs, where he laid the foundation stone for several projects and presided over the naming ceremony of Raichur University.

The Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said Congress was the first to demand an all-party meeting on the Pahalgalam terror strike.

"When the meetings were convened twice, the Prime Minister failed to attend on both occasions. I want to ask him why did he not attend".

He noted that leaders from Kanyakumari to Kashmir had left behind important engagements to attend the meeting, yet the PM chose not to attend despite being in the country.

"Instead, he was busy campaigning for the Bihar elections. What does that mean? While the country and soldiers were fighting on one side, the Prime Minister chose to campaign on the other, after inviting us to an all-party meeting. This is inappropriate," Kharge said.

He warned that such an attitude does not bode well.

"If you try to belittle the opposition, the leaders, people, and especially the youth of this country will not tolerate it," Kharge cautioned.

He also stated that the Congress party's guarantees are being implemented effectively across the country.

"Some jealous leaders and political parties are trying to undermine our guarantees. But they will not succeed in their efforts," he said.

Kharge added that criticising and defaming welfare initiatives that have directly benefited women and other citizens will not impress the people.

HC directs to remove encroachments in Jammu city

in case of repeated violations, they were directed to initiate cancellation of lease deeds.

The court directed that it was to be checked that no roadside food joints were to be allowed without proper licenses from JMC and the Food Safety Authority. Similarly, rehris (pushcarts) were to operate only at designated spots to avoid traffic obstructions.

The court also directed the Implementation of Street Vendors Act stating that that authorities must implement the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 and the J&K Street Vending Rules, 2021 in letter and spirit.

SSP, Jammu, was also directed to provide necessary security and support to JMC and JDA officers during enforcement actions.

The divisional commissioner, Jammu, already designated as nodal officer, would hold regular coordination meetings with the JMC Commissioner and the JDA VC.

The officials were asked to use minimum force during anti-encroachment operations to avoid unnecessary harassment, while maintaining strict enforcement.

Closing the PIL, the court granted liberty to Ajay Sharma, amicus curiae, and any public-spirited citizen to approach the court again in case of non-compliance by the authorities concerned.

By opposing Nehru's 'Kashmir policy', Mookerjee laid foundation for New India: Kavinder

erjee opposed the special status granted under Article 370, a mistake that stemmed from the misplaced vision of Jawaharlal Nehru. It was Mookerjee who gave the clarion call of 'Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan' at a time when the country needed clarity and unity," he said.

He said Dr Mookerjee's entry into Jammu and Kashmir without a permit in 1953 was a direct challenge to the discriminatory laws that separated the region from the national mainstream.

"His untimely death under detention didn't go in vain. It laid the ideological groundwork for what the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, finally accomplished by abrogating Article 370," he added.

He urged youth to study the life and ideology of Dr Mookerjee and the ideological battle he waged against Nehruvian appeasement and separatist narratives. "History will remember him as a man who resisted the divisionist tendencies encouraged by Nehru's policies," he said.

"Today's generation must never forget the sacrifices made by leaders like him, who believed in one flag, one Constitution, and one Prime Minister for one India," he added.

MLA Pawan Gupta, MLA Sunil Bhardwaj and Arun Gupta also spoke on the occasion, saying that the party remains committed to the vision of Dr Mookerjee and will continue working towards a strong, united and developed Jammu and Kashmir.

Jeewan Sharma conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Among those present on the occasion included Sumit Sharma, Sunil Badyal, Sunil Gupta, DDC vice-chairman Juhi Pathania, Varinder Sharma, Sumit Gupta, Suhani Katoch, Ashu Sharma, Darshna Devi, Arti Sharma, Pinky Devi (DDC member), ex-sarpanch Santosh Kumari, ex-panch Sharda Devi and ex-BDC member, Ghordi, Aarti Sharma.

Arab countries next target of US, Israel: Farooq

were eyeing their oil and gas.

"It is their (United States') long-time policy that Iran should not become a nuclear power. Even the Sunni countries in the region are against it but they do not have the courage to speak up," he said.

"Today, they think Iran has been attacked, but I want to warn them through you that one day, Israel will attack them also, because they want their wealth like oil and gas. Israel is only a facade, America is standing right behind," Abdullah told reporters after a party meeting in Srinagar.

Asked about the impact of the escalation of the war in the Middle East, he said it would severely affect the economic condition of all countries.

"I am hopeful that the (other) world powers are watching the situation. If this (war) escalates, the economic condition of every country will head towards ruin. They should try to stop it and I pray that they are successful as our condition in India is also very bad," he added.

Earlier, Abdullah said NC had formed a human rights wing that would be headed by Pampore MLA Hasnain Masoodi, who would be assisted by two other members. Masoodi is a retired justice.

Jammu prantha, ambal kaddu, rajma to be served on Vande Bharat train

most popular local dishes," the official said.

"Ambal kaddu, also known as kaddu ka ambal, is a popular Dogra cuisine prepared from pumpkin. It is sweet and sour and is often cooked at wedding functions. Another breakfast item, babru, is like a stuffed puri, a favourite in the hilly areas," he added.

The official said lunch items, such as paneer chaman and Kashmiri dum aloo, are served in other parts of the country as well. However, these will be prepared keeping in mind the local spices and flavours to let the travellers get a feel of the city they are visiting.

According to the IRCTC, other breakfast and lunch items, such as upma, poha, vegetarian cutlet etc., will also be available as an option for those passengers who do not wish to try local food.

The IRCTC said it has already initiated the process to provide an option for local food on premier trains, such as Vande Bharat and Rajdhani Express.

"We have recently introduced south Indian food, such as steamed matta rice, banana kalan etc., on the Thiruvananthapuram Rajdhani. A similar exercise has been initiated on the Nagpur-Secunderabad Vande Bharat train, where while starting from Nagpur, a popular dish of the city will be offered to the passengers and while returning from Secunderabad, they can relish Hyderabad cuisine," the official said.

CS reviews urban transformation, livelihood generation schemes of H&UDD

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a crucial meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to comprehensively review the progress on various works and schemes pivotal to transform the lives of people across the urban areas of J&K.

The significant deliberations saw the participation of officers including Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Commissioner JMC/SMC; MD, J&K Housing Board; MD, NULM and other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioners from all districts joined the proceedings virtually.

During the extensive review, the Chief Secretary emphasised on prompt completion of Smart City works that have been ongoing for several years. He observed that many of these pro-

jects are in their final stages of completion so it is imperative that we push for their swift conclusion now to ensure the intended benefits reach our citizens without further delay.

Reviewing the housing schemes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) [PMAY(U)], being implemented through the J&K Housing Board, the Chief Secretary called for intensified efforts on completing houses under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) verticals. He asked the Housing Board to proactively engage with the beneficiaries to ensure dwelling units are completed within stipulated timeline.

The performance of e-buses, intro-



duced under the FAME project, also came under scrutiny.

The Chief Secretary asked for initiating measures to reduce the disparity between expenditure incurred and revenue realized by these buses plying on city roads in Jammu and Srinagar.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD,

Mandeep Kaur, provided an overview, informing that out of 127 and 161 projects taken up under the Smart City Mission (SCM) in Jammu and Srinagar respectively, only 7 in Jammu and 8 in Srinagar are currently ongoing. These projects represent a massive budgetary outlay of Rs 3581 crore for

Jammu and Rs 3634 crore for Srinagar, integrating SCM funds with convergence modes.

Notable ongoing Smart City projects in Jammu included the iconic Tawi Riverfront Development, Oceanarium at Bag-e-Bahu, Waste to Wonder Park and crucial heritage conservation and street development initiatives. In Srinagar, the focus is on development of the Traditional Souq Market at Batamaloo, upgradation of Goni Khan Plaza, development of amenities along the Shalimar Canal, upgradation of Old Amira Kadal and provisioning of inland water transport.

CEOs of JSCL and SSCL informed the meeting that these e-buses are currently generating revenue of Rs 11/km, significantly below the national average of Rs 38/km for such services.

MD, Housing Board, Shahbaz

Mirza, informed the meeting that under the BLC vertical, approximately 28,000 houses have been completed across UT districts, showcasing a robust 72% progress.

The meeting was apprised that 1,52,426 households had been surveyed across the UT for PMAY-U Phase 2, identifying 46,770 potential beneficiaries. Additionally, 20,470 applications have been received on the Unified Web Portal, currently undergoing verification by the respective Deputy Commissioners.

Assessing livelihood generation schemes such as the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), PM-SVANidhi and department's readiness for the newly rolled-out D-JAY (Shehri) scheme, Dulloo reiterated the government's focus on uplifting the urban poor.