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Early restoration ...

Tanvir Sadiq has brought a bill to rectify the Land Grants Act, which was amended in 2021. I do not know whether Sadiq's bill will come up in the House or not, and similarly, there is a procedure for the PDP bill as well. But, if it is brought up, then my government will not be a hurdle," the chief minister said.

On the revival of the bi-annual practice of Darbar Move -- the shifting of offices between winter capital Jammu and summer capital Srinagar -- the chief minister said the promise made to the people has been fulfilled.

"Reviving the Darbar Move was a promise to the people. When the cabinet met about three weeks back, the decision was taken, and it was sent to the LG. When the LG signed the file, we issued the order. It is after 2021 that Jammu and Srinagar are being linked through the Darbar Move again," he said.

The chief minister asserted that his government would do whatever is possible to fulfil the promises made to the people within the Union Territory set-up.

"I have been saying since the first day that even under the UT, we will fulfil as many promises made to our people as we can," he said.

Referring to another promise of streamlining the reservation system, Abdullah said a Cabinet sub-committee -- tasked to examine the issue of reservation -- has submitted its report, which has been accepted by the Cabinet.

"Now, the department will prepare a Cabinet memo, which will be approved by circulation and then sent to the LG. That was one of our promises with the people," he added.

To a question whether anything can be expected from the upcoming session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for compensating the losses to the fruit industry, Abdullah said discussions were on with the Centre for a special package for the affected.

There is no need for the assembly session for that. Wherever the crops have suffered losses, be it horticulture or agriculture, an assessment has been done and discussions are on with the Centre for giving a special package similar to other states to provide compensation to the affected people, he said.

To a question about revoking FIRs against people for violations during the Covid pandemic, the chief minister said police and law and order were not with this government yet.

"When we get those powers, then surely we will fulfil the other promises as well," he added.

Earlier, the chief minister virtually inaugurated key urban infrastructure projects at Kulgam, including the Solid Waste Management and Material Recovery Facility at Lirrow, Municipal Shopping Complex and Modern Abattoir, aimed at improving commerce and civic amenities in the district.

He also chaired a comprehensive review meeting of District Kulgam, assessing progress in key sectors including CAPEX 2025-26 and CSS.

The chief minister, in a post on X, appreciated the district's effective response during the recent floods and reviewed measures for infrastructure restoration and public service delivery.

Abdullah directed officers to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during winter, expedite permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure, intensify field inspections, improve coordination among departments, and prioritise completion of all ongoing projects within set timelines to ensure visible results on the ground, the post said.

Gulchain Singh ...

headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir from 2005 to 2008.

He was also the president of Dogra Sadar Sabha and the founder of a chain of Dogra educational institutions. Charak had earlier served as AICC(I) in-charge for Punjab and Bihar.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh expressed grief on X, saying, "Deeply saddened by the sudden demise of former Minister in J&K State Government, veteran politician and prominent public figure, Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak. My sincere condolences to Smt. Charak and the entire family."

Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad described his former party colleague as a "dedicated, social and upright leader who always worked for the welfare and upliftment of the people."

He said, "He was a minister in my cabinet when I was Chief Minister, and we shared a long and close association. His contribution to public service and his commitment to the welfare of the people will always be remembered."

Lieutenant Governor Ladakh Kavinder Gupta also expressed condolences, saying Charak was deeply engaged in social service and public life in the region.

National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah and party's vice president and J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed grief, describing Charak's passing as a significant loss to the political and social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir.

They prayed for peace for the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family in this difficult time

LG Sinha ...

near Birdpur in Uttar Pradesh's Basti district, is identified with the ancient city of Kapilavastu, the capital of the Shakya clan to which Lord Buddha belonged.

The relics were transported to Russia with full religious sanctity aboard a special Indian Air Force aircraft, accompanied by a delegation of senior Buddhist monks, officials, and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya. The week-long cultural programme in Kalmykia also featured a special exhibition tracing the historical journey of the Buddha's relics.

The Elista exposition follows a series of international displays of the Buddha's relics in recent years. In 2022, the Piprahwa relics were taken to Mongolia; in 2024, relics from Sanchi were exhibited in Thailand; and earlier this year, relics from Sarnath were displayed in Vietnam.

In July, Prime Minister Modi had welcomed the repatriation of the sacred Jewel Relics associated with the Piprahwa stupa, calling it a proud moment for India and a reaffirmation of the nation's deep-rooted connection with Lord Buddha and his teachings.

The relics, believed to include bone fragments of Lord Buddha, were earlier scheduled to be auctioned by Sotheby's in Hong Kong on May 7, 2025. However, a timely and coordinated intervention by the Government of India ensured their successful retrieval and preservation of India's priceless spiritual heritage.

India targets ...

Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A and another for HTT-40 trainer aircraft at HAL's production hub in Nashik. Commending HAL's integration of BrahMos missiles on Sukhoi-30 MKI jets, he said these weapons destroyed several terrorist hideouts during Operation Sindoor.

In his remarks, the defence minister also noted the HAL's integration of BrahMos missiles into Sukhoi-30 MKI jets and said the weapons destroyed many terrorist hideouts during Operation Sindoor.

While underlining the importance of self-reliance in defence to meet future security challenges, Singh said India is looking at taking domestic defence production to 100 per cent as dependence on foreign military supplies creates "strategic vulnerability." "Now India is doing 65 per cent manufacturing on its own soil. Very soon, we will take our domestic manufacturing to 100 per cent as well," he said.

The new production facility for Tejas Mk1A will help the HAL produce at least 24 LCAs annually.

"In our security history, there have been only a few instances when the entire system has truly been tested simultaneously. Operation Sindoor was one such mission," Singh said.

"The HAL provided support at various operational sites 24 hours a day during the operation. It ensured the Indian Air Force's operational readiness by carrying out prompt maintenance on fighter jets and helicopters," he said.

HAL's Chairman and Managing Director DK Sunil termed the successful operationalisation of the LCA Mk1A and HTT-40 production from Nashik as a testament to the aerospace major's capacity for expansion.

"The HAL's Nashik division's capacity to produce indigenous advanced fighters in addition to Sukhoi-30MKI has added momentum to our production efforts to meet delivery timelines."

The defence minister said the HAL's Nashik team performed the "crucial task" of installing the BrahMos missile on the Sukhoi-30 MKI jets, which destroyed terrorist hideouts during the operation.

"This proved that when it comes to national security, we can make our own equipment and protect ourselves with it," he said.

Singh also witnessed a maiden flight by a Tejas LCA Mk1A manufactured at the Nashik facility.

In his address, Singh described the flight of the aircraft as a shining symbol of India's growing self-reliance in defence.

Highlighting the transformation of the defence sector in the last decade, he asserted that India which once imported 65-70 per cent of critical military hardware, is now manufacturing 65 per cent of the equipment on its own soil.

The defence minister also lauded the HAL's Nashik facility for playing a pivotal role in taking India's defence manufacturing capabilities to "newer heights" for over six decades.

From manufacturing and overhauling fighter jets such as MiG-21 and MiG-27 to becoming the production hub of Sukhoi-30MKIs, this campus has become a glowing symbol of India's self-reliance in the defence sector, he said.

Singh also pointed out that the ongoing construction of the LCA Tejas and HTT-40 aircraft is also the result of collaboration between various industry partners of the country.

"This collaboration is proof that if the government, industries, and academia work together, no challenge is too big," he said, acknowledging the trust placed by the Indian Air Force in aircraft such as Tejas and HTT-40.

"When we came to power in 2014, we realised that without self-reliance, we can never be truly secure. In the beginning, we faced numerous challenges, the biggest being 'limited defence preparedness' and 'import dependency'," he said.

"Everything was limited to government enterprises, and the private sector had no significant participation in the production ecosystem. In addition, there was not enough focus on defence planning, advanced technology, and innovation," he said.

Singh said this forced the government to depend on other countries for critical equipment and cutting-edge systems, which increased costs and created strategic vulnerabilities.

"This challenge encouraged us to move forward in the direction of new thinking and reforms. The results are visible today. We not only reduced import dependency, but also strengthened our commitment to indigenisation," he said.

"Whatever we used to buy from abroad, we are now manufacturing it domestically, be it fighter aircraft, missiles, engines and electronic warfare systems," Singh said.

MHA directs ...

judicial officers," he announced.

The Chief Secretary recounted that the September 24 violence, which erupted during what was intended to be a peaceful gathering, led to tragic loss of lives and widespread injuries. "Four precious lives were lost and about 90 people were injured, including 72 seriously. Our doctors worked tirelessly through the night, performing 11 complex surgeries to save lives. Today, only five patients remain under treatment for bone injuries," he said, commending the dedication of the medical teams at SNM Hospital.

He also confirmed that most of those detained in connection with the violence have been released, except 23

individuals who remain in judicial custody as per court orders.

Dr Kotwal urged the people of Ladakh to maintain peace and avoid large public gatherings that could risk further unrest. "We have only recently restored normalcy--reopened schools, restored internet, and lifted Section 163 restrictions. Tourism and business are reviving. At this stage, we cannot afford another disruption," he cautioned.

He appealed to community leaders to reconsider any plans for mass mobilization or marches. "The government has fulfilled the key demand for a judicial inquiry. Let us allow peace and dialogue to prevail," he said, adding that further discussions on other local issues will soon resume under the High-Powered Committee (HPC) framework.

Addressing questions on compensation for victims' families, Dr. Kotwal assured that the administration was working with the Centre to ensure fair relief.

"We have full sympathy with families who lost their breadwinners. Financial aid and sustainable support mechanisms are under consideration. Money is not the issue--principle and fairness are," he said.

Responding to queries about the deployment of security forces, he clarified that the arrival of Rapid Action Force (RAF) companies in Leh was a replacement, not an addition, to existing forces. "RAF is better trained for crowd management. Two normal companies were replaced by RAF units--no increase in overall numbers," he explained.

Dr. Kotwal also refuted allegations of harassment of village heads or government employees, emphasizing that maintaining public order is a shared civic responsibility.

The Chief Secretary firmly dismissed any insinuations that questioned Ladakh's patriotism. "The people of Ladakh are among the most patriotic citizens of our nation. Their contribution to defending our frontiers is unparalleled--especially through the Ladakh Scouts, our pride. If any unfortunate remarks were made by anyone, they do not reflect the government's view," he asserted.

Dr. Kotwal also touched upon ongoing governance reforms, noting that after the August 2024 announcement of five new districts in Ladakh, the administration is awaiting Ministry of Finance approval for new posts and restructuring under the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils framework.

Dr Kotwal urged all residents to work together to preserve peace and harmony. "We have come through a difficult period. Let us not repeat mistakes that lead to regret. The government has heard the people, responded to their key demand, and initiated a transparent judicial process. Now, let us move forward--peacefully and unitedly--for the progress of Ladakh."

It may be mentioned here that to press for the Judicial Inquiry and other demands, the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance have announced peaceful march to be held in Leh, Kargil and other places on October 18. Now it is to be seen that whether these groups still go ahead with the peace march after the announcement of Judicial Inquiry.

India no ...

compulsion his dispensation does it with conviction and has turned every risk into reform.

"Earlier governments carried out reforms as compulsion, we now do it with conviction. Age of unknown can be uncertain thing for world but it is opportunity for India as it has always turned risks into reforms

"... We have turned every reform into resilience and every resilience into a revolution," he told the gathering.

The prime minister underlined that India now does not remain silent after terror attacks but hits back at using surgical and air strikes.

"India no more remains silent after terror attacks but gives befitting reply through air strikes, surgical strikes and Operation Sindoor," he said.

"When wars became headlines globally, India proved naysayers wrong by continuing to march ahead as fastest growing economy," added Modi.

Asserting that India is not in a "mood to stop", he said as the world today faces various roadblocks and speed breakers, it is only natural to talk about an unstoppable India.

"We will neither pause nor slow down. 140 crore Indians will move forward together with full momentum.

"Today, India has moved from being among the fragile five to becoming one of the world's top five economies...from chips to ships, India is self-reliant and filled with confidence in every sphere," he said.

Noting that nationalisation of banks during Congress rule led to creation of "mountain of non-performing assets for banks", Modi said that democratisation of financial and other institutions is key driver behind unstoppable India.

"People are India's biggest strength and they can excel when there is no pressure or intervention from government.

"India has proved everyone wrong on digital financial infrastructure. World sees India as reliable, responsible, resilient partner and land of opportunities," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also conveyed to his Sri Lankan counterpart Harini Amarasuriya India's commitment to work together in the shared development journey of the two countries as both the leaders held talks to boost overall bilateral ties.

Amarasuriya is on a three-day visit to India beginning Thursday, in her first trip to the country India after assuming charge of the top office.

"Our discussions covered a broad range of areas, including education, women's empowerment, innovation, development cooperation and welfare of our fishermen," Modi said on X.

"As close neighbours, our cooperation holds immense importance for the prosperity of our two peoples as well as the shared region," he said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Modi conveyed that Amarasuriya's visit would impart fresh momentum to the "historic and multi-faceted India-Sri Lanka ties".

It said the two leaders discussed measures to strengthen cooperation in a number of areas, including education, technology, innovation development cooperation and welfare of Indian fishermen.

Highlighting the special ties between India and Sri Lanka, Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to work together in the shared development journey of the two countries, it said.

Modi also recalled his State visit to Sri Lanka in April

during which he held fruitful discussions with President Anura Kumara Disanayaka.

Modi conveyed his warm wishes to President Disanayaka, and said that he looked forward to their continued engagements, according to the MEA.

Man chargesheeted ...

procure weapons and carry out a Jihadi-style terror strike aimed at destabilising the country, the agency said. The NIA, assisted by other security agencies, foiled the plan before it could be executed.

The case, registered as RC-01/2025/NIA/CHE (Akhilatur LeT and Salafi Ideologue case), remains under investigation as part of the agency's intensified campaign against radicalisation and violent extremism across India.

Police worked ...

service at a time when India is undergoing transformative change. The challenges before you are not simple. Terrorism, Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) and violent separatism still threaten our internal security even as newer threats like cyber crimes, financial fraud, radicalisation and information warfare emerge", he said.

As guardians of democracy, you must lead from the front with the courage to fight, compassion to heal and an unshakeable sense of justice, and that treats both the weak and the powerful without discrimination, he said.

The future of policing must be smart, strict and sensitive, modern and mobile, alert and accountable, reliable and responsive, techno savvy and well trained, Chawdhary said, adding "You must lead by example".

He said technology will be a force multiplier, but technology alone will not win the trust. Trust is earned through compassion, accessibility and a readiness to listen to the people you serve, he said.

"Remember, a police station is the first point of contact for the citizen and its functioning will reflect your leadership more than anything else. Strengthening that grassroots interface will determine the true credibility of the service," he said.

A total of 190 officer trainees took part in the ceremony, including 174 IPS probationers and 16 foreign officers from Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives. SVPNPA Director Amit Garg also spoke.

JDF walks...

Development Front (JDF) has decided to exit the People's Alliance for Change (PAC), which came into existence a few months ago in collaboration with the People's Conference (PC) and the People's Democratic Front (PDF)," the JDF said in a statement.

The Jamaat-backed outfit said it believes pursuing an independent course will better serve its vision, values, and principles.

"...within the alliance framework, JDF has always exercised its democratic right to express differing opinions. After due reflection, we believe that pursuing an independent course will better serve our vision, values, and principles," the statement said. Though the JDF cited "certain differences" in the working style of the PAC, it didn't provide the specifics. However, sources in the know say that the erstwhile Jamaat cadres wanted to field their candidate in the upcoming bypolls in the Budgam assembly seat, scheduled to go to the polls in November. But the PAC is believed to be pushing for Ha-keem Yaseen as its joint candidate.

With the exit of JDF, it will be a difficult run for the PAC candidate as the former Jamaat cadres could have managed support from this region.

The PAC was a new political grouping in Jammu and Kashmir, formed only in June this year to challenge the existing political structure and offer an alternative to the region's long-established parties.

1st freight ...

supply of essential commodities to the Valley, reduce logistics costs and travel time, and lessen dependence on road transport -- especially during adverse weather conditions when road connectivity is disrupted.

In recent months, the Valley has witnessed growing freight activity, including the transport of apples from Kashmir to Delhi and the movement of Maruti vehicles and other goods to the region.

Singhal said the arrival of the salt consignment is expected to pave the way for more such freight movements, further strengthening trade links between Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir.

"With such initiatives, Indian Railways continues to expand the logistics network in the Union Territory, ensuring efficient movement of essential and commercial goods for both people and industries," an official said.

PDP slams ...

Kashmiris," Para said on X. The chief minister on Thursday said the Cabinet has accepted the sub-committee report on reservation, which would be sent to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for approval. However, there was no word on what the contents of the report were.

On December 10 last year, the government had constituted the Cabinet sub-committee to look into grievances raised by various sections of aspirants against the existing reservation policy in the Union Territory.

Para said, "By endorsing it, @OmarAbdullah isn't defending equity, he's advancing the disempowerment agenda".

In another post, Para sought the immediate release of the cabinet sub-committee report.

"Kashmiris gave @OmarAbdullah a historic mandate to defend their rights -- yet he stands with the most anti-Kashmiri decision in decades. The new reservation matrix is a political project to dilute Kashmiri representation. We seek the immediate release of the sub-cabinet committee report," he said.

The PDP MLA said National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah started a mission of Kashmiri empowerment, but it is now being "reversed by his own party to defend an illegal, BJP-driven reservation policy".