From Page 1

Will ensure

operationalization of Cinema Halls in Kashmir, incentives to film makers, Single Window portal, taken by the government to create a vibrant film ecosystem in Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. He said that Jammu Kashmir will host the International Film Festival next year.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to famous Theatre and Film personality of J&K, Mushtaq Kak and recalled his outstanding contribution to the world of cinema and theatre.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the efforts of 'Vomedh Organization' for promoting cinema in Jammu Kashmir and felicitated various stakeholders associated with the event. Renowned film-maker and actor, Pankaj Khajuria was conferred with the Mushtaq Kak award.

Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu -Samba -Kathua Range; Rohit Bhat, President Vomedh and Festival Director of Jammu Film Festival & TIFFS; senior officials, participants of the Film Festival, industry professionals, prominent artists and cinema enthusiasts were present.

CM Omar

transform J&K's economy. We rely heavily on imports for many necessities, such as dairy products, meat, and oilseeds. Our efforts should aim to produce these locally through import substitution. If we achieve surplus production, we can sell it outside, leading to a positive shift in J&K's economy."

Omar Abdullah called for efforts to restore farming as a viable and respected livelihood for future generations.

"Our farmers must feel confident that their hard work on the land will generate income. However, it is disheartening that the younger generation is distancing itself from agriculture. Productive agricultural land is increasingly being used for nonagricultural purposes because our children hesitate to connect with agriculture and allied sectors. This mindset needs to change," he lamented.

Speaking about Jammu's agricultural potential, he said, 'Multiple-farming, cultivating staple crops, and utilizing land for high-value products hold immense potential. Jammu is already renowned for its RS Pura Basmati, Rajma and Gucchi mushrooms from Kishtwar. Products like olives and exotic fruits, which were unheard of just a few years ago, are now becoming common in our homes. There is no scarcity of potential here.'

He further emphasized the importance of undertaking research and ensuring that its benefits reach every corner of J&K.

"The practical implementation of research is crucial, and the responsibility lies in ensuring that its benefits reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. Farmers must be informed about the advantages of these practices so that agriculture becomes productive and attractive, even for the younger generation."

The Chief Minister also pledged his government's unwavering support to SKUAST, saying, "This four-day program is an excellent initiative for farmers and visitors to learn and benefit from. My government will fully support and assist the university in its endeavours. We stand shoulder to shoulder with you, and you will always find our doors open to help this institution thrive."

During the event, Omar Abdullah released several books on agriculture and research authored by various experts.

He also felicitated progressive farmers from Jammu division for their contributions to the sector.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the National Agriculture Summit & Farmers' Fair-2024 in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu BN Tripathi, MLA RS Pura-Jammu South Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, and other dignitaries.

On the occasion, Omar Abdullah laid the foundation stone of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development at the main campus of SKUAST-Jammu and planted saplings of various fruit plants alongside the Deputy CM, Agriculture Minister, MLA, and VC SKUAST-Jammu.

The Chief Minister also inspected stalls set up by agriculture and allied departments, interacting with staff and farm-

He inaugurated the Krishi Mela Rural Sports by blowing a whistle and witnessed a tug-of-war competition among boys and girls of different categories.

The event witnessed the participation of scholars, researchers, scientists, students, and progressive farmers, making it a significant platform for knowledge-sharing and capacitybuilding in agriculture.

Omar-led cabinet...

agenda of the meeting has not been disclosed yet, sources have revealed that it will primarily focus on discussing crucial policies aimed at driving development and addressing pressing governance challenges

The meeting is expected to tackle key issues related to public welfare, with an emphasis on improving the effectiveness of administrative systems.

J&K government is likely to take important decisions including double Rashan, 12 LPG Cylinders per year, 200 units of

free electricity, 4.1 lakh jobs, regularization of daily wagers etc. Sources also revealed that strengthening governance frameworks and introducing new initiatives to benefit the public will be among the top priorities of the discussions.

With better ...

(BRTF), Amiya Shrivastava, said, "Jawahar Tunnel is a twin-tube tunnel, which is 2.5 km long. It was constructed by the Government of India in 1956. As you know, it has been many years. It was necessary to renovate and rehabilitate this tunnel. So, we took up the task of rehabilitating Jawahar Tunnel."

He further said, "We wanted to incorporate all the new facilities that have come in the tunnels. In this regard, MoRTH had given us a budget, which is a part of National Highway 444. So, the work of rehabilitation has been done with the help of an EPC contract of Rs. 62.5 crores. And its completion time was one year. This work started in 2023 and is almost ready in

He elaborated on the upgrades, "Earlier, there were no CCTV cameras, sensors to detect smoke, jet fans were not avail-

able. Apart from this, the problem of seepage, the surface on which the vehicles run on the payement was also broken after a long period of use. After that, new work has been done on all of this. Tunnel monitoring and SCADA software has been installed in this. Tunnel monitoring will be done in real-time from a control room, which we will keep an eye on. For any kind of smoke, fire hazard, state-of-the-art equipment for firefighting has been installed. CCTV cameras have been installed. A telebag facility has been installed. In addition to this, new facilities have been added for lighting, and some improvements have been made. So, in this way, the tunnel has been completely renovated."

He added, "I can tell you that people will get a lot of convenience from this. Travel time will also be reduced because the road from Banihal to Qazigund has also been strengthened recently, this year. So, let's assume that the time it used to take a traveler from Banihal to Qazigund was 45 to 50 minutes, that time has been reduced to at least 20 to 25 minutes. So, it is done for the convenience of the common people. Not only will it save time, but the travellers who want to travel will have to pay toll tax, which is due to the passage of the Navyog Tunnel. Due to the passage of this Jawahar Tunnel, no toll tax has been paid."

Kashmir situation ...

The CRPF IG inaugurated the second edition of the CRPF Cup Srinagar Sector, a cricket tournament, at the Sher-e-Kashmir stadium here.

He said 16 teams - 12 from the Srinagar district, and two teams each from Budgam and Ganderbal districts - are participating in the tournament. A football tournament will be organised Next month, the CRPF officer said.

Key accused ...

and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen came to light in June 2020 when the Handwara Police registered a case following the seizure of 2 kg of heroin and Rs 20 lakh cash during vehicle

The vehicle of Abdul Momin Peer, another accused, was intercepted while it was coming from Baramulla. Interrogation of Peer resulted in the recovery of another 15 kg of heroin and Rs 1.15 crore cash.

"The NIA has arrested a wanted accused in a 2020 Kashmir narco-terror case linked with a conspiracy of the banned Pakistan-based terrorist organisations to procure and sell narcotic drugs to raise funds for promoting terrorism," the

NIA, which re-registered the case on June 23, 2020, has filed a series of chargesheets so far against 15 accused.

The federal agency said its investigations to dismantle the narco-terror network and destroy the root of the terror funding is continuing.

NAC lauds ...

restoring peace and stability in JK over the past decades and highlighted their contributions to inclusive development

He emphasised the need for the Rashtriya Rifles to continue re-orienting, restructuring and re-configuring as an "agile, lean and mean technology-enabled force" to address prevailing operational challenges and efficiently tackle those likely to emerge in the future.

The Lt General reiterated that all Rashtriya Rifles commanders and troops must continue operating "for the people and with the people" as a counter-terrorism force deeply embedded in the geography and demography of JK.

"As emissaries of the Indian Army, in grassroots contact with the populace, the Rashtriya Rifles are well poised to contribute to both community and nation-building. This larger aim must define all our lines of effort," he said.

Lt Gen Kumar congratulated all ranks of the Rashtriva Rifles for their steadfast commitment and sacrifice in successfully prosecuting the counter-terrorism effort in JK.

The conference, attended by Major General Anupam Bhagi, Additional Director General Rashtriya Rifles; General Officers Commanding counter-insurgency forces, Rashtriya Rifles formation battalion commanders and senior officers of the Army headquarters and Northern Command discussed various issues, including the security situation, operational preparedness, training, deployments and counter-insurgency opera-

India. Guvana ...

Guyana after 56 years is an important milestone in our relations. I have had a deep personal bond with Guyana," he said while recalling his visit as a common citizen to the South American country about 24 years back.

The prime minister arrived here last night from the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, where he attended the G20

One of the MoUs will provide for the possibility for deployment of India's UPI (Unified Payments Interface) digital payments system in Guyana.

"In today's meeting, we have identified many new initiatives to strengthen our cooperation. We will continue to make efforts to increase our mutual trade and economic cooperation," Modi said.

The prime minister said India will continue to contribute to the capacity building of Guyana's military through scholarships and training.

"Close cooperation in the field of defence is a symbol of our deep mutual trust. I am happy that this year India has supplied two Dornier aircraft to Guyana," he said.

The agreements signed between the two sides will provide for cooperation in a vast range of areas, including hydrocarbons, agriculture, medicines, digital payment systems, culture and digital transformation.

In his remarks, Modi said India has made a significant contribution to the skill development and capacity building of the people of Guyana as per their needs.

The two sides also agreed to expand cooperation in the agriculture sector.

"With the millet seeds provided by India last year, we were able to contribute to increasing the food security of Guyana as well as the entire region," Modi said.

"Similarly, we will also cooperate in increasing the cultivation of rice milling, sugarcane, corn, soya and other crops,"

In the talks, the Indian side also agreed to set up a Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Guyana.

"Along with increasing pharma exports, we will also work

on building Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Guyana. India has been contributing as a reliable partner in the infrastructure development of Guyana," Modi said.

The two leaders also deliberated on regional and global is-

"We also discussed many global and regional issues. India and Guyana agree that all problems should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy," the prime minister said.

"We are unanimous that reform in global institutions is the need of the hour. Climate Justice is a priority issue for both of us. We will continue to work together on all issues," he

On his part, President Ali said Modi's visit to Guyana represents a significant milestone in enhancing cooperation be-

He praised Prime Minister Modi, calling him a 'champion among leaders' for his impactful leadership and contribution to the developing world.

"Thank you very much, Prime Minister Modi. It is our greatest honour to have you here. You are a champion among leaders. You have led incredibly," Ali said during a joint press statement with Modi.

He lauded Modi's governance style, noting its relevance and adoption in Guyana and other nations.

"You have shown the light to the developing world, and you have created development metrics and a framework that many are adopting in their own country. And much of it is relevant to us here in Guyana," he said.

De-escalation...

Considering that both countries are and will continue to remain neighbours, he mentioned that "we need to focus on cooperation rather that conflict". He called for reflecting on the lessons learnt from the unfortunate border clashes of 2020, take measures to prevent recurrence of such events and safeguard peace and tranquility along the India-China border.

Earlier in the day, Rajnath arrived at Vientiane on a threeday visit. He will attend the 11th ADMM-Plus on Thursday and address the forum on regional & international security issues.

Pertinent to mention here that, in the first high-level engagement since the militaries of the two sides disengaged from Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh the other day, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi deliberated on the next steps in India-China ties at a meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

Jaishankar and Wang held the delegation-level talks on the sidelines of the G20 Summit late.

In a post on 'X', the external affairs minister said both sides noted the progress in the recent disengagement of the border areas and exchanged views on the next steps in the bilateral ties.

It is learnt that both sides are in the process of reviving var-

ious dialogue mechanisms including the special representatives talks on the boundary question as decided at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Russian city of Kazan last month. Days after the two sides reached an agreement on October 21

on disengagement in Demchok and Depsang, Indian and Chinese militaries completed the process marking a virtual end to over four-year standoff in the two friction points.

The two sides also resumed patrolling activities in these areas after a gap of almost four-and-a-half years.

"On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio, met CPC Politburo member and FM Wang Yi of China," Jaishankar said.

"We noted the progress in the recent disengagement in the India-China border areas. And exchanged views on the next steps in our bilateral ties.

"Also discussed the global situation," he said. In his opening remarks at the talks, Jaishankar referred to the meeting between Modi and Xi on October 23 on the sidelines of the BRICS

"In Kazan, our leaders reached a consensus on taking the xt steps in our relationship, bearing in mind the understanding of October 21. I am glad to note that on the ground, the implementation of that understanding has proceeded as planned,"

"Our leaders have directed that the Foreign Ministers and the Special Representatives should meet at an early date. Some progress, some discussions have happened in that direction," he

In the meeting, Jaishankar and Wang discussed the next steps. The external affairs minister also noted the importance of India-China ties in his remarks.

"First of all let me say it is very good to meet on the sidelines of the G20. We saw each other recently on the sidelines of the BRICS as you noted.

"And our contribution to both platforms was notable in shaping the eventual outcomes," he said.

"But it was a reminder to us of the importance of our two countries in international politics. It was also an equally significant testimony of why our bilateral relations are so important," he added.

People familiar with the latest developments in India-China relations said the Special Representative dialogue will be the next significant forward movement.

India's Special Representative for the dialogue is NSA Ajit Doval while the Chinese side is headed at the talks by Foreign

Minister Wang. After the completion of disengagement, Indian and the Chinese militaries are carrying out one round of patrolling each in

Depsang and Demchok, people familiar with the matter said. At the same time, they said the two sides have maintained

their deployment of troops along the LAC and the focus now will be on de-escalation of the overall situation.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the region.

Talks at multiple levels are underway towards de-escalation, the people said.

After India and China reached the agreement on October 21 for disengagement in Depsang and Demchok, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said the Indian military is trying to restore "trust" and both sides will have to "reassure each other" to achieve this objective. Two days after the pact was sealed, Modi and Xi held talks in

the Russian city of Kazan.

The two leaders endorsed the agreement on patrolling and disengagement and issued directions to revive various bilateral dialogue mechanisms, signalling attempts to normalise ties.

In the nearly 50-minute meeting held on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, Modi underscored the importance of properly handling differences and disputes and not allowing them to $\ disturb\ peace\ and\ tranquility\ in\ border\ areas.$

The prime minister said mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual sensitivity should remain the basis of the relations

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas

In an address at an event on Saturday in Delhi, Jaishankar said the disengagement part of the "problem" with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh has been put to rest and the focus should now be on de-escalation.

It is "reasonable" to expect some improvement in the relations following the final round of disengagement, he said but hesitated to say that there could be a reset of ties.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake area.

India eager ... Guyana," Modi said in a post on X.

Modi was also handed over the 'Key to the City of Georgetown' as a testament to the close India-Guyana ties.

"I am also humbled to have received a 'Key to the City of Georgetown' by the Mayor of Georgetown. India is eager to deepen cooperation with CARICOM across various sectors,' he added.

President Ali said he had the pleasure of introducing Prime Minister Modi to several CARICOM leaders who are in the city for the 2nd India-CARICOM Summit. "This meeting underscored the strengthening bonds between India and the Caribbean, built on shared values and a vision for mutual progress," he said in a post on X. Ali said Prime Minister Modi also had the opportunity to

connect with members of the vibrant Indian diaspora in Guyana. It was heartwarming to witness a cultural display under our "One Guyana" initiative, celebrating unity in diversity and the deep ties that bind our nations, he said. He said he was looking forward to engaging in high-level

discussions and formalizing several agreements through the signing of multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).

"This visit is a testament to the enduring partnership between Guyana and India, and I am confident it will lead to even greater collaboration in the future," the president said. During his visit, Modi will meet Ali and exchange views on

giving a strategic direction to the unique relationship between the two countries. He will also pay respect to one of the oldest Indian diasporas,

which migrated more than 185 years ago, and engage a fellow democracy with an address in Guyana's parliament. According to the MEA, there are around 3,20,000 people of

Indian origin in Guyana. The prime minister arrived here from Brazil where he attended the G20 Summit and also met with global leaders, including US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Earlier, Modi travelled to Nigeria, where he held bilateral talks with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and interacted with the Indian community.

Delhi inducts ...

Nearly 80 departments and different agencies within the Delhi government, including the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, employ approximately 1.4 lakh people.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai urged private of-

fices, industries and businesses to implement similar measures to help mitigate the city's air pollution crisis. According to the order, all government offices under the

Government of NCT of Delhi will operate with half of their staff present, while the other half will work remotely. Administrative secretaries and heads of departments have been instructed to ensure that essential services remain

uninterrupted with officers concerned attending office as needed, it said, adding the order will remain in effect until GRAP Stage-IV is lifted. Restrictions under GRAP Stage-IV include a ban on construction and demolition activities, curbs on diesel vehicles, school closures, and a prohibition on the entry of diesel-pow-

those transporting essential goods. Industrial operations contributing to air pollution have

ered medium and heavy goods vehicles into Delhi, except

also been restricted. On Wednesday, Delhi witnessed yet another day under a blanket of toxic air, recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 426 in the "severe" category, which followed the coldest night of the season so far. People reported eye irritation, respiratory

discomfort, and other health issues. Delhi Environment Minister Rai suggested that private entities consider shifting office hours to begin between 10:30 am and 11 am to reduce vehicular congestion during peak

"Adjusting office timings will not only ease traffic pressure but also curb vehicle emissions," he said.

To address vehicular pollution, the government has advised companies with large workforces to arrange shuttle bus services for employees, similar to the measures the Delhi gov-

ernment has implemented for its own staff. "We are continuously working to reduce pollution levels and today's decisions are part of that effort. We hope the situ-

ation improves in the coming days," Rai said. He also criticised the BJP-led governments in neighbouring states, including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, for "failing" to take adequate measures to control air pollution.

"Delhi is surrounded by BJP-ruled states and their lack of proactive action is affecting us. I urge them to participate in these efforts to combat pollution, just as the Delhi government is doing," Rai said.

The combination of falling temperatures and dense smog has worsened the situation, further reducing visibility and exacerbating health concerns. The city has been under Stage-IV restrictions of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) since Monday.

Pre-Budget meetings ...

concluding the exercise on December 20, reads the schedule released by the Finance Department.

Ahead of the meetings, the Finance Departments has directed departments to submit the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on budget announcements, if any, besides the complete details of establishment budget and fiscal resource and budget management (FRBM) to it.

The details have also been directed to submit data on staffing, trends of scheme-wise revenue and capital expenditure, revenue receipts etc. This would be after a gap of six years that JK's budget would be presented in its Assembly.

After the imposition of central rule in JK in 2018, JK's budget was presented in Lok Sabha due to absence of the Assembly.