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Achieving 'Viksit ...

the challenges arising from the ongoing conflict in West Asia with full strength.

Highlighting that India depends on crude oil and gas from conflict-affected regions, Modi said: "The government is taking necessary steps to ensure the burden does not fall on families and farmers."

Inaugurating phase-I of the Noida International Airport, Modi said, "Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the journey towards a Viksit Uttar Pradesh and a Viksit Bharat."

He said Jewar Airport would boost economic activity in the region. "Noida International Airport will create new opportunities for farmers, small traders and youngsters of Western Uttar Pradesh," he said.

Modi was accompanied by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and other dignitaries.

Hitting out at the main opposition party in the state, Modi said the Samajwadi Party had turned Noida into an "ATM for loot", but under BJP, it is now emerging as a powerful engine of development.

He added that Noida, once neglected by earlier governments, is now ready to welcome the world, reflecting the spirit of a self-reliant India.

Highlighting the government's aviation policy, Modi said: "We launched the UDAN scheme to ensure that air travel remains within the reach of ordinary families. In the past few years, more than 1.6 crore people have travelled at affordable fares under this scheme."

UDAN scheme has recently been expanded with an approved outlay of around Rs 29,000 crore, with plans to develop new airports in smaller cities and build around 200 helpads in the coming years.

Modi said Jewar Airport would benefit a wide region covering Agra, Mathura, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Etawah, Bulandshahr and Faridabad.

Expressing pride, he said Uttar Pradesh now ranks among the states with the highest number of international airports.

Modi said the Jewar area is emerging as a logistics hub with the convergence of dedicated freight corridors at Dadri, enabling faster movement of goods to ports in Bengal and Gujarat.

He recalled that the airport project was first approved in 2003 during the tenure of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, adding that improved connectivity would enhance food processing and agricultural exports from western Uttar Pradesh.

Modi expressed gratitude to sugarcane farmers, saying ethanol produced from their crop has helped reduce India's dependence on crude oil imports.

He said that without increased ethanol production and its blending with petrol, the country would have had to import an additional 4.5 crore barrels of crude oil annually.

He noted that the initiative has helped save about Rs 1.5 lakh crore in foreign exchange.

Modi said India's aviation sector is growing rapidly, leading to increased demand for aircraft. "These new aircraft and services will require a large workforce for operations, servicing and maintenance. This presents a huge opportunity for the youth," he said.

The Prime Minister highlighted the lack of adequate Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities in India in the past, noting that nearly 85 per cent of aircraft had to go abroad for servicing.

"Our government has resolved to make India self-reliant in the MRO sector. Large-scale facilities are now being developed in the country, and an MRO facility has also been launched at Jewar," he said.

Modern transport systems like Metro and Vande Bharat trains are being expanded Modi said, adding "the Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat train has already benefited more than 2.5 crore passengers, reducing travel time from hours to minutes," he said.

The Prime Minister said the government has made unprecedented investments in the sector over the past 11 years. "The infrastructure budget has increased more than sixfold. About Rs 17 lakh crore has been spent on highways and expressways, and over 1 lakh kilometres of highways have been constructed," he said.

The first phase of the airport, developed at an estimated cost of Rs 11,200 crore, is envisioned as a multi-modal transport hub.

The project includes a cargo hub with an initial handling capacity of over 2.5 lakh metric tonnes annually, expandable to around 18 lakh metric tonnes. The airport's initial passenger handling capacity will be 12 million passengers per annum, scalable up to 70 million.

DM Rajnath ..

Minister JP Nadda. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Prahlad Joshi, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu and Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh also attended the deliberations.

The IGoM took a holistic stock of the evolving situation and its impact on various sectors in India, according to an official statement.

Defence Minister Singh emphasised the need for a proactive, coordinated and forward-looking approach, and underscored the importance of remaining vigilant in view of the evolving scenario, it said.

The meeting of the IGoM was held to review the risks to energy supplies, domestic availability of essential commodities, critical infrastructure resilience and robustness of India's supply chains in the wake of the ongoing conflict in West Asia, Singh said on social media.

"There was in-depth discussion on all the measures being taken by the Government of India. The NDA Government under the leadership of PM @narendramodi is closely monitoring the situation and it is committed to safeguard the Indian people from any impact of the conflict," he said.

Delhicourt...

ruled out. In 2017, the NIA booked 12 people on allegations of conspiracy for raising funds to disrupt peace by way of pelting stones, damaging public property and conspiring to wage war against the Central government.

Shah allegedly played a "substantial role" in facilitating a separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir by inciting the general public to raise slogans in support of J-K's secession, paying tributes to the family of slain terrorists by eulogising them as "martyrs", receiving money through hawala transactions, and raising funds via cross-LoC trade, which were allegedly used to fuel subversive and militant activities.

Land ..

provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sales) Act.

The district administrations, led by deputy commissioners

acting as custodians of migrant properties, have made efforts to restore land to the owners, he said.

Sharing district-wise details, Abdullah said land has been restored in Shopian (283 kanals), Baramulla (225 kanals) and Ganderbal (146 kanals), among others, while smaller portions were restored in Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, Kulgam, Kupwara, Pulwama and Srinagar districts.

Additional deputy commissioners have been designated as nodal officers for expeditious case disposal, while a steering committee constituted in January is overseeing implementation and streamlining the restoration process, the chief minister said.

Abdullah also said that an online grievance redressal portal is operational, with 10,173 applications received, of which 9,713 have been disposed of and 7,829 approved, with just 24 cases pending.

The chief minister said he has directed the deputy commissioners to register FIRs in encroachment cases, create geo-tagged inventories, ensure transparent property handover, and regularly update revenue records and monitor distress sales.

The administration has also planned outreach camps in Jammu from April 1 to April 28 for on-the-spot grievance redressal.

Highlighting the welfare measures, Abdullah said financial assistance of Rs 3,250 per person per month, subject to Rs 13,000 per family, is being provided through the direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode, along with free ration benefits.

He also said that 5,248 two-room tenements have been constructed, while 4,112 out of 6,000 transit accommodation units have been completed.

Further, 6,000 government jobs have been sanctioned, of which 5,896 appointments have been made, while social security schemes, scholarships and other support measures are being extended to the migrant families, the chief minister said.

Meanwhile, CM Omar Abdullah today said that the Government is examining a proposal for the notification of new tourism-worthy areas in Jammu & Kashmir, including several locations in District Doda.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Doda West, Shakti Raj Parihar, during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister said the identified locations in Doda district include Udhrana (Bhaderwah), Sarna (Bhaderwah), Nalthi, Chinta, Guldanda, Padri, Khaleni Top, Lal Draman, Doda (Municipal Limits) and Shibnote (Prennagar).

The Chief Minister, who is also the Minister in-charge Tourism, informed the House that the Tourism Department is committed to strengthening infrastructure and improving visitor facilities at major tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that prominent destinations in Doda district—such as Lal Draman, Dedni, Dal Draman, Ramrachna, Galadhar and Dessa—are being actively developed and promoted.

He further stated that District Doda is already recognized as an important tourist destination, and the Department is undertaking sustained efforts to boost tourism in the region.

"As part of the promotional strategy for the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, several events have been organized and publicized, including the Lavender Festival, Winter Festival, Mega Wrestling Competition, promotion of Maa Chandi Yatra, One-Day Mela at Bhal Padri (Bhalessa) and the Lal Draman Snow Festival, among others, to enhance tourism awareness and attract visitors," the Chief Minister said.

He added that the Department has participated in 11 tourism marts during the financial year 2025-26 to promote key destinations of the Jammu Division, including Doda. "Similar promotional activities are planned in the coming months to further place Doda on the national tourism map," he said.

Highlighting infrastructure initiatives, the Chief Minister said that key projects have been undertaken in the district, including the construction of a double-storey guest house at Lal Draman at a sanctioned cost of ₹75.63 lakh. He added that beautification works, viewpoints, public conveniences and allied facilities have also been completed in the area at a cost of ₹80 lakh under the CAPEX Budget, aimed at improving tourist amenities and generating employment opportunities.

In a separate reply to another legislator regarding outsourcing of the Yoga and Spiritual Centre at Mantalai, the Chief Minister said that the Government is actively pursuing the matter and efforts are underway to outsource the facility at the earliest.

'Karnah has ...

the Chief Minister said, "There is potential in terms of border tourism, there is potential in terms of hiking and trekking and there is immense natural beauty in Karnah. The government is planning a programme to ensure complete tourism promotion in this area."

Holding the Tourism portfolio, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for sustainable and grassroots-level tourism infrastructure. He said that instead of constructing large hotels, the focus should be on developing homestay facilities. "We should promote tourism at the grassroots level. I think this will be more beneficial to the area," he added.

Acknowledging concerns raised by the local representative, he said that more needs to be done to promote tourism in remote areas like Karnah. "There is no doubt that the area from which the Honourable MLA Sahab belongs is very beautiful, but it is also remote. We may not have done as much as we could for tourism promotion," he said.

Clarifying on the proposed cable car project from TD Drangyari to Zarla via Sadhna Pass, the Chief Minister stated that no such proposal is currently under consideration in the Tourism Department.

He cautioned against the perception that installing a cable car automatically boosts tourist inflow, citing examples from other regions. Referring to Gulmarg, Jammu, Srinagar and Patnitop, he said that despite gondola facilities at multiple locations, footfall remains significantly higher in Gulmarg.

"Everyone keeps an eye on Gulmarg and thinks that if a cable car is installed in their area, tourists will come in the same way. This is not right," he said, adding that "if a gondola is installed without proper planning and it does not become viable, it will not benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

The Chief Minister reiterated that the government is committed to promoting tourism across the J&K by bringing lesser-known destinations onto the tourism map, subject to feasibility and availability of resources.

He also highlighted several initiatives undertaken in Karnah Constituency to boost tourism, including construction of a Tourist Cafeteria and Public Convenience at Drangyari, hosting of a Winter Carnival at Drangyari in January 2023, and a Mega Yoga Festival at Teetwal in June 2024.

"These initiatives are aimed at enhancing tourist footfall and creating livelihood opportunities for the local population," he said.

Avalanche ..

by the authorities," the advisory read. Residents, tourists, and nomadic communities have been asked to adhere to official advisories and cooperate with the administration for their safety.

On Friday, multiple avalanches struck the Zojila Pass in Ganderbal district, trapping several vehicles and resulting in the deaths of seven individuals.

The pass along the Srinagar-Leh national highway connects the Kashmir valley with Ladakh.

Avalanche-struck Srinagar-Leh National Highway was closed for traffic on Saturday as authorities cleared snow.

"The highway is closed for traffic, and snow clearance operations are underway," officials said.

Traffic will be allowed once the road is cleared of avalanche debris, they added.

J-K police, army, CRPF, Ladakh Police, SDRF and civil administration are looking for the missing, they said.

150 word ...

150-word limit. The Speaker observed that most questions were lengthy and violated the rules, but had been allowed using his special powers to admit most questions.

He sought cooperation from members to avoid lengthy questions, warning that such questions would be rejected in future to save time.

He suggested a workshop or seminar by the experts on rules to make MLAs more aware of the prescribed guidelines.

Earlier, it was noticed that the questions submitted by the MLAs having varied length which are nor permissible according to Legislative Assembly norms.

Centre assured ...

increased to 70 per cent, while there were no restrictions on the use of domestic cylinders.

Referring to the prime minister's message, Abdullah said the country had earlier come together during the COVID-19 pandemic as "Team India" and would similarly remain united to face any emerging challenges.

LG orders ...

Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shaileendra Kumar, Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor Mandeep K Bhandari and other senior civil and police officers, an official spokesperson said.

Directing for a massive crackdown on smuggling networks that target the youth, the Lt Governor called for 'Jan Bhagidari' and a coordinated response against drug abuse for achieving the goal of 'Nasha Mukta' Jammu Kashmir.

The spokesperson said the meeting discussed five key focused areas- enforcement, IEC, counselling, treatment, and rehabilitation, while integrating a rigorous social media monitoring system to counter false narratives.

Sinha directed the officials for implementation of deterrents, especially within educational institutions, in mission mode. He also directed for identifying and strictly punishing any remnants of narco-terror networks within the system.

The Lt Governor emphasised that the citizens must be encouraged to report the drug addiction and drug smuggling related matters to the police and the administration.

Sinha also reviewed the preparations of all the line departments for the upcoming intensive drug awareness campaign across JK.

"Religious leaders, social organisations, ex-servicemen, NCC, NSS, Scouts and Guides and political leaders must be taken on-board in the fight against drug addiction," he said.

The Lt Governor directed for assessment of activities conducted under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan over the past one year.

The meeting also discussed the onboarding of all the districts on Nasha Mukta J&K Portal, engagement of nodal officers, ongoing community outreach programmes, training and capacity building, strengthening and expansion of de-addiction infrastructure and human resource, operationalisation of Addiction Treatment Facilities, Drug De-addiction registry portal, implementation of SoPs and activities undertaken by the line departments, the spokesperson said.

On the sidelines of the meeting, he said the Lt Governor directed the senior officials to prioritize vibrant villages programme, with a dedicated focus on inclusive development of border villages

BSF chief

... preparedness along the LoC," the BSF said in a post on X. The paramilitary force said the BSF DG interacted with officers, local commanders and jawans.

"He also visited forward posts on the LoC," the BSF added.

During a Prahari Sammelan, Kumar addressed welfare concerns and commended troops for their professionalism, dedication and steadfast service in extreme weather and challenging terrain, it said.

"Their unwavering dedication inspires confidence and strength," Kumar said.

During the visit, the DG BSF joined BSF commandos during their weekly long run here, embodying endurance, discipline and camaraderie.

"The DG held fruitful interactions with Senior Army officers & key stakeholders and reaffirmed our collective commitment to seamless coordination and national security" the BSF said in the post.

Speaker for ...

BJP's Surjit Singh Slathia said they support the discussion as Abdullah is a towering political personality.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rathi, following a discussion on the assassination attempt on former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, described him as an internationally respected figure who dedicated his work to J&K's welfare, development and communal harmony.

He remembered that Dr Abdullah took the reins of J&K in very difficult times and worked tirelessly to navigate the then State from hardships. He also mentioned that Home Minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha called Dr Abdullah to know his well-being and assured for in depth investigation into the incident.

The Speaker expressed belief that fair probe will be conducted and the culprit be given strict punishment so that no one dares to repeat such cowardly act in future.

Hangul couHangul count.nt

Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmad Rana said Hangul population estimation is carried out by the Department every two years.

"As per the data, the estimated Hangul population has

shown a steady increase over the past decade—from 183 in 2015 to 214 in 2017, 237 in 2019, 261 in 2021, 289 in 2023 and 323 in 2025," the minister said.

Known for its magnificent antlers, which can have 11 to 16 points, Hangul is the only surviving Asiatic sub-species of the European red deer family, found in Kashmir.

In the beginning of 1900s, their number was believed to be about 3,000-5,000 which had shrunk to about 1,000-2,000 in 1947 and subsequently as low as 180-250 in 1965.

Hangul is placed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the J&K Wildlife Protection Act, 1978.

The minister said the Department of Wildlife Protection has taken several measures to effectively and promptly mitigate human-wild boar conflict in and around Dachigam National Park, including New Theed village in the outskirts of Srinagar.

"As part of mitigation efforts, a cement concrete toe wall has been constructed along the existing chain-link fencing over an approximate length of three kilometre to prevent wild boars from burrowing beneath the fence," he said.

He said regular anti-plastic and sanitation drives are being conducted within and around Dachigam National Park to remove waste that may attract wild boars.

He said the Dachigam Control Room is functioning round the clock to respond to incidents of wild boar sightings outside the park.

Rana said due to effective management of the human-wild boar conflict, no human injuries have been reported so far in and around Dachigam National Park, including New Theed village.

He said regular advisories and awareness programmes are being conducted in fringe villages, particularly for the farming communities.

In addition, regular patrolling is being carried out and equipment such as noise guns and firecrackers are used, whenever required, to deter wild boars from entering affected villages, the minister said.

Northern Army ...

maintaining the highest standards of operational excellence and upholding the proud traditions and ethos of the Indian Army.

Among those honoured, Major General Rakesh Nair received the Yudh Seva Medal for distinguished service. Several officers and soldiers were awarded Sena Medals (Gallantry) for their role in anti-terror operations and high-risk missions.

Sepoy (now Naik) Nadeem Iqbal Shah was recognised for eliminating a terrorist during an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir while returning fire under heavy attack. Lieutenant Colonel Nikhil Kumar was honoured for leading a successful anti-terror operation in dense forests, resulting in the neutralisation of multiple militants and recovery of arms.

Major (now Lieutenant Colonel) Sumit Grewal was awarded for leading a precise cordon-and-search operation in the Sunderbani sector using drone surveillance, while Major Ashutosh Kumar Yadav of the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) was decorated for destroying a terrorist hideout during an intense firefight.

Major Hitesh Singh Verma of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry was honoured for foiling an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control in the Poonch sector, neutralising three terrorists through a well-planned ambush. Major Anurag Savarni of Assam Rifles was recognised for establishing an effective surveillance grid along the India-Myanmar border.

Major Archit Indurkar and Major Aditya Pratap Singh were awarded for high-altitude surveillance missions along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh, while Major Akshay Kumar was decorated for leading a daring avalanche rescue operation.

Major Alok Jaiswal was honoured for developing a robust intelligence network enabling successful anti-terror operations, while Major Amit Bhatti of 302 Medium Regiment was recognised for executing a coordinated fire assault that destroyed terrorist camps during Operation Sindoor.

Subedar Dhananjay Jambal and Major Dhananjay Jambal were also honoured for their leadership in counter-terror and precision strike operations under adverse conditions.

Highlighting the role of Northern Command as the most operationally active formation of the Army, officials said it continues to deal resolutely with conventional and emerging threats across multiple domains.

From the icy heights of the Siachen Glacier to dense forests and the Line of Control, its personnel continue to display unwavering courage in extreme terrain, hostile weather and evolving security challenges, they added.

CJI inaugurates

... administrative offices and residential quarters — was also showcased, the spokesperson said.

On the occasion, the Chief Justice also inaugurated the newly constructed Ladakh Legal Services Authority (LLSA) building at Melong Thang and participated in a plantation drive within the premises of the complex.

Interacting with the media, Justice Surya Kant expressed satisfaction over the creation of the new judicial infrastructure, stating that the facilities would serve the people of Leh for generations and improve access to justice.

He also announced that a similar district court complex at Kargil would be inaugurated during his ongoing visit.

The district court complex has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 54.85 crore, while the LLSA building has been built at a cost of Rs 5.70 crore, the spokesperson said.

The event was attended by several senior dignitaries, including the chief secretary of Ladakh, the director general of police, Ladakh, the general officer commanding, 14 Corps, registrar general, and other civil and judicial officers.

Later, the Chief Justice also inspected the state-of-the-art high court guest house at Melong Thang.

The newly inaugurated district court complex is expected to significantly boost judicial efficiency and accessibility in Ladakh, reinforcing the rule of law in the region.

LA passes ...

consideration. Earlier, the amendments proposed with respect to these bills by Legislators Saifullah Mir, Nizamuddin Bhat, and Balwant Singh Mankotia were withdrawn following assurances from the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, CM Omar Abdullah today laid on the Table of the House copies of key financial and audit documents pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir's finances. The documents placed before the House include: Finance Accounts (Volume I) for the year 2023-24; Finance Accounts (Volume II) for the year 2023-24; Appropriation Accounts for the year 2023-24; and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Union Territory Finances for the year 2022-23.