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**PM Modi...**

responding to enemies across border with the firepower of surgical strike, air strike and Operation Sindoor, abrogating Article 370, eradicating Naxalism or fortifying internal security with over 12 accords in the Northeast, India has set examples of its resolute commitment to national security for the world to admire," he said.

The BJP-led NDA Government under Narendra Modi recently completed 12 years in office at the Centre.

Last week, Modi became India's longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister, completing 4,399 consecutive days in office and surpassing the record held by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

**"NC Will...**

political arrangement could persuade the National Conference to abandon its core values. "No matter what is offered to us or who chooses to support the NDA, the National Conference will not sell its morals and values," Omar said while addressing media persons during his visit to review developmental works in Kashmir. His remarks came as he inaugurated and reviewed several development projects worth nearly Rs 300 crore across different sectors. He said his government remains focused on fulfilling promises made to the people and ensuring that developmental benefits reach every section of society. He also met several public delegations during the day, who raised issues related to roads, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities, employment and other civic concerns. Assuring action, he directed officials to examine the demands and address genuine grievances on priority. Highlighting the government's commitment to development, Omar said the ongoing projects would strengthen infrastructure and improve public services in various districts. He maintained that governance and public welfare remain the administration's primary focus.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the National Conference's political decisions would be guided by its ideology and commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir rather than political expediency.

"We have our own principles and political legacy. We will continue to stand by them irrespective of changing political equations," Omar said, underscoring that the NC would not compromise its values for power or political advantage.

**Par...**

among students," the report said. "The Committee also recommends the department of higher education to publish a time-bound implementation roadmap for the HLCE recommendations at the earliest," it added.

The HLCE was constituted by the Ministry of Education under the chairmanship of K Radhakrishnan, a former ISRO chairman, to implement critical systemic reforms in national competitive examinations conducted by the NTA. The parliamentary panel noted that several firms involved in paper setting, administration, and correction have been blacklisted by one organisation/state government, but this is not impeding their securing of contracts from other states or organisations.

"The Committee, therefore, recommends that the department compile a nationwide list of blacklisted firms so as to bring clarity in this regard," the report said.

In its action taken reply, the higher education department said that the core activities of the NTA, including paper setting and correction, are not "outsourced".

"The NTA maintains records of penalised vendors, including terminations, blacklisting, and contract cessations, and does not engage vendors that have been blacklisted by the NTA.

"The procurement process adopted by the NTA incorporates mandatory self-disclosure clauses regarding blacklisting of the bidder by any government agency," it said.

The committee also referred to the finances of the NTA and reiterated its recommendation that the agency's surplus be utilised to strengthen its capabilities.

"The Committee notes that the NTA collected an estimated Rs 3,512.98 crore while it spent Rs 3,064.77 crore on the conduct of examinations, netting a surplus of Rs 448 crore in the last six years.

"It recommends that this corpus be used to build the agency's capabilities to conduct tests itself, or to strengthen regulatory and monitoring capabilities for its vendors," the report said.

Responding to the recommendations, the higher education department said that NTA is a self-sustained organisation, which does not receive government funding.

"At the beginning of the year, the NTA needs funds for booking centres, paying experts, software, and security, etc. The income and expenditure trend of the NTA shows that on an average, Rs 74.5 crore remain every year after incurring all expenses.

"The income remaining unspent in a financial year is utilised for preparatory activities for the next financial year. However, any surplus after budgeting for next year's activities can be appropriately utilised," it said.

**Over 30...**

was being prepared in unhygienic conditions, they said. JDA Vice Chairman Rupesh Kumar said public land is a public trust and must be safeguarded from illegal occupation, underlining the authority's

commitment to protecting public assets, planned development and firm action against encroachments affecting urban infrastructure.

**LoP Sunil ...**

electricity, but I have not seen any review meetings taking place. There is a lack of clean drinking water, but this government is not making clean and safe drinking water available to the people," he said.

"There is rampant corruption, and it is impossible to get work done without it. The situation created by these six (council of) ministers is one of corruption only, with no governance. There is zero-governance, zero-performance, on the ground," he added.

The BJP MP said that, unlike other states, where the chief ministers meet people and conduct public outreach programmes, "the CM (Omar Abdullah) here only meets his own party legislators".

"He (Abdullah) should meet people, hold a review meeting, interact with officers, take information, and meet the people on the ground. To divert the attention of the people from their lack of performance and worthlessness, they have come up with this Jantar Mantar programme, with which I have a huge problem," he said.

Earlier, at a press conference marking 12 years of the BJP government at the Centre led by Narendra Modi, Sharma said the prime minister has transformed Jammu and Kashmir and rid it of violence and lawlessness.

"Before 2014, there used to be stone-pelting, and there was an atmosphere of fear. Today, schools and businesses are operating normally without any fear. Out of 365 days, there used to be hartals (strike) on 150-200 days. Today, there is no such thing," he said. Referring to separatists, the BJP leader said that some people had "forcibly created an influence" in the name of separatism, calling for strikes, asking youth to pelt stones and take law and order into their hands.

"However, Modi restrained them and brought Kashmir at par with other parts of the country in terms of law and order," Sharma said.

He asserted that over the past 12 years, the Modi government has improved the situation and atmosphere in the region and added that there is no more fear among the people.

"The law and order problem prevailed in the rule of those who are today just parroting statehood. There was bloodshed and violence. Bullets and grenades used to fly from everywhere. Rahul Gandhi had stated that controlling terrorism was impossible. But see the situation today. The youth are roaming around happily. Now, there is no fear among the people," Sharma said.

He further said that this was the achievement of 12 years of Modi rule, which brought winds of change in Kashmir, and added that around 90 per cent of transformation has been achieved, while some work remained.

**NIA Attaches...**

registered by the NIA in 2020, the officials said. The attachment was carried out on the basis of an order issued by a designated NIA court in Jammu under Section 33 (1) of the UAPA. The attachment is part of the NIA's high-profile investigation into a deep-rooted conspiracy involving the banned terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen and Pakistani state agencies to fuel terrorism in India. The investigation focuses on the illegal arms network, terror funding and the interception of Hizbul terrorists alongside former deputy superintendent of police Devender Singh.

**False...**

a need for deeper study and wider understanding of Maharana Pratap's life and ideals.

He said present-day challenges required learning from historical figures who stood firm despite adversity.

"To establish good governance and ensure the welfare of people, we need to draw from such examples," he said.

Bhagwat said India's strength lay not only in numbers or material resources but in its civilisational values.

"How do we stand strong in such a situation? Maharana Pratap showed us -- on the basis of self-respect, culture, and pride," he said.

He urged people to remain united and rise above narrow identities. "We should stay united like the people of Mewar stood with Maharana Pratap. We must work together for India's progress," he said.

"Different identities exist, but unity does not require sameness. Unity requires harmony and mutual respect," he added.

Referring to the Battle of Haldighati, Bhagwat said it should be understood as more than a military confrontation.

"The Battle of Haldighati was not just a war. It was a symbol of the long struggle of Indian society against foreign aggression," he said.

He said historical accounts, including those written by Mughal chroniclers, themselves indicated that the battle was fiercely contested.

"Even their own records show they had to retreat several miles after the first attack," he said.

Bhagwat said India's civilisational history shows repeated resistance to foreign rule.

"Different invaders came, some gained power, but India never accepted slavery at the level of society and culture," he said.

He said even during difficult historical phases, India retained its cultural identity.

"We have seen good times and bad times, but our dharma and culture remained intact," he said, urging people to leave behind small identities and think of India as one.

He said national strength depended on moral character, discipline and social harmony.

"If India has to rise, then Indians must rise in character and values," he said. He said Maharana Pratap's life demonstrated courage, sacrifice and commitment to society.

"Whenever we follow his ideals, he will remain alive in our inspiration," he said.

**Two...**

tragic accident after the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle near a sharp curve on the Aru route. The vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down into a deep gorge, triggering a large-scale rescue operation.

Sources said that two bodies have been recovered from the accident site so far. However, the identities of the deceased have not yet been officially confirmed by the authorities.

Soon after the incident, teams from the police, rescue agencies, and local volunteers rushed to the spot and launched an extensive search and rescue operation. Officials said that efforts are underway to ascertain whether only the two deceased persons were travelling in the vehicle or if there were additional occupants on board at the time of the accident.

Search operations were continuing till the filing of this report to rule out the possibility of any other person being trapped, missing, or injured in the gorge.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated an investigation to determine the exact cause of the accident.

Meanwhile, authorities have urged commuters to exercise caution while travelling on hilly roads, particularly in areas prone to sharp turns and difficult terrain.

Further details are awaited as rescue and search operations continue in the area.

**Op Sheruwali...**

operation is being carried out in the rugged and densely forested hills of Dorimal, where steep slopes, rocky mountains and thick vegetation continue to pose significant challenges for troops on the ground.

Despite the difficult conditions, security personnel remain on high alert and are conducting extensive searches across the forest belt to track any suspicious movement. Surveillance and area domination measures are also continuing as part of the operation.

Operation Sheruwali is a large-scale multi-agency counter-terrorism mission launched in late May to locate and neutralise armed infiltrators believed to be hiding in the rugged mountainous terrain of the Dorimal-Gambhir Mughlan sector.

The prolonged operation underlines the determination of security forces to maintain peace and security in the border district of Rajouri.

Earlier, a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and three Army personnel were injured in an accidental mine blast during a patrol near the Line of Control (LoC) in the forward Kalal area of the Nowshera sector on June 16, according to Jammu and Kashmir Police officials.

According to the Station House Officer (SHO) of Nowshera Police Station, the incident took place at around 11 am when troops of 4 Kumaon were conducting a routine patrol in the forward LoC area. During the operation, an accidental mine blast occurred, injuring one JCO and three soldiers.

The injured personnel were immediately evacuated from the site and provided initial medical assistance before being shifted to the Army's Command Hospital in Udhampur for specialised treatment.

Officials said the Kalal sector is a sensitive stretch along the LoC where troops regularly conduct patrols to maintain operational vigilance and prevent infiltration attempts. The condition of the injured personnel is being closely monitored, while authorities continue to assess the circumstances surrounding the blast.

**Rain...**

and gusty winds at many places, particularly during the afternoon hours. He said that from June 18 to June 22, generally cloudy conditions are expected with one or two spells of light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, hailstorms, lightning and gusty winds at many places across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the forecast, weather conditions from June 23 to June 25 are likely to remain partly to generally cloudy, with light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds expected at a few places.

Meanwhile, the MET Department has issued an advisory asking orchardists to carry out spray operations during the early morning or morning hours. People have also been advised to stay away from loose structures, electric poles, overhead wires and old trees during adverse weather conditions. The department further advised suspension of boating activities and Shikara rides during thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds. The MET Department said there is a possibility of hailstorms at isolated places accompanied by brief intense showers during the next five days. It also warned that intense showers may trigger flash floods and mudslides at isolated vulnerable locations.

**Jitendra Singh urges States to adopt centre's Governance reforms to Fast-Track Viksit Bharat 2047**

New Delhi, June 17: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday called on state governments to adopt the Centre's governance reforms and citizen-centric service delivery platforms, saying such initiatives have transformed public administration, strengthened public trust and can help accelerate India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

Addressing a press conference on the achievements of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions over the past 12 years, Singh said governance reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi have evolved beyond administrative changes to become instruments of social and economic transformation. He highlighted initiatives such as Mission Karmayogi, the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), Digital Life Certificates and other tech-

nology-driven platforms as examples of reforms that have improved transparency, accountability and efficiency in governance. The minister said the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) have emerged as key drivers of reform and innovation. He noted that several Indian governance initiatives are now drawing international attention, with countries such as South Africa, Mongolia and the Maldives studying India's experiences in digital governance, grievance redressal and civil service reforms. Highlighting key milestones, Singh said the introduction of self-attestation of documents in 2014 marked a shift from bureaucratic procedures to a trust-based governance model. He also cited the

abolition of interviews for Group B (Non-Gazetted) and Group C government posts, along with technology-enabled recruitment systems, as measures that have improved transparency and merit-based selection. According to him, more than 12 lakh appointment letters have been distributed through 19 Rozgar Melas since October 2022. The minister said social justice remains central to personnel policies, pointing to the implementation of reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), measures to improve representation of Persons with Benchmark Disabilities and efforts to fill backlog vacancies. Describing Mission Karmayogi as one of the world's most ambitious civil service reforms, Singh said the iGOT Karmayogi platform has over 1.65 crore registered users and nearly 13 crore course completions. The integration of artificial

intelligence through tools such as AI Sarthi and AI Tutor is helping build a future-ready civil service, he added. On grievance redressal, Singh said annual complaints registered with the government have increased from around two lakh to nearly 25 lakh, reflecting growing public confidence in institutional mechanisms. At the same time, average grievance disposal time has fallen from 157 days to just 13 days, demonstrating the impact of technology and continuous monitoring. The Union Minister also highlighted the expansion of digital governance initiatives, including e-Office, online RTI systems, e-HRMS and AI-enabled citizen interfaces. He said India is increasingly developing governance solutions that are being emulated globally. Referring to anti-corruption measures, Singh said the operationalisation of the Lokpal, amendments to

the Prevention of Corruption Act and technology-enabled vigilance systems have strengthened accountability while encouraging honest decision-making. Additionally, Singh underlined employee-centric reforms such as expanded maternity and childcare benefits, leave provisions related to surrogacy and organ donation, and enhanced support for differently-abled children. Pension reforms, including Digital Life Certificates with face-recognition technology, Pension Adalats and the Anubhav platform, have improved convenience and dignity for retirees, he said. Further, Singh said the reforms undertaken over the past 12 years have strengthened public confidence, improved service delivery and laid a strong foundation for achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047.

**Amit Sharma reviews Census-2027 Operations in Pulwama**

PULWAMA, JUNE 17: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Circuit House Pulwama to assess the progress of the ongoing House Listing and Housing Census Operations (HLO). At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, who is also the Principal Census Officer, highlighted the efforts of the district administration towards ensuring the smooth, accurate and timely conduct of Census-2027. During the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, who is also the District Census Officer, presented a detailed presentation highlighting the district's progress under Census-2027. The presentation covered the progress under the self-enumeration phase and HLO, awareness and IEC campaigns undertaken across the district, training imparted to census functionaries, creation and demarcation of House Listing Blocks (HLBs), status of field operations, arrangements for the inclusion of migratory populations, measures adopted for snow-bound and remote areas, and monitoring mechanisms put in place to ensure quality data collection and comprehensive household coverage. Addressing the meeting, the CPCO appreciated the efforts of census functionaries and congratulated the district administration for its outstanding performance during the self-enumeration phase. He directed the census staff to maintain the same momentum during the

ongoing House Listing and Housing Census operations while ensuring the highest standards of accuracy, transparency and confidentiality. He emphasized that the Census is one of the most important national exercises and serves as the foundation for future planning, policy formulation, infrastructure development, welfare programmes and equitable allocation of resources. To enhance public confidence and awareness regarding the census exercise, Sharma directed supervisors and enumerators to properly identify themselves during field visits and proactively educate people about the significance of Census-2027. Reviewing the progress of the ongoing House Listing and Housing Census operations, the Director expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved so far and called upon all concerned officers to ensure complete coverage of households. He stressed the need for maintaining data quality and directed Charge Officers to undertake regular field inspections while ensuring uniform quality checks by supervisors. He also called for intensified monitoring and strict adherence to census guidelines and operational instructions. Emphasising inclusive coverage, he directed officials to ensure the proper enumeration of migratory populations and tribal communities so that no household or individual is left out of the census exercise. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama informed the meeting that the district administration is conducting the census exercise with a zero-error approach.