

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Our goal is...

and resources for poor, marginalised and vulnerable, the Lt Governor said.

At the Pensioners Sammelan, the Lt Governor shared various Social Welfare initiatives of the government. He said under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, these initiatives have removed the developmental imbalances in Jammu Kashmir.

The Lt Governor observed that the administration has taken all decisions without fear and favour in the interest of the poor and the deprived. Saturation of several schemes highlights impressive manifestation of proper execution of programmes, he added. The Lt Governor called for collective efforts from public representatives, officials and civil society members to connect all eligible beneficiaries with social security schemes and bring meaningful change in their lives.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor handed over scooties, sanction letters and other benefits to the beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries also shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to the administration for the seamless extension of benefits under various social welfare schemes. Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu; Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anand Jain, IGP Jammu; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, senior officers and beneficiaries were present.

### Terrorist killed in...

upon them, which was retaliated effectively, he said.

In the ensuing encounter, the terrorist, identified as Maizer Ahamd Dar alias Adil, son of Ghulam Nabi Dar, a resident of Vishroo Payeen, was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of the encounter, the spokesman said.

He was linked with the proscribed terror outfit TTF.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records, the spokesman added. In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation is in progress. The police has requested to cooperate till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any.

### BSF HC martyred...

The firing targeting Border Outposts in the district is the third ceasefire violation in 24 days by Pakistan Rangers along the IB in the Jammu frontier.

BSF Head Constable Lal Fam Kima suffered injuries and was evacuated to a local hospital. He was later moved to the GMC Hospital in Jammu, the officials said.

The Head Constable succumbed to injuries, they said and that the 50-year-old was a resident of resident of Aizawl in Mizoram.

His body has been shifted to GMC Hospital's mortuary for postmortem.

"During night intervening 8/9 Nov 2023, Pakistan Rangers resorted to unprovoked firing in Ramgarh area which was befittingly responded to by BSF troops," the Border Security Force (BSF) said in a statement.

Ramgarh Community Health Centre Block Medical Officer (BMO) Dr Lakhvinder Singh said that one BSF jawan was injured in Pakistani firing and reported to the centre for treatment around 1 am.

Mohan Singh Bhatti of Jerda village said that the firing started around 12.20 am and later escalated into shelling. "A fear psychosis is prevailing along the IB due to firing and shelling," he said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Special Director General of BSF, P V Ramasastry paid homage to the martyred BSF Head Constable.

Apart from them, Chief Secretary A K Mehta, Home Secretary R K Goyal, IGP Anand Jain, IG BSF D K Boora and Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar also paid tributes to the BSF jawan, Lal Fam Kima, at the frontier headquarters, Paloura camp, in Jammu.

During wreath-laying ceremony, he was given full military honours by sounding of bugle and last salute. The jawans raised slogans hailing him.

The mortal remains of Kima would be sent to his hometown Aizwal for the last rites with full military honour.

On October 28, Pakistan Rangers indulged in heavy firing and shelling for around seven hours, resulting in injuries to two BSF jawans and a woman.

On October 17, two BSF personnel had been injured in unprovoked firing by the rangers in the Arnia sector. It is the sixth overall violation since the two sides signed

a ceasefire agreement on February 25, 2021.

### Border residents hold...

in Ramgarh sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district is the third ceasefire violation in 24 days by Pakistan Rangers along the IB in the Jammu frontier.

Treva had also received cross-border shelling on October 28.

Speaking to reporters, Sarpanch Balbir Kaur said that every person living along the border is sad due to the BSF head constable's death. "We want to pay tributes to the jawan martyred in firing by Pakistan Rangers. We stand with the family in this grave hour," she said.

"We stand with the BSF and the Army. We will not be cowed down," Kour added.

Pointing out that it was the time of paddy harvesting, Kour said that farmers would be afraid of working in the fields given the incidents of cross-border firing. She also urged the prime minister to make permanent arrangements to ensure their safety.

Head Constable Lal Fam Kima suffered injuries at Narayanapur BoP in Samba district due to firing by Pakistan Rangers and later succumbed to his injuries. The 50-year-old Kima was a resident of Aizawl in Mizoram.

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### Attempts to push...

of winter, snowfall, and closure of tracks every year. But, we are alert. I visited the LoC (on Wednesday), met my troops and Army officers. They are alert and if there is any infiltration attempt, we will foil it," the DG BSF told reporters.

"But, we foil their designs every year and that is happening this year too. They are trying, but their designs are not succeeding. A terrorist was killed in Shopian in an encounter today. They are attacking common people, this is a sign of desperation," he added. Asked about the ceasefire violation in Samba district of Jammu where a BSF trooper was injured, the DG said, "Pakistani troops attacked our posts two-three times and have targeted our jawans".

"But, our forces are alert and have retaliated very well. There is perhaps severe damage on that side, but it is not confirmed yet. A BSF trooper is injured, he has been hospitalised," he said.

The BSF head constable later succumbed to injuries.

To a question whether such firing incidents from across the border would have an impact on the ceasefire, Agrawal said it (firing) has been happening for the past two weeks, but we do not know the reason behind it.

"We are discussing it and once we get to know the reasons, we will devise a strategy (to counter it)," he said.

"It is difficult to say as to what will happen. We do not start it from our end, but, whenever it takes place, we effectively retaliate it," he replied to a question whether such incidents would escalate the situation.

To a question if the firing was a cover for pushing in more infiltrators, Agrawal said along the International Border, there is a less chance of infiltration, so the firing is something new there, except for Arnia sector where it used to happen earlier as well. Asked if there is any major activity taking place across the border, the DG said "no, there is no such activity, but, whatever activity they undertake, they will do it secretly. They will not want it to be noticed".

Earlier, the DG inspected the passing out parade and attestation ceremony of five batches of recruits. The trainees hail from eastern and southern India including 204 from Odisha, 208 from Andhra Pradesh, 112 from Kerala, and 75 from Telangana.

### Congress in league...

while in power at the Centre or in states," Modi alleged.

The PM asserted that India's stature is rising in the comity of nations, but the Congress is not comfortable with this global ascendancy.

"This (global ascendancy) is happening because of you who formed the BJP government which takes tough and big decisions. This is what the Congress has not been able to digest for the last 10 years, Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the Congress, which he said abuses him day and night, is wondering how the country's profile is changing on the international stage.

"This (India's rising power in the world) is what is bothering the Congress. Therefore, the Congress wants to spread instability and anarchy in the country. For this, the Congress has made secret agreements. The Congress now seems to be standing with foreigners who openly conspire against India. The people of Madhya

Pradesh must be wary of the Congress," he remarked.

Modi alleged that in its greed for power, the Congress is working to "betray the soil of the country".

"Due to tactics of the Congress, we saw a period of terror and anarchy in the country. Anarchy got encouragement. The spirit of nation-building that existed at the time of independence was crushed by the Congress due to its devotion to one family," he said.

The Congress, wherever it ruled, created a new record in corruption, he alleged.

"Due to this mentality of the Congress, it got wiped out from many states one after the other. Its traces are disappearing. The Congress has been yearning for a majority in Madhya Pradesh for two decades," the BJP's star campaigner maintained.

Modi claimed the Congress has divisive traits.

"And where there is division, vision is not possible," he said and added that in contrast the BJP is working with spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshthta Bharat" (One India, Great India).

The PM alleged the Congress only empowered sons and daughters of certain families, while "the BJP is working for the welfare of all daughters".

Modi maintained the Grand Old Party has no solutions to the country's problems.

"Because of the Congress, the country's problems have become more serious, especially the loot of the poor. One of its Prime Ministers once admitted that out of Re 1 sent from the Centre, only 15 paise reached the beneficiary," said the BJP's star campaigner.

"But who was looting this 85 paise? It was panja (hand)," he remarked, apparently referring to the Congress poll symbol 'hand.'

Modi was apparently making a reference to then-PM Rajiv Gandhi's remark made in the 1980s that only 15 paise of every Re 1 released by the Centre reached the end beneficiary.

However, the BJP has found a solution to plug leakages in welfare schemes by creating a trinity of 'Mobile, Aadhaar and bank accounts' (Jan Dhan), he said.

The Centre has transferred Rs 2.60 lakh crore under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries, bypassing middlemen, stated Modi. During the Congress regime, only 6,000 houses were sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (urban), while the BJP's 'double-engine' government (saffron party in power at the Centre and in a state) approved construction of 10 lakh homes in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

### Jobs, economy will...

and build it as an economic centre to expand job opportunities for the youth.

Addressing workers convention in Bandipora, Azad said the politics in present times is far more difficult in Jammu and Kashmir where no tainted people can afford to hold the reins of the UT.

"What will they do if they win elections. They have no roadmap, no vision for way forward," he said.

He said if any immature is on the top seat of UT, he can create disaster politically and economically.

"We can't afford to handover UT to anyone who is incapable of leading it. I feel for my youth who are the worst sufferers given the poor economic conditions and low job opportunities," Azad added.

Azad said that due to non availability of jobs, the youth in Jammu and Kashmir are unable to shoulder their responsibilities.

"Our youth are not willing to get married, they are not able to satisfy the needs of their older parents and eventually landing them in depression," he said.

The DPAP chairman said that his vision of building Jammu and Kashmir as peaceful and progressive state earlier could not reach its logical end since he got very little time to realise his dream.

"But I am hopeful that this time you will give me a chance to take further my vision and agenda for my people," he said.

He said the projects he executed and sanctioned as Chief Minister shall be remembered for decades to come and have been proven instrumental in the economy and social growth of the UT.

"If you support me I promise you J&K will grow as one of the richest regions of South Asia with surplus jobs available for its people," he said.

Among others who were present on the occasion were Taj Mohiuddin Treasurer, G.M.Saroori Vice Chairman, Ch Haroon Khatana Gen Secretary, Mohd Amin Bhatt Provincial President, Shoaib Lone Distt President, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Saleem Parray Spokesperson, Shafiq Shabnam Provincial Gen Secretary, Sujada Bashir, Tasleema Akthar, Dr Shubi Jaan, Haji Musadiq, Bilal Peer Zonal President, Basharat Najar, Khalid Tufail, Ghulam Nabi Palpuri and others.

## Road to J&K's progress, prosperity passes through villages, far flung areas: LG

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the road to Jammu and Kashmir's progress and prosperity has to pass through its villages and far flung areas.

"It is our determination and commitment to ensure better infrastructure, amenities, public services, skills and opportunities for youth and women, and enhanced productivity of Agriculture & allied sector," the Lt Governor said while addressing a public gathering during his participation in the Back to Village-5 event at Chatha Farm, Satwari Jammu.

The Lt Governor shared the efforts of the UT Administration to establish participatory and people centric governance and creating an enabling environment for inclusive development.

"Peoples' participation lies at the core of rural prosperity. Back to



LG Manoj Sinha attending Back to Village 5 event at Chatha farm Jammu on Thursday.

Village initiative of the J&K administration is shaped to address saturation of developmental and welfare schemes and to ensure village communities receive benefits of Central and UT Schemes," the Lt Governor said.

He said, the J&K Administration has accorded the highest priority to vulnerable sections and providing

unprecedented resources to bring about a revolution in rural and far-flung areas.

In the last few years, timely implementation and monitoring of programmes ensured unique opportunities for holistic development of villages. Various sections of society have been liberated from decades of discrimination and exploitation and

provided opportunities to benefit from growth, he added.

He called upon all the citizens of rural areas to contribute in improving the literacy rate, eradicate malnutrition and TB from Panchayats. Every village should aspire to become Self-reliant and spearhead the sustainable development of J&K, he said.

PRI representatives expressed their gratitude to the Lt Governor-led UT administration for taking development to the grassroots level.

The Lt Governor also visited the stalls put up by various government departments highlighting various initiatives and welfare programs of the government. Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, senior officers, PRI members and people in large number were present.

## Shahnawaz starts road work from Sub centre Mundaymar to Sangla Gali

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SURANKOTE: JKPCC Vice President and DDC Member from Surankote A block Shahnawaz Choudhary kicked off road work from Sub centre Mundaymar to Sangla Gali in presence of XEn, AEE, JE of R&B division Surankote and prominent citizen of the area. The project is sanctioned under NABARD costing 7 Crore.

Speaking on the occasion, Shahnawaz Choudhary said that our rural area lacked basic infrastructure and this was ignored by yester year's political leadership. Road infrastructure influences life of common people in positive way and this is my top priority as DDC Member. I tried every possible effort in this regard. He further said that he is thankful to people of



JKPCC Vice President Shahnawaz Choudhary starting road work at Surankote.

Surankote A constituency for giving him this opportunity to serve people and do something to change lives of common people. He assured them of every possible assistance to public gathering. JKPCC Vice President Shri Madasar Choudhary? also addressed public gathering and said "Development projects like Sports stadium, Public

Park,Road infrastructure and other work in recent times are example of work done in this tenure of Shahnawaz Choudhary which were ignored in last 40 years". Others who were present on this occasion were Sakander Hayat, Sarpanch Mohd Azam, Javid Ch, Haji Rasheed, Haji Mohd Shafi, Haji Mohd Shareef and Abdul Aziz.

## GDC Ramgarh organises Workshop on Heritage Food & Craft of Ramgarh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Government Degree College Ramgarh, in collaboration with INTACH, Jammu chapter, on Thursday organized a one-day workshop on Heritage food and Craft of Ramgarh, Samba. The event was organized under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

All the faculty members and a large no of students of the college participated in the event, the students of Government HSS Gho Brahmana and Govt. HIS Swanika also participated in the workshop.

At the outset, Prof. Risha Kumari, Convener, College Cultural Committee, welcomed the team from INTACH and made the students aware about the purpose of the workshop.

Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, in her address said that the workshop is an initiative to mark awareness



Faculty members along with students during the event.

and importance of Heritage food and craft of Ramgarh, Samba among the various stakeholders. The workshop was focused on Local heritage food and crafts which involved sharing good practices and practical demonstrations by Kaarkhandar unit, Nanke Chak, Samba and Craft and Community Cell, INTACH. The student participants from Schools and College were given hands on training regarding making of straw items and Calico Printing, which was enthusiastically learnt. A group of students was mentored in preparing the Recipe booklet

of heritage foods of Ramgarh by Dr. Aditi Khajuria and Dr. Sandeep Kumari.

Dr. CM Seth, IFS, (Retd.) briefed the students about the role and importance of such cultural events, as they not only showcase the culture and heritage of the region but also contribute to safeguarding it for future generations. He further stressed upon the broader relevance of such events, stating that they provide a forum for the preservation and dissemination of cultural traditions and inspire innovation and leadership among youth.

SM Sahni, JKAS, (Retd.),

Convener, INTACH, Jammu Chapter highlighted the diversity of local Dogra cuisine and its importance in promoting tourism in the Jammu region. He also made the students aware about the old traditional route to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra.

The Programme culminated with the formal vote of thanks presented by Arvind Kotwal, JKAS, (Retd.), Coordinator Heritage Tourism, Jammu Chapter.

At the outset of the workshop, INTACH Jammu Chapter presented a bunch of heritage books for the College Library.

The faculty members who witnessed the event include Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Prof. Risha Kumari, Dr. Paramjeet Kour, Dr. Shivali Choudhary, Priya Sharma, Dr. Ekta Rani, Sunil Kumar, Akanksha. The whole event was coordinated by Prof. Risha Kumari, Convener, College Cultural Committee.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a significant verdict aimed at fast-tracking trials in more than 5,000 criminal cases against lawmakers, the Supreme Court on Thursday directed high courts to set up a special bench to monitor cases for their speedy disposal, saying these cases have a "direct bearing on our political democracy".

Issuing a slew of directions to high courts, district judges and special courts designated to hear matters related to lawmakers, the top court directed that criminal cases against members of Parliament, legislative assemblies and legislative councils be given priority and the trials be not adjourned in such matters except "for rare and compelling reasons".

"These cases have a direct bearing on our political democracy. Hence, there is a compelling need to make every effort to ensure that these cases are taken up on

priority and decided expeditiously.

"Confidence and trust of the constituency in their political representative, be it an MP or an MLA, is necessary for an interactive, efficient and effective functioning of a parliamentary democracy. However, such confidence is difficult to expect when figures, as indicated in the above referred table, loom large in our polity," said a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra.

There are as many as 5,175 cases pending as of November, 2022 against MPs and MLAs across the country.

"Of these, cases that are pending for more than 5 years are as many as 2,116, which figure is more than 40 per cent of such pendency. This is a large number," the CJI said in the 15-page judgement.

"The learned Chief Justice of the High Court shall register a suo motu case titled as 'In Re Designated Courts for MPs/MLAs' to monitor early disposal of criminal cases pending against the members of Parliament and the legislative assemblies," the judgement said.

The bench said that multiple local factors made it difficult for the top court to "frame uniform or standard guidelines for trial courts across the length and breadth of this country" and it left the issue of ensuring speedy trial to the high courts as they have the power of superintendence over the trial courts.

"Under Article 227 of the Constitution, the high courts are entrusted with the power of superintendence over the subordinate judiciary. We deem it appropriate to leave it to the high courts to evolve such a method or apply such measures that they deem expedient for an effective

monitoring of the subject cases," the bench said.

The suo motu (on its own) case may be heard by a special bench presided by the chief justice (of the high court) or judges assigned by him to the special bench that may list matters at regular intervals as felt necessary, it said.

"The high court may issue such orders in all directions as unnecessary for expeditious and effective disposal. The special bench may consider calling upon the advocate general or the public prosecutor to assist the court," the bench directed.

It said that a high court may ask the principal district and sessions judge to bear the responsibility of allocating the subject cases to such court or courts, as is considered appropriate and effective. "The high court may call upon the principal district and sessions judge to send reports at such intervals as it is considered expedient.