

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Purchase of land...

Union Territory of Ladakh following the enactment of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019. Consequently, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir retained only 10 staff quarters and Block-C of CPGH.

The additional building will optimize accommodation for common citizens and patients of UT of J&K who frequent the National Capital City, enhancing the over-all availability of lodging facilities.

### Schools in Kashmir...

9 to 12 will begin on December 11. It will end on February 29, 2024 for all students, they said.

All government and recognised private schools of the Kashmir division will observe the winter vacation for around three months, said an order issued by the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir.

The winter break for students up to class 8 will be from November 28 to February 29, 2024. This makes Saturday the last working day of the season for these classes as Monday is a national holiday on account of Guru Nanak Jayanti, according to the order.

For students of classes 9 to 12, the winter break will be from December 11 to February 29, 2024, the order stated.

The teachers, however, shall report back to their respective schools on February 21 to make arrangements for the upcoming examinations, it said.

"All teachers shall remain available on demand for any online guidance of students during the vacation period," it said.

### High altitude Buddhist...

the JIO network", the official said.

The LG Administration J&K and the district administration have spearheaded the provision of mobile network facilities to this previously isolated region.

Situated at an elevation of 3,250 meters from Mean Sea Level (MSL), Sumcham, a segment of Losaini village, has undergone transformative interventions, having received solar power packs earlier from the district administration.

"The installation of the mobile tower has solidified telecommunication accessibility to this high-altitude region", he said.

These concerted efforts signify a substantial impetus towards the overall progress and well-being of these communities.

Further, JIO authorities have indicated plans to connect the mobile tower through fiber optics, promising an even more enhanced connectivity experience.

Sumcham, distinguished by its adoption of solar power packs alongside the integration of the JIO network, stands as a beacon of sustainable and innovative electrification in demanding terrains, the official said.

### Security situation not...

R R Swain has said the situation in the Union Territory is not alarming as is being projected, while describing terror attacks in the valley as "pin-pricks" orchestrated at the behest of Pakistan with a sole motive to sell the bloodshed to keep its politics and economy running.

However, Swain said all the security agencies, with active public support, are determined to put an end to such "pin-pricks or cuts" as the Indian State and its government have the will to defeat terrorism and not allow it to become a cause of concern where normal life is derailed.

The police chief also said they have, at times, thought of getting photographs of slain foreign terrorists circulated through the Interpol so that their parents at least get to know that their children are dead.

The DGP was interacting with reporters during his first public grievance redressal meeting at the police headquarters in the winter capital of Jammu.

Replying to a question on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of a recent encounter in Rajouri where five Army personnel and two foreign terrorists were killed, he said, "I do not think we should be over-alarmed. Yes, there is a porous and difficult border and a whole country (Pakistan) and a whole system is subverted and convoluted, so we have a challenge.

"No one is shying away from the reality that there is a challenge, but the Indian State and its government have the will and resoluteness to defeat it (terrorism) and not allow it to become a cause of concern where normal life, business activities, peace and security would be derailed (in Jammu and Kashmir)," Swain said.

He said people, especially those living in Jammu province, should remain mentally alert because the intent of the adversary continues to be inimical even as its capability to harm is not as it intends to project.

The DGP said isolated incidents keep taking place but a terror attack does not mean that terrorists are in a position to take over the region.

He said Jammu and Kashmir is a border state with legacy issues.

"There is an enemy with an intent which is linked to its politics and economy. They are moving in their own ecosystem and we have to remain prepared mentally to fight it (terrorism).

"Today, we had a meeting with the Army and other security agencies, and we were very satisfied that people themselves are coming forward to inform us (about terrorists). The flow of information shows that the people are willing to be a partner in this fight," the police chief said.

He said the enemy can only "pin-prick us or go for a cut, but we are like an elephant, a lion and if they think by doing so, they will pull us down, they are mistaken".

Swain said the perpetrators of violence are selling the bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir to serve their interest.

"They are misleading their public and recruiting the children of poor citizens (for terrorism) even as they themselves are living a lavish life in bungalows and playing golf," he said.

Swain said the security agencies are working to put an end to the pin-pricks and cuts from the enemy. "We are finding ways, collecting all our energies and sitting with the public to end terrorism," he added.

The DGP said there are elements who have infiltrated into the Indian side from across the border and when they are killed in encounters, their identities remain unknown.

"We have thought of getting their photos circulated through the Interpol, so that their parents at least get to know that their children have been killed," he said.

### J&K Admn sanctions...

tribunal on Thursday, the Counsel appearing for the State submitted that the action plan in terms of the directions of the tribunal has been approved.

He provided the details of the sanctioned amount of Rs 32 crore which included a Sewerage Treatment Plant for daily dry weather flow discharging into Doodh Ganga Nallah at an amount of Rs 28.93 crore.

The counsel also told the tribunal that Rs 3.07 crore has been sanctioned for the beautification and restoration of the aesthetic view of the Mamath Kull and Doodh Ganga in Budgam district.

The tribunal has directed the counsel for the state to disclose if the aforesaid sanctioned amount has been released by filing of the fresh report, on the next date of hearing -- February 7, 2024.

"He is directed to place on record the copy of the action plan as well as the details relating to the release of the amount for the specified purpose. Let the fresh report disclosing the current status be filed at least one week before the next date of hearing," the NGT said.

### Modi undertakes sortie...

He also posed standing next to the aircraft, pointing to 'Tejas' written on it.

"Flying in Tejas today, I can say with immense pride that due to our hard work and dedication, we are no less than anyone in the world in the field of self-reliance. Heartiest congratulations to the Indian Air Force, DRDO and HAL as well as all Indians," Modi added.

Modi earlier walked towards the waiting pilot and had a brief chat with him before boarding the aircraft and positioning himself properly with the help of the IAF personnel.

During the sortie, the prime minister could be seen keenly observing the surroundings and waving at another fighter aircraft, flying at a visible distance, the footage taken from cameras inside the cabin and the other aircraft showed.

On landing, the prime minister waved and made thumbs-up gestures again applauding the IAF personnel.

Modi arrived in Bengaluru earlier in the day and visited the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Defence PSU, to review the ongoing work at its manufacturing facilities, officials said.

According to the IAF, Modi applauded the scientists, engineers and flight test crew associated with the designing, development and production of the state of art fighter aircraft.

An IAF statement said the prime minister expressed pride in the capabilities of Indian engineers and scientists.

In the coming years, Tejas would be the largest fleet of fighter aircraft to be operated by the IAF, it said, adding that today's sortie by the prime minister will encour-

age the aeronautics ecosystem and give a big boost to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector.

Modi has been pushing for indigenous production of defence products and high-lighting how his government has boosted their manufacturing in India and also their exports.

Several countries have evinced interest in procuring Tejas and US defence giant GE Aerospace had inked a pact with HAL to jointly produce engines for the Mk-II-Tejas during the prime minister's recent state visit to the US.

The Congress took a swipe at Prime Minister Modi after he took the sortie and hailed India's indigenous capabilities, saying it doesn't cost the "master of chunavi photo-ops" much to acknowledge the efforts and endeavours prior to 2014. Modi's first term as prime minister commenced in 2014.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Tejas is yet another tribute to our indigenous scientific and technological capacity and capability that has been built up resolutely over the decades."

Tejas has been designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) that was established in 1984 and that worked collaboratively with the HAL, National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), the IAF and the Indian Navy, the former union minister said.

The design for the LCA was finalised six years later, he pointed out.

Operational clearance was granted finally in 2011, Ramesh said, adding that there are, of course, a number of other key milestones as well.

"It doesn't cost the master of 'chunavi photo-ops' much to acknowledge the efforts and endeavours prior to 2014 that were essential to his claiming credit now."

An IAF statement said it was for the first time ever that an indigenous twin seat fighter has been designed, developed and manufactured in India.

Noting that with an amalgamation of contemporary concepts and technologies such as quadruplex fly-by-wire flight control, carefree manoeuvring, advanced glass cockpit, integrated digital avionics systems and advanced composite materials for the airframe, the statement said the state-of-the-art fighter aircraft has enhanced the defence capabilities and preparedness of the nation.

The IAF test crew have been involved with the Tejas project right from conceptual stage till prototype testing. The first version of the aircraft was inducted into the IAF in 2016. Currently, two squadrons of IAF, 45 Squadron and 18 Squadron, are fully operational with Tejas.

Under the Narendra Modi government, an order valued at Rs 36,468 erore for the delivery of 83 LCA Mk 1A Tejas aircraft has been placed with the HAL, official sources said.

The delivery of these Tejas aircraft is scheduled to begin by February 2024, they said, asserting that the government has taken giant steps for increasing India's defence preparedness and indigenisation, which includes Tejas fighter aircraft.

More than Rs 9,000 crore has been sanctioned for the development of LCA Mk 2, an updated and more lethal version of LCA Tejas, the sources said.

To further promote indigenisation, including of the aircraft engine, the transfer of technology for manufacturing of the GE engine in India was negotiated with the US firm during Modi's visit to the the country in June 2023, they added.

### Union Housing Secy...

Waste Management and ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes given by Principal Secretary H&UDD at TRC meeting hall.

Furthermore, Union Secretary interacted with the officers of allied departments like Jal Shakti, PDD, R&B, I&FC, P&UD etc. regarding implementation and execution of GOI initiatives in bringing the city of Srinagar at par with all the metro and smart cities of the country. He assured the government commitment in providing all possible help and assistance for the overall development of the UT of J&K.

Union Secretary appreciated and recognised the efforts of all the officers and allied departments/agencies in making the Smart City Project a success.

Union Secretary also visited Riverfront Rajbagh, Zero Bridge and Jehlum Right Bank Riverfront and Polo View Market.

CEO SSCL/Commissioner SMC, Khan briefed the Union Secretary regarding the ongoing Smart City Projects.

The representatives of Mahraj Gunj Shop Keepers Association extended their gratitude to the dignitaries regarding the redevelopment of the Mahraj Gunj Market.

### 1,117 electricity connections...

The spokesperson said 1,117 electricity connections were disconnected for non-payment of energy dues for more than three months. This includes 886 domestic, 212 commercial and 17 industrial consumers.

### Two Kashmiri youths...

in Hyderabad. Muddasir, his cousin Mohd Yasir Hussain Shaheen (19) and the girl left J&K and first headed to Delhi. They arrived in Nagpur on a train on Saturday, said the official.

A team of J&K police and their Nagpur counterparts arrested the young men at the railway station, he said. While Muddasir hails from Kishtwar district in J&K, Yasir is a resident of Doda district there.

The girl has been sent to a government hostel in Nagpur, while the J&K police are carrying out further investigations in the matter, he added.

### We are confronted...

citizenship based on their identity."

Talking about the caste system, the Chief Justice said that caste, far from being a vestige of the past, continues to exert significant influence on contemporary socio-economic and political landscapes. Its resilience is evident in the social stratification, economic disparities and access to opportunities by different caste groups.

Caste dynamics in the region are not exclusively shaped by religious affiliations; the intricate caste system is not merely a response to historical inequality but functions as an important tool for disrupting entrenched societal structures, he said.

Citing various reports including the one by Justice Ranganath Misra Commission, he said it draws attention to the widespread abuse which are faced by marginalised social segregation, untouchability, limited access to education and under representation.

These findings underscore the pressing need for affirmative action to address the deeply rooted discrimination within this complex tapestry; affirmative action emerges as a transformative force challenging the established caste dynamics. It goes beyond the misconception of caste as a solely cultural phenomenon and serves as a catalyst for change.

"I remember that one of my predecessor Chief Justice Sharad Bobde recognised the necessity to consider the social exclusion of Christians and Muslims from the Scheduled Caste reinforcing the urgency of addressing these issues; the argument unfolds cohesively illustrating how affirmative actions act as a beacon of hope working to dismantle an age-old caste-based inequalities and paving the way for a more equitable future."

Noting that liberty is the ability to make choices for oneself and change our course of life, Chief Justice Chandrachud said identity intersects with the person's agency and life choices.

"As lawyers, we are constantly confronted with this intersection and the role of the State to limit or expand the life opportunities of the people. While the relationship between the state and liberty has been understood widely, the task of establishing and explaining the relationship between identity and liberty is incomplete," he said.

Traditionally, liberty has been understood as the absence of State interference in a person's right to make choices. However, contemporary scholars have come to the conclusion that the role of the State in perpetuating social prejudices and hierarchies cannot be ignored, Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

"In effect, whether the state does not intervene, it automatically allows communities with social and economic capital to exercise dominance over communities who have been historically marginalised."

He also said people who face marginalisation because of their caste, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation will always face oppression in a traditional, liberal paradigm. This empowers the socially dominant.

Citing English philosopher John Stuart Mill's book on Liberty published in 1859, he said the author discussed the historical struggle between liberty and authority describing the tyranny of the government which in his view needs to be controlled by the liberty of citizens.

Mill devised this control of authority into two mechanisms. Firstly, necessary rights belonging to the citizens and secondly there must be constitutional checks for

the community to consent to the impacts of the governing path, according to him.

The idea of liberty, the Chief Justice said can be summarised in the phrase: "Your right to swing your fist ends where my nose begins."

Highlighting the problems faced by people with disabilities, he referred to the "division" of people with disability to afford state benefits instead of making accessible infrastructure and disability-friendly education and employment sectors.

People with disabilities are forced to get a certificate of entitlements under the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016, Chief Justice Chandrachud said. This has led to the problem of creating a benchmark for disability to avail of state benefits.

This has led to many disabled people falling through the cracks because they cannot be boxed into a benchmark scale. Second, it has destructed... distracted from the larger solution of fixing our overall physical infrastructure and, third, person with disability are still relegated to an inferior status in need of state rescue because it has taken for granted that they are an exception to normal, (and) will require special accommodations.

### Cold conditions in...

down from 0.9 degree Celsius the previous night.

The minimum temperature on Friday night was one degree below the normal for this part of the season, they added.

The officials said the tourist destination of Pahalgam in south Kashmir Anantnag district was the coldest recorded place in the valley at minus 3.4 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg, another popular tourist spot, in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 1 degree Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara town in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 0.5 degree Celsius, while Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 0.8 degree Celsius.

Kokernag town registered a low of 1.5 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The Met Office has said the weather is likely to stay partly to generally cloudy with mainly dry weather till November 28.

There are chances of light rain/snow at isolated places in the higher reaches of Kashmir on November 29-30, it said.

### Govt convenes all..

is keen to pass key bills.

The report of the Ethics Committee on the "cash-for-query" allegations against TMC MP Mahua Moitra will be tabled in Lok Sabha during the session.

The House will have to adopt the report before the expulsion recommended by the panel comes into effect.

Three key bills which seek to replace the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act are likely to be taken up for consideration during the session as the standing committee on Home has already adopted the three reports recently.

Another key bill pending in Parliament relates to the appointment of the chief election commissioner and election commissioners.

Introduced in the Monsoon session, the government had not pushed for its passage in the special session of Parliament amid protests from the opposition and former chief election commissioners as it seeks to bring on a par the status of the CEC and ECs with that of the cabinet secretary. At present, they enjoy the status of a Supreme Court judge.

### Interstate drug peddler...

from nearby Kathua district in his car. When the police searched his vehicle, they found 600 grams of heroin worth Rs 4 crore in the international market, the spokesperson added.

The vehicle and a mobile phone were also seized along with the heroin and a case was registered against Ali under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the police said.

Samba Senior Superintendent of Police Benam Tosh said heroin smugglers are "being dealt with an iron hand" and all the infamous chitta' (synthetic drugs) hotspots have been almost smashed and isolated acts of drug peddling, supplying and smuggling are being coped with under the law.

### Huge cache of...

of police and Army personnel launched a search operation in the area, they said. During the search operation, 113 rounds of 7.62 mm cartridges, three AK-47 magazines, seven rounds of 7.62 mm sniper rifle, five rounds of Pika rifle and two 9 mm cartridges were recovered, officials said.

The team also recovered three Chinese grenades, one Pakistani grenade, two barrel grenade launchers, as many detonators and fuses, an FM transreciever, a Pika belt and 300 grams of explosive, they said, adding further investigation has been initiated.

## DGP holds public ‘darbar’ in Jammu, says exercise aimed at addressing people’s grievances

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain held his first public "darbar" here on Saturday and said the exercise was meant to know and address the shortcomings in the services offered by his department to the people of the Union Territory.

Swain took over as the new police chief of Jammu and Kashmir on October 31 and announced his decision to hold a two-hour public "darbar" (meet) on the first and third Saturdays of every month in Srinagar and on the second and fourth Saturdays in Jammu.

He held a public darbar in summer capital Srinagar on November 18.

The first-of-its-kind initiative by the DGP drew a large number of people to the police headquarters here. Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, Vijay Kumar was also present on the occasion.

"I had one such meeting in Srinagar. The main aim of this direct public hearing is to know how the shortcomings in the police services are addressed, besides using it as a mechanism to keep a check on the response of the officers at the junior level," Swain told reporters.

He said it is an opportunity for people to highlight their genuine grievances at the highest level, if they feel that they did not get a positive response at the lower levels.

"We have come across mixed complaints like some people sought appointment of their children as special police officers (SPOs), some wanted transfers of their relatives and some had real issues with regard to the services," the DGP said.

He said the objective of the public darbar is to build confidence among the masses so that they remain connected with the department and also, conveying a message to the subordinate officers to be responsive to public issues.

"This is an experiment with a noble objective and let us see how it unfolds," Swain said.

He said the service rendered by police is very critical and at times, the personnel have to act tough against certain elements to keep the rest of the population safe.

"Individual police officers can be wrong but overall, the force is acting in the best interest of the people. There are disciplinary proceedings in place for wrong-doers like in the Army or any other security agency," Swain said, adding that his experience of 33 years tells him that the job of a police personnel is not an easy one and "we need to hold the hands of each other and march forward".

Holding a newborn baby in her lap, Rubena Kousar said she had come to plead the transfer case of her husband, a policeman posted in the Kashmir valley.

"I was blessed with triplets but one of them died immediately after the birth a few months ago and the two other kids are also not keeping well. I have two children to look after and there is nobody to stand by my side," she told PTI after meeting the DGP.

Kousar said they hail from the Surankote area of Poonch district and she is hopeful that her plea would be considered positively.

Abdul Majid, a resident of Doda district, accompanied fellow villager Akram Rafiq, whose father Rafiq Ahmad -- an SPO -- was killed in an encounter with terrorists. "Akram has lost his father at an early age and is unable to continue his studies. I accompanied him to meet the DGP as his grandparents are octogenarians. He should be appointed as an SPO," Majid said.

Welcoming the DGP' initiative to meet the public, Majid, who was waiting in a queue for his turn to speak to the top cop, said he will draw the officer's attention to the plight of the SPOs' families who have lost their dear ones.

"The government has started renaming schools in the name of martyrs, which is a very good step. However, the families of these martyrs need to be looked after as well," he said, demanding free ration and electricity to such families.