

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! J&K emerges as...

wildlife, he added.  
It is pertinent to mention that in the 4th edition of Winter Games, snow skating, ice hockey and curling are shifted to UT of Ladakh while other sports events will be held at world famous ski resort, Gulmarg.  
Sujata Chaturvedi, Secretary Sports, Government of India; Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Yasha Mudgul, Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services & Sports J&K; officials and members of organizing committee attended the launch ceremony.

## DM Jammu seeks...

subpar performance. Failure to provide satisfactory justifications within the stipulated time frame will prompt the administration to initiate further proceeding.  
Besides, all the BDOs are to submit a precise action plan for achieving desired targets by the cutoff date as committed by them.

## Parliament's Budget Session...

while ensuring the maintenance of their religious character.  
Hassan's demand came in the wake of demands to hand over the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi to the Hindu community.  
Emerging from the customary all-party meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Joshi described the interaction as "very cordial" and said the government was ready to discuss every issue during the brief session.  
Joshi said the government did not have any legislative agenda for the Budget Session and its thrust would be on the President's Address, debate on the Motion of Thanks, presentation of the Interim Budget and the budget for Jammu and Kashmir.

"They have given suggestions, but since this is the last session of the present Lok Sabha. We have said, we will give them an opportunity in the next session," Joshi said in a lighter vein amid confidence in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance that it will retain power in the elections.  
Congress Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari, who represented the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, said he raised the issue of the "violent attack" on the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi in Assam and the state government's curbs on it.

An "unwritten dictatorship" prevails in the country, he said and accused the central government of misusing probe agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate to target opposition leaders such as Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and RJD supremo Lalu Prasad.

Tiwari said he raised these issues after consulting opposition parties.  
NCP President Sharad Pawar, JD(U)'s Ram Nath Thakur and TDP's Jayadev Galla were among the leaders present at the meeting at the Parliament House complex.

While Murmu's address is likely to cover a gamut of issues, from political to cultural and economic, to highlight the government's achievements during the 10 years under Modi, political watchers will be keen to see the measures announced by Sitharaman ahead of the polls.

Though Parliament will be passing only the interim budget for the rest of the tenure of the government, the minister may make a host of proposals to woo different voting blocs to highlight what the government will do if reelected.

Then Finance Minister Piyush Goyal had made a host of proposals, including tax sops and welfare measures, in the interim budget he had presented in 2019 before the elections, which saw the government retain power with a stronger mandate.

## Suspension of 14...

of the Council of States, but Chairman Jagdeep Dhanekar revoked their suspension allowing them to attend the Budget session, sources said.

In its report to the Rajya Sabha chairman a day before the session starts on Wednesday, the committee also recommended that the period of suspension already suffered by the members be treated as "sufficient punishment" for the transgression.

The MPs held "guilty of breach of privilege and contempt of the Council" of States are Jebi Mather Hisham, L Hanumanthaiah, Neeraj Dangi, Rajmani Patel, Kumar Ketkar, G C Chandrashekar, Binoy Viswam, Sandosh Kumar P, M Mohamed Abdulla, John Brittas and A A Rahim.

The committee presented the report to Dhanekar, taking note of the situation that the suspended members would not be able to attend the special address of President Droupadi Murmu to both Houses of Parliament, the first address in the new building of Parliament, on Wednesday.

The committee usually submits its recommendations to the House.  
The sources said the chairman invoked the authority vested in him under the rules of procedure to revoke their suspension enabling the members to attend the special address by the president.

While a total of 146 opposition MPs, including 100 of the Lok Sabha, were suspended for bringing placards into the chambers and frequently disrupting parliamentary proceedings, the transgressions by these 14 were considered more serious.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha had together suspended 132 MPs for the remainder of the Winter session, which ended on December 21, and had referred the case of these 14 MPs to the respective privilege committee.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Joshi told reporters on Tuesday, "Everybody's suspension will be withdrawn. We have requested the (Lok Sabha) speaker and the (Rajya Sabha) chairperson on behalf of the government and they have agreed."

He, however, asserted that leaders of different parties who attended an all-party meeting ahead of the session were told that they should follow the decision that MPs should not bring placards or similar materials inside chambers during the session or else the Chairs will be forced to take action.

Some of the suspended Lok Sabha MPs were informed about the speaker's decision Tuesday evening. The Budget session will commence on Wednesday.

## CJ unveils Activity...

of the J&K Legal Services Authority to bridge the gap between the legal system and the legal aid seeker as well as common man, ensuring that legal services are accessible to all without financial barrier.

The function was attended by Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, M. K. Sharma, Pr. Secretary to Chief Justice, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Sandeep Kour, Registrar Judicial, Jammu and other officers of the Registry.

## Sinha calls for...

Simbal Gala Moghla Rajouri; Mohd Arif, a resident of Mandi Poonch; Doda's Firdous Ahmad, Hiral Ahmad from Kuzwera Chadoora Budgam and Mohd Shafi, a resident of Fathagad Anantnag pertaining to Power Development Department; Jal Shakti, Labour and Social Welfare Department. The Lt Governor directed the officers to listen to people and create a comprehensive strategy for maintenance of basic infrastructure like borewells, handpumps, power distribution lines and saturation of scholarships and pension schemes.

Listening to one another is the strongest pillar on which good governance rests, he said. The Lt Governor also commended the exemplary participation of the citizens and officials in the 75th Republic Day celebrations. Dr Syed Schrish Asgar, Secretary, Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

## Uber launches operations...

rides for their mobility needs," Uber said in a statement.  
Inter-city rides can be booked to tourist destinations around Srinagar, including Gulmarg, Sonmarg, and Pahalgam, the company said.  
"With the global ride-hailing app now available in Srinagar, tourists as well as locals will now find a trusted ride in and around Srinagar with a few taps on the app. The launch of our service will also create meaning-

ful earning opportunities for drivers and will support the economic growth of local communities," Head of Supply and Regional Operations at Uber Shiva Shailendran said.

Earlier this month, Uber launched the Green-Autos service in Ayodhya. It also partnered with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to launch the app-based car aggregator service across airports -- Surat, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi -- this month. Uber is an American transport mobility company that entered India in 2013 and now has services available across 125 cities in the country.

## No need to...

the region, but it would be wrong to term it a failure of Indian diplomacy, asserted Jaishankar, who served as Ambassador in Beijing during his decades-long career as an IFS officer.

"We must recognise, China is also a neighbouring country and in many ways will, as part of competitive politics, influence these countries. I don't think we should be scared of China. I think we should say 'okay, global politics is a competitive game. You do your best, I will do my best,'" the diplomat-turned-politician remarked.

Being the world's second largest economy, the Communist giant will deploy resources and try to shape things in its way, he said, adding, "why should we expect otherwise, but the answer to that is not to complain that China is doing it."

"I would say today...we should not be scared of competition. We should welcome competition and say I have the ability to compete," Jaishankar added.

Talking about India's track record of helping its neighbours, he cited the example of Sri Lanka which was provided with multi-million dollar assistance by New Delhi when the island nation was hit by a grave economic crisis.

To a question about the 'India Out' campaign in the Maldives, Jaishankar urged the audience to "trust" Indian diplomacy.

"Every country has problems in its neighbourhood. It is never as good as they say it is. It is never as bad as they say it is. There will be problems. Our job is to anticipate, assess, respond. At the end of the day neighbours have relationships with each other," the external affairs minister said.

"At the end of the day, neighbours need each other. History and geography are very powerful forces. There is no escape from that," he added.

Earlier this month, the newly-elected Maldivian President Muizzu asked India to withdraw by March 15 its military personnel deployed in the archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean. Also, breaking a tradition followed by past Maldivian Presidents, Muizzu visited China ahead of India.

Jaishankar said India's greater capability, its own interest and reputation today warrant that it help those in difficult situations, comments made in reference to the Navy's deployment of warships in the Red Sea region to deal with attacks on merchant navy vessels.

The Indian Navy has deployed 10 of its ships in the region, Jaishankar said.

"India's greater capability, our own interest and our reputation today warrant that we actually help out in difficult situations," he said.

Jaishankar said there is a problem of piracy as well as drone attacks on merchant navy ships in the Red Sea region.

"We will not be considered a responsible country if bad things are happening around our neighbourhood and we say I have got nothing to do with this. When you are in trouble, the neighbourhood will say the same," he said.

Turning to the West Asia crisis, Jaishankar asserted India favours a two-state solution to end the decades-long Israel-Palestine conflict. He said the conflict must be viewed in totality and termed the Hamas' deadly incursions inside Israel nearly four months ago as a terrorist attack.

Jaishankar, "It is certainly the view of India, and a very large number of countries that (the problem can be) only be done (resolved) through a two-state solution that there has to be a Palestinian state side-by-side with the state of Israel."

He said what happened on October 7, 2023, was a terrorist attack, referring to Hamas militants launching a series of assaults inside Israel after storming across the border.

About 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed in the attacks, while nearly 250 Israelis and other nationals were taken hostage by Hamas.

"I don't think there should be confusion on that and as a country which has itself experienced so much terrorism, I think it's important that we recognise that and we expressed that solidarity (with Israel) as another victim of terrorism," noted the External Affairs Minister.

On Israel's strong response to the Hamas attacks, which triggered a war in the Gaza Strip, he said when any country responds, it is equally important to observe international laws, and called for avoiding civilian casualties.

## 33 educational institutions...

newly named infrastructure/assets after the following martyrs/eminent personalities, as per an order, include; Anantnag-Late Himayun Muzamil Bhat, DySP Government Degree College (Boys), Anantnag; Srinagar-Late Masroor Ali Wani, Inspector, Government Boys High School, Narwara; Jammu-Late Rachpal Singh, HC, Government High School (Lehar) Sungal, Akhnoor; Jammu-Late Vishal Sharma, Rfn, Government High School, Chak Malal, Zone Khour, Tehsil Khour, District Jammu; Udhampur-Late Krishan Singh, Subedar, Government Middle School, Urliyan, Udhampur; Udhampur-Late Yash Paul, Rfn, Government Girls High School, Mantalaji; Poonch-Late Abdul Majid, Havaladar, Government High School, Ajote, Poonch; Kishtwar -Late Ravi Kumar, Rifleman, High School, Galigarh; Ramban-Late Tanveer Ahmed SPO Shaheed Tanveer Ahmed Memorial Cricket Ground, Sargali; Jammu-Late Krishan Singh, LNK, Government High School, Sungal; Jammu-Late Dhian Singh Salaria, NK, Government Middle School, Dharam Khoo; Jammu-Late Sham Singh Langeh, Rfn, Government Higher Secondary School, Gharota; Jammu-Late Parshotam Kumar, Naib Subedar, Government High School, Majua Uttami; Ramban-Late Irshad Ahmad, SgCt, Ramsoo Chowk as "Shaheed Irshad Ahmad Chowk"; Ramban-Late Abdul Rehman, HC, Neel Chowk as "Shaheed Abdul Rehman Malik Chowk"; ; Ramban-Late Jagdish Singh, SPO, Government Middle School, Dudha Bhajmasta; Ramban Late Shankar Singh, SPO, Shaheed Shankar Singh Road, Ukhral to Bhangra; Ramban - Late Nisar Ahmad, SgCt, Ind Martyrs Road; Ramban - Late Sher Mohd, SPO and Ramban - Late Shadi Lal, SPO.

The other renamed educational institutions and roads include; Ramban-Late Sher Singh, SPO; Ramban - Late Mohd Iqbal, SPO; Ramban - Late Fareed Ahmad, SPO; Ramban - Late Angez Singh, SPO; Ramban - Late Naseeb Singh, SPO, Shaheed Naseeb Singh Taxi Stand, Nabul; Ramban - Late Jattu Ram Mob, SPO, Shaheed Jattu Ram Chowk, Marog, Ramban; Ramban - Late Mohd Saleem, SPO, Shaheed Mohd Saleem Chowk, Sirlan; Ramban - Late Anar Singh, SPO, Shaheed Anar Singh Chowk, Hanga; Ramban - Late Abdul Majeed, Constable, Shaheed Abdul Majeed Bus Stand, Panchal; Ramban - Late Naseeb Singh, Constable, Shaheed Naseeb Singh Playground, Hochak; Ramban - Late Dhaler Singh, Constable, Shaheed Daler Singh Chowk, Digidol; Ramban - Late Sarfaraz Ahmad, Constable, Shaheed Sarfaraz Khatana Chowk Bhaaderwah Morh Batote and Ramban - Late Abdul Qayoom, ASI Shaheed Abdul Qayoom Faily Road.

The order has emphasised further that the concerned Administrative Secretaries shall take immediate necessary steps, including amending their records, for effecting the changes and Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu shall personally monitor the naming of the infrastructure/assets in their respective divisions.

"Deputy Commissioner(s) shall ensure that appropriate events are held in connection with the naming of these infrastructure/assets", reads the order.

## Ordnance Depot sends...

dispatched to help the forces of the Northern Command, a release here said on Tuesday.

"The Ordnance Depot, Avadi, under the aegis of Dakshin Bharat Area of the Indian Army has despatched Light Specialist Armoured Vehicles indigenously designed and developed, for helping forces of Northern Command," it stated. These modular type vehicles allow efficient maintenance and can be configured in the field for a wide variety of operational roles, the release added.

## 40-day harsh winter period 'Chilla-i-Kalan' ends

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The 40-day harsh winter period known as Chilla-i-Kalan' ended on Tuesday with no snowfall in the plains of Kashmir and below normal precipitation in the higher reaches of the valley, officials said.

While there was light to moderate snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley at the fag-end of the 40-day period, most of the Chilla-i-Kalan when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent remained dry. The valley witnessed a prolonged dry spell this winter, with no snowfall in the plains.

During the 40-day harsh winter period, a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies and water in supply pipes.

The cold conditions continue in Kashmir even after the culmination of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' with a 20-day 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

Meanwhile, Srinagar city, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 0.8 degrees Celsius down from 3.6 degrees Celsius on the previous night.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius, Qazigund 0.4 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 0.7 degrees Celsius and Kupwara 0.3 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg registered a low of minus 6 degrees Celsius down from minus 3.2 degrees Celsius and was the coldest place in the valley.

The weatherman has forecast a possibility of light to moderate rain/snow at several places in the Union Territory from Tuesday afternoon onwards till February 1, with chances of heavy snowfall over a few higher reaches in Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag districts with peak activity on January 31.

## SP Itikhar repatriated to J&K, Farhan deputed to Ladakh

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday repatriated a Superintendent of Police (SP) from Ladakh to Jammu and Kashmir while deputed another Superintendent of Police to Ladakh. "Ch. Itikhar Ahmad, SP presently on deputation to the Union Territory of Ladakh, in terms of the Government Order No.232-Home of 2021 dated October 7, 2021, has been repatriated to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads an order issued by Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department. "Consequently Farhan Jehanzeb Naqash, SP (JKPS-116023), has been deputed to the Union Territory of Ladakh from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with immediate effect, for a period of two years or till the final appointment is made in terms of Section 89(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019," it further stated.

## Police attach property of notorious drug peddler in Kulgam

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached assets linked to a notorious drug peddler in Kulgam district, officials said.

The police attached an under-construction house on a four-marla plot belonging to the peddler Aijaz Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Gadihama, Kulgam under Section 68-F (2) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, an official said.

He said the property was found to be illegally acquired by Ganie. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by the owner, the official added.

## Avalanche warning issued in Ganderbal

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The authorities in Ganderbal district on Tuesday issued an avalanche warning in the wake of snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley, officials said.

A low-danger level avalanche warning was issued to the people of the central Kashmir district, they said.

"Avalanche with low-danger level is likely to occur above 2,800 metres over Ganderbal in next 24 hours," the officials said. The people have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders, they said.

## Explosive devices found in border area of Kathua, defused

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Security forces on Tuesday detected and defused two explosive devices in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said. Locals informed police and the Border Security Force (BSF) about some suspicious material packed in a polythene bag in the Sherpur area, around 2 kilometers away from the International Border, they said.

Security personnel rushed to the spot and a bomb disposal squad was called. The explosive devices were defused safely, the officials said. The matter is being investigated.

## 3.4-magnitude earthquake hits Ladakh

### STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: A 3.4-magnitude earthquake struck Ladakh on Tuesday, officials said.

There were no immediate reports of any casualty or damage, they said.

According to the National Center of Seismology (NCS), the earthquake occurred at a depth of 5 kilometres in Leh at 5.39 am.

## Internet restrictions in J&K: Review orders not meant to be kept in cupboard, says SC

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said review orders to consider pleas for the restoration of internet services in Jammu and Kashmir are "not meant to be kept in the cupboard" and asked the administration to publish them.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sanjay Karol gave Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the J-K administration, two weeks to seek instructions and apprise the court on the next date of hearing.

The bench was hearing an application filed by the Foundation for Media Professionals, said at the outset that the administration is required to publish the review orders and the mother order on internet restrictions in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Nitish Kumar's new Govt to seek trust vote on Feb 10

### STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNA: The new NDA government in Bihar led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will seek a trust vote in the assembly on February 10, according to a notification issued on Tuesday.

The government will seek the trust vote on the first day of the budget session after the customary address by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to both Houses of the legislature, the notification issued by the Parliamentary Affairs Department said. Kumar, the president of the JD(U), took oath as chief minister of Bihar for a record ninth time on Sunday after a dramatic volte-face, ditching the INDIA grouping, and forming the new government with the BJP, which he had dumped less than 18 months ago.

"What are review orders meant for? Review orders are not meant to be kept in the cupboard," the bench observed as Nataraj submitted that the petitioner is seeking publication of the committee's deliberations.

The bench ordered, "We are of the prima facie view that it may not be necessary to publish the deliberations (of the committee), but the review orders passed are required to be published. Mr Nataraj seeks two weeks time to take instructions in this regard. List after two weeks." Advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the Foundation for Media Professionals, said at the outset that the administration is required to publish the review orders and the mother order on internet restrictions in the union territory according to the 2020 verdict in the Anuradha Bhasin versus Union of

India and the Telegraph Act.

"Review orders are something to be passed under the Act and 2020 verdict and therefore they must be published. They are saying that the special committee orders do not have to be published. I am not contesting that, there may be national security reasons. But review order and mother order are something which must be published," he said.

Nataraj submitted that these issues had arisen during the internet curbs that were there at the time (after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019).

"We have complied with all the prayers made in earlier petitions. A contempt petition was also filed and was dismissed. Now, they have come up with a new prayer for publication of recommendations and deliberations of the special committee," he said.

## Indian Navy rescues two hijacked vessels in Arabian Sea

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy rescued an Iranian-flagged fishing vessel with 19 Pakistani crew members and a Sri Lankan trawler in two swift operations after armed pirates hijacked the boats in the Arabian Sea amid deteriorating security situation arising out of Iran-backed Houthi rebels targeting various cargo ships in the region.

Indian warship INS Somalia rescued fishing vessel (FV) Al Naeemi from 11 Somali pirates off the east coast of Somalia on Monday, in the second such rescue of an Iranian-flagged vessel in the troubled region, officials said.

In total, the Indian Navy rescued three hijacked vessels in the Arabian Sea since

January 28. "Indian naval ship Sumitra, having thwarted the piracy attempt on FV Iman, has carried out yet another successful anti-piracy operation off the east coast of Somalia, rescuing fishing vessel Al Naeemi and her 19 Pakistani crew from 11 Somali pirates," Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

The warship had responded to a distress call from FV Iman on January 28 and rescued the vessel and its 17 Iranian crew members from armed pirates.

In another mission on Monday, the Indian Navy along with naval forces of Sri Lanka and Seychelles, rescued a fishing vessel after it was hijacked in the sea lanes east of Mogadishu.