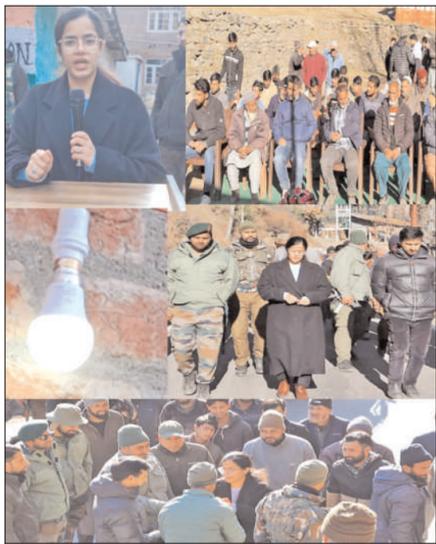


## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! INDIA Alliance keeps...

commitment to the cause of women empowerment. He also lashed out at the Congress and Left parties, alleging that they had delayed the Women's Reservation Bill. "Regrettably, after independence, the Leftist Congress government undermined the strength of our women," Modi alleged. "The Congress and other parties delayed the reservation bill in the Lok Sabha. However, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has now become law. Modi has fulfilled his commitment," he said. Speaking about the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Modi said that Kerala recognises the BJP as the party capable of amplifying its development, dismissing the support that the Left parties and Congress-led alliances could garner. He accused the INDIA alliance of hindering the state's growth. "BJP will defeat the INDIA alliance in Kerala," Modi said, underscoring the party's commitment to overcoming the perceived obstacles posed by the bloc. Targeting the CPI(M) and the Congress, he said that even though they are two parties in name, they are essentially one, standing together whether it involves violence or corruption. "Now, they have formed the INDIA alliance and declared that their ideologies are the same. People have now understood this and realised that the development of Kerala is only possible through the BJP," Modi said. The prime minister insisted that the state's advancement hinges on aligning with the BJP, urging the electorate to choose development over what he portrayed as a hindrance to progress. Addressing the massive gathering titled 'Woman Power with Modi', the PM expressed optimism that the winds of change from Thrissur would sweep across Kerala, bringing about a transformation. In Thrissur, deemed a hopeful constituency for the BJP in Kerala, actor-MP Suresh Gopi is a leading candidate for the BJP, given the significant Christian voter base of over 30 per cent, which the party has been wooing in recent times. The Prime Minister reassured the Christian community of BJP's commitment to their welfare. Modi accused the state government of avoiding accountability with regard to the use of funds allocated by the central government, apparently referring to state Finance Minister K N Balagopal's allegations that the Centre was imposing financial sanctions against Kerala. "The people of Kerala now know that only the BJP-led NDA can bring development to the state," Modi said. Amid ongoing tensions between international sports figures from India, such as the champion wrestlers, and the central government, Modi strategically positioned himself between two prominent sports personalities, former Indian Athlete and BJP MP PT Usha and Indian Women's Cricket Team captain C Minnu Mani. Modi expressed confidence that the 'Modi Guarantee' would contribute to the growth of young sportspersons in the country. Earlier, Modi received a warm and enthusiastic welcome in the city as he arrived to attend the women's convention. Thousands of people, including fervent BJP supporters, lined both sides of the road for nearly two kilometres, enthusiastically cheering on as the PM held a roadshow from the General Hospital junction to the venue.

### Electricity reaches 2...

which brought grid connectivity to the once-isolated communities, the spokesman said. "Cheers and jubilation filled the air as lights illuminated their houses, marking the end of decades-long wait," the spokesman added. The electrification project was completed in a record two months by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Electric Division, Kupwara, he claimed. Residents were ecstatic, they had strong reason to be happy, some even shrieked in joy on witnessing the electricity illuminating their houses, thanks to the efforts of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan. Happiness of the villagers was evident, as they had gathered at Kundian to receive the Deputy Commissioner, who visited these villages to interact with locals. DC on reaching Patroo and Kundian congratulated the people and PRIs for getting grid connectivity for the first time. She said that it is a job well done. Everything was done in mission mode. From Officers to Line men of PDD, Local PRIs and concerned contractors, all have contributed in timely completion of this electrification project which was handed over to people in a record time of two months. It is a big achievement and testimony of transformation down at the grassroots level as only two months ago approval and allocation of this project was made. The DC further said that the road stretch from Dutt Bridge to Keran has been handed over to Beacon and work on it will be started. She said that by the end of this year all the villages of Keran will get saturated by the BSNL mobile network. DC added Airtel and Jio companies will be roped in for providing and enhancing cell phone connectivity to the area.



Chairperson, BDC Keran, Mohammad Syed Khoja while expressing his gratitude to District Administration Kupwara said that District Administration led by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara deserves all the appreciation for getting the villages electrified in a short span of just two months. He said that for the residents here it is like a dream come true. We used to receive 2 to 3 hours of low voltage power through a decade old Diesel Generator Set (DG Set) which could hardly light up a bulb. We were using candles to lighten our homes. Now our children will study under electric lights and perform well." On the occasion, Locals hailing the efforts of DC Kupwara said the hard work of the District Administration has paid off and their remote villages have got electric supply. Commanding Officer, 6 RR, Lt. Col Harshad Saini, OC Beacon, VV Sharma, Tehsildar Keran, Omer Bashir, EXEN PDD Javid Ahmad, AEE PDD, Latief, AEE, STD Sohail Nisar, PRIs and a large number of people of the area were present on the occasion.

### CRS conducts inspection...

the CRS, who first led trolley inspection of the work from Banihal to Khari and later returned from Khari to Banihal by special train. The train schedule will be released after the submission of the report by the CRS, the officials said, adding the track between Banihal and Khari passes mostly through tunnels and has four minor and major bridges as well. Deshwal said the infrastructure is ready for commissioning and the inspection was imperative before extending the train service to Khari. "This (inspection) is a process and we are completing it before starting the train operations after checking the passenger safety. The government guidelines for testing and commissioning are being completed," he said. Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, the 161 km was commissioned in phases with the first phase 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18-km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013 and 25-km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014. The work on the project, which is the most challenging railway infrastructure project being undertaken post-independence, was started in 1997 and has missed several deadlines amid huge cost escalations.

### Commercial units in...

"In order to deter criminals, anti-social and anti-national elements from committing crimes, the installation of CCTV outside such establishments would work as a force multiplier, which would inspire further confidence in general public/customers visiting these establishments," Mahajan said, directing installation of the CCTVs within 21 days. "Any contravention of this order shall attract legal consequences as are contemplated under section 188 of the India Penal Code," the order read. In another order seeking details of employees working in commercial units in Katra and Ransoo, Mahajan said it was felt necessary to conduct verification of employees for the safety of the public and pilgrims visiting shrines. The owners of the business establishments were asked to furnish details of their employees, including Aadhaar numbers, address and mobile phone numbers to their respective police stations and tehsildars concerned within a period of 21 days.

### VP Dhankhar to...

and Tier 3 cities and make them realize that the start-up does not mean information technology and areas such as agriculture, healthcare, aroma, vaccines too had shown great potential for entrepreneurs.

### Immovable property of...

The accused is currently under trail and lodged at Central Jail Srinagar. The said property is attached under section 33 (1) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, he added. The spokesman said the attachment follows due legal process outlined in the law. The police continues its vigilant stance against elements involved in activities detrimental to public safety and national security, he added. The spokesman said the operation underscores the commitment of the police to curb unlawful activities, particularly those with potential connections to acts against the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Such measures play a crucial role in maintaining law and order, contributing to the larger goal of ensuring the safety and security of the area, he added. The spokesman further said the action sends a strong message about the zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism that pose threats to peace and harmony in the area.



### Encounter breaks out...

The joint operation by the Army and police is underway in Kachblari in Mehdhara and Ardhie in Mandi areas following information about some suspicious movement, they said.

### Cop among two...

12 accused, including the former minister in the instant case. While nine accused are lodged in Central jail, three absconders are in Pakistan. A team of SLA raided the house of the policeman in the Belicharana area here on Tuesday and seized some electronic gadgets, the officials said, adding further inves-

tigation is in progress to dismantle the ecosystem of narcotics supplies to fund anti-national activities.

Earlier also, the officials said the policeman was booked under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act when he was arrested with 200 grams of heroin from Shahpur Kandi area of Pathankot.

The role of the policeman and the former sarpanch came to light following the arrest of key accused Mohd Sharief Chechi, also a resident of Uri, in September last year.

After taking over the investigation of the case, the official said SLA unearthed the modus operandi adopted by the accused, including Chechi who used to collect narcotics from across the Line of Control to generate proceeds for terror funding.

The case was initially registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar in Jammu following arrest of Shah on specific information that he along with the former minister were working under the directions of Pakistan's ISI and their agents to fund Jammu-based separatists to carry out subversive activities, the officials said.

### CS takes overview...

Science & Technology; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Secretary, Cooperatives; Secretary, Grievances; DG, Planning; Director, Industries; SIO, NIC besides other concerned officers.

In the onset of the meeting the Chief Secretary maintained that the time is ripe for providing customised solutions based on Artificial intelligence to the public issues. He intervened that when the IT has forayed into every aspect of our lives it is necessary to make our processes more compatible with the technology. He asked for fixing timeline for achieving specific tasks focusing on each of them one by one to achieve optimum results.

He impressed upon each Department to add as many layers as possible to the PM Gati Shakti portal as there is scope for same. He advised each of them to prioritise their problem statements for seeking corresponding IT solutions from BISAG. He further asked them to rework their requirements with respect to their significance for public and seek AI based customised solutions for each of them.

Dulloo also asked for relooking into the aspect of upgrading the already offered G2C online services for making them more user-friendly and interactive. He asked them to develop applications that are useful in monitoring the quality of solutions offered to public. He further suggested to make grievance resolution mechanism a more result-oriented, interactive and time bound.

In her presentation the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Purna Puri gave insights into the kind of interventions they are proposing to seek from BISAG. She laid out that department has asked for cooperation in the focus areas like implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), Works execution, Public Grievances, end to end solution for tracking public outreach programmes like Back to Village etc besides profiling of villages and panchayats for have better understanding about the infrastructure and human resource available there and the kind of interventions needed in each of them.

The team of BISAG in their presentation displayed several models including those developed for holistic development of J&K. They depicted the kind and nature of interventions they are contemplating for providing better solutions to the users in J&K. They also shared the details about the scope for AI in different governance aspects based upon the data the UT has generated so far.

The team presented the key note interventions they are proposing in the areas of developing apps like Village Amenity and Work Execution Directories. They also showed the models regarding development of comprehensive grievances redressal mechanism, public outreach programme and government scheme integration and convergence.

It was set out that the institute will go on developing the solutions based upon the requirements of each department on day to day basis and deliver at regular intervals. It also offered developing IEC videos for each of them without charging anything in any of the local languages.

It was decided to cooperate with each other and designate Nodal officers from each department for onward transmission of data and other paraphernalia for smooth and time bound delivery of prospective solutions as envisaged by the local administration here.

### Now frisking and...

The JEE (Main)-2024 will be conducted in 13 languages -- English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

The Computer Based Test (CBT) will be conducted from January 24 to February 1. The results will be announced on February 12.

The NTA has received record 12.3 lakh registrations for the exam this time. The second edition of the bi-annual exam will be conducted in April.

### Kashmir reels under...

areas of Kashmir due to extreme cold-wave conditions. Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.6 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 6.2 degrees Celsius, they said.

Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town saw the mercury settle at minus 3.2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, they said.

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell and there is no precipitation forecast over the next six days, officials said, adding December was 79 per cent deficit in rainfall. There has been no snowfall in most plain areas of Kashmir while the upper reaches of the valley have also received lesser than usual amount of snow by the end of December. The open skies have resulted in the minimum temperature sliding further in most parts including Srinagar, officials said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall. 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurud' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

## Comm State Taxes exhorts officers for robust action against tax evasion cases

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Commissioner State Taxes, Dr. Rashmi Singh, on Wednesday called upon the officers of Jammu division to take timely and robust action against cases of tax evasion and ensure compliance to tax law across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through optimization of data analytics and field intervention. The Commissioner made these remarks while chairing departmental review meeting of the State Tax Officers of Jammu Division here today.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Commissioner commended the department for successful completion of audit cases overcoming several challenges. She asked the officers to undertake multi-faceted revenue recovery efforts at the earliest, assuring officers of any inter-departmental support required for the same. Dr. Rashmi Singh directed the enforcement wings to intensify their field actions and take appropriate measure to curb undervaluation with special focus on outer and remote areas. Underlining the massive infrastructural expansion

undertaken by government across Jammu and Kashmir with several under construction national projects, the Commissioner directed officers to pay special attention on work contract and construction sector within specific areas of project to ensure compliance and augmentation of UT revenue. Commissioner advocated for joint efforts with other departments to make sure that payments of non-compliant dealers are not released by DDOs of various departments. She also stressed upon the need for wider publicity of recent government circular regarding release of payments by the DDOs. She further directed the field officers to undertake field inspections and ensure compliance by hotels, banquets, restaurants and adopt innovative approaches to identify tax evaders.

"Department is undertaking multiple IT interventions in this direction, one such initiative is installation of RFID readers at uncovered locations to keep check on tax evaders", she said. Dr. Rashmi Singh further said that tax officers should facilitate the honest taxpayers

and chase the evaders and expressed her confidence that officers will adopt all necessary measures by taking assistance of business intelligence inputs for ensuring that the department achieves the required revenue target to the fullest.

During the meeting, Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement), Namrita Dogra, apprised the Commissioner of various departmental activities and presented circle wise report on successful completion of scrutiny and audit of taxpayers for the financial year 2017-18. She stated that State Taxes Department has completed audit and scrutiny for the FY 2017-18 and has in the process been able to identify substantial amount of unrealized revenue. The Additional Commissioner reiterated that there is a positive growth in GST collections during the year in the UT of J&K stating that more than 30% growth has been seen over the comparative period last year and the overall growth in the SGST cash component has shown a healthy upward swing of around 28.26%.

## Fake Facebook account of ADGP Jammu detected

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A fake Facebook account claiming to be that of Jammu Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Anand Jain has been detected, with officials saying they have flagged it and urged people not to interact with it.

"It has come to our attention that there is a fake Facebook account circulating on social media platforms, posing as ADGP Jammu Anand Jain. The account is created by one Ashish Kumar," a police spokesperson said.

During initial investigation, it was found that the imposter would send people messages from the fake account, introducing himself as Commandant CRPF Bantalab and a close friend of ADGP.

He would falsely tell people he has been transferred to Telangana and wants to sell household and electronic items for Rs 70,000, the spokesperson said.

### Criminal detained under PSA

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: A criminal was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Udhampur district on Wednesday, police said.

Ashraf Ali alias 'Shifti', a resident of Ramnagar, has become a threat to public peace and tranquillity, forcing the district magistrate to issue orders for his detention under the PSA, a police spokesperson said.

He said Udhampur Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh prepared Ali's dossier for PSA for his continuous involvement in criminal activities like bovine smuggling, theft and bootlegging.



## Physical presence of public servants in court not needed except for recording evidence: SC says in SOP

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Physical presence of government officials in courts may not be necessary except in judicial proceedings involving recording of evidence, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday in its standard operating procedure meant to regulate the summoning of officials by courts across the country.

The standard operating procedure (SOP) was formulated by a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra in a judgement which came on an appeal of the Uttar Pradesh government.

The Allahabad High Court had ordered the arrest of Secretary (Finance) and the Special Secretary (Finance) of the state for moving an application seeking recall of the order by which the government was asked to notify the rules framed by the chief justice for providing domestic servants to retired chief justices and judges of the high court.

"This Standard Operating Procedure is applicable to all court proceedings involving

the government in cases before the Supreme Court, High Courts and all other courts acting under their respective appellate and/or original jurisdiction or proceedings related to contempt of court," the judgement said.

The SOP said in evidence-based adjudication the presence of the officials may be needed. "These proceedings involve evidence such as documents or oral statements. In these proceedings, a government official may be required to be physically present for testimony or to present relevant documents. Rules of procedure, such as the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or Criminal Procedure Code 1973, govern these proceedings," the SOP said.

In cases other than evidence recording, the issues can be addressed through affidavits and other documents and physical presence may not be necessary and should not be directed as a routine measure, it said. "The court should exercise caution and restraint when initiating contempt proceed-

ings, ensuring a judicious and fair process," it said.

"In exceptional cases where in the in-person appearance of a government official is called for by the court, the court should allow as a first option, the officer to appear before it through video conferencing," it said.

"The Invitation Link for VC appearance and viewing, as the case may be, must be sent by the Registry of the court to the given mobile no(s)/e-mail id(s) by SMS/email/WhatsApp of the concerned official at least one day before the scheduled hearing," the SOP said.

When the personal presence of an official is directed, reasons should be recorded as to why such presence is required, it said. "Due notice for in-person appearance, giving sufficient time for such appearance, must be served in advance to the official. This would enable the official to come prepared and render due assistance to the court for proper adjudication of the matter for which they have been summoned," it said.