

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
CJ rolls out...**

Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority also underscored the importance of activity calendar in timely execution of legal aid initiatives and stressed that the calendar would serve as a strategic tool for organizing legal literacy programs, Lok Adalats, victim support initiatives and pro bono services across the UT.



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurating Judicial Enclave at Kathua on Wednesday.

The event also marked discussions on further strengthening legal aid mechanisms, enhancing digital outreach and promoting legal literacy at the grassroots level. The calendar includes special focus areas such as legal assistance to prisoners, empowerment of women and children, awareness on cyber laws, environmental justice, rehabilitation of victims of crime and undertaking of special campaigns launched by the NALSA.

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, Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computers (I.T), Jeewan Kumar, Secretary, HCLSC and other officers of the Registry who also appreciated the efforts of the J&K Legal Services Authority in conceptualizing and preparing an extensive activity schedule, ensuring timely execution of legal aid services in line with the objectives of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

The unveiling of the Activity Calendar 2025 stands as another milestone in the continued efforts of the J&K Legal Services Authority towards enhancing legal awareness, promoting justice for all, and fostering a society where legal services are accessible to every individual, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

Rabstan inaugurates Judicial...

The Chief Justice highlighted the significance of having dignified residences for the Judicial Officers nearer to the Court Complex. He emphasised early completion of the under construction Court Complex at Kathua and other Court Buildings in the district so that the Courts, which are presently functioning in the buildings with grossly insufficient and inadequate space and facilities, can be shifted there. The same would be beneficial for all the stakeholders paving the way for smooth and speedy dispensation of Justice.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal also expressed happiness at the completion of the Judicial Enclave and appreciated the pioneering efforts made by the Chief Justice in this regard.

In his welcome address, Jatinder Singh Jamwal, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kathua welcomed Chief Justice, Administrative Judge and all other dignitaries which included Officers of the High Court Registry, the Deputy Commissioner Kathua and Senior Superintendent of Police Kathua.

He presented a brief overview of Judicial Enclave and other infrastructural projects coming up in the district.

Pravin Pandoh, Additional District Judge Kathua, presented vote of thanks. He thanked all the dignitaries present on the occasion and made a special mention of Parvez Malik and his team for their dedication in timely completion of this project.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Amandeep kour, Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua.

PM lauds ISRO's...

milestone illustrates the vision, dedication and commitment of our scientists and engineers. With the private sector joining hands, India's space journey will continue to attain new heights," the prime minister posted on X.

ISRO on Wednesday achieved a historic milestone with its 100th mission and revealed an ambitious future plan of crossing the next 100 launches in five years.

Starting off with the SLV in 1979, the space agency crossed the 100-mission mark after 46 years, but what stands out is the PSLV's dominance through the years with 62 missions.

UAPA case: Multiple...

earlier said that the raids were carried out in different areas of the border district as part of the ongoing investigation into cases related to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and registered against terrorists operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The CRPF personnel assisted the police during the operation, they added. The officials said that the houses of Iftikhar Hussain and his brother Mohd Parvaz were raided at Tundi Tarar near the town at around 9.50 am but nothing could be found during the searches lasting more than an hour

Another brother of the duo, Mohd Asgar alias Billa alias Kaka, is a terrorist who is operating from across the LoC, they added.

On the strength of warrant received from the NIA Special Court, the police said that extensive searches were conducted at 25 locations, including Rajouri, Naushera, Thanamandi, Dharhal, Koteranka, Budhal, Manjakot and Chingus.

"These searches were conducted as a part of investigation linked to a case registered at Police Station Rajouri last year," the spokesperson said.

"This case pertains to an active terrorist network, which with the connivance of proscribed terrorist organizations like Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has been working to activate overground workers (OGWs) in Jammu and Kashmir to initiate, organize and execute terror-related activities," he added.

The spokesperson said further investigation is continuing into the case.

The raids came a day after the security forces conducted massive search operations at nearly two dozen places across Jammu as part of the strategy to wipe out terrorism from the region, which was rocked by several terror attacks last year.

Shantmanu gets addl...

IFS (AGMUT: 2000), CCF Settlement & Demarcation, J&K has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary, Culture Department, it reads.

In a separate order issued by GAD, Ayzaz Ahmad Naisroo, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, shall hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Pahalgam, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Parliamentary panel adopts...

both Houses of Parliament during the Budget Session beginning Friday.

A key concern of the opposition was the appointment of non-Muslims on the Waqf Board, which they claimed was violative of Article 26 of the Constitution that granted citizens freedom to manage their religious affairs, including establishment and maintenance of institutions for religious and charitable purposes.

"You have violated our rights granted under Article 26 of the Constitution. You talked about Uniform Civil Code, but there are Hindu Endowment Board, Sikh Boards, Christian boards which do not have non-Hindus, non-Sikhs, and non-Christians as members. But why does this not extend to Muslims? This is an attempt to destroy the Waqf Boards," Congress member Inuran Masood told reporters here.

At its meeting on Monday, the committee had adopted 14 amendments to the bill, all proposed by BJP members and rejected every change suggested by the opposition members, including Congress, DMK, TMC, AAP, Shiv Sena-UBT and the AIMIM.

Trinamool leader Kalyan Banerjee claimed the observations and recommendations of the committee were "wholly perverse".

The BJP members contended that the amendments suggested by the opposition were intended to uphold the 1995 law and negate the spirit of the Waqf Amendment Bill-2024.

"All these amendments are not in the interest of the Waqf. These will destroy the Waqf board and increase interference of the central government in their functioning," AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi said.

He said the evacuee properties could also be taken over by the government.

"This will not be acceptable to the masses, especially the Muslim community. We reject this Waqf amendment. Muslims will lose their masjids," Owaisi said.

According to the amendments accepted by the committee, the state Waqf boards will now include one member from the Muslim OBC community, ensuring broader representation.

It also has provisions that allow the state government to establish separate Waqf boards for Aghakhani and Bohra communities and safeguard women's inheritance rights in Waqf Alal Aulad (family waqfs).

The amendments also allow the income from Waqf Alal Aulad to support widows, divorced women, and orphans, if specified by the waqif (creator of the waqf).

Pal claimed that many of the amendments approved by the committee have

addressed several concerns of opposition members as well, adding the Bill once enacted will help Waqf board in discharging its duties transparently and more effectively.

For the first time, "pasma" (backward) Muslims, the poor, women and orphans have been included among beneficiaries of the Waqf, an endowment made by Muslims for charitable religious purposes, he said.

Maha Kumbh stampede...

the other side, crushing those waiting there. Over 90 injured were rushed to the hospital, of whom 30 died," he said.

The officer said 25 of the deceased have been identified. Four of them are from Karnataka and one each from Assam and Gujarat.

Among those injured, 36 are undergoing treatment at the hospital and the rest have been sent with their families.

Over seven and half crore devotees took a dip Wednesday, officials said.

Later in the night, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced a three-member judicial commission, comprising Justice Harsh Kumar, former DG VK Gupta and ret'd IAS VK Singh to look into the reasons behind the stampede. He also announced an ex gratia of Rs 25 lakh each for the kin of the deceased.

"It is important to get to the bottom of the whole episode on how such a tragedy occurred," a visibly-emotional Adityanath said, adding that the chief secretary and DGP would visit the Maha Kumbh on Thursday for an in-depth probe into the tragic incident.

DIG Krishna said barricades have been placed in the mela and akhara areas for lane management but they gave way under the pressure of the jostling.

As the barricades broke, people fell on those sitting and waiting for taking the holy dip during the 'brahm muhurat' (early morning time considered auspicious to perform certain activities), he said.

Many ordinary people, including women and children, fell down and were crushed.

According to tradition, Akharas belonging to the three sects 'Sanyasi, Bairagi, and Udaseen' take the holy dip in a set sequence following a majestic, awe-inspiring procession to the Sangam Ghat.

The Triveni Sangam -- confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati -- is considered the holiest by Hindus, with a belief that taking a dip in it during Maha Kumbh and particularly on special bathing dates like Mauni Amavasya washes away people's sins and provides them 'moksha' or salvation.

On Tuesday, in view of the anticipated influx of pilgrims, the Mela authorities issued an advisory urging devotees to follow crowd-management guidelines for safety and convenience.

Pilgrims were asked to use designated lanes to reach Sangam Ghat, stay in their lanes while approaching the bathing area, and avoid lingering at ghats after the holy dip. They were urged to proceed promptly to parking areas or their destinations to ensure smooth movement. Visitors were reminded to remain patient at barricades and pontoon bridges, avoiding rushing or jostling to prevent accidents. The administration emphasised that "all ghats at Sangam are equally sacred", encouraging devotees to "bathe at the first ghat they reach to prevent overcrowding".

Being held after 12 years, the Maha Kumbh kicked off on January 13 and will continue till February 26. There was a stampede during the 2013 Kumbh in which dozens of pilgrims were killed at the railway station and several left injured.

CM holds strategic...

on leveraging Kashmir's unique cuisine to enhance culinary tourism and cultural exchange. Additionally, wellness expert Mickey Mehra highlighted strategies to integrate wellness tourism with Kashmir's serene landscapes.

Discussions with Health & Team focused on advancing public health initiatives and preventive care frameworks in the region. Representatives from Tech Unicorn, a coalition of high-growth startups, explored tech-driven innovations to boost entrepreneurship and strengthen digital infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

WHY I KILLED...

"Born in a devotional Brahmin family, I instinctively came to revere Hindu religion, Hindu history and Hindu culture. I had, therefore, been intensely proud of Hinduism as a whole. As I grew up I developed a tendency to free thinking unfettered by any superstitious allegiance to any isms, political or religious. That is why I worked actively for the eradication of untouchability and the caste system based on birth alone. I openly joined the RSS wing of anti caste movements and maintained that all Hindus were of equal status as to rights, social and religious and should be considered high or low on merit alone and not through the accident of birth in a particular caste or profession.

I used to publicly take part in organized anti-caste dinners in which thousands of Hindus, Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas, Chamars and Bhangis participated. We broke the caste rules and dined in the company of each other. I have read the speeches and writings of Ravana, Chanakya, DadabhaiNaoroji, Vivekanand, Gokhale, Tilak, along with the books of ancient and modern history of India and some prominent countries like England, France, America and Russia. Moreover I studied the tenets of Socialism and Marxism. But above all I studied very closely whatever Veer Savarkar and Gandhiji had written and spoken, as to my mind these two ideologies have contributed more to the moulding of the thought and action of the Indian people during the last thirty years or so, than any other single factor has done.

All this reading and thinking led me to believe it was my first duty to serve Hindudom and Hindus both as a patriot and as a world citizen. To secure freedom and to safeguard the just interests of some thirty crore(300 million) of Hindus would automatically constitute the freedom and the well-being of all India, one fifth of the human race. This conviction led me naturally to devote myself to the Hindu Sanghathanist ideology and programme, which alone, I came to believe, could win and preserve the national independence of Hindustan, my Motherland, and enable her to render true service to humanity as well. Since the year 1920, that is, after the demise of Lokamanya Tilak, Gandhiji's influence in the Congress first increased and then became supreme.

His activities for public awakening were phenomenal in their intensity and were reinforced by the slogan of truth and non-violence which he paraded ostentatiously before the country. No sensible or enlightened person could object to those slogans. In fact there is nothing new or original in them... They are implicit in every constitutional public movement. But it is nothing but a mere dream if you imagine that the bulk of mankind is, or can ever become, capable of scrupulous adherence to these lofty principles in its normal life from day to day. In fact, honour, duty and love of one's own kith and kin and country might often compel us to disregard non-violence and to use force. I could never conceive that an armed resistance to an aggression is unjust. I would consider it a religious and moral duty to resist and, if possible, to overpower such an enemy by use of force. [In the Ramayana] Rama killed Ravana in a tumultuous fight and relieved Sita... [In the Mahabharata], Krishna killed Kansa to end his wickedness; and Arjuna had to fight and slay quite a number of his friends and relations including the revered Bhishma because the latter was on the side of the aggressor. It is my firm belief that in dubbing Rama, Krishna and Arjuna as guilty of violence, the Mahatma betrayed a total ignorance of the springs of human action. In more recent history, it was the heroic fight put up by Chhatrapati Shivaji that first checked and eventually destroyed the Muslim tyranny in India. It was absolutely essentially for Shivaji to overpower and kill an aggressive Afzal Khan, failing which he would have lost his own life. In condemning history's towering warriors like Shivaji, Rana Pratap and Guru Gobind Singh as misguided patriots, Gandhiji has merely exposed his self-conceit. He was, paradoxical as it may appear a violent pacifist who brought untold calamities on the country in the name of truth and non-violence, while Rama Pratap, Shivaji and the Guru will remain enshrined in the hearts of their countrymen for ever for the freedom they brought to them. The accumulating provocation of thirty-two years, culminating in his last pro-Muslim fast, at last goaded me to the conclusion that the existence of Gandhi should be brought to an end immediately. Gandhi had done very good in South Africa to uphold the rights and well-being of the Indian community there. But when he finally returned to India he developed a subjective mentality under which he alone was to be the final judge of what was right or wrong. If the country wanted his leadership, it had to accept his infallibility; if it did not, he would stand aloof from the Congress and carry on his own way. Against such an attitude there can be no halfway house. Either Congress had to surrender its will to his and had to be content with playing second fiddle to all his eccentricity, whimsicality, metaphysics and primitive vision, or it had to carry on without him. He alone was the Judge of everyone and everything; he was the master brain guiding the civil disobedience movement; no other could know the technique of that movement. He alone knew when to begin and when to withdraw it. The movement might succeed or fail, it might bring untold disaster and political reverses but that could make no difference to the Mahatma's infallibility. 'A Satyagrahi can never fail' was his formula for declaring his own infallibility and nobody except himself knew what a Satyagrahi is. Thus, the Mahatma became the judge and jury in his own cause. These childish insanities and obstinacies, coupled with a most severe austerity of life, ceaseless work and lofty character made Gandhi formidable and irresistible. Many people thought that his policies were irrational but they had either to withdraw from the Congress or place their intelligence at his feet to do with as he liked. In a position of such absolute irresponsibility Gandhi was guilty of blunder after blunder; failure after failure, disaster after disaster.

Gandhi's pro-Muslim policy is blatantly in his perverse attitude on the question of

the national language of India. It is quite obvious that Hindi has the most prior claim to be accepted as the premier language. In the beginning of his career in India, Gandhi gave a great impetus to Hindi but as he found that the Muslims did not like it, he became a champion of what is called Hindustani... Everybody in India knows that there is no language called Hindustani; it has no grammar; it has no vocabulary. It is a mere dialect, it is spoken, but not written. It is a bastard tongue and cross-breed between Hindi and Urdu, and not even the Mahatma's sophistry could make it popular. But in his desire to please the Muslims he insisted that Hindustani alone should be the national language of India. His blind followers, of course, supported him and the so-called hybrid language began to be used. The charm and purity of the Hindi language was to be prostituted to please the Muslims. All his experiments were at the expense of the Hindus. From August 1946 onwards the private armies of the Muslim League began a massacre of the Hindus. The then Viceroy, Lord Wavell, though distressed at what was happening, would not use his powers under the Government of India Act of 1935 to prevent the rape, murder and arson. The Hindu blood began to flow from Bengal to Karachi with some retaliation by the Hindus. The Interim Government formed in September was sabotaged by its Muslim League members right from its inception, but the more they became disloyal and treasonable to the government of which they were a part, the greater was Gandhi's infatuation for them. Lord Wavell had to resign as he could not bring about a settlement and he was succeeded by Lord Mountbatten. King Log was followed by King Stork. The Congress which had boasted of its nationalism and socialism secretly accepted Pakistan literally at the point of the bayonet and abjectly surrendered to Jinnah. India was vivisected and one-third of the Indian territory became foreign land to us from August 15, 1947.

Lord Mountbatten came to be described in Congress circles as the greatest Viceroy and Governor-General this country ever had. The official date for handing over power was fixed for June 30, 1948, but Mountbatten with his ruthless surgery gave us a gift of vivisected India ten months in advance. This is what Gandhi had achieved after thirty years of undisputed dictatorship and this is what Congress party calls 'freedom' and 'peaceful transfer of power'. The Hindu-Muslim unity bubble was finally burst and a theocratic state was established with the consent of Nehru and his crowd and they have called 'freedom won by them with sacrifice' - whose sacrifice? When top leaders of Congress, with the consent of Gandhi, divided and tore the country - which we consider a deity of worship - my mind was filled with direful anger. One of the conditions imposed by Gandhi for his breaking of the fast unto death related to the mosques in Delhi occupied by the Hindu refugees. But when Hindus in Pakistan were subjected to violent attacks he did not so much as utter a single word to protest and censure the Pakistan Government or the Muslims concerned. Gandhi was shrewd enough to know that while undertaking a fast unto death, had he imposed for its break some condition on the Muslims in Pakistan, there would have been hardly any Muslims who could have shown some grief if the fast had ended in his death. It was for this reason that he purposely avoided imposing any condition on the Muslims. He was fully aware of the experience that Jinnah was not at all perturbed or influenced by his fast and the Muslim League hardly attached any value to the inner voice of Gandhi. Gandhi is being referred to as the Father of the Nation. But if that is so, he had failed his paternal duty inasmuch as he has acted very treacherously to the nation by his consenting to the partitioning of it. I stoutly maintain that Gandhi has failed in his duty. He has proved to be the Father of Pakistan. His inner-voice, his spiritual power and his doctrine of non-violence of which so much is made of, all crumbled before Jinnah's iron will and proved to be powerless. Briefly speaking, I thought to myself and foresaw I shall be totally ruined, and the only thing I could expect from the people would be nothing but hatred and that I shall have lost all my honour, even more valuable than my life, if I were to kill Gandhiji. But at the same time I felt that the Indian politics in the absence of Gandhiji would surely be proved practical, able to retaliate, and would be powerful with armed forces. No doubt, my own future would be totally ruined, but the nation would be saved from the inroads of Pakistan. People may even call me and dub me as devoid of any sense or foolish, but the nation would be free to follow the course founded on the reason which I consider to be necessary for sound nation-building. After having fully considered the question, I took the final decision in the matter, but I did not speak about it to anyone whatsoever. I took courage in both my hands and I did fire the shots at Gandhiji on 30th January 1948, on the prayer-grounds of Birla House.

I do say that my shots were fired at the person whose policy and action had brought rack and ruin and destruction to millions of Hindus.

There was no legal machinery by which such an offender could be brought to book and for this reason I fired those fatal shots. I bear no ill will towards anyone individually but I do say that I had no respect for the present government owing to their policy which was unfairly favourable towards the Muslims. But at the same time I could clearly see that the policy was entirely due to the presence of Gandhi.

I have to say with great regret that Prime Minister Nehru quite forgets that his preachings and deeds are at times at variance with each other when he talks about India as a secular state in season and out of season, because it is significant to note that Nehru has played a leading role in the establishment of the theocratic state of Pakistan, and his job was made easier by Gandhiji's persistent policy of appeasement towards the Muslims. I now stand before the court to accept the full share of my responsibility for what I have done and the judge would, of course, pass against me such orders of sentence as may be considered proper.

But I would like to add that I do not desire any mercy to be shown to me, nor do I wish that anyone else should beg for mercy on my behalf. My confidence about the moral side of my action has not been shaken even by the criticism levelled against it on all sides. I have no doubt that honest writers of history will weigh my act and find the true value thereof some day in future.

4 Bengaluru-based...

brother and director support chain Sushil Kumar Tongbram, Director Corporate and Legal Affairs Kingmoohan and architect Gangoni Poorna Chandra -- all residents of Karnataka. Last month, a team of Crime Branch officers conducted raids in collaboration with Police Station Wilsen Garden, Bengaluru, and Police Station Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru. However, it was found that the office premises of M/S Chisel Fitness LLP was closed over the past several years, the officials said. The investigation of the case has been completed, leading to the filing of the chargesheet, they said.

Union Minister reviews construction of ESIC Hospital

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State (MoS) for Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Labour and Employment, Shobha Karandlaje, on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review construction of 100-bedded Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital at SIDCO Industrial Complex, Ompora, Budgam.

The hospital being constructed at a cost of Rs 160 crore would be equipped with modern healthcare facilities and will have OPD, IPD, ICU, Wards, Diagnostic Laboratories, Operation Theater, Disaster management facilities, in addition to an independent sub-station. Besides, Surgery and Psychiatric departments would be established in which specialist doctors and well trained staff will be made available round the clock. The Union Minister termed the hospital as yet another step to boost healthcare infrastructure in J&K. He said the hospital is being constructed to provide world class healthcare facilities under ESIC to strengthen the preventive, primary and secondary health care ecosystem in J&K.

She directed the authorities to complete the project before the deadline while cautioning against any breach in set completion timelines. She visited all the health facilities under construction planned for 23 specialties in the hospital.

Shobha Karandlaje informed that there are more than 6000 industries and establishments in Jammu and Kashmir, under ESI Act and more than one lakh thirty three thousand insured people and their dependents are being given benefits in Jammu Branch Office and five Other Dispensary-Branchees at Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Katra and Srinagar. This hospital will serve considerable population registered under ESI Act.

She added that the hospital would improve the healthcare facilities in the entire area with facility of surgery and psychiatric experts available round the clock.

The hospital is expected to benefit thousands of insured industrial workers and their families associated with around 600 factories and institutions designated under the ESI Act. The ESIC system will cover all medical and hospital expenses, including referrals to a territory care hospital, along with a range of insurance coverages for death and disability.

"The hospital is planned to be built in the same style as hospitals in metro cities to provide better treatment to the locals. The goal is to deliver better healthcare services to the disadvantaged elements of society at an affordable price," another official highlighted. He added that treatment costs would be capped to ensure accessibility for those in need. The official mentioned that SIDCO has acquired 40 kanal of land, which will be leased for the hospital's construction. "The facility is strategically designed to ensure efficient patient care during emergencies, equipped with the necessary personnel, equipment and an ample number of operating rooms. Around 23 specialists will be available in the hospital," the official said.

Dushyant Pande, Regional Director, ESIC, J&K, along with engineers of CPWD and IEDS Joint Director were present on the occasion.