

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Sardar Patel accepted...

tallest statue of Sardar Patel at Kevadia, which has emerged as a major tourist attraction, he said.

The 182-metre-tall Statue of Unity, dedicated to Sardar Patel, was inaugurated at Kavadia by PM Modi on October 31, 2018.

For India to become developed, one will have to listen to the youth, understand their choice, give an action plan to their aspirations, and believe in their power, Union Home Minister said.

Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi came up with several schemes with the understanding that only the youth can create an India of the future.

Shah advised students to set big targets and not be scared of failure, stressing that even the hardest target will be fulfilled thanks to the kind of conditions being created in the country. "When setting a target, you must learn that to know the limit of possibility you will have to target the impossible. Never target small," he said.

"Do not get disappointed with immediate failure. Every success is achieved from failure. Nobody can achieve anything without facing failure," he added.

He said that the new National Education Policy is an amalgamation of Sardar Patel's nationalist education, Mahatma Gandhi's emphasis on education in the mother tongue, and Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's empowering education, with a holistic approach.

### Some more time...

"We do not want to put out the number of foreign terrorists. But there is a challenge on account of that," he added.

The DGP said police are working towards a system where the number of terror-related incidents would be the at the lowest.

"We would work towards zero infiltration, towards zero recruitment. We would work towards zero smuggling of arms and ammunition. Narcotics will also be dealt with strongly. Zero terror-financing and most importantly, we will work towards a narrative, an ideology, which justifies, glorifies and supports this, endorses this, legitimises this -- that is also equally important," he said.

Asked what are police doing about foiling terror attacks, the DGP said the progress has to be seen in terms of the overall decline.

"The progress is to be seen not in terms of episodes or incidents, but in terms of the overall decline," he said, adding, "We have a plan and I think the plan is in motion."

He said the government, at the highest level, has been saying plans to dismantle and degrade the terror ecosystem, which includes people who recruit youngsters into terror ranks, provide arms and ammunition to them, help in infiltration, provide logistics support and identify targets for terrorists, are afoot.

"All of that is part of the ecosystem. So we are constantly at work. People are being identified. For example, we have made some progress in identifying some (terrorist) associates who had planned some recent incidents. It is an ongoing exercise. As I was saying a little while ago, to be able to completely silence the last gun, it will take some time," Swain said.

Asked if Pakistan will try to push more terrorists into the valley before the snow blocks passages, he said the neighbouring country always tries to push in terrorists.

"This is something that we all know by now. There is no indication that they are stopping at it. But there is also no stopping at our level. We are resolutely fighting it and doing so very intelligently, scientifically and in a blatant and systematic manner," the DGP asserted.

He, however, made it clear that those on the right side of the law need not fear as the government wants to have a lasting peace in the region. "Once there is security and peace, there will be education, roads, health, electricity, economic activities," Swain added.

He said plans are afoot for breaking the unholy nexus between terrorism and corruption in parts of the system.

Swain presided over a public grievance redressal programme at the Police Headquarters (PHQ) here. This was the fourth event in a series of such programmes launched by the DGP.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, Swain said there has been an improvement in the situation on a number of parameters.

"The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said stone pelting is an act of terrorism because here, stone pelting was not always concerned with public services, such as water, electricity, road or bad governance or poor services. It was more about the other thing," he said.

Swain said several aspects of daily lives have eased out in Jammu and Kashmir. "Students are going to schools, shops are open, tourism is flourishing, there is trade and commerce and industrial activities, which have given a boost to people's income. These are very important aspects of security management. Thirty years of violence will not end abruptly," he added.

To a question on whether the youngsters who used to indulge in stone pelting are

visiting his "public darbar" and what has he told them, the DGP said there is a need to teach a lesson to some people to safeguard the lives of the general public.

"We have to check whether he (a stone pelter) is doing anything good now, so that it is mitigating. While we know that he had done something wrong, we check and place everything on record. It is not like we see the face and then decide. We go into details, objectively," he said.

Swain said the police force knows it will not be able to do anything without the support of people and sought the cooperation of the public.

### Kashmiri man held...

"The accused was found to be impersonating a Neuro Specialist, an Army Doctor, an officer in PMO, a close associate of high-ranking NIA officials and others. Numerous forged documents like medical degree certificates issued by Cornell University of USA, Canadian Health Services Institute, and others were also seized," Pankaj told reporters.

This apart, several affidavits, bonds, ATM cards, blank cheques, Aadhaar cards and visiting cards were also seized from the man who hailed from Kupwara district of Jammu & Kashmir.

"It was also found that the accused has married at least 6-7 women from various parts of India including Kashmir, UP, Maharashtra and Odisha," Pankaj said.

Impersonating a doctor with international degrees, he was also in romantic relationships with a number of women, the police official said.

Pankaj said that it seems that the accused is also wanted by Kashmir Police in connection with a case of cheating and forgery and one non-bailable warrant is pending against him.

He was allegedly in touch with several Pakistani nationals and some suspicious persons in Kerala.

To a question, Panjkaj said that the STF did not find any link of his with ISI.

"A joint team of police from Punjab, Kashmir and Odisha will interrogate him," Pankaj said.

### Judicial Academy holds...

Junior Division) of Jammu Province at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

The training programme was inaugurated on Saturday by the Chief Justice in presence of Justice Rahul Bharti, Member, Governing Committee for Judicial Academy, Justice (Retd.) Bansilal Bhat, High Court of J&K, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Dr. T. R. Raina, retired Professor and Head of the Blood Bank Government Medical College Jammu who also happen to be the resource persons in the two day workshop.

Chief Justice, in his inaugural address, highlighted that Judicial Officers exercise sovereign power and hold public office of great trust and responsibility and therefore, their behaviour and conduct must re-affirm the faith of public in impartiality and independence of the judiciary both inside as well as outside the court.

He said that constant efforts should be put in to bridge the gap between what they say and what they do. He shared many real-life examples and impressed upon the members of Judiciary to strike a fine balance between their personal and professional lives so that there is no overlapping of roles. His lordship emphasized that the time of a judge is public time of which he is only a trusty and therefore, he cannot afford to waste even a single minute out of it.

Chief Justice advised the judicial officers to take good care of themselves and maintain a good health as only a healthy mind and a healthy body can generate good, sound, clean and noble thoughts and suggested them to practise Yoga to control their mind. He also called upon the Judicial Officers to inculcate a habit of deriving pleasure out of reading.

Justice Rahul Bharti, in his special remarks, underlined the purpose and importance of holding such training programmes at regular intervals to motivate and enhance the awareness level of judicial officers relating to the judicial ethics and to share best practices while applying the same to their day-to-day work.

He emphasized that when a judge sits on trial, he himself is on trial and any action which may shake the public faith in Judiciary which is the hallmark of Judicial functioning is simply not permitted. He added that a judge is judged not only by the quality of his judgments but also by the quality and purity of his character.

Y.P.Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy presented the welcome address and gave an overview of the programme. He highlighted that a judicial officer must maintain the highest standards of rectitude, honesty and integrity as well as must be free from all sorts of preconceived notions, biases and prejudices. Judges are supposed and expected to live and behave like hermits who have no desire or aspiration having shed it through penance.

Their mission is to supply light and not heat. He emphasized the importance of judicial officers in observing the rules of Judicial conduct and decorum in their official as well as social behavior and maintain the highest ethical standards to enhance the prestige and the dignity of their office.

On day one of workshop, the first technical session was chaired by Justice (Retd.) Bansilal Bhat who educated the participants about the judicial ethics. He emphasized the need to incorporate in their way of life the Judicial code of conduct for opti-

mizing the use of working hours. He said that a judge is always under public gaze and therefore, his every action; be it professional, family or social life should be in conformity with the highest standards of probity.

In second and third technical session, Amit Gupta discussed the importance of public speaking & organization of meetings/ seminars/ awareness camps which are now indispensable part of judicial functioning. The learned resource person, through power point presentation, deliberated on the process of preparation and execution of annual legal aid calendars of activities including the identification of target groups.

All the sessions were interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource persons.

### Our legacy challenges...

an increasing contestation in traditional and non-traditional domains in the Indo-Pacific and the "key markers" include the assertion of sharp and aggressive power with a shift in the centre of gravity of economic heft.

"Expect the unexpected is a maxim that we need to be alive to," he said.

"Black Swan events can add turbulence in the dynamic global security canvas. The outcome of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts will itself redefine relations, linkages and hierarchy amongst nations, giving a new shade to world politics in the coming decades," he added.

In an oblique reference to China and Pakistan, General Pande said the region is witnessing "cartographic manipulation", leveraging of politico-economic heft and increasing military footprints as well as religious radicalisation as part of proxy-war pursuits.

"Grey Zone pursuits by our adversaries also mandate our attention and response. We already are witness to manifestations of disinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, selective historical referencing, cartographic manipulation, leveraging politico-economic heft and increasing military footprints in our neighbourhood, and fanning religious radicalisation as part of proxy-war pursuits," he said.

The Army chief also observed that security and economic progress share a symbiotic relationship. "A secure environment provides the stability necessary for domestic and foreign investments, fostering economic growth," he said.

General Pande argued that technology has become the new strategic arena of competition and it is being leveraged for the "weaponisation" of a multitude of domains, ranging from information to supply chains.

"Technology, economy and security, in fact, form the strategic triad in the contemporary context," he said.

The Chief of Army Staff also highlighted major challenges facing South Asia.

"South Asia is marked by unresolved border disputes, both territorial and maritime, illegal cross-border migration, transnational crimes, terrorism and non-traditional threats, such as illegal and unregulated fishing, piracy and increasing religious fundamentalism," he said.

"These manifestations, coupled with regional vulnerabilities to climate change-induced disasters, have kept the region in a flux," he added.

General Pande said all these developments are profoundly impacting the security domain and transforming the way nations interact, compete and pursue their interests.

"The Indian Army remains seized with the military implications of these dynamics. Proactive measures, capability enhancement, adaptability and a holistic approach to all aspects that impact or augment security stand mandated," he said.

The Army chief said India's rise in a "non-threatening" manner and as a responsible power stands acknowledged by the global community.

"India's growth in stature brings with it recognition, additional responsibilities, opportunities as well as challenges. As the nation's influence expands, some will question our rise, some will contest it while some will attempt to compete," he said.

"As a nation, we need to ensure that our national interests remain paramount. That mandates us to be a strong nation, to be able to defend our interests in the expanding strategic horizons," General Pande said.

"Our progression towards being a strong nation militarily needs to be achieved by enhancing our defence capability through self-reliance," he noted.

General Pande also asserted that the ability to correctly assess future threats remains pivotal to the country's strategic planning and preparedness.

"As guardians of the nation's security, we are constantly seized with contemporary threats," he said.

The Army chief also flagged concerns over the increasing weaponisation of space as well as challenges in the cyber domain.

"The cyber domain has its own myriad manifestations. The CERT-In annual report of 2022 records almost 14 lakh cases of website intrusion, malware propagation, malicious code, phishing, distributed denial of service attacks, ransomware attacks and data-breach attempts in one year," he said.

The CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to cyber security.

## Snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir, rains in Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir experienced fresh snowfall while the plains, including Jammu and other areas in the region, were lashed by rains on Saturday, officials said.



tourist resort and on the Zojila axis, they added.

Meanwhile, the plains in the valley were lashed by rains that were going on till last reports came in, the officials said.

They said the western disturbance is going to affect Jammu and Kashmir till Sunday morning. Under its influence, light rain or snow

is expected at a few places, especially in the higher reaches.

The meteorological department said there would be an improvement in the minimum temperatures due to the feeble western disturbance till Sunday, after which the night temperatures are again likely to fall by one-to-three notches.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, and Gujarat are among the 13 states and Union Territories that have again been categorised as "achievers" in the logistics index chart 2023, according to a report released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Saturday.

The index is an indicator of the efficiency of logistical services necessary for promoting exports and economic growth.

As against 15 states and UTs, this year, the number has reduced to 13 as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have slipped into "aspirers" and "fast movers" categories, respectively, this year.

Steps taken by Sikkim and Tripura have helped them move up the ladder to the "achievers" category from "fast movers" in 2022.

The other states and UTs in the "achievers" category are Delhi, Assam, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry have been categorised as "fast movers" in the report.

Those in the "aspirers" category include Goa, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The report ranks states on the basis of their logistics ecosystem, highlights the key logistics-related challenges faced by the stakeholders and includes suggestive recommendations, according to the fifth LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2023 report unveiled by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

The index aims at enhancing focus on improving logistics performance across states, which is essential for improving the country's trade and reducing transaction costs.

Goyal said the logistics sector will play a key role in taking the country's economy to about USD 35 trillion by 2047.

Citing a report of economic think tank NCAER, he said the country's logistics cost is estimated in the range of 7.8 per cent to 8.9 per cent.

"Going forward, the aim to bring it down to the 5-6 per cent level is certainly doable," he said, adding that the government has taken a series of measures, such as investing huge amounts in infrastructure development to help promote cut logistics costs.

He suggested the industry to focus on skilled manpower, enhanced participation of states, use of new technologies like AI, blockchain and data analytics, and steps to reduce carbon footprint will further help in the growth of the country's logistics sector.

The minister said the LEADS report will play a pivotal role in instilling healthy competition among states/UTs to enhance logistics performance.

LEADS was conceived on the lines of the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) of the World Bank in 2018. While the LPI relies entirely

on perception-based surveys, LEADS incorporates perception and objectivity, thereby enhancing the robustness and comprehensiveness of this exercise.

The report assesses states' performance across the key pillars of Logistics Infrastructure, Logistics Services and Operating and Regulatory Environment, and empowers the state/UT governments by providing region-specific insights for informed decision-making and comprehensive growth.

It is based on a pan-India primary survey conducted between May and July 2023, covering over 7,300 responses across 36 states/UTs.

Additionally, over 750 stakeholder consultations, facilitated by National, Regional, and State Associations, significantly contributed to this comprehensive evaluation.

## J&K Congress passes resolutions demanding statehood, assembly election

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Saturday passed two resolutions at its executive committee meeting demanding the restoration of statehood for the Union Territory and the assembly election.

JKPCC also demanded an immediate filling of all vacant posts in all government and semi-government institutions in a fast-track mode and called for the constitution of a "high-level independent commission" for the investigation of recruitment scams.

The resolutions were passed under the command of AICC In-charge, J-K Affairs, Rajni Patil.

"Today we held the meeting of the political affairs

committee in which we passed two resolutions - one political and another socio-economic. We are holding the meeting to debate the issues. We are discussing the J-K situation and hearing workers' viewpoint on it," Patil told reporters here.

She said the party will accordingly formulate the policy according to them.

"They (Supreme Court) have kept the deadline of September 24... We want restoration of statehood. We want guarantees for jobs. We want an early assembly election so that we have a council of ministers and MLAs here," she said.

An assembly election has not been held in the region for more than five years.

The Congress unit said

the deferring also of urban local body and panchayat elections has left no trace of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party has already raised the issue with the government seeking elections to these bodies under the State Election Commission in accordance with amendments 73rd and 74th, with due reservation to OBCs like SCs, STs and women.

The party also demanded the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in J&K since the delimitation has taken place in the Union Territory.

"We are in favour of 33 per cent reservation for women. It was our commitment," Patil said.

The party in one of the

resolutions demanded the restoration of the old system of recruiting youths to the army with special focus on those from the border areas, including the LOC.

The Congress in these resolutions criticised the "authoritarian approach" of the current administration towards its employees and demanded a resolution of their long pending issues.

The Congress demands an immediate revision of the package and enhancement of the relief component of Kashmiri migrants, Patil said.

The party also demanded that in order to give relief to the common man the scale of free ration should be doubled and the old scale of subsidised sugar to each family be restored.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said hundreds of small cities have a key role in achieving the resolve of a developed India by 2047 and his government was upgrading basic facilities in such urban centres to improve ease of living.

Interacting with the beneficiaries of central schemes during the ongoing Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, the prime minister said his government is committed to saving money for urban families, who have benefited from initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat health insurance and housing for all.

"Our agenda is to assist people in saving money," Modi said, flagging off the Yatra, the government's mega outreach exercise to ensure saturation coverage of central initiatives.

The yatra was launched in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram where it could

not be launched last month due to the model code of conduct enforced for assembly elections.

The yatra was launched on November 15 at Khunti in Jharkhand and has reached 25 crore people across thousands of villages and 1,500 cities.

"I have to ensure that benefits of government schemes reach every poor person in villages and every slum cluster in cities, and that they get the benefits without any difficulty. This is the reason the van of 'Modi ki Guarantee' is going around," the prime minister said.

He said cities have a huge role to play in achieving the resolve of a developed India by 2047, when the nation will celebrate the centenary of Independence.

"Whatever development took place for a long time after Independence, its scope was limited to some big cities of the country. But today we are focusing on the development of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities," he said.

"Hundreds of small cities of the country are going to strengthen the grand edifice of developed India," Modi said, adding that initiatives such as AMRUT Mission and Smart City Mission were upgrading basic facilities in the small cities.

"These upgrades are directly impacting ease of living, ease of travel and ease of doing business. Poor, neo-middle class, middle class or rich people, all are getting the benefit of these enhanced facilities," he said.

The prime minister also interacted with the beneficiaries of various government schemes in Mumbai, Lucknow, Rohru near Shimla, Kozhikode and Guwahati.

The prime minister urged the people to enrol in the government's pension schemes and secure themselves and assured support at the outreach vans criss-crossing the country as part of the Yatra.