

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Number of projects...

he said. At Delhi University, the Lt Governor shared the J&K Vision 2030. He also highlighted the reforms introduced by the J&K Administration in the past few years, which resulted in greater transparency, responsiveness and accountability in the administrative setup at grassroot level.

He said the launch of Digital Jammu Kashmir programme in mission mode with over 1000 online public services, citizen feedback, and linking of services with Public Services Guarantee Act has ensured delivery of services without any human interface leading to transparency.

Prof. Yogesh Singh, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi; Prof. Chander Shekhar, Chairperson, International Relations, Delhi University; Heads of Departments, faculty members and students of the university were present.

## Parliament passes Bills...

Sub-Section (7) of Section 14 (of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir". These provisions shall be inserted in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

## Parliament nod to...

security reasons. Chauhan also said the proposed legislation entails provisions towards the expansion of India's Postal services network.

The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament.

According to the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, the enactment of a new law in place of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, is with a view to govern the functioning of post offices in the country and provide for a simple legislative framework to facilitate the evolution of post offices into a network for delivery of citizen-centric services.

The Bill seeks to empower the director general of postal services to frame regulations with respect to activities necessary to provide those services and fix the charges for such services.

In his reply, the minister said post offices are practically functioning like banking services and there are 26 crore accounts with Rs 17 lakh crore deposited in post office savings services.

Moreover, three crore accounts have been opened under the Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana with Rs 1.41 lakh crore deposited in them, Chauhan informed.

The minister said 3.5 crore people are beneficiaries of the direct benefits transfer scheme courtesy of the post office network.

Further, 1.6 lakh post offices have been connected with core banking and digital banking facilities, he said, adding that in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, 434 post offices have processed more than 1.25 crore passport applications and 13,500 "post office Aadhaar Seva Kendra" have been opened.

## 78 opposition MPs...

Privileges Committee. The three K Jayakumar, Vijay Vasanth and Abdul Khaleque had climbed on the Speaker's podium to raise slogans.

Speaker Om Birla told the House about the steps taken by the Lok Sabha secretariat following the security breach incident on December 13 and sought cooperation from all members to run the House smoothly.

However, the opposition members were on their feet demanding a statement from Shah and his resignation. Some opposition MPs were also carrying placards with their demands written on them.

Birla objected to the placards being brought into the Lok Sabha, saying it lowers the dignity of the House.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi also appealed to the opposition MPs "with folded hands" to not wave the placards, saying it was agreed at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee not to carry placards.

The opposition MPs ignored the appeals of Birla and Joshi, and continued their protests, resulting in the suspension of 33 members.

The Rajya Sabha also witnessed similar action. While 34 MPs were suspended for the remainder of the Winter session, 11 have been directed to stay away from the House pending an inquiry report on their conduct by the Committee of Privileges.

The members were suspended after the House adopted a motion moved by Leader of the House Piyush Goyal for suspension of 34 MPs for the remainder of the session and another one for referring cases of conduct of 11 other opposition MPs to the privileges committee.

The Committee has been asked to submit its report within three months. Chairman Jagdeep Dhanekar first named the suspended members and then put the motion to vote, which was adopted by voice vote.

The suspension triggered a political slugfest with opposition members terming the action as a "murder of democracy" and Goyal claiming that the action was necessary as the opposition MPs insulted the Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman.

Accusing the Congress and its allies of "embarrassing" the country with their conduct, Goyal told reporters that opposition members brought placards and willfully disrupted parliamentary proceedings despite the decision taken earlier that placards would not be allowed in the Houses.

"It was clearly their preplanned strategy to not allow Parliament to run smoothly," he said, noting that a bill to provide reservation to women in Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry was taken up for consideration and passage in Rajya Sabha but protesting opposition members did not allow a discussion.

"The Congress and its allies are intrinsically against the interests of women and backward classes. Whenever the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes any step to empower backward classes and women, they are pained because the Congress and the Left are always against their empowerment," Goyal said.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of trying to bulldoze important draft legislation in an "Opposition-less" Parliament. "With an Opposition-Less Parliament, the Modi Government can now bulldoze important pending legislations, crush any dissent, without any debate," Kharge said on X.

The government has listed three bills replacing the colonial era criminal law for consideration and passing in Parliament, besides the draft legislation to provide for a mechanism to appoint Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners is pending passage from the Lok Sabha.

Parliament watchers termed the mass suspensions as "unprecedented" and perhaps for the first time in the history of Parliament.

"It is an unprecedented development for 78 parliamentarians to be suspended in a single day," G Ravindra, a legislative expert and a keen watcher of Parliamentary proceedings said.

In 1989, 63 members of the Lok Sabha were suspended on March 15 for the remaining part of the week over the issue of tabling of the report of the Justice Thakkar Committee that inquired into the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

In 2015, the then Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan suspended 25 Congress members for the next five working days for protesting with placards in the Well of the House.

In the 15th Lok Sabha, several members of the Congress were suspended from the House over the issue of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

Among those suspended on Monday were Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Gaurav Gogoi, K Suresh, Amar Singh, Rajamohan Unnithan, Su. Thirumavukkarasar, K Muraleedharan, Anto Antony (all from Congress) and Kalyan Banerjee, Aparupa Poddar, Prasan Banerjee, Sougata Ray, Satabdi Ray, Protima Mondal, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Asit Kumar Mal, Sunil Kumar Mondal (all from TMC).

Others were -T R Baalu, A Raja, Dayanidhi Maran, T Sumathy, K Navas Kani, Kalanidhi Veerasamy, C N Annadurai, S S Palanimanickam, G Selvam, S Ramalingam (all from DMK), ET Mohammed Basheer (IUML), N K Premachandran (RSP) and Kaushalendra Kumar (JD-U).

In the Rajya Sabha, among the 34 suspended for the remainder of the session, 12 MPs are from the Congress.

The suspended Rajya Sabha members are - Pramod Tiwari, Jairam Ramesh, Ameer Yajnik, Naranbhai J Rathwa, Syed Nasir Hussain, Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam, Shaktisinh Gohil, K.C.Vengopal, Rajani Ashokrao Patil, Ranjeet Ranjan, Imran Pratapgarhi, Randeep Singh Surjewala (all Congress), while seven members are from TMC - Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Mohammed Nadimul Haque, Abir Ranjan Biswas, Santanu Sen, Mausam Noor, Prakash Chik Baraik and Samirul Islam.

Others suspended for the winter session are M Shammugam, N. R. Elango, Kanimozhi NVN Somu, R. Girirajan (all DMK), Manoj Kumar Jha, Faiyaz Ahmad (both RJD), V. Sivadasan (CPI-M), Ram Nath Thakur, Anel Prasad Hegde (both JD-U), Vandana Chavan NCP), Ram Gopal Yadav, Javed Ali Khan (both SP), Mahua Maji (JMM), Jose K. Mani (KC-M) and Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (IND).

The 11 opposition members whose names have been referred to the privilege committee are - Jebi Mather Hisham, L Hammanthaiah, Neeraj Dangi, Rajmani Patel, Kumar Ketkar, G. C. Chandrashekar (all Cong), Binoy Viswam, Sandosh Kumar P (both CPI), Mohamed Abdulla (DMK), John Brittas and A A Rahim (both CPI-M).

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said not only in the Lok Sabha but there was a "bloodbath" in the Rajya Sabha too.

"Incidentally, I too figure in this Roll of Honour for the first time in my parliamentary career of 19 years," he said on X. "This is Murder of Democracy in India(MODI) at work!"

"Tanashahi ka Doosra Naam ModiShahi hai democracy has been suspended!" Ramesh said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who arrived in the national capital on Monday, ahead of a crucial INDIA bloc meeting, described the action against the MPs as a "mockery of democracy".

## Terrorism considered 'dirty'...

he added. Prabhat said that it did not matter how many ultras were active as they will all meet the same fate. "How does it matter how many they are? Whether they are two, 20 or 50, they will all be wasted. A terrorist cannot be an icon. The kids, who go on to become sportspersons, doctors and engineers are the real icons," he added.

## India will become...

third innings, he will make Bharat the third largest economic superpower in the world," he said.

"For me, women, youth, farmers and the poor are the biggest "castes". If these four castes are empowered, then the entire country will be empowered," he said.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth about Rs 19,150 crore.

The projects included the inauguration of New Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Nagar-New Bhaupur Dedicated Freight Corridor Project built at a cost of around Rs 10,900 crore, among other railway projects.

The PM also flagged off second Varanasi-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express train. He also launched the Unified Tourist Pass System under the Smart City Mission.

While addressing the rally, Modi made some utterances in Bhojpur to connect with the gathering.

"What transformation comes by modern connectivity and beautification, we are seeing it in Kashi. The pride of Kashi as an important centre of faith and spirituality is increasing day by day. Today, along with Kashi, the entire country is committed to a developed India," he said.

Referring to the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, the PM said "Modi's guarantee vehicle" has become a superhit.

"The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has reached thousands of villages and cities. It is our endeavour that no beneficiary should be deprived of whatever schemes for public welfare have been launched by the government of India," he said.

Modi, who earlier joined the Sankalp Yatra here, said that the yatra vans are being referred to as the "Modi ki Guarantee ki Gadi" by the people.

"The Sankalp Yatra has instilled faith in the people more than anything else," the PM said, observing that this belief has strengthened the resolve of making India a developed nation by 2047.

Referring to an upcoming modern dairy plant where Banas Dairy, a cooperative, is investing more than Rs 500 crore and running a campaign to increase dairy livestock, PM Modi said Banas Dairy will prove to be a boon for farmers of Banaras.

Banas Dairy plants are already running in Lucknow and Kanpur. This year, Banas Dairy has paid more than Rs 1,000 crore to the farmers of over 4,000 villages of UP, the PM said, adding that today, Banas Dairy deposited more than Rs 100 crore in the accounts of UP dairy farmers as dividends.

The prime minister congratulated the people of Varanasi for creating a Guinness world record for lighting the most number of 'diyas' during Dev Deepavali.

The ghats of Kashi were illuminated with around 21 lakh earthen lamps on the Dev Deepavali in November this year.

Even though he was not present to experience the spectacle, Modi said he was kept updated by those visiting Varanasi including foreign dignitaries and tourists and boasted about the pride he felt upon hearing the praises for the city and its citizens.

"Get immense pride when the work of Kashi's citizens are showered with praise," he said.

He also said tourism is creating new avenues for jobs as more than 13 crore devotees have performed 'darshan' at Kashi Vishwanath Dham after the renovation.

The PM reminded the people about his exhortation from the ramparts of the Red Fort about visiting 15 domestic destinations before planning to go abroad.

He expressed satisfaction that people are taking to domestic tourism.

The prime minister listed steps for improving tourism facilities, including Unified Tourist Pass System under the Smart City Mission and launch of website 'Kashi' to provide information about the city.

He also mentioned the commencement of renovation work on the Ganga ghats, modern bus shelters, and better facilities at the airport and railway stations.

## CS addresses trade...

validity period, GST revision, power amnesty, turn-over incentives, promotion of tourist spots in Jammu Division, incentives for local industries, ensuring regular power supply, time-bound disposal of NoCs, development of infrastructure Industrial Estates, Incentives for handicraft sectors particularly for export, skill development and fully operationalization of single Window mechanism.

The deliberations also touched upon pending environmental clearances for mining and the establishment of a project clearance committee.

Representatives further provided valuable suggestions and proposed measures on various challenges faced by the industry and trade in the Union Territory Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, paid attention to the concerns raised, assured the delegations and representatives that all matters discussed would be expeditiously addressed within a time-bound framework.

Expressing gratitude for their valuable inputs, he conveyed optimism that the interaction would serve as a constructive platform to resolve issues and overcome hurdles, if any, faced by the trade and industry stakeholders.

## Gulmarg coldest place...

0.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday night. Qazigund recorded a low of 0.8 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 1.1 degrees Celsius, and Kupwara minus 2.2 degrees Celsius. The weatherman has forecast generally dry weather over the next few days in the valley.

## People say Kashmir...

is mini-Kashmir. You feel inner peace here. People are so good that you will never face a problem," she added. The actor also praised the Kashmiri cuisine and hospitality. "The food is very tasty and the people are sweet like jaggery," she added.

Bhagyashree was most recently seen in "Sajni Shinde Ka Viral Video", also starring Radhika Madan and Nimrat Kaur.

## Illegal mining: Police...

said the "exploitation of our natural resources through illegal mining will not be tolerated".

He said the actions taken by the police are aimed to curb these illicit activities and deter the individuals from engaging in practices that harm our environment and jeopardise public safety. Asserting the Jammu Police is working diligently to investigate and curtail such illicit operations, the SSP said the vehicle owners and operators implicated in illegal mining activities will face the cancellation of the registration of their vehicles. "Swift and stringent measures are being undertaken to ensure that vehicles involved in illegal mining are promptly removed from circulation, reinforcing the commitment to preserving the environment and upholding legal norms," he added.

The SSP further said the individuals with pertinent information regarding similar illegal activities are encouraged to come forward and assist the law enforcement in preserving the integrity of the natural resources.

## GDC Kathua excels in Gatka



Faculty members along with team members.

Departments of JU including Robin Singh, Lakhdeep Singh and Pushpant Sharma. Third place went to GDC Paloura (Prabhjot Singh, Manpreet Singh and Karun Ghale). In individual event of Single Soti, Sehajveer Singh of GDC Kathua bagged old while Robin Singh of PG Departments and Prabhjot Singh of GDC Paloura remained second and third respectively. The competition officiated by the technical panel including Ravinder Singh, Amarjeet Singh, Simrandeep Kour, Lovepreet Singh, Taranbeer Singh, Jasvinder Singh, Varundeep Singh and Padam Dev Singh.

## Ex-CPFWA urges Central Govt to redress issues forthwith

JAMMU: The Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association (CPFWA) urged the government, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to consider and fulfill the long-pending demands for the welfare of ex-Central Paramilitary Forces personnel. The Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association J&K (UT) held a press conference today at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Ashok Kumar. The association, represented by General Secretary D.K. Chauhan, addressed several long-pending demands crucial to the well-being of ex-Central Paramilitary Forces personnel. Addressing the media, Ashok Kumar urged the Central Government to implement new commission advisory with 7th Pay Recommendation Committee suggesting 3.68 and clearance of 18



CPFWA chairman Ashok Kumar briefing media on Monday.

months DA (Dearness Allowance) arrears, ensuring prompt payment. He warned that if the 18-month DA arrears are not paid soon, and if the government fails to address the demands, the 65 lakh central employees are prepared to boycott the BJP in the 2024 election. Referring to the Gol order dated December 23, 2012, highlighting the

## PDP's lithium concerns unveiled: Jasrotia shines light on incongruities, political motives

JAMMU: Abhijeet Jasrotia, spokesperson for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), sheds light on the apparent incongruities in the People's Democratic Party's (PDP) expressed concerns regarding Lithium resources and the environment. Drawing inspiration from the words of Abraham Lincoln, Jasrotia asserts that the truth cannot be concealed indefinitely. Jasrotia emphasized that the lithium resources in question are located in Jammu, not Kashmir, reinforcing the idea that the world's scope extends beyond the borders of Kashmir. Furthermore, Jasrotia addressed those expressing profound concern about the electricity crisis that persisted for two decades. He urged them to remember their involvement in the Congress and National Conference-sponsored Roshni scam. He accused them of being complicit in a scheme that primarily benefited a select few political entities, leaving the innocent people in remote areas, such as Anantnag, without electricity for seven decades post-independence. Abhijeet Jasrotia concluded by reminding the public that genuine concern for the people transcends political borders and affiliations. The statement sought to unravel the intricacies surrounding PDP's stance on Lithium resources and illuminate the broader perspective that encompasses the entire region of Jammu & Kashmir.

approval of the CCS to declare CAPF Personnel from BSF, CRPF, CISF, and ITBP personnel as Ex-Servicemen, Ashok urged Central/UT governments to extend suitable benefits. He urged the government to redress a collective demand from BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, CISF, and Assam Rifles for the implementation of One Rank, One Pension. He also requested Specific pensions for different ranks within the Paramilitary Forces, including Basic Pension amounts for various years of service. Others present in the press conference included Harinder Mahajan, Chief Advisor; S. K. Sharma, President J&K UT, Harbans Lal, Vice President, Nour Muhammad, General Secretary, Gulam Nabi Peer Shah, Yash Pal (BSF), Jagan Nath, Lovely Pandit, Kirtan Singh and Madan Lal.

## All J&K Manhas Biradari elects office bearers

JAMMU: A meeting of All J&K Manhas Biradari was held today at Paloura under the Chairmanship of Shiv Dev Singh, (Ex-MLA) in which all the body members of the Biradari were present. In the meeting all the Biradari members unanimously elected the Ex. Subedar Dayal Singh as President, Raghubir Singh as General Secretary and Balbir Singh as Youth President of the All J&K Manhas Biradari. All the new body members were



Ex-MLA Shiv Dev Singh along with newly elected office bearers.

elected unopposed. They took oath to serve the Biradari with full loyalty and dedication and work hard for the welfare of Biradari.

## Viksit Bharat @2047 Ideation Centre launched at CUJ

JAMMU: In a momentous event, the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) unveiled the Viksit Bharat @2047 Ideation Centre, marking a significant step towards shaping a visionary future. This remarkable initiative, kick started by the Prime Minister of India, extends a nationwide invitation to educational institutions, emphasizing the imperative of innovation, sustainability, and technological progress. The Central University of Jammu proudly leads the way in this transformative journey. Under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the initiative has taken flight. Prof. Ritu Bakshi, DSW and Dr. Vinay Kumar, ADSW, played pivotal roles in the meticulous strategizing and planning

that paved the way for this initiative's successful launch. Their visionary leadership and strategic acumen were instrumental in this achievement. The University community has demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm by enthusiastically registering for Viksit Bharat @2047. Their eagerness to engage in vibrant discussions, craft innovative solutions, and collaborate on groundbreaking initiatives underscores their unwavering commitment to the project's vision. The establishment of the Viksit Bharat Ideation Centre, spearheaded by Dr. Amita Gupta, Assistant Professor, CCRC and Jai Bhawani, Assistant Professor, PPPA marks a significant leap in nurturing innovative ideas. This centre is a focal point for students

to refine and elevate their contributions to the Viksit Bharat @2047 initiative. The University is gearing up to host a diverse range of workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions. These meticulously planned events are designed to stimulate in-depth discussions and foster collaborative efforts, aligning seamlessly with the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision. The launch of the Viksit Bharat @2047 Ideation Centre at the Central University of Jammu signifies a momentous step towards a brighter, innovative, and sustainable future for India. It marks the beginning of an exciting journey that promises to reshape the educational landscape and significantly contribute to the nation's progress by 2047.