

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Modi Govt ensured...



Union minister Jitendra Singh said "whenever the EC announces it (election in Jammu and Kashmir), we are ready".

He said the Congress should be grateful to Prime Minister Modi for the abrogation of Article 370 that gave a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Intervening in the discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, the minister of state in the prime minister's office (PMO) said "whenever the EC announces it (Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir), we are ready".

He said this in response to a demand from opposition parties for holding early Assembly polls in the Union Territory.

"The EC has its own mechanism of gathering inputs according to its requirements and it will take a final call. Let us all trust the wisdom of the EC and not appear to be interfering in its functioning," Singh added.

He further said democracy must reach the grass-root level and in the future, "we will do" what is in the best interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh blamed Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India, for the Kashmir problem.

Singh said a series of measures have been taken to ensure development in the Union Territory.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah wanted to know from the Centre why the polls are not being held in the Union Territory.

Jugal Kishore Sharma of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who represents Jammu in the Lok Sabha, said the bill to change the nomenclature of "weak and underprivileged classes" to "Other Backward Classes" in Jammu and Kashmir will benefit people in getting reservation in other parts of the country for the first time.

Roy said the government should announce a time-frame for holding the election.

He claimed that the abrogation of Article 370 has brought no change in the lives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said this was the first time that a state was converted into a Union Territory.

Roy also said the people of Jammu and Kashmir and not the lieutenant governor should rule the Union Territory.

His remarks on the LG drew protests from the BJP members.

Union minister Anurag Thakur said things have changed in Jammu and Kashmir and there are no cases of stone-pelting in the Union Territory now. He said the tricolour is now hoisted in every street of Jammu and Kashmir but earlier, when the NC was in power, BJP leaders were arrested for trying to hoist the flag there.

Thakur said it is sad when security personnel are killed, but the opposition should not forget that 45,000 people died in Jammu and Kashmir during the 70 years of their regime.

Announcing the poll schedule for five states on October 9, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the election in Jammu and Kashmir will be held when the commission deems it the "right time", keeping in mind the security situation and other polls being held in the Union Territory.

One of the two bills seeks to nominate not more than two members, one of whom shall be a woman, from the community of "Kashmiri Migrants" and one member from the "Displaced Persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir" to the legislative assembly of the Union Territory.

The other seeks to change the nomenclature of "weak and underprivileged classes" to "Other Backward Classes" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress leader Manish Tewari also sought to know about the election and when statehood would be restored in Jammu and Kashmir.

He wondered that when the treasury benches are claiming that normalcy has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir, why elections are not being held.

Tewari further said constitutional propriety demands that the government should refrain from coming up with these legislations as a matter related to the abrogation of Article 370 is pending in the Supreme Court.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal (BJP) said peace in Jammu and Kashmir is "more important" than elections.

A M Ariff of the CPI(M) claimed that these bills are nothing but an attempt by the Centre to keep the Kashmir issue alive ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) asked the government as to when will the election happen. "The 2024 election you will conduct.... You will not even win in Jammu, let alone Kashmir," he said.

### Army opens fire...

Army along with police had launched a massive operation immediately to check the area for the drone or its payload like weapons, narcotics and money. Further details are awaited, the officials said.

### Govt committed to...

"It is our prime objective to develop rural areas into business hubs and create decent lucrative employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth in villages," the Lt Governor said while participating in the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Flora Nagbani Panchayat.

He highlighted the vision and aim of 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' to achieve saturation of government schemes. He said the outreach campaign is witnessing enthusiastic response from the public, especially women, youth and farmers.

Women and youth have also become Charioteer of Vikas Rath and actively engaged in spreading awareness about the schemes. This constructive spirit of Jan Bhagidari will ensure benefits reach far corners of Union Territory to build a modern and prosperous Jammu Kashmir, he said.

The Lt Governor said shared the efforts of the UT Administration, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for socio-economic transformation and bringing weaker and marginalized sections into the mainstream.

He commended the endeavour of the Sarpanch of Falora Nagbani Panchayat in Solid-Liquid Waste Management. He called upon PRI representatives to replicate the best practices to transform their respective Panchayat into a model Panchayat.

The Lt Governor administrated 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge to officials, PRI members and the citizens present on the occasion. He visited the stalls put up by different departments and handed over the sanction letters to beneficiaries under various schemes.

Vandana Kumari, Sarpanch Flora Nagbani highlighted the steps taken to ensure saturation of government schemes.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu -Samba -Kathua Range, senior officers, PRI members, beneficiaries, members of Self Help Groups and people in large number were present.

### Sinha reviews progress...

Sharma, Chairman JKSSB; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners; DIGs; Deputy Commissioner, SPs, senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, in person and through virtual mode.

We must reach out to farmers, youth, women and deprived section of society to inform and educate them about government schemes and programmes. All the schemes should be saturated to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat, the Lt Governor said. He directed the senior officials to regularly assess and closely monitor the saturation of flagship schemes.

He instructed the Deputy Commissioners, SPs, and other concerned Departments to generate awareness about Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and other public outreach programmes of the government.

The Lt Governor also took stock of the preparations for upcoming examination of Panchayat Secretary and recruitment to various other posts by J&K Selection Board.

### Couple chargesheeted for...

court against Jameel Anjum, son of Nasir Ahmed and his wife Sana Mir, both res-

idents of H.No.45 Narain Mohalla Jammu for allegedly cheating Tripta Charak, daughter of Late Kartar Singh Charak, resident of H.No.133, Afghana Mohalla Jammu, incharge lecturer, District Institute of Education and training, the official said.

Charak, in her complaint to crime branch early this year, alleged that Anjum introduced himself as a Public Relation Officer of a former minister in October, 2013 and swindled an amount of Rs 6 lakh on the pretext of arranging a piece of JDA land at Channi Rama area of Jammu. The complainant had to get the personal loan sanctioned from the bank and later paid Rs. 3.47 Lakh interest towards the bank.

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary inquiry was initiated and the allegations were prima-facie substantiated, leading to the registration of a formal case under FIR No. 63/2023 U/S 420, 120-B RPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu for in-depth investigation, the official said.

During the course of investigation, the official said material evidence was gathered and it came to fore that Anjum and his wife connived and duped the complainant.

The official said Anjum is a habitual offender and is involved in four more criminal cases of similar nature.



### No infiltration along...

all neutralised in successful operations. Vigilant troops thwarted three Pakistani smugglers attempting to violate the IB to smuggle narcotics into the Indian territory," Boora told reporters here.

Regarding drone activities, he said there has been a notable decline in such incidents over the past year. He attributed this to the dismantling of a drone-based smuggling network earlier in the year.

"A big gang connected with drone-based smuggling was busted earlier this year. There is almost nil activity of drones along the IB in Jammu. There has to be someone to collect the material dropped by drones from across the border. That network has been busted by police and terrorists sympathisers have been arrested," the Border Security Force (BSF) officer said.

He emphasised that there is no involvement of those living near the border in any such activities.

On recent ceasefire violations, Boora said there were three such incidents along the IB and the BSF responded with a "befitting reply", inflicting heavy losses on Pakistan.

He said the ceasefire is not aimed at pushing terrorists into India, but for a different purpose, which cannot be disclosed publicly.

Boora highlighted the challenges faced by the border-guarding force in 2023, including drone activities, unprovoked firing and smuggling attempts, and lauded the BSF, Jammu for successfully dealing with those.

On terror launchpads along the IB, the officer said the BSF remains alert, aiming to seal the border effectively.

"The year 2023 witnessed manifold challenges ... like drone activities, unprovoked firing and smuggling attempts. But true to its tradition, the BSF-Jammu thwarted all attempts of the adversary and foiled its nefarious designs," he added.

On the implementation of the projects of smart fencing and an anti-drone set up, Boora said those are almost complete.

Responding to questions on tunnels, he said there were no reports of tunnels being used by terrorists in the past year. He emphasised the use of manual and technological measures to prevent such possibilities.

Asked about the possibility of aerial attacks on the lines of those perpetrated by Hamas on Israel, Boora affirmed that any such mischief would receive a befitting reply. Regarding cultivation along the IB, he said 20 per cent of the land ahead of the border fence is being cultivated by farmers.

### Cab carrying tourists...

Primary Health Centre, they said and added that one of them has been referred to a hospital here for specialised treatment.

Rescue and search teams have been sent to site of accident to find the missing people, the officials said. The identity of the victims is being ascertained and further details are awaited, they added.

### Dulloo asks for...

observed that the density of National Highways in the UT has substantially increased yet there is scope to enhance it further to be at par with other Himalayan states around us. He also asked for furthering the efforts for completing different road projects on time.

In his presentation, the Principal Secretary, PWD, Shailendra Kumar gave an overview of all the major projects and works under execution through the Department. He gave the physical progress made on each project taken up under PMDP, CRIF, PMGSY, NABARD and other UT sector schemes with the estimated date of completion for each of them.

The Principal Secretary informed the meeting that the Department has taken several reforms which had ensured timely and quality execution of works in the UT. He gave out that the UT is first in the country that has ensured preparation of online Measurement Books for each work.

He further gave out that the out of total Road length of 41927 Kms, 36433 are blacktopped, 3012 are metalled, 2457 are fair weather roads. He said that the Department is making strenuous efforts to upgrade whole length of roads as blacktopped in a phased manner.

Moreover it was revealed that from April 2020-March 2023 7826 projects have been completed besides blacktopping 17247 Kms at an expenditure of Rs 18716.94 Cr. It was given out that the cumulative expenditure per month made during this three year period is Rs 519 Cr/month than Rs 319 Cr/month in the earlier 3 year period from April 2017-March 2020.

The major projects which came under review includes Semi Ring Road Jammu, Semi Ring Road Srinagar, Udampur-Ramban Section of NH 44, Ramban-Banihal Section of NH 44, Jammu-Akmoor-Poonch road, Chenani-Sudhmahadev-Gohar-Khellani-Chatroo-Khanabal road, Srinagar-Shopian-Qazigund road, Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Road, Z-Morh tunnel, Zojilla tunnel, Delhi Katra Amritsar Expressway besides roads and bridges taken up under CRIF, PMGSY and other schemes.

Later on the Chief Secretary also took stock of the snow clearance preparations made by the Department. He enquired about the machinery and equipments in place for timely opening of roads for public use. He stressed on clearance of all the roads with least hindrance to movement of people and essentials in all the snow bound areas. The Chief Secretary was apprised that different road lengths has been assigned to different agencies for snow clearance including SMC, JMC, R&B, NHIDCL, BRO etc and their machinery and equipment has also been earmarked along with the allied staff for spontaneous movement in time of snow.

### Congress failed, knows...

asserting that his party will be in attendance.

"I can't speak for Mamata ji... I can only speak for the NC and the NC has received an invitation for dinner at the residence of the Congress president tomorrow. Now, if this meeting takes place, then certainly, we will attend. If, for some reason, it is postponed, then we will see what happens going ahead," he said.

Abdullah also asked the Congress to focus on the general elections next year.

"Elections are like that, you win some, you lose some. You can't only be satisfied with the elections you win, you must also be ready to accept defeat. Now, if the Congress has lost... it must analyse the reasons," he said.

Abdullah also expressed grief over the accident in Shimla in which six labourers from Jammu and Kashmir were killed.

### CJ issues action...

They shall decide and dispose of during the target year 2023-2024, all civil first appeals which are pending disposal for more than five years and all civil miscellaneous appeals which are pending disposal for more than one year.

Targets proposed for the Special Courts:

The Special Courts constituted under the Prevention of Corruption Act shall be decided and disposed of during the target year 2023-2024, 15 oldest cases in addition to normal standards; the Special Courts constituted under the Prevention of Corruption Act for CBI cases shall decide and dispose of, during the target year 2023-2024, 10 oldest cases in addition to normal standards. The Special Courts constituted under the POCSO Act shall fast track the cases registered under the POCSO Act and shall decide and dispose of all the cases instituted before March 2023 and shall ensure to complete the trial in all other cases instituted thereafter as far as possible within six months from the date of filing of the charge-sheet; the Special Court constituted for trial of offences against women shall be decided and disposed of during the target year 2023-2024;

All the cases of under-trial prisoners (UTPs) where the UTP is in custody for more than two years from the date of arrest and all the cases which are pending disposal for more than five years; the Special Court constituted under the NIA shall decide and dispose of, during the target year 2023-2024, twenty oldest cases in addition to the normal standards.

The Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal shall decide & dispose of during the target year 2023-2024 that all the claim petitions under MV Act involving death which are more than three years old & all the claim petitions under MV Act involving injury which are more than two years old; the Commercial Court (exclusive) shall decide and dispose of, during the target year 2023-2024, all the cases of commercial nature which are pending disposal for more than two years in addition to normal standards; the Court set up for adjudication of matrimonial disputes shall decide and dispose of, during the target year 2023-2024, all the cases which are pending disposal for more than one year in addition to normal standards; the Family Court shall decide and dispose of, during the target year 2023-2024, 150 oldest cases and 50 oldest execution petitions in addition to normal standards.

Targets proposed for Civil Judges (Junior/Senior Division)/Chief Judicial Magistrates/Judicial Magistrates:

The Chief Judicial Magistrates/Judicial Magistrates shall decide and dispose of within next six months:

All the criminal cases of UTPs where the UTPs are in custody for a period of more than one year; and shall decide and dispose of, during the target year 2023-2024.

All criminal cases in which the charge-sheets were filed on or before 1st March 2018, all the criminal complaints which were instituted on or before 01st March 2018 and all the petty criminal cases which are more than six months old and, if permitted under law, by recourse to section 258 of the Cr PC.

The Chief Judicial Magistrates/Judicial Magistrates shall decide and dispose of within next six months all the criminal complaints filed under section 138 N. I. A Act which are more than two years old, if any, and shall always dispose of such cases within six months from the date of their institution;

The Chief Judicial Magistrates/Judicial Magistrates shall decide & dispose of within next six months all the petitions filed under sections 125/126 of the Cr PC and all the petitions filed under the PWDV Act which are more than two years old, if any, and shall always dispose of such cases within six months from the date of their institution;

The Chief Judicial Magistrates/Judicial Magistrates shall ensure that cases which are triable by a Sessions Court are immediately committed to that Court along with the seized property, if any and they shall also ensure that the orders of remand of the accused in judicial custody are not mechanically passed and that the accused are not remanded in judicial custody for a period longer than the probable punishment which may be awarded on conviction in the particular factual situation of the case;

The Civil Judges (Junior/Senior Division) shall decide and dispose of by the end of the target year 2023-2024 (a) all the civil original suits and all other civil matters which are more than five years old, if any, and shall always dispose of such cases expeditiously with reasonable dispatch; and (b) they shall decide and dispose of by the end of the target year 50 oldest execution petitions;

The Juvenile Justice Boards shall decide and dispose of the inquiries pending before them within four months from the date of first production of the child before it and in case the period of inquiry is extended, it shall not be extended beyond a maximum period of two months having regard to the circumstances of the case and after recording reasons for such extension. In case of those Juvenile Justice Boards (where the Principal Magistrates deal with other civil and criminal cases) it shall decide and dispose of all the inquiries which are more than six months old, if any, in addition to normal standards;

Further the Judicial Officers shall ensure that they decide and dispose of the applications for grant of interim relief in civil and criminal cases within one month from the date of their filing; and they shall also ensure that they decide and dispose of the bail petitions within a week in compliance to the honorable Supreme Court directions in Hussain & another vs Union of India.

Guidelines:

The pendency of the target cases so mentioned above shall be taken as on 30th September, 2023 and the cases disposed of since that date to be included in the disposal list. But the cases in which the proceedings have been stayed are not to be included in the list of pending target cases. However, if the stay in any such case is vacated during the currency of the Action Plan, it shall be included in the list of target cases.

The Judicial Officers shall make every endeavour to dispose of the old cases during the target year 2023-2024. They shall prepare list of all the cases pending over 10 years, pending between 05-10 years, cases falling under the Prevention of Corruption Act, cases falling under the other Acts, under-trial cases, bail matters, cases in which interim orders have been passed and cases pertaining to crime against women, children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of society; they shall review that list every month and make assessment with regard to the progress of disposal of the said cases and devise further strategies to eliminate the hurdles, if any.

The Pr. District and Session Judges shall undertake effective supervision to get the oldest pending cases in their Sessions division disposed of during the target year; they shall in consultation with the Administrative Judge of the District, ensure rationalized and equitable distribution/allocation of the target cases among the Judicial Officers within their respective jurisdictions; they shall take into consideration the nature of the cases and stage of the proceedings in which while ensuring, in consultation with the Hon'ble Administrative Judge, the rationalized distribution/allocation of target cases. Whenever practicable, he shall assign the complicated cases to senior and more experienced Judicial Officers.

If a Judicial Officer proceeds on long leave or resigns or is transferred during the target year, and he is not replaced by another Judicial Officer, or in the event of amalgamation or withdrawal of a court, the Pr. District and Session Judge shall transfer the pending target cases of such Court to other competent Courts and equally distribute those cases among them as aforesaid.

If an additional Judicial Officer joins during the currency of the Action Plan, the Pr. District and Session Judge shall allocate to him target cases and fix the proportionate target under Action Plan for him in consultation with the Administrative Judge. The Pr. District and Sessions Judges shall ensure uploading of Court-wise list of the target cases along with the stage of proceedings in each case on the website of the District Court within one week of date of receipt of the Action Plan and shall ensure that the list of the target cases is regularly uploaded on the said website on monthly basis.

The Judicial Officers shall not routinely proceed in the cases in which the High Court or the Appellate Court has stayed the proceedings and shall not give long dates in those cases but they shall check the status of those cases online on every date. They shall themselves record the proceedings in the target cases.

The Judicial Officers shall not grant frequent, unnecessary and unreasonable adjournments to the litigating parties or any of them; if adjournment is granted, he may impose costs on the party seeking adjournment. However, the Court shall ensure that the parties are accorded a reasonable opportunity to produce evidence and present their cases. The Judicial Officers shall take care that other cases are not neglected while making extra effort towards the disposal of target cases.

The Pr. District & Session Judges shall submit the Court-wise figures of disposal of the target cases identified under the Action Plan for 2023-2024 in the format to the High Court on monthly basis on or before the 10th day of every month for placing the same before the Administrative Judge of the concerned District.

The disposal of target cases be taken into consideration at the time of recording the Annual Confidential Reports of the Judicial Officers. The District and Session Judges may consider the disposal of the target cases while writing his remarks on self-appraisal reports of the Judicial Officers.

The targets identified under the Action Plan 2023-2024 may, under extreme circumstances, be modified/excluded by the District and Session Judge in consultation with the Administrative Judge of the concerned District.

### NIA raids in...

Pulwama, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara and Srinagar of the Union Territory of J&K, it said. The locations raided today were residential premises of hybrid terrorists and Overground Workers (OGWs) associated with the newly-formed affiliates and offshoots of the banned terrorist outfits, it added.

"Extensive searches were also conducted at the premises of the cadres and sympathisers of these newly floated organisations, which included The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers, PAAF among others," the NIA said. The searches led to the seizure of several digital devices containing large volumes of incriminating data and documents by the NIA, which has been investigating the conspiracy of the recently launched offshoots of the banned terrorist outfits to destabilize J&K through violent terrorist attacks and activities, the agency added. NIA had registered the case (RC-05/2022/NIA/JMU) suo moto on 21 June 2022 to probe the involvement of the cadres, OGWs and other suspects of the new outfits in the collection and distribution of sticky and magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, narcotic substances and arms/ammunition to spread terror, violence and subversion in J-K. NIA investigations so far have revealed that Pak-based operatives were using social media platforms to promote terror; and were also using drones to deliver arms and ammunition, explosives and narcotics to their operatives and cadres in the Kashmir valley. These activities were "being carried out as part of the terror conspiracy hatched by the banned outfits, backed by their masters in Pakistan. The conspiracy also involved radicalisation of local youth and mobilisation of OGWs to carry out violent and disruptive activities in J-K", the agency said.