

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! We are fastest...

It has given the college campus the courage to make new discoveries, new inventions. We need to make necessary reforms, aligned with NEP 2020, to develop a conducive environment where students acquire skills and values to deal with the challenges of the real world, the Lieutenant Governor added.

"The Lieutenant Governor also gave his valuable suggestions on promoting innovation, invention and research and encouraging inter-disciplinary education in the educational institutions.

Every higher educational institution should focus on four important aspects - Access, Equity, Quality and Outcome, and nurture scientific-thinking, curiosity and creativity among the students. Youth should be prepared for moral leadership and also motivate others to work for the welfare of the society, he further added.

The event was organized to commemorate the death anniversary of former Member of Parliament and senior BJP Leader Satya Deo Singh.

At the memorial event, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to Satya Deo Singh and recalled his dedicated service to the nation and commitment to the public good.

"Satya Deo Singh was a widely respected leader who distinguished himself in various capacities in a public career spanning more than four decades. He understood the needs of the future and the challenges India was facing and remained committed to provide solutions by ensuring social equality and equal access to opportunity for all," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated individuals who excelled in diverse fields. He also inaugurated the Shastri Pavillion at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Degree College and released a publication of Satya Saroj Foundation.

Neha Sharma, President, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Degree College Managing Committee; Varsha Singh, Vice President of the college's Managing Committee; members of Satya-Saroj Foundation, prominent citizens, faculty members and students of the college were present.

## Nation lost towering...

of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. He was 73.  
"Deeply grieved to learn about the sad demise of legendary tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain ji. In his passing, the nation and the music world has lost a towering musical genius and the most famous and accomplished exponent of contemporary world music," Sinha said in a post on X.

## PoK teenager who...

this side from across the border, they said.  
His questioning revealed that he inadvertently intruded into India. Subsequently, he was repatriated on humanitarian grounds after the Indian Army confirmed his antecedents with its Pakistani counterparts, they added.  
The officials said the teenager was handed over to the Pakistani army at the Chakan-Da-Bagh border crossing in the presence of police and civil officials after the completion of all formalities.

## CM vows to...

maintained, this government-or any government-should not make decisions based on the basis of political affiliations. We must prioritize whether a project holds public utility or a public issue benefits the people. If it does, it must be processed and dealt with without delay."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah acknowledged the challenges faced by the administration this year, citing two major elections as key reasons for delayed developmental activities.

He remarked, "The Parliament elections stretched over a long period, and the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct brought work to a halt. Even in some areas, where the work season coincided with the elections, progress was further delayed."

Addressing the district-specific concerns, he urged the administration to expedite developmental activities, stating, "Accelerate the pace of work as much as possible, ensuring it is executed effectively at the ground level. Efforts must focus on completing the work satisfactorily."

He also stressed the importance of timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) for funds to be allocated by the central government. He said, "When we approach the central government repeatedly-whether to discuss with a minister or secure funds for Jammu and Kashmir-the common complaint is that UCs are not submitted on time. Prompt submission of UCs will ensure continuity of financial support and effective resource utilization."

Speaking on governance, CM Omar Abdullah noted the impact of the return of MLAs after 2018.

"With the return of MLAs, public expectations and pressures have significantly increased. This requires a coordinated effort to address the people's demands effectively."

Chief Minister took note of key issues raised during the meeting such as progress in respect of industrial estates, installation of smart meters. He directed immediate review and resolution of issues flagged by MLAs and concerns raised by MLAs to be verified.

Calling drug addiction a growing menace over the past decade, Chief Minister Abdullah emphasized coordinated efforts to curb its impact.

He remarked, "Despite securing international borders, the problem persists due to inflow from other areas.

Addressing this issue at its source is critical for our state."

The Chief Minister assured action, stating that the Dy CM has already directed the DC and officers to address the issue promptly.

The Chief Minister also addressed critical infrastructure concerns, including delays in the Katra-Amritsar-Delhi Expressway project.

He urged officials to resolve land acquisition and other bottlenecks to keep the project on track. Touching on staffing issues, he expressed concern over vacancies in hospitals and schools due to the practice of staff attachments.

He directed officers to provide details of such cases so that corrective measures can be taken to fill posts in rural areas.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of addressing public grievances raised by DDC members, MLAs, and civil society during the public outreach programme. Other issues raised included drinking water supply, sanitation, regularization of daily wagers, upgradation of schools, establishment of colleges in remote areas, industrial policy, and shortage of staff in hospitals and schools. Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, presented a detailed profile of the district, outlining targets and achievements across various departments, including Jal Shakti (PHE), Public Works (R&B), Power Development, Education, Health, Agriculture, and Social Welfare.

The Chief Minister also e-inaugurated three key projects and laid the e-foundation stone for another transformative initiative. These projects, designed to enhance public welfare and boost the region's development, were virtually dedicated to the people. Following the review meeting, the Chief Minister conducted a redressal camp, where local residents, industrial representatives, and delegations from far-flung areas submitted grievances and demands.

The Chief Minister assured the people that their genuine concerns would be resolved promptly. While concluding, chief minister Omar Abdullah praised the overall performance of the district despite challenges, expressing confidence in continued cooperation and progress.

He encouraged MLAs and stakeholders to submit priority projects in writing for inclusion in upcoming budget proposals, ensuring better planning and execution in the next fiscal year.

## Jan 31 deadline...

The authorities assured that all safety measures outlined in the Supreme Court guidelines are being followed to ensure the safety of children. They were further asked to restrict underage students from driving two-wheelers/ four-wheelers in and around school premises. Additionally, they were directed to hold counseling sessions with the parents to warn about the consequences if their wards are not prohibited from underage driving.

The Transport Commissioner was informed that most schools have their own fleet of vehicles, but some private vehicles are also engaged by parents. Therefore, it is the duty of school authorities to ensure that these vehicles also comply with the mandatory guidelines, such as emergency exit doors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, GPS trackers, CCTV cameras, the use of seat belts, fire detection alarm system etc.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Joint Transport Commissioner Vinay Samotra, Assistant Transport Commissioner, ARTO (HQ) Jammu, and school authorities.

## Three-pronged strategy...

commended the Chhattisgarh government for establishing a memorial to honour the 1,399 martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice in the struggle

against Naxalism.

He said this memorial would not only pay tributes to these heroes but also inspire future generations.

Shah highlighted that the current Chhattisgarh government, since its formation last year, has been steadfast in its commitment to eradicate Naxalism.

Expressing optimism about the future, he assured that after March 31, 2026, not a single drop of blood will be shed in the name of Naxalism on the sacred land of Maa Danteshwari (Bastar in Chhattisgarh).

He highlighted that the Chhattisgarh government has devised a phased plan to accelerate development in areas previously affected by Naxalism. This plan focuses on the welfare of villages and the upliftment of the affected communities, he said.

Shah emphasised that these initiatives are being implemented with the strong support and cooperation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has approved the construction of 15,000 houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in the Naxal-affected regions.

Additionally, efforts are underway to achieve 100 per cent saturation of government welfare schemes in every village, ensuring priority assistance to families impacted by Naxal violence, he said.

Shah said the campaign for a Naxal-free India, led by Prime Minister Modi, is gaining significant support from the affected families.

The home minister also met the families of the martyred soldiers and victims of Naxal violence.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, among other dignitaries, were present on this occasion.

## Govt asks MPs...

"If we take direct action, there will be questions on federalism," Majumdar said. The minister said 12 fake universities had been shut down between 2014 and 2024. "It was also requested to intimate the central government/UGC (University Grants Commission) if there are other fake universities functioning in their states/Union territories which are not included in the UGC list of fake universities," the minister said. He said FIRs were lodged against several self-styled institutions/universities and showcause/warning notices issued to the unauthorised institutes awarding invalid degrees.

## Lawyers' protest at...

protesting lawyers stated.  
In response to the allegations, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic City Jammu, taking swift action, suspended ASI Kamal Kumar Sharma and ordered inquiry.

An official order reads, "Keeping in view of the allegations against ASI Kamal Kumar SO (T) High Court Turning is placed under suspension with immediate effect. He is entitled to draw subsistence allowances as admissible under rules from time to time. He is directed to report to TPL Jammu and deposit all Government uniform articles in TPL Store with immediate effect & formal inquiry is hereby ordered and entrusted to Addl. SP (T) City Jammu who will conclude the enquiry on its merits and submit the findings along with alleged documents to this office within fortnight for further course of action."

## Properties of 'drug...'

attached is located in Pingla Haridal and belongs to Riyaz Ahmad Shah," he said. The second property, located in Chitterkote Karnah, belongs to Jahangir Ahmad Khan, the spokesperson said.

"The combined market value of these properties is estimated to be approximately 40 lakhs," the spokesperson added.

## BJP to Rahul...

later turn around and say... we don't like these EVMs because now the election results aren't going the way we would like them to," Abdullah had said.

Patra also cited the NC leader's rejection of doubts over EVMs as the chief minister had noted that his party won the assembly polls in the Union Territory after losing in the Lok Sabha elections.

## North India reels...

temperatures of 3 degrees and 3.2 deg C. Gurugram in Haryana recorded a low of 5.3 degrees while Rohtak registered a low of 4.2 degrees.

The hilly state of Himachal Pradesh also witnessed cold wave conditions as the MeT department issued an "orange" warning of severe cold at isolated places in the lower hills and plain areas of Una, Bilaspur and Hamirpur.

Tabo in the tribal district of Lahaul and Spiti was coldest at night, recording a low of minus 10.6 degrees Celsius.

Shimla, the state capital, remained warmest for the second consecutive night recording a minimum temperature at 10.9 degree Celsius, 5.2 degrees Celsius above normal. The maximum temperature in the the 'Queen of hills' was 21 degrees Celsius, marking the second highest temperature for the month of December since 2017 when the maximum temperature was 21.3 degree Celsius.

While Kufri and Narkanda recorded minimum temperatures at 10.5 degrees Celsius and 8.3 degrees Celsius, respectively, Una registered a low of minus 0.7 degrees Celsius and Hamirpur 0.7 degrees Celsius.

In Rajasthan, extreme cold conditions prevailed in parts of the state as Fatehpur in Sikar district recorded a low of minus 0.4 degree Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Churu settled at 1.5 degrees in, while it was 2.2 degrees in Alwar; 2.5 degrees in Sikar; 2.7 degrees in Sangaria and Pilani, 3.7 degrees in Bhilwara and Chittorgarh, 4.9 degrees in Sirohi and 5.0 degrees Celsius in Ganganagar.

The department has predicted no respite from the severe cold conditions during the next 24 hours.

The eastern state of Odisha witnessed cold weather conditions as 15 places recorded temperatures below 10 degree Celsius with Simlipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district being the coldest in the state at 1 degree Celsius

The steel city of Rourkela recorded a minimum of 5.7 degree Celsius in the plains, the mercury level fell to 4.8 degree at G Udaygiri.

Reports of heavy frosting (a thin layer of ice crystals that forms on a surface) were received from different places in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundergarh districts, Met office sources said.

The weather observatories placed inside Simlipal National Park said that the lowest of 1 degree Celsius was recorded at Upar Barakamuda followed by 3 degree Celsius at Chahala, 4 degree C at Nawana, 5 degree C at Barehipani, 6 degree at Guruguria and 10 degree at Ramatirtha in Mayurbhanj district.

The IMD on Monday forecast the continuance of the cold wave conditions for the next two days and said the prevailing cold was due to the dry and cold northerly winds flowing towards the state.

## Massive fire breaks out in Poonch hills, efforts underway to control it

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MENDHAR: A massive fire broke out in the hilly belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, prompting locals and the administration to launch an operation to control the raging blaze on Monday.

The fire erupted in the forests located in the Uchhad area of Mendhar subdivision, officials said. It quickly spread across large swathes of the forest area, they added. The local administration, along with officials from the Forest Department, Wildlife Department and local residents, is making efforts to bring the fire under control, they said.

## 4 operatives of terrorist Arsh Dalla held in Punjab

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
CHANDIGARH: The Punjab police on Monday said it has arrested four operatives of Canada-based terrorist Arsh Dalla and another foreign based-handler and recovered three pistols along with 16 cartridges from their possession.

The arrested have been identified as Gagandeep Singh and Navjot Singh alias Nishu, both residents of Amloh in Fatehgarh Sahib and currently staying at a rental accommodation in Kharar; Lakhwinder Singh, a resident of Bhadson in Patiala; and Vipanpreet Singh, a resident of Faridkot, said Punjab director general of police Gaurav Yadav.

The accused confessed to have opened fire at the car accessories showroom in Phase 11, Mohali, on the intervening night of December 1 and 2 this year with an intention to intimidate the shop owner and extort money from him as directed by their foreign-based handler identified as Daljit Singh alias Ninda, said Yadav.

Ninda is a history sheeter, who fled to the US on a passport with fake particulars, said the DGP, adding he is associated with the radicalised US-based gangster.

The module linked with Dalla was planning to execute more crimes in Punjab at his behest, said Yadav.

## Congress to hold march in Jammu on Wednesday to demand statehood, other issues

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) will take out a protest march to Raj Bhawan here on Wednesday as part of a nationwide demonstration to highlight several issues, including the demand for the restoration of statehood to JK.

The announcement was made by JKPCC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra during a party meeting held on Monday. Other issues during the protest march will include businessman "Gautam Adani episode" and "the alarming situation in Manipur", he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Karra said the recent indictment of Adani and his associates by the US Department of Justice has exposed a troubling web of alleged corruption, fraud and deceit.

He emphasised that these allegations reveal a pattern of bribery, money laundering and market manipulation, tarnishing the reputation of Indian business and finance.

"This incident raises serious concerns regarding corporate governance and regulatory oversight in India. The erosion of trust among domestic and international investors is alarming.

"The potential flight of capital threatens to stifle economic growth, job creation and overall development," he said.

Karra further said the government's deliberate stalling of parliamentary discussions and its silence on this matter reflect a concerning evasion of responsibility and accountability.

He expressed concern over the crisis in Manipur, saying it continues to reel under violence, curfews and widespread lawlessness.

"Numerous lives have been lost and citizens face an uncertain future. Despite the severity of the crisis, the BJP-led government, both at the Centre and in the state, has utterly failed to address or mitigate the situation.

"Shockingly, the prime minister has yet to visit Manipur, while the inept chief minister clings to power, further highlighting the indifference towards this dire situation," he added. In response to these pressing issues, along with the demand for the early restoration of statehood, the JKPCC will organise the 'Raj Bhawan March' on December 18, he said. The march will involve senior leaders, party functionaries and frontal organisations, he added.

## Advocates can't pursue journalism alongside legal practice: BCI to SC

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Bar Council of India on Monday informed the Supreme Court that practising advocates cannot simultaneously work as journalists, whether on a full-time or part-time basis.

A bench comprising Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Manmohan took on record the position of the BCI, which cited Rule 49 of the BCI Rules.

"We have heard the learned counsel for BCI which has submitted that as per the rules laid down, an advocate cannot be allowed to pursue part-time or full time journalism. The petitioner has filed an affidavit of undertaking stating that he is no longer working as a journalist and will only practice as an advocate," the bench said.

It noted the petitioner's counsel had accepted the correctness of the stand taken by the BCI.

The BCI rule prohibits advocates from pursuing any other full-time profession, including journalism. The decision comes in the context of a case filed by one Mohd Kamran, who report-

edly identified as both a lawyer and a freelance journalist.

Kamran, subsequently filed an affidavit of undertaking, saying he no longer worked as a journalist and only practised law.

In an affidavit filed on December 13, the BCI clarified while full-time journalism was categorically impermissible for advocates, even part-time journalistic activities were generally not allowed unless strictly connected to the legal profession.

The BCI submitted that part-time journalism could only encompass scholarly articles, opinion pieces, or editorial contributions that maintained a "meaningful nexus" with the legal profession.

"Even (when it comes to) part-time journalism ... the said professional activity will also be an embargo on the practice of law as an advocate," it said.

Any journalistic engagement by an advocate, the BCI said, must not conflict with their primary professional obligations, compro-

mise the dignity and independence of the legal profession, or result in a dual-profession arrangement.

While Rule 51 of the BCI Rules provides some leeway for advocates to engage in journalism, the BCI said such activities must be limited to contributions directly related to legal practice and understanding.

Having addressed the legal issue, the bench would proceed to hear the petition on February 3, 2025.

The plea challenges an Allahabad High Court order that quashed the criminal defamation proceedings against former parliamentarian Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The defamation case arose from letters written by Singh in September 2022 to the UP chief minister and chief secretary, alleging that Kamran was a "conspirator and thief" in various criminal cases. The letters were also circulated on social media and in newspapers, prompting Kamran to allege defamation and seek restoration of the proceedings against Singh.

## Modi holds talks with Sri Lankan President Dissanayaka

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday held extensive talks with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayaka, focusing on further shoring up India-Sri Lanka cooperation in a range of areas, including defence, trade and investment.

The Sri Lankan leader arrived in Delhi on Sunday, his first foreign trip after becoming president in September.

Ahead of the talks, Dissanayaka was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"An extensive agenda encompassing trade, investment, development and security cooperation will be discussed," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on 'X' ahead of the Modi-Dissanayaka talks.

On Sunday, the Sri Lankan leader held sepa-

rate meetings with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval.

The Sri Lankan leader will also meet President Droupadi Murmu.

Dissanayaka is scheduled to attend a business event in Delhi to promote investment and commercial linkages between India and Sri Lanka. He is also scheduled to visit Both Gaya.

Sri Lanka is India's closest maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and holds a central place in Prime Minister Modi's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

"The visit of President Dissanayaka to India is expected to further strengthen the multi-faceted and mutually beneficial cooperation

between the two countries," it said.

Issues relating to maritime security cooperation are likely to figure during Dissanayaka's visit, people familiar with the matter said.

India has been expanding its overall defence and strategic ties with Sri Lanka amid concerns over China's attempts to increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean.

The docking of the Chinese missile and satellite tracking ship 'Yuan Wang' at Hambantota port in August 2022 had triggered a diplomatic row between India and Sri Lanka.

Another Chinese warship docked at the Colombo port in August last year.

India has been supporting various capacity-building measures of Sri Lanka defence forces, including providing indigenously constructed Offshore Patrol Vessels.

## CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the Publication dated: -13.11.2024 through "State Times" regarding the Demand Notice dated:-07.11.2024in the loan account of "M/S British International School- a unit of New Modern Educational Society" H.O. at Lower Ragnath Bazar, Upper Gumat, Jammu, J&K (UT) to realize bank dues against the above mentioned firm. In the foot note of the notice,we have inadvertently mentioned theJ&K BANK,LCU- RAIL HEAD COMPLEX, JAMMUInstead of " AUTHORIZED OFFICER, J&K BANK LTD".

DATE:-07.11.2024 PLACE: - JAMMU AUTHORIZED OFFICER  
DIP/J-3284-P/24 -Dated:- 16/12/2024