

## CJ inaugurates Lawyers Chambers in Chadoora court

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHADOORA: Chief Justice High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, on Wednesday visited the Court Complex Chadoora, Budgam and inaugurated Lawyers chambers.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh, administrative Judge for District Budgam also graced the occasion virtually from Jammu.

Registrar General High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Shahzad Azeem, Principal District & Sessions Judge Budgam, O.P Bhaghat, Additional District & Sessions Judge Budgam Yahya Firdous, DC Budgam Akshay Labroo, SSP



Chief Justice HC of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurating Lawyers chamber.

Budgam, Superintendent Engineer R&B, SDM Chadoora, Executive Engineer R&B Budgam, Sub-Judge Chadoora, Munsiff Chadoora and

President and members of Bar Association Chadoora besides public in huge numbers was also present on the occasion.

After inaugurating the

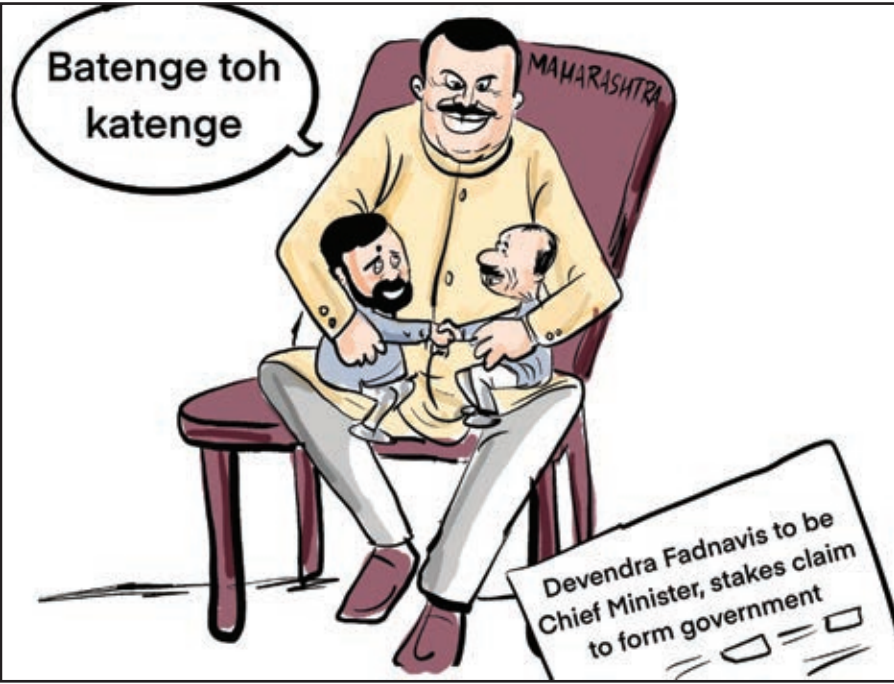
lawyers chambers, the Chief Justice had an interaction with the lawyers and the public.

During the interaction, the Chief Justice took stock of

grievances of the lawyers and the public as well. He issued on the spot instructions to the concerned for redressal of the same.

Justice Tashi Rabstan gave one week's time to the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer R&B Budgam to complete construction of the court building and the pathway leading to the court and the chambers.

The Chief Justice also interacted with the judicial officers at Chadoora and heard their grievances. He directed them to ensure timely justice to the litigants and stressed upon the need to dispose off the old cases on priority basis.



## Fadnavis to take oath as CM today, Modi to attend ceremony

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Devendra Fadnavis will be sworn in as Maharashtra Chief Minister on Thursday, after Governor C P Radhakrishnan invited him to form the new government in the state.

Two deputy chief ministers, including NCP leader Ajit Pawar, will also be sworn in at the ceremony at the sprawling Azad Maidan in south Mumbai on Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

There is no clarity yet on whether outgoing CM Eknath Shinde will be a part of the new ministry. While Fadnavis said he has requested Shinde to join the government, Shinde said the media will be updated on this front later on Wednesday.

A delegation of the ruling Mahayuti alliance met the Governor at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday, soon after Fadnavis was unanimously elected state BJP legislature party leader.

At the legislature party meeting held in Vidhan Bhavan, former Gujarat CM and BJP's central observer Vijay Rupani announced that Fadnavis (54) has been unanimously elected the BJP legislature party leader.

Speaking at the meeting, BJP's central observer and Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the "double engine government" in the state and the Centre will boost development.

Fadnavis thanked the BJP legislators for reposing trust in him, adding that the thumping victory of the ruling Mahayuti alliance in the November 20 assembly elections was due to the mantra of "Ek hai toh safe hai" given by PM Modi.

At the Vidhan Bhavan meeting, senior state BJP leader Chandrakant Patil proposed the name of Fadnavis as the legislature party leader.

Fadnavis' name was finalised for the top post at the state

BJP's core committee meet held here ahead of the legislature party meeting.

Speaking to reporters at Raj Bhavan, Fadnavis said, "I met Eknath Shinde yesterday and told him that it is the wish of both the Shiv Sena and Mahayuti members that he should be with us in this government. I have full faith that he will be with us."

Shinde had been camping in Thane citing health problems, sparking speculation of internal discord in the Mahayuti alliance. However, he returned to Mumbai on Tuesday.

At the Raj Bhavan press conference on Wednesday, when a reporter asked Shinde if he and Ajit Pawar would be sworn in as deputy chief ministers at Azad Maidan, Shinde replied, "Let's wait till evening. The oath ceremony is tomorrow."

Ajit Pawar butted in, quipping, "Inka to shaam tak pata chalega. Main to shapath le raha hoon. He (Shinde) will figure it out by this evening. I'm the one taking the oath."

"I am happy that at this place around two and a half years ago, Fadnavis had recommended my name that I should become the CM. Now, we have given a letter of recommendation from Shiv Sena for Fadnavis to become CM. This government is being formed in a healthy atmosphere. I congratulate Devendra ji and wish him the best," Shinde said.

The BJP achieved remarkable success in the November 20 Maharashtra elections, securing 132 out of the 288 assembly seats in the state, marking its best performance in the state so far.

Together with its allies Shiv Sena and NCP, the BJP-led Mahayuti coalition has a commanding majority of 230 seats.

On Tuesday, Fadnavis met caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at his official residence, 'Varsha,' in south

Mumbai for the first time after their meeting in Delhi last week with Union minister Amit Shah.

BJP leader Prasad Lad said the swearing-in ceremony will be a grand affair with nearly 42,000 attendees.

"PM Modi, nine to ten Union ministers, and 19 chief ministers and deputy chief ministers will attend the ceremony," he said.

Special arrangements have been made to accommodate 40,000 BJP supporters and a separate seating arrangement made for 2,000 VVIPs, including leaders from various religions, he said.

More than 4,000 police personnel have been deployed for security during the swearing-in ceremony, an official said.

At least 3,500 police personnel and 520 officers have been deployed for security arrangements, the official said.

A platoon of the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF), and Quick Response Team (QRT), Riots Control Team, Delta, Combat teams and the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad have also been deployed, he said.

Security arrangements have also been made considering the traffic congestion on roads leading to Azad Maidan, and 280 personnel of the traffic wing, including senior police officials, will ensure smooth vehicular movement, he said.

There is an interesting detail in the invitation cards sent out by the state Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik for the ceremony. It mentions the name of the new CM as "Devendra Sarita Gangadharrao Fadnavis". Sarita is his mother's name and Gangadhar is his father's.

The BJP leader had used 'Devendra Gangadhar Fadnavis' as his name in the affidavit filed ahead of the assembly polls this year. The invites to the 2014 and 2019 swearing-in ceremonies, when Fadnavis took the oath, did not have his mother's name either.

## CS reviews upgradation of infrastructure, services in health sector

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday held a meeting of Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department to take assessment of the steps taken by the Department to add more MBBS, Post-graduate (PG) or Post-Doctoral seats in the medical colleges established across the districts of J&K.

Besides this, the Chief Secretary also took this occasion to access the upgradation of services offered to patients here along with completion of dozens of health projects taken-up in the length and breadth of the UT.

Besides the Secretary H&ME, the meeting was attended by Secretary, PWD; MD, NHM; Principals of Medical Colleges; Director Health Jammu/Kashmir; MD, JKMSCL and other concerned officers.

Dulloo enquired from each of the Medical College Principal about the steps they had taken to add the specialization courses like MD/MS, DM/MCH and DNB in their respective hospitals.

He also impressed upon the Principals of 07 New Medical Colleges to take necessary measures to add 50 more MBBS seats in addition to their intake capacity of 100 seats each. He urged them to utilize the infrastructure



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing meeting of H&ME Department.

and manpower available with them to achieve this feat besides aiming for adding other specializations.

He advised for formulating a concrete plan of action to upgrade the tertiary care services in all the newly established Medical Colleges and District Hospitals in next one year. He remarked that the government would extend full support to the health institutions aiming to make the necessary upgradations with optimum utilization of their available resources. Dulloo also took note of the human resources available in each of the medical college. He called for referring all the unfilled teaching vacancies besides taking steps to fill the positions of Professors through proper channel as this manpower is essential to augment the services and courses offered by

them. On this occasion, the Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of IT based services like Tele-ICU, e-Sanjeevani, Tele Radiology, e-Sahaj, Scan & Share here in hospitals of J&K. He suggested to make health services universal and seamless by adopting these modules at an earliest. He made out that the Department should also choose some far off districts to be linked to GMCs under Tele-ICU program to minimize referrals from there.

The Chief Secretary also took project wise status of major works taken up by the Department in different areas of J&K. He asked about the physical progress made in each of these projects besides the estimated dates of completion for each of them.

While speaking in this meeting, the

## Dr Jitendra shares in LS data citing progressive decline in grievance redressal time

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister; Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday shared in Lok Sabha data citing progressive decline in grievance redressal time.

The minister said that the Government has taken several significant steps to improve the accessibility of services for citizens, particularly those in remote and rural areas. A key initiative has been the integration of citizens with the CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) portal. Over 28 lakh citizens from 795 districts across the country have been registered on the portal, with an average of 70,000 new registrations monthly.

The government's collabora-



tion with Common Service Centres (CSCs) has further expanded this initiative, utilizing the network of Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) across 5.6 lakh villages. In 2023-2024 alone, 4.68 lakh grievances were filed through CSCs, Dr. Jitendra said.

As part of its ongoing efforts, the Government has implemented the CPGRAMS 10-step reform, which includes adding regional language

options, engaging citizens through feedback call centers, simplifying registration processes, collaborating with CSCs, and launching a CPGRAMS mobile app. Regular awareness programs focusing on rural and farmer-centric schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) have been held, with 20th of each month being observed as CSC-CPGRAMS Day to boost awareness.

A major achievement has been the reduction of backlog in pension-related grievances through the Centralized Pension Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS). Currently, no pension grievance has been pending for more than two

years, with 1,68,964 grievances resolved between November 2022 and October 2024. Special initiatives like the 100-day action plan and the July 2024 Special Campaign achieved a 94% redressal rate for family pension grievances.

Technological advancements, such as auto-forwarding and lateral movement of grievances, are further enhancing the speed and quality of redressal. Over the past five years, 1,12,30,957 grievances were successfully addressed on the CPGRAMS portal, with an annual record of 23,24,323 grievances redressed in 2024. The average redressal time has improved significantly, decreasing from 28 days in 2019 to just 13 days in 2024.

In addition, Dr. Jitendra

said, the Government has issued Comprehensive Guidelines for Effective Redressal of Public Grievances to further streamline processes. These guidelines emphasize the integration of grievance platforms, root cause analysis, the appointment of competent nodal officers, and improved escalation processes. As part of the Special Campaign 2024, around 5.55 lakh grievances and appeals were resolved.

The Government has also made substantial progress in filling vacant posts within Ministries and Departments, with Rozgar Melas organized across 40-45 cities to expedite the process. These reforms collectively aim to create a more efficient, accessible, and responsive public service system for citizens across India.

# Extending Tatkal facility in J&K in Passport issue rules will also shed some misconceptions about J&K

Omar Sahib need now work for emotional & material reconstruction of his people.

J&K has been a victim of vote bank politics infested with some 'Myths' used to their Convenience by 'either Sides'

### ■ DAYA SAGAR

No use digging into the past and finding faults with others. Governments all these years have been claiming for their relentless working for socio economic development of the subjects of J&K and for undoing the nefarious designs of the 'foreign' powers and their supporters from within J&K. No doubt much more may be needed to be done but one thing could be surely said that nobody should ( and no one does) totally dismiss the positive status reports of the administration that are being regularly placed in the public domain as regards the status of peace & stability in J&K, particularly over last two decades. But it has to be also admitted that there is utmost need for the civil society to for supporting the administration by working on ground through unofficial channels ,for mediating the social & emotional controversies generated over the years, as also is the need for the political cadres to shed their political plans that target only vote bank game plans. All internal negativities need be defeated as priority one including any ideologies / political ambitions of some that hint towards separatist opinion making even a bit of support which is also very much must for fighting the external enemy forces .

75 years have been already lost and let not be wasted even a day now onwards.

India need to send clear message from grounds to the world that J&K is no more adversely affected by the ill plans of the external forces and most of the internal anti forces are either totally dismantled or are near to losing grounds thereby dismantling all styles of indicators that make the world sense that J&K is a disturbed area, we are now on the path of peace & stability in J&K and over last 10 years meaningful achievements have been there which will reflect from the government reports on very much reduces , strikes, demonstrations , violent local protests ( and stone pelting even on security forces), growing tourist flow and reduced separatist influence ( particularly w.r.t Kashmir Valley) .

Making outside people to feel that J&K has in 2024 nearly returned to a stage where there are no separatist pressures on the local environment there is utmost need for dismantling the separatist wits for which Government must take steps to wipe off any impressions radiating towards outside world , may be by reviewing even some existing security related policies / orders for which actions like prioritizing self sponsored return of Kashmiri valley migrants & reviewing the over stretched security related policies could be the likes which could message the outside world about reducing separatist & anti India influences there by weakening the voice of anti elements

worth attracting the the outside world.

To quote as regards security related policies government could review the policy regarding issuing of new passports and renewing the passports of J&K residents. Presently the provision of "Tatkal" in relation to J&K residents is not there which surely sends a message of concern to outside world also. So strangely the "Tatkal" facility is not available for even renewal of a passport and also not even for issue of a copy of additional pages where the pages of existing passport are consumed for frequent travelers ( here too one has to apply like a new passport for which routine physical police verification is done and the passport copy that is issued is only for the remaining period, question here is in case all process is to be followed as for new passport why not issue the new copy with full period of 10 yrs or so ). Imagine the in convenience caused to the common citizen also and the time lost. Non availability of Tatkal not only puts people to inconvenience but also sends message to outside world that "J&K" is not in peace.

National Conference manifesto for 2024 elections to Legislative Assembly of J&K UT on page 11..... under the caption "RESTORING NORMALCY"



### A Look through the Mist Part-II

has said (i) The JKNC is strongly committed to the dignified return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits (ii)

Eased Passport Verification: Ensure that passport verification procedures are simplified, removing hurdles and making it easier for people to obtain passports. Union Government has also opined that over last 10 years J&K has moved steps ahead on the path of peace & stability so Omar Sahib must impress upon GOI to get the passport process simplified for residents of J&K like allowing Tatkal also for J&K also which will also undo any misconceptions about fairness of civil environment in J&K with the outside world and simultaneously ensure that the police verification channels are minimized so as to limit the quarry only for referring to the District Police SP and sending clearance to Passport Officer direct by SSP itself. No doubt after physical police verification the Passport Seva Kendra issues passport in a day or two by post.

Similarly we could quote the like the negative indicators that radiate from the existing special rules for issue/ renew of Passports in J&K like no Tatkal facility and multichannel physical verification of the applicant there also radiate negative indicators from

the fact that as on date there is no clear line drawn between the mainstream and separatist ideologies/ 'political' parties so that too should be done now before Indian lands in 2025. Since J&K is no political issue how could those who profess/ professed that Pakistan and India should have common control on some affairs related to J&K or talked of autonomy for J&K from India Nation State or have/had 'Achievable Nationhood' as their mission have all these years ( particularly after 2000 ) be taken as mainstream elements unless they have divorced such ideologies ?Omar Abdullah is now the Chief Minister of J&K and he has to take J&K ahead on the path of peace and stability so issues be taken very pointedly worth winning the confidence of common masses and what could be the better course for him than taking to the promises made in the election manifesto. Enough of price has been paid by the common man of J&K over last seven decades. So, those who have so far used the mythfl idioms of 'special status', 'separate flag', 'separate constitution', Art-370 ' a Bridge' between India & J&K , J&K State not fully integrated with India till 2019 ( although Art-1 of COI and Section- 3 of constitution of J&K < Section- 3. Relationship of the State with the Union of India:-The State of Jammu and Kashmir is and shall be

an integral part of the Union of India > very explicitly refuted such notions) had been not only simply targeting the electoral vote politics by promoting for or against debates must henceforth shed such myths out of their pockets in the overall interest of our people so that energies are not unduly spent in related controversies and are hence forth used for strengthening the process of emotional & material development of J&K and fighting the extra territorial aggressions.

Now no more time should be lost in starting the process of making and promoting ideological corrections/ medications , no doubt that has to be done adopting very accommodating but truthful & patience studded approach like drawing clear line between the mainstream & separatist ideologies so that the common man has no confusions.

The UT Government headed by Omar Abdullah has lesser work load since the issues related to public order , police and like are to be more shared by LG & Union Home Ministry hence Omar Sahib will have more time for emotional & material reconstruction of his people. Let us hope for lesser vote bank politics for atleast a couple of years.....

(The writer is a Sr Journalist & a known analyst of J&K affairs)