

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Disrupt terror financing...



Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo and senior officials of Police and Civil Administration were present.

### 'Infiltrator' nabbed with...

organisation he is working with. As per unconfirmed reports, he belongs to the Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist outfit. The BSF has put troops on alert along the IB from Jammu to Kathua sectors and has been conducting combing operations in the areas along the IB for the past fortnight as part of its winter strategy, officials said.

### Cabinet nod for...

for houselisting and housing census and population enumeration. It will generate 1.02 crore human days of employment, the minister said.

Vaishnav said the entire digital census system has been created as a very robust system and all personal data protection laws will be applicable. The census will collect the micro-level data of every individual and household and present a macro-level data, he added.

"Data of the micro-level will be collected from each household and a macro picture will be present. Individual data will be kept confidential while the macro-level data of the Census will be published," the minister said.

"All the Census functionaries will be paid a suitable honorarium for the work of the Census as they will be doing this work in addition to their regular duties," a government statement said.

The Census 2027 will also capture caste data electronically in the PE phase, Vaishnav said.

In the first-ever digital Census, data will be collected using mobile applications that will be available for both Android and iOS versions.

Use of a mobile app for data collection and the central portal for monitoring purposes will ensure better quality data, Vaishnav said.

Data dissemination will be much better and in a user-friendly way so that all queries on required parameters for policy-making will be available with a click of a button, he said.

"A dedicated portal, namely Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS), has been developed for managing and monitoring the entire Census process on a real-time basis," a government statement said.

Census-as-a-Service (CaaS) will deliver data to ministries in a clean, machine-readable and actionable format, he said.

The largest administrative and statistical exercise in the world will be done using a mobile app for data collection and the central portal for monitoring purposes will ensure better quality data.

"The current endeavour would be to make available the coming Census data at the shortest possible time across the country. Efforts will also be made to disseminate Census results with more customised visualisation tools. Data sharing to all, up to the lowest administrative unit i.e. village/ward level," the statement said.

Houselisting block (HLB) creator web map application will be another innovation for Census 2027 which will be used by the charge officers.

The statement said around 18,600 technical manpower will be engaged for about 550 days at the local levels which would imply that around 1.02 crore man-days employment would be generated.

"Further, the provision of technical manpower at the charge/district/state-level will also result in capacity-building as the nature of the job will be related to digital data handling, monitoring and coordination. This will also help in the future employment prospects of these persons," it said.

The provision of technical manpower at various levels will also result in capacity-building as the nature of the job will be related to digital data handling, monitoring and coordination.

"This will also help in the future employment prospects of these persons," the statement said.

The mammoth exercise is the biggest source of primary data at the village, town and ward-level providing micro-level data on various parameters including housing condition, amenities and assets, demography, religion, SC and ST, language, literacy and education, economic activity, migration and fertility.

The last comprehensive caste-based count was done by the Britishers between 1881 and 1931. Caste was excluded from all Census operations conducted since Independence.

The decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming Census was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 30.

In 2010, then prime minister Manmohan Singh had assured the Lok Sabha that the matter of caste census would be considered in the cabinet.

However, the previous Congress-led government opted for a survey instead of a caste census, known as the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC).

The population of the country according to the Census 2011 was 1,210.19 million of which 623.72 million (51.54 per cent) were males and 586.46 million (48.46 per cent) were females.

### Cabinet nod to...

subsumed in the principal law. It then only clutters the statute books. Its use has ended but it still exists, creating confusion," an official explained.

So far, 1,562 old archaic laws have been repealed. Once the proposed Bill gets Parliament's nod, the total number of laws to get repealed will stand at 1,633.

Since May 2014, the Modi government has been consistently repealing colonial era, archaic and obsolete laws to declutter statute books.

Successive Union law ministers have maintained that obsolete laws are impediments in the normal life of common people and do not have relevance in the present time, nor deserve to remain in the statute books.

### Two killed, two...

help of locals, shifted the injured to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Bhaderwah. BMO Bhaderwah, Dr Varsha Sharma, confirmed that four injured persons were brought to SDH Bhaderwah, out of which one was declared brought dead, while two had serious injuries and one suffered minor injuries.

"Two seriously injured persons were referred to GMC Doda for advanced treatment," she said.

However, one of the seriously injured later succumbed to injuries during treatment, taking the death toll to two.

The deceased have been identified as Rinku Ram, son of Nandu Ram, a resident of Chamba and Chander Bani S/O Chamaru Ram R/O Bhajatra HP Salooni District Chamba. The injured were identified as Kalash Kumar (41) of Pota Chamba, Jairam Singh, son of Baghi Ram of Bhajrota Chamba and Jaram Singh S/O Bhagi Ram R/O Bhajatra HP Salooni District Chamba.

Police have registered a case and initiated further investigation.

### Irregularities in JKCHC...

Act, 1989. This order has been circulated to all relevant authorities for urgent compliance, marking a strong move towards accountability and transparency within the cooperative sector.

### Ex-Union Minister...

unprecedented attacks from ten heavily-armed Pakistan-trained terrorists. Defending himself over the criticism, he had said people should criticise policy, not clothes. The sheer scale of the Mumbai attacks weighed heavily on Patil's political career and made his position in the Union Cabinet virtually untenable, leading to his resignation on November 30, 2008.

Condolences poured in from across party lines, reflecting the wide respect the Congress politician commanded.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and many others offered condolences and paid tributes to Patil.

Born on October 12, 1935, Patil began his political journey as the president of Latur municipality between 1966 and 1970 and was subsequently elected as an MLA for two terms. He held key posts in the Maharashtra assembly, including Deputy Speaker and Speaker, between 1977 and 1979.

He then went on to win the Latur Lok Sabha seat seven times and was the 10th Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1991 to 1996. He lost to BJP's Rupatai Patil Nilangekar in the 2004 Lok Sabha elections. He was also a Rajya Sabha member.

The Congress leader held several key portfolios in the Union Cabinet, including Home, Defence, Commerce, and Science and Technology. Patil was the Governor of Punjab and also served as Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh from 2010 to 2015.

In 2022, speaking at a book launch, he courted controversy for claiming that the concept of "jihad" was present not just in Islam but also in the Bhagavad Gita and Christianity.

In March 2025, he had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi with his family.

Calling Patil a distinguished parliamentarian and statesman, Fadnavis said his demise was deeply saddening.

Patil served in several key roles, leaving an indelible mark through his exemplary public service, said Fadnavis. As Speaker of the Lok Sabha, he initiated and supported several innovative parliamentary practices, earning respect across the political spectrum, said the CM.

"Renowned for his integrity, deep knowledge and firm leadership, Patil commanded a place of esteem in Indian politics. His death has created a void in the country's political and social leadership," he added.

Sharad Pawar said Patil played a significant role in the politics of both Maharashtra and the nation, harmoniously blending the Congress ideology with his unwavering commitment to resolving people's issues. "In every position he held, his work consistently reflected justice for the common man," said the NCP (SP) chief.

Former CM Ashok Chavan, who hails from neighbouring Nanded, described Patil as a "guiding figure, like a father".

"For me, the death of Shivraj Patil Chakurkar is a great personal loss. He shared a brotherly bond with (my father) Dr Shankarrao Chavan, and for many years, our families have shared a deep relationship," said the BJP Rajya Sabha member.

In Patil's death, the country has lost a cultured and scholarly personality, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said, calling the Congress leader a "symbol of simplicity and ethical conduct".

Highlighting Patil's initiatives during his stint as the Lok Sabha Speaker, Pawar said he pushed for modernisation and computerisation of the House. "The Outstanding Parliamentarian Award was also started during his tenure," said Pawar in a statement.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said Patil served in different constitutional posts, from his home state Maharashtra to the Centre, during his decades-long career.

In his demise, the country has lost an experienced, cultured leader who skilfully blended politics and social work, noted Shinde.

NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule mourned Patil's death, saying his passing marks the loss of a leader with vast parliamentary experience. Latur MLA Amit Deshmukh also offered his tributes to Patil.

Known for his dignified conduct, he never indulged in personal attacks, neither in public speeches nor in private conversations, said a Congress leader.

Patil was also known for his vast reading, meticulous study, and articulate presentation. His command over Marathi, English, and Hindi, along with his exceptional grasp of constitutional matters, made him a much-respected parliamentarian of his time, added the party leader.

### Principles of law...

at the initial stage may not be determinative. However, the claimants must establish the specific identity of the vehicle/driver, with the caveat that the connection of the accident with the said vehicle must be established through cogent and reliable evidence," the bench said.

Referring to a report of the motor vehicle inspector, the bench said it revealed no damage whatsoever to the alleged offending vehicle.

"We find no perversity in the appreciation of evidence, nor exceptional circumstances warranting interference with these concurrent findings," the bench said, while dismissing the appeals.

### Bill to set up...

Teacher Education (NCTE). "The bill to set up Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan has been approved by the Cabinet," an official said.

While the UGC oversees non-technical higher education, the AICTE oversees technical education and the NCTE is the regulatory body for teachers' education.

The Commission is proposed to be set up as a single higher education regulator, but medical and law colleges will not be brought under its ambit. It is proposed to have three major roles -- regulation, accreditation and setting professional standards. Funding, which is seen as the fourth vertical, is not proposed to be under the regulator so far. The autonomy for funding is proposed to be with the administrative ministry.

The concept of HECI has been discussed before in the form of a draft bill. A draft Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Bill, 2018, which sought to repeal the UGC Act and provided for the setting up of the Higher Education Commission of India, was put in the public domain in 2018 for feedback and consultation with stakeholders.

Renewed efforts to make the HECI a reality were then initiated under Dharmendra Pradhan, who took over as the Union Education Minister in July 2021.

Underlining the relevance of a single higher education regulator, the NEP-2020 document says, "The regulatory system is in need of a complete overhaul in order to re-energise the higher education sector and enable it to thrive."

It adds that the new system should ensure the distinct functions of regulation, accreditation, funding and academic standard setting are performed by distinct, independent and empowered bodies.

## Red Fort blast: Delhi court sends 3 doctors, preacher to 12 days jail

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday remanded three doctors and a preacher who were arrested in connection with the November 10 Red Fort blast case to 12 days of judicial custody.

Another accused Dr Bilal Naseer Malla was also produced before Principal and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandra to authenticate his voice sample.

The four accused -- Dr Muzammil Ganai, Dr Adeel Rather, Dr Shaheena Saeed and Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay -- were produced before the expiry of their four-day NIA custody granted on December 8.

Mediapersons were barred from covering the court proceedings, which were held under tight security in and around the Patiala House district court premises.

Till now, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made eight arrests in the case, which is linked to a 'white collar' terror module busted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Dr Bilal Naseer Malla, a resident of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir, is the eighth accused arrested so far. The NIA team arrested the doctor from Delhi on December 9, calling him a key accused in the conspiracy.

"As per NIA investigations, Bilal had knowingly harboured the dead accused Umar Un Nabi by providing him logistical support. He is also accused of destruction of evidence related to the terrorist attack," the agency stated earlier on December 9.

"The agency continues to pursue various leads in connection with the suicide bombing, and has been conducting searches across states in coordination with the respective police forces to identify and track the others involved in the gruesome attack," the agency said in a statement earlier.

Dr Umar Un Nabi was driving the explosive-laden i20 car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people and injuring several others.

PTI had earlier reported that the sophisticated terror module spearheaded by a group of doctors had been actively scouting for a suicide bomber since last year, with Umar being the alleged key planner.

## Cabinet clears Bill to rename MGNREGA as 'Poojya Babu Grameen Rozgar Yojna'

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet on Friday approved a Bill to rename the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and increase the number of work days, sources said.

According to the sources, the scheme will now be renamed as 'Poojya Babu Grameen Rozgar Yojna', and the number of workdays under it would be increased from 100 days at present to 125 days.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, better known as MGNREGA or NREGA, is a flagship scheme of the government aimed at enhancing livelihood security of households in the rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It was enacted in 2005.

## DC Reasi reviews preparedness for National Immunization Day

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting of the District Task Force on Immunization to review and finalize arrangements for the National Immunization Day (NID)/Pulse Polio drive 2025 scheduled for December 21, 2025, followed by mop-up house-to-house rounds on December 22 and 23.

The meeting was informed that the district has a target of immunizing 58,808 children (0-5 years) for which 384 vaccination booths are being set up across four blocks. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed booth-wise arrangements, vaccine logistics, deployment of staff and detailed micro-planning for the campaign.

The DC directed the stakeholder departments to ensure 100% booth activity on NID and achieve zero missed children during the mop-up rounds through systematic house-to-house verification. "During house-to-house visits, teams must also verify whether all household members are covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, so that any uncovered individuals can be identified and facilitated for enrolment," she directed.

Highlighting the importance of reaching every child, the DC stressed special focus on High-Risk Areas (HRAs) such as slums, migratory settlements, nomadic groups, as well as transit points including railway stations, bus stands and markets. The DC also emphasized the role of religious leaders, PRIs and volunteers in spreading awareness and strengthening community participation.

The meeting was attended by PO POSHAN Sudershan Kumar; ACD Vijay Kumar; CEO and officials from the Health Department.

## ADC Bhaderwah reviews progress report of FCS&CA department

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today reviewed the working of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department here at a meeting held in his office Chamber.

The ADC took a detailed assessment of the status of ration distribution, stock availability, functioning of fair price shops and implementation of the departmental schemes. Officers were directed to ensure timely supply of essential commodities to all consumers, especially in far-flung areas of the subdivision.

The ADC emphasized transparency in the distribution system and called for strengthening monitoring mechanisms to prevent any irregularities. He also instructed officials to address public grievances promptly and maintain updated records for smooth functioning.

## SDM Mahore reviews developmental projects, emphasizes quality, timely execution

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Sub-Divisional Magistrate Shafqat Majeed Bhat convened a review meeting to assess the progress of the developmental works under execution across the Mahore Sub Division.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer PWD, Executive Engineer PMGSY, OIC GREP and representatives from other concerned departments.

In view of the approaching winter season, all departments were directed to ensure winter preparedness by keeping men and machinery on standby for timely snow clearance operations.

The SDM laid special emphasis on maintaining quality standards in the execution of Road and Building projects. The Executive Engineer PWD was directed to submit a detailed report on all tendered works, along with reasons for any works that remain untendered or unallotted.

The SDM also issued strict instructions to monitor and prevent encroachments on roads, ensuring adherence to the Ribbon Development Act to avoid any violations.

The meeting concluded with a call for coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure smooth execution of development activities in the sub-division.

## DDC Rajouri reviews progress of work on Sunderbani-BG Highway Stretch

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today reviewed the progress of widening and upgradation works on National Highway 144 from Sunderbani to BG sector stretch. The review meeting focused on accelerating the pace of work and removing bottlenecks to ensure timely completion of the road project. The DDC took a detailed assessment of the Thandapani, Bakhar and Galuthi Kotli stretches. Discussions were held regarding land-related disputes, requirement for additional land acquisition, identification of dumping locations and estimated timeline for completion of each section.

Stressing the need for uninterrupted execution, the District Development Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to expedite progress on all stretches. He instructed them to strictly adhere to the timelines set for resolving pending issues and to promptly apprise the district administration in case of any bottleneck that may hamper the pace of work.

To enhance road safety, the DDC directed the executing agencies to lay rumble strips and install signages and blinking lights at vulnerable locations, including Siot.

The DDC emphasized coordinated efforts and timely intervention to ensure the highway project progresses smoothly and benefits commuters, locals and defence movement in the region. The meeting was attended by IAS Probationer Seerat Baagi; representatives from BHO, including Preetam Kumar and Manunay Bisht; and officials from the AC Defence Office.