

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Delimitation Commission: Draft...

rejecting the proposal to increase six Assembly seats in the Jammu region as against just one in the Kashmir division.

The Commission headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Desai with Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and state election commission K K Sharma was set up on March 6, 2020 and was granted an extension of a year on March 6, 2021, which will come to an end next month.

The Delimitation Commission has held two meetings with the Associate Members on February 18 and December 20 last year. While the first meeting was boycotted by the three National Conference MPs, they attended the second meeting.

The NC had vociferously opposed the draft proposals which will increase the number of Assembly seats in the Jammu division from 37 to 43 and in Kashmir from 46 to 47.

The party, in its objections, had termed the Reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir Act as "Constitutionally suspect" and questioned the recommendations of the delimitation panel especially its rationale behind increasing six seats in the Jammu division as against one in the Kashmir region.

In its reply to the Commission, the NC argued that there were question marks over the Constitutional propriety of the panel especially when the party along with several others had approached the Supreme Court challenging the action of August 5, 2019 by the Centre of revoking the special status and bifurcating the erstwhile state in two Union territories - Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

The party said the Commission has been formed because of the Reorganisation Act of Jammu and Kashmir 2019 which is under judicial scrutiny and the Supreme Court is yet to deliver its order.

The panel's recommendations are borne out of an Act which is a "Constitutionally suspect" law, it said.

According to legal parlance, if any Act is under judicial custody and the apex court is seized of the matter; it can be termed as a Constitutionally suspect law.

The party said the principle of Constitution propriety demands that such a law should not be implemented and all the limbs of the state and their institutions should, out of deference to the top constitutional court, desist from implementing such law till its constitutionality is determined.

The National Conference also challenged the theory of Commission that the seats had to be extended in the Jammu region because of difficult terrains and geographically remote areas.

It highlighted that several areas in Kashmir remain cut-off for months and are equally arduous when it comes to the remoteness of an area.

The party highlighted several areas in Anantnag, Kupwara, Baramulla, Kulgam and Uri in Kashmir division to compare remoteness and tough terrain.

The major objection of the party was about the formula that had been adopted by the Commission by throwing the concept of population to the wind and said Kashmir division, despite having a higher number of people compared to Jammu, got only one seat.

After the completion of the delimitation exercise, the number of Assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir will go up from 83 to 90.

In the erstwhile assembly of Jammu and Kashmir state, Kashmir had 46 seats, Jammu 37 and Ladakh four.

Farooq Abdullah, Congress...

make assembly seats contiguous with the district.

"But the draft report is showing a different picture altogether.

"Like Anantnag Lok Sabha seat in South Kashmir will have six assembly seats from Rajouri and Poonch, which are part of Jammu division and located across Peerpanjal range," Abdullah said and asked, "How is this inclined for providing better administration?"

Similarly, the way assembly constituencies have been carved out in which some have "completely disappeared defies any and all logic".

The Congress has also reacted strongly to the second draft proposal of the delimitation commission.

"The norms, criteria, ground realities and aspirations of people seem to have been ignored in the delimitation of the constituencies," chief spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress Ravinder Sharma said on media reports about the draft proposal.

He said people are surprised over the kind of "divisions and dubbing of certain areas, ignoring the ground realities and putting people to great hardships".

"This is certainly not in accordance with the needs, wishes and aspirations of people," Sharma said.

Surprisingly, he said most of the recommendations were already in circulation and in the public domain through the leaders of the BJP.

Sharma said the Congress would discuss the proposal once the formal draft is out and put forth the view of the people forcefully.

Two MOs among...

PHC Gota has also gone viral," the order stated.

The absence of health officials from the PHC being the essential services, tantamounts to strict action under rules, it added.

In view of above, pending enquiry into their conduct, two Medical Officers including nine employees placed under suspension with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.

Those who have been suspended include Dr. Rajiv Salaria (Medical Officer), Dr. Vikas Bharti (Medical Officer), Onkar Singh (Sr. Ophthalmic Tech.), Parveen Kumar (ISM Pharmacist), St. Rajinder Kour (JSN), Lajo Devi (JSN), Chamil Singh (NO), Raj Kour (NO) and Harvinder Singh (Driver Ambulance).

"During suspension period they shall remain attached in the office of Block Medical Officer, Mahore," the order stated and added, "Additional District Development Commissioner, Reasi shall conduct an enquiry into the matter and submit a report within fifteen days."

Meanwhile, DDC Kupwara also ordered suspension of 41 employees of various departments for dereliction of the duties.

Earlier, on the directions of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat on Saturday paid a surprise visit at various offices and found two officers and 39 employees absent from their legitimate duties.

These offices include Executive Engineer REW Kupwara, District Industries Centre, District Social Welfare Office, CDPO Office Kupwara, Labour Office and other departments.

In this regard, DDC Kupwara has recommended action against the two officers found absent from duty from their concerned higher authorities. While as, legal action as per service rules shall be taken against the absentee employees.

DDC further directed the concerned DDOs to deduct one day salary of the absentees and credit the same to District Red Cross Society Kupwara under proper receipt. The DDC further stressed upon all employees to remain punctual on their duties.

Man shot dead...

The official said firing also took place at the house of one Nabi Shah from the same village. He and his family escaped unhurt.

Police parties have reached the spot and a manhunt has been launched to nab the gunmen involved in the two incidents, he said, adding that a case has been registered.

Two terrorists killed...

five hand grenades, were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records. In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar congratulated the Srinagar Police for carrying out the anti-terrorist operation in a professional manner without any collateral damage, the spokesperson said.

1,606 new COVID...

The death toll remained unchanged at 226.

While Leh reported 86 fresh cases, Kargil reported 64, the officials said.

Of the total 226 deaths, 167 were reported from Leh and 59 from Kargil.

As many as 218 more COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovering from the disease. Of these, 125 patients were discharged in Leh and 93 in Kargil, the officials said.

With this, the total number of recoveries in Ladakh has increased to 25,405, they said. There are 1,079 active cases -- 666 in Leh and 413 in Kargil -- in Ladakh. The positivity rate stands at 4.2 per cent, they said.

Two dead, 2...

Jammu for specialised treatment. The deceased have been identified as Abhay (26), resident of Rathian and Deevam (23), resident of Udhampur while injured were Harish (24), resident of Udhampur and Paras (25), resident of Rathian.

J&K Admn launches...

mechanism in the country, whereby the employees will be required to report their monthly performance up to the 7th of next calendar month on the portal using their CPIS numbers.

The monthly reporting system is likely to bring about much needed accountability and service efficiency, he said.

Kashmir journalist booked...

for which three FIRs have been lodged against him - one in Srinagar, one in Pulwama and other in Shopian.

"He has been arrested in the case FIR lodged in Pulwama. Action will follow in other FIRs also, IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said.

Kumar made an appeal to journalists to not spread fake news and verify information from police before circulating.

It glorifies terrorists because it leads to recruitment, our youth get radicalised and takes the wrong path. Do not instigate the public, he said.

Shah is the founder editor of weekly online magazine "thekashmirwalla".

Narco-terror module...

the duo -- Mohammad Sabir Barwal, a resident of Jabda Kamalkote Tehsil in Uri and Parvaiz Ahmad Tantray from Reban Rafiabad, Sopore -- was apprehended, the spokesperson said.

Both the vehicles were searched and three packets of contraband apparently, hero-in was recovered from one vehicle and five packets from the other. In total eight packets of contraband weighing about nine Kgs were recovered. The cost of the contraband in the black market is about Rs 18 crores, he said.

During their personal search, mobile phone, a cheque to the tune of Rs 5 lakh and an Adhaar card was seized from Barwal's possession, while seven cheques amounting to Rs 9,79,500, two blank cheques, an Adhaar card, and other documents were seized from Tantray, he said.

In this regard case FIR No.17/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been taken up.

J&K Admn approves...

Public Works (R&B), and Nazim Zai Khan, Secretary to Government, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) participated in the meeting.

MeT predicts snowfall...

1.6 degrees Celsius they said.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 9.8 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam, which also serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 11.3 degrees Celsius -- down from minus 3.4 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

It was the coldest recorded place in the Valley.

The officials said Qazigund recorded its minimum temperature at minus 3.3 degrees Celsius. The nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 4.9 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius.

The MeT office has said the weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the plains of Jammu and Kashmir, but very light rain or snow at one or two places on the higher reaches cannot be ruled out on Saturday.

Over the next two days, there is a possibility of isolated to scattered light rain or snow, it added.

Kashmir is currently under the influence of a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) which began after the Chilla-i-Kalan -- the 40-day harshest winter period -- ended on January 31.

Chilla-i-Kalan, which had begun on December 21 last year, is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall. However, there was less snowfall during the 'Chilla-i-Kalan' this year.

After the end of 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold), a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) follows. However, both these periods are considered less harsh.

Over 100 stranded...

airlifted from Jammu to Kargil and 21 from Srinagar to Kargil, while 16 passengers were airlifted from Kargil to Jammu and 15 others from Kargil to Srinagar.

The IAF operates C-17, C-130 and AN-32 aircraft regularly to airlift stranded passengers between J&K and Ladakh in view of the closure of the 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway owing to heavy snowfall in January.

Ali said nine passengers, including the body of senior gynaecologist Kaneez Fatima, were airlifted from Jammu to Kargil and one passenger from Srinagar to Kargil in an Mi-17 Pawan Hans helicopter.

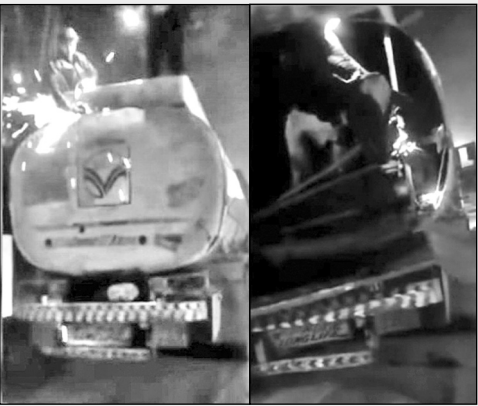
Seven more passengers were airlifted from Kargil to Srinagar, he said.



Smugglers adopting new modus operandi for ferrying cattle, 11 bovines rescued from oil-tanker

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Although J&K Police is initiating every possible measure for keeping a check on the menace of bovine smuggling across the Union territory and intensifying checking-Nakas to nab the smugglers indulged in crime, the smugglers have also started adopting new techniques to deceive the security agencies for carrying out illegal ferrying of cattle without any valid permission from concerned authorities. In a recent incident, it was surfaced that bovine smugglers were carrying cattle in an oil-tanker, to avoid the security check. As per details, Police rescued 11 bovine animals at TCP Nagrota Naka from an oil tanker (JK02AU /4955), which were being smuggled. At a checking Naka, a team from Police Station Nagrota, acting on a reliable input, intercepted an oil tanker and on checking found it laden with 11 bovine animals, which were concealed after making modifications in the tanker. However, the smugglers managed to flee but animals were rescued on the spot and vehicle was seized.



Meanwhile, 8 more bovines were rescued from two other vehicles (JK02CV 1420 and JK02CC 1728) at Ban Toll Plaza Nagrota, which were rescued and vehicles were seized. Four smugglers were also arrested who were identified as Hanief, son of Mohd Gammi, resident of Shamachak Jhiri; Iqbal, son of Abdul Rashid, resident of Kokernag, Anantnag; Abdul Qadeer, son of Lal Din, resident of Kokernag and Rayees Ahmed, son of Abdul Khaliq, resident of Kokernag. Accordingly, FIRs No. 45, 46 & 47/2022 under sections 188/11 of PCA Act were registered at Police Station Nagrota. The recoveries and arrests were made by SHO Nagrota Inspr Vishav Pratap Singh under supervision of SDPO Nagrota Pardeep Kumar. The overall operation was done under guidance of SP Rural Sanjay Sharma.

9 gamblers arrested; Rs 1,53,370 stake money seized



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against social crimes, Police on Saturday arrested 9 gamblers and seized stake money from their possession. As per details, acting on specific information, a party from Police Post Nehru Park under supervision of SDPO Nehru Park raided a secret gambling site in a houseboat namely 'Royal Safeena' and arrested 9 gamblers. Officers also seized stake money amounting to Rs 1,53,370 and playing cards from gamblers, who were shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly, FIR No. 11/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Ram Munshi Bagh and investigation started.

Drug peddler arrested with Charas, cash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Police on Saturday nabbed a drug peddler and recovered Charas and cash from his possession.

As per details, under 'Operation Sanjeevani', at about 1700 hours, on a tip of information received through reliable sources that one Dimple Singh, son of Tota Ram, resident of Bhatnas, Tehsil Gandoh, who is indulged in sale of Narcotics among youth in Changa/Gwari area, is illegally carrying some drugs with him for selling purpose. Acting on the information, a party from Police Station Gandoh, led by SHO Gandoh Vikram Singh under supervision of SDPO Gandoh Shazad Kabir Matto arrested accused and recovered 322 gm Charas like substance and cash amounting to Rs 96,960 in presence of Executive Magistrate, 1st class Gandoh.

FIR No. 06/2022 under sections 8/20 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Gandoh. The drive against drug menace is going on under overall supervision of SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom as Police is committed to eradicate menace of drugs from district and all efforts are being made in this regard.

Three booked, vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Police on Saturday arrested three persons and seized three vehicles, found involved in illegal mining. As per details, during Nakas at different locations of Kishtwar, police seized 3 tippers and nabbed 3 drivers under jurisdiction of Police Station Kishtwar. The arrested persons were identified as Tariq Hussain, son of Ghulam Qadir Butt, resident of Berwar Kishtwar; Sameer Ahmed Butt, son of Ghulam Qadir Butt, resident of Kurya Kishtwar & Ghulam Mustafa Wani, son of Abdul Aziz Wani, resident of Giringagar Kishtwar. Three FIR Nos. 18, 19, 20/2022 under relevant sections of law were registered at Police Station Kishtwar and accordingly investigation started.

Three narco-smugglers nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police nabbed three narco smugglers on Saturday and recovered 15.25 gms heroin from their possession.

As per details, a team from Police Station Domana led by SHO Inspr Mahesh Sharma assisted by PSI Danish Qaiser Gazali during Naka checking rounded up a suspect namely Abhishek Choudhary, son of Kuldeep Kumar, resident of Machine Domana, Jammu. On search, 5 gm heroin was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and FIR No. 42/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Domana. The arrest and recoveries were made under supervision of SDPO Domana Sunil Singh.

Meanwhile, two persons namely Pinto Kumar alias Luddan, son of Prem Chand, resident of R S Pura and Ashwani Kumar, son of Lt. Girdhari Lal, resident of Bilaspur Parlah, R S.Pura travelling in a white Alto car (JK02BL/1247) stopped for vehicle checking by Satwari Police, but they tried to escape. They were overpowered and detained. During checking both of them found in possession of heroin like substance weighing about 10.25 gms. Duo was arrested and FIR No. 16 /2022 under sections 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Satwari.

Man found hanging

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: A 27-year-old man was found hanging in his house located at Taratpora, Ramhall in Kupwara district on Saturday. The deceased, identified as Mohammad Iqbal Chopan (27), son of Mohammad Sabir Chopan, resident of Sharkoot Rathapora, Ramhall, Kupwara. Soon after getting information, a police party from Vilgam reached the spot and took body into custody and sent it for postmortem besides registering a case. Further investigation is going on.

Jawan killed, another injured after hit by truck

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A Jawan was killed while another got injured when a truck hit them near Fruit Mandi at Parimpora, Srinagar on Saturday.

As per details, two Jawans namely Sanjay Kumar and Rafiq Ahmad, from 163 Territorial Army, a part of Road Opening Party (RoP), got hit by a truck (JK03J /3811) in early morning. Both were immediately shifted to hospital where Sanjay Kumar was declared as brought dead by doctors while Rafiq Ahmad was admitted and is presently under treatment. The driver of truck fled from the spot. A case was registered and further investigations are underway.

Four injured in Rajouri accident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: At least four persons got injured in a road accident at Bhatthian in Thannamandi Sub Division of Rajouri district on Saturday.

As per details, an Ecco vehicle (JK11-3788), which was on its way from Rajouri to Bhatthian, met with an accident at Bhatthian, resulting in injuries to four persons, who were identified as Khurshaid Begum, Abrar Ahmed, Billu Begum and Abdul Khaliq. All injured were shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Associated Hospital, Rajouri for treatment.

CISF Jawan detained after live rounds found in his baggage at Sgr Airport

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A CISF Jawan was detained at Srinagar Airport on Saturday after security personnel recovered two live rounds and an empty cartridge from his baggage.

As per details, during screening at drop-gate of Srinagar Airport, two live rounds and an empty cartridge of INSAS rifle was recovered from baggage of a CISF personnel and was immediately detained for questioning.

The Jawan, identified as C T Driver Nada of CISF unit PGCL Wagoora Puhroo, currently posted at Nowgam, Wagoora Puhroo, was handed-over to police post Humhama. Further investigation is going on.

Man kills brother over land dispute

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A was killed and three others got injured as a scuffle broke out between two brothers over a land dispute in Fatehpur village of Rajouri on Saturday evening.

As per details, an incident took place in Fatehpur village near Rajouri in which one Mohd Sharief, son of Hakim Din murdered his real brother namely Mohd Hafiz due to an old enmity.

With a criminal intention, accused Mohammad Sharief and his sons assaulted Mohd Hafiz and his family members with sharp-edged weapons after making forcible enter into the house of victim and injured Hafiz and his son Gafoor.

Injured Hafiz succumbed while on way to district hospital Rajouri while his son Gafoor is presently under-treatment. FIR has been registered by Police and investigation is going on.

DC Reasi to listen

employees' grievances on Feb 14

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Charandeep Singh to hold a Darbar on February 14 to listen to the grievances of the employees of district Reasi.

"To redress the grievances of the employees and expeditious disposal of their issues, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi will listen to the grievances of employees of District Reasi on 14th February (Monday) between 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM in his office chamber," reads an order issued by Jyoti Rani Salathia, Additional District Development Commissioner Reasi. It stated that employees may come fully prepared with their cases along with written representation.

"Those who intend to meet on the scheduled date and time must seek permission of their controlling officers and all controlling officers shall allow them for the aforesaid purpose on receipt of their requests under intimation to this office," the order stated and added, "The employee shall follow the COVID protocols during the meeting."

DDC Chairperson Kulgam visits Kund

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: The District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson, Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parrey on Saturday visited Kund valley to take stock of arrangements for ongoing annual Urs of sufi saint Hazrat Syed Noor Shah Saheb Wali Baghdadi (RA). DDC member Kund Gulzar Ahmad, ADC Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather and other officers accompanied the DDC Chairperson during the visit. The week-long Urs of the saint commenced from February 01 and will continue till February 10. On the occasion, the DDC Chairperson stressed officers to ensure all the necessary arrangements to facilitate devotees who visit the shrine.