

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Parliament clears J&K...

state election commissioner will be according to the constitutional provisions and can only be removed under circumstances similar to those of a judge of a high court, Rai added.

He also listed out the development works undertaken after removal of Article 370 in the union territory and said Jammu & Kashmir is now peaceful and on the path of development.

Rai said incidents of terrorist activities and stone pelting have come down.

Replying to the discussion on the The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar said the communities will get the benefits of so many schemes with the passing of the bills.

"We do not do vote bank politics but try to strengthen the weaker section of the society," he stated.

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs & Agriculture and Farmer Welfare moved the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 that seeks to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order of 1989 to create separate lists for Scheduled Tribes for Jammu and Kashmir; and Ladakh.

The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 seeks to add four communities -- Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe, and Pahari Ethnic Group -- to the list of Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Thereafter, discussion for consideration and passage of the three proposed legislations ensued simultaneously in the Upper House.

Before the bills were moved, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar announced the government's decision to award Bharat Ratna to former prime ministers Chaudhary Charan Singh and P V Narasimha Rao and agriculture scientist M S Swaminathan. He said it is an honour to announce the prestigious award to the aforementioned personalities for their contributions to the respective fields.

"When Bharat Ratna is given it is an honour not only for the person but the entire nation," Dhankhar said. He further said it is a matter of satisfaction and joy for every Indian. The government had earlier announced the country's highest civilian honour for L K Advani and Karpoori Thakur.

### India has nearly...

electoral roll along with disclosures and transparency in the revision of electoral rolls, an official pointed out. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had explained at a press conference in Pune the various tasks involved in revision of electoral rolls along with participation of political parties at every stage.

### LG calls for...

Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K. The meeting discussed various key interventions for sustainable management of rich biodiversity and integrated development of wildlife habitats. In-principle approval was accorded to several agenda points to further strengthen the wildlife ecosystem.

The Lt Governor reviewed the proposal for expansion of Jambu Zoo. He also sought an action taken report on the directions passed in the previous Board meeting.

Various agenda points presented during the meeting include Kandori Ski Lift in Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Construction of Yatri Niwas and Disaster Management Centre by Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board at Bahu Conservation Reserve Jammu; Chhat Zorawar Operational Track; procurement of vehicles for Man-Animal Conflict Management, various Water Supply Schemes and road projects. On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated the Wildlife Office Complex at Raj Bagh Srinagar, and released a Coffee Table Book and a short film on Jambu Zoo.

A report on the Biodiversity Assessment of Wild Fauna ( Mammals, Birds and Butterflies) and Flora in Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary Kathua, J&K and a booklet on Kashmir's Wetland Conservation Reserves titled Conservation Triumph- 2024 was also released by the Lt Governor. Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Shiv Anant Tayal, Secretary Tribal Affairs; eminent Conservationists, Ecologists, Environmentalists, representatives of Army, Botanical Survey of India, National Society on Water Resources, Wetlands & Forests and other board members also attended the meeting.

### India's growth rate...

not been witnessed before," he said.

Modi said that in any country's development journey, a time comes when all circumstances are in its favour and when that country strengthens itself for many centuries to come. "I see that time for India now," he added.

"This is the time when our growth rate is constantly rising and fiscal deficit is decreasing. This is the time when our export is increasing and current account deficit is decreasing. This is the time when productive investment is at a record high and inflation are under control," Modi said.

"This is the time when opportunity and incomes are both rising and poverty is declining. This is the time when consumption and corporate profitability are both rising and there is record reduction in bank NPAs (non-performing assets). This is the time when production and productivity are increasing and this is the time when our critics are at an all-time low," the prime minister said.

He said his government's policy is stability, consistency and continuity.

Modi said inflation was a side-effect of overspending and his government followed the mantra of 'money saved is money earned' for time-bound completion of projects. "We valued taxpayers' money by completing big projects like Parliament building in record time, and earned money even from scrap," the prime minister said.

### PM announces Bharat...

Ratna and it is dedicated to his incomparable contributions to the country, Modi said.

Be it as an MLA, as Uttar Pradesh chief minister or the country's home minister, he always speeded up the nation-building exercise and also stood strongly against the Emergency, he added.

Then prime minister Indira Gandhi had imposed the Emergency in 1975.

Singh's dedication to farmers and commitment to democracy during the Emergency inspires the country, the prime minister said.

The honour for Singh comes at a time the RLD, led by his grandson Jayant Singh, is believed to be in talks with the BJP for an alliance for the Lok Sabha polls, expected in April-May. Singh died in 1987.

Paying rich tributes to Rao, who passed away in 2004, Modi said he served the country extensively in various capacities as a distinguished scholar and statesman.

He said Rao is equally remembered for the work he did as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, a Union minister and as lawmaker in Parliament and assembly for many years.

"His visionary leadership was instrumental in making India economically advanced, laying a solid foundation for the country's prosperity and growth," Modi said.

"Narasimha Rao Garu's tenure as prime minister was marked by significant measures that opened India to global markets, fostering a new era of economic development," he added.

Modi said Rao's contributions to India's foreign policy, language and education sectors underscore his multifaceted legacy as a leader who not only steered India through critical transformations but also enriched its cultural and intellectual heritage.

The Modi government's move to recognise two stalwart politicians who came from non-BJP backgrounds is resonant with political and social messaging. It is expected to boost the BJP's efforts to present itself as a party which represents pan-India interests and aspirations and recognises leading people in different fields.

Rao's admirers have long argued that he has not been given his due by the Congress due to his less than warm relations with the Nehru-Gandhi family, a point often made by BJP leaders too.

As the country's first and only full-term prime minister from south India, Rao occupies a special place in the region.

Modi said it is a matter of immense joy that his government is conferring the Bharat Ratna on Swaminathan in recognition of his monumental contributions to the nation in agriculture and farmers' welfare.

"He played a pivotal role in helping India achieve self-reliance in agriculture during challenging times and made outstanding efforts towards modernizing Indian agriculture. We also recognise his invaluable work as an innovator and mentor and encouraging learning and research among several students," he said.

Swaminathan's visionary leadership has not only transformed Indian agriculture but also ensured the nation's food security and prosperity, the prime minister said, noting that he knew him closely and always valued his insights and inputs.

The agronomist passed away last year. Four of the five awards this year are posthumous. Advani, 96, is the only one alive.

### Two terrorist hideouts...

slain terrorist commander, was taken into custody and, during questioning, he revealed the involvement of one Abdul Jameel Larah, a resident of Sopore, in similar subversive activities.

The searches at Larah's residence led to recovery of arms and ammunition and other incriminating material, the officials said, adding both the accused persons were arrested.

### Can Preamble of...

Jain said that th4 Preamble of Constitution of India comes with a specific date, therefore it cannot be amended without discussion.

Swamy intervened and said that the 42nd Amendment Act was passed during the Emergency (1975-77).

Justice Khanna at the outset told Swamy that the judges had received the case files early in the morning and due to the paucity in time, they had not gone through them.

The bench said that the matter required detailed discussion and posted the hearing on the two petitions to April 29.

On September 2, 2022, the top court had tagged Swamy's plea with other pending matter -- filed by one Balram Singh and others -- for hearing.

Both Swamy and Singh have sought deletion of words "Socialist" and "Secular" from the Preamble.

The words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were inserted in the Preamble of the Constitution under the 42nd Constitutional amendment moved by the Indira Gandhi government in 1976.

The amendment changed the description of India in the Preamble from a "sovereign, democratic republic" to a "sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic."

Swamy in his plea has contended that Preamble cannot be altered, varied, or repealed.

He said in his plea that the Preamble not only indicated the essential features of the Constitution but also the fundamental conditions based on which it was adopted to create a unified integrated community.

### No respite from...

officials said. Pahalgam in south Kashmir, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded the lowest temperature in the valley last night at minus 10.3 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag and Qazigund towns in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius and minus 6.4 degrees Celsius respectively, the officials said.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius compared to the previous night's minus 5.2 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperatures in Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Qazigund and Srinagar were around five degrees below normal for this time of the year.

Although 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period -- ended earlier this week, the cold wave has continued in Kashmir.

The valley is currently going through a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) which shall be followed by a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

### HC directs Govt...

settled 5300 displaced families being again left out to be shareholder in a One-Time financial settlement pie of rupees two thousand (Rs.2000) crores whereby rupees five lac fifty thousand (Rs. 5.50 lakh) per family was being made available to 26,319 similarly displaced families of PoJK of 1947 who had got camped and settled in the then State of Jammu & Kashmir upon becoming part of India on October 26, 1947, the petitioners have come up following one another with their respective writ petitions registering their festering anguish about the fact of discrimination and exclusion inflicted and practiced upon them in the matter of their non-rehabilitation and non-recognition of rights by the successive governments of the times of the then State of Jammu & Kashmir for reasons which were never equality driven but discrimination infested.

At this moment it would be very apt to observe here that if the parliamentary legislation in the form of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 would not have intervened to change the constitutional status of Jammu & Kashmir from being one of the States of Union of India to become two entities of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh, the adjudication of these writ petitions would have involved sifting of legal and political ingredients of the matter in examining whether the successive political entities being in government of the then State of Jammu & Kashmir could act with double standard to deal with and discriminate 1947 displaced families of the then princely State of Jammu & Kashmir just by reference to their place of shelter camps being within the State of Jammu and Kashmir or outside it in some other neighboring States of India from whereon the displaced families had begun their new course of life as subjects of India but not to be recognized as subjects of the State of Jammu & Kashmir even upon it being one of 565 princely States becoming part of India to come under the canopy of the Constitution of India.

Justice Rahul Bharti after hearing both the sides observed that in the present case, the discrimination and exclusion of displaced families of PoJK of 1947 settled outside State of Jammu 7 Kashmir as compared to the replica displaced families of PoJK of 1947 which remained settled in the State of Jammu & Kashmir is more acute and artificial having no sense and substances whatsoever. In the present case the discrimination has not been law driven but discretion engineered on the part of the successive governments of the State of Jammu & Kashmir. At no point of time it was declared or could be declared by any government of the day in the governance of the State of Jammu & Kashmir, be it in elected or non-elected status, that 5300 displaced families of PoJK of 1947 which got settled outside the State of Jammu & Kashmir were not the natives and bonafide & hereditary subjects of the princely State of Jammu & Kashmir so as not to be entitled to become subjects of the political State of Jammu & Kashmir.

In comparison to the case (supra) dealt by the Supreme Court of India where Indians settled long back in Sikkim were held entitled to be reckoned as Sikkimese, in the present case the 5300 displaced families of PoJK of 1947 settled outside State of Jammu & Kashmir are reclaiming and reinforcing their vested status of being the subjects of the State of Jammu & Kashmir as were and are the 26,319 displaced families of PoJK of 1947 who remained settled in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Dislocation from princely State of Jammu & Kashmir in October 1947 was not self-invited or self-opted by 31,619 displaced families of affected part of the princely State of Jammu & Kashmir and similarly lodgment of the displaced families in the refugee camps in and outside the State of Jammu & Kashmir was not a matter of refugee camp shopping by and for the destitute and displaced families of PoJK. At no point of time, the government of any given time in the State of Jammu & Kashmir had come forward with a legislation or an executive law, meant as a call for the 5300 displaced families of PoJK of 1947 settled outside the State of Jammu & Kashmir to exercise their respective options of retaining their status as subject of the State of Jammu and Kashmir or to relinquish it. Thus, what actually came to be practiced by the government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir from time to time against 5300 displaced families of PoJK of 1947 settled outside the State of Jammu & Kashmir was a discrimination and exclusion, all along, without any legitimacy and legality.

### Violence over Madrasa...

stock of the situation a day after the clashes, said it was a "planned attack" on police personnel.

## J&K Bank opens Easy Banking Unit at Surinsar

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its mission of providing convenient banking services to the people of remote areas, J&K Bank on Friday operationalised an Easy Banking Unit (EBU) at Surinsar in Jammu. The EBU will provide the basic facilities of banking like cash deposit, cash withdrawal, account openings etc. to the people of the area.

The Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar e-inaugurated the EBU

Surinsar in the presence of Zonal Head (Jammu) Rajesh Dubey, Cluster Heads with elected public representatives of the area, prominent persons and local residents present in good numbers at the base Branch Tootan-Di-Khui.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Head reiterated the Bank's commitment citing its contribution in rendering world class banking facilities to the people irrespective of their location and status. He said, "We will con-

tinue to expand as well as deepen our footprint to serve the people belonging to different geographies by extending the latest banking facilities and financial services to their nearest possible destinations. The EBU at Surinsar will go a long way in helping the people of the area in meeting their daily banking needs."

While seeking support from the public, the GM assured them that the outlet will make every effort to meet the expectations of the people of the area.

People present at the base branch Tootan-di-Khui expressed their gratitude to the Bank management for opening an EBU in their area. "The EBU will definitely enhance the bonding of the people with the J&K bank", they said.

Pertinently, it was a long outstanding demand of the people of the area which is being developed as an upcoming destination spot and is a major attraction for the tourists because of the shimmering Surinsar Lake.

## GHSS Gajansoo celebrates Annual Day

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Gajansoo, Zone Marh on Friday celebrated Annual Day in its premises.

Director School Education, Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma was the Chief Guest and Joint Director Subah Mehta and Chief Education Officer Jammu Jagdeep Kumar Padha were the Guests of Honour on the occasion.

The programme started with the lighting of lamp by Ashok Kumar Sharma and other dignitaries followed by welcome speech by Sandeep Sharma (Sr. Leet. Commerce).

Principal of the School, Namarta Khajuria presented Annual Report emphasizing on the outstanding performances of



GHSS Gajansoo celebrating annual day.

the students in Academic as well as Co-curricular activities. During the programme, students also displayed their talents in the form of different artistic skills and other cultural items. Another highlight of the celebration was the unveiling of Second edition of School Magazine "KSHITIZ" (The Horizon).

Ashok Kumar Sharma

profession. He further assured the institution for any kind of help needed for elevating its Academic and overall standards.

Subah Mehta stressed upon taking measures for achieving the targets of National Education Policy - 2020 and to take the Remedial Classes for the weaker students.

The programme culminated with the presentation of mementos to the invited dignitaries. The Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Vanita Kumari (Sr. Leet. Economics) and proceedings of the programme were conducted by Tanisha and Ritika Verma, students of Class 11th.

## Divisive politics is DNA of Congress: Rana

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lashing out at the Congress for its divisive politics, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday said the north-south narrative generated in sheer desperation over losing ground across the country is not new as the so-called grand old party has already bruised the national psyche by encouraging and promoting separatism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The nation is still grappling with the historic blunders of the Congress and Jammu and Kashmir has been the worst victim and sufferer of its wrong policies", Mr Rana said while interacting with deputations and individuals during his weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters at Trikuta Nagar here today along with Shalinder Vaid, Additional Protocol Secretary, BJP.

He said the Congress is reaping the fruits of its evil deeds and facing political turmoil due to historic blunders and the

time has come to make the party redundant. He exuded confidence that the nationalistic and pragmatic policies of the BJP will lead to Congress Mukht Bharat.


Rana said that Jammu and Kashmir has hugely suffered under the Congress and the rule by the parties supported by it for over seven decades. The misgovernance coupled with nepotism and corruption had pushed the erstwhile state to wall, which is why it has been lagging in development and economic empowerment. Now that the Yashasvi Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated path breaking steps to transform the Union Territory into Naya Jammu and Kashmir, the people are feeling difference for the first time and are hopeful about being equal partners in the country's process of growth, he added. "As if J&K turmoil was not enough, the Congress is now plaguing the country with sinister north-south divide in a

vain bid to seek relevance in the Indian politics", he said, hoping that the people will foil all these machinations by breaking free from the shackles of division and embrace diversity as a source of strength and

resilience in spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas that has emerged as a huge factor for steering the nation towards holistic development and progress.

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
E-TENDER NOTICE				
No. 413-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR			Date: 09.02.2024	
<b>Sr. DEN-II/FZR</b> acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> with closing date-04/03/2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.				
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System		
Open	Works	Single Bid System		
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time		
09.02.2024/15:39	19.02.2024	04.03.2024/15:00 Hrs.		
S.No.: 1		Tender No.: 413-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR		
<b>Details of Tender :</b> Provision of 10 Nos. Security Morchas, 05 Nos. Guard Room, 04 Nos. Watch Tower, 5500 meter Boundary Wall at JAT Railway Station in Phase-I Security Infrastructure on Jammu-Lakhanpur in c/w Security works Multi-Disciplinary Committee Report.				
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
9,31,20,031.60/-	6,15,600.00/-	60 Days	10 Months	
<b>Note:-</b> 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.				
447/2024				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-Tender Notice			
DEN/Track/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> with closing date-05.03.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Bid System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
09.02.2024/13:36 hrs.	20.02.2024	05.03.2024/15:00 Hrs	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	412-2023-24-Track-DRM-FZR	Loading, unloading, leading and stacking of P.Way materials from different stations in connection with P.Way renewal works I.e Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Khailspur, kandori to Track Depot Dhlwan and other places over Firozpur Division under DEN/Track/Firozpur.	
Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
Rs.2,96,48,875.50/-	Rs.2,98,300/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any Engineering work or transportation work".			
<b>Note:-</b> 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No.: 412-2023-24-Track-DRM-FZR Dt: 09.02.2024 448/24			
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NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
<div></div> <p>Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> with closing date-29/02/2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>.</p>			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Bid System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
07.02.2024	15.02.2024	29.02.2024/15:00 Hrs.	
S.No. : 1	Tender No.: 408-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR		
<b>Details of Tender :</b> Improvement to water conservation by providing Rain Water Harvesting chamber and replacement of sewer pipe line in Mech. Workshop under environment related work in the section of SSE/W/WS/ASR under ADEN-I/ASR.			
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1,26,30,026.71	2,13,200/-	60 Days	06 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".			
Note:- 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No. 408-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR Date: 07.02.2024			
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427/2024			