

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### LS passes J&K...

terrorism but the movement was due to lure of financial benefit and land offer in Delhi...another belief is there is a long battle between separatist and those who stand for India," she said quoting the tweets.

She also said Congress was an ally of the government at the time of the exodus and the then chief minister left people to fend for himself when terrorism was on the rise.

She alleged that under the Congress regime, the then prime minister met a separatist who had allegedly killed an Air Force officer and later conceded the same to a foreign TV channel.

MPs of the Congress, NCP, TMC and the National Conference walked out of Lok Sabha in protest against the remarks made by the minister after the Speaker did not allow the opposition members to intervene.

The House passed the Budget totalling Rs 1.42-lakh-crore for Jammu and Kashmir and also Supplementary Demands for Grants seeking additional spending of Rs 18,860.32 crore for the Union Territory.

Sitharaman said normalcy has been achieved after the abrogation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir while prior to that it was "fake normalcy".

"Jammu and Kashmir was not normal under Article 370...there was fake normalcy prior to abrogation of Article 370...post abrogation there is no fake normalcy," she said.

Sitharaman said 890 central laws became applicable in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

"Removal of Article 370 was necessary, it was delayed...we have fulfilled that promise given to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," she said.

Backdoor entry has stopped and there is transparency in appointments, she said, adding the system is getting better day by day.

The government is committed to the development of J&K and for the homecoming of Kashmiri Pandit, several steps have been taken.

She assured the House that the government will fulfil the promises made with respect to the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

Reeling out numbers, she said, the government has built 1025 transit accommodations while about 1,500 are under the process of construction.

The minister said 40,000 projects were completed in Jammu and Kashmir in 2021-22 and connectivity in the Union Territory is improving.

The Union Territory has witnessed a 90 percent decrease in ceasefire as it reduced from 900 in 2020 to 98 in 2021, she said, adding, terrorism has been contained and infiltration has declined significantly.

About investment, she said, an investor-friendly Jammu and Kashmir campaign has paid off.

### COVID vaccination to...

born in 2008, 2009 and 2010 i.e. those who are already above 12 years of age) of the population from March 16, 2022, the ministry said in a statement.

According to official sources, around 7.11 crore children will be vaccinated under the new age group.

Biological E Ltd has supplied 5 crore doses of Corbevax to the Centre and the vaccine has been distributed to states, sources said.

The announcement comes at a time when schools across the country are opening up given the considerable decline in the COVID cases.

The Government has also decided that the condition of comorbidity for COVID19 precaution dose for population over 60 years of age will be removed forthwith, the ministry said.

"Hence, from 16th March 2022 onwards, the entire population above 60 years of age will be eligible for precautionary doses of COVID19 vaccine," the ministry said.

The population above 14 years of age is already being inoculated under the ongoing COVID vaccination program.

The nationwide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started on February 2 last year.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions.

The country launched vaccination for all aged more than 45 years from April 1, 2021.

The Central government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1 last year.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced on January 3 this year for adolescents aged 15-18 years.

India began administering precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare workers, frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with co-morbidities, from January 10 amid a spike in coronavirus infections fuelled by the Omicron variant of the virus in the country.

### Delimitation Commission makes...

The detailed proposal, published in leading newspapers on Monday, also carried two dissenting notes signed by four of the five associate members - three National Conference Lok Sabha MPs (Farooq Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone) and BJP MP Jugal Kishore. Union Minister Jitendra Singh is the

fifth associate member of the commission.

Set up on March 6, 2020, with a one-year term to redraw Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies, the commission headed by former supreme court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai has been given two extensions of one year and two months, respectively, to complete its task.

However, its draft proposals had evoked a strong reaction, especially from the opposition parties including the National Conference whose dissent note pertained to different assembly constituencies besides challenging the very constitution of the panel pending the Supreme Court verdict on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act.

"...the present delimitation exercise, it is painful to point out, is neither in tune with the Constitution nor in consonance with law. The criteria, be it allocation of 7 increased Assembly constituencies or delimiting the constituencies and drawing boundaries of the constituencies is arbitrarily fixed and selectively applied," the NC had said about the panel's report.

The NC had said that delimitation exercise has to be conducted in a manner that the maximum population should be represented. "However, be it the allocation of additional seats or delimiting of the Assembly constituencies these principles have been very conveniently ignored", it claimed.

Opposing the annexing of Poonch and Rajouri areas in Anantnag seat, the NC said such a proposal "may be without a parallel in the history. Nowhere in such an exercise, two geographically different regions separated by one of the highest mountain ranges inaccessible for most of the year must have been ever joined to form one constituency ignoring fundamental principles of contiguity, connectivity, convenience and compact area as required under law."

Notwithstanding the opposition, the notification said "...the Delimitation Commission hereby publishes its proposals for the delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir; together with the dissenting proposals of the Associate Members, and specifies 21st March 2022 (Monday) as the date on or after which the proposals will be further considered by it."

The advertisement signed by Secretary K N Bhar said any objections or suggestions on these proposals should reach the Secretary, Delimitation Commission, New Delhi, on or before March 21 following which the Commission will visit Jammu and Kashmir on March 28 and 29 for public sittings.

It said Jammu and Kashmir will have a 90-seat Assembly (43 in Jammu and 47 in Kashmir) and, of them, seven segments will be reserved for SCs and nine for STs.

Nine seats reserved for STs include Rajouri, Darhal and Thanna Mandi, all in Rajouri district, Surankote and Mendhar in Poonch district and Mahore in Reasi district (Jammu region); Gurez in Bandipora district, Kangan in Ganderbal district and Kokernag in Anantnag district (Kashmir division).

All seven seats reserved for SCs fall in Jammu region including Ramnagar in Udhampur district, Kathua South in Kathua district, Ramgarh in Samba district, Bishnath, Suchetgarh, Marh and Akhnoor in Jammu district.

While splitting Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories through the Reorganization Act in August 2019, the Union Home Ministry had increased Assembly seats of Jammu and Kashmir by seven taking total seats to 114, 24 of which are reserved for Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) while the election will be held for 90 seats.

The erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir had 111 seats including 24 reserved for PoJK while elections were held for 87 seats. With the creation of Ladakh as Union Territory, four seats of the region were reduced and the Assembly was left with 83 seats. Delimitation of the Assembly constituencies was last held in 1994-95 during the President's Rule when seats of the erstwhile State Assembly were raised from 76 to 87.

### LeT responsible for...

LeT came to his house and stayed there for the night.

"The next day pursuant to a well-knit conspiracy Army jawan Sameer Ahmad Malla was called by the said terrorist associate Ather Ilahi to his residence where from he was kidnapped by all the four and thereafter, taken to the spot where from the dead body was ultimately retrieved," police said in a statement.

After killing Malla, Sheik got a shovel from his house which was used to bury the body. The shovel was also recovered by the investigating team.

Malla, who was on leave, had gone missing from his home in Khag area of Budgam on March 7 and his body was recovered on March 10.

The army jawan was the person who accompanied Major Leetul Gogoi, who shot to fame by tying a local villager to a jeep ostensibly to prevent stone pelting in 2018, to a local hotel along with a girl in Srinagar.

Malla was held guilty in 2019 by a court martial along with his company commander Major Gogoi for "fraternising" with a local woman and "being away from the place of duty while in operational area".

### Kashmir journalist booked ...

three cases in Srinagar, Shopian and Pulwama for glorifying terrorism, spreading fake news, and inciting general public in Jammu and Kashmir for creating law and order situations.

### SC notes Centre's ....

grievance, we grant them liberty to adopt appropriate proceedings in accordance with law, including by applying for revival of present proceedings. Hence, the peti-

Bahu Fort by a woman stating that her husband namely Ankush Gupta went missing from home. On this, a missing report was lodged and investigation started.

After this, a team of Police Station Bahu Fort under supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari led by SHO Bahu Fort Inspr Nayat Ali, after putting in hectic efforts and with help of CCTV footages, traced the missing person, after which his family was informed.

### 6 vehicles seized for illegal mining

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which police teams made a massive recovery of vehicles involved in illegal mining. The teams of Police Stations Satwari, R S Pura and Police Post Phallain Mandal acted stringently on specific inputs and raided at different locations in their respective areas and seized 5 different vehicles, which included 2 dumpers (JK02Q/7607 and JK02 7707) seized by Satwari Police; Tractor trolley bearing Chassis No MBNBG55AEMCG21081 and Tractor trolley bearing Chassis No MZIDH916659S3 seized by R S Pura police and a tractor trolley bearing Chassis No FZCDS84386S3, seized by Phallain Mandal police.

The overall recoveries were made by SHO Satwari Insp Sameer Jeelani, SHO R S Pura Inspr Jai Pal Sharma and Incharge Police Post Ramkot while on patrolling duty in its jurisdictional area near Ujh river found a dumper (JK14F-3479) indulged in illegal mining and transporting construction material, which was seized and immediately handed over to officials of mining department Kathua for further legal proceedings.

### Trucker nabbed with 1.24 quintal poppy straw

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBAL: Police on Monday arrested a trucker and recovered approximately 1.24 quintal of poppy straw like substance from vehicle, he was driving. As per details, a party from Police Post Mansar during routine vehicle checking intercepted a truck (JK03B-5420) at Naka Mansar, Samba. During checking, 5 plastic sacks were found with Poppy Straw like substance each weighing approximately 20-25 Kg, which were concealed tactfully beneath wooden sawdust. The accused driver identified as Junaid Ahmed Gojer, son of Gulzar Ahmed Gojer, resident of Keri Doru, Anantnag was arrested on the spot and FIR No. 56/2022 under sections 8/15/25 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Samba. The whole operation was carried out under the supervision of SSP Samba, Dr Abhishek Mahajan.

tion is disposed of, at the present stage, reserving liberty to the petitioners, as noted above.

At the outset, Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners who are MBBS doctors, said that the counselling is ending on March 30 and now they have reduced the cut-off marks.

He submitted that last year also cut-off marks were reduced but 7000 seats went vacant.

Bhushan said a representation is pending that there should not be no cut-off marks and court may direct for appropriate consideration of the representation.

Advocate Gaurav Sharma said that PG seats which normally go vacant are those seats which are mostly related to academic studies.

The bench then asked Sharma to produce the notification passed with regard to reduction of cut-off marks and passed the order.

### JEE-Main 2022...

view of persistent demand from student community, the NTA has decided to reschedule the dates," a senior NTA official said.

The Joint Entrance Examination-Main comprises two papers.

Paper one is conducted for admission to undergraduate engineering programmes -- BE and B.Tech -- at NITs, IITs and other centrally-funded technical institutions, and institutions and universities funded and recognised by participating state governments. It is also an eligibility test for JEE (Advanced), which is conducted for admission to IITs. The second phase of the exam is scheduled from May 24 to 29, 2022.

### Hizb module involved...

terrorist Farooq Nalli, Kumar said

Police had earlier said Mir was given accommodation in a secured hotel in Srinagar but he had left it and reached his home without informing authorities.

### Active terrorist arrested...

were recovered from his possession.

As per police records, the arrested terrorist is a categorized terrorist as he had recently joined the terror folds of proscribed terror outfit JeM.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law is in progress.

### 4 dead, 15...

of Krishan Lal resident of Gole Gujral, Pappu son of Babu Lal resident of Bihar, Nilma 35, Melju Din (25) son of Anwar Hussain, Sukitam wife (24) of Zehrulla Semirinisa (30) wife of Ishub and Suza Bano (4)

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has condoled the loss of lives due to the LPG Cylinder blast in Jammu.

The Lt Governor has sanctioned an ex-gratia of Rs.5 Lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs. 1 lakh each to those who got seriously injured in the unfortunate incident.

The Lt Governor said: "Deeply saddened by the loss of lives due to LPG cylinder blast at a scrap shop in Jammu. My condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for speedy recovery of the injured. Directed the district administration to provide all the necessary assistance".

"An ex-gratia of Rs.5 Lakh each to be given to the families of the deceased in Jammu LPG Cylinder blast incident. Ex gratia of Rs.1 lakh to be given to the seriously injured and Rs.25,000 to those with minor injuries," the Lt Governor said.

### Gas cylinder explodes...

corner of the hall followed by a massive fire," one of the injured policemen, Nazir Ahmad, said.

Ahmad said they had just returned from duty to offer mid-day prayers when the incident took place.

Initially, they were shifted to sub-district hospital Bhaderwah and later referred to GMC Doda, the officials said, adding they have suffered 30 to 40 per cent burn injuries. The SSP said the condition of all the injured was stated to be "stable".

### Atin Sharma tops...

Psychiatry and Chest Diseases Hospital Jammu while his mother Dr Vijay Lakshmi is a Gynecologist by profession.

"With the dint of hard work, everyone can achieve this, only thing we need is to be honest in efforts. It is more important to be consistent in our studies than to increase the number of hours. I always have targets for each day," Atin Sharma said while sharing his success story.

### CBI raids EPFO...

Department. Before the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir, there was a separate PF department in the erstwhile state. During that period, some employees' PF amount was withdrawn from outside J&K by misusing their personal information.

On the complaint of employees regarding fraudulent withdrawal of their lifetime earnings without their knowledge, the CBI had registered a case and started investigation into the matter. During the raid, the CBI team interrogated JK PF employees and checked the records of the aggrieved employees to know when and how the money was withdrawn from their accounts.

### Students are pillars of society'

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

BASANTGARH: Students are the pillars of the society and developing a crime free, healthy and intellectual society should be the prime responsibility of every student said SHO B a s a n t g a r h , Inspector Sohan Singh while addressing the students of Class 9th, 10th & 11th in Higher Secondary School Basantgarh in an interactive session.

SHO Sohan Singh made students aware on drug abuse, cyber crime and traffic rules and asked them to come forward to help the police department in developing drug free and crime free society. He emphasised the youth to adopt Yoga, physical exercises, healthy life style, sports, healthy diet for maintaining disease free and drug free environment. He further said that contributing honestly and doing the services for the betterment and upliftment of the society should be our motto. School administration appreciated the efforts of SHO Basantgarh and also advised the students to follow the information and guidelines given by the SHO.

### Police pays tributes to Shaheed DySP Manjeet Singh

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: District Police on Monday paid rich tributes to Shaheed Manjeet Singh-DySP, who bravely laid down his life while fighting terrorists at Bus Stand Poonch on March 14, 2003. His contributions in fighting terrorism during his tenure in Poonch were remembered and wreaths were also laid on the statue of the marty