

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Centre aims to...

agricultural purposes. PM Modi said the BJP has given a guarantee of happiness and prosperity and the Chhattisgarh government led by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has started working on it, he said.

"We had given guarantees that we will construct 18 lakh pucca houses. The Sai-led government started work on it on the very second day of the government's formation," Modi said.

Paddy farmers were given a guarantee that they will be paid the outstanding bonus for two years (against procurement of the produce). The Chhattisgarh government transferred Rs 3,716 crore into the accounts of farmers on the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he said.

"We had given a guarantee that we will purchase paddy at Rs 3,100 per quintal which was fulfilled and a record was created by purchasing 145 metric tons of paddy from farmers. The difference amount (over the minimum support price) against paddy procurement will be paid to the farmers soon," PM Modi said. Development works will be increased in the coming five years in the state, he added.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and his cabinet colleagues were present at the function held at the Science College ground here. Under the 'Mahtari Vandan' scheme, Rs 655 crore was transferred into the bank accounts of 70.12 lakh beneficiaries. Each beneficiary will get Rs 1,000 per month under the scheme, as per the state government.

'Two ECs likely...

Two additional commissioners were first appointed on October 16, 1989, but they had a very short tenure till January 1, 1990. Later, on October 1, 1993, two additional election commissioners were appointed. The concept of a multi-member EC has been in operation since then, with decision made by a majority vote.

Terror hideout busted...

so far. The officials said preliminary investigation suggests the hideout was used by terrorists active in the area two decades ago.

KCCI delegation calls...

important matters pertaining to the promotion of industries and tourism sector in Jammu Kashmir.

Later, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Chairman, All J&K Folk Artists Association also called on the Lt Governor.

It will be...

"I was neither in the BJP as a minister or a Chief Minister, nor was I helped by the BJP," he added, referring to past alliances between the BJP and the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party.

The former Congress leader also said it is difficult to say if the Modi wave will have any impact in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Jammu and Kashmir is different from other states of India. It is difficult to say whose impact would be on Jammu and Kashmir due to its composite culture," he said.

Azad also does not think there will be any adverse impact if Arun Goel, who resigned as an election commissioner on Saturday, joined politics.

"This is not the first time that any officer in India has resigned but it may be new for the Election Commission. A lot of senior officers have resigned from their posts to join politics. I don't think it will have any adverse impact on the politics of the country or the workings of the Election Commission," he added.

Earlier, addressing a public meeting at Kokernag, Azad referred to the exploitation of Kashmiris by regional parties over the years, particularly by raising slogans advocating autonomy and self-rule.

He said while the MPs of these regional parties remained silent on the matter, he actively protested in Parliament against revocation of Article 370.

"Why do NC and PDP no longer raise these slogans? They fooled the people, enjoyed power, and caused deaths of innocent people."

He reiterated his commitment to championing the cause of people and ensuring their voices are heard on the national level.

He stressed the need for unity, cautioning that these parties may ally with anyone for power but will not do justice to the people. They will only use and exploit the voters, he added.

Azad revealed a personal connection, with South Kashmir, saying, "My grandfather was originally from Kokernag. We moved to Doda, but there's a special connection between us. Let us rebuild that relationship. Anantnag has always been in my heart. I have established a medical college, degree college, hospitals, and schools here. I want to do even more for this district, especially for Kokernag. Give me a chance to serve".

Azad further stressed the urgency of tackling unemployment, promising to address the issue once elected to power. He emphasized the importance of providing loans to those who are not highly educated, enabling them to start businesses and earn a livelihood. He highlighted the untapped potential of tourism that needs to be boosted, expressing regret over not being able to complete his term as CM.

He remarked that if given the chance, he would have sanctioned more tourism projects to harness this potential. He promised to provide free electricity for the poor and pledged to focus on building roads, hospitals, and furthering development in triple shifts.

He expressed concern over the burden of electricity bills on the people, especially the poor; and appealed to the government to reduce the bills for those in need.

Among others present on the occasion were G.M.Saroori Vice Chairman, Ch Haroon Khatana Gen Secretary, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Adv Saleem Parray Official spokesperson, Zamir Ahmed Distt President, Shahida Begum DDC and others.

'We converted difficulties...

the prime minister, the specialty of our government has been that we converted difficulties into opportunities. There was already a system running in the country which kept the common man away from the elite class and we removed this system."

"If I talk about the infrastructure in the aviation sector, whereas in 2014 there were only 74 airports in this country, today their number has more than doubled to 149," he added.

Singh said, "It was believed that airports or air travel were only for the upper class and the common man could not travel by air. Air travel served as a gap between the rich and the poor. We have bridged that gap through the regional connectivity scheme UDAN."

Mentioning internet, he said "You can see the same thing in internet connectivity also. Earlier only the rich had access to the internet. We could not even imagine that a poor person would have internet. It is the result of the work done by our government that today everyone, rich and poor; has internet facility."

The minister said the poor, who did not go to banks earlier were connected with banks through Jan Dhan Yojana.

"We have brought the poor of this country at par with the upper class of this country," he said.

Stating that it he was fortunate to represent Lucknow, which was once represented by former prime minister Atal

Bihari Vajpayee, Singh, who will be contesting third time from this seat, said, "As the MP of Lucknow, he ensured development in this area and we got an opportunity to take the development further."

"As the representative of Lucknow, I am happy to see the development of this airport, but even more satisfying as a citizen is that my Lucknow and my India is continuously developing under the leadership of PM Modi," he added.

Former SC judge...

Court Sanjay Yadav were appointed as judicial members in the Lokpal last month.

Justice (retired) Khanwilkar, 66, served as a judge of the apex court from May 13, 2016 to July 29, 2022.

In his last year, Khanwilkar authored a series of crucial judgements that validated sweeping powers against citizens in special legislations the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act.

He also contributed to several other judgments, including the landmark 2018 ruling that struck down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code criminalising consensual gay sex.

He was in the Constitution bench that had declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme constitutionally valid but struck down some of its provisions, including linking it to bank accounts, mobile phones, and school admissions.

Justice Khanwilkar was part of the bench in 2022 that dismissed a plea of Zakia Jafri, the wife of slain MP Elhsan Jafri, challenging the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) clean chit to 64 people, including then chief minister Narendra Modi, in the 2002 Gujarat riots case.

Two days before his retirement, Justice Khanwilkar delivered a judgment that gave enormous powers to the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Born in Pune, Khanwilkar had also been Chief Justice of the High Courts of Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

The chairperson and members of the Lokpal are appointed by the President after obtaining the recommendations of a Selection Committee having the prime minister as its chairperson.

Apart from a chairperson, the Lokpal can have eight members -- four judicial and as many non-judicial.

Former civil servants Sushil Chandra, Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey have been appointed as the non-judicial members in the Lokpal.

The latest appointments in the anti-corruption ombudsman mark a significant step in bolstering the Lokpal's operations and upholding accountability in India's governance system, officials said.

12 Dental Surgeons...

has been posted to PHC Bharakh; Dr. Manoj Kr Zutshi, Dental Surgeon from PHC Jogwan, Pallanwala to CHC, Kot Bhalwal; Dr. Narinder Kour, Dental Surgeon from PHC Rathana to Rajiv Gandhi Hospital Jammu; Dr. Gourab Sharma, Dental Surgeon from Rajiv Gandhi Hospital Jammu to School Health Samba; Dr. Javed Ahmed Ahanger, Dental Surgeon from PHC, Hariwatnoo to District Hospital, Budgam; Dr. Tabassum Rafiq, Dental Surgeon from PHC Ariepathan Beerwah to SDH Sopore; Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Dental Surgeon from SDH Sopore to PHC Ariepathan Beerwah; and Dr. Nishu Vakil, Dental Surgeon has been transferred from PHC Zachaldara and posted to PHC Burzhama.

As per another order, Dr. Umar Ali, (MD Anaesthesia), MO has been transferred from NTPHC Shalbug, Ganderbal and posted to SDH Kangan; Dr. Zehra Batool, MO, awaiting orders of adjustment has been posted to PHC Hazratbal; Dr. Umeeq Jeelani, (MS ENT), MO from SDH Achabal to Gousia Hospital, Srinagar; Dr. Sanam Altaf, MO (ENT) from SDH Seer to SDH Achabal; Dr. Aarifa Ishaq, MO from NTPHC Srandoo Kulgam to PHC Kani Mazar, Srinagar; Dr. Shahnaz Khan, (Dip. in Anaesthesia) MO from LD Hospital, Srinagar to Government Gousia Hospital Khanyar, Srinagar; Dr. Tufail Lone, MO from SDH Pattan to NTPHC Mamoosa; Dr. Rubeeana, MO, awaiting orders of adjustment has been posted to SDH Pattan; Dr. Umar Nazir Munshi, MO from PHC Teetwal, Tangdhar to PHC Gushi; Dr. Jamsheed Ahmad, MO from PHC Gushi to PHC Teetwal, Tangdhar; Dr. Umair Kazmee, MO from PHC Rajpora to SDH Tral; Dr. Fozia Gul Afroz, MO from PHC Kakpora to JKMSCL; Dr. Tabassum Akhter, MO, awaiting orders of adjustment has been posted to PHC Kakpora; Dr. Syed Raja Junaid, MO from NTPHC, Murrah to JKMSCL; Dr. Ruhail Iqbal, MO, from SDH Tangmarg to JKMSCL; Dr. Nazia Bhat, MO from SDH Sopore JLNH Hospital, Srinagar; Dr. Mahmooda Mir, MO from JLNH Hospital, Srinagar to SDH Sopore; Dr. Junaid Kousar, MO from SDH Kangan to NTPHC Shalbug, Ganderbal; Dr. Showkat Ahmad Wani, MO from PHC Tarzoo, Sopore to DTC, Baramulla; Dr. Kasier Ahmed, MO from SMHS Hospital, Srinagar to PHC Tarzoo, Sopore.

Dr. Punam Bhau, MO has been transferred from CHC Basholi and posted to NTPHC Kharote; Dr. Baba Singh, (Gynaecologist), MO from PHC Barnara to CHC Nowshera; Dr. Balvinder Singh, MO from District Jail Amphalla, Jammu to Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. He shall look after the charge of Deputy Medical Superintendent Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Dr. Sangeeta Bhagat, MO, has been transferred from NTPHC Langotian and posted to District Jail Amphalla, Jammu; Dr. Mohit Kumar, MO from PHC Sandar, Basholi to PHC Gudufal; Dr. Sajjad Hussain, MO from PHC Bansantgarh to PHC Barnara; Dr. Ibrar Ahmed, MO from NTPHC Siot to CHC Mendhar; Dr. Rohit Raina, MO from CHC Kandi to NTPCH Siot; Dr. Abrar Khan, MO from NTPHC Shindara to DH Poonch; Dr. Meera Angral, MO from Sarwal Hospital, Jammu to Urban Health Centre, Digiana; Dr. Tawheeda Kouser, MO from SDH Rohama to CHC Mandi; Dr. Nazia Ahmed, MO from JKMSCL to CHC Katra; Dr. Subash Chander Dogra, MO from JKM-SCL to PHC Pancheri; Dr. Kameel Azeem, MO from DH Reasi to JKMSCL; Dr. Sandeep Manhas, MO from PHC Pancheri to JKMSCL; Dr. Sitakshi Bandal, MO from PHC Chanunta to PHC Langotian; Dr. Surbhi Gupta, (M.S Ophthalmology), MO from CHC Katra to Accidental Hospital Ghagwal; Dr. Neelam Rani, (PG Pharmacology), MO, awaiting orders of adjustment has been posted to GMC Udhampur; Dr.

Shabnam Safraz, MO, from CHC Surankote to DTC Rajouri; Dr. Mohammad Arif Khan, (MD Radiology), MO awaiting orders of adjustment to CHC Surankote; Dr. Neeru Rajput (MD Microbiology), MO, awaiting orders of adjustment to District Hospital, Samba; Dr. Deepshika Sumbria, (MS ENT), MO, awaiting orders of adjustment to District Hospital, Samba; Dr. Juhi Jamwal, (DM Endocrinology), MO, awaiting orders of adjustment to GMC, Kathua; Dr. Anuja Anla, MO, from CHC Marh to Urban Health Centre Digiana; Dr. Depaka Kumari, MO from PHC Gurah Salathia to PHC Sai; Dr. Naveed Ahmed Qureshi, MO from CHC Mandi to District Hospital Poonch; Dr. Abdul Hamid (MD Medicine), MO, from SDH Sunderbani to CHC Darhal; Dr. Payal Gupta (MS Oph.), MO from Sarwal Hospital, Jammu to SDH Samba; Dr. Anam Khurshid, MO from PHC Dansal to UHC Sainik Colony; Dr. Jamila Akhter Mir, MO from NTPHC Nagrota to State Venerologist, J&K, Jammu; Dr. Ifrah Jahan, MO has been transferred from Accidental Hospital, Thathri and posted to District Hospital, Kishtwar.

Two-week earth sciences refresher course concludes at JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A two-week refresher course in Earth Sciences, organized by UGC-MMTTC at the University of Jammu (JU) and coordinated by Prof Pankaj Srivastava of the Department of Geology, concluded on Sunday.

The valedictory function featured insights from esteemed speakers, including Prof N. V. Chalapathi Rao, Director of the National Center for Earth Sciences Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, and Prof G M Bhat, Chief Editor of the Journal of Geological Society of India.

In his address, Chief Guest Prof N. V. Chalapathi Rao emphasized the significance

of Earth System Sciences.

He encouraged participants to understand the earth holistically, transcending disciplinary boundaries. Given the growing demand for natural resources, Prof Rao stressed the importance of collaborative multidisciplinary research in emerging areas of solid earth science. The Guest of Honour, Prof G M Bhat highlighted the need for disseminating knowledge acquired during the course among students. He urged researchers to publish their work in reputable national and international journals.

Prof Sandeep Pandita, the director of UGC-MMTTC, JU thanked the participants for choosing the University for this refresher course,

underscoring its importance.

Earlier, Prof Sandeep Pandita, the director of UGC-MMTTC, JU highlighted the importance of the Refresher Course and thanked all the participants for choosing the University of Jammu for attending this Course. While presenting the report of the programme Prof Pankaj Srivastava, Coordinator of the Programme informed that the course started on 26th Feb 2024 in online mode and was inaugurated by Prof H B Srivastava, Vice Chancellor of Sidharta University.

The course was attended by 28 Assistant Professors from colleges and universities from different states of India.

He also reported that the

eminent academicians & researchers from the premier institutions of the country like IIT-ISM Dhanbad, IIT-Roorkee, IIT-Kharagpur, IIRS, Dehradun, Dr. HS University of Sagar, MS University of Baroda, HN Bahuguna University, Lucknow University, Himachal Pradesh University, University of Jammu, etc were the resource persons for the Refresher Course.

The University of Jammu remains committed to providing valuable learning opportunities for educators and researchers in Earth Sciences. Dr. Yudhbir Singh of the Geology Department conducted the valedictory function.

Voluntary blood donation camp, bike rally organised

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The efficient team Xtream Motors, Jammu (Authorized dealer of Royal Enfield) under the leadership of Jagpreet Dutt organized a blood donation camp on Sunday. The programme was started with an awareness ride at their dealership. Flag off done by Chief Guest Baldev Raj (Former Deputy Mayor JMC).

Guests from Rotary Club Jammu City, Rotary Club Jammu Trikuta, Rotary Club Jammu Elite, Rotary Club Jammu Bahu, Rotary Club Jammu Aastha attended the event.

Team of Jammu Blood Centre led by their Director Dr. Paras Khanna, Shalini Khanna, Dr. Gurpreet Kaur co-organised this event.

Social Reformer Rtn Dr. Navneet Kour founder Chairperson NGO SUP-PORT, Secretary General Indian Society for Blood Transfusion and President Young Blood Association played an instrumental role in motivating youngsters to donate blood and march towards Voluntary Blood



Baldev Raj, Former Deputy Mayor JMC and others during the bike rally.

Donations.

Jammu Circuit Ride was done by Riders of XMRC and RRAC Riding Clubs for blood donation awareness.

Rtn Dr. Navneet Kaur appreciated the volunteer spirit of all the blood donors who have made a positive impact by donating blood. She stated, blood transfusion is an indispensable component of health care. It contributes to saving millions of lives each year in both routine and emergency situations.

Riders and other members of Rotary Club donated blood.

Aim of this joint initiative is to continue achieving the remarkable feat of 100%

voluntary blood donations, which not only saves lives but also foster a sense of community and empathy among the residents.

The Centre is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for blood grouping, Rh phenotyping, and antibodies screening, ensuring the highest standards of safety and compatibility for blood transfusions. Additionally,

the Centre is committed to 100% Blood Components Therapy, providing personalized and effective treatment to patients by giving them the specific blood components they require. Looking ahead, the Jammu Blood Centre aims to establish a full-fledged Institute

of Transfusion Medicine. This institute will provide advanced facilities such as HLA typing, platelet serology, stem cells, and a day care center for blood transfusion. These endeavors will enhance the Centre's ability to serve the poor, needy, Thalassaemic, and Haemophiliacs with greater efficiency and precision.

Residents of Jammu are urged to contribute to this noble cause and actively participate in the Mahayagna of Human Services. By doing so, they can collectively make a difference in the lives of those in need and create a society founded on compassion, care, and support.

Kishtwar Police conducts training session for Lok Sabha Elections

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: In the light of upcoming Lok Sabha elections-2024, District Police Kishtwar, under the supervision of SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom, conducted training session at DPL Kishtwar. The session, held with the aim of fostering awareness and readiness among officers and officials of District Police Kishtwar and CAPF officers, focused on ensuring the successful and peaceful conduct of elections within the district.

The training session was



SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom chairing the meeting.

attended by the DySP Hqrs, and DySP PC, AC 52 Bn CRPF, AC 43 Bn ITBP, AC 17 Bn ITBP, and all IC MPs,

the workshop witnessed the active involvement of various stakeholders, including NGOs of DPL Kishtwar and

Police holds Police-Public meeting at Jhajjar Kotli



Police officers along with locals after the meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In order to strengthen the relationship between Police and public,a PCPG meeting was held on Sunday in the premises of Panchayat Ghar Jhajjar Kotli which was chaired by SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma alongwith by SDPO Nagrota Ashish Kohli & Inspr. Rakesh Singh SHO Police Station Jhajjar Kotli in which prominent citizens, Civil Society members and youth of the Villages Suketar, Nandani, Dansal, Janakha and Chhurta participated.

Participants raised vari-

ous issues with regard to their grievancees viz E-Bus Service upto Jhajjar Kotli, drinking water issue in the Suketar area etc and more important is that the buses of Jammu-Udhampur route are not pick and drop the passengers/college Students.

Participants were assured by the officers that thier genuine grievancees related to Police will be solved on priority and other related to Civil Administration will taken up with concerned for redressal.

Meeting concluded peacefully with vote of thanks.

DC Poonch hosts interfaith meeting in preparation for holy Ramadan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a significant move promoting communal harmony, Deputy Commissioner of Poonch recently convened a meeting to discuss preparations for the upcoming holy month of Ramadan. The meeting witnessed the presence of members from diverse religious backgrounds and various social societies, emphasizing a collective approach to ensure a harmonious observance of Ramadan. The inclusive gathering aimed at fostering unity and understanding among different communities as they gear up for the sacred month.

Following the interfaith meeting, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Poonch, Kabir Ur Rehman, took a hands-on approach by visiting the Poonch market. He meticulously reviewed shops specializing in groceries, vegetables, fruits, and other items associated with Ramadan and fasting. A proactive stance was adopted as he directed shop owners to refrain from selling expired or deteriorating items. A comprehensive set of guidelines was provided, covering essential factors to ensure a wholesome and healthy shopping experience for the community during the holy month.



ACR Kabir Ur Rehman during visit to Poonch Market.