

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Man shot dead...

fire from a close range, the officials said. Security personnel rushed to the spot and launched a massive cordon and search operation to track down the terrorists, they said.

### Two independents file...

of Returning Officer (RO) 02- Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency. The last day for filing of nomination papers in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency is April 25, 2024 (Thursday) upto 3 pm.

### Rajnath visits Siachen...

Officer Commanding of 14 Corps Lt Gen Rashim Bali. In his remarks, Singh lauded the soldiers for walking on the virtuous path of protecting the motherland with valour and determination in extreme conditions. "We are leading a peaceful life as we have an assurance that our brave soldiers stand steadfast at the borders," he said. Singh said that the first lamp on Diwali and the "first colour" of Holi should be dedicated to the protectors of the country, similar to the first food offering to deities, priests and gurus. "Our soldier is no less than any protecting deity," he said. "In the times to come, when the history of national security is written, the acts of bravery and iron-clad will of our soldiers in the icy cold glacier will be remembered with pride. It will forever be an inspiration for future generations," he said. Singh's visit to Siachen came over a week after the Indian Army marked the 40th year of its presence in the strategically key region following the 'Operation Meghdoot'. After carrying out aerial reconnaissance, the defence minister landed at the forward post and was given a detailed brief on the operational readiness in the Siachen Glacier and the prevalent security situation. He also discussed the aspects associated with the operational challenges with the commanders on the ground. "Visited a forward post in Siachen. Had a wonderful interaction with the brave Army personnel who are guarding our nation in extremely challenging conditions," Singh said on X. "I laud their courage and professionalism, in the line of duty," he said. The defence minister also laid a wreath at the Siachen War Memorial as a mark of tribute to the fallen heroes who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation.

### ACB arrests Gram...

office Arin few days back where the officials informed him about requirement of Geo-Tag of the said site for further processing the case for release of second installment. Accordingly, complainant was told that GRS concerned will visit the site and will do needful. The complainant further disclosed that on 21.04.2024 GRS Abdul Rashid visited the site and demanded bribe of ₹10,000 from complainant but finally the deal was settled for ₹6000. The complainant was asked to pay Rs 2500 on 22th April and rest of the amount after receiving the second installment. Under these circumstances the complainant approached ACB and requested for legal action against GRS for demanding bribe from him. As the contents of complaint prima facie disclose the commission of offence punishable under section 7 of the PC Act 1988 (w/ its amendment Act 2018) by accused. Hence, a Case FIR No. 05/2024 under section 7 of the PC Act 1988 (w/ its amendment Act 2018) was registered at Police Station, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Baramulla and investigations was initiated. During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught the accused GRS red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of ₹2500 from complainant. The accused was immediately taken into custody after completing all legal formalities. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses. Further investigation in the case is going on.

### DGP J&K reviews...

area domination by the CAPF, Police, and Army before and during the election period. To ensure the highest level of operational efficiency and coordination, the officers also focused on briefing key personnel and Coy Commanders, outlining their respective roles and responsibilities, and providing real-time updates on evolving security scenarios. The DGP called for implementing the action plan strictly for the security of candidates and polling booths. He said that the security arrangements for Polling booths should be put in place efficiently, keeping in view the sensitiveness of the areas. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of all forces to work collectively and strategically, upholding the democratic values and principles, and preserving the sanctity of the electoral process. The meeting was attended by ADG CRPF Rajesh Kumar, ADGP L&O, J&K, Vijay Kumar, GoC Victor Force Maj General Balbir Singh, IG CRPF (SOS) Ajay Kumar Yadav, IG CRPF (KOS) G.K Verma, IG BSF Ashok Yadav, IGP Kashmir Zone V.K Birdi, DIsG Police (SKR), CRPF, SSB, and ITBP; Sector Commanders 1, 2, 5 and 12, Nodal COs of CRPF, all District SSPs of South Kashmir Range, SSP Budgam and other senior officers.

### SC expresses displeasure...

for carrying out the provisions of this Act, not later than six months from the date of commencement of this Act". According to the Act, the rule-making powers of the state include the formation of a committee for research on disability, the composition of district-level committees and prescribing salaries, allowances and other conditions of services of the state commissioner and creating funds for persons with disabilities. On Monday, the apex court observed it had passed several orders calling for proper implementation of the Act but several states and Union Territories were yet to fulfil their obligations. The bench said states and UTs like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have not appointed the state commissioners, while Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, West Bengal, Delhi, Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh have not yet constituted the prescribed funds. It noted while special courts for speedy trial of cases involving persons with disabilities have not been set up in Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal, public prosecutors have not been appointed in these courts in Chhattisgarh and Daman and Diu.

### LS poll results...

fight between the NDA and the regional parties. Where there is a Congress government, the fight is between the Congress and the BJP," he said. "I know which region or state supports which party. But I do not want to favour any party nor do I want to say anything against any other. We are not with the NDA or the UPA or the INDIA alliance. Our duty is to be neutral," he said. Asked if the election results can be unexpected, he said the results are always unexpected. Meanwhile, the DPAP has announced to field its district president for Srinagar; Amir Bhatt, from the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency. Bhatt's candidature was announced after a meeting which was chaired by Azad. Azad also slammed the regional parties of Kashmir for propagating false slogans to deceive and mislead innocent Kashmiris. He emphasized the need to refrain from misleading them further, advocating instead for a manifesto focused on promising development and infrastructure. Addressing a mega rally after roadshow in Bul Bul Nowgam, Anantnag, Azad lambasted both the regional parties, asserting that the two primary parties have sidelined discussions on development. He said: "Over the years, we've seen a betrayal of promises. The two parties in Kashmir sold dreams of autonomy and self-rule, which they conveniently forget now. Countless lives have been lost, many blinded. But what have we gained? Where are the hospitals, schools, colleges, roads promised? Kashmir cries out for peace, for development, for jobs. Yet, I stand alone in raising these crucial issues, while others remain silent". Azad affirmed: "My agenda solely revolves around development and peace. Throughout my five decades in politics, I have never resorted to false slogans to exploit people. My record speaks for itself. We prioritized development and achieved peace in Kashmir: No one can challenge my work, which promoted a culture of double and triple shifts. Moving forward, my goal is to enhance development in Jammu and Kashmir by establishing more schools, districts, hospitals, and roads". Azad underscored the pivotal role of youth in shaping the nation's future during a recent address. He stated: "I have delegated authority to emerging leaders like Adv. Saleem Parry and Amir Bhatt. The youth are the architects of tomorrow, and it is imperative to entrust them with responsibilities. With our guidance and their enthusiasm, they hold the key to driving positive change. Azad highlighted his vocal opposition in Parliament against the revocation of Article 370, condemned acts of Triple Talaq and lynchings, and raised concerns regarding the implementation of the NRC. He noted with disappointment the conspicuous silence of Congress leaders on these pressing matters, even in the present day. Azad cited this silence as one of the significant reason contributing his decision to part ways with the Congress party. He said: "We are Azad, My party is Azad. We are not anyone's team. My sole agenda revolves around fostering development and peace. Throughout my political journey, I have adhered steadfastly to principles, never compromising for political expediency. Self-respect and integrity have been my guiding lights. When it became evident that the

advice offered by seasoned leaders like myself was not heeded by the younger leadership within the Congress party, we made the decision to part ways. With a sense of resolve, we bid farewell and embarked on our grassroots mission".

Furthermore, Azad earnestly appealed to the people to support Adv. Saleem Parry in the upcoming elections. He described Adv. Parry as a paragon of honesty, education, and a seasoned leader, uniquely positioned to amplify the voices of the people in Parliament. Among others present on the occasion were Adv Saleem Parry candidate, chief spokesperson Salman Nazami, Provincial Gen Secretary Altaf Mir, Secretary Shubay Jan and others.

### LG conducts inspection...

Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar and other senior officials were present.

### Sinha meets family...

hour of grief," he said. Six persons drowned in the river while three others are still miss-



LG Manoj Sinha meeting family members of victims of Srinagar Boat Tragedy.

ing after a boat carrying 19 persons capsized last Tuesday. Ten people were rescued. The Jammu and Kashmir government has provided an ex-gratia relief of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of the victims of the boat capsizing tragedy.

### Modi Govt has...

the country while Naxalism is on the verge of an ending. Mahadev app brand Bhupesh Baghel government did not take action against Naxalites," Shah said. He was referring to the previous Congress rule and the alleged involvement of the former chief minister in the Mahadev betting app scam).

### BJP only party...

politics. At that time, he said, none of these leaders dared to raise their voice in support of Jammu or the Dogras. But the moment these same leaders found themselves out of job or out of power; they suddenly took up the cause of Jammu and the Dogras to seek the lost political space for themselves and to keep themselves relevant by playing with the sentiments of the local people. Dr Jitendra said, if Prem Nath Dogra had even slightly dithered from his crusade, he could have easily become a Minister or part of the then government headed by Sheikh Abdullah or Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, but he stood by his ground, unlike these so-called protagonists who have suddenly emerged as the sympathisers of Jammu and the Dogras after having enjoyed the loaves and fishes of the office for years together and inflicted all kinds of injustice on this region. Dr Singh said, those of the opposition leaders who seek votes in the name of Jammu are the ones who had discriminated against the Jammu youth in jobs and also in admission to higher educational institutions. Those who are today raising the cause of Dogras are the ones responsible for having cancelled the Dogra Certificate thus depriving the youth of this region of recruitment in Armed Forces and they also denied 4% reservation to the youth residing on the International border (IB). Dr Jitendra said, it is a foregone conclusion that Narendra Modi will be sworn as Prime Minister for the third term in the month of June with 400 plus and the common man of India wishes to be like that. He said, the responsibility now for us is to try to vote to the maximum so that when Modi forms the next government with 400 plus, the count should also include the Jammu constituency which has traditionally been a stronghold of Bharatiya Jan Sangh and later that of Bharatiya Janata Party. Dr Singh said, the vote this time is not simply a political vote but a vote of reverence and respect for Prime Minister Modi who has rolled out a series of people-centric, particularly women-centric, welfare schemes with a great deal of sensitivity and without any bias or discrimination.

### 'Assembly polls in...

said. There is no elected government in Jammu and Kashmir since the BJP withdrew from its coalition with the PDP in 2018. It has been under the Centre's rule, which also saw the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and J-K being divided into two Union territories. The Supreme Court had in December last upheld the government's decision to abrogate Article 370 and said steps should be taken to conduct the election to the Union territory's Assembly by September 30, 2024. On the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, Singh said the people are upbeat in Jammu and Kashmir about the development carried out in the region and are supporting the BJP. "There is special enthusiasm among people. A common person in J-K is very enthusiastic to vote for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pro-people policies. They are especially motivated to help Modi win over 400 seats in the Lok Sabha polls. "Nari Shakti" or women are participating in large numbers and they are exceptionally motivated to vote for the BJP due to Modi's welfare schemes meant for them," said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel. Singh is the BJP candidate from J-K's Udhampur constituency, where polling was held on April 19. He is a two-term sitting Lok Sabha member from the constituency. "The main agenda of this Lok Sabha polls and in Jammu and Kashmir especially is development. The Centre is always committed to further development of the Union territory and ensuring jobs for youths," he said. Singh said Prime Minister Modi ended the politics of discrimination in Jammu and Kashmir. "Previous governments discriminated against regions of the erstwhile state due to vote bank politics. But, the BJP-led central government has ensured that the benefits of central schemes reach every eligible beneficiary in Jammu and Kashmir; irrespective of caste, community or gender," he said.

### Apni Party announces...

Conference votes in the constituency. Lone is contesting against Omar Abdullah, the National Conference vice-president and a former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state. "We have fielded candidates from two constituencies -- Srinagar and Anantnag-Rajouri. We have not fielded any candidate from north Kashmir and I am happy to announce that we will be extending support to the People's Conference, led by Lone there," Bukhari said. Lone on Saturday sought support from the Apni Party to consolidate all anti-National Conference votes in north Kashmir, claiming that it benefits from the fragmentation of votes. "I appeal to Altaf Bukhari, let us stop the division of votes in north Kashmir and let them support us there," Lone had said. The People's Conference chief had also assured its 100 per cent support to the Apni Party in Srinagar in return. Baramulla goes to the polls in the fifth phase on May 20 while Srinagar will vote in the fourth phase on May 13. Bukhari said the party decided to support Lone as he represents a new kind of politics. "I advise the traditional politicians to please retire. You have not been able to be loyal to the people. Now, let us live in peace. Do not tell our youth that we have to fight for 100 years. We do not have to fight anything," he said. "Our destiny was decided in 1947 and our destiny has been written with India and I will continue to say that yes, Delhi has given us wounds but the treatment of those wounds is only with Delhi and not London or Washington or Islamabad," he added. Bukhari also claimed that his party has become a political force in Kashmir. "These people are the constituency heads from 18 (assembly) constituencies of north Kashmir," he said, referring to his party colleagues present at the press meet. "It is because of their hard work that the party has become a political force and political parties today understand that they need our support. I credit the people and my colleagues for it," Bukhari added. The Apni Party chief also appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to bring a change in the elections.

### Two absconders arrested...

police station. He had been on the run since 1991, police said. An arrest warrant had already been issued by a TADA court against him. He was produced before a court after his arrest. The court sent him to judicial custody till April 29, they added. The other accused was identified as Pawan Kumar. He was wanted in cases of narcotics smuggling and had been evading arrest for 12 years, police said.

## Shetty Pay Commission: DB directs to comply with direction failing which Finance Secy, Law Secy appear in person

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a petition is filed by the employees borne on the cadre of Subordinate Courts through JEWAA State seeking implementation of Shetty Commission Report so far as recommendations pertaining to the Ministerial staff working in the Subordinate Courts in the State of Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, which was agreed to by the State Government and, to pay the arrears which are admissible to the Ministerial Staff working in the Subordinate Courts by implementing the Shetty Commission report from April 1, 2003. A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Atul Sreedharan and Justice Rajesh Sekhri took serious note and observed that the respondents are already in gross contempt of the order of the learned Division Bench and thereafter the order passed by this Court in contempt proceedings dated July 19, 2023. Under the circumstances, the contempt petitioners have two options that to comply with the orders passed by this Court in letter and spirit before the next date of hearing i.e. April 25, 2024. On that date, the compliance of order dated July 19, 2023 has to be placed before this Court and its absence, the Finance Secretary and the Law Secretary shall remain present in person in this Court at 11.A.M. Their failure to do so will compel this Court to resort to coercive measures commencing with the issuance of bailable warrants against them. DB observed that this is a contempt petition which is pending since the year 2017. During this time, the case has been listed before this Court not less than 39 times. The case has been pending for the compliance of the order passed by the learned Single Judge on December 8, 2016. By the said order, the writ petition that was filed by the contempt petitioners, who are the ministerial staff working with the District Judiciary, were given the benefit of the Shetty Pay Commission with effect from April 1, 2003 which was agreed to be implemented by the Chief Minister of the state which was recorded in the minutes dated April 2, 2008. Eight years have passed since the date of that order and the contempt petitioners in this petition have yet to be given the benefit of one of the recommendations which is retrospective in effect from April 1, 2003. During the pendency of this contempt petition, the matter came up before the co-ordinate Bench which by elaborate order on July 19, 2023, rejected the objections of the respondents that the retrospective effect has not been given and held in paragraph 12- "The plea of respondent No.1 that the posts cannot be created retrospectively is untenable in law and cannot be accepted. The creation of posts from retrospective date to comply with judgment of competent Court of jurisdiction is not unknown to service jurisprudence." DB further observed that thereafter, this Court has directed the High Court as well as the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to file respective action taken reports. Those action taken reports were filed. However, the respondents filed an application for modification of order dated July 19, 2023 which was dismissed by this Court vide order dated March 28, 2024. It is also relevant to mention here that the co-ordinate Bench while dismissing the application for modification also observed that the modification sought for was totally uncalled for. DB is of the opinion that the respondents are already in gross contempt of the order of the Division Bench and thereafter the order passed by this Court in contempt proceedings dated July 19, 2023. Under the circumstances, the contempt petitioners have two options that to comply with the orders passed by this Court in letter and spirit before the next date of hearing i.e. April 25, 2024. On that date, the compliance of order dated July 19, 2023 has to be placed before this Court and its absence, the Finance Secretary and the Law Secretary shall remain present in person in this Court at 11.A.M. Their failure to do so will compel this Court to resort to coercive measures commencing with the issuance of bailable warrants against them, DB ordered.

### HC upholds PSA of drug peddler

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjeev Kumar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court upheld the detention under PSA of Priya Devi aka Priya 54 years lady involved in Narcotic Business. While dismissing the petition, Justice Sanjeev Kumar after hearing AAG Amit Gupta for the UT, observed that as per the record, the petitioner has been indulging in illicit traffic of drugs very cleverly. He has been trafficking illicit drugs in small quantity so that he could easily obtain bail from the court without being caught by the rigors of Section 37 of the NDPS Act". "In such situation, challenge to the bail granted by the court to the petitioner in respect of either a small quantity or an intermediate quantity of illicit drug would have been a futile exercise", High Court said, adding "the grounds of detention clearly reflect proper application of mind by the Detaining Authority to all aspect of the matter and in particular the propensity of the petitioner in indulging in illicit trade of illicit drugs and narcotics". "Registration of cases in a row and the propensity of the petitioner to repeatedly indulge in illicit traffic of small quantity of a contraband which fetches highest price in international market was material good enough to invoke PITNDPS. The Detaining Authority, as is clearly apparent from the grounds of detention, applied its mind and reached subjective satisfaction that the petitioner is an incorrigible drug peddler and would not be deterred by the ordinary law of the land, therefore, it is imperative to place him under preventive detention with a view to preventing him from indulging in illicit traffic of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances", High Court said. With these observations, High Court dismissed the petition.

### President confers Padma Shri to Ghulam Nabi Dar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The President of India conferred Padma Shri to Ghulam Nabi Dar Mahabir Guddu in the field of Art from Jammu & Kashmir during Civil Investiture Ceremony in New Delhi on Monday. Ghulam Nabi Dar is a renowned septuagenarian wood carving artisan whose dedication to his craft has garnered both state and national recognition. His journey as a craftsman began at the tender age of 10, when he first discovered his passion for working with wood. Born on 3rd April, 1957, Dar's artistic prowess flourished as he transitioned from traditional designs to creating his own unique works inspired by the breathtaking beauty of Kashmir's natural landscapes. His keen eye for detail and his ability to capture the essence of nature in his carvings have earned him widespread acclaim. Dar's talent was officially recognized when he received a State award in 1984 for his outstanding contributions to the field of wood carving. Additionally, he had the opportunity to showcase his skills internationally, in Indonesia and Thailand including a memorable stint working in Baghdad in 1978 and Lichtenstein, Germany in 2003. However, it was in 1995-96 that his craftsmanship reached new heights when he was honoured with the prestigious National award. This recognition not only celebrated his exceptional artistic talent but also acknowledged his significant contribution to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Kashmir through his intricate wood carvings. Beyond Dar's awards and accolades, he remains deeply committed to passing on his knowledge and skills to future generations. He actively mentors aspiring wood carvers and participates in community initiatives aimed at preserving traditional crafts in Kashmir. Today, he continues to inspire and captivate audiences with his exquisite wood carvings, which can be found adorning homes, galleries, and museums both nationally and internationally. His legacy as a master wood carving artisan continues to enrich the cultural tapestry of Kashmir and beyond.



### NGO named "Shasy Kala, Sanskriti Evam Saahityik Sangh" formed

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BASOHLI: A meeting was organized at Ramlila ground, Basohli under the chairmanship of Shiv Dobia, an eminent Hindi and Dogri writer. In meeting "Shasy Kala, Sanskriti Evam Saahityik Sangh" namely society was announced with the unanimous decision of selection of Shuvam Mankotia as President and Dimpal Verma as General secretary. This society will be committed to dedicate the spirit of wisdom for the promotion of Udhampur and Billawar region in particular. As many regions of Udhampur, Kathua and Billawar attracts visitors not only from region of JKUT, other parts of country but also the world on whole. Shasy Kala, Sanskriti evam Saahityik Sangh, now decided to work with zeal and enthusiasm for the promoting language, literature, folk forms, visual and performing art, plastic arts of the area. The society is going to work with theme and slogan "Resurgence by Renaissance" which is written as phrase "Nav Chetna, Punarutthan" and will be the tagline of this Society. Among others were present include Sohan Singh, Jagannath Singh, Neelam kumari, Ritu Sharma, Vishal, Tilak Raj.

