

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### LG calls for...

Jammu Kashmir, who played a significant role in country's struggle for Independence, have disappeared from history books. It is a collective responsibility of the society to recognize their supreme sacrifice and restore the honour of our forefathers, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor observed that the contributions of the people of J&K in the freedom struggle need to immortalize. He called upon the intelligentsia, historians to engage in research work on the life and struggle of the great freedom fighters who made invaluable contributions for Independence.

The imprints of the sacrifices and contributions of great personalities like Sarvanand Kaul Premi, Giridhari Lal Dogra, Maqbool Sherwani, Brig. Rajendra Singh, Prem Nath Dogra, Kanta Wazir, Ghulam Nabi Mir, Hakim Abdul Rashid, Prithvinath Kaul is a great motivation for the present and the future generations to work on new ideas for a self-reliant India, self-reliant J&K and strengthen the resolve of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', the Lt Governor noted.

The Lt Governor also stressed for conducting research about the great women leaders of Jammu Kashmir who made their invaluable contribution during the country's freedom struggle.

Stories of Nari-Shakti, a voice of morality and patriotism will encourage and inspire the new generation, he further added.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" a Jan Andolan by celebrating 75 years of Independence under the Five Pillars- Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolve at 75.

While highlighting the unprecedented reforms being introduced in J&K during the last 2-3 years, the Lt Governor said that under the guidance of Prime Minister the UT of J&K is witnessing a historic transformation. Apart from implementing the three-tier system of Panchayati Raj; Valmiki, Gurkha and other marginalized communities, refugees from West Pakistan have been integrated into the mainstream, he added.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Jammu and all the associated members for organizing the National Seminar and hoped that the deliberations would help in highlighting self-less sacrifice of unsung heroes.

Various other speakers while speaking on the occasion explained the historical perspective of the role of J&K and its people in the freedom struggle and cultural significance of the region.

Dr Sanjeev Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu; Prof. Rajneesh Kumar Shukla, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi VishwaVidyalaya, Wardha; besides other dignitaries, faculty members and research Scholars of CUJ attended the Seminar.

### Sinha flags-off...



LG Manoj Sinha flagging-off batch of students from SKUAST-Kashmir on study tour to Kansas State University, USA.

primarily in 'Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab'.

The students based on their areas of interest will be attached to relevant faculty and student groups to expose them to the global learning ecosystem and to imbibe new ideas, educational and research system of USA, and explore opportunities for higher studies in USA.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that India's collaboration with USA in agriculture & technology goes back to several decades. "As the world moves towards a knowledge economy, students from SKUAST will benefit from experience of Kansas University in agriculture extension, farm-to-market linkages, weather & crop forecasting", he said.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the group of UG students extended his good wishes for the success of two month overseas learning program.

The Lt Governor said the National Education Policy-2020 empowers young students to engage not only in advanced research but also in various other fields which facilitate development of new and innovative technologies and their commercial development. "The international outreach initiative of SKUAST-K is in line with NEP-2020", he added.

The Lt Governor stressed upon students and faculties to focus on necessary experimental skills and familiarity with the requirement of modern agriculture and allied sectors.

Enquiring about the tie-ups of the University with the other Universities and technical institutions, the Lt Governor impressed upon the Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-K to explore every opportunity of students and faculty exchange programmes.

Noting that under the New Industrial Development Scheme, special provisions are kept for agri startups and entrepreneurship, the Lt Governor impressed upon the faculty members for dedicated focus towards the development of ecosystem of startups and enterprise in agri-technologies by sensitizing students of agriculture universities. He also called for establishment of a research Center for seed development.

Dr Parvez Sofi, Associate Professor will accompany the students on the study tour as a faculty facilitator. The batch comprises 10 female and two male students, including two from Ladakh, which is also a reflection of empowerment of women in the UT.

Kansas State University is the first 'Land Grant University in Agriculture Education, Research and Extension with globally acclaimed academic and research programme.

During the programme the students, in addition to Kansas State University, will also visit various other US Universities including Oklahoma State University, Iowa University, Nebraska University as well as Kansas University.

Moreover, they will be exposed to farmer communities, industry establishments as well as cultural houses of USA for overall development in a truly global environment.

The programme is being supervised by Prof PV Varu Prasad, University distinguished Professor and Director, Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab, Kansas University.

Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir; Dr M N Khan, Director Education; Dr Rehana Kant, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, and Dr Parvez Ahmad Sofi, Associate Professor were present on the occasion.

### 9 JKAS officers...

Corporation, Srinagar; Shakeel Hussain, JKAS, Private Secretary in the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, has been transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Srinagar; Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, JKAS, Private Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Budgam; Rakesh Sharma, JKAS, Private Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary, has been posted as Deputy Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary; Triloki Nath Koul, JKAS, Private Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu; Shakeel Ahmad Sheshtari, JKAS, Private Secretary in the J&K Water Resources Regulatory Authority, has been transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Budgam; Sham Lal Abrol, JKAS, Private Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, has been transferred and posted as General Manager, JKTD, Jammu, vice Sukriti Sharma, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Tarun Sharma, JKAS, Private Secretary in the Directorate of Handlooms and Handicrafts, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Development Officer, Handicrafts (Non-Textiles), Jammu; and Abdul Rehman Bhat, JKAS, Administrative Officer, Directorate of Forest, Protection Force, J&K has been transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Baramulla.

### Two SHOs among...

Police Station Billawar as SHO; Inspector Rajinder Khajuria from Police Post Hatli to Police Station Basohli as SHO; Inspector Sikander Singh from Police Station Basohli to DPL Kathua; PSI Ranbir Singh from Police Post Jakhole to Police Post Hatli as Incharge; and PSI Ram Krishan from Police Post Hatli to Police Post Jakhole as Incharge.

### Sedition law will...

incitement or a call for violence, the criticism of the government cannot be con-

strued as a seditious offence.

Agreeing to examine the pleas filed by the Editors Guild of India and former Major General S G Vombatkere, the court had said its main concern was the "misuse of law" leading to the rising number of cases.

The Centre's affidavit filed by Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Additional Secretary of the MHA, said there are divergence of views expressed in public domain by various jurists, academicians, intellectuals and citizens in general.

The Government, being fully cognizant of various views being expressed on the subject of sedition and also having considered the concerns of civil liberties and human rights, while committed to maintain and protect the sovereignty and integrity of this great nation, has decided to re-examine and re-consider the provisions of Section 124A of the IPC which can only be done before the appropriate forum, it said.

The provisions have come under intense public scrutiny in the recent months for its alleged misuse which had led the CJI to ask if the sedition law, which was used to persecute freedom fighters, was still needed after 75 years of Independence.

The Law Commission had also called for a re-think or repeal of the sedition law way back in 2018, contending that every irresponsible exercise of right to free speech and expression cannot be termed seditious.

Civil rights activists have often highlighted the alleged abuse and misuse of the offence of sedition as a tool to curb dissent by the powers that be, irrespective of ideological and political leanings. The colonial aims of sedition law and its chilling effect upon the right to freedom of speech and expression were also flagged.

In its reaction, the Congress said the Modi government is trying to "course correct" as it seems to have realised that its alleged "misuse" of the legislation is about to be quashed by the Supreme Court.

Senior advocate Mohit Mathur said that while it falls within the court's domain to test the constitutionality of a legal provision whenever a challenge is raised before it, the Centre may be given an opportunity to examine the issue at its end.

Mathur, however, emphasised that such a re-consideration has to be real re-consideration and not a dilatory thing.

"Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in [India], shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine, reads section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code(IPC). The section was introduced in 1870 during the British rule.

The Centre's affidavit filed on Monday urged the top court that in view of the decision to reconsider the law, this court may not invest time in examining the validity of section 124A once again and be pleased to await the exercise of reconsideration to be undertaken by the Government of India before an appropriate forum where such reconsideration is constitutionally permitted.

The affidavit noted that concerns have been raised about the application and abuse of sedition law for the purposes not intended by the provisions.

The Prime minister has been cognizant of various views expressed on the subject and has also periodically, in various forums, expressed his clear and unequivocal views in favour of protection of civil liberties, respect of human rights and giving meaning to the constitutionally cherished freedoms by the people of the country, it said.

The affidavit noted that the prime minister has repeatedly said one of India's strengths is the diverse thought streams that beautifully flourish here.

It said the public at large including jurists agree about the need of statutory provisions to deal with serious offences of divisive nature affecting the very sovereignty and integrity of the country.

Requiring a penal provision for such purposes is generally accepted by everyone in legitimate State interest."

Concerned over the enormous misuse of the penal law on sedition, the top court in July last year had asked the Centre why it was not repealing the provision used by the British to silence people like Mahatma Gandhi to suppress the freedom movement.

### Hybrid terrorist arrested ....



Security personnel along with recovery made from hideout in Poonch sector.

hideout was busted during a search operation in a forest area of Poonch district on Monday, officials said.

The search operation was jointly carried out by police and other security forces in the forest area of Dera Ki Gali along the Mughal road connecting the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, the officials added.

They said the search parties moved from both the Poonch and Rajouri sides following information about suspicious movement in the area.

A terror hideout was busted, which led to the recovery of 100 assorted rounds of ammunition, some eatables, shoes, socks and a torch, the officials said.

### Opposition meet rejects...

principles and norms, i and done great injustice to different areas, segments and communities .

The commission done great injustice with the people by clubbing the border areas of Rajouri Poonch and Anantnag- Kulgam Lok Sabha, lacking proper connectivity, which is totally unjustified and it also nullified the genuine demand of additional Lok Sabha seat in Jammu region, in view of its vast area.

The All Party united Morecha coordinated the meeting attended by different main opposition parties and socio- political organisations.

The meeting also expressed great concern over the all out attempts create communal polarisation and strongly condemned such actions of the communal forces encouraged by the BJP government and decided to defeat nefarious designs and maintain communal harmony.

The meeting reiterated its agenda of achieving the full statehood and early restoration of democracy under statehood.

Meeting was presided over by Congress led by Ravinder Sharma and attended by NC provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta, Sheikh Abdul Rehman Ex-MP, Ved Mahajan Ex MLC, PDP spokesperson Vinender Singh sonn, CPIM Kishore Kumar, CPI ,Statehood Mission led by Sunil Dimple, Sikh intellectual forum Narinder Singh Khalsa,Com Sukhdev Singh,Deshbhagat Yadgar committee, IDP-Narinder Khajuria and I D Khajuria, convener APUM.

It was decided in the meeting that the agenda of the opposition unity Shall be confined to joint struggle on four Issues only namely maintaining communal harmony, restoration of statehood, fair delimitation and restoration of early democracy. Beyond any individual stand of any party or Individual Shall not be attributed to the United Morecha.

### Prof Keshav Sharma...

His name was cleared after several rounds of extensive interactive sessions at Hyderabad from amongst the panel of short-listed candidates.

Prof. Keshav Sharma is a well-known name in the educational circles.

In his academic career spanning around 40 years, he has worked on almost all the important academic and administrative positions of the University of Jammu including the Dean Academic Affairs; Registrar; Controller of Examinations; Dean Students Welfare; Dean Faculty of Business Studies; Director, The Business School; Director, Sports & Physical Education; Provost Hostels; Chief Coordinator Campuses & Rector, Udhampur Campus; and Warden etc.

Prof. Sharma has also served as the Campus Director at the Mohali Campus of the Rayat Bahri Group.

He is a Ph.D. in Marketing and a Post Doc. from the University of Louisville, Kentucky, USA. Prof. Keshav has had the privilege of doing his FDP from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago,

Illinois, USA.

He has attended many International/National Conferences and Meets. He visited Singapore, Canada and USA as a member of the JU Core Teams to study the academic practices in these countries.

Besides being an author of three Books, he has several publications in Journals of repute. He has guided sixteen Ph.Ds and 07 M.Phil and has also been a Coordinator of the prestigious UGC SAP DRS Projects.

Prof. Sharma is currently a Member of the NAAC, NBA/ AICTE and has been on the various UGC visiting Teams.

Prof. Keshav has not only been popular amongst his students but also amongst the University fraternity for his indefatigable, humane and helping nature.

He is fondly remembered for having been instrumental in organizing two Mega Youth Festivals Umang & Harmony in the University of Jammu which lent JU an extra visibility and a name both at the national as well as at the international levels.

### Six units of J&K...

any other case(s), as may be deemed necessary, may be referred by the government or the J&K director general of police to the Crime Branch chief for registration and investigation by respective police stations.

As per the notification's annexure, the SCWs will register and investigate any serious crime which appears to have a political motive, including all offences involving arms and ammunition and theft of government arms and ammunition and illicit trade in arms.

Other cases to be investigated by the SCWs include fraud and cheating of a pecuniary nature involving an amount below Rs 20 lakhs and having ramifications in one district besides offences breaching the Cinematograph Act of 1952, the Copy Right Act, Trade Marks Act, 1999 (GI Tagging) and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.

The SCWs would also probe into extortions by organised gangs having inter-district or inter-state ramifications.

The EOWs will register and investigate cases involving preparation and circulation of fake Indian Currency notes, frauds by means of advertisements by bogus finance firms, service consultancies and those of professional criminals posing as public servants.

Such case should be involving a sum of Rs 20 lakh or more, it said.

The EOWs will also investigate cases of fraud and cheating involving an amount of Rs 20 lakh or mor and having inter-district ramification, besides cases of misappropriation of public funds, those of criminal breach of trust by public servants, thefts of cultural objects, trade in human body parts and those of land grabbing or real estate frauds.

These will also deal in cases of bank or insurance frauds, racketeering in false travel documents and employment credit or debit card frauds, corporate and company frauds, besides theft of intellectual property and trade mark and copyrights violations.

The CICEs will look into cases related to pornography and cybercrimes under the Information Technology Act.

### Boy dies, 3...

them identified as Mohammad Basit died.

Basit's sister Shabnam (10) and neighbours Sania Bano (10) and Razia Bano (8) were referred to Government Medical College Hospital Jammu for specialised treatment.

### Gang involved in...

Krishna Yadav, son of Jangi Yadav; Suresh Kumar, son of Sunil Saini; Sahib Saini, son of Bala Saini; Dharminder Saini, son of Vishwanath Saini and Khalil Mian, son of Hakim Mian.

The arrests were made after the arduous efforts of a police team headed by SHO PS Vijaypur Inspr. Rajeev Kuma.r under the supervision of SDPO Vijaypur Priyanka Kumar.

A total of 62 ATM cards of different banks, Rs 10,000, a sharp-edged weapon (Khukri) and a vehicle were seized from those arrested, the spokesman said, adding a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Arms Act was registered against the six and further investigation is on.

A case FIR No 66/2022 u/s 420, 120B IPC 4/25 Arms Act got registered in the instant case at Police Station Vijaypur and further investigation started.

The whole operation was carried out under the supervision of SSP Samba, Dr. Abhishek Mahajan.

### J&K cops to...

shoulder fired and can instantaneously swivelled left or right by 56 degrees while allowing the shooter to remain behind cover while observing the camera feed of the terrorist hiding in any position.

"An ergonomic extension in the ShootEdge fires the pistol," Singh said, adding that "camera is zeroed with the pistol and the display monitor provides aiming for quick and accurate engagement".