

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Delimitation Commission finalises...

Order, the following will come into effect from the date to be notified by the Central Government:- Out of the 90 Assembly Constituencies in the region, 43 will be part of Jammu region and 47 for Kashmir region keeping in view the provisions of Section 9(1)(a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 60(2)(b) of Jammu 8s Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019.

After consultation with Associate Members, representatives of political parties, citizens, civil society groups, 9ACs have been reserved for STs, out of which,6 are in Jammu region and 3 ACs in the Valley.

There are five Parliamentary Constituencies in the region. The Delimitation Commission has seen the Jammu & Kashmir region as one single Union Territory. Therefore, one of the Parliamentary Constituency has been carved out combining Anantnag region in the Valley and Rajouri and Poonch of Jammu region. By this reor-ganisation each Parliamentary Constituency will have equal number of 18 Assembly Constituencies each.

Names of some ACs have also been changed keeping in view the demand of local representatives. It may be recalled that the Delimitation Commission was constituted by the Govt. of India, in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002), for the purpose of delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Commission associated in its work, 5 members of Lok Sabha elected from the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. These Associate Members were nominated by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

The Delimitation Commission was entrusted with the work of delimiting the Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of 2011 Census and in accordance with the provisions of Part-V of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (34 of 2019) and the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002(33 of 2002).

Having regard to relevant provisions of the Constitution (Article 330 and Article 332) and sub-sections (6) and (7) of Section 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, the number of seats to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was worked out on the basis of 2011 Census. Accordingly, the Delimitation Commission has reserved 9 ACs for STs for the first time and 07 for SCs. It is worth-while to mention that the Constitution of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State did not provide for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 and Delimitation Act, 2002 laid down the broad parameters within which the delimitation exercise was to be carried out. However, the Commission formulated Guidelines and Methodology for delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir; for smooth functioning and effective results, and the same were followed during the delimitation process. Keeping in view the geographical features, means of communication, public convenience, contiguity of areas as various factors enumerated in Section 9(1) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and the inputs gathered during the Commission's visit to the UT from 6th to 9th July 2021, the Commission categorised all 20 districts into three broad categories i.e. A- Districts having predominantly hilly and difficult areas, B- Districts with Hill and Flat areas and C- Districts with predominantly Flat areas, giving margin of +/- 10% of the average population per Assembly Constituency, while proposing allocation of the constituencies to the districts. The Commission has also, for some districts, proposed carving out of an additional constituency to balance the representation for geographical areas having inadequate communication and lack of public conveniences due to their excessive remoteness or inhospitable conditions on the international border.

The Commission had decided that Constituencies shall be delimited having regard to the administrative units i.e. Districts, Tehsils, Patwar Circles, etc, as in existence on 15-06-2020 and the Commission had communicated to the UT administration, not to disturb the administrative units as existing as on 15-06-2020 till the completion of the delimitation exercise in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir: It was ensured by the Commission that every Assembly Constituency shall be contained entirely in one district and the lowest administrative units i.e. Patwar Circles (and Wards in Jammu Municipal Corporation) were not broken and were kept in single Assembly Constituency.

The Commission took extreme care in identifying the seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly and to locate seats to be reserved for these communities, as far as practicable, in areas where the proportion of their population to the total population is the largest, by working out the percentage of Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in each Assembly Constituency and identifying the requisite number of reserved constituencies by arranging them in descending order. The public sittings were organised in the Capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar on 4th and 5th April 2022 respectively, which provided an opportunity to the people, public representatives, political leaders and other stakeholders to express their views. All those who filed objections and suggestions in response to the public notice were specifically heard. All the suggestions of the public, given in writing or orally during the public sittings and representations from various stakeholders were tabulated by the Secretariat of the Commission.

The Commission conducted a final round of internal meetings to examine all the suggestions and took decision on the changes to be made in the draft proposals. Most of the representations regarding the change of names of the proposed constituencies were accepted by the Commission in view of the public sentiment involved in the same. These name changes included naming Tangmarg-AC as Gulmarg-AC, Zoonimar-AC as Zaidibal-AC, Sonwar-AC as Lai Chowk-AC, Padder-AC as Padder-Nagseni-AC, Kathua North-AC as Jasrota-AC, Kathua South-AC as Kathua-AC, Khour-AC as Chhamb-AC, Mahore-AC as Gulabgarh-AC, Darhal-AC as Budhal-AC, etc. In addition to these, there were many representations pertaining to shifting of Tehsils from one AC to another and some of them which Commission found logical were accepted, viz; shifting of Tehsil Shrigufwara from Pahalagam-AC to Bijbehara-AC, shifting of Kwarhama and Kunzar Tehsils to Gulmarg-AC and redrawing Wagora-Kreeri-AC having Kareeri and Khoie tehsils and part of Vagora and Tangmarg tehsils, shifting of Darhal Tehsil from Budhal-AC to Thannamandi-AC. Additionally, there were some requests for minor changes in the territorial jurisdiction of proposed ACs, which were thoroughly analysed in the Commission and a few of them, which were logical, have been incorporated in the final Order.

The Delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had been a challenging task. The Commission visited UT of Jammu and Kashmir twice. During the first visit, the Commission interacted with approximately 242 delegations at four locations, i.e. Srinagar, Pahalagam, Kishtwar and Jammu. Approximately 1600 people attended and expressed their views at the Public sittings held at Jammu and Srinagar on 4th and 5th April 2022 respectively, during the second visit of the Commission to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The peculiar geo-cultural landscape of the Union Territory presented unique issues arising due to factors like competing political aspirations of the geographically and culturally distinctive Jammu and the Kashmir regions; vast differences in population density between districts ranging from 3436/ sq. km in districts in the valley-plains on one side, to 29/sq. km in the predominantly hilly and difficult districts on the other; existence of sub-regions within certain districts having extremely difficult intra-district connectivity due to extraordinary geographical barriers with some remaining totally cut off on account of the snow blocking the mountain passes for months during winter; uncertainty of life and inadequate availability of connectivity and public conveniences in villages along the International Border prone to unprovoked intermittent firing/shelling in the Border Districts; etc.

These competing claims to equitable exercise of democratic rights by populations living in inequitable conditions, besides other aspects, were well articulated on behalf of all the diverse areas of the UT by representatives of political parties, social organisations and individuals, as well as the media which provided profound insights before the Commission and contributed in upholding the democratic values cherished by the people of this largest democracy in the World, in providing of a fair and robust framework by carving out appropriate constituencies for exercise of their right to franchise by the members of the electorate living in mutually diverse circumstances, in an equitably convenient manner. After incorporating all such changes, the Final Order has been published in the Official Gazette of the Government of India as well as Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Final Order is also published in Print and Electronic media and also hosted on the website of the Commission and CEO Jammu and Kashmir.

During the public hearing, the Commission received number of representations from the Kashmiri migrants and the displaced persons from Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The delegations of Kashmiri migrants represented before the Commission that they were persecuted and forced to live in exile as refugees in their own country for the last three decades. It was urged that in order to preserve their political rights, seats may be reserved for them in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and Parliament. The Displaced persons from PoJK also requested the Commission to reserve few seats for them in J&K Legislative Assembly. Accordingly, the Delimitation Commission also made following recommendations to the Central Government.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was carved out from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir through the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (34 of 2019), passed by the Parliament. The delimitation of Assembly Constituencies in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was governed by the Constitution of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and Jammu and Kashmir Representation of People Act 1957. The Assembly seats in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir were last delimited in 1995 based on 1981 Census.

### PM to address...

'JITO Connect' is an endeavour to help business and industry by providing an avenue for mutual networking and personal interactions, a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) state-

ment said. Prime Minister Modi will address the inaugural session of 'JITO Connect 2022' on May 6 at 10:30 am via video conferencing, it said. 'JITO Connect 2022' is a three-day event being organised at the Gangadham Annex in Pune from May 6 to 8 and will encompass multiple sessions on diverse issues relating to business and economy, the statement said.

### 14 JKAS officers...

and ex-officio Special Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj; Kanta Devi, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner; Udhampur has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary, School Education Department; Mohammad Syed Khan, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner; Udhampur; shall hold the charge of the post of Additional District Development Commissioner; Udhampur; in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Puneet Sharma, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner; Kathua, has been transferred and posted as Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu; Atul Gupta, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner; Kathua, shall hold the charge of the post of Additional District Development Commissioner; Kathua, in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Haris Ahmad Handoo, JKAS, Special Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, has been transferred and posted as Vice-Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority; Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Programme Officer; ICDS Project, Bandipore; Syed Sajad Qadri, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Programme Officer; ICDS Project, Ganderbal; Mohammad Anwar Bandy, JKAS, Joint Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Rural Development, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Programme Officer; ICDS Project, Reasi; Irshad Ahmad, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Programme Officer; ICDS Project, Budgam; Renu Kumari, JKAS, Programme Officer; ICDS Project, Reasi, has been transferred and posted as Programme Officer; ICDS Project, Jammu; Nissar Ahmad Malik, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Programme Officer; ICDS Project, Shopian; Sushil Kumar Khajuria, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Additional Secretary, Higher Education Department; Avleen Kour Bali, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Joint Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Rural Development, Jammu; Sundeep Singh Bali, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Programme Officer; ICDS Project, Anantnag; Kulbushan Khajuria, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Programme Officer; ICDS Project, Kathua.

### Administrative Council overhauls...

infrastructure. Currently, against the total sanctioned strength of 2623 posts, 1540 regular employees are in position, whereas 1741 workers have been outsourced with additional 724 on casual/ contractual arrangement. The annual expenditure incurred by JMC on this account is Rs. 106.81 crore.

Post reorganization, the Jammu Municipal Corporation will have dedicated wings for administration, revenue, health and sanitation, solid waste management, building, accounts & planning, legal, veterinary, transport, informatics, engineering, floriculture and miscellaneous activities.

Accordingly, some positions will be outsourced with the twin objective of hiring the staff as per requirement without much stress on the resources and ensuring association of technical experts with the Corporation. Further, to provide fillip to the agency's revenue generation towards establishing a self-sustainable model of local governance, JMC will also be able to levy Property Tax; revise building permission fee; revise rent in respect of shops, open spaces and buildings; rationalize existing fleet/ vehicles; auction materials; levy charges in respect of water filling; collect tower fee; enhance compounding fee in respect of impounded items and goods, among others.

The Administrative Council also approved an additional financial grant of Rs 3.26 crore per annum for optimal functioning of the Jammu Municipal Corporation.

By another decision, the Administrative Council approved the proposal of Public Works (R&B) Department to delegate the authority to provide technical sanctions to projects among various senior engineers posted in sister agencies of Public Works (R&B) Department on deputation basis. Currently, the power to grant technical sanctions for various projects vests entirely with the officers and engineers posted in the Public Works (R&B) Department, which exponentially increases the work load in the Department and consequently leads to avoidable delays in project execution. Accord of Technical Sanction involves careful analysis of specifications, cost estimates as well as feasibility studies.

With the delegation of powers to the engineers on deputation to other departments, each Department will now be able to grant timely sanction to projects for their expeditious commencement and completion. Pertinently, the GFR 2017 provides that no works are to be commenced or liability incurred without obtaining proper Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction by competent authority. The Administrative Council also approved the adoption of Jammu and Kashmir Road Classification & Road Gazette-2022. The Jammu and Kashmir Road Classification & Road Gazette-2022 will guide the effective management of road infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir through a systematic documentation of roads. The Road Gazette will serve as an inventory of all roads in the Union Territory besides serving the Department in prioritization of up-gradation works and planning future infrastructure. The Road Gazette will guide the Department in achieving its endeavor to bring uniformity, transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Department. Earlier, the Department has introduced J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2021 last year and more recently Bridge and Macadamization Manuals to provide standard guidelines for framing proposals, estimation, standardization of bidding documents and ensuring quality control in works, in accordance with the latest practices in the field.

### SC to examine...

offence. "Your lordships know what is happening in the country. Yesterday, somebody was detained under this Section just because they wanted to chant 'Hanuman Chalisa'". So guidelines have to be there, to prevent misuse. Referring the Kedar Nath verdict to a larger bench is not necessary. It is a well-considered judgment, Venugopal said.

He was referring to MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana being booked for sedition in Maharashtra over the Hanuman Chalisa row.

A law, which is fair on its face, will not become invalid and unconstitutional due to the abuse and implementation in violation of fundamental rights. In that case, the individual matters will have to be decided, Venugopal said.

The bench commenced the hearing and heard arguments on a batch of pleas against the sedition law for some time before adjourning it to May 10.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing as the lead counsel on behalf of the petitioners, said the reference to a larger bench may not be necessary.

He said a three-judge bench can still go into the issue ignoring the 1962 judgement of the five-judge bench in the light of subsequent developments in the fundamental rights jurisprudence. We will hear as to how you (Sibal) are prima facie going to establish that the matter does not need the reference to a larger bench, the CJI said.

As far as we have been able to understand the pleadings, in every petition, there is a prayer that re-consider Kedar Nath, overrule Kedar Nath and strike down section 124A, the bench asked, adding whether a three-judge bench can do so in view of the fact that the 1962 verdict was of a five-judge bench.

Subsequent development in relation to the law does not pass a duty on to a three-judge bench, as part of the judicial propriety, to ignore the five-judge bench and pass the judgement on the issue, it said. I will persuade the court that this matter does not need to be referred to a larger bench. If the court does not agree then this can be referred to a five or seven-judge bench, Sibal said, adding Without dealing with the Kedar Nath or without looking at Kedar Nath, you can still strike down keeping in mind the sea change in the law. If the bench agrees then it can be done or if it thinks that a larger bench has to be set up, then it can also be done as the prayer to this effect was already there, the senior lawyer said.

### 265-feet-long...

"We got success yesterday at 5.30 pm. We detected a tunnel and it had green sand bags beside it. It was 150 meters long. From inside up to the fence, it measured 100 meters and from there it was 50 meters. We got its opening in a forested area," he said. Boora said the troops foiled the designs of terrorists to disrupt the upcoming Amarnath yatra to the holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

"It seems that it is a new tunnel. We are trying to investigate its link to the Sunjwan attack as we apprehend that they (terrorists) may have crossed via this tunnel. It is an assumption. We have no evidence -- oral or digital -- so far," he said.

The tunnel was detected in the area of Chak Paqura border outpost (BoP) in samba along the IB on Wednesday evening, the BSF officials said.

The operation to uncover any other tunnel is going on in full swing by the troops with the help of machines, they said. We have dugout 265-feet-long oxygen pipes from the area used to provide oxygen supply inside the tunnel," the officials said.

The detection of the cross-border tunnel comes nearly a fortnight after security forces gunned down two suicide bombers shortly after they attacked a CIsF bus killing an Assistant Sub-inspector in the Sunjwan area of Jammu on April 22.

"With the detection of this tunnel, the BSF Jammu has foiled the nefarious designs of Pakistan-based terrorists to disrupt the upcoming Amarnath yatra," DIG BSF S P S Sandhu said. Boora lauded the devotion and dedication of the BSF troops and said it is the fifth tunnel detected in less than one and half years' time.

"This shows the evil strategy of the Pakistan establishment to create trouble in India," the BSF IG said. The BSF has been always at the forefront to safeguard the borders and create a sense of security among the border population, he said.

The force will continue its efforts to detect any other possible tunnel, Boora said. Sandu said the detection of the tunnel was the result of rigorous and consistent efforts of the BSF troops during a fortnight-long anti-tunneling exercise carried out in the area.

"This tunnel is freshly dugout and is suspected to be about 150-meters-long and originating from the Pakistan side," he said.

The opening of the tunnel is about two feet wide, and so far 21 sand bags have been recovered which were used to strengthen the exit of the tunnel, Sandhu said.

A newly dug tunnel at a distance of 150 metres from the IB and 50 metres from the border fence was detected opposite Pakistani post Chaman Khurd (Fiaz) which is 900 metres from the Indian side, an official said, wishing not to be named.

He said the opening of the tunnel is about 300 metres from the border outpost Chak Paqura and 700 metres from the last Indian village. The BSF had launched a massive drive to detect any tunnel along the International Border (IB) following the April 22 encounter in the Sunjwan area. The BSF is manning about 192 kilometres of the IB and the Line of Control (LoC) alongside the Army and is keeping a tight vigil to scuttle any attempt of infiltration of terrorists, smuggling of weapons and narcotics and drone activity from across the border.

### Nine SHOs among...

Inspector Rajesh Sharma has been transferred from Jammu-Kathua-Samba (JKS) Range and posted to Udhampur-Reasi (UR) Range while Inspector Pawan Kumar has been transferred from UR Range and posted to JKS Range.

Moreover, Inspector Sikander Singh of District Kathua has been transferred to District Jammu.

### Youth Clubs playing...

leadership in different sectors and entrepreneurship commitment. More than 74,000 members have become a beacon of hope for thousands of others. Youth are now active partners, active participants in the processes of building a peaceful and prosperous J&K," the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor also observed that economic progress requires quality human resources and the government has taken various initiatives to make available a large pool of skilled manpower for the nation.

Highlighting the impact of Youth Clubs in empowering the youth of J&K, the Lt Governor said that the Youth Clubs are not only deciding youngsters' career prospects but also shaping their personality so they can emerge as leaders in their chosen walks of life," the Lt Governor said. It is pertinent to mention here that more than 74,771 youths from 20 districts have joined the Youth Clubs, which is playing a significant role in providing youth the opportunity to work through real challenges and make meaningful change. A total of 4,522 Youth Clubs have been constituted across 20 districts with maximum 9,000 youths enrolled in Poonch district. Young people in these clubs who volunteer regularly develop a civic identity, as leaders and change-makers, and therefore become more socially active. They also learn new social skills like collaboration and problem solving that are vital to succeed in academics, the workplace, and their personal lives. Thus, youth clubs are playing a pivotal role in creating lifelong change among youth and result in their overall personality development, which happens to be the core agenda of Mission Youth, which runs the Youth Clubs. The initiative of Youth Club was approved by the Governing Body of Mission Youth, headed by Lt Governor. Manoj Sinha in its first meeting held on 17th June 2021.

### AC approves establishment...

Partnership (PPP) agreement, the land for the project will be provided through JMC to set up solid waste processing plant. On the other hand, the private player will be mandated to operate the waste value-chain including collection of waste from individual households, its transportation to the solid waste disposal facility and scientifically disposal of the same.

Once completed, the project will ensure 100% household door-to-door collection, 100% solid waste segregation, 100% scientific disposal of municipal solid waste towards ensuring garbage-free cities as envisaged under SBM (U)-2.0 and the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

### Tremendous improvement in...

Hiszb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Al-Badr and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGH) outfits, he said.

In the four months of 2022, 66 terrorists have been eliminated, including 17 foreign elements, Lt Gen Dwivedi said, adding efforts towards dismantling of the OGW network and exposing their machinations has resulted in the arrest of 495 OGWs in 2021 and 87 OGWs in the first four months of 2022.

A telling blow has been dealt to the terror network in J-K, he said. The Army commander maintained that all these successes are reflections of higher standards of professionalism and jointness in all the domains and dimensions of counter-terrorist operations. I see J-K regaining its past glory and sustaining the hard-earned peace through sacrifices of the security forces and awam (people), he said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi said the narrative in the Kashmir region has changed since August 2019. And in this change, the civil administration, the security forces and the leaders in the society have all joined hands together. The intensity of operations will continue to be high till all of the residual 168 plus terrorists surrender or they are eliminated, he said.

### Big terror plot...

to contain RDX, a Pakistan-make pistol and 31 live cartridges, besides Rs 1.3 lakh in cash have been seized from the vehicle," Gupta told PTI over phone.

After the vehicle was intercepted in Karnal, a bomb disposal squad and forensic experts reached the spot.

A case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act and the Explosive Substances Act has been registered.

The Haryana Police has constituted a special investigation team to conduct further probe in the matter.

Punia told reporters that the four -- identified as Bhupinder Singh from village Bhatian in Ludhiana and Gurpreet Singh, Parminder Singh and Amandeep Singh from Vinjoke village in Zira, Ferozepur -- were headed to Adilabad in Telangana to deliver a consignment of explosives. "They were in touch with a Pakistan-based man Harvinder Singh Rinda, who is involved in terror activities and who used to send locations through an app to them to deliver explosives and weapons. Rinda used to drop weapons and explosives at a pre-designated location in the fields in Ferozepur with the help of drones," he said, adding "we are ascertaining the terrorist outfit with which they were associated".

Punia said Gurpreet Singh, the key accused, had met Rajbir Singh, an associate of Rinda, in jail. In the FIR registered on Thursday, Rinda and Rajbir have also been named as accused. When Gurpreet was in Ludhiana jail, he came in contact with Rajbir. And Rajbir connected him to Rinda. Earlier too, the suspects had delivered explosives at Rinda's behest to various locations told by him, according to the FIR. "Rinda is involved in terror activities, he supplies arms and drugs and sends location to them and their task is to transport these explosives and arms...", he said. The four suspects, two of whom are stated to be brothers, were produced before a court in Karnal and remanded to 10-day police custody.

### Kashmir-based politicians...

report, alleging that the panel has "become an extension of the BJP". "What delimitation are you talking about? That delimitation commission that has become an extension of the BJP? It has ignored the basic parameter of population and added or removed areas as per their wishes. We reject it, we have no faith in it," Mehbooba told reporters after attending a function in Anantnag.

The former chief minister said the commission was set up to disempower the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The delimitation commission is part of the design under which Article 370 was abrogated. The aim is to reduce the powers of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and weaken them. This is another way to disempower people," she added.

Replying to a question about PDP's participation in elections, Mehbooba said "What elections? There is no trace of the polls in sight. We don't know anything".

CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said though the Delimitation Commission was constituted under the Delimitation Act of 2002, it has redrawn the constituencies of UT of J-K in accordance with the provisions of J-K Re-organisation Act 2019 which has been challenged in the Supreme Court. Senior Congress leader Saifuddin Soz said a cursory look at the report reveals some of its extremely negative sides, which can never be accepted by the people of the J-K. "The Commission's recommendation of adding six Assembly seats to Jammu region and only one seat to Kashmir smacks of its pre-determined erroneous assessment of the situation. Many observers had already suspected that the Commission would play the nefarious game in tandem with the Union Govt!" Soz said. He said the commission has totally failed to appreciate that a sizable number of people in Kashmir belong to social castes who carry the same stigma as STs and SCs.

### Power crisis Railways...

transporter said on Thursday. While 40 of these trains will remain cancelled till May 24, the other two will be restored by May 8. The transporter, which has prioritised the movement of coal rakes in the last few weeks, has pushed in 86 per cent of its open wagons towards carrying the essential commodity to the power plants. "The total number of trains cancelled is 40, which includes previously cancelled trains. Total number of trips cancelled is 1,081, which will remain cancelled till May 24," a spokesperson for the Railways said.

While most of the affected trains (34) are in the South East Central Railway zone, the Northern Railways has cancelled eight trains, two of which will be restored by May 8, he said. While 26 mail/express trains have been affected, 16 passenger specials or MEMUs have been affected due to the focus on coal movement. The central government expects the electricity demand to rise this month, and hence, wants to move as much coal as possible to the power production plants in various states. As per official data, following the cancellations, the Railways has raised the average daily loading of coal rakes to over 400 per day, which is the highest in the past five years.