

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Making Modi PM...

disgruntled," the Union minister further said.  
Coming down heavily on the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, the BJP's former ally, Shah claimed that Thackeray has now allied with a party (Congress) that wants to bring back triple talaq and run the country as per the Sharia law.  
"Can this country be run on the basis of Muslim Personal Law? For the sake of some constitutional post, Uddhav is now sitting with such parties," he alleged.

Referring to the alleged scam in the distribution of khichdi to migrant workers in Mumbai during the COVID-19 pandemic when Thackeray was chief minister, Shah alleged that leaders of Thackeray's party were eating "malai" (cream) from khichdi while Narendra Modi was serving the people.  
"Uddhav Thackeray is lying at the feet of Sharad Pawar and Congress only for power. These parties opposed the renaming of Aurangabad (as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar). He will not utter a single word if people ask him about Ram Mandir, triple talaq, Article 370," Shah said.  
Congress preserved Article 370 for long and it was PM Modi who revoked it, Shah said.

Former prime minister late Indira Gandhi gave the slogan `Garibi Hatao' (remove poverty) but no Congress leader could do that, he said, adding that it was Modi who brought people out of poverty.  
"Our government is giving ration to 80 crore people and providing free hospital treatment upto Rs 5 lakh," he added.

A dry port was being developed in Jalna which will help transport the steel produced in the region across the globe, he said, adding, "This too is the work of Narendra Modi and (deputy chief minister) Devendra Fadnis."

Of the six assembly segments in Jalna Lok Sabha seat, five are with the BJP and its allies. Jalna will go to polls on May 13, along with neighboring Aurangabad and Beed.

## LG for ensuring...

Asserting that Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada are two important components of Poshan Abhiyaan, the Lt Governor said that there is a need



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting to review functioning of Department of Culture at Srinagar.

to further increase the IEC activities so that benefits reach all intended beneficiaries. He said the administration's focus should be on socially, educationally and economically marginalized sections of the society, empowerment of women and also discussed steps required to create an environment so they can realise their full potential.

The meeting further reviewed the performance of Nanhe Kadam, women assisted under Sankalp, One Stop Centre. He also called for collective efforts in the fight against drug menace.

The meeting was attended by Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments and senior officials.

Later, the Lieutenant Governor chaired a meeting to review the functioning of Department of Culture.

He discussed the matters related to promotion of glorious culture and heritage of J&K UT and took stock of the measures taken for protection and preservation of cultural heritage.

He emphasised on protection and promotion of diversity of architectural expressions and suggested improvement in existing policy framework.

The Lt Governor also enquired about the response of public towards the libraries established by the department. He took note of the facilities extended to book lovers and called for broader outreach to younger generations through digital platforms.

The meeting discussed various other issues related to the promotion and popularization of Museums and the digitization of archival material in possession of the department. The Lt Governor called for extending all the necessary facilities to the visitors at museums and libraries for elevated intellectual and cultural experiences.

Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture department; HoDs and concerned senior officials attended the meeting.

## HC adjourns hearing...

officials. CBI counsel and senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli informed the court that a supplementary charge sheet has been filed against the Kathua-based educational trust -- R B Educational Trust -- run by Singh's wife. Then the court called for the records.

Kohli also requested the court for expeditious hearing in the matter as the trial before a designated court was stayed.

The CBI had in 2020 registered a criminal breach of trust and corruption case against the educational trust.

Besides naming the trust, in which Singh's wife and son are the members, the others named in the charge sheet included the then patwari.

The court asked the ED counsel, who appeared through video conference, about the grounds for cancellation of bail.

The counsel argued that the ED had submitted its grounds in a sealed cover through the investigation officer, but the submission was not found in the court records.

The judge adjourned the matter till May 22 giving time to the ED for filing its reasons for cancellation of bail to Singh and his wife.

A special court in December granted 'absolute' bail to Singh.

Singh, who was then the chairman of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party, was granted the interim bail by the court on November 23 after his arrest in Jammu on November 7. His bail was confirmed on December 23.

"...since petitioner has complied with the conditions of the bail, so no further proceedings are required in the present application. Therefore, interim bail granted to the petitioner is made absolute, of course all conditions drawn shall remain alive pending proceedings, if any, by way of complaint by the ED," Principal Sessions Judge (special court designated under PMLA), Jammu, Sanjay Parihar, had said in a three-page order.

## Police seizes drug...

peddling large quantities of narcotics, and two for attempt to murder and possession of weapons. Police's actions not only aim to apprehend drug peddlers but also to seize the ill-gotten gains, thus deterring illegal narcotics trade in the region. "Samba Police reiterates its commitment to combat the drug menace and urges citizens to assist in this endeavour by providing any relevant information to law enforcement authorities, said SSP Vinay Sharma.

## NIA attaches six immovable...

currently undergoing trial. NIA investigations have exposed a conspiracy by the accused to transport the infiltrated terrorists to the Kashmir Valley and provide them safe shelter in preparation for attacks on the security forces/apparatus as part of the terror conspiracy against India, the statement from the probe agency said.

Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) was formed by Maulana Masood Azhar in 2000 and is headquartered at Bahawalpur in Pakistan, the NIA said.

Since its foundation, JeM has carried out several terrorist attacks in India, including in Jammu and Kashmir. JeM was listed as a "Designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation" by the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSC) 1267, and Maulana Masood Azhar was designated a "Global Terrorist" by the UNSC in 2019.

## ‘SUVIDHA’ app embodies...

ensuring that all necessary permissions are acquired in a timely manner, thereby enabling seamless campaign activities.

The different permissions available on Suvidha platform included

"Meetings: Candidates and political parties can request permissions for holding meetings with constituents, allowing them to engage with voters directly and discuss their vision and policies, Rallies: Permission for organizing rallies, a crucial aspect of election campaigns for reaching out to a wider audience and garnering support, can be easily sought through the Suvidha, Vehicles: The app facilitates the application process for permissions related to the use of vehicles during campaign activities, ensuring compliance with regulations governing vehicular movement, Temporary Election Office: Candidates and political parties can apply for permissions to set up temporary election offices, providing them with a designated space to coordinate campaign efforts and interact with supporters, Loudspeakers: Permissions for the use of loudspeakers during campaign events can be obtained through the Suvidha, allowing candidates to amplify their message effectively while adhering to noise pollution regulations and Helicopters and Helipads: For candidates seeking to use aerial transportation for broader outreach, the Suvidha facilitates the application process for permissions pertaining to helicopters and helipads, ensuring safe and compliant operations".

The App embodies the commitment to foster transparency, efficiency, and fairness in the electoral process. By digitizing and streamlining the permissions process, the aim is to empower candidates and political parties, while also facilitating smoother interactions between stakeholders and election authorities. This app has provided a uniform platform for all the candidates where permissions are given on first come first serve basis and equal opportunity is given to all the contesting candidates.

Further, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Pandurang K. Pole, has urged upon the candidates and political parties participating in the 2024 elections to utilize these services. For further information, the candidates and political parties can visit the portal at <https://suvidha.eci.gov.in>.

Meanwhile, CEO, Pandurang K Pole, chaired a meeting to oversee the readiness for smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Election-2024 in Srinagar district.

The CEO stressed on ensuring highest voter turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC).

He called for ramping up SVEEP activities in public places and at schools of the district to educate public about the significance and essence of casting their ballot.

He laid stress on sending across message among women through Pink Polling Stations regarding the fact that they can efficiently manage any job.

He emphasized on enhancing awareness among the masses with respect to special polling stations viz. Pink, PwD, Green and Urban, and directed the concerned to give wide publicity regarding facilities being provided at these polling stations for encouragement of the general public to vote and register larger voter turnout in the district.

The CEO also directed for effective conduct of Election Commission of India's path-breaking home voting facility for citizens who are 85+ and Person with Disabilities (PwD) to send clear message to citizens about the decisive step towards facilitating a more equitable and representative democracy, where every citizen's voice matters, regardless of physical limitations or age. P. K Pole directed for wide publicity of all election related activities including SVEEP awareness activities for encouragement of the general public to vote and register highest voter turnout in the district. He underscored unwavering dedication towards fostering inclusivity and sustainability in the electoral process. The CEO also reviewed the status of complaints received on C-Vigil App, MCC violations, MCMC, Single Window System, Shadow register of Candidates, Assured Minimum Facilities and Distribution and Collection Centres. Among others, the meeting was attended by AROs, Nodal Officers, Deputy District Election Officer, AEROS and others concerned.

## Poonch IAF convoy...

in the killing of an IAF corporal and injuries to four others on Saturday. Armed with surveillance equipment, including drones and sniffer dogs, the search operation is underway in Shahsitar, Gursai, Sanai, Lasana, and Sheendara top in the Surankote belt and adjoining areas in Poonch district, the officials said.

The security forces are seeking identification of the terrorists, whose three to four pictures -- probably retrieved from the CCTV footage in the area -- are public now, the officials said.

Posters offering a cash reward of Rs 20 lakh for any information leading to the arrest of the two individuals, believed to be the prime suspects, have also been put up in Surankote, they said.

According to the officials, 26 persons have been detained for questioning and the authorities are reviewing some CCTV footage for leads.

The search operation by the security forces, launched on Tuesday, is also underway in Sada and Kandali areas of Rajouri district, they said.

## Six PWD officials...

the lowest rates for the allotment of contract but on ground all clauses of the tender were violated and work has not been executed thereby caused loss to government exchequer," an official of the ACB said.

It was revealed during investigation that Choudhary quoted abnormally low rates such as Rs 4.30 per square meter for Bituminous Macadam against the advertised rate of Rs 430 per sqm and Rs 0.50 per kg for reinforcement of RCC work against Rs 60 per kilogram in order to get contract. The contractor did not execute these low-rate items, especially Bituminous Macadam, he added.

The official said that despite this, the officers released the performance security and additional security deposit kept for the unbalanced bid, which was supposed to be released after the successful completion of the work.

The executive engineer and the assistant executive engineer recommended post facto sanction for an additional cost of Rs 86,88,925 against the original allotment, and the chief engineer issued the post facto allotment and approval for the already executed excess work, violating codal formalities, the official said.

The investigation found discrepancies in rates, excess quantity and other violations of allotment and agreement. The officers, by abusing their official positions and colluding with the contractor, conferred undue pecuniary benefits upon him for their ulterior motives.

## Cong ‘Shehzada’ should...

first'. The BRS and Congress openly criticise each other on corruption, but it is a common factor between these parties, he charged.

Taking a veiled swipe at Rahul Gandhi and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, he said there is a lot of discussion up to Delhi on the "double R (RR)" tax in the state.

## Suspension is not...

the Directorate of Sheep Husbandry, Kashmir with additional charge of the post of Joint Director (Farms), Kashmir as was being performed by the him before passing of the impugned order of suspension bearing Government Order No. 195-JK (APD) of 2024 dated April 18, 2024.

CAT after hearing both the sides observed that in normal circumstances, suspension orders are not interfered by Courts except when the same has been passed by an incompetent authority or it is in violation of relevant rules. In the instant case, the applicant was placed under suspension vide order dated April 18, 2024. Even, charge sheet has been issued vide memorandum dated April 29, 2024.

A perusal of the file as well as charge sheet shows that serious allegations of causing loss to exchequer has been levelled against the applicant. It is not the case of the applicant that the suspension order has been passed by an incompetent authority or it has been passed in violation of statute. The main argument advanced by the applicant is that the impugned suspension order is vindictive in nature in as much as the same has been issued for taking revenge against the applicant as in Contempt Petition No. 40 of 2024 filed by the applicant, this Tribunal vide order dated April 22, 2024 attached the salary of Director General, Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir. In my opinion though the timing of issuance of the impugned suspension order is intriguing, it is not a sufficient ground to stay the same.

Even otherwise, interfering with the suspension order, when charge sheet has also been issued, would mean preventing the respondents from discharging their obligation to proceed in accordance with law. Suspension is not a punishment as it is neither punitive nor stigmatic. It is generally done for fair inquiry, CAT ordered.

Accordingly, in view of the discussions made above, CAT Member observed that I am not inclined to grant any interim stay against the impugned suspension order dated April 18, 2024. Accordingly, the prayer for interim relief is rejected.

## ECI establishes 4 special polling booths for Kashmiri Migrants in Delhi

Voters to get to and fro free transport facility up to booths

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: To facilitate Kashmiri Migrants, residing in Delhi, to cast their votes in person on the polling days during Lok Sabha elections for the seats across Jammu and Kashmir, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established special polling booths for the community at different locations in the capital.

These booths have been established at Kashmir Resident Commission, 5 PR Road New Delhi, Kashmir Kissan Ghar BR-2 Shalimar Bagh Delhi, Arvachin International Public School Pocket F Dilshad Garden, Delhi and GGSSS Paprawat Najafgarh, Delhi.

"The Election Commission of India, in a first, has instructed for providing free of cost to and fro transportation facility for the Kashmiri Migrants eligible to cast their ballot in these special booths", reads a communication

received here on Wednesday by the office of AERO/ARO, Migrants, New Delhi. The transport service will be provided to KMs from the camps to their respective polling stations and back to camps.

With an aim to extend requisite support and help to the Kashmiri migrant voters, the office of AERO/ARO, Migrants, New Delhi, is efficiently functioning during the working hours at Pota Cabin 01 at JK House 5-Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi. The office has also established a help desk which has supported numerous stakeholders to file offline/online Form-M, Form 12-C and other requisite documents.

Besides, a series of camps and meetings have been organized to raise mass awareness at various places to increase the percentage of Kashmiri migrant voters in the capital. The BLOs are also visiting door to door for

educating and helping the migrant voters. These camps, organized at various locations in Delhi and NCR, received tremendous response resulting in notable increase in enrolment of voters through Form-M and Form 12-C, so far, as compared to last parliamentary Lok Sabha Election.

As per the data given by the AERO/ARO office, about 169 voters have been registered besides receiving 65 Form M and 4 Form 12 C for the Baramulla PC, 480 voters have been registered besides receiving 183 Form-M and 8 Form 12-C for the Srinagar PC while 95 voters have been registered besides receiving 40 Form M for the Anantnag PC, till date.

The Kashmiri migrants are evincing keen interest to participate in the upcoming elections and it is expected that there shall be a high voter turnout during these Lok Sabha election.

## CS reviews progress on vision document for accelerating employment through entrepreneurship

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday inaugurated a day long workshop on 'Yuva Udhyaani Vikas Abhiyaan (YUVA)' aiming at accelerating employment of youth through entrepreneurship in convergence with several other schemes already under implementation here in the Union Territory.

The workshop was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Forests, Principal Secretary, Finance, Secretary, L&E, Secretary, Planning, DG, Planning, Director, IIM Jammu, representatives from Banks, Bill Foundation besides other concerned officers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dulloo remarked that the vision document to be prepared would act as a bedrock of the initiatives to be taken in making useful interventions for providing gainful employment opportunities to our youth through entrepreneurship. He exhorted upon all the stakeholders to collaborate for preparation of version 1.0 of this document on the available data and their analysis. He maintained that once the document is ready, it would be easy to upgrade it with evolving situations and future challenges.

The Chief Secretary asked for identifying the gaps in successful implementation of different employment generation schemes here. He also called for taking in consideration the unique opportunities and strengths available here in the UT.

ACS, Forests, Dheeraj Gupta, stressed on studying the design and architecture of different ongoing schemes so that the necessary tweaking is done to increase their traction among youth. He asked for giving clear recom-



CS Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

mendations and actionable points for each initiative referred in the document.

Other stakeholders also gave their insights about making this document more effective and relevant. They also deliberated upon different policy matters mentioned in the first draft of this document depicted during this workshop.

The document as explained by Secretary, Labour & Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, has been prepared with the aim to provide conducive ecosystem for promoting business entrepreneurship across different sectors in J&K. He said that the document would be quite inclusive with identification of key sectors, skilling needs, resource gaps and future action plan for ushering in feasible climate for entrepreneurship for our youth.

The factors limiting the culture of entrepreneurship here were also deliberated upon alongwith the current skilling and education profile of youth here. The critical analysis of gaps and resource mobilization from different quarters was also made the point of discussion among the participants.

It was informed that over the years the service sector has emerged as a largest sector ahead of Industry and Agriculture here. It was further detailed in the document

that overall the MSMEs are major focus areas as the employment potential identified here is more than that of in large enterprises. The document also enlisted current industrial set up and categories of units established in different districts, their annual turnover and employment generation by each of them here in J&K.

The other features of this vision document as explained included SWOT analysis of all the incumbent policies in Agriculture, IT, Tourism and Industry. It also envisions potential areas of investment here along with their allied sectors of entrepreneurship. Besides, the identified areas and emerging sectors discussed included Tourism, Healthcare, Agriculture & Food Processing, Textiles, Film Tourism, Skill Development, Handloom & Handicrafts, Information Technology along with others mentioned in the vision document.

Regarding the architecture of YUVA, it was appraised that besides having Nodal Department at the apex level it would be having a PMU for monitoring the overall functioning and achieving the outcomes at district, block down to panchayat level for counseling, guidance, capacity building and grievance redressal of aspiring candidates.

## NDMA expert team begins survey of Land Subsidence affected area in Ramban



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: A team of experts from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), deputed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has started a comprehensive on site survey of Land Subsidence affected area Pernote in Ramban District. Led by Chief Scientist Prof. D.P. Kanungo from CBRI, the technical expert committee,

comprising Dipali Jindal and Ranu Chauhan from NDMA, Vivek Coelho from UNDP and Dr. Ravinder Singh from NIDM commenced its assessment from May 7, 2024. The team is conducting a thorough examination of the reasons behind the land subsidence and the future threats in the area. Chief Scientist Prof. D.P. Kanungo highlighted that the committee would submit a comprehensive report to the

ministry suggesting measures for the sustainable development of the area.

The team will propose precautions to prevent future losses caused by mudflow slides. Additionally, the team is evaluating the feasibility of habitation and agricultural activities in the future. The experts advised against entering the affected area for agricultural or habitation purposes until it is declared safe and stabilized.