

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Shailendra gets Addl...

of the post of Administrative Secretary, Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens), shall hold the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Finance Department, in addition of his own duties, during the leave period of Santosh Dattatraya Vaidya, IAS (AGMUT: 1998)," reads an order issued by M. Raju, Commissioner/ Secretary, General Administration Department.

Gillani posted as...

the additional charge of Commandant General, Home Guards, Civil Defence and SDRF, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Special DG Coordination PHQ. He shall continue to hold the additional charge of MD, J&K Police Housing Corporation. "Alok Kumar, IPS (1997), Director, J&K Fire and Emergency Services, shall hold the charge of Commandant General, Home Guards, Civil Defence and SDRF, J&K, in addition to his own duties," reads the order.

CM unveils key...

be equipped to lead the future," the CM said. At Wahidpora, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Central Veterinary Hospital. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 437.82 lakh, involves the construction of a two-storey structure to enhance veterinary infrastructure in the district.

"A significant step toward strengthening rural infrastructure and supporting our farmers and livestock owners. Ensuring quality animal healthcare is vital for a thriving agrarian economy," the CM said.

Later, the Chief Minister visited Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple where he took stock of the facilities available for devotees for the forthcoming Mela Kheer Bhawani. He also interacted with the temple management and devotees, who brought several issues to his notice.

"Ensuring a smooth, safe, and welcoming environment for devotees remains our top priority," he said.

The Chief Minister assured them that all the issues flagged would be resolved on priority to smoothen the upcoming Mata Kheer Bhawani festival.

Also, the Chief Minister distributed scooties among specially-abled individuals in Ganderbal, empowering them to go about their routine smoothly.

"My government is committed to create an inclusive society where everyone can thrive," he remarked.

The Chief Minister, later in the day, held a public darbar where he met dozens of deputations and scores of individuals who flagged their demands, issues and grievances before him.

People from all corners and far-flung areas of the district came to the darbar and raised the issues of their respective areas. People from areas like Waskura, Manigam, Lar, Manasbal, Safapora, Kangan, Gund, Fatehpora, Dagpora, Wayil, Sherpathri, Shallabugh, Bechama, Nunner, and many other localities participated.

They raised issues such as potable water supply, establishment of a district library, model schools, upgradation of health centres and educational institutions, new industrial estates, road connectivity, municipal and sanitation concerns, old age and disability pensions, playing fields, construction of bridges and culverts, desilting of irrigation canals, and development of new irrigation canals for agricultural fields.

The Chief Minister listened patiently to all the grievances and assured that all genuine issues would be resolved on priority.

"The interaction with you helps us to reach out to you in a better way, and the trust you have in me, I deeply value. Grateful for the opportunity to serve and strengthen our collective progress," CM Omar told the visiting delegations.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Cabinet colleagues-Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health & Medical Education Departments Sakeena Itoo, Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmad Rana, Minister for Agriculture Javed Ahmad Dar and Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani.

Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantmanu, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department Sanjeev Verma, Director Social Welfare Kashmir Mohammad Akbar Wani, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Poswal, Chief Engineer Public Works (R&B) Department Kashmir Sajjad Nageeb and other concerned officers also accompanied the Chief Minister during his visit.

ACB books former...

of Govt. order No. 254/C in violation of the aforesaid cabinet order, wherein it is clearly mentioned the allottee shall have to cultivate the land personally, within a period of six months from the date of the allotment, failing which he will forfeit his right to hold the land and it shall be allotted to some other displaced person, the spokesman said.

The spokesman added, as per the Register Khasra Girdawari the land in question remained continuously entered in the name of one Nazir Ahmad, son of Alam Deen as Gair Muuroosi.

Moreover, as per the revenue record, allotted land in question was neither in possession of allottee Tara Singh nor entry of Girdawari has been found in the revenue record in the name of aforesaid allottee, whereas, Power of Attorney pertaining to the land in question in favour of Javid Iqbal has been executed well before the conferment of ownership rights in favour of Tara Singh, spokesman added.

In this way, the then Tehsildar Settlement Jammu, along with the then Revenue Officers/Officials of Tehsil Bahul, Jammu, beneficiary Tara Singh, Nazir Ahmad, and attorney holder Javed Iqbal, conspired together in a well-orchestrated manner to illegally obtain state land.

They subsequently sold the land-worth crores-causing significant loss to the state exchequer, spokesman said adding that further investigation is going on.

Pakistan army suffered...

strategically justified. A significant dimension of the recent escalation was the use of drone swarms by the adversary-an emerging modern warfare tactic.

Brigadier Mahajan lauded the Army Air Defence units, calling them the "shining shield" of the operation.

"As the enemy unleashed a new threat of drone swarms, it was the Army Air Defence that truly emerged as the shining shield-demonstrating exceptional skill, resilience, and cutting-edge coordination to intercept every aerial menace," he said, and praised their unwavering commitment in safeguarding troops and territory with vigilance and valor.

Referring to the impact on the Pakistan Army, Brigadier Mahajan said the losses suffered were far more than numerical.

"Pak Army losses were not just in numbers but in morale and initiative. Today they have lost their credibility before their own nation," he said.

He said the intelligence reports indicate heavy casualties-both fatal and non-fatal-on the enemy side, and these figures are "still adding up with each passing day" as verification processes are underway.

When asked about the current status of the operation, Brigadier Mahajan was candid: "Op Sindoor is not over; it only remains suspended for the time being."

He reiterated the Army's readiness to respond to any future provocation with unwavering resolve. "The Indian Army remains alert, ready-and if challenged again, we will respond yet again not with words but with fire and the resolve of the nation," he concluded.

Properties of 4...

under section 88 of CrPC on an order of the Court of Additional Sessions Judge, Pulwama (Special Designated Court under NIA Act).

Mir, also a proclaimed offender, is said to be involved in promoting and trying to revive terrorist activities by pushing in arms and ammunition and activating local terror networks, the spokesperson said.

Tiranga Yatra in...

that "Terror and talks cannot go hand in hand," and the facade of "Terror and Trade" will no longer be tolerated. Every drop of Indian blood spilt will lead to water being blocked, he declared.

"Operation Sindoor may be on pause, but it is far from over. Any future engagement with Pakistan will now be limited to the return of Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir or the complete dismantling of Pak Sponsored terrorism", he added.

Chugh emphasized that Operation Sindoor is not just a military manoeuvre - it is India's unwavering commitment to justice and national honour. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has boldly entered Pakistani territory to dismantle terror factories operated by Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen, he added.

Chugh also strongly condemned Pakistan's attempted drone and missile attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar. He said that it was not merely a military provocation, but a direct assault on Punjab's faith, culture, and spiritual heritage. Such evil designs, he said, will be crushed with full force and any such provocation will be met with fitting retaliation.

The Yatra witnessed enthusiastic participation from Army veterans, prominent personalities of Amritsar, hundreds of school students, and residents of the city. The

rally commenced from Lahori Gate and passed through Beri Gate Inner Circle, Katra Bhai Sant Singh, Bazaar Khilona, Tunda Talab Chowk, Bazaar Tokrian, Katra Sufaid, and concluded back at Lahori Gate.

The key attraction was a little girl dressed as Bharat Mata, standing atop a chariot, as the crowd echoed with chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", "We are with Forces", and "Nation with Operation Sindoor". Students carried a 100-feet-long tricolour along with posters of Operation Sindoor, the Prime Minister's image, and Indian soldiers. The Yatra was organised by the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Welfare Club, whose members wore symbolic yellow turbans in tribute to the legendary freedom fighter Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh.

Mizoram declared India's...

X. "Let us now aim higher: digital literacy, financial literacy, and entrepreneurial skill for all Mizos," he added.

Chandhary congratulated the state government and the people for the achievement.

"Today, we proudly declared Mizoram as the first fully literate state under the visionary Ullas - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. Congratulations to the people of Mizoram and Hon'ble CM @PuLalduhoma for this achievement," he posted on X.

"Special thanks to Hon'ble Education Minister Dr. Vanlalhlana for championing this cause. The Chief Minister was gracious in commending the work of previous State Governments as well in the remarkable journey of progress Mizoram has undertaken. May the Northeast continue to lead the way in building a Shikshit, Kushal, and Atmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

As per the 2011 Census, the state had a literacy rate of 91.33 per cent, ranking third in the country.

Building on this foundation, the ULLAS -- Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society -- and Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram were implemented to identify and educate the remaining non-literate individuals, officials said.

Based on projections from the 2011 census data, surveys were conducted, and 3,026 illiterates were identified. Out of them, 1,692 were found to be potential learners.

A total of 292 volunteer teachers, among whom were students, educators, resource persons, and Cluster Resource Centre Coordinators, stepped forward to lead this mission, officials said.

The collective efforts, dedication, and community mobilisation have resulted in Mizoram achieving full literacy, they said.

Chief Justice visits...

with the members of the District Judiciary, appreciating their efforts in maintaining the rule of law and ensuring the timely dispensation of justice.

During the visit, the Chief Justice reviewed the infrastructure and administrative functioning of the courts. He emphasized the importance of creating a litigant-friendly environment, the use of technology in judicial proceedings, and the need for expeditious disposal of cases.

Addressing the judicial officers, the Chief Justice underlined the pivotal role of the district judiciary as the first interface between the judiciary and the public. He reiterated the importance of integrity, sensitivity, and efficiency in upholding public faith in the judiciary.

As part of the visit, Chief Justice also participated in a plantation drive held within the court complex, symbolizing a commitment to environmental sustainability and green judicial infrastructure.

A sapling each was planted by Chief Justice and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Administrative Judge for District Srinagar, in the premises of the District Court Complex, with several judicial officers and staff present to mark the occasion.

The visit concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, who expressed gratitude for the Chief Justice's guidance and encouragement.

Indian forces acted...

rigorous training, operate under intense pressure, and must take swift, critical decisions during emergencies. This similarity was seen during Operation Sindoor, just as the commitment of doctors was witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

Referring to Pakistan's response, Singh remarked, "As is its habit, Pakistan did not accept defeat easily and attempted retaliatory attacks on Indian soil. They targeted civilians and even places of worship - temples, gurdwaras, and churches. But our forces gave a fitting reply."

He emphasised that during India's counter-strikes, utmost care was taken to ensure only terrorist hideouts were hit, and no harm came to civilian areas.

"Our soldiers made sure that while punishing the perpetrators, innocent lives were not affected," he said.

Singh also acknowledged the people of his constituency, Lucknow, saying, "When I accepted the invitation for this event last month, I wasn't sure I could attend due to the developing situation. But with Operation Sindoor concluded successfully, I am here to express my gratitude and admiration - both for our armed forces and for the spirit of the people."

He added, "You (Doctors) treat patients, but we in the defence ministry, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, treat the disease of terrorism beyond our borders. And the success of Operation Sindoor is proof of that resolve."

Waqf case hearing...

them away. He said the law as a "complete departure from historical legal and constitutional principles".

Sibal said the law provides for "creeping acquisition" of waqf properties and undermines concept of waqf, a permanent endowment for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law.

Referring to Section 3C of the Act, he said it allows a designated officer to initiate an inquiry into whether a property is government land.

And strangely, during the pendency of such inquiry, the property is not to be treated as waqf and it effectively allows the authorities to take control without judicial review, Sibal added.

He also referred to Sections 9 and 14 and said they alter the composition of central and state waqf boards and allow a majority of non-Muslims to be part of it.

"This is an attempt to dilute community control," he said, "that Section 23 permits the appointment of a non-Muslim as CEO of waqf boards."

He also dealt with the validity of Section 3D of the law and said it provides that any waqf property declared as an ancient monument under preservation laws will cease to be waqf.

He asked how the authorities could demand documentary evidence or deeds for waqfs created centuries ago as prior to 1954, and particularly after 1923, registration may have been mandated but the lack of it did not negate the nature of the waqf.

"Are citizens stopped from practising their religion due to declaration under ancient monuments laws?" the bench asked, referring to his recent visit to a religious place and said there Hindus were not barred from offering prayers.

The 2025 Act differs from older legislation like the Ancient Monuments Preservation Acts of 1904 and 1958 which preserved the right of religious practice, Sibal said.

He illustrated it with Delhi Jama Masjid, which can be used as a waqf though notified as a protected area.

However, the 2025 Amendment (Section 3D) invalidates waqf declarations of protected monuments, he said, as the law infringes Article 14 (right to equality) 25 and 26 (rights to practice and propagate religion) of the Constitution.

Irreparable injury would be done if the amended provisions were allowed to be implemented, especially provisions that allow waqf properties to be taken over pending inquiries without judicial adjudication, he added.

He said registration under previous waqf acts was mandatory but non-registration did not alter the religious nature of the property which was not the case under the amended law.

Waqf by user did not historically require registration, he said, but under the new law the mutawalli (custodian) can be jailed for six months if he is unable to answer satisfactorily about the properties.

"The moment they are declared protected monuments, they lose their waqf status," he said.

He also flagged the dilution of Muslim representation on the Central Waqf Council, asserting the amended law now permits a majority of non-Muslim members -- a stark departure from previous norms.

"Earlier, the board members were elected and they were fully Muslims. Now they are all nominated. There will be 11 members, and 7 can be non-Muslims. This is violative of Articles 25 and 26. Management has to be done by the community," Sibal said.

The bench perused the provision and said the law restricts non-Muslim appointments to two.

"Even two is too many," Sibal said.

Comparing it with religious endowment boards for Hindus and Sikhs, Sibal said even the ex-officio and board members were invariably from the same faith in those contexts, and the waqf boards should be no different.

"This is not secularism. Waqf creation is a religious act," he said.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing another petitioner, said the statute was an "attack on secularism and cultural autonomy".

He said the doctrine of proportionality was not followed by the Centre in making amendments in the law as there was no nexus between the problem sought to be solved and "these extreme solutions".

Singhvi, on the other hand, questioned the provision which says a person practising Islam for last five years can only create a waqf.

Calling it "arbitrary and endless", Singhvi said no other religion was subject to such a burden.

He raised concerns about Section 3(C), saying once a property was declared non waqf, access to legal remedy was practically shut off, locking beneficiaries in a "vicious cycle".

Answering the Centre's submission that a law, passed by Parliament cannot be stayed ordinarily, Singhvi said farm laws were stayed by the apex court.

On the Centre's argument of a "1600% increase" in waqf properties after the 2013 amendment, Singhvi said the rise was due to digitisation and listing processes, not new acquisitions.

Special Crime Wing...

pretext of arranging a work permit abroad for the complainant's son.

Despite repeated follow-ups and requests for a refund, the accused failed to either fulfill his promise or return the amount, Parihar said adding that following lodgment of the complaint, a Preliminary Verification (PV) was initiated.

"During the verification process, witness statements and documentary evidences established that the accused had willfully deceived the complainant, making false assurances and gaining the victim's trust with the intent to cheat," Parihar said.

"To further mislead the complainant, the accused issued five post-dated cheques, totaling Rs 11.50 lakhs. However, all the cheques were dishonoured by the bank due to insufficient funds, thereby causing significant financial loss to the complainant and wrongful gain to the accused" he added.

The accused actions were found to constitute a cognizable offence under Section 420 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), which pertains to cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property.

Accordingly, FIR No. 17/2023 was registered at Police Station, Special Crime Wing, Jammu, followed by a detailed investigation.

The investigation was conducted in a thorough and professional manner by Inspector Tariq Hussain, under the close supervision of Sanjay Parihar, SSP Crime Branch (SCW) Jammu. Based on the findings, the charge under Section 420 RPC was fully substantiated, and the accused was produced before the Court of Sub-Judge, Jammu.

The Crime Branch reiterates its commitment to protecting the interests of citizens and urges the general public to exercise caution and due diligence before investing large sums of money, especially in schemes promising overseas employment or similar opportunities. Verification of the legitimacy of individuals or agencies offering such services is strongly advised.

Tamboli Fakirbhai appointed...

proposal for appointment of Tamboli Ayyaj Fakirbhai, IAS (CG:2009), presently working as Director, Cabinet Secretariat, as Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, for an overall tenure of 5 years upto March 20, 2029, or until further orders, whichever is earlier vice M.S. Srikar, IAS (KN:1999)," read an order issued by Sakshi Mittal, Director, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievanees and Pensions Department of Personnel and Training.

Voices Awakened: Shrine Board & donor support gift hearing to two children at SMVDNSH

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: In a moving expression of compassion and collaboration, two more children born with severe hearing impairment have received cochlear implants at Shri



Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Kakryal. These transformative surgeries were made possible through the support of Deepali Chawla from Dubai, whose sponsorship - facilitated by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board - opened a world of sound for two young lives.

This initiative adds to the growing impact of the Shrine Board's commitment to inclusive healthcare. The children, both under the age of five, underwent the advanced procedures under the expertise of Dr. Rohan Gupta, ENT & Cochlear Implant Surgeon at SMVDNSH - the only centre in the Jammu region equipped for such intricate surgeries.

Anshul Garg (IAS), Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, said, "Our efforts are rooted in the belief that healthcare is not a privilege - it is a fundamental right. Through the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi and the generosity of individuals like Deepali Chawla, we're reaching children who otherwise may have lived in silence. These are not just surgeries; they are the beginning of a new chapter for these families."

The children will now begin post-operative auditory training and speech therapy, setting them on a path toward mainstream education and social interaction - a path that would have been out of reach without timely support.

Dr. M. M. Mathavan, Facility Director, SMVDNSH, added, "What we've witnessed today is the power of purpose. When community, faith, and clinical expertise align, remarkable change happens. These children will soon speak their first words - and that's a moment we all look forward to."

Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVDIME, noted, "This model - where a spiritual institution partners with modern healthcare and kind-hearted donors - is not only powerful but deeply human. Together, we are restoring possibilities and giving these children a place in the world of sound and speech."

Today's surgeries are part of the Shrine Board's larger mission to serve the underserved across the region - ensuring that financial barriers do not block access to specialized medical interventions.

Netherlands backs India's fight against cross border terrorism: Dutch PM

■ AGENCY

THE HAGUE: Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof on Tuesday backed India's fight against cross border terrorism as he held talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on boosting bilateral ties in areas of trade, technology and security.

After a meeting with Jaishankar, Schoof said he was looking forward to welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Netherlands soon.

Modi was to travel to Croatia, Norway and the Netherlands from May 13 to 17, but the trip was called off following the heightened tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack.

During the talks, Jaishankar thanked Prime Minister Schoof for the Netherlands' "firm and resolute" stance against terrorism.

On his meeting with the external affairs minister, Schoof said: "First of all, I expressed my support for India's fight against terrorism in the wake of the horrific attack last month in Pahalgam."

"It is good for all parties that the violence between India and Pakistan has not escalated further," he said in a social media post.

The Dutch prime minister said it is important for both the Netherlands and India to count on each other in a "changing world".

"We also spoke about our Strategic Partnership. This concerns long-term cooperation between the Netherlands and India in areas including trade, innovative technology, agriculture and security," he said.

"I look forward to welcoming Prime Minister Modi to our country soon to discuss this further," he added.

Jaishankar arrived here on Monday in the first leg of a three-nation tour. He is also travelling to Denmark and Germany.

In New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said both sides expressed satisfaction at the growing strategic convergences in the India-Netherlands relationship, and agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties.

It said Jaishankar held a meeting with Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp during which both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation, and regional and global matters of mutual interest.