

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Rahul misleading nation...

issue, I am ready to make a statement whenever you permit," Singh said. Gandhi said the defence minister had told the House that the family of an Agniveer martyr was paid compensation of Rs 1 crore but it was only insurance payment and not compensation.

### Cong obstructed reservation...

members. BJP IT department head Amit Malviya alleged the Congress has been 'anti-SC/ST and OBC' since Independence. "So, Balak Buddhi Rahul Gandhi should know that Congress' history is replete with instances of obstructing reservation for SC/ST and OBCs," he said, adding "It (Congress) is an anti-Hindu party."

Malviya claimed Jawaharlal Nehru had written to then chief ministers, "explicitly opposing" reservations for the SCs and STs.

"Not just this, it was the Congress which kept (the) Kelkar Committee recommendation (for Backward Commission) made in 1957 in cold storage until PM Modi gave constitutional status to the OBC Commission in 2018, that too despite Congress' opposition," he added.

The BJP leader said the Congress did not even implement the Mandal Commission recommendations made in 1983.

"Finally, it was a BJP-supported government that implemented it in 1990. Rajiv Gandhi vehemently opposed the OBC quota in 1990," he added.

Between 2004 and 2010, the Congress under Sonia Gandhi tried to "defraud" the OBCs in Andhra Pradesh by giving away a chunk of their quota to Muslims, Malviya charged.

"They even tried to include Muslims under the central OBC quota in 2011, which would have reduced the OBC share in central institutions and jobs," he said.

"More recently, in Karnataka, the Congress has included the entire Muslim community in the OBC list," he said.

Using the 'chakravayuh' metaphor as a leitmotif, Rahul Gandhi on Monday claimed that an atmosphere of fear prevails all around with a group of six trapping the entire country in a 'chakravayuh' he promised would be broken by the INDIA bloc.

Participating in the debate in the Lok Sabha on Budget 2024-25, Gandhi also said the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will ensure that a legal guarantee for MSP as well as a caste census is passed by the House.

BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla took to X to slam Rahul Gandhi and said, "If hypocrisy had a face! Today, Rahul Gandhi says help MSME, not big business. (He) said during Covid: Help big businesses, not MSMEs."

"Rahul Gandhi said 'Chakravayuh' is called 'Padmavyuh' which means Kamal (lotus) formation," he said.

In a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, Poonawalla wondered whether the Rae Bareilly MP is aware of the meaning of his father's name Rajiv -- "Blue Lotus".

### Modi to address...

community and think tanks, among others, will attend the conference in person while many others will connect virtually from various CII centres around the country and overseas.

### Over 4.65 lakh...

at the cave shrine. Over 1,100 security forces and 106 children also performed the pilgrimage.

As per the officials, there have been two deaths -- a sevadar from Haryana and a pilgrim from Jharkhand -- in this year's yatra. Both the deceased suffered cardiac arrest along the Baltal route in June.

Meanwhile, more than 1,800 pilgrims left a base camp in Jammu for the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas amid tight security arrangements this morning , officials said.

The 32th batch of 1,832 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp at 3.22 am in a convoy of 62 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the officials said.

The group included 1,358 men, 363 women, two children, and 109 sadhus and sadhvis, they said.

While 1,263 pilgrims will reach Pahalgam to undertake the annual pilgrimage through the traditional 48-km route in Anantnag district, 569 have opted for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Since June 28, when Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of pilgrims from Jammu, a total of 1,38,816 pilgrims have embarked on the annual pilgrimage from the base camp from Jammu.

The 52-day yatra, which commenced formally on June 29 from the Baltal and Pahalgam base camps in Kashmir, is scheduled to conclude on August 19.

### Four killed in...

Nazir Ahmad Nadroo (40), Aazim Ashraf Mir (20), Aadil Rashid Bhat (23) and Mohammad Azhar (25). All the victims were residents of Sher Colony.

The exact nature and cause of the explosion was not immediately known. A team of forensic experts has been rushed to the site, the officials added.

### Education ministry notifies...

pottery making, etc, as decided by states and local communities and as mapped by local skilling needs," they added.

The ministry said all students would participate in the 10-day bagless period sometime during classes 6-8 during which they would intern with local vocational experts such as carpenters, gardeners, potters, etc.

"Ten bagless days activities can be accommodated in any number of slots in an annual calendar. But it is advisable to keep two or three slots. While developing an annual work plan, all subject teachers may be involved. If necessary, indoor and outdoor activities may be clubbed in a day," the guidelines stated.

Visit and survey of vegetable markets; charity visits; survey and report writing on pet care; doodling, kite making and flying; organising a book fair; sitting under a banyan tree; and visiting a biogas plant and solar energy park are among the recommended activities in the NCERT guidelines.

Among other initiatives launched on the NEP anniversary were dedicated TV channels to facilitate learning of various Indian languages; a Tamil channel; primers for early graders in 25 Indian languages; career guidance guidelines; National Mission for Mentoring and National Professional Standards for Teachers in braille and audiobooks; school innovation marathon by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and a book on graduation attributes and professional competencies.

Four books and lecture notes aimed at promoting Indian knowledge systems among students and teachers were also launched.

"The four-year journey of NEP, 2020, has been about bringing in transformative change in the country's education system for nurturing a new generation of learners. NEP, 2020, stands as a symbol of hope for transforming the learning landscape, harnessing the country's demographic dividend, empowering the population and driving socio-economic development," Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said in a message.

"Implementation of NEP has made learning more vibrant and guided in making the country's education more futuristic, rooted, global and outcome-oriented," he added.

The Akhil Bharatiya Siksha Samagam has been conceptualised as an event to celebrate the adoption of NEP, 2020, to reinvigorate the commitment of various stakeholders for its effective implementation and to realise the collective strength for achievement of shared goals through collaborative efforts.

### Greater Kailash Murder...

finally allowed the conspirators to execute their conspiracy in broad day light. His inaction is currently under scrutiny of administrative enquiry. Further investigation in his role in the instant case is underway.

On April 30, 2024 a written complaint on behalf of Jagir Singh, son of Sardar Singh, resident of Santokh Vihar, Kaluchak, Jammu, received at PS Gangval seeking registration of FIR against following persons: Parshotam Singh, son of Gian Singh, resident of Village Kartholi Tehsil Bari Brahmana Samba; Ravinder Kumar alias Gola Shah and along with his son namely Rajat Jandiyal; Sheikh Mehmood, son of Sheikh Ghulam Mustafa and others that the brother of applicant is in possession of land measuring 33 marlas following under Khewat no 13, Khata no 97 Khasra no 6min. In the jurisdiction of Chowadi (Greater Kailash) with respect to same civil suits are pending before court.

And, at about 4:00 PM, his brother received an information that in presence of police personnel along with the accused persons are trying to dispose my brother from his property.

The applicant along with his brother, Bhabi and nephew namely Avtar Singh reached on the spot and protected their possession.

When the applicant along with the above mentioned person reached upon the spot, The In-charge police Post Greater Kailash was present but as the said PSI Puneet Sharma was hand in glove with land grabbers and the accused persons along with son of Gola Shah came on spot and along his goons attacked upon his brother Balbir

Singh and his son Avtar Singh with intention to kill them in the presence of PSI Puneet Sharma and during this attack they succeeded to inflict grievous injuries to Avtar Singh.

FIR (39/2024) under section 307/323/447/147/IPC was registered at Gangval Police Station and investigation started by PSI Aaqib Lateef.

During the course of investigation, the injured Avtar Singh, son of Balbir Singh, resident of Santokh Vihar Kunjwani Jammu succumbed to his injuries and the dead body of the deceased was taken into police custody.

Thereafter, a SIT was constituted under the supervision of ASP Kartik Shrotriya, SDPO Gandhi Nagar.

### Ensure secure representation...

and Kashmir. They also said that OBC hostel facility should be made available in every district of the UT so that the community does not face problems. The delegations also raised the issue of inclusion of genuine sub castes in the OBC category which have been left out.

The various delegations also raised the issue of alleged delay in issuance of certificates to the people belonging to the community and said that the issue needs to be looked at for the sake of student community belonging to OBC.

Chairperson gave the delegations a patient hearing and said that all their genuine issues will be solved on merit basis and it will be ensured that appropriate steps will be taken so that all the community members belonging to the caste will avail those benefits.

Later the chairperson held a meeting with the officers on the subject of welfare measures undertaken to secure representation of OBCs in employment and admission in various Departments, Boards, Educational Institutions & Medical Institutes in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Hansraj Gangaram queried about enhancement of reservation quota in education and employment opportunities and directed the concerned to take appropriate steps so that benefits percolate to the last man standing in the queue.

He also said that the certificates should be issued to the people without any undue delay and make the process more easy.

Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department Sheetal Nanda gave a detailed presentation of the factual position of the OBCs issues and highlighted the various Initiatives taken by government for welfare of O?? Population.

She said that Advisory Board for welfare and development of OBC population has been set up and various hostels for OBC students have been set up where the Government provides free hostel accommodation.

Sheetal Nanda said that 15 castes have been included in the list of OBC of Union Territory in addition to the existing 27 castes of OBCs. She maintained that the reservation in direct recruitment and admission in various professional institutions increased from 2% to 4% in 2020 & from 4% to 8% in 2024.

She further added that recently, reservation to OBCs has been provided in local bodies in J & K. She said that the change in nomenclature of Weak and Under Privileged Classes (Social Caste) to other backward classes has not only fulfilled the long pending demand of the OBC community but also done away the confusion which existed because of use of two different nomenclatures for same set of communities in J&K and in rest of the country.

Secretary Health also gave a presentation highlighting the broad contours of admission details and recruitment details in various medical institutions and the earmarked reservation quota of OBCs.

Among others who attended the meeting were Secretary NCBC Ashish Upadhyaya; DGP R.R. Swain; Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Alok Kumar; Commissioner, Secretary GAD, Sanjeev Kumar; Secretary Health and Medical Education Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Advisor, NCBC, Rajesh Kumar and various HoDs of J&K Govt.

### JKSSB SI paper...

33 accused, including Yadav, on November 12, 2022. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) case stems from the CBI FIR.

Hearing the bail plea of the accused, Bala Jyoti, Special Judge, Anti-corruption (CBI cases), Jammu, said the the court is of the firm opinion that the application being devoid of any legal force and premature is not maintainable at this stage as the investigation is incomplete and at its infancy, besides many important witnesses are yet to be examined by the ED.

Special Public Prosecutor Ashwani Khajuria representing the ED vehemently opposed the bail plea and said the applicant has indulged in serious offences of money laundering whereby he is the kingpin of the 'gang' indulging in the paper leakage of the government competitive exams against the monetary payments.

"Moreover, in the ongoing investigation under the PMLA, Yadav's monetary, transactions have surfaced relating to smuggling out the paper, arranging the stay of the candidates in 'Karnal', adjustment of the payments received between himself and Anil Kumar (another key accused) and receipt of payments in the bank account of M/s New Global Fumigation Corporation, proprietor Yadav etc are being further investigated," Khajuria said.

"Besides, the investigation under PMLA is separate and independent and therefore, the proceedings before the trial Court in the CBI case has no effect on the PMLA investigation conducted by the respondent," he argued.

"Having heard and after consideration of material on record in its entirety and to the nature of the allegations and gravity of the accusation and also stage of investigation, to my mind investigating agency must be given sufficient time in conducting analysed and effective investigation," the judge said.

"This apprehension of ED finds force upon the submission made by the counsel that the applicant may influence the witnesses and give slip to law hence in light of supra, the present application deserves to be dismissed," she added.

"It is apt to note that the evil of money laundering is a curse and has its diverse effect on the society and its citizens, moreover money laundering is a serious threat not only to financial system of our country but also to global economy at large which is required to be dealt sternly," the court said.

It said therefore, in light of supra, given the grave and serious allegations against the petitioner, apart from ongoing investigation, this court is not inclined to grant privilege of bail to the applicant.

However, the applicant's case can be considered on its own merit without being prejudiced by this order at a later stage if there is a change in circumstances, it added.

### ADGP stresses on...

been reported from six of the 10 districts of the Jammu region -- Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Kathua, Doda and Udhampur.

During the meeting, chaired by Jain, the officials called for deployment of reinforcements for the border, highway and hinterland security grids. They also stressed on formulation of comprehensive security plans.

The officials provided a detailed assessment of the current risks and potential threats in the region, and also discussed a coordinated approach to address security concerns.

Jain underscored the importance of inter-agency cooperation to mitigate threats and concerns, as well as heightened vigil in border areas and the hinterland to prevent infiltration attempts.

He also asked officials to ensure the peaceful conduct of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

Stressing on the need to reinforce the border, highways and the hinterland security grids, he directed the formulation of comprehensive security plans to achieve desired results.

Those present in the meeting included ,DIG Armed/IRP Jammu , DIG Traffic, ACR Jammu, SSP Jammu, Commandant IRP 18th Bn Jammu, SSP Railway Jammu, SSP Security Jammu, SSP Traffic City, Jammu , SSP CID SB Jammu, SSP APCR ,Jammu, SSP CID CI ,Jammu, SP North ,Jammu, SP OPS, S.O TO ADGP /J/Z and Rep of 26 Inf.Div.

### Rains across Kashmir...

(Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, and Shopian) while light-to-moderate downpour occurred in the rest of the valley, including Srinagar city.

The Met department had forecast rainfall and subsequent drop in maximum temperature for the day.

Srinagar city on Sunday recorded the hottest day in July since 1999 as the mercury rose to 36.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund and Kokernag towns in south Kashmir recorded their hottest ever day in July on Sunday.

Qazigund recorded maximum temperature of 35.6 degrees Celsius, surpassing the previous high of 34.5 degrees Celsius recorded on July 11, 1988.

In Kokernag, the mercury rose to 34.1 degrees Celsius against the previous high of 33.3 degrees Celsius recorded on July 3 this year.

The education department announced a two-day holiday on Monday and Tuesday for students up to primary level in view of the heatwave.

## 'Swachhta Pakhwada': Admin gears up for massive cleanliness, plantation drives

## CS for development of exclusive portal to monitor activities, outcomes

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday held a meeting to chalk out an extensive program for celebration of 15-days long 'Swachhta Pakhwada' to be culminated on Independence Day across the UT.

Besides the Administrative Secretaries the meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner,



CS Atal Dulloo chairing meeting at Srinagar.

Kashmir/Jammu; Deputy Commissioners; concerned Heads of Departments (HoDs); Principals of Medical Colleges besides senior officers from the other Department.

Outstation officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing. During this meeting the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the Divisional & District administrations to encourage participation of all in this people-centric two weeks long programme.

He stressed on showing exemplary coordination in conducting of different activities that are part of 'Swachhta Pakhwada'. He directed for creation of exclusive portal for uploading all these activities to be carried out by respective Departments and Deputy Commissioners with tangible outcomes to be assessed at its culmination.

He advised the concerned Divisional administrations to evaluate the action plans of their districts and extend suggestions/assistance to them to make these better or to organise these plans in a more befitting manner. He stressed on eliminating the chances of duplication of activities on part of Departments and DCs.

Dulloo took this occasion to hear from the respective Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners about the calendar of activities they have scheduled for these 15 days right from the 1st of August. He asked each of them to make a dedicated Nodal Officer for each activity planned along with devising the specific strategy to implement it smoothly on ground.

He underscored the need of taking these swachhta and plantation drives to the nook and corner of J&K. He asked for making the 'Ek Ped Shahidon Ke Naam' program a huge success. He called upon the Forest Department to ensure availability of plantation materials in each district for holding these activities comfortably there.

About the activities to be carried out in both urban and rural areas, it was given out by the concerned officers that massive plantation and cleanliness drives would be undertaken by different Departments and in each District.

The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) and Rural Development Department (RDD) are going to be the nodal departments to implement the programs in urban and rural areas respectively besides the Forest Department would provide the plantation material from their nurseries.

The Forest Department, as revealed in the meeting, would be organising as many as 600 events as part of 'Ek Ped Shahidon ke Naam' across the districts here. It would also carry out cleanliness of Forest, Wildlife areas and the public spaces under their possession.

The Deputy Commissioners divulged plethora of activities to be organised in their districts for all these 15 days. They made out that in coordination with concerned Departments they are going to hold plantation drives all across their districts with focus on 'Ek Ped Shahidon Ke Naam' and 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaigns.

They also informed the meeting about the IEC activities for creating awareness among masses about the advantages of personal or community hygiene. It was further revealed that cleanliness drives would be carried out at waste hotspots like bus stands, sports fields, markets etc.

It was added that specific drives would be carried out to ensure cleanliness of educational institutions, government office campuses, religious places, tourist destinations, water bodies or other public properties in consultation with NGOs and civil society members.

Moreover the meeting was apprised that besides carrying sustained IEC activities, Swachhta pledges would be undertaken by the participants at each location of the event. It was given out that debates, discussions, quizzes, painting competitions and sporting activities by students would be held to commemorate this week in our educational institutions.

As part of creating awareness about the hazards of 'single use plastic' the RDD is implementing 'Platie Lao Thela Je Jao' campaign in different districts where people can deposit their plastic waste for proper disposal and take back a biodegradable bag for use at home, as was informed during this meeting.

## Youth's death after being beaten up by police sparks protests in Jammu

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 27-year-old youth died under mysterious circumstances after he was allegedly beaten up by police, sparking protests by his relatives and neighbours here on Monday, official sources said.

Shubam Sharma, a resident of the Bantalab locality on the outskirts of Jammu, was playing cricket near his house when a police party raided the area in search of drug traffickers on Sunday evening, the sources said. Sharma's family alleged he was detained and severely beaten up by the cops before they left the spot. He was rushed to hospital where he died, the family said, adding the body was lying at the hospital's mortuary for postmortem. The protesters blocked the main road at Bantalab on Monday morning, demanding an inquiry into the incident and seeking justice. "He was working as an electrician and was the only earning hand in the family...we want justice," Sharma's younger sister Shivani said. Senior police and civil officers were rushed to the scene to persuade the protesters to disperse, assuring an investigation into the incident.



## NC MP Mehdi raises demand for elections in J&K

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: National Conference MP Ruhullah Mehdi on Monday raised the demand for holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest.

The Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission to conduct elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30. The poll panel is yet to announce a schedule for the elections. Participating in a debate on the Union budget in the Lok Sabha, Mehdi said only a month was left and no process had been started to conduct the elections. "I have not come here to beg for elections ... The Supreme Court had given directions to this government that a democratic government be formed by September ... Just one month is left and no process for the elections has been started yet," the Srinagar MP said. "I request you that for the spirit of democracy, give them directions that the Supreme Court's order is followed and elections are conducted," he added. Last December, the Supreme Court upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and directed the restoration of statehood "at the earliest". Assembly elections should be held by September 30, 2024, it had said.

Announcing the schedule for the Lok Sabha elections in March, the Election Commission had said holding assembly and parliamentary elections simultaneously in Jammu and Kashmir was not practical due to logistical and security reasons. Whenever assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir, it will be the first since the August 2019 abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

## Rusted mortar shell recovered in Poonch

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A rusted mortar shell was found and subsequently defused in a village in Poonch district on Monday, officials said. The mortar shell was noticed lying in a grass field at Draba village in Surankote area, the officials said.

According to the officials, the villagers informed a nearby army camp about spotting the explosive shell, which was subsequently defused by army experts without causing any damage.