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### J&K Govt has...

development aspirations of the society. Women, farmers, tribals, underprivileged, poor and weaker sections are becoming socio-economically empowered," he said.

Today, J&K is leading by example for other states/UTs in the country. Transparent and accountable governance system and seamless access to government services has improved the ease of living of the people, he said.

Big business houses and companies from across the world are willing to invest in J&K. Reforms in education, health, agriculture and allied sectors, industries, infrastructure, connectivity, power, hospitality, handicrafts, revenue, films, information technology, sports and other sectors have laid a solid foundation for the bright and prosperous future of J&K and its people, he added.

The Lt Governor paid tributes to the bravehearts of security forces and police who laid down their lives in the line of duty. We will forever be indebted to our brave Police, Army, CAPF's personnel for maintaining peace and a secured environment in UT of J&K, he said.

Senior officers of UT Administration, Police, Security forces, experts, senior journalists, prominent personalities from different walks of life, youth and people in large numbers were present on the occasion.

### 5 DySPs transferred...

Bn as DySP PC Rajouri; Parladh Kumar, CIO Anantnag as SDPO Atholi; Krishan Rattan, CIO Kulgam as SDPO Pampore; Ramesh Lal, awaiting adjustment, has been posted as DySP JR-14th Bn.

"Krishan Rattan, SDPO Pampore shall continue to function as CIO Kulgam additionally till further orders." it added.

### Compulsory retirement cannot...

government servant in terms of service rules is absolute, provided the authority concerned forms a bonafide opinion that compulsory retirement is in public interest. Further, the order of compulsory retirement cannot be based on the sole basis of recommendations of the committee which has to be considered by the competent authority in accordance with law.

DB further observed that merely because the committee has made recommendations for retirement of writ petitioner, he cannot be compulsorily retired unless the competent authority comes to a conclusion after forming a bonafide opinion of its own that the writ petitioner can be subjected to compulsory retirement in the interest of the institution.

DB inclined to take a view other than the one taken by the Single Judge. Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed along with connected IA upholding the judgment and order of learned Single Judge.

As regards pendency of criminal case against the writ petitioner pursuant to registration of FIR No. 92/2006 under Section 5(2) Prevention of Corruption Act read with Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 477-A and 120-B RPC at Police Station Nowshera, District Rajouri, Division Bench directed that the concerned Court shall conclude the trial, if not already concluded, positively within a period of next six months from today without any excuse, and, if need arises, fix the hearing twice in a week as the matter is pending for the last about seventeen years.

### Top Hizbul commander...

officer of Army's 14 Mahar Colonel Avijit Singh, said Hussain was assigned the task to revive militancy and regroup isolated terrorists operating in the region with the intention to disturb peace and tranquillity.

"His elimination scuttled the nefarious designs of the enemy nation (to revive militancy and disturb peace). We are getting a lot of support from the civil population and are sure to make Poonch militancy free soon," the SSP said.

Earlier during the day, Jammu-based defence PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said the two infiltrating terrorists were engaged by the joint team of Army and police in Garhi Battalion area around 2 am.

"One terrorist fell down immediately while the second tried to run back to LoC, engaged and hit and was seen falling down on the ground," the officer said.

Lt Col Bartwal said the body of one of the slain terrorists was retrieved and has been identified on the basis of police records as Hussain -- a resident of Bagyladra village of Poonch who was a self-style Divisional Commander of Hizbul Mujahideen.

"In 1993, he went to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) for arms training and came back three years later. He has masterminded a number of attacks on Security Forces before returning to PoK in 1998," the officer said.

Hussain, who has two wives and several children, was a close associate of Maulana Dawood Kashmiri, a close associate of PoK-based Hizbul supreme Syed Salauddin, he said.

"A high-level meeting of the Hizbul group took place in Islamabad, Pakistan recently to chalk out a plan to revive the outfit in the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in J-K. Hussain along with his bodyguard was believed to have been sent with the agenda of reviving terrorism in the south of Pir-Panjal," he said.

"Hussain is the most dreaded terrorist killed in the last 10 years in Rajouri and Poonch belt. His killing makes it evident that Pakistan is trying to send old terror veterans to motivate and recruit youth, thus making desperate attempts to revive terrorism," Lt Col Bartwal said

Giving details of the operation, Col Avijit Singh said the complete operation was based on intelligence of police about the likelihood of an infiltration attempt duly corroborated by military and civil Intelligence agencies.

"The Army troops along with the Special Operations Group of Police had put in place multiple ambushes along the LoC, resulting in the elimination of this Infiltration bid," he said.

"Alert army troops deployed on the LoC observed a suspicious movement of a group of two individuals trying to sneak into this side. Own alert troops kept the movement of the infiltrating group under continuous observation through new generation electro-optical devices and as both the infiltrators moved into this side, the ambushes challenged them, resulting in a gunfight," he said.

The officer said the injured terrorists managed to sneak into the forest close to the LoC, taking advantage of the thick foliage, rain and rocky outcrop but the area was immediately cordoned to prevent their escape.

A joint search operation was launched after the first light in which the body of dread terrorist Hussain was recovered along with one AK 56 rifle, one 9 mm pistol with a silencer, two hand grenades, eatables and medicines.

"The operation has once again proven the existing synergy between all security agencies operating in this area and highlights the close coordination between them. This incident also highlights Pakistan's attempts of reviving terrorism in south of Pir Panjal ranges exploiting the terror veterans," the officer said.

He said the Army continues to remain alert on the LoC and is fully prepared to thwart any such attempts in the future too.

### Defence Minister to...

importance from both strategic and socio-economic perspective.

"It enables rapid movement of forces along the border, benefitting the villages of Folpur and Gulpur situated along the IB", he said.

The officer said that previously, villagers faced challenges crossing the river, especially during periods of high water levels.

"The bridge, located approximately 3.5 km from the International Border, spans 422 metres," he added.

The DG said that a pivotal road under construction along the border is the Akhnoor-Poonch road.

"We have widened this road, which features four tunnels of Kandi, Sungal, Nowshera, and Bhimbergali. The project is progressing at a commendable pace and is anticipated to conclude within the next two years," he added.

He also spoke about the strategic hinterland road of Bani-Basholi-Baderwah.

"Out of the total 165 km, 125 km of the road has been surfaced. Work is ongoing on the remaining 40 km and is projected to be finished by March 2025. Notably, 89 km of road between Basholi and Bani, as well as 35 km from Baderwah to Chatergalla, has already been completed", he added.

Replying to another question about infrastructure development along the Sino-India border, he said that over the past three years, the BRO has successfully established substantial bridges, including modular designs, along the frontier with China.

"Unlike the earlier single and fragile bridges incapable of supporting heavy vehicles like tanks and multi-axle artillery, these newly constructed double-lane bridges ensure efficient movement of all vehicle types, even in challenging circumstances", he said.

He said that in the aftermath of the flash floods on July 19 that damaged the Tarnah Bridge on the highway, the entire traffic flow was redirected through BRO-managed roads in the area.

Given the high traffic volume on the highway, the BRO played a crucial role in swiftly addressing the situation, he said.

On the question of BRO's efforts to connect remote areas through roads, he

said that this achievement has been highlighted by the President of India during her address to the joint parliamentary session.

The prime minister has also been emphasising BRO's vital role, he said. Villages have gained access to various developmental amenities, such as schools, health centres, police stations and administrative offices due to the infrastructure push, he said.

### Parliament passes Delhi...

the home ministry's notification, the control over the "services" department of Delhi was "vague".

"There was an understanding between the Lt Governor and the chief minister over the transfer and posting of officers. The transfer and posting of officers of the commissioner and the higher level was solely dealt by the Lt Governor, while the CM exercised a say in matters of other officers," former chief secretary of Delhi P K Tripathi said.

"Differences, if any, used to be settled through discussions between the two sides," he added.

A section of officers in the Delhi government believes that the new legislation will bring an end to the running feud between the elected government in Delhi and the Centre, bringing clarity to the jurisdiction of the constitutional authorities.

"We need clarity regarding policy matters and administration for smooth functioning that is hit if such a situation with two constitutional functionaries at loggerheads, exists," said a senior officer.

The Lt Governor's office and the Delhi government have locked horns on numerous occasions since 2015 while a legal battle is also going on between the two sides.

The high court, in August 2016, said the Lt Governor is the administrative head of the National Capital Territory and the AAP government's contention that he is bound to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers is "without substance".

The Supreme Court, in February 2017, referred pleas on Delhi-Centre row to a constitution bench that commenced its hearing in November 2017.

In July 2018, the SC said the Lt Governor does not have independent decision-making powers and is bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Further, a five-judge bench was constituted by the SC on November 9 for a hearing of the matter.

The constitution bench on May 11, 2023, ruled that the Delhi government has legislative and executive powers over the administration of services except for public order, police and land.

A week later, the Centre brought an ordinance to annul the effect of the SC verdict and formed a national capital civil services authority (NCCSA) headed by the Delhi CM to decide the transfer and posting of officers.

The Authority by nature of its composition was tilted in favour of the Centre.

While the AAP government challenged the ordinance in the SC, the Centre came out with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, to accord parliamentary sanction to the ordinance.

The AAP dispensation moved courts on more than a dozen occasions against decisions of the Centre and the Lt Governor since the GNCTD (Amendment) Act, 2021 was implemented two years ago giving the Lt Governor primacy in the governance of the city.

The face-off between the two sides sharpened in the last year as V K Saxena took over as the Delhi Lt Governor in May 2022.

In November 2022, Saxena restricted Jasmine Shah from discharging his functions as the vice-chairperson of the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDCD). He challenged it in the high court earlier this year.

In April, the AAP government approached the SC over the issue of sending school teachers for training in Finland.

Education Minister Atishi moved the Delhi High Court against ministries of the Central government for allegedly delaying her travel clearances to the UK. She was finally able to visit the country after the court's intervention.

A similar petition was filed by the transport minister in August 2022 in the high court, challenging a provision of the Centre's approval for foreign visits of the chief minister and ministers.

After winning the Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections in December 2022, the ruling AAP approached the apex court against voting rights given to 10 aldermen appointed by the Lt Governor.

### SIA launches fresh...

of all such persons shall be kept secret and protected, besides all useful and relevant information shall be suitably rewarded.

"The public has been asked to contact on 8899004976 or on email sspsiakmr@jkpolice.gov.in for having any information related to this murder case," the spokesman said.

### Rahul Gandhi's LS...

message to the people through the motion even as its outcome is a foregone conclusion with the numbers heavily stacked in favour of the ruling NDA.

Announcing the reinstatement of Gandhi as an MP, a Lok Sabha notification said in the wake of the SC order on Friday, the disqualification has ceased to operate subject to further judicial pronouncements.

Soon after the Lok Sabha secretariat communication, Gandhi reached the Parliament House and offered floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi's statue before entering the House to attend proceedings around noon. But the House was adjourned within minutes.

Inside the Parliament premises, Gandhi was also seen spending time with his mother and Lok Sabha MP Sonia Gandhi. He also went to the Central Hall of Parliament where he briefly interacted with NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction) leader Sanjay Raut.

Gandhi also paid respects to former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi on his death anniversary in the DMK party office in Parliament.

He was accorded a warm welcome by the Congress and other opposition MPs on his arrival in Parliament which saw festive scenes at the main gate and the first floor of Parliament with sweets being distributed and slogans being raised in favour of the former AICC chief.

Later, at the party office where he attended a meeting of Haryana leaders for Lok Sabha poll preparations in the state, Gandhi told reporters that "It is a strange thing, even you people look happy". He was asked about his reinstatement.

Gandhi also posted a video of his first day after returning as an MP with a Hindi caption "returned to Parliament after paying obeisance to Babu (Mahatma Gandhi)."

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said the notification was a "welcome step" and it brings relief to the people of India, and especially to Wayanad.

"Whatever time is left of their tenure, BJP and Modi government should utilise that by concentrating on actual governance rather than denigrating Democracy by targeting opposition leaders," Kharge said on Twitter.

Playing down Gandhi's return to Lok Sabha, BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi asserted that Rahul has not been declared "'dosh-mukt (acquitted)" and only a stay has been given on the conviction".

"The matter is still pending with the court in Gujarat and we should wait for that. There is only a stay on his conviction, he is not acquitted. Also, the Supreme Court said that it (Gandhi's remark) was not in good taste and that should be kept in mind," Modi said.

"He was there in Parliament earlier also, what difference did it make to the Congress, they still lost elections. So his being in the House should not make the people of the Congress too happy," the former Bihar deputy chief minister said.

As soon as the news about Gandhi's reinstatement broke, Kharge who was in a meeting with opposition bloc INDIA leaders in his chamber on floor coordination, treated them to sweets.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said,"The voice of the real issues of the people" will reverberate again in Parliament.

AICC general secretary, Organisation, KC Venugopal said, "Democracy has won! India wins".

### DPAP only party...

without any bias and prejudice of religion and region," Azad said during his third day of the Chenab Valley tour.

Stressing on discipline and dedication among party workers, Azad made it clear to them that only those will survive and thrive in DPAP, who work at grassroots level rather than hanker for posts.

"DPAP has one motto, which is to work for the welfare of people at grassroots level. There is no place for indolent leaders and workers as accountability is the essence of our existence in the political sphere of J&K," he added.

Emphasising the grant of rights on land, jobs and resources, the former chief minister said that DPAP if elected will ensure that natives of Jammu and Kashmir to get their basic rights, which are very dear to them, back and reverse the decisions on these crucial issues.

"Being a landlocked place and border area, Jammu and Kashmir youth have no

employment avenues while the people bore the brunt of violence during 33 years of terrorism, its economy also suffered badly making it difficult to sustain livelihood," he said.

The gathering was also addressed by DPAP leadership including G.M.Saroori Vice Chairman, Ab Majeed Wani General Secretary, P.R.Manhas Zonal President, Distt President Asif Gattu Sr DPAP leader Ramesh Parihar and others.

### Jammu Citizens Forum...

that Jammu Citizens Forum can provide mentorship to the various other non-governmental organizations, devoted to Jammu cause and its progress and development.

Brigadier (Retd) Sukhdev Singh called for making different wings of the administration responsive to public needs.

Former Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation Soujanya Kumar Sharma conducted the proceedings of the Forum.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Suresh Sharma, former judge and ex- PSC member, Brig (retd) M.K Choudhary, Ashok Gupta (IPS) Retd IGP, Rakesh Gupta ex President CCI, Daya Sagar, renowned Columnist, Dr S K Bali, ex-HoD Nephrology GMC Jammu, Prem Gupta IPS Retd IGP, Vijay Gupta, senior journalist, Kamal Gupta, President, Private Schools Association, Rajesh Choudhary, Social Activist and Senior RSS leader, Kamal Mahindru, former Commissioner Provident Fund, Mubarkh Singh, Ex-DC Samba, Kishore Gupta, former Chief Engineer, Vinod Sharma, former VC JDA, Raman Samnotra, Dr Dushyant Choudhary, Rotary Club, Sidharth Daluja, Gautam Daluja and others.

### CB Jammu arrests...

The absconder, booked in case FIR No. 05/2001 U/S 420, 467, 468, 471/RPC Police Station Crime Branch Jammu from the outskirts of Jammu city, was constantly evading his arrest by changing his locations since last 22 years.

Crime Branch Jammu had produced charge sheet against the accused, among others, after allegations of cheating and fraud were substantiated and proved during the course of investigation. Since the accused was on a run to evade his arrest, the Court had issued arrest warrant U/S 512 Cr.PC against him.

Accused Harinder Gandhi, son of B. N. Gandhi, resident of H. No. 351, Anand Puri Meerut, UP was also arrested by Special team of EOW, CB Jammu in case FIR No. 3/2022 U/S 420/ IPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu for his involvement in duping money of the complainant on account of selling second hand cars and later failing to provide delivery as well as NOC of cars despite taking the money in advance. During the investigation allegations were proved and the charge sheet was produced in the Court of law. However, the accused was at large, the Court of law had issued arrest warrant against him for bringing him to justice.

Consequent upon the arrest of the above culprits Economic Offences Wing Crime Branch Jammu arrested 7 absconders in the past 8 weeks.

### Justice (retd) Mittal...

justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High court.

Appointed as the first female head of the state judiciary on August 3, 2018, she retired on December 8, 2020.

She is an alumna of Delhi's prestigious Lady Shri Ram College.

Besides Mittal, the committee that will oversee relief and rehabilitation of the victims and compensation to them, includes Justices (retd) Shalini P Joshi, a former judge of the Bombay High Court, and Asha Menon, an ex-judge of the Delhi High Court. Former Maharashtra police chief Dattatray Padsalgikar will monitor the probe into criminal cases in the state riven by ethnic strife.

They will be submitting their reports to the apex court which will monitor all aspects of the violence, from prosecution to rehabilitation.

Justice Mittal, born on December 9, 1958, went to Lady Irwin Higher Secondary School and then to Lady Shri Ram College and graduated in Economics Honours in 1978. A Campus Law Centre graduate in law, she was appointed as an Additional Judge of Delhi High Court in 2004.

Justice Mittal also served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. She earlier practised law in Delhi from 1981 to 2004.

Justice Shalini P Joshi, a former judge of the Bombay High Court, joined the judicial services in 1988 and worked as a judge in district courts before assuming the office of the Registrar General of the Bombay High Court in April, 2014. She was later elevated as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on January 1, 2015.

The third member of the panel is Justice (retired) Asha Menon.

Menon was elevated to the post of permanent judge of the Delhi High Court on May 27, 2019. She retired on September 16, 2022.

In 1985, she appeared for the Delhi Judicial Services examination and became a lower court judge in 1986. She was also the Member Secretary of Delhi State Legal Services Authority from 2008 to 2012. Former Maharashtra police chief Dattatray Padsalgikar will monitor the probe into the criminal cases in Manipur. Padsalgikar, a 1982 batch IPS officer, was on deputation to the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for a few years until he was named as the Mumbai police commissioner on January 30, 2016.

He served as the head of Mumbai police till June 29, 2018 before being elevated as the Maharashtra DGP.

On October 29, 2019, he was appointed as the Deputy National Security Advisor.

## Over 500 pilgrims leave for twin base camps from Jammu

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A fresh batch of over 500 pilgrims left Jammu city on Monday for the twin base camps in the valley to join the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, officials said.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the shorter 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal -- on July 1.

A total of 534 pilgrims, including 451 men and 67 women, left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 46 vehicles amid tight security, the officials said.

While 354 pilgrims left for the Pahalgam base camp in a convoy of 14 vehicles, 180 devotees left for the Baltal base camp in a convoy of 10 vehicles, they said.

Over 4.55 lakh devotees have paid obeisance at the cave shrine since July 1, according to official data. The yatra will conclude on August 31.

## Kabra re-designated as Financial Commissioner JSD

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Monday re-designated Shaleen Kabra, IAS, (AGMUT: 1992) as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Jal Shakti Department (JSD).

"Consequent upon promotion of Shaleen Kabra, IAS (AGMUT: 1992) to the Apex Scale (Level-17 in the Pay Matrix), vide Order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India under endorsement No. F.No. 14016/24/2022.UTS-I dated July 28, 2023 and his subsequent assumption of charge on July 31, 2023, the officer is designated as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Jal Shakti Department," Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

### Power shutdown

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Laxmi Puram, Swam Vihar, Bharat Nagar, Ganga Nagar, Bantalab, Radio Station, BSNL, CRPF, Ayush Hospital and adjoining areas shall remain affected on August 10 from 6 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Snailpur and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on August 09 and 11 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Badhori Feeder and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on August 10 from 6 am to 10 am.