

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Govt employee suspended...

in KPDCCL has been found violating the MCC guidelines by participating and facilitating the political party meetings".

The order further reads that 'the said employee has been placed under suspension with immediate effect.'

Needful to mention that the Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by Election Commission of India to provide a level playing field in favour of all political parties.

The Model Code of Conduct comes into force from the day and time the election schedule is announced by the Election Commission of India and remains in operation till the completion of election process as per the election notification.

District Election Officer, Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat has issued instructions for strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct and dealing strictly with any violation by any employees which comes to the notice of the authorities.

### Satish Kumar takes...

\Cabinet had earlier approved the appointment of Shri Satish Kumar as Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board," the Railway Board said.

Kumar, an officer of the 1986 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), has made significant contributions to Indian Railways throughout his illustrious career, spanning over 34 years, according to the Railway Board.

"On November 8, 2022, he took charge as the general manager of North Central Railway, Prayagraj, marking another milestone in his journey of public service," an official from the board said.

"His educational background is as impressive as his professional achievements; he holds a B.Tech in mechanical engineering from the prestigious Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur, and has further enhanced his knowledge with a Post Graduate Diploma in Operation Management and Cyber Law from the Indira Gandhi National Open University," he said.

Kumar began his career in Indian Railways in March 1988, and since then, he has served in various pivotal roles across different zones and divisions, bringing innovation, efficiency, and safety improvements to the railway system.

### Only 6.7 pc...

concluded the first-ever National Lok Adalat, almost 1,000 cases were disposed of amicably within five working days.

The two-day function was organised by the Supreme Court.

President Droupadi Murmu delivered the valedictory address and also unveiled the flag and insignia of the Supreme Court, a statement issued by the apex court said on Friday. Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Justice Surya Kant also addressed the gathering.

### DGP visits fallen...

officer's dedication while reaffirming the Jammu and Kashmir Police's unwavering support for the grieving family.

Swain reflected on Bhat's legacy, noting, "Time may erode many things but not the affection and respect that bind the living with the fallen in the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Long live 'The Family'."

Inspector General of Police Birdhi also acknowledged Bhat's significant contributions to maintaining peace in the region, highlighting his efforts in averting numerous terror-related incidents.

As the officials conversed with Bhat's family members, young Ali Ashar offered a chocolate from a basket brought by Swain to Rasmita Das Swain, eliciting smiles from everyone.

Overwhelmed by the police department's support, Fatimah expressed her gratitude and said, "I truly see the police department as my family. They have always been there for us, stepping up and showing up whenever needed. Their constant support is incredibly reassuring."

She is determined to raise her son with the values of bravery and integrity that Bhat embodied. She recently accepted a position as assistant professor at the University of Kashmir, a gesture for the next of kin of fallen officers.

"I don't wish to be called Humayun's (Bhat) widow. My marriage was the finality of my life and I will always be his wife," said Fatimah, who holds an MPhil in clinical psychology.

Adding to the tributes, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, corps commander of the Kashmir-based XV Corps of the Army, recently sent a letter to Fatimah, honouring her husband's sacrifice and congratulating her on his Kirti Chakra award.

Earlier this year, Fatimah had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the Valley.

### NC totally confused...

and peace has been written and people are living a dignified life," Chugh said.

He said that the BJP is confident of winning majority of seats in Jammu and Kashmir and form the next government.

"For the first time, Jammu and Kashmir will have a chief minister from the BJP as the party is strong enough to defeat its rivals", he added.

He said the BJP will soon release list of the candidates for remaining phase of elections in J&K. The meeting was attended by BJP candidates Er. Showket Gayoor (Pulwama), Ch. Roshan (Kokernag), Arshid Bhat (Rajpora), Rafiq Wani (Anantnag West), Sofi Yousuf (Sirigufara), ? Veer Saraf (Shangus), ?Adv Wajahat (Anatnag Main), ?Javeed Qadri (Shopian) besides Darakshan Andrabi (Chairperson Waqf Board), former MLC Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, and senior BJP leaders GM Mir, Altaf Thakur, Manzoor Bhat, Arifa Raja, Bilal Parray, Sajid Yousuf, and Sahil Bashir Bhat.

### Assembly polls: Battle...

Congress have fielded candidates in Banihal, Bhaderwah and Doda under a 'friendly contest', while a rebel NC leader is fighting as an independent from Inderwal and two BJP rebels are also trying their luck from Ramban and Padder-Nagseni constituencies.

Four of the six candidates of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) - former Advocate General Mohammad Aslam Goni (Bhaderwah), Fatima Begum (Inderwal), Asif Ahmad Khanday (Banihal) and Girdhari Lal Bhanu (Ramban) - withdrew from the contest after party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad decided not to campaign due to "health issues".

The withdrawal of the candidature by DPAP leaders on the last day on August 30 is seen as a boost to the NC-Congress alliance.

The BJP is banking on sympathy wave for 29-year-old Shagun Parihar, whose father Ajit Parihar and uncle Anil Parihar were killed by terrorists in November 2018, to retain the Kishtwar seat.

The saffron party is facing formidable challenge from NC leader and former minister Sajjad Kitchloo who had won the seat twice in 2002 and 2008 elections before losing to the BJP's Sunil Sharma in the last assembly polls held in 2014.

PDP leader and former MLC Firdous Tak is among the other prominent candidates vying to get support of the voters for his election to the assembly.

Sharma, a former minister, is fielded by the BJP from Padder-Nagseni where he is facing NC's Pooja Thakur, the sitting chairperson of District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar. BJP rebel candidate Rakesh Gosawani alias "Rocky" and PDP's Sandesh Kumar are the other prominent faces in the contest from the seat.

Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president and ex-minister Vikar Rasool Wani, who is eyeing a hat-trick from Banihal constituency, is facing a major challenge from NC's Sijad Shaheen and PDP's Intiyaz Shan.

A multi-cornered contest is expected in Inderwal constituency where former minister and three-time MLA Ghulam Mohammad Saroori is fighting as an independent candidate after he was denied ticket by DPAP which he had joined after leaving Congress in support of Azad in September 2022.

Saroori, who had Inderwal seat for three consecutive terms in 2002, 2008 and 2014 elections, is facing National Conference rebel Pyare Lal Sharma, Sheikh Zafarullah of the Congress and BJP's Tariq Hussain Keen.

Former BJP minister Shakti Raj Parihar, who lost District Development Council elections from two Doda seats in 2020, is contesting from Doda West constituency, facing challenge from Pardeep Kumar of Congress, Tanveer Hussain of PDP and Abdul Ghani of DPAP. Meenakshi Kalra is fighting as an independent from the seat.

Former BJP MLA Daleep Singh Parihar is locked in a triangular contest with Congress leader Nadeem Sharief and former IAS officer Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal of the National Conference from Bhaderwah constituency of Doda.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is contesting Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time, has fielded Vikram Rathore, while the BSP is banking on woman candidate Meenakshi Bhagat from the seat. Parihar had wrested the seat from Congress in 2014 elections.

Two former ministers Khalid Najid Suharwardy (NC) and Abdul Majid Wani (DPAP) are two prominent faces from Doda assembly segment. Suhardwardy had won the seat in 1997 by-elections, while Wani won the seat in 2002 and 2008. BJP's Shakti Parihar had won the seat in 2014.

BJP's Gajay Singh Rana, Congress nominee Riaz Ahmad, PDP's Mansoor Ahmad

Batt and AAP's Mehraj Malik are among other contestants from the seat.

A keen contest among new faces is on cards in Ramban constituency where BJP's Rakesh Singh Thakur is fighting NC's Arjun Singh Raju and party's rebel candidate Suraj Singh Parihar. The seat was last won by BJP's Neelam Kumar Langeh who was denied mandate by the party this time.

In the last assembly elections held in 2014, the BJP had won four seats - Kishtwar, Ramban, Bhaderwah and Doda, while the Congress had got Banihal and Inderwal constituencies. Two assembly constituencies were added to the region in 2022 after the delimitation exercise following reorganization of the erstwhile state.

### Will dialogue with...

its leaders should talk to the people, listen to their problems and work for solving them rather than poking its nose in the foreign affairs, which is the sole prerogative of the Prime Minister and the central government, Raina said.

"Can NC guarantee that there would be no bloodshed in J&K by Pakistan sponsored terrorists in J&K after holding talks with neighboring country and no innocent lives would be lost thereafter?" Raina questioned.

He also said that the Opposition alliance be it Gupkar or be it INDI, would suffer crushing defeat in the Assembly elections in J&K like it faced in the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ensured long lasting peace in J&K and unprecedented development has taken place here in the last 10 years of BJP rule, Raina said.

The Gorkhas, the Valmikits Samaj, Giddis, Sippies, Paharis, West Pak Refugees (WPR), other refugees and many other sections got justice under the Modi Government, Raina said. "The BJP is getting overwhelming support from the people all across J&K and we will register an emphatic victory in the upcoming Assembly elections," Raina said.

Union minister and J&K Election Incharge, G Krishna Reddy, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Deputy Chief Ministers, Kavinder Gupta and Dr Nirmal Singh, and BJP Media Incharge Dr Pardeep Mahotra were also present during the press conference.

### ACB books ex...

commission agent in a fair price shop and was subsequently appointed as Kandaman (Class 4th ) in CAPD Baramulla and mostly worked in office of AD Food Baramulla, during which he, in connivance with other officers and officials, by indulging in corrupt practices came in possession of huge assets in the shape of immovable and movable properties and has also made huge investments and expenditure", the statement added.

During verification, it was found that by indulging in corrupt practices, Mohd Shafi Rather has amassed assets of crores of rupees in shape of land at Jammu and other different places, houses and other items.

The description of these huge properties, expenditures and investments, which surfaced during verification, include double storey residential house (under construction) at Wanigam Bala, Pattan worth Rs. 40.34 lakh; construction of double stories house at Wanigam Bala worth Rs. 32.92 lakh; single storey concrete house along with five Marlas of land at Bathindi Jammu, amounting to Rs. 32 lakh; investments of Rs 1.50 Crore; joint purchase of huge chunk of land, measuring 107 Kanals at Mouza Nehalpora Poshwani, Tehsil Pattan, total value Rs. 7.30 crore in 2018; investments of Rs 64.01 lakh in joint purchase of huge chunk of land measuring 30 Kanals at Bhat Colony Hartrath Singhpora, District Baramulla, total value Rs. 7.50 crore in 2019; land measuring 4 Kanals 5 Maralas situated on Wanigam-Tilgam road at Behrampora Kongamdara Pattan purchased for an amount of Rs. 13.81 lakhs in 2011; land measuring 20 Marlas at Bandibala Tehsil Kreei, purchased for Rs. 8 lakh jointly in 2015; land measuring 30 Marlas at Chowadi Jammu purchased jointly for an amount of Rs. 40.65 lakh in 2016; land measuring 17 Marlas at Chowadi Jammu, purchased for Rs. 25.37 lakh 2017; land measuring 33 Marlas at Chowadi Jammu, purchased for Rs. 49.25 lakh in 2017; expenditure of Rs 111.46 lakh including payments of Rs 44.25 lakh and Rs 10 lakh to two different persons; purchase of gold ornaments worth Rs 24.10 lakh from Kadla Jewelers Srinagar, jointly with others.

"In addition to this, immovable, movable properties, investments having been acquired and possessed by the suspect, which surfaced during the probe and investigations, include house at Umerabad Srinagar, land measuring 13 Marlas at Drang Tangmargh Baramulla, land measuring 1 Kanal 2 Marlas at Shikargah, land measuring 4 Kanals at Wanmigam Bala Pattan Baramulla, land measuring 12 Marlas at HMT Srinagar; Life insurance policy of Rs 1.18 lakh, PPF Rs 5.50 lakh, two-wheeler scooter and furniture items, carpet, fridge, washing machine, Samsung phone, AC and other articles.

The probe conducted further revealed that the suspect has accumulated huge assets without seeking proper permission from prescribed competent authority, as mandated under law by indulging in corrupt practices. Accordingly, provisions of Section 12/14 of J&K Public Men and Public Servants (Declaration of Assets & other Provisions) Act 1983 have been invoked against the accused. Beside this, it also surfaced that some of assets and investments are found to be purchased or made jointly by suspect in connivance with other officers and officials, who thereby actively facilitated and abetted the suspect in accumulation of the huge disproportionate assets, have been booked under Section 109 RPC for abetment.

The verification conducted also revealed that the expenditure incurred, and the value of assets acquired by the suspect have been found to be excessively disproportionate to the income earned by him from all known sources during the service period for which, during the probe, the suspect could not satisfactorily account for the pecuniary resources and property found disproportionate to his known sources of income. Accordingly on culmination of the probe case FIR No 11-2024 under section 5(1) (e) r/w 5 (2) of J&K PC Act Svt. 2006, and section 12/14 of J&K Public Men and Public Servants (Declaration of Assets & other Provisions) Act 1983 was registered against accused Mohd Shafi Rather and other officers/officials were booked under Section 109 RPC at PS ACB Baramulla and investigations were set into motion. Immediately after registration of the case, search warrants were obtained from the Anti-Corruption Court Baramulla and in pursuance to which searches were conducted simultaneously at eight different locations, situated at Pattan, Baramulla and Bathindi Jammu in presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses, during which various incriminating documents pertaining to possession of vehicle Swift dezire, documents pertaining to admission of his son, Aqib Shafi in University An Shama Egypt, documents pertaining to purchase of laptop, plot design prepared by architect, documents pertaining to land at Bandipora, measuring 1 kanal ½ Marlas, some vouchers, documents pertaining to Met life Policies etc were recovered and seized as per law. Further investigations are going on, the statement added.

### Air Marshal Tejinder...

of flying and an alumnus of the Defence Service Staff College and National Defence College, the ministry said in a statement.

He has commanded a fighter squadron, a radar station, a premier fighter base and was the Air Officer Commanding, Jammu and Kashmir:

"His varied staff appointments include Operational Staff at a Command HQ, Air Commodore (Personnel Officers-1) at Air HQ, Deputy Assistant Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, Financial (Planning) at HQ IDS, Air Commodore (Aerospace Safety), Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Offensive) and ACAS Ops (Strategy) at Air HQ," the statement said.

Prior to his present appointment, he was the Senior Air Staff Officer, HQ Eastern Air Command of the IAF at Shillong, Meghalaya.

In recognition of his meritorious services, he was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2007 and the Ati Vishist Seva Medal in 2022 by the President of India, it said.

In a separate statement, the defence ministry said Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed the appointment of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command on Sunday.

Air Marshal Dixit was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 6, 1986. The Air Officer is an experimental test pilot and a qualified flying instructor with more than 3,300 hours of flying experience on a variety of aircraft in the IAF inventory, it said.

He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College (Bangladesh) and National Defence College. He has actively participated in numerous operations and exercises such as 'Op Safed Sagar' and 'Op Rakshak', the statement said.

During his illustrious career spanning more than 37 years, the Air Officer has held several significant field and staff appointments. As a Commanding Officer, he re-equipped one of the squadrons of the IAF with the state-of-the-art Mirage aircraft and later commanded a front-line fighter air base in the Western Sector and a premier fighter training base in the Southern Sector, it added.

The Air Officer headed many path-breaking projects during his previous tenure with the adoption of future technologies and ensured that the IAF achieves modernisation while maintaining a steady focus on 'Atmanirbharta'.

Operational readiness of Central Air Command in all scenarios shall be the top most agenda of the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief to ensure the IAF achieves its goal successfully, the ministry said.

In recognition of his meritorious services, he has been awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vayu Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal by the President of India.

### Several Awami Ittehad Party workers join NC

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Several workers of the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) headed by jailed Lok Sabha member Sheikh Abdul Rashid on Sunday joined the National Conference (NC).

The NC got a major boost as a key player from north Kashmir Malik Tariq Rashid along with other workers of the AIP joined the party, a spokesman of the NC said.

"In a significant political development, National Conference grabbed a big catch. Malik Tariq Rashid, a distinguished political leader from north Kashmir who among the political pundits is believed to have a great influence across the north, today formally joined the National Conference in the presence of Omar Abdullah," the NC said in a post on X.

Malik had played a pivotal role in 2019 and the recently held Lok Sabha elections as he was one of the closest political advisors to Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid.

"This move will have a great impact on overall campaigning process," the NC said.

Besides Malik Tariq Rashid, another key former AIP leader Tanveer Chalkoo also joined the NC in the presence of party vice president Omar Abdullah at the latter's residence here.

In addition to this, AIP district co-ordinator Ganderbal and convener of Civil Society Safapora Sohail Nabi Khan was also welcomed into the party fold by Abdullah.

"Joining of Tariq Rashid and other young intellectual leaders will have a long lasting impact on the regional politics," Abdullah said.

"I am very much sure that people from all the sections of the society will extend their support to National Conference to unitedly fight the BJP and its proxies," he added.

### 2-Day Programme on POCSO, POSH Acts concludes

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The two-day programme, titled "POCSO Act and POSH Act with Special Reference to SAMVAD's Training Manual and Combating Gender Stereotypes concluded on Sunday at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The program was organized by J&K Judicial Academy for Judicial Officers, PPs/Addl. PPs/ Assistant PPs, Medical Officers, officers of Forensic Science laboratory, officers of Police Department, members of Sexual Harassment Probe Committees, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and members of Gender Sensitization Internal Committees from all the districts of Kashmir province.



On the second day, the first session was chaired by Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh with R.A. Jan, Sr. Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh as speaker. Justice Oswal gave a detailed overview of Framing of Charges in POCSO Trials and recording and appreciation of evidence of victims in cases of Child Sexual Abuse.

Justice Oswal discussed the technical nitty gritty of the POCSO Act highlighting the underlying object of securing the physical and emotional well-being of the children.

Justice Oswal emphasized that the recording and appreciation of evidence in POCSO trials require adherence to specific procedures to ensure that the child's testimony is handled sensitively and effectively. He cited various judgements of the Apex Court suggesting that charges should be framed based on the evidence gathered during the investigation.

R.A. Jan, Sr. Advocate remarked that only a man has dual instincts; the Human as well as the animal because of which he behaves as a savage at time.

He observed that it was in 2012 that the POCSO Act was promulgated in India and the data which was collected was shocking to find that the number of incidents had only increased.

He reflected that the objective of this legislation is to create such a deterrence that the barbarians refrain from committing such heinous acts.

The second session was chaired by Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Chairperson, Sexual Harassment Probe Committee Srinagar Wing with Gulafroz Jan, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Central University of Kashmir as speaker.

Justice Moksha Kazmi reiterated that gender mainstreaming ensures that policy-making and legislative work is of higher quality and has a greater relevance for society. She said that gender mainstreaming is not just about women, it also recognizes the gender roles, stereotypes and norms affect men and boys in different ways. By addressing the root causes of gender-based discrimination and inequalities, gender mainstreaming helps to create a more just and equitable society for everyone.

Justice Moksha Kazmi emphasised that role of the Committees to create awareness about sexual harassment at work place and to deal with and recommend punishment for non-consensual acts of sexual harassment. Gulafroz Jan delved the role of both Internal Complaints Committee and Local Complaints Committee to achieve the three objectives of the Act, i.e. Prohibition, Prevention and Redressal of the menace of sexual harassment and so that women work with dignity in a comfortable environment in consonance with the constitutional spirit.

All the sessions were interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics.

They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the worthy resource persons.

The programme was concluded by Yash Paul Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy by thanking one and all for making the programme a great success.

### Gangster held with illegal firearm

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A gangster was arrested along with a 12-bore double-barrel gun and two live cartridges here on Sunday, police said.

Jeet Raj, a resident of Galwadey Chak, was arrested near his house in Marh tehsil when he was moving in his private vehicle, a police spokesman said.

The illegal firearm and ammunition was found concealed in the boot space of the vehicle, he added.

The spokesman said that a formal case has been registered at the Kanachak Police Station and further investigation is underway to probe his activities, associates and any possible links to a larger network.

He said the arrest of Raj marks a crucial victory for the police in curbing the circulation of illegal firearms and ensuring the safety of the local community.

The authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities in their area to aid in the ongoing crackdown on crime, the spokesman said.

### 70 year-old missing man traced, reunited with family

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A person named Mitter Lal Dutta S/o Late sh Lakh Raj Dutta, R/o Draba Age 70 years was missing since last night.

A search operation was launched in the area by the team of Surankote police led by DYSP Surankote Ajaz Choudhary and SHO Surankote Rajesh Kumar Thapa and during enquiry from the locals it came to forefront that the missing person was last seen today afternoon in Poonch town.

The SHO Poonch was informed immediately through PCR Poonch and the said person was traced out following which he was returned to the family. The family members thanked Poonch Police for their prompt and swift action.