

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Multi-pronged approach...

nefarious acts, sources said. Six batches, with the average age of such youths in the category of 16-25 years, a majority of them hailing from north Kashmir, have undergone the 'Sahi Raasta' programme which the Army describes as a "fun-based learning experience" for the participants.

"We provide them boarding, lodging, food and take care of their health and well-being, and through picnic and other fun activities, besides interactions, try to show them the right path without questioning their thoughts, so that they themselves are able to discern between what is right and what is wrong, and thus get reformed," the official said.

Another senior Army official here told PTI that a very "experienced psychologist" is also on board for this programme, besides a range of experts from various fields like education, sports and industry who visit these youths and interact with them during the programme.

"Now, with the positive transformation seen in largely all these youths, we hope that the programme will be a sealed up," he said.

Chinar Corps Commander Lt Gen A D S Aujla in Srinagar had earlier said that 'Sahi Raasta' programme is being run to wean away gullible youths, from the path of radicalisation, and the Army in conjunction with the UT administration is making all efforts in that direction.

The strategic Srinagar-based Chinar Corps is responsible for guarding the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir valley.

These youths are identified based on inputs from Jammu and Kashmir Police, senior Army officers and others, and after consent of their parents or family guardians, they join the programme, and at the end of it, are safely escorted back to their homes, sources said.

A top Army official of the Counter Insurgency Force (Kilo), based in Srinagar, said mentors, who include political leaders, clerics ('maulavis'), police officials and others interact with "these boys".

"And, these boys are radicalised who may be going on to a path, which may lead to getting recruited into a terrorist group. And, after about 21 days of the programme, there is a visible, perceptible change in their attitude, in the way of looking at things. And, by far, we have not had incidents where these youths after the programme have gone on a wrong path. So, it is a good achievement," he said.

Mehrav Malik, programme manager of the initiative, says radicalisation is a "slow and gradual process" and "social media today is playing a big role in it".

"When we asked the participants, why they chose that deviant path, they told us it was often due to religion factor. The nexus of terrorists, adversary and OGWs (overground workers) taps such impressionable minds for radicalisation who are either very vulnerable or frustrated in life. Wrong interpretation of religion is often used by the nexus to radicalise them, or a sense of revenge fed into them, among other means," he told PTI.

LG Sinha, Chugh...

imbibe the revered Guru's noble teachings and strengthen the bonds of unity in our society. Let us resolve to rededicate ourselves for the upliftment of the weak and downtrodden and create a society devoid of all social distinctions," the Lt Governor said.

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh also extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti. Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar has also greeted J&K people on the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti.

In his message, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, of peace and unity are very relevant in today's world and we all should follow the ideals of Guru Nanak Dev Ji for the prosperity of our nation. The Advisor also said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life and message of truth, simplicity and equality of all human beings continues to inspire and guide us all in every field of our lives. "His teachings can help us lead a happier, more meaningful and more fulfilling life", he added.

Al-Qaeda operative...

He said a Chinese hand grenade was recovered from the possession of the Al-Qaeda operative.

A case under relevant sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act and Explosive Act has been registered against the arrested accused at Ramban police station and further investigation is going on, the official said.

EWS reservation allowed...

based on past disability," Justice Bhat said.

He, in the minority view, also said that the impugned amendment and the classification it creates, is arbitrary, and results in hostile discrimination of the poorest sections of society that are socially and educationally backward, and/or subjected to caste discrimination.

Chief Justice Lalit concurred with Justice Bhat view.

The bench headed by Chief Justice Lalit pronounced four separate verdicts on 40 petitions challenging the validity of the 103rd Constitution amendment promulgated by the Centre in 2019.

The top court heard as many as 40 petitions and most of the pleas, including the lead one filed by 'Janhit Abhiyan' in 2019, challenging the validity of the Constitution Amendment (103rd) Act, 2019.

Reservation should not continue for an indefinite period so as to become a "vested interest" and the vision of the framers of the Constitution that there should be a "time span" for such quotas has not been achieved, the Supreme Court said.

Justices Bela M Trivedi and J B Pardiwala, who wrote two separate and concurring views with Justice Dinesh Maheshwari in upholding the EWS quota, referred to the time span envisaged by the framers of the Constitution for having reservation in the country. Quoting B R Ambedkar, Justice Pardiwala said the idea of "Baba Saheb Ambedkar was to bring social harmony by introducing reservation for only 10 years. However, it has continued for the past seven decades. Reservation should not continue for an indefinite period of time so as to become a vested interest."

Justice Trivedi, in her 24-page judgment, asked whether the country cannot move

towards the ideal envisaged by the framers of the Constitution to have "an egalitarian, casteless and classless society", and stressed that there is a need to revisit the system of reservation in the larger interest of the society as a whole, as a step forward towards transformative constitutionalism.

Though difficult, it is an achievable ideal, she said, adding, "Our Constitution, which is a living and organic document, continuously shapes the lives of citizens in particular and societies in general."

"What was envisioned by the framers of the Constitution, what was proposed by the Constitution bench in 1985 and what was sought to be achieved on the completion of 50 years of the advent of the Constitution, that is, the policy of reservation must have a time span has still not been achieved even till this day, that is, till the completion of 75 years of our independence," she said.

Justice Pardiwala, in his 117-page verdict, said reservation is not an end but a means -- a means to secure social and economic justice".

"Reservation should not be allowed to become a vested interest. Real solution, however, lies in eliminating the causes that have led to the social, educational and economic backwardness of the weaker sections of the community," he said.

The exercise to eliminate the causes started immediately after the country achieved independence and it still continues, Justice Pardiwala added.

"The longstanding development and the spread of education have resulted in tapering the gap between the classes to a considerable extent. As larger percentages of backward class members attain acceptable standards of education and employment, they should be removed from the backward categories so that attention can be paid toward those classes which genuinely need help," he said.

In such circumstances, it is very much necessary to review the method of identification and the ways of determining backward classes, and also, to ascertain whether the criteria adopted or applied for the classification of backward classes is relevant in today's conditions, Justice Pardiwala said. Justice Trivedi said it cannot be gainsaid that the age-old caste system in India was responsible for the origination of the reservation system in the country. The reservation system was introduced to correct the historical injustice faced by those belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, and to provide them a level playing field to compete with those belonging to the forward classes, she said. "However, at the end of 75 years of our independence, we need to revisit the system of reservation in the larger interest of the society as a whole, as a step forward towards transformative constitutionalism," Justice Trivedi said.

Police files chargesheet...

information, body of the missing army man was recovered. The victim was found buried in a ditch in fields of Labran Khag village," the spokesman said.

During the course of investigation, OGW Athar Ilahi Sheikh was apprehended. Sheikh admitted that he along with other four terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba abducted Malla on March 7 and tortured him which resulted in his death, the spokesman said. "During searches, three terrorists involved in the said crime were killed in anti-terror operation in village Malwa Kunzar on April 21-22, 2022 while one accused -- @Ghazi Bhai @Pathan -- a Pakistan-origin terrorist is still at large," he added.

SI paper leak...

son of Dhami Ram, resident of Masyal Narayana in Khour; a Government teacher.

Kewal Krishan, an IRP constable posted at Mattan in South Kashmir's Anantnag district; Ashwani Kumar, son of Mela Ram of Kachrali in Khour; who had taken voluntary retirement from CRPF to run paper leak racket and Rakesh Kumar of Pid in Khour area of Akhnoor; who had collected Rs 1.25 crore from the beneficiaries.

Two semesters arrested earlier from Haryana were identified as Yatin Yadav alias Guru Ji of Rewari and Anil Kumar of Mahendergarh.

According to the CBI, it was Yadav who contacted the other touts based in Jammu and Kashmir for soliciting candidates for the sale of leaked question paper, the CBI said.

The candidates were transported from Jammu to Karnal in vehicles arranged by ASI Ashok Kumar a day before the examination.

In Karnal, Bajinder Singh was alleged to have arranged a hotel where candidates were handed over the leaked question paper.

Constable Surender Singh of CRPF allegedly provided the leaked question paper to certain candidates. The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case on the request of J&K Government against 33 accused on the allegations of irregularities in written examination for the posts of Sub-Inspectors in the J&K Police on 27.03.2022, conducted by Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), the CBI had said after the registration of the FIR earlier.

The exam results were declared on June 4 this year. After the allegations of malpractice in the conduct of the exam surfaced, the Union Territory government constituted an inquiry committee to look into the matter.

It was alleged that the accused entered into a conspiracy with officials of JKSSB, a Bengaluru-based private company, beneficiary candidates and others, and caused gross irregularities in conduct of written examination for the posts of Sub-Inspectors. "It was further alleged that there was abnormally high percentage of selected candidates from Jammu, Rajouri, and Samba districts, the CBI has said.

JKSSB allegedly violated rules in outsourcing the setting of question paper to a Bengaluru-based private company, the agency said.

Meanwhile, The CJM Jammu Amarjeet Singh Langeh has granted 10 days police remand of four accused arrested today.

2 hybrid terrorists...

outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), he said.

Another hybrid terrorist identified as Wasim Raja Lone, a resident of Kehmusa Bandipora, was arrested from whose possession another IED was recovered, the spokesman said. During further questioning, the arrested duo revealed they had planned and executed the IED attack in Kehmusa area of Bandipora on October 27.

Police added that the accused were planning to carry out more IED blasts.

An FIR has been registered and further investigation is in progress, they added.

Similarly, a team of Police Station Miran Sahib constituted under supervision of SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh and led by SHO Miran Sahib Inspr Zaheer Mushtaq while on Naka duty at Simbal Morh rounded up a suspect. During search, 6 gm heroin was recovered from him. The accused identified as Ajee Singh alias Bitti Chaptia, son of Kirpal Singh, resident of ward No 01 Simbal camp was arrested and FIR No 149/22 under sections 8/21/22/60 NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Miran Sahib.

Meanwhile, a party of Police station Mandi led by PSI Arun Sharma established a Naka near Saiklo Khari Mandi for routine checking and apprehended a suspect, who during questioning disclosed his name as Iftikhar Hussain, son of Ishfaq Hussain, resident of Mandi. On search police recovered 7 gm Chitta (heroin like substance) from his possession. He was arrested FIR No. 134/2022 U/S 8/21 NDPS Act was registered against him. The arrest and recovery was made under close supervision of DySP Hqrs. Poonch Nawaz Chouhan and overall supervision of SSP Poonch Rohit Baskotra.

Theft case solved; 2 arrested, stolen items recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Monday solved a theft case by arresting two thieves and recovered stolen items.

As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Station Gandhi Nagar by one Sanjay Arora, son of Raghubinder Arora, resident of 4 D/C, Gandhi Nagar Jammu stating that some unknown thieves decamped with Battery (Luminous), Inverter (Luminous), Stabilizer, Water-Motor, LCD from his house. In this regard, FIR No. 284/2022 under section 457/380 of IPC Act was registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar. After this, a team of Police Station Gandhi Nagar under supervision of SDPO Senthil Sharma led by SHO Gandhi Nagar Inspr Pankaj Sharma, after putting in strenuous efforts, rounded up two suspects, later identified as Ashish Gill, son of Daniel Gill, resident of JDA Complex Nehru Market and Sumit Athwal, son of Som Raj Athwal, resident of Panchwati Apartments, Nanak Nagar. During intensive questioning, accused confessed their involvement in crime and on their disclosure stolen Battery (Luminous), Inverter (Luminous), Stabilizer, Water-Motor, LCD etc were recovered from their possession.

5 bovines rescued, vehicle seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBAL: Police on Monday foiled an attempt to smuggle bovines by rescuing 5 animals at Ghagwal.

As per details, acting on an information received from reliable sources regarding illegal transportation of bovines, a party of Police Station Ghagwal at Naka point NHW Taply, intercepted a Mahindra Bolero load carrier (UP12T/6071) for checking. During checking vehicle, 5 bovines were found laden in it which were rescued and shifted to a safer place. Moreover the vehicle was also seized. FIR No. 160/2022 under section 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA Act was registered in Police Station Ghagwal.

Absconder arrested after year

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police on Monday apprehended one absconder, who was evading arrest since 2021.

As per details, Police team headed by Insp. Sohan Singh Bandral SHO Majalta under the supervision of Addl. SP Udhampur Anwaar Ul Haq and Dr. Bhisham Dubey SDPO Ramban raided suspected locations and arrested an absconder namely Khadim Hussain, son of Dawood, resident of Laswara, Tehsil Bishnah, Jammu who is absconding since 2021 and was wanted in FIR No. 31/2018 regis-

Tackling unemployment, stepping...

of his government. Inspite of very heavy rains and inclement weather, he continued his meetings with the people in order to have on the spot feel of the problems faced by them in the area. He was accompanied by Former Ministers G M Saroori and Abdul Majid Wani, ex MLC Naresh Gupta, ex Advocate General Mohd Aslam Goni, ex IGP P R Manhas, Pritam Kotwal and other local leaders of the area including DDC Members, BDC chairpersons, Sarpanches and Panches.

Schools shut in...

Similarly, all primary and middle schools of Kishtwar district will remain closed due to bad weather as directed by the district administration.

However, all high schools and higher secondary schools in the districts will function normally, they added.

Skills are passport...

demands for skills will change in the coming days with the rapidly changing technological environment, he added.

Reaffirming that the prime minister's approach to development has been that of Sabka Sabka Sabka Prayas', Chandrasekhar said under his leadership, "New India" has been thriving well in the post pandemic world as compared to other developed countries, with an aim to achieve the target of five trillion USD economy by 2026.

The minister also visited a skills exhibition organised by the students and staff members of the polytechnic college and was impressed by the innovative displays--ranging from tech, automotive, electronics products to traditional art and craft items.

Later at Ramban, he inaugurated a job fair and interacted with both job seekers and recruiters. Chandrasekhar also distributed offer letters and certificates of completion of training to the eligible candidates. Jobs are an important determinant about opportunities available. We will ensure that the next job fair to be held here in the six months will be three times bigger in size with many more companies taking part, he said, adding we will request the public sector units to mandatorily absorb the skilled talent locally available.

The Union minister conducted a review of the Ramban district's skill development plans about which he was given a detailed presentation by District Development Commissioner Mussarat Islam. Chandrasekhar also discussed with the officials ways to improve the skilling ecosystem with locally available opportunities, an official spokesman said.

Jhiri Mela begins...

rush of devotees as this year.

The Div Com welcomed the devotees who have thronged the shrine of Baba Jitto and his daughter Bua Kodli. After paying obeisance at the Baba Jitto and Bua Kori Devsthan, the Div Com along with other dignitaries, inaugurated a laser show and exhibitions organised by different departments.

A traditional Dangal competition organised by the Mela Management Committee witnessing the participation of professional wrestlers hailing from Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and several parts of Jammu and Kashmir was one of the major attractions of the day. The Divisional Commissioner lauded the efforts put in by the Jhiri Mela Management Committee and the district administration for making elaborate arrangements for the successful conduct of Jhiri Mela. Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com remembered the Supreme sacrifice of Baba Jitto. He said "The supreme sacrifice made by Baba Jitto is exemplary for each of us to emulate in our fight against injustice."

Meanwhile, Div Com along with other dignitaries took a round of department stalls and inspected the facilities for devotees and farmers.

Govt clears 23rd...

will go to polls on November 12. Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding.

State Bank of India (SBI), in the 23rd phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches from November 9-15, the finance ministry said in a statement.

Usually, electoral bond tranches are open for sale between 1-10 of a designated month. For instance, the 22nd tranche of bond sales took place from October 1-10, 2022 while 21st tranche was from July 1-10, 2022.

Sale of the first batch of electoral bonds happened from March 1-10, 2018.

The authorised SBI branches include those in Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai. SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.

An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issuance. No payment would be made to any political party if the bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period, the statement said. Electoral bonds can be purchased by Indian citizens or entities incorporated or established in the country. Registered political parties that have secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha or legislative assembly election are eligible to receive funding through electoral bonds.

Heavy snowfall in...