# !! Continuations from Page 1!! Rahul Gandhi disqualified...

the party politically.

The action against Rahul Gandhi also saw a shift in the dynamics of opposition ranks with Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Bharat Rashtra Samithi and Samajwadi Party, despite their differences with the Congress, expressing strong support for the embattled leader, along with several other opposition parties.

This was Gandhi's fourth Lok Sabha term. First elected to Lok Sabha in 2004 from Amethi, he represented that constituency for two more terms. In 2019, he lost the Amethi seat to Smriti Irani but managed to win from Wayanad.

Hours before the notification was issued, Gandhi attended Lok Sabha proceedings in the morning session. Before the proceedings commenced, he also participated in a meeting of party MPs in the Parliament complex.

Incidentally, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government, in 2013, had attempted to circumvent a Supreme Court ruling to set aside an RP Act provision under which a person sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time.

Gandhi himself had opposed the ordinance at that time and tore the ordinance in a press conference as a token of protest.

Reacting to Gandhi's disqualification, the Congress said it was "a black day for Indian democracy" and asserted that the battle will be fought both "legally and polit-

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged the BJP made all efforts to get him disqualified as he was speaking the truth and fighting for the Constitution and

people's rights.
"This was not a question of backward class, Lalit Modi and Nirav Modi are not of backward class. They are trying to build a perception that Rahul Gandhi spoke

against the backward class Gandhi was putting forward the truth before the country so they were not liking t," he said in an apparent reference to BJP chief J P Nadda's remarks that Gandhi had compared OBC communities to thieves.

The BJP would think that their problem is solved by ousting him from Lok Sabha, but it is not, as the demand for Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) would continue to be raised, he said. Opposition leaders have been demanding a JPC probe

"We will keep fighting to protect democracy and even if we have to go to jail, we will do so. Our people are ready to fight," Kharge said.

Defending Gandhi's disqualification, Union Minister of State for Law and Justice S P S Baghel termed it as "lawful" and asserted that "everyone is equal before the

He also noted that a BJP MLA was also recently disqualified in Uttar Pradesh following his conviction in a criminal case.

Senior Union ministers and BJP leaders Dharmendra Pradhan and Anurag Thakur hinted that a conspiracy within the Congress might have played a role in its leaders not approaching a higher court for relief for Rahul Gandhi after his conviction on Thursday as it had done in the case of Pawan Khera when they approached a court within hours of the Assam Police arresting him.

"Who are the people within the Congress wanting to get rid of Rahul Gandhi," Thakur asked, noting that the party has a battery of lawyers and wondering if the former party president was deliberately put on the "wrong path".

He also said, "Rahul Gandhi is a habitual offender and loose cannon. He thought he could say anything without facing any consequences" and noted that the Congress leader is on bail in seven different cases.

Rahul Gandhi may also have to vacate his official bungalow in Lutyens' Delhi within a month if he doesn't get relief from a higher court, officials said.

The development also saw the Congress core team getting into a huddle to formulate a strategy to tackle the crisis arising out of the court verdict and subsequent

disqualification from Lok Sabha. The high-level meeting was also attended by former Congress chief and Rahul's mother, Sonia Gandhi and sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra among others.

### India can become...

vehicle market in 2022 after China and the USA.

According to Gadkari, presently India's automobile industry is worth Rs 7.5 lakh erore, and the sector's contribution to the overall GST revenue is maximum.

The estimated 5.9-million tonne reserve of lithium, a crucial mineral for the manafacturing of electric vehicles and solar panels, had been discovered in Reasi district by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

"Lithium falls in the critical resource category, which was not earlier available in India and we were dependent for its 100 per cent import. The G3 (advanced) study of the GSI shows the presence of best quality lithium in abundant quantity in the foothills of Mata Vaishno Devi shrine at Salal village (Reasi)," J&K mining secretary Amit Sharma told PTI.

Gadkari noted that good infrastructure is needed for the development of any country. "With our innovative approach, we can develop the backward area, increase the growth and at the same time create employment potential," he said.

The minister also asked industry leaders to invest in vehicle scrapping. Gadkari also stressed on the need of reducing India's logistics cost to single digit

by 2024 from 16 per cent of GDP presently.

#### J&K Govt in...

start and when will the bidding start and all those kinds of questions... Let us understand the reality that it does not happen overnight and it should not happen ernight because it has lots and lots to offer and once it starts it is goin sume lots of things," Sharma said during a conclave on the discovery of lithium reserves in J&K, organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Sharma further said that lithium reserves have been discovered in the foothills of the Salal-Haimana area of the Reasi district and extraction from hills is always a challenge

Jammu and Kashmir will put on sale the lithium block discovered last month, Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi recently said.

The minister had said that the expected date of extraction of lithium will depend

upon the successful auction of the mineral block

"GSI (Geological Survey of India) carried out a G3 stage project during Field Season 2020-21 and 2021-22 in Salal-Haimna areas of Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir and estimated an inferred resource (G3) of 5.9 million tonnes of lithium ore and the report has been handed over to the Government of Union Territory of J&K." the minister said earlier.

The minister said that GSI generates baseline geoscience data through mapping, e.g. geological, geochemical, and geophysical, which is a prerequisite for identifying the potential area for systematic mineral exploration.

Based on the mapping data, GSI carries out systematic mineral exploration activities for various major mineral commodities, including lithium.

"In part of Jammu & Kashmir, as a follow up of lithium exploration in Salal-Haimna areas of Reasi district, GSI has taken up another reconnaissance G4 stage exploration programme on lithium and associated mineral in Panasa Dugga Baldhanun Chakar Sangarmarg (Saro-da-Bas) area of Reasi district during current field season 2022-23 and the work is in progress," he had said.

Based on the mapping outcome more exploration programmes on various mineral commodities, including lithium will be taken up in future in different parts of the country, including Jammu & Kashmir.

Govt issues guidelines...
tweet or share content that is political or anti-secular and communal or subscribe to or follow pages, communities or Twitter handles and blogs of such nature.

"No employee shall himself/herself or through any person dependent on him/her for maintenance, or under his care or control, undertake any such activity on social media which is, or tends directly or indirectly to be, subversive of the government as by law established in the country or in the Union territory," it said.

It underlines that employees, directly or indirectly, shall not publish, post or release any information on social media considered confidential or is not meant for

It said the employees have also been directed not to pass any official document or any part thereof to any employee or any such person to whom he is not authorised to communicate information.

However, it says, "An employee may, for the purpose or removing misapprehensions, correcting misstatements, and refuting disloyal and seditious propaganda, defend and explain to the public the policy of government in his posts and tweets on social media". It also warns the employees against making comments about co-workers or individuals, that are vulgar, obscene, threatening, intimidating, or that violate

It urges employees not to post grievances about their workplace on social media in the form of videos, posts, tweets or blogs or in any other form and follow the established channels of complaint redressal.

The employees have been warned that the violation of guidelines shall be tantamount to misconduct and invites disciplinary action against the delinquent official under the relevant rules.

"All administrative secretaries, deputy commissioners, heads of departments, managing directors shall immediately proceed against the employees working in their departments/offices who are found to have violated the aforesaid guidelines and rules, in terms of the relevant disciplinary framework," it said.

#### UAPA's main objective...

The bench said as per Section 10(a)(i) of the UAPA, a person cannot be punished merely because he was the member of such unlawful association but "wherein an association is declared unlawful" by notification under provisions of the law.

"So, it is only after the notification under Section 3 has become effective under subsection 3, that the latter part of that Section applies. The language of Section 10(a)(i) is also very cautiously worded who is and continues to be a member of such association'. Therefore, on true interpretation, if a person has been a member but does not continue to be a member after declaration, that does not attract mischief of Section 10," it said.

The bench said the intention seems to be that not only was he a member on the day when the association is declared unlawful, but he continues to be a member.

"The intention is very clear that not only on the given date but even after that you continue to be a member of that association which is declared as unlawful association due to unlawful activities which is found to be against the interests of sovereignty and integrity of India.

Therefore, once an association is declared unlawful of whom the concerned person was the member and he wishes to continue as a member despite the fact that he is well aware of the fact that such an association is declared unlawful and if he still wishes to continue being a part of such unlawful association, it shows a conscious decision on his part and therefore, liable to be penalised for such an act of continuation of his membership with such unlawful association," the bench said.

### Govt hikes DA...

additional instalment of dearness allowance to employees and dearness relief to pensioners will be effective from January 01, 2023.

This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

### CS launches auto...

accountability in services to the public and eradicating corruption. He stated that auto escalation feature of online services is going to put an end to malpractices besides promoting fairness, a priority set by the current dispensation in all of its affairs including offering of government employment and public contracts to its citizens on the basis of merit alone.

On the occasion it was brought out that the delivery of services through online has greatly reduced the waiting period for prorevealed that the bulk of applications in the Revenue Department pertains to such applications and it is going to benefit many of the applicants. It was also apprised that the feature like auto-appeal is going to bring a greater

transparency in these services in future as these would ensure their delivery as per the timeframe set for them under PSGA and fixing of responsibility on part of any officer/official for any undue delay.

Those who were present includes Commissioner Secretary, IT; Secretary, GAD; SIO, NIC; Scientists from the IT Department besides other concerned officers of these Departments.

# PM felicitates J&K...

TB Elimination by the year 2025 ahead of the global target of 2030 and has launched National Strategic Plan 2017-25 under the ambit of National Health Mission to end TB by 2025.

Earlier, Budgam achieved the distinction of being the first district in the country to be declared TB Free. During the previous year, three districts namely Kupwara, Anantnag and Pulwama received gold medals for more than 60 pee cent reduction in TB incidence whereas District Baramulla and Udhampur bagged bronze medals for achieving more than 20 per cent reduction.

Jammu and Kashmir was one of the only two States/UTs which were felicitated during the event. Also, Pulwama and Anantnag were two of districts of the total of three districts in the country to achieve TB Free status this year.

Under the dynamic leadership of Bhupinder Kumar, the team of Health & Medical Education Department comprising Ayushi Sudan, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Directors of Health Services, Jammu and Kashmir, has taken proactive measures in proper implementation of National Tuberculosis Programme. The host of measures for reducing TB incidences included door to door awareness campaign "Har Ghar Dastak", robust screening for TB incidence and Active Case Finding (ACF) and Contact Tracing.

Moreover, Ni-kshayMitra initiative has mobilized community support for filling up gaps and contributing towards Tuberculosis elimination through improved nutritional support and better treatment outcomes. More than, 4300 Ni-KshayMitras in Jammu & Kashmir are providing nutritional support to the TB patients.

The event was also attended by Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family welfare, Anandiben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Health Ministers of various States and UTs, senior officials from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, States, UTs and representatives from various countries and inter-governmental organizations.

#### Had Rahul apologised...

Article 370 and 35 A being the obstacles in the development of J&K were revoked for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Saying that the budget is 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Ka Budget', Athawale said, in comparison to the FY 2022-23, there is an increase of 10.18% for the social welfare department in the FY 2023-24. In the next three years, 38,880 teachers and supporting staff will be recruited for 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, he added. Railways has also been allocated Rs. 2.4 lakh crores in the FY 2023-24, the Minister informed.

He said, development, peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir is the top priority of the Prime Minister Modi led government which is evident now with the beginning of investment of thousands of crores in different sectors for the welfare of the people.

The Union Minister said, from last many years, the gates of development have opened for J&K which is evident from the fact that all the centrally sponsored schemes and programmes like Pradhan MantriAwasYojana, Jan DhanYojana, MUDRA, PM UjjwalaYojana, Scholarship Schemes for Students, Welfare Schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are now implemented in J&K.

He said, hundred percent implementation of many central schemes in J&K is the outcome of the steadfast approach of Government of India to provide social stability at all fronts be it housing, livelihood etc.

The Minister Informed that under PM Narendra Modi implementation of the social welfare schemes has picked up pace in Jammu and Kashmir which is evident from the fact that under PM Jan DhanYojana, between 2014-2023 (March), 48 crores and 36 lakh accounts were opened out of which 26 lakh & 32 thousand accounts have been opened under PM UjjwalaYojana between 2016-22 (March), 12 lakh 45,000 gas connections have been allotted to the beneficiaries under PM AwasYojana (Urban) between 2015-23 (March), 20 thousand 7 hundred houses have been constructed under PM AwasYojana (Rural) between 2014-23 (March), 13 thousand 8 hundred houses have been constructed under PM Jan Arogya Yojana, 07 lakh 66 thousand have been benefited and under UjalaYojana, 84 lakh 86 thousand LED bulbs have been issued in the Union Territory.

He said that between 2019-23 (March), 1720 De-addiction centres have been either funded or established under Financial Assistance for the establishment of Deaddiction centres.

#### Doda Land Sinking...

issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

According to an order, the committee will be headed by Chief Secretary J&K as Chairman while Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department (Nodal agency for coordination & compliance) as Member-Convenor and the members of the committee include Prof. J. S. Rawat, Kumaon University, Almora; Representative of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun; Representative of Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalaya and Environment; Representative of National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee; Representative Ahmadabad of Space Application Centre; Representative of National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Bangalore; and Representative of Central Pollution Control

The committee has been asked to suggest measures for preventing environmental damage in light of carrying capacity, hydro-geology and geo-morphological studies along with covering other allied and incidental issues of land subsidence in Doda.

"The committee shall be at liberty to take assistance from any other expert/institution. It shall be free to interact with the stakeholders including the inhabitants and members of civil societies and may also consider the concerns in the media report " reads the order The committee has been asked to complete its studies within two months and fur

nish its report to NGT by e-mail by May 15, 2023. It has also been asked to meet within 2 weeks and complete its studies within two

## Seven doctors transferred...

Rasool Baba, Medical Officer, Block Lar as I/C BMO Khag; Dr Aijaz Ahmad, I/C BMO Hajin as RMO, JLNM Hospital; and Dr Masrat, I/C BMO Bandipora as Medical Officer, Block Lar.



# MVD Shopian imposes fine on traffic violators, seizes 5 motorcycles

SHOPIAN: In an ongoing drive against traffic violators in the district, more than 50 vehicles were challened and a fine of Rs 60,000 was realised over the past few days, as per data provided by ARTO Shopian. Five modified motorcycles were also seized during checking and show cause notice for suspension of registration certificates were issued to owners. The MVD department has been regularly conducting checking drives and appealed to people to adhere to the traffic rules for their own

#### 4 drug peddlers arrested; contraband recovered ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Friday arrested 4 drug peddlers in Kulgam & Baramulla and recovered

their possession.

In Kulgam, a party of Police Station DH Pora headed by SHO DH Pora at a checkpoint established at Kounsarbal intercepted a suspect who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully by alert police party. During search, 110 gm Charas was recovered from his possession. He accused, identified as Aejaz Ahmad Malik son of Abdul Rashid



resident Ahmadabad, was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in cus-

Similarly, a police party of Police Station Qazigund led by SHO Qazigund at a checkpoint established at Dalwach Qazigund intercepted a suspect identified as

Gazanfar Ahmad Wani son of Mohammad Yousuf Wani resident of Banihal. During search, 2 gm brown sugar was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody.

In Baramulla, a Police party under the supervision of SDPO Uri, assisted by SHO Police Station Boniyar, at a checkpoint established at Chellan Boniyar arrested 2 drug peddlers identified as Wazir Ahmad Joo son of Ali Mohammad resident of Trikanjan & Syed Shahid Hussain son of Syed Abid Hussain resident of Gingal. During checking, 120 grams Charas and cash amounting to Rs 10,000 (believed to be proceeds of narcotic crime) was recovered from their possession. They were shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law were registered at respective police stations and investigation

# 2 vehicles seized, 2 arrested for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS** 

BARAMULLA: Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police on Thursday seized 2 vehicles and arrested 2 persons in Baramulla.

As per details, a Police party under the supervision of SDPO Pattan assisted by Incharge Police Post Mirgund, seized 2 vehicles (tippers) and arrested 2 drivers identified as Showkat Ahmad Sheikh son of Mohammad Sideeq resident of Pattan & Bilal Ahmad Wani son of Ab Satar resident of Hanjiwera Pattan at Khanpeth Mirgund Pattan for their involvement in illegal extraction & transportation of minerals. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Pattan and investigation started.

#### 8 vehicles seized for illegal mining ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern the menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which police teams of Police Stations Gharota & Jhajjar Kotli, Police Posts Sidhra, Phallian Mandal, Jourian and Pargwal acted stringently on the specific inputs and raided at a location in their respective area and seized 8 vehicles involved in illegal mining.

The seized vehicles included a tractor (JK02DB-0067) and a dumper (JK14H-3406)seized by Gharota Police; a tipper (JK02AD-9419) seized by Jhajjar Kotli Police; a dumper (JK02CL-9187) seized by Sidhra Police; a tractor-trolley bearing chassis No MBNAK49ADKTN28107 seized by Phallian Mandal Police; a tractor trolley without Registration number seized by Jourian Police and a tractor trolley (JK02BR-4616) seized by Pargwal Police. The recoveries were made by SHO Gharota Inspr Joginder Singh Chib, SHO Jhajjar Kotli Inspr Sikander Singh, In-Charge Police Posts Sidhra PSI Arun Kumar, Phallian Mandal-PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal, Jourian-PSI Karnail Singh and Pargwal-PSI Deep Kumar in their respective jurisdictions.

On the other hand, acting stringently on an information police team of Police Post Pargwal raided at a suspected location and seized two dumps in the area under the jurisdiction of Police Post Pargwal. A team of Police Post Pargwal led by SDPO Akhnoor Mohan Lal assisted by In-Charge Police Post Pargwal PSI Deep Kumar raided a location and seized two illegal dumps of mining material, belonging to one Shamsher Singh, son of Karan Singh, resident of Pargwal.

#### Tractor driver dies in accident **STATE TIMES NEWS**

BARAMULLA: A tractor driver died in an accident in Baramulla district on Thursday, reports said. Shafkat Ahmad Wani, alias Javid (33), son of Ghulam Mohammad Wani, a resident of Waripora met with a fatal accident in Frashtar, Kreeri. He was immediately shifted to SDH Kreeri where doctors declared him as dead on arrival. Police has registered a case and started.

## Theft case solved; thief arrested with stolen 12-bore rifle

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS** 

KATHUA: District Police Kathua on Friday solved a theft case by arresting an accused and recovered a 12-bore rifle from his possession at Bani area. As per details, on intervening night of March 14/15, 2023 a complaint was lodged

at Police Station Bani by complainant namely Nazir Ahmed son of Ghulam, resident of Chandel Morha, Machwa Tehsil Bani regarding theft of his '12-Bore rifle' for which a FIR No. 12/2023 under sections 457/380 of IPC was registered at Police Station Bani. Based on complaint, investigation started and on March 23, 2023 police team led by Insp Jaswinder Singh SHO Bani under supervision of SDPO Basohli Aakash Kohli apprehended a suspect namely Mohd Abbas, son of Nazir Ahmed, resident of Barmota Bani. On interrogation, the accused confessed involvement in crime and on his disclosure police team recovered stolen weapon from his possession,



which was seized. Further legal proceedings are underway.