

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### 5 Army soldiers...

have unfortunately lost their lives in the incident, it said. The Army said another soldier was seriously injured and he was evacuated immediately to the Army hospital at Rajauri.

The Army said operations are underway to catch the perpetrators. In an initial statement, the Army said the five personnel were martyred after their vehicle caught fire, adding further details are being ascertained. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condoled the death of five Army jawans. "I am deeply anguished by the loss of lives of brave Army personnel in a tragic incident at Poonch. Their rich service to the nation will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with the bereaved families," the J&K L-G said.

Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned the attack. He tweeted, "Terrible news of a terror attack in Poonch that claimed the lives of 5 Army jawans in the line of duty. I unequivocally condemn this heinous attack and send my condolences to the loved ones of those killed today. May the souls of the departed rest in peace."

Another former Chief Minister and Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad also expressed condolences to the bereaved families of four Army personnel who lost their lives after lightning struck their vehicle' bursting it into flames in Poonch district of J&K.

"I am deeply pained to learn about the loss of lives of our brave Army personnel in a tragic road accident in Poonch. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Their selfless service to the nation will always be remembered. I pray for early recovery of the injured," Azad said.

The Congress has strongly condemned the terror attack on army vehicle in Bhadurian, Mendhar and termed it as a act of grave provocation by Pakistan and its sponsored terrorists.

In a strongly worded reaction, Congress said that the attack is a cowardly act which needs to be condemned in the strongest possible words. The party is shocked over the loss of precious lives and salutes the martyrs and convey deepest sympathies to their families besides praying for the recovery of the injured.

JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma termed it as an act of grave provocation by Pakistan and it reminds of the martyrdom of forty jawans in Pulwama attack in Feb 2019.

He said that the threat of terrorism in the this border belt has increased in the recent past, as some targeted civilian killings have also taken place in the border region in recent past, after long time and a serious incident had been carried out in same area in Oct, 2021, for which army was still carrying out an operation.

Pakistan needs to be given the befitting response and such provocations are intolerable. The party stands in solidarity with our armed forces and security forces to thwart the nefarious designs of Pakistan.

Sharma said that GOI must decide about the participation of Pakistan's foreign minister in the forthcoming SCO meet in Goa, next month, in view of the continued terrorist attacks on our jawans and civilians.

### CUET-PG to...

"Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-PG will be conducted on June 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Candidates are advised to regularly visit the NTA website for the latest updates regarding the examination," a senior official said.

While the University Grants Commission (UGC) has mandated all central universities to use CUET for undergraduate admission, it has been kept optional for post-graduate admissions.

A total of 180 universities, including Central, state and private ones, have come on board to conduct their postgraduate admissions through CUET-PG.

Unlike CUET-UG, the PG test will be conducted in two shifts per day. The UGC has decided to conduct the undergraduate exam in three shifts from this year.

"For appearing in the CUET-PG, 2023, there is no age limit for the candidates. The candidates who have passed the bachelor degree and equivalent examination or appearing in 2023 irrespective of their age can appear in CUET-PG 2023 examination. However, the candidates will be required to fulfill the age criteria of the university in which they are desirous of taking admission," the official added.

### NGT seeks report...

claiming that such waste was being dumped on the confluence of the Poonch river and the Belar Nala near Poonch town.

A bench of Chairperson Justice A K Goel said, "Let the J&KPCC (Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee) and the district magistrate, Budgam, furnish a joint report in the matter after verifying the facts and take remedial action within two months

"The J&KPCC will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance."

The bench, also comprising Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, said the report also has to mention the steps taken to prevent such dumping and manage solid and bio-medical waste in the area. The matter has been posted to July 12 for further proceedings.

According to the petition, the dumping of waste polluted the river, a source of drinking water, and the authorities concerned failed to take remedial action despite representations.

### Surat Court rejects...

stayed. A metropolitan magistrate court here on March 23 sentenced Gandhi to two years in jail after convicting him under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code for criminal defamation in the case filed by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi.

A day later, 52-year-old Gandhi, who was elected as the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad in Kerala in 2019, was disqualified under provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

While granting him bail on April 3, the court had issued notices to complainant Purnesh Modi as well as the state government for hearing on the Congress leader's plea for a stay on his conviction.

After hearing both the sides, the court on April 13 reserved its order on Gandhi's plea for stay on conviction which was rejected on Thursday.

Gandhi's lawyer Panwala said the Congress leader will continue to remain out on bail till the disposal of his main appeal as per the court's April 3 order.

Purnesh Modi's lawyer Harshil Tolia said the court considered all aspects before rejecting Gandhi's plea.

The case was registered against Gandhi following the BJP MLA's complaint over his remarks, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?" made during an election rally at Kolar in Karnataka on April 13, 2019.

"The court has taken into consideration all the legal and factual points while delivering its order. It considered arguments of both the sides and held that our client Purnesh Modi, who belongs to the Modi community, is competent to file a criminal defamation case on Gandhi's remark," Tolia said.

In its order, the court said the power accorded under section 389 (1) of the CrPC to suspend/stay the conviction is required to be exercised "with caution and circumspection" as observed by the Supreme Court in a number of pronouncements.

"If such power is exercised in a casual and mechanical manner, the same would have serious impact on the public perception on the justice delivery systems and such order will shake public confidence in judiciary," it said.

The court observed that the appellant has not made out any case to suspend the conviction recorded against him.

Hitting out at the Congress, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "The court's decision is a blow to the arrogance of the Gandhi family, especially Rahul Gandhi."

It also proves that law is equal for everyone, he said. "There is a festive atmosphere in the country," he added.

Patra alleged the Congress was "mobilising its ecosystem" after Gandhi's conviction in the case last month "to carry out a movement against the judiciary and even got statements issued against India".

"The Congress ecosystem created an atmosphere that there was bias against Gandhi in trial court judgment," he alleged.

Slamming the Congress for raising questions on Gandhi's conviction, Patra said, "Judiciary today said no matter how much pressure politics you resort to, we won't buckle."

"Today, two entities have been defeated. One is the arrogance of the Gandhi family and the entire ecosystem which comes out on the streets in defence of the Gandhi family.

"This ecosystem includes some very big people in the country and abroad who swiftly come out in defence of the Gandhi family's arrogance," Patra added.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh in a tweet said, "We will continue to avail all options still available to us under the law. Dr A M Singhvi will brief the media on Rahul Gandhi's appeal at 4 pm."

Responding to questions on Gandhi's case, Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda said it is a "politically motivated" case. "We have full faith in the judiciary," he added.

Earlier, arguing for Gandhi's plea for a stay on his conviction, his lawyer had told the court that the trial was "not fair" and there was no need for maximum punishment in the case.

In his submission, Gandhi had said if the March 23 judgment of the trial court is not suspended and stayed, it will cause irreparable damage to his reputation.

The Congress leader had said he was sentenced in a manner so as to attract the order of disqualification because the trial court was well aware of his status as a par-

liamentarian.

The by-election held in his Lok Sabha seat due to his disqualification if his conviction is not stayed cannot be undone even if the court subsequently acquits him. Such an election will also cause irreparable loss to the state exchequer, he said.

Opposing his plea, MLA Purnesh Modi had told the court that Gandhi is a repeat offender with several cases of criminal defamation against him going on in different courts across the country.

He said the way Gandhi had come to file his appeal showed "extraordinary arrogance" and "a very dirty display of childish arrogance and an immature act of bringing pressure upon the court."

### Buddha's teachings offer...

Lord Buddha's teachings and said the need of the hour is that people and nations prioritise global interests along with that of their own by drawing inspiration from the Buddha's philosophy.

This is the road to a happy and stable world. This is necessary to move from self to the wider world, from narrowness to integral (approach), the prime minister said, adding that the world will have to think about the poor and countries lacking resources. Inspired by the teachings of Lord Buddha, India is taking new initiatives for global welfare, he said.

Modi asserted that India has been following the path shown by the Buddha and cited the country extending help to others, including Turkiye after it was hit by an earthquake, to say that it has treated every human being's pain as its own.

"Challenges to solutions is the journey of the Buddha (samasya se samadhan'). The Buddha didn't leave his palace because He was in discomfort, He left because he saw and felt the pain of others," he said.

It is universally accepted that today's time is the "most challenging time of the century, Modi said.

"Two countries have been at war; the world is going through economic instability, terrorism and religious extremism are assaulting the soul of humanity, climate change crisis is hovering over humanity, glaciers are melting, ecology getting destroyed, species getting extinct. Yet there are crores of people, like those sitting here, who have faith in the Buddha. This faith gives strength," he said.

Among the audience were delegates from 30 countries apart from India. Eminent Buddhist monks, scholars, ambassadors and diplomats are taking part in the summit being hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) on April 20 and 21 at The Ashok Hotel here.

The theme of the two-day summit is "Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis".

Modi, in his address, recalled his speech at the United Nations a few years ago and said, "India didn't give war to the world, it gave the Buddha."

In his opening remarks, the prime minister said that this "land of Buddha has the philosophy of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' and the presence of so many venerable Buddhist monks from various parts of the world who follow his teachings make "us feel the presence of Lord Buddha".

Lord Buddha is a consciousness beyond a person, a thinking beyond form, and the Buddha's consciousness is eternal and perennial, Modi said.

He said the summit will provide an "effective platform" for putting together efforts of all countries in the direction of achieving a peaceful and prosperous world while fostering sustainability.

Platforms like IBC are giving the opportunity to "like-minded and like-hearted countries" to spread Buddha Dhamma and peace, Modi said.

Prime Minister Modi noted that his government has constantly endeavoured to propagate the Buddha's ideas and highlighted the deep links Buddhism has with Gujarat's Vadnagar, his birthplace where archaeological artefacts have been found and his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi which is close to Samath.

He said the summit was taking place at a time when India has completed 75 years of Independence and celebrating "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav". The world is watching this country of 140 crore people, understanding it and also accepting it, Modi said.

Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said, "This Global Buddhist Summit will also help in strengthening cultural and diplomatic ties with other countries."

During the course of the summit, discussions will be held on peace, environment, morality, health, and sustainability, among others, he said.

### Court takes serious...

Executive Engineer in Hydraulic Division Kishtwar during 2011 to 2015. As per investigation, during the tenure of petitioner, 48 works were executed, out of which only 21 works could be identified ever since investigation started. About allegedly forgery of bills, investigation did not reveal anything and is still going on.

Court further observed that in a case where verification of allegations took six years and thereafter, investigation has taken up one year and still the chief allegations of forgery of bills, non-execution of work on ground and loss to State Exchequer as alleged, could not register any noteworthy progress- is something which cannot be appreciated. "Circumstances which warrant serious indulgence of supervisory officers in hierarchy of investigating agency so that investigation can proceed expeditiously to logical conclusion and directed investigating agency come with latest progress registered by next date of hearing in the case so that after considering all relevant aspects, this application can be disposed off on merits. It would be in the fitness of things if investigating agency also pointedly brings up as to in which way custodial interrogation of petitioner is deemed appropriate by it and why it is in-explicably reluctant to associate other co-accused with investigation as on date," the Court observed.

### India attaches special...

special importance to the SCO in promoting dialogue on the subject relating to multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects, an official statement said.

Shah said India attaches special importance to disaster risk reduction and is ready to share its expertise and experience in this field for greater cooperation and mutual trust among SCO member states.

He said India believes that no hazard is small or big and it does not leave anyone behind.

Shah said India now has more accurate and timely early warning system in place and the country has seen a sea change in the way its early warning systems (EWS) of drought, flood, lightning, heat wave, cold wave, cyclone, have improved.

He said the forecast not only warns India about the disaster but also predicts the potential impact it is likely to cause.

According to Shah, at the time of a natural disaster, it is of great importance how quickly the relief reaches the affected area and this speed reflects the preparedness of the team and the efficiency of their training.

He said India has been associated with the SCO since 2005 and playing an important role as an observer country, since then.

At the 17th Summit in 2017, India became a full member of the SCO as part of an important step in the process of expansion of this organization.

Shah said it is a matter of pride that India is donning the mantle of the chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State for the very first time since becoming a full-fledged member state in 2017.

He said the SCO will probably be the largest regional organisation in the world at this time, representing 40 per cent of the global population, 25 per cent of the global GDP and 22 per cent of the world's total land area.

Today, the SCO has developed into an international organization and it has provided an excellent platform for harmonising cooperation with all member countries, he said.

Shah said each and every life, family and their livelihood are priceless and all possible efforts should be made to protect it.

He said India's approach to early warning system is people-centric and we want to ensure that our forecasting and warning system is not just scientifically advanced but it is also communicated in a manner that is understandable, usable and actionable by common people.

The home minister said there was a time when cyclonic storms in India used to cause huge loss of life and property, but, India has made 'community empowerment' the basis of its efforts, due to which the damage caused by cyclones has been reduced, which is being appreciated by the whole world today.

He said India has taken several important initiatives of international cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction.

### Five JKAS officers...

services are placed at the disposal of Information Department, for further posting.

"Mehmood Ahmad Shah, JKAS:1999, Director, Handloom and Handicrafts, Kashmir, shall hold the charge of the post of Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, in addition to his own duties, till Saloni Rai, IAS, remains on leave," reads another order.

### SC gives 3...

migrant/unorganized labourer or his family members may be deprived of the benefit of the schemes and may be the benefit under the National Food Security Act," it said.

The bench said that being a welfare State, it is therefore the duty of the state/Union territory concerned to see that the remaining registrants on e-Shram, who are still not registered on ration card data and who are not issued the ration cards, they are issued ration cards and the exercise for issuance of ration cards is required to be expedited.

"As the Union of India and the concerned State/UT now already have the data of the registrants on e-Shram portal and will be having the required information, the State/UT shall reach to them so that they can be issued the ration cards and that their names are registered on ration card data," it said.

The top court's order came on an application filed by petitioners Anjali Bhardwaj, Harsh Mander and Jagdeep Chhokkar who had sought that ration to the migrant labourers be given irrespective of the quota of ration under the NFSA.

The bench noted the submission of advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners, that approximately more than 10 crore people are deprived of the benefit of National Food Security Act due to non-issuance of the ration cards which as such is due to the fact that at present census of 2011 is being implemented and that after 2011 population has increased.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said that against the total target of 38,37,42,394 migrants, 28,86,23,993 have already registered their names on e-Shram portal.

She submitted that the e-Shram portal was launched on August 26, 2021 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which is meant to register and support the unorganised/migrant workers by providing them with a Universal Account Number (UAN).

The government said the Ministry of Labour and Employment has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to share e-Shram portal data with states and Union territories.

It said that approximately 3.82 crore e-Shram registrants are also found to be beneficiary under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi.

The government submitted that the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mann-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM) has been given to the eligible migrants and each state has its own policies for issuance of the ration card.

The top court had earlier said migrant workers play a very vital role in building the nation and their rights cannot be ignored.

It had also asked the Centre to devise a mechanism so that they receive food grains without ration cards.

Earlier, the top court had issued a slew of directions to authorities on a plea of the three activists seeking welfare measures for migrant workers and ordered states and Union territories to frame schemes for providing free dry rations to them till the Covid pandemic lasted and said the Centre will have to allocate additional food grains.

It had also directed states and Union territories to register all establishments and license all contractors under the law and ensure that the statutory duty is imposed on the contractors to give particulars of migrant workers.

### Dubai Expo liabilities...

service providers in order to carry out the numerous activities planned for the event. "In addition, FICCI was tasked with maintaining a ledger of account for the costs associated with the event."

The H&H department also informed that the event was conducted however; due to a delay in the submission of the bills by FICCI and a change of guard at JKTPO and their shifting to treasury operations caused the delay.

"The amount on account of liabilities is expected to be paid to FICCI, who in turn shall make the payments to the concerned vendors", it added.

Moreover, the statement issued by H&H deptt reads, "With respect to remuneration, the Performance Fee is being paid in accordance with the rates notified by the Cultural Academy, J&K". "Pertinent to mention, an amount of Rs. 17 Lacs approximately was spent on the Boarding and Lodging of these 11 artists, who were part of the cultural troupe", the department maintained.

### Focus on capacity...

Civil Services Day 2023 is 'Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile'.

Singh said that Prime Minister Modi would be addressing the nation on the Civil Services Day and conferring the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2022, on Friday.

The prime minister has devoted considerable time and energy to personally restructure the scheme to ensure that high meritocracy is rewarded, evaluation processes are robust and participation is inclusive, he said.

As many as 15 awardees from 2,520 nominations would be receiving the awards on Friday, he said.

Singh said the 16th Civil Services Day events reflect the vision of Prime Minister Modi outlined by him from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his Independence Day address when he gave a clarion call as the nation stepped into "Amrit Kaal".

"The saturation approach envisaged in implementation of priority programmes in the Amrit Kaal period can only be achieved when the nation's civil service pursues this objective with a seriousness of purpose, steely determination and a deep sense of commitment to the national cause," the minister said.

Quoting Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's address to the very first group of civil servants in 1948 that "Your predecessors were brought up in the traditions in which they kept themselves aloof from the common run of the people. It will be your bounden duty to treat the common men in India as your own", Singh said much has changed with the passage of time.

The minister said that citizen participation has already happened and one of the most striking examples of it is the SVAMITVA scheme.

It is a reformative step towards establishment of clear ownership of property in rural inhabited (Abadi) areas, by mapping of land parcels using drone technology and providing record of rights' to village household owners with issuance of legal ownership cards (property cards/title deeds) to the property owners, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

One of the benchmarks of transparency, accountability is the grievance, Singh said. "When we introduced Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), in 2014 we just had about 2 lakhs grievances being filed across the country every year. Today we have about 20 lakhs, 10 times more. This is the result of increased trust of people in grievance redressal.

"We were prompt, worked very hard. We ensured 95-100% disposal every week. Now, we have institutionalised a mechanism wherein after the redressal of complaint, one of our officers calls up the complainant to find out the level of satisfaction," he added. CPGRAMS is an online system that allows citizens to raise public grievances against government departments. Singh complimented the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) team for the successful Swachhata 2.0 campaign.

"For the first time, the realisation dawned in the society that swachhata could also fetch you money. The swachhata campaign was conducted in 1.01 lakh office sites, 89.85 lakh square feet of space was freed and Rs 370.83 crore revenue earned from disposal of office scrap including the electronic scrap," he said.

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba and DARPG Secretary V Srinivas, among others, were present in Thursday's event presided over by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

### NC dissolves Media...

communication wing, including identifying new media panellists for the party. Until the new arrangements are made, all existing spokespersons will cease to exist," he said. However, the party's provincial spokesperson, Kashmir, Ifra Jan will continue to manage the Social Media cell temporarily, the order said. The party also said the office of the chief spokesperson will continue to function normally.

### ECI extends date...

inclusion, deletion and correction/shifting of their names in the electoral rolls on form number 6, 7 and 8 respectively as the case may be, upto 6th of May 2023.

### Avalanche warning issued...

over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts in the next 24 hours, the disaster management authority officials said.

Avalanche with 'medium' danger level is likely to occur above 2,800 metres over the Ganderbal district, they said. People in these districts have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing to avalanche-prone areas till further orders, they added.

Many areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir received fresh snowfall while the plains were lashed by rain over the past three days.

### J&K Govt enhances...

hailing from Jammu & Kashmir who attain martyrdom either inside or outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on the same terms as notified vide Government Order No. 823-GAD of 2022 dated July 12, 2022 for Defence Force Personnel," reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department.

As per order Ex-gratia relief enhance from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh (Rs.20.00 lakh out of UT Budget and Rs.5.00 lakh out of SRE) in favour in NoKs of those Central Armed Para-military Personnel hailing from Jammu & Kashmir, who attain martyrdom within the territorial jurisdiction of Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The government also grant ex-gratia relief of Rs. 25.00 lakh each, out of UT Budget, in favour of NoKs of those Central Armed Para-military Personnel hailing from Jammu & Kashmir; who attain martyrdom in consequence of due performance of official duties, due to law and order problem(s), militancy, civil commotion, communal violence, land mine blast, IED blast, cross border firing or Left Wing Extremism, anywhere in the country, outside the territorial jurisdiction of Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir," an order added. "The Ex-gratia shall be sanctioned by the Government in the Home Department," it added.

