

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Bus rolls down...

them are in a critical condition. Timely treatment is being given to the patients," Principal of the hospital Dr Ashutosh Gupta said.

The injured passengers said the accident took place when the driver was negotiating a blind curve and a speeding car was coming from the opposite direction.

"A car was coming from the opposite direction. The driver tried to negotiate a blind curve but failed, resulting in the vehicle rolling down the gorge," Amar Chand, one of the injured people undergoing treatment at the hospital, said.

Those who sustained injuries in the incident said they had come for a pilgrimage to Shiv Khori.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Faisal Qureshi, the transport commissioner, along with other officials, visited the spot and supervised the operation.

The SSP said it seems there was no overloading of passengers in the bus.

Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, SSP-Jammu and the deputy commissioner of Jammu visited the GMC hospital to inquire about the injured.

"Pained beyond words to learn about the loss of lives in a bus accident in Akhnoor near Jammu. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I wish speedy recovery of the injured", President Droupadi Murmu tweets.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed grief over loss of life in tragic accident. "Anguished by the loss of lives due to a bus mishap in Akhnoor. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover soon. Rs. 2 lakh would be given to the next of kin of each deceased due to the bus mishap. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000", tweets PM Modi.

The LG has expressed anguish at the loss of lives in the accident.

This is the biggest accident in the region since a similar incident was reported from Doda on November 15, 2023, in which 39 people were killed and 19 injured when a bus carrying passengers skidded off the road and rolled down into a 300-foot gorge in the Trungal-Assar area of the district.

On March 29, 10 people were killed after a sports utility vehicle (SUV) skidded off the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and fell into a gorge in the Battery Cheshma area of Ramban district.

On July 1, 2019, 35 people were killed and 17 injured when an overloaded mini-bus veered off the road and fell into a gorge in Kishtwar's Sangwari area.

On September 14, 2018, 17 passengers were killed and 16 injured when a mini-bus skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in the Dandaran area of Kishtwar.

Jammu authority sets up 24-hour helpline for updates on bus tragedy victims

Jammu administration Thursday night announced it has set up a 24-hour helpline to provide information and assistance to the relatives of the victims of the bus tragedy that took place earlier in the day at Tungi Morh.

"In response to the tragic bus accident that occurred near Tanda (Akhnoor) this afternoon, affecting passengers from Kurukshetra, Haryana, a 24-hour helpline has been established to provide information and assistance to the relatives of the victims," an official spokesperson of the administration said.

The Police Control Room in Jammu has set up dedicated phone numbers to offer support and updates regarding the condition and whereabouts of the injured passengers with helpline numbers as 0191-2542000 and 88-9933-4482, the spokesperson said.

Mines explode after..

In a similar incident in Jammu, a fire broke out in the Choki Chora area and spread to adjoining areas of Chora, Khardoon, Padoon, Bamla, Keri and Kandi, spread across several hectares of forest land, the officials said.

The forest department officials and local residents launched an operation to extinguish the flames, successfully bringing the fire under control after several hours, they said. There was no loss of life or injury to anyone in both the incidents, they added.

Streamline riding surface...

He asked for taking swift steps like enhancing width of the carriage way besides black topping all the stretches where traffic snarls are occurring due to rough surface of the road. He enjoined upon the concerned divisional and district administration to identify all such spots which needs immediate improvement so that no adversity is faced during the upcoming yatra and fruit season when thousands of fruit laden trucks are bound to cross this Highway on daily basis.

The Chief Secretary asked about the causes behind worsening condition of roads on the highway including Dalwas, Old Passi, Mehard, Marog (Ramban), Pratap Nallah (Digdol), Khooni Nallah, Panthyal, Magarkote, Higni, Lower Nachlana and Kishtwari Pather. He also sought feedback from the Traffic, DCs and NHAI about the measures to be taken in this regard and fixed deadline for ironing out these difficulties in coordination with all stakeholders.

Dulloo asked the executing agencies to improve the Kathua-Katra stretch of the Highway besides ensuring its blacktopping before 20th of June without any further delay. He asked the Div Com Jammu to personally monitor this work and submit report daily on this account.

He also took stock of the physical progress achieved on construction of grade separators at Bemina, Sanat Nagar and Nowgam crossings in Srinagar. He also reviewed the work done, so far, on the overhead Railway crossing Bridge near Bijbehara. He asked for expediting work on all these projects for timely completion.

In a presentation given by IG Traffic, Bhim Sen Tuti, a detailed analysis of the previous traffic halts along with their durations was highlighted. The reasons for each such disruption was spotlighted and the cause of suspensions experienced this month were particularly brought to fore.

It was informed that the incessant rains on 29th and 30th of April had eroded the loop of the old road at Magerkote which was used to pass traffic in one direction. It was added that the construction work on fly-overs, via-ducts and tunnels at several locations is sometimes causing difficulty in smooth passage of traffic.

It was also revealed that the traffic Department in collaboration with the district administration Ramban have identified 19 spots for taking certain corrective measures there. The steps like road widening, compacting and blacktopping at these stretches would be finished in next couple of weeks by taking a dry day in between, the meeting was apprised

The meeting was informed that the road condition would be substantially upgraded by NHAI before the onset of fruit, vegetable season and commencement of Shri Amarnath Ji yatra this year for convenience of all the travellers going to and fro from Srinagar to Jammu and vice-versa.

Tragic bus mishap...

Additionally, Tarun Chugh highlighted the importance of swift action and urged the authorities concerned to ensure the best possible treatment for those injured in the accident.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and urge authorities concerned to ensure the best possible treatment to those injured in the incident," he said.

Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Ghulam Nabi Azad in a condolence message said, "I am deeply saddened by the tragic bus accident in Akhnoor, Jammu, that claimed 22 lives and injured 68. My heartfelt condolences go out to the families of the victims. I urge the government to provide immediate compensation to the affected families and ensure the best possible treatment for the injured".

Azad highlighted the growing issue of road accidents in the Jammu region, stating, "Road accidents are on the rise in the Jammu region. There is a lack of accountability and strict enforcement against rash driving and overloading. The government must take strong measures to control these accidents."

He further emphasised the urgent need to address these issues to prevent such tragedies. "Overloading and rash driving on highways must be curbed to prevent such tragic incidents," Azad added.

Azad called for stringent measures to improve road safety and prevent future accidents, ensuring the safety and well-being of all passengers.

Expressing profound grief over the tragic bus accident, former MLC, Vikramaditya Singh said, "My thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones in this tragic accident. May the departed souls rest in peace, and may the Almighty give strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss."

Vikramaditya also urged the government to provide the best medical care to the injured and emphasized the need for stricter enforcement of traffic regulations to prevent such tragic incidents in the future.

Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari, while expressing shock over the tragic road mishap, said "I am deeply pained to hear about the heart - breaking road accident that has consumed 22 lives of the pilgrims."

He sought immediate release of ex-gratia in favour of the next of kins of the deceased pilgrims. He said that the injured pilgrims should be provided free of cost specialized treatment by the Govt.

Ajatshatru Singh, senior BJP leader and former minister, while expressing deep condolences over the accident, conveyed his sorrow and sympathy to the bereaved families. "I hope and pray for the quick recovery of all the injured. They must receive the best medical care available to aid in their recovery," he emphasized.

President JKPCC Vikar Raool Wani and several senior Congress leaders expressed

deep shock over the loss of precious lives in the bus accident.

They urged upon the Govt. to provide immediate special medical help to the surviving passengers and also financial help in favour of next kin's of deceased to the tune of Rs 10 lakh each and Rs. 5 lakh to the injured.

They conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for early recovery of the injured.

Signatories to the statement included Vice President PCC Vinod Sharma, General Secretaries Narinder Gupta (Org), Narinder Sharma, Secretaries Sahil Sharma, Vijay Kumar Shastri, Chairman Congress Seva Dal Vijay Sharma, Pradesh Youth Congress Incharge HQ Ricky Dalotra, Chairman RTI Cell Adv Bhavishya Sudan, Vice Chairman Minority Cell Nassar Masih, Varinder Singh Manhas, Camres David (Babloo).

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of J&K National Conference Jammu, said "My heartfelt prayers go out to the families who lost their loved ones. May the Almighty give them the strength to bear this irreparable loss. I am also praying for the speedy recovery of those injured in this tragic accident."

Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson for B-JP J&K and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, expressed profound sorrow over the bus accident and conveyed heartfelt condolences to the grieving families, praying for the eternal peace of those who lost their lives in this devastating accident.

She emphasized the urgency of providing the best possible medical care to the injured, urging the government to ensure that these individuals receive immediate and comprehensive treatment.

Sham Lal Langer, Convener of the BJP Trade Cell in J&K, while expressing deep shock over the accident, underscored the need for specialized medical treatment to be provided to the injured individuals.

He conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones in this tragic mishap.

Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, has expressed deep anguish over the tragic bus accident.

"My heartfelt prayers go out to the families who lost their loved ones in this tragic accident. May the Almighty give them the strength to bear this irreparable loss? I am also praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," he said.

Gaurav urged the government to provide all possible assistance to the bereaved families and ensure that those injured receive the necessary medical facilities promptly.

Gaurav emphasized the importance of road safety and called for measures to prevent such accidents in the future.

HC upholds PSA...

criminal jurisprudence. In any case, the contravention of any law always affects law and order but before it can be said to be public order, it must affect the community and the public at large. It is thus not only the act committed by the person but the impact of such act which is the determining factor to decide about the imperative need to place such person under the preventive detention. If the criminal act of a citizen and the manner in which it is committed affects the even tempo of public life or affects the community at large, it would be an act falling within the sweep of term 'public order'.

In the instant case the criminal activities, with which the petitioner is involved, are not only the criminal offences under various penal laws simplicitor but have the effect of affecting the community at large. There is a very serious allegation against the petitioner that she is running a sex racket and has been inducing gullible girls, sometimes even minor, to join prostitution. There are allegations that on some occasions the petitioner even forced minor girls into prostitution. It is the nature of the activities attributed to the petitioner and the manner in which these are being carried out in an organized manner that has the potential of disturbing the even tempo of life of general public, in particular, the people residing nearby.

In these circumstances, it is difficult to accept the argument of the counsel for the petitioner that the substantive law should have been allowed to take its course and that there was hardly any justification to put the petitioner under the preventive detention. It is true that the petitioner has been booked for commission of various offences from time to time and has, for one reason or the other, been let off on bail but that does not take away the power of the Detaining Authority to place the petitioner under preventive detention with a view to prevent her from indulging in the activities prejudicial to the maintenance of public order. The petitioner has not pointed out any other illegality or infirmity in the impugned order. With these observations, Court found no merit in the petition.

was there was anti-backward, anti-poor. He is talking about the governments of his great grandfather, grandmother and father, and saying the system during their times was anti-backward and anti-poor.

"Rahul Gandhi himself is saying all these things, which means he is accepting that his government was against Dalits, the poor and backward classes. Tell me, have you seen such a leader anywhere? He is a strange leader," the senior BJP leader said.

Referring to former Union minister R P N Singh, who quit the Congress and joined the BJP, Rajnath Singh said, "Any sensible man will kick the Congress."

R P N Singh was seated next to the defence minister on the dais.

Rajnath Singh claimed that the BJP does not indulge in "Hindu-Muslim politics".

"We consider everyone a citizen of India. Be it Hindu, Muslim, Christian.... We never discriminate and neither does our prime minister. Our party's ideology is also not like this," he said.

The BJP leader pointed out that India has become the fifth-largest economy in the world and credited Modi for it.

"By 2027, India will become the third-largest economy. I have no doubt that India will become a developed country by 2047, but if our government continues like this, India will become the largest economy in the world by 2070," he said.

The defence minister later addressed another rally in Robertsganj in support of Rinki Kol, the Apna Dal (Soneylal) candidate from the Lok Sabha constituency. The Apna Dal is an alliance partner of the BJP.

Slamming the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) of opposition parties, Singh said, "The INDI alliance is the India todo (break) alliance. It is saying the BJP will do away with reservations. It is spreading this lie because it does not have any issue."

"It claims that Modi will become a dictator if we (NDA) get 400 seats. I want to remind you of Indira Gandhi who had imposed Emergency. Dictatorship was done by the Congress," he said, accusing the former prime minister of changing the Preamble of the Constitution.

Kushinagar and Robertsganj are scheduled to go to polls in the seventh and final phase of the Lok Sabha election on June 1. The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

Modi begins ‘Dhyan’...

in place for Modi's 45-hour stay at the famed memorial named after the revered Hindu saint. This is the first time the prime minister will be staying at the memorial, a monument built in tribute to Swami Vivekananda, who meditated over the rocks inside the sea towards the end of 1892.

While the PM chose Kedarnath cave to reflect and meditate following the end of campaign in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, now he has chosen a spiritually significant place in the southernmost tip in the mainland of the country.

Following the culmination of the hectic Lok Sabha election campaign in which he presided and addressed a multitude of political events such as roadshows and rallies, Modi will be meditating in an ambience of quietude, where probably only the sound of breaking waves could be heard.

While security personnel teemed the memorial premises, security has been beefed up in the entire Kanyakumari district and about 2,000 police personnel have been deployed, besides heightened vigil by the Tamil Nadu police's Coastal Security Group, Coast Guard and the Navy.

Modi's meditation from the evening of Thursday to the evening of June 1 at dhyan mandapam is the place where Vivekananda -- a spiritual icon admired by the PM -- is believed to have had a divine vision about 'Bharat Mata'.

Modi ends campaign...

sin. The armed forces are raised to be battle-ready and not for parade, he said.

The prime minister hit back at opposition leaders for criticising the 'Agnipath' scheme, a programme for short-term recruitment into the armed forces, and seeking to gain's voters' support with its promise to scrap the measure. He did not mention the scheme in his attack.

"I want to tell INDI Alliance leaders. I am silent but you should not make a mistake in understanding Modi... 'Modi jis din muh kholega to tumhari saat pidhi ke paap nikaal ke rakh dunga' (The day Modi opens his mouth, he will bring out the sins of your seven generations)," he said. "You abuse Modi as much you want but Modi will not tolerate this insult to my country's armed forces," he went on to say.

Targeting the Aam Aadmi Party, which runs the government in Punjab, the prime minister compared it to an infant who "stole" the nurse's ring the moment he was born. It turned out that the infant's father was a big thief, he said, and linked the AAP to the Congress saying the latter has given birth to corruption in the country.

"It took the Congress 60 years to do a PhD in corruption but they (AAP) are born corrupt," he said.

LIST OF INJURED IN BUS ACCIDENT

- Krishna age 13 yrs S/O Jai Veer R/O Aligarh, UP
- Jai veer age 50 yrs S/O Gure Singh R/O Aligarh, UP
- Amravati age 45 yrs W/O Unknown R/O Aligarh, UP
- Satyaveer Singh age 45 yrs S/O Jhangi Singh R/O UP
- Goutam Singh age 55 yrs S/O Sundar Singh R/O UP
- Sunita age 35 yrs W/O Bobby R/O UP
- Radha age 60 yrs W/O Sardar R/O UP
- Anju age 18 yrs D/O Saspal R/O UP
- Subash Chander age 34 yrs S/O Lal Singh R/O Mathura, UP
- Anju age 34 yrs W/O Jai Veer R/O Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- Shanti age 65 yrs W/O Mahinder R/O Aligarh, UP
- Kajal age 16 yrs D/O Satyender R/O Naya, UP
- Sanjay Kumar age 40 yrs S/O Suresh Singh R/O Aligarh, UP
- Prashant Choudhary age 21 yrs S/O Neeraj Kumar R/O Mathura, UP
- Urvesh age 40 yrs W/O Satya R/O UP
- Unknown female age about 30 yrs
- Unknown male age 60 yrs
- Puniya age 70 yrs W/O unknown R/O UP
- Yash age 08 yrs S/O & R/O not known
- Yogveer age 30 yrs S/O not known R/O UP
- Rakesh age 25 yrs S/O Rajinder Singh R/O U.P
- Geeta age 30 yrs W/O Jai veer R/O Aligarh
- Yash age 11 yrs S/O & R/O not known
- Jatin age 17 yrs S/O Shamsher R/O Narella Haryana
- Geeta age 35 yrs W/O Chander Mohan R/O U.P
- Raghuveer age 70 yrs S/O Hardam Singh R/O Mathura, UP
- Sangeeta age 27 yrs W/O Arvinder R/O UP
- Sanjay age 38 yrs S/O Gure Singh R/O Aligarh UP
- Munni Devi age 57 yrs W/O Umar Pal R/O UP
- Sharda Devi age 65 yrs W/O Shamvir Singh R/O Aligarh UP
- Mannu age 06 yrs S/O Arvinder R/O UP
- Jatin age 12 yrs S/O Ajeet R/O UP
- Munni age 50 yrs W/O Amar Singh R/O Rajasthan
- Rinku age 25 yrs S/O Mahinder Pal R/O Aligarh, UP
- Devo age 58 yrs W/O Sultan Singh R/O Aligarh, UP
- Radha age 28 yrs W/O Pawan R/O Aligarh, UP
- Neelma age 32 yrs W/O Har veer R/O Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- Gopal age 18 yrs S/O Bhagwan Singh R/O UP
- Yashoda age 48 yrs W/O Dharamvir R/O Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- Bhagwan Singh age 48 yrs S/O Rajinder Singh R/O UP
- Rajinder Singh age 52 yrs S/O Shiv Ram Singh R/O UP
- Ranveer Singh age 70 yrs S/O Babu Lal R/O Mathura UP
- Arjun age 18 yrs S/O Radhey Shyam Singh R/O UP
- Rajwanti age 50 yrs W/O Satvir Singh R/O UP
- Anita age 48 yrs W/O Shivender Singh R/O UP
- Urmila age 45 yrs W/O Sham Vir Singh R/O UP
- Rakesh age 47 yrs S/O Than Singh R/O UP
- Pranav age 10 yrs S/O Bhupinder Singh R/O UP
- Neelam age 30 yrs W/O Bhupinder Singh R/O UP
- Munni Devi age 50 yrs W/O unknown R/O unknown
- Geeta age 35 yrs W/O Shashi Pal R/O UP
- Shashi Pal age 38 yrs S/O Rajinder Singh R/O UP
- Suman age 25 yrs W/O Pritam R/O UP
- Gourav age 09 yrs S/O Pritam R/O UP
- Kamlesh age 45 yrs W/O Omi Singh R/O UP
- Koushal Kumar age 25 yrs S/O Sukhvir Singh R/O UP
- Kamlesh age 48 yrs W/O Chander Prakash R/O UP
- All admitted in GMC Jammu.
- Kumar Paul age 60 yrs S/O Parub Singh R/O Ltathare, UP
- Bal Krishan age 51 yrs S/O Raghunath Parshad R/O Aligarh, UP.
- Bila Devi age 50 yrs W/O Gotam R/O Aligarh, UP
- Suman Devi age 60 yrs W/O Gumana Parshad R/O Naya Ganga Gari, UP
- Thankasha age 08 yrs D/O Pawan R/O Niya Aligarh, UP
- Luxraj age 04 yrs S/O Pawan Kumar R/O Niya Aligarh, UP
- Radhika age 28 yrs W/O Pawan Kumar R/O Niya Aligarh, UP
- Admitted in SDH Akhnoor.

Several firsts to Agnibaan test flight, step closer to launch small satellites: IN-SPACE chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Space start-up Agnikul Cosmos' test flight of home-built Agnibaan Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SORTeD) rocket achieved several firsts to its credit when it soared into the sky from the spaceport in Sriharikota on Thursday.

In an interaction with PTI, Pawan Goenka, Chairman, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE), said the successful launch of Agnibaan was also a significant step for the private space sector in building capacity and capability for launching small satellites into orbit.

It was for the first time that a rocket was launched from a private launchpad,“Agnikul's Dhanush,” located within ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, he said.

The space regulator chief said it was for the first time in the world that a single-piece, 3D printed semi-cryogenic engine designed and developed by Agnikul was used to propel a launch vehicle.

He said it was also for the first time a semi-cryogenic engine was used to power a launch vehicle, a feat which even ISRO is yet to achieve.

He also said the successful launch of Agnibaan brought India a step closer to having a significant capacity and capability to launch small satellites.

"We already have Skyroot that has done their sub-orbital launch in November 2022. We also have the small satellite launch vehicle from ISRO which will soon be owned by a private sector company," Goenka said.

Skyroot's sub-orbital test flight of Vikram-S rocket and Agnibaan SORTeD were precursors to the launch vehicles planned by the two start-ups.

Goenka said small satellite launch vehicles have a shorter turnaround time enabling putting satellites into orbit at a short notice and at a fraction of the cost entailed in opting for heavier rockets that ferry multiple spacecraft in a single launch.

"You can book the whole vehicle and therefore you control your own destiny as a user. And it can be launched very quickly from the time that you put in the order," he said. "So, that is the advantage that you get from a small launch vehicle and that is the reason it will become preferable for small payloads," he added.

The decadal vision for the space sector in India, unveiled by IN-SPACE, aims to make the country a hub for launch of small satellites with three launch vehicles owned and operated by the private sector from a dedicated space port at Kulasekharipatanam in Tamil Nadu. At present, the Indian space economy is valued at around USD 8 billion with a two per cent share in the global space economy with a potential to reach USD 44 billion by 2033.