

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Five Army soldiers...

commissioned officer), while getting a T-72 tank across a river in Ladakh," Kharge said in a post on X.

"Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the Army personnel who fell victim to this painful tragedy. In this hour of grief, the nation stands together in saluting the exemplary service of our valiant soldiers," he added.

Rahul Gandhi, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, said the news of the soldiers' death was extremely sad.

"The news of the martyrdom of five Indian Army soldiers in an accident during a military exercise of a tank crossing a river in Ladakh is extremely sad," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

"While paying my humble tribute to all the martyred soldiers, I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. We stand with them in this hour of grief. The country will always remember their dedication, service and sacrifice," he said in a post.

Priyanka Gandhi also expressed her condolences to the families of the five soldiers.

"The news of the martyrdom of five army soldiers in the sudden flood ... in Ladakh is extremely sad. May God grant peace to the departed souls. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families," she said in Hindi in a post on X.

"The country will always remain indebted to our brave soldiers and their families for this supreme sacrifice," she added.

World Champion Again...

In the high-pressure run chase, India pacers provided two early wickets before a 58-run stand between opener Quinton de Kock (39 off 31) and Tristan Stubbs (52 off 27) put the Proteas back in the game.

However, it was Klaasen's breath taking knock that almost stunned India.. Needing a wicket, Rohit Sharma did not turn to his lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah and went for Axar Patel in the 15th over in which Klaasen pounded couple of sixes and as many fours to singled-handedly take the game away from the opposition.

The asking rate suddenly dropped to run a ball and it became South Africa's game to lose. Not known to keep their calm in pressure situations, South Africa made life tougher for themselves and needed 20 runs off the last 12 balls with David Miller and Keshav Maharaj in the centre.

Bumrah, who had bowled a beauty to dislodge Reeza Hendricks in the powerplay, made an impact when he was eventually brought back for this remaining two overs, picking up a wicket and conceding only six runs off his final 12 balls.

The equation came down 16 off the last six balls and on the first ball, Suryakumar Yadav took a sensational relay catch at the long-off boundary off Hardik to put India on the cusp of a thrilling victory.

Earlier, India did well to post the highest total in a T20 World Cup final after being 34 for three. Axar was run out in an unfortunate manner, completely against the run of play, which brought about an end to his 72-run partnership off 54 balls with Kohli. Kohli did slow down considerably in the middle overs to bring up his first 50 off the tournament with 48 balls.

Rohit Sharma (9) had no hesitation in batting first at Kensington Oval where the pitch has not been the easiest to bat on through the competition.

The Indian captain, coming from two back to back match winning efforts, departed early after collecting couple of consecutive fours off Keshav Maharaj in the second over of the game.

Maharaj responded well by having Rohit caught at square leg as the batter went for a sweep. Rohit and incoming batter Rishabh Pant both fell to the sweep shot.

The tension in the Indian camp increased when Suryakumar, who has also been in good touch like Rohit, was caught at fine-leg after not getting enough from his pick up shot off Rabada, leaving India with three down inside the powerplay.

At 45 for three in six overs, it was the slowest powerplay for India in the Caribbean leg.

Watching wickets tumble at the other end, Kohli, who hit three elegant boundaries off Marco Jansen in opening over of the final, shifted gears during the middle overs and let Axar come up with an odd boundary.

Such was the nature of Kohli's knock that his first big hit after the powerplay, a straight six off Rabada, came in the 18th over

Axar, on the other hand, potentially played the innings of his T20 career and negotiated the South African spinners effectively, collecting a six each from Aiden Markram, Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi. However, the highlight of his special knock was the straight six through the line off Rabada.

Shivam Dube (27 off 16), who came into the middle before the start of death overs, delivered a few timely blows to prop up the total.

Kohli also dropped anchor to smash a couple of sixes in the last five overs from which India collected 58 runs with the loss of three wickets.

Six cops among...

action against illegal encroachers is a routine drive.

"We urge the civil society not to misinterpret this issue. It's our collective responsibility to combat the menace of illegal constructions," the district administration said.

It asked the people to remain vigilant and not spread misinformation or believe in rumours.

"Let us work together to maintain peace and uphold the rule of law," the Kathua district administration said.

Startups powerful instrument...

and not 'Product First' so that your ideas can accelerate the process of Viksit Bharat and also encourage entrepreneurial spirit among young students," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the potential of Academic-driven start-ups to transform J&K's economy by fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in educational institutions. In this regard he highlighted the UT Administration's key initiatives like J&K Start-up Policy and potential in Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) to transform the start-ups and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the UT, especially in rural areas.

There are immense possibilities for startups in tourism, health, logistics, handloom, handicraft, horticulture, agriculture and allied sectors. Under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi, we are committed to provide necessary support and handholding to the young entrepreneurs in both technology and non-technology sectors, he said.

He said the national level seminar will encourage Universities/Colleges to invest in future and nurture the talents for impactful innovations.

The Lt Governor further emphasised the need to provide high-quality technical and vocational education and training to future entrepreneurs.

Two other important objectives of the Startups are to develop and transfer new technology for societal transformation and create a vast talent pool as per the needs of the industry, the Lt Governor observed.

He called for enhanced collaboration between academia, industry and policy-makers to develop a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu Kashmir.

The two-day national seminar is being organized by National Institute of Technology Srinagar in association with Department of Holistic Education, Central University of Kashmir, ICAR CITH, Science & Technology Department, and SKUAST-Kashmir.

Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Director, NIT Srinagar & Vice Chancellor, Central University Kashmir; Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, Technology Development Board; Dr. Parikshat Singh Manhas, Chairman JKBOSE; Dr Thakur SKR, eminent scientist; experts, intellectuals, researchers, HoDs and entrepreneurs were present.

Enhance supervision to...

to hold their board meetings for resolution of internal matters and the issues faced by its employees. He enquired about the initiatives taken or in pipeline for improving the overall financial health of the Corporation.

Dulloo, while taking cognizance of huge pendency in delivery of driving licences to applicants, directed the Transport Department to work out a mechanism for speedy delivery of these documents. He asked for sending bulk messages to them for collection of the same, holding camps or sending these to their homes through speed post.

He also took note of the actions taken by the Department against repeated violators of traffic rules. He asked about the number of licences suspended by the Department till date and the initiatives taken by it for streamlining traffic on the roads.



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting.

During the meeting, Secretary Transport, Niraj Kumar, provided insights into the overall working of the Department. He apprised of the action taken on different critical issues flagged during earlier meetings.

Regarding working of JKRTC, Managing Director of Corporation, Rakesh Sangral, informed that it has an available fleet of 1055 vehicles with 517 buses and 538 trucks in operation. He also apprised that most of its fleet is new comprising 758 vehicles of about 0-5 years of age.

Regarding financial status of the Corporation, the meeting was informed that the fleet of buses had earned a revenue of Rs 73.16 crore during 2023-24 while the trucks have realized Rs 117.40 crore revenue increasing the total earnings to Rs 190.57 crore which is higher than the previous year.

About the assets of the Corporation, it was revealed that it has land holdings to the tune of 308.20 Kanal at different locations in Kashmir division and 217.82 Kanal in Jammu division. It was added that most of these land chunks are at prime locations in the twin cities of Srinagar and Jammu and have potential to earn good revenue once developed optimally.

Informing about the major initiatives taken by RTC, it was apprised that the insurance cover had been extended to the crew (Drivers/Conductors) operating the fleet. It was given out that the implementation of ITMS & Red Bus Online ticket bookings is now in place in JKRTC.

The meeting was further apprised that the department transported 1,26,674 pilgrims and 9,092 Sadhus during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2023 and earned Rs.644.91 lakhs. It was added that presently there is no liability of loan in JKRTC and the Corporation has also extended several benefits to its retired and in-service employees out of its own resources.

When it comes to reforms to be initiated by the Department, it was enunciated that the Corporation is contemplating to increase trip frequencies of its vehicles besides focusing on profitable interstate routes on National Highway, optimizing fleet strength vis-a-vis business potential, commercial utilization of JKRTC Assets, resumption of contract services with Government organizations, completing the E- ticketing module, installation of CCTV cameras and fuel sensors and implementation of IRASTAY in the UT.

CB files chargesheet...

in J&K Police as constable was operating as property dealer and after committing frauds he constructed a four story building/hotel at Gool (Ramban) in the name of his father.

The Crime Branch was investigating many complaints against the accused couple as they had cheated many innocent persons by showing them plots owned by others. They even cheated a serving Senior Superintendent of Police, who has been cheated to the tune of lakhs of rupees.

DySP Baghwan Dass Dhandiya investigated the case under the supervision of SSP Crime Branch Benam Tosh.

A charge sheet comprising of 470 pages has been produced in the court of City Judge Jammu.

Four killed in...

police said. The woman was referred to a hospital in Amritsar and the bodies have been sent for postmortem to Civil Hospital, Dasuya, they said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Harjit Singh said further investigation in the matter was underway.

Amarnath Yatra: Pilgrims...

of all pilgrims. Essential amenities, healthcare services, and robust security measures have been meticulously put in place at the base camps and along the route to the holy Cave.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had flagged off the first batch of 4,603 pilgrims from the Yatri Niwas base camp in Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu on Friday.

The pilgrims reached the Kashmir Valley in the afternoon and received a rousing welcome from the administration and locals.

They will pay obeisance at the cave shrine, which houses the naturally ice-lingam formation.

Stringent security arrangements have been put in place for the smooth conduct of the yatra.

Thousands of security personnel from the police, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and other paramilitary forces have been deployed to ensure security. Aerial surveillance will also be carried out.

The 52-day pilgrimage will conclude on August 19.

Meanwhile, the second batch of 1,881 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp amid tight security on Saturday, officials said.

The second batch, which included 427 women and 294 seers, left in 200 vehicles in two separate convoys escorted by security forces, the officials said.

While the first convoy carrying 1,069 devotees to Baltal left at 4 am, the second with 812 pilgrims started its journey to Pahalgal 30 minutes later. More than 4.5 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance at the cave shrine last year.

PM greets Amarnathji...

leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, our government is committed to the safe, smooth and pleasant journey of the devotees and the government has made every possible arrangement to ensure that the devotees do not face any inconvenience. Har Har Mahadev," he added.

Exchange of fire...

They said there was no casualty in the firing, which lasted for a brief period.

The vigil was intensified to ensure that there is no infiltration by terrorists into this side, the sources said, adding a search of the area is underway.

J&K Govt engages...

policy-making process, the Housing and Urban Development Department on Saturday invited objections and suggestions from the general public.

To further this initiative, Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department convened meetings with real estate stakeholders of Kashmir and Jammu on 26th and 29th of June, 2024, at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar and Jammu respectively.

These meetings aimed to gather valuable insights and feedback from the realtors of Jammu and Kashmir on the proposed policies.

A comprehensive presentation on the Draft Grant and Utilisation of Transferable Development Rights Policy and the Draft Land Pooling Policy was delivered, detailing the key features and benefits of the policies.

The presentation underscored the government's commitment to creating a balanced development framework that addresses the needs of all stakeholders.

Following the presentation, comments and suggestions were sought from the realtors.

The participants actively shared their perspectives, offering constructive feedback and proposing amendments to enhance the efficacy of the policies. The discussions were marked by a collaborative spirit, with realtors expressing their appreciation for the government's inclusive approach.

Both meetings concluded on a positive note, with the Commissioner Secretary thanking the realtors for their participation and valuable contributions. The feedback gathered during these sessions will be meticulously reviewed and considered in finalization of the policies.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir remains dedicated towards fostering a transparent and participatory policy-making process, ensuring that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and incorporated.

The finalized policies are expected to pave the way for a more organized and sustainable urban development landscape in the region.

H&ME Dept establishes dedicated ‘SKIMS Cell’ at Civil Sect

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Health & Medical Education Department has set up a dedicated 'SKIMS Cell' in the Civil Secretariat to expedite the processing and resolution of administrative matters concerning Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, and SKIMS Medical College, Bemina.

The initiative has been launched following a decision taken up by the SKIMS Governing Body on June 13, 2024. "All the administrative issues related to SKIMS Soura and SKIMS Medical College Bemina be handled

by the Health & Medical Education Department, in accordance with the Transaction of Business Rules notified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs", stated the decision.

Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, who has been holding the charge of SKIMS for the past few months, has directed the officers to swiftly process all SKIMS-related files. The aim is to address matters such as faculty recruitment, equipment procurement, and HR management promptly, he maintained.

Professor Mohammad

Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS, appreciated establishment of the dedicated cell, highlighting its significance in enhancing the institute's infrastructure and administrative efficiency.

"The faculty and administration of SKIMS has extended gratitude to the Government for this innovative step. The support and establishment of the SKIMS Cell will undoubtedly facilitate better healthcare services, ensuring that SKIMS continues to be a beacon of excellence in medical care, research, and education," read an official statement from SKIMS.

Farooq, Omar Abdullah, Bukhari express grief over death of soldiers in Ladakh flash flood

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah on Saturday expressed grief over the death of five army personnel in a flash flood in Ladakh.

"JKNC President Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah express their profound sadness over the tragic loss of five Indian Army soldiers in an accident while crossing a river in Ladakh. Their deepest condolences go out to their families during this difficult time," the party said in a post on 'X'.

Officials said the soldiers were trying to get the tank across the river when the accident happened.

"On June 28, 2024, night, while de-induct-

ing from a military training activity, an army tank got stuck in the Shyok River, near Saser Brangsa, Eastern Ladakh due to a sudden increase in the water level," the Army's Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps said.

"Rescue teams were rushed to the location. However, due to high current and water levels, the rescue mission didn't succeed and the tank crew lost their lives," it said.

Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, in his message, said, "My deepest sympathies are with the families of the five Army jawans who lost their lives in an accident during a river crossing exercise in Ladakh. May the departed souls find eternal peace and may the bereaved have the strength to endure the pain of this irreparable loss."

ONGC sets up two 100-bed hospitals at twin base camps for Amarnath pilgrims

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: ONGC has set up two 100-bed hospitals at the twin Amarnath base camps in Kashmir and announced that the facilities would continue to operate post the annual yatra.

The 52-day pilgrimage commenced from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgal route in Anantnag and the 14-kilometre shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal -- early on Saturday. The yatra is scheduled to commence on August 19.

ONGC said it teamed up with the health and medical education department to bolster the region's healthcare infrastructure.

Recognising the need for sustainable healthcare infrastructure, ONGC, under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, constructed permanent hospitals at Baltal and Chandanwari-Pahalgal in Anantnag, it said in a statement.

Each of these hospitals are equipped with 100 beds, lodging facilities for medical staff and intensive care units that would serve as primary health centres and provide essential medical services to local communities, it said.

Situated on the Amarnath Yatra route, these hospitals will also provide medical support to the pilgrims, the statement said.

Until last year, temporary medical facilities had been

operating each year on the route, entailing significant recurring costs and logistical complexities, it added.

Both hospitals will continue to operate post the yatra, with the health department overseeing their operation and maintenance.

The initiative underscores ONGC's steadfast commitment to sustainable development and enhanced public health services, the ONGC statement said.

It represents a pivotal advancement towards improving healthcare accessibility, reducing operational costs and ensuring continuous medical support for the local population for years to come, it added.

Delhi court sends Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A court here on Saturday sent Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12 in a corruption case related to the alleged excise scam, saying his name has surfaced as one of the "main conspirators" and as the investigation is still in progress, his further custodial interrogation may be required.

Kejriwal was produced in the court by the CBI after the end of his three-day custodial interrogation, following which the central agency sought 14-day judicial custody while claiming that the AAP chief did not cooperate with the investigation and deliberately gave evasive replies.

The agency, in its remand plea, also expressed apprehension that he may influence witnesses and evidence already exposed before him during the custodial interrogation and also the potential witnesses who are yet to be examined.

Kejriwal, 55, was arrested by the CBI on June 26 from Tihar Jail, where he was in judicial custody in a connected money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate.

"Considering the fact that the conspiracy alleged against the accused (Kejriwal) involves a large number of persons who were involved in the formulation and implementation of excise policy and also the persons who acted as facilitators in the use of ill-gotten money, I find that there exist sufficient grounds for remanding the accused to judicial custody," Special Judge Sunena Sharma said.

"...The investigation is still in progress and may require custodial interrogation of the accused to confront him with

more material likely to be collected during the course of the investigation. Accordingly, accused Arvind Kejriwal is remanded to judicial custody till July 12," the judge added.

Noting the evidence before it, the court said that the investigation revealed that accused Vijay Nair, a close associate of Kejriwal, was the media-in-charge of the Aam Admi Party and he had contacted various liquor manufacturers and traders for demanding undue gratification for incorporation of provisions favourable to them in the excise policy for 2021-22.

It also noted that Kejriwal's name surfaced as one of the "main conspirators of the criminal conspiracy" for various offences under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Indian Penal Code.

"Four chargesheets in the case have already been filed against 17 accused persons including the persons of South group," the court noted.

It said that the investigating officer (IO) had pointed out in the case diary that Kejriwal was not cooperative during his custodial interrogation, nor was he truthful in disclosing facts on many material aspects.

"The IO has pointed out certain incriminatory material collected during the investigation for showing that the ill-gotten money was used during the Goa assembly election for making payments towards the expenses of air tickets and hotel booking during the visits of the accused to Goa from June 2021 to February 2022," the court said.

It said that the IO also showed some incriminatory

material showing Kejriwal's chats with certain persons "involved in the transfer of ill-gotten money to Goa through hawala".

According to the IO, as Kejriwal provided an "evasive reply" regarding his connection with these persons, his further custodial may be required to unearth the "larger conspiracy" regarding the formulation and implementation of the excise policy and use of the "ill-gotten money" by Kejriwal and "other top leaders of Aam Admi Party," the court noted.

It observed that while the court can scrutinise the case diary, the material collected by the IO could not be shared with the accused till the agency filed its final report.

In its remand application, the CBI said during the custodial interrogation, Kejriwal did not cooperate with the investigation and deliberately gave evasive replies contrary to the evidence on record.

"On being confronted with the evidence, he did not give a proper and truthful explanation regarding the enhancement of the profit margin for wholesalers from 5 per cent to 12 per cent under the new excise policy of Delhi 2021-22, without any study or justification," it said. "He also could not explain as to why during the peak of the second wave of Covid, the cabinet approval for revised excise policy was obtained through circulation in a hurried manner within one day, when the accused persons of the South Group were camping in Delhi and holding meetings with his close associate Vijay Nair," it added.