

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Azad to launch...

(from J-K) coming to meet with Azad to extend their support. We have received hundreds of resignation letters from PRI members, including district and block development council members, and several municipal corporators," he said.

Over a dozen leaders, including several former ministers and legislators, resigned from the basic membership of the Congress in support of Azad and many more such as former deputy chief minister Tara Chand are likely to resign after meeting with Azad in New Delhi on Saturday.

Referring to the statement of the Congress accusing Azad of "collaboration" with the BJP after his resignation, Saroori said those criticising him were shutting their eyes to the ground realities or were finding the earth beneath their feet slipping away. "He is a secular leader who worked to strengthen the Congress over the past five decades. In fact, all of us have given our blood and sweat, but how can you stay back in a party which is insulting and humiliating you," he asked, blaming the Congress leadership for compelling them to take such a decision.

CWC to meet...

schedule, the members of the CWC, the party's highest decision-making body, could also express confidence in the leadership provided by Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

This would be significant in the context of Azad's resignation and criticism of the leadership.

Azad ended his five-decade association with the party and lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for "demolishing its entire consultative mechanism".

The Congress, dealing with the fallout of a series of high profile exits, including that of Kapil Sibal and Ashwani Kumar, attempted to deflect the latest blow by alleging that Azad's DNA had been "Modi-fied" and linking his resignation to the end of his Rajya Sabha tenure.

Ahead of the CWC meeting, to be held virtually at 3:30 PM with Sonia Gandhi presiding over it, party sources had said the process of the election of the president will be delayed by a few weeks, not more than that, and the party should have a full-time president in October.

The Congress had announced in October last year that the election of the new party president will be held between August 21 and September 20 this year.

The CWC had decided that elections for block committees and one member each of state Congress units will be held from April 16 to May 31, district committee chiefs will be elected between June 1 and July 20, state chiefs and AICC members between July 21 and August 20, and AICC president between August 21 and September 20.

Sources had also said the election of the Congress president is likely to be delayed by a few weeks with the party focused on the Kanyakumari to Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' starting September 7 and some state units not completing formalities.

With Sonia Gandhi abroad for medical checkups and Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accompanying her, they will join the CWC meeting virtually.

The meeting comes amid several leaders, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, having publicly exhorted Rahul Gandhi to return as the party chief. However, uncertainty and suspense continue on the issue.

Several party insiders say Rahul Gandhi is persisting with his stance that he will not be the AICC president.

Gehlot on Wednesday had sought to play down reports about him being the frontrunner for the Congress president's post and said efforts will be made till the last minute to persuade Rahul Gandhi to take over the reins of the party again.

Gehlot's remarks had come a day after he met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, triggering the buzz that the two may have discussed the possibility of him being the next party president.

Rahul Gandhi had resigned as Congress president after the party suffered its second consecutive defeat in parliamentary elections in 2019. Sonia Gandhi who took over the reins of the party again as interim president had also offered to quit in August 2020 after an open revolt by a section of leaders, referred to as G-23, but the CWC had urged her to continue.

Justice UU...

the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

"Congratulations," President Murmu said after Justice Lalit signed the register of oath following the swearing-in.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former president Ram Nath Kovind, former vice president M Venkaiah Naidu and Union ministers, including Kiren Rijiju, were present at the ceremony.

Justice Lalit's predecessor, Justice N V Ramana, was also present.

After being sworn in, Justice Lalit sought the blessings of his family elders by touching their feet, including that of his 90-year-old father and former high court judge Umesh Ranganath Lalit.

As the CJL, Justice Lalit will have a tenure of 74 days and would demit office on November 8 on attaining the age of 65 years.

Justice D Y Chandrachud, the senior-most judge after Justice Lalit, is next in line to be the chief justice of India.

Speaking at a function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to bid farewell to Justice Ramana on Friday, Justice Lalit said he has always believed that the role of the top court is to lay down law with clarity and the best possible way to do it is to have larger benches as early as possible so that the issues get clarified immediately.

"So, we will strive hard to say that yes, we will always have at least one Constitution bench functioning all throughout the year," he said.

Justice Lalit said one of the areas in which he intends to work is about the listing of cases before the Constitution benches and matters which are specially referred to three-judge benches.

On the issue of listing of matters, he said, "...I must assure you that we will strive hard to make the listing as simple, as clear, and as transparent as possible".

Regarding mentioning of urgent matters, Justice Lalit said he would certainly look into it.

"I will have a word with all my learned colleagues on the bench and we will certainly sort that out and very shortly, you will have a clear-cut regime where any urgent matter can freely be mentioned before the respective courts," he said.

During Justice Lalit's tenure as the CJL, several important cases, including Constitution bench matters, are likely to come up for adjudication before the apex court.

The top court had recently notified that 25 five-judge Constitution bench matters would be listed from August 29.

Among the important five-judge bench matters which have been listed is a plea challenging the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 which provided reservation to Economically Weaker Sections, the challenge to the WhatsApp privacy policy, and the issue of parliamentarians or legislators claiming immunity from criminal prosecution for taking a bribe to give a speech or a vote in the House.

Modi Govt strengthens...

stringent action against those involved in terror funding in 2018, 2019 and 2020. A total of 105 cases (of terror funding) were registered and 876 persons were arrested and in 94 cases charge sheets have been filed, he added.

The government has also pledged to uproot the Left Wing Extremism which is now restricted to only a few districts in the country, Shah claimed.

Earlier LWE's influence was spread to 120 districts but it has now shrunk to only 46 districts. In Chhattisgarh there are some districts that are still struggling with the menace but I firmly believe that the Central and state governments will jointly eliminate it, he said.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Union minister Renuka Singh, state home minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, BJP leader and former chief minister Raman Singh and NIA director Dinkar Gupta were among those present at the event.

ACB books AEE...

criminal conspiracy hatched among themselves, inflated quantities of works in Measurement Book; whereas on spot lesser quantities of works were executed resulting into huge loss to the Government exchequer with corresponding wrongful gains to themselves.

Recovery of six...

data extraction from mobile phones, bank details.

During course of investigation, it came to fore that Noor-ul-Habib started staying in this house from the year 1997 and Sakina used to work as domestic help in the house.

Sakina and her family are basically from District Doda and purchased a house nearby in 2004.

Sakina and her family got financial help from Noor-ul-Habib and both families got too much dependent on each other but both the families were upset due to medical issues as two family members Zaffar Saleem and Naseema were specially abled whereas one family member Sajjad Ali was also having medical problems while Noor-ul-Habib was also suffering from a deadly disease.

"They also had disputes related to land in Doda and other than that court cases/litigations," SSP informed in this presser.

On 4th August, after appearing in a case alongwith Sajjad and Sakina, Noor-ul-Habib feared that he will be convicted in a case and he told one of the relatives that it is better to end life better than facing the sentence.

He convinced Sakina Begum, Rubina Bano and Sajjad Ali who all were very dependent on him to end their lives.

On 5th August, they started brought medicines that include Cannula's drips and on 6th

August, Noor-ul-Habib called Sanjeev Kumar (Health Worker) and told to fix in his arm and in Sajjad Ali's arm. On 7th August, they infused drugs (combination of medicines) to Zaffar Saleem and Naseema. He asked Sanjeev to check medical conditions of both the above mentioned persons, to which Sanjeev told Noor that patients have low 02 levels and they should consult doctors so as to save precious lives. On 7th Noor called one Plumber Vijay Kumar and told him the entire story and gave 2.5 Lacs to dig the mud so as to bury 02 bodies after the death i.e. Zaffar & Naseema. On 9th August, Plumber came and dug the mud so as to prepare pit for the burial of the bodies as directed by Noor. Noor asked plumber to get some medicines to which Vijay agreed and got the medicines.

On 12th, Sanjeev was again called to deliver some medicines and to check Cannulas and drips. As evident in the investigation, Zaffar Saleem and Naseema passed away on 12th August, though the opinion of FSL is awaited. The CCTVs installed in both the houses were deactivated since 6th August, 2022 and fragrance dispensers were put in place. Diapers were used to check the smell of excretions. After the death of 02, medicines were infused to Sakina and later Noor; Sajjad and Rubina also started having IV fluids. Noor-Habib had ordered for some home gym equipments in Jalandhar, to whom he called on 13th August that these equipments are no longer required so need not to send.

On 14th August, morning Sakina had died and 14th afternoon rest 03 members Noor, Sajjad and Rubina came to City for purchasing more medicines. On 14th afternoon, they made call on Zomato and ordered food packets from Palhalwan sweets. On 15th morning, Rubina had died and they called Sanjeev outside the house in their Nano car for re-fixing the Cannulas and medical examination of Noor and Sajjad and by 15th evening both Noor and Sajjad also died.

A case under relevant sections has been lodged in PS Nagrota for investigation.

Khadi can become...

'Khadi Utsav' (Khadi festival) on Sabarmati Riverfront here, organized by the Union government as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

A new record was created on Saturday during the 75th anniversary of India's Independence as 7,500 women spun 'charkha' (spinning wheel) together at the event, the prime minister noted, adding that it was a great way to honour the freedom fighters.

The prime minister himself too spun the charkha on this occasion.

History has seen that a thread of khadi became a source of inspiration for the freedom struggle and broke the chains of slavery. In the same way a thread of Khadi can be a source of inspiration to fulfil the pledge of making India a developed nation, to achieve the dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), he said in his speech.

Mahatma Gandhi turned Khadi into a symbol of the country's self-respect during the freedom struggle, he said.

"The same Khadi was treated as an inferior product after Independence. Because of this, Khadi and the village industry associated with Khadi were destroyed and it affected our weavers, Modi said. He tried to revive the Khadi movement after becoming prime minister, he said.

The spirit of entrepreneurship is ingrained "in our sisters and daughters" and the expansion of 'Sakhis Mandal' in Gujarat was its proof, he said.

The sale of Khadi has seen four-fold increase in the last eight years (in the country), whereas in Gujarat, it has witnessed a massive eightfold increase in the same period, he said.

The Khadi sector also created 1.75 crore new jobs, the prime minister said.

Khadi is also an example of sustainable, eco-friendly clothing with the least carbon footprint, he said, appealing people to gift only the products made by Khadi village industries during the coming festive season.

You can have clothes made of different types of fabrics. But if you include Khadi in that, the Vocal for Local campaign will gain momentum," the prime minister said.

Modi also inaugurated a new building of Khadi Gramudyog Bhawan in Ahmedabad and Atal foot overbridge on Sabarmati river at the same event.

Missing Hungarian trekker...

Upholding the finest traditions of the Army of selfless service, he said, a team of the Rashtriya Rifles deployed in Dool and the LAF Udhampur, in coordination with the district administration, carried out 30-hour-long search and rescue operation in the upper reaches of Machail, Paddar, which is snowbound and remote.

The team of the Indian Army recovered Vermes from the treacherous glaciated heights of Umasila in sunehra valley, the officer said.

Lt Col Anand said the traveller was located by a joint effort of ground and aerial surveillance teams who conducted the search operation.

The foreigner was examined medically by a doctor of the Army and the district hospital at Kishtwar, which provided immediate medical assistance to him, he said.

Vermes thanked the Army for his timely rescue.

"I was in a very difficult situation...I am very thankful to the Indian army for finding and taking me to safety, the tourist said in a message shared by the Army.

The spokesman said once the traveller was stable, a video call to the Hungarian embassy in Delhi was made by the Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar to inform it about his well-being.

He said the efforts of the Army and the Air Force were highly appreciated by the district administration and the Hungarian embassy.

Azad's resignation shows...

commission of India to decide the date of the polls and BJP has no role in it.

Earlier, addressing a seminar on waste to wealth organised under Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam programme here, he said there is a need to create awareness about several waste products which can help people generate income with little effort.

He said cooked oil from kitchens could be sold at about Rs 20 per litre to the industries which have the technology to convert it into alternative fuel.

He also said that fly ash, produced during combustion of coal, could be used for making bricks for construction.

Referring to the Amrit Kaal', the PM's buzzword for great times ahead, the minister said that India will see a surge in its economy in the next 25 years, and this will come on the back of resources, which have yet been unexplored or couldn't be utilised because of lack of technology.

Farooq appears before....

as per the procedure, Abdullah and the other accused were released on bail after furnishing the necessary bonds.

"I went before the court and the necessary formalities were completed," Abdullah told PTI. The Lok Sabha member from Srinagar furnished a bail bond for Rs 50,000 and a surety for like amount, Khan said.

Abdullah has been questioned multiple times by the agency in this case.

He was the JKCA president from 2001 to 2012 and the "scam" being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED is about alleged financial misappropriation between 2004 and 2009.

The ED has attached properties worth over Rs 21 crore in the case already. This includes Rs 11.86 crore of immovable assets belonging to Abdullah.

The ED claimed that its probe so far has revealed that Ahsan Ahmad Mirza (former treasurer, JKCA) in connivance with other office-bearers of the JKCA, had misappropriated JKCA funds to the tune of Rs 51.90 crore and utilised proceeds of crime for settling his personal and business liabilities'.

The agency initiated the money laundering probe against the JKCA office-bearers on the basis of a case registered at the Rammunshi Bagh police station in Srinagar.

The case was later transferred to the CBI on the high court's directions.

The CBI has filed a charge sheet in the case against the former JKCA office-bearers for misappropriation of funds to the tune of Rs 43.69 crore.

Terrorism declined in ...

earlier by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Special DG CID J&K, R.R. Swain, Special DG Crime J&K, A.K. Choudhary, IG CRPF Ops Kashmir, Manvinder Singh Bhatia, ADGP (Hqrs) PHQ, M.K. Sinha, ADGP (Coordination) PHQ, Danesh Rana, IG CRPF Srinagar Ops Sector; Charu Sinha, ADGP Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar, IG Traffic J&K, Vikramjit Singh, DIG CKR Srinagar Sujit Kumar, DIG NKR, Udaybaskar Billa, SSP Srinagar; Budgam, AlsG of PHQ attended the meeting at PHQ while DIG South Kashmir Range Abdul Jabbar, and other district SSPS of Kashmir Zone attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Meghwal begins 2...

Agriculture department and beneficiaries are being covered by Animal Husbandry and Fisheries department.

The MoS inquired regarding issues in implementation of schemes. He assured the officers that Govt of India is committed to ensure rapid development in the UT and all necessary support will be provided to achieve that.

Presenting the achievements of the District in the previous fiscal and status of works during the present fiscal, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag informed the MoS that the several important projects are being implemented in the district and are being executed with strict adherence to timeline. He informed the chair that work plans for the flagship scheme MGNREGA have been discussed and approved by the Gram Sabhas

and estimation has been completed.

Most of the works are presently under execution. He said that several initiatives like SUKOON, PUKAAR, PMSVANidhi, etc have been implemented in the district in a bid to bring marked improvement in public delivery of services. He said that special emphasis has been laid on employment generation through PMEGP, MUMKIN and several youth have setup units in the district and are not only earning their livelihood but are also generating jobs. Emphasizing on skill enhancement, he said that a special training program is under progress in Anantnag to impart necessary skills for manufacture of bats through local industry.

The Deputy Commissioner presented the physical