

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

12 dead, 29...

Mahroof Ahmad (14), Mohd Hussain (65), Inran Ahmad (6), Abdul Kareen (70) and Abdul Qayoom (40). Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives and announced Rs 5 lakh ex gratia for the kin of the deceased.

"Saddened by loss of lives due to a road accident in Sawjian, Poonch. Condolences to bereaved families. May the injured recover soon. Rs 5 lakh would be given to the next of kin of the deceased. Directed police and civil authorities to provide best possible treatment to the injured," he tweeted.

Sinha also visited the district hospital in Jammu to enquire about the health of those injured and announced Rs one lakh aid for seriously injured victims.

"Visited District Hospital, Poonch to enquire about health of civilians who were injured in tragic road accident today. Met the relatives & doctors treating injured. 6 seriously injured have been airlifted to Jammu for treatment. Rs 1 Lakh would be given to those seriously injured," he tweeted.

Meanwhile, a group of people staged a protest against the district administration over its failure to check frequent road accidents and put in place a well-equipped trauma centre.

"We have to shift critically injured accident victims to Jammu, as a result of which many of them lost their lives," a protester claimed.

Prime Minister Modi also announced financial aid of Rs two lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured.

"The loss of lives due to an accident in Poonch is saddening. My thoughts are with all those who lost their loved ones. Wishing the injured a speedy recovery. Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 would be given to the injured," he said in a tweet on the Twitter handle of the PMO.

President Murmu said, "The loss of lives in a tragic road accident in Sawjian, Poonch is deeply distressing. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families. I wish speedy recovery of the injured."

Dhankhar tweeted: "Pained to learn about the loss of lives in a bus accident in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family members and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured."

Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said, "I am deeply pained to learn about this heart wrenching road accident in which more than a dozen precious lives were lost. I offer my condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured."

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) National General Secretary Tarun Chugh expressed gried and sorrow over the accident.

"Very sad news was received of many casualties after a bus fell into a gorge in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir. May God place the departed at his feet and grant speedy recovery to the injured," Tarun Chugh wrote in his tweet.

National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah said, "Very sorry to hear about the tragic loss of lives in a bus accident in Poonch. May the souls of the departed rest in peace & may the injured make a swift recovery."

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti expressed shock over the accident. "Deepest condolences to the grieving families & prayers for the injured," she tweeted.

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla also expressed deep condolences with families of all those 12 persons, who lost their lives after a bus skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge at Sawjian Nallah in Poonch district. He also consoled the injured people and wished them an early recovery.

State President of J&K National Panthers Party, Vilakshan Singh has also expressed grief over tragic accident that took place in Poonch, in which a number of precious lives were lost while several others received serious injuries.

Ill-fated vehicle...

on April 30, 2022 to Drv. Farooq Ahmed under offence 39/192; DTI Poonch vide Challan Number 727234 on May 24, 2022 under offence 20 (1)/177; DTI Poonch vide Challan number 728437 on June 7, 2022 under offence 39/192 and SO (T) Loran-Mandi vide Challan number 568012 on September 3, 2022 to driver Shabir Ahmed, son of Abdul Hamid having driving licnese 00779/Poonch under offence 194 (A).

Moreover, five times the driver was Farooq Ahmed, son of Abdul Majid D/L No. 62741 issuing authority ARTO Poonch and one time driver was Shabir Ahmed, son of Abdul Hamid D/L No. 00779 issuing authority ARTO Poonch. Farooq Ahmed, son of Abdul Majid D/L No. 62741 is actual owner of the said vehicle.

As, per FIR No. 113/2022 registered on September 14,2022 under sections 279/337/304 (A) IPC Police Station Mandi, the erring driver was unknown, but as per reliable sources the driver was Shabir Ahmed, confirmation is awaited.

LG Sinha reviews...

situations. He appreciated the excellent synergy between civil administration, police, army and other security agencies.

Later, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the border population at the Government Girls High School in Degwar-Tervan and asked them to avail maximum benefits from a transparent and responsible governance system put in place in the Union territory.

He also asked them to give feedback on various e-services launched to uproot corruption from Jammu and Kashmir.

"The goal of the UT administration is to bring the development process in terms of health services, road connectivity, education and other services in villages, especially the border villages, at par with that of towns and cities," he said.

He said the Border Area Development Programme has accelerated the development process of villages along the border.

The administration has rolled out several new schemes for the comprehensive development of border villages, he said and took feedback on the benefits being extended under the PM Awas Yojna and other schemes and facilities.

The lieutenant governor asked the people to ensure enrolment of those who might have been left out under the SEIAT Scheme. They must register themselves to get a Golden Card, which is providing health coverage to every family of the UT.

He said various unprecedented initiatives and interventions by the administration have led to a corruption-free, fear-free and transparent governance system in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid special focus on the development and prosperity of border people, especially the youth.

"The young generation should come forward and avail the benefits of various schemes launched under Mission Youth to become self-reliant and successful entrepreneurs," he said.

Sinha observed that after the complete implementation of 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments and establishment of a three-tier panchayati raj system in Jammu and Kashmir, funds received by local bodies have increased considerably.

Sinha also directed the district administration to identify land for developing local industries in the district.

The government has kept the provision to provide greater incentives for industries in remote and border areas under the Industrial Development Scheme, he said.

Earlier, Ch. Abdul Ghani, Member DDC Poonch submitted a memorandum of demands to which the Lt Governor assured for appropriate redressal of all the genuine issues on merit.

Tazeem Akther, DDC Chairperson Poonch besides senior officials of District Administration, Army and concerned departments, PRI representatives and local people were present on the occasion.

Udhampur-Baramulla Rail..

Rs 30,672.34 crore," the railways said in a statement.

The railways has also offered jobs to those landowners who have provided over 75 per cent of their land for the project and 799 such eligible people have been given jobs.

"Around 14,069 people have been provided employment through contractors and about 65 per cent of those employed were locals. More than 500 lakh mandays of employment have been generated so far," the statement said.

Under the project, the railways has also built more than 205-km-long approach roads, including one tunnel and 320 bridges.

This has provided connectivity to 73 villages of far-flung areas, the railways said.

Earlier, these roads were accessible only by foot or boats, now four-wheelers can ply on them, it said.

The railways said that various activities are also being conducted under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) like providing nine ambulances in Ramban District, 15 motorised wheel chairs, free medical camps held in Banihal, Ramban and Reasi.

Article 370 did...

but was of the opinion that it could consume time.

"I have not said Article 370 cannot be restored. Either it will be restored by Modi, like he did with the (repeal of) farm laws as he has the majority, or there should be a two-third majority in Parliament. I cannot convince him or his cabinet on this," he said.

Azad said according to the details he received from Parliament, 86 per cent members in the Lok Sabha -- the BJP and eight other parties -- were in favour of the abrogation while 14 per cent were against it.

"Can any party from here (Jammu and Kashmir) get 86 per cent? We can pray that some day we get the two-third majority but it cannot be today, it cannot be in March next year. If it has to happen by December (this year), only Modi Sahib can do it," he said.

The other route is the Supreme Court, he said.

"More than three years have passed since the case is in the Supreme Court. Many Chief Justices have changed since then, but not one has opened even the first page of the petition. No date has been given for hearing it. If proceedings start, how many years will it take and in whose favour will it be decided, we do not know.

"So, we will not come up with any slogan which is not fair, just and possible. I dont want to give any false hopes, whether people vote for us or not," he said.

Azad said while Article 370 deserves respect, there are other issues, too, which need to be corrected in terms of development and governance.

"We cannot sit idle till Article 370 is restored," he said.

On the allegation that he was playing second fiddle to the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir, Azad said it was not him but some leaders in the Congress who were helping the BJP in achieving a 'Congress-mukt Bharat'.

"I am accused of being a friend of the BJP. The real friends of the BJP are those who are helping in establishing a Congress-mukt Bharat. This is my counter allegation on them," he said.

Azad said the Congress leaders were levelling the allegation against him as Prime Minister Narendra Modi got emotional during his farewell in Rajya Sabha. "I must have done some good work...because this prime minister does not shed tears for anyone just like that. Just run a search for my speeches in Parliament, and you will see the verbal exchnages I have had with the prime minister. Going by those speeches, Modi Sahib should have put me in jail, but he said he has seen all my documents during my tenure as the chief minister, he has seen my notes against corruption. That's (the corruption) what the BJP is tracking today," he said.

Azad said the Congress could have enashed the fact that the prime minister cried for him.

"But what did you do? You keep abusing the prime minister 24 hours a day. The result is that you lost even your own seat. When you keep abusing someone, that person gets sympathy from the people," he said, without naming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Pt Tika Lal...

on the house of Tika Lal Taploo. After receiving constant threats, Tika Lal Taploo sent his family to Delhi. But, the then government did not take it seriously, as a result of which Tika Lal Taploo had come out of his house on the morning of 14 September and had gone a bit ahead that he was brutally murdered.

Chugh said that Tika Lal Taploo was the first murder of a prominent Hindu leader in the Valley. Thousands of people attended his last journey. Senior BJP leader L.K Advani, senior leader Kedar Nath Sahni also participated in his funeral procession. Tika Lal Taplu was a lawyer by profession.

He obtained his MA L.L.B degree from Aligarh Muslim University in the year 1958. He was associated with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh since childhood. Taploo was also called 'Lala' i.e. elder brother by his close friends.

Chugh said that the unfortunate situation was that his killers were never caught. Just seven weeks after the assassination of Pandit Taploo, Justice Neelkanth Ganju was also assassinated. Pandit Neelkanth Ganju had sentenced Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front terrorist Maqbool Bhatt to death.

BJP General Secretary Tarun Chugh said that in March this year, the Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled North Delhi Municipal Corporation had made a small effort to give due respect to the Pandit Tika Lal Taploo by naming NDMC Primary School 7-B located in Sector-7, Rohini, after Shaheed Tika Lal Taploo. On behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party and family, we pay our humble tributes to Amar Shaheed Tika Lal Taploo ji.

Notorious car-lifter...

Kumar told during interrogation that he had stolen vehicles from all over India, but most of the vehicles are sold in J&K and Odisha. Further investigations into the case are under process.

Two terrorists killed...

to be identified, the official said.

"Killed terrorists were affiliated with terror outfit AGuH & identified as Aijaz Rasool Nazar of Pulwama & Shahid Ahmad @ Abu Hamza. They were involved in recent terror attack on an outside labourer namely Muneer ul Islam from West Bengal on 2/9/22 in Pulwama": ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar tweeted.

IASOWA J&K undertakes...

country. The Indian Red Cross is a voluntary humanitarian organization having a network of over 700 branches throughout the country, providing relief in times of disasters/ emergencies and promote health & care of the vulnerable people and communities.

The President, Dr. Amita Mehta has been deeply involved with various charities and donations for providing relief to those who need it most.

ECI orders special...

their jurisdiction as per the given schedule.

The Notice also reads that all individuals who are 18 years of age or above as on 01-10-2022 can get their names enrolled in the electoral rolls by filing Form No. 6 used for registration of new electors, Form-7 used for objections to proposed inclusion/for deletion of name in existing electoral roll, Form-8 used for multiple purposes, like correction of any particulars in the roll, shifting of residence (with-in or outside Constituency), Replacement of EPIC, and Marking of person with disability and Form 6B used for capturing Aadhaar number of the existing electors.

It adds that the Forms and Draft Electoral Roll can be downloaded at www.ceojk.nic.in. The Notice also reads that it should be noted that registration as a voter at two places is an offence under the Representation of People Act, 1950.

"The Claims and Objections can be filled in both online as well as offline mode. For online filing of claims/objections, one can log on to www.nvsp.in or download voter helpline app (VHA). For offline mode, the concerned BLO/AERO/ERO can be contacted", the notice quotes.

"All stakeholders are therefore, requested to participate in revision exercise in order to ensure that maximum number of eligible voters are enrolled in the Electoral Rolls", it reads.

Election Commissioner of...

2022. He further asked the BLOs to create a whatsapp group of households for speedy dissemination of information and redressal of issues.

Among other senior officers and officials of the Election department were present in the meeting.

BJP will ensure...

Choudhary (Arya Pratinidhi Sabha), Deepak Gupta (Ware House), Yash Paul Gupta (President Retailers Association), Ved Sharma (Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha), Mahanant Rameshwar Dass, Arun Gupta (President CCD), Thakur Narain Singh (Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha), Kavinder Gupta (former Dy. CM), Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta and others spoke in favour of the demand for holiday on birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh.

At the end of the meeting, it was unanimously decided that holiday will be ensured on the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh.

Rajesh Verma (Chowk Chabutra Bazar association), Rajinder Kumar (Link Road Bazar Assocaition, Vijay Gandotra (dogra Khatri Sadar Sabha), All J&K Megh Sabha Naresh, Dev Anand Gill (President All Valmiki Samaj), Murari Lal (President Kashyap Rajput Sabha), Ramesh Arora (Arora Vansh Sabha), Kali Das (All J&K Sadar Mahasha Sabha), Hira Lal Bhat (Kashmiri Hindu Samaj), Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha, Traders Welfare Association, Pattu Chougan Trader Association, Traders Welfare Association Bus Stand Jammu, Ramesh Kumar Tak, Rajan Gupta, Anil Kohli President Apsara Road Assocaition, Sanjay, Pooja Kapoor (President Residency Road Trader Association), Anoop Mittal (President) Ashish Mahajan (GS) Kanak Mandi Trader Association, Sanjay gupta (President Raghunath Bazar Association), Deepak Gupta (President Trader Association Ware House), Kashmir Pandit Sabha (Ambphala) Anil Wakhloo, Ram Dhan (President Kashyap Rajput Peer Mitha), Brahm Kumari Ashram (Rehari), Ramesh Chander (President Central Basic School Purani Mandi Association), Karuna Kshatri (All J&K Gorkha Sabha), J&K Gorkha youth (Munish Adhikari), Suraj Narain Pangotra (Ex. GS All J&K MSS), Shammi Naryal, Ashok Tanotra, Ravinder Mittal (GS Aggarwal Sabha), Hardeep Aggarwal (Sr. Vice-President), Prabhat singh (GS Shree Sanatan Dharma Sabha), Sanjay Gupta (Treasurer Shree Sanatan Dharma Sabha) and others were amongst the prominent social and religious associations and their representatives to support the cause.

Indian Navy revives...

excellent for the naval training of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in Jammu and Kashmir. However, due to the deterioration of the security situation, the site had to be abandoned in 1989 and the training areas were shifted to the Mansar Lake in Jammu, officials said.

With the improvement in the security situation in Kashmir, the naval training area has been successfully revived after a gap of 33 years, they said.

The officials said that a suitable camping site along with adequate infrastructure has been provided by the Manasbal Development Authority on the lakefront and two naval training boats have been shifted here from Mansar.

Speaking to reporters at the training centre, Group Commander NCC Group Srinagar Brigadier K S Kalsi said it is a momentous occasion and a red-letter day for the NCC in the Kashmir valley.

"It is after a gap of 33 years that NCC training activities of the naval wing are restarting in this beautiful location of Manasbal lake... 100 NCC cadets including girls from various colleges of Jammu and Kashmir are participating in the camp," Brigadier Kalsi said.

He said the NCC is a major organ of nation-building. It aims to train the youth of the country to inculcate discipline among them and make them responsible citizens.

"We also train them to join the armed forces," he added.

The NCC started its activities in Kashmir in 1965 but the naval centre at Manasbal was closed in 1989 due to the security situation, Brigadier Kalsi said.

After the improvement in the situation, the centre has been revived, he said. "Now, we are ready to start training and reactivate this area," he said.

The cadets will be trained in various activities like boat pulling, sailing, signalling and ship modelling.

These activities were earlier carried out in the Mansar lake area and the cadets had to move from Kashmir to Jammu. Frequent closures of the highway caused a lot of inconvenience. "It was a demotivating factor. Now, when Manasbal is available, we are sure and hopeful that cadets of the Kashmir valley will immensely benefit from this beautiful location," Brigadier Kalsi said.

This beautifully located training facility will motivate the local youth to join the NCC, he said. He said 100 NCC cadets from across Jammu and Kashmir are taking part in the first training at the facility. The camp will run till September 26 and prepare the cadets for the forthcoming national-level NCC camp at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, which will commence on October 2.

One each AERO...

Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls with reference to 01-10-2022 as qualifying date in UT of J&K w.e.f 15-09-2022 to 25-10-2022 for the UT of J&K. Accordingly, Assistant Commissioner (relief) Jammu has been appointed AERO at Jammu, while Collector Land Acquisition Northern Railways, Udhampur/Reasi is AERO at Udhampur and Deputy Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing to operate from office of Resident Commissioner, JK House 5-Prithiviraj Road at New Delhi for facilitating the Kashmiri Migrants.

All migrants who are 18 years of age or above as on 01-10-2022 can get their names enrolled in the electoral rolls of their respective constituency by filing Form No. 6 used for registration of new electors, Form-7 used for objections to proposed inclusion/for deletion of name in existing electoral roll, Form-8 used for multiple purposes, viz; correction of any particulars in the roll, shifting of residence (with-in or outside Constituency), Replacement of EPIC, and Marking of person with disability and Form 6B used for capturing Aadhaar number of the existing electors. The Forms/Draft electoral roll can be obtained from the office of the AERO (Migrants) or downloaded from the website www.ceojk.nic.in. It should be noted that registration as a voter at two places is an offence under the Representation of People Act, 1950. The Claims and Objections can be filled in both online as well as offline mode. For online filing of claims/objections, one can log on to www.nvsp.in or download voter helpline app (VHA). For offline mode, the concerned BLO/AERO/ERO can be contacted.

EWS Quota: Economic criteria for Govt policies not proscribed, SC observes orally

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Economic criteria to ensure that the benefits of government policies reach the target group is not proscribed and a recognised basis of classification, the Supreme Court orally observed Wednesday while hearing pleas challenging the Centre's decision to grant a 10 per cent quota for the EWS category in admissions and jobs.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was told by several lawyers that the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) quota on the sole criteria of the financial position of a family is unconstitutional as the grant of such a quota under the Constitution is not part of the poverty alleviation scheme.

The lawyers said the EWS quota is wholly unwarranted, arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional and amounted to legislative judgement by the government to over-rule the Indra Swahane or the Mandal verdict which had specifically held that the economic criteria cannot be the sole one to grant reservation.

While hearing the arguments, the bench also comprising justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi, and J B Pardiwala, observed the government frames policies on the ground of economic criteria to ensure benefits of such policies reach out to target people... and the economic criteria is a permissible ground and forms part of a reasonable basis for classification. It is not proscribed.

At the outset, lawyer Ravi Verma Kumar, appearing for one of the petitioners, referred to the historical background of reservation and cited the apex court judgement in the case of Champakam Dorairajan that had led to the first amendment in the Constitution.

The apex court in 1951 upheld the Madras High Court verdict which had set aside a Government Order of 1927 of the Madras Presidency providing for the quota policy in state-run institutions based on the caste system.

This led the Central government to make the first amendment in the constitution saying that the state can take steps like providing for reservations.

Seeking to challenge the validity of the EWS quota, he said that it discriminates on the ground of caste and religion and hence is violative of the right to avail equal opportunities to public employment which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

Dr. B R Ambedkar was born as a Hindu and died as a Buddhist and even he would not have got the reservation under the EWS quota scheme because it excludes SCs, STs, and OBCs..., Kumar said.

Stressing that the quota on the economic ground alone is impermissible, he said that instead of granting jobs, the poor in the forward class be granted financial support, free hostel, and education as such a constitutional benefit is meant for those class of citizens who are oppressed and suppressed socially, educationally and financially for centuries.

He also urged the top court to take judicial note of the fact that only five per cent of the forward castes have been given a 10 per cent quota in jobs and admissions.

Referring to the figures, lawyer Ravi Verma Kumar said that OBCs, SCs, and STs constitute 85 per cent of the population and they are being granted around 50 per cent of the quota and five per cent of EWS will get a 10 percent quota.

Terming the EWS quota as a militant violation of the basic structure of the Constitution , the lawyer referred to the abolition of princely states and said many of the princes have become paupers and does it meant that they should get the EWS quota.

Senior advocate P Wilson, appearing for another petitioner, quoted an author and opposed the EWS quota saying that it cannot be equated with reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs as "One law for lion and ox is oppression."

Equality will be robbed away if Article 15(6) is implemented... Reservation is not a poverty alleviation scheme under Article 46 (directive principles of state policy), he said.

The hearing on pleas would resume on Thursday.

On Tuesday, the top court was told by the lawyers that the Centre's decision to grant a 10 percent quota for the EWS category in admissions and jobs violates the basic structure of the Constitution on multiple counts including that it breaches the 50 per cent cap on the reservation.

The quota for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) is a "deceitful and a back-door attempt" to destroy the concept of reservation, a lawyer submitted before the court, which was told it also excludes the poor belonging to the SCs, STs, and OBC category and defeats the creamy layer concept. The 10 per cent EWS quota is in addition to the 50 per cent reservation for the SCs, STs, and OBCs.

Earlier, the top court had fixed three broad issues for adjudication arising from the pleas challenging the Centre's decision to grant 10 per cent reservation to EWS in admissions and jobs through the amendment to the Constitution. In 2019.

It had said the bench will also decide whether the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendments) Act breached the doctrine of the basic structure of the Constitution by allowing the state to make such special provisions.

The doctrine of basic structure was propounded by the top court in 1973 while deciding the Keshavananda Bharati case. It was held that Parliament could not amend every bit of the Constitution, and aspects such as rule of law, separation of powers, and judicial freedom formed part of the "basic structure" of the Constitution and hence, could not be amended.