

# SC issues modified SOP on payment of bail amount of poor undertrial prisoners

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has modified the standard operating procedure (SOP) for payment of bail amount of poor undertrial prisoners by state governments through district legal services authority (DLSA).

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma passed the order accepting the suggestion made by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati and amicus curiae senior advocate Siddharth Luthra.

The top court made certain modification to its earlier SOP issued on February 13 last year and ordered that an empowered committee would be constituted comprising nominee of district collector or district magistrate, secretary of DLSA, superintendent of police, superintendent/deputy superintendent of the concerned prison, and judge in-charge of the concerned prison.

DLSA secretary will be convener of the meetings of the empowered committee, it

said.

The top court said if the undertrial prisoner is not released from jail within a period of seven days of order of grant of bail, then the jail authority should inform the secretary, DLSA.

It said that the DLSA secretary upon receiving information would ensure to verify whether the undertrial prisoner has funds in his prisoner's savings account and if not, then a request will be forwarded to the DLSA within a period of five days.

"The District Level Empowered Committee (DLEC) will direct release of funds for surety on the recommendation of DLSA within a period of five days from the date of receipt of the report, pending integration in the ICJS (Interoperable Criminal Justice System)," the top court said.

It added that the DLEC will meet on every 1st and 3rd Monday (in the event if there is holiday on such days, then on the next working days) of each month to consider the cases recommended

by DLSA.

The bench said for cases where the empowered committee recommends that the identified undertrial prisoners will be extended the benefit of financial support under the 'Support to Poor Prisoners' Scheme', then the requisite amount of up to Rs 50,000 per case for one prisoner, can be directed to be drawn and made available to the court by way of fixed deposit or any other prescribed method, which the district committee feels appropriate within five days of its decision.

"This decision would simultaneously be informed to DLSA and jail authorities by email, pending integration in the ICJS. In the event, the fund is not forthwith deposited within five days in court, and the UTP (undertrial prisoner) not released, the jail authorities on the 6th day should inform the DLSA," it directed in its order dated October 8.

The top court said if the prisoner is acquitted/convicted, then appropriate orders

may be passed by the trial court so that the money comes back to the government's account as this is only for the purposes of securing bail.

"If the bail surety amount is higher than Rs 50,000, the empowered committee may exercise its discretion to pay such a higher amount not exceeding Rs 1 lakh. If the empowered committee declines to exercise discretion, it would inform the secretary, DLSA forthwith of its decision by email (and not later than two days), pending integration in the ICJS, to enable the secretary, DLSA to instruct a legal aid advocate to move the court granting bail or any superior court to have the surety amount reduced," it said.

The bench also said that once the secretary, DLSA instructs a legal aid advocate to seek reduction of the surety amount, this application/petition would be filed by the legal aid advocate within seven days of the case being assigned to him/her. Posting the matter for fur-

ther hearing on November 26, the bench directed the Centre to carry out the necessary modifications in its scheme and issue a modified SOP in the said terms.

The top court earlier passed the order in the matter taking note of the fact that a large number of poor undertrial prisoners continue to languish in jails as they were unable to pay the bail amount fixed by the courts as a precondition for their release. Under the guidelines and SOP for implementation of the 'Support to Poor Prisoners' Scheme' which was accepted by the apex court last year, the funds to the states and Union territories were provided through the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) designated as the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) for this scheme.

Under the scheme, the states and UTs draw the requisite amount from the CNA on case-to-case basis and reimburse the same to the concerned competent authority (court) for providing relief to the prisoner.

# Samples of India's only active mud volcano in Andaman date back 23 million years: GSI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PORT BLAIR: The samples collected from India's only active mud volcano at Baratang in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands belong to the Oligocene age, which was around 23 million years ago, a Geological Survey of India (GSI) official said.

The lithoclasts ejected from the crater were found to be composed of sandstone and shale of the Mithakari Group, belonging to this geological period, he said.

The Oligocene is a geological epoch that lasted from around 33.9 to 23 million years ago, marked by the expansion of grasslands, global cooling, and the evolution of several modern mammal species, including the first elephants, cats, and dogs.

"We visited the site on October 8-9 to assess the mud eruption reported on October 2. We had collected the mud sample and found that it belonged to the Oligocene age," GSI's Deputy Director General Santanu Bhattacharjee told PTI. "A total of four clusters of

mud volcanoes consisting of several small vents have been observed, spread over an area of about 500 sqm with a height of about 2 metre at the centre. This marks a significant increase in the area of the eruption site from the earlier record of 100 sqm and height of one metre. All clusters of vents were continuously emanating liquid mud and gases," he said.

Bhattacharjee said the surface temperature of the mud volcanoes ranged from 29.3 degrees to 30.07 degrees Celsius, with a pH between 8.0 and 8.3, indicating the weakly alkaline nature of the mud fluid.

"An oily blackish sheen was also observed at a few vents as thin layers on the surface of the muddy material," he said.

When asked about the origin of the eruption, Bhattacharjee said that it could be attributed to several processes.

"This includes diapiric movement of over-pressured surface shale layers due to loading of terrigenous sediments, rapid subsidence or

lateral tectonic compression, hydrocarbon generation in deep subsurface and expulsion of fluid from depth along deep-seated fracture/fault," he said.

The GSI has asked the Andaman and Nicobar administration to restrict public access and construct a viewpoint at the end of the approach way to maintain a safe distance between the vent clusters and visitors.

"We have asked them to reinforce fencing and hazard signage for sensitising the public regarding the unpredictability of violent mud eruptions, and maintain closure of all other approaches other than the viewpoint," Bhattacharjee said.

## Diwali symbolises victory of knowledge over ignorance: VP Radhakrishnan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Sunday greeted people on the eve of Diwali, saying the festival symbolises victory of knowledge over ignorance.

In his message, he said, "Deepawali is a time when the values of generosity, charity, and inclusivity "" deeply ingrained in our civilisation and ethos, shine forth as we share and extend our support to the needy and underprivileged sections of society".

Radhakrishnan said this year, as we celebrate Deepawali, let us all shun negativity and Adharma to adopt positivity and Dharma, not only for our own individual good but also for the overall progress of the nation.

Separately, former president Ram Nath Kovind, his wife and daughter on Sunday met Radhakrishnan at the vice president enclave to exchange festive greetings.

## Wife entitled to reside in shared household even if husband disowned by parents: HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has held that a wife residing in the house immediately after her marriage constitutes "shared household" and is entitled to reside there despite the husband being disowned by his parents later.

Justice Sanjeev Narula made the observation while dismissing an application filed by the woman's mother-in-law and late father-in-law.

In an order passed on October 16, the judge held that the daughter-in-law cannot be dispossessed except through due legal process.

Advocate Samvedna Verma represented the daughter-in-law, while the parents-in-law were represented by advocate Kajal Chandra. According to the petition, the dispute, spanning over a decade, arose after the daughter-in-law's marriage to the petitioner's son in 2010 and her subsequent residence with her in-laws at the property. The matrimonial relationship soured in 2011, leading to multiple civil and criminal proceedings between the parties. The petitioners contended that the property was the self-acquired estate of the late Daljit Singh and, therefore, could not be deemed a shared household under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

# Deepotsav celebration begins with Ramayana-themed tableau procession in Ayodhya

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AYODHYA: Hours before lighting of lamps for Deepotsav 2025, Uttar Pradesh's Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh beat drums and waved a 'Jai Shri Ram' flag, starting a Ramayana-themed tableau procession from the Saket College campus here.

Crowds of devotees lined the streets as 22 tableaux from the Information Department, Ayodhya Development Authority, and Tourism and Culture Department passed along the Rampath, and the atmosphere reverberated with chants of Jai Shri Ram,

officials said.

Featuring lifelike characters and modern technology, the tableaux depicted the life and journey of Lord Ram through the seven chapters of the Ramayana -- Balakanda, Ayodhyakanda, Aranyakanda, Kishkindhikanda, Sundarikaanda, Lankakanda, and Uttarakanda.

Each tableau told a story using music, dance, and dramatic performances, they said.

Extending greetings on behalf of the state government, Singh wished "all citizens and followers of Sanatan Dharma" across the world a joyous

Deepotsav.

The Uttar Pradesh government is organising the ninth edition of Deepotsav with "unparalleled grandeur" and devotion, reflecting both divine and cultural excellence, he said.

"Ayodhya continues to break its own records each year and set new benchmarks of celebration. This year, three new records will be established, a record number of lamps will be lit, 1,100 drones will perform synchronised stunts, and over 2,100 scholars will participate together in the Saryu aarti," he added.

Expressing confidence in India's spiritual and cultural

leadership, the minister said, "Our nation will lead the world and emerge as a developed country by realising the ideals of Ram Rajya."

Officials said the Information Department's tableau showcased the achievements of Adityanath's government in the state.

According to a statement issued by the government, these displays represented a "perfect blend of development and culture, portraying a modern Uttar Pradesh progressing in harmony with the ideals of Ram Rajya".

As the procession moved through the Rampath, devotees showered flowers, lit diyas,

and performed aarti, while groups of artistes filled the air with devotional music and dance.

Folk performances such as Haryana's Phag, Kerala's Kathakali, Rajasthan's Jhumar, Punjab's Bhangra, Odisha's Sambalpuri, and traditional arts from West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh added a vibrant national flavour to the celebration, the statement said.

Former Lok Sabha MP Lallu Singh, Ayodhya Mayor Mahant Girish Pati Tripathi, Odisha's Ramchandra Yadav, MLA Ved Prakash Gupta, MLA Chandrabhanu Paswan, and several other BJP leaders were also present on the occasion, it added.

# Western Railway runs 75 pairs of special trains for Diwali, Chhath; Surat station sees massive rush

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SURAT: Unprecedented crowds have been witnessed at Surat railway station in Gujarat over the last few days as people headed to their hometowns ahead of Diwali and Chhath, with Western Railway operating special trains to cater to the festival rush.

The Western Railway, in a release on Sunday, said that it has notified around 75 pairs of special trains for the festive season that were making more than 2,400 trips to ferry passengers.

According to officials, personnel from the police, Railway Protection Force and Railways are working

in coordination to control the rush, as the Surat railway station, where people waited in serpentine queues extending up to 1.5 km.

"Special trains are being run for various destinations in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal, among other states," the release said.

Around 40 pairs of festival special trains were being operated from Udhna and Surat, it said.

"On Sunday, apart from six regular trains, 15 special trains are being run, including six unreserved special trains. In addition to this, three unreserved special trains for Jayanagar have been notified from Udhna," it said.

More than 22,800 passengers were ferried from Surat/Udhna on Saturday by various trains, while over 20,000 people boarded trains from Surat or Udhna till Sunday afternoon, the release stated.

"Adequate crowd management and control measures have also been taken, including creation of hold-

ing areas on the east and west sides of Surat and Udhna stations, increased booking windows and shifts, adequate RPF and GRP deployment, ticket checking and booking staff with close monitoring by senior officers who have been deputed at major stations," it said.

As many as 11 extra ticket windows are being operated with 38 shifts, and adequate staff have been deployed with mobile UTS to issue tickets to passengers waiting in holding areas, it stated.

"Passengers first arrive at the holding areas, where there are adequate facilities for sitting, lighting, drinking water and toilets. Drinking water bottles are also being distributed to passengers waiting in the queues," it said.

The crowd is also being monitored real time so that quick action can be taken if needed. Queuing facilities are in place to ensure passengers arrive at platforms and board their coaches in an orderly and disciplined manner, the release said.

## Our full effort is to make Lucknow world-class city: Rajnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said that our full effort is to make Lucknow a world-class city.

Irrespective of whether he remains MP or not, his commitment to Lucknow's development will remain, Singh said.

Addressing a function organised after inaugurating projects in Jankipuram Sector F on Sunday, the last day of his three-day visit to his parliamentary constituency, Singh said, "We are fully committed to the development of Lucknow. And our full effort is to make Lucknow a world-class city."

He said, "There are cities named Lucknow in many countries around the world! I just returned from Australia four days ago, and Lucknow is there too. But I want our Lucknow to become world-class."

The defence minister said that when it comes to the development of Uttar Pradesh, he has tried to do whatever he could.

"Whatever work I am doing today is with the blessings of the revered Atal Bihari

Vajpayee," Singh said as he inaugurated a community centre and library, and virtually unveiled the statues of former president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Singh said, "The BrahMos missile factory has been established in Lucknow, which will prove to be a milestone in the city's industrial development." He said that the community development centre being inaugurated here was built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and comes under the Ministry of Defence.

Singh said that HAL is doing remarkable work, and three days ago, HAL's unit in Nashik manufactured a 4.5-generation fighter plane, which he had inaugurated.

He said that people face challenges finding space for weddings and other celebrations, so he resolved to build a community centre in each of the five Assembly constituencies of his parliamentary constituency.

He also said that he aims to ensure that there is not a single park in Lucknow that lacks an open gym.

# Ayodhya Deepotsav: New world record with 26.17 lakh diyas, 2128 people performing Aarti together



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AYODHYA: Two new world records were set at this year's Deepotsav in Ayodhya: 26.17 lakh diyas lit at the same

place as 2,128 people performed 'aarti' together for the grand celebrations in the temple town, the Uttar Pradesh government said.

Representatives from the Guinness Book of World Records made the announcement after verifying the count of the diyas using

drones, a government statement said.

UP Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh and Principal Secretary Amrit Abhijat presented the Guinness certificate to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The first Guinness award was given for the largest display of oil lamps (26,17,215) achieved jointly by the UP Department of Tourism, the Ayodhya administration, and the Rammanohar Lohia Avadh University.

Another award was given for the most number of people performing 'aarti' simultaneously. The tourism department, the district administration and the Saryu Aarti Samiti in Ayodhya jointly achieved this feat, the statement said.



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**Subject : Bye-Elections to J&K Legislative Assembly – 2024.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is brought to the notice of general public/ contesting candidates/ political parties that the expenditure observer has joined in the Nagrota 77 Assembly Constituency today on 19.10.2025. it is further informed that violation of Model Code of Conduct/ Public Intimidation/ Threats/ Influences, Bribery of electors like distribution of cash/ liquor etc. is an offence under section 170 BNS and corrupt practices under section 123 of representation of people act 1951.

As such, anybody can lodge complaints in case of the above violations with the expenditure observer 77 Nagrota Constituency on Mobile Number **9622073186** in addition to the complaint monitoring cell established in RO office on phone no **01912571616** and **01912571912**.

No: RO/NAG/BE-2025-26/46-52  
Dated:- 19-10-2025  
DIP/J-7101/25  
Dated:- 19/10/2025

Sd/-  
Dr Rajesh Kumar, JKAS  
RO 77 Nagrota  
Assistant Commissioner, Revenue Jammu