

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

SC puts new...

separate definition of "caste-based discrimination" under regulation 3(1)(c), when regulation 3(1)(e) already provides a broad definition of "discrimination". It also questioned why ragging had been left out of the scope of the regulations, despite being a common form of harassment within educational institutions. "Why is caste-based discrimination separately defined when the definition of discrimination already takes care of all forms of discriminatory treatment? And why is ragging not addressed at all," the bench asked. "The bench said the language of the regulations appeared to be "prima facie vague" and "capable of misuse". Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, appearing for one of the petitioners, assailed Regulation 3(1)(c), which defines caste-based discrimination as discrimination "only on the basis of caste or tribe" against members of SCs, STs, and Other Backward Classes. Jain said the definition excludes discrimination against persons belonging to the general category and creates a presumption that only certain sections face caste-based discrimination. He contended that the provision violates Article 14 of the constitution and sought a stay on its operation. "There was no need for a separate definition when Regulation 3(1)(e) already defines discrimination in an all-encompassing manner," he said. The CJI posed a hypothetical scenario involving regional discrimination and said if a student from South India faces humiliation in a northern Indian institution where caste identities are unknown and asked whether Regulation 3(1)(e) would address such situations. Jain responded in the affirmative.

Govt announces 15 pc...

the schools, which had an adverse impact on the completion of the syllabus. "Such a step will help maintain educational balance and prevent Summer Zone students from being placed at any unfair or disadvantageous position", the Minister maintained. Sakeena Ito said that the Government remains committed to the upgradation of infrastructure and academic environment in public institutions and the recent results of 10th and 12th class of Kashmir and winter zone areas of Jammu reflects a marked improvement in academic ecosystem in Government Schools. The Minister said Government is focused on providing enabling environment to students to help them in chasing their academic dreams, adding that every effort is being made to transform the government schools in the centers of academic excellence. The long term plan, she said is to transform the Jammu and Kashmir into a knowledge economy and develop students into potential human resources fully equipped with modern knowledge and vocational skills. This, she said will entail constantly enhancing teaching skills of our teachers and augmentation of requisite level of infrastructure. The Minister wished best of luck to the students while advising them to work harder for the Annual exams beginning on Feb 17 for class 10, Feb 23 for class 12 and Feb 28 for class 11.

Beating the Retreat...

Tableaux. The ceremony also featured the felicitations of winners of the Vande Mataram



singing competition and UT-level online essay writing competition organized by the Department of Information and Public Relations. The Beating the Retreat ceremony was concluded with the ever-popular 'Saare Jahan Se Achha' with simultaneous display of spectacular fireworks and sound & light display followed by the National Anthem.

Four long-distance...

with short termination or short origination due to operational reasons. The trains scheduled for restoration from April 2 include the Vande Bharat Express services running between New Delhi and SMVD Katra in both directions, the statement said. Similarly, the service between Bhagat Ki Kothi railway station in Rajasthan and Jammu Tawi railway station will resume on April 1, with the return service beginning the following day. The extended cancellations include long-distance services such as Garib Rath, Duronto, Humsafar, Jannabhoomi Express and select Vande Bharat, mail and superfast trains. The revised dates these services range between late May and early June, the statement said. Railway authorities have also extended the period of short termination and short origination for multiple trains, including Jammu Mail, Durg-MCTM Express, Kota-MCTM Weekly Express and Ahmedabad-SMVD Katra services. Passengers have been advised to check the latest status of their trains through the official Indian Railways website or helpline numbers before travelling, the statement added.

Govt committed to...

issue to a large extent," CM Omar Abdullah stated. Highlighting the evolving entrepreneurial landscape, Omar Abdullah emphasized that the youth of J&K are no longer limited to traditional employment avenues and are increasingly embracing innovation-driven enterprises across sectors such as agriculture, technology, handicrafts, tourism, renewable energy, and services. "No idea is a bad idea," Omar Abdullah said, "Nobody would have ever thought that Zomato, Blinkit, Uber or Swiggy would become such big enterprises. It was an idea that has been successfully converted into such big companies." Highlighting the government's commitment to nurturing start-up culture in J&K, the Chief Minister said that the role of identifying start-ups lies with JKEDI, universities, and educational institutions. "JKEDI was established with the objective of nurturing the entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir, and the government will empower JKEDI for hand-holding of budding entrepreneurs as well as start-up founders," Omar Abdullah asserted. He added that JKEDI has a major role under the Start-up Policy of J&K, empowering JKEDI is the government's prime responsibility, and the Seed Capital Fund of JKEDI will also be increased. "Everyone may have an idea to establish an enterprise, but to convert it into reality, JKEDI was established to provide all kinds of support to the ideations of budding entrepreneurs," he said. The Chief Minister called upon the JKEDI to document the success stories of start-up founders and accomplished entrepreneurs and to conduct Start-up Melas in all districts of J&K, making them role models for the youth and younger generation. Omar Abdullah further highlighted that the government is focused on creating a supportive environment through policy reforms, access to finance, mentorship, incubation facilities, and market linkages for all budding entrepreneurs and start-up founders. "The energy and creativity on display at this Start-up Mela clearly demonstrate that Jammu and Kashmir is ready to emerge as a strong start-up destination. Our responsibility is to ensure that talented young people receive the right support at the right time so that their ideas can grow into sustainable enterprises," the Chief Minister stated. Addressing the gathering, Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, said that during the time of Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, an industrial policy was framed which focused on self-employment for the coming generations. He added that the innovations and new types of business enterprises being established in J&K give positive hope for the future. The Advisor said that there is a need to create employment avenues for youth and that start-up founders and enterprises are the main hope. Lauding JKEDI for organizing the grand Start-up Mela, he added that JKEDI has made good progress in establishing start-up culture in J&K and that the government will further

empower JKEDI. He also said that CM Omar Abdullah is taking keen interest in the empowerment and recognition of start-up founders. MLA Vijaypur; Chander Prakash Ganga, also spoke on the occasion. In his welcome address, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikranjit Singh spoke at length about the growing start-up ecosystem in J&K and the role played by JKEDI under the Start-up Policy of the government. On the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also released a JKEDI booklet titled "Startup Policy Implementation and Outcomes." The Chief Minister also distributed capital grants of Rs. 50 lakh each for incubators of various universities and higher educational institutions, including Shri Mata Vaisno Devi University Technology Business Incubation Centre; Institute Incubation & Innovation Council (I3C), IIT Jammu; Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora; and SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIE Centre), with the first instalment of Rs. 15 lakh released on the spot. He also felicitated J&K Annual Start-up Awardees in different categories such as Start-up of the Year; Woman Start-up of the Year; Emerging Start-up of the Year; Social Start-up of the Year; and Top Incubation Centre of the Year; with a total prize amount of Rs. 3.40 lakh. The Chief Minister further distributed Seed Fund cheques amounting to Rs. 3.60 crore among 18 start-ups facilitated by JKEDI, with the first instalment of Rs. 5 lakh released on the spot. Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan; Director JKEDI Khalid Jehangir; President, Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Arun Gupta; senior officers of the J&K Government; representatives of various industrial associations of Bari Brahmana Industrial Estate; senior officers of JKEDI; start-up founders; entrepreneurs; and a large number of students were also present on the occasion.

ACB registers FIR...

candidates. "This temporary engagement was made on the basis of sole discretion as well as mere pick and choose manner by Razdan," the statement said, adding that the verification also revealed that after merely six months of temporary service, Choudhary was regularised without meeting any existing eligibility criteria and without any policy of government sanction of the regularisation. As such, the appointment of Choudhary was arbitrary and illegal, it said. It further said Choudhary was promoted to the post of manager without issuing any advertisement or without considering seniority of other eligible candidates. By acting in this manner, Razdan, by sheer abuse of his official position and under a well-knit criminal conspiracy with others as well as Choudhary, illegally appointed him to the post of technical assistant who has subsequently risen to the post of deputy general manager of the corporation arbitrarily as well as through manipulation, contrary to service rules, the ACB said.

Economic Survey reflects...

momentum and the expanding role of innovation, entrepreneurship and infrastructure in nation-building," he said in a post on X. The prime minister said the survey also outlines the roadmap for strengthening manufacturing, enhancing productivity and accelerating our march towards becoming a Viksit Bharat.

JKBOSE notifies dates...

can submit online forms for re-evaluation and collect photocopies of answer scripts with effect from January 30. The link for submission of re-evaluation / photostat copy of answer scripts will be made live tomorrow on the official website of JKBOSE (jkbose.jk.gov.in). The link will close on February 8. The notification is available on the official website of JKBOSE and candidates are advised to go through the contents before availing the service and adhere to the timelines.

CJ releases activity...

Authority, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Sanjay Parihar, Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh. The release of the Activity Calendar 2026 marks an important milestone in charting a structured and coordinated roadmap for legal services activities to be undertaken during the year across the UT of J&K. The calendar encapsulates key programmes and initiatives, including National and Special Lok Adalats, legal awareness and outreach activities, training programmes for legal aid stakeholders, helpline services for enhanced accessibility, and initiatives aimed at strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms. While releasing the calendar, the Chief Justice appreciated the sustained efforts of the J&K Legal Services Authority in ensuring that legal aid and justice delivery mechanisms effectively reach the marginalized, underprivileged and vulnerable sections of society. His Lordship emphasized that the Activity Calendar would serve as a guiding and monitoring tool for all legal services institutions and functionaries to ensure timely and effective implementation of legal aid initiatives in alignment with the constitutional mandate of access to justice. On the occasion, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, highlighted the importance of systematic planning and coordinated execution of legal services programmes. His Lordship underscored that the Activity Calendar would function as a strategic instrument for organizing legal literacy programmes, Lok Adalats, victim support initiatives, prison legal aid activities and pro bono legal services across the Union Territory. The Activity Calendar 2026 lays special emphasis on priority areas such as legal assistance to prisoners, empowerment of women and children, awareness on cyber laws, environmental justice, rehabilitation of victims of crime, and implementation of special campaigns launched by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). The event was also attended by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General; Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; Nasser Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy; Rajiv Gupta, Registrar Vigilance and other officers of the High Court Registry, who appreciated the comprehensive and forward-looking approach of the J&K Legal Services Authority in planning and execution of legal aid activities.

WHY I KILLED...

joined the RSS wing of anti caste movements and maintained that all Hindus were of equal status as to rights, social and religious and should be considered high or low on merit alone and not through the accident of birth in a particular caste or profession. I used to publicly take part in organized anti-caste dinners in which thousands of Hindus, Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Chamars and Bhangis participated. We broke the caste rules and dined in the company of each other: I have read the speeches and writings of Ravana, Chanakya, Dadabhai Naoroji, Vivekanand, Gokhale, Tilak, along with the books of ancient and modern history of India and some prominent countries like England, France, America and Russia. Moreover I studied the tenets of Socialism and Marxism. But above all I studied very closely whatever Veer Savarkar and Gandhiji had written and spoken, as to my mind these two ideologies have contributed more to the moulding of the thought and action of the Indian people during the last thirty years or so, than any other single factor has done. All this reading and thinking led me to believe it was my first duty to serve Hindudom and Hindus both as a patriot and as a world citizen. To secure freedom and to safeguard the just interests of some thirty crore(300 million) of Hindus would automatically constitute the freedom and the well-being of all India, one fifth of the human race. This conviction led me naturally to devote myself to the Hindu Sangthanist ideology and programme, which alone, I came to believe, could win and preserve the national independence of Hindustan, my Motherland, and enable her to render true service to humanity as well. Since the year 1920, that is, after the demise of Lokamanya Tilak, Gandhiji's influence in the Congress first increased and then became supreme. His activities for public awakening were phenomenal in their intensity and were reinforced by the slogan of truth and non-violence which he paraded ostentatiously before the country. No sensible or enlightened person could object to those slogans. In fact there is nothing new or original in them. They are implicit in every constitutional public movement. But it is nothing but a mere dream if you imagine that the bulk of mankind is, or can ever become, capable of scrupulous adherence to these lofty principles in its normal life from day to day. In fact, honour, duty and love of one's own kith and kin and country might often compel us to disregard non-violence and to use force. I could never conceive that an armed resistance to an aggression is unjust. I would consider it a religious and moral duty to resist and, if possible, to overpower such an enemy by use of force. [In the Ramayana] Rama killed Ravana in a tumultuous fight and relieved Sita. [In the Mahabharata], Krishna killed Kansa to end his wickedness; and Arjuna had to fight and slay quite a number of his friends and relations including the revered Bhishma because the latter was on the side of the aggressor. It is my firm belief that in dubbing Rama, Krishna and Arjuna as guilty of violence, the Mahatma betrayed a total ignorance of the springs of human action. In more recent history, it was the heroic fight put up by Chhatrapati Shivaji that first checked and eventually destroyed the Muslim tyranny in India. It was absolutely essentially for Shivaji to overpower and kill an aggressive Afzal Khan, failing which he would have lost his own life. In condemning history's towering warriors like Shivaji, Rana Pratap and Guru Gobind Singh as misguided patriots, Gandhiji has merely exposed his self-conceit. He was, paradoxical as it may appear a violent pacifist who brought untold calamities on the country in the name of truth and non-violence, while Rana Pratap, Shivaji and the Guru will remain enshrined in the hearts of their countrymen for ever for the freedom they brought to them. The accumulating provocation of thirty-two years, culminating in his last pro-Muslim fast, at last goaded me to the conclusion that the existence of Gandhiji should be brought to an end immediately. Gandhiji had done very good in South Africa to uphold the rights and well-being of the Indian community there. But when he finally returned to India he developed a subjective mentality under which he alone was to be the final judge of what was right or wrong. If the country wanted his leadership, it had to accept his infallibility; if it did not, he would stand aloof from the Congress and carry on his own way. Against such an attitude

there can be no halfway house. Either Congress had to surrender its will to his and had to be content with playing second fiddle to all his eccentricity, whimsicality, metaphysics and primitive vision, or it had to carry on without him. He alone was the Judge of everyone and everything; he was the master brain guiding the civil disobedience movement; no other could know the technique of that movement. He alone knew when to begin and when to withdraw it. The movement might succeed or fail, it might bring untold disaster and political reverses but that could make no difference to the Mahatma's infallibility. A Satyagrahi can never fail' was his formula for declaring his own infallibility and nobody except himself knew what a Satyagrahi is. Thus, the Mahatma became the judge and jury in his own case. These childish insanities and obstinacies, coupled with a most severe austerity of life, ceaseless work and lofty character made Gandhi formidable and irresistible. Many people thought that his politics were irrational but they had either to withdraw from the Congress or place their intelligence at his feet to do with as he liked. In a position of such absolute irresponsibility Gandhi was guilty of blunder after blunder; failure after failure, disaster after disaster.

Gandhi's pro-Muslim policy is blatantly in his perverse attitude on the question of the national language of India. It is quite obvious that Hindi has the most prior claim to be accepted as the premier language. In the beginning of his career in India, Gandhi gave a great impetus to Hindi but as he found that the Muslims did not like it, he became a champion of what is called Hindustani. Everybody in India knows that there is no language called Hindustani; it has no grammar; it has no vocabulary. It is a mere dialect; it is spoken, but not written. It is a bastard tongue and cross-breed between Hindi and Urdu, and not even the Mahatma's sophistry could make it popular. But in his desire to please the Muslims he insisted that Hindustani alone should be the national language of India. His blind followers, of course, supported him and the so-called hybrid language began to be used. The charm and purity of the Hindi language was to be prostituted to please the Muslims. All his experiments were at the expense of the Hindus. From August 1946 onwards the private armies of the Muslim League began a massacre of the Hindus. The then Viceroy, Lord Wavell, though distressed at what was happening, would not use his powers under the Government of India Act of 1935 to prevent the rape, murder and arson. The Hindu blood began to flow from Bengal to Karachi with some retaliation by the Hindus. The Interim Government formed in September was sabotaged by its Muslim League members right from its inception, but the more they became disloyal and treasonable to the government of which they were a part, the greater was Gandhi's infatuation for them. Lord Wavell had to resign as he could not bring about a settlement and he was succeeded by Lord Mountbatten. King Log was followed by King Stork. The Congress which had boasted of its nationalism and socialism secretly accepted Pakistan literally at the point of the bayonet and abjectly surrendered to Jinnah. India was vicesected and one-third of the Indian territory became foreign land to us from August 15, 1947.

Lord Mountbatten came to be described in Congress circles as the greatest Viceroy and Governor-General this country ever had. The official date for handing over power was fixed for June 30, 1948, but Mountbatten with his ruthless surgery gave us a gift of vicesected India ten months in advance. This is what Gandhi had achieved after thirty years of undisputed dictatorship and this is what Congress party calls 'freedom' and 'peaceful transfer of power'. The Hindu-Muslim unity bubble was finally burst and a theocratic state was established with the consent of Nehru and his crowd and they have called 'freedom won by them with sacrifice' - whose sacrifice? When top leaders of Congress, with the consent of Gandhi, divided and tore the country - which we consider a deity of worship - my mind was filled with direful anger. One of the conditions imposed by Gandhi for his breaking of the fast unto death related to the mosques in Delhi occupied by the Hindu refugees. But when Hindus in Pakistan were subjected to violent attacks he did not so much as utter a single word to protest and censure the Pakistan Government or the Muslims concerned. Gandhi was shrewd enough to know that while undertaking a fast unto death, had he imposed for its break some condition on the Muslims in Pakistan, there would have been hardly any Muslims who could have shown some grief if the fast had ended in his death. It was for this reason that he purposely avoided imposing any condition on the Muslims. He was fully aware of the experience that Jinnah was not at all perturbed or influenced by his fast and the Muslim League hardly attached any value to the inner voice of Gandhi. Gandhi is being referred to as the Father of the Nation. But if that is so, he had failed his paternal duty inasmuch as he has acted very treacherously to the nation by his consenting to the partitioning of it. I stoutly maintain that Gandhi has failed in his duty. He has proved to be the Father of Pakistan. His inner-voice, his spiritual power and his doctrine of non-violence of which so much is made of, all crumbled before Jinnah's iron will and proved to be powerless. Briefly speaking, I thought to myself and foresaw I shall be totally ruined, and the only thing I could expect from the people would be nothing but hatred and that I shall have lost all my honour, even more valuable than my life, if I were to kill Gandhiji. But at the same time I felt that the Indian politics in the absence of Gandhiji would surely be proved practical, able to retaliate, and would be powerful with armed forces. No doubt, my own future would be totally ruined, but the nation would be saved from the inroads of Pakistan. People may even call me and dub me as devoid of any sense or foolish, but the nation would be free to follow the course founded on the reason which I consider to be necessary for sound nation-building. After having fully considered the question, I took the final decision in the matter; but I did not speak about it to anyone whatsoever. I took courage in both my hands and I did fire the shots at Gandhiji on 30th January 1948, on the prayer-grounds of Birla House. I do say that my shots were fired at the person whose policy and action had brought rack and ruin and destruction to millions of Hindus.

There was no legal machinery by which such an offender could be brought to book and for this reason I fired those fatal shots. I bear no ill will towards anyone individually but I do say that I had no respect for the present government owing to their policy which was unfairly favourable towards the Muslims. But at the same time I could clearly see that the policy was entirely due to the presence of Gandhi.

I have to say with great regret that Prime Minister Nehru quite forgets that his preachings and deeds are at times at variances with each other when he talks about India as a secular state in season and out of season, because it is significant to note that Nehru has played a leading role in the establishment of the theocratic state of Pakistan, and his job was made easier by Gandhi's persistent policy of appeasement towards the Muslims. I now stand before the court to accept the full share of my responsibility for what I have done and the judge would, of course, pass against me such orders of sentence as may be considered proper. But I would like to add that I do not desire any mercy to be shown to me, nor do I wish that anyone else should beg for mercy on my behalf. My confidence about the moral side of my action has not been shaken even by the criticism levelled against it on all sides. I have no doubt that honest writers of history will weigh my act and find the true value thereof some day in future.

Eight Police Inspectors...

Raina has been transferred from Police Station Bani to DPL Kathua, while Inspector Ajay Singh Chib has been shifted from Police Station Rajbagh and posted as SHO Police Station Cyber and DPO Kathua. All the transferred officers have been directed to report to their new places of posting forthwith. The order has been issued by Mohita Sharma, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua.

J&K BJP holds strategy meet ahead of Union Budget 2026, plans 'Budget Par Charcha' Outreach Programs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party held a meeting of its senior leadership at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to chalk out an extensive strategy ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget 2026 in New Delhi.



The meeting was chiefly addressed by J&K BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, and was also addressed by J&K BJP Vice-President Rakesh Mahajan and General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Gopal Mahajan. While addressing the meeting, Baldev Singh Billawaria underscored that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Government is firmly committed to public welfare and inclusive development. Billawaria informed the leaders that the Union Budget will be presented on February 1, 2026, and directed BJP leaders and activists to watch the live proceedings of the Budget presentation to thoroughly understand its finer details. He stressed that a clear understanding of the Budget is essential to effectively communicate its benefits to the people at the grassroots level. He also disclosed that the party will be holding Budget Par Charcha programmes from 2nd to 15th Feb 2026.

Addressing the meeting, Rakesh Mahajan highlighted the pivotal role of the BJP's Morchas in taking the key features and benefits of the Budget to the grassroots. Sanjita Dogra emphasized the importance of organizing Choupals (village-level meetings) across Jammu and Kashmir to directly connect with the masses and create awareness about the Budget's people-centric provisions, especially for farmers, youth, women, and marginalized sections. Gopal Mahajan laid stress on the formation of district- and mandal-level committees to plan and execute Budget-related outreach programmes in a systematic and time-bound manner, ensuring effective implementation of party activities.

NOTICE
I, Sanjay Kumar S/O Late Sh Anant Ram R/O Near D.P.S., Rathian ,Teh & Distt Udhampur have lost my registration certificate (R/C) of my vehicle bearing No.JK14F 9247. Now I am applying for its duplicate. Objection if any may be conveyed to ARTO Udhampur within 7 days.