

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! LG calls for...

residential facilities to the girl students in the Campus.
Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Director NIT; Vidhi Kumar Bivdi, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and faculty members of NIT Srinagar were present.

3 Hizbul terrorists...

special court here, the number of accused in the case has gone up to 18. The accused includes policeman Saif Din who was arrested in December last year.

The cross-border terror syndicate was busted by the SIA in April 2022 following its investigation into a Hawala case involving former minister and chairman of Nature-Mankind Friendly Party Jatinder Singh who was subsequently arrested and chargesheeted along with 11 others.

The latest supplementary charge sheet under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Narcotic Drug Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Indian Penal Code was filed against Din, Mohd Sharief Chechi and Farooq Ahmad Jungal besides Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists Hamidullah Khuroo, Farooq Ahmad Shawl and Javed Ahmad Chalkoo, the official said.

Chechi and Jungal were arrested by the SIA in August and December last year. The official said the accused were involved in smuggling heroin from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in Uri, Hathlanga, Baramulla and the transporting and selling of the contraband in Jammu to generate huge proceeds planned to be delivered to the Over Ground Workers of Hizbul Mujahideen, a proscribed terrorist organization.

The same was deposited in banking channels for further distribution to fuel anti-national activities and other terrorist acts to challenge the sovereignty, integrity and security of India, the official said.

The SIA Jammu has seized Rs 10 lakh and freed more than Rs 70 lakh in bank accounts which were the proceeds from narcotics smuggled from across the border; he added.

The proceedings for attaching the properties of the accused under relevant sections of the law have been initiated, the official said.

The official said the investigation revealed that there was a well-organised drug syndicate involving Farooq Ahmad Naikoo, who was operating from Dubai, Mohd Rafiq Najari, Mubashir Mushtaq Pafoo, Ainaz Ahmad Sayam, along with Chechi, Jungal and Din.

The accused conspired with HM terrorists operating from Pakistan to bring narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir to generate funds which were used for funding secessionist and terror activities, he added.

Jammu-Srinagar NH...

a spokesperson of the traffic department said.
He said while Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) were allowed from both sides this morning, heavy vehicles are being managed in a regulated manner to ensure smooth movement of vehicles.

The road was damaged and rendered single lane at Dalwas, Cafeteria-Mehad and Gangroo between Nashri and Banihal tunnels, the spokesperson said.

The decision to allow the traffic from both the capital cities was taken late Thursday after all stranded vehicles on the highway were cleared.

The traffic on the highway was suspended on Monday after multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting of stones from the hillocks overlooking the highway blocked the road at over a dozen places.

With the improvement in the weather on Wednesday, the agencies concerned mobilised more manpower and machines and managed to open the road partially for stranded vehicles.

However, a massive landslide at Kishtwari Pather blocked the highway again and finally the road was cleared for traffic on Thursday afternoon.

Oppn instigating people...

at all. See what kind of things they say about Ram Temple in their speeches. I did not know Congress had such hatred towards Lord Ram."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former chief Sonia Gandhi and the party leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary had turned down the invitation for the consecration ceremony at the new Ram temple in Ayodhya.

"They cannot think and look beyond their family and their vote bank. That is why they come together during every election and when the results are not in their favour; they abuse and separate from each other," Modi said.

He then claimed that the Opposition's "trick" will not work in Uttar Pradesh this time as the people have realised it the same thing with a new packaging.

They will have to struggle to even save their electoral deposits from getting forfeited, he said, adding Uttar Pradesh has decided to give all the seats to NDA and "the third term of Modi will be the grandest phase of capabilities of India in the world".

Hinting at a third consecutive victory, Modi said, "This time the entire country has one mood. Abki Baar...abki bar... abki bar." The crowd responded "Modi Sarkar".

At the event on Ravidas, Modi launched a scathing attack on the INDIA bloc, saying the allies believe in instigating people in the name of caste and making them fight.

He also said the opposition leaders cannot "tolerate" Dalits and tribal people occupying high posts and cited the presidential election which was contested by Droupadi Murmu.

"In every era, the sermons of the saints show us the path and also alert us. In our country, whenever anybody indulges in discrimination in the name of caste, it damages humanity."

"If someone instigates (others) in the name of caste, it also damages humanity. Hence, brothers and sisters, today every Dalit and backward of the country has to keep in mind that the 'INDI gathbandhan', which believes in instigating and making people fight in the name of caste, opposes the schemes meant for the welfare of the Dalits and 'vanchit' (deprived)," he said.

The prime minister further said the truth is that these people indulge in the politics of vested interest of the family in the name of the welfare of castes.

"When the construction of toilets was started, they ridiculed it. They also mocked Jan Dhan accounts and opposed Digital India.

"Not only this, these 'parivarvaadi' (dynastic) parties have another identity - they do not want any Dalit or tribal person outside their families to move ahead. They cannot tolerate Dalits and tribal persons occupying high posts," Modi said.

"You must know that when Droupadi Murmu, the first woman tribal president, was contesting elections, who all opposed her and which parties came together to defeat her."

"It was all the 'parivarvaadi' parties who see Dalits, tribal people and backwards as their vote bank during the elections. We have to remain alert to these people and such a mindset. We have to follow the positive education of Ravidas ji while avoiding the negative mentality of casteism," he said.

The projects inaugurated by Modi or whose foundation were laid included multiple roads, a cooking gas bottling plant, a milk processing unit, and a silk fabric printing common facility centre for weavers.

He also laid the foundation of a new medical college and the National Centre of Ageing at BHU and inaugurated a statue of Sant Ravidas.

In his address at the university, Modi said India will become a model of development in five years, terming it a "Modi guarantee", and cited the Kashi example to say the world is witnessing how modernity is developed around culture and tradition.

"Kashi is now being seen as a model of development and heritage across the world. The world is witnessing today how modernity is developed around culture and tradition," he said.

Referring to the consecration of Ram Lalla's idol in Ayodhya, Modi said, "Today, the world is seeing that after the installation of Ram Lalla's new grand idol, Ayodhya is flourishing like Kashi."

Similarly, the sites associated with Lord Buddha are being developed and an international airport has been constructed in Kushinagar, he said.

Modi also praised the Sanskrit language and said it played a key role in the development of knowledge, science and spirituality.

DB directs J&K...

State Legal Service Authority, to provide necessary assistance to any person who may claim to be a transgender and their particulars are also recorded by the Administrations.

This order has been passed in a PIL which has been taken up pursuant to certain directions issued by the Supreme Court in National Legal Services Authority vs. Union of India and others.

The UT of Ladakh has submitted its response enumerating various measures undertaken by the Administration to deal with the issues pertaining to transgenders, however, in the said response, it has been mentioned that the total number of transgenders is 6, 4 in Ladakh and 2 in Kargil, which figure has been seriously contested by Iqbal Khalid contending that numbers are large and that these have not been properly identified.

Similarly, UT of J&K have filed the response in which it has been mentioned that there are 550 transgenders out of which 450 are in Kashmir Division and 100 in Jammu Division. This figure is also contested by counsel for the petitioner that thousands of transgenders have remained uncounted in both the J&K and Ladakh and as such it has been impressed upon that the proper ascertainment of the total number of transgenders living in these UT's would be necessary.

DB is also of the view that proper ascertainment of the number of transgenders dis-

trict wise would be desirable so that the concerned authorities as well as District Legal Service Authorities could reach out to them to render the necessary assistance as contemplated in the direction of the Supreme Court.

CS chairs 34th...

Market Intelligence among stakeholders.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary impressed upon the bank authorities to create ample awareness among public about the possible ways of financial fraud. He advised them to regularly issue do's and Don'ts for public to abide by. He even called for holding outreach programs among students and SHG members so that each household here gets acquainted about how to safeguard themselves from getting duped by these fraudsters.

During this meeting Dulloo also reviewed action points including conduct of police sensitization programs, activities for public awareness generation, progress made in pending fraud cases of unauthorized deposits and digital lending.

He called for more effective action on these fronts to safeguard public money and called for wider usage of Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes (BUDS) Act, 2019.

On the occasion the GM, RBI, Neeraj Kumar threw light on various steps that can be taken to tackle the rise of fraudulent activities in online sphere and called for collaborative approach among all stakeholders to mitigate such frauds.

Recent developments in frauds related to unauthorised deposits and lending apps reported in Jammu and Kashmir were also discussed in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of J&K government and police department including Special DG Crime, A.K Choudhary; Principal Secretary, Home and Finance Departments, Santosh D Vaidya; ADGPCID, Nitish Kumar; Secretary, Revenue, Prasanna Ramaswamy G; Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi, Registrar of Societies, Arun Kumar Manhas; Joint Director, Information, Vevaik Puri, Registrar of Companies, Jammu, Haamid Bukhari, and Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Rakesh Dubey.

Officials of RBI and SEBI also attended the meeting either in person or through video conferencing.

Dulloo stresses on...

delay as envisaged under this nationwide programme.
He advised the IT Department to act as a nodal agency for resolving all the bottlenecks hindering the smooth implementation of this programme here. He asked them to review its progress regularly so that the mission is taken to its logical conclusion by covering all the identified villages.

Dulloo also asked for enhanced coordination among different departments for making the towers functional soon. He called for making necessary changes in the RoW rules after studying those in vogue at other such places. He directed for effective restoration and rebuilding of the roads and paths immediately after completion of cable laying works.

During this meeting it was given out that to enable fast track growth of digital communications infrastructure, bridging the digital divide for digital empowerment and inclusion and providing the affordable and universal access of broadband for all the government envisaged the National Broadband Mission.

The objectives of the mission includes provisioning of universality, affordability and availability of high speed and highly reliable broadband access to all, as was added during the meeting.

Regarding its progress here in the UT it was apprised that the foundation work is going on at 96 locations, tower erection at 13 places. Moreover Foundation work at 175 locations has already been completed in addition to tower erection at 109 locations. The meeting also had discussion on Call before you Dig portal, Digital Communication Readiness Index, Bharat.Net besides several other relevant issues concerning the instant matter.

J&K SSB issues list...

The notification further said that on failure on this account it shall be presumed that they are not willing to take up their appointment as Junior Engineer (Civil) in the Public Works (R&B) Department and shall forfeit the right of appointment without any further notice.

Army destroys landmine...

As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with landmines, which sometimes get washed away by rains and also result in accidental blasts, the officials said.

Former LS speaker...

level. As Maharashtra CM, he worked tirelessly for the state's progress and also made noteworthy contributions as a Union minister; the PM said.

During his tenure as the Lok Sabha Speaker, he strove to make parliamentary processes more vibrant and participative, the PM said.

"Manohar Joshi Ji will also be remembered for his diligence as a legislator, having had the honour of serving in all four legislatures. Condolences to his family and supporters. Om Shanti," Modi said.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who was a member of the Maharashtra ministry when Joshi was the CM, said the state had lost a cultured face of politics.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said Joshi's political journey from councillor to Lok Sabha Speaker will serve as an inspiration to future generations.

Joshi Sir, as he was popularly known, was the first chief minister of the undivided Shiv Sena and held the post during 1995-1999.

He was also elected as a member of Parliament and was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 2002 to 2004 when the Vajpayee government was in power.

Born on December 2, 1937 in coastal Konkan region of Maharashtra, Joshi obtained his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the prestigious Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI) in Mumbai.

His political career began with his involvement in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and he later became a member of the Shiv Sena. In the 1980s, Joshi emerged as a key leader in the Shiv Sena, and was known for his organisational skills.

Joshi began his career as a teacher and entered politics in 1967. He was associated with the Shiv Sena for more than four decades.

He was a municipal councillor in Mumbai during 1968-70 and chairman of the civic body's Standing Committee in 1970. He was the Mayor of Mumbai during 1976-1977.

Joshi was then elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Council in 1972. After serving three terms in the Legislative Council, Joshi was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in 1990 and was the Leader of the Opposition in the assembly during 1990-91.

In the 1999 general elections, Joshi won from the Mumbai North-Central Lok Sabha Constituency as a Shiv Sena candidate, and was later Union minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise.

He was married to Anagha Joshi, who died in 2020 at the age of 75. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

Which law gives...

voidable. There must be a ceremony of marriage. It may be a void marriage or it may be a voidable marriage. Outside the ceremony of marriage, it is not a formal ceremony. Please enlighten us, which is the law which gives legitimacy to the child," Justice Nagarathna asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, and the counsel representing the petitioners challenging various provisions of surrogacy regulations.

She said for availing the benefit of surrogacy provisions, there has to be an attempt for conception within marriage.

"We are having an open mind but we are indicating what it is. What is the basis of our indication, we are saying that. Conception within marriage is what you call a legitimate child. Even in the case of section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act, there has to be a marriage. There has to be a void marriage, then only the illegitimate children will get the legitimacy under section 16 of the Hindu Marriage Act. Is there any other law which gives them legitimacy, please tell us. Enlighten us on that," Justice Nagarathna said.

Section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act states that notwithstanding that marriage is null and void under the law, any child of such marriage who would have been legitimate if the marriage had been valid, shall be legitimate.

Under the Act, a marriage can be declared as void if either party is already married, if the parties are related to each other within the degrees of sapinda relationship, or if either party is below the legal age of marriage.

Bhati said the Centre will assist the court on the issue but submissions with regard to legitimate or illegitimate children have not been made by them.

"This court's judgement is there on legitimate or illegitimate children. There are no illegitimate children anymore. That whole concept is gone. But we will assist this court in taking a view on the issue," she said.

Bhati said at present there are four ways in which children can be had -- one can be a natural birth, through ART, where a woman can be assisted to have a child herself, then it is adoption, where you don't give birth to the child and the last is surrogacy.

The bench said it is not disposing of the petitions of single unmarried women seeking benefit of the surrogacy law and those that have challenged other provisions of law.

It asked Bhati to file written submissions on the issue of single unmarried women.

Justice Nagarathna said medical reports of some of the petitioners as required under the surrogacy law are yet to come.

"We have to see the reports of the medical board and then proceed. Unless they come under Rule 14, we cannot allow them to proceed for surrogacy. You see Rule 14 is the

basis for surrogacy," the bench said.

Rule 14 gives details of medical conditions where a woman may opt for surrogacy like if she has no uterus or abnormal uterus or if the uterus is surgically removed due to any medical conditions such as gynaecological cancers.

The bench appreciated the Centre for taking the issue in the "right spirit" and issuing a notification amending the surrogacy rules.

Passport Seva Kendra...

Mandi, Jammu- 180012 from February 26, 2024," reads the notification issued by Regional Passport Office Jammu. "It is clarified that the Regional Passport Office, Jammu shall continue to provide its services from Ist Floor, Anqaf Trust Building, Opposite Gandhi Nagar Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu," it added.

Govt giving body blow to Naxals: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Narendra Modi government has dealt a body blow to the Maoists with a holistic approach to development and security and left-wing extremism is now breathing its last, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

He also said that due to the visionary policies of the Modi government, left-wing extremism has lost its breeding ground. In a series of posts on X with the hashtag #NaxalFreeBharat, the home minister said under the guidance of the prime minister, the Union home ministry has adopted an offensive strategy to curb Naxalism.

"As a result of the hammer blow to left-wing extremism, it is today breathing its last," he said. Shah said the NDA government has won the hearts of the poor living in Naxalism-affected areas by building adequate healthcare and education infrastructure. "On account of PM @narendramodi Ji's visionary policies, left-wing extremism has today lost its breeding ground," he said.

Shah said the Modi government has dealt a body blow to Naxalism with a holistic approach to development and security in the Naxalism-affected regions.

"The Modi govt has won people's trust by taking the state governments along for overall development," he said.

He also posted a few videos giving details of Naxal issues, the destruction and casualties suffered by the people due to the menace and how government is dealing with it.

According to the data of the Ministry of Home Affairs, left wing extremism-related violence has declined by 52 per cent and the number of deaths by 69 per cent from 6035 to 1868 in the decade 2014-23 compared to 2004-14.

Similarly, the incidents of leftist extremism have reduced from 14,862 to 7,128. The number of deaths of security forces due to left wing extremism has declined by 72 per cent from 1750 in 2004-14 to 485 during 2014-23 and the number of civilian deaths has declined by 68 per cent from 4285 to 1383.

The number of districts with violence was 96 in 2010, which declined by 53 per cent to 45 in 2022. Along with this, the number of police stations reporting violence decreased from 465 in 2010 to 176 in 2022.

Internet curb in J&K: SC directs publication of review orders, says it can't be empty formality

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Jammu and Kashmir administration to publish the review orders of the special committee under the Union Home Secretary on restoration of internet services in the Union Territory, saying the review cannot be an empty formality.

A three-judge bench of Justices B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Sandeep Mehta, however, said the deliberations of the committee will not be made public.

"Taking into consideration that even review order would result in affecting rights of the parties... We express our prima facie opinion, though it may not be necessary to publish review deliberations, orders passed in the review need to be published," the bench said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the J-K administration, said though review order is an internal mechanism, there is no impediment to publishing the same. The court had in May 2020 asked the Centre to set up a special committee to assess the necessity of restrictions on the Internet in J-K.

Advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the petitioner, Foundation for Media Professionals, submitted all states where restrictions were imposed on the Internet at one time or another have published the review orders but it is beyond comprehension why only Jammu and Kashmir was not doing it.

"I am surprised that Jammu and Kashmir is resisting. All other states including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya...including border states...have published it. There is no tenable order," he said.

Farasat submitted these orders have been mandated by law and the failure to do so was against the spirit of the order of the top court in Anuradha Bhasin case as well as the Telecom Suspension Rules.

The Union government began tightening restrictions on the Internet in J-K in 2019 following abrogation of Article 370. Journalist Anuradha Bhasin moved the Supreme Court in 2020 seeking review of the restrictions.

On May 11, 2020, the top court had ordered setting up a special committee headed by the Union home secretary to consider pleas for restoration of 4G internet services in Jammu and Kashmir, saying national security and human rights needed to be balanced in view of the fact the Union Territory has been "plagued with militancy". In 2020, the top court had said review orders are "not meant to be kept in the cupboard" and asked the administration to publish them.

The top court said it was desirable to have better internet services in J-K in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and a national lockdown. On January 10, 2020, the top court had in its Anuradha Bhasin versus Union of India verdict held that freedom of speech and conducting business on the Internet are protected under the Constitution. It had asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to immediately review the curbs orders.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Industrial area Bari Brahmana will remain affected on February 25 from 8 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Industrial area Bari Brahmana, Narbadha and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 9 am to 10.30 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Dablehar, Paper Mill, RS Pura Town, Badyal, Chowadi, Hospital, Keerian Local, Keerian Industry, CTM-1, CTM-2, Kathua-3 GMC and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Industries, Seoda Kanal, Birpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Ramgarh and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 2 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to BB Town, Barjani, Nihalka, Industry Bari Brahmana and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 10 am to 1 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Billawar, Basohli, Mahanpur, Machedi and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Shiv Khouri, Bharakh, Ransoo, Shahbad Colony, Bahu Fort, Press Morh and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to SICOP Industrial area, Hatlimorh and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to PHE Boria will remain affected on February 26 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Lower & Upper Gadigarh, Indra Nagar, Dharap, Sudan H/Care Centre and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 26 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Upper Barnai, Lower Muthi, Paloura, JK Colony, ChandanVihar, PHE Roop Mahar, MES Rajouri Lines, Patoli, BSF Paloura and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 26 from 9 am to 1pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Makwal, Camp, Basti, Sohanjana, Malke Choke, BOP and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 27 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bikram Chowk, Polytechnic College, Gandhi Nagar Last Morh and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 27 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Nomain and Dharnour will remain affected on February 27 and 28 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Phallian, Mandal, Surya Chak, Agra Chak, Ganeshu Chak and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 28 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Patti and its adjoining areas will remain affected on February 24, 26 and 28 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Raipur, Rakh and its adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Executive Engineer, Electric Division-III, (JPDCL), Jammu has informed that the power supply to Ganderwan and its adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 8 am to 2 pm.