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PM bats for...

jails and release them, as per law, based on human sensitivities and asserted that judicial reform is not merely a policy matter.

"Human sensitivities are involved and they should be kept in the centre of all deliberations, Modi said, noting that more than 3.5 lakh undertrials were languishing in jails.

In every district there is a committee headed by the district judge so that these cases can be reviewed and wherever possible, such prisoners may be released on bail, the prime minister said.

"I would appeal to all CMs and CJs of high courts to give priority to these matters on the basis of humanitarian sensibility and the law," he said.

On the issue of court proceedings, Modi said, "We need to encourage local languages in courts. This will not only increase the confidence of common citizens in the justice system but they will feel more connected to it."

In his opening remarks, Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana had stressed the need for the legal system to introduce local languages in courts.

The prime minister also appealed to chief ministers to repeal outdated laws to make the delivery of justice easier.

"In 2015, we identified about 1,800 laws that had become irrelevant. Out of these, 1,450 such laws of the Centre were abolished. But, only 75 such laws have been abolished by the states," he said.

Prime Minister Modi said as India celebrates the 75th anniversary of Independence, the focus should be on the creation of a judicial system where justice is easily available, is quick and for everyone.

"In our country, while the role of the judiciary is that of the guardian of the Constitution, the legislature represents the aspirations of citizens. I believe that the confluence of these two will prepare the roadmap for an effective and time-bound judicial system in the country," he said.

The prime minister emphasised that the government was working hard to reduce delays in justice delivery and efforts are on for increasing judicial strength and improving judicial infrastructure.

He said information technology has been deployed for case management and efforts to fill vacancies at various levels of the judiciary are underway.

He appealed to chief ministers and chief justices of high courts to take this forward. The e-courts project is being implemented in mission mode, Modi said.

The prime minister said subjects such as blockchain, electronic discovery, cybersecurity, robotics, artificial intelligence, and bioethics were being taught in law universities in many countries.

"It is our responsibility that in our country also legal education should be according to these international standards," he said.

Modi said mediation is also an important tool for the settlement of pending cases in courts, especially at the local level.

"With our rich legal expertise, we can become a global leader in the field of the solution by mediation. We can present a model to the whole world," Modi said.

25 engagements, including...

with 50 global business leaders, they said.

He will also interact with thousands of members of the Indian diaspora.

Modi will embark on a three-day visit to Germany, Denmark and France from May 2 amid the Ukraine crisis, which has united much of Europe against Russia.

He will first travel to Germany, then visit Denmark and will have a brief stop over in Paris on his return journey on May 4. Prime Minister Modi will be spending one night each in Germany and Denmark.

Gen Manoj Pande...

Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers) in December 1982.

Gen Pande has held several prestigious command and staff assignments in conventional as well as counter-insurgency operations in all types of terrain.

He commanded an engineer regiment along the Line of Control during the Operation Parakram in Jammu and Kashmir, an engineer brigade in the western sector, an infantry brigade along LoC and a mountain division in high-altitude area of western Ladakh and a corps in the Northeast.

His staff exposures include Brigade Major of a Mountain Brigade in the Northeast, Assistant Military Secretary (AMS) in the Military Secretary's Branch and Brigadier General Staff (Operations) at the Eastern Command headquarters.

ACB nabs XEn ...

Authority, red handed, while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 10,000 from complainant. "He was arrested on the spot and bribe money was recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses," said official, adding that further investigation is going on.

HC dismisses plea...

purpose since the right can be secured without according such treatment to the individual. The validity of any such order passed without hearing is to be adjudged on the touchstone of prejudice. It is, thus, trite law that principles of natural justice supplement the enacted statute with necessary implications. Accordingly, the administrative authorities performing public functions are generally required to adopt fair procedure and in relation to variety of different circumstances. Ordinarily, when an administrative authority proposes to take action adverse to the interest of a person, it would adhere to the principles of natural justice and provide an opportunity of being heard to the person concerned irrespective of whether the statute governing such action specifically provides for such notice of hearing or not. As observed above, like many other legal provisions and principles, this rule is also not absolute and is subject to well defined exceptions. Useless formality theory is one such exception but must not be readily resorted to in all cases. It is only where an exceptional case is made out for its exercise, this theory can be resorted to, to uphold the action even if it is taken without affording an opportunity of being heard to the person affected by such action," the Court observed.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar further observed that in instant case, the facts are not in dispute. The petitioner is a public servant and is convicted by a competent Court of law for various offences and has been sentenced to undergo sentence of various descriptions and heavy fine. The offences under Prevention of Corruption Act constitute grave misconduct and are always treated as serious offences. No amount of opportunity of hearing granted to the petitioner could have changed this decision and the notice of hearing, if given, would have turned out to be a futile exercise. I am, therefore, of the considered view that failure of the respondents to provide an opportunity of being heard to the petitioner before passing the impugned order does not vitiate the impugned order in any manner.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar further observed that in the case in hand neither conviction nor sentence awarded to the petitioner is stayed and, therefore, for the purposes of Rule 168 CSR, the petitioner is a convict and continues to be so till exonerated by the appellate Court by reversing the judgment of conviction. "Rule 168 CSR shall, therefore, operate and there is, thus, no illegality or infirmity in the impugned order. Consequently, the order impugned is upheld and the writ petition along with connected application is dismissed," the Court directed.

Construction of Bus...

happens to be June 29, 2011 and, therefore, period of two years has clearly expired but with no award and held that we are of the opinion that the aforesaid land acquisition proceedings have lapsed by virtue of Section 11-B of the Act and the aforesaid notifications issued under Sections 4 and 6 of the Act have lost all efficacy and have been rendered meaningless. The said notifications are accordingly, quashed insofar as the land of the petitioners is concerned," the Court directed.

Mobile internet services...

here. The order to suspend mobile internet and SMS services, except voice call, was issued by the state's home affairs and justice department.

In exercise of power conferred upon me by virtue of temporary suspension of telecom services (public emergency or public safety) rules, 2017, I Anurag Verma, principal secretary, home affairs and justice, do hereby by order suspension of the mobile internet services (2G/3G/45/CDMA), all SMS services and all dongle services etc provided on mobile networks except voice calls in the territorial jurisdiction of the district of Patiala from 9:30 AM to 6 pm on April 30, said the government order.

And, where there is an imminent danger of loss of life and or damage to public/private property, and widespread disturbances of public tranquillity and communal harmony, as a result of inflammatory material and false rumours which are

being/could be transmitted/ circulated to the public through social media/ messaging services on mobile internet services, all SMS services and dongle services," it said.

To thwart designs and activities of "anti-national and anti-social groups or elements", maintain peace and communal harmony and to prevent loss of life or damage to public or private property, the order said, it has become necessary to take all necessary steps and measures to maintain law and order due to "unavoidable circumstances" in Patiala district in public interest.

Describing the measures, it said that this being done "by stopping the spread of misinformation and rumours, through various social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter on mobile phones and SMS , it said.

It was also mentioned in the order that the Patiala deputy commissioner and SSP have hinted towards a situation where data services could be grossly misused by certain unscrupulous elements.

Talking to the media, Patiala Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney said the situation is calm and peaceful.

We have deployed force here. The situation is peaceful right now and the situation is under control. We are constantly monitoring the situation, Sawhney said.

On suspension of mobile internet services, the official said this step was taken to prevent any rumour mongering but appealed to people not to panic.

Inspector General (Patiala Range) Rakesh Agrawal, who has now been transferred, said two FIRs have been lodged in the matter and Harish Singla, working president of a group called "Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray)" has been arrested.

During the violence on Friday outside the temple here, the groups hurled stones at each other and police fired in the air to bring the situation under control.

Markets abuzz for...

two years of shut down due to covid pandemic but the levels of activity are still nowhere close to the pre-pandemic level of 2019, the local businessmen said.

There is some appetite for shopping among the people but it is not same as it was before COVID-19. We have been in lockdown state for the past three years now, said Shahid Khan, a businessman.

Irfan Bhat, owner of a bakery and confectionary chain, said the sales were better than last year. I hope this is a precursor to economic recovery, he added.

People, however, were unhappy that prices of all the goods have gone up significantly on Eid eve. Prices of all the eatables have gone up by 20 to 30 per cent. Even mutton, for which government has fixed rate of Rs 535 per kilogram is being sold at Rs 650 per kilogram. Where is the government? Why are there no checks? Asif Bhat, a resident of Indira Nagar, said.

Government on its part says it has formed special squads to keep a check on quality of goods being sold as well the prices in the market.

Eid-ul Fitr will be celebrated either on Monday or Tuesday depending on the sighting of crescent on Sunday.

Omar wants Panchs...

will. They also claimed that they were not allowed to offer Juma'atul Vida prayers on Friday. "I'm not sure why @JmuKmrPolice feels that the best way to protect people is to hold them prisoner against their will but it's a gross violation of their fundamental rights. On the one hand the @PMOIndia addresses them in Jammu & on the other the police holds them captive," Abdulla said in another tweet.

In March, Kashmir Inspector General of Police (IGP) Vijay Kumar said panch and sarpach are soft targets for militants as around 90 per cent of them do not have personal security officers but the police are taking steps to ensure their safety.

COVID: 11 new...

reached 4,49,225, officials said.

The COVID-19 death toll stands at 4,751. No Covid-related fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, they said. There were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus), they added.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported one more Covid case that took the infection tally to 28,246, officials said. The lone case was reported from Leh, they said

The number of active cases now stands at four, all from Leh, officials said.

No Covid-related fatality took place on Friday and the death toll stood at 228 168 in Leh and 60 in Kargil, they said. The overall recoveries have reached 28, officials added.

Dr Jitendra leaves for Berlin, ahead of PM's visit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday left for the German capital of Berlin, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to that country.

"In Berlin, Prime Minister Modi will hold bilateral talks with Olaf Scholz, Federal Chancellor of Germany, and the two leaders will co-chair the sixth edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC)," the MEA said in a statement.

During the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations, scheduled to be held in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Union Ministers

Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishanker, Dr Jitendra Singh and R K Singh will also be present as part of the official delegation.

The deliberations in presence of Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Scholz would be dedicated to different areas and sectors including foreign affairs and security, financial policy, scientific and social exchange, climate, environment, energy, etc.

It will be Modi's first meeting with Chancellor Scholz who took charge of the top office from his predecessor Angela Merkel in December last year.

The accompanying Ministers in the official delegation are also scheduled to hold separate Bilateral meetings with their respective counterpart German

Ministers.

Accordingly, Dr Jitendra Singh is also scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with his counterpart German Ministers holding the charge of Science Education & Research, Nuclear Safety, Environment, etc.

"During his visit, Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Scholz would also jointly address a business event. The Prime Minister will address and interact with the Indian community in Germany," the MEA said.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Prime Minister will first travel to Germany, then visit Denmark and will have a brief stopover in Paris on his return journey on May 4.

DC Reasi reviews power & water scenario in district; finalises Eid-ul-Fitr arrangements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Babila Rakwal chaired a meeting of Power Development and Jal Shakti Departments to review power and water scenario in the district.

The DC was briefed about the power scenario in the district and the reasons for the short fall in power sector.

It was informed in the meeting that centre Government has allocated additional power to Jammu and Kashmir to mitigate shortfall.

The DC directed the PDD to take immediate measures to provide adequate power supply during Iftaar' and Sehri timings. She also directed them to reach out to the people and explain the reasons for the short fall in power supply. She further added that consumers should be informed of the facts through print and electronic media.

She further directed the PDD and Jal Shakti departments to work in a coordinated manner so that water supply does not get affected due to outages as Jal Shakti schemes are power depend-



Bhat along with other officers were present in the meeting.

Issues regarding availability of water and power supply, ration, quality and rate checking of eatables, security arrangements and observance of proper sanitation during the celebration were discussed in the meeting.

DC asked the police department to make proper security arrangements around the Eid-Gah and Jamia Masjid during the festival.

Besides, Traffic police was also directed to deploy adequate number of traffic personnel at traffic jam prone places.

Babila Rakwal further directed the concerned officers to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness arrangements in the Parade ground/ Eid-Gah. Municipality and CAPD departments were directed to check the quality and rates of eatables in the market during the festival.

Deputy Commissioner extended her warm greetings to the people of District Reasi on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr by wishing for peace and prosperity.

CRIME REPORT

Market checking conducted in Samba, penalties imposed on violators

8 traders booked, Rs 6,200 fine imposed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Under the direct supervision of Deputy Commissioner Samba, a joint market checking team conducted multiple checking and inspection of various establishments in the market and imposed penalties on violators.

In view of upcoming festival of Eid-ul-Fitr, the inspection team comprising of Legal Metrology Department and Food Safety checked different establishments in Bari Brahmana, Vijaypur, Samba and adjoining areas. The team inspected karyana shops, meat/ chicken shops, vegetable/ fruit shops and sweet shops etc and booked 8 traders and realised compensation of ₹6200 on spot. Also three cases were booked by Food Safety Department due to insanitary conditions.

MVD imposes crackdown on vehicles without HSRP, books 187 violators

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Motor Vehicles Department, Ramban intensified its drive against violators of Motor Vehicle Act and other traffic rules especially focused on affixation of High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) on the vehicles.

In this regard enforcement teams led by Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Ramban, Shafqat Majeed challaned 187 vehicles for different violations of Motor Vehicle Act including 60 challan for not affixation of High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) on the vehicles and imposed a fine of nearly Rs 5 lakh on the violators in last two weeks.

According to the ARTO, MVD Ramban has imposed 921 challans and realised fine to the tune of Rs 29 lakh from traffic violators during last financial year across the district.

Bus catches fire in school premises; no injuries reported

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A school bus of Delhi Public School (DPS), Jammu caught fire inside a school premises on Saturday. However, the reason behind the fire has not been ascertained and no injuries were reported.

As per a statement issued by DPS management, "A school bus parked inside school caught fire due to minor short-circuit, possibly due to overheating. The fire was immediately brought under control by fire tenders and also fire extinguishers used by the school staff. There were no students or staff members inside bus at the time of incident. Everything is safe by God's grace".

5 drug peddlers, notorious thief booked under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against anti-social elements, Police has booked 5 drug peddlers & a notorious thief under Public Safety Act (PSA) after obtaining necessary sanctions from authorities in Kupwara & Budgam.

In Kupwara, three drug peddlers identified as

Bashir Pandith, son of Mohammad Asadullah, resident of Hirri Qadir Abad; Abdul Rashid Malik, son of Gh Nabi Malik, resident of Malik Mohalla Kupwara and Zabeer Ahmad Chak @ Shani, son of Late Gh Nabi Chak, resident of Khawarpora Karnah involved in various cases of narcotic crimes were detained under PSA. Besides, a notorious thief identified as Haris Ahmad Sheikh @ Andha Kanoon, son of Ab Rashid Sheikh, resident of Tikker Kupwara was also detained under PSA for his involvement in more than 6 cases of thefts. In Budgam, two notorious drug peddlers identified as Hilal Ahmed Mir @ Hilal Galwan, son of Ghulam Mohammad Mir, resident of Galwan Mohalla Mazhama and Zubair Ahmad Mir, son of Bashir Ahmad Mir, resident of Mazhama Magam were detained under PSA for their involvement in many NDPS cases. The duo was involved in several FIRs and was promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth. Subsequently, the cases were duly processed and after obtaining sanctions from concerned authorities, all the accused persons were detained under Public Safety Act.

5 drug peddlers arrested; contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs, Police has arrested 4 drug peddlers in Kupwara, Budgam & Kulgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Kupwara, Police arrested three drug peddlers in two separate actions. Acting on specific information regarding drug peddling in Diver Kadiwan area, a police party led by SHO Police Station Lalpora raided a specific spot and arrested two drug peddlers identified as Saqib Nazir Bhat, son of Nazir Ahmad Bhat and Asif Ahmad Wani, son of Bashir Ahmad Wani, both residents of Diver Lolab. During search, 200 gm Charas like substance was recovered from their possession. Similarly in another action, a police party led by SHO Kupwara along with Executive Magistrate and arrested a drug peddler near Bed College Dragnulla after receiving information about drug trade. He was identified as Beedar Ahmad Mir, son of Gulam Rasool Mir, resident of Jaggarpura and on search 300 gm Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. All the accused were shifted to respective police stations where they remained in custody.

In Budgam, a police party of Police Station Budgam during daily routine checking at Bathar Budgam intercepted a vehicle (ZEN) bearing registration number JK01J-1987 driven by one Adil Manzoor Paul @ Zaffer, son of Manzoor Ahmed Paul, resident of Narkara Budgam. During search, 6.40 gm heroin was recovered from his possession. The accused was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody and vehicle used in the commission of crime was also seized.

In Kulgam, officers from Police Station Kulgam at a checkpoint established at Vessbatapora intercepted a suspect and on search recovered 8 Kg Poppy Straw from his possession. The accused, identified as Mashooq Ahmad Hella, son of Abdul Rashid Hella, resident of Vessbatapora, Kulgam was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law were registered in respective police stations and further investigation started.

Absconder nabbed after 10 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Police on Saturday nabbed an abscon-

der who was wanted for 10 years. As per details, an absconder wanted in a case registered at police station Mendhar was arrested by police team led by PSI Vankatesh and Inspector Manzoor Kohli. The absconder was identified as Mohd Akram, son of Mohd Sadiq, resident of Salwa, Mendhar. He was wanted in FIR No. 100/2012 registered under sections 307/353/332/336/148 of RPC and was absconding since 2012 whereas a general warrant of arrest under sections 512 CrPC was issued against him by the Munsiff court Mendhar. The accused was produced in the court of law for further course of action.

9 tourists among 41 'badly' bitten by stray dogs in Dalgate area

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Nine tourists among 41 persons were bitten by stray dogs at Boulevard road near Gagribal area of Dalgate on Friday. As per details, all these persons were brought to SMHS Hospital for treatment. While nine tourists were going through the busy road, the locals were coming out of Masjid after offering Isha prayers.

3 missing women traced, reunited with families

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police on Saturday traced out 3 missing women and reunited them with their family members.

As per details, on April 4, 2022 a missing report was lodged at Police Station Rajbagh by father of a girl stating therein that his daughter, resident of Gair Tehsil Marheen District Kathua went missing. Accordingly, missing report was lodged and search was launched to trace her and after hectic efforts, she was traced out successfully.

While in another instance, another missing report was lodged at Police Station Rajbagh in respect of a woman, resident of Hore, Tehsil Hiranagar, who has also been traced out. Meanwhile in one more instance, a missing report was lodged at Police Station Bani on April 27, 2022 in respect of woman, resident of Koti Tehsil Bani District Kathua, and she was also traced by police. Thereafter, all traced women were immediately handed over to legal heirs after completion of all legal formalities.

2 dumpers seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Taking tough action against illegal mining, Kathua Police under the overall supervision of SSP R C Kotwal on Saturday seized 2 dumpers found indulged in illegal mining and transportation of construction material in jurisdictional area of Police Station Billawar. As per details, a team led by PSI Ravinder Singh Incharge Police Post Ramkot while on patrolling duty near Tharakalwal, found 2 dumpers (JK08J-7877 & JK08H-2237) indulged in illegal mining. Both vehicles were seized and were immediately handed over to the officials of Mining Department Kathua for further legal proceedings.

