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SC collegium recommends appointment of CJs in 7 HCs

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait recommended for appointment as CJ J&K-Ladakh HC

Justice Tashi Rabstan as Chief Justice Meghalaya High Court

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has recommended the appointment of chief justices for the high courts of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Meghalaya.

The collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and also comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai made the recommendations after considering the names of judges from different high courts by taking into account their seniority and performance, and the need to provide representation in the different high courts.

Justice Manmohan, who is the acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, has been recommended as the chief justice of the court.

"He was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Delhi on March 13, 2008, and is due to retire on December 16, 2024. Justice Manmohan ranks at SI No 3 in the All India Seniority list of High Court Judges.

"Bearing in mind the Memorandum



Justice Suresh Kumar Kait

Justice Tashi Rabstan

of Procedure, Mr Justice Manmohan can be appointed as the Chief Justice of his parent High Court, at this stage. The Collegium, therefore, recommends that Mr Justice Manmohan be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi," a resolution passed by the collegium said.

The collegium recommended the name of Justice Rajiv Shakdher for appointment as the chief justice of

the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

"On the transfer of Mr Justice M S Ramachandra Rao, Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jharkhand, consequent upon the retirement of Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi on July 19, 2024, there would be a vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of that High Court," it said.

"Justice Rajiv Shakdher was

appointed as a Judge of the High Court on 11 April, 2008 and ranks at SI No 4 in the All India Seniority list of High Court Judges. He is one of the senior-most Judges in the country," the resolution said.

"The Collegium, therefore, recommends that Justice Rajiv Shakdher be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh in the vacancy caused by the transfer of Justice M S Ramachandra Rao to the High Court of Jharkhand, consequent upon the retirement of Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi," it said.

By a separate resolution, the collegium has recommended the appointment of Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, chief justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court as a judge of the Supreme Court.

"On his appointment, there would be a vacancy in the office of Chief Justice of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Mr Justice Suresh Kumar Kait is a senior Judge of the High Court of Delhi, who was

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Govt to observe June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to commemorate Emergency

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government has decided to observe June 25, the day the Emergency was declared in 1975, as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to commemorate the "massive contributions" of those who endured inhuman pains of the period, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Friday.

He also said the observance of 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will help keep the eternal flame of individual freedom and the defence of the democracy alive in every Indian, thus preventing "dictatorial forces" like the Congress from "repeating those horrors".

A gazette notification issued on Friday by the Union Home Ministry notes that Emergency was declared on June 25, 1975, following which there was "gross abuse of power by the government of the day and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities". The people of India have

Reminder of what happened when Constitution was trampled: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that observing June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will serve as a reminder of what happened when the Constitution was trampled over.

He said on 'X', "It is also a day to pay homage to each and every person who suffered due to the excesses of the Emergency, a Congress unleashed dark phase of Indian history."

Meanwhile, the BJP has said commemoration of June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' every year will remind people of the sacrifices and martyrdom of those who fought against the "dictatorial mindset" of the Congress.

The BJP's reaction came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the government's

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abiding faith in the Constitution and the power of its resilient democracy, it said.

"Therefore, Government of India declares 25th June as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to pay tribute to all those who suffered and fought against the gross abuse of

power during the period of Emergency and to recommit the people of India to not support in any manner such gross abuse of power, in future," says the notification. Shah said that on June 25, 1975, then prime minister Indira Gandhi, in a

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Bail order should be stayed only in rare, exceptional cases: SC

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Courts should refrain from staying bail orders in a mechanical manner and without giving any reason, the Supreme Court said Friday, underlining that the relief should be denied to an accused only in rare and exceptional cases.

A bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih said courts cannot curtail the liberty of an accused in a casual manner.

"The courts should stay bail order only in rare and exceptional cases like somebody is involved in terrorist cases, where order is perverse or

provisions of law have been bypassed. You cannot restrict liberty like this. This will be disastrous. If we grant stay like this, this will be disaster. Where will Article 21 go," the bench observed.

The top court made the observations while reserving its judgement on a plea filed by Parvinder Singh Khurana, an accused in a money laundering case, who challenged the Delhi High Court's order of temporarily staying a bail order passed by the trial court. The apex court on Thursday had said courts should not stay bail order in a "casual manner"

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Search operation launched in Jammu outskirts following reports of suspicious movement

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces launched a search operation in the border belt of Jammu district on Friday after information was received about suspicious movement in the area, officials said.

The forces are on high alert and have asked people to share any details of suspected movements in their areas.

A joint search operation was launched by Army, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Gurha Patan and Kana Chak areas near the Chenab river in the Akhnour border belt this morning after some people informed police about the suspicious movement of three persons in the area, the officials said.

The security forces have scanned agricultural fields, villages and adjoining



Security forces carrying out search operation at Gurha Patan area of Akhnour.

scattered habitation, they said.

The operation is underway.

GoC White Knight Corps reviews security situation in Rajouri

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: General-officer-Commanding White Knight Corps Lieutenant General Navin Sachdev on Friday visited Rajouri district's Kalakote belt and reviewed the security situation of the region.

The GOC commended troops for their professionalism in challenging conditions in the region, and exhorted them to maintain high state of morale and motivation.

"The GOC White Knight Corps, along with GOC Counter Insurgency Force (Romeo), visited Basantgarh (Udhampur) and Doda to assess the current security

situation," the White Knight Corps wrote on X.

Kalakote shares borders with Reasi district's Shiv Khori area, where terrorists launched an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims on June 9, killing nine devotees and injuring 41 others.

The GOC visited the twin districts of Doda and Udhampur to assess the current security situation following recent terror incidents in the region.

In response to heightened threat perceptions from terrorist groups across various districts of the Jammu region, the GOC

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Magnitude 4.2 earthquake hits Baramulla

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A magnitude 4.2 earthquake struck Baramulla district on Friday, officials said.

There are no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, they said.

The earthquake hit the north Kashmir district at 12.26 pm. According to the officials, the earthquake struck at a latitude of 34.32 degrees north and a longitude of 74.41 degrees east at a depth of 5 km.

Over 4,400 devotees leave Jammu for Amarnath Yatra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: More than 4,400 people left Jammu to join the pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas on Friday, amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

They will leave for the shrine, at a height of 3,880 metre, after reaching the

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 36.7°C Min: 28.1°C
Humidity
Max: 64 Min: 55
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 34.0°C Min: 18.4°C
Humidity
Max: 59 Min: 41
Sunset: 19:40 Hours
Sunrise: 05:31 Hours

CS reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Friday held a meeting with senior functionaries of civil administration and Police

department to take stock of the arrangements being made for the Independence Day celebration across the UT.

Present in the meeting

were DG, Police, Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, Director, Information, Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir, Director Health, Jammu/Kashmir and representatives from security agencies.

The Chief Secretary took appraisal from the concerned about the selection of venues at Jammu and Srinagar besides in districts. He also enquired about the contingents participating in the main events to be held at Jammu and Srinagar.

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J&K Bank hosts HNI Customer Meets in Jammu and Kathua

Our clients are integral to the Bank's success and growth: Baldev Prakash

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a continued effort to deepen engagement with its high-value clientele, J&K Bank hosted two High Net-worth Individual (HNI) Customer Meets in Jammu and Kathua. The meetings aimed at gathering feedback and suggestions on the bank's products and services, ensuring that customer needs and expectations are met as per the higher standards laid down by the Bank.

MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash chaired both the interactive meetings with the galaxy of HNI clients from Jammu and Kathua zones that were attended by the Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen, General Manager &



J&K Bank's MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash chairing interactive meeting.

Divisional Head (Jammu) Sumit Kumar, Zonal Head (Jammu) Rajesh Dubey, Zonal Head (Kathua) Sanjeev Kumar, DGM (Law) Vinod Kumar Sharma besides other senior officers of the Bank.

Addressing the Bank's high valued

clients, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "Our HNI clients are integral to the bank's success and growth. Engaging with you directly allows us to understand your changing needs well and tailor our services accordingly to meet you"

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J&K among 5 top UTs in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Delhi have emerged as the top performer Union Territories in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24, which evaluates progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters.

While Kerala retained top rank in the states category, Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer.

According to the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24, India's overall Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) score increased to 71 in 2023-24, compared to 66 in 2020-21, supported by significant progress on eliminating poverty, providing decent work, economic growth, climate action and life on land.

Among states, Uttarakhand and Kerala have emerged as joint top performing states with a score of 79, followed by Tamil Nadu (78) and Goa (77).

On the contrary, Bihar (57), Jharkhand (62) and Nagaland (63) were the worst performing states in this year's index.

"Targetted intervention by the government has helped India achieve significant improvements across 16 goals set under the SDGs," NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said after releasing the report.

"India is not only on track and ahead of others in achieving most of the targets under SDGs," he said, adding the government hopes to achieve targets before 2030 across some of these goals.

The index shows that out of the 16 goals, India's overall score is below 50

only on the 'Goal 5' (gender equality). According to the report, all states have shown an improvement in overall score.

Scores for states ranged from 57 to 79 in 2023-24, significant improvement from 66 in 2020-21 and 57 in 2018 (baseline report).

Between 2018 and 2023-24, Uttar Pradesh was the fastest moving state as it increased its score by 25, followed by Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

The fourth edition of SDG India Index measured and tracked national progress of all states and UTs on 113 indicators.

The SDGs, constituted through an unprecedented consultative process, have 17 goals and 169 related targets to be achieved by 2030.

"Among these, goal 13 (climate action) has shown the most substan-

tial improvement with its score increasing from 54 to 67, goal 1 (no poverty) follows closely, with its score rising significantly from 60 to 72," the report said.

The report added that progress underscores the effects of the focused programmatic interventions and schemes of the Union and state governments in improving the lives of citizens.

It said this year, 32 states/UTs have scored between 65 and 99, up from 22 in the 2020-21 edition.

First launched in December 2018, the index has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the SDGs in the country and has simultaneously fostered competition among the states and union territories by ranking them on the global goals. The index, developed in collaboration with

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Human trafficking module busted in Baramulla, 4 minor Rohingya girls rescued

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A human trafficking module was busted in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district and four minor Rohingya girls were rescued, police said on Friday.

Acting on a tip off from reliable sources, the police in Baramulla successfully dismantled a human trafficking module operating in Ushkura, a police spokesman said.

He said the investigation revealed that Shakeel Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Ushkura, was involved in the trafficking and exploitation of minor girls from outside the Union Territory.

Accordingly, a case was registered at the Baramulla

police station and investigation was taken up, he said. Acting swiftly on the information, a police team raided Bhat's residential premises and rescued three minor girls who are from Rohingya in Myanmar, the spokesman said.

The raid was conducted in the presence of a magistrate and lady police officials, he said.

During interrogation, Bhat confessed that he sold one girl to Mehraj Ahmad Tantray, a resident of Kanlibagh, the spokesman said.

He said a raid at Tantray's residence led to the rescue of another minor Rohingya girl. Both Bhat and

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