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Three new criminal...**

The overarching objectives of the new criminal laws, the Lt Governor said the new laws, based on individual freedom and human rights, reflect a major shift towards a more humane and just system.

"Designed to protect victim rights and ensure justice with a focus on human dignity, moving away from punitive colonial measures, new criminal laws acknowledge that every individual, regardless of their past, has the potential for change. New laws focus on restorative justice, where the emphasis is on repairing the harm caused by criminal behaviour and reintegrating offenders into society," the Lt Governor said.

Highlighting the new provisions incorporated to suit contemporary times and technologies, the Lt Governor said, the new Criminal Laws addresses the issues like terrorism, sedition, and mob lynching and ensures our system is just, humane, and future-ready.

By incorporating technological advancements, new laws will enhance the efficiency and transparency of our justice system. This includes the use of digital tools for evidence collection, case management, and communication among the five pillars of criminal justice system, he observed.

The Lt Governor underlined the need to remain vigilant about the potential misuse of technology, which could undermine the very justice we look to uphold. He also spoke on the substantial investment in infrastructure and training required with the integration of forensic technology and digital procedures.

Ensuring data security and protecting the privacy of individuals is paramount. It is imperative to build robust systems that create a firewall against criminals, protect our citizens, and foster peace and development, the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor called for collective efforts to realize the full potential of the new reforms and ensure that justice is served efficiently and equitably.

He emphasised that all the stakeholders of the criminal justice system must nurture new laws collaboratively.

"We embark on a journey towards a more just and fair society. These reforms uphold the rule of law, protect human rights, and ensure justice. The major challenge of training our core personnel in all the verticals has been accomplished, including joint trainings. J&K Police has been instrumental in training their core IOs, augmenting the material and human resources, and adapting to the technological challenges and working on legal changes. Let's work together to implement these changes, ensuring trust in a fair, transparent, and just legal system," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor further called for generating awareness on the new laws amongst the citizens, law enforcement agencies, stakeholders, legal fraternity, prosecutors, district administration officials, academia and students.

He also congratulated the Jammu Kashmir Police on registering the First FIR under the provision of the new laws.

Chief Justice, J&K and Ladakh High Court Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, in his address, said the new Criminal Laws is the reflection of the Resurgent India, Confident India building on its own destiny based on its rich heritage.

He advised the Vice Chancellors of various universities present on the occasion to conduct awareness sessions on the new laws in their respective institutions.

Social workers, Legal Practitioners and Police officials from different districts, joined through video conferencing, also shared their views on the impact of new Laws on the criminal justice system.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; RR Swain, DGP; members of the Judiciary and legal fraternity; prominent citizens and senior officers of Civil and Police Administration from all districts attended the implementation ceremony, in person and through virtual mode.

Justice within 3...

would give priority to providing justice, unlike the colonial-era laws that gave primacy to penal action, and made reporting of crimes even easier by recognising e-FIR, Zero FIR and electronic or digital evidence.

The home minister said the judicial process would now be time bound and the new laws set time limits for the judicial system, ending long delays.

He said the new statutes were made more sensitive by adding a chapter on crimes against children and women and the inquiry report in such cases were to be filed within seven days.

Shah said according to the new laws, judgment in criminal cases had to come within 45 days of completion of trial and charges must be framed within 60 days of first



hearing.

The new laws promote a justice-centric approach by providing community service for minor crimes, he said.

The home minister said organised crime, acts of terrorism and mob lynching had been defined, sedition was replaced with treason and video recording of all search and seizures made mandatory.

He said a new chapter on crimes against women and children was added, buying and selling of any child made a heinous crime and a provision for death sentence or life imprisonment for gang rape of a minor included.

A new provision has been added in cases of having physical relations after giving false promise of marriage and statement of rape victims will be recorded by a woman police officer in presence of her guardian, he said.

Officials said under the new laws, overlapping sections were merged and simplified, with only 358 sections against 511 in the Indian Penal Code.

For example, definitions scattered from sections 6 to 52 have been brought under one section.

Eighteen sections already stand repealed and four relating to weights and measures are covered under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

Instances of false promise of marriage, gang rape of minors, mob lynching and chain snatching, among others, are reported but the Indian Penal Code did not have specific provisions for dealing with such incidents.

These have been addressed in the BNS, the officials said.

A new provision has been made for cases such as abandonment of women after making sexual relations on the false promise of marriage.

The three laws were based on justice, transparency and fairness, the officials said. Under the new laws, a person can now report incidents by electronic communication, without the need to physically visit a police station.

This allows for easier and quicker reporting, facilitating prompt action by the police. With the introduction of Zero FIR, a person can file a First Information Report (FIR) at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction.

Despite diversities, India...

and we are one nation and one society," the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leader said. Giving an example, he said, "Whenever a country attacks our nation, as China and Pakistan have done, all countrymen forget their differences and stand together because unity is in our roots." This is because Indians not just love their country but worship it, he said.

"Whatever it might seem on the outside, there is love and devotion towards motherland India everywhere. The ideals of our ancestors who shed blood and sweat for our motherland and the ancient culture unite us all. These are the things that make us one." He called heroes like Abdul Hamid an inspiration for instilling courage among people beyond what scriptures and speeches can achieve.

Hamid's son Jaimal Hassan was present at the launch of 'Mere Papa Param Vir'. Bhagwat travelled to Ghazipur from Varanasi, where he had taken part in another event.

Advocate's murder: Police...

the extension of period of police-remand inter alia on the grounds that it was on January 20, 2024 that he was summoned by the Investigation Agency in the case and thereafter he regularly attended, as also fully cooperated, the investigation of the case till he was arrested by the Investigation Agency on June 25, 2024 without any justification. In elaboration of said submission, the accused submitted that the present case was registered as far back as in the year 2020 and even the trial proceedings have been substantially completed. He submitted that the case was investigated thoroughly and his name never surfaced during the initial investigation of the case and it was only after the further investigation of the case was ordered by the trial Court that he was summoned by the Investigation Authority. He submitted that he has answered every single query put to him by the Investigation Officer, both prior and subsequent to his arrest and, therefore, his further detention in police custody is not warranted. Besides that the accused also resisted the extension of police remand on account of his old-age, being more than 76 years old, and multiple ailments with which he is afflicted. He submitted that he has to take numerous medicines including insulin dosage, multiple times during the day. He further submitted that the grounds of arrest were not furnished to him immediately after arrest but on the day of first remand on June 26, 2024, which fact in itself, according to the accused is sufficient, to make his custody illegal. Lastly, he disputed the power of the Director General of Police, J&K, to transfer the investigation of the case to a different agency which power, according to him, vests only with the Constitutional Courts.

All these submissions were vehemently refuted by the prosecution inter alia on the grounds that the accused is not cooperating with the investigation of the case and, therefore, his further detention in the custody of police is warranted in order to elicit further information regarding the occurrence, leading to registration of the case. He submitted that the grounds of arrest were communicated to the accused at the time of his arrest itself on June 25, 2024 and the whole episode was also video-graphed and subsequently the same were also furnished to him in writing. The prosecution further submitted that adequate medical-care is being provided and shall

continue to be made available to the accused.

Resisting the submission regarding the power of the DGP of J&K Police to transfer the investigation of the case to a different Agency, the prosecution submitted that the said plea was also raised before the High Court of J&K during the hearing of the application for transfer of the present case from Srinagar to Jammu but the same was not accepted.

Special Judge NIA Jatinder Singh Jamwal, after considering the rival submissions of the parties, perusal of the latest entries in the case-diary and giving thoughtful consideration to the matter, observed that investigation of the case vis-à-vis the present accused, in the case registered vide case FIR No. 62/2020 of Police-Station: Lal Bazar/SIA Kashmir, for offences U/Ss. 120-B/302 of IPC; Sec. 7/27 of Indian Arms Act & Sections 13/16/18/18-8/20/38/39 of UA (P) Act, is still at an initial stage and, therefore, his further detention in the custody of the police is imperative as the Investigation Agency is required to be afforded an opportunity to elicit all the possible information from the accused for further progress of the investigation. Further, without going into greater details, it's noticed that the prosecution has prima facie offered a justifiable explanation regarding the legal plea/viz: the furnishing of grounds of arrest and the authority of the DGP, J&K Police to transfer the investigation of the case, raised by the accused. Taking that into account coupled with the facts and circumstances of the case, the accused is remanded to police custody till July 6, 2024 with the direction to the CIO of the case to produce him before the competent Court of Law on that day.

However, Court directed that the accused shall be subjected to medical-examination under rule and adequate medical-care should be made available to him and it shall be ensured that all the medicines including the insulin dosage/s is provided to him without any interruption.

People asked not...

raised concern over some civilians visiting the forest areas or fields wearing shawls or blankets during night hours.

"Whereas, various security agencies often launch search operations in the forest areas along the LoC during odd hours in order to combat anti-national or anti-social activities by miscreants.

"In this context, the general public is hereby informed through the medium of this circular that no person shall visit or roam in the forest areas during late night hours from 9 pm to 4 am wearing shawls or blankets without seeking prior permission from concerned Army or police authorities in order to avoid any mishap/untoward incident," the order reads.

In the past week, three persons found moving suspiciously were detained by the Army from different forward areas in the Mendhar sector.

New criminal laws...

menace, to record evidence and to take action against those supporting terror. "The police have become more competent to deal with the organized crime and its functioning has become more transparent. The forfeiting of property (of the criminals) will strengthen the police to deal with it (organized crime)," he added.

The ADGP said the zero FIR concept and complaint disposal within 15 days will add accountability, adding the victim needs to be informed about the status of their complaint and withdrawal of prosecution within 90 days which will bring more transparency.

SI paper leak...

of arrest have again been furnished to the accused person after his arrest in light of Pankaj Bansal's Case (Supra). CD file reveals that on the basis of aforesaid FIR, investigation under the provisions of Money Laundering Act 2002 (PMLA) was initiated by this Directorate after recording of an ECIR bearing No. ECIR/MISZO/01/2023 dated March 31, 2023 as per the Medical Certificate, accused appears to be physically fit. Carefully perused case diaries and medical examination of accused person conducted on July 1, 2024 by Dr. Sunil Bhagat Medical Officer Police Hospital Jammu.

Court heard Investigating Officer Rahul Verma, Deputy Director E.D as well as Counsel Asheesh Singh Kotwal appearing for accused person herein (Vakalatnama filed).

From perusal of case diaries and entire material on record, it transpires that since accused was arrested on June 24, 2024 and investigation of the case is at initial stage, as such he is remanded to E.D custody for a period of 04 days v.e.f. July 1, 2024 as he is involved in serious economic offences. He shall be subjected to regular medical examination under rules. Accused is again apprised of his right to engage counsel and access to medical aid. Accused shall be produced in the Court by the I.O after expiry of the remand period through virtual mode only. I.O is also directed to expedite the investigation within remand period.

First FIRs registered...

Sanhita) 2023. However, cases registered before July 01 will continue to be tried under IPC (Indian Penal Code), CrPC (Criminal Procedure Code), and Indian Evidence Act until their final disposal.

4 vehicles for illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining in district Samba, Police has seized four vehicles in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by InchargePP Goran and InchargePP Supwalunder SHO PS Samba while performing patrolling duty in their respective jurisdictional areas, have seized a tipper bearing registration Nos. JK21J-2105 and three tractor trolleys bearing registration Nos. JK08E-9501, JK21G-7171 and a tractor trolley without registration No. which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area. The above mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

2 bovine smuggling bids foiled, 18 bovines rescued, 2 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police tightening its noose against bovine smugglers under operation Kamdhenu police team of PS Nagrota during previous night have foiled 02 bovine smuggling bids in which 18 bovines were rescued and 02 vehicles seized. Truck bearing registration number JK03G-4627 loaded with 16 bovines driven by driver named Zakir Fayaz S/o Fayaz Ahmed Bhat R/o near Masjid Chowgam Distt. Kulgam arrested on the spot at Naka Ban Toll plaza and other Vehicle Mahindra No JK02CS/4092 loaded with 02 bovine animals driver of the vehicle fled away from the spot.

In this regard two FIRs FIR No.190 &191 /2024 under sections 188 IPC 11 PCA Act have been registered in Police Station Nagrota.

Pakistan hands over to India a list of missing defence personnel from 1965 and 1971 wars

■ AGENCY

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday handed over to India a list of defence personnel who went missing in the wars of 1965 and 1971 while exchanging the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody, the Foreign Office said.

India and Pakistan exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, it said.

"A list of 38 missing Pakistani defence personnel, believed to be in India's custody since the wars of 1965 and 1971, was also handed over by Pakistan," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Pakistan has handed over a list of 254 Indians or believed-to-be-Indian Indian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistani jails, while India shared a list of 452 Pakistani or believed-to-be-Pakistani civilian prisoners and fishermen in Indian jails, it said. Under the provisions of the bilateral Agreement on Consular Access 2008, such lists are exchanged every year on January 1 and July 1.

The Foreign Office said the government has called for the immediate release and repatriation of all Pakistani prisoners who have completed their sentences in India.

BJP demands holding Public Darbars for displaced KP community in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit on Monday demanded that the Lieutenant Governor's administration should organise public darbars for the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community to address their grievances and issues.

The LG's administration has issued a 28-day calendar for public darbars in each of the twenty districts of Jammu and Kashmir to be conducted by senior administrative officers, including the administrative secretaries, beginning July 3.

"The deputy commission-

ers will oversee the organization of these darbars and ensure widespread publicity well in advance within their respective districts," read the General Administration Department's order.

Former legislator and BJP spokesperson G L Raina said they demand that public darbars should be held in the camps for the displaced community "as they face the double challenge of not belonging to any specific district".

Over 70,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandits are living in five migrant camps and non-camps in Jammu district.

Raina highlighted that

while they reside within the territorial limits of one district in the Jammu region, they encounter issues related to their original districts in the Kashmir Valley.

"In such a scenario, separate darbars conducted by the administrative secretaries would enable them to voice their concerns inclusively," he told reporters here.

Expressing optimism about the administration recognizing the necessity of this initiative, Raina expressed hope that it would be successful in addressing their concerns effectively.

The BJP spokesperson

welcomed the issuance of a new roster for the administrative secretaries to conduct public darbars across various districts in July.

"A fresh roster has been published detailing the schedule of the administrative secretaries from different departments specifying the dates and locations for the public darbars," Raina said.

"This is a positive step towards ensuring a responsive administration," he added, noting that it would serve as a crucial communication bridge between the people and the administration.

ABVP demands equitable course offerings at CUJ

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Introducing new courses in any educational institution is paramount for the welfare and growth of the student community.

However, this advancement should not come at the expense of other crucial courses.

While the Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu has introduced an array of new science courses, a move we commend, it is alarming to note the neglect of courses catering to students from social sciences backgrounds.

The Law Department, which had already received sanctioned posts, has been inexplicably terminated and replaced with engineering courses. Additionally, the M.A. Economics course has been discontinued, despite its significance.

Students have consistently demanded the initiation of

courses such as History, Political Science, Geography, and Physical Education to benefit the local student population. Regrettably, the university administration's actions appear to disregard these valid demands, adversely affecting the interests of many students.

The introduction of new science courses, though beneficial, has predominantly left lakhs of local students from social sciences and arts backgrounds in a dire predicament, scrambling for admissions. This situation is not only unfortunate but also detrimental to the future prospects of these students.

ABVP Central University of Jammu unit demanded that the university must reinstate social sciences and other sanctioned courses without delay to ensure a balanced and inclusive academic environment.

BFDC protests against Archaeology & District Administration, urges to protect Dogra's Historical Monument

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bahu Fort Development Committee (BFDC), led by President Rajeev Charak along with Vice Chairman BFDC Advocate Ishant Gupta, has launched a protest against the Archaeology and Museums Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the District Administration of Jammu. The protestors shouted slogans against the Archaeology Department, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jammu, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

During the protest, Charak spoke to the media, expressing their anger over the lack of action against unauthorized construction within the protected Bawe Wali Mata Temple at Bahu Fort.

He revealed that they had informed the Archaeology Department two months ago

about the illegal construction of a shed by unknown individuals. Despite multiple complaints, the department has only passed the responsibility to the DC Jammu without taking any concrete action.

Charak further added that this type of incident is not happening for the first time. It has now become a habit to damage the protected monument, and every time the archaeology department plays the game of passing responsibility to the district administration and others by writing letters but doing nothing and taking no appropriate action.

He said seven years ago, they also informed the department that illegal construction was at its peak, but no action was taken, and the protected monument was damaged with multiple illegal constructions like Langar shed, multiple temples, concrete cement shelter shed, and other cemented con-

Amarnath Yatra Bhandara of ABDPSS continues at Railway Station

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti (ABDPSS), Jammu and Kashmir has continuously been arranging Bhandara for Baba Amarnathji Yatris since June 30, 2024 at Railway Station, Jammu with enthusiasm and fervor. The Samiti has the mission of Public Service accomplishments which forms the core of the organization. The National Co-ordinator of the Samiti Sunil Sharma informed that today in Bhandara large number of yatris came from different states of India take meals and appreciated the efforts of the samiti for arranging meals for

such a long time for yatris on the directions and teachings of Bhrahmgyani Guruji. The spokesman of the Samiti Raman Sharma, informed that For this purpose, the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti under the guidance of Sunil Sharma actively assisted by Madan Mohan gupta, Swatanar Bakshii and Ajay Kumar have constituted a team of highly dedicated Members to serve the yatris in the best possible manner.

Others who attended Bhandara namely, Jyoti Kumar, Sanjeev Sharma, Neeraj Sharma, Tara chand, Madan mohan were also present.

Monument Preservation Rules, 2012, which require permission from the government for any construction or excavation within a protected area. Despite these regulations, the district administration has not taken any effective measures to stop the illegal construction. Bahu Fort Development Committee urges the District Administration to take immediate action to halt the illegal construction, investigate the matter; and hold the culprits accountable under the law to protect this historic site. Prominent members present at the protest included Kuldeep Raj Gupta, Harlesh Khokhar, Capt Moti Lal, Mukhtiyar Singh, Neel Kanth, Kasturi Lal Sagotra, Dr. Davinder Singh, Vinod Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Girdhari Lal, Nitesh Thapa, Deepak Kumar, Tanish Mehra Bal Krishan and others.