

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Govt tables bills...

against women pertaining to sexual intercourse by employing "deceitful means". Shah said the changes were done to provide speedy justice and create a legal system that keeps contemporary needs and aspirations of the people. Everyone will get justice in a maximum of three years once the new laws are passed, he added.

"I can assure the House that these bills will transform our criminal justice system. The aim will not be to punish, it will be to provide justice. Punishment will be given to create a sentiment of stopping crime," Shah said while noting that the laws made by the Britishers were full of signs of slavery aimed at punishing those opposed to their rule.

The minister also urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to refer the three bills for examination by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

"By replacing them, the new three laws will bring the spirit to protect the rights of the Indian citizens at the centre stage."

The offences against women and children, murder and offences against the State have been given precedence, Shah said, adding that various offences have been made gender-neutral.

"Sedition law will be completely repealed. This is democracy, everyone has the right to speak," said Shah.

The BNS bill lists new offences such as acts of secession, armed rebellion, subversive activities, separatist activities or endangering the sovereignty or unity in the new avatar of the sedition law.

According to the proposed law, anyone purposely or knowingly, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or by electronic communication or by use of financial mean, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite secession or armed rebellion or subversive activities, or encourages feelings of separatist activities or endangers sovereignty or unity and integrity of India; or indulges in or commits any such act shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

According to the existing law on sedition(Section 124A IPC), anyone involved in the crime may be punished with life imprisonment or with a three-year jail term.

Officials said the sedition law, known as 'Rajdroh', has got a new term 'Deshdroh', doing away with the reference to the British crown.

For the first time, the word terrorism has been defined under the BNS Bill which was not there under the IPC.

"Previously, there was no definition of terrorism. Terrorism has been defined under the law for the first time," Shah said.

Marrying a woman by concealing identity or having intercourse under false promise of marriage, promotion and employment will be treated as crime for the first time under the proposed law that will replace the IPC, Shah said.

Officials said special laws like the UAPA--Unlawful Activities(Prevention) Act--and Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) will continue to remain in force.

The BNS bill also seeks to make a new provision on "snatching" under section 302. It says that whoever commits snatching, shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Shah said the focus of the laws that will be repealed was to protect and strengthen the British administration with the idea being to punish and not to deliver justice.

"The experience of seven decades of Indian democracy calls for comprehensive review of our criminal laws, including the Code of Criminal Procedure and adopting them in accordance with the contemporary needs and aspirations of the people," said the statement of objects for the BNSS bill.

The document said the government's mantra was "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas" and that it was committed to ensuring speedy justice to all citizens in conformity with these constitutional democratic aspirations.

As per the IPC, the offence of defamation carries a punishment of simple imprisonment of up to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Now, in the BNS bill, the offence of defamation carries a simple imprisonment of up to two years, or with fine, or with both or with community service.

Under the new laws, the charge sheet will have to be filed within 90 days, and the court can give permission for another 90 days looking at the situation. Probe would have to be finished in 180 day and sent for trial. After trial, the judgment will have to be given in 30 days.

For all types of gang rape, there is a provision for punishment of 20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment, while there is a provision for death sentence in case of rape with minor.

A separate provision of mob lynching provides for seven years imprisonment, life imprisonment and death sentence as punishment.

To stop political use of punishment waivers by governments, a new provision has been made that death sentences can only be converted to life imprisonment, and life imprisonment can be pardoned only within seven years of punishment.

Shah referred to the recent release of criminal-politician Anand Mohan in Bihar and said the provision has been made to ensure that those with political influence do not escape law.

The use of forensic science to increase conviction in cases is also in focus, the minister said.

"The aim is to take the conviction rate to 90 per cent," he said.

A proposal has also been made to allow trial without presence of criminals if he or she has been declared absconding. This would make trial of criminals like underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, who is reported to be in Pakistan, possible.

The BJP said the proposed bills will remove the colonial legacy of the past and are pathbreaking and pro-people.

Senior party leader and former law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters that the prescribed changes were long overdue.

Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK strongly opposed the naming of the central bills, calling it "Hindi imposition" and an "audacious attempt" to tamper with India's diversity.

"Recolonisation in the name of Decolonisation! The audacious attempt by the Union BJP Government to tamper with the essence of India's diversity through a sweeping overhaul - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill - reeks of linguistic imperialism," said DMK President and Chief Minister M K Stalin.

The Centre's move was welcomed by legal experts who, however, voiced their reservations about naming them in Hindi.

While former Delhi High Court judge Justice (ret'd) R S Sodhi said India is a "developing and vibrant society" in which one can't have stagnant laws, senior advocates Vikas Singh and Vikas Palwa said these colonial-era legislations were "obsolete statutes" and there was a need to replace them.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan said, however, replacing the names of these legislations with Hindi terms is "completely meaningless" in a judicial system which is largely run in English.

'Purpose of 3...

British parliament. With the new laws, the signs of slavery will be removed from a total of 475 places, he said.

He said a total of 313 changes have been which will bring a widespread change in India's criminal justice system, and now people will be able to get justice within a maximum of three years.

The proposed laws expand the definition of documents to include electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smart phones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mails, messages on devices.

They have provisions to digitise the entire process -- from FIR and case diary to charge sheet and judgement.

Videography is proposed to be made compulsory at the time of search and seizure and without such recording by the police no charge sheet will be valid, according to the bills which also make compulsory the visit by a forensic team on the crime scene in cases having provision for punishment of seven years or more.

Provision of e-FIR is being added for the first time, and every district and police station will designate a police officer who will officially inform the family of the arrested person about his arrest online and in person, the bills propose.

In cases of sexual violence, video recording of the statement of victim has also been made compulsory.

The bills propose that no government will be able to withdraw a case that entails imprisonment of seven years or more without listening to the victim.

The scope of summary trial has been increased in petty cases and now crimes punishable up to three years will be included in summary trial. This provision is expected to end over 40 per cent of cases in sessions courts.

A time limit of 90 days is fixed for filing charge sheet but the court can give 90 more days depending on the situation and the investigation will have to be completed within 180 days and trial started, the legislations propose.

Courts will now be bound to give notice of framing of charge to the accused person within 60 days and the judge will have to give verdict within 30 days after the completion of arguments, the bills propose, saying it will not keep the decision pending for years.

The order will have to be made available online within seven days.

The government has to decide on permission within 120 days for trial against civil

servants or police officers else it will be treated as deemed permission and trial will be started, the bills propose.

A provision has been brought for the attachment of property of declared offenders, a new provision of harsh punishment against inter-state gangs and organised crimes has also been proposed.

Sex on the pretext of marriage, employment, promotion and false identity has been made a crime for the first time and 20 years of imprisonment or life imprisonment has been proposed in all cases of gang-rape.

Provision of death penalty has been made in case of crime with girls below 18 years of age, while all three provisions -- seven years in jail, life imprisonment and capital punishment -- have been made for mob lynching.

Earlier, there was no special provision for punishing cases of snatching of mobile phone or chain from women, but now a special provision has been made to address these situations -- imprisonment for 10 years or life imprisonment in case of permanent disability or being brain dead during the crime.

There were many cases of using pardon for political gains, now the death penalty can only be changed to life imprisonment, life imprisonment to a minimum of seven years and seven years to a minimum of three years.

The Modi government is going to repeal sedition law completely because, officials said, India is a democracy and everyone has the right to speak.

Earlier, there was no definition of terrorism, now crimes like armed insurgency, subversive activities, separatism, challenging the unity, sovereignty and integrity of India have been defined in this law for the first time.

A decision on trial in absentia has been taken, a person declared fugitive by a Sessions Court judge will be tried and sentenced in his absence, no matter where in the world he may be hiding, if the fugitive has to appeal against punishment, he will have to follow Indian law, the bills propose.

The home minister said one of the five 'PRAN' taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi before the country on August 15 was to end all signs of slavery and the three bills are going to fulfil this vow. He said Modi had said in 2019 that all the laws made during the time of the British across all the department should be made in accordance with today's time and in the interest of the Indian society after adequate discussion and consideration. As many as 18 States, six Union Territories, the Supreme Court, 16 High Courts, five judicial academies, 22 law universities, 142 MPs, around 270 MLAs and public have given their suggestions on these new laws.

The home minister said intense discussions were held over four years on these laws and he himself was present in 158 consultation meetings.

The Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, which will replace CrPC, now has 533 sections, 160 sections of old law have been changed, nine new sections have been added and nine repealed.

CS Mehta to...

JKML will be headed by Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K as Chairman while Santosh D. Vaidya, IAS Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Vikramjit Singh, IPS Commissioner/Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Dr. Raghav Langer, IAS Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; Dr. Rashmi Singh, IAS Administrative Secretary, Mining Department; O.P. Bhagat, JKAS Director, Geology and Mining, J&K and Vikram Gupta, Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Mineral Limited Corporation will be its Directors.

Preparations underway for...

Asked about border tourism picking up in north Kashmir, the J-K's top cop said there were several places near the Line of Control (LoC) where the situation has improved and people want to visit.

"I am happy that border tourism is picking up well. There are many places where the security situation (has improved), and the sinister ploys of Pakistan in terms of infiltration bids to disturb peace have been foiled, after which, now people want to see those areas which are near the border. Places like Keran, Teetwal, Lolab, Gurez and Bangus are near borders but are very beautiful," the DGP said.

"I am happy that the security team the police, Army, CRPF and the BSF have together created such an environment in which people feel they have to visit such beautiful places. We will facilitate them in every way," he added.

Singh said the security situation has improved and the Valley has witnessed many important events taking place including a G20 meeting, and the conduct of Muharram procession after 34 years.

"It is a very happy thing for us that people can celebrate their religious and social functions without any disturbance. Muharram was observed in a good manner; it was mentioned in the Parliament by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah," the DGP said. "Our police team has worked round-the-clock at every level along with the civil officers to make a fresh start and I am happy that the programme concluded peacefully. I congratulate all, especially the Shia community who helped us in conducting it in a peaceful manner," he said.

No proposal to...

elections using EVMs since 1982. The use of Electronic Voting Machine and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines is legally sanctioned by Parliament in the form of clear provisions in the Representation of the People Act 1951.

He said the law on the use of EVMs has also been subjected to judicial reviews in a number of cases up to the level of the Supreme Court.

"There is no proposal to go back to ballot system," he said.

2-day meet...

the NCC engagements by shifting the focus from a personality-centred approach to a process-oriented framework, the spokesman said.

A range of critical issues highlighted during the session include addressing shortcomings and implementing measures to enhance cadet enrolment and institute participation, formulating strategies to elevate the quality of NCC activities, infusing vitality and responsiveness into the NCC framework and pioneering the mentorship of exceptional cadets to facilitate their journey into the armed forces as officers.

Kumar praised the NCC Directorate of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh for its dedication to nation-building and fostering values of discipline, character and unity.

He offered insightful suggestions, including broadening the horizons of cadet recruitment to encompass a diverse spectrum of society and promoting the benefits of the Agniveer scheme to alleviate any concerns, the spokesman said.

Amarnath Yatra draws...

July 23, the devotees continued to visit the shrine even though the daily numbers have come down of late.

Amid elaborate security arrangements by police, central armed police forces and the administration, the yatra has been going on smoothly.

A total of 44 pilgrims have lost their lives due to health-related reasons during the yatra so far this year, he said, adding that last year 71 pilgrims had died.

The official said hi-tech equipment including drones and advanced technical instruments were deployed while quick response teams, avalanche rescue teams, medical teams and NDRF teams have ensured safe passage of devotees in the difficult mountainous terrain.

The yatra also witnessed foreign pilgrims from the US, Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea visiting the shrine, the official said, adding several distinguished personalities from various walks of life including spiritual guru Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami, badminton player Saina Nehwal and Bollywood actor Sara Ali Khan also visited the holy cave.

The commemoration of Kargil Diwas, marking the victory of Indian troops in the 1999 war with Pakistan, was held at all yatra base camps on July 26, the official said.

He said the weather has also been favourable by and large.

The radio frequency identification (RFID) management has been robust this year despite the huge rush of pilgrims, the official said.

Meanwhile, no fresh batch of pilgrims left for Kashmir from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu Friday morning.

Although no reason was given by the authorities for the suspension of the yatra from the Jammu base camp for the day, sources said the yatra from Jammu is likely to run on alternate days due to the decline in the number of pilgrims reaching the city.

HC refuses to...

Therefore, merely because the predicate offence in the instant case dates back to a period when such offence was not incorporated in the Schedule to the PLMA, it cannot be stated that the petitioners cannot be prosecuted for the offence under the PMLA. Apart from the above, the petitioners besides facing trial for the offences under ULA(P) Act, are also facing trial for offence under Section 121-A of RPC. The offence under Section 121-A of IPC, which is in pari materia with Section 121-A of the RPC, was a scheduled offence even prior to the Amendment Act of 2009. On this ground also, the petitioners cannot claim that they could not have been prosecuted for offence under Section 3 of the PMLA, the court observed.

NH engine of...

made out that these projects make significant contribution towards the economic upliftment of various parts. All the officers including the Deputy Commissioners

should take keen interest in seeing them completed on time.

Regarding the Jammu Ring Road project he asked the concerned Divisional Administration to take early measures for dedicating to public the completed portion of the road from Raya Morh (Samba) to Nagrota (Jammu). He also asked them to renovate the significant Tarnah Bridge at Kathua in shortest timeframe.

Regarding the Ring Road Srinagar the Chief Secretary asked the authorities to ensure that the 20 kms stretch under phase-I is dedicated to public by November this year. He told the concerned Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Budgam to look into the aspect of Ribbon development of this road in their areas for generating economic activities optimally.

As far as the Jammu-Akhnoor Road is concerned the Chief Secretary asked for completing it in all aspects and dedicating it for the use of general public. He made out that this road is going to play a vital role in bringing this circuit on the tourism map of J&K and increase the footfall to this location.

Dr Mehta while taking review of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway stressed on the executing agencies to work for completing all the tunnels especially T3, T5 and other viaducts on time. He observed that the travel time has got considerably reduced on this road yet the remaining projects between the Ramban-Banihal stretch needs to be made more reliable.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress of the construction of four-laning of Ramban flyover and completion of Banihal Bypass. He also took stock of the under-construction bridge at Qazigund, Railway Over-Bridge at Anantnag and Lasjan flyover. He fixed the timelines for completion of each of these Road projects and directed for not to extend these beyond the agreed timelines.

Regarding the Delhi-Katra Expressway the Chief Secretary directed for continuing the momentum of work besides meeting timelines set for completing different sub-projects. He asked them that this Road project is of national importance as it leads to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi visited by millions of pilgrims every year. He said that the work on such a prestigious project should be given due priority for completing it at the earliest. Dr Mehta also sensitized the executing agencies about the significance of Uri-Poonch Highway. He told them that the work on this project should be taken in hand at the earliest so that it is also completed on time bringing respite to people besides providing alternate route between the two divisions of the UT. The Chief Secretary also took note of the work done on the Srinagar-Pulwama-Shopian-Kulgam Highway (NH-444). He stressed on completing the bypasses for the towns of Shopian, Kulgam and Pulwama so that the road is complete before the onset of winter. The highway is going to drastically reduce the time taken for traveling to and fro and to reach to Srinagar. City from these districts. He also took stock of the progress made in execution of Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Highway, Chenani-Sudhmahadev-Goha- Khellani, Akhnoor-Poonch, Singhpora-Vailoo and Chatroo-Khanabal Highways and stressed on their early completion.

Dr Mehta enquired from the executing agencies about the bottlenecks affecting the pace of their work. He passed directions to the concerned government departments for taking measures to address the bottlenecks. He said that both the executing agencies and different government departments should work in coordination with each other and hold regular deliberations for resolving issues without wasting time.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the Divisional Administration Kashmir to ensure that there are no unnecessary halts on the highways in the valley during convoy movement.

National Buddhist conference...

heritage is in the current times undergoing a rapid transformation in its polity, culture and socio-economic changes leading to strategic challenges in the Himalayan region, they said. Buddhism with cross-cultural relations which is one of the powerful factors of social mobilisation and social stability in the Himalayan region will continue to play a key role in further consolidation of this strategic area of the country, the organisers added. Today, while Buddhism is expanding globally and witnessing important resurgence in some traditional areas, this is not the case throughout much of the Himalayan region where its vibrant presence is under external and internal threats like decline in numbers of monastic and monks, etc, they said.

LG Sinha conveys condolences to family of Madan Das Devi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAHARASHTRA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday met the family members of Late Madan Das Devi at their residence in Solapur. He paid tributes to



LG Manoj Sinha paying tributes to Madan Das Devi at his paternal house in Karmala, Solapur.

Madan Das Devi and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

"Paid tributes to Pujya Madan Das Devi Ji at his paternal house in Karmala, Solapur. He tirelessly worked for the social change and showed us a new path. His ideas and ideals will continue to guide future generations," the Lt Governor tweeted.

5 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stem the menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which police teams of Police Posts Phallain Mandal and Sidhra acted stringently on the specific inputs and raided at a location in their respective area and seized 05 vehicles involved in illegal mining.

The seized vehicles include 3 vehicles i.e Three tractor trolleys having chasis nos/Registration nos MBNAAALXBKRG03157; MBNGAALUPMRA03593 and JK02CK-3104 seized by Phallain Mandal Police and 2 vehicles i.e One dumper bearing Registration No JK02DD 9192 and one tractor trolley bearing chasis no. WZTH30428138528 by Sidhra Police.

The recoveries were made by In-Charge Police Post Phallain Mandal PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal and In-Charge Police Post Sidhra PSI Arun Kumar in their respective jurisdictions.

Man injured in truck-bolero collision

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: One person was injured in collision between truck and bolero car near Kristu Jyoti Hospital in Diani area of Samba.

The mishap occurred at Jammu Pathankot National Highway near Diani area of Samba, when the truck (JK02BQ-3021) and bolero (JK02CH-7727) collided, although both vehicles were moving towards Jammu side from Kathua. Local people immediately started rescue operation and pulled out the driver from the bolero car. The driver of the car was injured and brought to a nearby hospital for treatment with the help of local people. The driver of the truck managed to escape from the spot. The injured has been identified as Omkar Singh son of Sansar Singh resident of Nakki Udhampur. In this regard, Police have taken cognizance of the matter and started further investigation.

Police produces Challan against murder accused for beating to death

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police on Friday produced Challan in the court of law against murderer accused "Aman Singh" of Samba for beating to death Chandrakant of Maharashtra over the issue of money transaction.

On May 13, 2023, a written complaint was received at Police Station Samba from the wife of the deceased stating therein that on May 12, 2023 her husband namely Chandrakant Laxman Khopkar while on way to his shop was wrongfully restrained and beaten up by one Aman Singh, son of Karan Singh, resident of Kheli Mandi Samba. The victim Chandrakant Laxman Khopkar, resident of Sangli Maharashtra at present Upper Bazar Samba was immediately shifted to District Hospital Samba from where he was further referred to GMC Jammu for treatment where he succumbed to internal injuries. FIR No.111/2023 under section 341,323,302 IPC was registered at Police Station Samba, murder accused Aman Singh was arrested by police and investigation was started. Senior Superintendent of Police Samba Benam Tosh had immediately constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Deputy Superintendent of Police Garu Ram with SHO PS Samba Rajeshwar Singh, PSI Davinder Singh and ASI Manzoor Hussain as SIT members for in-depth investigation. Special Investigation Team (SIT) has concluded the investigation as challan as offence has been proved against accused Aman Singh and filed the chargesheet in the court of law today for judicial determination.