

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

India’s future offers...

more inclusive and equitable society," the Lt Governor said.

"India needs engineers who can collaborate globally, foster partnership with other countries and institutions to address complex global challenges. I strongly believe young engineers have the potential to not only make India self-reliant but also position it as a global leader," he said.

The Lt Governor impressed on the educational institutions to create an environment, an education system that reflects today's reality.

Universities, as the cradle of innovation, need to become the backbone of progress. By collaborating with Industries and addressing real-world challenges, Universities can produce graduates equipped with skills to solve complex problems, he said.

"Let us harness the power of innovation and engineering to build a better tomorrow. The opportunities that lie ahead in India's journey are immense, and I have no doubt that young engineers' brilliance and determination will drive our nation to new heights," the Lt Governor added.

He asked the students to be aspiring and start their new journey with an aim to leverage technology, knowledge and wisdom to transform our great nation.

Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu presented a detailed overview of the Five-day long Foundation Programme.

Padma Shri Dr Janak Palta McGilligan; Prof Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU; Prof BS Sahay, Director IIM Jammu; Dr Shakti Gupta, Director, AIIMS Jammu; S.P Mahi, CAO Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL); senior officers, prominent citizens, faculty members and students were present.

28 pc GST...

which states will pass the amendments in their respective assemblies to pave way for introduction of changes in law by October 1.

"The valuation may be done based on the amount paid or payable or deposited with the supplier by or on behalf of the player, excluding the amount entered into games bets out of winnings of previous games and bets and not on the total value of each bets placed. Entry (level) whatever they pay to get chips and not what they pay in each game," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Giving an example, she said if a bet is placed for say Rs 1,000, and the player wins Rs 300, then if the player again places a bet of Rs 1,300, then GST will not be levied on the winning amount.

A review of the taxation of online gaming and casinos will be undertaken after 6 months or around April 2024 to see if any change in rules is required.

Briefing reporters after the 51st GST Council meeting here, Sitharaman said for the purpose of GST levy, the valuation of supply of online gaming and casinos will be done based on the amount paid or deposited with the supplier, excluding the winning amount in the bet.

Revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra said that offshore gaming platforms will have to register themselves with the GST authorities.

In case they do not follow the law, the government will invoke the provisions of the Information Technology Act to block those sites, Malhotra added.

The GST Council -- the highest decision making body of the new indirect tax regime that comprises Union finance minister and representatives of all states -- discussed the language of amendments that will be needed to enabling taxing of online gaming and casinos.

"We will undertake amendments to CGST Act at the earliest, in this session itself. From October 1, it will be implemented," Sitharaman said.

Malhotra said the amendments will specifically define online gaming, online money gaming, virtual digital assets used to pay for online games, and supplier in case of online gaming.

Asked about the impact on the ongoing legal cases in case of online gaming, Malhotra said the decision of the GST Council is only clarificatory in nature as online gaming was always an actionable claim in the nature of betting and gambling on which 28 per cent GST is leviable.

The Council had at its meeting last month decided to levy a 28 per cent GST on full face value of bets placed and Wednesday's meeting was to deliberate on the tax law changes that would be required to implement it.

Sitharaman said Delhi finance minister opposed 28 per cent tax on online gaming and wanted the matter to go back to group of ministers. Goa and Sikkim, whose revenues come from casinos, said 28 per cent GST should be levied on GGR (gross gaming revenue) or platform fees and not on face value.

Sitharaman, however, said other states, including Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, wanted the decision taken at the Council meeting last month to be implemented at the earliest.

FIR registered over...

week for the grant of Scheduled Tribe status to the Pahari community.

"An FIR under section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) of Indian Penal Code was registered at police station Poonch for raising anti-national slogans during the rally," a police officer said.

A video of the protest rally, purportedly showing some participants raising "freedom" slogans, was circulated on social media.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Poonch, Vinay Sharma in the wake of the incident on Tuesday said "We are analysing the video through forensic experts as to whether it is real or fake and legal action shall follow accordingly So far, we could see tricolours raised high throughout the protest demonstration."

Earlier, six prominent Gujjar leaders requested the centre to hold "participative decisions on sensitive issues" that have the potential of disturbing intercommunity relations in the Union Territory.

The joint statement on Monday was issued by former ministers Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi (National Conference), Chowdhary Zulfikar Ali, Ajiaz Ahmad Khan and former legislator Choudhary Qamar Hussain (Apni party), former deputy chairman J&K Legislative Assembly Choudhary Javed Ahmad Rana (NC), and former MLA Choudhary Mohammad Akram Lassanvi who resigned from Congress last year.

The J&K unit of B-JP called the statement "ridiculous, untimely and misleading" and asked the protesters what they had been objecting to when the government had already made it clear that it was not reducing the 10 per cent quota of scheduled tribes in any way.

The B-JP statement from Gujjar leaders affiliated with the party said the government is taking concrete steps for the improvement and welfare of all deserving backward areas and classes.

"Now that the panchayat, local body and parliamentary elections are coming, the people fully understand the fact that the narrative of the incomprehensible thing you are making is only of a political nature and not of public interest," the B-JP statement said.

Who can recommend...

President issues notification the recommendation of constituent assembly is required. But the question is what would happen when the constituent assembly ceases to exist?"

Sibal responded, saying it was precisely their point and their whole case is about whether the President cannot issue any notification revoking Article 370 without the recommendation of the constituent assembly.

Justice Gavai interjected and asked the senior lawyer whether the argument being made is that nothing could have been done about Article 370 after 1957, when the tenure of the Jammu and Kashmir constituent assembly came to an end.

Sibal said the court is currently interpreting a constitutional provision and it is not here to legitimise the process which is unknown to the Constitution.

"Through a political act Article 370 was tossed out of the window. This was not a constitutional act. Parliament took upon itself the role of constituent assembly and revoked Article 370 saying it is exercising the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Can such a power be exercised?" said Sibal contesting the way Article 370 was repealed.

He added nobody can deny that people of Jammu and Kashmir are an integral part of India but there is a special relationship which is a unique and drafted in Article 370 itself.

"You can't jettison that relationship except by following a process ordained by law," he said, adding, "You can change the boundary of a state, you can bifurcate boundaries of a large state to make smaller states. But never in the history of this country has a state been converted into two union territories."

"So, you move away from representative democracy, convert it into a union territory under your direct rule, and now five years have passed. Every day we hear soon there will be elections. There has to be a constitutional basis for doing this. In May 2019, parliamentary elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir but they keep on saying that state elections cannot be held," Sibal said.

He said the repeal of Article 370 was a "political act and decision" which the government may take but Parliament cannot be an instrument for that.

"That political act cannot be exercised by the Parliament, which is a legislative body. Because that legislative body is controlled by the Constitution. It can't go beyond that," the lawyer said.

He contended the scheme of Article 370 says that on four items- defence, communication, external affairs, and ancillary matters- the consultation with the state is necessary and for all other matters concurrence of the state is necessary.

"If you want to abrogate Article 370, you have to get a recommendation from the constituent assembly," he said. The CJI responded with a terse remark "so long as it existed".

The senior counsel said the constituent assembly had served its term once it framed the Constitution for J-K.

"In which case, Article 370, which is a temporary provision, assumes the character of permanent provision by virtue of the fact that there is no constituent assembly," the CJI asked Sibal.

"Absolutely," the lawyer replied and added no Parliament can convert itself into a constituent assembly.

"Where does Parliament get such power and under what provisions? There was a unique structure in place which was changed on August 5, 2019 and Article 370 was tossed out of the window," he said.

According to him, Justice Kaul told Sibal, Article 370 sub-clause 3 became otiose after 1957 as it served no purpose.

The CJI said Article 370 was included in part 21 of the Constitution which contains Articles that were transitional, temporary and special provisions which shows it was a temporary provision.

Justice Kaul said even a state assembly, which is an elected body, cannot recommend revocation of Article 370.

Sibal replied in the affirmative and said Article 370 states the ordinary law making power of Parliament shall be limited to matters in the Union list and the Concurrent list, which will be done in consultation with the state government.

The hearing remained inconclusive and will continue on Thursday.

The top court is conducting day-to-day hearing in the matter and will hear arguments except on Mondays and Fridays, which are days for hearing miscellaneous matters in the apex court. Only fresh petitions are taken up on these days for admission hearing and regular matters are not heard.

Several petitions challenging abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh- were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

Azad appreciates Kapil...

from Parliament to the Supreme Court in pursuit of justice for people of Jammu and Kashmir" Azad pinned hope on positive outcome as the Supreme Court is expeditiously hearing petitions before it.

2 'hybrid' terrorists...

Public Safety Act in Jammu.

Tajinder Singh alias Jinda, a resident of Simbal camp in RS Pura, was wanted in multiple cases registered under sections of the Indian Penal Code, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Arms Act, the police said.

He was arrested on the basis of specific information from Miran Sahib and shifted to Central Jail Jammu, Kotbhalwal, under the Public Safety Act, the police said.

CAT directs magisterial...

Supriya Chouhan appearing for the victim/applicant vehemently argued that the delinquent Principal is a blot and slur in a pious educational institution and has demeaned his position by seeking sexual favours from a hapless lady teacher. Advocate Chouhan further submitted that the said Principal used to tell the lady teacher to skip the classes as skipping will not affect the future of children and when the applicant did not agree, the said Principal started doing adverse things to her like removing her name from all the School activities, from the school whats app groups, cropping her photographs from the pictures originally taken in the school functions and also started spreading words that applicant is loose-character woman and is influencer as she gets undue favours by influencing senior officers and public functionaries.

Advocate Supriya Chouhan while advancing her arguments further submitted that the delinquent Principal managed a fake, manipulated and forged communication dated August 28, 2022 through an anonymous so-called Civil Society Member; Batote and Affected Family Members Batote, Ramban and addressed it to various authorities including DC Ramban, SSP Ramban, Joint Director, SIE, Jammu, Chief Education Officer, Ramban, ZEO, Batote and to himself also wherein defamatory remarks were made with regard to character and dignity of the applicant.

Advocate Chouhan further submitted that just to wreak vengeance and in view of her open refusals/avoidances, the delinquent Principal illegally/arbitrarily issued the relieving order on June 21, 2023 and directed her to report in the office of CEO, Ramban when she had been deployed/attached by the order of CEO, Ramban after getting approval of the Director School Education, Jammu.

Advocate Chouhan vehemently argued that the lady teacher has threat perception at her native place i.e village Kumait (Ramban) because of land dispute with her relatives. She further submitted that the threat to her life still persists and without any lawful justification and in absence of fresh threat assessment report, the Principal GHSS Batote relieved the applicant and directed her to report to CEO, Ramban for further duties.

The Jammu Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal headed by A.K. Dubey Member(A) took serious note of the submissions made by Advocate Supriya Chouhan and observed, "The allegations raised by the applicant are of serious nature. She has also alleged manipulation of Internal Committee's proceedings. It appears that her allegations need to be looked into impartially. Under these circumstances, this Tribunal directs the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of the area to enquire into the matter and submit his report within 15 days. It is further directed that the reply to be filed by the respondents must specially explain the reasons of the applicant's relieving without calling for the latest security threat report".

The Bench further directed that as an interim measure, the Chief Education Officer, Ramban is directed to obtain fresh security threat report with respect to the applicant and then decide place of posting accordingly. Till the assessment report is received, he shall consider and allow eligible leave to the applicant. A copy of the threat assessment report should be also brought to the notice of the Director of School Education Jammu.

Additional Advocate General Sudesh Magotra and AAG Rajesh Thapa accepted notices on behalf of the Education Department and were granted time to file their responses before the next date of hearing.

Protecting prevailing peace...

living better lives in the changing scenario.

He said that boys and girls are focusing on their careers and that protecting and securing their lives is our priority.

He hoped that in near future the youth of J&K will perform diligently in every sphere.

Dilbag Singh flagged off the PS Teams in 21 Bunker Vehicles to Police Station consisting of 290 officers and officials for their deployment with 21 Police Stations across Kashmir valley besides five Marksman vehicles to CRPF.

Welcoming the senior officers of CAPFs and Army, the DGP expressed gratitude to them for being the utmost important part of team J&K Police who desires to improve the changing situation of Jammu and Kashmir.

DGP said that Pakistan and its agencies are still hatching conspiracies to lure our youth in hybrid form and radicalizing them to kill innocent people.

"It is our mission to put an end to their conspiracies and uproot all anti national elements from the UT," he said adding that only then Jammu and Kashmir will reunite with its past glory.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are all praise for the good work of police and security forces in restoring peace in J&K.

He lauded the role of people and said that without their support and cooperation it was not possible to bring normalcy here.

The DGP said that it doesn't bring any happiness for forces to kill any terrorist adding that terrorists also have families and their parents have dreamt of educating their children and seeing them prosper adding that we also hope that leaving the path of violence youth of today would lead a better life.

He appealed to all those youths who are still lured by fake narratives of Pakistan to shun the path of violence.

He said that Pakistan is gifting drugs to the youth of J&K as they did in Punjab. He said that the challenge is big and called for strong response from all stakeholders to join hands with forces in stopping the poison from spreading.

Earlier, the DGP congratulated Principal CTC Lethpora Tanveer Jeelani and his team for their hard work put in preparing the special teams.

He said that these Peace & Stability Teams are dedicated to 21 Police Stations in Kashmir Valley for augmenting them in ensuring peace and stability of their jurisdictional areas.

He said that today is the first phase of the initiative to augment the Police Stations with manpower, modern logistics and Communications, drone support and enhanced training in order to fill the security gaps adding that in the next phase other Police Stations will be augmented likewise.

Stating that the Police Station is the first place for the People to contact, DGP

said that all the possible facilities are being provided through policing to the public at Police Stations.

He said that any matter whether it is Crime, Verification, Law and Order, Security, Civic Action and in good or bad times Police Stations are the first responder for the people.

He said that the personnel in Peace & Stability teams have received intensive induction training besides one week joint orientation training was organised for fostering discipline and jointness among them.

DGP J&K on behalf of all forces wished PS Teams good luck and success for their future endeavours.

From 8th Aug to 20th Aug events with the motto 'Meri Matti Mera Desh, Mitti Ko Naman Veeron Ko Vandan' will be organised in the country, DGP said that lets us together remember and pay tributes to all martyrs who gave supreme sacrifices of their lives for the people and for the integrity & sovereignty of the Country and dedicate ourselves to face any challenge with firm hands.

Earlier, the Principal CTC Lethpora Shri Tanveer Jeelani in his welcome address gave a detailed resume of the training activities conducted for the PS Teams.

On the occasion Cyclist Asha Malviya, a national athlete & mountaineer who is on her mission across India to spread awareness on Women's safety and empowerment called on the Director General of Police J&K. He appreciated the dedication and commitment of Asha Malviya. On behalf of J&K Police Singh welcomed the cyclists and wished her success in her future endeavours.

Spl. DsG R. R. Swain, A. K. Choudhary, ADG CRPF J&K Nalin Prabbhat, ADsGP Deepak Kumar, SJM Gillani, M.K Sinha, Shri Sunil Kumar and Vijay Kumar, IGP B.S Tuti, DsIG J&K Police Sujit Kumar, Vivek Gupta, Imtiaz Ismail Parray, Rayees Mohammad Bhat, Shahid Mehraj, and Abdul Qayoom, DsIG CRPF Sanjay Yadav, Kulbir Singh Deswal and Alok Awasti, DIG ITBP Ranbir Singh Chohan, Principal CTC Lethpora Tanveer Jeelani, AsIG of PHQ, officers from Army, CRPF, ITBP and Police attended the function.

Sinha inaugurates Affordable...

opportunities have been created and we continue to focus on skilling of workers to meet the needs of economy and better quality employment, he said.

Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department gave a detailed briefing on the Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) and other similar projects of the department to provide affordable housing to the people of J&K UT.

Today, 192 flats out of total 336 flats at Sunjwan at an affordable rental of Rs 2200 per month were handed over to the beneficiaries at ARHC, Sunjwan. The remaining flats will be handed over by the month of October this year, it was informed.

The initiative of "Affordable Rental Housing Complex" has been envisioned for providing rental housing for EWS/LIG urban migrants including labour; urban poor (street vendors, rickshaw pullers, other service providers etc.), industrial workers, and migrants working with market/trade associations, educational/health institutions, hospitality sector; long term tourists / visitors, students or any other persons of such category.

Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, JMC; Bharat Bhushan, Chairman District Development Council, Jammu; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; ULB representatives; senior officials and prominent citizens were present on the occasion.

Joint intelligence meeting...

officials from the Army, local police and intelligence agencies, attended the meeting, which took place at the Army's Palma Garrison to assess the existing intelligence and security situation in the region, he said.

During the meeting, the spokesman, said the attendees discussed several key issues related to intelligence gathering, threat assessment and security arrangements. They also reviewed the security measures implemented in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 and analysed any potential threats that could arise during the anniversary of this event, the spokesman added. Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was nullified by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

Additionally, he said, the participants addressed the security concerns surrounding the upcoming Independence Day celebration and the Shri Budha Amarnath Yatra, an annual pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Budha Amarnath in Poonch.

The meeting evaluated the potential challenges, such as possible terrorist activities or civil unrest, and devised strategies to mitigate these risks, the spokesman said.

He said the meeting served as a platform for sharing intelligence inputs, discussing security protocols and coordinating efforts between different security agencies. The participants emphasised the need for seamless coordination, intelligence sharing, and proactive measures to ensure the security in the region during these important events, the spokesman said.

"Overall, the joint intelligence and security coordination meeting aimed to enhance the preparedness and effectiveness of security arrangements in Rajouri and its surrounding areas. By pooling their resources and expertise, the stakeholders aimed to create a robust security framework that would deter potential threats and maintain peace and stability in the region," he said.

880 flats constructed...

and Jagti -- to accommodate the people who had migrated due to terrorism in 1989-1990 from their ancestral places of residence in Kashmir. These tenements were constructed in two phases till 2011.

"No new tenements for above purpose have been built in the last three years. However, due to improved security scenario in the Kashmir valley, the government has taken up the project of construction of 6,000 transit accommodation for the Kashmiri migrant employees returning to Kashmir valley. 880 flats have been constructed in the last three years," he said in a written reply.

984 pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A batch of 984 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar camp here on Wednesday for the twin base camps in Kashmir to undertake the onward journey to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine.

Over 4 lakh devotees have so far paid obeisance at the shrine since the beginning of the 62-day-long annual pilgrimage on July 1. The yatra will conclude on August 31.

Of the 984 pilgrims in this smallest batch to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp, 498 are performing the yatra through the traditional 48-km Pahalgam track in the Anantnag district while 486 are heading for the 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, officials said. With this, over 1.41 lakh pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

Don't arrest accused "mechanically" in cases entailing less than 7-year jail: SC tells HCs, state police chiefs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A person accused of a crime entailing maximum punishment of seven years should not be arrested "mechanically", the Supreme Court has said.

It has asked all high courts and state and union territory police chiefs to issue the necessary orders that have to be followed within eight weeks.

The directions by a bench of justices S Ravindra Bhat and Aravind Kumar came while deciding the plea of a man who was denied anticipatory bail by the Jharkhand High Court in a matrimonial dispute case lodged by his wife.

Setting aside the verdict of the high court, the top court granted bail to Md Asfak Alam, represented by lawyer Smarhar Singh, and reaffirmed the directions it had issued while granting bail in an earlier case of Armesh Kumar vs state of Bihar.

"Our endeavour is to ensure that police officers do not arrest the accused unnecessarily and Magistrate do not authorize detention casually and mechanically," the bench said while issuing the directions. Ordinarily, a bail is ought to be granted and, in serious cases, which involve allegations relating to offences carrying long sentences or other special offences, the court should be circumspect and careful in exercising discretion, the top court said.

"The High Court shall frame the ... directions in the form of notifications and guidelines to be followed by the Sessions courts and all other and criminal courts dealing with various offences. "Likewise, the Director General of Police in all States shall ensure that strict instructions in terms of ...directions are issued. Both the High Courts and the DGPs of all States shall ensure that such guidelines and Directives/Departmental Circulars are issued for guidance of all lower courts and police authorities in each State within eight weeks from today," the bench said.

It said the state governments will have to instruct its police officers not to automatically make an arrest when a case under Section 498-A (dowry harassment) of the IPC has been registered. It has to be done only after the officers looking into the case are satisfied about the necessity for arrest, it said. "We hasten to add that the directions ...shall not only apply to the case under Section 498-A IPC or Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, the case in hand, but also such cases where offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may be less than seven years or which may extend to seven years, whether with or without fine," the apex court said.