

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Should Govt be...

minister, chief minister or minister of the central or state government.

"When the Constitution was framed, our Constitution-makers could not have imagined that in the future, there would be political figures who would not resign on moral grounds before being arrested," he said.

The home minister said that in recent years, an astonishing situation has arisen in the country where chief ministers or ministers have continued to run the government immorally from jail without resigning.

He said the Bill also includes a provision that allows an accused politician to seek bail from the court within 30 days of arrest.

If they fail to obtain bail within 30 days, on the 31st day, either the prime minister or chief ministers in the states will be removed from their posts, or they will automatically become legally ineligible to perform their duties, he said, adding if such a leader is granted bail after the legal process, they can resume their position.

Shah said the country also remembers the time when "in this very great House" (Parliament), the then prime minister Indira Gandhi, through Constitutional Amendment No. 39, granted such a privilege to the prime minister that no legal action could be taken against them.

"On one side, this is the work culture and policy of the Congress, that they place the prime minister above the law through constitutional amendments. On the other side, the policy of the Bharatiya Janata Party is that we are bringing our government's prime minister, ministers and chief ministers within the ambit of law," he said.

The Home Minister said a Congress leader in the House also made a personal remark against him, saying that when the Congress "falsely implicated him in a fabricated case" and had him arrested, he (Shah) did not resign.

"I want to remind the Congress that I had already resigned before being arrested, and even after being released on bail, I did not take any constitutional position until I was fully proven innocent by the court.

"The court dismissed the false case against me, stating that it was motivated by political vendetta," he said.

Shah said the BJP and the NDA have always stood for ethical values and party veteran Lal Krishna Advani also resigned from his post as soon as allegations were made against him. On the other hand, he said, the Congress party continues to carry forward the "unethical tradition" started by Indira Gandhi.

The Home Minister claimed the same Congress party that brought an Ordinance to protect RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, which Rahul Gandhi opposed, is now seeing the same Rahul Gandhi embracing Yadav at Gandhi Maidan in Patna.

He said the public fully understands this duplicity of the Opposition.

Shah said it was clear from the beginning that this Bill would be placed before the Joint Committee of Parliament, where it would be thoroughly discussed.

"Yet, abandoning all shame and decency, the entire INDI alliance, led by the Congress, gathered to oppose it with crude behaviour to protect the corrupt. Today, the Opposition has been completely exposed in front of the public," he said.

The three Bills are the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill 2025; the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill 2025; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2025.

The three Bills have proposed that if the prime minister, Union ministers or chief ministers are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days for offences that attract a jail term of at least five years, they will lose their job on the thirty-first day.

Bills for removal...

and asked about his claim of morality in politics, the senior BJP leader countered, saying he had resigned on moral grounds before his arrest and joined the government only after being discharged by the court.

"We cannot be so shameless that we continue to occupy constitutional positions while facing serious charges," Shah said.

Amid continuous noisy protests, the House was adjourned till 5 pm as Speaker Om Birla repeatedly asked the opposition members to take their seats and maintain the dignity of the House.

Earlier in the day, as the protests escalated, there was a brief jostling between the opposition and ruling party MPs with BJP members, including Union Ministers Ravneet Singh Bittu and Kiren Rijiju, stepping in to shield Shah.

Three House marshals formed a protective ring around Shah. Even after the House was adjourned, opposition members persisted with loud sloganeering.

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Opposing the Bills at the introduction stage, Owaisi said the Constitution is being amended to "destabilise governments".

Tewari echoed similar views, saying an individual is "innocent till proven guilty".

"This Bill is against the jurisprudence of criminal justice and distorts Parliamentary democracy. The Bill opens door for political misuse and throws all constitutional safeguards to the winds," he said.

RSP MP NK Premchandran alleged that the Bills are being introduced in "undue haste".

"These Bills are not being introduced as per the procedures of the House. What is the undue haste in bringing such important Bills that they have not even been circulated to the members," he said.

According to the Bill, there is no provision under the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 (20 of 1963) for the removal of the chief minister or a minister arrested and detained in custody on account of serious criminal charges.

Hence, there is a need to amend section 45 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, to provide a legal framework for the removal of a chief minister or a minister in such cases.

LS passes bill...

also seeks to prohibit advertisements related to online money games as well as bars banks and financial institutions from facilitating or transferring funds for any of such games.

Online money game is one played by a user by depositing money in expectation of winning monetary and other enrichment.

Union Minister Vaishnav introduced the bill in the Lok Sabha amid sloganeering by MPs belonging to opposition parties against alleged irregularities in the electoral roll revision in Bihar.

The bill outlaws all online betting and gambling (satta and jua) activities -- from online fantasy sports to online gambling (like Poker, Rummy and other Card games) and online lotteries.

Advertising of money games can attract imprisonment up to two years and/or a fine up to Rs 50 lakh. Facilitating financial transactions related to money games can lead to imprisonment of up to three years and/or a fine of up to Rs 1 crore.

Repeat offences attract enhanced penalties, including 3-5 years' imprisonment and fines up to Rs 2 crore.

Importantly, offences under key sections are sought to be made cognisable and non-bailable.

Endorsements by top cricketers and film stars have incited interest in real money gaming apps such as fantasy sports betting games offered by Dream11, Games24X7, and Mobile Premier League.

CBI arrests 6...

"The cumulative effect of all these facts is deeply shocking to the conscience of this court," the bench said. "The violation of Article 21 is not only evident but egregious," it added.

CM calls for...

Each department will receive specific communication from the Finance Department flagging their areas of concern and giving a six-month revenue target breakdown. They should start working on improving revenue realization today, with a clear monthly plan," the Chief Minister stressed.

He further directed that Deputy Commissioners will be given district-specific instructions from the Finance Department, particularly regarding the coverage of social welfare schemes such as PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Integrated Social Security Scheme, widow, old-age and disability pensions. He called DCs to find out reasons for drop in enrollment of account holders under PMJDY and other schemes. "We will conduct another review of social welfare schemes after three months, and I expect to see a significant improvement in coverage at the district level," Omar Abdullah said.

CM called for expediting finalization of works plans under the CDF and to upload the works on BEAMS portal. He gave instructions that MLAs be informed about the works included in the UT & District Capex plans which were prioritized by the MLAs during pre-budget meetings and to intimate them about works which were found unviable.

The Chief Minister cautioned that delays in revenue mobilization could force the gov-

ernment into difficult decisions such as imposing cuts in departmental expenditure. "If departments do not want to find themselves in a position where expenditure is curtailed, they must focus as far as possible on improving revenue realization. The responsibility lies with each department to ensure timely progress," he emphasized.

During the meeting, it was noted that while social security schemes have shown impressive growth in recent years-with PMJDY account holders crossing 23 lakh, PMSBY enrollments touching 23.8 lakh account holders, and PMJJBY covering nearly 9.83 lakh individuals.

Similarly, in respect of welfare schemes administered by Building & Other Construction Workers Board, the meeting was informed that ₹166.90 crore was disbursed to 2.5 lakh beneficiaries in 2024-25, yet active worker registration remains low, requiring expansion efforts.

The Chief Minister underlined the need to strengthen monitoring of both expenditure and revenue flows, ensure 100% uploading of works on BEAMS, and expedite accord of administrative approvals, tendering and execution of district capex works. He also called for intensified awareness campaigns to improve access to social security schemes and faster settlement of claims.

The Chief Minister reiterated his government's commitment to social security, inclusive growth and fiscal discipline, while urging all departments and Deputy Commissioners to work in close coordination with the Finance Department to achieve the set targets.

ACB files charge...

building permission was fraudulently issued in the name of Ghulam Qadir Sofi, who had died in 2008, but was actually misused by his son Mohammad Arif Sofi to raise a commercial building in violation of approved drawings.

He also used manipulated revenue records to encroach adjoining State land, with the active support of the accused public servants.

"The investigation conducted by Police Station ACB Srinagar, on the basis of oral and documentary evidence, has fully substantiated the charges levelled against the accused officers/officials and private beneficiaries. The conspiracy between the accused government functionaries and the beneficiary was proved beyond doubt," the official said.

After obtaining the requisite sanction for prosecution of public servants from the Government, the official said, adding that the chargesheet against 14 accused persons including 12 public servants and two private beneficiaries was produced before the of Court of Additional Judge Anti-Corruption Judge Srinagar for Judicial determination. The next date of hearing has been fixed on October 7, 2025, the official added.

India will respond...

Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Operation Sindoor as "a new normal", making it clear that "India will respond with full force whenever terrorism threatens its citizens," the synopsis says.

Beyond immediate responses, the Modi government is preparing for "long-term threats," the government said.

In his Independence Day speech, Modi had announced the Sudarshan Chakra Mission, a futuristic defence programme.

"Its goals are threefold -- to ensure the entire system is researched, developed, and manufactured in India; to anticipate future warfare scenarios through predictive technologies; and to create precise, targeted systems for counter-action. By 2035, the aim is to provide a comprehensive national security shield for both strategic and civilian assets," it says.

In the last eleven years, India's defence and internal security posture under the government of PM Modi has undergone a "profound transformation", it says.

The shift has been marked by "greater clarity of purpose, stronger deterrence, and a sustained drive for self-reliance," the synopsis says.

This government has consistently underlined that "national security is non-negotiable", and to ensure this security, India will build its own capacity and preparedness.

This has resulted in a "more confident, modern, and proactive approach to challenges, both external and internal", it adds.

Firm responses to terrorism, the clear articulation of new normal with Pakistan and futuristic initiatives like the Sudarshan Chakra Mission underscore a "forward-looking security doctrine," the government asserted.

ACB registers DE...

assets disproportionate to his known sources of income," an ACB official said.

The case was registered following a discrete verification conducted into the allegations that the aforesaid employee had accumulated wealth far exceeding his legitimate earnings, the official said.

During course of verification, official added, it surfaced that the suspect is in possession of moveable and immovable assets worth crores of rupees which include two palatial houses at Gassu Batapora, Hazratbal, Srinagar; a three-storeyed shop at Main Market, Gassu Batapora, Hazratbal, Srinagar; large chunk of land situated at Gassu Batapora and adjoining areas of Hadoora and a luxurious vehicle (Kia Seltos).

The value of the assets acquired, held and the expenditure incurred by the suspect have been found disproportionate to his known sources of income, official said adding that accordingly, Case FIR No. 15/2025 has been registered at Police ACB Srinagar under Section 13(1)(b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018).

Subsequent to the registration of the case, searches are being conducted at three residential premises of the accused in presence of Executive Magistrates after obtaining proper Search Warrant from competent Court, the official said, adding that further investigation is under process.

1993 Murder case...

his plea for mercy and requesting a change in his place of custody.

The court, while considering the Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab (1982) guidelines and other Supreme Court precedents, noted the mitigating factors, including Mir's age (55 years) and long incarceration, and concluded that life imprisonment was appropriate. In line with the Victim Compensation Scheme, 2013 (SRO 394), the court directed the Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority to release Rs. 1 lakh to the parents of the deceased victim.

The convict will continue in Central Jail Agra until required for proceedings in FIR No. 174/1993, after which he will be transferred to Central Jail Srinagar to serve his sentence. The judgment and sentence have been forwarded to the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for confirmation, and Mir has been informed of his right to appeal. Copies of the order have also been sent to the District Magistrate Bandipora and the Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora for record.

Expanded search underway...

the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple on August 14 during the yatra has reached 65, including three CISF personnel and one Special Police Officer (SPO) of J-K Police. Over 100 people were injured and 39 are still missing.

"The search on day seven started with early morning showers but later the sun came out and the rescuers fanned out on the assigned locations to look for the missing persons believed to be buried under the rubble or washed away in the stream," an official of the SDRF said.

The search operation was extended on Tuesday to cover the entire 22-km stretch of the stream from Chisoti to Gulabgarh, following the recovery of two bodies downstream over the past two days, the official said.

The rescue teams are working at multiple locations, especially the major impact spot near a langar (community kitchen) site, sifting through the debris using heavy machinery, including earth movers and sniffer dogs.

Our priority should...

Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said the university is the axis of development and the students are its periphery. Human development is never mechanical. It requires a better university, teachers and learning environment, he added.

"Due to rapid growth and evolving technology, we need human resources with exceptional qualities. They should have lifelong learning skills and the ability to change with time for re-skilling and up-skilling," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The occasion also witnessed the commencement of a 7-day induction programme for newly recruited faculty of the Central University of Kashmir.

Prof. A. Ravindra Nath, Vice Chancellor; Central University of Kashmir; Rajiv Pandey, DIG Central Kashmir Range; Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner; Ganderbal; Head of Departments, faculty members, staff and students of the university were present.

HIGHLIGHTS...

Our growth model should focus on creating human capital that can contribute significantly to economic growth.

Adequate attention must be given to interdisciplinary courses. Apart from developing creativity, innovation, thinking, skills, the interdisciplinary courses also help in making the students aware of their social and moral responsibilities.

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Unmarried, widowed or divorced daughter of deceased Govt employees entitled to family pension: Centre

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Unmarried, widowed or divorced daughters of deceased government employees are entitled to family pension provided they meet certain prescribed conditions, the Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Various provisions have been incorporated in the Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 2021, notified by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), and in the office memorandum dated October 26, 2022 issued subsequently to ensure that a divorced/widowed daughter of a deceased government employee or pensioner gets family pension on her turn, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply.

The same provisions are provided under separate rules for railway and defence employees and pensioners, he said.

In terms of these rules, where a deceased government employee or pensioner is not survived by a spouse or son eligible for family pension or if they die or cease to fulfil the eligibility conditions for family pension, the family pension shall be granted or continued to be payable to an unmarried or widowed or divorced daughter, the minister said, and mentioned other conditions for such pensions.

The pension will be continued until "she gets married or is remarried or until she starts earning her livelihood, whichever is the earliest, subject to the conditions like the unmarried or widowed or divorced daughter was dependent on her parent or parents when he or she or they were alive", the minister said.

"Further, in the case of a widowed daughter, the death of her husband and in the case of a divorced daughter, her divorce took place or the divorce proceedings filed in a competent court during the lifetime of the government servant or pensioner or his or her spouse," Singh said.

Holy Mace of Kailash Yatra proceeds towards sacred Kailash Kund

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: The revered three-day Kailash Yatra 2025 commenced with great devotion and spiritual fervor in Bhaderwah on Wednesday. Amid inclement weather conditions and administrative advisories, the holy Mace (Charri Mubarak) of the ancient pilgrimage proceeded toward the sacred Kailash Kund with a limited number of devotees.

The Charri Mubarak was ceremoniously taken out at 8:30 AM from the historic 2,100-year-old Vasuki Nag Temple in Gatha and was later joined by another Mace from the Vasuki Nag Temple, Vasik Dhera, Bhaderwah.

Prominent dignitaries, including former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Dr. Nirmal Singh, DDC Chairman Doda Dhananter Singh Kotwal, MLA Dalip Singh Parihar, JKPC Vice President Naresh Kumar Gupta, SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutiyal, ADC Doda Anil Kumar, ASP Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma, SDPO Shoket Ali, and others, accompanied the holy procession and paid obeisance.

A large number of Nag devotees gathered to see off the sacred Mace, though only a limited group of pilgrims were allowed to continue the onward journey toward Kailash Kund due to weather advisories issued by the IMD and recent natural disasters, including the tragic cloudburst in Chishoti area of Kishtwar during the Machail Yatra.

The district administration, in coordination with the Sanatan Dharam Sabha Bhaderwah, langer committees, and other associated organizations, decided to restrict the yatra this year to ensure the safety of devotees. Traditionally, thousands of pilgrims from across Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of the country participate in the yatra annually.

SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta stated that comprehensive security arrangements have been made, with area domination already completed to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the Yatra. As per schedule, the Charri Mubarak will reach Kailash Kund on Friday morning.

Farmers training programme of Promotion of Oil Seeds held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: A farmers training program was conducted on Promotion of Oil Seeds (HADP) at KVK R.S. Pura. Large number of farmers including women farmers participated in the program who were later made aware by Arun Jaral SDAO R S Pura regarding the concept of organizing this program. Threadbare discussion on National Mission on Edible Oil and Oil Seeds (NMEOS) was also discussed with the participating farmers besides promotion of oilseed schemes under HADP. SMS,s S. Randhir Singh and Sh. Rahul Savhney also spoke on improved agronomic practices on oil seed crops and adoption of integrated pest management practices.

Dr. Puneet Chaudhary KVK head along with Dr. Raju Gupta and Dr. Muneshwar Sharma also spoke on NFSM, IPM techniques and different varieties of mustard released by SKUAST Jammu time to time. Other who were present during the training program were Naresh Jojra, Puneet Mahajan, Jyoti Khanna, Naresh Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Manjit Singh, Vinod Kumar Banty.

Research-driven education key to addressing contemporary challenges: Sakeena

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday remarked that research-driven education is key to addressing contemporary challenges and building a knowledge-based society.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a Two-Day International Conference on Emerging Trends in Multidisciplinary Research (ICETMR-2025), after its inauguration, organized by Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College. MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K S Chardrasekar; noted academician of Jammu University, Prof. Rajnikant; Principal, GGM Science College Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta, eminent academicians, distinguished dignitaries, invited speakers, delegates from diverse disciplines and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

In her Presidential Address, the Minister lauded GGM Science College for its commitment to academic excellence and for providing a platform to young researchers. She highlighted on the importance of fostering innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and critical thinking among researchers and students to prepare them for future global challenges.

The Education Minister also appreciated the efforts of the faculty and administration in nurturing a culture of inquiry and encouraged them to actively contribute towards nation-building through meaningful research and innovation.

Addressing the gathering, MLA, Yudhveer Sethi appreciated the College for hosting a conference of such scale, emphasizing the role of youth in shaping a progressive society.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Chief Secretary highlighted the government's initiatives to promote innovation-driven education across Jammu and Kashmir. In his welcome address, Principal, Prof.Romesh Kumar Gupta highlighted the institution's vision of nurturing academic excellence and fostering multidisciplinary learning. He reaffirmed the college's commitment to empowering students and faculty to contribute meaningfully towards societal progress and national development through quality education and research.

VC Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K S Chardrasekar spoke in length about the need to strengthen research culture in higher education institutions.

