

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Abrogation of Article...

Referring to Article 370(3), Dwivedi said, "The word 'recommendation' under Article 370(3) means that the assent of the Constituent Assembly was not necessary to abrogate Article 370."

"Article 370 (3) says notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article, the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify: Provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, which was hearing arguments on the 14th day of hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate the provision, was told by Dwivedi that "the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly was bound by various things including various dictats of Indian constitution."

"It had to ensure justice, liberty, fraternity. It was also bound by Article 1. It could not declare that we're not the federal unit of India. They couldn't say that any part of their territory could not be part of India," he submitted.

Dwivedi, who defended the abrogation, said Article 370 was always considered to be a temporary provision and the speeches of Dr. BR Ambedkar, N.G. Ayyangar (in Constituent Assembly), Jawaharlal Nehru, and Gulzarilal Nanda (in Parliament) clearly indicate that complete assimilation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir at par with other States, in due course, was envisaged from the very beginning.

Therefore, Article 370 was mentioned in the Constitution of India as a temporary and transitional, he submitted.

"The framers were conscious that the constituent assembly would be dissolved after framing of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, yet they did not provide that upon dissolution of J-K Constituent Assembly, the power of the President would cease or become defunct. They also did not declare Article 370 as a permanent provision," Dwivedi said.

The senior lawyer said this was done for a good reason as the power to repeal Art 370 was vested by the main part in the President of India, who is the head of the State, and is advised by the council of ministers, which is responsible to Parliament.

"The fact that the President has over the years issued several Constitution Orders and has brought about fuller assimilation of J&K and parity with the other States of India shows that the trust was rightly reposed in the President. The constitutional practice shows all relevant actors understood the power of the President as continuing despite cessation of Jammu and Kashmir constituent assembly," he added.

Senior advocate V Giri, appearing for intervenor 'All India Kashmiri Samaj' submitted that Article 370 of the Constitution, as is textually explicit, was intended by the framers of the Constitution as a temporary provision.

"The cessation of operation of Article 370 has always been considered as dependent on a Presidential Order. Once Article 370 is abrogated, then the entirety of the constitutional provisions, including those providing for distribution of legislative power, exercise of executive authority, separation of powers among different organs of the state and provisions providing for a federal structure, would ipso facto apply," he said.

The hearing remained inconclusive and would continue on September 4.

Several petitions challenging the 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.

India fortunate to...

The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative of the government to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence.

"The confidence instilled in the minds of every Indian through such programmes serves as inspiration for our courageous soldiers to carry out surgical strikes, empowers our scientists to develop COVID-19 vaccine, and provides courage to ISRO scientists to reach the Moon and the orbit of the Sun," he said.

The home minister said 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' is not just a programme, but a medium to connect with the future of the country.

"This programme can become a medium to make oneself a part of the process of making the country great and after 25 years when the present generation will lead a great India, then they will have the satisfaction in their mind that the previous generation had helped make a very strong India," he said.

Connecting every person with the future of the country, connecting their feelings with the progress of the country and connecting the efforts of every person with the progress and development of the country is the test of leadership and its responsibility, Shah said.

"The whole country is fortunate that after a long time, we have got a leader like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is paving the way to make the country first in the world during the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'," he said.

The Indian economy has moved from the 11th position to the fifth position globally, and soon it will become the third largest economy in the world, Shah said.

The home minister said the more than two lakh programmes organised during the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' under Prime Minister Modi's leadership have once again awakened the spirit of patriotism in the entire nation. These programmes will conclude with the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign, he said.

Shah said that Modi had called upon all citizens from the ramparts of the Red Fort to take 'Panch Pran' the goal of a developed India, to remove the mentality of slavery, to be proud of our traditions, to dedicate our life to unity and integrity, and to awaken a sense of duty in the mind of every citizen.

The 'Panch Pran' are the highway to building a great India, the home minister said and highlighted that 23 crore houses, offices and buildings across the country hoisted the tricolour after the prime minister's call for 'Har Ghar Tiranga'.

He said that the whole country joined the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign by respecting the call of the prime minister. "The result of this patriotic feeling was that recently 'Chandrayaan' has reached the 'Shiv Shakti' point on the Moon, which is a very proud moment for all countrymen," the home minister said.

He said the feeling of pride in the mind of every person of the country has arisen with the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

The idea behind the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign is that every individual, family, citizen, and child should connect emotionally with the idea of creating a great India, Shah said.

"From September 1 to 30, every household, ward, and village will collect 'mitti' (soil) or grains in a pot (Kalash) following it up from October 1-13 at the block and later, from October 22-27, at the state level, and finally, from October 28-30, these 7,500 pots will reach Delhi," he said.

The prime minister will put soil from these 'Amrit Kalash' in the 'Amrit Vatika' created at Delhi to honour the country's bravehearts, he said and added that this will remind every citizen that "we must make India great during the period of 'Amritkal'".

Public libraries promote...

source of knowledge. He congratulated the people associated with the Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library, saying it has been a source of education and intellectual inspiration for the local community, serving all age groups, especially youth.

The Lt Governor also shared the efforts of the J&K Administration to provide the people of the Union Territory access to libraries.

We have made dedicated efforts to establish libraries in Districts like Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and small towns of the UT and develop our libraries as e-learning and counseling centres. Today, 3.5 crore e-books have been made available to our youth through these centres, he added.

Bandipora's Aragam Village has been transformed into first book village in the country. Recently, a cultural center with a museum and a library was also dedicated to the Dard-Shin tribal community living along the LoC in Gurez, the Lt Governor said.

He said the digitization of rare Manuscripts is connecting the young generation with the history and cultural heritage of J&K and the country.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated a Book Bank established in Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library. It will provide free of cost books on various subjects to students throughout the session.

A Souvenir publication depicting the 25-year journey of the Library was also released.

Dr Anil Agrawal, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Sunita Dayal Mayor Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation; Dr. Dinesh Arora, Chairman Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals; Baleshwar Tyagi, Custodian, Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library and other dignitaries were present.

J&K Bank renews...

Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers Ashutosh Sareen, Narjay Gupta, Syed Rais Maqbool and Syed Shafat Hussain Rufai besides IGP, DIGs, SSPs and other senior officers of the Bank and police department.

ADGP (Jammu) Mukesh Singh also joined the function via video conferencing along with other senior police officials from Jammu.

After paying rich tributes to the martyrs of J&K Police, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "I feel very happy to state that J&K Police and J&K Bank are two significant institutions that have been relentless in pursuit of achieving two vital pre-requisites of development in Jammu and Kashmir i.e. peace and progress. Better law and order situation is evident in overall improvement in the UT's economy."

"While J&K Police Department works day and night to make the lives of people safe and secure through maintenance of law & order and to prevent crime & disorder, J&K Bank continues to act as the trusted custodian of public deposits, enabling the common people secure their livelihoods by providing easy, accessible & affordable financing besides providing wealth management solutions", he added.

He further said, "Moving an extra-mile to honour our martyrs, today we have signed another MoU to give most favoured client status to wards of martyrs of J&K Police so as to provide them with customized banking schemes/services. Under the agreement, J&K Bank will extend attractive benefits/concessions/relaxations to the wards/next of kin of Martyrs of J&K Police."

Regarding the renewal of 2017 MoU, he said, "We would love to deepen the mutually beneficial bond further by renewing the MoU signed in 2017 with enhanced benefits and concessions for the police personnel. And I believe the renewed agreement will take our relationship to a visibly higher level."

Appreciating the Bank's leadership in his remarks, DGP Dilbag Singh said, "J&K Bank's MD&CEO and his able team deserve all the accolades for enhancement of benefits to police personnel."

He said, "JKP and JKB are very similar in working as well as reach. Wherever you go in the UT, J&K Police is there to serve people and so is J&K Bank providing banking services at the every nook and corner. While seeing the relationship between the two institutions strengthening further, I urge all my staff to avail the array of benefits extended by J&K Bank under the renewed agreement."

Commenting upon the MoU for wards of martyrs, DGP Dilbag Singh said, "Our commitment towards/families of the police martyrs has been that we will support them firmly and strongly besides providing easy access to better life for our personnel who work day and night for the peace and prosperity of not only UT but the whole nation."

Earlier, in his welcome address ADGP (Hqtrs) Manish Kumar Sinha termed Police and the Bank as two vital and critical organisations of J&K. He said, "I wholeheartedly express my gratitude to MD&CEO, Board and the management of J&K Bank for being magnanimous to extend an array of facilities for the Police Department", adding that J&K Bank acts as an engine of J&K economy and it continues to take initiatives to usher a new era of prosperity in the UT.

The Bank's General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen captured the essence of the agreements saying "The MoU has fructified only after long deliberations and discussions. The MoU is a pioneering institutional agreement wherein J&K Police was accorded most preferred customer status by the Bank back in 2017."

"Under the new MoU, the Bank will extend attractive benefits/concessions/ relaxations to the wards/next of kin of police martyrs. Moreover, the exclusive benefits and services of the Bank enjoyed by the J&K police personnel under previous MoU have been enhanced in the renewed agreement", he added.

ED arrests Jet...

of Rs 848.86 crore of which Rs 538.62 crore is outstanding.

The CBI had said the account was declared "fraud" on July 29, 2021.

The bank alleged that the forensic audit of JIL showed that it paid "related companies" Rs 1,410.41 crore out of a total commission expenses, thus siphoning off funds from JIL.

"As per sample Agreement of Jet Airways (India) Ltd (JIL), it was noted that the expenses of General Selling Agents (GSA) was to be borne by GSA itself and not by JIL. However, it was observed that JIL has paid various expenses amounting to Rs 403.27 crore which is not in tune with the GSA," the complaint now part of the CBI FIR alleged.

It said personal expenses such as salaries of staff, phone bills and vehicle expenses among others of the Goyal family were paid by JIL.

Among other allegations, it surfaced during the forensic audit that funds were also siphoned off through Jet Lite (India) Ltd (JLL) by way of making advance and investing and subsequently writing off of the same by making provision.

JIL diverted the funds for the subsidiary JLL in the form of loans and advances and investments extended.

NH 44: Truckers advised...

mountainous road. Then what could be termed as a greatest relief measure for all the truckers traversing the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on routine basis than to allow them ply freely with no more halts in-between the two capitals. These drivers can't be more happy than to use this road without any undue interruptions. They are fortunate to see the end of that tiring waiting period which they were made to do on the name of traffic management.

All this happened when recently a team led by the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday took a holistic review of this road in-person upto Ramban from Srinagar and directed the concerned not to enforce any manual halts on this highway for HMVs. This resulted in issuance of fresh advisory by the traffic department ordering no hindrance on the movement of HMVs of less than 4-axle on the road and offering them smooth access to their destinations.

The fresh advisory was issued ahead of the fruit season during which several thousand additional vehicles laden with fresh produce traverse this road on daily basis. It also encouraged the field personnel to ensure that the HMVs laden with essential items like fruits, vegetables and poultry to be given prior access on this road as these items are perishable in nature.

To ensure that there are no uncalled breakdown of any vehicle enroute the department advised the truckers to strictly adhere to the norms of carrying the load and do away with the overloading of their vehicles. It also asked them to allow only trucks that are fit in all respects to ply smoothly on this mountainous highway. It even told them to resort to an optimum speed that do not create hindrance for other categories of vehicles on this road thereby ensuring that each of them reaches to its destination in a duration of 8-10 hours only.

During that visit the team had taken note of the progress of several under-construction infrastructure projects like tunnels, viaducts and flyovers. Further it had directed the NHAI to keep the men and machinery in readiness in the difficult stretches at Dalwas, Mehad, Cafeteria Morh and other areas prone to landslides so that the minimum carriage way for two side movement of HMVs is maintained all the time. Earlier on the directions of the Chief Secretary during his visit these new advisories were issued regarding giving of unhindered access to the vehicles having 4-axle and below.

This immediately resulted in having no halting of such vehicles on the highway especially near Qazigund (Anantnag) or Jakhani (Udhampur). It even fructified into having the highway cleared-off of the hundreds of HMVs that used to be halted earlier at these places for hours together before allowing to proceed ahead. Now if we have a fresh look of the data of the vehicles that have plied on this road from the last few days the story is different.

It shows that 11616 HMVs including fruit, vegetable and poultry trucks were given free access on this highway from 28th to 30th of August.

While chiseling it further it details out that on 30th of August around 5386 HMVs traversed this highway from both sides including 3281 Trucks, 1138 Oil Tankers, 141 Gas Tankers, 654 fruit trucks, 69 vegetable laden trucks, 85 Poultry, 181 Food grain (FCI) trucks and 26 Sheep trucks.

It is also noteworthy to mention here that it also entails from this data that from the last 3 days 7427 goods trucks, 1041 fruit trucks, 277 vegetable trucks, 181 Food grain (FCI) trucks, 85 Poultry and 26 Sheep trucks including 255 buses crossed this highway from both sides.

It further came out that these vehicles reached their destinations in the set timeframe of 8-10 hours facing least disruptions enroute during their travel on this treacherous road.

J&K moves to slot 2 across country in generating 'Scan, Share OPD' tokens

SRINAGAR: J&K achieves 2nd position across country in generating of 'Scan and Share OPD' tokens surpassing Karnataka state by generating more than 7.92,641 tokens in August 2023.

The Scan and Share queue less registration process has taken new heights under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission J&K and is turning out to be a game changer for ease of OPD registration for patients in the healthcare institutions of J&K.

This facility was rolled out in April 2023 and extended to 71 healthcare institution across J&K. Trained manpower was deployed for facilitating on-ground human resource and hand holding of patients for availing this queue less digital service.

General public approaching the hospitals have hugely appreciated this initiative of the government which has resulted in penetration of around 70-90 per cent conversion from physical to digital mode.

This initiative has not only saved the time of patients and their attendants at the long queues at the hospital but also marginalized the demographic errors of the patients during their registration. A paperless record of health shall be maintained for all the citizens which shall be accessible to stake holders at the consent of patient. In J&K the healthcare institutions have generated 7,92,641 tokens in a short span of 4 months' time.

Kharge said the success of both the previous meetings -- in Patna and Bengaluru -- can be measured by the fact that the prime minister in his subsequent speeches has not just attacked INDIA but has also "compared the name of our beloved country with a terrorist organisation and a symbol of slavery".

Kharge, former Congress chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, among others, participated in the discussions.

Oppn bloc INDIA resolves to fight LS polls together 'as far as possible', seat-sharing in 'collaborative spirit of give and take'

MUMBAI: Opposition bloc INDIA on Friday resolved to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls together "as far as possible", asserting seat-sharing arrangements in states will be concluded at the earliest in a "collaborative spirit of give-and-take".

It also exuded confidence that the new front would easily defeat the BJP. Meeting against the backdrop of speculation in certain political circles about early polls and formation of a panel to explore the possibility of 'one nation, one election', the opposition bloc leaders set up a 14-member coordination committee that will act as the highest decision-making body of the alliance and initiate work on seat sharing.

Sources said the body has been asked to work out a seat sharing formula by September end, a suggestion that was given during informal talks between the leaders. The opposition leaders vowed to finalise seat sharing in an accommodative spirit with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claiming at a joint news conference that the alliance represents 60 per cent of the population and if it takes on the BJP unitedly, it will easily defeat the ruling party.

As many as 63 representatives from 28 political parties took part in the third meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) alliance at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Mumbai.

The 14-member coordination panel will have K C Vengalop of Congress, T R Baalu of DMK, Sharad Pawar of NCP, Sanjay Raut of Shiv Sena, Hemant Soren of JMM, Raghav Chadha of AAP, D Raja of CPI, Javed Ali Khan of SP, Tejashwi Yadav of RJD, Lalan Singh of JD(U), Abhishek Banerjee of TMC, Omar Abdullah of NC and Mehbooba Mufti of PDP. The

CPI-M will give the name of their leader later. In a resolution passed at the meeting, the INDIA bloc said, "We, the INDIA parties, hereby resolve to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections together as far as possible. Seat-sharing arrangements in different states will be initiated immediately and concluded at the earliest in a collaborative spirit of give-and-take."

It also resolved to organize public rallies at the earliest in different parts of the country on issues of public concern and importance. The resolution said the INDIA parties will coordinate their communications and media strategies and campaigns with the theme 'Judega Bharat, Jeetega India' in different languages.

But the expected unveiling of the logo of the INDIA alliance at the Mumbai meeting was put on hold. The meeting also indicated that the alliance may go into the collective leadership mode and put off the issue of having a convener for the bloc. The issue of appointing a convener is a sticking point as there are several contenders and the leaders decided to skip the issue, sources said. Speaking to reporters separately, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said there was no need for a convener for the opposition bloc as it has a coordination committee that would work on the basis of consensus. A date for the next meeting of the INDIA bloc was not announced since it was not needed as all the leaders would directly go to the people, he said. He said the logo of INDIA bloc was put on hold so that people's suggestions can be sought. There is no confusion on the logo, he added. "There was a suggestion that we take people's views on the logo since this fight is for the cause of the people. We will seek their suggestions within a given

time-frame and can come up with a better logo." Several leaders deliberated on the issue of coming out with a plan and common agenda at the earliest, besides starting joint rallies as elections could be held anytime soon. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said a common minimum programme should be formulated soon.

"That (CMP) will be the face of the INDIA alliance. The BJP regime has ruined the country in several ways. It (CMP) must present a road map to the people spelling out what we intend doing to undo it," the DMK chief added. Addressing the joint news conference after the two-day brainstorming on crystallising the new alliance's structure, Rahul Gandhi said it is impossible for the BJP to win the Lok Sabha polls if the alliance partners unite. "I am confident INDIA bloc will defeat the BJP. We may have differences, but we all work with great flexibility," he said, adding they will propose a clear development path which will involve poor people in the progress of country.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge alleged the BJP-led government was stealing from the poor to help big industrialists. "INDIA grouping must win to stop this loot." "We all have a common goal to fight inflation and unemployment." Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said with all opposition parties coming together, those in power at the Centre will have to go now. "There is no certainty, but elections can be held early, so we've to remain alert and be prepared. We have discussed this," the JD(U) supreme said. NCP's Sharad Pawar slammed the BJP for its 'Ghamandia' barb at INDIA grouping, saying it shows their arrogance. INDIA parties have resolved to fight against corruption, Uddhav Thackeray said, adding, "we won't allow 'mitra-parivarvad.'" INDIA

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