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Three proposed criminal laws seek to provide justice rather than punishment: Amit Shah

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the three proposed criminal laws are people-centric, have the flavour of Indian soil and their main purpose is to protect the constitutional, human and personal rights of citizens.

Addressing the two-day International Lawyers' Conference organised by the Bar Council of India here, Shah also said the approach of the three bills is also to provide justice rather than mete out punishment.

"Purpose of making laws is to establish an efficient system, and not to establish the supremacy of those who make the law," Shah said at the event also attended by Supreme Court judges Justice Sanjeev Khanna, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice PS Narasimha among others.

He appealed to all lawyers in the country to provide



their suggestions to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS-2023), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS-2023) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA-2023) so that the country can have the best laws that benefit all.

The three bills, which were introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11, will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respec-

tively.

"India's criminal justice system was imprinted with colonial law. All three new bills do not have colonial imprint but have the flavour of Indian soil. The central point of these three proposed laws is to protect the constitutional and human rights of citizens as well as their personal rights," he said.

Shah said the initiative has been taken to comprehensively change the criminal laws keeping in mind the present-

day demands.

"These laws are coming after almost 160 years with a completely new approach and new system," he said, adding three more initiatives have been taken by the government to create a law-friendly ecosystem.

The first is e-courts, the second inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) and the third is adding new technology to these three proposed laws, Shah said. "With the introduction of three laws and three systems, we will be able to remove the delays in our criminal justice system in less than a decade," he said.

Shah said the basic objective of the old laws was to strengthen the British rule and the purpose was to punish, not to do justice. "The purpose of these three new laws is to provide justice, not punishment. Here is a step to deliver criminal justice."

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J&K tops across country in e-governance service delivery

Achievement in tune with UT Admin's resolve to ensure accessibility of services to common man: LG

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a significant milestone and remarkable feat in e-governance by providing over 1028 services in online mode for citizens, institutions, and business establishments. In the National e-services Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) report released by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India today, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir secured the top-most position with an impressive 1028 e-services, surpassing Madhya Pradesh with 1010 e-services and Kerala with 911 e-services.

This landmark achievement firmly places Jammu and Kashmir at the forefront of states and UTs in the provisioning of e-services.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, while commending the efforts of all Departments, said that it is an achievement in tune with the commitment and resolve of the J&K administration to provide ease, convenience and accessibility of services to the common man ushering in a new era of digital governance.

This remarkable achievement is



reshaping the social landscape, enhancing citizen satisfaction levels, ensuring transparency and accountability and empowering the aspirational and talented youth of the region.

"Driven by a 'citizens-first' approach and a steadfast commitment to empowering the public, this digital transformation represents a significant stride towards a governance system that is transparent, accountable, and highly efficient", he said.

Under the Digital J & K programme launched in mission mode last year, the

number of online services has increased exponentially from 35 services in 2019 to 1028 services as on date. The remarkable digital journey of J&K and the resultant transformation from a lag-gard status in e-governance to a leading position in such a short span of time is unprecedented.

This has brought about a paradigm shift resulting in increased transparency, accountability and efficiency at all levels. There has been a palpable reduction in corruption and increase in citizen satisfaction which is being regularly monitored through a citizen feedback mechanism. Over 61 lakh messages have been sent to the citizens for the feedback assessment with 86% approval rating. Similarly 73 services have been integrated with Digilocker.

The seriousness of Government's resolve can be gauged from the fact that the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), 2011 has been amended to bring online services under its ambit. Around 300 services have been brought under the auto-escalation mechanism for ensuring time bound delivery of services and penalties for delays in service delivery. Chief

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India & UN launch global capacity building initiative

■ **AGENCY**

NEW YORK: India and the United Nations have launched a joint capacity-building initiative that will operationalise development-relevant deliverables of India's G20 Presidency and aims to share the country's best practices with partner countries in the Global South.

The "India-UN Capacity Building Initiative" was announced at the event India-UN for the Global South-Delivering for Development' here Saturday in the presence of the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

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Alternative dispute resolution mechanism relieves justice delivery system, people of burden of litigation: SC Judge

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul on Sunday batted for the use of technology in the alternative dispute resolution mechanism and said this route relieves the justice delivery system and people of the burden caused by litigation.

Speaking at the valedictory session of the Bar Council of India's (BCI) two-day 'International Lawyers Conference 2023', the second senior-most judge in the apex court also flagged the issue of mental health and said that the awareness about it in the

legal fraternity is the "need of the hour".

Justice Kaul said, "While litigation in courts has always been a sought after option by litigants and lawyers, it makes me happy to see the growing use of the alternative dispute resolution mechanism in nature of arbitration, mediation and conciliation, in which personally I have great faith."

"The advantages of sitting outside courts outweighs the advantage of litigating a matter, which more often than not goes on for years, leads to immense delay in the justice delivery system, and

leaves people antagonistic towards each other," he said at the function, which was attended by Union ministers Amit Shah and Bhupender Yadav among others.

Justice Kaul appreciated the work of the BCI and termed the two-day programme a great initiative.

"Great initiative and my appreciation for what has been endeavoured and done. That the legal fraternity of lawyers think so positively is itself a great beginning. We had two days of invigorating and insightful and intellectual discussions, deliberations and consensus on what the

system requires, from all of us to improve it," he said.

He added that the discussions and suggestions emanating from the programme must be documented and given to the government for improvement of the legal system.

Justice Kaul said, "We in India have been trying to make use of technology in the judicial setup. The most noteworthy use of it has been the advent of virtual or e-courts, while the COVID-19 pandemic had its own problems and brought the world to a standstill."

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Congress formidable on all 90 assembly seats in J&K

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: The Congress on Sunday claimed it is formidable on all 90 assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir while National Conference, BJP and PDP have only limited influence.

"Congress is acceptable in all 90 constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir. After elections are held, Congress will emerge as the single largest party as other parties like NC, BJP, and PDP have a limited area of influence," Pradesh

Congress Committee President Vikar Rasool told reporters here.

Rasool on Sunday welcomed scores of political

activists into the party and said that in the past one year a large number of activists from other parties have joined Congress.

"In Jammu, almost 80 per cent of Aam Aadmi Party members have joined Congress. The AAP has closed its office in Jammu. Nearly 80 per cent of DPAP workers have joined Congress. People have joined us from other parties as well," he said.

The PCC president welcomed the release of religious leaders in Jammu and Kashmir but castigated BJP leaders for trying to

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SFs bust 2 terror modules in Kulgam, arrest 5 'hybrid' terrorists

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Sunday busted two terror modules in Kulgam district and arrested five "hybrid" terrorists, police said.

Two pistols, three hand grenades, one UBGL and some ammunition were seized from them, a police official said.


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VDG shoots himself dead

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: A 53-year-old Village Defence Guard (VDG) allegedly shot himself dead with his rifle in Udhampur district, officials said on Sunday.

Babu Ram was at his residence in the remote Roun village of Dudu when he took the step on Saturday, the officials said. A police party rushed to the spot and shifted his body to a hospital for postmortem, the officials said, adding police have started inquest proceedings to ascertain the motive behind his taking such an extreme step.



WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 32.2°C Min: 22.2°C

Humidity
Max: 76 Min: 67

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 25.7°C Min: 11.8°C

Humidity
Max: 67 Min: 42

Sunset : 18:21 Hours
Sunrise : 06:14 Hours

National Conference on 'Emerging Challenges in Obstetrics and Gynaecology' concludes

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: The two-day National Conference on "Emerging Challenges in Obstetrics and Gynaecology" organized by Postgraduate Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Government Medical College, Srinagar concluded here on Sunday.

Earlier, the conference was inaugurated by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar.

Professor Masood Tanvir (Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar), Professor Bilques Jameela (former HOD

Gynaecology & Obstetrics GMC , Srinagar) were guests of honour. Professor Rizwana Habib (HOD Gynaecology and Obstetrics GMC, Srinagar) and Professor Syed Masuma Rizvi, Professor Samiya Mufti were organising Chairperson and Organising Secretaries respectively.

Bhupinder Kumar complimented the department for organising National level conference on recent trends and workshop on Minimal Access Surgeries. He also praised the developments and advancements in the field of Obstetrics and

Gynaecology. He highlighted important Government Schemes beneficial to expecting mothers.

He expressed concerns about the increasing rate of Caesarean Section surgeries especially in district hospitals and asked the organizing committee to give recommendations through a discussion by experts on the panel.

Principal and Dean, Professor Masood Tanvir congratulated the department for holding successful National conference. He stressed upon the complexities of health women

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Dr Jitendra launches J&K's first Tata Cancer Center affiliated Unit at Kathua

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: Launching the Jammu and Kashmir's first ever state-of-art Tata Memorial Center Mumbai affiliated Cancer Care Unit in the new block of Govt Medical College Kathua on Sunday, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the facility will cater to three territories of J&K, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

The Minister said, he felt pained to receive calls every



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking after inaugurating the J&K's first Cancer Care Unit at Govt Medical College Kathua on Sunday.

morning from different parts of the region from desperate family members pleading to arrange admission of Cancer patient at Tata Hospital Mumbai or arrange accommodation for the attendants. He then decided to start the

Tata affiliated facility at Kathua and thus moved the papers in the Department of Atomic Energy which is the controlling authority of Tata Memorial Center Mumbai.

Dr Jitendra said, with increasing lifespan, changing

lifestyles, environmental factors etc , the prevalence of cancer is assuming epidemic proportions and cancers of all nature and all organs are happening everywhere. A Tata satellite Cancer

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Speed, scale of infrastructure development matching aspirations of 140 crore Indians: Modi

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI/UDAIPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the speed and scale of infrastructure development matched the aspirations of 140 crore Indians as he flagged off nine Vande Bharat Express trains connecting religious and tourist destinations across 11 states.

Flagging off the Vande Bharat Express trains via video conferencing, Modi also slammed the previous governments for not paying adequate attention for modernisation of railways and assured that the "day is not far when Vande Bharat will connect every part of the country".

Governors, chief ministers,



PM Narendra Modi flagging off nine Vande Bharat Express trains via video conferencing.

Union ministers and elected representatives were present at the nine railway stations from where the indigenously built semi-high speed trains were flagged off.

The trains stopped at various stations where they were welcomed by enthusiastic

school children and hoards of people with elected representatives addressing functions en route.

Union minister Kailash Choudhary and Rajasthan BJP president C P Joshi boarded the Vande Bharat Express train at Udaipur

and travelled till Chhittorgarh where a huge crowd of BJP workers raised the slogans of "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai" as the train chugged into the station.

In his address, the prime minister said the popularity

of Vande Bharat trains was rising constantly and more than 1.11 crore passengers have already travelled in them.

He said 25 Vande Bharat Express trains were already functional and nine more were being added on Sunday.

"This speed and scale of infrastructure development in the country is exactly matching the aspirations of 140 crore Indians," Modi said.

The nine trains will provide faster connectivity across 11 states -- Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat. "Indian Railways is the

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Stranded German tourist rescued by police in Ladakh

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

LEH: A tourist from Germany was rescued from a remote area in southern Ladakh after he fell sick during a trekking expedition and made a distress call, police said on Sunday.

A police team safely evacuated Cristo, a German national, from Nurbo Sumdo in Nyoma subdivision, 75 km from Korzok, near the Himachal Pradesh border on Saturday evening, the police said.

In a video message shared by police, the tourist praised his rescuers and said he was in the middle of his trek when he suddenly fell sick and decided to seek help for his rescue after he could not arrange a horse to bring him back. The police team

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