

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

PM bats for...

Banerjee, who wrote to Modi a few days ago on the issue following nationwide uproar over the rape and murder of the doctor at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9, sought mandatory provision for time-bound disposal of cases of rape/rape and murder.

In response, Union minister Annapurna Devi asserted that existing laws were stringent enough to tackle violence and crimes against women and urged the West Bengal government to implement the same in "letter and spirit".

The government launched the Fast Track Special Court (FTSC) scheme in 2019 to tackle pending cases of crimes against women and those filed under The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. Since its inception, these courts have disposed of more than 2.53 lakh cases.

Referring to the role of Judiciary in protecting the Constitution and the spirit of law, the prime minister said the people of India have never shown any distrust of the Supreme Court or the judiciary.

Describing the imposition of the Emergency as a "dark" period, he said the judiciary played a key role in upholding fundamental rights.

On matters of national security, Modi said, the judiciary has protected national integrity by keeping national interests paramount.

Terming the Judiciary as a "strong pillar" of the vision of a developed India, he said the district judiciary is the foundation of the Indian judicial system.

"The common citizen of the country first knocks on your (the lower courts) door for justice. Therefore, this is the first point of justice, this is the first step," Modi said.

Amid suggestions to improve judicial infrastructure, the prime minister said in the last 10 years, efforts have been made to make justice accessible.

Work is being done on mission mode to modernisation of courts for which the Supreme Court and the Judiciary has played a big role by extending cooperation.

Modi observed that India was moving towards creating a unified technology platform, which incorporated emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and optical character recognition and said that such technological platforms would help analyse pending cases and predict future cases as well.

He felt that technology would integrate and speed up the work of various wings like police, forensics, jail and court.

"We are moving towards a justice system which will be completely future-ready," Modi said.

He also unveiled a stamp and coin commemorating 75 years of the establishment of the Supreme Court.

The conference has been organised by the top court to mark 75 years of its establishment.

Revenue official arrested...

was demanding bribe for processing his case for land record extract required by him for sale of his land, the official said.

On receipt of the complaint, he said a discreet verification was conducted, which confirmed the demand by the public servant concerned and accordingly a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act was registered at the ACB Doda police station.

The bribe money was recovered from the possession of the Girdawar in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team, he said, adding further investigation is going on.

Rahul will address...

it was the desire of the candidates of the alliance and the people of J&K in general to have Gandhi campaign in the Union territory.

"Rahulji will visit J&K on September 4 and will address election campaign rallies in Kashmir as well as Jammu for the alliance candidates," leader added.

"We are happy that he (Gandhi) accepted our invitation. This programme is for the first phase only. He might visit J&K again for the other phases," leader said.

BJP leads movement...

370, signaling a new era for the people of J&K.

"This is not just an election," he said, "it's a movement for the restoration of dignity for women, West Pakistani refugees, SCs, STs, and Valmiki Samaj, alongside all the people of Jammu and Kashmir", he said and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for their unwavering resolve in implementing this historic decision.

Recalling Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi's historic journey to unfurl the tricolor in Srinagar's Lal Chowk, Reddy highlighted the symbolic importance of today's youth proudly carrying the Indian flag in rallies across Dal Lake.

"The youth of Kashmir have shown their love for India and its unity," he said, contrasting this positive shift with the resistance of opposition parties like Congress and the National Conference (NC), who, he said, are not liking the big change in Kashmir post-Article 370 abrogation.

Reddy remarked that the world's eyes are on J&K now, as India demonstrates how peace, development, and democracy are taking root in the region. He urged voters not to see this election as a mere political contest but as a crucial step in securing the rights and futures of all people in J&K. "This election is a movement aimed at ensuring that no party like NC, Congress, or PDP ever snatches back the rights of the common people in J&K," he asserted.

Taking a strong stand against the NC's recent announcements, Reddy warned of dangerous designs to revert to dual flags and return power to militants. He pointed out that the NC's promises to restore trade across the Line of Control and their potential dialogue with militants and Pakistan could unravel the progress made since Article 370's abrogation. "It is up to the people to see through this dangerous plan," Reddy said, highlighting that Congress is supporting the NC's regressive policies.

Under BJP's leadership, Reddy said, militancy in J&K is on its last legs, and the region is entering an era of peace and prosperity.

"The tables have turned and we now see peace, prosperity, and development across the region, thanks to Prime Minister Modi and Amit Shah's leadership", he said, lauding the Prime Minister for isolating Pakistan globally. He said the rogue nation no longer has support from the international community due to its role in sponsoring terrorism.

Reddy credited Modi's policies for turning Pakistan into a failed state, isolated from the world stage due to its continued support to terrorism. "While Pakistan struggles, India's vision for J&K is moving forward with peace and progress," Reddy noted.

He criticized Congress for supporting NC's regressive agenda, which, if allowed to prevail, would return J&K to a dark era of militancy and bloodshed.

The Minister pointed out the ongoing development in the region, citing the establishment of key institutions like IITs, AIIMS, and IIMs in J&K. He slammed the Congress for opposing these advancements and aligning with the NC's outdated vision.

Speaking on the occasion, the party candidate Arvind Gupta in urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to vote for the BJP, which he described as the only party capable of ending

the bloodshed and restoring lasting peace in the region. "These elections are an opportunity to end dynastic rule, restore democratic institutions, and bring lasting peace to the region," he stated. He called upon voters to put aside divisions of caste, creed, and religion and unite for a future that prioritizes development and stability.

G. Kishan Reddy also called for an end to the political dominance of families like the Abdullahs and Muftis. "The people of J&K deserve a government that will strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies like Municipal Committees and Corporations," he concluded, asking the people to vote for change and prosperity over the dynastic politics that have defined the region for decades.

Matador turns turtle...

Mumtaza Begum (36) and leaving her husband Mohsin Ahmad critically injured, police said.



Two were headed home to Kishtwar from Jammu at the time of the incident. Ahmad was referred to the Government Medical College Hospital Jammu for treatment, they said.

BJP won't allow...

Gupta, former minister Sat Sharma, Former minister, Uttarakhand Madan Kaushik, National General Secretary Mahila Morcha Deepti and Convenor Assembly Election Management Committee Aseem Gupta.

Chugh said that after 75 years the refugees have got rights to vote in assembly elections and NC again wants to snatch this right from them. NC also intends to change names of land of Kashyap Rishi and rename some important sites to suit their divisive agenda which BJP won't allow. Kashmir, he said, has been brought back to normalcy and political outfits like NC and Congress joined by PDP are trying to push it back to unrest.

The BJP National General Secretary said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are doing their best to build infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, have eliminated militancy, are developing every nook and corner of J&K, isolated rouge state Pakistan, are enabling youngsters to build their own future and become part of decision taking institutions by strengthening local self-governing institutions but NC joined by Congress and backed by PDP are trying to either block or reverse this process which won't happen anytime.

Tarun Chugh asked party cadres to prepare themselves and expose this NC Congress alliance which is unholy and intends to make people of Jammu and Kashmir suffer again. The vigilant BJP and common people of Kashmir won't let Kashmir become epicenter of terrorism again where lives of innocents were lost to the power-hungry ideology of NC, Congress and PDP dynasts, he added.

Counting of votes...

of Haryana sent a report on Saturday wherein he confirmed after holding consultations with the deputy commissioners of Hisar, Sirsa and Fatehabad that the Bishnoi community's annual festival falls on 'amavas' during the month of "Asoj" on October 2 this year.

The CEO noted that thousands of Bishnoi families reside in these three districts, and they have been visiting their native place in Mukam, Rajasthan during this time for the last three centuries.

Families from these districts are expected to start their journey on October 1, he said.

In the past too, the EC has adjusted election dates keeping in mind the sentiments of various communities.

The EC had postponed the 2022 Punjab assembly elections by a week to accommodate devotees travelling to Varanasi for Guru Ravidas Jayanti.

Similarly, the commission changed the dates for the 2022 Manipur polls to respect the Christian community's Sunday prayers. In the 2023 Rajasthan assembly elections, it rescheduled polling as it was originally scheduled to be held on Devuthani Ekadashi, a day significant for mass weddings in Rajasthan. In the 2012 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, the poll date was changed due to Barawafat.

Govts must protect...

tell them, let our government come, not to indulge in such activities," Abdullah said.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir must also respect and protect the people of every religion.

"We have to take care of people from every religion. When our approach towards them is good, then it will be good across the country," he added.

On PDP president Mehbooba Mufti describing as "regrettable" NC vice president Omar Abdullah's remarks that the banned outfit Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) once considered elections "haram (forbidden)" but now they have become "halal (permissible)", the NC president said nothing will be achieved by pointing fingers at each other.

"I will not say anything about her. May God bless her. May she tread her own path, but think about protecting the country. Nothing will come out of pointing fingers at each other. She must shun this way," he said.

He also congratulated the former members of the banned JeI for contesting the assembly elections.

Abdullah paid obeisance at the Sufi shrine of Sheikh Hamza Makhdoomi.

He said he prayed for the end of "chaos in the country" and strengthening of brotherhood between different communities.

Two more leaders...

Jammu and Kashmir. In a related development, hundreds of BJP workers took out a rally in the Khour block of the Chhamb Assembly constituency in the outskirts of Jammu against fielding former MLA Rajeev Sharma from there.

The BJP is facing resentment over its ticket distribution in the Union Territory immediately after it started releasing the list of candidates for the Assembly elections on August 26, with party leaders and workers protesting in several districts of the Jammu region.

In a damage control exercise, the party mobilised several top leaders, including Union ministers, to reach out to disgruntled leaders to defuse the situation. Two of its rebel leaders have already filed their nominations as independent candidates from Ramban and Padder-Nagseni Assembly constituencies, which are among 24 constituencies going to polls in the first phase of the three-phased elections on September 18.

"With a heavy heart, I am submitting my resignation from the primary membership of the party for which I have worked for 42 long years. I was compelled by the circumstances after the party gave ticket to a person who had come from the National Conference (NC) and vociferously opposed our ideology for decades," party's Samba district president Kashmir Singh said.

CS terms DM, MCH bedrock of Super Specialty Healthcare Asks for constituting expert committee to make roadmap for development of new GMCs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Saturday chaired a meeting of Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department to review the functioning of Medical Colleges of the UT here.

Besides Secretary H&ME, the meeting was attended by Director, SKIMS; Principal GMC Srinagar/Jammu; Director Health Jammu/Kashmir and Principals of New Medical Colleges.

During meeting, the Chief Secretary observed that the aim of establishing new medical colleges is to bring tertiary healthcare nearer to people in peripheral areas. He made out that the introduction of DM/MCH/DNB in Medical Colleges is the benchmark of ascertaining their super speciality healthcare.

Dulloo also urged upon the Principals of these colleges to make efforts for introduction of these courses in all kinds of specialities where it has not been introduced yet. He advised them to proportionately enhance the seats in already available courses.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the New Medical Colleges to strive for introduction of MD/MS courses. He enjoined upon them to make best use of the available infrastructure and human resources to make these colleges the hub of medical education in their respective districts.

Dulloo also took this occasion to imply



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

upon the Department to constitute a team of experts to assess the tertiary care services in all the newly established Medical Colleges here.

He made out that a roadmap should be framed for all of these colleges to upgrade services there with specific timelines for each of the suggested upgradation.

He remarked that such recommendations should be made in consultation with the respective college administrations who would be solely responsible to take the necessary steps in a time-bound manner.

The Secretary, H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah gave a detailed outline of the courses and tertiary care services, diagnostic facilities available in the Associated Hospitals of new Medical Colleges.

He also apprised the meeting about the proportion of high-end procedures/cases dealt by each Department in these colleges. He also laid out the future programs of these colleges to upgrade or introduce the new services there.

The Principals of these colleges also highlighted the work performed during the past months. They gave insights about the position of faculty, infrastructure, machinery and equipments available with them and that in pipeline to be secured through JKMSCL.

The meeting also had elaborate discussions about bringing improvement in quality of services in these medical colleges along with that the Dental Colleges and of Unani/Ayurvedic Medical colleges found in various districts of J&K.

JKJA organises 2-day sensitization programme on POCSO, POSH Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and Members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, JKJA organized two days Sensitization Programme on "POCSO Act and POSH Act with Special Reference to SAMVAD's Training Manual and Combating Gender Stereotypes; A Handbook released by the Supreme Court of India" for Judicial Officers, Trainee Civil Judges(Jr. Division),SPPs, Medical Officers, officers of Forensic Science laboratory, Officers of Police Department, members of Sexual Harassment Probe Committees, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and members of Gender Sensitization Internal Committees from all the districts of Kashmir province at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The sensitization programme was inaugurated on Saturday by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Member of the Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy in the presence of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Chairperson, Sexual Harassment Probe Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Srinagar Wing) and Member of the Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy.

In his inaugural address, Justice Rahul Bharti in his inimitable and eloquent style underlined that bodily integrity and dignity of a female are something which have to be respected at all costs. He emphasised that with the emerging dangers, it was significant to introduce a special legislation which could provide a reliable system for mitigating the number of such offences and punishing the perpetrators.

Justice Bharti highlighted that sincerity, seriousness, sensitivity and sensibility are the four key words that need to be kept in mind 24x7 by all for avoiding the victimisation of the women at any level.

Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi in her special address highlighted the importance of good parenting including the importance of teaching our sons the way they should look at a girl rather than dictating what the girl should wear. She stressed upon the need to sensitize the males in our society to have the correct-mind-set towards their female counterparts.

Justice Kazmi underlined that Gender discrimination based on gender biases and attitudes are a reality for many women and can occur at the workplace in n-number of ways.

Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi also underscored that importance of spreading awareness among the women so that they are sensitized about the actions that could be taken against the perpetrators of unwelcome advancements.



Justice Paul Bournay, Director, JKJA welcomed the dignitaries, resource persons including the participants and delivered the introductory remarks. He traced the tapestry of law from the Vishaka vs. State of Rajasthan judgment reported in AIR 1997 SC 3011 to the enactment of POSH Act.

He said that crimes against children have been on the rise since the past decade or more despite all laws. As against the increasing incidents of such diabolic crimes, there has been a corresponding decrease in the conviction rate in such gruesome offences. He remarked that

the incidents of sexual harassment are persistent in our society as highlighted by the recent Kolkata Rape and Murder Case of a trainee doctor. He accentuated that we all owe a sense of responsibility and obligation towards the creation of a safe and secure atmosphere at workplace for our woman colleagues and employees.

The first session of the day-1 was chaired by Justice Sonia G. Gokani, first woman Chief Justice (Retired), High Court of Gujarat who explained the objective, nature and contours of the POCSO Act. Her ladyship said that when we deal with child victim, we are dealing with the future of the nation and we need to try relentlessly to protect them.

Justice Gokani quoted Robert Frost and said, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep." She highlighted that Child Friendly Court Procedures must be adopted to ensure the best interest of the Child. Her Ladyship also stressed upon the pivotal role played by the soft skills in handling the POCSO matters.

Justice Gokani focused on the salient features of POCSO Act and underlined that Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 makes provisions for avoiding further re-victimisation of the child in the name of the judicial process. In the second session, Justice Gokani gave a detailed overview on rehabilitation and compensation for Child Victims of Sexual Offences. The learned resource person reiterated that POCSO Act and related frameworks

underscores the importance of addressing both the legal and emotional needs of the child.

She also underlined that by focusing on the parameters for determining compensation, balancing justice with child welfare, providing legal and medical aid, and ensuring access to counselling services, the legal system aims to create an environment where child victims can heal, regain their sense of self-esteem and pursue their dreams.

The third session of the programme was conducted by one of the most respected members of the Bar, Z.A. Shah, Sr. Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh. He said that the language of judicial discourse should not reflect antiquated or incorrect ideas about women which inhibits the transformative project of the law and the Constitution scheme of gender justice striving to secure equal rights to all persons, irrespective of their gender. He further said that language is critical to the life of the law and words are the vehicle through which the values of the law are communicated. He discussed that the Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes contains a glossary of gender-unjust terms and suggests alternative words or phrases which may be used while drafting pleadings as well as orders and judgments.

Z.A. Shah stated that government has recently introduced the Protection of Child against Sexual Offences Rules 2020 which takes care of the implementations of the amendments brought in the Act. He underlined that these latest changes bridge the gap and strengthens the interplay between JJ Act and POCSO by utilizing the appropriate authorities cited in Juvenile Justice Act. All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the Learned resource persons.

Police recovers online defrauded amount of Rs 15.5 lakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: District Cyber Cell Kathua under overall supervision of SSP Kathua has demonstrated its commitment to combat cyber crime by recovering online defrauded amount of ₹ 15,53,773/-

Brief facts of the case are that on 05/05/2024, an online complaint was received at Cyber Cell Kathua through NCCRP Portal in which a complainant namely Sumesh Inder S/o Ravinder Kumar R/o Ward No. 16 Kathua reported online fraud of Rs 19,85,117 through online gam-

ing application downloaded from illegitimate source.

During the investigation, it was surfaced that the defrauded amount was credited to multiple bank accounts pan India forming multiple layers of transactions. Cyber Cell Kathua put hectic efforts in pursuing the defrauded amount and tracked multiple accounts. Further, 04 bank accounts (ICICI, HDFC, FINO PAYMENTS, FEDERAL) were freed instantly and eventually the defrauded amount was refunded back to the com-

plaintain by the orders of Court. Further investigation for ascertaining the rest of the defrauded amount is going on and is underway.

Pertinently, from the date of establishment, Cyber Cell Kathua has successfully recovered defrauded amount of Rs 25,51,661/- so far. This achievement of District Police Kathua underscores the unit's expertise, dedication and tireless efforts in safeguarding the common citizens against online fraud and cheating.