

GOVT SCRAPS SPECIAL STATUS FOR J&K

New Delhi: A move to strip Jammu and Kashmir of its special status under the Constitution was cleared by the Rajya Sabha on Monday, eight hours after home minister Amit Shah introduced a resolution to cancel the provision that had continued to be part of the Constitution.

The Rajya Sabha also cleared a bill to divide the state into two union territories, one for Ladakh and the second for Jammu and Srinagar regions. Both would be administered by the central government through a Lt-governor. A union territory is an administrative division governed directly by the central government.

A resolution to abrogate the special status was passed by the Rajya Sabha with 125 votes in favour, and 61 against. The bill to divide Jammu and Kashmir was passed by a voice vote.

Shah, who piloted the bill through the upper house where the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) doesn't have a clear majority, triggered an

uproar in Parliament, with the opposition led by the Congress raising concerns about the impact of the move.

Late on Sunday night, the administration restricted the movement of several political leaders such as former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti and severely curtailed movement of the public.

The government also imposed a security lockdown on Kashmir after deploying tens of thousands of troops in the past week.

The communication network in the Valley – mobile, fixed line and internet – was shut down ahead of the government's announcement while key officials have been given satellite phones to stay in touch.

With the Centre's move, the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have a Lt Governor and the strength of the Assembly will be 107, which will be further enhanced to 114 after a delimitation exercise is

carried out.

The present strength of the assembly is 87, which includes four seats of the Ladakh region. Ladakh will now become a separate UT, but without a legislature. Twenty-four seats of the assembly continue to remain vacant as they fall in the area of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK).

Shah, however, said that the Centre was open to making Jammu and Kashmir a state once the situation normalized. "I want to assure the House that whenever normal situation returns, right time comes, we have no objection in making it a state," he said.

The home minister also brushed aside fears that there would be violence in Kashmir as he stood up to respond to the debate, saying "nothing of the sort will happen".

The announcement sparked chaotic scenes in Parliament, with opposition parties describing it as a "catastrophic step". They called the move to abrogate Article 370 an aggression against the peo-

ple of the state.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad said: "In my political life, I had never even imagined that the state which is India's crown, one day that head will be chopped off".

The Congress, Trinamool Congress (TMC), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Left parties opposed the resolution and the bill to bifurcate the state into two union territories.

Parliamentarians from the Congress, TMC and DMK later walked out of Lok Sabha in protest as prime minister attended the session. The Left parties also staged a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, slamming the Narendra Modi-led government for scrapping Article 370 and demanding that the earlier status of the state be restored.

Amit Shah's statement in both Houses of Parliament came after meetings of the Union Cabinet and the gov-



ernment's top decision making body on security matters, the Cabinet Committee on Security, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A government spokesperson did not brief reporters about the decisions taken by the Union Cabinet, but sources hinted that it could have something about the special provisions relating to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) has already issued a three-line whip ordering all its members to be present in the Parliament between 5 and 7 August. "All members of the Lok Sabha are informed that some very important business will be taken up for business will be taken up for discussion and passing between 5th August and 7th August 2019," the whip, accessed by HT, said.

Regional parties in J&K

such as the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) have accused the state administration of creating disquiet and resolved to fight any attempt to abrogate the constitutional provisions that guarantee Jammu and Kashmir special status.

The parties also appealed to India and Pakistan not to take any steps that will escalate tension in the region.

"We had made an effort to tell the people of this country and the government about the consequences if they toy with Articles 35A and 370 (of the Constitution). We made an appeal too, but no assurance has been given yet from the Centre. They are not bothered to say anything, to say that everything will be alright," Mehbooba Mufti said after an all party meeting in the Valley on Sunday.

Death penalty for hate crimes in state, assembly passes bill



Jaipur: The Rajasthan assembly passed a bill on Monday in which death penalty has been proposed for hate crimes against couples in the name of honor and tradition. The bill, The Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honor and Tradition Bill, 2019, was tabled in the Assembly on July 30 by law minister Shanti Dhariwal. It was passed after discussion on Monday. Rajasthan is the first state in India to have a special law to deal with hate crime against couples.

The bill even provides punishment for holding assemblies to condemn inter-caste, inter-community marriages in the name of family honor.

Though the punishment for murder in rarest of rare murder cases under the Indian Penal Code is also death penalty, the bill said a special law for such hate crimes would act as a deterrent as it has severe punishment for such acts of violence and criminal intimidation and will prevent caste and community assemblies that take place to condemn such marriages.

The bill states that "whoever causes death of a couple or either of them on the basis that marriage of such couple has dishonored, or brought disrepute to the caste, community or family shall be punished with death, or with imprisonment for life, which shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of that person's natural life, and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees."

If cases of grievous hurt to a couple or either of them, the bill prescribes rigorous imprisonment for 10 years which may be extended to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs3 lakh. For simple hurt, the punished proposed is jail for three to five years and a fine of Rs2 lakh.

For participating in a gathering to condemn a marriage claiming it has dishonored the caste or community or tradition or brought disrepute, a person or persons can be sent to jail for six months to five years and fined Rs1 lakh. The bill empowers the sub-divisional magistrate or district magistrate to prevent such assemblies and take steps to ensure safety of the couple.

The bill also covers threat to the couple by prescribing punishment of three to five years and a fine of Rs2 lakh. If threat is to cause death or grievous hurt, the imprisonment will be of seven years, the bill says.

Padma Shri Awardee Prof. Dr. Dattatreya Nuri appointed as International Director, of Apollo Hospitals

Udaipur: Apollo Hospitals announced appointment of world renowned Radiation Oncologist, Prof. Dr. Dattatreya Nuri, as International Director – Apollo Cancer Centres, Apollo Hospitals Group. Beginning this month, Dr. Nuri will be available for consultations 10 times in a year at Apollo Hospitals across the country, spending 4 months in India. He will be available virtually through the year through the Ask Apollo platform <https://www.askapollo.com/>. A Padma Shri Awardee, Dr. Nuri has been honored with many prestigious awards for immigrants for medicine and cancer care, the culmination of which was the highest civilian honour in the US in 2014, the "Ellis Island Medal of Honor" for his exemplary and outstanding qualities in both his personal and professional life.

In 2017, the Indian Cancer Congress honoured him with its highest recognition - "Living Legend in Cancer Care." "It is a great pleasure to welcome the 'Living Legend in Cancer Care' Dr. Dattatreya Nuri to the Apollo Hospitals family. With the rising incidence of cancer, Prof. Nuri will help in strengthening our fight against cancer. Patients across our cancer centers can now benefit from his expertise and continue to receive the best cancer care right here in India," said Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group. During his first visit, Dr. Nuri visited the world class Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, Apollo Hospitals in Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi.

He also spoke at the Global Health Summit and at the launch of the GAPIO Clinical Knowledge Development Program. Speaking about his new role at Apollo Hospitals, Prof. Dattatreya Nuri



said, "It is an honour to join hands with the Apollo team in its mission against cancer. Apollo Hospitals has been a pioneer and has revolutionised the medical landscape in India with trailblazing initiatives. The Apollo Proton Cancer Centre is a shining example of Dr. Prathap Reddy's dedication to the cause of bringing latest medical technology to the country."

As the International Director of the Apollo Cancer Centres, I look forward to the opportunity to bring my experience to cure challenging cases and also share my learnings with my colleagues at Apollo Hospitals Group. "With ten world class centres that provide comprehensive cancer care encompassing radiation, medical and surgical oncology, the Apollo hospitals will continue to ensure that Indian patients receive the best in

class care," said Dr. Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals. "We will continue to expand our cancer network so that patients do not have to travel great distances. Three more centres will be added in the coming months," she added. "With precision oncology, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, innovative bone marrow transplants, cytoreductive therapy, minimally invasive surgery, robotic surgery, IGRT, IMRT, SRT, newer techniques in brachytherapy and now Proton Therapy expanding the scope of therapy against cancer, Apollo Cancer Centres are well positioned to provide cancer care which hitherto was available only outside India," said Dr. Anupam Sibal, Group Medical Director, Apollo Hospitals Group. Dr. Nuri has spent over four decades in

the US and is recognised as a global thought leader in cancer research with many path breaking and innovative developments in the field of cancer treatment attributed to him. He has also taken special interest in ensuring that these advances reach the less privileged cancer patients across India.

Besides his involvement in setting up government-run cancer treatment centres and hospitals in India, he has initiated various programs for Indian doctors to receive advanced training at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Cornell University Medical Center. Dr. Nuri is also a consultant to the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), advising on the formulation of guidelines for cancer treatment in developing countries.

Raksha Bandhan

Rakhi is a holy thread of love & protection. Raksha Bandhan is a festival which is celebrated in the month of shravana in all parts of India.

This is the festival of love between brother & sister. Sister ties a colorful silk thread to their brother's wrist which is also known as 'Raksha Sutra' & brother gives a promise to his sister to protect her for whole life. It's a heart touching sentiment for each other. It fortifies the bond between brother & sister. It is not only the band but that represents the love & affection for each other with a relationship of friendship.

Sisters pray for the happiness, joy, prosperity & safety of their brothers. One of the deepest & noblest of human emotion is the bond of love. "Raksha Bandhan" symbolizes a protection & signifies that strong must protect & serve the weak & those in need.

This is human relationship among all members of the community. They pledge to protect each other & the society. Some people celebrate Raksha Bandhan by tying a Rakhi on the wrists of close friends & neighbors & soldiers of Indian army



who protect us & the brothers of country.

This festival is not linked with any one religion, any particular community but it is a festival of humanity. The tying of Rakhi is not confined to brothers and sisters only.

It could also be tied by a disciple to the guru. This Band does not have to be between blood - relatives only. A girl might adopt a boy as her brother and tie Rakhi to his wrist. Some people who love nature and many more valuable things for human life, they adopt forest, trees, well & tie Rakhi to protect & save them.

It is said that Alexander's wife tied a Rakhi to Puru to protect her husband, yet another example is that of Humayun & Karnavati. This festival is of security & respect, respect for all living & non - living beings in the world.

This year celebrate the festival of love with exciting gifts & surprises as they are a medium of expression of each other's emotions, whether it is brother or sister gifts are exchanged from both sides.

They become means of carrying sweet memories. This festival brings moments of joy for going children & the loving pranks between them are like drops of heavenly rain.

If you are far away from your brothers & sisters this Raksha Bandhan you send lovely messages, SMS, Facebook post & what Sapp status, E Rakhi by electronic & social media.

The bonding between brothers & sisters, human, nature, blood relation, living & nonliving things is simply unique & is beyond description of words.

The relationship between siblings is extraordinary & is given importance in every part of the world. However when it comes to India. The relationship becomes all the more important as there is a festival called 'Raksha Bandhan' dedicated for the sibling's love.

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Diploma in Criminology and Public Policy

Udaipur: Janardhan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University (JNRNV) in collaboration with the Center for Criminology & Public Policy will be launching two new courses – a one-year diploma in Criminology & Police Science and a post-graduate diploma in Criminology & Police Science – from this academic session.

Council on Academic Affairs gave the approval to launch the two courses on July 26, a standing committee member Prof. Manju Mandot said.

"Both the courses will be offered by the Directorate of Jan Shikshan and Extension Programme, while experts at the Center for Criminology & Public Policy will design and teach them", Mandot added.

"In a state like Rajasthan where caste-conflict often leads to violent crimes, we are in dire need to promote knowledge on policing and crime prevention", said R Rochin Chandra, Director of the Center for Criminology & Public Policy, who proposed the idea of introducing a course in Criminology and Police Science at JNRNV University last year.

"This course is designed to prepare students for some of today's most fascinating and rewarding careers in criminal justice and public safety. It is ideal for those embarking on a career in Criminology, Policing, Prison Service, Crime Journalism, Human Rights, Victim Assistance, Private Security, Social Advocacy, Legal Service and Non-Profit Causes," Chandra pointed out.

He also added that state police forces give special preference to candidates who have a diploma in Criminology & Police Science after one passes the physical test and appear for the interview. Highlighting that Rajasthan is not the only state that follows this policy, Chandra said that in order to realize PM Modi's vision of Smart Policing, several state governments are now preferring subject matter specialists in police departments.

The diploma and post-graduate diploma courses will commence from 26th August, 2019. Scholarships are reserved for women and NCC candidates. Students belonging to Scheduled Castes will get 100% tuition fee waiver.