



Continuous Reduction of States' Share in Taxes is Against The Spirit of Fiscal Federalism: CM

Jaipur: Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot in a letter to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has requested that the Centre should further reduce the additional excise duty and special excise duty of the Central Pool on petrol and diesel so that the general public can get proper benefit of reduction in excise duty and VAT simultaneously. Besides this, he also requested the Prime Minister to direct the oil companies to stop continuous increase in prices of petrol-diesel. Daily increase in prices by the oil companies will bring the benefit of relief given by the Centre and State Government to the zero, he added. Shri Gehlot said that, it is expected that the Centre additionally reduces excise duty to the tune of Rs. 10 per litre on petrol and Rs. 15 per litre on diesel. With the Centre reducing the excise duty, the VAT received by the State will automatically get reduced proportionately by Rs 3.40 per litre on petrol and Rs 3.90 per litre

on diesel. As a result of this, the State exchequer will have to bear an additional revenue loss of Rs 3500 crore per annum, which the State Government was ready to bear in the larger public interest.

The Chief Minister said that from the year 2016 the Central Government has decreased the states' share by continuously reducing the basic excise duty imposed on petrol-diesel. In the meantime, special and additional excise duty is being continuously increased and the States do not get any share of these duties. He said that the revenue of the center is getting benefitted due to increase in additional excise duty and agriculture infrastructure cess, whereas the basic excise duty which falls in the divisible pool has gradually been reduced resulting in reduction in the State's share of taxes. He said that continuous reduction in the share of taxes received by the States is against the principles of Fiscal Federalism.

Shri Gehlot said that in a



democracy, elected governments have to mobilise necessary fiscal resources for the development works and social security schemes of the State. The geographical location, economic scenario and local conditions of the States also affect the process of providing the benefits of development schemes to the general public. To collect revenue for the development schemes, the

States have been given the constitutional right to levy necessary taxes. He said that the Centre first increased the additional and special excise duty on petrol-diesel and later on reduced it minimal and tried to create an atmosphere of mutual competition among states for reducing the VAT which is also contrary to the spirit of Cooperative Federalism.

The Chief Minister said that

during the lockdown on May 6, 2020 the Central Government increased the excise duty by Rs 10 per litre on petrol and Rs 13 per litre on diesel. On November 4, 2021 after reducing excise duty on petrol by Rs 5 per litre and on diesel by Rs 10 per litre, the center claimed that it has provided big relief to general public. Whereas, the reality is that in the year 2021 itself, around Rs. 27 and Rs. 25 were increased respectively on petrol and diesel prices. In such a situation, the reduction in the excise duty by the Central Government appears to be insufficient, he said. Shri Gehlot said that more than 22% of the total revenue of the Rajasthan

State comes from the VAT on petrol-diesel. From January 29, 2021, till now the Rajasthan Government has reduced around Rs. 3 per litre on petrol and Rs. 3.80 per litre on diesel. The State is incurring the revenue loss to the tune of Rs 2,800 crore per annum. In the current financial year till October, there has been a decrease of Rs. 20,000 crore in the revenue of the State due to Covid-19 circumstances. GST compensation of Rs 5,963 crore has not been released to the State by the Centre. In such circumstances, because of the efficient financial management our Government did not allow the pace of development to slow down. The State Government is ready to fulfill the promises made in our public manifesto and the state budget in a time-bound manner. He requested the Prime Minister for early payment of the outstanding amount of GST compensation and to extend the period of GST compensation to states till the year 2027.

Rajasthan - Educational institutions in full capacity from 15 Nov; Public Function attendees Limit removed

Jaipur: The Home Department, Government of Rajasthan has issued updated regulations in their circular dated 8 November 2021. As per the new guidelines:

Schools, Colleges and Coaching institutions in Rajasthan will be permitted to function at 100% capacity from 15 November.

Limit on the number of persons permitted in Marriage ceremonies has been lifted. Marriage Ceremonies can be conducted in ONLY IN open spaces under applicable Social Distancing norms.

Limit on number of persons attending other public functions, religious functions, sporting events, entertainment, social and cultural events has been lifted. These events can be held in closed as well as open spaces under COVID applicable Social Distancing guidelines.

Coaching institutions can conduct 100% offline classes subject to their staff having taken two doses of COVID vaccine.

Department of Fisheries organises a webinar on "Promotion of Inland Saline Water Aquaculture"

The webinar highlights the importance of aquaculture in saline affected soils with low productivity while informing about the components supported under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for converting 'waste land into wealth land'

PMMSY envisages an investment target of Rs. 526 Crore during 2020-21 to 2024-25 for development of saline water aquaculture while generating 3 lakh employment opportunities

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Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India organized a webinar on "Promotion of Inland Saline Water Aquaculture" on 5th November, 2021. This was the eighth webinar in the series being part of celebrating "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". The event was presided over by Shri Jatindra Nath Swain, Secretary, Department of Fisheries (DoF), Government of India (GoI) and attended by more than 100 participants including DoF officials of GoI and States/UTs, scientists from ICAR fisheries institutes and faculty of state agriculture, veterinary and fisheries universities, entrepreneurs, fish farmers, hatchery owners, and other stakeholders from aquaculture industry.

The webinar began with welcome address by Shri I. A. Siddiqui, Fisheries Development Commissioner, DoF along with introduction of the theme of the webinar and the distinguished panelists, Shri Jatindra Nath Swain, Secretary, Shri Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries), Dr. J. Balaji, Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries) in DoF, Shri Jose Antony, Scientist, NGRC, Gujarat of ICAR-CIBA and other participants.

In his inaugural address, Union Secretary Fisheries, Shri Swain discussed the development of the fisheries sector and sustainable harnessing of fisheries resources available in the country. He highlighted the importance of aquaculture in saline affected soils with low productivity while informing about the components supported under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for promotion of aquaculture in saline/alkaline areas and converting 'waste land into wealth land', with the help of technology infusion, training and capacity building of farmers, provision of market linkages, availability of quality seed and feed and good aquaculture practices. He also informed about the other initiatives taken by the Government for promotion of fisheries and aquaculture under PMMSY for the benefit of fishers and fish farmers and role of fisheries sector in employment generation as well as food and nutritional security.

Shri Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries), in his opening remarks, highlighted the present status and potential of aquaculture in saline waters available in the northern States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. He mentioned that PMMSY has envisaged an investment target of Rs. 526 Crore during 2020-21 to 2024-25 for development of saline water aquaculture while generating 3 lakh employment opportunities. He also elaborated the importance of cluster development models in these states for providing one stop solution with development of facilities like testing laboratory network, feed plants, cold chain and marketing infrastructure to reduce production cost accompanied by promoting adoption of technologies like RAS, biofloc etc. He also highlighted the importance of species diversification, disposal of waste saline water, trained manpower for shrimp culture for sustainable inland saline water aquaculture.

Dr. J. Balaji, Joint Secretary (marine Fisheries), setting the context for the webinar, briefly highlighted the challenges at hand in the development of inland saline water aquaculture. He mentioned about the importance of quality seed, entrepreneurship model, organic shrimp aquaculture and zonation with all the requisite support infrastructure for sustainable development of saline aquaculture in these four northern States. He also underlined the importance of entrepreneurship and private investment in the development of aquaculture sector including saline water inland aquaculture.

During the technical session, Shri Jose Antony, Scientist, NGRC, Gujarat of ICAR-CIBA made a comprehensive presentation on 'Promotion on Inland Saline Water Aquaculture' and emphasized on status, issues and future of Inland Saline Water Aquaculture in the fisheries sector while discussing the current status Inland shrimp farming and issues such as site selection, lack of laboratory & technology support, lack of buyers on demand, domestic market, environmental and social sustainability, thrust and opportunities, role of shrimp culture as a tool for fighting malnutrition and increasing nutritional security across the nation.

Following the technical presentation, an open discussion was held with the fish farmers, entrepreneurs, hatchery owners, scientists, and faculty of universities. After discussion, the webinar concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. S. K. Dwivedi, Assistant Commissioner, DoF.

XVIII Annual Conference of Rajasthan Association for Studies in English on "Writing in Restricted Spaces: Writing for Freedom and Freedom of Writing" on Nov. 20-21

- Dr.H.S.Chandalia

Udaipur: XVIII Annual Conference of Rajasthan Association for Studies in English on "Writing in Restricted Spaces: Writing for Freedom and Freedom of Writing" will be held online on Nov. 20-21. The concept of the conference is drawn from the institutional incarceration which restricts people to enjoy their freedom naturally bestowed upon them. The state and non-state actors both exercise this restriction in their own ways. This conference will be jointly organized by the department of English, M.V.Shramjeevi College, Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth and Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Government College, Nimbahera, Chittorgarh. Those interested can register for the conference through a link available on the website www.raseindia.com

A brief introductory note on the conference is presented here for the benefit of the readers who might like to discuss this topic.

This is true Liberty when free born men
Having to advise the public may speak free,
Which he who can, and will, deserves high praise,
Who neither can nor will, may hold his peace;
What can be juster in a State
(A motto from Euripides' tragedy The Suppliants which the title page of Areopagitica bears-translated by John Milton)

The world faces new crises every day as we move ahead in time. Despite claims of progress and development, human life is fraught with misery.

Rise of Taliban is a reminder of age old regimes of fundamentalist tendencies. Amidst the surging oceans of information the right to know the truth is shackled even as the instruments of information and free expression get bound to political and economic interests. Both the state and the non-state actors hold the voice of truth to ransom and those who dare to speak are confined to restrictions imposed by numerous means – both imposed by law as well as unlawful.

As a student of literature one is reminded of Dante's political work On Monarchy (1313) which was burnt as a heretical text by the papal authorities. Similarly one may recount Historia del Concilio Tridentino ('History of the Council of Trent'), a deeply critical account by the Venetian scholar and statesman Paolo Sarpi of the proceedings of the Council of Trent, convened by the Catholic Church from 1545 to 1563 to develop the policies of the Counter-Reformation. Sarpi's critique of the abuses of clerical power and defense of the authority of the Venetian republic to govern its own Church was considered so potentially incendiary that his work was smuggled out of Venice in installments and first published under a pseudonym in London in 1619. In his polemical work Of Reformation (1641) John Milton had warned the threat of clerical usurpation of political power.

Galileo, a contemporary of John Milton was placed under house arrest in Florence since 1633 for his belief that the Earth

moved around the Sun. Milton had gone to meet him. Tommaso Campanella wrote Apologia pro Galileo ('Defence of Galileo') in 1622. Campanella argued for the necessity of 'the freedom of philosophising' in Christian nations, perhaps himself echoing Galileo, who in several of his writings had quoted the dictum attributed to the Platonic philosopher Alcinoüs: 'The philosopher needs to think like a free-born man.' 'Philosophy' here encompasses 'natural philosophy', or what we call science: the modern concept of 'academic freedom' has roots in this 17th-century notion of 'philosophic freedom'. There are many more examples of authors pointing at the need to ensure writers' freedom to express and also of those who were persecuted for doing so.

The historian James Hankins, in his book Virtue Politics (2019), talks of Renaissance Italy: 'To speak with freedom, to advocate what was right, especially before a tyrant or a howling mob, was a great virtue that required other virtues such as prudence and courage.' This is equally true in 21st century India. George Orwell in his powerful essay 'The Prevention of Literature' (1946) considers the twin threats posed to 'intellectual liberty' by 'totalitarianism' and 'monopoly and bureaucracy'. Louis Althusser talks of the forces that exercise checks on the free thinking of individuals. He mentions two such instruments, namely State Apparatus and Ideological State Apparatus. According to him the state apparatus includes administration, courts, government agencies, military, police and prison houses. They represent institutions which repress by the sheer violence of their authority.

The Ideological State Apparatus includes institutions which do it more subtly. They exercise some sort of a hegemony which appears persuasive, tempting and less coercive. They include religion, educational institutions, NGOs, political parties, cultural institutions and programmes, media and above all market. According to Althusser they are less centralized and appear to be heterogeneous. However, they are, in truth, unified in serving the interest of the ruling classes.

These SAs and ISAs create restricted spaces. The more obvious ones are prisons. People spend years in prisons languishing there for want of enough strength, resources and access to judicial intervention. Other restricted spaces may include government institutions, the corporate, private work places and media houses.

This list is not exhaustive. Even family becomes a restricted space if one is not allowed to indulge in expressing discontent and dissent towards a dominant narrative. Despite all odds many authors have written about their struggle and experiences. This literature appears in different genres. Sometimes, while languishing in prison houses too people have composed prose, fiction and poetry.

COVID-19 created self-imposed isolation and restricted free movement for months together in various countries of the world. Literature composed by people in their confinement would

also make an interesting study.

Some of the famous works written in prison include Letters from Birmingham Jail, by Martin Luther King Jr., Pisan Cantos, by Ezra Pound, Don Quixote, by Miguel de Cervantes, Conversations with Myself, by Nelson Mandela, Justine, by the Marquis de Sade, The Travels of Marco Polo, by Rustichello da Pisa, Le Morte d'Arthur, by Sir Thomas Malory, Our Lady of Flowers, by Jean Genet, De Profundis, by Oscar Wilde, History of the World Volume 1, by Sir Walter Raleigh.

In India Mahatma Gandhi wrote My Experiments with Truth in Pune's Yerwada jail. The Discovery of India was the result of four years that Pandit Nehru spent in Ahmednagar prison. Jayaprakash Narayan wrote Prison Diary while in prison. Revolutionary Sardar Bhagat Singh wrote four books while in Jail. But the only work that survived is his jail diary published with the title The Jail Notebook and Other Writings. Kobad Ghandy's Fractured Freedom - A Prison Memoir is an account of the jail experiences of an activist who had to spend ten years in jail without anything unlawful proved against him. Behind The Bars by Sunetra Choudhury is a book containing prison tales of India's most famous people, Black Warrant by Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhury is a record of the confessions of a Tihar Jailor. Some other works are My Years in an Indian Prison by Mary Tyler, The Tale of My Exile by Barindra Kumar Ghose, 'Of Women 'Inside' by Rani Dhavan Shankar Dass and My Years in a Pakistani Prison by Kishori Lal Sharma.

It would be interesting to explore and study the literature composed in restricted spaces.

This will be an attempt to stand in solidarity with authors like John Milton and the entire lineage of authors in his tradition. Original research papers on the central theme of the conference or on any one of the themes suggested below are invited. The papers should conform to MLA handbook VIII edition and should be unpublished. Some of the suggested themes are:

1. Prison Literature
2. Letters from Convicts
3. Literature by authors in exile
4. Media Analysis/ Media Trial
5. Cinema of Resistance
6. Documentaries
7. Tales behind the Purdah
8. Psycho-analytical study of the authors in prison
9. Jail Writings of freedom fighters.

100 Royal Weddings in Lake City may get 1000 crores

Udaipur: With the removal of 200 guests, the doors of the hotel and destination wedding industry are open. The days of Lakecity's hotel industry are back, with the cap on 200 guests at wedding ceremonies being lifted. The royal weddings in the industry that has been struggling for almost 19 months will start with the wedding of the business family of Dubai on Thursday, followed by 100 such marriages in 4 months and three seasons sluggish industry will get a booster of about 1000 crores.

For destination weddings, around 200 royal weddings have been booked till March in all major star hotels, including Jagmandir, Lake Palace, Shiv Niwas Palace, Fatah Prakash Palace, Udaivilas, Leela Palace. These include Bollywood-Tollywood cinema stars, besides overseas Indian people in business living in Dubai, England, America. The round of royal weddings of the families of famous businessmen of Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Kolkata living abroad will start on November 11.

Many business houses of the country and the world, including Dubai, Bangalore have made bookings.

Those who book in big-star hotels include big names like Dubai-based businessman Lakshat Kalwani, Dubai's Vandana Gandhi, Bengaluru's Mintu Sarna and Sundar, Mumbai's Mickey Doshi, Delhi's Devansh, Ram Khanna. Besides this, hotel resorts bigger than 100 rooms and gardens will also return the color as before, allowing the flexibility to invite as many guests as they want.

Of these, about 100 weddings are being prepared. Traders say that this year's last marriage Muhurta is on December 13 December. Before this, unions will start from November 18, and there are 15 big Muhurtas in it. During the second wave of Corona, shifted many significant events of destination weddings from Udaipur to Gujarat. The concessions found in the new guideline will restore the royal and destination weddings process in Udaipur.

Hotels booked till March for royal weddings.

Usually, hotels and other famous wedding venues in Udaipur have bookings for royal weddings till March. Due to this, the tourism of Udaipur will pick up speed again. The industry will grow again in Udaipur, which is recognized as a destination wedding. Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, former Mewar royal family member, and executive director, HRH Group

Favorite Lakecity for Bollywood

In November last year, Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut's brother Akshat got married in Udaipur. The pre-wedding function took place at Hotel Leela Palace. The very next month, Tamil actress Niharika Konidela married businessman JB Chaitanya at the Uday Vilas Hotel. Earlier in December 2018, International pop singer Beyoncé came to the pre-wedding ceremony of Reliance Group's Mukesh Ambani's daughter Isha.