

GST to be soon implemented in J-K: Jitendra Singh

JAMMU, JULY 2 /- Union Minister Jitendra Singh today said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir in the next three to four days, as he ruled out any difference between the BJP and the PDP, the ruling coalition partners in the state.

"The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) replied in negative when asked whether the BJP has 'surrendered' before the PDP as far as GST was concerned, amid reports of difference between them. 'All of us should be assured that the GST will soon be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. There is no surrender. I have told you that the GST will be implemented very soon. It will be implemented in next 3 to 4 days,' he

told reporters. He said not only the BJP or the PDP but the entire nation was on the same page vis-a-vis the implementation of the GST, which is billed as the biggest tax reform in India since Independence. 'It is not a question of the BJP, the PDP or the Congress. 125 crore people of this country are dictating us to be on the same page and there cannot be anything.' Both the coalition partners are on the same page. There is no difference of opinion on the GST. There were hiccups raised by opposition parties for political consideration, but they have also realised that they cannot carry it forward. Now they are exposed,' he added. Singh, Lok Sabha MP from Udhampur, said the traders faced loss everyday on account of non-implemen-

tion of the GST in J-K. 'The state government will take a call. Each day, there will be loss to the traders. We do not have any problem in implementation of the GST, but the opposition is creating hurdles,' he said.

"Our stand is clear before you on GST. There is no difference between us. They (PDP) are in agreement. There will be soon some way out. All political parties are on one page on the GST," he added. Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the core group of the BJP, its state unit chief Satish Sharma said all party legislators will take part in the four-day special Assembly session starting from July 4.

"The session is being specially held for GST. All (legislators) have been asked to remain present there.

There will be discussion on GST, as the session is being exclusively held for it," Sharma said.

"I feel before 8th of July, the announcement will be made for implementation of GST in J-K. We have a clear stand on the GST," he said. He said the GST was to be ushered from July 1 along with rest of the country but due to some reasons it could not be implemented in J-K and the opposition has been "repeatedly creating hurdles" in its implementation.

"We want all political parties to be on the same page. The government organised all parties meeting which was boycotted by the Congress and the National Conference. Now the session will be held and some decision would be taken there," Sharma said. (PTI)

BJP meet illegally held on airport premises, alleges activist

PANAJI, JULY 2 /- Social activist Aires Rodrigues today filed a complaint with authorities against the alleged illegal and unauthorised public meeting organised by the BJP on the Dabolim Airport premises which was addressed by the party's president Amit Shah.

The BJP has, however, denied the charge and said the event was held outside the airport premises and all required permissions to host it were taken.

In the complaint addressed to the Secretary of Ministry of Civil Aviation, Chief Secretary of Goa and the Director General of Police, Rodrigues sought that an FIR be registered against the organisers of the event besides Shah and all other dignitaries present at the meeting yesterday. "They cannot now claim to be ignorant of the legal provisions," he said in the complaint, a copy of which was made available to the media here.

Rodrigues, who is also an advocate, claimed that probably for the first time ever in the history of the country, a public meeting was organised in the high-security precincts of an airport.

He alleged that Shah was allowed to address party workers within the airport premises in total violation of law.

Stating that the Goa civilian airport functions within the Naval air base and is a defence establishment, he added a carpeted podium, chairs for dignitaries and sound system were all set up at the entrance of the airport terminal.

Shah had arrived at 11.15 AM and addressed the public meeting with the airport and police officials conveniently looking

the other way while the law was being blatantly breached," he alleged.

He claimed the event, which was held in "complete and gross abuse of power", was attended by Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, Union Minister Sripad Naik, Goa BJP Chief Vinay Tendulkar, Ministers and MLAs besides hundreds of people who were "herded" to the airport.

Rodrigues claimed the event also caused inconvenience to travellers. Also, the airport being considered a security installation, no public meeting could have been held there and it amounted to a violation of the other enactments covering vital installations like airports, he said.

Rodrigues has sought an immediate inquiry to ascertain which officers allowed the "illegal" public meeting and "stringent" action in accordance with law to be taken against them.

When contacted, a BJP leader said all permissions required to host the event were taken.

"As far as my knowledge goes, we have taken all the permissions required to host the function," state panchayat minister and Dabholi BJP leader Vinay Tendulkar said. The airport is located in Dabolim constituency.

He said the function was held outside the airport and not inside, as it was made out to be.

"The function was held only for seven minutes and no one was put to inconvenience," Godinho said.

He said the people who had come for the function had parked their vehicles far away and no one was put to inconvenience. (PTI)

Cong expels Meerut district chief for comments on Rahul

LUCKNOW, JULY 2 /- The Congress today expelled Vinay Pradhan, its Meerut district unit chief, who was earlier suspended for making certain "insulting" remarks against Rahul Gandhi, from the party for six years.

Pradhan was expelled from the party by Ramkrishna Dwivedi, the disciplinary committee chairman of Uttar Pradesh Congress, for "indulging in anti-party activities," said party spokesman Dwijendra Tripathi.

Last month, Pradhan was suspended from all the party posts after he allegedly made certain "insulting" remarks against the Congress vice-president on the party's WhatsApp group. Dwivedi had then stated that Pradhan's guilt was proved and he had violated the constitution of the Congress party. Pradhan had reportedly referred to Rahul Gandhi as "Pappu" in a social media message.

"Pappu could have been a minister or even the prime minister, but he did not go down that road," his insulting message had said, adding that instead, the Congress vice-president chose to go to Mandir in Madhya Pradesh, where five protesting farmers were killed in police firing.

Subsequently, Pradhan had said his comments were meant to laud Gandhi.

Besides Pradhan, vice presidents of the Congress' Meerut unit Sartaj Ghazi and Giridhari Lal Maurya, general secretary Ankur Tyagi, secretaries Anuram Shami and Irshan Puthi had also been suspended from all posts for "anti-party activities," said Tripathi. (PTI)

BJP to have office in all districts of India by Dec 2018: Shah

PANAJI, JULY 2 /- The BJP will have its office in all districts of the country by December 2018, party president Amit Shah said today. "BJP workers are the focal point of party's journey from San Sanghi till now. The party's existence is through the smallest of the booth level cadre," Shah said after inaugurating the BJP's South Goa district office in Margao.

"The party office is not less than a temple for the workers. This is the place where planning is done based on which the party marches ahead. That is why BJP has decided that each district will have party office across the country by December 2018," added the BJP chief.

Hailing the Manohar Parrikar led Goa government, Shah said "when BJP government is formed in any state, it is not just change in power but also change in the systems." "Goa is an apt example. Five years back, BJP came into power and we are now elected again."

According to Shah, along with development, BJP led by Parrikar has also given a government which has eradicated corruption. "Parrikar has given a government with transparency," he said. (PTI)



Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs (I/C) & Parliamentary Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi at the Diksha Vashitop Ardhshatabdi Mahotsav of Jain Guru Shrimad Vijay Nityanand Ji at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.

Rajasthan panchayat asks girls to shun jeans, mobile; inquiry ordered

JAIPUR, JULY 2 /- A sermon by Baldiyagura village panchayat allegedly banning girls from wearing jeans and using mobile phones has struck a wrong note with the Rajasthan Women Commission, with the body calling for an inquiry into the matter. The Commission took cognisance of media reports that members of Kushwaha community had yesterday called upon a panchayat at Dholpur district which allegedly put a ban on girls from wearing jeans and carrying mobile phone on the grounds that western culture was adversely affecting the dignity of the community. The panchayat was reportedly called to discuss social reforms like prohibition of liquor, betting and tobacco. "We have taken cognisance of the report and asked the Dholpur district collector to get the matter inquired. However, none from the village is speaking openly about the deliberations of the panchayat. There are no evidences so far," Chairperson, Rajasthan Women Commission, Suman Sharma said. She said villagers might not be speaking under pressure, but "we have asked the administrative officials to be on their toes."

"Banning liquor, betting and tobacco is ethical but banning girls from wearing jeans and mobile phones is dictatorial," Sharma said. Meanwhile, acting SHO of Kaurali police station in Dholpur, Gambhir Singh told PTI that a team was sent to the village to inquire about the matter, but the so-called ban on girls could not be confirmed. (PTI)

Cauvery protests: Farmers block Bengaluru-Mysuru highway

MANDYA (KTK), JULY 2 /- Traffic on Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was affected today for a brief period as farmers blocked it to protest against the release of Cauvery water from Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) Dam to Tamil Nadu.

Traffic was affected for a brief period after farmers blocked Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. They were protesting against release of Cauvery water from KRS Dam to Tamil Nadu. Mandya Additional Superintendent of Police S N Lavanya told PTI here.

The farmers staged protests at Gajalageri and Halavali villages on the highway and accused the Karnataka government for releasing water, instead of taking steps to increase the storage level at KRS Dam, she said. Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited Executive Engineer K Basavaraje Gowda said as much as 2,000 cusecs of water has been released from KRS dam today. On June 29 night, 3,000 cusecs of water was released, he said. On June 30, farmers and pro-Karnataka outfits staged protests by getting down into the bathing ghat in Srirangapatna, accusing the government to release Cauvery water.

Farmers' leader G Magedgowda had on the same threatened government officials of dire consequences if they did not stop the supply of water.

"We want the government officials to stop the excess supply of water, especially when we don't have enough water for our farmers. If they don't they will have to face dire consequences," he had said. (PTI)

Bedi pitches for reforms in Pondy central prison

PUDUCHERRY, JULY 2 /- Puducherry Lt Governor Kiran Bedi has come out with an initiative to evolve reforms for the inmates of Central prison in the Union Territory. She visited the prison at Kalapet some 20 kms from here today and held discussions with the delegates of various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and officials of the Central

prison in this connection. A release from office of Lt Governor said that during her discussions with the representatives of NGOs to finalise the reforms, she acquainted herself with the experiences of the NGOs and their ongoing work with the prison inmates. Bedi told the participants that "prison reforms should be comprehensive and touch every inmate." The Lt Governor also impressed upon the prison authorities to prepare an activity-based time table for the prisoners to educate, recreate and develop skills, it said. "The day should start with 'prayers, yoga and shramdhan' and the prison should transform into a school between 10 AM and 12.30 PM to educate the prisoners as per their requirement and interest," she said. Bedi also stressed on the importance of closed coordination between the prison and police machinery. She asked the IG of Prisons, Pankaj Kumar Jha to work closely with the NGOs and prepare the prison reforms covering all aspects discussed during the meeting. (PTI)

Minority-bashing cases on upswing in MP

L.S. HERDEENIA
BHOPAL: As far as minority bashing is concerned, Madhya Pradesh is no exception. In many cases Muslims and Christians have been arrested on almost imaginary charges. In one case, the charge of sedition was slapped on a group of 15 Muslim youngsters following the allegation that they celebrated Pakistan's victory in Champions Trophy finals and also burst crackers. These people were arrested on the basis of a complaint purportedly made by one Subhash Koli. But in a surprise move Koli himself said that he never made any complaint. Koli also charged that all of them were framed.

"No one raised slogans and no one distributed sweets. All accused are innocent because police filed a false case against them," he said. In a two-page affidavit filed in the court, the 32-year-old said that he had gone to Shahpur police station on June 18 with his father Laxman and friend Sahil Mansuri to free Anis, his neighbour, who had been taken into custody. "The town inspector (Sanjay) Pathak slapped me and my father and beat up my friend with a baton and put him in the lock-up. I was made to sign blank papers. I did not write that the accused raised Pakistani slogans and burst crackers. The accused are my neighbours. How could they have burst crackers when they were present near us?" Koli said he was scared when Pathak told him that he had come to save a Muslim despite being a

Hindu. He added that he signed some papers thinking that either his friend Sahil or Anis was being released. Koli told media that he wanted to save the 15 innocent people by speaking the truth. He said he was worried because he got a call from the police station asking him to come there at night but he chose not to go. The police had first charged the accused with sedition but later dropped the charge saying there was no evidence. Burhanpur SP RRS Parihar claimed the complainant was probably under pressure because he did not want to antagonise the villagers. "We may add a charge of influencing the witness," he said.

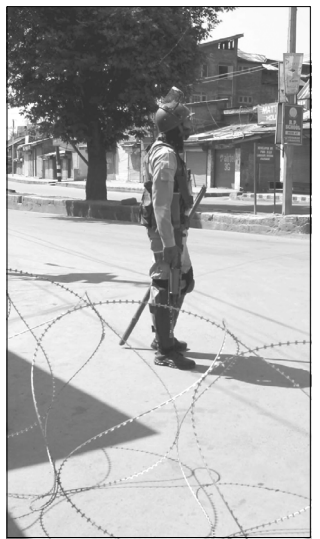
But whatever Koli may say, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh thinks that the raising Pakistani Zindabad slogan is an anti-national act. In an interview with the India Express (June 26, 2017, Delhi edition), while replying to a question he said that Pakistan is involved in acts of terrorism. To raise Pakistan zindabad slogan is rajdroh (sedition). Besides Muslims, Christians are also harassed in Madhya Pradesh. A few days ago, four tribal girls and a woman missionary, who were coming to Bhopal from Jharkhand's Pakhal district, were taken off the Kshipra Express at Satna after rightwing activists complained that the girls were being taken for conversion. Some more such incidents have been reported from other places. A delegation of Christian organisations met the top police officers and submitted a list of Christian-bashing incidents. The memorandum complained that no action was taken against those who made the false complaint. (IPA)

Khattar directs officials to ensure smooth traffic

GURUGRAM, JULY 2 /- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has directed the traffic police to make proper arrangements in view of the various ongoing development works in the city, so that a minimum inconvenience was caused to the commuters. The chief minister today said the commuters might have to face inconvenience due to the various development works being carried out in Gurugram and added that he had directed the traffic police to make proper arrangements for the smooth movement of traffic.

Khattar, who was interacting with reporters on the sidelines of a meeting, said the works were going on at the IFFCO Chowk and at Rajiv Chowk for an underpass and a flyover. He claimed that once these projects were completed, there would be no traffic issues. Earlier, presiding over the meeting of the District Grievances Redressal Committee here, the chief minister said the honorary members of the (revenue officials) in the state would now be transferred directly to their bank accounts on the lines of old 15. (PTI)

The chief minister directed the officers concerned to bring the map and detailed information of the site at the next meeting and to put a check on commercial activities there. Khattar said the next meeting of the District Grievances Redressal Committee would be held before August 15. (PTI)



Security personnel near the concertina razor wire at Rajouri Kadal in downtown Srinagar on Sunday after curfew-like restrictions were imposed in the area as a precautionary measure.