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Cabinet nod to central laws in J&K

37 central laws in Concurrent List will be applicable to Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Cabinet on Wednesday gave its nod to an order on adopting central laws in Concurrent List for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The government also approved amendments to the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019.

An official statement later said all the central laws, applicable to the whole of India except the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir before October 31, 2019 are now applicable to Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir from October 31, 2019..

"...It is necessary to adapt the central laws made under the Concurrent List, with required modifications and amendments, for ensuring administrative effectiveness and smooth transition with respect to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir thereby removing any ambiguity in their application in line with the Constitution of India," it said.

According to Section 96 of



Army personnel during a search and cordon operation after villagers reported presence of mortal shells in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir | PTI

the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Central government has the power to make adaptations and modifications to the laws, whether by way of repealing or amending them, as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of facilitating the application of any law made before the appointed date till the expiration of one year from the appointed date in relation to the successor Union territories.

The order will be issued under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the statement said.

The government has also approved amendments to the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019, which will confer status of Institution of National Importance to National Institutes of Food Technology at Kundli, Haryana and Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

'J&K will always remain integral part of India'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of India, a top Indian diplomat said at the UN Human Rights Council's meeting in Geneva on Wednesday, a day after Pakistan sought the international community's intervention on the Kashmir issue. Speaking at the 43rd session of the UN Human Rights Council, which is being held in Switzerland from February 24 to March 20, Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West), the Ministry of External Affairs, described Pakistan as the "epicentre of global terrorism".

He called for decisive action against those who direct, control, fund and shelter terrorists, in an obvious reference to Pakistan, which is accused by its neighbours of providing safe havens to terror groups.

"It is more than a little ironical that a nation that has become the world's leading exporter of terror and violence seeks to lecture others about human rights..."

"Jammu and Kashmir was, is and shall forever remain an integral part of India," Swarup asserted a day after Pakistan's Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari alleged that India continues to violate the human rights of the Kashmiri people.

India abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 on August 5, and bifurcated it into two Union territories.

NIA continues raids in Kashmir

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out fresh raids at multiple locations in central and south Kashmir as part of its investigation in the January 31 encounter at Nagrota in Jammu. Sources said NIA officials raided the house of Jaish militant Zahid Ahmad Wani at Karimabad in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. The NIA team also raided the house of one Ali Mohammad Bhat at Drubgam village and Sameer Ahmad Dar at Gundlbagh, Kakapora. Dar, cousin of suicide bomber Adil Dar who killed 40 CRPF personnel in a deadly attack last year in Pulwama, was among the five arrested after the incident. The houses of three overground workers (OGWs) who were arrested from Pulwama in connection with the January 31 encounter — Suhail Javed Lone, Zahoor Ahmad Khan and Shajab Manzoor — were also searched. Lone, a Jammu student, was the second point of contact for the JeM terrorists in case they failed to meet Sameer Ahmad Dar, who was drawing funds in Kashmir. The militants were killed in their gunbattle with police on January 31.