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MEA slams Vance's 'indentured servants' remark as unwarranted

Tata, Wipro, HCL and Capgemini, along with US technology majors Microsoft and Adobe.

Sonderling said the department would neither accept new applications nor process pending permanent labour certification applications involving the companies.

"We will not accept any new or process any pending permanent labor certification applications involving these companies," Sonderling said.

The US Labour Secretary also alleged that the companies had collectively sought millions of foreign workers and received hundreds of thousands of H-1B visa approvals and permanent labour certifications.

"Since 2009, just these companies alone have requested almost 3 million foreign workers. They received over 230,000 H1B Visa approvals and over 100,000 permanent labor certifications," Sonderling said.

Responding to comments by US Vice President JD Vance on alleged misuse of the H-1B visa programme, Jaiswal said India's view was that such descriptions failed to recognise the contribution of Indian professionals to the American economy and its innovation ecosystem.

"In regard to the comments made by the US Vice President, let me say that we believe that such descriptions are unwarranted and ignore the fact that Indian professionals in the United States are highly educated and skilled contributors to its economy and innovation ecosystem," he said.

The MEA spokesperson also invoked the contribution of immigrants to America's economic development, criticising the terminology used to describe foreign workers.

"Indeed, the history of the United States itself has been shaped by generations of immigrants whose labour, enterprise, and innovation have contributed to its growth and prosperity," Jaiswal said.

"Resorting to terminology that carries painful historical and colonial legacy connotations is deeply offensive," he added.

Vance's remarks came during a press conference on efforts to combat visa fraud on Thursday, where he alleged that the H-1B visa programme had become vulnerable to widespread abuse.

"The H-1B visa program is meant to allow companies to bring in really the best of the best from outside the United States of America for positions that are completely impossible to fill with American workers. Unfortunately, the programme has become rife with fraud," Vance said.

The US Vice President specifically targeted Microsoft, alleging that the company had laid off American workers while benefiting from thousands of H-1B visas and green cards.

"Microsoft laid off last year, 6000 American workers at the same time, the company benefited from 6300 H-1B visas and almost 3000 green cards," Vance said.

He described foreign workers as "foreign indentured servants" while arguing that companies operating in the United States should prioritise American workers.

"Our message to Microsoft in any other foreign or domestic corporation is simple. We want you to thrive in the United States of America. We want people to invest in the United States of America, particularly the American technology sector," Vance said.

"We want you to be able to grow and employ a lot of people but we want you to employ American workers," he added.

Vance also said Microsoft's suspension from the PERM programme followed an ongoing investigation, arguing that the move would prevent the company from using the programme to apply for permanent status for foreign workers.

Expressing concern over the US decision, the MEA emphasised that the movement of skilled professionals benefit both India and the United States by supporting innovation, research, productivity and job creation.

"Talent mobility adds value to both economies, that is, the economies of India and the United States. While it creates opportunities for Indians, it equally helps US companies with cutting-edge talent, innovation, research, productivity, competitiveness, and job creation," Jaiswal said.

He noted that the contribution of skilled professionals extends to the creation of shareholder wealth in the United States, describing talent mobility as an area of significant mutual benefit for both countries.

"This is, therefore, an area of tremendous mutual benefit for the two countries and our expectation is that all stakeholders in this process can appreciate this fact," he said.

The MEA also expressed the view that the measures announced by the US government do not support the shared objectives of the two countries.

"The steps announced by the US do not advance the shared ambitions of both countries," Jaiswal said, adding that India would continue to monitor developments concerning the issue.

The ministry reiterated that the suspension of PERM applications and the H-1B visa programme are distinct matters, while cautioning that the decision could affect the permanent-residency process of eligible employees at the companies concerned.

Omar urges industry leaders to explore J&K for GCCs

journey over the past three to three-and-a-half decades, Omar said the fact that the region was now being discussed as a potential destination for GCC investments reflected a significant change in the opportunities being explored.

Acknowledging that Jammu and Kashmir continued to face a perception challenge arising from its past, he said the government was working to address it through investments across industry, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and other emerging sectors, including GCCs.

"Jammu and Kashmir need not replicate the growth trajectories of established GCC hubs such as Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai, but could learn from their experiences and position itself to compete with Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities," he said.

"Coming late to the party is disappointing, but it is not always disadvantageous. We can learn from the experiences of others. We don't have to reinvent the wheel. We just have to use it better," he added.

He pointed out that the rising cost of doing business in larger cities had created opportunities for emerging destinations. Jammu and Kashmir, he said, could explore this space by building on its inherent advantages and offering an attractive environment for businesses to establish and expand their operations.

Underscoring the importance of educational institutions in developing a skilled workforce, he highlighted the presence of a strong network of higher education institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, including IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, the University of Jammu, the University of Kashmir and the Islamic University of Science and Technology.

These institutions, he continued, were producing talented and well-educated young people who were often compelled to seek employment opportunities outside the region, including in the GCC sector, because of limited opportunities at home.

He said the establishment of GCCs in Jammu and Kashmir could help retain local talent, create quality employment and connect the region's educated youth with emerging opportunities in the technology-driven economy.

The chief minister said the success of the summit should not be measured by an immediate target of establishing a large number of GCCs, but by the creation of a foundation for sustainable growth.

"We'd be quite happy to have one, first GCC. One will lead to five. Five will lead to ten. And the story will grow from there," he said, stressing that the government wanted investors to choose Jammu and Kashmir on the strength of its business potential rather than out of sympathy for its past challenges.

Emphasising that commercial viability would remain

central to attracting and retaining investment, Omar Abdullah said businesses would continue to operate in a destination only as long as it made economic sense for them.

He highlighted the government's efforts to improve the business environment, including the passage of comprehensive Ease of Doing Business legislation during the recent session of the Legislative Assembly, which received the assent of the Lieutenant Governor and has become law.

He said the legislation was intended to make doing business in Jammu and Kashmir easier, adding that its implementation on the ground would be critical. The government, he said, would learn from experience and undertake further improvements wherever required.

Describing the summit as an opportunity for the government to learn from industry leaders and established GCC ecosystems, he said the deliberations would help identify the measures needed to make Jammu and Kashmir a more attractive destination for investors.

He said the government was keen to build sustained engagement with NASSCOM and other industry stakeholders, and invited companies to explore the region's potential.

Pointing to Jammu and Kashmir's climatic conditions and connectivity by road, rail and air, Omar Abdullah said the region had inherent advantages that could be developed into a compelling proposition for businesses considering new locations.

"I am just going to assure all of you that whatever we can do in the government to make your journey easier, to ensure that you're able to establish here easily and also profitably, please rest assured that at the highest levels in the government, we are committed to making your journey easy," he said.

Expressing hope that the summit would mark the beginning of a long-term association between Jammu and Kashmir and the GCC industry, he said emerging technologies could open up opportunities for new destinations, including the Union Territory.

He thanked the participating industry leaders and delegates for their engagement and appreciated IIM Jammu for organising the summit. He expressed hope that the two days of deliberations would translate into tangible outcomes and meaningful investment opportunities on the ground.

The inaugural session was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Secretary, Department of Labour and Employment; Rajesh Nambiar, President, NASSCOM; Rajendra Singh Pawar, Chairman, NIIT; and ProfBSSahay, Director, IIM Jammu, among other representatives from government, industry and academia.

With participation from approximately 45 organisations, over 55 industry leaders and more than 300 delegates, the J&K GCC Summit 2026 seeks to strengthen engagement between policymakers, industry and academia and identify pathways for translating Jammu and Kashmir's potential into investment, innovation, employment and sustainable economic growth.

4 trains cancelled due to congestion in Delhi

Tawi and New Delhi, officials said. The three trains were scheduled to depart from their originating stations at 7.50 pm, 9 pm and 11.25 pm, respectively, while the Rajdhani Express was scheduled to depart at 9.25 pm. None of the four trains will operate on October 9, officials said.

Passengers have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly. Help desks have been set up at major railway stations, and information is being disseminated through public announcement systems, they said.

Passengers can check train status through railway helpline number 139 or the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) app, Raghvender Singh, Public Relations Inspector of the Jammu division, said.

Saxena raises maximum age limit for Nambardars

from 60 to 63 years, enabling experienced community leaders to continue serving in their roles for a longer period.

The decision follows a request made by the President of the All Ladakh Goba Association during an interaction between the LG and Nambardars from different parts of Ladakh on October 3, at Lok Niwas.

The association had sought the removal of the age limit of 60 years, provided the Nambardars remained capable of discharging their responsibilities and continued to enjoy public support.

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Lambardari Rules, 1980, the term of office of a Lambardar is five years or until the age of 60 years, whichever is earlier. Exercising the powers conferred under Section 6 of the Jammu and Kashmir Lambardari Act, 1972, read with Rule 16 of the Jammu and Kashmir Lambardari Rules, 1980, the LG raised the maximum age limit to 63 years, while retaining the prescribed five-year term.

The decision is aimed at ensuring continuity in local administration, preserving institutional and traditional knowledge, and providing greater stability in community-level governance. It will also help address the practical challenges of replacing experienced Nambardars in Ladakh's remote villages and difficult terrain, while ensuring smoother administrative transitions.

"Nambardars are an important link between the administration and the people, particularly in Ladakh's remote and geographically challenging areas. Their experience, knowledge of local traditions, and close connection with their communities are valuable assets. By rationalising the age limit, we seek to ensure continuity in grassroots governance and enable experienced community leaders to continue contributing," Saxena said.

Notably, Nambardars or Gobas play an important role as a bridge between the administration and local communities. Their understanding of local issues, traditions, and public concerns helps strengthen last-mile governance and improve the delivery of government services and welfare schemes.

The decision builds on the LG's earlier initiative to enhance the monthly emoluments of Nambardars from Rs 1,500 to Rs 5,000. The increase recognised their contribution to local administration and strengthened support for those who serve as a vital link between the government and the people.

Jewar Airport to be renamed after PM Modi

ing the state the Noida International Airport at Jewar," he said.

"The cabinet has approved a proposal to name it Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar," the chief minister added.

JNU dismisses prof over sexual harassment allegations

ment based on its findings.

"Upon following the due process and considering all available facts and as per the report of the Internal Committee, the punishment of dismissal from the services of the university is hereby imposed," the order signed by Vice-Chancellor Santishree D Pandit said.

The order cited service rules and Rule 11(ix) of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules while imposing the punishment.

INDIA bloc submits 'vote chori' memorandum to Prez Murmu

and we are preparing that evidence and will submit it." "The President listened to us carefully and said that she would investigate the matter thoroughly, speak to the people concerned and decide on the appropriate next steps. We came away feeling satisfied because, for the first time, she has joined her voice with ours and listened to the voice of the people," Kharage added.

Meanwhile, Banerjee said the INDIA bloc remained

united after the meeting. "We are together, we are very strong, we represent more than 60 pc of people," she said.

Rahul alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had conspired to destroy Indian democracy.

He claimed that the President had neither denied the opposition's allegations nor questioned them, and had asked the delegation to provide evidence of "election chori".

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, NCP(SP)'s Supriya Sule, RJD's Manoj Jha, VCK chief Thol. Thirumavalavan, IUML's ET Mohammed Basheer, CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby and CPI's D Raja were among the other leaders in the delegation that met Murmu.

Prior to the Opposition delegation proceeding to Rashtrapati Bhavan, other INDIA bloc MPs and leaders were stopped at Vijay Chowk by police following their march from Parliament House.

Carrying a large "Save Democracy" banner, the MPs had marched towards Vijay Chowk, where police stopped them and put up barricades.

Earlier, INDIA bloc MPs met in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan to discuss their strategy for continuing the agitation over alleged "vote chori" and pressing for Gyanesh Kumar's removal as Chief Election Commissioner.

Kharage, Gandhi, Congress chief ministers DK Shivakumar of Karnataka and Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu of Himachal Pradesh, as well as other INDIA bloc leaders, attended the meeting. They included Banerjee, Sule, Basheer, Baby, Raja, Samajwadi Party's Rajeev Rai and Mohibullah Nadvi, and Independent MPs Kapil Sibal and Pappu Yadav.

Ahead of the meeting, when asked about security arrangements in Delhi ahead of Saturday's protest, Kharage said, "They are scared. 'Aur jo aadmidarta haivoajnahitoh kal marthahi'."

The opposition campaign intensified after a report said Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections at least 14 times over the previous 10 months, mostly concerning decisions and orders related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Responding to the objections raised by the two commissioners, the Election Commission said differing views and observations were a normal part of deliberations in any institution, adding that all its orders carried full legal sanction and followed established statutory procedures.

Last week, the INDIA bloc finalised a joint action plan on the SIR row, including rallies and "Save Democracy" marches.

On Thursday, INDIA bloc leaders staged a sit-in at Rajghat, alleging that Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Shah and the CEC were "hijacking" the country through a criminal conspiracy involving "vote chori".

Thursday marked the third consecutive day of opposition protests against the CEC and alleged vote theft. The leaders vowed to continue their agitation until Kumar resigned.

NIA files chargesheet in Ktwr terror attack case

alias Saifullah Kashmiri alias Atiq Nazir alias Atiq Ur Rehman.

The chargesheet pertains to the terror attack on February 22, 2026 at Wani Mohalla, Chatroo.

The chargesheet details the conspiracy, the role of the three killed terrorists including Saifullahof Pakistan and commander of proscribed outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), and of arrested accused Maneer Ahmed, along with supporting evidence. It charges Maneer Ahmed with voluntarily harbouring and concealing terrorists involved in attacks on security forces and civilians in hilly district Kishtwar under relevant provisions of UA(P) Act, 1967. NIA has also invoked penal section against the accused terrorists for waging war against India and hatching conspiracy from across the border.

As per NIA, the attack involved three terrorists led by Sai-fulah, affiliated to Kashmiri Tigers (Azrael Group), which acts under the proscribed outfit JeM. Retaliatory fire from security forces had led to the killing of all three.

The group, which was active in upper reaches of Kishtwar, was found to have conducted several attacks that had resulted in killing of security personnel and locals. Maneerwas found to be involved in providing support to the group.

NIA's investigation, spanning almost five months, has traced the conspiracy to Pakistan. Further investigation in the case was continuing, the agency said in a statement.

Modi seeks greater attention to child-centric modules on women safety

He suggested that states could take this model further by organising similar chintanshivirs at the district level and at municipal and metropolitan levels.

Modi also suggested dedicated chintanshivirs for Anganwadi Workers, enabling them to exchange experiences, innovations and practical solutions from the field.

Emphasising the principle of Jan Bhagidari, he said an Anganwadi centre should not function as an isolated institution; it must be a centre of community participation.

He said families living around Anganwadi centres could also be encouraged to contribute on special occasions by sharing nutritious food, toys and locally relevant items for children.

The prime minister also sought deeper engagement of universities and educational institutions with Anganwadi centres.

"Universities could adopt nearby Anganwadi centres and undertake social impact studies, creating opportunities for students to contribute while also generating useful insights for improving service delivery," he said.

Medical students and NSS and NCC volunteers could similarly be associated with Anganwadi centres and community initiatives, he said.

He also called for greater focus on the health, nutrition and overall development of adolescent girls.

Highlighting the close relationship between cleanliness, health and nutrition, he called upon Women and Child Development Departments across the country to take active ownership of the Swachhata Abhiyan.

Modi stressed that good health and nutrition begin with cleanliness, adding that Anganwadi centres and surrounding communities could become important platforms for promoting this behavioural change.

Suggesting that national movements such as Vocal for Local and One District One Product (ODOP) should be promoted for women empowerment, he said women's collectives and community institutions could become important partners in strengthening local products, livelihoods and economic empowerment.

The prime minister emphasised that the Ministry of Women and Child Development and its counterparts in the states are entrusted with responsibilities touching one of the largest and most important segments of society.

The children being nurtured in Anganwadi centres today will become the youth and citizens who build Viksit Bharat, Modi said.

Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi said, "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our focus remains on strengthening Centre-state coordination for women's empowerment, child welfare, nutrition, safety, and holistic development."

Modi later posted on X that it was a great exchange of perspectives and best practices at the summit.

India reiterates commitment to fighting terrorism on global stage

The delegation highlighted India's ongoing contributions to intelligence sharing with UNOCT, curbing the spread of terror in cyberspace, and strengthening the global legal framework.

Concluding the session, the Indian delegation delivered a clear message: lasting peace remains unattainable until cross-border terrorist safe havens are completely dismantled, a release added.

Knowledge must be complimented by skills: Kavinder

has emerged as an important centre of education and research, catering to around 4,000 students," he added.

Gupta said that in an era of rapid technological advancement, artificial intelligence and digital transformation, a degree alone was not enough. He urged students to remain connected to their cultural roots while embracing innovation and new opportunities.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he called upon young people to become active partners in nation-building. He encouraged them to become job creators rather than merely job seekers, promote entrepreneurship and innovation, and use their knowledge and talent for the larger benefit of society.

He emphasised that professional success acquires greater meaning when it contributes to social progress and national development.

The governor said that the convocation marked not the end of education but the beginning of a new journey.

He urged the graduates to uphold the university's reputation, fulfil their parents' aspirations, honour the trust of their teachers and contribute meaningfully to the progress of the nation. He wished all the graduating students a successful, purposeful and fulfilling future.

Earlier, Gurvinder Singh Bahra, Chancellor of Bahra University, welcomed the governor.

ProfRPNanta, Vice-Chancellor, apprised about the various activities and achievements of the university.

Ex-MPavinash Rai Khanna, Solan DC Manmohan Sharmaand other prominent people were also present on the occasion.

100 IPS, JKPS officers transferred, posted

Mohammad Yasin Kichloo, SSP Adm JK4C, is posted as Principal STC Talwara while Sanjay Kumar Kotwal, SSP Railways, Katra, is posted as commandant 18 JKAP, IR. Bisma Qazi is posted as SSP Traffic City, Srinagar, while Sudhanshu Dhamais posted as SSP Kupwara.

Hareesh H P, AIG Welfare PHQ, is posted as Director SSF while Vishnu Kumar is posted as SSP Tech CID HQ.

Arshi Aadil is posted as commandant 1 JKAP Women, Tikam Singh Verma as commandant 16 JKAP IR and Kamal Pal Singh Malhotra as SSP Administration wing JK4C.

K M Priyanka is posted as SSP Traffic National Highway, Vaibhav Meena as SSP Poonch, Neha Jain as SSP Sopore, Anna Sinha as SSP Ramban, Harshal Rajesh Mahajan as SSP Ganderbal, Rajeev Kumar Ambasta as commandant 3 JKAP Security, Deepak Yadav as SP Ops JK4C, Anand Kumar Mishra as SSP ANTF, J&K, Satish Kumar as SSP Railways Jammu, Imtiyaz Hussain Mir as Director, CTC Lethpora, Shailender Singh as Director, Civil Defence and SDRF, Kashmir, and Shoket Hussain as AIG Welfare PHQ.

Wasim Qadri is posted as SSP Security Kashmir, Rohit Baksotra as AIG Personnel HQ, Arun Gupta as SSP SS CID Headquarters, Tahir Saleem Khan as SSP Bandipora, Mohammad Yousaf as SSP Railways Kashmir, Khalil Ahmad Poswal as SSP HQ CID, Girdhari Lal as commandant 8 JKAP, Ramesh Chander Kotwal as SSP Railways Katra, Sukhdev Raj as commandant 12 JKAP and Sanjay Rana as commandant 11 JKAP IR.

Shafket Hussain is posted as commandant 2 JKAP Women, Suram Singh as Dy Director SKPA Udhampur, Raj Singh Gouria as SSP Security VIP (Tech), S D Choudhary as commandant 12 JKAP Security, Sanjay Sharma as commandant 7 JKAP Security, Syed Al Tahir Gilani as SSP PCR Kashmir, Master Popsy as SSP Rural Traffic Jammu, Sajad Ahmad Shah as commandant 17 JKAP IR, Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie as commandant 13 JKAP, Sajad Khaliq Bhat as SSP Handwara, Aijaz Ahmad Zargar as SSP A CID HQ, Farooq Qesor Malik as commandant 22 JKAP IR, Mushim Ahmad as AIG Tech PHQ, Mohammad Anwar-ul-Haq as SO to IG Crime, Zahoor Ahmad Wani as SP PTWS Srinagar, Aiyaz Ahmad Sheikh as SP SCW Kashmir and Vivek Shekhar Sharma as additional SP Bhaderwah.

Irshad Hussain is posted as SSP Awantipore, Iftkhar Talib as SP SIA HQ, Mashkoor Ahmad Zargar as SP South Srinagar, Pradeep Singh as Dy CO 8 JKAP IR, Raj Paul Singh as Dy Director SSG, Gawhar Ahmad Khan as Dy CO 20 JKAP IR, Ashiq Hussain Tak as SP Security Civil Secretariat, Shabir Ahmad Khan as Dy CO 10 JKAP IR, Naseem Ahmad Wani as SP Hazratbal, Syed Yasir Qadri as Vice-Principal CTC Lethpora, Sandeep Bhat as SP HQ Jammu and Sajad Ahmad Sheikh as Dy CO 2 JKAP Border.

Vinod Kumar is posted as Dy Director SKPA Udhampur, Ajay Sharma as Dy CO 2 JKAP Border, Hilal Khaliq Bhat as Dy CO 8 JKAP IR, Fahad Tak as additional SP Baramulla, Shah Umar as additional SP PCR Srinagar, Baljit Singh as SP Borth Jammu, Pardeep Kumar as additional SP Samba, Musadiq Majid Basu as SP East Srinagar, Arvinder Singh Kotwal as SO to DIG JSK range, Mohammad Shafiq as additional SP Kishtwar, Mohammad Shafi Sheikh as Dy CO 4 JKAP IR, Bikram Kumar as Vice-Principal PTTI Vijaypur, Garu Ram as Dy CO 1 JKAP Border, Rameez Rashid Bhat as Dy CO 23 JKAP IR, Shivender Singh Jamwal as additional SP Udhampur, Nikhil Rasgotra as additional SP Nowshera, Mubashir Rasool as SP Enforcement, Tariq Mehmood as Dy CO 2 JKAP Women, Raies Ahmad Mir as Dy CO 9 JKAP IR and Owaise Rashid as Dy CO 6 JKAP IR.

Gh Mustafa Bhat is posted as SP HQ Srinagar, Ab Raqeeb Malik as additional SP CID HQ, Hamid Ali Banday as additional SP Ops Poonch, Abdul Maajid Magray as additional SP Shopian, Mir Burhan-Ul-Haq Kanth as Dy CO 12 JKAP Security, Sajad Sarwer as additional SP CID CI Jammu, Vaseem Mehmood as additional SP Rajouri, Suresh Kumar Sharma as additional SP SB CID Jammu, Nissar Ahmad Darzi as additional SP Ganderbal and Varun Jandial as SP South Jammu.

Victory smiles on those who anticipate changes in character of warfare: IAF Chief

tions marking the IAF's 94th anniversary through a grand ceremony at Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, in his address at Air Force Day, he said conflicts in several parts of the world have shown that air power is the primary means of protecting national interests.

On last year's Operation Sindoor, the air chief marshal said the IAF showed the speed of its combat operations.

He asserted that since its inception in 1932, the IAF has evolved into an exceptional, capable, network-centric, multi-domain force ranked among the finest in the world.

Can't use hammer to kill fly, says SC amid stringent curbs

using a hammer to kill a fly.

CJI Kant said, "Exercise caution in abundance. There is nothing wrong with that.You are responsible for maintaining law and order. But that responsibility is not merely about protecting the State property; it is about protecting people. That is your sovereign duty."

The bench said there are daughters, young children, senior citizens, very elderly people and patients who travel through public transport, and they need to be protected.

"There is absolutely no difficulty with taking appropriate measures. But make sure that everything is not brought to a halt. There cannot be complete prohibition," it said.

At the outset, the bench said it has serious concerns about the orders passed by the authorities with respect to the closure of Metro stations in the national capital and cancellation of trains.

"Our concern is not with respect to any protester or any individual. Our concern is about the hundreds and thousands of commuters who come from Gurugram, Greater Noida, East Delhi and South Delhi to Delhi for their livelihood.