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SC crisis: SCBA seeks full court consideration

» Judge says issue will be resolved «

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Justice Kurian Joseph, one of the four Supreme Court judges who virtually revolted against the chief justice, on Saturday expressed confidence that the issues raised by them would be resolved, while the apex court bar body said the matter should be considered by the full court.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) expressed "grave concern" over the differences of the senior most judges with CJI Dipak Misra.

The SCBA executive committee, which held an emergency meeting, resolved that all public interest litigation (PIL) matters, including the pending PILs, should be either taken up by the CJI or be assigned for adjudication to the four senior judges who were part of the apex court collegium.

Meanwhile, the Bar Council of India (BCI), the apex body of lawyers, formed a seven-member team to meet the judges of the Supreme Court tomorrow to discuss the present crisis in the apex court.

It passed a resolution, saying no political party or leaders should take "undue advantage" of the situation arising out of the press conference by the top court judges.

In an unprecedented move, justices J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, M B Lokur and Kurian Joseph, had launched a public attack against the CJI, listing a litany of problems, including the issue of assigning of cases.

Justice Joseph today said that they acted solely in the interest of the judiciary and justice.

He rejected suggestions that they had violated discipline and expressed the hope that their action will bring more transparency in the administration of the Supreme Court.

"Stood up for justice and judiciary... That is what we said there (in New Delhi) yesterday. Nothing beyond that," Justice Joseph said in Malayalam when local television news channels approached him at his ancestral home in Kalady near Kochi, seeking his reaction on Friday development.

"An issue has come to attention. It will certainly be solved since it has come to the attention," he said.

However, Justice Ranjan Gogoi told PTI in Kolkata, "There is no crisis." He made the remark on the sidelines of a programme, when asked about the way forward to resolve the crisis.

A day after the presser by the four judges, TV visuals today showed prime

minister's Principal Secretary Nripendra Misra turning up at the residence of the CJI.

The visuals showed Nripendra Misra driving to the CJI's official residence here. However, the gates were not opened and after waiting for a while, the principal secretary to the prime minister was seen driving back.

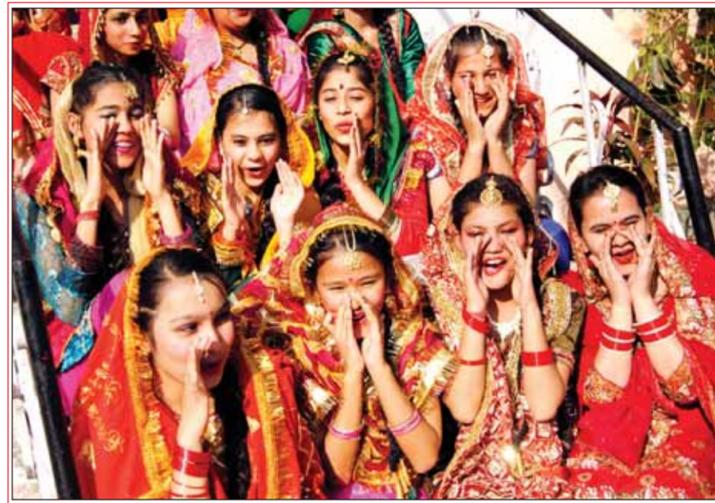
After the visuals were aired, the Congress was quick to criticise the government.

"As PM's Principal Secretary, Nripendra Misra visits CJI's residence at 5, Krishna Menon Marg; PM must answer the reason for sending this special messenger to Chief Justice of India," Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted.

SCBA President and senior advocate Vikas Singh said that a resolution for the full court consideration was passed as it is a mechanism in which deliberations by all the judges of the top court takes place in-house and not in the open.

The SCBA resolution said that matters listed for hearing in the apex court on January 15 "should also be transferred" from other judges to the five seniormost judges who were part of the collegium. The BCI cautioned the political parties

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Girls enjoying Lohri function organised by Sanatan Dharam Sabha at Geeta Bhawan in Jammu.

Jawan martyred in unprovoked firing by Pak

Minor injured after unexploded bomb goes off

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An Army jawan was on Saturday martyred in unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, the Army said.

Pakistan Army troops initiated unprovoked firing on Indian posts from across the border in the Sunderbani sector, prompting the Indian troops guarding the LoC to retaliate strongly and effectively, an Army spokesman said.

Lance Naik Yogesh Muralidhar Bhadane, 22, from Khalane village of Dhule district in Maharashtra, was critically injured in the firing and later succumbed to his injuries. Bhadane is survived by his wife.

The incident comes just days after a BSF head constable was killed after Pakistani forces "sniped" from across the International Border in Samba district.



Lance Naik Yogesh Muralidhar Bhadane

In retaliation, the BSF destroyed two Pakistani mortar positions. It also foiled an infiltration bid by gunning down a Pakistani intruder along the IB near Nikowal Border Out Post (BoP) in Arnia sector.

An army personnel was also killed along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on December 31 last year.

Sepoy Jagsir Singh, 32, was killed when he was shot by Pakistani troops from across the border along the

LoC in Rajouri district on the last day of 2017, the year which recorded the highest number of ceasefire violations in the past decade resulting in the death of 35 people, including 19 Army personnel and four BSF men.

India shares a 3,323-km border with Pakistan, of which 221 km of the IB and 740 km of the LoC fall in Jammu and Kashmir.

On December 23, an Army major and three soldiers were killed along the LoC in Rajouri and in retaliatory action, Indian troops killed three Pakistani soldiers in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir two days later.

Meanwhile, a 12-year-old boy was critically injured by an unexploded bomb that went off near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district this morning, police said.

Mohammad Iqbal (12), a resident of Shahpur, found the bomb in an open

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Two injured as security forces fire on protesters

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Two persons were injured on Saturday when security forces fired on a group of protesters in the outskirts of Srinagar, police said.

"Two persons received bullet injuries when security forces opened firing to disperse a group of protesters in HMT area of the city here," a police official said.

He said a group of youth took to streets and started pelting stones on the security forces in the area where an IED was detected and defused earlier this morning.

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2,133 health institutions in J&K operate from rented accommodation

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Despite making long strides in the health sector, over 2000 health institutions across Jammu and Kashmir are still being managed from rented accommodation.

In Jammu region, maximum number of rented health institutions fall in Doda and Rajouri districts while in Kashmir division Baramulla and Kupwara figure on top of the list of districts with majority of health institutions functioning from rented accommodation.

According to official sources, an amount of Rs 3.20 crore was spent on paying rent in the past two years.

141 health institutions in Rajouri and 135 in Doda district are managed from rented accommodation while highest number of 170 health institutions existed in Baramulla and 154 in Kupwara district.

In twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar, 109 and 90 health institutions are being run from rented accommodation respectively.

In Leh and Kargil a total number of 91 health institutions are working from rented premises.

In remote areas, the state government is facing the challenge of constructing its own health institutions and prefers private buildings on rent.

In Kishtwar, Ramban, Reasi and Udhampur districts, a total number of 90, 65, 84 and 122 health institutions existed respectively.

In 2015-16, a total number of 2,148 health institutions were functioning from rented accommodation while in 2016-17 their number remained 2133.

"We have started minting of

Govt resumes coin production; mints to work at slow pace

AGENCY
KOLKATA: The government has gone back on its decision to halt production of coins entirely and has asked all the four mints in the country to restart production, albeit at a slower pace, industry sources said on Saturday.

The government has directed the state-run Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), which runs the four government mints in Kolkata, Mumbai, Noida and Hyderabad, to work on single shift, instead of the usual two, and keep minting coins of different denominations.

"We have started minting of

coins from yesterday. We have been asked to produce coins of all denominations," said Bijan Dey, vice-president, Calcutta Mint Employees Association.

The official said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had given an indent of 7,712 million coin pieces to the government mints for 2017-18 of which 5,900 million units have already been produced.

The mints are expected to meet the target in the remaining two-and-a-half months of the current fiscal.

The RBI picks up the coins and banknotes from the mints for distribution in

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Pak intruder shot dead in Amritsar sector: BSF

AGENCY
CHANDIGARH: A Pakistani intruder was shot dead by the Border Security Force along the Indo-Pak border in Amritsar sector when he crossed over to the Indian territory, an official said on Saturday.

The Ex-17 battalion of the BSF observed suspicious movement of an intruder at Border Outpost Rear Kakkar about 7:55 pm yesterday.

The troops warned the intruder.

"However, he kept on moving towards the border fence in aggressive posture. The BSF troops then opened fire and killed him," a BSF official said.

"About 600 Pakistani rupee was recovered from the intruder," he said. The body of the intruder, about 30 years of age, was handed

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 19.9°C Min: 05.8°C

Humidity
Max: 80 Min: 59

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 12.7°C Min: -4.6°C

Humidity
Max: 84 Min: 62

Sunset : 17:47 Hours
Sunrise : 07:34 Hours

Israeli PM to arrive in India today; trade, defence on agenda

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will arrive in India on Sunday on a six-day visit during which both the strategic partners will aim to further expand ties on a range of key areas including defence and trade, as per reports.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Netanyahu will hold talks on Monday covering entire expanse of the ties and explore new areas of cooperation to further deepen the "very very special relationship", the external affairs ministry had said on January 11, 2018.

Joint Secretary (West Asia-North Africa division) in the ministry B Bala Bhaskar had said that the Palestinian issue is likely to figure in the talks between the two prime ministers besides other key issues of mutual importance.

India last month had joined 127 other countries to vote in the United Nations General Assembly in favour of a resolution opposing the recent decision of US President Donald Trump to recognise

Jerusalem as Israel's capital. "This is a very very special relationship... We want to take it to a higher level," Bhaskar had said.

Asked whether purchase of Spike anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) from Israel through the government-to-government (G-to-G) route will be discussed during Netanyahu's visit, Bhaskar had refused to give a direct reply.

In November, the defence ministry had decided to retract the process to

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Govt employees working in media houses flouting norms, ethics

MUHAMMAD MUKARAM
SRINAGAR: At a time when government has tightened its noose on five lakh employees by barring them from uploading any 'anti-national posts' on the social networking sites, a large number of employees are having a field day as they continue to work in various newspaper organisations after their duty hours.

A preliminary survey carried out by STATE TIMES revealed that dozens of government employees work as editors and sub-editors after 5 PM and some are reporting by other names in some leading newspapers in Kashmir, despite the fact government knows all these facts.

Kashmir Young Journalist Association President Mohammad Moazum told STATE TIMES that recently, the government has issued the circular that no government employee should update any post on

social networking sites against the government. He questioned, "Why the government is not imposing ban on those employees who are working in several newspapers, which is against the government norms?"

"Service rules already bar the government employees from working in newspapers but these are being violated and the government despite having knowledge of the same is not taking any action. These employees work for meager amount just to maintain influence on the government," Moazum said.

The government employees, who work in media by flouting state employees' rule book, often tend to work on lower remuneration thus, as claimed by many in the fraternity, jeopardise the overall pay scale in the media.

Besides, they also flout media ethics by planting stories from their

respective departments, they work with, to settle their personal scores and have an upper hand against their department colleagues.

However, in several leading newspapers of Kashmir, the employees, who are working as editors or sub-editors are also working in government education and information departments, and some are reporting by other names in different newspapers as district reporters.

A source said that many are working in government departments at prime posts and at the same time they act as senior Sub editors which raise their salary beyond Rs 1.5 lakh.

This lot is getting handsome salaries from both the jobs but have chocked the promotions and vacancies for full time senior reporters and up-coming mass communication and Journalism students from dif-

Army's 'meddling' in state affairs unacceptable: Minister

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday hit back at Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat over his remark that government schools in the state are spreading a "disinformation campaign" which is radicalising the youth, saying the Army's "meddling" in the state's affairs was unacceptable.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, Rawat said each classroom in government schools in Jammu and Kashmir has a separate map of the state besides that of India which sowed the seeds

of thought of some kind of "separate identity" among the children.

"I do not know what the Army chief has said or how he said it, but what I know is that our children are not going towards radicalisa-

tion," Minister for Education Syed Altaf Bukhari told reporters here.

"Everyone has his own domain. Those who have no link to education are talking about it. It is not a fair comment and we do not accept it," Bukhari said.

The minister said the state's students and teachers were "very efficient", and "some have topped the IAS exam".

Bukhari said while the state's education system may have shortcomings, there was no need for sermons about it from the Army.

"Those people who are not

concerned with education tell us whether there should be one map or two maps in the schools.

"This is unacceptable," said Bukhari.

"This is a state subject. I do not think I will take any sermon from anybody. I have a boss, who is the chief minister (Mehbooba Mufti). If she finds any fault in the education system, we will do (address) it. She is the only one from whom we will take sermon," Bukhari said.

He said the Army should rather concentrate on its own job. "Let him (Army chief)

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Cold wave tightens grip in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature in Leh town plummeted several degrees as the cold wave tightened its grip in Kashmir Valley, where the mercury was recorded below the freezing point at all weather monitoring stations.

Leh, in Ladakh region, had experienced an improvement in temperature the previous night when the mercury rose nearly six degrees to settle at a low of minus 7.7 degrees Celsius.

However, the cold wave tightened its grip again and the minimum temperature dropped over seven degrees last night. The town recorded a low of -15.0C, a Met department official said.

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