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J&K Govt seeks...

should be referred to a five-judge constitution bench for examining the larger issue of alleged violation of the doctrine of basic structure of the Constitution.

Several petitions including by political parties like the National Conference and the CPI-M, were also filed in the Supreme Court in support of Article 35A that also empowers the state assembly to define "permanent residents" for bestowing special rights and privileges to them. An NGO, 'Ikkjut Jammu', has also filed a plea seeking quashing of the provision. It has said that Article 35A furthers the "two nation theory which is against the theory of secularism".

The state government, while defending the Article, had cited two verdicts of the constitution benches of the Supreme Court in 1961 and 1969, which had upheld the powers of the President under Article 370(1)(d) of the Constitution to pass constitutional orders.

Pakistan violates ceasefire...

causing panic among the locals, the officials said. They said Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing from light and heavy weapons in Kerni sector at around 8.15 AM.

Indian troops guarding the LoC, retaliated effectively and the cross-border firing between the two sides continued till 3:00 PM, the officials said, adding there was no immediate report of any casualty on this side.

BAJ to suspend...

and President Bar Association, the members resolved to restore the voting rights of the young lawyers who are enrolled as members of the association till the date of issue of Election Notification. The issue of monthly subscription was also discussed thereabout.

The General House streamlined the whole subscription criteria and decided to reduce the monthly subscription, besides, senior members of more than 50 years standing shall be exempted from the monthly subscription fee as a mark of respect to them for their contribution in the field of legal profession. However, the monthly subscription by the Senior Designate Advocates was kept intact as per earlier decision of the General House. The election for the new office bearers shall be held on April 20, 2019 for tenure of one year.

The General House responding to the call of Bar Council of India also discussed the minutes of joint meeting of the Bar Council of India relating to welfare measures for the lawyers and litigants of the country and endorsed all the demands raised by the Bar Council of India which include budgetary allocation of Rs 5,000 crores for lawyers and litigants' welfare in Annual Budget of Union in order to implement insurance cover for the lawyers and their families (dependents), stipend for needy new entrants at the Bar upto 5 years of their practice (Minimum Rs. 10,000 per month), financial protection to lawyers and their dependents in case of untimely death or incapacity by reasons of disease, accident, etc.

"Government should frame scheme to acquire lands at cheaper rates for the Housing of Advocates, (on the pattern of Haryana Government)," the meeting said.

The Bar Council of India also sought that the budgetary fund should be managed by State Bar Councils under the leadership of Advocate General and Chairman of State Bar Council as proposed by the Chairman, Bar Council of India in his letter to Prime Minister and the ratio distributed to different Bar Councils shall be decided by Bar Council of India.

Amendments & necessary changes should be made in the Act so that the functions under this Legal services Authority Act could be discharged by the Lawyers (and not the Judges or Judicial Officers only). All the Acts (which provide for appointments of retired Judges/ Judicial Officers as the Presiding Officers/ Members of different Tribunal also, Commissions or Forums/ Authorities should be properly amended so that competent Advocates (and not only the Judges) could also be appointed on these places," the Council also demanded.

It was unanimously decided to suspend the work, in all Courts including High Court on February 12, 2019, and take out a protest rally from High Court Complex to Governor's House, in support of the resolution adopted by the Bar Council of India, and submit a memorandum to the President of India and Prime Minister of India through the Governor of J&K State.

Association President Sathia said that the establishment of AIIMS at Vijaypur was the result of relentless struggle of lawyers and people of Jammu. He congratulated the people of Jammu province in general and young lawyers in particular for their contribution.

The General House also placed on record its gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who on February 3, 2019, laid the foundation stone of All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Vijaypur and also laid foundation stone of the first-ever University in Ladakh. The General House also thanked J&K Governor, S.P. Malik.

The General House resolved to appeal to all the Bar Associations to take out protest rally tomorrow on February 12, 2019, and submit the Memorandum in support of the demands raised by the Bar Council of India to their respective Deputy Commissioners for its onward transmission to the President of India and Prime Minister of India.

The members who spoke in the meeting were Sunil Sethi, Senior Advocate, A.K. Sawhney, Advocate, Abhinav Sharma, Vikram Sharma, Rajinder Singh Jamwal, Rajesh Thappa, Ranjit Singh Jamwal, Usman Salariya, Deepali Arora and Snigdha Bakshi.

The proceeding of the General House were conducted by Himanshu Sharma Joint Secretary.

Prominent members who were present in the House meeting were Chetan Misri Treasurer, Daljit Singh Manhas (President YLA), C.M. Sharma, Ravinder Sharma, B.R. Chandan, H.C. Jalmeria, D.S. Chouhan, Ajay Sharma, Menu Koul, J.P. Gandhi, S.K. Anand, Nirmal Kotwal, Baldev Singh (Sr), Sarfaraz Rather, Masood Choudhary, Pawan Manni, Sudershan Sharma, Sandeep Singh, Rajesh Kotwal, Pawan Kundal, Rupinder Singh, S.H. Ashrafi, R.K. Durasswal, Monish Chopra, Rohit Bhagat, Mohd Shabbir, Vinod Bakshi, Ajay Abrol, Piyush Gupta, Suresh Chander Sharma, J.P. Nanda, Ashwani Khajuria, Abhishek wazir, Surjit Singh Andotra, Arun Kandror, Deepak Basak, Surinder Kour, Radha Sharma, Rozina Afzal, Seema Sharma, Venu Gupta, Hema Choudhary, Prtima Singh, Deepika Mahajan, Surbhi Gupta, Zahida Parveen, Chetna Manhas, Jashbir Jasrotia, Bhanu Singh Bandral, F.S. Bhat, Irfan Khan, Azhar Khan, Aman Mahajan, Manik Gupta, Arvind Khajuria, Mohinder Singh Palli, Ajay Kotwal, Rakesh Sharma, Ravi Dogra, Birjesh Badyal, Bhamu Jasrotia, Varun Kotwal, Ghara Kumar, Atul Raina, Pardeep Gupta, Kamal Magotra, Arjun Singh Manhas, Rohan Singh, Dharmavir Khajuria, Ajay Kumar Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Sushil Chandel, Amit Sharma, Sahil Anand, Ashesh Kant Sharma, Sushant Samotra,

Pulkit Churango and Manjit Sarkaria.

Restoration work continues ..

be given priority once the clearance operation is completed, official said.

Hundreds of Kashmir-bound passengers, stranded in Jammu, have been regularly holding protests demanding their airlifting to the Valley.

The protesters rued that they are running short of money and are facing immense problems due to lack of proper lodging and boarding facilities.

They have alleged that some hoteliers and shopkeepers are fleeing them, taking undue advantage of the situation. In view of the closure of the highway, the Governor administration has directed for maintaining adequate stock of food grains, LPG, kerosene, petroleum products and other essentials commodities in Kashmir and Jammu divisions, especially in snow-bound areas.

Klurshid Ahmad Ganai, Advisor to the Governor, has directed for review of the stock and supply position for both divisions and ensuring adequate availability of essential commodities in snow-bound and remote and inaccessible areas. Meanwhile, the MeT department has predicted another spell of snowfall and rains across the state from Tuesday evening with major spell on February 13 and 14. A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect the state from Tuesday evening to Friday noon. The disturbance will move from north west to south east and again the Pirpanjal range from Gulmarg to Bhaderwah which will witness moderate to heavy rain or snow, especially on February 13 and 14, the weatherman said.

Panel set up...

findings to the principal secretary of the Industries and Commerce Department by March 1," it said.

Lobby groups of traders and industrialists have locked horns over the demand for removal of toll tax at Lakhampur, which generates a revenue of over Rs 1,000 crore annually.

While the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) has threatened to start an agitation if the governor's administration failed to implement 'one nation one tax' by abolishing the toll plaza, the Federation of Industries Jammu (FOIJ) and the Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has said such a move would be a death knell for the local industry and demanded its continuation.

Pro-Pak slogans...

passengers shortly after they were directed by the district authorities to report at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas for registration to avail air travel services organised by the State government to clear the rush of stranded passengers.

The passengers were putting up in a hostel located adjacent to the boundary wall of the GGM Science College.

Since the district authorities had put a rider to first give priority to students, sick and senior citizens staying away from their homes, the stranded passengers objected to the 'diktat'. They raised anti-India slogans while demanding airlift from Jammu at the earliest.

No official authority, till late evening, had confirmed whether anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans were raised by the stranded passengers till late evening, claiming it is a subject matter of investigation which is currently on.

Meanwhile, on hearing anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans large number of GGM Science College students boycotted their classes and staged peaceful demonstration near the exit gate of the college but within the premises.

As both the groups came on to the streets around the same time, the police was directed to open mild cane charge on college students to prevent possible clash between the slogan shouting protesters from both the sides. DIG Jammu-Kathua Dr Vivek Gupta, SSP Jammu Tejinder Singh, SHO Nowabad Neeraj Bhagat also reached to the spot but the protesting students raised their voice over the slogans raised.

After the policemen, accused of beating GGM Science College students, entered the college premises several other students received injuries as chaos prevailed in the area for some time. Some of the college girls and other students also bore the brunt of lathi-charge and again staged protest demonstrations demanding action against the policemen for targeting them and sparing those who were shouting pro-Pakistan and anti-India slogans. Vice President of the JJSF unit of GGM Science College Atul Sudan claimed the students boycotted classes to register their protest against raising anti-India slogans by the stranded passengers and some students from the same region.

Sudan warned that if the policemen behind lathi-charge were not punished immediately students from other colleges would also join to intensify their stir in support of their demands.

Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu Tejinder Singh and DIG Jammu-Kathua range also visited the GGM Science College and hoisted the Tricolour in the college premises to cool down their tempers.

Police later filed two separate cases into the incident under FIR numbers 14/2019 under sections 147, 148, 336, 427, 124, 341 (against those who raised anti-national slogans and indulged in violence) and FIR 15 /2019 under section 336 (scuffle between the students and the Kashmiris which led to disturbance). "We have taken cognizance and those raising anti-national slogans are being segregated," said a senior police officer.

Farooq calls Dr...

complain to the Centre that why are the terror camps in PoK not bombed? We all know what he is saying now when he is not in power," Singh had added.

An angry Farooq Abdullah responded to the minister's remarks by saying that it was not him but people like Dr Jitendra who were "Pakistani". "Aise Log Hain Pakistani, Ye Jitendra Singh Jaise, Farooq Abdullah Nahi Hai. Such people have come to power by lying," he said. "Tell me when did I say we are not Indians?" He asked.

Govt releases funds ...

during the current financial year 2018-19," reads the order issued by Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal Secretary, Finance Department.

Meanwhile, according to another order, the government ordered re-appropriation of savings amounting to Rs 179.46 lakh under Capex Budget 2018-19 in favour of District Development Commissioner (DDC), Jammu towards execution/clearing of work done liabilities of the works during the current financial year 2018-19. "Sanction is hereby accorded to the re-appropriation of Savings amounting to Rs 179.46 lakh available under District Capex Budget 2018-19 (Urban Development Sector/Rural Development Sector) under various works in favour of DDC, Jammu towards execution/clearing of work done liabilities of the works during the current financial year 2018-19," the order stated.

NTPC to curtail ...

NTPC notice said the power would be regulated from 00:00 hours of February 19.

It said: "In case of outstanding dues or in case the required letter of credit or any other agreed payment security mechanism is not maintained as per the agreement, the generating company may serve a notice for regulation of power supply on the defaulting entity, for reducing the drawl schedule."

Guv dismisses criticism...

the security forces. Objecting to his remarks, the PDP and the National Conference had accused the governor of "taking sides brazenly" and "unnecessary interference in politics" respectively.

"Is the Governor's House only meant for playing golf all the time? The Governor's House is the representative of the President and there is President's government in New Delhi I represent that government and I have to put forth its viewpoint," Malik told reporters on the sidelines of a function in Reasi district's Katra township on Saturday.

"If you abuse the (central) government on a daily basis, somebody has to reply. I am doing only that. I am not only the governor but the chief minister as well," he said. On February 5, Mufti had demanded that the governor and the Army chief to take action against one Major Shukla, who allegedly tortured a Pulwama resident, Tauseef Wani, at the Shadimarg camp of the force and threatened to kill him in an encounter.

Malik responded the next day, saying he would not allow such statements to demoralise the security forces. He alleged the PDP chief's demand was aimed at gaining public support ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections.

Committee of secretaries ...

memorandum to the deputy commissioner to press for their demand.

Malik replied in negative when asked whether his administration plans to give divisional status to any other region of the State.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference are advocating similar status to Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley region.

"It (divisional status) was imperative for both the districts of Leh and Kargil let those talking about it come to power and do so," the Governor said.

The Kargil residents including their leaders affiliated with different political parties assembled at Karbala complex in the high-security Wazarat Road here on Monday morning and took out a rally which ended peacefully at the Press Club, Jammu, after passing through the Residency Road.

Prominent among those who took part in the rally included Legislative Council Chairman Haji Anayat Ali, Chief Executive Councilor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, Feroz Khan, former ministers Qamar Ali Akhoun, Asgar Karbalai, Nissar Ali, former MP Hassan Khan.

The leaders also addressed the gathering at the Press Club, vowing to continue the "united struggle" till the "genuine demands" of the people of Kargil are not met.

Meanwhile, the town of Kargil and adjoining areas observed a shutdown on Monday to protest against the decision of the government to set up the permanent headquarters of the newly-created Ladakh division in Leh. "Shops and business establishments are closed, while roads are deserted due to the shutdown called by local leaders in Kargil," officials said. The government decision to create Ladakh division has led to resentment from other regions of the state like Pir Panjal and the Chenab valley, where leaders have threatened to launch an agitation if similar administrative units for their regions were not created.

The National Conference has already made it an election issue, with its leader Omar Abdullah promising to create new divisions for Pir Panjal and Chenab valley if his party is voted to power in the assembly elections likely to be held later this year.

3 SHOs, 4 IC/PPs ...

District Police Samba as IC/PP Supwal, S-I Karnail Singh from Police Post Rajpura to Bari Brahmana Police Station as IO, S-I Ashish Sagar from Bari Brahmana to Samba Police Station as IO. Vikram Singh from District Police Lines to Vijaypur Police Station as IO and Sg/CTG Jasswant Singh from District Police Lines to the office of DySP headquarters as reader.

Absconder nabbed

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: An absconder who was evading arrest in an attempt to murder case was on Monday arrested by Bhadarwah Police. As per the details, Mohd Sakib, resident of Drana Bala, who was evading arrest since 2015 in an attempt to murder case was nabbed by Bhadarwah Police.

Man attacked, cash snatched

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A man was attacked and cash was snatched from him in Nagrota area on Monday.

As per the details, Pardeep Kumar, resident of Kanna Chagwan lodged a complaint with police that four persons stopped his car and attacked him. "They also took cash worth Rs 8,000, mobile phone and chequebook from me" he told police. He also disclosed identity of one person namely Bittu. Police has registered a case and launched investigation.

Mob attacks anti-encroachment team, cops, JDA employees injured

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A number of policemen and JDA officials suffered injuries when an enraged mob attacked them with stones during an anti-encroachment drive at city outskirts on Monday morning. As per reports, continuing with its endeavour to free JDA land from encroachments, an anti-encroachment team of JDA, along with police, visited Sidhra area in wee hours. As the team started its activity, a group of encroachers started pelting stones on its members causing serious injuries. Taking serious note of the arising situation, wherein a number of employees and policemen were injured, the team decided to step back.

Later, a complaint was submitted to police by Tehsildar, Vijay Kumar on behalf of JDA against encroachers for disrupting government's action and attacking government employees on duty. Police has registered a complaint in this regard and started investigation for nabbing the culprits. Earlier also, a number of officials leading anti-encroachment drives were attacked by mobs causing grave injuries to employees and security forces in Jammu, where a large chunk of Government land has been illegally occupied by encroachers and land-mafia.

PC announces candidates for Baramulla, Srinagar LS seats

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference led by separatist-turned-politician Sajad Gani Lone on Monday announced it will field a former PDP leader and a businessman on two Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party's central election committee finalised the names of Raja Aijaz Ali for Baramulla Lok Sabha seat and Irfan Reza Ansari for Srinagar seat, a spokesperson of the Peoples Conference said.

The state sends six mem-

bers to the Lok Sabha. Raja Aijaz Ali, a former IGP, recently quit the PDP and joined the Peoples Conference. He unsuccessfully contested the 2014 assembly polls on a PDP ticket.

Irfan Reza Ansari, a businessman, is younger brother of former PDP leader Imran Reza Ansari.

The brothers had joined the Peoples Conference soon after Governor Satya Pal Malik dissolved the state assembly in November last year. Peoples Conference will

be a breath of fresh air in comparison with the status-quo politics of National Conference and the PDP, the spokesperson said.

"We will serve the people with earnest dedication so as to realise the potential of Kashmiri dreams and work hard towards real empowerment of the masses, especially economic empowerment.

"It is our commitment to improve opportunities for youth and reverse decades of anti-youth policies adopted by successive NC-PDP governments," he added.

IMFA pays tributes to Pt Vidya Rattan Aasi

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), University of Jammu on Monday paid tributes to legendary poet of the soil, Pt Vidya Rattan Aasi at its premises, who took his last breath in SMGS Hospital due to cardiac arrest.

Whole staff and students observed two minutes silence for the pious departed soul and prayed for him heavenly abode with tears in their eyes with deep reverence.

Born and brought up in Jammu, Pt Vidya ji relentlessly yet vigorously wrote and enlightened poetry as recluse, with tone of dissent for materialistic yet synthetic apparent world for the last more than 66 years. He studied for two years in Cheryaee, District Udhampur from 4th to 6th standard and proved his mettle as mas-



ter of Urdu not under the tutelage of any educationist, but on his own.

Prof Satnam Kour, Principal IMFA termed Aasi as a glowing star adorning the literary firmament passed away, leaving behind a galaxy of stars studded poetry.

"To her poetic creations of Urdu were two-lined couplet and he was master in striking maximum expressions out of minimum words, having precision and rare depth of immense nature.

He was not only a gem of our state but his work was liked and appreciated in whole of the Urdu speaking world. Such a void has been created because of his death in the field of literature especially in sublime poetry that will take centuries to fill," she added.

Art exhibition culminates at Kala Kendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An art exhibition of paintings, photography and installations titled 'Reality of Life and Strokes' by Vijay Singh culminated on Friday at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

A total of 52 art works in acrylies, photography and mixed media were displayed in the show. Through his art pieces, Vijay Singh has tried to depict human emotions by symbolic expressions. He has also curated a sculpture without any fixed style and boundaries.

Vijay Singh started practicing art under the guidance of Bhushan Kesar, a senior artist of Kesar Art Circle, Jammu, who inspired Vijay to join art course at Institute of Music & Fine Arts (IMFA), Jammu. After completing Bachelor's Degree in Painting from IMFA, Vijay participated in a number of competitions and won awards.

A large number of artists, art-students and art-lovers were present during the culmination function.

PDP MP seeks return of mortal remains of Afzal Guru, Maqbool Bhat

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: PDP leader and Rajya Sabha member Mohammad Fayaz Mir on Monday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to consider returning the mortal remains of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru and JKLF founder Mohammad Maqbool Bhat to their respective families.

Mir made the appeal in a letter to the prime minister, saying he was sure that the alienation of Kashmiris would come down by several notches if the Centre decided to return the mortal remains of Guru and Bhat.

"How can dead bodies of two Kashmiri men, who lost their dignity in gallows, be a threat to a democracy like India? Is the collective conscience of India sans the collective conscience of Kashmiris.

"I can with utmost responsibility say that should the Government of India decide to act upon this request, the

animosity of Kashmiris and their sense of alienation can be brought down by several notches," the PDP parliamentarian wrote in the letter.

Mir said there was nothing disrespectful in seeking the return of mortal remains of Guru and Bhat as in the past killers of elected prime minister were spared the gallows by commuting their death sentence.

"In a country, where killers of an elected Prime Minister were granted clemency and their death sentence was commuted, I do not think it is appalling or disrespectful to seek return of mortal remains of two Kashmiri men to their families," he said.

Afzal Guru was hanged on 9 February 2013 and buried inside Tihar Jail following his conviction in the Parliament attack case. Bhat was also hanged and buried inside Tihar Jail on 11 February 1984 for killing of an intelligence officer.

Kavinder, Randhawa start development works

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta along with MLC Ch Vikram Randhawa started various works in Ward 20 and Ward 48 in Gandhi Nagar Constituency.

Councillor from Ward 20 Rahul Kumar, Vinay Gupta, Ankush Gupta, Pitamber Sharma, Rajesh Khullar, Vijay Verma, Rachit Khosla, Sandeep Gupta, Arun, Rohin Chandran, Vijay Choudhary, Kapil Khurana and officials from Floriculture Department were also present.

Kavinder said that the work on the walking path have been started in the Green Belt Park for the morning walkers which was long pending demand of the residents of the adjoining areas. He said the Modi government wants to discourage open defecation and arrangements are being



BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta along with MLC Ch Vikram Randhawa after starting development works.

made to promote hygienic toilets in the area. He said after competition of the work of the path the park shall be having all the facilities for the welfare of the residents of the area.

Later, Kavinder along Randhawa started work on much awaited WSS which shall supply the required water supply to Old Sheikh Nagar and adjoining areas of Ward 48. Among others who were present include Councillor Sharda Kumari,

Major Dogra of Jammu dies in avalanche in Sikkim

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Major Nishant Dogra of the Indian Army was killed in a sudden snow slide at Yongdi in North Sikkim.

Major Dogra was with his battalion at a high-altitude posting. He was inside his make-shift accommodation when the snow slide carried away the entire accommodation on February 9.

The Major, who is from an armoured unit, was found very seriously injured under mounds of snow late that night. Weather conditions prevented an immediate evacuation.

He died on Sunday. Army authorities in Delhi have confirmed the death. The Major's family originally hails from Jammu, and is now in Delhi.

Combing operation underway in Uri sector after suspicious activity near Army camp

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A massive combing operation was launched by security forces in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir after an Army camp sentry noted suspicious movement and opened fire, police said on Monday.

A police official said that during Sunday night, a sentry of the Army artillery unit in Rajervani, Uri fired few rounds after observing suspicious movement.

The official said the area was sealed and search operations were going on to rule out any act of sabotage.

"So far, we have not been able to find any terrorist in the area. Since the terrain is rocky with large boulders, the sanitation exercise will take some time," the official added.