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Cabinet passes resolution...

placed before the Council of Ministers which the Council decided shall be further considered and discussed.

The Council also made recommendation to the LG for appointment of Mubarak Gul as Pro-tem Speaker who will administer oath to the elected members of the Legislative Assembly on 21st October 2024.

Meanwhile, Lientenant Governor subsequently has issued the order of appointing Mubarak Gul as Pro-tem Speaker till the election of the Speaker is held.

NC emerged stronger...

Article 370 in August 2019.

"Attempts were made not just to weaken but completely erase the party over the past eight to 10 years. Which schemes have not been used against us? Our colleagues were threatened or lured but most of them stood with the party and thwarted the conspiracies," Abdullah said while addressing party workers at the NC headquarters here.

On his first visit to Jammu after taking oath as the chief minister on Wednesday, Abdullah was accorded a rousing reception by party leaders and workers who raised slogans praising him and the NC.

Without identifying the 'conspirators' but apparently referring to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Abdullah said the NC leadership fought against these powers and barring a couple of leaders, nobody left the party.

"Those who left thought that National Conference would be finished by their decision to quit the party. But it has been proved that NC is a party of workers, not leaders," the Chief Minister said, referring to former NC Provincial President Devender Singh Rana and ex-minister S S Slatia who joined the BJP in October 2021.

Stating that the party derives its strength first from the almighty and then from its workers, Abdullah said, "Our very strong cadre base has weathered the storm."

Thanking the voters and the party workers for NC's triumph in the Assembly polls, the Chief Minister said five of the seven Independent MLAs extended their support to NC without setting any precondition.

"Not a single Independent MLA asked anything for themselves. As everyone waited patiently for this day, we have to now ensure that all the Assembly segments are developed equally and people's issues are addressed to their satisfaction," he said.

Claiming that decisions related to developmental projects will not be made without taking the people into confidence, Abdullah said, "The link with people should not be lost. It is our duty to bridge the gap between the government and the public."

The Chief Minister also announced that he will hold meetings with the party cadres on the sidelines of government functions to get their feedback, rather than depending solely on government officials.

Stating that he was tired of doing continuous politics because of the back-to-back Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, Abdullah said he now wants to concentrate more on addressing the issues facing the people of J-K.

Referring to some of his colleagues telling him that there was something good about his loss in the Lok Sabha polls, Abdullah said, "I was thinking what can be good in a defeat... But after becoming the chief minister, I am getting a lot of messages from people who never tried to inquire about my wellbeing in the past five years."

The chief minister also assured media persons that his government will not interfere in their functioning, saying democracy is incomplete without an independent press.

"My government will ensure that no injustice is done with the media persons. They are free to criticise any shortcoming in my government," he said.

"Want to see..."

election results were out, some people started spreading rumours that Jammu will be punished because they have not voted NC-Congress coalition candidates. But I made it clear on day one that this government will be for all, irrespective of whether anyone had voted for it or not," Abdullah said amid thunderous applause from the jam-packed gathering.

He said the NC was under no compulsion to appoint a Deputy Chief Minister like the previous coalition governments headed by Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Ghulam Nabi Azad and himself to give representation to both the regions.

"The Congress has so far not taken any decision to join the new cabinet. We took a decision and appointed a Deputy Chief Minister (Surinder Choudhary) from our own party.

"It was an answer to those who during election campaigning used to say that NC is a party of Muslims and a Kashmiri-based dynastic party that cannot tolerate leaders from Jammu. Now we have a deputy CM who is a Hindu and has nothing to do with my family," the chief minister said.

Without naming the BJP, he said the delimitation and reservation were done in a way to benefit one party but "all tactics including use of government machinery can never help you win elections".

"Easy work is done by reaching here (forming the government). Now the difficult work starts as we have to fulfil the aspirations of the people, pull them out of their difficulties and bridge the gap between the government and the people," he said.

Referring to the welcome speech of senior party leader and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadotra, Abdullah said he was compelled to ask why the anger of the people against the Lt Governor-led administration could not be seen on the polling booths.

"The people of Kashmir, Chenab valley and Pir Panjal region showed their anger by voting for us... We also heard that the people in Jammu are angry over stopping of 'Darbar Move', installation of smart meters, high electricity bills, water shortage and growing unemployment but the anger could not be seen at the polling booths. What is the reason for this?

"We have to understand it and if they are not upset (with BJP), we don't need to do much because everything is alright for them. But if they are angry and despite their anger, they voted for one side, we have to look for the reasons," he said.

However, the chief minister said whatever the reasons, he knows that his government will not run on the voting pattern.

"Elections are over and the people gave their mandate. The government is formed and now it is our turn to reach out to the people and address their issues... After 2018 (when the PDP-BJP government collapsed), people faced a lot of problems and are disappointed," he said.

Abdullah assured the people that they would be heard by his government and "your voices won't be lost in the darkness anymore".

He asked the party workers not to "misuse the government" for their own benefit.

"This is not for us as we are servants and not the owners. The real owners are the people and we have to work for them 24 hours to mitigate their problems and bring back smiles on their faces which we could not see for the last six to eight years," Abdullah said.

The chief minister also asked the party workers not to lose their heart and said JK is presently a UT and which cannot be such for long.

"We will get back our rights. We will fight for all that which was taken away from us and there is no need to get annoyed or disappointed," he said.

Arms Licences Scam...

(PIL No. 09/2012) titled Sheikh Mohd Shafi & Anr. V/s U.O.I & Ors. further directed that perusal of the previous orders passed by this Court would show that Sr. AAG S.S. Nanda has not done the needful in terms of order dated August 13th, 2024 and it is made clear that if the above directions are not complied with by the next date of hearing, appropriate orders would be passed against erring respondents.

The Division Bench further observed that Notices issued to newly impleaded respondents i.e. CBI through its Director and CBI through its Head of Branch, Special Crime Branch, Sector 30-A, Chandigarh have not been received back served or unserved and the Division Bench in the interest of Justice awaited their appearance.

The Division Bench headed by the Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan also directed DoP'T, Government of India to submit before the Court the outcome of the clarification sought from Ministry of Home Affairs in terms of its letter No. 107/22/2023-ADV/L/CII dated 08-08-2024 before the next date of hearing.

Needless to mention herein that the Division Bench vide its order dated September 5th, 2024 impleaded CBI through its Director and Superintendent of Police/Head of Branch, CBI, Chandigarh as party respondents in the PIL and the CBI on October 15th, 2024 filed comprehensive Status Report in the infamous Arms Licences Scam and in its Status Report divulged that it has sought Prosecution Sanction against ten IAS Officers who from 2012 to 2016 were discharging their duties in several Districts of J&K as District Magistrates. The CBI has further revealed in its Status Report that around 2.74 lakhs Gun Licences were issued by the District Magistrates in contravention of the Arms Act and the rules made thereunder by abusing their official positions for monetary considerations. The CBI has revealed that around 13 Charge Sheets have been filed in J&K against JKAS officers, Gun Dealers and middle-men, however, Charge Sheets could not be filed against IAS Officers for want of Prosecution Sanction.

Looking into the importance of the matter, the Division Bench directed the Registry to re-notify the instant PIL on November 19th, 2024 and also directed the respondents to file response to CM No. 2618/2024 filed by Advocate Ahtsham H. Bhat. Advocate Sumant Sudan also appeared in the matter.

Two terrorists behind...

November 15 last year; Gurdwara Mahant Sahib in Poonch on March 26; Army sen-

try post in Kamsar, Poonch in June; and a school ground near CRPF sentry post on August 14.

Hussain had lobbed a grenade near district hospital quarters on July 18, police said.

The two terrorists also pasted anti-national posters at different locations in Surankote, including government high school in Hari, Dhundak, Sanai, Eidgah-Hari and other adjoining areas. These posters were printed at Hussain's house and pasted in August last year on the directions of their handler to create fear among the public, police said.

On September 12, another member of this module, Mohd Shabir, a resident of Daryala, was arrested with a large quantity of explosives. Aziz had supplied the explosives to him, they said.

ADGP Jain said the operations against terrorists, including foreign mercenaries, will continue.

"We are also working to destroy the support base of the terrorists and will ensure attachment of properties of the upper ground workers," he said.

Jain lauded the security forces for ensuring the peaceful conduct of the Budha Amarnath Yatra and Lok Sabha and assembly elections.

LG administers Oath...

Pro tem speaker of Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul, on Saturday visited the Legislative Complex to oversee arrangements for the oath ceremony to be administered to the newly elected members on Monday.

During his visit to the complex, pro tem Speaker took round of the Assembly Hall, Meeting Halls, as well as the chambers designated for the Chief Minister, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and others. He also reviewed functionality of the sound system, internet connectivity, lights and other amenities necessary for smooth functioning of the complex.

He expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and impressed upon the staff to work hard and make serious efforts regarding smooth working of business of the house.

Earlier, Mubarak Gul held an introductory meet with the officers there.

He said that all arrangements should be made in a proper manner for the oath ceremony so that the process runs in a smooth and efficient manner. He said that every official should play his role in a responsible and professional manner. He also enquired about the proper seating arrangements, parking facilities for the MLA's and plug any loopholes wherever required.

Underscoring the importance of the legislature as a forum for serious debates and discussions, Mubarak Gul opined that we all have to work collectively towards peace, progress and prosperity of the people.

It is pertinent to mention that Mubarak Gul won Eidgah assembly seat in Srinagar for the sixth time and was appointed pro tem Speaker of the legislative assembly on Friday.

Need to stay...

the officers to have a firm grasp of geopolitics, international relations and the complexities of global security alliances as the decisions made by them can have "far-reaching consequences that extend beyond the battlefield" and into the realm of diplomacy, economics and international law.

He called upon them to think critically, adapt to unforeseen circumstances and leverage latest technological advancements to gain a "strategic advantage in today's ever-evolving geopolitical landscape," the defence ministry said in a statement.

Singh underlined the need to stay prepared to tackle "the possibility of adversaries weaponising" the tools and technologies used by people on a daily basis.

"The mere thought that our adversaries exploiting the tools serves as a reminder of the urgency with which we must prepare for these threats. Institutions like the NDC must evolve their course curriculum to not only incorporate case studies on such unconventional warfare but also to drive strategic innovation," he said.

The ability to "anticipate, adapt and respond will define our readiness" in the face of ever-evolving challenges, the defence minister said.

Warfare, today, has "surpassed the traditional battlefields" and now operates in a multi-domain environment where cyber, space and information warfare are as "critical" as conventional operations, he underlined.

"Cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns and economic warfare have become tools that can destabilise a whole nation without a single shot being fired. There is a need for military leaders to possess the ability to analyse complex problems and devise innovative solutions," he said.

In his address at an event on Friday, Singh had said technology has "transformed" the conventional warfare into an unconventional warfare, and adoption of "unconventional ideas", not yet known to the world, is the only way to progress while navigating this change.

At the MPhil convocation ceremony of the 62nd NDC course (2022 batch), he described the rapid technological advancements in today's times as the "most crucial force" which drives the evolution of a future-ready military.

Singh exhorted the defence officers to carry out in-depth analysis on how best to leverage niche technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), which have the potential to revolutionise military operations.

He also stressed on the need to decide on the "threshold level of the decisions AI is allowed to take", highlighting the importance of human intervention, the statement said.

Increasing reliance on AI in decision-making processes can raise concerns about accountability and the "potential for unintended consequences", he said.

On the aspect of ethical dilemma faced by military leaders about the extent to which machines should make "life-and-death decisions", Singh said academic learning in ethics, philosophy and military history will provide officers with the tools to handle sensitive subjects and make sound decisions.

He highlighted the critical role played by defence academic institutions, such as the NDC, in instilling the "moral framework" in future leaders to deal with the challenges of present-day warfare.

Singh also spoke of the government's resolve of developing a technologically-advanced and agile military, capable of responding to emerging threats and safeguarding national security.

He said while efforts are being made to ensure that the armed forces remain future-ready and resilient, defence institutions like the NDC play a pivotal role in shaping the perspectives of military leaders and equipping them with the expertise necessary to handle the complexities of modern-day warfare.

The minister said the curriculum of academic institutions must "remain dynamic and adaptable" to ensure its relevance to practitioners in the field.

Defence Secretary-designate R K Singh, Commandant NDC, Air Marshal Hardeep Bains, Registrar, University of Madras, Professor S Elumalai, various senior officers of the Ministry of Defence and faculty members of the NDC were present on the occasion.

MLA Shagun Parihar...

extended his best wishes. He expressed that Shagun is like a younger sister to him and he feels proud that she is actively involved in serving society.

Additionally, Chugh presented her with his book, 'Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity,' which offers a detailed analysis of Prime Minister Modi's ten years in governance.

Over 2,000 athletes...

handicrafts, cuisine, to the world. These runners have millions of followers on their social media, so, they will be our brand ambassadors," he said.

Farooq said the marathon will have a good representation from Kashmir also.

The event will be flagged off at 6.15 am on Sunday by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

This will inspire the youth and in the next 5-10 years, there will be full marathon runners from here, he added.

CJ visits Kupwara...

new Court Complex Kupwara which is being constructed by JK Housing board with a project cost of Rs.12.50 crore. He directed the executing agency to speed up the pace of work so that the project is completed at an earliest.

Earlier, the Chief Justice participated in a plantation drive at District Court complex Kupwara and planted Chinara and Deodar saplings as part of environmental conservation efforts to highlight commitment towards environment sustainability, afforestation and combating climate change.

LG, CM condemns...

"I have directed the Jammu Kashmir Police & District Administration to extend all the support," he added.

The body of the labourer was found in a field in the Wachi area of Zainapora in the south Kashmir district on Friday. It bore two bullet marks.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and political parties in the valley have also condemned the killing.

"Very sorry to hear about the death of Ashok Chouhan at the hands of militants in South Kashmir. These attacks are abhorrent & must be condemned in the strongest possible terms. I send my condolences to the family & loved ones of the deceased," Abdullah said on X.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq

Hameed Karra condemned the killing, terming it as most unfortunate and shocking.

"I am disappointed and equally pained to learn about the killing of Ashok Chouhan by the unidentified gunmen in South Kashmir. Killings in any form are highly condemnable and unacceptable. Such incidents must be stopped in the larger interest of peace and safety of common people," the JKPCC chief said.

Karra expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for their courage to bear the irreparable loss.

The BJP's Kashmir unit strongly condemned the "heinous and cowardly act of terrorism", saying the killing of an innocent man who was earning his livelihood reflects the desperation of terrorists to create fear and disrupt peace in the valley.

The party's Kashmir Media Incharge, Sajid Yousuf Shah expressed deep sorrow and outrage over this brutal incident.

"The cold-blooded murder of Ashok Chauhan is a reprehensible act of cowardice that seeks to destabilize the harmony in J-K. We stand united with the family of the victim during this tragic time. These terrorists will not succeed in their sinister designs," Shah said.

He reiterated the BJP's unwavering commitment to restoring peace and normalcy in Kashmir, saying such acts will only strengthen our resolve to root out terrorism from our land.

The security forces will ensure that the perpetrators of this ghastly crime are brought to justice, he added.

Justice Tashi hands over compensation

cheques in MACT cases

374 MACT and Matrimonial cases resolved amicably in Special Lok Adalat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing with the resolve to provide quick, affordable and hassle free resolution of disputes as mandated under Constitution of India, J&K Legal Services Authority on Saturday organised a Special Lok Adalat throughout the UT of J&K under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and dynamic mentorship of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority) as well as under the guidance of Justice



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan handing over cheque to a beneficiary during Lok Adalat.

Rajesh Oswal, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, with special emphasis on amicable settlement of MACT and Matrimonial Cases that were pending disposal before various courts in UT of J&K.

Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan during his visit to a remote district, Kupwara also inspected the ongoing proceedings of amicable settlement during the Special Lok Adalat and interacted with the litigants besides, handing over cheques of settlement amount to the beneficiaries in claim cases that weresuccessfully resolved during the Lok Adalat.

Chief Justice Tashi emphasized the importance of such initiatives to provide quick and cost-effective justice, particularly in cases like motor accident claims and matrimonial disputes in which the claimants need relief as early as possible to save them from vagaries of life. He reiterated his commitment in ensuring that justice remains accessible to all the sections of society, especially those living in far flung areas through the mechanism of Lok Adalat, which facilitates dispute resolution outside the traditional court processes.

In another program, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Administrative Judge for District Anantnag, inaugurated the Special Lok Adalat at District Court Complex, Anantnag and also handed over cheques of the settlement amount to the beneficiaries in MACT cases. Justice Koul said that Lok Adalat is an efficient mode not only in reducing the pendency of cases but also providing a medium for extending immediate relief to the litigants and beneficiaries especially in accident and family related disputes. He further remarked that quick and timely resolution of a dispute is crucial for economic development of a nation.

As per the data received from various District Legal Services Authorities, UT of J&K, a total of 892cases were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which374 cases were amicably settled involving a total amount of Rs. 8,38,36,218/- giving a huge relief to the litigants.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority while talking to media persons informed that the next special lok Adalat shall be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024 focusing on the settlement of Revenue cases. He urged the Advocates in general and the litigants in particular to take maximum benefit of such Special Lok Adalats which are being organized by the J&K Legal Services Authority.

Appreciating the efforts of all the Judicial Officers, Secretaries DLSA's, Advocates, staff of the district and tehsil courts as well as Legal Services Institutions besides litigants for their whole hearted participation in the Special Lok Adalat and facilitating settlement of cases in such a large number, he also acknowledged the role of Para Legal Volunteers and the media, both print and electronic in creating and spreading awareness amongst the masses about such initiatives of Legal Services Authority.

Man dies after falling from train in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man, aged around 30 years, died after he fell off a running train here, a Government Railway Police (GRP) officer said on Saturday.

The body of the man with the head crushed was found on the railway tracks near the overhead bridge at Channi on the city outskirts late on Friday night, the officer said.

He said the body was shifted to the mortuary room of the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu for post-mortem and identification.

DDC Shopian reviews ongoing developmental works

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPLAN: The District Development Commissioner, Shopian Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar convened a meeting of district and sectoral officers at Mini Secretariat Shopian in order to review the progress of ongoing developmental works.

The DDC reviewed progress of department wise ongoing works and asked for expediting the work completion.

The DDC also sought requirements for new works, upgradation, re-modelling, renovation and strengthening of existing infrastructure from department heads in the furtherance of public benefits.

The DDC said that the officers must be at the forefront and pro-active in talking up public welfare and development activities and prioritise the same for fruition. They were further impressed to work with zeal and be accessible to the public.

The meeting was also attended by ADDC ,Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone, ACR, CPO and other district/ sectoral and block level officers.



District Development Commissioner, Shopian Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar chairing a meeting.

Assembly poll debacle triggers debate over

Karra's appointment as J&K Congress Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Congress's debacle in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls has triggered a debate over the recent appointment of Tariq Hameed Karra as the party unit chief here, with a section of leaders gunning for his head.

However, Karra loyalists maintain that he has emerged as an "unsung hero" as he led the party to remarkable victories, including in two new seats in north Kashmir, despite assuming the charge of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress only a few weeks ahead of the polls.

An alliance partner of the National Conference (NC), the Congress could win only six seats -- five in Kashmir and one in Jammu -- in the first Assembly polls after the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union territories in August 2019.

In consultation with the top Congress leadership, Karra has formed a fact-finding committee to ascertain the reasons behind the party's poor poll show, especially in the Jammu region, and suggest measures for strengthening the organisation.