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Delimitation Commission proposes...

about the commission...."

"They have done a good job. There was no objection from any side. Now the Delimitation Commission has proposed to increase the seats to 90. They have followed objective parameters on the basis of population, accessibility, topography and terrain of individual districts. I don't feel anyone would be dissatisfied with it. No political party can find fault with it," Singh said.

According to a statement issued by the Delimitation Commission, associate members appreciated the fact that the commission visited the Union Territory and met a large number of people and assured that all necessary assistance would be extended in the work of delimitation.

The commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai held its second meeting here on Monday. It has five Lok Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir as associate members and Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra as ex-officio member.

Giving a presentation before the associate members, Deputy Election Commissioner Chandra Bhushan Kumar informed that since the last delimitation, the number of districts has increased from 12 to 20 and the number of tehsils from 52 to 207.

The population density in the districts varies from 29 persons per square km in Kishtwar to 3,436 persons per square km in Srinagar.

Taking all these into account, the Delimitation Commission has categorised all 20 districts in three broad categories A, B and C giving margin of 10 per cent (plus/minus) of average population per assembly constituency, while proposing allocation of the constituencies to the districts.

The commission has also, for some districts, proposed carving out of an additional constituency to balance the representation for geographical areas having inadequate communication and lack of public conveniences due to their inhosipitable conditions on the international border.

For the first time, in Jammu and Kashmir, nine seats are proposed to be allocated for Scheduled Tribes out of 90 seats on the basis of population. Seven seats are proposed for Scheduled Castes. Twenty-four seats of the assembly continue to remain vacant as they fall under Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The commission has asked all associate members to submit their views on the proposed increase of seats by December 31.

Two JeM associates...

In preliminary investigation, it was revealed that both the arrested terrorist associates were in touch with JeM commanders and were involved in transportation of arms and ammunition, he said.

The arrests were made jointly by police, army and CRPF following a specific input, the spokesman said.

60 pc power...

"I do not want to name them, but some people have criticized that the army has been called to restore electricity. Personnel from REC, NTPC, NHPC, and officers from the army engineering corps have also come. This only shows our commitment, he said.

In a statement issued officially, the LG said, "I want to tell 1.25 crore citizens of Jammu and Kashmir that I understand your pain caused by the disruption in electricity supply due to strike by the power department employees. The well-being of each and every citizen is our top priority.

Many Generations of J&K have spent their life dreaming about getting an uninterrupted 24 hours supply of electricity and we have taken the bold initiative of reforms in the power sector to realize that dream.

Unfortunately, the people who were at the helm of affairs for many decades did nothing; they didn't want the system to get better to bring qualitative change in people's lives.

Talks have been held with those who were on strike and as on date no dues/salary are pending on part of the government.

There can be no compromise on the issue of ensuring access to the basic amenities to our people.

Tremendous work has been done across the Power sector in the whole country; rural areas are now getting electricity for 20-22 hours. Unfortunately, J&K is still deprived of that. We have made efforts in that direction. Most of you know our cumulative generation capacity is around 3500MW even though the UT has the potential to generate 20000 MW. In the last 6-8 months, the MoUs we have

signed with NHPC, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, will pave way for generating 3500MW additional power in the next 4-5 years, assuredly.

There is no dearth of electricity in the country but the UT's transmission and distribution systems have a limited capacity of carrying electricity from outside. We have worked in that direction and have been able to achieve 40% of that specific capacity building plan.

And I want to assure that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has always extended his support to us and in the last 14 months, we have completed 236 projects to improve transmission and distribution infrastructure and the rest will also be completed, well within timelines. It pains me that despite massive progress in other parts of the country, people of J&K were deprived of minimum requirements to live a civilized life.

If some people think that the system will work as per their whims and fancies, it cannot be allowed. The system will work for 1.25 crore citizens without any discrimination. Every step of the UT administration is meant for the betterment of 1.25 crore citizens of Jammu and Kashmir".

Residents of many cities and towns in Jammu & Kashmir faced power shutdown on second consecutive day, as PDD employees continued their strike against the proposed merger of PDD with Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCI) in the Union Territory.

Jammu University has postponed offline and online examination for undergraduate and postgraduate students tomorrow in view of the strike.

The PDD employees held anti-government protests in Srinagar and Jammu demanding in writing from the Lieutenant Governor an assurance that it has shelved the proposal of merger.

According to sources, while the administration parleyed with the employees, it also visited several power distribution facilities in Jammu to speed up restoration of electric supply.

The administration in its talks with the employees was represented by divisional commissioner, Jammu, Raghav Langar, and additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh.

The deadlock between the two bodies has put thousands of J&K residents in extreme hardship amid bone-chilling winter, including hundreds of COVID-19 patients who struggled to keep their oxygen concentrators on.

The government has made an appeal to employees to call off their strike and has offered to put on hold its privatisation plan, but employees are insisting on a written assurance.

Talking to reporters here, a spokesman of protesting employees said they are ready to call off strike provided government gives them in writing assurance for their four core demands, particularly regarding privatisation and release of their salaries.

Over 20,000 employees of the PDD are on strike.

On Sunday, Langer wrote to the department of military affairs, ministry of defence, requesting army's assistance in the restoration of essential services.

Since then the army has been deployed to restore essential services, officials said.

The deployment was made following a requisition by the administration to the army, the officials said.

The army acted swiftly and deployed its troops at critical electricity stations and water supply sources to restore power supply, they said.

Langar on Sunday said the government has already acceded to all demands of the striking employees, including the proposed joint venture.

He also described the power reforms as "inevitable".

There have been few rounds of talks already at various levels with the PDD employees the power sector reforms are inevitable and the government of India has clearly told us to ensure that the reformation is seen through, Langer said.

Govt selling assets...

Union Territories. "During last 75 years, we never distributed development projects or other works of any department on the name of caste, religion or party affiliation," he said, adding that in his first rally at Sopore, when he was the Chief Minister of J&K, none of the minister distributed works on name of caste, religion or party basis. "Hindus and Muslims of Jammu & Kashmir together should work for growth and development of region and fight together for early restoration of statehood and holding assembly elections in J&K," he said, adding that Chenab valley is a place of peace and tranquility and same should be maintained at all costs.

Parliament passes NDPS...

Took strong objection to him not being given an opportunity to speak and expressed his anguish, saying "LoP is given priority to speak... (I am) begging, asking (to

speak)"

After raising the issue of suspension of 12 members of Rajya Sabha and mentioning about the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, he along with other Congress members staged a walkout.

Moving the bill, Sitharaman said, "There was an order of the High Court of Tripura, which very quickly wanted us to take it up and therefore we had to bring the Ordinance."

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Ordinance was promulgated on September 30, 2021.

"I wish the opposition participated in this debate and then passes this legislation...," she said.

The anomaly crept in when the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was amended in 2014 to allow better medical access to narcotic drugs, and removing state barriers in transporting and licensing of essential narcotic drugs. Before she moved the bill in Rajya Sabha, Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil moved a resolution for the House to disapprove the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021.

He was, however, disallowed by Bhupaneswar Kalita, who was in the Chair, to raise the matter of suspension 12 opposition MPs and the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

Taking part in the discussion in Rajya Sabha, Congress MP Digvijaya Singh said that to correct what has been told as "clerical error" it has taken six years since 2014 for the Narcotics Bureau and the government to identify the mistake. He was also not allowed to raise the matter of 12 suspended opposition MPs and the Lakhimpur Kheri violence. BJP MP GVL Narashima Rao objected to "defamatory words against the government" used by Singh and asked the Chair to delete it from the records. Another BJP MP Suresh Gopi, while supporting the bill, called for a balance in the law for controlling narcotics addiction and availability of opioid medicines, which are required as pain killers to many patients, especially those suffering from cancer. The Chair did not allow Md Nadimul Haque (AITC) to speak when he tried to raise the Lakhimpur Kheri violence matter and Tiruchi Siva (DMK) who tried to raise the matter of the suspension of 12 MPs.

Replying on the discussion on the bill, Sitharaman said the error in the bill was committed during the previous UPA regime.

"Some members Digvijaya Singh from Congress and others...also in a way Mrs Jaya Bachchan saying 'what have you done? Why did you take so much time to correct the error?' Sir Let me humbly submit that this error was committed during UPA time. We are correcting that error," he said.

"This error was committed in a bill which was introduced in 2011 and they took up to 2014 to pass the bill and when it was passed in February 2014 and then when it got notified on May 1, 2014 before the elections," the minister said.

On the need for Ordinance route, she said, "This was necessitated because of the Tripura High Court's observation and we wanted to get immediately acting on it...because the confusion brought in very delicate implementation problem.

Later, the House referred the Biological Diversity Bill to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament.

Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav moved the motion to refer the bill to the Joint Committee with 21 members of the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha. The motion was also passed by voice vote in Lok Sabha earlier in the day. The committee is expected to submit its report to the House by the last day of the first week of the next session. The committee will have Lok Sabha members Sanjay Jaiswal, Divya Kumari, Heena Gavit, Aparajita Sarangi, Raju Bista, Pallab Lochan Das, Santosh Pandey, Prathap Simha, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Brijendra Singh, Ajay Tamta, Jagdambika Pal (all BJP), Gaurav Gogoi, S. Jothamani (both Congress), A Raja (DMK), Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar (Trinamool), Sridhar Kotagiri (YSRCP), Prataprao Jadhav (Shiv Sena), Sunil Kumar Pintu (JD-U), Achyutananda Samanta (BJD) and Ritesh Pandey (BSP).

NC Pro VP ...

latest statements of Vice President Omar Abdullah reflect communal overtones and at times give a feeling of his bias against the Hindus", Dhar alleged.

He said he has lost faith in the leadership of National Conference and as such was tendering his resignation from the basic membership of the party and other positions held by him after being associated with the party for 35 years.

J&K sees 105...

highest number of fresh cases at 31, followed by 19 in Jammu district.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir stands at 1,363.

So far, 3,34,056 people have recovered from the viral disease, the officials said.

There are 50 mucormycosis (black fungus) cases in the union territory. No fresh case has been reported since last evening, they said.

ABVP launches cleanliness drive in JU campus



ABVP and SFS members during cleanliness drive.

Under-treatment man succumbs

STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR: A man who was under treatment at Vijaypur hospital succumbed on Monday. As identity of deceased was not ascertained, his body was shifted and kept at GMC's morgue for identification. It was disclosed that deceased belongs to Sadhu community.

Missing caterer returns home

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A caterer who went missing few days back returned back home on Monday.

As per details, Vishal Gandhi, resident of Subash Nagar went missing on December 12 following which his family members lodged a missing complaint with police. But, he returned back home himself. Police said that he went from home over some trivial issues.

FIR registered over obstructing Govt official to perform duty

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police on Monday registered a case with regard to assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty at Police Station Lakhuanpur.

As per details, FIR No. 114/2021 under sections 353/504/506 has been registered at Police Station Lakhuanpur on written complaint of Bhupinder Kumar, son of Basant Kumar, resident of Tridwan Patani, Tehsil and District Kathua at present Patwari Halqa Keerian against one Mohinder Pal, son of Kundan Dass, resident of Rammagar, Tehsil and District Kathua who willfully obstructed complainant while performing his lawful duty and abused him. Further investigation is underway in the matter.

BSF Jawan injured in mine blast along LoC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A BSF jawan was injured in a mine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district on Monday, officials said. The incident took place in the Balakote area when the jawan was on patrol duty, they said. He has been hospitalised, the officials said.

JK man found dead in GK at New Delhi

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A 36-year-old man was found dead at his rented house in South Delhi's Greater Kailash area on Monday, police said. The deceased, identified as Rahul Thakur, hailed from Jammu & Kashmir and worked at 'Delhi Haat Art Gallery', they said. According to the preliminary inquiry, the man was suspected to be strangled, police said.

The exact cause of death can only be ascertained through an autopsy, which will be conducted today, they said. "On Monday, around 9.40 am, we got a PCR call from the owner of flat at Greater Kailash about the incident. When police reached the spot, a man, who was identified as Rahul Thakur, was found lying unconscious inside the flat, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Benita Mary Jaikar said. According to police, Thakur lived with his mother Anita in the house which he had rented a month ago. They said the mother of the deceased had left for their native place in Jammu & Kashmir 3-4 days back. "We have registered a case of murder under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code and all angles are being probed including that of personal enmity," the officer said. "Some suspects have been identified in the CCTV footage and efforts are on to nab them," she said. Three mobile phones have been found from the spot, she said, adding a further investigation is on.

10 vehicles seized for illegal mining

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern the menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which teams of Police Stations Miran Sahib, Nagrota, Gharota & Police Posts Bathindi, Talab Tillo, Sainik Colony, Phallain Mandal and Sidhra acted stringently on specific inputs and raided different locations in their respective areas and seized 10 different vehicles involved in illegal mining. The seized vehicles included 2 tractor-trolleys without registration numbers seized by Miran Sahib Police; a tractor-trolley without registration number seized by Nagrota police; a tipper (JK02AK 2085) seized by Gharota police; a tipper (JK02CJ 8546) seized by Bathindi police; a tractor (JK02BC 6027) seized by Talab Tillo police; a dumper (JK02CM-2470) seized by Sainik Colony police; 2 tractor-trolleys (JK02CC 2311 and JK02CH 7578) seized by Phallain Mandal police and a tractor without registration number seized by Sidhra police. The overall recoveries were made by SHO Miran Sahib Inpr Mirza Sultan, SHO Nagrota Inpr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, SHO Gharota Inpr Khyatiman Khajuria, Incharge Police Post Bathindi PSI Mohd Ilyas, Incharge Police Post Talab Tillo PSI Rajesh Kumar, Incharge Police Post Phallain Mandal PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal, Incharge Police Post Sainik Colony PSI Mohd Younis Khan and Incharge Police Post Sidhra SI Shahid Ahmed in their respective jurisdictions. DMO Jammu was also intimated about the same.

Sambhal said "it is our primary duty to make our campus clean to create a fruitful atmosphere in the University. (JU) President Anoop Singh said that in future ABVP under the banner of SFS will continue this kind of programmes to aware the society. JU Unit secretary Shivani Rajput, thanked everyone who participated in the drive. Vibhag Convenor Shubham Amar, Vice president Arvind Aryan, Palvi, Poja, Chahat, Danish, Chakshu Sharma and Prashant were also present.

GDC Sunderbani organises week-long Clean India campaign

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Government Degree College, Sunderbani NSS & NCC volunteers organised a week-long awareness programme including door-to-door campaign with special focus on rejuvenation of rivers and water bodies with involvement of local community. The programme was undertaken as a part of the Clean India Campaign in commemoration with Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The students of college undertook an extensive one-week awareness programme which is considered to be a cost-effective measure to combat the rising pollution in the rivers and water bodies. Around 40 NSS & NCC Volunteers of the College raised public awareness about water conservation by educating the people about water resources, water use, and the need to conserve water. They visited nearby villages and had interactions with locals regarding conserva-