

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Delimitation Commission: Draft...

rejecting the proposal to increase six Assembly seats in the Jammu region as against just one in the Kashmir division.

The Commission headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Desai with Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and state election commission K K Sharma was set up on March 6, 2020 and was granted an extension of a year on March 6, 2021, which will come to an end next month.

The Delimitation Commission has held two meetings with the Associate Members on February 18 and December 20 last year. While the first meeting was boycotted by the three National Conference MPs, they attended the second meeting.

The NC had vociferously opposed the draft proposals which will increase the number of Assembly seats in the Jammu division from 37 to 43 and in Kashmir from 46 to 47.

The party, in its objections, had termed the Reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir Act as "Constitutionally suspect" and questioned the recommendations of the delimitation panel especially its rationale behind increasing six seats in the Jammu division as against one in the Kashmir region.

In its reply to the Commission, the NC argued that there were question marks over the Constitutional propriety of the panel especially when the party along with several others had approached the Supreme Court challenging the action of August 5, 2019 by the Centre of revoking the special status and bifurcating the erstwhile state in two Union territories - Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

The party said the Commission has been formed because of the Reorganisation Act of Jammu and Kashmir 2019 which is under judicial scrutiny and the Supreme Court is yet to deliver its order.

The panel's recommendations are borne out of an Act which is a "Constitutionally suspect" law, it said.

According to legal parlance, if any Act is under judicial custody and the apex court is seized of the matter, it can be termed as a Constitutionally suspect law.

The party said the principle of Constitution propriety demands that such a law should not be implemented and all the limbs of the state and their institutions should, out of deference to the top constitutional court, desist from implementing such law till its constitutionality is determined.

The National Conference also challenged the theory of Commission that the seats had to be extended in the Jammu region because of difficult terrains and geographically remote areas.

It highlighted that several areas in Kashmir remain cut-off for months and are equally arduous when it comes to the remoteness of an area.

The party highlighted several areas in Anantnag, Kupwara, Baramulla, Kulgam and Uri in Kashmir division to compare remoteness and tough terrain.

The major objection of the party was about the formula that had been adopted by the Commission by throwing the concept of population to the wind and said Kashmir division, despite having a higher number of people compared to Jammu, got only one seat.

After the completion of the delimitation exercise, the number of Assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir will go up from 83 to 90.

In the erstwhile assembly of Jammu and Kashmir state, Kashmir had 46 seats, Jammu 37 and Ladakh four.

Farooq Abdullah, Congress...

make assembly seats contiguous with the district.

"But the draft report is showing a different picture altogether.

"Like Anantnag Lok Sabha seat in South Kashmir will have six assembly seats from Rajouri and Poonch, which are part of Jammu division and located across Peerpanjal range," Abdullah said and asked, "How is this inclined for providing better administration?"

Similarly, the way assembly constituencies have been carved out in which some have "completely disappeared defies any and all logic".

The Congress has also reacted strongly to the second draft proposal of the delimitation commission.

"The norms, criteria, ground realities and aspirations of people seem to have been ignored in the delimitation of the constituencies," chief spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress Ravinder Sharma said on media reports about the draft proposal.

He said people are surprised over the kind of "divisions and clubbing of certain areas, ignoring the ground realities and putting people to great hardships".

"This is certainly not in accordance with the needs, wishes and aspirations of people," Sharma said.

Surprisingly, he said most of the recommendations were already in circulation and in the public domain through the leaders of the BJP.

CRIME REPORT

Smugglers adopting new modus operandi for ferrying cattle, 11 bovines rescued from oil-tanker

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Although J&K Police is initiating every possible measure for

keeping a check on the menace of bovine smuggling across the Union territory and intensifying checking-Nakas to nab the smugglers indulged in crime, the smugglers have also started adopting new techniques to deceive the security agencies for carrying out illegal

ferrying of cattle without any valid permission from concerned authorities.

In a recent incident, it was surfaced that bovine

smugglers were carrying cattle in an oil-tanker, to avoid the security

check. As per details, Police rescued 11 bovine animals at TCP Nagrota

Naka from an oil tanker (JK02AU/4955), which were being smuggled.

At a checking Naka, a team from Police Station Nagrota, acting on a

reliable input, intercepted an oil tanker and on checking found it laden

with 11 bovine animals, which were concealed after making modifications

in the tanker. However, the smugglers managed to flee but animals were

rescued on the spot and vehicle was seized.

Meanwhile, 8 more bovines were rescued from two other vehicles

(JK02CV 1420 and JK02CC 1728) at Ban Toll Plaza Nagrota, which

were rescued and vehicles were seized. Four smugglers were also arrested

who were identified as Hanif, son of Mohd Gammi, resident of

Shamachak Jhiri; Iqbal, son of Abdul Rashid, resident of Kokernag,

Anantnag; Abdul Qadeer, son of Lal Din, resident of Kokernag and

Rayees Ahmed, son of Abdul Khalq, resident of Kokernag. Accordingly,

FIRs No. 45, 46 & 47/2022 under sections 188/11 of PCA Act were regis

tered at Police Station Nagrota. The recoveries and arrests were made

by SHO Nagrota Insp. Vishav Pratap Singh under supervision of SDPO

Nagrota Pardeep Kumar. The overall operation was done under guid

ance of SP Rural Sanjay Sharma.

9 gamblers arrested; Rs 1,53,370 stake money seized



Sharma said the Congress would discuss the proposal once the formal draft is out and put forth the view of the people forcefully.

Two MOs among...

PHC Gota has also gone viral," the order stated.

The absence of health officials from the PHC being the essential services, tantamounts to strict action under rules, it added.

In view of above, pending enquiry into their conduct, two Medical Officers including nine employees placed under suspension with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.

Those who have been suspended include Dr. Rajiv Salaria (Medical Officer), Dr. Vikas Bharti (Medical Officer), Onkar Singh (Sr. Ophthalmic Tech.), Parveen Kumar (ISM Pharmacist), St. Rajinder Kour (JSN), Lajo Devi (JSN), Chamil Singh (NO), Raj Kour (NO) and Harvinder Singh (Driver Ambulance).

"During suspension period they shall remain attached in the office of Block Medical Officer, Mahore," the order stated and added, "Additional District Development Commissioner, Reasi shall conduct an enquiry into the matter and submit a report within fifteen days."

Meanwhile, DDC Kupwara also ordered suspension of 41 employees of various departments for dereliction of the duties.

Earlier, on the directions of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat on Saturday paid a surprise visit at various offices and found two officers and 39 employees absent from their legitimate duties.

These offices include Executive Engineer REW Kupwara, District Industries Centre, District Social Welfare Office, CDPO Office Kupwara, Labour Office and other departments.

In this regard, DDC Kupwara has recommended action against the two officers found absent from duty from their concerned higher authorities. While as, legal action as per service rules shall be taken against the absentee employees.

DDC further directed the concerned DDOs to deduct one day salary of the absentees and credit the same to District Red Cross Society Kupwara under proper receipt. The DDC further stressed upon all employees to remain punctual on their duties.

These offices include Executive Engineer REW Kupwara, District Industries Centre, District Social Welfare Office, CDPO Office Kupwara, Labour Office and other departments.

In this regard, DDC Kupwara has recommended action against the two officers found absent from duty from their concerned higher authorities. While as, legal action as per service rules shall be taken against the absentee employees.

DDC further directed the concerned DDOs to deduct one day salary of the absentees and credit the same to District Red Cross Society Kupwara under proper receipt. The DDC further stressed upon all employees to remain punctual on their duties.

Man shot dead...

The official said firing also took place at the house of one Nabi Shah from the same village. He and his family escaped unhurt.

Police parties have reached the spot and a manhunt has been launched to nab the gunmen involved in the two incidents, he said, adding that a case has been registered.

Two terrorists killed...

Five hand grenades, were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records. In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar congratulated the Srinagar Police for carrying out the anti-terrorist operation in a professional manner without any collateral damage, the spokesperson said.

1,606 new COVID...

The death toll remained unchanged at 226.

While Leh reported 86 fresh cases, Kargil reported 64, the officials said.

Of the total 226 deaths, 167 were reported from Leh and 59 from Kargil.

As many as 218 more COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovering from the disease. Of these, 125 patients were discharged in Leh and 93 in Kargil, the officials said.

With this, the total number of recoveries in Ladakh has increased to 25,405, they said. There are 1,079 active cases -- 666 in Leh and 413 in Kargil -- in Ladakh. The positivity rate stands at 4.2 per cent, they said.

Two dead, 2...

Jammu for specialised treatment. The deceased have been identified as Abhay (26), resident of Rathian and Deevam (23), resident of Udhampur while injured were Harish (24), resident of Udhampur and Paras (25), resident of Rathian.

J&K Admin launches...

mechanism in the country, whereby the employees will be required to report their monthly performance up to the 7th of next calendar month on the portal using their CPIS numbers.

The monthly reporting system is likely to bring about much needed accountability and service efficiency, he said.

Drug peddler arrested with Charas, cash

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Police on Saturday nabbed a drug peddler and recovered Charas and cash from his possession.

As per details, under 'Operation Sanjeevani', at about 1700 hours, on a tip of information received through reliable sources that one Dimple Singh, son of Tota Ram, resident of Bhatmas, Tehsil Gando, who is indulged in sale of Narcotics among youth in Changra/Gwari area, is illegally carrying some drugs with him for selling purpose. Acting on the information, a party from Police Station Gando, led by SHO Gandoh Shazad Kabir Matto arrested accused and recovered 322 gm Charas like substance and cash amounting to Rs 9,960 in presence of Executive Magistrate, 1st class Gandoh.

FIR No. 06/2022 under sections 8/20 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Gando. The drive against drug menace is going on under overall supervision of SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom as Police is committed to eradicate menace of drugs from district and all efforts are being made in this regard.

Three booked, vehicles seized for illegal mining

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Police on Saturday arrested three persons and seized three vehicles, found involved in illegal mining. As per details, during Nakas at different locations of Kishtwar, police seized 3 tippers and nabbed 3 drivers under jurisdiction of Police Station Kishtwar.

The arrested persons were identified as Tariq Hussain, son of Ghulam Qadir Butt, resident of Berwar Kishtwar; Sameer Ahmed Butt, son of Ghulam Qadir Butt, resident of Kurya Kishtwar & Ghulam Mustafa Wani, son of Abdul Aziz Wani, resident of Girinagar Kishtwar. Three FIR Nos. 18, 19, 20/2022 under relevant sections of law were registered at Police Station Kishtwar and accordingly investigation started.

Three narco-smugglers nabbed with heroin

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police nabbed three narco smugglers on Saturday and recovered 15.25 gms heroin from their possession.

As per details, a team from Police Station Domana led by SHO Insp. Mahesh Sharma assisted by PSI Danish Qaiser Gazali during Naka checking rounded up a suspect namely Abhishek Choudhary, son of Kuldeep Kumar, resident of Machine Domana, Jammu. On search, 5 gm heroin was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and FIR No. 42/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Domana. The arrest and recoveries were made under supervision of SDPO Domana Sunil Singh.

Meanwhile, two persons namely Pinto Kumar alias Luddan, son of Prem Chand, resident of R.S Pura and Ashwani Kumar, son of Lt. Girdhari Lal, resident of Bilaspur Parlah, R.S.Pura travelling in a white Alto car (JK02BL/1247) stopped for vehicle checking by Satwari Police, but they tried to escape. They were overpowered and detained. During checking both of them found in possession of heroin in like substance weighing about 10.25 gms. Duo was arrested and FIR No. 16/2022 under sections 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Satwari.

Kashmir journalist booked...

for which three FIRs have been lodged against him - one in Srinagar, one in Pulwama and other in Shopian.

"He has been arrested in the case FIR lodged in Pulwama. Action will follow in other FIRs also, IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said.

Kumar made an appeal to journalists to not spread fake news and verify information from police before circulating.

It glorifies terrorists because it leads to recruitment, our youth get radicalised and takes the wrong path. Do not instigate the public, he said.

Shah is the founder editor of weekly online magazine "thekashmirwalla".

Narco-terror module...

the duo -- Mohammad Sabir Barwal, a resident of Jaba Kamalkote Tehsil in Uri and Parvaiz Ahmad Tantray from Reban Raffiabad, Sopore -- was apprehended, the spokesperson said.

Both the vehicles were searched and three packets of contraband apparently heroin was recovered from one vehicle and five packets from the other. In total eight packets of contraband weighing about nine Kgs were recovered. The cost of the contraband in the black market is about Rs 18 crores, he said.

During their personal search, mobile phone, a cheque to the tune of Rs 5 lakh and an Aadhaar card was seized from Barwal's possession, while seven cheques amounting to Rs 9,79,500, two blank cheques, an Aadhaar card, and other documents were seized from Tantray, he said.

In this regard case FIR No.17/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been taken up.

J&K Admin approves...

Public Works (R&B), and Nazim Zai Khan, Secretary to Government, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR) participated in the meeting.

MeT predicts snowfall...

1.6 degrees Celsius they said.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 9.8 degrees Celsius.