

SC agrees to hear plea against local bar association criteria for post of civil judge in Telangana

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a plea challenging the Telangana High Court decision upholding an eligibility criteria that allows only lawyers enrolled in the local bar association to appear for examination for the post of civil judge in the state.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Prashant Kumar Mishra issued notice on a plea of advocate V Rakesh Reddy, who is enrolled with the Delhi Bar Council, and allowed him to apply for the post of civil judge in Telangana.

"The petitioner is allowed to upload his admission form online, in terms of advertisement dated April 10, 2024. As an interim measure, the same should not be rejected on the grounds mentioned in 5.2(A) (III)(a) of the Telangana State Judicial (Service and Cadre) Rules, 2023 and the qualification in Clause 6(A)(III) of the Recruitment Notice," the bench noted in its order of May 17.

As per the provisions of the Telangana State Judicial Services Rules of 2023, a



candidate who wants to apply for the examination is mandatorily required to be a practitioner from the local bar association and submit a certificate of practice as a proof.

The bench noted the submission of advocates Apoorv Kurup and Nidhi Mittal, appearing for Reddy that he is enrolled as a lawyer with the Delhi Bar Council and was interested in applying for the post of civil judge in response to the advertisement dated April 10.

Kurup, assisted by advocate Rahul Jangra, submitted that since the candidate is also required to produce a certificate of practice from the local bar association, Reddy's candidature may be rejected at the threshold.

The bench noted that the court has already agreed to hear a similar challenge

made in a plea of a candidate for the post of district judge and an interim relief has been granted to him to apply for the job.

It tagged Reddy's plea along with the pending matter.

Reddy, who hails from Andhra Pradesh, had challenged the high court's May 3 order which upheld certain rules of the Telangana State Judicial Services Rules, 2023 as well as the notification dated April 10, 2024.

The notification provided for the requirement of being enrolled with Bar the Association of Telangana as an eligibility criteria.

"However, the impugned notification, which is at variance with the previous notifications, has added an impediment to candidates such as the petitioner who have now to enrol themselves with a bar association in Telangana. This condition has no nexus with the objective of selecting meritorious candidates for the Telangana judiciary. With the exception of this arbitrary condition, the petitioner is otherwise eligible to appear in the examination," his plea said.

Reddy said that the notifications of the previous years did not have such a requirement and the impugned notification dated April 10, 2024 has brought about such a requirement and the last date for submission of the online applications is May 17, 2024.

"The impugned notification, therefore, breaches the legitimate expectations of the aspirants as they have to now either enrol themselves with the Bar Association of Telangana within 37 days or completely forgo the examination," he said.

Indian Coast Guard rescues 26 persons from tourist boat stranded off Goa coast

STATE TIMES NEWS

PANAJI: The Indian Coast Guard has rescued 24 passengers and two crew members from a tourist ferry boat which was caught in rough weather and faced fuel exhaustion near the Mormugao Harbour in Goa, an official said on Monday.

The boat, 'Nerul Paradise', was caught in the rough weather with waves over three metres and was stranded due to fuel exhaustion off the Goa coast on Sunday, a spokesperson of the Coast



Guard said in a statement. "The marooned boat had sailed out from Panjim with tourists in the morning hours," he said.

It was stranded about two kilometres away from the Mormugao Harbour, in the waters at some distance

from the Cabo Palace (Raj Bhavan), an official from the Mormugao police station said.

Personnel of the Coast Guard ship C-148, which was returning from patrol, felt the signs of distress amongst passengers and

responded swiftly, the ICG spokesperson said.

"The ICG vessel, braving the rough seas, reached the distressed vessel. A team was sent to the boat and personnel on board the boat were calmed down," he said.

The Coast Guard team stabilised the situation and brought the boat safely to the harbour, averting a potential disaster, the spokesperson said.

On arrival, all the passengers and crew members were provided with medical aid, he added.

No cabinet reshuffle on cards post LS polls: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah

STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGLURU: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said a cabinet reshuffle is not on the cards. He also predicted that the Congress will get between 15 and 20 seats out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

The chief minister also dismissed the BJP's allegations that the five guarantees implemented by the state government would be discontinued after the elections.

"We are not thinking of any cabinet reshuffle after the Lok Sabha elections," Siddaramaiah said during the 'Meet the Press' event organised by the Press Club of Bangalore. The Congress will go by the directions of the high command, he said.

Siddaramaiah predicted that the Congress would win a minimum 15 seats and maximum 20 seats out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, and ridiculed former chief minister and BJP leader B S Yediyurappa's claim

that the saffron party would win all 28 Lok Sabha seats.

Accusing the BJP of spreading lies that the five guarantees of the Congress government would be stopped after the election, the chief minister said the schemes will not be discontinued for any reason.

"For no reason we will discontinue any guarantee schemes. People have blessed us for five years. So long as their blessings are with us, these guarantees will not stop," he said.

The chief minister also clarified that there is no dearth of funds for development funds in the state. "The BJP is lying that the state's treasury is empty due to the guarantees. Let them lie but it should be close to the truth. What they are talking is the height of lies," Siddaramaiah said.

He said that BJP state chief B Y Vijayendra and the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka do not



understand economics, due to which they are lying that the treasury is empty.

Siddaramaiah also lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allegedly spreading lies about reservation for Muslims. "Modi is telling another lie that we will take away the reservation from the backward communities and give it to the Muslims. This is an outright lie," he said.

Citing Chinnappareddy Commission report, Siddaramaiah said Muslim reservation has been in place in the state for 30 years.

The BJP government headed by Basavaraj Bommai had also submit-

ted an affidavit in the Supreme Court and has agreed that it will not cancel the reservation for Muslims, he pointed out adding, "Modi is going around telling lies in his speeches."

"We have not taken away anyone's reservation. So what Modi is saying is an absolute lie," he reiterated.

The chief minister also called out BJP's allegation that the state government was taking away money from temples. "The BJP spread false propaganda that we are snatching money from temples. They are spreading slander by hiding the fact that we have come forward for the development of temples in rural areas," he said.

On the caste census report, the chief minister said there was pressure not to accept the report. However, the government accepted it to uphold the value of social justice, equal share and equality for all.

Noting that the caste

survey, the socio-economic census, is essential to identify the economically and socially weak, he said the report will not harm any community.

"Modi introduced EWS reservation for the economically backward. There is no caste or class in the entire country that does not get the benefit of reservation. This is the reason why Congress has announced that if it comes to power at the Centre, it will conduct a national caste census. What is wrong in this?" he asked.

On the law and order front, the chief minister said the murder of two girls Neha Hiremath and Anjali Ambigera in Hubballi, which triggered public outrage, was highly condemnable.

While a special court has been set up for speedy trial of the accused in the Neha murder case, two Deputy Commissioners of Police, an Assistant Commissioner of Police and an inspector have been suspended in connection with the crimes.

Army saves life of Manoj in Chattargali area JK's Bhandarwah



STATE TIMES NEWS

BHANDARWAH: While performing its responsibility towards the safety of people, Army operational team

has saved the life of a person who fell into a deep gorge in Chattargali area of Bhandarwah last night.

According to reports, Manoj, a resident of Danda Kathua, (a shopkeeper in Chattargali) fell into a 150 feet deep gorge in Chattargali.

On being noticed by the Santry at Chattargali, he immediately informed the Post Commander and the Operational Team of this Battalion immediately rushed to the location.

The terrain was very inaccessible and harsh. The

operational team members risked their lives and resorted to ropes to get down into the deep gorge. The relentless brave actions of the individuals of operational team of Chattargali paid dividends and saved precious life of the Manoj.

The Operational Team of this unit provided first aid and immediately shifted him to SDH Bhandarwah. Due to the prompt action and courageous act of the operational team of Rashtriya Rifles of Indian Army, a person's life was saved.

All India Mahajan Jandyal (Sansah) Biradari congregation on May 23

STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: The Bi-Annual Congregation of All India Mahajan Jandyal (Sansah) Biradari will be held 23rd May 2024 (Thursday), at Baba Sehaj Nath Ji Dev Asthan Mandir, Sohal Tanda, Tehsil Akhnoor.

All Biradari members are requested to par-

ticipate along with their families in the congregation and seek the blessings of Baba Sehaj Nath Ji.

The programme will commence with Hawan at 8:00 AM, followed by Bhandara at 11:00 AM. Transport facilities will be available from Bus Stand Akhnoor starting from 8:00 AM onwards.

Sushil leads trekking team to Naina Devi



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To augment its existing policy of promoting lesser frequented beauty spots and heritage sites of Jammu and to create an adventure, heritage and pilgrimage circuits through One-day treks during winter

months, Tawi Trekkers J&K, the pioneer trekking club of J&K, has started reconnaissance of cool areas near Jammu to conduct one-day treks during summers also.

The first such reconnaissance trek shall be conducted on May 26 to the sacred Naina Devi temple, a tranquil place surrounded by lush green deodar forest, involving a 10 km to and fro trek from Mantalai in Udhampur district.

The 15 member group of trekkers shall be led by Sushil Singh, a senior member of the club and includes Ram Khajuria, advisor of the club, Vivek Chanhan, Principal Oriental Academy Senior

Secondary School, senior mountaineers Sumit Khajuria, Shilpa Charak, Shashi Kant Sharma, Navneet Gupta, senior sports journalist, Sanjeev Sharma and senior members, Seema Kharyal, Anu Sharma and some junior members, who are the principal organisers of the 'One Day Short Trek Series Programme' of Tawi Trekkers, J&K.

Pertinent to mention here that recently the club also conducted reconnaissance of the Mata Bala Sandri area in Billawar but found the trek a little warmer for the younger trekkers. The club is also exploring the possibility of conducting two-day treks also during summer months.

HC waives Rs 75K costs on law student for PIL seeking 'extraordinary interim bail' for Kejriwal

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Monday waived the costs of Rs 75,000 imposed on a law student for his PIL seeking "extraordinary interim bail" for Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, after he tendered his unconditional apology and said he has learnt his lesson.

The counsel appearing in the court for the petitioner said being a student, his client has no earnings to pay the costs and the judgment of the court had made him understand the judicial system.

"I learnt my lesson well. Please consider my situation," the petitioner's lawyer said.

In view of the submissions, a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet P S Arora said, "Costs of Rs 75,000 imposed on the petitioner is waived."

On April 22, the court had dismissed with costs the public interest litigation (PIL)



matter seeking "extraordinary interim bail" for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, who was in judicial custody in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam.

The petitioner mentioned his name as "We, the people of India" in the plea, claiming that he did not want to earn any name, fame or money from the matter.

Calling it "totally misconceived", the court had remarked that Kejriwal had the means to take steps to seek legal remedies and the petitioner held no power of attorney to make statements and undertakings on his

behalf.

The counsel for the embattled AAP leader had also opposed the PIL, asserting that Kejriwal was capable of pursuing legal remedy himself.

The petitioner's counsel had sought "extraordinary interim bail" for the Delhi chief minister on several grounds, including that his safety was in danger as he was confined with hardcore criminals.

He had said since decision making in the Delhi government was being hampered on account of the non-availability of its "head", Kejriwal should be released.

Issuance of postal ballot: SC refuses to entertain plea against HC order



STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea challenging a Chhattisgarh High Court order that rejected an application of a 78-year-old bedridden woman, who had sought a direction for the issuance of a postal ballot to her to cast vote in the Lok Sabha polls.

The woman had initially filed a petition before the high court seeking a direction for the issuance of the postal ballot

considering her age and ailments to cast her vote in the Bilaspur constituency that went to polls on May 7.

On April 29, the high court allowed her to make an application before the returning officer concerned and directed the authority to consider her claim strictly in accordance with the law.

The high court had said if it was found that she was entitled to cast her vote through a postal ballot, the same shall be issued in her favour according to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 and the notifications issued in this regard from time to time by the Election Commission (EC).

On Monday, her counsel told a vacation bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal that according to the April 29 order of the high court, she had made an appli-

cation before the returning officer for the issuance of postal ballot.

Senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal, appearing in the court for the woman, said the returning officer rejected her application on May 1.

"He said you are not having physical disability of more than 40 per cent and therefore, I will not permit you to cast vote (through a postal ballot). This is the sum and substance of the order," he said.

Agrawal said the woman again approached the high court, which dealt with her application seeking grant of interim relief on May 6.

On May 6, the high court rejected her application noting that the polling date was May 7 and the instructions issued by the EC with regard to the issuance of the postal ballot and its collection cannot be

completed in 24 hours. The woman had approached the apex court challenging the May 6 high court order.

"It has become infructuous," the top court observed, adding that the polling date was May 7.

Agrawal said according to Rule 27(I) of the Conduct of Election Rules, postal ballots can be received anytime before the date of counting of votes, which is scheduled for June 4.

"Even for postal ballots, some time is fixed. That procedure has to be followed if some time period is fixed for postal ballots," the bench observed.

Agrawal said the high court had passed an order in the petitioner's favour on April 29.

When he referred to the April 29 order, the bench said the high court had directed the authority to consider the petitioner's application.

"Everybody would like to sit home and cast vote," the bench said, adding, "We are not entertaining this plea."

"First, you have to produce the benchmark disability certificate, then they will go to verify whether this certificate is correct or not," it said.

It also asked, "If you are below 80 years, then why should you be permitted?" The bench said it was not inclined to interfere with the interim order passed by the high court.

24 lakh passengers travelled in underwater stretch of Kolkata Metro in last 2 months



STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: Around 24 lakh passengers travelled in the newly launched underwater stretch of Metro Railway connecting the twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah in past two months, a railway statement said. Commercial metro services from

Esplanade corridor (Green Line 2) of East-West Metro, a part of which runs under the river Ganga.

The Metro Railway earned Rs 3.40 crore in that section during the period, the statement said. Howrah Metro station has been the busiest station during the last two months in the corridor. This station has recorded 11.67 lakh passenger count which has been the highest passenger count among all the stations in this corridor.

In Orange Line, more than 55 thousand passengers travelled in the last two months and Metro has earned Rs 11.64 lakh.