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IWT: India, Pakistan...

Pakistan filed its first Memorial, which listed out its legal case with documents, under this process in March this year.
 A month later, the court undertook a week-long visit to the Neelum-Jhelum Hydro-Electric Plant in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir "to familiarise the court with general aspects of the design and operation of run-of-river hydro-electric plants along the Indus system of rivers."

While India refused to take part in the Court of Arbitration, it submitted a Memorial to the Neutral Expert in August 2023.
 Pakistan joined the second meeting of the parties held by Neutral Expert in Vienna in September last year which discussed matters related to the organisation of the site visit.
 The Jammu and Kashmir administration has appointed 25 "liaison officers" to coordinate the visit of neutral experts along with delegations from India and Pakistan.

First day of...

be addressing the joint sitting of both houses on June 27, after which the two houses would discuss and pass the motion of thanks on her address. Modi will reply to the discussion in both houses next week.
 Prime Minister Modi utilised the customary event to take a swipe at the Congress over the Emergency, calling it a "black spot" on democracy when the Constitution was "discarded".

On June 25, 1975, the then prime minister Indira Gandhi, a Congress stalwart, imposed Emergency in the country, suspending civil liberties, jailing opposition leaders and dissidents and effecting press censorship. The 1975-77 Emergency anniversary falls on Tuesday.

The prime minister said the new generation will never forget the day when the Constitution of India was completely rejected by suppressing democracy and the country was turned into a prison.

Modi also exhorted people to take a resolve to protect democracy and democratic traditions of India so that such an event never arises again.
 "We will take the resolution of a vibrant democracy and fulfill the dreams of the common people according to the Constitution of India."

Modi's references to Emergency prompted the opposition members to hit back, with Kharge accusing him of imposing "undeclared Emergency" in the last 10 years, which the people of the country have ended by not giving the BJP a majority.

Kharge said the prime minister made a longer than usual customary address "but clearly, even after the moral and political defeat, the arrogance remains".

"Narendra Modi ji, you are giving advice to the Opposition. You are reminding us of the 50-year-old Emergency, but have forgotten the last 10 years of Undeclared Emergency, which was ended by the people," the Congress president said in a post on 'X'.

"People have given their mandate against Modi ji. Despite this, if he has become the Prime Minister, then he should work," Kharge said, adding that the nation was hoping that he would say something on important issues.

Recalling the prime minister's words that "people need substance, not slogans", Kharge said he should remind himself of this.

"The opposition and INDIA Janbandhan want consensus in Parliament, we will keep raising the voice of the people in the House, on the streets and before everyone. We will protect the Constitution," Kharge said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also claimed that the strong opposition would not allow the prime minister to change the Constitution and would protect it at all costs.

"INDIA's strong opposition will continue its pressure, raise the voice of the people and will not allow the Prime Minister to escape without accountability."

The prime minister in his remarks also underlined that the government's responsibility has increased threefold as the people have elected the government for a third term. He assured the citizens that the government would work three times harder than before while also bringing three times the results.

Touching upon the role of the opposition, Modi said the people of the country expect them to play their role to the fullest while maintaining the dignity of democracy.

"I hope that the opposition will live up to it."
 Earlier, BJP member and 7-time member Bhartruhari Mahtab was elected the Protom Speaker and was administered oath by President Murmu.

Congress member K Suresh, who is an eight-time MP and a strong claimant to the Protom Speaker's post, DMK MP T R Baalu and TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay did not take oath when their names were called among the panel of chairpersons to assist the Protom Speaker. Suresh took oath later.

The Lok Sabha also witnessed a display of linguistic diversity, with newly-elected MPs taking oaths in English and Indian languages, including Sanskrit, Hindi, Dogri, Bengali, Assamese and Odia.

Prime Minister Modi took his oath in Hindi amid slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" from the treasury benches.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan took oath amid chants of NEET-NET by the opposition members even as a controversy raged on the entrance examinations that has put the government in the dock.

Opposition leaders, including Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress' Sudip Bandyopadhyay and DMK's TR Baalu assembled at the spot where the statue of Mahatma Gandhi statue once stood in the Parliament complex for their protests. Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who is a member of the Rajya Sabha, also joined the MPs.

Holding copies of the Constitution in their hands, they raised slogans such as "long live Constitution", "we will save Constitution", "save our democracy".

Rahul Gandhi said they would not allow the Constitution to be "attacked" by Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

"This attack is not acceptable to us and that is why we held the Constitution and took oath," he added.

The BJP-led NDA leaders criticised the opposition MPs for taking out "save Constitution" march to Parliament, saying they should now consider how to take the country on the path of progress ending political matters as the elections are over.

BJP MP and former Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said it was the Congress government which had "murdered" the democracy and the Constitution by imposing Emergency.

"They (Congress) reminded the entire nation today that they are the murderers of democracy. Shame on them," he added.

People want responsible...

his government's intentions, policies and commitments towards them.

With the Congress and the opposition, in general, targeting his government over a host of issues, including the choice for pro-tem Speaker, Modi's customary pre-session remarks carried barbs for his rivals as he said that people want debate and diligence, and not drama and disturbance, in Parliament.

People want substance, not slogans, the prime minister told reporters, in an apparent reference to several previous sessions that were marred by the absence of a debate due to adjournments caused by frequent run-ins between the treasury and opposition benches.

Buoied by its strong show in the Lok Sabha polls, in which the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a majority but with reduced numbers, the opposition INDIA bloc is expected to turn up its aggression inside and outside Parliament.

Modi said people want a good and responsible opposition, and added that its conduct has been disappointing in the past. He expressed hopes that the opposition will play its role this time and maintain democratic decorum.

The prime minister described his alliance's win in the polls as grand and a matter of pride, noting that this is the first time in the last 60 years that a government has assumed office for a third straight term.

People have put their stamp of approval on the intentions and policies of his government, Modi said.

"Our responsibilities have risen by three times. I want to assure the people of the country that we will work three times more in our third term and deliver three times more as well," he said.

Noting that the oath-taking ceremony for the newly elected MPs will take place in the new Parliament building for the first time, Modi said it was a matter of pride.

Taking a swipe at the Congress without naming it, he said the Emergency's anniversary falls on June 25, and termed it a black spot on India's parliamentary history when the Constitution was discarded and the country turned into a prison.

He called upon people to resolve to protect democracy and democratic traditions so that an emergency is never again imposed in the country. "We will take the resolution of a vibrant democracy and fulfill the dreams of the common people according to the Constitution of India."

In 1975, the then-prime minister Indira Gandhi, a stalwart Congress leader, imposed the Emergency in the country, suspending civil liberties, jailing opposition leaders and dissidents and effecting press censorship.

Modi's attack on the Congress for junking the Constitution during the Emergency is significant as the main opposition party and its allies had gone to the polls, accusing the BJP of seeking to change the Constitution if it got a big majority.

There is a view that the opposition's campaign did get some traction among a section of voters and dented the BJP's prospects in several states.

Modi reiterated in his remarks that a majority may be needed to run the government but the country runs on consensus, and stated that his government will always strive to take everyone along and build consensus to serve the country and fulfil people's aspirations.

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, he said, is an extremely important opportunity to render a new pace and height to the country. It will be full of dreams and resolve to make "Shreshtha Bharat" and "Viksit Bharat" by 2047, he added.

The prime minister said it has been his government's constant effort to serve the country by achieving consensus and taking everyone along to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of 140 crore citizens.

Expressing happiness over a good number of young MPs in the 18th Lok Sabha, he dwelt on the significance of the number 18 in Indian traditions and asked the parliamentarians to come together to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to them by the people.

Shri Amarnath Yatra...

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), an official said.

He said the MRTs -- consisting of 13 teams from the police, 11 from the SDRF, eight from the NDRF, four from the BSF and two from the CRPF -- will be deployed at critical spots on the twin routes for the pilgrims' safety.

The meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming yatra, a significant annual pilgrimage that draws lakhs of devotees, the official said.

Kumar, who also holds charge of the Armed Police and is commandant general of the SDRF, Civil Defence and Home Guards, briefed the teams on their specific duties, emphasising the importance of ensuring the pilgrims' safety and well-being, the official said.

He assessed the current state of equipment with each team and made specific recommendations for necessary upgrades and the proper utilisation of resources.

The senior officer paid special attention to the waterproofing of the clothing of the MRTs, stressing that the fitness and proper gear of rescuers is imperative for effective rescue operations, the official said.

Additionally, Kumar reviewed the training status of the teams, taking stock of the training conducted throughout the year.

He extolled the teams to utilise their professional skills according to their training and emphasised that well-rehearsed manoeuvres are crucial in disaster situations where panic can often take hold.

Kumar also made specific comments to boost the morale of the forces, encouraging them to see their rescue operations as a revered duty that holds spiritual significance, the official said.

The senior officer also conveyed to the teams that their service is not only a critical responsibility but a noble act of assisting pilgrims on their sacred journey.

Reviewing the deployment pattern of the MRTs, Kumar made specific suggestions regarding the inclusion of some more locations marked as sensitive, according to a recent review of the route.

He also sensitised the teams on recent Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) incidents in different states and highlighted the challenges climate change brings, especially to the work spectrum of the disaster response forces, the official said.

Kumar urged all teams to approach their duties with dedication and respect, as their efforts are integral to the success and sanctity of the pilgrimage.

He concluded the review meeting by reiterating the importance of preparedness, coordination and the spiritual value of their service, the official said.

Over 225 kanals...

of kanals had been grabbed by the land mafia and gangsters after tampering with the revenue records and the land was sold to various people.

Under as well criminal conspiracy, FORM 3-A (Form AIF) along with power of attorneys (POAS) were obtained from various PoK refugees, alluring them of additional lands and providing them instant money ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000 by the conduits of land grabbers.

Thereafter, insertions or additions regarding additional chunks of custodian lands were made in the revenue records by the officials of the revenue and custodian department.

Bail order perverse...

since it was not given a proper opportunity to argue its case.

It also said the trial judge did not record her satisfaction that "there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence" as per section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

On June 20, Special Judge Niyay Bindu, who sat as the vacation judge, granted bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case, saying the Enforcement Directorate (ED) failed to furnish direct evidence linking him to the proceeds of crime in the money laundering case.

On July 21, high court's vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain, however, put an interim stay on the trial court order as it reserved verdict on the issue of stay on a plea moved by the ED.

"Considering the factual and legal perversities in the impugned order granting bail, which fails to consider a single relevant material placed before the learned Vacation Judge demonstrating the neck deep involvement of the accused Arvind Kejriwal in the offence of money laundering including the generation of proceeds of crime and its subsequent utilization as well as his vicarious role as National Convener of AAP -- which was the ultimate beneficiary of the major part of proceeds of crime to the tune of at least Rs 45 crores, the impugned order deserves to be stayed and ultimately set aside," the note said.

The ED said the trial court asked its counsel to "cut short" his arguments and its right to avail the legal remedies was also curtailed as the bail order was not uploaded until after 11 a.m. on the next day.

It said the bail is liable to be cancelled as it is "illegal and perverse", is based on irrelevant considerations, and ignores relevant material.

The trial court could not have deviated from the findings given by the high court in another case pertaining to the AAP leader, it said.

"The impugned order dated 20.06.2024 passed by the Ld. Special Judge (Vacation Judge), Rouse Avenue, has been passed in breach of both the mandatory twin conditions which any Court considering bail under the PMLA is bound to follow and therefore, the impugned order suffers from a jurisdictional defect," the note said.

"The Vacation Judge commits a fundamental jurisdictional error by holding that grant of bail to an accused under Section 45 of the PMLA is a matter of discretion of the court. On the contrary, several Supreme Court judgments hold that the twin conditions are mandatory and only upon the satisfaction of the Court that there exist reasonable grounds for believing that the accused is not guilty of the offence of money laundering and that he will not commit such offence while on bail can he be released," it added.

The note further said the trial court completely disregarded Kejriwal's vicarious role as the head of the political party which is the "major beneficiary of the proceeds of crime generated in the Delhi Liquor Scam" and the "concession" given to him for holding a constitutional chair is also perverse.

"In para 26, the (trial) court records a completely perverse finding when it holds that ED is silent about the facts as to how the proceeds of crime have been utilized in the Assembly Elections at Goa by AAP. The entire end-to-end money trail was not only placed before the Court, both in the reply as well as the Prosecution Complaint with (evidence and material)..."

"However, despite placing all these materials and adverting to them during arguments, despite repeated attempt on the part of the Judge to "cut short", there is no such discussion on the above material," the ED said in the note.

"A person who is a Chief Minister commits a serious offence of money laundering can never take refuge under the law and seek immunity from the applicable law on the ground of holding a constitutional chair. Moreover, no such exception is carved out for any constitutional chair either under Section 3 of the PMLA.. Therefore, the concession given to the applicant on account of holding a constitutional chair is perverse and contrary to settled canons of law," it argued.

The note also objected to the trial court referring to a speech by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud at an event to justify hurrying up the proceedings, saying it was "wholly extraneous to the case at hand".

It also said the prayer of the ED counsel to stay the bail order to enable it to avail the legal remedies was orally rejected by the trial court.

On June 21, the high court had put in abeyance the operation of the bail order till the pronouncement on the issue of stay and asked the parties to file written submissions by June 24. The order will be pronounced tomorrow.

Kejriwal has approached the Supreme Court against the interim stay on his bail. On Monday, the top court fixed June 26 for hearing his plea, saying it would like to wait for the pronouncement of the high court order on the issue.

J&K Govt sanctions...

Medical Commission's Teachers Eligibility Qualifications in Medical Institutions Regulations, 2022.

Pertinently, the National Medical Commission had in 2009 abolished the designation/post of Lecturer in Medical Education and prescribed only 3-tier faculty structure of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor. However, in J&K, the post of Lecturers continued to remain existent with a 4-tier faculty structure in GMC Jammu and GMC Srinagar.

During inspections of these GMCs, the NMC did not count the Lecturers as faculty. In new GMCs of J&K, the Medical Education Department has already put in place 3-tier faculty structure and appointed faculty as per NMC norms, with the post of Assistant Professor as entry level post. The faculty associations of GMCs Jammu and Srinagar have for long been demanding abolition of the post of Lectures and implementation of NMC norms on faculty structure.

Besides, restructuring of faculty in GMC Jammu and GMC Srinagar was also recommended by Y K Chawla Committee set up by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh. A proposal of the Medical Education Department for abolition of all the posts of Lecturers in these two GMCs and up-gradation and creation of equal number of posts at the level of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in 3-tier faculty structure was earlier concurred to in-principle by the Finance Department.

The UT's Administrative Council, the highest decision making body, has given its nod to the Health and Medical Education department's proposal for implementation of 3-tier faculty structure in-principle and has directed the Department to upgrade 287 posts of Lecturers as Assistant Professor. The Administrative Council has also directed the Health and Medical Education Department to amend Recruitment Rules which were last framed in 1979. The Department has in both the GMC approved the corresponding increase of 136 posts which are being created at the level of Associate Professor and Professor. The Health and Medical Education Department has already initiated the process for creation of posts at higher level and framing of new Recruitment Rules in tune with NMC norms.

The restructuring of both the GMCs will also enable these Institutions to apply for more PG seats and will have the likelihood of substantial funding from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India. Subject to fulfilment of requisite criteria, the two GMCs will be eligible to apply for nearly 300 PG seats thereby improving the specialist doctor/patient ratio in the UT.

Govt committed to...

subsumed 17 local taxes and fees, was implemented on July 1, 2017. In nearly seven years, the tax has been reduced on several products and services used by the common people, a report said.

Health ministry, NBE...

examination is conducted by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS), along with its technical partner Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), for medical students.

According to sources, senior officers from the TCS were present in the meeting. The government on Saturday postponed the NEET-PG entrance examination, scheduled to be held on June 23, as a "precautionary measure" in the wake of recent allegations on the integrity of certain competitive exams.

The Monday meeting was held to check the "robustness" of the system for the conduct of the exam in the coming days, sources said.

It was learnt that the TCS top brass briefed about the various aspects of the exam procedure that is followed in the meeting.

"The process of uploading the NEET-PG exam paper starts an hour before the exam is to be held. This time it was postponed as a preventive measure to ensure the exam is held in a transparent and secure manner. New dates will be announced soon depending upon the availability of centres," the source said.

"Taking into consideration the recent incidents of allegations regarding the integrity of certain competitive examinations, the Ministry of Health has decided to undertake a thorough assessment of the robustness of processes of NEET-PG entrance examination, conducted by the National Board of Examination for medical students," the ministry had said on Saturday.

"It has accordingly been decided, as a precautionary measure, to postpone the NEET-PG entrance examination, scheduled to be held tomorrow -- 23rd June, 2024," it had stated. RHL

Searches in Udhampur...

Security has been tightened at the famous Patnitop tourist resort. The operation was still underway when reports last came from the area, they said.

Security forces and police launched search operations in the Jata area of Kalakote, and Devak and Triyath in Sunderbani area following suspicious movements, they said. A police officer said the search operation was a "routine exercise".

Police organizes Bharat Darshan Tour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: With an aim to provide opportunity to the youth of far flung areas to understand the togetherness of India inspite of immense diversity, District Police Udhampur organized Bharat Darshan Tour for youth of district Udhampur under Civic Action Programme of Jammu & Kashmir Police.

In a ceremony organized today at district police lines Udhampur Senior Superintendent of Police Udhampur Joginder Singh flagged off the tour in which a group of 67 participants selected from different areas of Udhampur. The programme is flagged off from DPL Udhampur in presence of the officers of District Police Udhampur.

In this event of five days opportunity to enjoy different modes of transportation including travel by train and by air is being provided to the youth of far flung areas of district Udhampur.

In a five days tour programme flagged off today opportunity of sightseeing at Delhi and Chennai is being provided to the touring youth. Touring youth will visit Rajgath, Lotus Temple, Indira Memorial, India Gate, War Memorial, shanti Van, Teen Murti and historic places of Chennai like Museum, Marina Beach, Kapleshwar Temple etc.

Speaking on the occasion SSP Udhampur emphasized that touring youth should take full advantage of the opportunity and collect memories for life. Youth were advised to imbibe in them greatness of the country and spread the message through different media as ambassadors of the country.

Enthusiastic teenagers expressed that it is effort of J&K Police to expose our youth and learn a lot of things which would definitely encourage them to craft their destiny.

People and especially parents of the touring youth appreciated the efforts of Udhampur Police is organizing such events which are necessary to save of future generations from the menace of drug abuse and other social evils.

Real-time sharing of Intelligence; enhanced co-ordination, synergy discussed during SMAC meet

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Amid heightened security arrangements ahead of upcoming Amarnath Yatra, a Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centre (SMAC) meet held at District Police Lines, Udhampur.

Sr. Suptd. of Police Udhampur, Joginder Singh presided this SMAC meet, who called for timely sharing of actionable information to counter anti-national activities in Udhampur District.

Senior officers of SFs and intelligence grid attended the meeting, reviewed the security situation & highlighted the need for working in a more coordinated and synergised manner to dismantle terror and its support structures.

Discussions were held on security scenario, law and order situation, movement and presence of terrorists, attempts to revive militancy, surveillance over ground workers, surrendered militants, missing youths and their presence in PoK and radicalisation of youth.

During the meeting detail discussions were held to ensure the security arrangements for Amarnath Pilgrims and also reviewed the traffic plan to ensure the safe and hassle free movement of yatrins on NIW. Deployment plans were also reviewed by chairing officer to meet any contingency in the district during Amarnath Yatra.

The participating officers shared inputs and feedback on the steps being taken to maintain law and order as well as on the counter-insurgency grid.

A proper roadmap was chalked out against the hinterland activities of ANEs, their modus operandi and smuggling of narcotics, arms, and ammunition and persons involved.

The representatives of Army, CRPF, CISF, BSF, SB, IB, CID, MI and all police supervisory officers of District Udhampur attended this meet.