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Indian, Chinese troops...

the buffer zone. The disengagement in the Gogra-Hotsprings area is an outcome of the 16th round of high-level military talks in July, the two armies said while announcing the beginning of the process on September 8.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on September 9 that the disengagement process in PP-15 will be completed by Monday.

"As per the agreement, the disengagement process in this area started on September 8 at 0830 hours and will be completed by September 12. The two sides have agreed to cease forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner, resulting in the return of the troops of both sides to their respective areas," he said.

"It has been agreed that all temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides will be dismantled and mutually verified. The land-forms in the area will be restored to the pre-stand-off period by both sides," Bagchi added.

He said the agreement ensures that the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in this area will be strictly observed and respected by both sides, and that there will be no unilateral change in the status quo.

"With the resolution of the stand-off at PP-15, both sides mutually agreed to take the talks forward and resolve the remaining issues along LAC and restore peace and tranquillity in India-China border areas," he said.

Initially, around 30 soldiers from each side were locked in a face-off in PP-15 but the number of troops kept changing depending on the overall situation in the region.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties. The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers and heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

The disengagement in the Pangong Lake area took place in February last year while the withdrawal of troops and equipment in Patrolling Point 17 (A) in Gogra took place in August last year.

Rapidly moving towards...

that India has made rapid progress in the rail sector; and over 9,000 km lines have been doubled in the last seven years. The corresponding figure was only 1,900 km in the five years preceding 2014, he said.

The opening ceremony of the seminar was attended by Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari and Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and NITI Aayog member V K Saraswat, among others.

The defence minister, in his address, spoke of the synergy and fusion needed between the civil and military stakeholders, and asserted that presence of representatives from different sectors of the two sides showed the "commitment" to achieve the goal as India stood on the threshold of an 'Amrit Kaal'.

"We are rapidly moving towards jointness of the three services," Singh said, and added that "our effort is to have common logistic nodes so that resources of one service can be seamlessly made available to other services".

And, logistics is among the fields that benefited the most from this jointness, he said at the event held at Manekshaw Centre in Delhi Cantonment.

Varanasi Court rejects...

The mosque committee had approached the apex court, arguing that their plea was not maintainable as the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 mandated that the character of such places should remain as it was at Independence.The 1991 law made an exemption only for the Ram Jannabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute.

The Varanasi district court has now said the 1991 Act does not apply in this case --- where the devotees are seeking permission for daily worship of the idols they say are already installed there. Already, they are allowed to offer prayers there once a year, their lawyers had argued.

"From the perusal of provisions of the Act, it is clear that no bar has been imposed by the Act regarding a suit claiming right to worship idols installed in the endowment within the premises of the temple, or outside, the order said.

Dismissing the mosque committee's plea, the judge said, In view of the above discussions and analysis, I have come to the conclusion that the suit of the plaintiffs is not barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, the Waqf Act, 1995 and UP Sri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983.

The court has now fixed September 22 as its next date of hearing in the case.

Advocate Merajuddin Siddiqui later said the mosque committee will challenge the order in Allahabad High Court.

The matter could also come up before the Supreme Court on October 20, the date it fixed during a hearing on the matter in July.

Several BJP leaders, including two Union ministers, welcomed the Varanasi court order, with the party's national secretary Y Satya Kumar terning it a "triumph of the truth."

The Vishva Hindu Parishad and the UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya also hailed the order.

Maurya seemed to express hope that Mathura where another mosque-temple dispute is being heard could also see a similar outcome. Karvat leti Mathura, Kashi, he said.

Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs Ashwini Kumar Choubey said, "Kashi and Mathura are the pride of our Sanatan Dharma. This decision is for the uplift of our culture."

The district judge had on August 24 reserved the order on the issue of maintainability till September 12.

On Monday, he delivered the 26-page order in 10 minutes in the presence of 32 people including lawyers from both sides, said an advocate who was present in the courtroom to which entry was restricted.

Some people who had gathered outside the court distributed sweets.

A day earlier, the district administration had issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC banning congregation of people. Police had stepped up security.

The Hindu women had petitioned a Varanasi civil court in August 2021. The court also agreed to appointing a panel headed by an advocate to conduct a video survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

Lawyers to the Hindu side had said the video clips showed a shivling' in the complex, a claim disputed by the mosque committee. It also objected to the video being leaked.

On May 20, the Supreme Court transferred the suit filed by Hindu devotees from civil judge (senior division) to the Varanasi district judge, saying it was a complex and sensitive case and should be heard by a more senior judicial official.

The three-judge bench also said that the process to ascertain the religious character of a place of worship is not barred under the Places of Worship Act.

Pensioners can submit...

agencies, like Banks etc. for disbursement of pension and it causes a lot of hardships and unnecessary inconvenience for the aged and infirm pensioners. Digital Life Certificate seeks to address this problem by digitizing the whole process of securing the life certificate. With this initiative the pensioner's presence before the pension disbursing agency or the certification authority will become a thing of past," it stated.

"The Pensioner can download the Jeevan Pramaan Windows and Android client software from Jeevan Pramaan website. The client software will take care of registration for the life certificate, for authentication it will use the Aadhaar Biometric Authentication platform," it stated and added, "Submission of Life Certificate Digitally through Gol UMANG App on Mobile: Pensioners have to download UMANG App from Google play store/App Store, search Jeevan Pramaan and click on "generate life certificate". Pensioner Authentication page will open and required information to be fed for generation of Digital Life Certificate."

"The Pensioners shall visit nearest CSC or Aadhaar Seva Kendra and provide Aadhaar Number, Mobile Number, Pension Payment Order (PPO) Number, Account Number & Name of Pension Sanctioning Authority and then provide biometrics (Fingerprint). On successful Aadhaar based biometric authentication, Jeevan Pramaan will be generated with a unique Id called Pramaan Id as acknowledgement,' read the circular.

PGIMER Chandigarh team...

1 in 10,000 to 1 in 50,000 people. Patients with hereditary Angioedema often observe recurrent episodes of swelling in the skin, pain in abdomen and occasional-ly life-threatening edema of the larynx (windpipe).

Due to lack of awareness about this disease among people and general practitioners, most patients with hereditary Angioedema remain undiagnosed and untreated and sometimes succumb to disease following life-threatening episodes of Angioedema of airways, Dr Jindal said.

Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) is an uncommon disease characterized by recurrent episodes of ill-defined, non-pitting, deep seated skin and mucosal swellings.

Skin swellings most frequently involve the limbs followed by face, genitals and lips. In addition, patients may experience recurrent episodes of abdominal pain. Laryngeal edema is a potentially life-threatening manifestation of HAE. Each episode of angioedema often lasts for 3-5 days. Though the episodes can be spontaneous in onset, many a times, these are heralded by physical trauma, mental stress, infections and dental or other surgical procedures.

HAE is a genetic disease and it runs in families. Approximately 80% patients have a family history of similar illness. However, in approximately 20% patients the defect is de novo and there is no suggestive family history of similar illness. There is a 50% risk of having a child with HAE if one of the parents is affected with this condition.

What are the different types of HAE?

The generation of bradykinin in the blood is normally inhibited by C1-esterase inhibitor or simply called C1-inhibitor (C1-INH). There are three types of HAE. Type I and type II HAE are now classified as C1-INH-HAE and are caused by mutation in the SERPING1 gene. Type I constitutes 85% of C1-INH-HAE cases. In type I HAE, both levels and function of C1-INH are low; whereas in type II, the C1-INH is dysfunctional, and therefore, the levels are normal to elevated, however, function is low. Type III HAE, now classified as nl-C1-INH-HAE, is not characterized by deficiency or dysfunction of C1-INH. These patients have rare mutations in factor XII, angiopoietin, kininogen, plasminogen, myoferlin or heparan sulfate 3-O-sulfotransferase 6 gene. The diagnosis of nl-C1-INH-HAE can only be established by doing the genetic testing.

How is HAE diagnosed?

Diagnosis of HAE should be considered in any patient who presents with angioedema in the absence of wheals (Wheals are intensely pruritic, superficial, well-defined swelling of skin that usually last for few hours).

Angioedema associated with wheals is commonly encountered in patients having acute or chronic urticaria or anaphylaxis, and the chief mediator for its development is histamine. Angioedema not associated with wheals is a different entity, mediated by bradykinin. HAE is the most important entity in this category. Instead of urticaria, these patients often have tingling, numbness, pain and formation of ser-piginous to annular, non-pruritic patches on skin (also known as erythema marginatum). Erythema marginatum may be seen in approximately 50% of all patients with HAE and may be confused with an urticarial rash.

C4, C1-INH levels, C1-INH function should be tested in all patients with suspected HAE. The diagnosis of patients with type 1 HAE depends on demonstration of low C4 and low C1-INH levels while patients with type 2 HAE have normal to high levels of C1-INH and low C1-INH function. The diagnosis of type 3 (nl-C1-INH-HAE) depends on a high index of suspicion and needs to be confirmed with genetic testing.

How is HAE managed?

The management of HAE is divided into the treatment of acute attack, short-term prophylaxis and long-term prophylaxis.

Treatment of acute attacks comprises of plasma derived or recombinant C1-inhibitor, kallikrein antagonists (Ecallantide) and bradykinin B2 receptor antagonists (Icatibant). Because of non-availability of these products in India, most patients are given fresh frozen plasma for the treatment of acute attacks.

Short-term prophylaxis is used when there is an anticipated risk of an attack of angioedema such as during dental procedures and any other major surgery. Plasma derived or recombinant C1-inhibitor and bradykinin B2 receptor antagonists (Icatibant) are the mainstay of therapy for these situations. However, because of non-availability of these products in India, most patients are given a combination of attenuated androgens (stanozolol or danazol) and fresh frozen plasma.

Long-term prophylaxis is given to patients with HAE who have frequent attacks of angioedema leading to an impaired quality of life and risk of life-threatening laryngeal attacks. Plasma derived C1-inhibitor and kallikrein antagonists (Lanadelumab) are the mainstay of therapy for long-term prophylaxis. In India, tranexamic acid and attenuated androgens (stanozolol or danazol) are used as prophylactic treatment for most patients with HAE.

Religious rights of ...

way to the maintenance of public order, morality and health, the top court said the right to live a dignified life as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution is not only available to a living person but also to the "dead".

"Religious rights of every person and every religion are, however, subject to the public order, the maintenance whereof is paramount in the larger interest of the society. Both these fundamental rights have been expressly made 'subject to public order, morality and health'.

"The exercise of these fundamental rights is not absolute but must yield or give way to the maintenance of public order, morality and health," a bench of Justice Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala said.

The apex court's judgement came on a plea filed by Mohammad Latief Magrey seeking exhumation of the body of his son Aamir Magrey.

Refusing to disinter the body of the deceased for the purpose of religious rituals, the top court said almost nine months have passed post burial which is suggestive that the body may not be in a deliverable state.

The top court said it will be too much at this stage to disinter the body and that "the dead" should not be disturbed and some sanctity should be attached to the grave.

"It goes without saying that the right to live a dignified life as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution is not only available to a living person but also to the dead.....

"These rights are not only for the deceased but his family members also have a right to perform the last rites in accordance with the religious traditions. We are of the view that it would have been appropriate and in the fitness of things to hand over the dead body of the deceased to the family members, more particularly, when a fervent request was made for the same," the bench said.

The apex court said for any compelling reasons or circumstances or issues relating to public order etc. more particularly in cases of encounter with the militants the agency concerned may decline to part with the body.

"These are all very sensitive matters involving the security of the nation and as far as possible the court should not interfere unless substantial & grave injustice has been done.

"Although, for some reason or the other, the body of the deceased was not handed over to the family members yet the same was buried with respect & dignity, with the help of the Anqaf Committee at the Wadder Payeen Graveyard," the court said.

The top court said after a body has been buried, it is considered to be in the custody of the law, therefore, disinterment is not a matter of right.

"The disturbance or removal of an interred body is subject to the control and direction of the court. The law does not favour disinterment, based on the public policy that the sanctity of the grave should be maintained.

"Once buried, a body should not be disturbed. A court will not ordinarily order or permit a body to be disinterred unless there is a strong showing of necessity that disinterment is within the interests of justice," the bench said.

The top court noted that the respondents have stated on oath that the body of the deceased was buried with all honour.

"The body was first washed and thereafter wrapped in fresh white cloth. The prayers were also performed at the time of the burial. There is nothing to indicate that the deceased was not given a decent burial as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution.

"The right to dignity and fair treatment under Article 21 of the Constitution is not only available to a living man but also to his body after his death. We, as a court of law, respect the emotions and sentiments expressed by the appellant as the father of the deceased. However, the court of law should not decide the rights of the parties considering their sentiments," the bench said.

On June 3, a division bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh stayed the single bench order for exhuming the body of Aamir Magrey and handing it to his family for last rites.

On May 27, the single judge bench had directed the Jammu and Kashmir authorities to make arrangements for exhuming the remains of the deceased from the Wadder Payeen graveyard in the presence of Latief Magrey.

The high court, however, had said if the body is "highly putrefied and is not in deliverable state or is likely to pose risk to public health and hygiene, the petitioner and his close relatives shall be allowed to perform last rites as per their tradition and religious beliefs in the graveyard itself". In that situation, the state shall pay petitioner Mohammad Latief Magrey a compensation of Rs five lakh for deprivation of his right to have the dead body of his son and give him a decent burial as per the family traditions, religious obligations, and faith which the deceased professed when he was alive, the single judge bench order had said. Bodies of two more civilians, Altaf Ahmad Bhat and Dr. Mudasir Gul, who was killed in the Hyderpora encounter, were exhumed and returned to the families following an outcry days after the gunfight. Four people, including Magrey, were killed in the encounter on the outskirts of Srinagar on November 15, 2021. While police claimed all of them were terrorists and buried their bodies in Kupawara in north Kashmir, the families of the deceased insisted they were innocent civilians.

India to become...

largest. "I am fully confident that in a few years from now, we will reach the third position," the minister said. Shah expressed confidence that the contribution of the cooperative sector would also be discussed when the country would become the third largest economy in the world.

Stating that the summit is being organised after a gap of 48 years, Shah said the country has now become self-sufficient in milk production and also an exporter.

The minister sought to distinguish between dairy cooperatives and corporates involved in this sector.

Shah said the dairy cooperatives have played a big role in women empowerment and also in fighting malnutrition.

"Cooperative sector and dairy cooperatives have worked a lot in rural development," he added.

Shah asked the dairy industry to make natural farming its lifeline as this would improve the health of people and also strengthen the economic system.

Cong tweets image...

Jodo Yatra". The BJP lashed out at the Congress for its "promotion of violence and hatred" with its spokesperson Sambit Patra dubbing the yatra as "Bharat Todo Yatra" and "Aag Lagao Yatra".

Patra demanded that the Congress immediately take down the post, saying there is no room for violence in India's constitutional scheme of things.

He also cited party leader Rahul Gandhi's meeting during the yatra with a controversial Christian pastor who allegedly insulted a Hindu goddess.

The Congress' tweet also drew a sharp response from the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh.

RSS Joint General Secretary Manmohan Vaidya said the Congress wants to connect people through hatred. He alleged that the party's earlier generations of leadership also harboured "hatred and contempt" for the Sangh but could not stop its rise.

Addressing a press conference in Raipur after the conclusion of a three-day RSS coordination meeting, he said that there was "growing support" for Hindutva in society.

As the BJP and the RSS hit out at the opposition party, it launched a counter-attack with its general secretary Jairam Ramesh saying that those who "stoked the fires of hatred, bigotry and prejudice" must be prepared to receive things back in the same coin.

Alleging that the Congress has had an old association with "fire", Patra said Punjab was put on fire when the party was in power and Sikhs were burnt alive during the 1984 riots.

Noting that many members of RSS, the Hindutva organisation considered the BJP's ideological mentor, have been killed in Kerala where the Congress's yatra is going on presently, the BJP spokesperson alleged that the opposition party has signalled to "terrorists" in the southern state to target their functionaries.

"This is a blatant instigation for arson and murder. This instigation has been done by the Gandhi family and the Congress at their behest," he said.

He claimed that Rahul Gandhi has often used the "fire" metaphor, noting that in his address at Cambridge University earlier the Congress leader had alleged the BJP has sprinkled kerosene all over the country and all it needs is one spark to catch fire. He had made comments on similar lines at a Congress meeting in Rajasthan and during the protests against the 'Agnipath' recruitment scheme for armed forces, Patra added. "Do you want violence in the country? Do you want people who follow the BJP-RSS ideology burnt," Patra asked.

SC to hear...

Bangladesh and Afghanistan has come in for stinging criticism by opposition parties, leaders and other entities over exclusion of Muslims.

During the hearing on Monday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that several issues have been raised in the petitions filed before the top court.

"Our reply is filed so far as some amendments and challenge is concerned. In some of the matters, our reply is yet to be filed," he said.

Mehta said some time would be required for preparation and also for the hearing the matter. The bench said the office of the Solicitor General shall prepare a complete list of matters which shall be put in different segments depending upon the challenge raised in the petitions. "The Union of India shall thereafter file its appropriate responses with respect to these segments of challenges," the bench said, adding, "Let the needful in that behalf be done within four weeks from today." The bench noted that its attention has been invited to the apex court's January 22, 2020 order; in terms of which matters coming from Assam and North-East were already directed to be segregated. "List these matters before the court for direction on October 31," it said, adding, "In the meantime, let notices be issued in all fresh matters wherever notice uptil now has not been issued by this court." "Put the house in order and take it that we will be making a reference to a three-judge combination," the bench orally observed. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing in the matter, said these are "very important matters hanging fire for a very long time" and they need to be heard and decided quickly. We just had a discussion on the point that should we make a reference to at least three judges of this court. What I felt wtoas let all these preliminaries be over and then we can make a reference, Justice Lalit observed.

A total of 220 petitions were listed for hearing, including the lead plea by the Indian Union Muslim League. In January 2020, the apex court had made it clear it will not stay the operation of Citizenship (Amendment) Act without hearing the Centre. Seeking a response of the central government in four weeks to a batch of pleas challenging the CAA, the top court had also restrained high courts in the country from proceedings with pending petitions on the issue.

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), one of the petitioners that have challenged the CAA, has said the Act violates the fundamental Right to Equality and intends to grant citizenship to a section of illegal immigrants by making an exclusion based on religion. The plea by IUML, filed through advocate Pallavi Pratap, seeks an interim stay on the operation of the law. One of the pleas filed by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has said the Act is a "brazen attack" on core fundamental rights envisaged under the Constitution and treats "equals as unequal". "The impugned Act creates two classifications, viz, classification on basis of religion and the classification on the basis of geography, and both the classifications are completely unreasonable and share no rational nexus to the object of the impugned Act i.e., to provide shelter, safety, and citizenship to communities who in their native country are facing persecution on grounds of religion," the plea has said. Several other petitions have been filed challenging the constitutional validity of the amended law, including by RJD leader Manoj Jha, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, and AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi.

Muslim body Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, All Assam Students Union (AASU), Peace Party, CPI, NGO 'Rihai Manch', advocate M L Sharma, and law students have also approached the apex court challenging the Act.

Airtel arm Nxtra first data centre to deploy fuel-cell clean energy tech

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharti Airtel has said its subsidiary Nxtra Data Ltd has partnered with Bloom Energy to deploy low environmental impact fuel cell installation at its data centre in Karnataka, reducing carbon emissions through a cleaner, hydrogen ready fuel supply.

Nxtra by Airtel has a network of data centers in India with 12 large and 120 edge data centers across the country and will invest over Rs 5000 crore over the next four years to expand its capacity by 3X to over 400 MW.

Nxtra will be the first data center company in India to deploy fuel cell technology to reduce carbon emissions at its data centers while unlocking cost and sustainability benefits. Nxtra plans to start the unit on non-combusted natural gas and then switch to 50% hydrogen in future without any significant investment. The natural gas-powered cells will be used for primary generation with utility electrical grid and generators as backup sources.

Rajesh Tapadia, chief operating officer, Nxtra by Airtel said, "With an ambition to reach net zero by 2031, we have embarked on our sustainability journey by making all possible efforts to adopt innovative energy solutions."

"Bloom Energy's technology is distinctly capable of helping India meet its decarbonization objectives as it transitions to a hydrogen economy," said Tim Schweikert, senior managing director, international business development, Bloom Energy.

The company has already invested and partnered with 8 organisations to develop renewable energy power plants across India to source more than 180,000 MWh of renewable energy and is committed to achieving 50% of its power requirements through renewable energy sources in the next 12 months.

22 new COVID-19 cases in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir registered 22 fresh Covid cases on Monday, taking the infection tally in the union territory to 4,78,759 and no fresh death due to the Coronavirus was reported, an official said here.

While nine cases were reported from Jammu division, 13 cases were reported from Kashmir valley, the official said.

The death toll due to the virus was 4,784 as no fresh fatality was reported from the union territory, he said.

There are 352 active cases of the disease in the union territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,73,623, the official said. The official said there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus).

