

Won't intervene, says Govt

Virtual revolt by 4 SC Judges against CJI, say democracy at stake

NEW DELHI, Jan 12:

Warning that democracy is at stake, four senior Judges of the Supreme Court today mounted a virtual revolt against the country's Chief Justice, raising questions on "selective" case allocation and certain judicial orders, sending shockwaves across the judiciary and polity.

The unprecedented move by the four Judges including Justice J Chelameswar, the second senior judge after Chief Justice Dipak Misra, brought to fore the simmering differences between the country's top Judge and some senior Judges in the Apex Court in recent months. The Apex Court currently has 25

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Justice Chelameswar himself described as an "extraordinary event" in the annals of the Indian judiciary when the Judges addressed a joint news conference during which he said "sometimes administration of



Four Judges of Supreme Court of India (L-R) Justice Kurian Joseph, Justice Jesti Chelameswar, Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Madan Lokur addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Friday. (UNI)

the Supreme Court is not in order and many things which are less than desirable have happened in the last few months."

The Judge accused Justice Misra of not taking any "remedial measures" on some of the issues which affected the functioning of the apex court that they had raised. Justice Misra became the CJI on August 28, 2017 and he is due to retire from on October 2 this year.

Unless this institution is pre-

served, "democracy will not survive" in this country, Justice Chelameswar said at the unscheduled press conference, in the first of its kind event in independent India, leaving uncertain how this open dissection in the hallowed institution would be resolved.

In a scathing criticism and unvarnished self-reflection of the Supreme Court, Chelameswar, who was

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'Will destroy Pak posts which abet intrusions'

Ops to shift from South to North Kashmir: Army chief

J&K schools sowing seeds of radicalization

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Jan 12: In a significant statement on anti-militancy operations in Kashmir, Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat said today that this year Army will shift its focus to North Kashmir in 2017 to prevent the infiltration attempts and declared that troops would destroy all Pakistani posts from where terrorists are launched into the Indian soil.

He said seeds of thought of some kind of "separate identity" are being sown in Government schools among the children, which have separate map of the State besides that of India and called for major revamp of education system in J&K to deal with the problem.

Inter-acting with media



persons ahead of the Army Day in the Union capital, Gen Rawat said: "our focus of operations in 2017 was South Kashmir. This year it will shift to North Kashmir's Baramulla, Pattan, Handwara, Kupwara, Sopore, Lolab and some Northern areas of Bandipora so that the infiltration can be thwarted there".

Asserting that the people, who rush to site of encounters between militants and security forces, were risking their lives, the Army chief described it as "worrysome phenomenon."

"This is becoming a worrisome phenomenon that people are just rushing to operations to

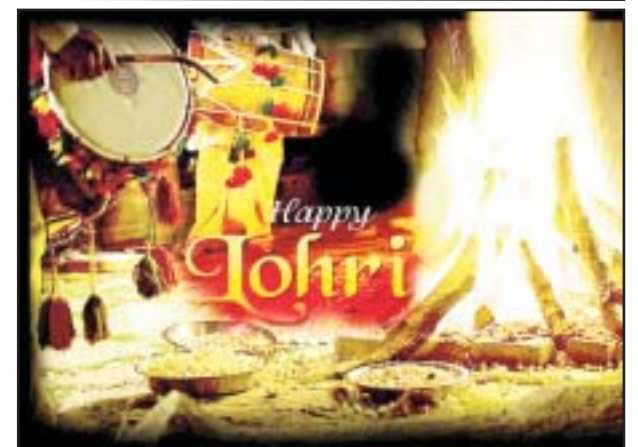
get successful and at time taking risks well beyond their capacities. Why are they taking risks? They are more concerned about tasks at hand to get success, that is why sometimes it is leading to higher casualty rate," the Chief of Army Staff said.

The Army chief's statement on focusing North Kashmir this year assumed great significance as it had been targeting South Kashmir, which had once become hub of the militancy especially after the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen divisional commander Burhan Wani in July 2016. However, last year, security forces killed nearly 200 militants in the Valley including South Kashmir.

He declared that the Indian Army will destroy all those military posts of Pakistan from where they launched militants and terror strikes into Kashmir.

"We target all those Pakistani posts from where they launch terrorists for infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir. Terrorists are a disposable commodity in

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SKIMS GB ratifies suspensions

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Governing Body of the SKIMS today ratified the action taken against three faculty members for indulging in private practice and directed SKIMS to institute a full-fledged inquiry in terms of the relevant rules.

The meeting was chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti here today, who is also chairperson of the Governing Body.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister said SKIMS is a premier health institute of the State and no effort to either demean its reputation or compromise the quality of service to

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

13 KAS officers transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Government today ordered transfer and postings of 13 KAS officers.

Gopal Singh, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Koteranka, was transferred and posted as SDM, Akhnor, vice Sunaina Sharma.

Ravinder Sharma, SDM, Vijaypur, was transferred and posted as SDM, Chowki-Chowra, vice Jasmeet Singh.

Sunaina Sharma, SDM, Akhnor, was transferred and posted as Secretary, Jammu Municipal Corporation, against an available vacancy.

Rakesh Gupta, Deputy

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Oppn flays, coalition hails

Nothing for common man in budget: Rana

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Jan 12: Making a complete postmortem of the budget proposals of Finance Minister, Haseeb Drabu presented in State Assembly yesterday, NC MLA from Nagrota, Devender Rana today termed the budget for 2018-19 "a beautiful rose and a lovely flower on front but having nothing inside."

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Participating in the debate on budget in State Assembly, Rana said this budget is totally hollow and asked the Finance Minister instead of doing a juggling of words, he should do something practicable for the benefit of the people as there is nothing in budget for common masses of the State.

Taking a jibe at Finance Minister and Government, the

NC Legislator said efficiency has not been visible in the budget. "You should do some thing practical to show the people of the State that growth has taken place", he added.

Rana said the data given regarding the economic growth in the budget is not correct and the liquidity of Jammu Kashmir Power Corporation (JKPC) is a major concern but you have left Power Budget and now tabled Panchayat Budget. "Previously you talked a lot in Power Budget but did nothing in practical", he added.

Rana, while welcoming the decision to regularize the employees, said though a belated decision but it was still good. However, he asked the Government to pay them salaries in full and also strongly advocated for regularization of Anganwari workers, Homeguards etc.

(Contd on page 13 Col 3)

Heavy shelling in Kamalkote, Pak suffers damage

Militants attack PP in Shopian

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Jan 12: The armies of India and Pakistan exchanged fire and shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kamalkote sector of Uri in North Kashmir's Baramulla district today in which several Pakistani bunkers were destroyed.

An official said that Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by targeting Indian Army posts in Kamalkote sector of Uri last night. He said that they used heavy machine guns and mortars to target the posts but there was no damage on Indian side.

The Army troops of 12 Dogra, 8 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) of Baaz battalions gave a befitting reply and also fired mortars and used heavy machine guns to target the Pakistani posts. Sources said that several Pakistani army bunkers were destroyed in the shelling in which Pakistani troops suffered casualties. However, the number

of casualties was not immediately known and Army deployed in the forward posts was trying to ascertain how many and what kind of casualties did Pakistani troops suffer.

The official said that the firing started at around 11.30 p.m and continued till 3.30 a.m during which it was war like situations in the area. However, in the morning the firing stopped but tension prevailed in the sector.

A soldier Kuldeep Sharma of 8 RR was injured in a landmine blast during patrolling in Kamalkote two days before. He was rushed to Uri hospital where from he was referred to Army hospital Srinagar for specialised treatment.

In the meantime, security has been put on maximum alert in Handwara area of Kupwara district after inputs about possible Fidayean attack by Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). Sources said

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Bhandari posted as PS to HRD Minister

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Department of Personnel and Training of Government of India has approved the appointment of Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari as Private Secretary to the Union Minister for Human Resource Development (Parkash Javadekar) in the Higher Education Department at the level of Director.

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CM favours one currency on EU pattern

Calls for Indo-Pak talks to restore peace

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Jan 12: Expressing hope that Ladakh and Kashmir can become gateway to India for major Central Asia trade activities, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today said that on the pattern of European Union (EU), one currency should be there in the SAARC countries to facilitate trade and travel.

Replying to the discussion on Governor's Address in the



Upper House of the J&K Legislature here today, the Chief Minister referred to the vision and dream of her late father, former J&K Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed and claimed that Ladakh and Kashmir were once the part of old Silk Route and major trade activities took place through Kashmir with the

Central Asian countries. But it is only possible now, when there is permanent peace on our borders and all the trade routes are opened.

Commenting on the opening of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote routes for travel and trade, the Chief Minister said it could be possible because former Prime Minister and towering leader of BJP Atal Behari Vajpayee and late Mufti Sahib were on the same page. They both were thinking on the same lines of restoring peace with the neighbours and they achieved a major success in their mission as borders turned peaceful. "We should not restrict to only two routes but there is need to open all other routes including

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Govt treating as 'trash' numerous recommendations of SVC

H&ME, RDD, Agri, H&UDD among major defaulting depts

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Jan 12: Numerous recommendations made by the State Vigilance Commission (SVC) to different Government departments for ensuring accountability and transparency in their functioning are being treated as trash during the past quite long time. In this way, the bureaucrats are creating impediments in the implementation of various provisions of Jammu and Kashmir State Vigilance Commission Act.

In terms of the provisions under Section 8(1)(g) read with Section 16(3) of the State Vigilance Commission Act, 2011, the Commission has been mandated to tender advice on all

matters relating to vigilance administration to the Government departments and Corporations established in the State by or under any Central Act or the Act of State Legislature.

Moreover, as per the provisions of the Act the Government departments or the Corporations are required to consider the advice of the Commission and take appropriate action.

Under Section 16(3) of the J&K State Vigilance Commission Act, 2011, recommendations made by the Commission are to be implemented on being approved by the Government. The proviso to Section 16(3) of the J&K State Vigilance Commission Act, 2011 casts a legal obliga-

tion on the Government to communicate the reasons in writing to the Commission in case it doesn't agree with the advice of the Commission.

Keeping these provisions in consideration, the State Vigilance Commission convened meetings with the senior officers of almost all the Government departments and accordingly made numerous recommendations for strict compliance so as to bring transparency and accountability in their functioning.

However, in respect of majority of the recommendations of SVC neither any action taken report was submitted nor reasons behind non-implementation were communicated thereby establishing that

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Furore in Assembly over CM Outreach Program, allotment of discretionary funds

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Jan 12: There was furore in the Lower House as the Congress Legislature Party Leader, Nawang Rigzin Jora accused the Chief Minister of distributing discretionary funds adopting pick and choose through her Public Outreach Programmes.

"On the name of Public Outreach Programme, Chief Minister is distributing funds through the party workers and defeated BJP candidates bypassing elected representatives and District Development Boards," he said while participating in discussion on the Budget recommendation in the Lower House today.

As the BJP MLAs, including Choudhary Sukhmandan, R S

Pathania, Shakti Parihar, PDP MLA Anjum Fazli and some other Members on Treasury benches took strong exception to the allegations, Congress MLA Usman Majid, Altaf Kalloo of National Conference and some other Opposition members came in defence of Rigzin Jora leading to heated exchange of words and subsequent commotion in the House. The agitated BJP MLAs dared Mr Jora to be specific and nominate the defeated candidates, who have been allotted the funds.

However, several opposition Members strongly defended Jora and claimed that they were also victim of this pick and choose. Usman Majid was most vociferous and agitated reiterating that he was not informed about the CM outreach Programme in

his constituency while ruling party workers were authorized for distribution of funds.

Usman Majid claimed that he has lists of such ruling party workers and defeated candidates, who have been authorized for spending of public money while BJP members asked him to nominate such persons. "I have the list of such persons and I can show you the same. I had informed about this earlier also in the House," Usman Majid said.

Deputy Speaker Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, who was in the Chair, had to intervene and reprimand Usman Majid for vociferous interruptions by the later even when the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, A R Veeri was making a statement for clarification with regard to the CM

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TEMPERATURE	
Max:	18.5 Degree C
Min:	6.4 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning):	75.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	55.0 per cent
Sunset on Saturday:	05:46 p.m.
Sunrise on Sunday:	07:33 a.m.
SRINAGAR:	
Partly cloudy	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	12.7 Degree C
Min:	-3.2 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning):	81.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	63.0 per cent
LEH:	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	4.7 Degree C
Min:	-7.7 Degree C