

SC seeks details from states about funds made available & disbursed by them for judiciary

NEW DELHI, July 26:

The Supreme Court asked the states to apprise it about the funds, which have been made available to them under the centrally-sponsored scheme, and the amount disbursed by them for the state and district judiciary.

The apex court asked the law secretary to the state governments to file affidavits giving details, including the amount that remains to be provided to the state and district judiciary and which were diverted for other projects.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant said this exercise be completed within four weeks by the law secretaries.

"At the present, what we will do is, let the high courts, as well as the states, respond to this and we will also ask the states to make a disclosure of how much money the states actually spent, which they receive from the centrally sponsored scheme, for the judiciary in the last five years," the bench orally observed.

The apex court was dealing with a matter about the report of the National Court Management System Committee (NCMSC).

Bodies on Dam Safety constituted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: Government of Jammu and Kashmir today ordered constitution of UT Committee on Dam Safety and UT Dam Safety Organization.

Headed by the Executive Director, JKPC, the UT Committee on Dam Safety shall be comprising Chief Engineer, I&FC Jammu/Kashmir; Chief Engineer Design Inspection Quality Control; Chief Engineer Bhagilhar; Chief Engineer NHPC; Chief Engineer Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd; representative from Central Water Commission, Central Engineering Board, NIT Srinagar and IIT Jammu as the Members.

The Dam Safety Organization is headed by Superintending Engineer, JKPC as the Chairman and comprised of Superintending Engineer NHPC; Superintending Engineer, Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd; Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic, Doda; Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Baramulla and Director Monitoring & Appraisal Central Water Commission Jammu as the Members.

These two bodies shall function in terms of mandate provided in the Dam Safety Act, 2021.

Apni Party to form Govt with youth's support in J&K: Manjit

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, July 26: Apni Party Provincial president Jammu and former Minister, Manjit Singh today said that the youth have extended their support to Apni Party to form the next Govt in Jammu and Kashmir as they have lost hopes with other political parties.

A strong gathering of youth and other local people shared their concern with Manjit Singh regarding growing unemployment, underdevelopment and poor road connectivity in border villages.

During this meeting, dozens of youth joined the Apni Party in presence of Manjit Singh and president Youth Wing, Vipul Bali and other leaders.

Welcoming them into the Party fold, Manjit Singh said that the youth are the future of Jammu and Kashmir and protection of the future generation is the responsibility of Apni Party. Therefore, the youth should come forward and extend support to the Party to resolve their issues, especially employment. He said Apni Party will be able to form next government here with the support of youth.

The Govt has failed to address the growing concerns of youth towards the unprecedented unemployment; he said and assured that Apni Party is committed for the protection of their jobs and future.

The youth felt cheated by the previous Govts and traditional political parties including Congress, BJP, NC and PDP. They have now come forward to support Apni Party as the Party's policies have given a ray of hope for the bright future of the people especially educated youth.

The bench also asked the registrar general of all the high courts to respond to a note, submitted by the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K M Nataraj who is representing the Centre, concerning the position of infrastructure and strength of judicial officers.

"The law secretaries to the state governments shall also submit their responses on affidavit specifically clarifying... the extent of funds which have been made available to the state under centrally sponsored schemes; the amount which is actually been disbursed by the state governments for the state and district judiciary..." said the bench, which posted the matter for hearing in the first week of September.

The apex court said that copy of the note submitted by the ASG be circulated to the registrar general of all the high courts as well as to the law secretary of the states.

During the hearing, Nataraj referred to the note which dealt with several aspects and statistics, including on delay in filling up vacancies in the district and subordinate courts and the availability of infrastructure.

Referring to the note, the ASG said that infrastructure is available but it is not properly utilised.

He said another issue is that

nearly, 2,000 judicial officers are posted for non-judicial works and this is one of the concerns which needs to be addressed.

On the issue of infrastructure, the bench observed that some of the states have the infrastructure, but there are states where even basic amenities are not available for litigants also.

"We need to take it state-wise then only we can reach a better conclusion," the top court said.

The bench said it would also ask the state governments to apprise the court of how much budget, which has been made available under the centrally-sponsored scheme, has been utilised in the last five financial years by the states for the judiciary and the creation of infrastructure.

In December last year, the top court had asked the Centre not to leave the high courts at state governments' mercy for funding judicial infrastructure and to develop a centralised mechanism where the money goes directly to them as per needs and requisitions.

It was deliberating upon the recommendations of Justice (retired) A K Sikri made in his report on the National Court Management System. (PTT)



PM during meeting with President of India, Droupadi Murmu, in New Delhi.

PM Modi meets President Droupadi Murmu

NEW DELHI, July 26:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday for the first time after her assumption of office yesterday, the President's Secretariat tweeted. (PTI)

Murmu, a former governor

of Jharkhand, was sworn in as the 15th President of the country on Monday.

"Prime Minister @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, first time after her assumption of office yesterday," the President's Secretariat tweeted. (PTI)



A senior officer of Horticulture Department addressing fruit growers during an awareness programme in Khour Block of Jammu.

Horti Deptt conducts awareness program for fruit growers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: Department of Horticulture Jammu conducted a farmers' awareness cum interaction programme at Panchayat Pahariwala of Khour Block.

The event was chaired by Director Horticulture Jammu Ram Savak and was attended by officers of the department, besides farmers, local Sarpanch and PRI members.

Addressing the farmers/fruit growers, the Director stressed on the need of High Density Plantation in the area. He said that the rainy season is very suitable for new plantation especially in the 'Kandi' and therefore, farmers should adopt cluster approach to establish new orchards. He said the department is providing all assistance to the farmers and they should take benefits of the Central and UT sponsored schemes of the department.

Ram Savak deliberated on Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). He asked farmers to form Self Help Groups (SHGs) and associate with Horticulture Department, which will help them in setting up of Micro Food Processing units under the PMFME scheme. Further, he urged farmers to adopt integrated farming in their fields and avail the benefits on different components viz. bore well, water harvesting tanks, drip irrigation, mechanization, protected cultivation, etc.

Earlier, the Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu Sarbjit Singh impressed upon farmers to go for compact plan-

BJP mis-leading on Art 370: Soz

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 26: Former Union Minister Prof. Saifuddin Soz has claimed that with their eyes completely shut on the reality in Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP continues to harp that Article 370 hindered vision of 'Ek Bharat', but this narrative is absolutely wrong.

"The one-sided propaganda that the Article 370 hindered the vision of 'One Bharat', continues unabated," Prof Soz said in a statement here today.

He said all this narrative has deepened the anger of the people of J&K, who feel badly let down as the BJP has gone back on the very basis of forging of J&K State's Constitutional relationship with the Union of India.

"BJP's leadership does not care to assess how the State's Constitutional relationship was established on the specific guarantee to the people of the state that its internal autonomy would be preserved through Article 370 of the Constitution of India. The scrapping of Article 370 unilaterally by the Central Govt is absolutely wrong as the first party to the State's accession with India; the people of Jammu and Kashmir, were not consulted at all," Soz asserted.

"This is a one-sided action by the Central Govt and, therefore, the people of J&K will continue their democratic struggle for restoration of the state's autonomy," former JKPC chief claimed.

"Unfortunately, a section of Kashmiri mainstream political class is diluting the peoples' democratic struggle by harping their tune and seeking restoration of statehood for the state," he regretted.

Will request State Govts to have family court in every district: Rijju

NEW DELHI, July 26:

Lok Sabha today passed a bill to grant statutory cover to family courts set up in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland and retrospectively validate all actions taken by them, with Law Minister Kiren Rijju saying that he would request all state governments to set up one family court in every district.

Responding to a debate on the Family Court (Amendment) Bill, 2022, he said there are at present 715 family courts in the country with 11,49,907 cases pending at the beginning May.

"I am telling you the record till May, 69,464 new cases have been registered. I am giving you the statistics of the month of May. 75,386 cases have been disposed," he said.

According to the Family Court Act of 1984, it is mandatory for the State Government to set up a family court for every city or a town whose population exceeds one million.

Rijju said he would request the State Government to set up family courts in every district.

The Family Courts Act was enacted to set up family courts to promote conciliation and secure a speedy settlement of disputes related to marriage and family affairs.

Two family courts were established in Nagaland in 2008 and three in Himachal Pradesh in 2019 through notifications issued by the respective state governments.

The issue of lack of jurisdiction of the family courts in Himachal Pradesh came to the fore during proceedings of the Himachal Pradesh High Court last year.

Another petition in the Himachal Pradesh High Court stated that the Central Government had not issued any notification extending the Family Court Act to Himachal Pradesh and the State Government directives to establish such courts were without any legal authority.

The family courts in Nagaland too were operating without any legal authority since 2008.

The Family Courts (Amendment) Bill seeks to insert a provision in section 3 of section 1 to provide for the establishment of family courts in Himachal Pradesh with effect from February 15, 2019 and in Nagaland with effect from September 12, 2008.

The bill also seeks to insert a new section 3A to retrospectively validate all actions under the said Act taken by the governments of Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland and the family courts of those states.

Defending the amendment, he said it would be incorrect to blame the Centre for not bringing the notification as the state governments seek permission for setting up such courts.

5 officers transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: Finance Department has ordered transfer and posting of five members of J&K Accounts Service with immediate effect.

According to the order, Bashir Ahmad Haji, Director Finance, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Director Finance Kashmir University, while Manzoor Ahmad Wani from Director Finance, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to Director Finance, Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology Kashmir and Haroon Ahmad Bhat, FA/CAO Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of

"If the Government had not brought this amendment today, that what would have been the plight of those thou-

sands of cases which are still pending. If we don't do retrospective then what would be plight of those thousands cases whose decision has already been taken. It is our responsibility to validate those. Therefore this amendment is retrospective for all purpose," he said.

Setting up family courts and their functioning fall within the domain of the state governments in consultation with the respective high courts. (PTT)

Medical Sciences Soura Srinagar has been transferred and posted as FA/CAO High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Intikhab Ahmad Sheikh, FA&CAO Lakes Conservation and Management Authority Srinagar has been transferred and posted as FA/CAO Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura Srinagar and Zafira Bashir, CAO Kashmir holding additional charge of CAP Provident Commissioner Srinagar has been transferred and posted as CAO Lakes Conservation and Management Authority Srinagar and will continue to hold the charge of CAO Provident Commissioner Srinagar in addition to her own duties till further orders.

Training programme on Big Data Analysis begins at SKUAST-J

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: The division of Statistics and Computer Science in SKUAST-Jammu is organizing one week training programme on Big Data Analysis and Research Methods, using Statistical Softwares from today under the aegis of IDP SKUAST Jammu.

The main motto of this training is to encourage stu-

Jammu Vice-Chancellor Prof J P Sharma who stressed that proper statistical procedure should be followed for drawing conclusions for scientific research.

"During the present era, more data will be collected about our daily life than ever before. The large datasets cannot easily be analyzed by hand; the use of statistical software will make data processing more

PoJK DPs protest, demand release of pending relief



PoJK DPs staging protest demonstration near Press Club in Jammu on Tuesday.

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: The displaced persons from Pak occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) today held protest demonstration and demanded release of pending relief package of Rs 24.50 lakh in favour of displaced families as per JPC recommendations.

A large number of DPs led by Capt (Retd) Yudhvir Singh Chib, under the banner of PoJK DPs Front 1947, 1965, 1971 and Non Camp-71 assembled near Press Club Jammu today and held protest demonstration. They were shouting slogans in favour of their demands and also against the J&K Relief authorities.

They pointed out that after long struggle, Prime Minister Modi released Rs 2000 crore relief package in favour of PoJK refugees/DPs but the authorities in J&K have failed to disburse the same even after six years.

While addressing large gathering Capt Chib said that till today, the Relief authorities have distributed relief to the tune of Rs 5.50 lakh family but many families are still deprived of it. Government must extend time frame and expedite their cases.

The DPs leader further pointed out that JPC had recommended Rs 30 lakh relief per family and the Government must release remaining Rs 24.5 lakhs relief per family. This Rs 5.5 lakh was just first installment of the amount declared by the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

He also demanded issuance of ID cards for the DPs, DPs' families residing in Himachal, Punjab, Haryana,

Delhi and elsewhere should also be considered for the relief, reservation should be given to the DPs children in Technical Education institutes and in Govt jobs, at least 12 Assembly seats be reserved for PoJK DPs and ownership rights be given to the Camp DPs of 1965 and 71.

Senior DPs leaders J P Sharma, Kulbir Singh Chib, Sakandya Devi (women wing president), Master Kehar Singh, Master Kamal Kumar and others also joined the protest.

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SKUAST-J Vice-Chancellor and others at inaugural of Training programme on Tuesday.

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: Well known theatre artist and Dogri writer from Jammu, Pawan Verma has brought laurels for J&K as he has been awarded with International Excellence Award-2022 in performing Arts (Theater) category at a function organized by WAC People Council and International Open University of Humanity Health Science and Peace USA at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

Chief guest on the occasion was Bollywood actor Rajpal Yadav while Puja Nigam (Mrs. India 2019, chairperson Mother Teresa Foundation) and Lalit Agrawal (national secretary, Akhil Bhartiya Hindu Mahasabha) were special

guests.

Pawan Verma started his theater journey from Natrang theater camp 2000 under the

guidance of Balwant Thakur.

Having experience of more than 22 years in theater he has acted in over 80 plays which were performed more than 700 times throughout the country and abroad too.

Verma has participated in more than 50 national theater festivals and has also the credit to perform in many international theaters festivals.

The proceedings of the function were conducted by Dr Vivek M Arya and formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr M Iqbal Jeelani.

The function was attended by Prof. Pradeep Wali, Director Research; Prof R K Nanda, Director Education; Prof A K Mondal, Dean Agriculture; Prof S E H Rizvi, Dean FBS; Prof R K.Salgotra, Coordinator School of Biotechnology; Prof A K Sharma, University Librarian and others.

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convenient," he explained.

Dr Rajender Parsad, Director IASRI, New Delhi, who was guest of honour on the occasion, briefed that more precise statistical tools are required to assess the impact and challenge the demand of the future in terms of policy and planning at regional and National Level. He also briefed about the importance of data analysis in the field of agriculture and stressed on importance of proper statistical methodology and delivered the special lecture.

The Associate Coordinator, Prof Vikas Sharma briefed the audience about IDP and its role regarding institutional development in terms of NEP 2020.

Convener of the workshop, Prof Manish Sharma, Head of the Division, gave the detailed presentation about the importance of training programme.

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