



Nitish Kumar only loves power and the CM's chair - he has betrayed it time and again

TEJASHU YADAV
RJD LEADER

IT raids on Cong minister rocks Parl

Karnataka Minister has been overseeing the stay of 44 Gujarat party MLAs at a resort near Bengaluru

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 2 AUGUST

The Income Tax department's raids on Karnataka Minister D K Shivakumar, who has been overseeing the stay of 44 Gujarat MLAs of his Congress party at a resort near Bengaluru,



on Wednesday sparked fireworks in the national capital, with the Congress alleging that these raids were orchestrated by the Narendra Modi government as part of its "political witch-hunt and vendetta" to thwart its candidate Ahmed Patel's prospects of winning the 8 August Rajya Sabha poll from Gujarat.

Crying foul over timing and place of these raids, Congress MPs disrupted the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament, stalling the pro-

The Modi government rejected the Congress's allegations as unfounded and baseless, with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley telling both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha that the IT searches on Shivakumar did not have any connection with Gujarat Congress MLAs and were "only to do" with the economic offences allegedly involving the Karnataka Minister.

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Pointing out that the searches were being conducted at 39 other places and not on the MLAs or at the Bengaluru resort, Jaitley said they should not be linked to the Rajya Sabha election in Gujarat. Dismissing Jaitley's statement, the Congress members maintained that the IT raids were "political targeting" of the Rajya Sabha poll bid of their salaried Ahmed Patel, who is Congress president Sonia Gandhi's political secretary and the party's principal crisis-manager.

Raising the issue in the House met, Congress leader Anand Sharma accused the BJP-led government of unleashing investigating agencies like IT, ED and CBI to target their party and leaders. Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad charged that the run-up to the Rajya Sabha poll in Gujarat indicated that "the poll is not happening in a free, fair and fearless manner".

Questioning the timing and venue of the IT raids, Azad asked why the Centre was not cracking down on the BJP which, he alleged, was offering Rs 15 crore bribe to each Gujarat Congress MLA to desert the Congress. Dissatisfied by Jaitley's explanation, Congress MPs continued to storm the Well of the Rajya Sabha and shouted anti-government slogans, forcing repeated adjournments through the day. Congress leader Kapil Sibal and Sharma also asked how could central forces be deployed along with IT personnel during raids without informing the state govern-

Court-referred cases behind delay in CBI probe: Govt

PTI
NEW DELHI, 2 AUGUST

A large number of cases referred to the CBI by courts and state governments are behind the delay in timely completion of investigation, the government said on Wednesday. A total of 1,369 cases are under investigation, 175 of them for more than two years, with the CBI, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said. Of the total, highest 800 are pending for less than a year and 394 for between one to two years, he said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. Reasons for the delay include complex and voluminous nature of cases and large number of witnesses, the minister said.

NPF's ultimatum to rebel MLAs

SIANS
KOHIMA, 2 AUGUST

The Naga People's Front (NPF) party on Wednesday asked its rebel party legislators owing allegiance to Nagaland Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang to return to the party fold before 5 August or face disqualification.

The party, which is headed by former Chief Minister Shurhozelie Liezietsu, is facing a severe internal crisis, especially after Zeliang was sworn in as Chief Minister for the second time on 19 July.

"We have issued last and final 'calling notice' asking all the dissident NPF MLAs, who have defied the party whip during the 21 July floor test, to withdraw support to Zeliang and return to the party fold within 15 days time with effect from July 22," NPF working Presidents - Huskha Yephthomi and Apong Pongener said.

Noting that the NPF as a political party has the power to condone the action of the NPF legislators, who have defied the party whip, they said, "It is crystal clear under the Tenth Schedule of the constitution that the party has the power to condone within 15 days."

However, the NPF leader warned that they would be compelled to file disqualification petitions against the rebel NPF legislators on the expiry of the 15 day deadline if they failed to return to the party. The Liezietsu-headed NPF had expelled 20 NPF legislators and suspended 10 others, who were involved in toppling his government, from the primary membership of the party for violating the party's constitution.

Zeliang was the first to be expelled from the NPF for six years while taking oath as Chief Minister after Governor P.B. Acharya dismissed Liezietsu for failing to prove majority in the Assembly.

SIT-IN PROTEST



Fishermen from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh at a protest to demand ST status and other government benefits, at the Jantar Mantar in the Capital on Wednesday.

Mandatory marriage registration welcomed by Muslim organisations

PTI
LUCKNOW, 2 AUGUST

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet's approval to a proposal making registration of all marriages, including the Nikaah, mandatory has been largely welcomed by Muslim organisations in the state.

However, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said there should be no provision that unregistered marriages are equivalent to no marriage.

President of the All India Muslim Women Personal Law Board (AIMWPLB) Shaista Amber said the government's decision was a step in the right direction.

"The marriage registration certificate will remain as a proof of marriage, and it will also help family members of

bride and groom as well as their children," Amber said. Welcoming the decision, AIMWPLB general secretary Rabia Sandal said it will go a long way in ensuring social security for women.

"This is certainly a good move by the Uttar Pradesh government and we welcome it," she said.

All India Shia Personal Law Board also welcomed the decision to make mandatory registration of all marriages, including the Nikaah, taking place in the state.

"It is certainly a good move, and we welcome it wholeheartedly. We believe that this decision will definitely boost the social security of women as many of them after marriage were forced to suffer and face social stigma because of their husbands deserting them,"

said Yasoo Abbas, spokesperson for the All India Shia Personal Law Board said.

However, AIMPLB member Zafaryab Jilani said, "See, we have no problem in making registration of marriages mandatory. But, at the same time, there should be no provision which says no registration mean no marriage."

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday gave its approval to a proposal making registration of all marriages taking place in the state mandatory.

"After the implementation of the Uttar Pradesh Marriage Registration Guidelines-2017, all marriages taking place within the state or where either of the parties is a permanent resident of Uttar Pradesh, will have to be registered," a state government release had said.

Harmanpreet to be inducted as DSP in Punjab Police



CM Amarinder Singh felicitates Harmanpreet Kaur at his residence in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 2 AUGUST

Rewarding India's latest cricketing sensation Harmanpreet Kaur for her outstanding performance in the recently concluded Women's World Cup, Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Wednesday formally kickstarted the process of her induction into the Punjab Police as a deputy superintendent of police (DSP).

The star cricketer from Moga, who called on the CM, also received a cheque for Rs five lakh to her and expressed confidence that she would perform even better going forward. The CM directed director general of police (DGP) Suresh Arora to complete the necessary formalities for Harmanpreet's appointment and said her training could be completed later.

Captain Amarinder said he wanted to keep the talented young woman, currently working in the Union railways ministry, in Punjab.

He assured Harmanpreet that he would take up the issue of waiver of her employ-

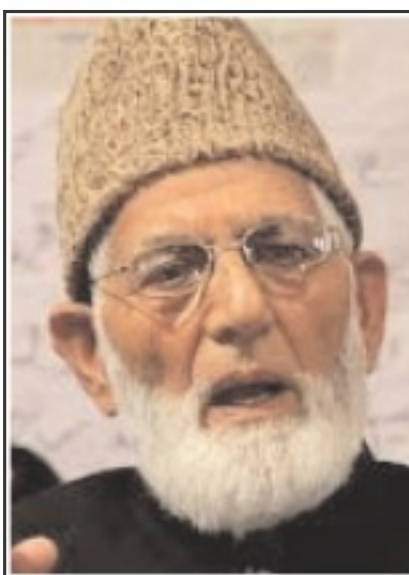
ment bond with the railways ministry so that she can join Punjab Police at the earliest, while continuing to pursue her career as a cricketer.

Captain Amarinder told Harmanpreet that she had done Punjab proud with her remarkable achievement, and that her superb accomplishment would go a long way in inspiring millions of her peers to strive hard for excellence in the arena of sports.

Captain Amarinder reiterated his government's commitment to promoting sports in the state. He said his government would support budding sports persons to enable them to compete successfully in international events and bring more laurels to Punjab.

Harmanpreet steered India into the finals of Women's Cricket World Cup last month by becoming the highest scorer in women's cricket with 171 not out, off 115 balls. Harmanpreet said she wanted more cricket academies to come up in Punjab, so that the problems she faced in her career are not faced by other budding players.

Geelani hails militant Dujana as 'our hero'



JAMMU, 2 AUGUST

Even as the J&K police asked the New Delhi-based Pakistan high commission on Wednesday to take the body of slain Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) commander Abu Dujana for burial at his native place in POK and refused to hand-over his body to local civilians, the joint separatist leadership asked the people in Kashmir Valley to offer funeral prayers in "absentia" for Dujana.

Separatist leader Syed Alishah Geelani described Dujana as "our hero sacrificing their precious lives for our future which won't go waste or unnoticed".

The dreaded terrorist was killed on Tuesday in an encounter with security forces in Hakripora village of Pulwama in South Kashmir. Dujana was a native of the Dujana village in the frontier area of Gilgit-Baltistan in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) and had reportedly settled in Karachi few years ago before infiltrating into India in 2008 as LeT operative.

Death toll of "stone pelters" wounded in the cross fire between the security forces and Dujana increased to two on Wednesday with another youth, identified as Akeel Ahmad Bhat, succumbing to his injuries, while Kashmir observed shutdown in response to the call of Syed Alishah Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik.

Centre questions HP's move to declare monkeys as 'vermin' again

SANJEEV KUMAR
SHIMLA, 2 AUGUST

The Central government has questioned the state government's move to get monkeys declared 'vermin' again in Himachal Pradesh in view of monkey menace.

"The Ministry of Environment and Forests has questioned the move of state government and has sought reply as to what action was taken by it when monkeys were declared vermin earlier," Tarun Kapoor, Principal Secretary, Forests told The Statesman. He said that the government would soon send its reply to the Ministry.

The monkeys were declared as vermin by MoEF in March 2016 till 24 May 2016 in certain areas of HP which included 38 tehsils and Shimla Municipal Corporation. The deadline was extended till 24 May 2017. However, it failed to serve the purpose as there was no information of killing of monkeys in any of the notified areas by farmers and orchardists.

This despite the fact that the government had announced an incentive of Rs 500 for killing a monkey. 'Vermin' means wild animals, which are believed to be harmful to crops, farm animals, or which carry diseases and the permission allows



culling of such wild animals.

Monkeys have been a major cause of concern for damage to crops and attacks on humans in HP. The steps taken by the successive governments in HP have not yielded results for a piecemeal approach, despite the fact that the government simultaneously continued with the sterilisation campaign to control the primate population in HP. The state government's plan to export monkeys to north-eastern states, but the plan too failed, owing to concerns over spread of diseases after translocation.

The animal rights activists had contested that the animals, when translocated, carry an assortment of potentially dangerous viruses, bacteria, protozoa, helminths and arthropods, any of which may become pathogenic in new situation, involving stressed individuals in a changed environment.

The monkey census was conducted in 2015, according

to which the population of monkeys was 2.07 lakh. In the last three years till 26 March, 57,934 monkeys were sterilised by the government agencies. In the last three years, 61,436 monkeys were caught for sterilisation and Rs 3.25 crore was distributed to the monkey catchers.

As per farmers' body, Himachal Kisan Sabha (HKS), around 149 tehsils of the state is affected by the monkey menace, but the plans to curb their population have not borne desired fruits. In some parts of these districts, the farmers have abandoned farming due to loss to crops by these wild animals every year. Over 70 per cent agricultural land in HP is affected by the wild animals menace that causes damage to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore every year. At present around 76,000 hectares land is not being cultivated owing to these reasons.

Noida land scam: SC upholds conviction of ex-UP chief secy

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 2 AUGUST

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the conviction of former UP chief secretary Neera Yadav in a land allotment scam from 1993-95 in Noida but reduced her jail term from three to two years.

Upholding the conviction of former IAS officer Rajiv Kumar in the case, a bench of Justices Kurian Joseph and R Banumathi modified his jail term from three to two years. The CBI had alleged that

Yadav, a 1971 batch IAS officer, was chief executive officer of Noida in 1995 when she violated norms in allotting a prime plot of land to an industrialist.

It was alleged that she entered into a criminal conspiracy with 1983-batch IAS officer Rajiv Kumar, then deputy chief executive officer, Noida, to change land use of a plot which was earmarked for a guesthouse and also increased its area in violation of norms.

The central investigation agency said that Yadav, dur-

ing her tenure as Noida CEO, misused her official position as a public servant and got herself allotted a plot in violation of norms.

"The allotment was done despite the fact that the application submitted by her was incomplete in many respects and was submitted after the closing date of the scheme," CBI had said. It was also alleged that she got two plots allotted in the names of her two daughters, knowing full well that rules in Noida permitted only one plot of land to one family.

Centre pushes for NE development

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 2 AUGUST

The union government is fully committed to develop the north-eastern part of the country and hence all non-exempt Central ministries/departments are directed to spend 10% of their gross budgetary support in the region, not only through their ongoing schemes, but also through dedicated schemes.

It was stated by Dr Jitendra Singh, the Union minister responsible for development of north eastern region (DoNER) today during Lok Sabha proceedings in a written reply.

Special projects are being undertaken for the region like special accelerated road development program (SARDP-NE), comprehensive telecom development plan, broad gauging & capital connectivity rail projects, World Bank assisted power transmission & distribution projects, scheme for inter-state neglected roads etc, narrated the reply.

The Centre has also assessed the challenges being faced by the region through various studies and reports submitted by different committees, commissions, task forces etc appointed from time to



time.

"Some of these include Shukla Commission report, Usha Thorat committee report on financial sector plan for NE, report of the task force on connectivity and promotion of trade and investment in NE States, report on poverty eradication in NE, district infrastructure index for NE, human development report of NE states etc," it added.

The assessment broadly identified various measures to bridge the infrastructural gaps and remove the backlog in basic minimum services in NE states that include connecting the region with the rest of India and the world through rail, road, water and air connectivity, opening new trade and business opportunities by improving the banking sector and giving incentive to Industry etc.

APPOINTMENT

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
Delhi-110007

Advertisement for the post of JRF. Applications are invited for one JRF position for the DST - SERB sponsored project "Exploratory Synthetic Investigation of Layered Structures" (EMR/2016/006762). For details, please visit www.uu.ac.in / advertisements. Prof. Sitharaman Uma Principal Investigator

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Date: 01.08.2017
A walk in interview will be held on 18.08.2017 for ONE SRF (Mechanical Engg.) for BRNS (Govt. of India) Project. Please visit the website: http://www.iiests.ac.in (W. Code DRC-018/17-18) under "Employment" for details. Dean (R&D)