

Bombay HC to state govt: Why spend taxpayers' money to protect politicians

MUMBAI, NOV 29 /- The Bombay High Court today asked the Maharashtra government what was the need to spend taxpayers' money on providing police protection to politicians.

A bench of Chief Justice Manjula Chellur and Justice M S Sonak said it felt that politicians who needed police protection could very well pay for the same out of the funds received by their respective parties.

"What is the need for the state government to spend public funds on providing police protection to political leaders? Because, I feel that they can pay from their party's money," Chief Justice Chellur asked.

The Court's observations came while directing the government to streamline its current process of approving and assigning police protection to private persons. The bench was hearing PIL filed by a lawyer seeking directions to the state police to recover dues from VIPs, including politicians, and film actors, who have been provided security cover but have not paid for the same.

As per the PIL, around 1,000 persons are provided state police are deployed for providing protection to private individuals.

During the hearing, the bench also directed the Maharashtra government to ensure periodic revision of all applications to ensure that a person does not continue enjoying police protection even after the threat perception to his or her life has been eliminated. Chief Justice Chellur also said the state must ensure that police personnel who are assigned as bodyguards to private persons or politicians do not continue in the role indefinitely, but are permitted to go back to their normal jobs after a certain time period. She said, "Making the same set of police personnel serve as bodyguards

for an indefinite period of time is not just wasteful as well as for the persons to whom they have been assigned as bodyguards. For, by employing the same 1,000 personnel as bodyguards forever, you are wasting their skills." "Let them go back to other duties of the police department say after six months, and assign the next set of personnel as bodyguards," she said. She said such a system will also be good for the people to whom they are assigned as bodyguards. For instance, if a person had been advised to change her bodyguards but she did not, the Chief Justice said.

day also remarked that political leaders were unable to "inspire" people, particularly the students, as they have not enhanced their values. He rued politicians have not become role models yet. "Our (political leaders) values have not enhanced, so we have not become role models yet. We are not able to inspire people, particularly the students. It will take more time," he observed in the state assembly. He was speaking on the issue of students' suicides during a short discussion and made remarks in response to a plea by BJP floor leader P Vishnu Kumar Raju that a committee of legislators be constituted to inspect colleges to prevent such incidents.

Student suicides: Andhra CM blames colleges which turn them into "machines and robots"

AMARAVATI, NOV 29 /- In view of a high number of student suicides in the state, the Andhra Pradesh government today warned educational institutions against putting undue pressure on kids and "playing with their lives".

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said students are "being turned into machines and robots". The House had a short discussion on the issue today. There are various reasons that are driving students to suicide, the prime cause being mounting stress and pressure. Even parents are exerting pressure on kids for high score. Performance grading of students in colleges, health (problems), family problems, love failure, depression... are some of the reasons," the chief minister said. "Some students are ending their lives because they are not willing to stay in hostels. Some are unable to cope with the high standards set by their institutions," Naidu added. There is no "physical literacy" among students as they are forced to do nothing else but study from 5 am to 10.30 pm, the chief minister stated.

"Even on Sunday's and holidays students are forced to appear for tests. No sports or games, no extra-curricular activity, no television or newspapers and no social responsibility. Students are being turned into machines

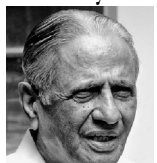
and robots. This is very disturbing," Naidu said. Educational institutes have no grievance redressal mechanism and hapless students can't open up about their woes even to the parents, he said. "Educational institutes should adopt new techniques and not resort to long hours of teaching. They should infuse new skills in students and enhance their creativity. For this, creative teachers are required," said Naidu.

Education should be fun and students should enjoy it, he said, adding, "It's not right to turn students into machines and robots. We will severely punish such managers." The Andhra Pradesh chief minister today

also remarked that political leaders were unable to "inspire" people, particularly the students, as they have not enhanced their values. He rued politicians have not become role models yet. "Our (political leaders) values have not enhanced, so we have not become role models yet. We are not able to inspire people, particularly the students. It will take more time," he observed in the state assembly. He was speaking on the issue of students' suicides during a short discussion and made remarks in response to a plea by BJP floor leader P Vishnu Kumar Raju that a committee of legislators be constituted to inspect colleges to prevent such incidents.

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Kerala's veteran CPI leader passes away



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 29 /- Veteran CPI leader and former Kerala minister E Chandrababu Nair died here today following brief illness, party sources said.

Nair (89) died at a state hospital here where he was admitted on Saturday for treatment of chest congestion, they said. He survived by wife Manorama Nair, an aunt and a daughter. The late leader was not in active politics for the past few years. He was a minister in the LDF cabinet in 1980-81, 1987-91 and 1996-2001. Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan condole the death of Nair, who was not in active politics for the past few years, and said his demise was a "great loss" to Kerala.

In his message, he also said the late leader had played a vital role in uniting Left democratic forces and to spread secular values in Kerala society.

Known for his soft-spoken nature and simplicity, Nair was one of the last surviving members of the first Kerala assembly of 1957, veteran communist leader K R Gouri being the other.

Nair, who earned the respect of all leaders irrespective of political affiliation, was an MLA for 19 years.

Born into the family of prominent lawyers at Irumbanangadu in Kollam in December 2, 1928, Nair, a graduate in law and mathematics, entered politics through students' union and joined the Communist Party in 1952. He held different positions in the party before becoming MLA. Nair was the Managing Editor of the CPI party organ 'Janayugam' for a long time and also contributed to the paper under the title 'Idapedal' (intervention). He had authored several books including 'Hindu Matham Hindutvam', which won him the prestigious Kerala Sahitya Akademi award.

Urban Kerala to be ODF by Jan 2018

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 29 /- A year after rural Kerala was declared Open Defecation Free, the urban areas in the southern state are now gearing up to achieve the ODF status with over 27,000 household toilet units and a series of public toilet complexes.

Only 16 toilets are left to be constructed to meet the target of 27,745 individual household latrines (IHL) under the urban ODF programme and its work is expected to be completed soon, official sources here said. The work is progressing at a water-logged area under the Corporation limit of the state's commercial hub, Kochi, they said. Of the total 16 urban civic bodies in the state, 30 units, including two municipal corporations and 18 municipalities, have already been declared ODF after their self-declaration and the mandatory third party inspection by the Centre.

A senior official of Sucthiya Mission, the state nodal agency for sanitation which is entrusted with its implementation, said a number of other civic bodies are also waiting for the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs' inspection after their self-declaration as ODF. As per the procedure, each civic body has to declare itself as ODF first after the construction of targeted number of toilets within its limit.

Letting the central government should be apprised about the self-declaration and an expert team would then visit the places accordingly for the third party inspection. If the criteria are met satisfactorily, the civic body would be awarded the ODF tag.

The team would inspect the same area again after 6 months to ensure the follow up actions in this regard. "Many civic bodies have already completed self-declaration procedure and waiting for the inspection by the Centre team," the mission official, who does not want to be named, told PTI.

"But, some others are putting their self-declaration plan on hold for the construction of public toilet complexes, which is a fresh scheme by the state government," he said. Expressing hope that urban Kerala will be declared complete ODF by the end of January, the official said, "Even if it may take some more time for the construction of public toilets, the declaration will not go beyond March next year."

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Green Protocol action in state to be over by Dec 15

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 29 /- The Kerala Tourism department will complete the implementation of Green Protocol in 78 locations in the state by December 15, Kerala tourism director, P Bala Kiran, told this while addressing a workshop here on the new tourism policy, responsible tourism and the Green Carpet Action Plan formulated by the state government. On the Green Carpet Action Plan, Bala Kiran said it aims at transforming the tourism sector in Kerala into different travel-friendly destinations. Every tour destination in Kerala will be made differently friendly too, he said.

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Hyderabad Metro Rail opens to public; passengers elated

HYDERABAD, NOV 29 /- The Hyderabad Metro Rail opened for public today with the passengers today with their first time travel by it as a "convenient, comfortable and awesome experience".

The Metro commenced its operation between Miyapur and Nagole, having a total distance of 30 km and 24 stations, the concessionaire, L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Ltd, said in a statement. The trains would run from 6 am to 10 pm initially which would

be rescheduled to 5:30 am to 11 pm depending on the traffic and demand. Telangana's information technology minister K T Rama Rao earlier said.

The L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Ltd has fixed a minimum fare of Rs 10 for a distance of up to two km and the maximum fare is Rs 60 for a distance of more than 26 km. An elderly couple, who took the ride today said they were very excited to travel in the metro for the first time and

now with metro he reached his destination in barely 20 minutes. "It's an awesome experience," he said.

This is the biggest public private partnership (PPP) in the world.

It is the first transit oriented development (TOD) project that will exploit the real estate and earn revenue by leasing out commercial and office spaces inside and outside the metro stations across the city, an official statement said.

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Voters standing in a long queue to cast their votes during third phase of the Uttar Pradesh municipal election at a polling station in Mirzapur on Wednesday.

HC vacates stay on Metro work near Mumbai heritage building

MUMBAI, NOV 29 /- The Bombay High Court today vacated the stay imposed by it on drilling and tunnelling near the heritage J N Petit Institute building in South Mumbai for the proposed Metro III line.

The direction came after the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) submitted that it had implemented all suggestions given by a committee set up by the court. While permitting the MMRCL to resume work in the area, a bench of Chief Justice Manjula Chellur and Justice M S Sonak directed it to ensure that no damage was caused to the heritage buildings in the area, including the 119-year-old J N Petit Institute and Library. In September this year, trustees of the institute filed a plea alleging that tunnelling was damaging the foundations of several heritage and iconic buildings in the area, including its own library and garden.

The high court had then reduced the MMRCL from carrying out any drilling and excavation in and around the J N Petit Institute's library and garden. The bench also directed that a committee be constituted to study the effects of such tunnelling on the heritage buildings and to suggest ways to continue with the work without damaging the buildings in the area. The committee, comprising a structural engineer, each from the MMRCL and the J N Petit Institute, and experts from IIT Bombay had subsequently conducted inspections and suggested several precautionary measures. The bench, thus, vacated its stay but directed that the committee be continued to monitor the Metro work in the area.

Over 100 J&K villages without power: Officials

JAMMU, NOV 29 /- Over 100 villages are without power in Jammu and Kashmir, officials here informed a Legislative Council panel.

The power development department officials have informed the department - related standing committee (DRSC) of J&K Legislative Council that during a survey it was found that 108 villages in the state were without power. As per official statistics available, 2.71 lakh households in rural areas of the state are without electric power. Out of the total 12.92 lakh rural households, 10.21 lakh rural households have been electrified by October end of this year, according to official figures.

Tree felling: NGT asks Haryana to submit revenue records

NEW DELHI, NOV 29 /- The National Green Tribunal has directed the Haryana government to submit revenue records of the land in Faridabad where it has sanctioned felling of trees for construction of a real estate project by Bharti Land Ltd in the eco-sensitive Aravalli hills. A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar asked the counsel appearing for the state government to produce the file before it to show whether the site in question was forest land or not. "You produce before us the file of the forest department where the concerned officer has said that this is not a forest land. Give us the complete revenue records of the land in question. Get the concerned officer before us," the bench said. The matter will be heard on Thursday. During the hearing, the counsel appearing for the state government said the petition was not maintainable and liable to be dismissed on the grounds that it was based only on letters written by the forest department.

Veerendra Kumar to resign from RS

KOZHIKODE, NOV 29 /- Kerala JD(U) president M P Veerendra Kumar today announced his decision to resign from the Rajya Sabha. Kumar said he did not want to continue as the Member of Parliament of the party led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Veerendra Kumar, the chairman and managing director of the Malayalam daily newspaper Mathrubhumi, is also a director in PTI.

CBI takes over probe in alleged custodial death of Uttarakhand teenager

NEW DELHI, NOV 29 /- The CBI has taken over probe into the alleged custodial death of a 16-year-old boy at the Katoral police post in Uttarakhand's Udhampur Singh Nagar district in February. The Uttarakhand High Court had directed the agency to investigate the case after the father of the teenager approached it with a complaint against police officials. According to the procedure, the CBI will initiate a probe based on the FIR registered by police in the connection with the case. The then in-charge of the Katoral police post sub-inspector Praveen Singh, constable Balwant Singh and unidentified persons have been named in the FIR.

The father of the youth had alleged that on February 26, Praveen Singh had called them to the police post to question his son regarding an issue. He had claimed that on reaching the post, the policemen locked his son in a room alleging that he had eloped with the daughter of a Kaziabadi resident. The policemen asked him to leave the post and said they needed to question his son for some more time, he had claimed.

The father alleged the police personnel mercilessly beat up his son for two days and pressured him to accept he had eloped with the daughter of the complainant. He had claimed that on February 26, the policemen were seen leaving with his unconscious son in a vehicle which was trailed by him and his relatives. The police personnel led the boy at the government hospital, where his father allegedly found him lying dead. The policemen ran away when confronted.

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State Notes

Pondicherry University's new V-C assumes office

PUDUCHERRY, NOV 29 /- Professor Gurmeet Singh today assumed office as the Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University, a central institution here. Singh is the seventh Vice-Chancellor of the university, a press release said. He was with the Department of Chemistry in Delhi University prior to this appointment. The university did not have a full-fledged Vice-Chancellor for nearly two years and Anisa Basheer Khan, a senior faculty was the acting V.C.

CoBRA commando injured in Sukma Naxal IED blast

RAIPUR, NOV 29 /- A CoBRA commando of the CRPF was today injured in an IED blast triggered by Naxals in the Sukma district of Chhattisgarh, officials said. The incident took place near Kistaram village around 1:40 pm when a joint team of CoBRA commandos and the state police were out for an operation, they said. "A commando belonging to the 208th battalion of the CoBRA sustained serious injuries on his legs below the knee level due to an IED blast and he has been air evacuated to Raipur," a senior CRPF official said. More details are awaited and the other troops are reported safe. The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) of the CRPF is tasked to undertake specific and intelligence-based anti-Maoist and counter-insurgency operations.

Tree felling: NGT asks Haryana to submit revenue records

NEW DELHI, NOV 29 /- The National Green Tribunal has directed the Haryana government to submit revenue records of the land in Faridabad where it has sanctioned felling of trees for construction of a real estate project by Bharti Land Ltd in the eco-sensitive Aravalli hills. A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar asked the counsel appearing for the state government to produce the file before it to show whether the site in question was forest land or not. "You produce before us the file of the forest department where the concerned officer has said that this is not a forest land. Give us the complete revenue records of the land in question. Get the concerned officer before us," the bench said. The matter will be heard on Thursday. During the hearing, the counsel appearing for the state government said the petition was not maintainable and liable to be dismissed on the grounds that it was based only on letters written by the forest department.

Haryana to provide 1 kg sugar at Rs 13 to BPL families

CHANDIGARH, NOV 29 /- The Haryana government today said it will provide one kg of sugar every month at the rate of Rs 13 to all 11.31 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the state, including Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households. Each of these families would also be provided one litre mustard oil of Hared, the largest apex cooperative federation of the state, at the rate of Rs 20 every month, beginning January 2018.

The decision was taken at a meeting presided over by chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar here today, an official release said. Minister of state for food, civil supplies and consumer affairs Karan Dev Kamboj and chairman, Hared, Harvinder Kalyan also attended the meeting. At present, one kilogram sugar is being provided to about 2.63 lakh AAY families in the state. With today's decision, 8.68 lakh BPL families would also be covered, it said.

The beneficiary families would get sugar and mustard oil at the rate of Rs 13 per kg and Rs 20 per litre, respectively. It was also decided at the meeting that fortified wheat flour enriched with essential vitamins and minerals would be provided in two blocks - Barara and Naraingarh - of district Ambala in the first phase under the Public Distribution System, mid-day meal scheme and the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) through Hared.

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CANCELLATION AND DIVERSION OF TRAIN SERVICES

CANCELLATION OF TRAIN SERVICES

15483/15484 Sikkim Mahananda Express has been cancelled upto 30-12-2017/31-12-2017. Now the cancellation of 15483/15484 is also extended as under:

(1) 15483 (Alipurduar Jn. - Delhi) Sikkim Mahananda Express scheduled to leave from Alipurduar Jn. w.e.f. 01-01-2018 to 24-02-2018 will remain cancelled. (2) 15484 (Delhi - Alipurduar Jn.) Sikkim Mahananda Express scheduled to leave from Delhi w.e.f. 31-12-2017 to 23-02-2018 will remain cancelled.

DIVERSION OF TRAIN SERVICES

In view of track works at Pimpri, Shivnarayanpur, Bikanershah & Khatol stations in Sahibganj - Bhagalpur section over Malda Town division from 28-11-2017 to 17-12-2017 following trains will be diverted.

(1) 14055 Dibrugarh - Delhi Brahmaputra Mail scheduled to leave up to 15-12-2017 will be diverted via Kathar - Barum Jn. (2) 15648 Guwahati - Lokmanya Tilak Express scheduled to leave on 05-12-2017 & 12-12-2017 will be diverted in the same route as above.

Inconvenience caused to the Passengers is regretted

General Manager (Operations)

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY