Dineshwar Sharma acting as 'super CM': Omar

JAMMU, JAN 9 /--/ Questioning the actions of the Centre's special representative on Kashmir, Dineshwar Sharma, former chief minister Omar Abdullah today claimed he was acting as a "super chief minister". Speaking in the Assembly, the Opposition National Conference leader demanded that the government give a clarification on Sharma's mandate. "What is the mission of the special representative? If he works like a super chief minister, as we hear, by meeting delegations to look into the problems with regard to power, water, non-availability of doctors at hospital, unemployment issues. (But) It is your job," Omar said during the motion of thanks on governor's address.

"You (Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Sharma) are treading on parallel tracks.... It is your responsibility and not Sharma's to set right electricity transformers, to improve water supply or giving job orders to unemployed youth. If he is a special representative, as was mentioned by the governor in his speech, his responsibility should be different," the former chief minister said. Apparently referring to separatist leaders, Omar said Sharma should meet "such people, who will facilitate resolution of the big issues. The minor issues could be solved by you as well".

According to the former chief minister the appointment of Sharma by the Centre came several months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech from Red Fort, said that bullets or abuses will not resolve the Kashmir issue and that it can be addressed by embracing every Kashmiri.

BSP MLA suffers heart attack in UP jail, referred to district hospital

LUCKNOW, JAN 9 /--/ Jailed BSP MLA Mukhtar Ansari, lodged in Banda prison in connection with various criminal cases, today suffered a heart attack and was rushed to the district hospital in Banda.

From the Banda hospital, the 55-year-old legislator was referred to the Sanjay Gandhi PGI Hospital here. According to the MLA's aide, Ansari's condition was stated to be stable. "I have spoken to the SSP, Banda, and he told me about it (heart attack). I have sought a report from both the SP and the DM of Banda. The legislator will be provided the best treatment," principal secretary home Arvind Kumar said here. About media reports that Ansari's wife too suffered a heart attack, Kumar said he cannot confirm it immediately. "I can confirm it only after I get a report from there," he said, adding that directives have been issued to provide best possible treatment to the legislator. The gangster-turned-legislator from Mau constituency has been in various jails in the state since 2015 under various sections of the IPC.

Strengthening party priority, not thinking about alliances as of now: Akhilesh

LUCKNOW, JAN 9 /--/ Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav today said his priority was strengthening the party organisation and he was not thinking of an alliance ahead of the "crucial" 2019 general elections.

Terming the process of talks and seat negotiations a waste of time, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, who had tied up with the Congress for the assembly elections in 2017, ruled out alliances "as of now".

"The 2019 election is certainly crucial as the message from Uttar Pradesh will go out to the entire country. As of now, I am not thinking of an alliance with any party. It (alliance talks and seat negotiations) wastes a lot of time and I don't want to be in confusion (over seats)," Akhilesh told news agency PTI in an exclusive interview. The former chief minister said he was working on strengthening the party's vote bank.

Suggesting that the party could bargain at a later stage if an alliance materialises, Akhilesh said his style of politics is different and he is open to "friendships" with likeminded parties. However, his priority at present was to strengthen the organisation of the party. The SP-Congress combine was trounced in the 2017 state elections, with the BJP and its allies winning 325 seats in the 403-member House. While SP got 47 seats, the Congress won seven. "There is time before the elections. The Lok Sabha polls are in 2019. We are presently working on each seat, going through local equations for selection of candidates," he said. The SP chief also announced that the SP would contest the Lok Sabha polls where its organisation was strong. "We have a strong organisational base in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. We are also working in Uttarakhand and Rajasthan," he said.

Discussing the defeat of his party in the 2017 Assembly polls despite claims of good development, then chief minister of Uttar Pradesh said the BJP had succeeded in fooling the people. "It was not our vote bank but that of the Bahujan Samaj Party that shifted... The people still remember my regime and are now realising their mistake," he said and added that the people gave BJP a chance but the party had fulfilled none of its tall promises.

The Yogi Adityanath government has failed... They are just carrying forward our work by putting their plaques," he alleged.

Pro-Marxist Democratic Youth Federation of India activists burning Congress MLA V T Balaram's effigy in protest against his adverse remarks on Marxist leader A K Gopalan, in Thiruvananthapuram .

Families of striking TN transport employees stage dharna

CHENNAI, JAN 9 /--/ Transport employees of Tamil Nadu today staged a dharna along with their family members as the indefinite strike over wage revision entered its sixth day. Women and children joined the striking workers and staged a protest in front of divisional offices of the state-owned transport corporations. Though the state government had been trying to maintain services by roping in temporary drivers and conductors in addition to employees not taking part in the agitation, passengers faced immense hardship over reduced availability of buses. Uncertainty loomed large over advance booking of tickets for special buses for 'Pongal' which normally commences ahead of the harvest festival on January 14. Travellers were unable to book tickets as the advanced booking counters remained shut at the Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus today.

Meanwhile, the Southern Railway ramped up services to accommodate the extra rush due to the ongoing strike by the workers affiliated to some transport unions, who have rejected the wage hike proposed by the government. State transport minister M R Vijayabhaskar has defended the proposed hike citing poor financial status of the transport corporations and appealed to the employees to resume work. Vijayabhaskar accused the unions spearheading the strike of misleading the employees and said the issue should not be politicised.

He also said the present increase would result in an additional burden of Rs 1,000 crore. "They should accept this hike and resume work", the minister told newspersons here on Monday night. On the dues of retired transport workers, he said the government has agreed to clear the amount even before the harvest festival of Pongal which falls on January 14. The Madras High Court had on Monday refused to lift its January 5 interim order restraining the employees from taking recourse to strike. It, however, made it clear that no striking worker can be terminated from service without its permission.

NC, Cong MLAs stage walkout from J&K Assembly over power issue

JAMMU, JAN 9 /--/ The Opposition National Conference (NC) and Congress members today staged a walkout from the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in protest against worsening power scenario in the state, and cornered deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh for his failure to reply to their queries.

Singh was replying to a question of Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen on providing uninterrupted power supply to consumers during the Question Hour, when the members of the opposition National Conference Congress stood up and raised the issue of worsening power scenario in the state. The Opposition members sought reply from the deputy chief minister and protested against the government for its failure to ensure uninterrupted power supply. Several NC and Congress members walked into the well of the House and some of them tore question papers and threw these at the well, seeking time to pose supplementary questions to the deputy chief minister, who also holds the charge of the power ministry. Around a dozen legislators asked supplementary questions to the deputy chief minister. Speaker Kavinder Gupta tried to intervene by asking members that only three supplementary questions can be asked for a single question. Minister Rehman Veeri also intervened and asked the members to allow the deputy chief minister to reply to their supplementary questions. The deputy chief minister said that the scarcity of power was a result of 70 years of bad planning. He held the previous governments responsible and added that the present dispensation was trying to fix the problem.

His remarks drew angry retort from NC legislators including Devender Rana and Congress MLAs Nawang Rigzin Jora and G M saroori. "The deputy chief minister is heading the department for the past three years but has done nothing on the ground," Saroori said. "There will be better power supply in 2018," the deputy chief minister responded.

Madras HC rejects plea to suspend RK Nagar by-election results

CHENNAI, JAN 9 /--/ The Madras High Court today dismissed a petition that the Election Commission of India (ECI) be directed to suspend the result of the RK Nagar by-elections that concluded last month, and held that the courts could not do so once it was declared.

Dismissing the PIL petition filed by city-based lawyer S V Ramamurthy on this, the first bench headed by Chief Justice Indira Banerjee said: "The courts cannot suspend the election result once it is declared. Such relief can be sought only through an election petition under the Representation of People Act." The petitioner sought a court direction to the EC to suspend the by-poll results and to restrain sidelined AIADMK leader TTV Dhinakaran from functioning as the MLA of the constituency, following allegations of money distribution in the run-up to the by-election. The results of the by-poll were declared on December 24.

The petitioner alleged that Dhinakaran, who contested as an independent candidate in the December 21 by-election, had won it by indulging in electoral malpractices.

The ECI had said it had seized around Rs 30 lakh meant to have been distributed to the constituency's voters, the petitioner claimed. He also submitted that he had not received a response so far from the ECI with regard to his December 29 representation on the issue. Amid accusations of bribery by rival sides the AIADMK and the Dhinakaran camp the former Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MP won the seat by 40,000 votes. He defeated ruling party candidate E Madhusudhanan, giving a jolt to the dispensation led by chief minister K Palaniswami.

BJP wins all 3 mayoral seats in Chandigarh civic body

CHANDIGARH, JAN 9 /--/ The BJP won the posts of mayor, senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor of Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, the voting for which was held here today.

Davesh Moudgil won the post of mayor, Gurpreet Singh Dhillon senior deputy mayor and Vinod Aggarwal deputy mayor in the 27-member Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, an election office spokesman said here after counting. Moudgil will be the 22nd mayor of Chandigarh Municipal Corporation. Moudgil bagged 22 votes as against his Congress rival Davinder Singh Babla who got five votes. Dhillon got 21 votes as against Congress rival Sheela Phool Singh who got six votes.

Aggarwal got 22 votes as against Congress candidate Ravinder Kaur who got four votes, while one vote was declared invalid.

In the 27-member Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, the strength of BJP councillors is 20, Congress four, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) one, Independent one and one vote is of sitting MP Kirron Kher of the BJP. The nine nominated councillors could not vote this year as their right to exercise franchise was struck down by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in August 2017. In the run-up to the polls, the BJP despite having a brute majority witnessed rift within the party which was sorted out on Monday.

Permission granted for Kejriwal's Buldhana rally

MUMBAI, JAN 9 /--/ Mumbai Police have granted permission for a public gathering to be addressed by Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal at Sindkhed Raja in Maharashtra's Buldhana district on January 12, an AAP leader said today.

The Buldhana police had last week denied permission for Kejriwal's rally, citing "difficulty in crowd management". Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) spokesperson Preeti Sharma Menon said today that the district police on Monday granted the permission for the event. In a tweet in Marathi, the AAP leader said; "On the occasion of Rajmata Jijau Jayanti on January 12, I am coming to Sindkhed Raja to have a dialogue with the people of Maharashtra." The Delhi chief minister will address the public at Sindkhed Raja on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Rajmata Jijabai, sometimes referred to as Jijau, the mother of 17th century Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

A function to mark her birth anniversary is held every year at Sindkhed Raja. The event is organised every year on January 11 and 12 and lakhs of people throng to Sindkhed Raja for a 'darshan' of Jijau. Four to five lakh people are expected at Sindkhed Raja this year, a police officer in Buldhana earlier said.

Chhattisgarh Cong gets in poll mode; seeks suggestions from people for manifesto

RAIPUR, JAN 9 /--/ The Opposition Congress in Chhattisgarh has swung into election mode and invited suggestions from people to prepare its manifesto for the state Assembly polls due later this year. The state Congress Legislature Party leader, T S Singhdeo, has appealed to people from all sections of the society, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and intellectuals to send their suggestions and recommendations for the party's manifesto. "The manifesto is prepared for the common people and it is necessary to know their demands and what they feel needs to be done for the state's development," Singhdeo told news agency PTI. He said the public and social organisations have a better understanding of the ground situation and their suggestions and recommendations can help in making an effective policy. People can share their opinions personally or through the party platform.

For the purpose, a web portal has been created where people can post their suggestions. Besides, they can also put up their ideas on WhatsApp, he said. An office has been set up to monitor the process and suggestions will be classified based on each department of the government. Later, the suggestions will be shortlisted for inclusion in the manifesto, considering all the segments, the Congress leader added. Singhdeo said they have also invited suggestions from within the party. The district and block Congress committees have been asked to take the initiative in this regard.

The party leadership will meet the Congress workers and people in all the districts of the state to discuss the poll agenda, he said. The Congress was voted out of power in Chhattisgarh in the 2003 Assembly polls. Since then, it is struggling to make a comeback in the state, which is presently ruled by the BJP. (PTI)

Newly-elected MLAs of 13th Himachal Assembly sworn in

DHARAMSALA, JAN 9 /--/ The first session of 13th Himachal Pradesh Assembly commenced at Tapovan complex here with protem Speaker Romesh Dhawala administering oath to the newly-elected members of the House. The Winter Session of the Assembly, which began today, will end on January 12. Chief minister Jai Ram Thakur was first to take the oath, followed by cabinet ministers Mohinder Singh Thakur, Krishan Kapoor, Suresh Bharadwaj, Anil Sharma, Sarveen Chowdhary, Ram Lal Markanda, Vipin Singh Parmar, Varinder Kanwar, Bikram Singh, Gobind Thakur and Rajiv Saijal. Leader of the Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri took oath next, followed by former chief minister Virbhadra Singh. Other members took oath district-wise starting with Chamba. Jagat Singh Negi from Kinnaur was last to take oath. The election of Assembly speaker would be held tomorrow and senior BJP leader, Rajiv Bindal is likely to be speaker. (PTI)

Matunga station chugs into record book for all-woman staff

MUMBAI, JAN 9 /--/ The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway (CR) has found its way into the Limca Book of Records for having an all-woman staff, an official said today.

The achievement comes six months after Matunga became the first railway station in the country to be run by an all- woman staff. "We are happy to inform that six months after the CR appointed an all-woman staff at Matunga, this station has figured in the Limca Book of Records 2018," said the Railway official. "The credit for this goes to CR General Manager D K Sharma, who started this initiative of empowering women," he said. The station is being manned exclusively by women staffers since July 2017, a first on the Indian Railways, he said.

A team of 41 women staffers at the station includes personnel from the RPF, commercial and operating departments. These staffers work under the supervision of station manager Mamta Kulkarni. Chief PRO of CR Sunil Udasi said: "The staff has been handling all operations of the station round-the-clock for the last six months and results are positive and encouraging.

"The idea is to create an environment where women are encouraged to take decision about their own personal and professional well being," he said.

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4.	35427(E)	7000008766	S.SHOP	Repair of track assly, discharge door etc, HSM & Repair of various equipments in structural shop.	25/01/2018
5.	35431(E)	7000008769	CR(M)	Cladding of gas pipeline and repair of goggle plate (near gas line) Support structure.	25/01/2018
6.	35438(E)	7000008771	ICF	Molding Sand preparation	25/01/2018

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