

# ALL INDIA LEGAL FORUM

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IN THE ISSUE

**RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT BANS  
SALE OF FIREWORKS THIS DIWALI  
IN VIEW OF CORONAVIRUS  
PANDEMIC**

02.11.2020

**R**ajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday (02.11.2020) said that he has issued directions to ban the sale of firecrackers, and restrict their use for the upcoming Diwali festival in wake of Covid-19 Pandemic.



This move was made in order to protect Covid-19 patients and the Public from ill effects of Pollution. He said, "In order to protect the health of COVID-19 infected patients and general public due to poisonous smoke emanating from firecrackers,

strict action has been taken to prohibit the sale of firecrackers in the state and restrict the movement of vehicles without fitness certificate", Gehlot had tweeted.

He also said that the Government has decided to keep the schools and colleges of the State closed till November 16. Gehlot was reviewing the situation created by Corona Virus crisis and 'No mask No Entry' and 'War for the Pure' campaign of the State Government. The Chief Minister also discussed the guidelines of 'UNLOCK-6' in the meeting. During the discussion on UNLOCK-6 guidelines, Principal Secretary (Home) Abhay Kumar said educational institutions and coaching centres including school colleges in the state will remain closed for regular educational activities till November 16, the statement said. Swimming pools, parks, theatres, cinema halls, complexes, entertainment parks will remain closed till November 30, it said.

The maximum limit of guest at the wedding should be 100, the statement said.

## **JHARKHAND SCHOLARSHIP SCAM: MONEY MEANT FOR POOR STUDENTS SIPONHED OFF, CM ORDERS FOR ENQUIRY**

03.11.2020

**A**n alleged scholarship scam in Jharkhand which came to light just ahead of assembly by-polls has created a political storm with Chief Minister Hemanth Soren pinning the blame on BJP Government and Former Welfare Minister Louis Marandi thereby refuting his charge.



The people involved in the scam obtained Aadhar Card details of the students who hijacked their bank accounts and siphoned their money. In many cases, they faked the availability of hostel for some schools to dupe the money provided for the hostellers.

Soren had said that he will order an inquiry into the case which was disclosed by the National daily through series of

reports has pointed out instances of fraud in the distribution of pre-metric scholarships, sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs for 2019-2020.

He promised to get to the bottom of the matter and take against anybody found guilty of fraud.

Marandi who is also a saffron party candidate for the assembly by-polls welcomed the CM's decision and said an inquiry would help clear the picture. Asserting that all welfare work was undertaken with "Complete Transparency" during her tenure, "We have nothing to hide.", she said.

Meanwhile, BJP State President Deepak Prakash said Soren is trying to tarnish Marandi's image just before the polls and its gross violation of the model code of conduct. "The Chief Minister is trying to influence the voters. The BJP is ready for any inquiry, it is not afraid of baseless allegations". He said.

## **HINDUS ATTACKED IN BANGLADESH, CONGRESS URGES GOVERNMENT TO TAKE UP ISSUE**

04.11.2020

**V**an attack on Minority Hindu oicing concern over reports of Community in some parts of Bangladesh, Congress Leader

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in Lok Sabha urged the Centre to take up the issue immediately with the neighbouring Country. He referred to recent media reports which say how temples were attacked and Hindu families in Bangladesh became victims.



At least 15 Hindu temples in Bangladesh have been vandalized over allegations of disrespect shown to Islam on Facebook, triggering panic among the minority community in some areas.

The violence is supposed to have started after a headmaster of a kindergarten school, a Bangladeshi man, commented favorably on a Facebook post which praised French President Emmanuel Macron for his reaction to the beheading of a school teacher in Paris.

Macron had condemned the murder of Samuel Paty, for showing his students the controversial caricatures of Prophet Mohammed, as an 'Islamist attack' and

vowed to crackdown on extremists who opposed freedom of speech. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs had supported this position.

After the violence, which reportedly lasted for hours, two temples in adjacent Madhabpur in Habiganj also came under attack; the report said quoting police and eyewitnesses.

Temples at Nasirnagar in Brahmanbarhia district in Bangladesh were vandalized and over 100 houses in the area belonging to Hindus were looted, the media reports said were confirmed to be reported falsely by PTI had conflated an old story from 2016 with the current incident to make the claim.

Bangladeshi authorities have confirmed that there were tensions, but that things are under control at this point, Reports said. Chowdhury, who is the Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, said in his statement that "It is reported that Hindu families in Bangladesh have been targeted by fundamentalist forces resulting in the arson and other violence as a reprisal of the stand taken by our government. Indian government should take up the issue with Bangladesh government as immediately as possible to prevent further escalation." Six persons have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the attack and

paramilitary Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) deployed at Nasirnagar and Madhabpur Upazila headquarters along with the Rapid Action Battalion, police, and Armed Police Battalion, the report said.

Police detained the accused immediately after the allegation of blasphemy and the man has been sent to jail following a court order.

### **PRESSURE BUILDING UPON PUDUCHERRY GOVERNMENT TO HOLD LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS**

05.11.2020

**W** Government all set to hold with Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Elections this month, Pressure is mounting on the Puducherry Government to hold Local Body Elections which the Ministry of Home Affairs has been insisting on for the past 10 years.



The election process is likely to start soon with Roy P Thomas being appointed as the State Election Commissioner (SEC) last month and this decision had triggered a fresh controversy between Congress Chief Minister V Narayanaswamy and the Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi.

Government officials confirmed that the notification for the conduct of local polls is likely to be issued by the UT administration by November 10 and the draft electoral rolls will be updated by November 15.

Local Body Polls in the Union Territory was last held in 2006 and the term of office of the elected municipalities, commune panchayats, and village panchayats ended in 2011.

Puducherry has two municipal councils while Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam regions have one municipality each. There are 10 commune panchayats (five each in Puducherry and Karaikal) besides 98 village panchayats in all the four regions. While the panchayat polls in J&K were delayed on account of security and boycott from political parties, the local body in Puducherry has been in suspension due to the tussle between the Centre and the UT. Asked about the delay, chief minister Narayanasamy told Economic Times over

the phone, "I would not like to comment as the matter is sub-judice."

Officials said the Puducherry government is

seeking a legal opinion to challenge the appointment of the SEC before the High Court. The UT government had alleged that the appointment of SEC is

"unconstitutional" as it was done without approval from the council of ministers. On October 21, Bedi selected former IFS officer Thomas as SEC for a term of three years or till he attained the age of 68.

"More funds will come from GOI which were not coming because they did not have elected bodies. This will bring about a shift in governance," Bedi told.

MHA officials said the Centre had constituted a committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the Union Territory to select SEC after calling for applications from candidates across the country to follow a transparent process. The SEC was chosen from a list of 10 candidates who applied for the post, they added.

Thomas said, "Appropriate legal procedure is being followed before we finalize the dates for polls."

Thomas, after taking charge as SEC, has initiated steps to prepare and publish electoral rolls. He has directed the officers

to take steps to notify details of the population of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Caste women, and also women under the general category ward-wise in municipalities, commune panchayats, and village panchayats before November 10, a second official told ET.

## **KARNATAKA WILL PUT AN END TO RELIGIOUS CONVERSION IN THE NAME OF 'LOVE JIHAD':**

**B.S.YEDIYURAPPA**

06.11.2020

**A** Ministry in February had told the Union Home Lok Sabha that there is no definition for "love jihad" under the current laws in India, several Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled states are weighing a law to prevent "love jihad".



Karnataka Chief Minister Yediyurappa said that the Government will take strong measures to put an end to religious conversions in the name of "Love Jihad".

"In recent days there are media reports

about religious conversion in the name of love jihad in Karnataka. I have discussed this with officials before coming here. What other states have done or not done is a different matter, but in Karnataka we will have to put an end to it," Yediyurappa said, adding that the state government will take strong measures in this regard. "Young girls of the state are being lured in the name of love and money and are being converted to other religions, we have considered it seriously. After thorough review, we will take a strong measure," he added.

Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai also said that the Government was considering a Law against religious conversions for the sake of marriage.

BJP national general secretary CT Ravi too in a tweet had recently said that on lines of Allahabad High Court's order, Karnataka will enact a law banning religious conversions for the sake of marriage.

"We will not remain silent when Jihad strips the dignity of our sisters. Anyone involved in the act of conversion shall face severe and swift punishment". He said. The Allahabad High Court had recently said in a case that conversion just for the sake of marriage is not valid.

**AAP GOVERNMENT NOD TO PROSECUTE JNU'S UMAIR KHALID,**

## **SHARJEEL IMAM UNDER STRINGENT ANTI-TERROR LAW**

07.11.2020

**T**he Aam Aadmi Party Government (AAP) in Delhi and Union Home Ministry

has granted sanction to prosecute against Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and Faizan Khan in the Delhi riots conspiracy case, under which they were booked under the stringent anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Following the nod, the police can now name them in their supplementary charge sheet.



"We have received prosecution sanction against Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and Khan in connection with a case registered against them under the UAPA. We have received sanctions from both the Delhi government and the Ministry of Home Affairs," the officer told.

"To prosecute one under section 13 of the UAPA, we need sanction from the Ministry of Home Affairs, which we have already received. For prosecution under section -16, 17 and 18 of the UAPA, we have received sanction from the Delhi government," the officer said.

In a late evening statement, the government said that this is a purely procedural matter, adding that the elected government has no involvement in this. "The law department has given its

legal opinion after due diligence to the home department of Delhi government. The elected government has no role to play", the statement said. "Delhi government has not stopped prosecution in any case in the last five years, including those pertaining to AAP MLAs and party leaders," it stated. Earlier in the day, Delhi government official said that it is up to the courts now to see who are all the accused. Umar Khalid was arrested on September 13 under the UAPA act in a case related to communal violence in northeast Delhi.

