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LA erupts over statehood resolution; BJP MLAs storm well

The NC-led government headed by Farooq Abdullah had passed a resolution on June 26, 2000 for restoration of greater autonomy as existed before August 9, 1953.

On November 6, 2024, the House had passed a resolution, seeking the restoration of special status.

As soon as the chief minister tabled the resolution in the House, the treasury benches welcomed it with the thumping of desks.

However, the reference to the 2000 resolution triggered protests from BJP members, who stated that they would not allow any discussion on the issue of autonomy.

They said rules were flouted as the chief minister had read the resolution even before tabling it in the House.

Shouting slogans, the BJP members stormed the well of the House and tore the copies of the resolution.

"We will not allow discussion on the issue of autonomy in the House," they said.

As the pandemonium continued, with the treasury & opposition benches raising slogans & counter-slogans, many of them got into heated arguments. Some traded barbs, with a few of them starting fist fights.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather repeatedly urged the members to take their seats, but the din persisted. He subsequently adjourned the House; first for half an hour, and then till Monday.

Earlier, while moving the resolution, the CM reminded the Centre of its earlier assurances that statehood would be restored after delimitation and elections, and said the third step was now pending.

"PM Modi had said that it was Modi Ka Wada, which means it was extraordinary from a normal promise. If it was Modi Ka Wada, it should have got implemented as well," he said while speaking in the House.

He also highlighted what he described as the administrative implications of Jammu and Kashmir continuing as a Union Territory, citing the functioning of the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS).

"The implication of not having statehood is that files of SKIMS, one of our premium healthcare institutes, do not come to us," he said.

Omar said Health Minister Sakina Itoo was unable to take decisions on matters concerning SKIMS, while the finance department allocated funds to the institute without having control over how the money was subsequently spent.

"I, as a finance minister, give them the budget, but how that money is spent, we don't know," he said.

The chief minister sought a detailed discussion on the resolution, saying restoration of statehood was a common concern cutting across party lines.

Later, talking to reporters inside the assembly premises after Rather adjourned the House, he said the resolution he tabled in the house was not for greater autonomy or special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the unruly scenes and sloganeering by the BJP MLAs, he said, "You saw how BJP reacted to this. Because they simply do not want to vote on statehood. They want to back out of this vote under one pretext or another."

He said he did not seek a vote on the resolutions passed by legislative assembly on June 26, 2000 on -- restoration of greater autonomy under the Indian Constitution -- or on November 6, 2024 -- for the restoration of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Today, no one is asking them to vote on Article 370. Today, no one is asking them to vote on Jammu and Kashmir's special position or special status or autonomy. Those resolutions have already been passed; they are the property of the House," he said.

The chief minister said the fresh resolution he tabled in the house on Friday does not subsume the previous resolutions.

"We are not bringing those resolutions back for a vote; the house has already passed them. Today, we are asking for a vote from the BJP solely and exclusively on statehood, and they are not ready to vote on statehood," he added.

"We wanted a resolution to be passed here and sent to the Government of India, stating that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood should be restored immediately," he added.

Abdullah also referred to BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma's remarks about the government having to be accountable for governance over past two years.

"I am ready. Bring the discussion on Monday; whatever our performance has been over the past two years, we will place everything before the house. And the difficulties we faced over these two years, the problems we ran into, the hardships we had to confront -- we will bring all of that forward as well. And after that, we hope the house votes on this resolution, and we will send this resolution to the central government," he said.

On the BJP's charge that the resolution was "anti-national", the chief minister said that asking for statehood does not make one anti-national.

"Show me one anti-national word used in this resolution. Show me one unconstitutional word we have used. We are simply saying that the Centre must immediately restore full and complete statehood to Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The chief ministers said he had to mention those earlier resolutions as he did not want anyone to fall prey to any misunderstanding.

"Tomorrow, you might say, 'Look, they abandoned those resolutions and brought this one instead.' That is why we said 'in addition' -- meaning those resolutions remain property of the House. We are not touching those resolutions; they stand in their place. But today, we are bringing a separate resolution on statehood, one that does not dilute earlier resolutions," he added.

Abdullah said if the BJP wants the previous resolutions replaced, they should bring a resolution in the House to this effect.

"Let them bring a resolution during this debate to reject them, to wipe them out. If they get the votes for it, who am I to object? That is what democracy demands," he said.

Abdullah said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have seen that if anyone is an obstacle to restoring statehood, it is the 29 BJP MLAs.

"They contested elections in the name of statehood. Restoring statehood was a major promise in their manifesto. They constantly remind us of our manifesto, yet they don't remember their own! So today, I tell them again: whatever you want to say, say it inside the house.

"Let the House run in order, hold a debate, and say what you wish; we will answer. After that, vote on statehood. Don't abstain, don't walk out, don't create a ruckus, cast your vote! If you support statehood, vote 'yes'; if you oppose statehood, vote 'no'. Let the people know," he said.

Asked about the need to bring the resolution when his Cabinet had passed a similar resolution two years ago, Abdullah said two years was a very long time to make people of Jammu and Kashmir wait for statehood.

"Clearly, the voice of the cabinet was not considered to be the voice of the people. Therefore, since the legislature represents the entire spectrum of political opinion in Jammu and Kashmir... The Cabinet only represents the ruling party, but the legislature represents parties that are not part of the government," he said.

The chief minister said the demand for statehood was not for the government, his party or his family, but for entire Jammu and Kashmir.

"That is why we brought this resolution to the legislative assembly, so that in one single voice, we tell the central government to restore the status of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir immediately," he said.

Asked about Congress MLAs being comfortable with the resolution, Abdullah said he was glad about it.

Jaishankar fires back at Pak reporter at UNGA

disrupt maritime commerce and cost innocent lives are simply

indefensible," he said.

He cited the recent attack on the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged bulk carrier MV Cape Dao in the Gulf of Oman, in which an Indian sailor was killed.

During the meeting, India and Liberia announced establishing a "group of friends" on the safety and security of shipping and seafarers, a landmark maritime initiative launched amid continued attacks on commercial shipping.

"India, as a major source of seafarers, and Liberia, as the largest shipping registry, have come together to highlight the safety and security of shipping and seafarers," Jaishankar said at the meeting.

He said the initiative marked a positive beginning towards making an inclusive platform bringing together major ship-owning states, countries with the largest ship registries and those providing the maximum number of seafarers.

Jaishankar also highlighted that the disruption caused by the attacks has led to prolonged confinement of seafarers on board, delays in crew changes and repatriation, separation from families and psychological distress.

He stressed the need for stronger international cooperation to deter such attacks and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed establishing a Seafarers Emergency Support Network at the recent BRICS Summit to connect maritime authorities and embassies, facilitate distress alerts, medical assistance, communication with families and evacuation support.

Amid ongoing global conflicts, merchant shipping and seafarers are facing increased risks in various regions, including the Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab-el-Mandeb, Black Sea, and Somalia.

A significant number of Indian seafarers serve onboard both Indian-flagged and foreign-flagged vessels operating in or transiting through these regions, exposing them to associated maritime security risks.

J&K honoured as 'Best Performing UT' at Aarogya Manthan

Cards.

The award was presented at Aarogya Manthan 2026, held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, as part of the celebrations marking eight years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and five years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

Virender Kumar, Nodal Officer, SHA J&K, received the award on behalf of the State Health Agency, J&K, from Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, National Health Authority and other dignitaries.

The achievement is the result of the collective efforts of SHA J&K, Chief Medical Officers, district teams, frontline health workers and field functionaries across the UT. Their continued efforts at the district and grassroots levels have helped ensure that frontline workers are covered with Ayushman Cards and are able to avail the benefits associated with the scheme.

The recognition is a proud moment for the teams working across Jammu & Kashmir and adds further momentum to the ongoing efforts of SHA J&K to strengthen AB-PMJAY SEHAT and ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach people across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Inquiry ordered against PWD AEE

sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Beiza Rafiq, in-charge superintending engineer (civil), PW(R&B) Circle, Bandipora, as inquiry officer and Javeed Hafiz Facktoo, in-charge executive engineer, R&B Division, Sopore, as presenting officer to conduct of an in-depth inquiry into the charges levelled against AEE Mubarak Ahmad Ganie in case FIR No13/2024 registered at ACB police station, Baramulla."

The inquiry officer has been asked to submit the report/findings within a period of 30 days from the date of issuance of this order.

HC rejects ED plea

and 424 (dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property) of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) lacked merit based on the material currently available.

The anti-money laundering probe agency had challenged an order dated March 22 passed by the chief judicial magistrate (CBI cases), which dismissed its application seeking the incorporation of additional charges under sections 411 and 424 of the RPC into the primary case being prosecuted by the CBI.

The ED contended that although the CBI filed the primary chargesheet under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 409 (criminal breach of trust by a public servant) of the RPC, the material gathered during the probe disclosed sufficient grounds to frame charges for receiving and concealing stolen property as well.

Refusing to add the charges at this stage, the court observed that the accusations emerging from the CBI chargesheet were essentially founded upon alleged criminal misappropriation and breach of trust allegedly committed by the accused people.

"The material presently available does not disclose a distinct receipt or retention of stolen property by the respondents in the capacity contemplated by that provision. Their alleged acts form part of the principal transaction of conspiracy, misappropriation and criminal breach of trust itself," the 29-page order said.

The high court said that mere movement of funds through different accounts in furtherance of the alleged conspiracy cannot justify addition of a charge under Section 411 pf the RPC.

The ED case is based on an FIR filed by the CBI, which booked former Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) office-bearers, including general secretary Mohammed Saleem Khan and treasurer Ahsan Ahmad Mirza.

The CBI later filed a chargesheet in 2018 against former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, Khan, Mirza, as well as former JKCA treasurer Mir Manzoor Gazanfer Ali and former accountants Bashir Ahmad Misgar and Gulzar Ahmad Beigh for the "misappropriation of JKCA funds amounting to Rs 43.69 crore" from grants given by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to promote the sport in the erstwhile state between 2002-11.

The ED said its probe found that JKCA received Rs 94.06 crore from the BCCI in three different bank accounts during financial years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012 (up to December 2011).

In February 2020, the ED attached assets worth Rs 2.6 crore of Mirza and Gazanfer, a member of the finance committee of the JKCA, as the agency alleged that Mirza transferred huge amounts into his personal bank accounts, and the money was further transferred or withdrawn in cash.

"From 2004 till March 2012, Mirza continued as the authorised signatory in the bank accounts of JKCA," it said.

Patnitop proposed as world-class tourist destination

consultation conferences, had already been completed for the proposed initiative.

Omar said the requisite ground data and basic details for the proposal were currently being compiled. No funds had so far been sanctioned or released by the Government of India for the proposed project, he added.

On the revision of PDA Master Plan-2000, he said the tourism department had initiated the process for comprehensive revision and preparation of Master Plans for various development authorities, including Patnitop Development Authority.

He said the initiative seeks to address rapid urban growth, modern infrastructure requirements and sustainable spatial development, besides optimising land use, improving public amenities and establishing a clear roadmap for long-term development.

He informed the House that the Request for Proposal, as finalised by

the Steering Committee constituted by the government, had been floated for engagement of a consultancy agency to prepare the Master Plan.

Giving details of building permission cases for the last two years, he stated that during 2024-25, the PDA received six commercial cases, of which three were approved and three rejected, with none pending. In the residential category, 42 cases were received, 18 approved and 24 rejected, with no case pending.

During 2025-26, 10 commercial building permission cases were received, of which four were approved, three rejected and three remained pending. In the residential category, 60 cases were received, 16 approved, 41 rejected and three remained pending.

The chief minister informed the House that, as per available records, 14 residential and two commercial building permission cases had subsequently been received.

Ladakh admin, IIM Jammu sign MoU

offer a four-year BBA (Hons) programme, with an initial intake of 60 students. The programme is scheduled to commence by the end of October this year, barely a month after the signing of the MoU. The infrastructure for the IIM Jammu Satellite Campus, too, has been established in just two months.

The proposed programme has already received an encouraging response, with around 600 candidates expressing interest in admission against the vacant 60 seats. The strong response reflects the demand for quality management education despite Ladakh being a challenging region.

Saxena said the importance of the initiative extends well beyond the initial intake of 60 students, as the campus has the potential to become a hub for knowledge, innovation, entrepreneurship and professional development in Ladakh, fulfilling the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for Viksit Bharat.

The establishment of the Satellite Campus has progressed rapidly due to the constant guidance and intervention of LG Saxena. The engagements between the administration and IIM Jammu for starting undergraduate courses at Leh began less than two months ago, and the proposed campus building is already ready, enabling the academic programme to commence next month.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, the LG said the establishment of the IIM Jammu Satellite Campus is a turning point in the higher education system in Ladakh and also an important step towards opening new avenues of opportunity for the young people of Ladakh.

For several years, students aspiring to pursue quality management and professional education have often had to leave Ladakh, requiring them and their families to bear substantial expenses towards travel, accommodation, food, books and other necessities. For students from remote areas and families with limited financial resources, these costs can become a significant barrier to accessing quality higher education.

Saxena said that bringing quality management education closer to home would help address these challenges and enable more talented young people from Ladakh to pursue their aspirations without necessarily having to bear the financial and personal hardships associated with moving outside the Union Territory.

Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra; Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, Milind Kamble; Director, IIM Jammu, Prof B S Sahay; Secretary, Higher Education, Bhanu Prabha; and senior officials of the UT administration and IIM Jammu were present on the occasion.

SC to hear PIL for speedy disposal of cases against legislators

Anumula Revanth Reddy has 89 cases against him, followed by West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenendu Adhikari, who has 29 cases, and Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who has 19 cases.

Hansaria submitted that despite monitoring of cases by the top court and high courts to ensure expeditious trials, the number of pending criminal cases against MPs and MLAs since 2018 has remained almost at the same level.

On November 9, 2023, in a significant verdict aimed at fast-tracking trials in more than 5,000 criminal cases against lawmakers, the top court had directed high courts to set up a special bench to monitor cases for their speedy disposal.

It had also asked special courts not to adjourn proceedings in such matters except "for rare and compelling reasons".

Issuing a slew of directions to high courts, district judges and special courts designated to hear matters related to lawmakers, the top court had directed that criminal cases against MPs, MLAs and members of legislative councils (MLCs) be given priority.

PM lauds 'Make in India' success

facturing, design and innovation.

"More made in India. More investment in India. More exports from India. A transformation visible across sectors. 'Make in India' is about creating infrastructure, enterprise and innovation that allow India to grow and prosper," he said in a post on X.

The prime minister also posted a video on his social media handles showcasing the success India achieved in semiconductor industry, aerospace, train engines and coach manufacturing, ship building, metro networks, automobile, medicines, solar power, mobile phone making among others.

The 'Make in India' initiative is focused on facilitating investment, fostering innovation and developing world-class infrastructure. Guided by 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance', it has also sought to modernise processes and policies.

Over the years, 'Make in India' has opened new opportunities for businesses and investors to participate in India's manufacturing journey.

The initiative has subsequently been expanded under 'Make in India 2.0'. The initiative now focuses on 27 sectors, which include 15 in manufacturing and 12 in services.

111 MPs, MLAs changed parties after winning elections: ADR

state.

Goa recorded eight cases, with Congress MLAs moving to the BJP, while Punjab also accounted for eight cases, including six Rajya Sabha members and two MLAs.

Maharashtra recorded six cases, all involving Lok Sabha members elected from Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), who subsequently moved to the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde.

Meghalaya had six MLA cases and Manipur five, while Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat recorded four each.

Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan recorded two cases each, while Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh had one case each. Delhi accounted for one Rajya Sabha member changing party.

At the party level, the NDPP recorded the highest number of exits at 25, followed by the AITC with 20 and the Congress with 19. The BRS accounted for nine, AAP and NCP seven each, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) six, JD(U) five and NPP four.

Together, NDPP, AITC and Congress accounted for 64 of the 111 cases, or 58 per cent.

It has also suggested a time limit for deciding disqualification petitions and restrictions on defectors holding public office until they are re-elected.

US Prez hails meeting with Xi as 'very productive'

night agreed, also," Trump said.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Xi said China and the United States both have strong capabilities in AI and argued that competition between the two countries should be accompanied by greater

cooperation.

"The right thing to do is to draw on each other's strengths, not guard against each other," Xi said.

He called for continued dialogue between Washington and Beijing on AI, including discussions on its risks and benefits. He also proposed joint efforts to prevent the misuse and abuse of AI.

"AI must be kept under human control. A people-centred approach should be upheld, and AI should be developed for the positive and for good, so that AI will serve the progress of humanity," Xi said.

The talks took place as the United States and China previewed new AI models and faced calls to extend oversight to Chinese open-source systems. Trump and Xi held talks at the White House during the Chinese president's three-day visit to the United States.

The meeting was the second encounter between the two leaders in less than six months. Xi was expected to leave Washington after visiting the National Archives, which houses some of the country's most important founding documents.

The visit comes as the US marks the 250th anniversary of its founding. Trump said on Thursday that he wanted to show Xi "some of the greatest treasures of that proud history."

The US president also said he wanted to show Xi artefacts highlighting the relationship between the two countries.

UPI MDR won't burden consumers: FM

tion parties.

She said the proposed MDR would be a charge within the digital payments ecosystem and would be levied by entities facilitating UPI transactions, including payment service providers, merchants' banks and other participants in the ecosystem.

"This is not a tax, this is not a cess, this is not even a surcharge. And the collection is not coming to the Consolidated Fund of India," she said.

The finance minister maintained that the proposed mechanism would operate within the digital payment ecosystem rather than function as a government levy.

The proposed MDR has drawn criticism from Opposition parties, who have raised concerns over its potential impact on UPI users and the broader digital payments system.

The clarification comes amid discussions over introducing charges on select higher-value UPI transactions, while routine low-value digital payments have continued to remain free for users under the existing framework.

Self-reliance must be anchored in national confidence: Kavinder

Gupta said that meaningful development must go beyond production and consumption and encompass human dignity, social harmony, ethics, cultural values, environmental balance and the welfare of every section of society.

He said that women, farmers, artisans, workers, entrepreneurs, tribal communities, rural populations, youth and persons with disabilities must have equal opportunities to participate in the development process. Local economies, traditional knowledge, handicrafts and small enterprises should also be strengthened as important pillars of self-reliance.

Referring to Viksit Bharat-2047, the governor said that the vision of a developed India requires collective participation and a spirit of Sabka Prayas. He said that self-reliance was not merely an economic or technological objective, but also a commitment to national confidence and collective capacity building.

He said India's strength lies in the ability to harmonise tradition and modernity. "Our tradition can provide values, science can provide tools, democracy can provide institutions and our youth can provide energy. Their integration can give a new direction to the India of the future," he said.

Emphasising the need for responsible development, he said that progress must be accompanied by responsibility, technology by ethics, prosperity by sensitivity and self-reliance by self-restraint.

He urged scholars and research institutions to undertake critical and academic study of India's development model and civilisational thought, while encouraging new questions, research and intellectual dialogue.

Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President, Asiatic Society, Mumbai shared his views on current challenges, problems, and their solutions through virtual mode.

Earlier, Director, IIAS, Prof Himanshu Kumar Chaturvedi welcomed and honoured the governor and his wife Bindu Gupta and briefed about the two-day National Seminar on "The Quest for Atmanirbhar Bharat: From the Past, through the Present, to the Future".

Prafulla Ketkar, Editor, Organiser also spoke on the occasion. Programme Coordinator Ayushi Ketkar presented a report on the seminar. Rajiv Kumar Mishra, Librarian, IIAS, presented vote of thanks.

Anti-CEC protest rocks LA

"This is an attack on democracy," Lone said.

Bhat urged Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather that the Congress MLAs be heard.

However, the Speaker disallowed them and asked them to take their seats.

As the Congress MLAs continued with their protest, and tried to storm into the well of the House, the Speaker warned them of action.

The members also demanded resignation and arrest of Kumar. However, the Speaker told the protesting members that the Election Commission of India "is not under our control".

Later, the Congress MLAs took their seats and the proceedings of the Question Hour continued.

In Jammu, scores of Congress workers were detained as the party staged a protest, demanding the resignation of CEC Kumar.

Congress MP & AICC general secretary Syed Naseer Hussain led the protest, with several senior party leaders, including former ministers and legislators, participating in the demonstration.

The protesters raised slogans against Kumar and burnt his effigy while attempting to march towards the Election Commission office in Jammu.

A heavy contingent of police and paramilitary personnel was deployed around the office to prevent the protesters from proceeding. The protesters had brief scuffles with security personnel before several of them were detained, including the top leaders and taken away in buses.

Cong slams govt 'crackdown' on protests against CEC

workers were detained as police used barricades to stop them from marching towards the state election commission offices in various state capitals.

The protests come in the wake of a report that questions were repeatedly raised on issues related to the SIR within the three-member EC by two of the three commissioners -- Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

The national rollout of the SIR has been under the supervision of all three commissioners. But Sandhu and Joshi have formally objected, on record, at least 14 times over the last 10 months to decisions taken and orders issued, they say, without their knowledge.

Iran proposes deal to reopen Hormuz if US meets its conditions

suspicion," especially around the prospect of Iran merely buying time to get out more of its oil and ease its economic pain.

In the latest sign of diplomatic movement, Pezeshkian hosted the prime minister of Qatar early Friday. Qatar has served as a key mediator, including during hours of indirect Iranian-US talks at the UN this week.