

# Solution can't be far if there is dialogue: Justice Gavai on Manipur ethnic conflict

PTI, IMPHAL: Supreme Court judge, Justice B R Gavai, on Sunday asserted that all problems can be solved through constitutional means, stressing that when dialogue takes place, the solution is well within reach.

Justice Gavai, who led a team of five Supreme Court judges on a two-day visit to Manipur since Saturday, said that the delegation has learnt that everyone in the ethnic strife-torn state wants restoration of peace and that nobody is interested in continuing the present situation.

"Everything can be solved through constitutional means. If there is dialogue, the solution will not be far. People staying in relief camps want to return to their homes. I am sure that with the efforts of the governor, peace and normalcy would soon be restored in Manipur," he said, while addressing a function to mark the 12th anniversary of the establishment of the Manipur High Court.

Justice Gavai said it was



Security personnel conduct a search operation and area domination in the fringe and vulnerable areas of hill and valley districts of Manipur

a great pleasure for the Supreme Court judges to visit the state where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army had fought for the freedom of the country and the Indian flag was first hoisted in 1944.

"Our journey was not only to pay tributes to one of the most revered national heroes of the country but also to visit one of the most beautiful lands in the country," he said.

"We are celebrating 75 years of the adoption of the Constitution. When we compare India to our neighbouring countries, we realise our Constitution has kept us strong and united. As Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh or Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India, Manipur and the other seven sisters are also parts of this country. We strive for unity of the country," he said.

Justice Gavai said that he and his colleagues had

## 4 UNLF (PAMBEI) MILITANTS INJURED IN CLASH WITH ARAMBAI TENGGOL MEMBERS

PTI, IMPHAL: At least four militants of the banned United National Liberation Front (Pambei) outfit were injured in a clash with members of Meitei radical organisation Arambai Tenggol in Manipur's Imphal East district, police said on Sunday.

The four injured UNLF (Pambei) militants were taken into police custody and treated at a hospital and their condition is reported to be out of danger, a police officer said.

The incident took place on Saturday afternoon when around 15-20 members of Arambai Tenggol barged into the residence of a UNLF militant, identified as Irengbam Nandakumar Singh (56), in Kongpal Chingangbam Leikai and attacked insurgents of

the Imphal Valley-based outfit, he said.

Four UNLF (Pambei) militants present in the house received blunt injuries caused by sticks, the officer said.

A few rounds were also fired by both sides, prompting security forces to rush to the spot, he said.

The four UNLF (Pambei) militants were taken into custody, while the attackers managed to escape from the spot, the officer said.

Arambai Tenggol, a radical Meitei organisation, had been at the forefront of clashes with Kuki village volunteers till they surrendered their firearms in February in response to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla's call for returning looted weapons.

decided that during their visit to Manipur, they would interact with people who

have been suffering due to the conflict for the last two years.

# AIMPLB announces nationwide agitation against Waqf Bill

## WAQF BILL ASSAULT ON CONSTITUTION, PART OF BJP'S STRATEGY TO DAMAGE HARMONY: CONG

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday described the Waqf (Amendment) Bill as an "assault" on the Constitution and alleged that the proposed legislation was part of the BJP's "continuing attempts to damage" the centuries-old bonds of social harmony.

The opposition party alleged that the BJP was trying to "demonise minority communities" by spreading propaganda and creating prejudices.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is "deeply flawed" and is aimed at diluting Constitutional provisions that guarantee equal rights and protection to all citizens, regardless of religion.

"The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is part of the BJP's strategy and continuing attempts to damage the centuries-old bonds of social harmony in our uniquely multi-religious society," he said in a statement.

It is part of the BJP's strategy and continuing attempts to "defame traditions and institutions of minority communities to keep our society in a state of permanent polarisation for electoral gains", the Congress leader alleged.

ment who not only participated in large numbers but also firmly rejected the proposed legislation.

The AIMPLB's 31-member Action Committee has resolved to adopt all constitutional, legal and democratic means to oppose the bill, which it has described as "controversial, discriminatory, and damaging".

As part of the first phase

of the agitation, large sit-ins have been planned in front of the state assembly in Patna on March 26 and Vijayawada on March 29.

The senior leadership of the AIMPLB, along with representatives of national and state-level religious and social organisations, will participate in these demonstrations, a statement said.

# Mosque chief held, brother says arrest to prevent testimony before judicial panel

PTI, SAMBHAL: Shahi Jama Masjid management committee president Zafar Ali was arrested on Sunday after being questioned in connection with the November 24 violence during a protest against a court-ordered survey of the Mughal-era mosque.

## SAMBHAL VIOLENCE

Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar Bishnoi told reporters, "Today, Jama Masjid's Zafar Ali has been arrested and sent to jail. He was also detained and questioned late last night before being released."

"He was called again for questioning today. He was arrested after questioning,"



Zafar Ali, Jama Masjid Sadar Chief and the Shahi Mosque Committee Chief, being brought for medical examination in connection with the violence which broke out in the area a few months ago, in Sambhal

he added.

A case has been registered against Ali under several sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including 191(2) and 191(3) (rioting), 190

(every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object), 221 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 125 (act en-

dangering life or personal safety of others), 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of duty), 196 (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc), 230 (giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence) and 231 (giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of offence punishable with imprisonment).

He has also been booked under provisions of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

The district and the police administration are on high alert following Ali's arrest.

## CARGO BIKE



A vendor transports dozens of large bamboo baskets while balancing precariously on a two-wheeler, in Morigaon district, Assam

# Drug trafficker held after exchange of fire with police in Arunachal

PTI, ITANAGAR: A drug trafficker, wanted in several cases, was arrested in Arunachal Pradesh's capital region after an exchange of fire between the criminal and police personnel, a senior officer said on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team apprehended him from Hollongi near here on Saturday evening and seized 12 grams of narcotics substance and a US-made sophisticated firearm from his possession, Capital Superintendent of Police (SP) Rohit Rajbir Singh told reporters.

Based on intelligence inputs, a police team asked a vehicle to stop but it did not, and as the suspect attempted to flee the spot, the police personnel chased the

four-wheeler and intercepted it, the SP said.

Rohit (alias Ruhit) Basumatary, the accused drug trafficker, then started firing at the police team, and the police personnel led by SDPO Kengo Dirchi retaliated, Singh said.

The SP also said the police exhibited commendable restraint and professionalism, ensuring no harm to civilians. The accused was taken to R K Mission Hospital here for medical treatment, and two officers were also injured in the operation, the SP said.

Basumatary has a long history of serious criminal offences, including robbery, illegal arms possession, and drug trafficking, across Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

# Narco-terror module busted; father-son among 4 arrested with 4 kg heroin

PTI, CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Police Sunday said it has busted a narco-terror module with the arrest of four people including a father-son duo and recovered 4 kg of heroin from them.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said that the arrested accused were in direct contact with Pakistan-based drug smugglers.

An FIR has been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act at the State Special Operations Cell (SSOC), Amritsar, he said.

"In an intelligence-led operation, Counter Intelligence (CI), Amritsar, busts a narco-terror module and apprehends four persons and recovers 4 kg of heroin from their possession," the DGP posted on X.

Those arrested have



been identified as Sukhwinder Singh and his son Navjot Singh, both residents of Tarn Taran road in Amritsar; Aniket, a resident of Chheharta in Amritsar; and Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi, a resident of village Sheron in Tarn Taran.

Meanwhile, a Punjab Police statement said the police teams have also impounded a black-coloured auto-rickshaw and a mo-

# Man arrested for acid attack on ex-wife in Kerala

PTI, KOZHICKODE (KERALA): A 35-year-old man was arrested for allegedly attacking his ex-wife with acid when she arrived for treatment at a government Ayurveda hospital in Perambra on Sunday, police said.

The accused, Prashant, a resident of Naduvannur in the district, later surrendered at the Meppayur police station.

The victim, K Prabhisha (29), who had divorced the man three years ago, was living with her parents.

According to police, the incident occurred when she visited the government Ayurveda hospital in Cheruvannur, Perambra, in the morning.

# YSRCP leader Vidadala Rajini, IPS officer Joshua booked for extortion

PTI, AMARAVATI: A case has been registered against YSRCP leader Vidadala Rajini, senior IPS officer P Joshua and others, by Andhra Pradesh's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for allegedly extorting over Rs 2.2 crore from a stone-crushing business owner during the previous YSRCP regime, the police said on Sunday.

The "extortion" took place under the guise of vigilance inspections during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

"The ACB has booked former minister Rajini and IPS officer Joshua for extorting Rs 2.20 crore from a stone-crushing business

owner in Edlapadu, Guntur district," the police official told PTI.

Rajini's assistant, A D Ramakrishna, demanded Rs 5 crore from the stone-crusher owner, which was followed by an "unauthorised" inspection by Joshua a month later.

Following the demand and the "inspection", the stone-crushing business owner paid Rs 2.20 crore.

## CHANGE IN NAME

I UNNIKISHAN B, R/O 503, Siddhakala Sankul, Chicalim, Vasco, Goa. would you like to change my name from UNNIKISHAN B to UNNIKISHAN BABURAJAN. Hereafter in all documents and dealing will be known by the name UNNIKISHAN BABURAJAN.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I PARAMITA CHATTERJEE D/o Mr. Arun Kumar Chatterjee, R/o Aspen 501 Sankalp Central Park, Yadavagiri Mysore, Hobbalu, Karnataka. I wholly relinquish the use of my former name/surname AFSHEEN SUHAL. Henceforth in all dealings and correspondence will be in name of PARAMITA CHATTERJEE.

## CHANGE IN NAME

I SHASHIKANT VASSUDEV NARVEKAR R/O H NO 257/A, GHORBHAT VADDO, ARPORA, BARDEZ, GOA. like to change my name from SECHIKANTA NARVEKAR to SHASHIKANT VASSUDEV NARVEKAR. Hereafter in all my dealing and documents I will be known by the name SHASHIKANT VASSUDEV NARVEKAR.

# Puducherry PWD executive engineer, chief engineer among three arrested by CBI for bribery

PTI, NEW DELHI: The CBI has arrested three people, including the chief engineer and the executive engineer of the Puducherry government's public works department, in connection with an alleged bribery of Rs 2 lakh, officials said on Sunday.

A private contractor who was allegedly part of the exchange was also arrested, they said.

Later, during searches, Rs 73 lakh in cash was recovered, they added.

It is alleged that executive engineer R Chidambaranathan had demanded as commission Rs 6

lakh - approximately one per cent of the total estimated tender amount of Rs 7.44 crore - from contractor N Elamurugan for granting hassle-free future clearance in matters related to road projects under the public works department (PWD) in Karaikal

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tractor N Elamurugan for granting hassle-free future clearance in matters related to road projects under the public works department (PWD) in Karaikal.

Chidambaranathan had allegedly demanded the bribe for chief engineer M Dhinadhayalan.

The CBI arrested all three immediately after Chidambaranathan accepted part of the bribe amount, the officials said.

was recovered from the vehicle of the accused PWD contractor - a private person. All three accused were arrested," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

He said the probe agency conducted searches at the residential and the official premises of the accused in Puducherry and Karaikal, leading to the recovery of Rs 73 lakh in cash - Rs 65 lakh from the residence of the accused chief engineer Dhinadhayalan and Rs 8 lakh from the home of the accused executive engineer Chidambaranathan.

# Prisoner allegedly beaten in police custody dies during treatment

PTI, MEDININAGAR (JHARKHAND): A prisoner, who was allegedly beaten up in police custody in Jharkhand's Palamu district, died during treatment in a Ranchi hospital on Sunday, an officer said.

The deceased, Mahfuz Ahmed (25), was undergoing treatment at Ranchi's Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) since March 7.

"Ahmed, who was under treatment in Ranchi's RIMS, died today. He had kidney-related problems," Palamu Superintendent of Police (SP) Reeshma

Ramesan said.

She stated that Ahmed, along with three other accomplices, was arrested with weapons in connection with a robbery case at Karimati, within the Panki police station jurisdiction, on March 5.

The family members of the deceased claimed that Ahmed, who was a resident of Nawabazar, was caught by police on March 1 from a clinic in Chhatarpur.

They said that Ahmed was sent to jail on March 6 after they lodged a complaint with the Chief

Judicial Magistrate on March 5.

The family members alleged that Ahmed was beaten up in police custody.

The issue was also raised by some members in the assembly demanding action against police personnel involved in allegedly beating him. The government had assured them of taking appropriate action in this case.

The SP said Nawabazar police station in-charge Chintu Kumar was suspended on Saturday in connection with the case.