

SC orders floor test in Karnataka Assembly at 4pm tomorrow

Agency
New Delhi, May 18

The Supreme Court today ordered a floor test in the Karnataka Assembly at 4 PM tomorrow, reducing the 15-day window given by the Governor to BJP Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa to prove majority.

"Let the House decide and the best course would be floor test," a three-judge bench headed by Justice A K Sikri said.

The top court said the Pro tem speaker will take decisions in accordance with the law on the issue of floor test.

The apex court also directed the Karnataka government and the Governor not to nominate any MLA from the Anglo-Indian community to participate in the floor test tomorrow.

The bench also asked the newly elected government not to take any major policy decision till it proves majority in the House.

It also ordered authorities including the DGP to ensure law and order outside the Karnataka Assembly. The apex court made it clear

that it would deal with the constitutionality of the Governor's letter inviting Yeddyurappa to form the government later.

The bench said ultimately the question is about majority which has to be proved in the floor test.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Chief Minister, had sought reasonable time till Monday for the floor test but the bench, also comprising Justices S A Bobde and Ashok Bhushan, ordered for tomorrow.

The Supreme Court also turned down Yeddyurappa's request for a secret ballot during the floor test.

During the hearing which went for more than an hour, Yeddyurappa today placed before the apex court letters he had sent to Governor Vajubhai Vala in which he had staked claim to form the government in Karnataka.

Yeddyurappa, who was sworn in as the chief minister of Karnataka yesterday, told the bench that being the single largest party the BJP was the "mandate of people" of the state who have thrown

out the Congress. Rohatgi told the bench that there was no pre-poll alliance between the Congress and JDS and they have formed an "unholy alliance" after the elections.

The apex court was hearing a petition moved by the Congress-JDS combine challenging the governor's decision to invite the BJP to form government.

"The single largest party (BJP) is the mandate of people of Karnataka who have thrown out the ruling party. The ruling party has much less members than us. There was no pre-poll alliance. It (Congress-JD(S)) is an unholy alliance," Rohatgi said.

At the outset, the bench asked the Attorney General K K Venugopal, "Have you brought those letters (sent to the Governor by Yeddyurappa)?"

Venugopal told the bench that Yeddyurappa was being represented by Rohatgi, who placed the letters before the bench.

The bench directed Rohatgi to give the copies of the letters to the counsel

appearing for Congress-JD(S) combine.

Rohatgi, while reading out the operative part of the May 16 letter sent by Yeddyurappa to the Governor, said the BJP leader had said in the letter that the party has emerged as the single largest party in the state and they were willing to form the government.

He also said that the BJP leader had requested the governor to invite the party to form government and had also said that they would provide a "stable government" and they have the "support of others".

In a historic pre-dawn hearing, the top court had yesterday cleared the last-minute hurdle created by the Congress-JD(S) combine for the BJP's ambitious surge in southern India by paying the way for Yeddyurappa to be sworn in as the chief minister of Karnataka.

A specially constituted three-judge bench after more than three hours of hearing, had made it clear that it was not interfering with the Governor's decision to invite the saffron party to form government in the state in which BJP with 104 seats has emerged as the single largest party.

Kejriwal seeks PM's intervention to prevent water crisis in Delhi

Agency
New Delhi, May 18

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention in ensuring sufficient water supply from Haryana as the national capital stares at a possible water crisis next week.

In his letter to the prime minister, Kejriwal said the city has been receiving 1,133 cuses of water from Haryana since 1996, but recently, for the first time in 22 years, the neighbouring state has contested Delhi's right over this water and partially stopped the supply to the national capital.

"The Supreme Court has directed Haryana to keep supplying the earlier quantity of water till May 21, which means the state could reduce water supply after Monday," he said.

If that happens, it would create an "unprecedented shortage of water" in Delhi

and could lead to "serious" law and order situation, the chief minister said.

"I would urge you (PM) to kindly use your good offices to persuade Haryana to continue supplying same level of water that it has been supplying for last 22 years and not to disrupt it till the issue is finally decided by the courts," Kejriwal said in the letter.

The Haryana government on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that it would maintain status quo on supply of Yamuna river water to Delhi till May 21.

The apex court asked the Delhi government and the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to request Haryana for the maintenance of status quo on water supply and directed Haryana to take an independent decision on the matter.

The chief minister also wrote to Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, saying, "Just two days are left, we need to act fast to prevent a crisis."

He requested Bajjal to talk to the prime minister seeking his intervention in the matter if there is no response from Haryana.

Yesterday too, Kejriwal had written to his Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar and Delhi L-G over the issue.

In his letter to Modi, the chief minister said disruption in water supply from Haryana could affect Chandrawal water treatment plan, which supplies water to NDMC area where Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament, embassies and major establishments like railway stations and hospitals are located.

"In addition to affecting the public at large, any disruption in water supply would affect all these establishments also."

"The Delhi government has already filed an application before Upper Yamuna River Board. However, final adjudication by the board could take some time," Kejriwal said.

Pakistan violates ceasefire in J&K, BSF jawan killed

Agency
Jammu, May 18

Jawan of the Border Security Force (BSF) was killed early Friday morning in an unprovoked firing from Pakistan along the International Border (IB) in Arnia sector of Jammu, an official said.

This comes a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Firing in Heeranagar area was on during the

intervening night of May 16 and 17 in which one BSF trooper was injured. Yesterday, during the daytime, it stopped but Pakistan resumed firing last night in the Arnia sector which claimed the life of a jawan early today," a senior BSF official said.

The martyred jawan is identified as Constable Sitaram Upadhyay. He was a native of Girdih in Jharkhand. Born in 1991, he donned the uniform in 2011. He is survived by a three-

year-old daughter and a one-year-old son.

Besides this, a BSF jawan posted in the border outpost at Pittal in Arnia sector was injured in the firing around 6:45 am. He has been evacuated and is being operated upon.

Four civilians, two in Trewa village of Arnia sector and one each in Jordha and Samka in RS Pura sector, were also injured in the firing. Police have moved bullet proof vehicles to evacuate them and other villagers.

Washington seeks global 'coalition' against Iran regime

Agency
Washington, May 18

Washington wants to build a global "coalition" against the Tehran regime and its "destabilizing activities," the State Department has said, after pulling out from the Iran nuclear accord to the anger of US allies. The plan is to be detailed on Monday by the top United States diplomat, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in his first major foreign policy address since taking office in April.

"The US will be working hard to put together a coalition," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters. The aim is to "bring together a lot of countries from around the world with the specific goal of looking at the Iranian regime through a more realistic lens" which would include "all of its destabilizing activities that aren't just a threat to the region but are a threat to the broader world," she said.

Nauert added that the coalition will be "anti-Iran" because the US stands "firmly behind" the country's people, in contrast to the regime and its "bad actions." She evoked a comparison with the US-led international coalition against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq.

Begun in 2014, that coalition now counts as members 75 countries or institutions and intervened militarily against the jihadists, although only a

minority of coalition members have conducted most of that military action, which has left the extremists nearly defeated on that battlefield.

Nauert did not say whether the proposed coalition against Iran's regime would have a military component. She said the State Department received on Monday about 200 foreign diplomats to explain to them President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the nuclear accord, and the next steps.

In a breakthrough that ended a 12-year standoff over Western fears that Iran was developing a nuclear bomb, the administration of former president Barack Obama and other major powers reached the accord with Iran in 2015.

It lifted punishing international sanctions in return for Iran's agreement to freeze its nuclear effort.

Withdrawing from the deal last week, Trump called for a new agreement with deeper restrictions on Iran's nuclear program as well as curbs on its ballistic missiles and its backing for militant groups across the Middle East.

Along with Iran the other signatories of the 2015 deal — France, Britain, Germany, China and Russia — strongly criticized the US withdrawal.

Yesterday the European Union said it will begin moves to block the effect of reimposed US

sanctions on Iran as efforts to preserve the nuclear deal deepened a transatlantic rift. Asked about the potential willingness of European

nations to join the proposed new coalition, Nauert said many US allies "fully understand" and are "not turning a blind eye" to Iran's actions.

Confident of proving majority: K'taka BJP leader

Agency
Bengaluru, May 18

The Karnataka BJP today welcomed the Supreme Court order on the floor test, asserting that Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa would prove his majority in the assembly with the support of over 120 MLAs. "The Supreme Court has ordered to prove majority in the assembly tomorrow at 4 pm. BJP

welcomes this. We are confident that tomorrow at 4 pm BJP legislators and those supporting it will prove majority," Karnataka BJP General Secretary Shobha Karandlaje told reporters here. She said, "The BJP under the leadership of Yeddyurappa has worked enough to prove the majority. With confidence tomorrow at 4 pm we will prove our majority."

DECLARATION

I, Shreya, D/o Satish Kumar, R/o Q-No-76/c, IGAR(South) Type – IV, Mantripukhri, Imphal East, Manipur – 795002, hereby seeking to claim adding surname to my name for all document from today wef: 18/05/2018. I would seek to add with surname as Shreya Shree instead of Shreya. Detail is – DOB – 01/12/2011 Study in Class I ARPS, Mantripukhri, Imphal, Manipur.

DECLARATION

I, Saumya, D/o Satish Kumar, R/o Q-No-76/c, IGAR(South) Type – IV, Mantripukhri, Imphal East, Manipur – 795002, hereby seeking to claim adding surname to my name for all document from today wef: 18/05/2018. I would seek to add with surname as Saumya Shree instead of Saumya. Detail is – DOB – 11/12/2006 Study in Class VI ARPS, Mantripukhri, Imphal, Manipur

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Affiliated to Manipur University (A Central University)

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ADMISSION TO THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES:

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*Eligibility for admission to B.Sc. Programmes: 10+2 pass with 50% marks in aggregate (45% marks for SC & ST Candidates and 47% marks for OBC Candidates) in Science with Biology as a subject

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IMPORTANT DATES:

Date of issue of Application form : 7th May, 2018 onwards

Last date for submission of duly filled in Application Form : 23rd June, 2018

Last date for admission of forms for respective programmes : 30th June, 2018

SELECTION PROCEDURE: Application forms will be shortlisted and merit list will be prepared based on the marks they secured in their 10+2 certificate examination.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM

The duly filled in and signed application forms with self attested copies of relevant documents should be submitted to the undersigned on or before 23rd June, 2018

Director

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