

Rafale to Sabarimala, SC to hear key cases as it reopens after 6 weeks today

Agency
New Delhi July 1,

As the Supreme Court reopens on Monday after a six-week summer vacation, there is a likelihood that verdicts reserved in crucial cases such as the Rafale case, the Sabarimala case and bringing the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) under right to information act, would be pronounced soon.

The most keenly awaited one is the Rafale case. A bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi on May 10 had concluded it's hearing on petitions asking for a review of the Court's December 14 verdict, declining a probe into the corruption allegations in the Rafale deal. The review petitions were filed by advocate Prashant



Bhushan and former union ministers Arun Shourie and Yashwant Sinha who relied upon documents leaked by the media to assert that the government had suppressed crucial material information regarding the deal during the earlier round of litigation. The three had also pressed a perjury application against the government for allegedly

misleading the court. Review petitions in the Sabarimala case also await the final decision of the court. It had reserved its verdict on the pleas on February 6. A constitution bench led by the CJI had heard the arguments for one full day on the bunch of petitions that challenged Court's September 28, 2018 judgement, which declared

that women of all age groups had the right to enter the temple, striking down decades-old practice that barred women devotees in the menstrual age from offering prayers at the shrine dedicated to Lord Ayappa.

The top court is also expected to deliver a verdict on the crucial question of whether the right to information act is applicable to the office of the CJI's. A constitution bench led by the CJI had on April 4 reserved it's order on the matter after hearing an appeal filed by the secretary general of the Supreme Court against the January 2010 verdict of the Delhi high court, which said the office of the CJI was within the ambit of the RTI.

Besides, the court will also take up some crucial matters for hearing, including the one related to sexual harassment allegations against the CJI.

The Justice AK Patnaik panel, constituted to probe the conspiracy angle into the sexual harassment allegations, is likely submit its report to the court. The probe panel was set up by a special bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra after a petition was filed by an advocate claiming he was approached by disgruntled former employees of the top court and corporate lobbyists to frame the CJI.

The top court will also take up a batch of petitions on the constitutional validity of article 370 granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Petitioners want the "controversial" provision to be held invalid as it restricts parliament's powers to frame laws for the state.

32 killed after bus plunges into gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar

Agency
Jammu Kashmir July 1,

At least 32 people were killed and 18 others were injured when an overloaded mini bus veered off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday morning. "Thirty two people have died and 18 others were injured, while five of them are critical when a mini bus bearing registration number JK 17/6787 met with an accident in Keshwan area, Kishtwar district on Monday. The accident occurred near Sirgari," said Kishtwar deputy magistrate Angrez Singh Rana. He said the exact cause of the accident remains a subject of investigation but the mini bus was overloaded.



Helicopters have been requisitioned from Jammu to evacuate the seriously injured for specialised medical treatment at GMC Jammu, he added. Kishtwar is around 230 Kms from Jammu. Locals were the first responders to the accident. The injured have been shifted to District Hospital Kishtwar, the local added.

On June 27, 11 students from Poonch died in a road accident on Mughal Road when an over speeding Tempo Traveller skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge. Among the 11 dead, nine were girls.

The students were on an excursion from Surankote tehsil in Poonch district to Mugal road.

Congress CMs to meet Rahul Gandhi today, urge him to not resign

Agency
New Delhi July 1,

Chief ministers from five Congress-ruled states are going to call on Rahul Gandhi on Monday to persuade him to stay as the party's president, party insiders familiar with the matter said. After Gandhi quit from his post on May 25 at a party's Central Working Committee taking responsibility of the party's debacle in the general elections, the party has faced mass resignations with as many as 200 leaders and workers stepping down from their positions.



On Monday, Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh, Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and Pudducherry CM V

Narayansamy will meet Gandhi at his house persuade him to stay. Karnataka deputy CM G Parameshwara and Rajasthan deputy CM Sachin Pilot are likely to be present.

Bilateral ties between India and US remain on even keel

Agency
New Delhi July 1,

US President Donald Trump's tweet seeking the withdrawal of new trade tariffs imposed by India on the eve of G20 did not appear to have affected Prime Minister Narendra Modi who batted on the front foot when the two leaders met the following day, with the result that bilateral ties between the world's two largest democracies remain on an even keel.

According to diplomats based in New Delhi and Washington, while there have been no breakthroughs in bilateral ties, back-to-back meetings of PM Modi, first with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and President Trump have ensured that both sides know where and how the perceived differences on trade or third-party relationships have to be addressed.

Indeed, after the bilateral with Modi, Trump said he expected a trade deal with India soon. "The humongous Lok Sabha mandate of PM Modi was recognised by the other leaders with US President Trump

specifically mentioning that in his bilateral. During the two-day summit, PM Modi had one-to-ones with 18 out of 20 global leaders present with very constructive results from engagements with the US, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Vietnam, Singapore and Indonesia," said a senior Indian government official, who asked not to be named.

However, the most positive result came out of bilateral meeting with the US given that both sides were circumspect in the run-up to the Modi-Trump bilateral.

Trade interlocutors on both sides have decided to sit down and chalk out a mutually beneficial resolution under the guidance of the leadership on both sides with Union external affairs minister S Jaishankar bringing added heft to Indian negotiations.

The divergence over India buying five units of the S-400 missile system from Russia will be sorted out between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his US counterpart John Bolton as both the US State Department as well as the

Pentagon understand the Indian position, the official added.

Doval has already offered a technical solution to ensure that the security of US platforms with India are not compromised on account of the induction of the S-400 system. And India is also on the verge of issuing a letter of agreement for the purchase of 24 US helicopters and a surface to air missile shield for capital New Delhi.

Negotiations on purchase of armed drones is yet to begin given the high cost of the platform and questions over their survivability in heavily contested air space like Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. A number of other hardware acquisitions from US are in the pipeline and it is for the Modi government to prioritize its purchases with the available capital.

India and US were on the same page as far as terrorism was concerned with both sides pinning the blame on Pakistan based terror groups who under protection of the state were bent on de-stabilising Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Afghanistan.

White House press secretary left all bruised after brawl with North Korea officials: Report

Agency
Seoul (South Korea) July 1,

The new White House press secretary, Stephanie Grisham, got into a brawl with North Korean officials on Sunday outside a meeting room where US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un were talking privately in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea on Sunday.

CNN reported citing a source at the scene saying, Grisham got in "an all-out brawl" with North Korean officials. Grisham was bruised a bit in the scuffle, the source added. Trump met Kim in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, making him the first sitting US president to set foot in the former enemy territory. "This is a historic moment," said Kim after Trump entered

North Korea, crossing the military demarcation line separating the two Koreas. "Stepping across that line was a great honour," Trump said, adding that his and Kim's was a "great friendship," CNN reported. After a handshake with Kim, Trump walked 20 steps into North Korea. He also invited Kim to the White House. It may be noted that no North Korean leader has visited the

US so far. "I'll invite him to the White House right now," Trump said, shortly after becoming the first sitting US President to cross into North Korea. "It's good to see you again. I didn't expect to meet you at this place," said Kim. This was the third time this year that the two leaders are coming face to face, the last meeting being in May at Hanoi.

Picnic turns tragic for BSF jawan; feared drowned in Ganol River

Agency
Tura July 01,

In an unfortunate incident, a BSF jawan from the 55th Battalion of the BSF is feared to have drowned in the Ganol River near Pelga Dare on Sunday evening. Dharamveer Singh (32) had gone along with friends to the tourist spot for a picnic when the unfortunate incident occurred at about 5 pm this

evening, June 30. He is feared to have drowned after he was swept away by the strong current of the Ganol River. The place of the incident is about 7 kms from Tura in West Garo Hills.

Immediately after he was swept away, police sources were informed and a rescue operation was put underway which included the emergency services team as well as the State Disaster Relief Force

(SDRF). However search operations for the jawan had to be abandoned due to failing light.

"Rescue operations will resume in the first light tomorrow, July 1. The body of the victim was not recovered despite the search and had to be postponed due to light. We will continue looking first thing tomorrow," confirmed superintendent of police, WGH, Dr MGR Kumar.

AMAND Pune launches ASHA

IT News
Pune, June 30,

The Association of Manipuri Diaspora (AMAND) Pune formally launched ASHA (AMAND Shiksha Abhiyan)-an educational initiatives of voluntary coaching of students, at the premises of Golwalkar Gurji 54b English Medium High School, Aundh yesterday.

The inaugural function was attended by Archana Musale, Corporator, Pune Municipal Corporation as the Chief Guest, Vijay Shewale, Corporator, PMC along with Advocate (Dr.) Madukar Musale, Vice President, BJP Maharashtra (Legal) as Guests of Honour. Dr Huidrom Narendra Singh, President, AMAND, Pune also graced the inaugural function as the president of the function along with Maj KY Singh, ex-President of AMAND, Pune. Students of the school presented a special song especially composed for the ASHA program. Dr Meitram Niraj Luwang, Gen Secy,



AMAND Pune highlighted about the ASHA program and the about AMAND to the gathered audience. About 50+ students and their parents attended the inaugural program. Dr Madukar speaks about the importance of quality education in the present system of PMC schools and how such noble approach from a community organisation like AMAND is going to benefit the students of the governments' schools. He also mentions that if the present scheme is successful, it will be a model program which can be

implemented in all government schools and also gave emphasis for other community members to stand up and be a part of similar program. Smt Archana also wishes the team of AMAND and the ASHA program to be a successful program and also promise to render any support from her side. Dr Narendra enlightened the students about the differences in the facilities between the schools of today and 50 years back. After a detailed deliberation about the ASHA program, from the coordinator from school side

by Madam Sonal Yadav, the first session was conducted by Prof Kh. Somorendrao, Director, ICM, Guwahati, Gol on the topic "Motivational Talk cum Personality Development". Participating family member of the students were highly enthusiastic about the program and looking forward for the chances it will bring to their wards career. AMAND, Pune also appreciated the able leadership of the ASHA program coordinator, Dr K Kiran Sharma for initiating the program for the session 2019-2020.

Agency
Kohima July 1,

A notification issued by home commissioner stated that the Nagaland government is set to prepare a list of all indigenous inhabitants of the state.

According to the notification issued by Nagaland Home Commissioner R Ramakrishnan the process for preparation of Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) - the master list of all indigenous

inhabitants of Nagaland from July 10 onwards and the RIIN list will be prepared in 60 days from July 10.

The Government of Nagaland has decided to set up the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants Certificates of Nagaland (RIIN), with an objective to prevent issuance of fake indigenous inhabitant certificates.

The exercise will be conducted through an extensive survey of residents in every village

and ward in the state and will be based on existing official records, it said. The survey will take into account whether an indigenous inhabitant is residing in his/her permanent residence or has moved elsewhere. Aadhar numbers, wherever applicable, will be also recorded.

The Home Commissioner said that the State Government's decision to set up the RIIN is to prevent issuance of fake Indigenous Inhabitant Certificates.