

BIP aims Aiyar gun at Congress

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Jan. 9: The BJP today accused Mani Shankar Aiyar of being an "apologist for the Paris newspaper attack and asked whether Sonia Gandhi endorsed his statements.

Aiyar, a Congress veteran and nominated Rajya Sabha member, had yesterday termed the strike on Charlie Hebdo a "backlash" against the "discriminate killing" of Muslims, "innocent or otherwise," in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"When drone attacks happen and homes are destroyed and children are killed, then it is imminent that there will be a reaction," the self-styled "secular fundamentalist" had told the news agency ANI.

Aiyar counselled the West to learn from India's "unity in diversity" and that while France had banned women from wearing the hijab (headscarves).

"They say (the hijab) can't be worn by Muslim girls. So it will have some kind of impact on the Muslims," he said.

"Fill now, they were saying that they are Christians and BJP and BIP — struggling to cobble together an alliance, the move could further delay government formation, sources said.

This is the third time in 12 years that Jammu and Kashmir has been placed under governor's rule. A war of words erupted between Multi Mohammed Sayeed's PDP and Omar's National Conference soon after.

A government spokesperson issued a proclamation under Section 191 (1) of the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir after getting the concurrence of the President of India under Section 32 (5).

He cited two reasons for the move: the failure of any party/parties to state claim to form government and Omar's decision to step down as caretaker chief minister "with immediate effect."

"The governance of the state cannot be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the state," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the governor had, over the last two weeks, held talks with the leadership of the PDP and the BJP, respectively the largest and second-largest parties with 28 and 25 MLAs in an 87-member House.

The NC, with 15 MLAs, and the Congress, with 12 have offered the PDP unconditional support. But it is more inclined to go with the BJP as it feels that a tie-up with a party in power at the Centre would be more productive.

With the PDP and the BJP being poles apart ideologically, the BJP party is, however, facing opposition from within and without against such an alliance.

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When the world is smouldering from terrorism, what are our Congress leaders saying? Earlier, Divyavaj Singh, an advisor of Rahul Gandhi, offered his sympathies to the terrorists in the Batla House encounter and later a former senior minister, Sushil Shinde, used the phrase "saf from terror" at a Congress convention in Jaipur."

Prasad, a onetime BJP chief spokesperson, asked, "Why is Sonia Gandhi silent on such statements? We see a pattern here. There was no response from her when a new spokesperson (Ajay Kumar) raised questions over the Pakistani boat caught off the Gujarat coast. Aiyar's comments will be dismissed as 'pro prima et contra' (in favour of one form). But in Parliament, day after day, Congress MPs defended answers from the Prime Minister."

Congress spokesperson Sanjay Jha said Aiyar's comments were "entirely his own".

Finger at govt on tainted MCI ex-chief



OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Jan. 9: An Indian American doctor today claimed the Union health ministry had done nothing about a complaint that senior Medical Council of India members had helped the council's tainted former president Ketan Desai to become president-elect of the World Medical Association.

Kunal Saha, president of People for Better Treatment, an organisation campaigning for improved health care services, backed his claims by releasing internal documents from the council, the nation's apex regulator of medical education.

The documents show that the council's vigilance section had recommended action against at least three council members on this matter.

The CBI had arrested Desai in 2010 when he was president of the council, charging him with seeking a bribe from a medical college. He is on bail and no longer with the council, but sought to get elected as president of the World Medical Association, a private association of doctors, in 2013.

According to the documents presented by Saha, a preliminary investigation by the council's vigilance section found that one of the council's current members, Ajay Kumar, had written to the World Medical Association that "the charges facing Desai had been dropped and he should be allowed to be (re-installed) as WMA president."

The investigation report, signed by H.K. Jethi, the council's chief vigilance officer, noted that Kumar's statement to the World Medical Association was incorrect and "unethical."

It recommended that the matter be referred to the health ministry for "appropriate action" against Kumar and two other council members —

Vinay Aggarwal, who is also an official in the Indian Medical Association, and Sudipto Roy. According to the investigation report, Aggarwal and Roy accompanied Desai to the World Medical Association's general assembly meeting.

"Kumar, Aggarwal and Roy are all members of the council's ethics committee and we have the chief vigilance officer accusing them of doing something unethical," Saha told a news conference today.

"It has been over three months since the vigilance report was filed," he added, regretting that no action had been taken.

Saha said he too had complained to the health ministry seeking action against the three council members who he claimed had tried to "shield" Desai by helping him get elected as president of the World Medical Association.

"By helping him get the title of the president of the World Medical Association, they are trying to influence the course of justice here," Saha claimed.

"The World Medical Association has also behaved strangely — it accepted Kumar's statement on the status of the CBI case against Desai without checking with the Indian government."

Assam CM rejects land ordinance

STAFF REPORTER

Guwahati, Jan. 9: Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi today said his government would not abide by the Centre's land ordinance, alleging it was aimed at favouring corporate groups over farmers.

Gogoi's party, the Congress, opposes the December 31 ordinance that amends the UPAs land acquisition act, enforced since January last year.

"Since the Modi government faced strong opposition in Parliament from the Congress (in its efforts to amend the act, it has effected the amendment by bringing an ordinance," Gogoi said.

"The Assam government will not implement the ordinance as it goes against the interests of farmers and the poor, who will not get adequate compensation."

The ordinance leaves the compensation and rehab measures in the act intact.

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley had on Sunday dared state governments to declare they would not implement the ordinance, arguing they would "lose out in the era of competitive federalism" if they did.

The ordinance tries to ease land acquisition for defence, rural housing, electrification and public-private-partnership infrastructure projects by waiving the need for landowners' consent and a social impact study.

It also brings under its ambit certain kinds of projects which were exempt from the act till last year, thus enhancing the compensation and rehab benefits for the land-owners at a point Jaitley had highlighted.

Gogoi today accused the Centre of weakening parliamentary democracy by repeatedly adapting the ordinance route. The government has done this because it lacks the numbers in the Rajya Sabha.

"The government has extraordinary cases, the government can bring an ordinance. But for every bill that faces opposition, the Modi government is going for an ordinance. Why do we need Parliament then?" Gogoi asked.

Governor's rule in J&K, talks continue

MUZAFFAR RAINA

Srinagar, Jan. 9: Jammu and Kashmir was today placed under governor's rule after Omar Abdullah voiced reluctance to continue as caretaker chief minister and key players failed to come together to form the government.

With the state's two biggest parties — People's Democratic Party and BJP — struggling to cobble together an alliance, the move could further delay government formation, sources said.

This is the third time in 12 years that Jammu and Kashmir has been placed under governor's rule. A war of words erupted between Multi Mohammed Sayeed's PDP and Omar's National Conference soon after.

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COPS AT FARAH B'DAY BASH



Filmmaker Farah Khan with husband Shirish Kunder and their children at her 50th birthday celebration in Mumbai on Thursday.

The star-studded bash was stopped midway for playing loud music past midnight and a fine of Rs 5,000 imposed on the event's organiser, police said.

The party held on the terrace of her residential building in suburban Andheri was attended by several celebrities, including Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai, Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Gauri Khan, Sonam Kapoor, Vidya Balan and Kangana Ranaut. (PTI)

Tamil parties lose a bogeyman

G.C. SHEKHAR

Chennai, Jan. 9: Mahinda Rajapaksa's defeat in Sri Lanka's presidential election will rob many Tamil Nadu politicians of a ready-made figure who came in handy made it for them to whip up anti-Lanka feelings and embarrass Delhi.

These politicians could suddenly find their Lankan-oriented politics losing steam.

From the AIADMK to the DMK to fringe political outfits, parties in Tamil Nadu had used the Lankan strongman to establish their pro-Tamil credentials and oppose any friendly overtures to Colombo by Delhi.

Every time Tamil Nadu fishermen were held by the Lankan navy on the charge of trespassing into the neighbour's territorial waters, Rajapaksa was portrayed as the villain. Under Jayalalitha's rule,

the Tamil Nadu Assembly three adopted resolutions seeking Rajapaksa's prosecution for war crimes committed during the Lankan army's 2009 war against the Tamil Tigers.

Whenever Rajapaksa visited India, leaders like Vaiko made it a point to hold banner flag demonstrations to protest India playing host to a "war criminal".

Jayalalitha went to the extent of banning Sri Lankan cricketers from playing in Chennai as part of the anti-Lanka hype. The DMK left the IPA claiming Delhi was not being tough enough on Rajapaksa and his country.

All this is bound to get diluted with the mat target of the Tamils' collective anger departing the centre-stage in Colombo.

Many of the fringe groups that had turned the Lankan Tamil problem and Rajapaksa's indictment into their

bread and butter issue may gradually lose their relevance," said Colonel R. Hariharan, a security and foreign policy expert.

"That a majority of Lankan Tamils have participated in the electoral process and have voted for winning flag demonstrations to protest India playing host to a "war criminal".

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Many of the fringe groups that had turned the Lankan Tamil problem and Rajapaksa's indictment into their

take such statements seriously. Rajapaksa's defeat will also reduce the role of the China card in India-Lanka ties. Earlier, whenever Tamil parties urged India to act against Colombo at the UN Human Rights Council, Rajapaksa would counter it with pro-China overtures, adding to India's dilemma.

With an openly pro-India Rural Wickremesinghe tipped to be the next Prime Minister under the new dispensation, Colombo is unlikely to play the China card to neutralise any Indian pressure on the Tamil issue.

The new set-up is likely to be more India-friendly, which could give Delhi genuine leverage to address the Lankan Tamil issue," Hariharan said.

Rajapaksa will take with him the baggage of alleged war crimes, which have been a major irritant in bilateral ties.

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Online Recruitment Applications (ORA) are invited for direct recruitment by selection through website http://www.upsonline.nic.in to the following posts by 29th January, 2015.

- (i) 04 Associate Professors (Computer Science) in National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune, Ministry of Defence.
(ii) 02 Assistant Professors (Chemistry) in National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune, Ministry of Defence.
(iii) 20 Specialists Grade-III Assistant Professors (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
(iv) 06 Specialists Grade-III Assistant Professors (Plastic Surgery) in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
(v) 01 One Director (Institute) in Weavers' Service Centers and Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology, Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles.
(vi) 65 Assistant Public Prosecutors in Directorate of Prosecution, Home Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

The candidates willing to apply for the above posts are advised to visit Commission's Website http://www.upsc.gov.in for further details. The detailed advertisement has also been published in The Employment News/Rozgar Samachar on 10.01.2015 vide Recruitment Advertisement No.01/2015. dwp 55102/14/002/1415

Chief Justice praise for Modi

OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Jan. 9: Chief Justice of India H.L. Dattu today described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "good leader" with "foresight".

"Mr Narendra Modi is a good leader, administrator and a man with a good foresight. In my four-month tenure I have interacted with him many times and the response from his side has been very positive," India's top judge told reporters during an informal conversation at his residence.

"The incumbent government has so far met all the demands made by the judiciary. I hope the infrastructural issues plaguing the judiciary would end soon."

Justice Dattu declined comment on the impending replacement of a judiciary-driven system of judges' appoint-

ments by a more executive-friendly one, courtesy two acts passed by Parliament during Modi's tenure. A judges-only collegium (panel) headed by the Chief Justice of India now selects judges for appointment.

"The judiciary is never upset with what the government does. They do their job and we do ours," Justice Dattu said.

"However, right at the moment there is no bar on us (the up judge) to recommend names for elevation. The notification (about the change) is yet to come."

Several public interest pleas have been moved in the apex court challenging the proposed change.



H.L. Dattu

"However, right of appeal is a constitutional right. Therefore it is not possible to stop the filing of cases before the Supreme Court. But it should be left to the discretion of the Supreme Court judge to decide which appeals should be entertained."

Justice Dattu said that lawyers should have some experience before they appear in the Supreme Court. He said many young lawyers with hardly any experience in trial

courts or high courts were choosing to appear directly in the Supreme Court.

"I am not putting any restrictions but the advocates' bar associations should look into this. Experience only makes one better at work," he added, leaving the Bar Council of India's recent decision to make it mandatory for lawyers to work in the lower courts for five years before moving to the apex court.

Justice Dattu identified lengthy argumentation as one of the reasons why cases drag on in the apex court.

"It is not possible to fix a time limit for lawyers to argue a matter. The advocates should be restrained themselves. Even while filing written submissions, they should ensure the arguments are not repeated."

Asks that the sexual harassment charges against a sitting Madhya Pradesh High

कृषि वैज्ञानिक चयन मंडल (भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद) कृषि अनुसंधान भवन-1, पुसा, नई दिल्ली 110 012

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The Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board invites applications from the eligible Indian Citizens for selection to one un-reserved post of "Assistant Chief Technical Officer - Agricultural Engineer [I-7-B]" at Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal in the Pay Band III ₹ 15600-39100 + GP = ₹ 6600/-.

The last date for receipt of applications in the ASRB will be 11.02.2015. For candidates residing in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Lahaul & Spiti Districts and Pangl Sub-Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep or abroad, the last date for receipt of applications will be 26.02.2015.

For detailed information including age limit, educational qualifications, process of selection, fee, etc. candidates should refer to the Detailed Notification available on the ASRB website: http://www.asrb.org.in and ICAR website http://www.icar.org.in

54/ (P. K. Jain) Controller of Examinations - II dwp 01307/11/0016/1415