LS clears Bill to link voter ID, Aadhaar amid protests

Oppn parties unite, say Bill will infringe on fundamental rights of citizens

ADITI PHADNIS
New Delhi, 20 December

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which seeks to link electoral rolls with the Aadhaar ecosystem to weed out duplication, was passed in the Lok Sabha on Monday amid protest by the Opposition. Even parties like the Bahujan Samaj Party, considered 'friendly' to the government opposed the Bill.

The Trinamool Congress, the Congress, and the Communist Party of India Marxist (CPI M), bitter political enemies outside Parliament, came together to object to the Bill, which was passed with virtually no discussion amid a din and slogan shouting as members brandished placards that said: "Prime Minister Absent" detailing the days that the PM has not been present in the House since the winter session began in November. Another MP carried a placard that urged the PM to drop Minister of state for Home, Ajay Mishra Teni, from the council of ministers. It seemed even the treasury benches were unprepared for the vehemence of the opposition's rejection of the Bill.

The Bill provides linking of Aadhaar number with electoral rolls besides giving four opportunities to enrol in a calendar year as a voter upon attaining the age of 18. Besides, the Bill has provisions of gender neutrality in regard with service voters and to enable the requisition of any premises for election purposes.

However, every opposition member who spoke said the Bill will infringe the fundamental rights of citizens. They also alleged that the Bill violates the Supreme Court judgment on Aadhaar and demanded that it be referred to a standing committee. Congress leaders Manish Tewari and Adhir Ranjan Choudhury said the Bill was beyond the legal competence of the House. Tewari said as per the verdict on the famous Puttaswamy versus Union of India order in the Supreme Court, the Aadhaar Act does not allow for linking of the Aadhaar number to the electoral roll. "The Aadhaar Act is very explicit. It is an Act which is for the targeted delivery of financial and other subsidy benefits and services. Voting is a legal right."

Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said the Bill was outside the legislative competence of the House as it violates the limits on legislation set by the Supreme Court NK Premachandran (CPI M) said: "No person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except in accordance with the procedure established by law. This is what Article 21 of the Constitution says. On the basis of Article 21, in Justice Puttaswamy versus Union of India case, the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has held that right to privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. In this case, linking the electoral roll with Aadhaar definitely infringes the right to privacy and violates Article 21. Shashi Tharoor (Congress) said Aadhaar was only proof of residence, not proof of citizenship.

Later, after the Lok Sabha had passed the Bill, Law Minister Kiran Rijiju said amendments in the Bill would bring clean and fair elections. He said linking of Aadhaar number with electoral rolls is not compulsory or mandatory but voluntary. Refuting to allegations of the opposition, he said, the amendments were based on the recommendations made by Election Commission and the standing committee as well. He said the government had thoroughly discussed the recommendations with ECI and the states as well.

WINTER SESSION
IN THE HOUSE

Companies spent ₹1.09 trillion as CSR in seven years

Companies shelled out ₹1.09 trillion towards various CSR activities, including those related to health, education, and poverty eradication, under the Companies law in the last seven financial years, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh said on Monday. "This is manifested through the increase in CSR spent by the companies during the period 2014-15 to 2020-21. On the basis of filings made by the companies in the MCA21 registry till September 30, 2021, a total amount of ₹85,109.09 cr has been spent by companies under CSR during the FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21," Singh said. PTI

122 students of IITs, IIMs committed suicide in 7 years

A total of 122 students of IITs, IIMs, central varsities and other centrally funded higher educational institutions committed suicide during 2014-21, the Lok Sabha was informed on Monday. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said of the 122 students who killed self, 24 belonged to the SC, 41 were OBCs, and 3 each were STs and minorities. PTI

Bio diversity Bill sent to joint House panel

The Lok Sabha on Monday referred the Biological Diversity Bill to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav moved the motion to refer the Bill to the Joint Committee with 21 members of the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha or the upper house. PTI

Coal's here to stay as energy source: Min

Coal will stay as a major source of energy in the foreseeable future as it is an affordable source of energy with substantial reserve, Parliament was informed on Monday. Despite push for renewables, the country will require base load capacity of coal-based generation for stability and also for energy security, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi said. "Being an affordable source of energy with substantial reserve, coal is going to stay as major source of energy in the foreseeable future," the minister said in a reply to a in the the Rajya Sabha. PTI

Delimitation panel proposes 6 seats for Jammu, 1 for Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 20 December 2021

The Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir has proposed six additional assembly seats for Jammu region and one for Kashmir while reserving 16 constituencies for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), triggering strong protests from parties such as the National Conference (NC) which accused the commission of allowing the "political agenda of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) to dictate its recommendations".

The Peoples Development Party (PDP), JK Apni Party and the People's Conference (PC), which is regarded as being friendly towards the BJP, also protested strongly against the commission's draft recommendations which will alter the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmir division has 46 seats and Jammu 37 seats.

The commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai held its second meeting on Monday. It has five Lok Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir as associate members and Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra as ex-officio member. Three Lok Sabha members of the NC, including party president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, attended the commission meeting for the first time. Two BJP MPs, including Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh, were also present. "We attended the meeting for the first time because we wanted the voice of people of Jammu and Kashmir to be heard. I will discuss with my senior party leaders before sending our views to the commission' Abdullah said.

NC Vice-president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah tweeted that it was deeply disappointing that the commission appears to have allowed the political agenda of the BJP to dictate its recommendations. Id. PDP President Mehbooba Mufti said the commission has been "created simply to serve BJP's political interests by dividing people along religious and regional lines. The real game plan is to install a government in JK which will legitimise the illegal and unconstitutional decisions of August 2019".

"CONTRARY TO THE PROMISED 'SCIENTIFIC APPROACH', IT'S A POLITICAL APPROACH, NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE DATA OF THE 2011 CENSUS"

OMAR ABDULLAH
V-P, National Conference

"MY APPREHENSIONS ABOUT THE DELIMITATION COMMISSION WEREN'T MISPLACED. THEY WANT TO PITCH PEOPLE AGAINST EACH OTHER"

MEHBOOBA MUFTI
President, Peoples Democratic Party

Power outage continues in J&K as employees strike over privatisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Jammu, 20 December

Residents of many cities in Jammu & Kashmir faced power shut down on second consecutive day, as Power Development Department (PDD) employees continued their strike against the proposed privatisation of electricity in the Union Territory.

The PDD employees have been on strike since Sunday against the J&K administration decision to privatise the department and merge it with the Power Grid Corporation of India.

Jammu University has postponed offline and online examination for undergraduate and postgraduate students on Tuesday in view of the strike. The PDD employees held anti-government protests in Srinagar and Jammu demanding in writing from the Lieutenant Governor that it has shelved the proposal of privatisation.

According to sources, while the administration parleyed with the PDD staff, it also visited several power distribution facilities in Jammu to speed up restoration of electric supply.

The administration in its talks with the employees was represented by divisional commissioner, Jammu, Raghav Langar and additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh. The deadlock has put thousands of J&K residents in extreme hardship amid bone-chilling winter, while hundreds of COVID-19 patients are struggling to keep their oxygen concentrators on.

The government has made an appeal to employees to call off their strike and has offered to put on hold its privatisation plan, but employees are insisting on a written assurance.

A spokesman of protestors said the employees are ready to call off strike provided government gives them in writing assurance for their four demands, particularly regarding privatisation and release of their salaries.

NSE
National Stock Exchange of India Limited
'Exchange Plaza', Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice for compulsory delisting of equity shares of companies in terms of Regulation 32 (3) of SEBI (Delisting of Equity Shares) Regulations, 2021

In terms of Regulation 32 (3) of SEBI (Delisting of Equity Shares) Regulations, 2021("Regulations") and as per rules made under Section 21A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and the Rules, Bye-Laws, and Regulations of National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("the Exchange"), NOTICE is hereby given that the Exchange proposes to delist undermentioned 3 companies as the said companies have, interalia, made out grounds for delisting of their securities, i.e., the trading in the securities of the said companies has been under suspension for more than six months on account of non-compliance with various provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and various circulars issued by SEBI/Exchange in this regard.

The Exchange has issued show cause notices to the companies at their last known address and registered email address as per the Exchange records, asking the said companies to SHOW CAUSE as to why the equity shares of the Company should not be compulsorily delisted from the Exchange. The list of these companies, along with their last know addresses as per the Exchange record, is given below:

Sr. No.	Company	*Registered Address of the Company
1	Powerful Technologies Limited	G1 Prakash Chamber, Ground Floor, 6 Netaji Subash Marg, Darya Ganj, NEW DELHI - 110002
2	Unity Infraprojects Limited #	1252, Pushpanjali Apartments, Old Prabhadevi Road, Mumbai - 400025
3	Thiru Arooran Sugars Limited #	El Dorado Fifth Floor, Uttamar Gandhi Salai, 112, Nungambakkam High Road, Chennai - 600034

* Address available as per the records of the Exchange.

The Company is under liquidation; therefore, the consequences of Regulation 34 of Delisting Regulation will not apply to this Company.

The consequences of compulsory delisting include the following:

- The above companies will be ceased to be listed on the Stock Exchange. These companies will be moved to the dissemination board of the Stock Exchange (except Companies under Liquidation).
- In terms of Regulation 34 of Delisting Regulations,
  1. the delisted Company, its whole-time directors, person(s) responsible for ensuring compliance with the securities laws, its promoters, and the companies which are promoted by any of them shall not directly or indirectly access the securities market or seek listing of any equity shares or act as an intermediary in the securities market for a period of ten years from the date of such delisting.
  2. In case of a company whose fair value is positive -
     a. such a company and the depositories shall not effect transfer, by way of sale, pledge, etc., of any of the equity shares held by the promoters / promoter group and the corporate benefits like dividend, rights, bonus shares, split, etc. shall be frozen for all the equity shares held by the promoters/ promoter group, till the promoters of such Company provide an exit option to the public shareholders in compliance with sub-regulation (4) of regulation 33 of these regulations, as certified by the relevant recognized stock exchange;
     b. the promoters, whole-time directors and person(s) responsible for ensuring compliance with the securities laws, of the compulsorily delisted Company shall also not be eligible to become directors of any listed company till the exit option as mentioned in clause (a) is provided.
- In terms of Regulation 33 of Delisting Regulations,
  1. Where the equity shares of a company are delisted by a recognised stock exchange, the recognised stock exchange shall appoint an independent valuer(s) who shall determine the fair value of the delisted equity shares.
  2. The recognised stock exchange shall form a Panel of expert valuers and from the said Panel, the valuer(s) for the purposes of sub-regulation (1) shall be appointed.
  3. The value of the delisted equity shares shall be determined by the valuer(s) having regard to the factors mentioned in sub-regulation (2) of regulation 20 of these regulations.
  4. The promoter(s) of the Company shall acquire the delisted equity shares from the public shareholders by paying them the value determined by the valuer, within three months of the date of delisting from the recognised stock exchange, subject to the option of the public shareholders to retain their shares.
  5. The promoter shall be liable to pay interest at the rate of ten percent per annum to all the shareholders, who offer their shares under the compulsory delisting offer, if the price payable in terms of sub-regulation (3) of regulation 33 is not paid to all the shareholders within the time specified under sub-regulation (4) of regulation 33.

These companies are under liquidation and hence:

a. The provisions of SEBI circular no. SEBI/HO/CFD/DCR/CIR/P/2016/81 dated September 07, 2016, do not apply to these companies.
b. For companies under liquidation the following directions have been received from SEBI in the matter:
   i. If a company has been compulsorily delisted before the appointment of provisional liquidator or the order of winding-up, then the restriction provided under Regulation 24 of Delisting Regulations shall be applicable.
   ii. If the Company has not been compulsorily delisted before the appointment of provisional liquidator or the order of winding - up, the process of delisting will happen by operation of law and the restriction under Regulation 24 of Delisting Regulations shall not be applicable.

Any person who may be aggrieved by the proposed delisting may make representation, if any, to the Delisting Committee of the Exchange in writing on or before January 12, 2022.

The representation(s) with complete contact details of the person(s) making a representation(s) should be addressed to:

The Delisting Committee, Enforcement Department, National Stock Exchange of India Limited 'Exchange Plaza', C-1, Block-G, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051. Contact no: +91 22 26598100 (23402/25061/25123), E-mail: compliance_listinginfo@nse.co.in

The companies are directed to update the details of the promoter/director of the above companies on or before January 07, 2022. The promoter/director of the above listed companies is also called upon to contact the Exchange immediately on the above telephone nos. and email address.

Place: Mumbai **Date: December 21, 2021**

Nifty50

— TENDER CARE — — Advertorial

EIL INKS MoA WITH ICT FOR JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY FOR LARGE SCALE CULTIVATION OF ALGAE AND EXTRACTION OF VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS

Engineers India Limited (EIL) and Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for joint development of technology for large scale cultivation of algae and extraction of value added products. The MoA was signed by Prof. Padma V. Devarajan, Dean, Research & Innovation, ICT and Shri Suresh Chandra Gupta, CGM and Head, R&D Division, EIL on 16th December, 2021 in the presence of Prof. Aniruddha B. Pandit, Vice Chancellor, ICT and Ms. Vartika Shukla, C&MD, EIL.

Under the MoA, EIL and ICT will jointly develop algal technology for large scale cultivation and extraction of value added products from laboratory scale studies. This MoA will not only enrich EIL's and ICT's technology portfolios, but also mark a significant step in the direction of the Government's push towards biofuel initiative.

NHB'S OUTREACH PROGRAMME "JANTA SE JUDNA" AT AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT

The Regional Representative Office, Ahmedabad of the National Housing Bank (NHB) organized an Outreach Programme on December 14, 2021 as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations under the theme of "Janta se Judna", at Ahmedabad. Shri Lochan Sehra, IAS, Secretary (Housing & Nirmal Gujarat), Urban Development and Urban Housing Department, Government of Gujarat was the Chief Guest of the Outreach Programme. Senior dignitaries including Shri V. Vaideswaran, Executive Director, National Housing Bank, Shri Vineet Singhal, General Manager, National Housing Bank, Shri Abhishek Kumar Sinha, Deputy General Manager, Financial Inclusion & Development, Reserve Bank of India, Ahmedabad, Shri Baldev Patel, Assistant General Manager, Bank of Baroda (SLBC Gujarat) and Shri Manoj Vishwanathan, MD&CEO, Home First Finance Company India Limited graced the programme. More than 80 officials from Banks, Housing Finance Companies (HFC)s, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, State Housing Nodal agencies, etc., having presence in the State of Gujarat participated in the Outreach Programme.

PNB TAKES POSSESSION UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Punjab national Bank has taken physical possession of a marriage hall at Berhampore as measure under SARFAESI Act 2002. The Bank, on Saturday morning, has taken the physical possession of a Marriage Hall (Spice Garden) at Berhampore Industrial Area and put the Notice under SARFAESI Act, 2002.

Sri Pankaj Kumar, Circle Head & Sri Saikat Nag. Circle SASTRA Head have informed that they are going to sale the property within a very short period. According to the Bank, NPA portfolio is increasing due to unwillingness of the borrowers towards timely repayment of the Bank dues. So the Bank administration has become very strict towards the recovery of NPA. The Bank is trying for more recovery of bad debt through SARFAESI action.

GACL AND GAIL SIGNS MoU FOR SETTING UP A 500 KLD BIOETHANOL PLANT IN GUJARAT

Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL) and GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) have joined hands to set-up a Bioethanol plant of 500 KLD capacity. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up a Bioethanol plant in Gujarat and cooperation in other business areas of mutual interest was signed by Shri M V Iyer, Director (Business Development) of GAIL and Shri Milind Torawane, IAS, Managing Director of GACL in the presence of Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri K Kailashnathan, IAS (Retd.), Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Pankaj Joshi, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary to Chief Minister of Gujarat and Shri Manoj Jain CMD of GAIL at Gandhinagar.

This step is taken in response to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched a Roadmap for 20% Ethanol Blending in Petrol by 2025, with a view to reduce import of crude oil and save valuable foreign exchange. This plant will be using corn/broken rice as feedstock with eco-friendly technology and it will produce 500 KLD Bioethanol, which will be used for blending in petrol. As by-products from this plant, 135 KTPA Protein-rich Animal feed and 16.50 KTPA of Corn Oil while using corn as feedstock are also expected to be produced. Dahod, Panchmahal, Aravalli and Mahisagar are major corn-producing districts in Gujarat and hence the project is likely to come up in one of these districts. A Detailed Feasibility Study through a third party is in progress for the project.

SBI CELEBRATES PENSIONERS' DAY

State Bank of India celebrated Pensioners' Day on 17-12-2021. R. Radhakrishna, Chief General Manager of the Chennai Circle led the team by honouring one of their senior Defence Pensioners, Major General R. Karthikeyan at his residence while Vinod Jaiswal, General Manager honoured Rear Admiral Ramsagar at his residence. All the Regional Managers and some Branch Managers across the State met the pensioners and honoured them at their residence. More than 376 pensioners were honoured across the state as a gesture by the Bank to acknowledge the contribution of those who served our country especially in Defence, Central Govt, State Govt & other establishments.

UBI CONDUCTS MEGA MSME CREDIT CAMP

Union Bank of India has conducted Mega MSME Credit Camp across Tamilnadu on 18.12.21 under the ongoing MSME festive Bonanza campaign. Under this campaign, bank is offering competitive RoI which starts from 6.80% p.a and concession in processing charges upto 50% under MSME scheme which will be upto 31.12.21. The Camp recorded attendance of over 50 MSME Borrowers in Chennai Event organised at Zonal office, Broadway and bank received fresh loan applications amounting to around INR 800 crores across Tamilnadu under various schemes of MSME. MV Balasubramanyam, CGM, Treasury and international Banking, Jithender Maniram, Deputy Zonal Head, B P Das, Regional Head Chennai North, N Chezhian, Regional Head Chennai South, Jasmine S, Regional Head Chennai West and staff members of Administrative offices of Chennai participated in the event.