

Triple Talaq Bill sails through in RS

BJP gets BJD support; walkout by AIADMK, JD(U), absence of TRS MPs, helps party

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 30

Despite opposition from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the Narendra Modi government managed to get the controversial Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, commonly referred to as triple Talaq Bill, passed in the Rajya Sabha.

The Bill, which has been passed by the Lok Sabha, will soon become an Act after President Ram Nath Kovind's nod. It also has a provision that makes triple talaq a criminal offence.

The Opposition's motion to send the Bill to a select committee and an amendment to remove the clause that criminalises a civil wrong, were defeated as the Centre got 100 votes while the Opposition could muster



Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad after the passage of the Triple Talaq Bill in the Rajya Sabha PTI

just 84 votes. The result was the same when the Bill was also put to vote by Chairman Venkaiah Naidu.

Welcoming the passage, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country rejoices that an archaic and medieval practice has finally been confined to the dustbin of history. "Parliament corrects a historical wrong done to the Muslim women. This is a victory of gender justice, will further equality in society," he said.

The victory was also made possible by the support of the Biju Janata Dal. The walkout staged by the AIADMK, and the Janata Dal(United) and the absence of TRS members, too, helped the BJP. Some members of the Nationalist Congress Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party were also absent during the vot-

ing. Replying to the Opposition's charge that the Centre is criminalising a civil issue, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said similar provisions were there in civil laws for the prohibition of dowry, bigamy and polygamy among Hindus.

The BJP members claimed that three-year jail term for the Muslim men who practise triple

talaq will create fear. Prasad added that there were 574 cases of triple talaq even after the Supreme Court banned the practice.

Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said the Bill was a ploy by the BJP to destruct Muslim households using domestic issues. He urged the Centre to abide by the Supreme

Court's directions and bring a law against mob lynching.

Prasad countered saying that he is not a law minister of the Rajiv Gandhi Cabinet and the BJP will not repeat the Congress' mistake, the party that stood against Shah Bano. "I will not leave women who have been divorced by triple talaq via WhatsApp or other such means in the lurch. When Muslim world is trying to reform, why can't a democracy do the same," he said after citing examples.

Earlier, RJD leader Manoj Jha said in House that the Bill was an example of "dog whistle politics" where the Centre is trying to give a message to its cadre rather than standing with women affected by the practice of triple talaq. Congress member Digvijaya Singh said about 25 lakh Hindu women are abandoned by their husbands and the Centre should bring a legislation for them too.

Amit Shah instructs party MPs to ensure presence in Parliament

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 30

BJP President Amit Shah on Tuesday instructed all party MPs to ensure their presence in Parliament so that the proposed Bills are backed by maximum numbers.

Addressing the BJP parliamentary party meeting, Shah also asked the MPs, including Union Ministers, to definitely attend a two-day orientation programme being held by the party on August 3 and 4. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was present in the meeting, but did not address the MPs, will also speak at the programme — a course on parliamentary procedure and rules, and the ruling party's ideology.

In his speech, Shah said the motion for consideration of the National Medical Commission Bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday was passed with 260-48 votes, sources said after the meeting. The BJP President had stated that the margin should have been higher.



BJP President Amit Shah AFP

Bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday was passed with 260-48 votes, sources said after the meeting. The BJP President had stated that the margin should have been higher.

The BJP alone has 303 members in the Lok Sabha while its allies have 50 votes.

Since the Opposition has often been pressing for a division of votes, BJP members should be present in their respective House, he said.

The session will go down in history as one of the most productive sessions in recent times, he said.

MPs to be present in Parliament. Modi has, at times, expressed his displeasure at the absenteeism.

In his briefing, Joshi told reporters that Parliament has so far passed 15 Bills. Six Bills have been passed only in the Lok Sabha and are yet to get the Rajya Sabha's nod, and four have been passed by only Rajya Sabha and are awaiting Lok Sabha's nod, the minister said.

Joshi added that 11 other Bills are still pending and will be tabled in both the Houses in the coming days. "We request parliamentarians to sit late so that all these Bills could be passed," Joshi said.

The ongoing session started on June 17 and was scheduled to end on July 26, but it has been extended till August 7.

The session will go down in history as one of the most productive sessions in recent times, he said.

Protest continues in LS over Unnao rape survivor's car crash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday witnessed vociferous protests and slogan-shouting by Opposition parties, including the Congress, over Unnao rape survivor's car accident which left her critically injured.

Amid the ruckus, the ruling BJP, including Union Ministers, asserted that the Uttar Pradesh government is taking steps to ensure justice for the girl and her family and urged the Opposition not to politicise the matter.

The protests, that began soon after the House convened for the day, was led by Congress members who were later joined by the Trinamool Congress, the DMK and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), among others.

The Congress, Trinamool Congress, the BSP and the



Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi urged members not to politicise the matter

DMK members walked out of the House.

More than 30 members, mostly from the Congress, were in the well of the House shouting 'we want justice'.

'No intention to politicise'
Raising the matter, Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said the incident was

Divest Unnao rape accused MLA of all powers: Priyanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30

As the Unnao rape survivor battles for life following a car crash, the Opposition stepped up its attack on the ruling BJP on Tuesday over the incident with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi to 'divest' his party's accused MLA of all political powers.

Opposition parties — the Congress, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party — accused the BJP of 'extending patronage' to party MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who has been accused of raping the minor girl.

Sengar, who is in jail, and nine others were booked for murder on Monday, a day after the car in which the rape survivor, who is now 19 years of age, her family and lawyer were travelling was hit by a speeding truck in Rae Bareli, killing two of her family members and leaving her and the advocate

Minister of State for Rural Development Sadhvini Niranjana Jyoti claimed the truck belonged to a worker of the Samajwadi Party.

BJP leader Jagdambika Pal claimed the truck that hit the car — in which the girl, her family members and her advocate was travelling — belonged to a Samajwadi Party leader.

He also alleged that the Congress was trying to tarnish the image of the BJP.

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Manshahia, Amarjit Singh Sandhu and Baldev Singh — put in their papers between January and May. Except for Baldev Singh, the other four have resigned from the Assembly as legislators, too.

The AAP has already sought the disqualification of Khaira, who has floated his own political outfit, the Punjab Ekta Party. Sandhu and Manshahia joined the Congress before the Lok Sabha polls. Khaira and Baldev had unsuccessfully contested in the Lok Sabha polls as Punjab Ekta Party candidates.

Meanwhile, Khaira and Manshahia, who were slated to personally appear before the Speaker here on Tuesday, failed to turn up.

Talking to media, the Speaker said he received a letter from Khaira stating that he was in Delhi to meet a doctor.

Five Aam Aadmi Party MLAs in Punjab — HS Phoolka, Sukhpal Singh Khaira, Nazar Singh

'Everything is fine in J&K; do not pay heed to rumours'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 30

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik said on Tuesday that people should not pay heed to rumours of any major decision on the special status of the State as 'everything is normal.'

"Rumours are being spread, do not pay any heed to them. Everything is fine, everything is normal," Governor Malik said when asked about the slew of orders appearing on social media about the possibility of a prolonged law and order situation in Kashmir Valley.

Malik said the orders which had appeared on the social media in recent days were not valid.

"No order is valid. If someone catches a sneeze in Lal Chowk, by the time it reaches Governor house, it is



J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik projected as a bomb blast," he added.

Kashmir has been on the edge for the past week after the Centre decided to send an additional 100 companies of Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPFs) to the valley, giving rise to speculations that the BJP-led union government might repeal Article 35A of the Constitution that provides for special residency and job rights to the people of the State.

SAD seeks clarity over resignation of 5 AAP MLAs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 30

The Opposition in Punjab, Shromani Akali Dal (SAD), on Tuesday sought a clarification over the resignations of five AAP legislators who had quit the party and the Punjab Assembly.

SAD General Secretary Bikram Singh Majithia asked for the Speaker's response regarding the five legislators, saying: "There should be clarity over the matter."

"The law is very clear. If any MLA has resigned from a party and contested from another party, his disqualification (from the Assembly) is imminent. Why is disqualification not taking place?" the senior Akali leader asked.

Five Aam Aadmi Party MLAs in Punjab — HS Phoolka, Sukhpal Singh Khaira, Nazar Singh

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BJP's Vishweshwar Kageri is the new Karnataka Speaker

OUR BUREAU

Bangalore, July 30

Six-time MLA Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

The post fell vacant after KR Ramesh Kumar resigned as

the Speaker of the Assembly shortly after the BJP government won the trust vote on Monday.

Kageri, who represents the Sira constituency in Uttara Kannada, had served as the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education in the BJP

government and was the only candidate to file his nomination for the post on Tuesday.

The Opposition Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) did not field any candidates.

Kageri had started out as an Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad leader and debuted as



Congress leader Sanjay Singh resigned from the party and the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday PTI

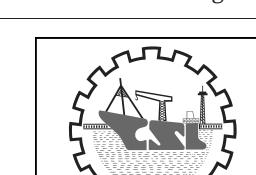
tion. Though a section in the party is proposing that his sister and AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra be made the next president, Rahul Gandhi himself is opposed to the idea.

Another section in the party feels that a session of the AICC should be convened and election held for the post of the president.

The Congress leadership, which is trying to resolve the crisis emanating in the States, feels that without a person at the

MLA from the Ankola constituency in 1994, which he continued to represent thrice till 2008.

After the delimitation of constituencies in the State, he shifted to Sirsi and won the 2008, 2013 and 2018 Assembly elections.



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EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended 30.06.2019	30.06.2018	31.03.2019	Quarter ended 30.06.2019	30.06.2018	31.03.2019
1	Total Income from Operations	73543.65	65872.69	78760.90	296215.87	73543.65	65872.69
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	18647.58	16120.07	16093.32	75137.52	18505.17	16105.91
3	Net Profit/(

