





# Sonia asks cadre to step up protests on key issues

**CONGRESS MEET** Urges party workers to have a concrete agenda on people’s concerns, says it isn’t enough to be active on social media alone

**HT Correspondent**  
• letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, on Thursday asked party leaders and workers to hit the streets with a concrete agenda for agitation on social and economic issues affecting the people, asserting that “it is not enough to be active and aggressive” on social media alone.

Gandhi also had a word of advice for the chief ministers of the states of Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh and the Union Territory of Puducherry: stand out as examples of sensitive and responsive governance, and accountable and transparent administration, saying that the Congress has a special responsibility in these states. The Congress is in power in these states and the Union Territory. “We must be seen to be fulfilling our manifesto commitments. If not, we will lose people’s support with obvious consequences,” she said, addressing a meeting of party office bearers here.

Gandhi, 72, took over as the interim president of the Congress on August 10 after Rahul Gandhi turned down repeated pleas from party colleagues to take back his resignation offered in the wake of the party’s crushing defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The party managed to win just 52 of the 543 seats. “The country is looking to us to confront and combat the forces that appropriate Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Dr BR Ambedkar and misrepresent their message for their nefarious ends. We must stand up fearlessly to fight on the streets, fight in villages, towns and cities,” she said. “We must have a concrete agitational agenda on issues of pressing concern to the people, whether economic or social. It is not enough to be active and aggressive on the social media even though that, too, is needed and we need to do better. Far



■ Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former PM Manmohan Singh during a high-level party meeting at the All India Congress Committee headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday. SONU MEHTA/HT

more important is to go to the people directly,” she added. The party responded to her call with a plan to organise an agitation across the country. Congress general secretary in-charge of organisation, KC Venugopal, told reporters after the meeting that a “massive” nationwide agitation on economic slowdown will be held between October 15 and 25. But prior to it, the party will hold state-level conventions on economic slowdown across the country between September 20 and 30, he said. Apart from Gandhi and former PM Manmohan Singh, the meeting was attended by Congress general secretaries in-charge of states, chief ministers of party-ruled states, state unit presidents and legislature party leaders. Former Congress president, Rahul Gandhi, was not present in the meeting since he does not occupy any organisational post. “Our resolve and resilience are under severe test. We cannot afford to let our self-confidence and morale falter,” she said, while attacking those who have deserted the Congress and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and other parties. “...Some of our

party colleagues have left us in recent times. All I can say is that they have revealed their opportunistic character.” Expressing concern over the “grim” economic situation and accusing the government of misusing its mandate in the “most dangerous” way, she said, “We are meeting at a time when there is a prolonged economic slump, when job losses are mounting by the day, when the confidence of the investors is getting shaky by the day, when the government appears more and more clueless and insensitive by the day,” she said. The Congress president also alleged that the Modi government was indulging in vendetta politics without taking the names for party leaders, P Chidambaram and DK Shivakumar, who are currently in jail. **GEHLOT AND PILOT MEET SONIA GANDHI** Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot and state Congress president Sachin Pilot on Thursday separately met party chief Sonia Gandhi and discussed the functioning of the government and the political situation in the state. Gandhi asked the two leaders to work in close coordination.

## Cong not to call its trainers ‘preraks’ after objections

**HT Correspondent**  
• letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday rejected the term Preraks (motivators) for the party’s organisational trainers after some leaders objected to it arguing that it appears to have been borrowed from the expressions the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) uses, said a party functionary familiar with the development. The functionary, who was present at a meeting of the party’s central office-bearers, chief ministers and state presidents on Thursday where the matter was discussed, said Gandhi later asked training department in-charge Sachin Rao to come with a fresh list of names. Till then, the party decided to call Preraks coordinators.

Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar was among the leaders, who objected to the Prerak term, saying the party has already been accused of borrowing the concept from the RSS, the ideological mentor of the BJP. Soon other leaders joined in, insisting that the Congress does not need inspiration from the RSS. The RSS has Pracharaks or full-time volunteers to take the organisation’s ideology to the masses. A note prepared for the meeting and accessed by HT described a Prerak as the chief resource person who will “envision, design and deliver” training skills to Congress workers. The note also mentioned that the identification of potential Preraks will be done by September 30 and interviews to select them by October 31. While the training camps for Preraks were proposed to start by November 7, the state-level programmes were scheduled to start by November 30.

# Gadkari to call CMs on MV Act changes

**Kumar Uttam and Anisha Dutta**  
• letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari plans to call up chief ministers of states that have either slashed or refused to implement steep fines under the modified Motor Vehicles Act, a senior official said on Thursday, even as the ministry sought legal opinion on provisions under which some states have revised traffic penalties.

The decision came on a day Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh joined a growing band of states that say the fines are too high. Gujarat and Uttarakhand, both ruled by the BJP, have already lowered fines while another BJP-ruled state, Karnataka, has indicated it will slash penalties soon. Election-bound Maharashtra has put the new law on hold and West Bengal has said it will not enforce the new penalties. Gadkari’s efforts aim to reverse this tide. “The minister will call each of the chief ministers and explain the benefits. While initially we saw lots of backlash on social media, now

➤ The minister will call each of the chief ministers and explain the benefits [of the MV Act] TRANSPORT MINISTRY OFFICIAL

that too has changed,” said the ministry official quoted above. The secretary of the ministry will also call state bureaucrats to push through the implementation of the modified act. A second senior official said the ministry had drafted a list of offences under which fines have been reduced by states, and sent it to the ministry of law to seek legal opinion on whether states have the jurisdiction to supersede the quantum of fines as mentioned in the modified Motor Vehicles Act. Offences for which states can make legislative changes are called “compoundable offences” – for which fines can be paid on the spot. “Except for compoundable offences, states cannot change the fines notified under the

Motor Vehicles Act. Even under compounding offences, there are certain fines which the states cannot amend below its capped limit. In fines where the minimum amount has been capped cannot be reduced even if it is a compounding offence. We have sought legal opinion on it,” a transport ministry official added. Officials also said the Supreme Court’s committee on road safety, based on whose recommendations many provisions of the act were drafted, is scheduled to meet on Friday to discuss the issue of states who have refused to implement the act. Another official said Gujarat, the first state to reduce the fines, had overshot its jurisdiction to give certain exemptions, such as not making helmets necessary for pillion riders, defeat the purpose of the act, said a second person in the ministry. “It will have to go through legal scrutiny,” he said. Parliament passed amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act in its previous session, raising penalties in some traffic offences

by as much as tenfold. The new penalties came into effect on September 1 but several governments, including Delhi, are yet to notify the new rates. India is a signatory to the United Nation’s Brasilia Declaration with the target of reducing road fatalities by 50% by 2020. At present, nearly 150,000 people die each year due to road accidents in India. Defending the new fines, Gadkari said on Wednesday, “We haven’t done this [amendment] to augment revenue. We have done this to save lives. If state governments want to reduce it [fines], they are welcome to do so.” He said that the number of deaths caused by road accidents was the highest in India. “We should not think about trying to lower the fines where it becomes affordable. If it’s affordable, it’s not a fine... The state government need focus on training their police personnel to be courteous to road users and incorporate technology in enforcement to weed out corruption,” said Piyush Tewari, CEO, SaveLIFE Foundation.

## Ayodhya case: Muslim parties’ lawyer says still receiving threats

**HT Correspondent**  
• letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who is representing the Muslim parties in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute case, on Thursday complained to the Supreme Court that a member of his legal team had been receiving threat messages for appearing in the matter. “Last week, I received a message on my Facebook wall. I received threats. Yesterday, my clerk was told that his boss was arguing against the Hindu deity,” he told the Supreme Court bench hearing the case. Then he referred to the purported statement of Uttar Pradesh minister Mukut Bihari Verma made in 2018 and said, “He had said that ‘jagah hamari hai. Mandir hamara hai aur Supreme Court bhi hamari hai [the place is ours, so are the temple and the Supreme Court].’

“I cannot go on filing contempt petitions,” Dhavan said, adding that there was “camaraderie” in the court, but the situation outside was not conducive and “one word from My lords” would serve the purpose. Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi took a strong exception to such a “behaviour”. “We will put it on record that such behaviour is to be deprecated. This is something that should not be happening. We are in the midst of arguments. Counsel for both sides must be free to make their submissions free from all influences, however subtle they might be. We strongly condemn it,” CJI Gogoi said. Dhavan said he was “not arguing against the Hindu faith” and “people forgot that I had argued Kashi and Kamakhya cases in past”. The constitution bench is hearing cross-appals against the 2010 Allahabad high court verdict. Resuming his arguments, Dhavan told the bench on behalf of Wafk Board that Nirmohi Akhara would continue to have “shebait” rights or rights as a devotee, at the disputed site. “I’m supporting the appeal of the Nirmohi Akhara. The decision denying them shebait rights is on insufficient grounds...,” he submitted.

(With PTI inputs)

## Man accused of murder attempt on Mamata acquitted

**HT Correspondent**  
• letters@hindustantimes.com

**KOLKATA:** A Kolkata court on Thursday acquitted Lalu Alam, the prime suspect in a case of an attempt to murder West Bengal chief minister, Mamata Banerjee, more than 29 years ago, when she was the president of the Youth Congress in the state, citing lack of evidence. “Of those named in the charge sheet, some have died, while some have absconded,” said Radhakanta Mukherjee, the lawyer representing the government in the case. “There is nothing left in the case. The government decided that nothing would be achieved, except the wastage of money and time, by pursuing this case,” said Mukherjee. The Alipore court in south Kolkata acquitted Alam on the grounds that there is a lack of evidence against him and that no witnesses would come forward now to testify against the suspect, according to lawyers.

# After row over Madras HC judge, top court defends transfer policy

**HT Correspondent**  
• letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday defended the collegium’s policy of transferring high court judges after its decision to shift Madras high court chief justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani to Meghalaya ran into a controversy, saying its recommendations were based on cogent reasons and complied with procedure.

If found necessary, the collegium would disclose reasons for judicial transfers, the apex court said. “Certain reports relating to recommendations recently made by the Collegium regarding transfer of Chief Justices/Judges of the High Courts have appeared in the media,” a statement released by Supreme Court secretary general Sanjeev Kalgaonkar said, without mentioning justice Tahilramani by name. “As directed, the recommendations for transfer was made for cogent reasons after complying with required procedure in the interest of better administration of justice.” On August 28, the collegium, a body comprising the five most senior judges of the Supreme Court, cleared a raft of transfers apart from moving justice Tahilramani to Meghalaya. Tahilramani’s transfer from the Madras high court to Meghalaya, where



■ Justice VK Tahilramani

the high court has only two judges, attracted media attention. “Further, each of the recommendations was made after full and complete deliberations and the same were unanimously accepted upon by the collegium. On August 28, Meghalaya high court chief justice AJ Mittal was appointed Madras high court chief justice; Tripura high court chief justice Sanjay Karol was moved to Jharkhand; Punjab & Haryana high court chief justice Amit Karol to Kerala; Telangana high court chief justice PV Sanjay Kumar to the Punjab & Haryana high court; and Gauhati high court chief justice Ujjal Bhuyan to the Bombay high court. Justice Tahilramani last week resigned as a judge, triggering speculation over the reason for her transfer. Lawyers at the Madras high court also staged protests over her transfer. The Supreme Court statement said: “Though it would not be in

the interest of the institution to disclose the reasons for transfer, if found necessary, the Collegium will have no hesitation in disclosing the same.” The Collegium, in its minutes dated August 28, recorded that the transfer of justice Tahilramani was done in the interest of better administration of justice. Subsequently, a representation by justice Tahilramani to the collegium against her transfer was also turned down. “The Collegium has carefully gone through the aforesaid representation and taken into consideration all relevant factors. On reconsideration, the Collegium is of the considered view that it is not possible to accede to her request. The Collegium, accordingly, reiterates its recommendation dated 28th August, 2019 for transfer of Mrs Justice VK Tahilramani to Meghalaya High Court,” the collegium said. Commenting on the issue, Supreme Court advocate Anil Mishra said, “Its not for the first time that decisions of the collegium have come under fire; in the past too transfers and elevations have been questioned. But at the end of the day decision of the collegium, a multi-member body, is arrived at after due deliberations. And I also welcome this bold move by Supreme Court to put out this statement as it suggests that it is in favour of transparency.”

## INX MEDIA CASE

# HC seeks CBI reply on PC’s plea

**Richa Banka**  
• richa.banka@htlive.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi high court on Thursday sought the response of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a plea by former Union minister P Chidambaram seeking regular bail in the INX Media case. The Congress leader has been in judicial custody since September 5. He was arrested by CBI on August 21 and spent 14 days in the agency’s custody. Justice Suresh Kait issued notice to CBI and asked it to file a status report within seven days, listing the matter for September 23. The court also refused Chidambaram’s request that he be provided home cooked food. With today’s order, the former finance and home minister will now spend his 74th birthday on September 16 in Tihar jail after he was sent to judicial custody till September 19, on September 5 by the trial court. Chidambaram challenged this order and also sought regular bail through an application in the Delhi HC. On



■ P Chidambaram

Thursday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Chidambaram, withdrew his plea challenging the trial court order sending his client to Tihar jail after the court sought to know why he had filed two separate pleas. “You are three-four seniors (senior lawyers) here. Ultimately, after judicial custody, the bail application will be heard... I am seeing this kind of petition for the first time,” Justice Kait said, following which the plea challenging judicial custody was “dismissed and withdrawn”. Sibal told the court that this cli-

ent is not needed anymore in the investigation. He said that his client had joined the investigation and hence should be granted regular bail. However, opposing the plea, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for CBI, told the court that they are at the “pre-charge sheet stage” and that investigations have revealed that Chidambaram indulged in corrupt practices. While, Sibal was seeking a short date in the matter, the court questioned him about the delay in filing the regular bail application. To this Sibal replied that there were holidays and court was shut during this time. However, the judge asked: “When you can run to the Supreme Court on the same day, then could the bail plea not be filed earlier?”. Meanwhile, a CBI court also reserved for Friday, its order on a plea by Chidambaram seeking permission to surrender before the Enforcement Directorate in connection with alleged money laundering, also related to the same case of INX Media.

# TN opposes Facebook’s plea in SC

**HT Correspondent**  
• letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Tamil Nadu government filed an application on Thursday, opposing Facebook’s plea last month in the Supreme Court, seeking to transfer a case pending in the Madras high court on the traceability of online crimes to the top court. In its application, filed by the state’s additional advocate general, Balaji Srinivasan, Tamil Nadu also said the case wasn’t about the linking of Aadhaar to social media accounts, as Facebook had presented in the apex court, but about the traceability of online crimes and fake messages. The state alleged that Facebook misrepresented the high court proceedings before the Supreme Court. “The Transfer petition filed

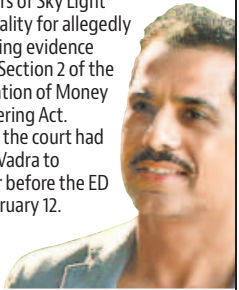
before this Hon’ble Court is replete with false and misleading averments, in a blatant attempt to misguide this Hon’ble Court for oblique motives. While the Transfer Petition proceeds on the sole premise that the cases in the Madras high court relate to mandatory linking of social media accounts with Aadhaar, it was a matter of record that the Court was only proceeding to ensure effective compliance with the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Rules framed thereunder, and also for the perception and detection of crimes.” Last month, the Supreme Court issued notice to the Tamil Nadu government and Centre on Facebook’s transfer petition, asking the top court to call for the case from the Madras high court and also other courts where similar issues have been raised.

The court is likely to hear the transfer plea on Friday. While issuing the notice, it asked the high court not to pass final or effective orders. To substantiate its application, the state presented statistical information in its application to argue that law enforcement agencies do not receive satisfactory responses when it comes to seeking information to the investigation of online crimes. Arguing that the case in the high court was ripe for a final order, the state said: “In the absence of expeditious disposal of the instant matter, foreign companies such as the Petitioner would continue to operate in India without complying with or submitting to India law, the effect of which as evidence is increased lawlessness, and overall breakdown of law and order.”

## short stories

### COURT EXTENDS VADRA’S RELIEF FROM ARREST

**JODHPUR:** The Rajasthan High Court on Thursday extended the interim protection from arrest to businessman Robert Vadra till September 26 in an alleged money laundering case related to Bikaner land. The court of Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati fixed September 26 as the next date of hearing in the case and granted Vadra and his mother interim protection from arrest till then. The ED registered an enforcement case information report (ECIR) in the Bikaner land case. The ED had summoned Sky Light Hospitality partners, including Robert Vadra, for questioning in the case, but the firm approached the Rajasthan high court against the ED move. The ED is investigating a case related to a land purchase in Bikaner’s Kalayat against the partners of Sky Light Hospitality for allegedly collecting evidence under Section 2 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Earlier, the court had asked Vadra to appear before the ED on February 12.



### ‘BULLET TRAIN FARE TO BE AROUND 3K’

**AHMEDABAD:** The fare for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train would be around ₹3,000, an official of the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRL) said on Thursday. Of the total 1,380 hectares of land required for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor, so far 622 hectares of land has been acquired, the official said. “Our land requirement for this entire project is 1,380 hectares... So far, we have acquired 622 hectares. We are moving ahead keeping in mind the deadline of December 2023,” Achal Khare, managing director of the NHSRL, which is executing the project, told reporters. “Upon completion, the bullet train will make 70 trips... The ticket fare would be around ₹3,000,” he said. Commenting on the resentment among some farmers against land acquisition, he said that farmers are not against giving their land.

# SC allows 8 Bihar shelter home girls to be reunited with families

**HT Correspondent**  
• letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed eight of the 44 girls, who were victims of alleged sexual and physical abuse at a Muzaffarpur shelter home, to be reunited with their families. The eight girls were found to be fit for rehabilitation by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences’ (TISS) Koshish project. A three-judge bench headed by justice NV Ramana also directed the state Bihar to ascertain the compensation to be paid to the girls under relevant schemes. The bench also asked TISS to submit a status report on the condition of the remaining girls in two months. The Koshish project report, given to the court in a sealed envelop was prepared after TISS undertook a field study, and met the girls and their families to chalk out a rehabilitation plan for the inmates. To begin with, it suggested sending eight girls back to their families. The Court also took on record that Bihar has readily agreed to provide financial, educational and medical assistance to the girls. The apex court had taken suo motu cognisance of reports of alleged sexual assault on the girls lodged at the Muzaffarpur

## TIMELINE OF THE CASE

- **May 31, 2018** FIR lodged in Muzaffarpur shelter home case
- **July 23:** Shelter home owner Brajesh Thakur arrested
- **July 29:** CBI takes over probe
- **Oct 25:** Calling details emerging from the probe ‘horrible’, SC asks for Brajesh Thakur to be moved out of Bihar
- **Nov 28:** SC hands over all Bihar shelter home cases to CBI
- **Dec 19:** CBI files charge sheet against 21, including prime accused Brajesh Thakur
- **March 30, 2019:** Court frames charges against 21 accused
- **May 1:** One ‘survivor’ turns hostile before a Delhi court
- **June 3:** SC gives CBI three months to complete the probe
- **July 19:** TISS told to make rehabilitation plan for 44 girls

shelter home unearthed by TISS when the Mumbai-based institute conducted a survey in the region in May 2018. On the court’s direction, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) took over the criminal case registered in connection with the incident. The criminal trial against 21 accused, including the kingpin Brajesh Thakur, charge-sheeted by the CBI for alleged sexual and physical assault on the inmates, was also transferred to the Capital subsequent to top court’s orders. On Thursday the court agreed with the TISS lawyer, Vrinda Grover, that experts from Koshish should closely interact with the victims to help them out of their trauma. The outreach will include studying the circumstances under which

the girls were separated from their families, and would help TISS volunteers to assess whether the families would be receptive to taking the children back home. TISS will look into the social and cultural environment in which the families live, and whether that would be conducive to the rehabilitation of the victims. “We had requested the Supreme Court to allow the girls to reunite with their parents. We welcome the decision of the apex court and we shall abide by it in letter and spirit. The TISS has prepared a comprehensive rehabilitation plan for the girls and we hope they are able to join the mainstream soon,” said Atul Prasad, additional chief secretary, social welfare department, Bihar.

## CHINMAYANAND CASE

# Law student’s father says evidence has gone missing from hostel room

**HT Correspondent**  
• letters@hindustantimes.com

**LUCKNOW:** The father of the woman who has levelled harassment charges against former union minister Swami Chinmayanand has alleged that some of the evidence in the case has gone missing from her college hostel room in Shahjahanpur. The room was sealed on the direction of the Supreme Court when the harassment charges came to light in August. It was visited by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the presence of the woman and her father on Tuesday. This had followed the woman’s claim that she had kept evidence substantiating her allegations in her hostel room. However, when the sealed room was opened, the

woman’s father said, “It appeared to have been searched before it was sealed. Some of the items that my daughter had kept inside as evidence were missing.” For one, he said, “The camera that was used to record the politician’s activities was not there.” Earlier, the father-daughter duo had claimed that a pen drive containing video proof had gone missing. However, on Wednesday, one of the woman’s friends submitted a pen drive to the SIT and the father claimed it carried evidence. The father also questioned why the SIT had not questioned Chinmayanand regarding the matter yet. “We were questioned for over 11 hours by the SIT but it has not dared to even summon Chinmayanand for questioning,”

he said. The SIT has questioned the principals of the two colleges where the woman has studied. The principals, Avnish Mishra and Sanjay Baranwal, were summoned to the Shahjahanpur police lines and questioned individually for over four hours each. Both the institutions are run by Swami Chinmayanand’s trust. Meanwhile, the SIT, headed by inspector general of police Naveen Arora, has maintained a distance from the press. Local police have also declined to comment on the case. Chinmayanand was booked under Sections 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code on the woman’s father’s complaint naming the BJP leader.



## Don't let Vadra go to Europe, ED tells court

**New Delhi:** The ED told a Delhi court on Thursday that Robert Vadra, the son-in-law of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, may hamper the probe if allowed to travel to Spain and other European countries.

The agency made the submissions before special judge Arvind Kumar while opposing Vadra's application seeking to travel abroad from September 21 to October 8.

The ED told the court that there were likelihood that if allowed to go, the accused may try to influence the witnesses and destroy the evidence. The application is an attempt to temper the evidence and meet the co-accused, it said. **PTI**

## India, China settle Pangong Tso dispute

**New Delhi:** A scuffle broke out between Indian and Chinese soldiers on the bank of Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh on Wednesday but the matter has been swiftly resolved through talks between the two militaries, Army sources said.

The incident took place after Indian soldiers patrolling the area did not heed to objections to their presence in the area by Chinese troops. After the scuffle broke out in the morning, both sides called for reinforcement of troops and there was a standoff between the two sides till evening, sources said. However, the face-off ended following a delegation-level talks in the evening, the military sources said.

The standoff took place ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's scheduled visit to India next month. **PTI**

## Shahjahanpur rape: SIT quizzes Chinmayanand

**Kanwardeep Singh**  
@timesgroup.com

**Shahjahanpur:** The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing a law student's rape allegations against Swami Chinmayanand questioned the former Union minister in Shahjahanpur on Thursday. Earlier in the day, SIT had recorded the statement of SS Law College principal Sanjay Kumar Baranwal and secretary Avnish Mishra.

Sources said the SIT had sent a notice to Chinmayanand to appear before it on September 9, but this couldn't take place. He had requested the SIT to postpone the questioning till after September 10.

## Ayodhya: Court frowns on UP minister who said 'SC is ours'

**Dhananjay Mahapatra**  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Thursday disapproved of a UP minister's alleged "Supreme Court is ours" remark made in context of adjudication of ownership rights of the disputed 2.77-acre Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land after Muslim parties complained that a congenial atmosphere to argue the case was missing.

**► Muslim parties support Akhara's rights, P 12**

At the start of the 22nd day of hearing before a bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer, senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who represents Muslims parties, said, "Yesterday (Wednesday), my clerk faced fisticuffs and abuses inside the SC premises because I am appearing for Muslim parties... There is a minister who said 'jagah hamara hai, mandir hamara hai and Supreme Court bhi hamara hai'. I can't go on filing contempt petitions

## Chidambaram may have to stay in Tihar till Sept 23

### High Court Rejects Plea For Home Food

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi high court on Thursday refused to provide former Union minister P Chidambaram any immediate relief on his bail plea in the INX Media corruption case. Justice Suresh Kait gave CBI seven days to file a status report and posted the matter for September 23, while Chidambaram's judicial custody ends on September 19.

The HC also rejected the Congress leader's plea for home-cooked food and permission to meet family members daily. "Sorry, it cannot

be given," the judge said, adding that the same food is available for everyone in prison, and even the 84-year-old OP Chautala, who is serving a 10-year term, consumes jail food.

When his lawyers sought an urgent hearing before September 23, the court said they should have approached it earlier. With the HC in no mood to bring forward the hearing, Chidambaram's lawyers withdrew a second plea challenging the trial court's remand order. The high court also questioned why the 73-year-old filed two petitions and ordered that the second petition was "dismissed as withdrawn".

Meanwhile, the ED informed a special court that it

was in the middle of interrogating six persons in the INX Media case and it would seek Chidambaram's custody at an appropriate time. ED, with the aim of making use of 15 days of remand it is permitted to seek, did not want to pursue Chidambaram's custody as of now.

On September 5, the former finance minister had filed a petition offering to surrender before the court. Opposing the plea, solicitor general Tushar Mehta said that an accused "could not choose" the date of his arrest and "curtail the discretion" of the investigating agency to choose its own mode and method of investigation.

The court reserved its order for September 13.

### ED questions DKS daughter for eight hours

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate questioned Aishwarya, daughter of Karnataka Congress leader D K Shivakumar, for more than eight hours on Thursday in its money laundering probe.

Shivakumar was arrested on September 3 after four days of questioning. The ED is probing his investments and alleged transactions through some shell companies in Singapore. **TNN**

## Illegal banner takes techie off bike, truck crushes her

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**Chennai:** A software engineer riding home after work was knocked off her bike and came under the wheels of a water tanker in Chennai on Thursday when a flex banner erected for the marriage of an AIADMK functionary's son fell on her.

R Subashree, 24, who worked with a software firm, was on her way home after her 6am-to-2pm shift, when the banner that had been put up illegally fell on her. Under the impact, Subashree fell from her bike and was run over by the tanker, which was behind her.



The flex banner was erected for the marriage of an AIADMK functionary's son

several erected by former ADMK councillor Jayagopal for his son's wedding. Soon after the incident, people tore up the hoardings that lined the stretch — there were not less than 50 banners and hoardings. ADMK workers were also seen hurriedly taking down some banners.

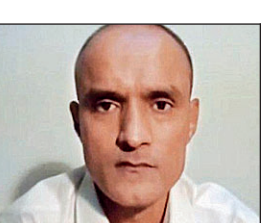
Police first slapped a case of negligent driving on lorry driver Manoj Yadav, 28. A case was also filed against Jayagopal based on a complaint by an assistant engineer in a Chennai corporation division. Police have registered a case under Section 4 of The Tamil Nadu Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 1959. The Chennai corporation has also filed a case against Jayagopal for installing an illegal banner without permission.

## Pak: No plan for 2nd Jadhav meet with Indian officials

**Omer Farooq Khan** | TNN

**Islamabad/New Delhi:** India said it will continue to press for full implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling in response to Pakistan saying on Thursday that there was no second meeting planned between imprisoned Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav and Indian officials.

"There is no second meeting planned. I can't share any further details of the meeting between Jadhav and Indian Consul Officer," Muhammad Faisal, spokesperson of the foreign affairs ministry, said during



INDIA TO FIGHT FOR ACCESS

a weekly press briefing.

Asked for a response in Delhi, MEA spokesperson Ravesh Kumar said India will continue working for full implementation of the ICJ judgment which had ordered Pakistan to provide Jadhav consular access and assistance. Indian charged 'affai-

## 29 yrs on, DYFI man accused of attacking Didi acquitted

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

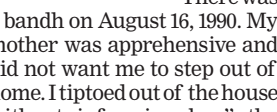
**Kolkata:** Lalu Alam, accused of brutally attacking Mamata Banerjee nearly three decades ago, was on Thursday acquitted by a city court for want of evidence.

Alam, then a member of CPM's youth wing DYFI, was at the forefront of the attack on Mamata and his baton charge struck her on the head. Mamata then was a Youth Congress leader and a single-term former MP.

The attack — at one of Kolkata's busiest traffic intersections less than a kilometre from her residence — and her pushback against CPM after that helped Mamata cement her position as a growing anti-Left force.

"There was a bandh on August 16, 1990. My mother was apprehensive and did not want me to step out of home. I tiptoed out of the house without informing her," the Bengal CM later recounted in her memoirs. "We took out a rally from Hazra when we were attacked by a gang of goons. I got blows on my head and started bleeding. I covered my head with my hand and saved myself somehow," she added.

It was the prosecution, frustrated by the lack of any progress, that asked for the closure of the case. Government lawyer Radhakanta Mukherjee said most of those named in the chargesheet had either died or were absconding. There was nothing left in the case and the government had, therefore, decided not to waste time and money by pursuing it, he said.



Mamata

## Everyone wants to help this 82-yr-old selling idlis for ₹1

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**Coimbatore:** Not many entrepreneurs may want to emulate the business model that sustained her for 30 years. But 82-year-old M Kamalathal, who had been selling idlis for Re 1 each at Vaidelampalayam in Coimbatore district, felt she lacked nothing. After videos and news reports about the *idli paati* (idli granny) preparing the dish on a firewood stove went viral, she was flooded with offers of help from across the country.

Sharing a video of Kamalathal cooking at her home-cum-shop, chairman of Mahindra Group, Anand Mahindra, said he was willing to "invest in her business and buy her an LPG-fuelled stove". Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Coimbatore, told him that it had already issued Kamalathal an LPG connection. Retweeting this, Dharmendra Pradhan, Union minister of petroleum and natural gas, said: "Salute the spirit and commitment of Kamalathal. Glad to having helped her through local OMC officers in getting an LPG connection. Society must empower such hardworking people who defy all odds." In addition, a private firm from Mumbai gave her a commercial wet grinder to prepare the idli batter.

After all this unfurled on Wednesday, Mahindra on Thursday tweeted that he would be happy to support her LPG costs.

On Tuesday, Coimbatore collector K Rajamani received her at his office and offered to fulfil whatever needs she had. "She had no demands. However, her well-wishers said it would be helpful if the district administration bu-



Kamalathal said she has been using a firewood stove for 30 years. 'Now they have given me a gas stove. I am happy,' she said

ilt her a home. She said she has a patta. If she or her children brings the patta, the district administration is ready to build her a home for around 2.5 lakh," he said. "Now everyone who comes to know about her wants to help her in some way. This is a positive thing," he added.

When contacted, Kamalathal said she was happy that people were helping her. "For the 30 years that I have been running this idli shop I have been using a firewood stove. Now they have given me a gas stove. I am happy," she said. Asked how she managed to sell an idli for Re 1, she said her input costs were low, so she could sell it for a low price. "There is no loss in this. I sell idlis for around 600 a day. I get to keep 200," she said.

## WILD, WILD COUNTRY

### Married by drought, divorced by deluge

**Shuchita Jha** @timesgroup.com

**Bhopal:** A frog couple, married two months ago to bring rain, was 'divorced' in Bhopal on Wednesday as their wedding, which was supposed to usher in a deluge of happiness for Madhya Pradesh, ended up making life miserable for most of the state.

The original frogs, who were united in croaky matrimony mid-July when the state was desperate for rain, couldn't be found. Evidently, they were having such a good time that it just didn't stop raining. So, the organisers who had arranged the match made two clay models of the frogs and 'divorced' them in a



MORE THAN THEY ASKED FOR?

temple in the hope that it will stop the incessant rain.

Large parts of MP are in the grip of floods, and around 200 have died this monsoon. The latest spell has been the heaviest of the season — unusual for September, and set to beat a 58-year record in Bhopal. It's a stunning contrast to the mood in June-July.

### Snakes under bedsheet kill UP woman

**Arjumand Bano** | TNN

**Gorakhpur:** A 30-year-old woman was killed by a pair of snakes hiding under a bedsheet on her bed, when she sat on them unknowingly while talking on the phone, in Gorakhpur's Reyaon village on Saturday.

Reports said Gita was talking to her husband Jai Singh Yadav on phone when she was bitten by the snakes. She fell unconscious within minutes.

Hearing her fall, her family rushed her to a private doctor considered an expert in treating snakebite cases in Dohrighat. As her condition deteriorated, the doctor referred her to Mau district hospital. However, she succumbed on the way to hospital, her father-in-law said on Thursday.

## TIMES ascent

**EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
(Central Establishment Department)

419, Udyog Sadan, Ground Floor,  
Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi-110092

No. AC(CED)/EDMC/2019/4562 Dated 06.09.2019

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The applications should reach at above given address latest by 05.10.2019.

Details of eligibility Criteria and Terms & Conditions for these posts are available on EDMC website i.e. [www.mcdonline.gov.in/trfledmc\\_mcd](http://www.mcdonline.gov.in/trfledmc_mcd) portal under News & Events.

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Public Enterprises Selection Board

invites applications for the post of

**DIRECTOR (FINANCE)**

in

**NHPC LIMITED.**

Last date of receipt of applications in

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For details login to website

**<http://www.pesb.gov.in>**

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**F. No. E-II-I-II/2018/15095/UAT., Date 12.09.2019**

**INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT**

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the following post under this University in the prescribed form. The retired persons in the rank of Professor/equivalent fulfilling the required eligibility may also apply for the said position.

Sl. No	Name of the post	Number of Vacancy
01	02	03
1	Professor, BPCL Bio-fuel Chair	01

The prescribed application form, information sheet containing the details of qualification, experience, scale of pay and other required conditions in respect of the above post, general information and instruction to the candidates can be downloaded from the OUAT website: [ouat.nic.in](http://ouat.nic.in). The application form complete in all respect along with self attested, copies of all certificates, mark sheets of all examination passed, experience certificate and research publications in the field is to be sent by **Speed Post/ Registered Post** to the Registrar, OUAT, Bhubaneswar-751003 within the last date of application i.e. on **10.10.2019 at 5.00 P.M.** The candidates, who had applied in response to the Advertisement No. 15055 dt. 05.07.2018, need not apply again. Their cases will be considered along with fresh applicants.

**By order of the Vice-Chancellor**  
Sd/-  
**S. Devi**  
12.09.2019  
**REGISTRAR**

**GANGADHAR MEHER UNIVERSITY, SAMBALPUR**  
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**General Conditions:**

- The Advertisement is for Regular Positions.
- There is an application fee of INR 2750.00 from candidates belonging to General and SEBC Category. The application fee for SC/ST/PwD and Women candidates is INR 1750.00. Those who have applied earlier against the Advertisement No. 003/REC/GMU/FAC; Sambalpur; Dated: 23.07.2019 need not apply again. Those who had applied last year against the advertisement No.: 001/REC/GMU/FAC, Sambalpur, Dated: 28.05.2018 but have not applied against the advertisement No.: 003/REC/GMU/FAC, Sambalpur, Dated: 23.07.2019 need to pay facilitation charges of INR 250.00 only. Further, those who apply for the first time against this advertisement No.: 004/REC/GMU/FAC, Sambalpur, Dated: 12.09.2019 need to pay the fee of INR 2750.00 or INR 1750.00 as the case may be.
- The link for the detailed advertisement and online application submission module is given herewith: <https://recruitment.gmuniversity.ac.in>
- The last date for submission of online applications complete in all respects is **5<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 23.59**. The last date of receipt of print copy of the applications with all supporting documents is **12<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 17.00**. Online submission of application is mandatory.
- Application fee is non-refundable. Seven printed hard copies of the application form will be accepted, when sent through Speed-Post/Registered Post/Courier only. The candidate must send one set of supporting documents to validate their data.

**Advt. No. 004/REC/GMU/FAC; Sambalpur; Dated: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
Sd/- **REGISTRAR**  
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