

10 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

Man kills sister’s fiance in Meerut; arrested

Meerut: A 24-year-old man was shot dead by his fiance’s elder brother in Kurmali village on Wednesday, police said. The body of the victim, Rohit Singh, was spotted by local residents. “We lodged the initial report against unidentified assailants after handing over his body to the family members following

the post-mortem...We have arrested Sanjeev (26), the elder brother of the girl with whom the deceased was engaged. He confessed and said his family members had been advising the couple to part ways but they did not pay heed,” said Mool Chand Singh, in-charge of Babri police station. **ENS**



Sikhs offer prayers after International Bhajan Kirtan vans arrived from the Nankana Sahib in Pakistan, the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev, in Lucknow on Wednesday. *Vishal Srivastav*

EAST

Man found hanging in police lockup in Bihar

Sasaram: A 45-year-old man was found dead on Wednesday in police custody in Bihar’s Rohtas district, a senior official said. Shrikant Singh allegedly hanged himself from the ceiling of the lockup of Indrapuri police station, Additional SP Sanjay Kumar said. Singh was arrested on Tuesday in connection with

the theft of a tractor, along with his son Abhishek, who was later let off as he was a minor, the police officer said. Meanwhile, Singh’s wife Reena Devi suspected foul play and alleged he was tortured to death. “We will take necessary action if any complaint is registered by the family,” the officer said. **PTI**

WEST

22 children, headmistress fall ill after mid-day meal

Pune: A total of 22 children of a school in the city and the headmistress were admitted to the hospital after they fell sick from eating khichdi served as part of the mid-day meal scheme. Dr Sanjay Lalwani, Medical Director of Bharati hospital said that they had immediately treated the children and one teacher. “Four children were admitted

in the paediatric ward of our hospital, of which, one is in the ICU as the child suffered from dehydration,” said Lalwani. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) team collected samples of the khichdi and issued orders to the vendor to stop business activity. It supplies mid-day meals to 9,600 students across 23 schools. **ENS**

SOUTH

Duo stabs taxi driver, steals car; one held, other at large

Coimbatore: Two people, hailing from Andaman and Nicobar, allegedly stabbed a taxi driver and took away his car in the early hours of Wednesday, police said. One of them was caught while the other was absconding, they said. The two had booked the car to go to Madurai. As the car reached

Sulur, about 20 km from here, one of them stabbed the driver Vasanthkumar, pushed him out of the vehicle, police said. Passersby took the injured driver to the hospital. Police intercepted the car near Tirupur. One of them escaped, while the other was taken into custody, police said. **PTI**

TWIST IN KOLKATA CAR CRASH CASE

Elder Arsalan scion held, cops say he was driving Jaguar

Both siblings admitted elder brother was at the wheel, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 21

IN A twist to the fatal accident allegedly involving the scion of Kolkata’s renowned Arsalan chain of restaurants, the homicide department of Kolkata Police on Wednesday said that the man driving the Jaguar that triggered the crash that night was not Arsalan Parvez, who was earlier arrested in the case, but his elder brother Raghib.

“Arsalan Parvez’s elder brother was driving the car at the time (late in the night of August 16). He has also confessed it during preliminary interrogation. He was arrested today (Wednesday afternoon) along with their maternal uncle (Mohammed Hamza),” Joint CP (Crime) Murlidhar Shama said.

Parvez, 22, is also learnt to have confessed that he was not at the wheel that night.

Another officer with knowledge of developments said that after the accident, Raghib, 25, allegedly called his uncle, who helped him escape. “He took a flight to Dubai the same day (Sunday) when Arsalan visited the DC (South) office and was arrested.”

Raghib is said to have re-



Jaguar engineers inspected the vehicle on Tuesday. *Express*

turned to the city late Monday night. Late Friday night, the SUV, allegedly being driven at 100-120 km per hour, rammed into a Mercedes, which then crashed into a police kiosk on a pavement near Park Street, where three Bangladeshi nationals had taken shelter from the rain. Two of them died on the spot; the third is injured. The occupants of the Mercedes — Amit Kajoria and wife Kanika — who were also injured in the accident, are still in hospital.

A senior officer said the open airbag in the Jaguar SUV after the

incident led them to probe the possible involvement of a person other than Parvez.

“In 99 per cent cases, the person on whom the airbag opens receives injuries due to a thin layer of silicon (present in the airbag). We didn’t find any such marks on Arsalan Parvez. We continued to probe the car’s dashboard.”

“The police procured the car’s infotainment data and found that the person who interacted with the vehicle before the accident was Raghib,” the officer said.

Armed with a picture of

Raghib, found from his social media accounts, the police scanned footage from 40-45 CCTV cameras around the accident site to trace the accused.

CCTV cameras, according to the officer, had captured a man running towards Kala Mandir, and cameras placed near Bhagirati Neotia crossing captured Raghib’s face clearly, he said. Parvez broke down after sustained interrogation and admitted that he wasn’t in the car when the accident occurred, the officer said.

The police are finding out why Arsalan didn’t reveal the truth in the beginning.

Sources said while Raghib is the prime accused, Parvez and their uncle will face action under IPC Section 201 for causing disappearance of evidence, or giving false information.

“Raghib has confessed that he was at the wheel when the accident took place, and whatever he revealed matches our findings so far,” an officer said. Sources also said CCTV footage scanned from the family’s Beck Bagan residence showed Raghib leaving the house around 11.30 pm on Friday. The cameras did not capture any movement of Parvez.

Both accused will be produced in court on Thursday.

Rajiv Gauba appointed next Cabinet Secretary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

HOME SECRETARY Rajiv Gauba was appointed Cabinet Secretary for a two-year term on Wednesday.

Gauba has been appointed Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat till the time he takes over the top post, according to a decision of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime minister Narendra Modi.

Gauba will replace P K Sinha whose three-month extension, after a four-year term, runs out this month. Gauba will take charge on August 30, said the order.

A 1982-batch IAS officer from the Jharkhand cadre, Gauba was Urban Development Secretary before assuming the Home Secretary post for two years.

In other major changes, 1985-batch IAS officer Ajay Kumar has been appointed Defence Secretary. He is currently Secretary, Defence Production. Himachal Pradesh cadre IAS officer from 1985 batch Brij Kumar Agarwal was appointed Secretary to the Lokpal.

1986 batch Subhash Chandra from Karnataka cadre was made Secretary, Defence production.



Rajiv Gauba

Ram Janmabhoomi divinity not lost despite mosque over temple, SC told

No one thus can claim title over the site by adverse possession, Ramlalla’s counsel tells court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE DIVINITY of Ram Janmabhoomi was not lost even though Babri Masjid was built over the temple which predated it, and thus no one could claim title over the site by adverse possession, the counsel for Ramlalla told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Senior advocate C S Vaidyanathan, appearing for the deity, told a five-Judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi that the legal position has been that the deity is immortal, and that even if an idol is broken or stolen, another image can be consecrated since divinity is not lost.

He was replying to Justice S Abdul Nazeer, who had asked, “What happens to a Wakf property which is vested in God? Can it be alienated?”

Vaidyanathan told the Bench, also comprising Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan that as per Mohammedan law recognised by courts in India, the Wakf property can be alienated. “Mohammedan law in India does not accept the inalienability of a mosque,” he said.

But that was not so in the case of a Hindu deity, whose property cannot be alienated, he added. The senior counsel said a Privy Council decision to this effect had been upheld by the Supreme Court.

On the Ayodhya temple, Vaidyanathan said the Sunni Wakf Board was claiming title by adverse possession. “I am saying there was a temple there, and no one else can claim title,” he sub-

ENVIRONMENTAL THINK TANK STUDY

90 pc of lead batteries reach informal sector, triggering pollution

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A STUDY by environmental think tank Toxic Links has found that 90 per cent of lead acid batteries (LABs) reach the informal recycling sector where they are recycled crudely and without any regulation, releasing toxins into the air, water and soil.

The study — “Loaded Batteries: Mapping the toxic waste trail” — released on Tuesday was conducted across Rajasthan, Delhi, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.

The findings show that the transportation of LABs to the informal recycling sector are in direct contravention of the Batteries Management and Handling Rules (2001) under which, either battery manufacturing companies should take the LABs for recycling, or they should be recycled by registered recycling units.

LABs are usually transported to neighbouring areas such as Ghaziabad and Alwar from Delhi, where strict environmental regulations for hazardous industries are in place. Jharkhand and Rajasthan are badly affected with most LABs reaching small unmonitored ‘bhattis’.

“According to the Battery Rules which were set up in 2001, the target was that by 2003, 90 per cent of LABs were to be sent back to the manufacturer for recycling. But even after 18 years this has not been achieved which shows a failure of the regulatory authorities,” said Priti Mahesh, one of the authors of the study.

The study has found that of the 36 agencies (State Pollution Control Boards and PCCs), not even half have filed reports on the status of implementation of rules to the Central Pollution Control Board.

Lead industries are globally



mitted. Justice Chandrachud asked how he was stating that if there was a temple at the site, its title cannot pass. Vaidyanathan replied that “sanctity of a temple will remain even if it was destroyed”.

“The temple,” he contended, “is invested with a character, or Res extra commercium (Roman law doctrine that refers to things beyond commerce, which cannot be brought or sold)”.

Justice Chandrachud then pointed out that the Calcutta High Court had in a decision said that alienation of property of a Hindu deity was all right if it was for the benefit of the deity.

Vaidyanathan said that “property cannot be taken out of an idol if it amounts to extinction of the deity itself”.

Justice Bobde remarked in a lighter vein that he should be careful that this argument that property of deity cannot be alienated is not raised when courts have to deal with unauthorised places of worship on public roads, etc. Vaidyanathan replied that he was only referring to places “which are deemed to be ‘punya sthala’, which have divinity, such as a ‘tirtha’, which cannot be changed”.

“This place (Ram Janmabhoomi) is divine because of the birth of Ram. That can’t be changed,” he argued.

The study has found that of the 36 pollution control boards in the country, not even half have filed reports on the implementation status of rules to the Central Pollution Control Board

considered one of the most hazardous industries and India has, over the years, phased out leaded petrol and lead based paint for this very reason.

According to a study conducted by Pure Earth and Green Cross Switzerland, the battery recycling industry puts 1 million people at risk globally.

The Indian lead acid battery market was valued at \$4.47 billion in 2016 and was expected to grow at a CAGR of 8.36 per cent in terms of value, to reach close to \$8 billion by 2022.

“This rate of growth has been predicted on the basis of the expansion of the market of automobiles, telecommunication infrastructure, solar power projects and the ever-growing IT industry... According to Central Pollution Control Board, based on data received from State Pollution Control Boards, the amount of new batteries sold in 2016-17 was 198,250 tonnes (from 17 states),” says the report.

The study points out two broad problems in the disposal of the LABs.

The first is the lack of regulation by authorities such as the CPCB and the SPCBs. And the second is the nature of recycling in the informal sector, in which lead is melted on furnaces and the acid in the batteries is often dumped in nearby drains or fields — polluting water as well as soil.

NASA REPORT

Debris created by India’s anti-satellite test still in space

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, AUGUST 21

A MAJORITY of the debris created by India’s anti-satellite test of March 27 seem to have disintegrated, though more than 40 pieces are still moving around in space, according to the latest assessment of space debris by NASA.

A report in the Orbital Debris Quarterly News, published by NASA’s Orbital Debris Program Office, states that of the 101 pieces of debris that were big enough to be tracked, 49 continued to remain in orbit as on July 15. It was possible that more pieces, smaller ones, created from that test are floating around but these were not being

tracked, it stated.

India had shot down its 740-kg Microsat-R satellite on March 27 this year in a demonstration of its capability to destroy the space-based infrastructure of an enemy country.

That anti-satellite test made India only the fourth country in the world to have demonstrated this capability. The Microsat-R satellite was launched on January 24 this year by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the same agency that carried out the test.

The destroyed satellite had disintegrated into several small and big pieces, and added to a large amount of debris in space, which is considered a threat to functional satellites and other space assets. At that time, India

EXPLAINED

India’s claims not entirely off the mark

THIS IS the first credible estimation in public domain of the amount of debris created by India’s anti-satellite test and what remains of it four months down the line. Indian agencies do not have any independent method to track debris. But the numbers now show that India’s claim about the debris falling off quickly and disintegrating was not entirely off the mark. Large number of fragments created by a similar test by China in 2007 are still floating in space.

had said that since the test was carried out in the lower atmosphere, it did not expect to add any significant amount of space debris. “Whatever debris is generated will decay and fall back on to the earth within weeks,” a

statement by Ministry of External Affairs had said.

A few days later, an official DRDO source had told *The Indian Express* that the expectation was that all the pieces created by the test would re-enter the Earth’s

atmosphere and burn up within a maximum of 45 days. The bigger pieces were expected to start decaying earlier.

However, NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine had claimed that some of the pieces created by India’s test actually posed a risk to the International Space Station — the world’s only permanent facility in space.

He had said that nearly 400 pieces of debris from that test had been identified, out of which 60 were being tracked. He had said 24 of them had ventured near the International Space Station.

The latest assessment also states that nearly 400 pieces were created from India’s test.

“A total of 101 debris have entered the public satellite cat-

alogue, of which 49 fragments remain on-orbit as of July 15, 2019. However, over 400 fragments were initially tracked... and cataloging is complicated by the low altitude of the event and the concomitant rapid orbital decay,” the report in the publication states.

The publication stated that India had 97 functional, and non-functional but intact satellites in space as on June 30, and 157 pieces of trackable space debris, including fragments of rockets that become junk after delivering their payloads in their specified orbits. This was a very small proportion of the total of 19,404 large objects in space sent by all countries, of which 14,432 were debris and junk parts of used rockets.

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PERSONAL
I, NAVEEN Bhatia S/o Ajay Bhatia R/o C-151, Sec-15, Noida state that Navin Bhatia and Naveen Bhatia are names of the same person. In future I should be known as Naveen Bhatia.
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I, BALVINDER Jeet Kaur D/o Darshan Singh R/o C-2/1083, Palam Vihar, Ggn, have lost my original property Allotment & Possession letter of J-1059, Palam Vihar, Ggn. Finder Cont: 9873433018
ORIGINAL POSSESSION slip & one of the sale agreement of A-346 First Floor, Paschim Puri New Delhi-110063 has been lost finder may contact Mrs Sudha Gupta 8130149346
CHANGE OF NAME
I, AASTHA Kumari D/o Sh. Bajrang Sahni R/o 213 C, Ward No.2, Mehrauli, Gadiapuri, Delhi-110030, wish to change my name to Soni Kumari with immediate effect. Hence, from now on, Aastha Kumari will be known as Soni Kumari for all purposes.
I, BHAWNA D/o Late Shri Rakesh Kumar R/o J/6441, Ajad Gali No. 7, East Rohtas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name from Bhawna Verma to Bhawna for all future purpose.
I, ARMY M. 2486227P rank CHM Ajay Kumar S/o Shri Nanak Chand R/o Vill Dhabirana, PO Loharara, Tehsil Barsar, Distt. Hamirpur, H.P., in my service record my wife name Rita Kumari DOB 28.8.1977 this is incorrect, correct name of Rita Devi and her DOB is 14.8.1976 for all future purposes. Rita Kumari and Rita Devi is one and same person.

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I, SAMA Alam Khan W/o Md. Alam Khan Resident of 18A/27, Ward No-1, Mehrauli, ND-30, have changed my minor daughter's name from Hadia Alam Saiti to Hadia Alam Khan for all purposes.
I, SHAWETA Yadav, D/o Tejpal, House No.-263, Rattan Vihar Sultanpuri C Block, North West Delhi-110086, have changed my name from Shaweta Yadav to Nisha Yadav
I, RAVEENA W/o Shri Sandeep Kumar R/o W/o, 8-6/117, Sector - 11, Rohini, Delhi, declare that Ravina and Raveena both are one and same person. Future name is Raveena
I, ANOOP Raj S/o Sh. V. Rajan R/o Flat No. 402, Tower no. 7, M3M Merlin, Sector-67, Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana), has changed my minor daughters name from Bhavya Raj to Bhavya Raj for all future purpose.
I, PRADEEP Chhonkar S/o Sh. Rattan Singh R/o House No. 403, Parvatiya Colony, NIT Faridabad have changed my name from Pradeep Chhonkar for all future purposes.
I, (SAKSHI), D/o (Suraj Sharma) R/o (N6, 1401, Paras Irene, Sector 70-A, Gurugram, Haryana) that I have changed my name to (Sakshi Sharma) for all future purposes as per wide Affidavit No. 39AA 89123
I, NARESH Arora S/o Sh. Y.N. Arora R/o KU-142, 2nd Floor, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name N.K. Arora to Nareesh Arora for all future purposes.
I, KAMLA D/o Sh. Budh Ram R/o 53-A, Gali No-8, Block Verma Road Pradhan Chowk,Vikash Nagar,Uttam Nagar-110059, have changed my name to Komal for all future purpose.
I, SAMA Zaidi W/o Md. Alam Khan R/o H.No.-18A/27, Ward No-1, Mehrauli, ND-30, have changed my name to Sama Alam Khan for all purposes.
I, SUDESH Kumari W/o Sh. Sumer Singh Yadav R/o Rzh 886 Gali No-12 Raj Nagar Part-2 Palam Colony ND-77 have changed my name to Sudesh Yadav for all purposes.
I HAVE changed my name from Anshika Singh to Anshika Singh Rajawat for all future purposes. Anshika Singh Rajawat D/o Yogendra Pratap Singh R/o 2468, Rajendra Nagar, Orai, Jalaun, UP 285001, Presently at B-883/1, New No. 883, New Ashok Nagar, Vasundhri Enclave, Delhi-110096



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I, KRISHNA Devi (Existing Name of spouse as per change of next-of-kin POR/Service Documents/Pension Certificate) spouse of Rambir Singh(Name of husband)R/o Village-Kasudiya Todan,Distt-Hajjar,Haryana-124505(Add-ress) have changed my name from Krishna Devi (Existing Name of spouse as per change of next-of-kin POR/Service Documents/Pension Certificate) to Krishna (Proposed/Adopted/Corrected New Name) as per Affidavit dated 20.08.19.
CHANGE OF NAME
I, ANJULI Chhonkar W/o Sh. Pradeep Chhonkar R/o House No. 403, Parvatiya Colony, NIT Faridabad have changed my name from Anju Rani to Anju Chhonkar for all future purposes.
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Flat No. L-2 on Ground Floor and Car Parking Space No. 50, situated at Tara Apartments (Tara Co-op. Group Housing Society Ltd), Alaknanda, ND-19
Be it Known to all that my Client intends to purchase the above captioned Property from its Owners Mrs. Sunita Koshal W/o Mr. Vikas Koshal & Do late Shri K. G. Salvi & Mr. Jakumar Khesara Salvi S/o late Shri K. G. Salvi. The original documents viz. Possession Letter, Allotment Letter and Conveyance Deed dated 03/03/1998 duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, New Delhi as Document No. 1356 in Book No. 1 Volume No. 187 on pages 143 to 144 on 04/03/1998 in respect to the above captioned property is said/ reported to have been lost, mislaid or misplaced somewhere and the same is not traceable. Police Report/ Complaint vide LR No. 13867/42019 dated 13/08/2019 has also been lodged by the aforesaid Owners in respect of the said lost documents. It is notified that if any Person/ Bank/ FI/ Authority or Entity having/ claiming any rights, title, interests, lien, charge or claim of any nature (whatsoever) on the basis of aforesaid deeds/ documents or has any sort of dispute/ litigation and/ or otherwise any objection for its sale to my Client, he/ she/ they should contact and notify such objection (with valid Documentary Proof) to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it will be presumed that the above captioned property is free from all sorts of encumbrances and my Client shall proceed further to complete the said sale transaction.
Gaurav Sachdeva (Advocate)
C-21, Malviya Nagar, N.D.-17 Ph.: 41048314, 9810006297

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I, AJAY KUMAR, Advocate (Enrollment No. C-3868/2014) for and on behalf of my Client MR. RAKESH CHAND MOGHA, S/o Late Sh. Gyan Chand Mogha (Distt. & Session Judge, Retd.), R/o Jeevan Jyoti No. 11, 4th Avenue, Bandh Road, Gadiaupur, New Delhi- 110030 the Father of my Client Mr. Rakesh Chand Mogha has expired on 9th August, 2015, leaving behind an unregistered WILL dated 30th October, 2014 in respect of his several movable & immovable properties in favour of his children (three sons and two daughters) That as the said WILL is unregistered, my Client Mr. Rakesh Chand Mogha wants to give it authenticated & Legal shape and as such he is going it to get registered in the concerned Sub-Registrar Office. It is, therefore, this Public Notice has been published by my client that if anyone else has any objection regarding the said WILL, he/she may inform his/her intention in writing to concerned Sub-Registrar or concerned competent authority having jurisdiction over it within 30 days of publication of this Notice.
AJAY KUMAR Advocate EN No. 3988/2014 500/1 DEVI ND Date: 10 Aug. 2019
I, SURENDER SINGH S/O S/LATE SH DALIP SINGH DOB - 06/07/1966, r/o RZ 69, Roshan Mandi Najafgarh New Delhi -110043 is known as SURENDER SONI wide affidavit dated 20/08/2019 at New Delhi
I, SUNIL Kumar S/o Sh. Diwali Lal Rathor R/o A-1, 3rd Floor, New Laxipuri Colony, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-51 have changed my name to Tejpal Singh for all future purposes.
I, SUMANLATA Rawat D/o Ranjit Singh Rawat R/o Flat No.- 6047, Sandal Wood, Mahagun Mywoods, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar (LLP) have changed my name to Suman Gussain for all purposes.
I, SHIVANI AGGARWAL w/o Bal Kishan Aggarwal, R/o A-63, Madan Park, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Sumita Devi.

Sanctity of the temple remains intact, SC told

AYODHYA TITLE SUIT Deity at temple immortal, even if idol broken, stolen, another image can be consecrated, says Ram Lalla counsel

HT Correspondent
• letters@hindustantimes.com

NEWDELHI: The sanctity of a temple remains even if it is destroyed, the Supreme Court was told by the lawyer representing the deity, “Ram Lalla Virajman”, on Wednesday.
Senior advocate CS Vaidyanathan said the deity at the temple is immortal and even if an idol is broken or stolen, another image can be consecrated. He made this submission before a five-judge bench led by CJI Ranjan Gogoi which is holding a day-to-day hearing in the Ayodhya title suit case.

The birthplace of Lord Ram at Ayodhya is itself a deity and no one can claim ownership right over the sacred place by merely putting up a structure like a mosque, the senior counsel said.
Vaidyanathan said divinity for the deity is not lost when Justice SA Nazeer, one of the judges, asked him whether a Waqf property vested in God can be alienated. He said, according to Mohammedan law, recognised by courts in India, the Waqf property is not inalienable.
“Mohammedan law in India does not accept the inalienability of a mosque,” he said. But the same is not true in the case of a Hindu deity. To assert his argument that a temple is not an alien-

HC CAN SUSPEND JUDICIAL OFFICER, SAYS APEX COURT

NEWDELHI: The high court on the administrative side (also known as the full court) can suspend a subordinate judicial officer facing disciplinary proceedings of allegations of sexual harassment, a Supreme Court bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan held on Wednesday, clarifying that the HC’s power to control judicial officers under Article 253 of the Constitution was not affected by provisions in the law against sexual harassment, which calls for an enquiry by an internal committee before any action is taken against

the alleged harasser.
The full court of the high court is a panel comprising all sitting judges of the court, which takes administrative decisions such as disciplinary enquiries which includes suspension of trial court judicial officers.
The SC’s verdict came on a petition filed by a judicial officer of Delhi Higher Judicial Services who was placed under suspension by the full court in 2016, on account of allegations of sexual harassment filed by a junior judicial assistant against him. **HTC**

able property, he referred to a Privy Council decision, which has been upheld by the SC. “I am saying there was a temple and no one else can claim the title,” he said. The temple’s sanctity remains even if it is destroyed, the counsel said. This statement was made when another judge, Justice DY Chandrachud, wanted to know how he was stating that if there was a temple at the site, its title can’t be trans-

ferred. “The temple is invested with a character or ‘Res extra commercium’ [things outside commerce],” he replied. This doctrine refers to things that cannot be bought or sold such as public roads, rivers among others.
Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, who opened arguments on behalf of Gopal Singh Visharad, original petitioner in the civil suit before HC, will proceed with his arguments on Thursday.

Rescue chopper crashes in rain-hit Uttarkashi; 3 killed

DEHRADUN: A helicopter engaged in relief and rescue operations in the rain-ravaged Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand crashed on Wednesday killing three persons aboard including two crew members.

A private helicopter with three persons on board crashed near Moldi in the rain-hit Uttarkashi district after getting entangled in cables, Uttarakhand’s director general of police (law and order) Ashok Kumar said. The pilot, co-pilot and a local were killed in the crash, he said. Those killed have been identified as the pilot, captain Lal, co-pilot captain Shailesh and Rajpal Rana, a resident of Kharsali village.

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat in a tweet expressed grief at the deaths in the crash and announced an ex-gratia of ₹15 lakh each to the next of their kin. He also went to the State Emergency Operation Centre to collect details of the crash.

In his condolence message, the CM also prayed for the strength to the family members of the deceased to bear the loss.

Torrential rains in Mori area of the district caused large scale damage demolishing a number of houses early on Sunday, killing 16 people and leaving around half a dozen missing. The helicopter belonging to Heritage Aviation was among the ones engaged in the relief and rescue operations in the affected villages spread over an area of 70 square km of the district.

The crash occurred when the helicopter was returning after distributing relief materials among the affected people, Uttarkashi Disaster Management officer Devendra Patwal said.

TEEN UNDERTRIAL HANGS HIMSELF IN MP PRISON

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BHOPAL/SAGAR: A 19-year-old undertrial, who was lodged in Madhya Pradesh’s Panna jail since August 6 on charges of raping a minor girl, has allegedly committed suicide, police said on Wednesday.

Mukesh Prajapati, the rape accused, allegedly hanged himself with a towel in a bathing area of the jail. In his suicide note, Prajapati accused the girl’s family of falsely implicating him.
Panna’s sub-divisional police officer R S Rawat said Prajapati allegedly raped the 15-year-old girl in late July. “The girl shared her ordeal with her family and committed suicide on August 2. On August 3, the girl’s family lodged a complaint and the police booked Prajapati for rape, abetment to suicide and under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act,” he said. “He was arrested and sent to jail on August 6.”

A magisterial inquiry has been ordered into Prajapati’s alleged suicide.

IL&FS case: Uddhav confident of clean chit to MNS president

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MUMBAI: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray received support from an unexpected quarter a day before he faces the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the IL&FS group’s investment in a real estate development company linked to him, Kohinoor CTN – estranged cousin and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray.

“I do not think anything will come out from the ED inquiry. We will wait for a day or two and see,” he told reporters at his residence, Matoshree, in Mumbai.

Senior Sena leader and former Maharashtra CM Manohar Joshi’s son Unmesh Joshi is a

co-founder of Kohinoor CTNL and was questioned by ED on Monday.

Several of IL&FS’ companies defaulted on their debt payments late last year, bringing to light the crisis at the large infrastructure conglomerate that has since roiled the shadow banking sector and the market.

Raj Thackeray is also a co-founder of the company which received investment worth ₹860 crore from IL&FS, although he exited it in 2008. The company was set up to purchase Kohinoor Mill in central Mumbai in 2005 and is accused of defaulting on the loan from IL&FS. ED issued a summons to Raj Thackeray on August 16.

The Sena chief’s support for

PMLA case: Vadra gets 4 weeks to file rejoinder to ED reply

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NEWDELHI: The Delhi high court on Wednesday granted four weeks’ time to businessman Robert Vadra to file a rejoinder to the Enforcement Directorate’s (ED) reply to his plea seeking quashing of certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

A bench of justices Manmohan and Sangita Dhingra Sehgal listed the matter for further hearing on November 18 after senior advocate KTS Tuls, representing Vadra, sought some time to file the rejoinder to ED’s reply and said the documents were almost ready.

He also submitted that the ED has claimed that Vadra suppressed material facts in his petition before the high court.

However, there was no suppression of facts on his part, the counsel said.

“They do not give the copy of ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report) and then they say I have suppressed facts. They provided me the ECIR copy only after court’s order. I have disclosed all the facts which were in my knowledge. There is no suppression on my part,” said Tuls.

Vadra is facing allegations of money laundering in the purchase of a London-based property at 12, Bryanston Square, worth 1.9 million pounds.

The case is being probed under the provisions of the PMLA.

his cousin came as a surprise to many within political circles, given that the two campaigned bitterly against each other during the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year. While the Sena is a long-time ally of the BJP, Raj Thackeray’s MNS, which did not contest the general elections, campaigned for the Congress-NCP combine.

Several MNS party workers expressed hope that the Sena chief would back his cousin. On his part, the MNS chief has always maintained a personal rapport with the family, despite walking out of the Sena to form his own party in 2005. For instance, in 2012, when Uddhav Thackeray fell ill, Raj Thackeray dropped in to visit him.

Special team begins probe into lapses in Pehlu lynching probe

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ALWAR/JAIPUR: The special investigating team (SIT) formed to probe lapses in the original probe in the Pehlu Khan case began work on Wednesday, gathering records and visiting the spot where the Haryana farmer was lynched by alleged cow vigilantes.

DIG Nitin Deep Blagagn, head of the SIT, visited Behror on Wednesday and spent close to five hours in the police station, collecting records related to the case against nine people, including three minors, on charges of killing Pehlu Khan.

Behror PS falls in the newly created police district of Bhiwadi.

Bhiwadi SP Amandeep Singh Kapoor confirmed that the SIT came to Behror and collected documents related to the case. “It’s an independent team and our job is to cooperate with them,” he said. Blagagn did not share details of the probe.

The team reached Behror around noon and was there until 5 pm. On its way back to Jaipur, it visited the spot on the Jaipur-Delhi national highway where the 55-year-old dairy farmer from Nuh in Haryana was beaten when he was taking two cows and two calves from an animal market in Jaipur to his home with his two sons, on April 1, 2017.

The SIT was formed by the state government on August 16 to

look into lapses in the investigation that led to the acquittal of the six men accused in the case on August 14 by a court that gave them “benefit of the doubt” even as it pointed out glaring problems with the way the probe was conducted.

The acquittal came despite video clips that clearly showed Khan being beaten up. HT has previously reported that two video clips that captured a mob attacking Khan were cleared as genuine by a government forensics lab but not taken into account by the court because contradictory statements by investigating officers undercut their authenticity and raised doubts about the chain of events and probe.

Kerala: In a first, women can drive govt vehicles

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala government on Wednesday decided to appoint women drivers in government departments and public sector undertakings, a post so far reserved for men.

“Directions have given to all government departments and PSUs to make the driver post gender neutral. This has been done in accordance with the state government’s policy on gender equality. This will benefit many women,” said a statement issued by CM Pinarayi Vijayan’s office adding the existing recruitment rules will be amended for this.

In Kerala, barring the State Road Corporation, women are not allowed to apply for driver posts in any other department and many women’s organisations have asked the government to lift this ban. In contrast, women are driving private buses, cars registered with taxi aggregators and autorickshaws in the state. Many organisations like All India Democratic Women’s Association and Mahila Congress have hailed the move. Of 400 autorickshaw drivers here, only 24 are women. **HTC**

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New Tech, Old Worries In Gig Economy

App-based platforms are seen as a big driver of employment in urban India today, but leaving aside the technology, little has changed for those in the informal sector as they still need to rely on piecemeal work with little to fall back on by way of social security, writes Amulya Gopalakrishnan

He may not know the phrase, but the “gig economy” is not a new idea for 33-year-old Syed Javed Moinuddin. He’s hustled and worked at odd jobs all his life. He dropped out of school in class 4, after his father died, and started supporting his mother, from helping at a bakery, to plumbing, to assisting a mason, being a cleaner on a commercial truck and, finally, driving vehicles for a travel and tourism firm in Hyderabad.

Four years ago, he started driving a friend’s car for Uber and Ola. Since last year, he has been driving a leased Ola cab, paying a daily Rs 1,035 to the company. Then, Ola began charging Rs 4 per km for anything over the daily limit of 200 km. “Now, I work at least 15 hours, and after paying the company, fuel and meals, I take home around Rs 500 a day. How does one eat and educate one’s children in this situation?”

These are the talked-up new jobs of the platform economy, where technology companies link those who need services with those who need work. In the West, this app economy has been blamed for destroying stable industries, for turning workers into freelancers and labour transactions into one-night stands, ending the era of workplace benefits and unions. It has also been celebrated as the flexible future of work, where workers will increasingly be independent contractors rather than employees.

But if you look away from the technology — which is just a medium — the world of work hasn’t changed much. “The gig economy is just another way of saying casual labour. In the West, where they have been used to regular jobs, it means something. In India though, formal work is only for a few and 35% of the workforce has always been in casual labour,” says economist Ajit Ghose.

While platform-based



NEW-AGE MILKMAN: Men delivering milk in Mumbai. While the gig economy has been hailed as the future of work, experts have questioned the quality of the jobs it creates

A JOB at HAND

work is very visible in our cities, where you can use an app to find a mechanic or a yoga instructor, or get someone to deliver your food, there are no overall jobs numbers so far. “It’s hard enough to get a measure of the informal economy. There are no reliable numbers for platform-based jobs, even in the US,” says Vidhya Soundararajan, professor at IIM-Bangalore. The US Bureau of Labour Statistics recently said that only 10% of the workforce was in non-traditional, alternative arrangements, down a little from 11% in 2005.

In India, when confronted with dismal employment data, Niti Aayog officials claimed that Uber and Ola alone created over two million jobs that did not show up in the data (an empty claim, since household surveys capture all such jobs). In March, a platform called

BetterPlace pegged the number in India at 1.4 million, totting up Zomato, Ola, Uber, and so on. “In a labour force of nearly 500 million, several thousand jobs, or even one or two million, are not statistically significant yet,” Ghose points out. The entire “personal services” boom, he says, is a function of inequality — as the consumption of the more affluent segment of the population grows, so does the demand

Higher salaries come with higher education. I don’t have any impressive degrees, but I know my *haath ka kaam*. My skills will stay, even if this

company fails
—SANA SIDDIQUI
BEAUTICIAN REGISTERED WITH AN APP-BASED PLATFORM

for these jobs that employ another class of people.

Take the company Urban Clap — one of the most visible platforms in Indian cities — it wants to be the Amazon or Alibaba for services. Urban Clap aims to create a million jobs by 2024, and right now they have about 25,000 professionals across India, in areas like beauty and wellness, home repair and maintenance. “I used to earn Rs 15,000 working at a salon, but now I can make up to Rs 60,000-70,000 a month, and take home around Rs 45,000 after paying for the commission, products, etc,” says Sana Siddiqui. Mother of a 7-year-old, she also values the flexibility of the work as it lets her choose the rhythm of her own day.

In the beauty industry, the middlemen take the bulk of the money without adding value, says Himanshu Arora, vice-president at Urban Clap. “A beautician may do Rs 1 or Rs 1.5 lakh worth of work, but most of it goes to the salon as maintenance or profits. At Urban Clap, we

flip the equation, we take 20% and the rest goes to the professional,” he says.

While Urban Clap started out as a pure aggregator, connecting customers and professionals, it has now realised the value of consistency, and is moving towards a more stable relationship with workers. It trains professionals and standardises operations with its own beauty products in one-use sachets. It also encourages worker loyalty with insurance schemes, says Arora.

At a beautician training

Moinuddin. “Ola says it has a Rs 5 lakh accident cover for drivers, but then they should give us the papers to keep, in case something happens,” he adds.

This depersonalised arrangement works fine for Siddiqui, though. She accepts the precarity and is glad for the autonomy that she now has. “I don’t have any impressive degrees, but I know my *haath ka kaam*, which will stay, even if this company fails,” says Siddiqui. “The gig economy works better for people with special skills,”

According to economist Ajit Ghose, the gig economy is just another way of saying casual labour. In the West — where they have been used to regular jobs — it means something. But in India, formal work is only for a few and 35% of the workforce has always been in casual labour

session, a class of 20 women is being schooled in voice modulation and politeness, on how to pitch products, how to deal with sticky situations like if they drop hot wax on a client. “If there’s a conflict with the client, or if things are getting difficult, then what do you do?” the trainer asks. “Call the helpline,” say all the women in one voice.

Urban Clap, like other such companies, manages professionals and clients through its call centre and app, rather than specific supervisors. Disconnected from each other and without a formal workplace, there is no avenue for collective bargaining by the partner professionals. The recent fracas of Zomato delivery-persons in West Bengal’s Howrah refusing to ferry beef and pork for religious reasons drew much attention, but the main plank of their protest was reportedly about a fall in pay. “I remember some people tried a *hartal* in Gurgaon after a driver died: nothing happened, the movement fizzled out,” says

adds Soundararajan.

“Even as the rate of employment generation fell in the last six years, services employment has gone up, from 127 million in 2011-12 to 144 million in 2017-18,” says economist Santosh Mehrotra. Many new jobs are in this “modern services” sector, in computer services, telecom, financial intermediation, hotels and restaurants. “But what is the quality of these jobs, what are the wages,” he asks. “It is no one’s case that jobs are not being created. It is just that not enough jobs are being created to keep up with the number of people looking for them,” he says.

Meanwhile, Moinuddin also accepts his *naseeb*, but wistfully remembers his days at the tourism company. “Everything was fixed there. There was a steady salary, a weekend. You could call in sick if you had to. Here, it is all up to you, and you work all the time just to subsist. They say you are *khud ka boss*, but what does that even mean?”

Once a temple, always a temple: Ram Lalla counsel

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New Delhi: Arguing that a huge 10th century Vishnu temple pre-existed the Babri mosque that was built either over its ruins or after its demolition, Counsel for Ram Lalla C S Vaidyanathan on Wednesday laid ownership claim over the entire 2.77 acres of disputed land at Ayodhya.

“Once a temple, always a temple,” Vaidyanathan argued before a Constitution bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer. The bench attempted to test the strength of his assertion by interrupting him and asking how was that possible when at the time of demolition of the structure, a mosque was standing at the disputed site.

The senior counsel fell back on archaeological evidence, mentions in Gazettes during British rule and the continuous worship for centuries by Hindus in the faith that Lord Ram was born at that place to argue that Hindus always believed that it was a temple, even after it was demolished for construction of the mosque.

Vaidyanathan said the Allahabad high court, after perusing and scrutinising the entire evidence, had ruled in favour of the deity while dismissing the suits of both Nir-mohi Akhara and Sunni Waqf Board. “However, the HC fell in error by giving relief to Akhara and Waqf Board in the suit filed by the Deity through a representative,” he said. The HC in its September 30, 2010 judgment had divided the 2.77 acres of disputed land into three equal parts and allotted the central part to Ram Lalla, Sita Rasoi and Chabutra to Nir-mohi Akhara and the rest one-third to the Waqf Board.

Joining issue with Akhara laying claim for possession of the entire disputed area, Vaidyanathan said the Akhara by its own admission



Hindus always believed that the disputed structure in Ayodhya was a temple, even after it was demolished for construction of the mosque, Ram Lalla’s counsel told the Supreme Court

was conducting the worshiping of the idols installed since December 22-23, 1949. “Can a worshipper lay claim to the rights and entitlements vested in the Deity? If the Akhara insists on its claim for possession of the entire disputed land, it would lose its role as a devotee,” he said. Akhara was at the best a trustee of the land vested with the Deity, he said and asked, “A trustee cannot seek to encroach into the rights and entitlement of the Deity itself.” He said the HC had clearly upheld the rights and entitlements of the Deity and that the SC should not interfere in its findings backed by evidence — both archaeological and oral as well as documentary.

Unlike Vaidyanathan who appeared for the Deity, counsel for two organisations — Ram Janmasthan Purnaruthan Samiti and Hindu Mahasabha — appeared unprepared to advance arguments before the court. The CJI-led bench asked them to get prepared and address arguments. Original plaintiff Gopal Singh Visharad, who had filed the suit in January 16, 1950, through senior advocates Ranjit Kumar and P S Narasimha began addressing the court with a prayer to protect Hindus’ right to worship at the disputed site and protecting the idol from removal from its place in the temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

Good Governance

Uttarakhand

Shahla Siddiqui

A firm believer in the need for maintaining probity in public life, Trivendra Singh Rawat, chief minister of Uttarakhand, believes that transparent governance alone can effect transformational changes and help state progress. It is this belief that has translated into his government leaving no stone unturned in laying the foundation of



Our vision is to provide a transparent and outcome based governance to the state and bring about transformational changes to help guide Uttarakhand towards sustainable economic development. We have introduced multiple policies for the upliftment of the people and to help propel the state toward the right path of progress.

Trivendra Singh Rawat,
Chief Minister,
Uttarakhand

new work culture in the state. A proactive policy of ‘Zero tolerance’ towards corruption is being pursued to the hilt; so much so that the phrase ‘Zero Tolerance’ has become a buzzword in the popular conscience of the public and administration at large.

Boosting urban facilities
The government believes that the transparency in government serves as a deterrent to corruption and with this objective,



WRITING THE SUCCESS STORY

employees always prefer to work in plains rather than hills. Mindful of this problem and the corrupt practises resulting from it, the government followed a twin pronged strategy. While more and more resources are being allocated to strengthen infra and provide urban facilities in the hilly region; at the same time government passed a transfer act to ensure that those serving in hilly regions for long also get an opportunity to work in plains and vice versa. Consequently, 10% employees of total 300,000 government employees are mandatorily transferred every year between hills and plains. This move and transparency in transfers has led to dismantling of transfer-posting industry prevailing in the state

ever since it was formed. The procedure laid down by the Transfer act has also resulted in stopping of arbitrary transfers and thus employees have better visibility and understanding of the longevity of the tenure. This helps in better planning and ensuring time bound delivery of work and



Ever since Trivendra Singh Rawat took oath as the 8th chief minister of Uttarakhand, his primary focus has been to provide a transparent and outcome-based governance to the state

services in far flung districts and hilly regions of the state. **Bringing in transparency** Mandatory e-auction and e-tender policy was also formulated by the Uttarakhand government which has made it mandatory for every government department to use electronic tender and electronic auction route for selecting successful bidders for every construction or supply contract. This policy has yielded desired results as accurate and timely sharing of information not only aids in good decision making but also helps achieve economic benefit. It is noticed that the reduced uncertainty prevents doubtful actions

on issues at hand and majority of corrupt prac-

infamous NH24 case. Not giving into pressure of powerful bureaucratic lobby, the government



- Proactive policy of ‘Zero tolerance’ towards corruption is being pursued to the hilt
- Transparency in government serves as a deterrent to corruption
- Transfer Act was introduced by the incumbent government with a view of dismantling the transfer posting industry in the state
- 10% employees of total 300,000 government employees are mandatorily transferred every year between hills and plains
- Mandatory e-auction and e-tender policy was also formulated by the Rawat government
- Government has also expanded the scope of Uttarakhand Right to Services Act 2011
- 162 new services added under the Act. Currently, 312 services are covered under this

uses set in when rules are not clear. This is where the government’s clearly defined policy for tenders has helped bring in transparency and clarity in awarding of tenders and contracts.

Building watertight cases
The first decision of Rawat government after assuming power was to act decisively in now

initiated action against powerful IAS and PCS officers accused of being involved in corrupt practises. Similar actions were taken in other high profile cases like corruption in distribution of Scholarships case and Terai Beej Development cases etc. It has been noticed that lack of conviction in corruption cases is another

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

major reason for continuing corruption. Hence government laid emphasis on building watertight cases and several Special Investigation Teams were set up to focus on cases involving ‘high and mighty’. A large number of vigilance enquiries were also launched in cases where reports against erring officials was received with alarming frequency. In short, Trivendra Singh Rawat government, acted in corruption cases with the sole objective of building trust in government and its machinery. Recently it was declared that state government will bring a strong law against *benami* property to control corruption. Through this law, the government would confiscate all the *benami* properties and use them for development of schools and hospitals.

Expediting projects
The government has also expanded the scope of Uttarakhand Right to Services Act 2011 and added 162 new services under it. Around 312 services are covered under this Act. Departmental accountability of officers have been fixed to ensure better compliance. Also, in order to improve work culture, it is the custodian of public funds and its role means that governance must ensure public money is spent for its intended purpose.

Implementation of CM Dashboard to provide real-time performance outcomes of various government departments has also helped in bringing transparency and accountability in the working of the government.

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