

Hardik Patel shifted to hospital on 14th day of quota fast

AHMEDABAD, SEP 7 /-- Patidar leader Hardik Patel was Friday shifted to a hospital after his health deteriorated on the 14th day of his indefinite fast, here, a Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) functionary said. According to PAAS spokesperson Manoj Panara, Hardik agreed to be shifted to Sola Civil Hospital after his supporters requested him to do so in view of his failing health. Following the end of a 24-hour ultimatum by the PAAS to the Gujarat government to begin talks with the protesting

leader, Hardik had Thursday evening stopped intake of water, he said. "Hardik's agitation will continue. But, since his health has deteriorated due to the 14-day fast, we requested him to get hospitalised," Panara told reporters. The fast venue near the city's Another PAAS leader, Dharmik Malaviya, said that Hardik's "fight will continue". Hospital authorities said Hardik was in the ICU and a team of doctors was treating him.

He was shifted to the hospital shortly after senior Patidar community leader

and president of Khodaldham Trust, Naresh Patel, met and advised him to call off the strike or take medical treatment. "Hardik has not taken water since the last 18 hours. I told Hardik that everyone is worried about his health and that he should call off the hunger strike as soon as possible. He told me that he will inform me soon about his decision to call off the fast," said Naresh Patel. During the meeting, Hardik asked Naresh Patel to meet with the Gujarat government and hold talks on three

of the former's demands. "Hardik asked me to be a mediator. As per his wish, representatives of Khodaldham, along with of another Patidar body Umiya Dham Sansthan, will try to talk with the government to break the deadlock. Our priority is to see that Hardik's health does not deteriorate," Naresh Patel said. "If needed, we will pressure the government to accept Hardik's demands. Though the issue of reservation may take longer, we hope that the state government shows a positive attitude to-

wards the two other demands," he said. Hardik went on the indefinite fast on August 25 demanding reservations in government jobs and education for the Patidar community and a waiver for farm loans. Later, he added another demand that his close aide Alkesh Kathirya, who was recently arrested in a 2015 sedition case by the city Crime Branch, be released. The government had, in the last 14 days, not made any attempt to negotiate with Hardik, his supporters claimed. (PTI)

ing to only one. "We have agreed to take it down to zero level. We are alert at the border so that it (cattle smuggling) does not take place. This is also impacting the economy of Bangladesh and we have seen that we are almost self-sufficient with regard to cattle. We also want that this should completely stop at the border and having that objective in mind we are closely working with BSF," Islam said.

However, BSF DG Sharma was at variance with the BGG DG on this and said, "I am very happy to say that this year there has been not a single death (of any Bangladeshi) on this border." The two forces also decided to open five more 'crime free' zones on the border, on the lines of the one that was launched along the India-Bangladesh frontier in March in West Bengal. A crime-free zone is a selected border location that is clear of illegal, anti-social and criminal activities by integrating the efforts of the BSF and the BGB, with assistance from the district administration, NGOs and border population of both the countries, the BSF officer explained. (PTI)

Both the chiefs, at the end of their bi-annual talks here, said incidents of cattle smuggling across this border have gone down over the years. "Cattle smuggling (incidents), off late, has come down. There are many reasons for this, one being that we are more vigi-

lance. Another is that there is less demand on the other side (Bangladesh) as they have started dairy farming, and animal husbandry is a very important economic activity now and lots of loans are being given in Bangladesh (to people who want to rear cattle). "I am not saying it has been completely stopped but since ages the local population is dependent on that and there are a number of riverine and 'nallah' gaps on that border and it is comparatively easy to push animals and receive them on the other side," Sharma said. So, physically at times, curbing the cattle smuggling becomes very difficult, he said. The visiting BGG chief also agreed and said the number of killings of Bangladeshis people at the hands of the BSF along the 4,096-kms shared border has come down as a number of them were involved in cattle smuggling. "Bangladesh has more concern about border killings and this is mostly happening with those who were associated with cattle smuggling. Having understood that, both the forces have worked together on this front... we were able to take down (the figure of border



Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) leader Hardik Patel being taken to Sola Civil hospital in Ahmedabad on Friday.

HC disapproves practice of people writing directly to PM, Prez

MUMBAI, SEP 7 /-- The Bombay High Court deprecated Friday the practice of people writing directly to the prime minister, the president or chief minister making wide allegations against certain persons instead of following due process of law. A division bench of Justices S S Shinde and Mridula Bhaskar said this tendency of bypassing procedure laid down in the law and writing directly to top constitutional functionaries seems to be aimed at seeking publicity. The bench made the observation while hearing petitions pertaining to the January 2018 violence at Koregaon-Bhima village in Pune district. While one petition filed by Pune resident Satish Gaikwad, who claims to be a victim of the violence, sought an inquiry by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the case, another plea by social activist Abdul Malik Chaudhary demanded a state CID probe. Referring to Chaudhary's plea, the bench noted earlier the petitioner had written a letter to the prime minister, president of India and Maharashtra chief minister. "In the letter, the petitioner has made wide allegations against several persons and has in fact even involved a neighbouring country. This is very unfortunate that people write letters to prime minister and president instead of following due process of law," Justice Shinde said. The law permits a person to approach the police or a magistrate to lodge a complaint and get their grievances addressed, the court noted. "It seems like these persons only want publicity and popularity," Justice Shinde said. The bench adjourned hearing on the petitions till September 17 after observing that a similar plea pertaining to the June arrest of five activists for their alleged links with Maoists would be heard on September 12. The police had arrested activists Sudhir Dhawale, Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Shoma Sen and Mahesh Raut in June while probing the alleged Maoist connection with the 'Elgar Parishad' conference held in Pune on December 31 last year. "Inflammatory" speeches delivered at the event had led to the violence at Koregaon-Bhima the next day, the police had alleged. On August 28, the Maharashtra Police arrested five more left-wing activists - Vernon Gonsalves, Arun Ferreira, Varavara Rao, Sudha Bharadwaj and Gautam Navalkha - in multi-city raids for their alleged Maoist links. The five activists are under house arrest till September 12 according to an order of the Supreme Court. (PTI)



Members of the transgender community sharing happiness after the Supreme Court judgment which lifted the ban on homosexuality, in Thiruvananthapuram.

WCD calls for nominations for 2018 'Nari Shakti Puraskar'

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 /-- The Women and Child Development Ministry has invited nominations for this year's 'Nari Shakti Puraskar', the highest civilian honour for women in its 14th year. The award is conferred on those exceptional women and institutions who have been working incessantly towards the cause of women empowerment. The president confers the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' on International Women's Day every year. Now in its 14th year, the award recognises the par excellence contributions of women in society, celebrate those who have carved niches for themselves in the community and have also ensured women's financial stability. "We have been conferring the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' since 1999 and have collated an extensive database of zealous women achievers, who rise above barriers, venture into unexplored sectors and make a lasting contribution to society," said Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi in a statement. "This year too, I urge those women and institutions to come forward and nominate themselves, who have made outstanding contribution towards upliftment of women in society," Gandhi said.

The nominations for the 2018 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' are open till October 31. The desired documents for nomination are to be submitted (0) the deputy secretary (0) the WCD, Room No- 632, 6th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi- 110001, the statement said.

Nominants are requested to read the award guidelines at: <http://www.wcd.nic.in/award>. Self nominations for the award are also considered. The selection committee may at its discretion also consider individuals other than those recommended by the state governments and central ministries, it said. "A screening committee will scrutinise and short-list the nominations received for the awards and a selection committee constituted for the purpose will then consider the achievements of institutions and individuals nominated or recommended for the Awards by the prescribed authority," the statement added. The outstanding contributions in the field are of primary consideration in identifying the recipients of awards, it said. The selection of the awardees are made by the National Selection Committee which takes into account the recommendations of the screening committee. (PTI)

CBI court rejects Indrani Mukerjea's bail plea

Mumbai, Sep 7 /-- A CBI court in Mumbai rejected Friday a bail application of Sheena Bora murder case accused Indrani Mukerjea. Mukerjea had applied for bail in August, citing ill-health and a "threat to her life in the prison. The court, however, rejected her plea, saying she would be much safer inside the jail than outside. Judge JC Jagdale also noted that her claims of ill-health were exaggerated. The court took note of the Central Bureau of Investigation's submission that Mukerjea had been kept in a secure cell and the prison premises are guarded round-the-clock. Releasing her would be prejudicial to the prosecution's case, the agency had said. In her bail plea, Indrani had cited an incident in April this year when she had to be admitted to a hospital. When prison authorities claimed it to be a case of drug overdose, she alleged that someone might have tampered with her prescription medications.

The CBI, opposing her plea, argued that she often interacted with her associates in the court after hearings and one of them might have given her the pills which caused the illness. The jail authorities and doctors at the government-run J J Hospital can provide her adequate medical care, it said. Mukerjea, who allegedly made all efforts to keep her daughter Sheena Bora's death hidden for more than three years, deserved no leniency, the agency told the court. Sheena Bora (24) was allegedly killed on April 24, 2012. The crime came to light after Mukerjea's driver Shyamvar Rai, arrested in another case in August 2015, spilled the beans.

Mukerjea, her former husband Sanjeev Khanna, and Rai were arrested for alleged murder, and subsequently her current husband and media baron Peter Mukerjea was arrested for allegedly being part of the conspiracy. According to the CBI, financial dispute was one of the main reasons for the alleged murder. (PTI)

No big infiltration from Bangladesh into India: BGG DG

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 /-- There is no large-scale infiltration or migration of people from Bangladesh into India as residents of that country now "enjoy a very good life" and the few who cross-over do so due to old cultural and family ties, the chief of Bangladesh's border guarding force said Friday here. Visiting DG of the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) Maj Gen Shafeenul Islam said they have intercepted only about 100 such crossers in the last six months along the 4,096-km border that the two countries share. "There is no large-scale infiltration from Bangladesh. As you know (that the development curve in Bangladesh... we are having a GDP of 7.1 and the people enjoy a very good life now in Bangladesh. So, there is hardly any migration in an organised way in large-scale," Islam told reporters at a BSF camp here.

He held a press conference with his counterpart BSF Director General (DG) K K Sharma at the end of a six-day visit and bi-annual meeting between the two sides here. The people (Bangladeshis) that are mostly crossing, the BGG DG said, because of the cultural ties and historic rela-

tions that they have just across the border. "Many of the relatives are there (across the border in India) and they are still staying and they are visiting in that connection. So, mostly the illegal crossing is taking place due to these reasons. But, they come back after visiting their friends and family who are still living across the border. We have found out that this is mostly the case," he said. Border Security Force (BSF) DG Sharma, on his part, said they have apprehended a total of 1,522 illegal Bangladeshi migrants this year till now and they were subsequently handed over to the local police. Out of these 166 were inadvertent crossers while some were victims of human trafficking, the BSF DG said. "We are sensitising our troops to differentiate between the victim and the perpetrator of the crime of human trafficking," Sharma said.

Both the chiefs, at the end of their bi-annual talks here, said incidents of cattle smuggling across this border have gone down over the years. "Cattle smuggling (incidents), off late, has come down. There are many reasons for this, one being that we are more vigi-



Congress workers took out a rally protesting against Rafale deal, in Kolkata on Friday.

DMK to support Congress-sponsored Bharat Bandh against fuel price hike

CHENNAI, SEP 7 /-- The DMK Friday announced it would extend its support to the Congress party's nationwide shutdown on September 10 over rising fuel prices and said it would play an active part in making it a success. Conveying his party's "whole-hearted support," party president MK Stalin said. Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) would "enthusiastically take part and cooperate to make the shutdown a complete success." The DMK chief urged all sections of people, including government employees, teachers, traders and state transport corporation workers, to voluntarily support the bandh to "teach the BJP government a fitting lesson." It was a matter of concern and anguish that fuel prices were rising fast to touch the Rs 100 per litre mark, he said in a statement, adding that even when

crude prices fell, the Centre had not passed on the benefit to the people. Accusing the BJP government of not being bothered about the public or their purchasing power, he alleged that the Centre did not take any steps to rein in the "dangerous and unprecedented" fuel price rise and stop the slide of the rupee against the dollar. The DMK has been Marketing Companies of putting on hold the hike in fuel prices only during elections in states favourable to the BJP and increasing it after conclusion of polls.

He said the government has "pushed the people to the streets" to protest against the price rise. The Congress had Thursday called a Bharat Bandh to protest against the rising fuel prices. It had said that the nationwide shutdown has the support of most of the opposition parties. (PTI)

These people (officials) do not want to work. What is to be done," the bench asked and added "You (Centre) come out with grand plans but nobody implements them." It said "we require all the states and UTs to formulate a plan of action, if not already done, on or before October 31, 2018. The plan of action will include identification of homeless persons, provision of common identification, nature

of shelter required etc." The bench directed that this information be provided to the Centre by first week of November. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the petitioners, told the bench that government officials who were part of the committee were not attending the meetings of the panels in some states and in Rajasthan, the principal secretary had also not attended the meeting.

The bench took strong note of this and directed that the members of the committee would have to attend all the meetings of the committee. At the outset, the ASG, appearing for the ministry, told the bench that three meetings of the committee have been convened in Delhi, Karnataka and

Puducherry while in Bihar and West Bengal, two meetings have been held. In 23 states and UTs, one meeting of the committee has been held. The ASG said the states and UTs would have to notify it and take appropriate steps to deal with the issue.

Initially, the court slapped a cost of Rs one lakh on Haryana, but later the counsel appearing for the state told the bench that they have complied with the court's order. When the court perused the document handed over by the counsel for Haryana, it said that the name of civil society member have not yet been notified.

The bench hereafter enhanced the amount to cost imposed on Haryana to

Rs five lakh. The Centre had earlier told the court that several states have not yet notified the names of members to deal with the issues of implementation of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM).

The apex court had expressed shock that welfare schemes were not being effectively implemented even after spending thousands of crores of rupees on them.

The petitioners had referred to a report of the apex court-appointed committee headed by former Delhi High Court judge Justice Kailash Gambhir and said a number of shelter homes in some of the states were not less than what was required. (PTI)

People without shelter can't be left to fend for themselves: SC

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 /-- Taking the government to task on the issue of urban homeless, the Supreme Court Friday said the people without shelter cannot be "left to fend for themselves" as there were "grand plans" which were not implemented. Noting that housing was a basic need for everyone especially in view of the approaching winter, the apex court slammed 12 states and union territories for not notifying the names of civil societies members in their committees to take care of the needs of the urban homeless, while slapping fines on them ranging from Rs 1-5 lakh. It observed that submissions given on behalf of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on the issue depicted a

"sorry state of affairs" as these states and the UTs had not yet notified the names, despite the court's order to this effect on March 22. A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta slapped a cost of Rs one lakh each on nine states and UTs of Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Goa, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Odisha and Tripura, while a cost of Rs five lakh was imposed on Haryana.

The bench, however, did not impose cost on Kerala and Uttarakhand considering the "peculiar circumstances" in these two states due to the natural disasters there. "We make it clear that unless necessary steps are taken, the government has no option but to impose

heavy cost particularly since winters are coming and persons without shelter cannot be left to fend for themselves," the bench said. "Housing is a basic need for everybody. When there is a policy of the Union of India, it has to be implemented by all," the apex court said and directed

these states and UTs to deposit the cost within three weeks to the Supreme Court Legal Services Authority. It directed these states and UTs to issue notification in this regard within two weeks. When the issue of inaction by several states and UTs on notifying the names of civil society members in



the committees, the bench asked Additional Solicitor General (ASG) A N S Nadkarni, "Why are they not doing it?" The bench observed that winter season was approaching and if necessary steps were not taken by the states and UTs, the homeless people would have to suffer a lot.

"These people (officials) do not want to work. What is to be done," the bench asked and added "You (Centre) come out with grand plans but nobody implements them." It said "we require all the states and UTs to formulate a plan of action, if not already done, on or before October 31, 2018. The plan of action will include identification of homeless persons, provision of common identification, nature