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#### **AMU VC meets** Rajnath amid ongoing row over Jinnah portrait



NEW DELHI MAY 9 /... NEW DELHI, MAY 9 /--/ Aligarh Muslim University Vice Chancellor Tariq Mansoor today met Home Minister Rajnath Singh to Minister Rajnath Singh to discuss issues concerning the premier academic institution, engulfed in controversy over a portrait of Muhammad Ali Jinnah on its premises, an official said. Singh assured Manssoor of all help from the Central government in restoring normaley in the university, the official privy to the meeting said. Manssoor storing normalcy in the university, the official privy to the meeting said. Mansoor later told reporters that the meeting was fixed long ago and had nothing to do with the current controversy. "I have requested the home minister to send Central government officials for the recruitment of students in central services like the engineering service," he said. The vice chancellor said the portrait of the Pakistan founder had been hanging in the AMU students' union office since 1938 and it was in the AMU students' union office since 1938 and it was a non-issue. BJP MP Satish Gautam had written a letter to Mansoor objecting to the portrait, triggering a row that led to two youths being arrested in connection with

that led to two youths being arrested in connection with incidents of violence and exams being postponed to May 12. The vice chancellor had yesterday told students on a sit-in over the issue to get back to their studies. In an open letter, he urged them "not to fall into the trap of certain forces which are bent upon destroying the image of our alma mater and are playing with your bright future." The university has formed a 16-member coordination committee of sity has formed a 16-member coordination committee of senior faculty members to talk with the protesting stu-dents. Several AMU students. Several AMU students are on an indefinite 'dharna' after a clash with the police on May 2 when they were demanding action against right-wing protesters who had entered the campus, shouting slogans. They are asking for a judi-cial probe into the "police inaction" and the manner in which the row erupted after the BJP MP objected to the

the BJP MP objected to the portrait. Meanwhile, Aligarh District Magistrate Chandra Bhushan Singh said action will taken against those involved in the AMU campus will taken against those involved in the AMU campus to the contrained of Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The magisterial probe which is currently being conducted has identified all those who indulged in hooli-senism and violence in all ganism and violence in all ganism and violence in all the incidents which took place between May 2-8, Aligarh District Magistrate Chandra Bhushan Singh said. "Strong and exemplary action will be taken against those involved in the vio-lence," he said in a state-ment. (PTI)

## Modi attacks Rahul over his ready-to-be-PM remark

Modi's attack on Gandhi at his ral-lies in Bangarpet and Chikkamagaluru came a day after the Congress president said he was ready to occupy the prime minister's post if his party emerged as the largest party in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, making known his ambition for the topmost executive post. The naamdar who does not have confidence in his alli-ance partners...who doesn't care for the Congress' internal democracy, whose arroagence has reached cloud the Congress' internal democracy, whose arrogance has reached cloud seven, and is declaring himself that he would be the prime minister in 2019. will the country ever accept such an immature 'namadra 'leader?' Modi told election rallies. 'Yesterday in Karnataka and India's politics something happened. All of a sudden one person came and he declared....(he) did not care about others who are standing in the line. (He) did not care about others who are standing in the line.



prime minister," the prime minis said during the final lap of his ca prime minister," the prime minister said during the final lap of his campaign blitz in poll-bound Karnataka, where voting will be held on May 12. He asked the gathering whether it was not a reflection of the Congress presidents arrogance. He also wanted to know whether it did not show the state of minister and democracy in the Consonands of alleged fake voter ID cards and a lakh Form-6 (voter registration norm) applications for the inclusion and transfer of voters from a flat here, Modi said, "Looking at defeat in front of them, as their tricks did not work, they have started a new game. "I want to tell the people to be alert till May 12 (the day of voting)... The Congress shamelessly is using undemocratic means." Citing media reports, he alleged that by using thus-ands of fake voter ID cards, the Con-

sands of fake voter ID cards, the Con gress was attempting to win the elec-tion.

ı. "People of Karnataka will not for "People of Karnataka will not for-give the Congress for this.. One is caught.. don't know how many such sins they have committed," he added. About attempts to forge an anti-BJP front, Modi said "big, big meetings are happening, big, big stalwarts are meeting to remove him from power. "but keeping them all in the dark rel of no-confidence within the (proposed) coalition?" he

asked.
In his rally at Chikkamagaluru, Modi said with great difficulty, the Congress had secured 40-odd Lok Sabha seats and lost elections in most of the states. "But look at their arrogance, it is on cloud seven. He (Rahul Gandhi) is coming here and claim-

cloud seven. He (Rahull Gam-dhi) is coming here and claim-ing that he will become prime arroganater in 2019. If this is not arroganate what it is." This (Gandhi) family does not have anything to do with democracy... So it keeps look in thing related to democracy; he said. Modi also attacked the Congress for "defaming" institutions such as the CAG, CBI, NIA, ED and RBI by calling hem wrong, and saying only the Con-gress is right and trying to "break the morale" of the Army and security forces by raising questions about them. "You might have seen in the last few elections the Congress is losing, and instead of accepting defeat by few elections the Congress is losing, and instead of accepting defeat by following democratic principles, they relying by blaming EVMs, "he said. He said the Congress had defamed the Election Commission of India that is respected globally for its work. "They have started defaming the EC after they started seeing defeat.

Enther the EVM was wrong the

they started seeing defeat.

For them, the EVM are wrong, the Congress right, the Election Commission wrong, the Congress right, the Congress right, the said. The Congress is playing a dangerous game and I want to alert our citizens. The Congress former president (Sonia Gandhi) and son (Rahul Gandhi) from the time they got bail in Konja Corros exam (National Herald case), from then on they have started attacking the country's judiciary." Modi said. (PTI)

Congress supporters at a road corner meeting addressed by AICC president Rahu Gandhi at Shivaji Nagar as part of the Karnataka assembly election campaign ir Bengaluru om Wednesday

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#### No contest with BJP on corruption in K'taka, cong will win hands down: Rahul

NEW DELHI, MAY 9 /--/ Congress president Rahul Gandhi today said there was "no contest" between his 'no contest' between his party's government in Karnataka and the previous BJP regime in the southern state as regards corruption, adding that the saffron party's rule 'wins hands down'. Gandhi took to Twitter to draw a comparison between the Congress government in Karnataka and the previous BJP regime (2008-13) in the state, with the help of figures to show that his party's state, with the help of tig-ures to show that his party's rule was better on all counts. "In Karnataka, when it comes to corruption, it's a "No Contest" as this graphic shows. The BJP wins hands down! (sic)," he tweeted, along with two sets of graph-ics.

"top job creator" in the country, the Anna Bhagya scheme of the party's government in Karnataka was ernment in Karnataka was feeding four crore people, the Ramthal Marol, Asia's largest drip irrigation project, and the world's largest solar power park were built by the party and that it had also waived the loans of 22 lakh farmers, amounting to Rs 8,165 crore, in the southern state. On the other hand, the graphics pointed out that during the BJP rule in Karnataka, chief minisout that during the BJP rule in Karnataka, chief minister BS Yeddyurappa was jailed in connection with the denotification scam, India "largest political poaching scandal" - "Operation Kamala" - was unearthed during the saffron party's rule, it had pioneered "cashless corruption" by taking bribes in cheques, former

state minister Krishnaiah

state minister Krishnaiah
Setty was jailed in a land
grab case, while the Reddy
brothers were jailed in a Rs
35,000-crore mining scam.
Who works better? Congress government of 201318 or BJP government of
2008-13. Numbers speak for
themselves. Choose right.
Vote Congress, the graphics
said. The second set of
graphics claimed that while
the Congress government,
led by Chief Minister
Siddaramaiah, had created
53 lakh jobs in Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, had created 53 lakh jobs in Karnataka, only 26.64 lakh jobs were created during the BJP re-gime. It also claimed that while the Congress had given loans worth Rs 12,000 crore to farmers and com-pleted 42.3 kms of "Namma Metro", the BJP had sanc-tioned farm loans worth Rs 6,560 crore and completed

only 6.7 kms of the metro

Congress had built 15.5 lakh houses as a gainst the 11.3 lakh during the BJP regime and the budget outlay of the current government was Rs 2,09.181 crore in 2018, while in 2013, it was Rs 1,17,005 crore under the BJP It also claimed that the Congress's cachierometric was respectively. claimed that the Congress's achievements were more than those of the BJP as regards creation of MBBS seats, road construction, grant of scholarships to OBCs and building toilets. The 224-member Karnataka Assembly goes to the polis on May 12 and the results will be declared on May 15. The Congress is seeking to retain power in the southern state, while the BJPs aim is to unseat the Congress in Karnataka. (PTI)

#### $SC seeks \, names \, of \, officials \, posted \, in \, Kasauli \, \underline{during} \, illegal \, construction$

NEW DELHI, MAY 9 /-/ The Supreme Court today sought to know from the Himachal Pradesh government the names and designations of officials who were posted at Kasuli when the unauthor is deconstructions came up there. The apex court also asked the state to apprise it about the specific steps taken to ensure that no unauthorised construction was being carried out in the entire state and how it proposed to tackle the issue that the state of the sta the debris of unauthorised constructions which were demolished in several hotels at Kasuali. 'Unless you take action and remove four-five people from service, nothing will fall in line,' the bench told the advocate general of Himachal Pradesh. The apex court asked the state to file a status report on the questions raised by it and posted it for hearing in the first week of August.

The Supreme Court had earlier termed as very unfortunate the killing of a woman officer, who was supervising

demolition of an unauthorised construction, allegedly by a Kasauli hotel owner saying it was due to the "non-imple mentation" of law.

mentation" of law.

Assistant Town and Country Planner Shail Bala Sharma had on May 1 gone to supervise the demolition of unauthorised construction at Kassulis Narayani Guest House where its owner Vijay Singh had allegedly shot at her. She later succumbed to injuries, while another government official accompanying her had sustained serious injuries. The apex court had pulled up the Himachal Pradesh government and

court had pulled up the Himachal Pradesh government and said it cannot "encourage" people who break the law and carry out illegal constructions while asking it to ensure implementation of the law on illegal constructions.

Terming the Kasauli incident as a "huge problem" for the future, the appea court had asked the state government to apprise it about the status of probe in the case and the steps taken to ensure that no unauthorised constructions were carried out in the entire state.

### $SC\,pulls\,up\,ASI\,for\,failing\,to\,take\,steps\,to\,protect\,Taj\,Mahal$

NEW DELHI, MAY 9 /--/
The Supreme Court today came down heavily on the Archeological Survey of India for its failure to take appropriate steps to protect and preserve of the iconic Taj Mahal. The apex court also expressed concern over the historic monument being infected by insects and asked the authorities, including ASI, what steps they have taken to prevent this. "This situation would not have arisen if the ASI would have

arisen II the accordance its job.
Weare surprised with the way the ASI is defending itself. You (Centre) please consider if the ASI is needed there or not," a bench of Justine and Deepak there or not," a bench of Jus-tices M B Lokur and Deepak Gupta told Additional Solici-tor General ANS Nadkarni,

who was appearing for the Centre. Nadkarni told the bench that the Ministry of bench that the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) was considering the apex court's suggestion to appoint international experts to look into the issue of pro-tection and preservation of Taj Mahal.

The counsel for ASI told The counsel for ASI told the court that the problem of insects was due to stagnation of the water of river Yamuna. The top court has been monitoring developments in the area to protect the monument, built by Mughalemperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his wife Mughalemperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal in 1631. The mausoleum is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The apex court had on May 1 expressed concern over the

Changing colour of the Taj Mahal apparently due to pol-lution and rapped the govern-ment say ing "per haps you don't care". Observing that the monument had earlier turned yellow and was now going brownish and greenish in colour, the apex court had pulled up the authorities for not taking appropriate steps to messevye and not notest it it. not taking appropriate steps to preserve and protect it. It had asked the Centre to take the assistance of experts from India and abroad to first assess the damage and take steps to restore the 17th century white marble mausoleum.

leum.
Wile perusing the recent pictures, shown by petitioner and environmentalist M C Mehta, the bench had
observed, "this is now becoming the eighth wonder of

the world". The petitioner had said the authorities have not complied with the apex not complied with the apex court's directions due to which the condition of the monument has become "hor-rible". He had said that be-sides change in its colour, there were patches on the marbles and recently a mina-ret had also fallen down.

ret had also fallen down. The bench had observed that heads of countries and several dignitaries, including the Canadian Prime Minister, visiting India go to see the Tajandthe court assumes that the authorities would want to preserve it. The petitioner had told the bench that Taja Mahal was in 'shambles', Yamuna water in Agra has finished, the apex court orders were being flouted andencroachments and even

ere. He had also raked up the He had also raked up the issue of security in Taj Mahal and said that CCTV cameras werenot working and alleged that the "Government of India and the state government was not doing anything except making money from the monument".

reprimaring money from the monument.

In March this year, the apex court had asked Uttar Pradesh government toplace before it a draft of vision document on protection and preservation of the Taj and the environment in the Taj Trapezium Zone, which is an area of about 10,400 sq km spread over the districts of Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras and Etah in Uttar Pradesh and Bharatpur in Rajasthan. (PTI)