

## NGT raps Kerala over waste disposal, demands action plan in a month

**NEW DELHI, AUG 31** /- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has slammed the Kerala government for its "indifference and insensitivity" to the serious issue of disposal of waste in the state and directed it to prepare an action plan within a month.

The tribunal made it clear that if the stakeholders fail to submit the action plan within the period stipulated, the appropriate stringent and punitive action would be taken against the heads of the departments of the state government, municipal corporation, municipal council and gram panchayats. A bench of Justice S P Wangdi and expert member Nagin Nanda said the records reveal the reluctance and the lackadaisical manner in which the state government and municipal corporations have been responding to the various directions issued in the matter.

"The corporation appears still to be groping with the task of collecting data of generation of sewage within the municipal limits. We have

not yet been informed on the progress made with regard to the sewage treatment plant (STP) proposed to be set up by the corporation. All the above reflect the indifference and insensitivity on the part of Kerala and the municipal bodies to deal unconditionally with the serious question of disposal of wastes, be it the solid waste and other conglomeration of waste, which cumulatively cause serious threat to the health of the people," the bench said.

The tribunal directed the state government to prepare a comprehensive action plan in consultation with all local bodies with special focus on the major waste generating areas within one month. "The action plan shall take into consideration the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, Bio-Medical Rules, 2016 and Schedule-IV to the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with specific reference to a comprehensive domestic and industrial liquid waste to common STPs," the bench said.

## Delhi CM announces doorstep delivery of various govt services from Sept 10

**NEW DELHI, AUG 31** /- Delhiites will get doorstep delivery of various government services, including driving licence, marriage certificate and ration cards from September 10, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said today. Kejriwal made the announcement on Twitter, terming it as "revolution in governance" which would be "big blow to corruption". The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government had proposed doorstep delivery of services earlier this year and had accused Lieutenant Governor (LG) Anil Bajaj of stalling it. However, a five-judge Constitution Bench had on July 4 laid down broad parameters for the government of the national capital, paving the way for the government to proceed with the scheme. "Doorstep delivery of services. A revolution in governance. A big blow to

corruption. Super convenience for people. Happening for the first time anywhere in the world. Starts from 10th Sept (sic)," the chief minister tweeted. As per the plan, the AAP government will provide 100 services such as caste certificate, driving licence, ration card at the doorstep of people. The services will be provided for an extra fee of Rs 50. Last month, the government had approved Administrative Reforms proposal to give the work to a firm, which will be an intermediary agency, to execute the project in the national capital. The government has claimed that no citizen of Delhi would have to stand in queues for the services listed under the scheme. According to the plan, Mobile Sahayaks (facilitators) will be hired through the agency that would set up call centres. Various certificates such as caste, new water connection, income,

driving licence, ration card, domicile, marriage registration, duplicate RC and change of address in RC, among others, will be covered under the scheme. If a person wants to apply for driving licence, he or she would have to call a designated call centre and give the details. Thereafter, the agency would assign a Mobile Sahayak, who will visit the applicant's residence and get the required details and documents.

The applicant will have to visit the MLO office once for a driving test. In November last year deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had said that the Mobile Sahayak would be equipped with all necessary equipment such as biometric devices and a camera, adding that for doorstep delivery of services, the applicant would be charged a nominal fee.



Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi presenting a memento after dedicating a computer centre at Gura Parkrishan Public School at Tilak Nagar in New Delhi on Friday.

## State Notes

### Amethi village to go digital from today

**AMETHI, AUG 31** /- Pindara Thakur village under covered Amethi parliamentary constituency of Congress president Rahul Gandhi would go fully digital from Saturday, September 1, having access to 266 government services at the click of a mouse. Located in Musafirkhana tehsil of the district, the village would go digital under the Digital India Programme of the Union government. The village would be digitally linked to the outside world in a formal ceremony on September 1 by Union minister Sunil Inani, dubbed as Gandhi's arch-rival, working overtime to unseat him in the next Lok Sabha elections. She had fought the 2014 Lok Sabha elections from Amethi but had lost to Rahul by over 1 lakh votes.

### Cong stages walkout in UP Assembly

**LUCKNOW, AUG 31** /- Congress members today accused the Uttar Pradesh government of not being serious in providing employment to youths and staged a walkout in the state Assembly as a mark of protest. The matter was raised during Question Hour by Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Ajay Kumar Lalit who sought to know from the government as to how many jobs were provided to youths in the past financial year. Labour minister Swami Prasad Maurya in his reply said that in 2017-18, as many as 63,152 youths were provided jobs in private sector through employment fairs.

### Man ends life after killing wife, 2 minor daughters

**MUMBAI, AUG 31** /- A 32-year-old man has allegedly committed suicide after strangulating his wife and two minor daughters to death in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, police said today. The incident took place on Thursday night in Phulambri town, police said. "The man, Krishna Deore, killed his wife Sukanya and two daughters - Suvarna (6 years) and Hindavi (4 years) - over some domestic issue," superintendent of police (Aurangabad Rural), Anant Singh, said. After killing them, Deore hanged himself from the ceiling fan at his residence, he said. "The exact motive behind the murders and his suicide is not yet known. An offence has been registered at Wadod Bajar police station and a probe is on," he said.

### Woman commits suicide after police refuse to file FIR

**SHAHJAHANPUR, AUG 31** /- A 28-year-old woman, who was allegedly raped by a man, died after she set herself ablaze in a police station here following which three policemen were suspended, an official said today. The woman's husband Ramvir has alleged that she was upset after police refused to file an FIR in the case and they were exerting pressure on the victim to reach a compromise with the accused, "Vinay Kumar. On August 29, the woman was rushed to a district hospital, where she succumbed to injuries, the official said.

## Explosives haul: Maharashtra ATS gets custody of accused till Sept 4

**MUMBAI, AUG 31** /- The Maharashtra ATS today told a sessions court here that the suspected right-wing activist Avinash Pawar had carried out reconnaissance of several persons who were on the target list of a radical Hindu group for speaking against the religion.

Pawar, linked to the extremist group, was arrested by the state's ATS on August 24 in a case pertaining to seizure of explosives and arms from several parts of Maharashtra early this month. He

was the fifth person to be arrested in connection with the case. He was produced before the sessions court today where ATS sought additional 14-day custody stating that the agency had to interrogate him to ascertain the role of each accused and to find out if more persons were involved. Additional sessions judge Vinod Padalkar remanded Pawar to ATS custody till September 4. The ATS told the court that Pawar had carried out reconnaissance of

several people including Mukta Dabholkar, daughter of slain rationalist Narendra Dabholkar, social activist Shyam Manoj, NCP MLA Jitendra Avhad and a few others who were on his target list for speaking against Hindu religion. The court, however, pointed out that there were several loose ends in the ATS case and said that the agency had not submitted all details pertaining to the investigation in the remand application or the case diary. "Do not come to the court half

heartedly. The court cannot compromise with person's rights," Judge Padalkar said.

The ATS had arrested four persons - Vaibhav Raut, Sudhanva Gondhalekar, Shrawan Kulkarni on August 10 and Shrikant Pangarkar on August 19 - and booked them under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Indian Penal Code, Explosive Substances Act and Explosives Act. The four accused are in ATS custody till September 4.

## Rajnath disapproves JK BJP chief's comments on ex-Guv Vohra

**NEW DELHI, AUG 31** /- Union home minister Rajnath Singh today disapproved the remarks of the BJP Jammu and Kashmir chief criticising N Vohra, saying the former Governor had performed with distinction and maintained the dignity of the Constitutional post. In a statement, Singh said the Governor's post is constitutional and has its own dignity and it is expected from a governor that he or she performs impartially without fear and favour. "N Vohra was an outstanding officer. As a governor, he performed with distinction and maintained the Constitutional dignity," he said. The home minister said people of Jammu and Kashmir appreciated the role of Vohra as a Governor for 10 years. Singh's statement came after president of BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit Ravinder Raina was

heard purportedly saying in a video that the party did not want to continue with Vohra and "our own man" has now been appointed as a new Governor replacing Vohra. Raina has also allegedly said that Vohra used to tom-tom his own achievements. The home minister said the new governor Satya Pal Malik has a long political career and he was appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind. "I am sure people of Jammu and Kashmir will be benefited from his (Malik's) long experience," he said. Malik was appointed as governor of Jammu and Kashmir on August 21 replacing Vohra. Malik has been the first career politician to be appointed as the governor of the respective state after Karan Singh, who held the post from 1965 to 1967. Vohra was a former Union home and defence secretary besides being a principal secretary to the former Prime Minister I K Gujral.



A jutean keeping vigil at Maharaja Bazaar in Srinagar on Friday.

## TN CM sees 'vendetta' behind Oppn's attack on AIADMK govt

**SALEM, AUG 31** /- Tamil Nadu chief minister K Palaniswami today hit out at Opposition parties for leveling corruption and other charges against the AIADMK government due to "political reasons and vendetta" and asserted that it was functioning efficiently.

All sectors in Tamil Nadu were witnessing growth and the state had been receiving honours such as Krishna Karman award for record foodgrain production from the Centre for good performance, he told reporters here. "They are faulting the government due to political reasons and vendetta. The Amma's government has been functioning efficiently and all welfare schemes initiated by Amma (late chief minister J Jayalalitha) were being implemented expeditiously," he added. He was responding to a question about repeated corruption charges made by opposition parties and their claim that AIADMK government was subservient to the BJP. In his address after taking over as DMK president, M K Stalin had on August 28 called the Palaniswami ministry a "spineless" dispensation which needed to be "thrown out". DMK had been consistently targeting the AIADMK of being "subservient" to the Centre after the death of its supreme leader Jayalalitha and compromising on the rights of Tamil Nadu. On simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies, Palaniswami said the AIADMK had already conveyed its stand that the present Tamil Nadu assembly's term ended in 2021 and it should not be disrupted.

## Andhra, Karnataka CMs meet, discuss need to bring regional parties together

**AMARAVATI, AUG 31** /- Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka chief ministers N Chandrababu Naidu and HD Kumaraswamy today discussed a host of political issues, essentially the need for bringing regional parties together and defeating the BJP-led NDA at the Centre. Kumaraswamy arrived in Vijayawada this morning to attend a religious festival at a city hotel where Chandrababu Naidu, while leaving for Tirupati, stopped for a meeting with Kumaraswamy who was staying and held a meeting with him for about 40 minutes. A communique from the state information and public relations department said the two chief ministers discussed the need for regional parties coming together, more so in south India. Naidu and Kumaraswamy expressed the opinion that all regional parties in the south should come on to a single platform. They also discussed the need for an alternative force at the Centre, the communique said. "These issues were discussed only for a brief time. There is need for an elaborate deliberation on the issues," the communique quoted Naidu as saying at the end of the meeting.

## UP BJP legislator alleges threat to life

**LUCKNOW, AUG 31** /- BJP MLA Ashok Singh Chandel today created a flutter in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly when he alleged threat to his life and said he was not getting adequate security despite raising the issue with authorities here. "I had met officials regarding my security issues. The additional security I am being offered involves huge expense... sharpshooters were arrested in Hamirpur and all this underlines the threat aspect," he told the House during the Zero Hour. The MLA from Hamirpur-Sadar said he had got security on a high court order earlier but it was downgraded by the previous Samajwadi Party government.

Terming the matter as serious, parliamentary affairs minister Suresh Khanna assured him that necessary directives will be issued in this regard. The leader of Opposition in the assembly Ram Govind Chaudhary said similar threats have been received by some opposition members as well.

Speaker Hriday Narain Dixit directed the government to take note of various incidents of threat to the lives of MLAs and ensure adequate security to them. Chandel was referring to the arrest of four sharpshooters by the Special Force (STF) in Varanasi on August 29, after the seizure of a prohibited bore weapon and a double barrel gun in course of raids in Hamirpur.

## Uma Bharti, Babul Gaur worked for changing MP's fate: Chouhan

**BHOPAL, AUG 31** /- Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said his predecessors Uma Bharti and Babul Gaur have contributed in changing the fate of the state, where the BJP is in power since 2003. Chouhan singled out Bharti, now a Union minister, for praise, saying she had played a major role in ousting the Congress chief minister Digvijay Singh from power in 2003. He was addressing a rally as part of his ongoing 'Janashirwad Yatra' at Khargapur in Tikamgarh district on Thursday. Chouhan said Singh was "till bent on ruining Madhya Pradesh which goes to the polls by the year-end. Uma Bharti took over as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh in December 2003 after the BJP ended the 10-year-old rule of the Congress. In 2004, Gaur replaced Bharti after she resigned in the backdrop of a Karnataka court issuing a non-bailable warrant against her in a case filed in the southern state. Chouhan succeeded Gaur as the chief minister in November 2005. Speaking in the home district of the firebrand BJP leader, Chouhan said, "Bharti had played a major role in ousting then chief minister Digvijay Singh, who was hell bent on ruining Madhya Pradesh, from power in 2003." "We three - Bharti, former chief minister Gaur and myself - have worked for changing the fate of the state," said Chouhan. Reacting to Chouhan's statement, Gaur told newsmen: "Many many thanks to him." To a question: Gaur, who joined Chouhan's Cabinet but quit in 2016, said: "I will definitely contest the upcoming assembly polls from the Govindpura seat in Bhopal."

Gaur has continuously won from Govindpura in elections held since 1980. Urging people to ensure BJP's victory from the Khargapur Assembly seat, the MP chief minister said: "Last time you elected the Congress candidate, but despite that we left no stone unturned in ensuring development of the constituency." "In the new academic session, a degree college will be started in Khargapur. I have come here to seek your blessings for the party's victory in the 2018 Assembly polls," he said. A dam is also being constructed for the benefit of farmers in Khargapur and work of the Ken Betwa river linking scheme is also in progress, Chouhan added.

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