

## LU bars students from campus on V-Day

**LUCKNOW, FEB 13**—/The Lucknow University (LU) has warned of disciplinary action against students found "sitting or roaming" on its campus on the Valentine's Day tomorrow, when the varsity has announced a holiday on account of Mahashivratri festival.

An advisory issued by LU Proctor Vinod Singh also urged the parents to send their wards to the university on February 14.

"It has been seen in the past years that some students, influenced by western culture, celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14," it said.

"We want to inform all students of the university that both the campuses of the university will remain closed on account of Mahashivratri and no extra classes, practicals cultural programme will be held," the advisory said, adding the students should not come to the university campus tomorrow.

"We all appeal the parents of the students not to send their wards to the university. Disciplinary action will be taken against those found sitting or roaming on the campus," Singh said in the advisory dated February 10. (PTI)

## Naxals held

**RAIPUR, FEB 13**—/Three naxals, one of them carrying a cash reward on his head, were arrested today from insurgency-hit Kondagaon district in Chhattisgarh, police said.

The cadres were nabbed near Bhalki rivulet in forest under Mardpal police station limits when a joint team of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and District Force was out on a search operation. Kondagaon Additional Superintendent of Police Maheshwar Nag told PTI.

One of the arrested, Nidhar alias Guddu (25), was active as an LOS (local organisation) squad member, while two others, Ginnu (25) and Ghassuram (30), were janmilitia members, he said. "Guddu was carrying a reward of Rs 3 lakh on his head," he added. An 8-kg tiffin bomb, Maoist banners and literature were recovered from the possession of the two janmilitia members, he said. "During their interrogation, they admitted that the explosive was meant to target the security forces during their operation in the region," the ASP said. The trio was allegedly involved in several incidents including planting of IEDs and attacks on police parties, he added. (PTI)

## Court frames charges against Yasin Bhatkal

**NEW DELHI, FEB 13**—/A Delhi court today framed conspiracy and other terror charges against Indian Mujahideen co-founder Yasin Bhatkal and his associate in a case related to the September 2008 serial blasts in Delhi that claimed 26 lives and left 135 people injured.

Additional Sessions Judge Siddharth Sharma put Bhatkal and his associate Asadullah Akhtar on trial for various offences punishable under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Indian Penal Code

(IPC) and Explosive Substances Act. The present case relates to the twin explosions at Greater Kailash-1 in South Delhi where nine people were injured in the twin blasts at the M-block market.

The charges framed by the court include criminal conspiracy (120B) punishable under Indian Penal Code, various sections UAPA, including conspiracy for committing terror act (section 18) and being member of a terror organisation. The court posted the matter for further hearing on

February 28. The accused persons, represented by advocate M S Khan, pleaded not guilty and claimed trial.

The police had said that Bhatkal and Akhtar, along with others, were part of the conspiracy to carry out the blasts at several places in Delhi on September 13, 2008. They had claimed that the accused had waged war against India by carrying out the terror attacks.

Bhatkal was arrested by the National Investigation Agency from Indo-Nepal border on the

night of August 28, 2013. Later, Delhi Police took his custody in blast case at Greater Kailash-1.

Five cases were lodged in connection with the blasts at Ghaffar Market in Karol Bagh, Barakhamba Road near Connaught Place, besides the one at Greater Kailash and the recovery of a bomb near India Gate. All the five cases were clubbed by the trial court for the purpose of framing of charges and trial on the ground they arose from the series of the same transaction. (PTI)



Railway Traffic blocked by DYFI activists in protest against price hike of petroleum products and ban on new appointments in railways jobs, in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday.

## Cops crack Hyderabad case Two women, one paramour and a brutal killing

**HYDERABAD, FEB 13**—/A sordid extra-marital affair with a common paramour led to the brutal killing of a pregnant woman whose body parts were found stuffed in two gunny bags near the Botanical Garden here last month, according to police who unravelled the mystery by arresting three persons.

The 32-year-old victim, identified as Bingsu alias Pinkoo from Bihar, was eight months pregnant when she was killed. Police identified the accused, including a woman, after analysing several CCTV footages and nabbed her yesterday from different locations in Hyderabad and Bihar, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Sandeep Shandilya told reporters.

The accused are identified as Mamatha Jha (37), her husband Anil Jha (75), their son Amarkanth Jha (21)—all natives of Mohana Maiti village in Banka district in Bihar; he said, adding that another accused Vikas Kashyap (35) is absconding. "All the accused were staying at a rented house in Sherlingampally here

for the past several months and the victim woman had joined them around 45 days ago," the commissioner said.

He said the woman's identity was established after a police team went to Mohana Maiti village yesterday with her photo and enquired with villagers and subsequently her family members. The deceased Pinkoo belonged to a Scheduled Tribe.

As per investigation, she married one Dinesh in Chandausi town of Sambhal district in Uttar Pradesh around 13 years ago and the couple had three children. "However, she later developed intimacy with Kashyap and left her husband. In January, 2017, she returned to Mohana Maiti village along with her paramour," the police commissioner said.

Meanwhile, Kashyap developed intimacy with Mamatha Jha, one of the accused. Shandilya said Jha wanted to get rid of the woman and sent Kashyap to Hyderabad to her son Amarkanth,

who was already been working there. "Later, Mamatha Jha, along with her husband, came to Hyderabad and started living with Kashyap in a rented house of her son," the Cyberabad police chief said.

Meanwhile, Pinkoo traced them in Hyderabad and started living with them. However, Jha felt that the woman was a threat to her extra-marital affair with Kashyap and also thought that she was a financial liability for them, the top officer said. "Jha and Kashyap then planned to kill the woman and get her husband Anil and son Amarkanth involved," Shandilya said explaining a sequence of events.

As per the plan, Mamtha Jha and Kashyap picked up a fight with the woman and the latter pushed her to the wall of the house, he said. "Being pregnant, the woman collapsed instantly."

Subsequently, all the accused kicked her and showered blows on her vital parts, leading to her death," Shandilya said, adding that the accused kept the woman's body in their house for one day.

## Oppn accuses Yogi gov

**LUCKNOW, FEB 13**—/Accusing the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh of not being serious on the issue of education, Opposition parties staged a walkout from the state Assembly today. During the Question Hour, Samajwadi Party member Nitin Agarwal sought to know whether the Kanya Vidya Dhan scheme had been discontinued.

UP's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna replied that as there was no provision in the budget, the scheme was not being run. Not satisfied with the answer, the SP member alleged that the government was not serious on the issue as a scheme for the welfare of girl students had been discontinued.

Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Choudhury said the government was not giving a satisfactory reply following which the SP members walked out.

## 5 killed in blast on ship under repair at Cochin Shipyard

**KOCHI, FEB 13**—/Five people were killed and three injured in a fire following an explosion on an under repair ONGC drillship at the Cochin Shipyard premises today, a shipyard official said.

Those killed in the accident are believed to be contract workers, he said. The injured have been admitted to a private hospital here, he said,

adding that the condition of one of them, who suffered 40 per cent burns, is stated to be critical.

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) said the blast was reported in its drillship Sagar Bhushan at 0915 hrs at Cochin Shipyard (CSL) where it has been dry docking since December 7, 2017.

No ONGC employee was on the drillship when the accident occurred.

"The drillship was undergoing mandatory Special Survey (Hull & Machinery) repairs as per class requirement," the company said in a statement. "The cause of the incident is being ascertained."

The CSL spokesperson earlier today said 11 people trapped inside the ship were evacuated and rushed to city hospitals.

City Police Commissioner M P Dinesh visited the accident site and said those trapped on the ship were evacuated and the situation was under control. The blast reportedly occurred in a water tank on the front side of the ship docked in the yard for repair.



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## MP women fight closure of boozing yards

\*Lady teachers tonsure hair to press for job parity

L.S. HERDENIA

**BHOPAL:** Strange things are happening in Madhya Pradesh. Women generally are against liquor shops, bars and other such outlets. But in Madhya Pradesh just the opposite is happening.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan himself announced closure of 'ahatas' (courtyards adjacent to liquor shops) and was of the threat posed to law and order situation, particularly women's security. But a section of women does not agree with the chief minister. They want ahata to stay. In an unusual gesture, hundreds of women assembled at the CM house on 18th January to urge Shivraj Singh Chouhan not to close down 'ahatas' for people to booze, as proposed in the new excise policy for next financial year.

Pragati Gupta, the leader of Jagriti Mahila Sangathan, argues that the closure of 'ahatas' would turn out to be counter-productive and the security of women would be jeopardized further. "More than 2.5 to 3 lakh people booze in the 'ahatas' of Bhopal alone every day. If 'ahatas' are closed, they would be forced to booze by the roadside,

parks and other public places or at home. In both the conditions, they would pose a greater threat for women outside and also at home. Besides, watching their elders booze would leave children traumatized," she said. A three-page memorandum addressed to the chief minister draws an analogy between public toilets being constructed under PM's Swachhata Abhiyan and 'ahatas'. "As public toilets are a must to keep the city clean and prevent people from defecating in the open, 'ahatas' are a must to keep boozers restricted to certain points and not allow them to roam all over the city" read the memorandum.

Maintaining law and order situation is also far easier for police so long as 'ahatas' are there, contended these women as they can reach anywhere easily if a fight breaks out because 'ahatas' are only a few in number, but if there are no 'ahatas', crime-prone areas would multiply in numbers and it would be virtually impossible to guard all those places, they argued.

Bhopal was also the scene of another strange protest when government teachers decided to

tonsure their heads to press for their long-pending demands. Even women teachers joined the protest, with several of them getting their heads tonsured. Some became unconscious watching their colleagues undergo the ordeal. The teachers alleged that the state government was ignoring the directive of the High Court in this regard. The main demand of the protesters is that their services be brought under the education department and they be provided facilities given to government employees. Currently they are under the local body department.

The teachers had planned to "present" the chopped off hair to Sadhna Singh, wife of the chief minister, but were prevented from reaching the CM's residence. According to age-old traditions, only widows get their heads tonsured. Another different form of protest was performed by blind people, who brewed the biting cold to stage a 'jal-satyagrah' at Lower Lake to press their 23-point demands, including direct appointments to 8000 backlog posts. Protesting under the banner of Dhruvini Berojgar Sangharsh Samiti, the also observed a relay

hunger strike.

Standing in deep waters of the lower lake at Neldam Park, they also demanded construction of hostels for the students in colleges at the state and divisional level and free public transportation. Heavy police force was deployed in the area. As soon as the news was flashed on the media, MoS for cooperatives Vishwas Sarang rushed to the site to hold talks with the protesters. But the minister failed to convince them to end their agitation as the protesters bluntly told him that assurances would not work this time. After talks with minister failed, teams of Madhya Pradesh State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) were positioned on boats throughout the day to avert any untoward incident.

A team of district administration led by ADM also tried to convince the protesters to come out from the water, but in vain. In the evening, a team of doctors took a boat to the agitators and examined their blood pressure and other conditions. One of the protesters was taken to hospital for treatment after he developed fever. Despite all the protests, the problem remains unresolved. (IPA)