

# Live streaming of hearing in constitutional matters can be undertaken: SC

**NEW DELHI, AUG 3 /-/-** The Supreme Court today said that live streaming of judicial proceedings in matters of "constitutional importance" can be undertaken and asked the attorney general to frame "holistic" guidelines for its pursuit and approval. A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra also asked parties, including senior advocate Indira Jaising who has filed a PIL for video recording of proceedings in matters of national importance, to submit their suggestions to Attorney General K K Venugopal.

Venugopal, in turn, would collate the suggestions and prepare "holistic guidelines" which would be perused and may be approved, the bench, also comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, said. The court, which listed the PILs for hearing on August 17, made it clear that it would not adjourn the hearing that day on the ground that the AG did not supply a copy of his suggestions to the parties. During the

brief hearing, it said that the matter, to be heard by Constitution benches and a bench of three judges, would be of "crucial and of constitutional importance" and their proceedings may be considered for live streaming or video recording. It also sought Venugopal's views on live streaming of proceedings in cases concerning two individuals and asked whether the consent of parties would be required or not.

In his petition, Swapnil Tripathi, a student of National Law University in Jodhpur also sought the Centre for setting up live streaming rooms within the apex court premises and granting access to the legal interns. "Once live streaming will be allowed, your problem will be solved," the bench said when Tripathi alleged that students are not allowed to witness proceedings in all matters in the apex court. Besides Jaising and Tripathi, charitable organisation for Accountability and Systemic Change, through its law-

yer Virag Gupta, also filed a PIL seeking a direction to the apex court registry and ministries of Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology to "video record the proceedings of all the courts, and make them available to public and parties, subject to regulations". The present petition is being filed in public interest, to enable the litigants' right to information, as available to them under Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution. It is sought that this court under Article 14 of the Constitution may direct video-audio recordings of proceedings of all courts in India in a time bound manner. "The President, Prime Minister, parliamentarians and jurists are at a consensus that the judicial reforms are need of the hour," it said.

Earlier, the Centre had said that video recording and live streaming of judicial proceedings can be undertaken on a trial basis in constitutional matters being heard by the chief justice of India's court. The bench was also told by Venugopal,

whose assistance was sought by the court, that a pilot project for live streaming and video recording of judicial proceedings can be undertaken on experimental basis. Jaising, in her plea, has sought live streaming of matters of constitutional and national importance. She said citizens have the right to information and matters of constitutional and national importance can be live streamed.

In western countries, she said, this system was in place and live streaming of court proceedings, including that of the International Court of Justice, are available on YouTube. If live streaming of the court's proceedings is not possible, then video recording should be allowed, she said. According to her, live streaming of Supreme Court cases of constitutional and national importance, having an impact on public at large, will empower and provide access to citizens who cannot personally come to the court due to socio-economic constraints (PTI)

## Petition in HC seeks speedy probe into rape charge against Bishop

**KOCHI, AUG 3 /-/-** A writ petition seeking a speedy investigation into the rape charge levelled by a nun against a Jalandhar-based Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church was filed in the Kerala High Court today.

The petition was filed by the Kerala Catholic Church Reformation Movement (KCRM). In its petition, the KCRM complained that the police were not taking speedy action in the case. Justice Sunil Thomas recommended that the matter when it came up for his consideration today.

The petition is likely to come up before another bench on Monday. Meanwhile, a special police team probing the case today reached New Delhi. Kerala Director General of Police Loknath Behera, who reviewed the progress of the probe two days ago, had said the team, headed by Vaikom Deputy Superintendent of Police K Subhash, would visit Jalandhar, New Delhi and other places for further investigation.

In her complaint to the Kottayam district police chief, the nun had accused Mulakkal of raping her and having an unnatural sex multiple times at a small town near Kottayam between 2014 and 2016.

Mulakkal, however, has claimed that he is innocent. Clergymen supporting Mulakkal said the nun levelled the charge against him after a priest, also an official of the Jalandhar diocese, filed a complaint against her relatives for allegedly threatening the Bishop.

In his complaint, the priest has alleged that the nun's relatives threatened to kill Mulakkal after he ordered a probe against her on the basis of the complaint received by the Mother Superior of her congregation. The team is also carrying out a simultaneous probe into this complaint.

The nun had also complained to the National Commission for Women (NCW) that the Kerala Police was "not working" in the case as the accused was a "highly linked" person. NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma has said the commission would extend all possible help to the nun. (PTI)

## HC pained by officials' apathy towards upkeep of Gandhi memorial

**NEW DELHI, AUG 3 /-/-** Pained by the "apathy" of officials towards the upkeep of Rajghat, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, the Delhi High Court today said it was struggling to make the authorities do their duty. "It is painful to see such apathy on the part of the officials tasked to deal with the issue of maintaining Rajghat, a memorial to the Father of the Nation," a bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar said. The court also termed as "serious" and unfathomable that the authorities were unable to produce the original drawings and plan of the Rajghat samadhi. "We are unable to fathom how they are not available," the bench said and directed the secretary, Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) to draw up an inventory of the important buildings in the national capital and ensure the availability of the original drawings and plans of such structures. The court said necessary directions should be issued by the secretary, MoUD, to ensure that the drawings and plans were collected and preserved on an urgent basis. It then listed the matter for further hearing on August 6. The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition, which alleged that Gandhi's memorial was not being properly maintained. Petitioner Shyam Narayan Choudhary claimed that the memorial was not at all being properly and cleanly maintained and despite being brought to the notice of the Rajghat committee and MoUD, there was no change in the situation. Along with his petition, Choudhary has submitted photos showing alleged deficiencies he came across in the memorial and the monument in 2014 and then again in 2015 and 2016. (PTI)

The petition is likely to come up before another bench on Monday. Meanwhile, a special police team probing the case today reached New Delhi. Kerala Director General of Police Loknath Behera, who reviewed the progress of the probe two days ago, had said the team, headed by Vaikom Deputy Superintendent of Police K Subhash, would visit Jalandhar, New Delhi and other places for further investigation.

## Goa's Casino Policy to be ready soon: CM

**PANAJI, AUG 3 /-/-** A new policy of the Goa government will prohibit local people from visiting offshore casinos which would be required to shift to land. Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar today told the Legislative Assembly The Casino Policy will be ready before the end of this month, he said, adding that a "Gaming Commission" to oversee its implementation would be appointed by December. The Casino Policy would be ready this month and the government will identify and notify the zones where the offshore casinos (currently operating from vessels anchored in the river Mandovi) can be shifted. Parrikar said. The offshore casinos will get new licenses provided they undertake to shift to the designated zones, he said. The offshore casinos will have to furnish a written undertaking to this effect within a year, and they will get a maximum of four years to shift, Parrikar said.

## Pilot attacks Raje, says govt misusing public money for political yatra

**JAIPUR, AUG 3 /-/-** Rajasthan Congress chief Sachin Pilot today accused Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje of misusing public money for her political yatra beginning tomorrow. The chief minister is scheduled to carry out 'Suraj Gaurav Yatra' from Charbhujia Nath temple in the Rajasthan district ahead of assembly elections. The 40-day yatra will cover all the divisions in the state. "It is a political yatra but the government is spending taxpayer's money on it. The Congress will pose questions every day during the yatra and Raje would have to answer," Pilot told reporters here. He said the Congress would keep an eye on the political event to watch if public money and government machinery are misused. "The party will complain to the Election Commission as and when required," he said. As per an order dated August 1, the chief engineer of the Public Works Department has formed a committee of four officers to make arrangements like tents, sound systems, etc. at public meetings to be held during

the yatra. The Pradesh Congress Committee chief said the party has already covered 195 out of 200 assembly constituencies with booth-level programmes. "Public has rejected the BJP and there is anger against the chief minister who in the last four years did not meet the people," he said, adding, she should take out a 'Jawahar Yatra' instead of the 'Gaurav Yatra'. Pilot also slammed her for not addressing farmers' issues. "Hundreds of farmers have committed suicide under the BJP rule. Their issues were not addressed. The party should answer that how many of the promises made during the last assembly elections were fulfilled."

**LOST**

I, Arjun Sikder, R/O Bakultala have lost my SBI Bank Book, A/C No. 32956116998 in between Kalsi and Rangat. Finder may please Contact: 9531863090

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## Cong alleges govt is hounding media, govt refutes charge

**NEW DELHI, AUG 3 /-/-** The Congress today alleged that the managing editor and two anchors of a prominent news channel had quit due to pressure from the government for airing stories critical of the Modi dispensation. Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha, Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge also accused the government of trying to "intimidate" the media and "curbing" its freedom. Strongly denying the charges, Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said the government has nothing to do with the internal developments in the channel and accused the opposition of raising the matter because it has no issues to flag in the House. "No showcase notice was served on the channel when it was running wrong news. The government has nothing to do with it (the resignations). If the government wanted to interfere, it could have as the Free Dish (state-run satellite TV service) is in government's control," he said. "The TRP (television rating point) of the channel is going down rapidly," Rathore said. Though Kharge named the channel and the managing editor who resigned, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan objected to the leader naming a private entity and its employee.

According to Kharge, the managing editor with 14 years of service in the channel and the two other employees were forced to quit following government pressure after it carried out a "treachery check" on a Chhattisgarh woman farmer's claim during an interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that her farm income had doubled. Days after the woman, Chandramani Kaushik from Kanker district, claimed that she had a problem with the prime minister on June 20 through the NaMo App that her income had doubled, the channel aired a story in which she said she was tutored by officials. After the story was telecast, the woman stuck to her remarks that her income had doubled as she had shifted from pashu cultivation and 'sitafal' (custard apple) farming and denied she was tutored.



President Ram Nath Kovind addressing the 75 Officers promoted from the State Civil Services into the IAS attending the 120th Induction Training Programme at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, at Rashtrapati Bhavan

## BJP MP wants creation of 'Purush Aayog' for 'suffering' men

**NEW DELHI, AUG 3 /-/-** A BJP member in the Lok Sabha today came out in support of "men suffering at the hands of their wives" and demanded setting up of a 'Purush Aayog' to deal with their grievances. Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Harinarayan Rajbhar, BJP member from Ghosi in Uttar Pradesh, said the government has constituted several commissions including the Mahila Aayog, but none to deal with the issues and problems faced by the menfolk. "Many men are suffering at the hands of their wives and several of them are locked up in jails. I demand that the government set up a 'Purush Aayog' to resolve their issues and problems," he said. The entire House burst into laughter as Rajbhar made this demand. There were five women members present in the House at that time, who were also seen

smiling. There was a buzz all around with members seen laughing and exchanging notes on the issue with each other. Raising the issue of the National Register of Citizens in Assam, Vineent Pala (Cong) said there was a fear of influx in Meghalaya due to its "uncertain implementation" in Assam. He demanded that the government take steps to ensure that there is no influx in Meghalaya due to "inefficient" NRC implementation. Rajesh Rajan, expelled RJD member, urged the government to direct the CBI to probe all shelter homes of Bihar in the light of the recent Muzaffarpur incident. Alleging that there were several cases of loans given by banks at the instance of the finance ministry during the erstwhile UPA government, Rajendra Agrawal (BJP) said these loans have now become non-performing assets. (PTI)

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**WordWheel**

No.342

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

**5x5**

C	S	S		
P	I			
L	R	O		
S	A	E		

No.243

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE 242

(Other combinations may be possible.)

T	O	L	L	S
S	C	O	U	T
A	T	O	N	E
R	A	N	G	E
S	L	I	D	E

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No.341: HESTANT

**WORD-BUILDER**

243

A	S	R
E	W	

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or ones beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

TODAY'S GOALS:  
Good - 11 Excellent - 16 Amazing - 22  
SOLUTION 242: aglow, ago, allow, awl, gal, gasol, glow, goal, lag, law, log, low, owl, wog

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