

Hardik continues fast for quota from hospital bed

AHMEDABAD, SEPT 8 /- Patidar leader Hardik Patel's indefinite fast for reservation for his community and farm loan waiver entered 15th day today as he continued his agitation from a hospital bed.

Loktantrik Janata Dal leader Sharad Yadav and Dravidra Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader and former Union minister A Raja visited Patel at the hospital and extended support to him. Hardik, who is on a hunger strike from August 25, was admitted to a hospital Friday after his health deteriorated. "Sharad Yadav ji came to meet me in the hospital. He has supported my fight for social justice and farmers' right. Quite impressed by him," Hardik tweeted. He also tweeted a photo of Raja arriving at the hospital. "Our fight will continue until all our demands are met," Panara said. After meeting Hardik, Yadav reportedly advised him to start taking food. "I told him that his fight requires him to have strength. So he should start intake of food and water," Yadav told newsmen. Hardik was first shifted to the Sola Civil Hospital by his supporters Friday as his health deteriorated, and later to the privately-run SCVP Holistic Hospital at the Sola Civil Hospital, he was administered glucose. The hospital had said in a release that his vital parameters were normal. Hardik launched his indefinite fast on August 25 from his home. He is demanding reservations in government jobs and education for the Patidars and loan waiver for farmers.

UP STF busts gang of highway dacoits; 9 arrested in Noida

NOIDA, SEPT 8 /- The Uttar Pradesh Task Force (STF) today claimed to have busted a gang of dacoits involved in several highway robberies with the arrest of nine people from Greater Noida. The gang used to target trucks carrying goods on highways in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan, the Noida unit of the STF said in a statement. "The nine gang members, including the kingpin, were arrested from Eco Tech 1 area of Greater Noida, and a huge quantity of robbed items, including mobile phones, computer monitors and footwear, were seized," it said. "The gang targeted trucks carrying goods of e-commerce giant Amazon the most," the agency said. The STF said 380 mobile phones, 129 pairs of shoes, 10 pairs of sandals, belts, TFT monitors, Rs 70,000 cash and two firearms were seized from their possession. "A Honda City car and two Maruti Eco vehicles used by the gang in the crimes have been impounded," it said. The kingpin of the gang, Vineet, a resident of Haryana, had also designed three sensational robberies in the state earlier this year, and was wanted in those cases as well, the STF said.



KPCF President Dinesh Gundu Rao with people participating in 'Use Eco Friendly Ganesh Idols' awareness campaign, in Bengaluru on Saturday



Fishermen who rescued several people during Kerala floods are felicitated by members of Travancore Royal Family, in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday

UP gov't forms panel to probe irregularities in recruitment exam for teachers

LUCKNOW, SEPT 8 /- The Uttar Pradesh government has constituted a high-level committee to probe into irregularities in recruitment examination held for 68,500 assistant teachers and suspended a top official of exam regulatory authority, officials said today. In the exam, whose results were declared in August, more than one lakh aspirants had appeared, but only 41,556 could clear it. A government spokesperson said: "In this examination, a list of 23 examinees was obtained, who had not cleared the examination, but were declared as qualified." Prima facie there are serious irregularities in evaluation and declaration of results. Further investigation is needed, so that exemplary punishment can be given to the guilty. The spokesperson said in a statement. The spokesperson said: "Taking cognisance of irregularities in the recruitment exam held for 68,500 assistant teachers, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has constituted a high-level team. The team will probe the irregularities and submit its report in seven days." Adityanath has also instructed to suspend Examination Regulatory Authority secretary Satish Singh with immediate effect, as prima facie she has been found guilty, the spokesperson said. Instructions have also been issued to initiate disciplinary action against her and she has been attached with the office of the director of basic education. The government spokesperson said the probe committee will be headed by Sanjay R Bhoosreddy, principal secretary, sugar industry and sugarcane development. The members of the probe panel are Vedgati Mishra, director of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and Sarvendra Vikram Singh, director of Basic Education department.

More than 400 private bus operators to be on strike in Himachal from Monday

DHARAMSALA, SEPT 8 /- Around 3,500 private passenger buses will be off the roads in Himachal Pradesh from Monday as operators press for their long pending demands, including increasing minimum fare, bus operators said Saturday. The strike has been called by the Himachal Pradesh private bus operators union. The union's president Rajesh Parashar said over 3,500 private operators will go on the indefinite strike Monday for their demand to hike the minimum fare from Rs 3 to Rs 10 per person, on par with their counterparts in Punjab and Haryana. The bus operators are also demanding 50 per cent hike in fare and allowing buses more than five-year-old to ply in the state. Rajiv Mahajan, a bus operator in Dharamsala, said the minimum fare of Rs 3 was fixed when the price of diesel was Rs 48 a litre, the diesel price is now increased to Rs 64 per litre. It is now impossible to run the services on the old rates. Mahajan said that the state government also levies huge green tax from private operators which must be reduced. Another bus operator Ajay Singh said most of the operators are under heavy bank loans and as per present conditions they cannot even pay their



KPCF President Dinesh Gundu Rao with people participating in 'Use Eco Friendly Ganesh Idols' awareness campaign, in Bengaluru on Saturday

State Notes

Collegestudent climbs atop train, touches live wires, dies

COIMBATORE, SEPT 8 /- A college student died of electrocution today after he climbed atop a train here and touched the electric wire under a high-level team. The team will probe the irregularities and submit its report in seven days. Adityanath has also instructed to suspend Examination Regulatory Authority secretary Satish Singh with immediate effect, as prima facie she has been found guilty, the spokesperson said. Instructions have also been issued to initiate disciplinary action against her and she has been attached with the office of the director of basic education. The government spokesperson said the probe committee will be headed by Sanjay R Bhoosreddy, principal secretary, sugar industry and sugarcane development. The members of the probe panel are Vedgati Mishra, director of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and Sarvendra Vikram Singh, director of Basic Education department.

Civilian shot dead by militants in Sopore

SRINAGAR, SEPT 8 /- Militants today shot dead a civilian in Sopore township of Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Militants fired upon the civilian in Baramulla area of Sopore this afternoon, a police official said. He said the civilian - Hakim-ur-Rehman, a resident of Reshpora Baram - received critical bullet injuries in the attack. The injured was evacuated to the nearby hospital for medical attention, where he succumbed to injuries, the official said. Police have registered a case in this regard and investigation in the instant matter has been initiated, he said.

19 children rescued during raid at orphanage in Kathua

JAMMU, SEPT 8 /- Nineteen children, including eight girls, have been rescued from an unregistered orphanage in Kathua district during a raid, officials said today. The civil administration and police conducted the raid Friday after some children complained that they were being "harassed and tortured" at the facility run by a pastor from Kathua. Antony Thomas has been arrested and booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in this connection, they said. Thomas, however, has denied

Baramulla rape-murder: Mehbooba seeks exemplary punishment for accused

SRINAGAR, SEPT 8 /- Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti today termed the rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl in Baramulla district as a heinous crime and demanded exemplary punishment for the culprits, including the minor's step-mother and step-brother. Mufti said the victim's family in Baniyar area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district and expressed deep sorrow over the brutal incident that devastated the family and shocked the entire state, a PDP spokesperson said. The PDP president demanded exemplary punishment for the culprits involved in the gory act, he added. Terminating the incident as shameful and outrageous, Mufti said such a gruesome incident has put a question mark on the state's collective societal values. The former chief minister added that it is high time people introspect and come together to demand a stern punishment for those who have committed such a heinous crime. She also lauded the Jammu and Kashmir police for acting swiftly in the case. The minor went missing on August 23 and her decomposed body was found on September 3 from a forest house. Police investigation revealed that a plan to kill the girl was hatched by her step-mother and she was raped by her step-brother and three others. The girl was later strangled, hit on the head with an axe, her eyes gouged out and acid sprinkled on her body parts. All the five accused have been arrested.

DDA okays land pooling policy, Delhi to get 17 lakh houses

NEW DELHI, SEPT 8 /- The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday approved a land pooling policy that will allow the city to get 17 lakh housing units, capable of accommodating 76 lakh people, officials said. The DDA's highest decision-making body approved the policy during a meeting chaired by Lt Governor Anil Bajaj at the Raj Niwas here. The policy now awaits the nod of the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs. It covers urbanisable areas of urban extensions at 95 villages in the city. Under the land pooling policy, agencies will develop infrastructure like roads, schools, hospitals, community centres and stadia on part of the pooled land, and return a portion of the plot to farmers who can later execute housing projects with the help of private builders. Sources said the authority considered the suggestions and objections offered by the public to the urban body recently. A floor-area ratio (FAR) of 400 had been requested, but the DDA decided for 200 units due to various constraints, they said. "Considering the availability of resources and services, FAR of 200 is recommended for the development in the land pooling policy keeping in view availability of water, requirement of land for physical and social infrastructure and impact on environment," the DDA said. Formulated with an aim to provide affordable housing in Delhi, the policy is also expected to trigger huge economic, social and civic development of the city. It is likely to "benefit lakhs of farmers" while generating immense investment opportunities, it said. Under the policy, over 17 lakh of the 17 lakh houses will be built for the economically weaker sections, the housing authority said. This will go long way in meeting the goals of housing for all, officials said. Last December, DDA's highest decision-making body had approved simplification of the land pooling policy in the national capital and the DDA's role as being a "facilitator, regulator and planner" only. This effectively means that the transfer of pooled land to the DDA will not be required. Originally, the pooled land under the policy was to be transferred to the DDA, which would act as the developer entity and undertake further sectoral planning and development of infrastructure on the land pooled. Land owners having land of any size can participate under the land pooling policy. However, the minimum area to be taken up for development would be two hectares. A Developer Entity (DE)/individual can participate in the scheme by pooling land parcels covered under a sector as per the Zonal Development Plan, the DDA said.

Nun rape case: Kerala catholic outfits protest police inaction

KOCHI, SEPT 8 /- Five nuns from a convent in Kottayam took to the streets here today alleging laxity in the probe into a complaint of rape filed by their sister nun against a Roman Catholic Church Bishop. The protest, which was held in the help of various Catholic organisations seeking reformation in the church, the nuns alleged that the victim had been denied justice by the Catholic Church, police and the government as no action has been initiated against accused Bishop Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar diocese. "We are fighting for justice. She has been denied justice by the Church, government and the police. We are ready to go to any extent for ensuring justice to our sister," a nun said addressing the protest. The church has not been arrested despite sufficient evidence against him. She also questioned the police's handling of the matter. "Seventy four days have passed since the complaint was launched against Bishop Franco. The police had recorded her statements several times but no investigation was initiated only once," the nun said. They alleged that the police probing the case was trying to sabotage the investigation. The agitators demanded that the police should file at Kuravilangad police station, the victim had alleged that she had received death threats from unknown persons two months ago. In her complaint, the nun accused Jalandhar Bishop Franco of raping and having

unnatural sex with her multiple times between 2014 and 2016. A special team probing the case has said as per preliminary investigation, Bishop Franco abused his position and reportedly raped the nun. Responding to a petition seeking speedy investigation, deputy superintendent of police, Kottayam, K Subhash had informed the Kerala High Court on August 13 that the probe was proceeding effectively and impartially. The police, in a statement based on initial investigation and available evidence, had said that the Bishop allegedly committed unnatural offence and raped the nun against her will. The bishop confined the nun to a guest room in St Francis Mission Home in Kuravilangad in Kottayam district of Kerala, the statement had alleged.

SC refuses to entertain plea challenging Ajiit Jogi's caste status

NEW DELHI, SEPT 8 /- The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea against the decision of the Chhattisgarh High Court which had rejected the findings of a committee on the caste of former chief minister Ajiit Jogi. A bench of Justices Kurian Joseph and Sanjay Kishan Khare upheld the high court decision which had ordered a fresh determination of the high-powered committee and examine Jogi's caste status afresh. The Chhattisgarh Advocate General Jugal Kishore Gilda said the high court had rightly held that the caste of a former chief minister constituted by Chhattisgarh was not in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Chhattisgarh. The apex court's order came as a plea filed by Sant Kumar Netaam challenging the decision of a high-powered committee which had held that Jogi had obtained the certificate of tribal status "Kanwar" to which he was not entitled. The high court had held that the reconstitution of the scrutiny committee itself was not proper and arbitrary. The committee had given its decision as per the Chhattisgarh Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe And Other Backward Classes (Regulation Of Social Status Certification) Act, 2013.

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3.	36433(E)	7000009949	DNW	Installation of earth pit in HT sub-station	22/09/2018
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7.	36493(E)	7000009946	GMM	Capital Repair of Wagon Tippler # 2 of RMHP.	22/09/2018
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