

MUSTREAD

Kerala Govt to hold meet in Dubai on Oct 4 to invite investors

Thiruvananthapuram: A meeting of small and medium industries to invite investors for development of Kerala will be held in Dubai on October 4. The State Government will hold the conference aiming to find funds for development, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in a release here on Tuesday. He said the Government is planning to construct permanent shelters at flood affected areas. Tribal areas will be given utmost priority for developmental activities including construction of new houses with the cooperation of foreign agencies, he added. Mentioning the changing pattern of climate and various reasons of floods, he said river rejuvenation will be held with the financial support of corporations and municipalities.

Muharram being observed in UP peacefully

Lucknow: Amid tight security arrangements, Ashura, the 10th day of first month of Islamic calendar, Muharram, was being observed in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. The day was observed to commemorate the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Mohammed, who sacrificed himself in the battle of Karbala on the tenth day of Muharram, in 680 AD. Muharram processions were being taken out in various parts of the state to mark the occasion. People were bringing out Tazias and they bury it in the Karbala. Meanwhile, UP police has sounded high alert in the state in view of Muharram as well as Ganesh Utsav. There is no report of any incident so far, official sources said.

Cong MLA heaps praise on Khandu's governance

Itanagar: Congress MLA, Lombo Tayeng has appreciated Chief Minister Pema Khandu saying his farsighted vision, plan and policies benefited common citizens across the state. "People are reciprocating to the good governance and people-friendly programmes initiated by Khandu's leadership in the state," the Mebo MLA said. He also extended his support and co-operation to the Government in the development process. The MLA said this yesterday while addressing the academicians, host officers and leaders at Romdum UPS auditorium under Mebo sub-division, soon after the inauguration of Longgang Moko (centralised kitchen) in presence of Mebo ADC Hage Lailang, DDSE J Yirang, DD (UD) PK Thungon and others.

Arunachal NPP delegation meets Conrad Sangma

Itanagar: A delegation of National People's Party (NPP) Arunachal Pradesh unit led by its chief Gicho Kabak met party's national president Conrad K Sangma and discussed to further strengthen the party in the state. In the meeting held yesterday in Guwahati, post-election 2019 in Arunachal Pradesh was discussed in details including party organisational matter that need to be further strengthened in grassroots level in the state, the party said in a statement here on Tuesday. The national president highlighted about the common cause of North East like ethnic and developmental issues which is party's key agenda, it said. Mr Sangma suggested NPP elected MLAs, who were also part of the delegation to be a driving force in gearing up the party organisation in Arunachal Pradesh besides developmental activities.

Congress to stage a protest rally

Bengaluru: Accusing that the Narendra Modi led BJP government at the Center had targeted the prominent Congress leaders, including the Congress strong man D K Shivakumar, former Karnataka Minister and senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy today said that party will stage a huge protest rally in the City on Wednesday. Speaking to newsmen here, he said that the party workers from all the wards from the Bengaluru city, will attend the rally and register their anguish against the BJP government. Underlining that the way the Enforcement officials are conducting targeting only the Congress stalwarts, he said that "It is very much evident on the intention of the BJP, which had vowed to make country Congress free".

Harsimrat asks Sonia to sack MP CM immediately

Chandigarh (UNI)

Union Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Tuesday asked Congress president Sonia Gandhi to sack Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath immediately, asserting the party should end its policy of shielding the perpetrators of the 1984 genocide.

In a statement here, Ms Badal said it was shocking that Ms Gandhi had opted to remain silent after the Special Investigation Team decided to reopen a case, involving killing of two Sikhs in Gurdwara Rakabganj of Delhi, in which the MP CM was accused of leading the mob.

"The silence of the Congress President, as well as the entire Congress party, is in line with the continuous shelter and even rewards given to the 1984 massacre culprits by the party. It seems Ms Gandhi is also bent on following the same line of protecting the culprits, as taken by her son Rahul Gandhi earlier.

"She has chosen to stand with Mr Nath, who is accused of leading a mob, which attacked Gurdwara Rakabganj by two independent witnesses, instead of listening to the voice of the Sikh community,



which has been fighting for justice in the case, for 35 years,' he added.

Ms Badal said the party had adopted a policy to protect and shelter its leaders, who had led mobs, which ransacked Sikh properties and Gurudwaras and indulged in gruesome killings in 1984, after former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi justified the killings, saying 'Jab ek bada ped girta hai, to dharti hilti hai'.

She said Rajiv's son Rahul Gandhi continued this policy as

Congress President, by stonewalling the truth and stating that no Congress leader was involved in the mass killings of Sikhs in 1984. 'Now, Sonia Gandhi is continuing with this policy by extending her full support and patronage to Kamal Nath,' she added.

Giving details, the Union Minister said former Indian Express journalist Sanjay Suri, who was a witness to the attack on Gurdwara Rakabganj, had said he saw Kamal Nath controlling the mob and that he was present on the spot, when

the mob charged at the Gurdwara.

She said Mr Suri also deposed that the police force present on the spot stepped aside and did not try to prevent the mob from indulging in arson and murder.

She said similarly, another eyewitness Mukhtiar Singh, had also deposed before the Nanawati Commission and stated that after retreating briefly, the mob came in force to attack Gurdwara Rakabganj and that he saw Kamal Nath and Vasant Sathe leading the mob.

Big question mark on women empowerment, upliftment under present regime : Cong

New Delhi (UNI)

The Congress on Tuesday alleged that under the present BJP led regime at the centre there is a big question mark on issues like women empowerment, bringing women in the mainstream and their upliftment.

Addressing a press conference here, Congress leader Ragini Nayak said that the atmosphere in the country at present is turning out to be not so good for the women. 'In the past six months there have been over 24000 FIRs in rape incidents out of which only 4 per cent that is around 900 cases have been disposed of by the police,' she said.

Pointing to Uttar Pradesh, she said that the state stands first when it comes to highest number of such crimes that is 3457 out of which only 22 FIRs have been dis-



posed so far.

She said that the grand old party takes this as its responsibility and is going to continue the fight for gender justice and empowerment, and will also continue to fight for survivors of such crimes and their battle for justice.

'We will make sure to stand with such women to take up their fight', Ms Nayak said.

The Congress further alleged that the UP Police is acting on the directions of the government and said that in the matter of Azamgarh where school students were made to clean premises with a broom and a lawsuit was filed against the journalist who reported it.

'Similar incidents have been going around in the Northern Indian state,' she said.

Urmila Matondkar resigns from Cong

New Delhi (UNI)

Popular Bollywood actress Urmila Matondkar on Tuesday resigned from Congress over 'petty in-house politics' in the Mumbai unit of the party.

"I hereby resign from Indian National Congress as a member and from any post held in the INC. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to work for INC", Ms Matondkar said in her resignation letter to Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi.

Urmila's resignation from the Congress came barely five months after she joined the party, ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Ms Matondkar had contested as a Congress candidate from Mumbai North. She, however lost, in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

In a statement, the actress turned politician cited 'vested in the party' and 'petty in-house politics' are the reasons to quit Congress.

"My political and social sensibilities refuse to allow vested interests in the party to use me as a mean to fight petty in-house politics instead of working on a bigger



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goal in Mumbai Congress", she said.

In her letter, Ms Matondkar pointed out that among the reasons for her resignation was the fact that the party failed to act on her complaint to the then Mumbai Congress president Milind Deora over the leaked letter describing

Will contest Mah election alone: AIMIM

Aurangabad, Maharashtra: The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen has announced to fight the coming Vidhan Sabha elections on its own, alleging that those having association with the RSS, have joined the Vanchit Bahujan Agadhi (VBA) and were acting on their guidelines. Addressing a press conference here on Monday AIMIM MP and party state president Imitiaz Jaleel said the talks regarding alliance with the VBA were underway for a couple of months and at the same time, they were continuing talks with the Congress also.

"VBA chief Prakash Ambedkar has parted ways with our party. We will now contest the election on our own", he said.

"From Tuesday, the party is going to start interviews of aspiring candidates from various Assembly constituencies in the state and likely to announce the name of some of the candidates on the same day", he added.

According to Mr Jaleel, talks were going on between party chief Asaduddin Owaisi and VBA chief Ambedkar.

the wrongdoings in the polls.

"I've resigned from the Indian National Congress. First thought of resignation came to me when after my repeated efforts, no action was taken in pursuance of my letter dated May 16th, addressed to then Mumbai Congress President Mr. Milind Deora. Thereafter, to my utter dismay, the said letter containing privileged and confidential communication was conveniently leaked to the media which according to me was an act of blatant betrayal," said Ms Matondkar in the statement.

"Needless to say, no one from the party was apologetic or even concerned towards me for the same despite my repeated protests. Significantly, some of the persons specifically named in my letter for the shoddy performance of INC in Mumbai North were rewarded with newer positions instead of holding them accountable for their acts and omissions", she further said. "However, it is obvious that the key functionaries of Mumbai Congress are either unable or not committed to bring about a change and transformation in the organisation for betterment of the party.

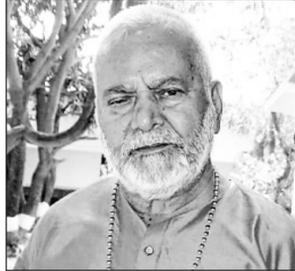
SIT interrogates Chinmayanand in Shahjahanpur rape case

Shahjahanpur (UNI)

A day after the Shahjahanpur law student made stringent charges against the district authorities and repeated her allegations on BJP leader and former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand of raping her, the Special Investigation Team probing into the charges on the directive of the Supreme Court, on Tuesday interrogated the BJP leader and searched the hostel room of the girl.

The SIT, led by IG Naveen Arora, went to the ashram of Swami Chinmayanand and first interrogated the monk and thereafter, collected other evidences from there. The interrogation of the BJP leader went on for a couple of hours, which was also videorecorded.

The team also took away the recording of the CCTV installed in the ashram and later visited the hostel room of the girl at the law



college in the city.

The girl, during her media disclosure on Monday, had said that the evidence against the BJP leader was there in her hostel room.

She had lodged rape, kidnapping and threatening cases against Swami Chinmayanand, while in a counter, the BJP leader had filed a case related to demand of Rs five crore as ransom from him.

On Monday, the law student, who alleged to be sexually exploited by Swami Chinmiyanand, opened her mouth before the media, claiming that she would not get justice from the UP government and demanded suspension of the local District Magistrate, accusing him of threatening her to keep her mouth shut in the matter.

The girl and her family members appeared before the media and claimed that the local police was not registering a rape FIR against the Swami. Hence, the FIR was registered with the Karkarduma police station in New Delhi and now, transferred for investigation to the SIT. She had reiterated to be having enough evidences of her sexual exploitation into the hands of Swami in the last one year and claimed that she will only produce them before the court of law, to prove her charges.

Ex-Pak Hindu lawmaker seeks political asylum in India

Agencies, Chandigarh

Former Hindu lawmaker from Prime Minister Imran Khans Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Baldev Kumar, on Tuesday sought political asylum from New Delhi.

He is staying with his wife Bhavana and two children in his in-laws house in Punjab's Khanna town for over a month.

"Minorities in Pakistan are not feeling secure and they have been denied rights. There is an increase in atrocities and target killings. I was put behind bars for two years," the former MLA from Barikot (reserved) seat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly told reporters in Khanna, some 100 km from the state capital here. He said he won't go back to Pakistan. "I came here with my full conscious mind. I am requesting (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi saab to grant me asylum and provide me security," he said.

Kumar, 43-year-old turbaned

man, said minorities were being prosecuted in Pakistan. He said killings of Hindu and Sikh leaders were being carried out.

"My brothers are there (in Pakistan). Many Sikh and Hindu families want to immigrate to India. Gurdwaras are in bad shape. There is no respect for the minorities. There are cases of forcible conversion and such acts should not happen. A case of forcible conversion of a Sikh girl to Islam came to light recently," he said.

He said he had expectations from Imran Khan but he too changed after winning the elections. According to him, he reached India on Eid (August 11). Kumar was charged for the murder of a Sikh legislator in 2016.

Sardar Soran Singh, also a lawmaker from Tehreek-e-Insaf party who was elected to the provincial assembly on a minority seat, was shot dead in April 2016 in Buner district of the province.

Punjab Cabinet restricts number of flats per acre under ECGHS scheme

Sultanpur Lodhi

Punjab government on Tuesday took a series of decision with respect to housing allotment, including restriction of flats for allotment of land under ECGHS scheme to 40 per acre and three per cent reservation of residential plots for government employees under PUDA and special authorities' jurisdiction.

The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

An official spokesperson said after the meeting that the decision to put a curb on per acre flats, allotted to the Employees Cooperative Group Housing Societies (ECGHS) by various development authorities, had been taken in pursuance of the announcement made by Capt Amarinder Singh during his speech in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on February 20, 2018, and in line with the notification issued on October 18, 2018.

Further, in line with the Chief Minister's approval dated June 15, 2017, the Cabinet approved the reservation policy for allotment of land/sites falling under the jurisdiction of PUDA and other Special Authorities. The reservation policy envisages three per cent residential plots/houses/apartments for allotment to government employees by development authorities, Municipal Corporations, Improvement Trusts or any other Government agency.

Employees of Punjab government, its Boards and Corporations, Punjab and Haryana High Court, employees/officials of Apex institutions working under Cooperative department of Punjab Government like Markfed, Milkfed, Punjab State Cooperative Bank, Housefed etc, and employees of Universities funded by Punjab government (except private universities), would be eligible for reservation under the policy.

Tripura Congress chief demands all-party meeting on fee hike issue

Agartala (UNI)

Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee president and royal scion Pradyot Kishore Debarman demanded the government to convene all-party meeting following the massive protest against abrupt hike fees of health services in government hospitals.

He maintained that the decision has increased woes of the common people.

"Instead of ensuring quality health care, the government is denying basic health care service to the people of the state. I demand an all-party discussion on how to ensure best quality health service," Pradyot stated adding that it was nothing but an extension of the fragile healthcare system of the previous government.

"We should be upgrading the system and making sure medicines, doctors are available round the clock instead of simply putting

a fee on the poor patients without improving quality of service and adequate facilities", he suggested.

Healthcare under government should be obligatory to the citizens of the state, he said appealing the govt to listen to the voices of opposition respecting the democratic governance, Debarman added.

Both CPI (M) and Congress have been protesting against the decision for past two days seeking rollback of the decision and withdraw the notification of Health and Family Welfare department, which had last week revised the tariff for all services under like private healthcare services including Intensive Care Unit (ICU), cabin charges, oxygen cylinders, diagnoses and diet that were previously provided at free of cost.

The CPI (M) leader and former Member of Parliament Shankar Prasad Datta alleged that BJP-IPFT government had declared war

against common people since inception. To counter the argument of the opposition, minister for education Ratan Lal Nath argued that upcoming facilities for heart treatment in the newly constructed super-speciality block within the premise of IGM hospital.

Nath said that very soon heart patients of the state will not require hospitalization outside the state at heavy expenses as altogether twelve super-speciality cardiac doctors and cardiothoracic surgeons will join the state's health service in the super-speciality block.

"We have nearly completed the infrastructural network of GBP hospital and now we aim to launch super-speciality heart treatment facilities in the newly constructed block of IGM hospital; altogether twelve cardiac specialists including surgeons will join the super-speciality block," he added.