

Yogi seeks overhaul of Sarvodaya schools, timely scholarships

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UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday called for a comprehensive overhaul of the management and functioning of Jai Prakash Narayan Sarvodaya residential schools and directed officials to expedite the recruitment of teachers against vacant posts, officials said.

Chairing a review meeting of the Social Welfare Department in the presence of Minister Asim Arun, Adityanath directed officials

to frame clear rules for the schools and initiate steps for setting up a society to ensure more systematic management and functioning of the institutions, according to an official statement.

The review meeting comes as Uttar Pradesh witnessed a series of Gen Alpha student protests in recent weeks, with schoolchildren taking to the streets and even approaching district collectorates to press for basic amenities, infrastructure improvements and other demands in Lucknow, Kannauj, Unnao, Fatehpur,

The review meeting comes as UP witnessed a series of Gen Alpha student protests in recent weeks, with schoolchildren taking to the streets and even approaching district collectorates to press for basic amenities, infrastructure improvements in many parts of the state

Hamirpur, Mahoba and Azamgarh, among other places. In Lucknow, students raised concerns, including over shortage of teachers in government-run residential schools twice within a week, by blockading road traffic amid rains.

The chief minister sought information on the availability of teachers and other staff, facilities being provided to students and the overall management of the schools, the statement said. The meeting was informed that the number of the Social Welfare

Department-run Jai Prakash Narayan Sarvodaya schools in Uttar Pradesh has increased from 93 before 2017 to 103 in 2025-26. Of these, 59 are affiliated with the CBSE and 44 with the Uttar Pradesh Board, it stated. Adityanath directed officials to speed up the process of filling vacant teaching posts and ensure adequate human resources in accordance with students' academic requirements. Further, the chief minister also directed officials to verify applications of eligible elderly people who have not yet received old-age

pension and ensure that they are brought under the scheme at the earliest. "Eligible elderly people should not have to wait unnecessarily," he said, stressing that the process from verification of applications to sanctioning of pension should be completed within a stipulated timeframe.

The meeting was informed that the number of beneficiaries under the National Old Age Pension Scheme has increased from 37.47 lakh in 2017-18 to 67.50 lakh in 2025-26. Around 11.50 lakh new applications are currently pending.

Bank staffer kills wife, sister before shooting himself

Waterlogging suspends train services at Rambagh station

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A bank employee allegedly shot dead his wife, a bank official, and his sister before shooting himself in the Gomti Nagar area here around 12:15 pm on Thursday, police said. In a WhatsApp status posted before killing himself, the accused Manas Mishra alleged that he killed his wife because she had "betrayed" him.

The incident occurred outside an ICICI Bank branch in Gomti Nagar, where the woman, identified as Divya Mishra (37), worked as a relationship manager. According to police, she was in her car when her husband, Manas, who was allegedly waiting in an autorickshaw, called

her outside and shot her before fleeing the spot.

Police said the accused was reportedly experiencing marital discord with Divya. ADCP (East) Amol Murkut, who reached the bank following the incident, said the woman had worked there for the past three or four years.

"The deceased woman's co-workers at the bank identified the attacker as her husband," said the officer. Police said the accused was subse-

In a WhatsApp status posted before killing himself, the accused Manas Mishra alleged that he killed his wife because she had betrayed him

quently traced to the Husaria area, where he allegedly shot his sister Sheeba Bajpai before turning the weapon on himself.

Lucknow Commissioner of Police Tarun Gauba also reached the crime scene and took stock of the situation. Police said the investigation was underway and forensic

teams were examining evidence from the spots linked to the shootings. Pragra, a journalist and YouTuber, also posted on social media that the ICICI Bank employee who was shot was her sister.

"I just came to know that my sister has been shot at in Gominagar... May God save her," she said in a post

tagging the Lucknow police commissionerate and the Uttar Pradesh director general of police. Before the incident, Manas wrote on WhatsApp status that he intended to kill himself and his sister, and alleged that Divya's sister, Pragra, and her husband Bharat Yadav knew everything about the matter.

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PRAYAGRAJ

TRAIN operations originating and terminating at North Eastern Railway's Rambagh station here have been temporarily shifted to Jhunsi station due to waterlogging on the tracks after heavy rains in the city, officials said on Thursday. North Eastern Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Sumit Kumar told PTI that waterlogging at Rambagh station had forced the temporary shifting of operations of trains originating and terminating there to Jhunsi. "Prayagraj city is flooded following heavy rainfall over the last 24 hours.

Rambagh station is located in a low-lying area and water has accumulated in its yard. Efforts are being made to drain the water, but it is flowing back," Kumar said. He said four passenger trains that normally originate and terminate at Rambagh were, for the time

being, being operated from Jhunsi. North Central Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Shivam Sharma said there was no report of waterlogging at Prayagraj Junction, Naini and Prayagraj Chheoki stations and trains were running as per schedule. Heavy rain has also led to waterlogging in several low-lying areas of the city, including areas around the Sangam such as Alopibagh, Daraganj, Allahpur, Sobatiyabagh and George Town.

At some places, water has entered ground-floor houses, with residents reporting diffi-

culties due to the inundation. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday also targeted the Uttar Pradesh government over the situation, sharing on X a photograph showing waterlogging at a house in Prayagraj.

"These are serious conditions in Prayagraj. Anyone else, after swallowing Rs one lakh crore in the name of Prayagraj's development, would be so ashamed on seeing thousands of houses in this waterlogged condition that they would leave power," Yadav said in the post.

Murder case filed against 6 cops over jeweller's death

Dispute over samosas: Customer assaulted

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SHAHJAHANPUR

A murder case has been registered against six policemen in connection with the death of a 65-year-old bullion trader whose body was found at a neighbouring house under construction after police conducted a raid at his residence, officials said on Thursday.

The FIR was registered at Nigohi police station on Wednesday evening on a complaint by the deceased's wife, naming four policemen posted at Malihabad in Lucknow and two personnel from the local Nigohi police station, Additional Superintendent of Police (City)

Devendra Kumar said. The deceased, Umesh Gupta, was taken to the roof by the police during the raid and thrown from there, resulting in his death, his wife Shanti Devi alleged in her complaint.

She also alleged that the policemen had been extorting money from her husband and had developed animosity towards him after she complained to senior officials. She further alleged that the

policemen killed her husband and took away jewellery kept in the house.

On Wednesday morning, she had told reporters that she did not know how her husband died but held the police responsible for his death. Kumar said a theft case had been registered at Malihabad police station in Lucknow last year in which Gupta, a resident of Shahjahanpur, was named as an accused. The Malihabad police team had come to Nigohi (Shahjahanpur) with a court warrant, while the local police personnel accompanied them to assist in the raid at Gupta's house around 3 am on Wednesday, he said.

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VARANASI

A case has been registered against five people based on a customer's complaint after he alleged that the eatery owner assaulted him when he asked for hot samosas instead of cold ones, at a shop in Jalupura market here, police said on Thursday.

The Chaubeypur police station registered the case last Friday based on the court's orders, five months after the complainant approached the judiciary. Advocate Shiv Shankar Singh, who is also the complainant in the matter, said, "I had gone to Chandauli in February for

some work and stopped at a shop in Jalupura market while returning. I ordered two samosas and two pieces of barfi from a shop owned by Guptaeshwar Singh." After receiving the samosas, Singh complained that they were cold and asked the shop employees to heat them.

This led to an argument between him and the employees, after which he asked them to call the shop owner, he said. When Guptaeshwar Singh arrived, an argument broke out again over the demand for hot samosas. Singh

alleged that the shopkeeper told him, "Are you the collector that you should be given hot samosas?"

He alleged that the shopkeeper and others accompanying him then assaulted him. Singh said he approached the local police and later the police commissioner's office but received no relief, so he moved the court. According to police, the case has been registered under BNS sections 19(2), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 35 (criminal intimidation), among others. Police said an investigation into the case is underway.

Cong MLAs boycott Raj Assembly proceedings

Skipped CWC meet to appear in exam: Channi

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JAIPUR

CONGRESS MLAs boycotted proceedings on the first day of the Monsoon session of the Rajasthan Assembly on Thursday over the issue of restrictions on the entry of outsiders in government schools across the state. Speaker Vasudev Devnani expressed disappointment over the absence of opposition members from the House and appealed to them to participate in the proceedings.

Government Chief Whip

Jogeshwar Garg and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel also criticised the Congress legislators for staying away from the House. After obituary references and some legislative business, the proceedings were adjourned till Friday. Congress MLAs staged a protest outside the House over the restrictions on entry of outsiders in government schools and demanded the resignation of Education Minister Madan Dilawar.

The Congress legislators, led by Leader of Opposition

Tika Ram Jolly, marched from the Poddar School for Deaf and Mute towards the Assembly. The protesters alleged that the state government was trying to prevent the public and media from highlighting the condition of government schools. Police stopped Congress MLAs with barricades and a brief scuffle broke out between the protesters and police personnel, with some Congress leaders climbing onto the barricades. The legislators subsequently sat on a dharna outside the Assembly.

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CHANDIGARH

FORMER Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Thursday said party high command allowed him to skip the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting as he was to appear in an examination at Panjab University here. The meeting of the CWC, the party's highest decision-making body, was held in Delhi.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, senior party leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and several top leaders and special invitees besides all four chief ministers of Congress-ruled states attended the marathon meeting held in the aftermath of the students' agitation on paper leaks

and the Ram temple donations row. Channi, who is the sitting MP from Jalandhar, holds a PhD in

political science from Panjab University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration. He has also expressed interest in further research in the area of public policy reforms.

Replying to a question on skipping the CWC meeting, Channi said, "I had sought written permission from the party high command that I won't be able to attend the meeting on Wednesday." "Had I missed my paper, my degree would have been delayed by a year. And due to this, the research work, which I want to pursue, would have also got delayed," he told reporters on the Panjab University campus here. Speaking about the master's course, Channi said, "Today was my last exam of Masters in Public Administration. I want to undertake research in policy reforms and will pursue a PhD programme in this regard from Panjab University here".

Maya backs Gen Alpha protests, urges govts to address basic needs

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BSP supremo Mayawati on Thursday backed recent protests by Gen Alpha schoolchildren over basic amenities and infrastructure, saying it is a matter of "great sorrow and concern" that students are being forced to take to the streets to demand facilities needed for elementary education. In a post on X, Mayawati said "Gen Alpha", and particularly schoolchildren and their parents, are not only concerned about getting a good educa-

tion for a better future but have been continuously struggling for it. "The bitter ground reality of the deteriorating condition of schools across the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh and the states of north India, has made them extremely vocal," the former chief minister said. She said Gen Alpha students are participating "in large numbers and with full enthusiasm" in the nationwide 'School Thik Karo' campaign of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP).

"It is a matter of great sorrow and concern that inno-

The bitter ground reality of the deteriorating condition of schools across the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh and the states of north India, has made them extremely vocal'

cent boys and girls, whose days are meant for laughing, playing, reading and writing, are being forced to struggle on the streets even for basic facilities for their elementary school education," the BSP chief said. Mayawati said education, particularly school education, has always been a matter of special concern for the Bahujan Sa-

maj because of B R Ambedkar's call to "educate".

She said the BSP governments in Uttar Pradesh under her leadership had given "full attention" to the interests, welfare and education of deprived and exploited sections so that families could lead a life of self-respect and equality with access to livelihood and education in accordance

with the Constitution. Instead of paying adequate attention to improving the government school system, all governments have largely ignored it, Mayawati charged. She alleged that a "conspiracy" is being pursued to make the entire government education system largely ineffective, just as the reservation system for these sections has been made ineffective. "Thousands of government schools are also being closed in this process, which the BSP has continuously opposed," she said. Mayawati said the short-

age of basic amenities such as school buildings, teachers, drinking water, toilets and cleanliness has now made Gen Alpha highly vocal and led them to launch protests. Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a series of student protests in recent weeks, with schoolchildren taking to the streets and even approaching district collectorates to press for basic amenities, infrastructure improvements and other demands in Lucknow, Kannauj, Unnao, Fatehpur, Hamirpur, Mahoba and Azamgarh, among other places.