

Despite parental opposition...

20-year-old woman is free to become Jain sadhvi: HC

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INDORE

THE Madhya Pradesh High Court has granted relief to a 20-year-old woman who wishes to renounce the worldly life and become a Jain sadhvi, saying that as an adult citizen, she is free to make her life decisions and practise the religion of her choice.

Justice Sandeep N. Bhatt of the Indore bench made this

remark while disposing of the woman's writ petition on September 7.

The woman's lawyer told the court that she had decided to embrace the Shvetambara Jain faith, take initiation and follow the religious path as a sadhvi, but her parents and relatives were opposing her decision and harassing her.

In the petition, the woman had requested immediate

police protection.

The single bench said in its order, "I have considered the submissions made at the bar. It seems that the petitioner who is aged 20 years, citizen of India, is entitled to follow the religion or practice of religion as per her own way and to live her life as per her will."

Citing the "peculiar facts of the case", the court said it had equal sympathy to-

The woman's lawyer told the court that she had decided to embrace the Shvetambara Jain faith, take initiation and follow the religious path as a sadhvi, but her parents and relatives were opposing her decision and harassing her

wards the woman as well as her parents.

"... but law provides that petitioner being a major (aged more than 18 years) and citizen of India is entitled to get

protection of her family rights and other legal rights and for any obstruction caused by anybody, the same cannot be permitted in the eye of law," it said. The judge told the

woman that if her parents or any other person adopted coercive methods against her, she could apply to the police station or officer concerned for help. It also cited the Supreme Court's decisions in "Lata Singh vs. State of U.P." and another case reported in AIR 2006 SC 2522, holding that individuals aged over 18 were free to make their own decisions and that the court was required to protect the



interests of such persons.

The high court directed that if such an application is filed by the woman, the competent authority or the station in-charge would look into the matter and take immediate action as per the directions given in the relevant Supreme Court judgment.

Ancient temple swept away in UP's Bareilly

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BAREILLY

AN ancient temple was swept away by the waters of the Ram Ganga river amid severe erosion in Bareilly district, while an overhead water tank under construction collapsed into the Kichha river, officials said. The temple, believed by locals to be centuries-old, was located in Kapoorpur village in the Mirganj tehsil area. It was completely engulfed by the Ram Ganga following days of intense erosion. Villagers noticed the temple had been washed away on Wednesday morning.

The temple was considered an important place of worship for the villagers.

Efforts were made by the administration and villagers to protect the structure, but the strong river cur-

The erosion has also posed a threat to nearby agricultural fields and inhabited areas, with villagers demanding permanent measures to check the erosion



rent rendered the measures ineffective.

The temple platform and two pillars had already been washed away before the entire structure disappeared into the river.

The erosion has also posed a threat to nearby agricultural fields and inhabited areas, with villagers demanding permanent measures to check the erosion.

An overhead water tank being constructed at a cost of around Rs 4 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission also

collapsed into the Kichha river in the Shergarh block on Tuesday morning.

The tank began to tilt as erosion intensified due to the strong river current and collapsed into the river within about four seconds, according to officials. No

casualties were reported. The boundary wall of the tank had been washed away four days earlier, following which officials were informed. Mirganj Sub Divisional Magistrate Nidhi Shukla visited the site and took stock of the situation

after speaking to officials and villagers.

Construction of the tank in Bais Nagar gram panchayat had been underway since 2023. The tank structure had been completed, and pipelines had also been laid, officials said. The site is around 50 km from the district headquarters.

Shukla said areas affected by river erosion were being continuously monitored and revenue and departmental teams had been directed to keep a close watch on the situation.

"Relief and protective work is also being carried out at places affected by erosion," she said, adding another overhead tank located around eight to 10 metres from the river was also at risk of collapsing and its safety had been assessed.

Chopper landing permission denied

Akhilesh's Bulandshahr visit sparks political row

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BULANDSHAHR/LUCKNOW

A political row erupted in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday over the denial of helicopter landing permission for Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's proposed Bulandshahr visit, with the former chief minister alleging a deliberate attempt to scuttle his programme. The BJP, however, refuted the charge.

Yadav's September 11 visit was postponed after district authorities refused permission for his helicopter to land at the designated site, saying a technical inspection had found the ground unsuitable for a safe landing.

SP district president Matloob Ali said the programme had been postponed because permission for helicopter landing was not granted and a fresh date would be announced later.

But Yadav had already accused the Uttar Pradesh government and administration of manufacturing an excuse to stop his programme.

"There is no waterlogging anywhere near the helipad in Bulandshahr. By deliberately showing cement, mortar and paver blocks, the administration, on the government's covert instructions, is looking for an excuse to cancel our September 11 programme," Yadav said in a post on X.

He demanded that impartial experts inspect



the site in the presence of SP office-bearers.

Yadav also suggested that the administration could come up with another excuse if he decided to travel by road. "If we come by road, will excuses also be made about the poor condition of the expressway, highway or roads? Because all those roads are actually fit for travel," he said.

"The public is asking why the helipad and the weather turn bad only for the opposition?" Yadav said. Speaking at a press conference in Lucknow on Thursday afternoon, Yadav again took a swipe at the administration, showing a video of the proposed landing site and saying there appeared to be no waterlogging there.

"It seems as if there has been a flood and we will have to go there by boat," he remarked sarcastically. Yadav also said a programme had earlier been proposed in Bulandshahr during the Sawan period but was subsequently postponed.

NCSC chief claims threats pushed Pb villager to suicide

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

NATIONAL Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) Chairman Kishor Makwana on Thursday met the family of Gulzar Singh, a daily wageer from Punjab who allegedly committed suicide, and claimed that he took the extreme step as he was "being threatened".

Singh, a 47-year-old Dalit man from Dirba in Sangrur district, died on the night of September 7 after allegedly consuming poison. His family said he questioned Finance Minister Harpal Cheema about the supply of drugs in the area during an event in Dirba on September 6.

Makwana visited Singh's



Turbanjara village and extended his condolences to the bereaved family. The NCSC chairman said Singh was raising his voice against the drug menace as the lives of many youths were getting destroyed because of this scourge.

"Gulzar was threatened and due to this, he took an extreme step," he claimed.

Singh's family demanded strict action against all those who were involved in threatening him and that they should be provided security, Makwana said.

The family of the deceased daily wageer earlier claimed that Singh was harassed and subjected to casteist slurs after he questioned Cheema.

The NCSC had issued a notice to the Punjab government, seeking a detailed report within five days on Singh's death from the chief secretary and the director general of police.

A purported video of Singh's last moments shows him asking Cheema about the availability of drugs in his area. He said the sarpanch would be responsible for his death and admitted that his son also took drugs. As his emotive video went viral, opposition parties cornered the Bhagwant Mann-led government and demanded a probe and Cheema's resignation.

Saini attacks Cong after MLAs protest wearing black clothes

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

HARYANA Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday attacked the Congress after its MLAs wore black clothes and protested on various issues, asking them to remember what all people had to face when they were in power.

Drawing a contrast with the previous Congress regime, Saini said that senior citizens earlier had to endure long delays, sometimes waiting months for their pension payments.

Congress used to insult the elderly beneficiaries, but our government gave them the respect they deserved, he said.

"The Congress should tell what the state of affairs was during their time. Systems had broken down during their time. Youth are also aware of how jobs were given during their time," Saini said.

Saini was addressing a news confer-



ence here after transferring over Rs 1,890 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to over 50 lakh eligible beneficiaries under various welfare schemes.

On August 27, the opening day of the three-day session of the Assembly, Congress MLAs, dressed in black and led by the party leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, took out a march from the High Court roundabout to the Vidhan Sabha and raised issues related to the youth,

Ram temple donation theft, the condition of sanitation workers and alleged scams.

Later, the MLAs, who were dressed in black clothes, attended the Assembly.

Saini said during Congress' time people used to wear black clothes to protest. People had to wait for four days to get a gas cylinder. Congress may have forgotten that period, but people have not, he said.

Attacking the previous Congress regime, Saini said, "Hooda should tell what the system was when they were in power. Wearing black clothes won't suffice, Hooda sahab; you have inflicted wounds on people's hearts."

Referring to the Congress protest, Saini further said that the Congress made even its senior-most MLAs wear black clothes, remarking that they are not at an age to be made to wear such attire.

CA escapes abduction attempt as car crashes into ditch

JAIPUR : A chartered accountant was allegedly forced into his luxury car by two unidentified men, who drove away in the vehicle before abandoning it following a crash into a roadside ditch here on Thursday, police said.

As the car veered off the road, the man managed to get out of the vehicle and fled, while the two accused also escaped the spot, the official said.

Ashok Nagar SHO Hemant Janagal said the man was returning from his morning walk when the two accused entered his car (Mercedes) and drove it themselves.

A relative of the victim said the accused kept driving and asked him about the car's functions to operate the vehicle.

Punjab suicide

Chugh alleges forced cremation

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NEW DELHI

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Tarun Chugh on Thursday claimed Punjab Police conducted the last rites of a Dalit man from Sangrur, who committed suicide, against his fam-

ily's wishes and accused the AAP government of crossing "all limits of injustice" against the community.

Gulzar Singh, a 47-year-old Dalit man from Dirba in Sangrur district, died on Monday night after allegedly consuming poison.

His family said he had questioned Finance Minister Harpal Cheema about the supply of drugs in the area during an event in Dirba on September 6.

In a post on X, Chugh alleged that police forcibly conducted Singh's funeral.



"The shameful, deceitful, and hideous face of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has once again been exposed.

Mayawati frees nephew Akash Anand from BSP

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LUCKNOW

BSP chief Mayawati on Thursday said her nephew Akash Anand has been "completely freed" from the party, shortly after his father-in-law and former Rajya Sabha member Ashok Siddharth announced his retirement from politics.

She questioned whether Anand, whose personal and



family interests she said appeared to outweigh his political career and the party's interests, could effectively work for the BSP while remaining

"double-minded". Mayawati said Anand's failure to repost her earlier X post showed his greater attachment to family ties than the BSP and its movement.

"Therefore, the people in the party feel that just as he was relieved of all the important responsibilities of the post of national coordinator on September 3, 2026, he should now also be completely freed from the party from today. There-

fore, if Akash Anand wants to remain independent in the party, he is free to do so; that is, he has now been completely freed from the party," Mayawati posted on X.

Mayawati also described Siddharth's decision as a "correct step" taken late and said his retirement had been sought by the party in the larger interest of the Bahujan Samaj Party, its movement and Anand.

Har: Rs 1,890 cr transferred to over 50 lakh beneficiaries

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

HARYANA Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday transferred Rs 1,890.16 crore directly into the bank accounts of more than 50 lakh eligible beneficiaries under 26 different schemes through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

He said that a total of Rs 1,890.16 crore has been released on Thursday into the bank accounts of 50,28,208 eligible beneficiaries under 26 different schemes.

These include the instalment under the Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana, social security pensions for the elderly and persons with disabilities, financial assistance to needy families under the DAYALU Yojana, gas subsidy for homemakers, Bhavantar compensation for farmers, and incentives to entrepreneurs under various schemes of the Industries and Commerce Department.

Saini said here that the "double-engine" government is committed to ensuring that the benefits of govern-

CM Saini said here that the "double-engine" government is committed to ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach every eligible person directly, transparently and in a time-bound manner

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Saini that the 11th instalment of the 'Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi' Yojana has been released today. Under the scheme, Rs. 212.16 crore has been credited to the bank accounts of 10.10 lakh women beneficiaries. With this, a

total amount of Rs. 2,254.47 crore has been released under the scheme in 11 instalments so far.

He said that from September 17, families with an annual income of up to Rs 1.80 lakh will also start receiving benefits under the scheme. The state government has made a provision of Rs 6,500 crore for the Lado Lakshmi

Yojana in the budget for the current financial year.

Notably, the annual family income eligibility under the scheme was being raised from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.80 lakh. Saini said that Rs. 1,129.05 crore has been transferred directly into the bank accounts of 35,06,841 beneficiaries on Thursday under 15 social security pension schemes. These include the Old Age Samman Allowance, Disability Allowance and other social security pensions.

He said that the govern-

ment has brought about a systemic change by adopting a 'pro-active model'. Eligibility is determined automatically on the basis of the Parivar Pehchan Patra database, enabling eligible citizens to receive social security pensions from their homes without having to visit government offices or submit applications.

He said that payments through Direct Benefit Transfer reflect the government's commitment to transparency and good governance.

