

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Sharad Pawar to attend ECI hearing on NCP split, says everyone knows who is party founder

PUNE, OCT 01: NCP president Sharad Pawar on Sunday said he will be in New Delhi on October 6 to present his side to the Election Commission of India (ECI) during a hearing in connection with the split of the party.

Everyone knows who is the party founder, Pawar told reporters at Junnar in Maharashtra's Pune district, adding that he has got summons and he will remain present for the hearing.

The Sharad Pawar-founded NCP split on July 2 after Ajit Pawar and eight MLAs joined the Eknath Shinde government in Ma-



harashtra. Both groups have petitioned the ECI for the party name and symbol. "What the common man

thinks is important. Some people have taken a different political stand and I don't want to comment on it as it is their right in a democracy. But, Maharashtra and the rest of the country know who is the founder of NCP. There is truth in what my people say that the situation is favourable to us," Sharad Pawar said.

"Those who have joined hands with the BJP cannot belong to the NCP. We don't accept compromise in such a manner," he said.

Pawar also said the next course of action of the INDIA opposition alliance will be finalised in the next few days.

"People want a change and that will be seen after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," he added.

BSP to maintain 'complete distance' from NDA and INDIA bloc: Mayawati

LUCKNOW, OCT 01: BSP chief Mayawati on Sunday reiterated her stand to maintain "complete distance" from the ruling NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc for next year's Lok Sabha elections and said that the party has to move forward by working on its own strengths.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the UP unit of the BSP said, "BSP chief and former UP chief minister Mayawati held a discussion with senior and responsible people of the party regarding the preparedness of the party for upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the preparedness of the party in Uttar Pradesh and in Uttarakhand, and to increase the party's mandate." "During the discussion, she once again made it clear that Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has to work by strengthening itself, while maintaining complete distance from the ruling NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc," the statement said.



Mayawati urged party members to be alert to fake news, and said that anti-BSP elements are still engaged in propaganda and political conspiracy. "So, precaution has to be taken at every level, so that our election preparedness is not affected," she said.

In the meeting, Mayawati took note of BJP government's "new election strategy" but said that people are

still facing issues such as inflation, extreme poverty, unemployment, decrease in income, bad condition of roads, law and order, and poor health and educational facilities.

But it is unclear if these problems will become serious election issues, she said. "This is because when it comes to issues of public interest and public welfare, the attitude of the BJP and Con-

gress is almost the same, and it is anti-people," Mayawati said.

The BSP chief also said that efforts are being made to make the provision of reservation to the SC, ST and OBCs ineffective.

Reservation should not be linked to removing unemployment or some cosmetic changes, she said.

"Till the time unequal intentions and policies continue in the government and in society, people will not get the actual benefits of reservation, and this will only exist on paper," she said.

Mayawati also took serious objection to bulldozer action on people, saying it is used to punish the family of a person before being convicted. Educational institutes and hospitals linked to such people are being shut down, she said.

"This is an extremely anti-people step," Mayawati said. Such action of the government is malicious and completely unnecessary, she said, according to the statement.

CISF joins nationwide Cleanliness drive

HYDERABAD, OCT 01: In view of the nationwide cleanliness drive titled "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta", CISF personnel at the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) and the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA) took part in large numbers in the cleanliness drive held in the residential localities near their campuses.

CISF Unit organized Swachhta Drive at GHMC Park, Shiva Mandir and State Government (Z P H School) in Chilkanagar division near Uppal.

Led by Rohit Katiyar, DIG, DAE-1, other officials, along with 118 personnel, their families, local residents, 45 school children and GHMC staff joined the drive.

Meanwhile CISF NISA conducted the cleanliness



drive Singaipally village near the academy including the market area and Hakimpet Bus Stop, areas near Hakimpet. Nina Singh, Director General of CISF who was the chief guest spoke about the

significance of cleanliness and sanitation in day-to-day life. She expressed pride and pleasure in the successful completion of the drive and commended the officers and the public for their enthusi-

astic participation. Along with CISF personnel and officials, more than 1,000 locals joined the drive.

NISA is the country's premier institute in industrial security training.

Cauvery: Karnataka files petition before CWMA seeking review, deputy CM expresses respite with increase in inflow

BENGALURU, OCT 01: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday said the state has filed a petition before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) seeking a review of its order on the release of river water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

CWMA on Friday asked Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu till October 15, despite the state stating that there is not enough water.

State Water Resources Minister Shivakumar, however said the inflow of water to reservoirs in the Cauvery basin increasing to 15,000 cusecs, is a sign of respite.

"On Saturday afternoon itself we filed a petition before the Management Authority (CWMA) seeking a review, following the suggestions given by senior former



Judges including M N Venkatachalaiah (Former Chief Justice of India)," Shivakumar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "Meanwhile, I have got a report this morning -- I'm checking two to three times a day -- today inflow is 15,000 cusecs. It is good news for now."

Farmers and people of the region (Cauvery basin) should pray to rain Gods, he

said, adding that, "If such inflow continues, there won't be much trouble, as we have released water to state's farmers for crops and seepage water is flowing." Shivakumar further said, "Recent rains in Bengaluru and areas below KRS dam like -- Mandya, Kollegala, Hanuru among others are also getting registered (as part of flow towards TN). So in the last three-four days there is

a record regarding flow up to 6,500 cusecs (towards TN) despite us not releasing water from KRS, so if there are more rains, it will strengthen us." He, however maintained that the legal fight that is necessary will continue.

Karnataka has been maintaining that it is not in a position to release water, taking into account its own need for drinking water and irrigation for standing crops in the Cauvery basin areas, as there has been water scarcity due to deficit monsoon rains.

Farmers and pro-Kannada organisations have been protesting in various parts of the state against releasing water to Tamil Nadu and two bands were called in a week -- in Bengaluru on September 26, and statewide on September 29 -- in this regard.

Shiv Sena is real 'wagh nakh' of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, claims Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI, OCT 01: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday claimed Shiv Sena is the real 'wagh nakh', a tiger claw-shaped weapon, of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and alleged that the BJP has tried to weaken the Sena by "splitting" it.

Maharashtra Culture Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and officials from his department are slated to go to the UK on October 3 to get the revered weapon back.

The 'wagh nakh' was used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill Bijapur sultanate's general Afzal Khan in 1659.

In June last year, the Shiv Sena split after a revolt led by Eknath Shinde against the party leadership, and it also led to the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

Shinde then joined hands with the BJP to form government in the state.

In February this year, the Election Commission (EC) allotted the name



'Shiv Sena' and its poll symbol 'bow and arrow' to the group led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Thackeray had moved the Supreme Court to challenge the EC's decision.

Talking to reporters here on Sunday, Raut took potshots at the BJP, whose minister Mungantiwar and other leaders are slated to travel to the UK to bring the 'wagh nakh' to the state.

"It is an insult to the wagh nakh, which is the pride and matter of self-respect for Maharashtra. Shiv Sena is

the real wagh nakh of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, which (the party) has fought all obstacles coming in way of the state," the Rajya Sabha member claimed.

He alleged that by "splitting" the party (Shiv Sena) in an attempt to weaken it, the BJP has made the state a "doormat in front of Delhi." "What will you do by bringing the weapon which was used to protect the self-respect and integrity of Maharashtra. You have made the state a slave of Delhi," Raut further charged.

He also demanded that the Janata Dal (Secular) drop the word 'secular' from the party's name, since it has decided to join hands with the BJP.

The Janata Dal (Secular), headed by former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, last month joined the BJP-led NDA and forged an alliance with the saffron party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to fight the Congress in Karnataka.

Delhi: Over 40 NGOs, rights groups participate in rally against animal cruelty

New Delhi, Oct 01: People from different walks of life participated in a rally to raise voice against cruelty to animals at Jantar Mantar on the eve of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. During the rally, signatures for a petition addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his attention on the issue were also collected, an official statement from the organisers said.

The rally was organised by India Unites For Animal Rights, a citizen-led movement. As many as 43 NGOs and animal rights groups, including People for Animals (PFA) and Perroyada Welfare Foundation, were part of the event.

"Our aim is to spread awareness about the plight of animals in the country and demand strict action against people who torture them. Through this rally we also wish to guide on how to man-



age pets and prevent dog bites which have become a tool to justify crime against animals," Sanjay Mohapatra, founder of House of Stray Animals, an NGO participating in the rally, told PTI. During the rally, signatures for

the petition 'No More 50' were also collected demanding amendments to the existing laws which deal with cruelty against animals. The petition is addressed to Prime Minister Modi.

"Whether it is goats ex-

ported live to the Middle East or camels and cows openly smuggled to Bangladesh, India's animals are being cruelly exploited and murdered. The fine for crimes against animals is a laughable Rs 50," the statement said.

Uttar Pradesh: Amethi hospital employees' protest against licence suspension enters sixth day

AMETHI, OCT 01: The indefinite protest by over 400 employees of the Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in Amethi against the suspension of its licence entered the sixth day on Sunday.

The Uttar Pradesh government's health department recently suspended the hospital's licence and put a halt on its out-patient department and emergency services after a probe into the death of the 22-year-old woman.

Former Union minister and BJP leader Sanjay Singh demanded that while the woman's family should get justice, the hospital must not be shut down.

The guilty doctors should



be punished after a probe but the hospital should function, he said and added that he will write to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in this regard.

The hospital's licence was suspended on September 17.

The woman was admitted in the hospital for a minor operation but her condition deteriorated on September 14 and she was rushed to a private hospital in Lucknow. She died on September 16. Her husband alleged that she died due to an over-

dose of anaesthesia at the Amethi hospital.

The chief of the Sanjay Gandhi Hospital Employees' Union, also named Sanjay Singh, said the agitation will continue till the hospital reopens.

BJP MP Varun Gandhi has also written to the state government, urging it to reconsider the decision to shut the hospital. The hospital is named after the Pilibhit MP's father.

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust, which runs the Amethi hospital, while party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are its members.

Kerala High Court names child after estranged parents fail to arrive at a consensus

KOCHI, OCT 01: The Kerala High Court has named a three-year-old child, after the girl's estranged parents could not arrive at a consensus on what they should name her.

Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas, in an order issued last month, said the name suggested by the mother, with whom the child is presently residing, has to be given due importance, while the name of the father is also to be incorporated due to the absence of any dispute on paternity.



The matter pertained to an estranged couple fighting over their daughter's name.

As the birth certificate issued to the girl had no name on it, her mother attempted to register a name. However, the Registrar of Births and Deaths insisted on the pres-

ence of both parents before him to register the name.

As the couple could not arrive at a consensus on the name, the mother approached the High Court.

The child was born on February 12, 2020 and the relationship between the parents turned sour.

The court, in its September 5 order, observed that while invoking its parens patriae jurisdiction, the paramount consideration was the welfare of the child and not the rights of the parents.

"While choosing a name,

factors like the welfare of the child, cultural considerations, interests of parents and societal norms can be reckoned by the court. The ultimate objective being the well-being of the child, the court has to adopt a name, taking into consideration the overall circumstances. Thus, this court is compelled to exercise its parens patriae jurisdiction to select a name for the child," the court said.

Parens patriae is a legal principle which envisages the state or the court in a protective role over its citizens.