

SC judge Nagarathna stresses integrating adjudication, ADR for resolving family disputes

GUWAHATI, SEPT 26: Supreme Court judge B V Nagarathna on Saturday stressed that adjudication and alternative dispute resolution must work together in the delivery of justice in matters of family disputes. The chairperson of the Committee for Family Court Matters in the apex court also emphasised that speedy resolution cannot come at the cost of meaningful and just outcomes.

Justice Nagarathna was speaking at the opening ceremony of a two-day eastern zone regional conference on 'ADR vs adjudication in family disputes: Challenges and way forward', organised here by the Committee for Family Court Matters, Supreme Court, in association with the Gauhati High Court. "It would be apposite to consider whether the framing of this theme suggests an apparent conflict. After all, alternative dispute resolu-



tion mechanisms are not meant to supplant courts. Rather, the two should ideally aid in delivery of justice, with ADR mechanisms offering speed, privacy and confidentiality in family matters," she said. Mentioning delays in the delivery of judgments in family dispute cases when time is of the essence in several such cases, Justice Nagarathna said such delays lead to exaggeration of existing inequalities in familial

relationships. She stressed that one mode of addressing these inordinate delays is through ADR. Justice Nagarathna maintained that the mode of dispute resolution has to be determined depending on its nature, highlighting that "the absence of acrimony and adversarial style of a courtroom may also result in reconciliation" if the case is taken up through ADR. She said strategic use of

ADR mechanisms could help in reducing pendency of cases, adding that the number of pending cases in the eastern states ranges from 70,365 in Bihar to 36,792 in Odisha, 7,399 in Assam to 149 in Sikkim as of October, 2024. Justice Nagarathna said that a system of integrating ADR with adjudication in a manner that would allow for the speedy resolution of disputes in cases where speed is of the essence, but not at the cost of meaningful and just outcomes, is yet to be evolved. "...mediation is not meant to be substituted for adjudication, and a woman's bargaining position is worth precisely what her legal entitlement is worth," she added. The Supreme Court judge hoped the conference would come forward with practical and actionable suggestions to develop and bolster such a system. (PTI)

Punjab emerging as major industrial hub, attracted Rs 1.89 lakh cr investment in 4 years: Mann

CHANDIGARH, SEP 25: Punjab is fast emerging as a major industrial hub and preferred investment destination, with the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann-led government attracting Rs 1.89 lakh crore in investments over the last four years, an official statement said here on Friday. Get Reference Apps This generated employment potential for 6.31 lakh youth and is driving industrial growth beyond traditional centres, it said.



The chief minister said Punjab's traditional strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, engineering, textiles and food processing, coupled with the state's emerging capabilities in technology, renewable energy, automobiles and modern manufacturing, are providing a strong foundation for the next phase of industrial growth. He pointed out that several leading national and international companies, including Tata Steel, JSW Steel, AICHI Steels, Vardhman, Nestle, Hindustan Lever, Cargill, De Heus, HMEL, Santhan Textiles and Freudenberg, among others, have invested or expanded their presence in Punjab. Compare Investment Apps

Mann said, "SAS Nagar (Mohali) is rapidly transforming into one of Punjab's principal economic and industrial growth engines and has emerged as the leading district in new investment proposals received through common application forms (CAFs) during the financial years 2022-23 to 2026-27. Mohali received investment proposals worth Rs 9,478 crore, followed by Ludhiana with Rs 4,968 crore, Patiala with Rs 2,590 crore and Hoshiarpur with Rs 2,003 crore." "Mohali and Ludhiana alone accounted for 49.8 per cent of the total investments routed through CAFs during the period, underlining the growing importance of these two cities as major economic

centres of Punjab. Mohali's IT, technology and innovation ecosystem is expanding rapidly. "The city is steadily developing into a major technology destination and has the potential to emerge as the 'Silicon Valley of India'," he said. Several other districts are also making a significant contribution to Punjab's industrial growth story, he said. Mann said, "The geographical spread of investment demonstrates that industrial development is no longer confined to a few traditional industrial centres. New investment is creating opportunities across different regions of Punjab and strengthening the foundations of balanced economic development." The chief minister said his government is committed to providing the required ecosystem for technology companies, start-ups, knowledge-based industries and innovative enterprises so that Punjab's educated and skilled youth can find quality employment opportunities within the state. He said, "The investment of Rs 1.89 lakh crore and employment potential of around 6.31 lakh youth are significant indicators of the transformation underway in Punjab's industrial sector." (PTI)

Dharamsala: Tibetan Home teachers, students hold candlelight march against China's new ethnic unity law

DHARAMSHALA, SEP 26: Teachers and students of the Tibetan Children's Home held a candlelight march in McLeod Ganj on Friday evening to raise awareness about what they described as concerns over China's National Unity Promotion Law. According to the organisers, around 600 students and 200 teachers partici-

pated in the march, which began from the Tibetan Home and passed through McLeod Ganj before concluding at McLeod Square. The organisers said the protest is against the law adopted during the fourth plenary session of China's 14th National People's Congress on March 12, 2026, and came into effect from July

1. They alleged that the legislation was aimed at imposing cultural uniformity and expressed concern over its potential impact on the distinct language and cultural heritage of Tibetans. "Our rich culture, language and heritage are an important part of our identity," a student representative said.

Arunachal Pradesh joins 'Namami Bharatam' to commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram

ITANAGAR, SEP 26 : Arunachal Pradesh joined the nationwide observance of 'Namami Bharatam' on Friday to commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram, with 8,251 students, teachers and members of the community participating in programmes held across the state. The Arunachal Shiksha Vikas Samiti (ASVS), under Vidya Bharati Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Sansthan, organised the state-wide programme across 49 schools and Ekal Vidyalayas, besides government and private schools that participated through collaborative programmes.

A total of 42 programmes were conducted at different locations, involving 7,176 students, 519 teachers and 556 other participants. The participants assembled at their respective venues and collectively sang Vande Mataram at 11 am. At Abotani Vidya Niketan, Pachin, the programme was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Tai Tagak, who spoke on the historical significance of Vande Mataram in India's freedom movement and its continuing relevance as a symbol of national consciousness and unity. Around 350 students participated in the programme.

ZPM Kago Kampu, APRO to the Deputy Chief Minister, Nepha Wangsa, ASVS Joint Secretary Gyamar Kasung, Tadar Tavie, Tilhip Nima and Tadar Sambyo were also present. In Pasighat, Prof Sanjay Swami,

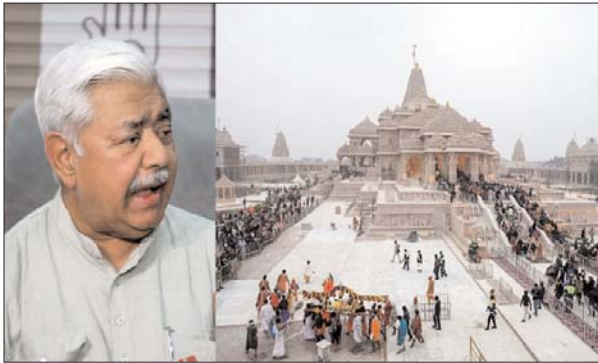


The state-wide observance provided students and teachers an opportunity to learn about the historical and cultural significance of Vande Mataram and reflect on its place in India's national heritage. Meanwhile, Vidya Bharati has been recognised by the Asia Book of Records for conducting a simultaneous mass singing of Vande Mataram across India as part of the 'Namami Bharatam' programme commemorating 150 years of the National Song. The recognition was awarded for the large-scale participation of students who rendered Vande Mataram simultaneously at the

same designated time at educational institutions across the country. The achievement was described by the organisation as a reflection of collective participation, unity and national consciousness among students. Vidya Bharati congratulated the students, teachers, schools, organisers and supporters who contributed to the nationwide initiative. The mass rendition formed part of the 'Namami Bharatam' observance marking 150 years of Vande Mataram, with educational institutions across the country participating in the commemoration.

Ram temple donation row should not become fodder for UP polls: VHP

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26: The VHP on Saturday said the controversy surrounding the alleged theft of donations from the Ram temple in Ayodhya should be laid to rest and should not be used as a political tool ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Politics The RSS affiliate organisation claimed that the chargesheet filed by the Supreme Court-mandated Special Investigation Team (SIT) found no wrongdoing by those who worked on the temple's construction or were part of its trust.



In a video statement, VHP international president Alok Kumar mentioned that some individuals assigned to count the offerings committed the offence and are now in jail. "There was no other irregularity. The rest of the accounts are also in order. All valuables contributed for Lord Ram are safe and properly accounted for. No wrongdoing or offence was found on the part of the trustees," he noted. The VHP highlighted that the nearly 70,000-page chargesheet filed after the investigation dismantled all "conspiracies" aimed at defaming the trustees, the general secretary of the trust, the

Hindu campaign, the Vishva Hindu Parishad, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, and the temple's management. The remarks came after the Supreme Court-mandated SIT, probing the case, filed the chargesheet before the Additional District Judge (Corruption) Court in Ayodhya on September 23. It stated that the diversion of donations from the Ram temple took place during the cash-counting process and involved a network of people who allegedly removed, concealed and distributed the pilfered funds. Among the prosecution witnesses named in the chargesheet are former Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai, trustee

Anil Mishra, and construction in-charge Gopal Rao. The chargesheet names eight accused -- Anukul Mishra, Avinash Shukla alias Shani, Lavkush Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ramashankar Mishra, Ram Shankar Yadav alias Tinnu and Subhash Srivastava -- all of whom are in judicial custody. "This investigation has brought an end to many controversies. All the conspiracies to defame the trustees, the general secretary of the trust, the Hindu campaign, the Vishva Hindu Parishad, the Sangh, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra and the management of the temple have been destroyed and have collapsed," Kumar added. Kumar expressed satisfaction with the investigation's

findings, asserting that no wrongdoing was implicated against those who worked for the Ram temple and were part of its trust. The VHP leader pointed out that the Uttar Pradesh government had reconstituted the SIT to include a forensic auditor in compliance with the Supreme Court's recommendations, and the investigation into the alleged theft of offerings is now complete, having identified the wrongdoers. "We hope that politics surrounding this issue will now cease. The Ram temple issue should not be used while preparing for the 2027 Assembly elections. The truth has been revealed. Everyone should accept it, and the noise and controversy should come to an end," Kumar said. He also appealed to the court to expedite the proceedings so that those found guilty can be punished without delay. "The hearings should take place on a day-to-day basis so that those who dared to commit wrongdoing with the Ram temple's funds receive the strictest possible punishment at the earliest," he said. (PTI)

Harish Rawat appears before ED for questioning in 2016 recruitment case

DEHRADUN, SEPT 26: Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Harish Rawat arrived at the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Dehradun office on Saturday for questioning in a 2016 case involving alleged irregularities in a recruitment exam. Rawat wore a photograph of his mother around his neck as he entered the office. Before the questioning, he shared a video stating that he had received an ED notice two days earlier summoning him for questioning. The case pertains to alleged irregularities in the 2016 Village Panchayat Development Officer (VPDO) recruitment examination conducted by the Uttarak-



hand Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UKSSSC). In connection with the matter, the ED conducted searches at several locations in Dehradun on September 10, including the residence of Chandan Singh Jeena, Rawat's current personal assistant, who also served as

his Officer on Special Duty (OSD) during his tenure as chief minister. In his video, Rawat noted that the ED had requested a large number of documents from him. Specifically, the agency sought information regarding his past Income Tax Returns (ITR) and details about his assets and

those of his family members. Rawat mentioned that the notice also requested documents related to his family, although he was uncertain about which members were specifically included under the definition of 'family'. He pointed out that he has a large family, and his daughters are married, making it difficult to gather old documents for every member. The former chief minister added that he had not informed anyone beforehand about his visit to the ED. On September 12, Rawat announced his decision to step down from all party posts after the Enforcement Directorate recovered cash and jewellery from his personal assistant's house. (PTI)

Ram Temple fund theft: Bail pleas of 2 accused not heard as lawyer seeks time to study chargesheet

AYODHYA (UP), SEP 25: The bail applications of two accused in the Ram Temple donation theft case were not heard on Friday after their lawyer did not press for them and sought time to examine the recently filed chargesheet. Crime & Justice Advocate Kul Shekhar Singh, representing accused Subhash Srivastava and Ramashankar alias Tinnu Yadav, said the matter was scheduled before Special Judge Rajat Verma of the Anti-Corruption Court. "The bail applications were not pressed before the judge. I have received the chargesheet and will examine it before filing fresh bail applications," Singh told PTI. The chargesheet, filed by the Supreme Court-mandated Special Investigation Team (SIT), runs into

around 70,000 pages and names 173 witnesses. The investigators have collected video evidence of 105 instances in which cash was allegedly diverted during the counting of donations, according to a senior police officer. The case relates to alleged embezzlement of cash and valuables offered by devotees at the Ayodhya Ram Temple. Eight people were arrested in the case after an FIR was registered on June 25 based on a preliminary SIT report. Most of the accused are bank employees deployed for counting donations. Srivastava was allegedly supervising the counting process, while Tinnu Yadav worked as a driver. Yadav was a close aide of former Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai. The prosecution said Rs 79.85 lakh of

the suspected embezzled money was recovered during the investigation from all the accused except Srivastava. According to the chargesheet, the SIT investigation did not find evidence of pilferage during the subsequent transfer of counted money to banks. Investigators relied on CCTV footage from the cash-counting facility, witness statements, banking and financial records and a forensic audit. Legal Advocate Singh said the remaining six accused, whose bail applications had been rejected by the special court, would now approach the Allahabad High Court. The special court rejected the bail pleas of Avinash Shukla, Manish Kumar Yadav and Ram Shankar Mishra on September 21 and the applications of Anukul Mishra, Lav Kush Mishra and Karunesh Pandey the next day. (PTI)