

Can conduct CLAT in regional languages too, NTA tells HC

MALAVIKA PRASAD NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE NATIONAL Testing Agency (NTA) has informed the Delhi High Court that it is in a position to conduct the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) in English and other Indian Languages.

In an affidavit filed in response to a plea seeking the conduct of CLAT-2024 in regional languages along with English, the NTA has said it has a pool of experts and translators in a wide range of subjects for the preparation of question papers in multiple languages. It said that it has been conducting workshops for test developers/subject experts in batches of 35 to 40 experts to develop question banks for examinations.

"Accordingly, the Question Papers in respect of the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)-UG can be translated into other Indian languages, such as Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu and design/printing the requisite OMR Answer Sheet in the required quantity depending upon the number of candidates to be scheduled for the said Test," the agency has said.

"Hence, in principle, NTA would be in a position to conduct the CLAT Examination in English and other Indian Languages as mentioned above," it added.

At present, CLAT is held in English by the Consortium of National Law Universities. The HC had, during the previous hearing on September 1, directed the petitioner to implead the NTA as a respondent.

CLAT-2024 is scheduled for December. The matter is next listed on October 6.

The agency has, however, said that if CLAT has to be conducted by the NTA, the exam could possibly be held in the third or fourth week of January 2024, considering that a minimum time of four months is required for preparations.

LICENSE SUSPENDED OVER MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in Amethi closed down, Congress accuses BJP of vendetta

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 20

AFTER THE UP Health Department suspended the licence of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Amethi following the death of a 22-year-old woman in a case of alleged medical negligence, the Congress Wednesday accused the BJP government in the state of carrying out "political vendetta" by "targeting" the hospital, run by a Trust whose chairperson is Sonia Gandhi.

While the hospital authorities said they would move the court against the suspension of licence, the Congress said they would launch a movement against the government's decision.

The 100-bed Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, whose foundation stone was laid by ex-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1982, has been in operation in Munshiganj of Amethi since 1989.

On Sunday, police registered a case of death by medical negligence against four employees of the hospital, including its chief executive officer, over the death of a 22-year-old woman.

The woman was admitted to the hospital on September 14 morning after she complained of a stomach ache. As her condition worsened before undergoing gall-bladder surgery, she was referred to a private hospital in Lucknow where she died on September 16. The family of the woman alleged that she died because of an anaesthesia overdose at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital and an FIR was registered on September 17.

Taking cognizance of the incident, district health officials also ordered a probe and constituted a three-member team, led by Additional Chief Medical Officer. On September 18, the hospital's licence was suspended by district health officials, citing prima facie evidence of medical negligence.

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The 100-bed hospital has been in operation in Munshiganj of Amethi since 1989. File

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such incidents happen, but not only did they not conduct prior medical tests... but even after diagnosing the problem of the patient, they kept her for another 10-12 hours before referring her to another hospital leading to her death. Our inquiry found that doctors as well as the administration were guilty of negligence and recommended the cancellation of the hospital's licence. If they are not satisfied, then further inquiry can be conducted by a bigger team," Dr Anshuman Singh told *The Indian Express*.

Meanwhile, Congress leader KL Sharma said criticised the government's decision. "While the law would do its work, the way the hospital was closed down is not right. The one who is guilty should be punished and not the entire organisation. The hospital has been serving the people of Amethi for decades and now a lock has been put on it. The hospital is not of the Congress, it caters to all," Sharma said.

District Congress leaders also submitted a memorandum to the district administration against the decision.

Bihar fire services DIG raises harassment complaint; D-G denies

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, SEPTEMBER 20

THE DIG of Bihar fire services has accused the director general of police (D-G) in the department of harassing her, allegedly after she pointed out anomaly in fire tender bids and thereby saved Rs 6.5 crore from the state exchequer.

Dismissing the complaint by Home Guards and Fire Services DIG Anusuiya Ransingh Sahu's allegations in a letter to her, D-G Shobha Ahotkar accused the DIG of "insubordination" and said the allegations were made after she recommended departmental proceedings against Sahu.

In her complaint, Sahu, a 2005-batch IPS officer, stated that Ahotkar cancelled two other bids after she pointed out the huge difference between two lowest bid rates but accused the D-G of holding it against her.

Ahotkar wrote: "I shared a very good relationship with you from my date of joining (6 March 2023) home guards and fire services department till 21 March 2023...when you asked me [to] study some files. I detected a file

in which there were three bids of the same specifications for purchase of 138 fire brigade vehicles through three bids... I noticed huge differences in lowest bid rates that could have caused a loss of Rs 6.5 crore to the state exchequer. As I could not speak to you, I sought innocent advice from a department official. But you took offence and reprimanded me, which caused me mental agony."

She alleged in the letter that the D-G had threatened her with "stringent punishment". Sahu wrote: "Though the department cancelled two bids and saved Rs 6.5 crore loss to the government, you [Ahotkar] kept nursing ill-will against me. Even though I had been on medical leave, showcase notices were issued against me."

Sahu marked a copy of the mail to the chief secretary; additional chief secretary, Home; and the state DGP.

Denying the allegations made against her, Ahotkar told reporters: "The DIG has been making baseless allegations against me since I have recommended departmental action against her for insubordination and dereliction of duty."

Udhayanidhi: Dravida movement was initiated to destroy 'Sanatan Dharma'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 20

TAMIL NADU Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin Wednesday said that the Dravida movement was initiated to abolish Sanatan Dharma, asserting that the endeavour would remain undeterred. This comment comes two weeks after his contentious remarks on Sanatan Dharma that triggered a nationwide controversy.

"I will not be threatened by priests who call for my death and declare a price on my head," Udhayanidhi said Wednesday,



Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin. File

addressing a meet at Madurai. Drawing reference to DMK's founder and ex-CM of Tamil Nadu, C N Annadurai, Udhayanidhi

asked the AIADMK, main opposition party, to consider Annadurai as their political guru: "Do you have the courage to say all that Annadurai spoke? Whether it's about Sanatan or the federal system, only we are upholding everything that Annadurai stood for, not AIADMK."

He pointedly addressed AIADMK leader Sellur Raju, questioning his courage to echo Annadurai's views on Sanatan. Annadurai, Udhayanidhi noted, was disheartened by a section that believed in Sanatan.

Highlighting the recent inauguration of the new Parliament building, Udhayanidhi criticised

the decision of inviting "Aadheenams" from Tamil Nadu, questioning their relevance to the Parliament.

In a charged statement, he questioned the exclusion of the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, from the event, alleging that her absence was due to her tribal lineage.

"Even yesterday, they had invited film actresses for a bill introduction, but not the President... We advocate that all are born equal. Hence, annihilating Sanatan is our aim," Udhayanidhi asserted, underlining the reasons for the DMK's stance on the matter.

7-yr-old booked for 'raping' girl in Kanpur Dehat

Lucknow: A case was registered against a seven-year-old boy for allegedly raping a five-year-old girl in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur Dehat district, police said.

The case under Section 376 (punishment for rape) of Indian Penal Code was filed on the complaint of the victim's mother at the police station, they added.

The police got the medical examination of the victim done and sent her clothes to the forensic science laboratory for examination. "The police got the victim's statement recorded before Child Welfare Committee and a magistrate on Wednesday. The boy's medical examination was done in the presence of his father and the child welfare officer," said police.

The statement of the victim's mother has also been recorded before the magistrate.

Kanpur Dehat Superintendent of Police BGGTS Murthy said all procedures of the juvenile law are being followed in the case. **ENS**

CHHATTISGARH

Verify claims of graft in candidate selection via PSC exam: HC to state govt

ENS & PTI RAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 20

The Chhattisgarh High Court on Wednesday ordered the state government and the state Public Service Commission (PSC) to "verify" whether allegations made in a petition that 18 candidates selected through the PSC examination 2021 are relatives of high-ranking government officials, political leaders and influential businesspersons in Chhattisgarh.

A division bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice N K Chandravanshi in Bilaspur gave the direction while hearing a writ petition filed by senior BJP MLA and former state Home Minister Nankiran Kanwar.

The High Court will hear the matter again on October 5.

During hearing on the plea on Tuesday, the state government said the matter will be thoroughly investigated, and based on the outcome, a response will be submitted to the court, according to an official statement.

The government said it will not proceed with respect to the candidates under the scanner and they will not be issued appointment orders.

Kanwar has sought a high-level inquiry by the CBI into the selection. In his petition, the BJP legislator alleged that corruption and favoritism were involved in the selection process.

A total 171 posts for 20 categories of services were advertised by CGPSC in 2021 and 509 were selected for the interview. The final list was issued in May this year.

His friend dead in road accident, MP tribal man beaten up with slippers by BJP youth leader

ANAND MOHAN J BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 20

AVIDEO of an office bearer of BJP's youth wing allegedly hitting an elderly tribal man with slippers, next to the body of another tribal man who had died in an accident, has prompted outrage from the opposition Congress in Madhya Pradesh, which attacked the ruling BJP government for being "anti-tribal".

According to the police, the incident took place on September 18 after Bhoma Singh (60) was killed in an accident involving a motorcycle he was driving and a pickup truck. The pillion rider, Bam Singh Marawi (57), was allegedly assaulted by the accused, Jaiganesh Dixit, the Anuppur (rural) mandal president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM).

"A crowd had gathered and they started questioning the injured pillion driver, who was dazed and recovering. He was still in shock and could not answer them. Jaiganesh Singh and another accused, Jitendra Kushwaha, also questioned Marawi, and when he was unable to answer, they allegedly assaulted him. The accused have been detained and appropriate legal action is being taken," said a senior police officer.

A video of the incident went viral following which Dixit was removed from his post. District BJP Yuva Morcha president Ravindra Rathore, in a letter to the accused, wrote, "The said act done by you, which has gone viral on social media (and) due to which the image of the party has been tarnished,

comes in the category of gross indiscipline. Therefore, you are relieved from responsibility of the party's board president (Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Anuppur Rural) with immediate effect."

The Congress attacked the state government and CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan over what they said were repeated attacks on tribals in the state. This incident comes after a tribal man in Sidhi was urinated on by a man with BJP links in July this year, which set off a political firestorm after which Chouhan washed man's feet.

In a post on social media website, X, Congress leader Kamal Nath wrote: "Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji, you cannot ignore this gruesome video. Next to the dead body of a tribal man in Anuppur district, a BJP leader is seen beating another tribal man with slipper. When you cannot stop atrocities on tribals, at least resign from post of CM. The hypocrisy of washing feet cannot atone for your cruel role. You have not only made Madhya Pradesh number one in atrocities against tribals, but have also made state number one in level of cruelty in such incidents."

"Have you given license to BJP workers to commit atrocities against tribals? A tribal daughter and five family members are buried alive in Nemaur. In Neemuch, a tribal youth was tied to a vehicle and dragged to death. A tribal youth in Sidhi was urinated upon. And every time, the person committing atrocities against tribals is either a leader of BJP or someone associated with it," he wrote.

Rajasthan: Dalit singer apologises before panchayat with shoes on head, three held

DEEPMUKHERJEE JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 20

POLICE IN Rajasthan have arrested three people and several others are being questioned after a video of a Dalit 'katha vachak' (religious singer) from Chittorgarh district apologising to members of the Gujar community by putting their shoes on his head went viral, officials said.

According to the police, the elderly Dalit man seen in the video has been identified as Dalu Salvi (70), a singer who performs in religious programmes. An FIR has been registered, naming 10 peo-

ple as accused on the basis of a complaint by Salvi after outrage by Dalit groups over the incident.

"Around five-six months ago, during a katha vachan (religious singing) event, Salvi had said some words which had enraged Gujar community. Earlier this month, he had to appear in front of a panchayat of the community, where he apologised with shoes on his head," said Devendra Kumar, SHO, Parsoli police station, Chittorgarh.

According to the FIR, during his narration in the katha vachan event, Salvi had mistakenly said that a folk deity worshipped by the Gujar community was the daughter of a Dalit man from the

Salvi community.

He said that around a week ago, a person called him on his phone and abused him with casteist slurs over the incident. Thereafter, Salvi went to a caste panchayat of Gujar community to resolve the issue, states the FIR.

An FIR under IPC sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) along with sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was registered on Tuesday after a memorandum was submitted by Dalit groups to the district administration.

ACHIEVEMENT—GL BAJAJ INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

GL Bajaj Institute of Technology & Management, announce the remarkable achievement of one of its outstanding students, Aman Gupta, pursuing B.Tech (CSE), Batch 2024. Aman secured the 1st place in Techsurf 2023, a national-level Hackathon Competition that took place from 8th to 28th August 2023. Aman's exceptional performance earned him a cash prize of Rs. 2 Lakh. His winning solution was based on Generative AI-powered Content Generation Tool.

INAUGURATION—AMITY

The 24th Inter Amity Institutions Sports Meet, "Sangathan-2023" was inaugurated at Noida campus. It is a prestigious Sports Mega Event in which students from Amity Campuses across India and abroad participate. The month-long event culminates with the celebration of Founder's Day, observed to commemorate birthday of Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Education Group.

AWARD—ERA UNIVERSITY

American University awarded Graphic Era University by Green University award. The program was organised in New York. It was given to Graphic Era for the initiatives taken by it for the sustainable development of Himalayan region & the inclusion of people & communities in these initiatives. Prof. Sanjay Jasola attended the event as a representative & was given the award by Romanian Minister, László Borbély.

CONFERENCE—AMITY

Amity University Noida organized the 5th Edition of the prestigious International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Leadership (IC-EIL 2023) on the theme 'NextGen Tools & Strategies for Business growth in Industry 5.0' recently. The Conference aims to focus on comprehensive research on global targets & endeavours to address some of society's greatest challenges while progressing towards industry 5.0.

EDUCATION FAIR 2023 — RUSSIAN HOUSE

Russian Education Fair will be held on Sept. 29 & 30 at the Russian House in New Delhi, 24 Firoz Shah Road. The opening hours of the fair on Sept. 29 are from 12 PM to 5 PM & Sept. 30 from 11 AM to 5 PM. This fair will have the participation of Universities from different parts of Russia including both capitals - Moscow & Saint-Petersburg. The programs in all fields of science & levels of education will be presented from MMBS to engineering, art, & sports & from undergraduate to postgraduate studies like bachelor's, master's Ph.D. The main feature of this exhibition is that it takes place as part of the admission of Indian applicants for free education in Russian educational institutions by the quota of the govt. of the Russian Federation. The rules to apply for the scholarships will be explained at the Fair.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA, HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT)

MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD

Indian Mercantile Chambers, 2nd Floor, Ramjibhai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400 001. Tel.: 022-69041777, Fax: 022-69041740. Web site : <https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in>; E-mail : ceo.mmb@maharashtra.gov.in / ceommb@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice (Year 2023-2024)

Main Portal : <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

DIGITALLY signed E-Tender for following work is invited by Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai, with Registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class and having experience in execution of Marine related civil works, for following work in B-1 Tender Form.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approximately Tender Cost in Rs.	Earnest Money Amount in Rs.	Blank Tender form amount in Rs.	Time limit for Completion of work
1.	Beautification work along creek at Rahul Nagar Cholegaon Dombivali Tal. Kalyan Dist. Thane.	3,98,31,795/-	1,99,500/-	2,360/-	18 Months (Including Monsoon)

The details can be viewed online and downloaded directly from the Government of Maharashtra E-Tendering Portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from 21.09.2023 at 17.00 hours (IST) onwards. The right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai.
DGIPR/2023-24/3675

CORPORATE BRIEFS

EDUCATION

PROGRAM—MAHARAJA SURAJMAL INSTITUTE
Maharaja Surajmal Institute, Janakpuri organized an Orientation program for the newly admitted students of Management and Law program recently. The orientation program began with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony by dignitaries which was followed by Saraswati Vandana and welcome address by Dr Harish Singh, Director, Maharaja Surajmal Institute.

VISIT—K R MANGALAM
The Legal Aid Committee, School of Legal Studies at K.R. Mangalam University organised a donation drive & a visit to The Earth Saviours Foundation, Bandhwari recently. Students & staff members including UV of K.R. Mangalam University have donated for this drive. Total 55 students including the committee members and the volunteers visited the foundation.

PROGRAM—UPES
Dehradun-based leading multi-disciplinary university, UPES, in collaboration with CNH Industrial India, a global leader in agriculture & construction equipment announced the winners of the CNH x UPES Industrial Design Program. The 10-week program enrolled 20 students in 5 groups to offer them an opportunity to understand real-world projects & gain hands-on experience.

CONCERT—SHARDA UNIVERSITY
To celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India & South Korea, Sharda University, in collaboration with UP Tourism Department, organized a K-pop concert. The program was inaugurated by YK Gupta, Pro Chancellor, Sharda University; Dr. Sibaram Khara, Vice Chancellor, Sharda University; Parmanand, Pro VC, Sharda University & other dignitaries were also present.