

Ministry, NTA, NMC officials to face MPs' panel on health today over NEET re-exam

New Delhi, 9 June : Top officials of the Health and Education ministries, National Testing Agency (NTA) and National Medical Commission (NMC) will brief a parliamentary panel on Wednesday over the conduct of the NEET-UG re-examination on June 21.

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare has summoned the secretaries of Higher Education and Health, besides top officials of the NTA and NMC, to brief the panel on the NEET re-exam. This is the third Parliamentary panel before whom the top officials of the ministries and NTA (National Testing Agency) and NMC (National Medical Commission) are appearing. Top officials of the Union Health and

Education ministries, as well as of NTA and NMC, have already appeared before the Parliamentary Committees on Education and the Committee on Government Assurances, and told them that their complete focus for now was to hold the June 21 NEET-UG re-test in pen-paper format.

CBI Director Praveen Sood has also appeared before a parliamentary panel about the progress made in the probe into the NEET-UG paper leak case and the steps being taken to arrest all those behind the paper leakage. The summoning of officials on June 10 comes in the wake of the cancellation of the NEET-UG exam held on May 3 following reports of a paper leak. Some students have also committed suicide after the



exam cancellation, and there are growing concerns among the student community over the re-examination of the NEET exam. The Parliamentary Committee on Health, which looks into the functioning of the Union Health ministry, will now question the officials on the examination and

its conduct. The panel will hear the views of the secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) and the Secretary, Department of Higher Education (Ministry of Education), along with senior officers of

NMC and NTA on 'Conduct of NEET examinations under NMC Act, 2019'. Their deposition before the panel comes as part of a detailed examination of the subject 'Organisational Structure, Mandate and Functional Proficiency of Regulatory Institutions pertaining to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare'.

The Parliamentary Committee on Health will meet on June 10 afternoon in the Parliament House Annex. The Parliamentary Committee for Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, headed by Congress member Digvijaya Singh, has already asked the NTA to define what constitutes a "paper leak" in its definition and whether any paper leaks have occurred in exams it conducted since 2018, sources said.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Sharayu Toyota in association with CSMSS College of Polytechnic, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra establishes Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP)

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, 9 June : Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) in partnership with Sharayu Toyota inaugurated the Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP) at the CSMSS College of Polytechnic, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra reflecting its commitment to support India's 'Skill India' and 'Make in India' visions.

The newly set up training facility, unveiled in the presence of dignitaries from the Institutes, Mr. Ranjeet P. Mulay, President, CSMSS Sanstha,

Mr. Padmakar H. Mulay, Secretary, CSMSS Sanstha, Dr. Shrikant G. Deshmukh, Administrative Officer, CSMSS Sanstha, Dr. Shashikant R. Dikle, Principal, CSMSS College of Polytechnic, Dr. Ganesh B. Dongre, Principal, CSMSS Chh. Shahu College of Engineering, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Mr. Naseer Maner, Director, Sharayu Toyota and senior leadership of Toyota Kirloskar Motor is designed to provide hands-on training and real-world exposure to students pursuing technical trades, especially those from rural and economically challenged communities.

Man, aided by minor sons, beats 2 daughters to death in suspected honour killing

Kushinagar, 9 June : In a suspected case of honour killing, a man apparently angered by the relationships of his two daughters with two locals in Pipraghat village allegedly beat them to death, police said on Tuesday.

The accused has been identified as Ramprasad Mallah, a resident of Devnarayan Tola in Pipraghat. His two minor sons, aged 12 and 14, also helped him in committing the crime on Monday evening.

Acting on a complaint filed by the village watchman, police have registered a case against the three and have detained the two minor boys, while Mallah and other family members and neighbours are absconding.

According to the police, Lali (20) and Sheila (18), Mallah's daughters, were allegedly in a relationship with two youths from the village. The sisters had previously run away from home with these youngsters last year but returned about six months ago.

A village council (panchayat) meeting was subsequently held in the presence of villagers, and since then, the sisters had been living at home.

Police said that on Monday

evening, Ramprasad, with the help of his sons, locked the two daughters in a room and beat them so severely with sticks that they died. The father then fled the house, while the two sons remained there.

At 8 pm, the village watchman, Pintu Yadav, came to know about the incident and informed the police. Upon arriving at the scene, the police found the blood-soaked bodies of the two sisters inside the house.

Late at night, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Siddharth Verma and Circle Officer Tamkuhrij Jayant Yadav arrived with a police team to conduct an investigation.

A forensic team collected evidence, and the bodies of the deceased were sent for a post-mortem examination.

Preliminary police investigation revealed that Mallah was distressed over his daughters' relationships and their continuous communication with the local youths despite his objection. When the daughters did not listen to him, the crime was carried out, police said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Goa govt intensifies river revival; Tar restoration to aid farming, curb floods

Panaji, 9 June : The Goa government has stepped up efforts to revive the state's rivers, with the Tar river restoration in North Goa emerging as a key initiative to improve water flow, support agriculture, and reduce flooding in surrounding areas.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant recently inspected the ongoing restoration work on the 4.5-km stretch of the river near Mapusa town and expressed satisfaction over the progress of the project. Speaking during the visit, Sawant said the initiative would significantly benefit farmers in the region by ensuring water availability beyond the monsoon season. "I am very happy that this initiative will benefit local farmers. Around 1,000 hectares of land can be cultivated not only during the monsoon season but also in the non-monsoon period," he said.

The Tar river restoration project forms part of the government's broader efforts to rejuvenate Goa's river systems while strengthening agricultural infrastructure and flood-management measures, officials said. The project, estimated to cost around Rs 44.3 crore, involves extensive desilting of the river

and reconstruction of damaged embankments to facilitate the smooth flow of water and prevent flooding of adjoining agricultural land, they said.

Desilting work is underway across the river stretch, while embankments damaged over time are being rebuilt. Water Resources Department technical assistant Vishnu Gavandi said, "We are desilting the river and constructing proper embankments at locations where they have been damaged. This will ensure the smooth flow of water and prevent the river from overflowing into nearby fields," he said.

Locals welcomed the project, saying it would address recurring flooding problems in the area. Rajsinha Rane, a resident of Mapusa, said the initiative would provide much-needed relief to people affected by flooding, and thanked the state government for undertaking the work on priority.

Another local, Uttam Parsekar, recalled flooding witnessed in the Guirim area during previous monsoons and said the project would help reduce hardship faced by commuters and residents.

UP govt to establish NDRF-like rescue force, get fire engines that reach 100 storeys

Lucknow, 9 June : Uttar Pradesh will soon have a rescue force built on the lines of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to deal with complex emergency situations, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday.

The specialised rescue group (SRG) will initially be established in 10 districts, with 240 personnel being trained by NDRF, BSF, ITBP, CISF and other expert institutions, according to the state government. The SRG will be equipped to handle challenging rescue operations involving building collapses, floods, chemical accidents, high-rise rescues and operations in confined spaces, it said. The chief minister, who reviewed the Fire and Emergency Services department work, said the state's rapidly expanding urbanisation, industrial growth and investment activities required a bolstered emergency response system.

"Fire services are no longer lim-

ited to extinguishing fires. They are now linked with the protection of people's lives, property, industries and investments," Adityanath said. It was said in the meeting that out of 350 tehsils of UP, 296 at present have 326 permanent fire stations, 26 new fire stations are ready for inauguration, while construction of 25 others is underway. Detailed project reports for 47 more proposed stations are being prepared.

The chief minister directed officials to expedite efforts to ensure fire services reach the remaining tehsils as well. He said places like Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi and Prayagraj face new fire safety challenges due to rapid construction of multi-storey structures. Officials said the state plans to procure 10 hydraulic platforms with a capacity of 102 metres, three with a capacity of 90 metres, and seven with a capacity of 72 metres in FY 2026-27.

SC flags 40-year delay by Allahabad HC in murder case, seeks solutions to judicial backlog



New Delhi, 9 June : The Supreme Court has expressed concern over the extraordinary delay by the Allahabad High Court in disposing of a 40-year-old criminal appeal filed by a murder accused challenging his conviction.

A partial working day (PWD) bench comprising Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and A S Chandurkar, on Monday, described the situation as disturbing and questioned what innovative measures could be adopted to address the mounting pendency that continues to clog the justice delivery system in the Allahabad High Court.

The case pertained to Vijay Singh who was 28 years old when he was arrested in November 1983 for allegedly shooting his brother dead. A sessions court at Kanpur convicted him of murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment in December 1985.

Singh challenged the verdict before the Allahabad High Court. However, his appeal remained pending for nearly 41 years before being dismissed by the high court through a 20-page judgment delivered on February 9 this year.

During the hearing, the top court noted that Singh had spent only about three months in custody and remained on bail for almost 43 years while awaiting the outcome of his appeal.

The court decided to continue his bail during the pendency of proceedings before it.

The bench voiced concern over the recurring issue of prolonged delays in the Allahabad High Court, observing that litigants frequently approach the top court seeking directions for expeditious hearings because of heavy pendency.

Justice Mishra sought suggestions from senior advocate Siddharth Dave and advocate Zoheb Hossain on possible measures to accelerate the disposal of old cases. Dave suggested that prosecution appeals pending for more than three decades could be dismissed to reduce the backlog.

The bench, however, rejected the idea, observing that fundamental principles of adjudication do not permit dismissal of cases solely on account of prolonged pendency. The bench cautioned that such an approach could adversely affect public interest and deprive parties of an opportunity to present their case.

In his appeal before the top court, Singh highlighted the prolonged delay, stating that he is now 72 years old and has spent his youth, middle age and old age under the shadow of a criminal conviction.

"For over four decades, through youth, middle age, and now old age, he has lived under the shadow of that conviction," the plea said, adding that his criminal appeal had languished before the high court for 40 years before being finally heard and dismissed.

Stalin's 3-month survival remarks on TVK govt not made with intent to topple it: DMK

Chennai, 9 June : The DMK on Tuesday sought to clarify party chief M K Stalin's remarks on the TVK government's survival, saying his comments that the C Joseph Vijay-led dispensation would not continue for more than three months were not borne out of any intent to topple the government.

DMK senior leader and former minister Thangam Thennarasu said there was no "intent to dissolve or topple the government," behind Stalin's remarks. Stalin on Sunday claimed that the TVK government in Tamil Nadu may not survive beyond three months.

"I need not say much about the kind of government currently in power. When it assumed office, I had said I would not criticise it for six months. However, there is now a fear that circumstances may

force me to speak sooner," the former Chief Minister had said.

Thennarasu claimed "Stalin had stated that we would not criticise the current government for six months and he remarked that the government was proceeding in such a precarious condition that it might not even last three months." "When reporters asked leaders of various political parties about this, they said that the DMK leader should not have spoken that way. In reality, our leader never said the government would collapse, nor is that his stance", the DMK leader said in a party statement.

"This is precisely what the leader (Stalin) highlighted in his speech and not out of any intent to dissolve or topple the government", he said. Stalin "essentially meant that the government is op-

erating under a cloud of uncertainty regarding whether it will even survive for three months." "But watching daily reports of murders, robberies, machete attacks, drug trafficking, power cuts, farmers' protests and sexual violence, how could they remain silent.

It was in that context he (Stalin) said one wonders whether the government can even last three months," Thennarasu claimed. The DMK leader mentioned that it has been a month since the new government took office in Tamil Nadu and during this period, TV and newspaper reports were dominated by murders, robberies, sexual assaults, and drug trafficking.

"Functionaries of the ruling party itself are implicated in various criminal incidents," he claimed.

CJI bats for mediation, says arbitration facing procedural hurdles

New Delhi, 9 June : Observing that international arbitration is increasingly facing procedural hurdles, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said mediation is no longer an alternative but an essential instrument to achieve timely, amicable and lasting resolution of disputes.

Chief Justice Kant was delivering a lecture on "Mediation, Arbitration and the Courts: Converging Trends in the Indian and English Approaches in Commercial Dispute Resolution" at the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom on Monday. Calling for a fundamental shift in how global corporations and legal systems approach conflict, the CJI said: "The primary question for a modern corporation should no longer be where to litigate, but rather how to resolve." He said courts, arbitration and mediation should not be viewed as competing mechanisms but as complementary institutions serving distinct functions within a broader justice ecosystem. "We must reject the archaic narrative that pits alternative dispute resolution against the majesty of formal courts," the CJI stated.

"Traditional courts must con-



continue to remain the ultimate guardians of public legal standard-setting and constitutional accountability. Yet, where the court provides the architecture of certainty, mediation serves as the adaptive mechanism for private commercial harmony. The two systems do not diminish one another; they sustain each other," he said.

At the outset, the CJI dealt with arbitration, especially international arbitration, as one of the important alternate dispute resolution mechanisms and referred to the difficulties being faced across jurisdictions in getting disputes resolved through this. "It is my earnest belief that as international arbitration has increasingly mirrored the very procedural com-

plexities it was designed to escape, it is mediation that now emerges as the authentic frontier of commercial agility," he said.

"Over the last several decades, arbitration has indubitably come to be viewed across jurisdictions as a response to some of the perceived limitations of court-centric adjudication, particularly in matters involving speed, technical complexity, party autonomy, and cross-border commerce," he said. The CJI said that in India, the Arbitration and Conciliation Act came into being in 1996 and various judicial interpretations also advanced "a pro-arbitration approach", keeping in harmony with internationally accepted principles governing commercial dispute resolution.

ED summons Vijayan's daughter for questioning in PMLA case

Kochi, 9 June : The Enforcement Directorate has summoned former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter Veena T and officials of sand mining company Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) for questioning in a money laundering case.

The agency said Veena has been asked to depose at the central agency's zonal office here on June 12. Her statement will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). CMRL managing director Sasidharan Kartha and other company officials are among the nine others who have been summoned for questioning on different dates beginning this week, the agency said. The investigation pertains to alleged irregularities in CMRL's financial transactions and its links with Veena's now-defunct company Exalogic Solutions Private Limited. The ED is probing an allegation that CMRL made fraudulent payments worth Rs 2.78 crore to Exalogic Solutions under the guise of 'IT consultancy services'.

Another company named Empower India Capital Investment Private Limited operated by Kartha had also extended loans worth Rs 50 lakh to Exalogic Solutions despite its failure to make timely repayments, the ED said. The agency said the CMRL management and Veena generated "proceeds of crime" in this process and that it wants to understand the rationale behind these transactions from them. The PMLA case was filed in March 2024 after the ED took cognisance of a complaint registered by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), the investigation arm of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, which later filed a prosecution complaint (charge

sheet) before an Ernakulam court in April 2025.

The CMRL was caught in the crosshairs of central probe agencies following an Income Tax Department raid in January 2019, which unearthed alleged fake expenses to the tune of Rs 130 crore. Court documents reveal that the company had "inflated" its expenditure by Rs 133.82 crore by booking "bogus" cash expenses under



the heads of 'transportation' and 'sludge handling' between the financial years 2012-13 and 2018-19, and generated cash that was used to make illegal payments to politicians, parties, media houses and public servants. Last week, the Kerala High Court dismissed an appeal filed by CMRL against a single-judge verdict that allowed the ED to continue its money laundering probe into this case. Meanwhile, the incident triggered political reactions on Tuesday, with CPIM leaders seeking to distance the party from the matter and saying that she would deal with it through legal channels.

Reacting to the development, CPIM Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas said the law should take its own course in the matter. "Veena's case should proceed on its own merits. Let the investigation take its course," Brittas told reporters in New Delhi. He said Veena had already furnished details before the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO). Claiming that certain political parties had acknowledged receiving funds from the company, Brittas said questions should also be raised regarding whether such contributions were duly disclosed to the Election Commission. Senior CPIM leader P K Krishnadas said the party need not officially comment on a case involving Veena as it has no connection with the party.

"She is capable of handling the matter legally. She will take care of her case. There is no need for the CPI (M) to say opinion in this," he said. Another senior leader K K Shailaja also said the case pertained to Veena and not the party. "Let the summons come. Veena will respond and produce the necessary documents. There is nothing to do with Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan. Therefore, CPIM need not reply to it," she said. The statements by CPIM leaders appeared to distance the party from the case involving Veena amid attempts by political opponents to link it to her father and party leader Vijayan. The remarks also came in the wake of criticism over a violent protest allegedly carried out by party workers following the recent ED raid at Veena's residence here in connection with the case.

When reporters sought his reaction, state Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala said: "Let the ED investigation take its own course."