

**In a nutshell**

**Rani Kumudini new SEC**  
**HYDERABAD:** The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department issued orders appointing retired IAS officer I Rani Kumudini as the State Election Commissioner. GO Ms 62 was issued to this effect on Tuesday. Rani Kumudini will replace C Parthasarathi. A 1998 batch officer, she retired in July 2023 after serving in various capacities with both the State and union governments.

**Class VI student dies in accident**

**KOTHAGUDEM:** A Class VI student died and five others sustained injuries when a car rammied an auto-rickshaw on the outskirts of Sitarampuram on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Recha Eshwar (12). The incident occurred when the car, heading towards Paloncha from Pusugudem, collided with the auto head-on. The locals alleged that the car driver was under the influence of alcohol. Police booked a case and took up investigation.

**Kolkata gets new police chief**

**KOLKATA:** Senior IPS officer Manoj Kumar Verma was appointed the new Kolkata CP, replacing Vineet Goyal, a day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held a meeting with agitating junior doctors. Director of Health Services Debashis Halder, Director of Medical Education Kautav Nayak and Deputy Commissioner of Kolkata Police's North Division Abhishek Gupta were also removed.

**600 items gifted to PM on auction**

**NEW DELHI:** Over 600 items, including a meticulously crafted model of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and a set of sporting memorabilia from the latest Paralympic Games, gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been put up for an e-auction. The beginning of the sixth edition of the online auction coincided with the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who turned 74 on Tuesday. PTI

**Suspected Mpox case in Kerala**

**MALAPPURAM:** A suspected case of Mpox infection was reported from Malappuram district of Kerala after a man who recently returned from Dubai showed symptoms of the disease. State Health Minister Veena George said that the man on noticing the symptoms had taken precautionary measures by isolating himself from his family and was currently hospitalised in the Manjeri Medical College. PTI

## Farmer builds bridge across stream to reach his field

T KARNAKAR REDDY  
 Medak

For Kamari Ramulu and his son Dattu Kishore, residents of Tekmal mandal headquarters, the best proverb to frame and hang on their wall could be 'Where there is a will, there is a way...'

Ramulu owns 15 acres of land on one side of a stream called Gundu Vagu, which would be in full swing for a major part of the rainy season. Apart from Ramulu, many other farmers own lands on the other side of the stream. Whenever the stream comes to life, the



Hundreds of devotees at the Khairatabad Ganesh Shobha Yatra on the last day of Ganesh Chaturthi festivities in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

## SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer justice'

**Says move against ethos of Constitution**

PTI  
 NEW DELHI

There will be no demolition of properties, including of those accused of crime till October 1 without its permission, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while observing that even one instance of illegal demolition was against the "ethos" of the Constitution.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan clarified that its order will not be applicable to unauthorised structures on public roads, footpaths, railways lines or public places such as water bodies etc. "Stand over to October 1 at the request of the Solicitor General. However, we direct that till the next date, no demolition without seeking leave of this court," the Bench said. "Even if there is one instance of an illegal demolition... it is against the ethos of our Constitution," the top court observed while hearing pleas that alleged that the properties of the accused were being demolished in

**STAND OVER TO OCTOBER 1 AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL. HOWEVER, WE DIRECT THAT TILL THE NEXT DATE, NO DEMOLITION WITHOUT SEEKING LEAVE OF THIS COURT, EVEN IF THERE IS ONE INSTANCE OF AN ILLEGAL DEMOLITION... IT IS AGAINST THE ETHOS OF OUR CONSTITUTION**

**FOR FOOTPATH, WE WILL SAY NOT EVEN A NOTICE IS NEEDED. DEMOLISH FORTHWITH EVEN IF THERE IS A RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE OF ANY RELIGION**

— SUPREME COURT BENCH

several States illegally. The Bench also referred to statements made after the September 2 hearing in the matter during which the apex court had said it proposes to lay down certain guidelines on the issue that would be enforceable across the country. "After that order, there have been statements that the bulldozer will continue ... and it all depends in whose hands the steering is," the Bench said, adding it was refraining from saying anything further on that. "Mr Mehta (solicitor gen-

eral), after these directives are laid down, we will seek your assistance on this glorification and grandstanding... You will assist us on how to stop this. If necessary, we will ask the Election Commission also," the Bench said. The Bench said it had made it clear on September 2 that the court will not protect any unauthorised construction on a public road or public place. Mehta said in one of the matters, a footpath was encroached upon, and notices were issued before it was cleared.

## Unidentified persons blast surplus weir of tank

STATE BUREAU  
 Mancheril

Unidentified persons blasted the surplus weir (matthadi) of an irrigation tank, locally known as Shanigakunta, using detonators in Chennur on Mon-

day. Officials of the Irrigation Department lodged a complaint with police. In a statement, the officials said that unidentified persons blew up the surplus weir using explosives, causing the draining of water from the tank. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Announcement on census soon: Shah

NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that the government will "very soon" make an announcement for carrying out the census in the country. "We will announce it very soon," Shah said in response to a question on conducting the decadal census of the Indian population which has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Shah, along with I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, was addressing a press conference to mark the 100 days of the third tenure of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "We will make all the details public when we announce the census," the Union Home Minister said to questions on the caste census.

**Vociferous demands**  
 India has conducted the census every 10 years since 1881. The first phase of this decade's census was expected to begin on April 1, 2020, but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Shah's comments on the census come amid vociferous demands from political parties to conduct a caste census. In the absence of fresh data, government agencies are still formulating policies and allocating subsidies based on the data of the 2011 census. The house listing phase of the census and the exercise to update the National Population Register were scheduled to be carried out across the country from April 1 to September 30, 2020, but it was postponed due to Covid.

## BRS, Congress, BJP celebrate their own version of Sept 17

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Telangana on Tuesday saw three different celebrations of the same event, the merger of the erstwhile Hyderabad State with the Indian union on September 17, 1948, as each of the three major political parties in the State had their own versions for the day.

While the BRS commemorated the day with the National Integration Day celebrations at Telangana Bhavan, the Congress-led State government organised its version as the Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam. The BJP, on the other hand, was part of the Centre's version of the day, the Hyderabad Liberation Day, as part

**BRS holds protest across Telangana**

**HYDERABAD:** The BRS cadre performed *palab-hishekam* to statues and portraits of Telangana Thalli across State on Tuesday, protesting against the Congress' installation of a statue of Rajiv Gandhi in front of the Secretariat. They also staged demonstrations, demanding the Congress government to replace Rajiv Gandhi's statue with the Telangana Thalli as originally planned. (REPORT PAGE 5)

of which programmes were organised at Parade Grounds.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, speaking at the State's official celebrations of Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam, warned against any attempt to derive political mileage from the Telangana armed struggle and said it would be akin to ig-

noring the sacrifices of Telangana martyrs of yesteryear by calling it Integration Day or Liberation Day.

Interestingly, his party's headquarters, Gandhi Bhavan, celebrated the day as Integration Day. Similarly, many district units and leaders of the Congress continued to call it Integration Day. Not just Gandhi Bha-

## Hezbollah men among 9 killed as pagers explode

BEIRUT

Hundreds of handheld pagers exploded near-simultaneously across Lebanon and in parts of Syria on Tuesday, killing at least nine people, including members of the militant group Hezbollah and a girl, and wounding the Iranian ambassador, government officials said.

Officials pointed the finger at Israel in what appeared to be a sophisticated, remote attack that wounded more than 2,700 people at a time of rising tensions across the Lebanon border. Israel declined to comment.

A Hezbollah official who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the new brand of handheld pagers used by the group first heated up, then exploded, killing at least two of its members and wounding others. Lebanon's Health Minister Firas Abiad said at least nine people were killed and 2,750 wounded — 200 of them critically. (REPORT PAGE 9)

## PM to visit US from Sep 21-23

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a three-day visit to the US beginning September 21 to attend Quad Summit and address the 'Summit of the Future' at the UNGA. He will also address the Indian community on September 22. PTI

## Atishi next Delhi CM, Kejriwal resigns

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party led by its Chief Minister-designate Atishi staked claim to form a new government in Delhi on Tuesday shortly after Arvind Kejriwal resigned from the post, an effort seen as a bold gambit to seize the initiative ahead of Assembly elections due in five months. "I will work with one goal for the next few months... to bring back Kejriwal as the Chief Minister," said the 43-year-old, who is set to be Delhi's third woman Chief Minister after Congress' Sheila Dikshit and BJP's Sushma Swaraj.

It was confirmation if any were needed that Kejriwal's grip on the party remains firm and this move is aimed at giving him space to set the agenda. Beseated by charges of corruption over the excise scam and released from jail last week, the AAP supremo submitted his resignation to Lt Governor VK Saxena in the evening, virtually seeking a referendum on his "politics of honesty".

Though Atishi was a frontrunner for the post and considered close to both Kejriwal and his second in command Manish Sisodia, the speculation over who would succeed him was intense. Ending the debate, Kejriwal proposed the name of the Kalkaji legislator at a meeting of the AAP legislative party and it was accepted unanimously. Up next, the LG will forward Kejriwal's resignation letter to President Droupadi Murmu for her acceptance.

## AT THE HELM

AS ATISHI GEARS UP TO BECOME DELHI CM, A LOOK AT THE PAST WOMAN CMS OF INDIA



AAP's Atishi and Arvind Kejriwal with Lt Governor VK Saxena to stake claim for forming new government.

- **Sucheta Kripalani** (UP): 1963 to 1967
- **Nandini Satpathy** (Odisha): 1972 to 1976
- **Shashikala Kakodkar** (Goa): 1973 to 1979
- **Syeda Anwara Taimur** (Assam): 1980 to 1981
- **Janaki Ramachandran** (Tamil Nadu): 1988
- **Jayaram Jayalithaa** (Tamil Nadu): 1991 to 1996, 2001, 2002 to 2006, 2011 to 2014, 2015 to 2016
- **Vasundhara Raje Scindia** (Rajasthan): 2003 to 2008, 2013 to 2018
- **Mayawati** (Uttar Pradesh): 1995, 1997, 2002-2003, 2007 to 2012
- **Rajinder Kaur Bhattal** (Punjab): 1996 to 1997
- **Rabri Devi** (Bihar): 1997 to 1999, 1999 to 2000, 2000 to 2005
- **Sushma Swaraj** (Delhi): 1998
- **Sheila Dikshit** (Delhi): 1998 to 2013
- **Uma Bharti** (Madhya Pradesh): 2003 to 2004
- **Mamata Banerjee** (West Bengal): 2011 to till date
- **Anandiben Patel** (Gujarat): 2014 to 2016
- **Mehbooba Mufti** (Jammu and Kashmir): 2016 to 2018

He will also send Atishi's letter to form a new government for the President's nod, an official said. Once the resignation is accepted, the LG will invite Atishi to form the government and give a date for the oath-taking ceremony, the official said, adding that the process may take a few days. The new Chief Minister will prove the majority of her government in the Delhi Assembly, a session of which

has been called by the ruling AAP dispensation on September 26-27.

Atishi, who holds 14 portfolios, including Finance, Education and Revenue, was amongst those holding the fort while Kejriwal was in jail. "We have staked claim to form a new government. I will protect the interests of Delhi people," she said after Kejriwal's meeting with the LG. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)