

NEARBY



Count me out for top post, says Priyanka

NEW DELHI
Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is believed to have told a meeting of party general secretaries on Thursday that she shouldn't be considered as a replacement for her brother and outgoing party chief Rahul Gandhi. Ms. Vadra's remarks are important in the backdrop of a growing chorus among a section of the senior leaders like Captain Amarinder Singh and Shashi Tharoor asking her to take over the reins.

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FRIDAY REVIEW ► 8 PAGES
(TABLOID)

SC transfers Unnao cases to Delhi court

Court also orders ₹25 lakh interim compensation and CRPF protection to the rape survivor

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday transferred five cases of crimes committed against the Unnao rape survivor and her family from a CBI court in Lucknow to its counterpart in Delhi and ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to pay her ₹25 lakh in interim compensation.

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, ordered that the trial in the Unnao cases be held on a day-to-day basis and completed within 45 days.

Judge named

The court went the extra mile to zero in on District Judge Dinesh Sharma as the trial judge.

Four of these cases are the rape of the minor in 2017; a false case foisted on her father under the Arms Act by conniving police officers; the custodial death of the survivor's father after he was arrested in the Arms case; and a second instance of gang

Case history

A summary of five cases of crimes, allegedly committed against the Unnao rape survivor and her family, which were transferred to a Delhi court

CASE 1 The rape of a 17-year-old, allegedly by BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar (in pic), on June 4, 2017, in Unnao

CASE 2 The alleged false case foisted against the father of the victim. Police officers responsible for framing the case are the accused. The

victim's father was booked under the Arms Act on April 3, 2018

CASE 3 The case of custodial death of the father. He was beaten up allegedly by those conniving with Sengar, the main accused. The father died on April 9, 2018

CASE 4 The gangrape of the victim within a week after she named Sengar

CASE 5 The case of conspiracy and murder, after a speeding truck rammed the car in which the victim, her lawyer and two of her aunts were travelling, on July 28, 2019. The two aunts were killed while the victim and her lawyer are in a critical condition



rape of the survivor.

Though the CBI has filed chargesheets in the four cases, the Lucknow court is yet to frame charges against the accused persons.

Probe into 'accident'

The fifth case concerns the 'accident' on July 28 when a truck rammed into a car carrying the now 19-year-old rape survivor.

Days before the accident,

she had reached out to the CJI in a letter. But her cry for help largely remained unnoticed in the court's Registry for almost a fortnight.

Her letter, dated July 12, had spelt out threats to her life and her family from the accused persons, including Kuldeep Singh Sengar, four-time BJP MLA from Bangermau. The letter landed at the Registry on July 17, but did not reach the CJI's table till

July 30 – well after the 'accident' on Sunday.

Cheque handed over

In compliance with the court order, Lucknow District Magistrate K.R. Sharma and SSP K. Naithani later in the day handed over a cheque for ₹25 lakh to the survivor's family, PTI reports.

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GENDER JUSTICE ► EDITORIAL

25,000 more troops being deployed in J&K

Amarnath Yatra suspended

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

An additional 25,000 security personnel were ordered to be moved to Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, days after Governor Satya Pal Malik said "all was normal", fuelling a fresh wave of speculation in the State.

According to police sources, a fresh order was directed to security personnel to "work on a build-up at the district levels across the State." Sources said 25,000 personnel, in addition to the 10,000 troops, were being inducted and split between the Jammu and Kashmir regions.

Taken off yatra duty

"Yes, we have received additional troops. Many personnel were relieved from the Amarnath Yatra duty to augment security in towns in south Kashmir," a senior officer told *The Hindu*.

Sources said there was also a direction to wind up



The personnel are being split between the Jammu and Kashmir regions. ■ AP

the Amarnath Yatra for the time being. Even many langars (community kitchens) operating in south Kashmir were vacated on Thursday.

Over 40 companies were deployed for the Yatra. A general high alert has been sounded in the State.

There is speculation around the Centre's move to take "significant measures" ahead of the Assembly election and fear of immediate repercussions in the Muslim pockets across the State.

(With PTI inputs)

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Free electricity for Delhiites using up to 200 units

Move will encourage power saving, says Kejriwal; BJP, Cong. call announcement 'election gimmick'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced free electricity for people consuming up to 200 units under a domestic connection. The decision, which came into effect from August 1, has been taken barely six months before Delhi Assembly elections due in February 2020.

"In Delhi, people who consume up to 200 units will not have to pay electricity bills. Their bills [will be] waived," Mr. Kejriwal said while addressing a press conference.

ference. Those consuming 201-400 units of electricity will get about 50% subsidy, he added.

"Now people using 210 or 300 units will think that if they use under 200 units, their bill will be zero. We believe this will encourage them to save electricity," the Chief Minister said.

Attacking the move, both the BJP and the Congress termed it an "election gimmick". Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said the Delhi government has "looted" ₹8,500 crore from the people as fixed charge and load charge



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal at a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

and demanded that Mr. Kejriwal refund it or else his party will "initiate a movement" against it.

The Chief Minister said

around 35% of the total consumers use less than 200 units during summer and in winter, the percentage goes up to around 70. Terming the move "historic", he claimed Delhi has the cheapest electricity rate in the country.

The Delhi Congress, however, claimed that the Aam Aadmi Party government was misleading the people on power tariff. "It is a lie that Delhi has the cheapest rates of electricity and I challenge Arvind Kejriwal and other AAP leaders who are misleading people. When

Congress was in power, even then power tariff in Delhi was lowest in the country," senior Congress leader Haroon Yusuf said.

Asked about the timing of the move, Mr. Kejriwal said: "When we took over, the power sector was in a bad state. We worked and slowly improved it. Since then, the DERC has been reducing rates... It was not possible earlier, as power companies' financial state was bad. At that point, there was no question of making it free."

(With PTI inputs)

SEE ALSO ► PAGE 3

India evaluating Pak. proposal for consular access to Jadhav

Response will be sent through diplomatic channels: MEA

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

NEW DELHI

India is examining Pakistan's proposal to grant consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Navy officer, who was sentenced to death by a Pakistan military court on espionage and terrorism charges in 2017.

Raveesh Kumar, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said the established channels were being used to convey India's response. "We have received a proposal from Pakistan. We



Kulbhushan Jadhav

are evaluating the proposal in the light of the judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)," he said, without spelling out the modalities.

Pakistan arrests 'Indian spy'

Pakistan has said its border military police arrested Raju Lakshman, 30, an "Indian spy", in Dera Ghazi Khan in Punjab province on Wednesday. ► PAGE 13

ties. Nor did he say whether conditions were attached to the proposal.

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Vadodara flooded



Crippled by torrents: Four persons were killed and 5,000 evacuated from Vadodara in Gujarat, which was battered by nearly 500 mm of rain in 24 hours till Thursday morning. The Vishwamitri river burst its banks and entered several areas. ■ PTI (PAGE 9)

U.S. imposes sanctions on Iran Minister

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

The U.S. on Wednesday imposed sanctions on Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, effectively slamming the door on the country's top diplomat.

The sanctions freeze any of Mr. Zarif's assets in the U.S. or that are controlled by U.S. entities, the government said, saying it would also curtail his international

travel.

"Zarif implements the reckless agenda of Iran's Supreme Leader, and is the regime's primary spokesperson around the world. The U.S. is sending a clear message to the Iranian regime that its recent behaviour is completely unacceptable," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement.

Mr. Zarif has been at the

heart of the complex talks with foreign capitals over Iran's nuclear power industry, which Tehran says is peaceful, but Washington and regional allies, including Israel, insist is a cover for a secret weapons programme.

President Hassan Rouhani said the measure showed Washington was "afraid" of Mr. Zarif.

PATH TO TALKS ► PAGE 14

Fleeing Maldives leader held off Tamil Nadu

Ahmed Adeeb was on a tugboat

HARIPRASAD

RADHAKRISHNAN

THOOTHUKUDI

Former Vice President of Maldives Ahmed Adeeb Abdul Ghafoor, who secretly fled the Maldives on a boat to India, was held by Indian authorities near the coast of Thoothukudi in southern Tamil Nadu on Thursday.

Mr. Adeeb was convicted by a Maldivian court in a plot to assassinate former President Abdulla Yameen, but the country's Supreme Court had quashed the sentence and ordered a fresh trial.

The police said he was on board a Mongolian-flagged tugboat, Virgo-9, that set sail from the Maldives on July 27 on its way back to Thoothukudi after delivering bulk cargo. Besides Mr. Adeeb, the boat had nine workers – eight Indonesian nationals and a man from Thoothukudi.

While Coast Guard sources in Thoothukudi told *The Hindu* that the boat was intercepted in the sea near Mannappad, the Coast Guard IG (Eastern Region), Paramesh, denied that the agency had any role in the detention of Mr. Adeeb.

Tamil Nadu Director General of Police J.K. Tripathy



Ahmed Adeeb Abdul Ghafoor in a boat in Thoothukudi on Thursday.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

said the issue was being dealt with by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and other central agencies.

MEA official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "There are designated entry points through which foreigners are allowed entry into India. The entry is facilitated on the basis of appropriate valid travel documents. In the instant case, since he was not entering through a designated entry point and did not possess the valid document, he has not been permitted entry."

(With inputs from Delhi and Chennai)

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