

## Ex-MLA Brajesh Thakur, 18 Others Held Guilty In Muzaffarpur Shelter Home Case

NEW DELHI: Additional Sessions Judge Dr Saurabh Kulshreshtha on Monday held erstwhile Bihar lawmaker Brajesh Thakur and 18 others guilty of rape, gang rape and aggravated penetrative sexual assault in the Muzaffarpur shelter home case.

Non-Governmental Organisation Seva Sankalp Evam Vikas Samiti which ran the shelter home in Muzaffarpur was owned by Thakur.

The case pertained to the rape and sexual abuse of inmates of the shelter home.

## Govt Appoints Two New JS-Ranked Officers Under CDS



NEW DELHI: The government on Monday approved appointment of two joint secretaries in the newly-created department of military affairs under the defence ministry.

The officers include Rajeev Singh Thakur, a 1995 batch IAS officer from Rajasthan cadre, and Shantanu, a 1997 batch officer from Tripura cadre, have been posted to the DMA, headed by India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat.

The appointment was cleared by Appointment Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The appointments are among the 31 JS-level postings approved by the committee.

On January 13, the Ministry of Defence had transferred manpower of 60 officers to the newly-created DMA.

The transfer orders said, "The officers are hereby transferred from the Department of Defence to the newly created Department of Military Affairs with immediate effect."

A total 13 deputy secretaries, 25 under secretaries and 22 section officers were transferred to

the DMA.

The DMA got formal structure on Friday after creation of two joint secretaries, 13 deputy secretaries and 22 under secretaries and 22 section officers.

They will assist the Chief of Defence Staff to carry out his responsibilities.

The DMA will oversee key matters relating to neighbouring countries including border disputes and incidents, development of infrastructure in forward areas and deployment of forces. These countries include China, Pakistan and Bhutan.

Supply of arms and ammunition to friendly neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives will also come under the purview of the DMA.

Monitoring developments in the Indian Ocean region, Afghanistan, West Asia and South East Asia will also be the responsibility of the DMA.

However, all matters that have an import on the country's defence policy will be dealt by the Department of Defence, headed by the defence secretary.

## Expelled BSP Leader Ram Prasad Chaudhary Joins SP

Lucknow: Samajwadi party on Monday received a shot in its arm after former Bahujan Samaj Party leader Ram Prasad Chaudhary, along with 200 leaders, including three former MLAs and six district Panchayat members, joined the SP.

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, had on November 23, expelled Mr Chaudhary from the party on allegations of indiscipline, after which there was speculation that he may join the SP.

Mr Chaudhary was a known face of the BSP in the Basti division and had been elected as an MLA from the Kaptanganj Assembly seat of Basti, five times. He was also the Minister in the Mayawati government.

In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, he was the SP-BSP alliance candidate but had to taste a defeat. The former BSP leader

reached the SP's party office situated at Vikramaditya Marg in the state capital on Monday with a convoy of around 2,000 vehicles from Basti and took the membership of the party.

Among others who joined the SP, were former MP Arvind Chaudhary, former MLAs Dudhram, Rajendra Chaudhary and Nandu Chaudhary.

Scores of leaders from BSP as well as BJP have joined SP in recent past. CL Verma, who was once considered to be close to Mayawati and former Minister Raghunath Prasad Shankhwah recently joined the SP.

Former president of the Hindu Yuva Vahini Sunil Singh, once a close confidante of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, had also assumed the membership of the SP along with his supporters on Saturday.

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## JP Nadda Elected Unopposed As New BJP President

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Just ahead of Delhi election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday elected Jagat Prakash Nadda as its new President on Monday to take over the reins of the party from Amit Shah after five and a half years.

Nadda, who was the party's Working President till now won, the position unopposed.

Top party leaders, including Union ministers and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, filed nomination papers in support of his candidature at the BJP

headquarters, PTI reported.

The nomination process for the post of BJP President began at 10 a.m. Among others, BJP leaders and Union ministers Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and Rajnath Singh have reached the venue.

By afternoon, Nadda was declared as the man who will step into the role of Shah.

Though many believe Shah will have the last say on all macro decisions like pre-poll alliances or top organisational appointments, he will be free from daily monitoring of the organisation.

Nadda was brought in as the Working President of the party while Shah was focusing on key legislation like abrogation of Article 370, Triple Talaq and finally, the Citizenship Amendment Act which meant, the Home minister had to prioritize that work.

The party constitution mandates completion of election of at least 50 per cent of state Presidents for the election of national President to happen. In the last few days, the BJP has completed the election of a slew of state Presidents like in West Bengal, Nagaland among others. (With agency inputs)

## Nadda Added Value To Any Responsibility He Held, Says PM

NEW DELHI: Congratulating J P Nadda on being elected BJP president, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said Mr Nadda added value to any responsibility he has held.

"Be it as a young Party Karyakarta, MLA, Minister in Himachal Pradesh or Organisational duties at the Centre, MP and Union Minister, J P Nadda Ji has added value to any responsibility he has held," Mr Modi said in a series of tweets.

Praising outgoing president Amit Shah, Mr Modi said no words can do justice to the rich contribution of Mr Shah.

"I do not think words can do justice to the rich contribution of Amit Shah Ji as BJP President. During his Presidency, BJP got opportunities to serve in several parts of India. We also got our highest ever tally in a Parliamentary election. He is an outstanding Karyakarta."



Mr Modi said in his tweet.

Mr Modi expressed confidence that BJP will scale newer heights under Mr Nadda.

"Wishing him the very best for his tenure. Nadda Ji is a dedicated and disciplined Karyakarta who has worked for party to strengthen the party at the grassroots. His aff-

able nature is also known to all," Mr Modi said.

Mr Nadda was elected unopposed as the 11th BJP president succeeding Mr Amit Shah.

After the expiry of the time for filing nomination, Mr Nadda was declared elected as the new party chief in presence of Mr Shah among others.

## Sc Rejects Plea Of Nirbhaya Case Convict Who Claimed He Was Minor At Time Of Crime

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the petition of a Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case convict, Pawan Kumar Gupta, who had claimed he was a minor at the time of the commission of the offence in December 2012.

A bench, headed by Justice R Banumathi, also had Justices Ashok Bhushan and A S Bopanna, hearing the plea.

Gupta's counsel told the bench that the convict was minor at the time of the crime and the high court had wrongly dismissed the plea.

"On July 9, 2018, your (Pawan) petition was dismissed by this court, but now how come you are coming with

some new information, how will this be maintainable?" Justice Ashok Bhushan observed.

The Delhi High Court had rejected the review petition of Pawan and he had challenged this before the apex court on January 17, Friday.

Pawan's date of birth as per school record is October 8, 1996, but the Delhi High Court had ignored this, Pawan's lawyer, AP Singh claimed in the petition.

The court said the claim of being a juvenile was not taken initially during the trial in the Nirbhaya case. However, Gupta's lawyer contended that it was taken as a 'mitigating circumstance' at the time of sen-

tencing in the case.

Gupta had moved the apex court on Friday. He has also sought a direction restraining the authorities from executing the death penalty, scheduled for February 1.

A Delhi court on Friday issued fresh death warrants for February 1 against the four convicts -- Vinay Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Akshay Kumar Singh and Pawan -- in the case.

A 23-year-old paramedic student, referred to as Nirbhaya, was gang-raped and brutally assaulted on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, in a moving bus in south Delhi by six people before she was thrown out on the road.

## Delhi Polls: Delayed By Roadshow, Kejriwal To File Nomination On Tuesday



New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will file his nomination for the Delhi Assembly elections on Tuesday, as the scheduled programme for Monday got delayed because of the mega roadshow.

The time for filing the nomination is fixed at 1500 hrs. Mr Kejriwal was unable to file nomination, as he arrived at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) after the scheduled time. He will now file the papers on Tuesday ie the last day of the nomination.

Taking to the micro-blogging site, Mr Kejriwal said, "After seeing your love, I get the strength to work day and night. Taking the family of two crore Delhiites with me, I will make Delhi the number one city in the world in the next five years."

Addressing the assembled workers outside the office of the CEO at Jamnagar House near India Gate, Mr Kejriwal said that he had to arrive at 1500 hrs to file the nomination.

"A large number of workers and public were involved in the nomination procession. Due to this, I could not reach the CEO's office on time. How can I leave

the people at road show, so now I will file the nomination paper tomorrow."

Mr Kejriwal held a mega roadshow named 'Janta ka CM', before filing his nomination papers from New Delhi Assembly constituency. The roadshow started around 1300 hrs from Valmiki Mandir on Mandir Marg.

Mr Kejriwal sought blessings from his parents before commencing his roadshow. He also visited Valmiki temple to seek the blessings. He was accompanied by his wife, deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh.

The AAP supporters were seen raising party's re-election slogan "Acche beete panch saal, lage raho Kejriwal".

The process of nomination for the candidates which started after issuance of notification on January 14 will close on January 21. The scrutiny will be held on January 22, while withdrawals of candidature will be allowed till January 24.

On January 14, the AAP declared its candidates from all 70 assembly seats. The results of the Delhi Assembly polls will be declared on February 11.

## Shah To Hold Pro-CAA Rally In Lucknow



Lucknow: Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will hold a rally here on Tuesday in support of contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Earlier, Mr Shah held a rally in Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and at Gorakhpur, the native place of Mr Adityanath.

The rally in Lucknow will be held at Smriti Upvan, where the party is expecting to attract more than one lakh people. It will also be attended by host of BJP leaders including state BJP president Swantra Deo Singh, sources said here on Monday.

The BJP leaders and workers are also going door-to-door in Lucknow to urge the CAA supporters to join the rally, sources added.

Mr Shah, is most likely to relinquish his BJP president in the rally. The new party chief J P

Nadda is going to be elected on Monday in the National Capital.

However, anti-CAA protest by women and children in the Husainabad area since Friday continued on Monday even as there were efforts by the authorities to end the agitation before the rally.

After Lucknow rally, BJP will hold two rallies on January 22, one in Kanpur and other in Meerut. The Kanpur rally would be held in the city's commercial ground where Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar along with the UP CM and other ministers would address the people. In Meerut, the rally would be held at Madhokunj Shatabadi Nagar where Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP leader Swantra Deo Singh will be chief speakers.

The last rally in the state would be held in Kothi Meena Bazar ground in Agra on January 23 where J P Nadda and Mr Adityanath will address the gathering.

## Wealth Of 63 Billionaires Higher Than Last Year's Union Budget: Report

NEW DELHI: The world last year saw the biggest increase in billionaires in history, one more every two days. Eighty two per cent of all wealth created in the year went to the top one per cent.

In India, the richest 1 per cent hold more than four-times the wealth held by the bottom 70 per cent of the population.

And the combined wealth of 63 billionaires in the country is higher than the total Union Budget for the financial year 2018-19 which was at Rs 24,42,200 crore.

The distressing data had been revealed in a new report non-profit Oxfam released ahead of the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos,

Switzerland.

The report "Time to Care" shows dangerous, poorly paid work for the many is supporting extreme wealth for the few, and how "sexist" economies are fuelling the inequality crisis -enabling a wealthy elite to accumulate vast fortunes at the expense of ordinary people and particularly poor women and girls.

Women are in the worst work, and almost all the super-rich are men, it says.

"Women and girls are among those who benefit least from today's economic system. They spend billions of hours cooking, cleaning and caring for children and the elderly.

Unpaid care work is the 'hidden engine' that keeps the wheels of our economies, businesses and societies moving. It is driven by women who often have little time to get an education, earn a decent living or have a say in how our societies are run, and who are therefore trapped at the bottom of the economy," said Oxfam India CEO Amitabh Behar.

Women do more than three-quarters of all unpaid care work. They often have to work reduced hours or drop out of the workforce because of their care workload.

Across the globe, 42 per cent of women of working age cannot get jobs because they are respon-

sible for all the caregiving, compared to just six percent of men.

Women also make up two-thirds of the paid "care workforce". Jobs such as nursery workers, domestic workers, and care assistants are often poorly paid, provide scant benefits, impose irregular hours, and can take a physical and emotional toll.

The pressure on carers, both unpaid and paid, is set to grow in the coming decade as the global population grows and age, says the report.

Climate change could worsen the looming global care crisis -by 2025, up to 2.4 billion people will live in areas without enough water, and women

and girls will have to walk even longer distances to fetch it.

The report shows governments are massively under-taxing the wealthiest individuals and corporations and failing to collect revenues that could help lift the responsibility of care from women and tackle poverty and inequality.

At the same time, governments are underfunding vital public services and infrastructure that could help reduce women and girls' workload. For example, investments in water and sanitation, electricity, childcare, healthcare could free up women's time and improve their quality of life.

Oxfam's report outlines what it believes are the key factors driving up rewards for shareholders and business leaders at the expense of workers' pay and conditions. These include the erosion of workers' rights; the growing influence of business over government policy making; and a drive to minimize costs in order to maximize returns to shareholders.

The report makes a number of recommendations for how we can bring this cycle of inequality to an end.

"Limit returns to shareholders and top executives, and ensure all workers receive a minimum 'living' wage that would

enable them to have a decent quality of life," the organization said in a statement.

"Eliminate the gender pay gap and protect the rights of women workers. At current rates of change, it will take 217 years to close the gap in pay and employment opportunities between women and men. Ensure the wealthy pay their fair share of tax through higher taxes and a crack-down on tax avoidance, and increase spending on public services such as healthcare and education. Oxfam estimates a global tax of 1.5% on billionaires' wealth could pay for every child to go to school."