

BJP takes lead in district panchayat chairman poll

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The ruling BJP has taken a lead in the election of district panchayat chairmen as their candidates are set to get elected unopposed in most of the districts in Uttar Pradesh. Samajwadi Party alleged on Saturday that their party candidates were not allowed to file nomination papers in many districts. The SP alleged that the official machinery was being used to prevent these candidates from filing their papers. In Gorakhpur and some other places, Samajwadi Party workers staged dharna after their candidates could not file their nominations.

Incensed at the inability of party candidates in filing their nominations, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday sacked district SP chiefs of 11 districts - Gorakhpur, Moradabad, Jhansi, Agra, Mau, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Balrampur, Shravasti, Bhadohi, Gonda and Lalitpur. In more than 13 districts, only BJP candidates have filed their nomination papers and were likely to be elected unopposed on June 29. On Saturday, nomination papers were being filed from 11 am to 3 pm and thereafter nomination papers were scrutinised.

In the election to the posts of district panchayat chairmen, no one filed nominations against BJP candidates in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Gorakhpur, Moradabad, Jhansi, Ghaziabad, Chitrakoot, Meerut, Etah, Mau, Balrampur,



UP minister Brajesh Pathak with a BJP candidate who filed her nominations at District Collectorate in Lucknow

Bulandshahr, Gonda and Shravasti. The BJP candidates to be elected unopposed are Dr. Antul Tewatia from Bulandshahr, Dr Shefali Singh from Moradabad, Gaurav Chaudhary from Meerut, Mamta Tyagi from Ghaziabad, 21-year-old Aarti Tiwari from Balrampur, Amit Chaudhary in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Manoj Rai from Mau, Sadhna Singh from Gorakhpur, Ashok Jataw from Chitrakoot, Pawan Kumar Gautam from Jhansi, Ghanshyam Mishra from Gonda, Dadan Mishra from Shravasti and Kailash Niranjana from Lalitpur.

In Etawah, SP candidate Abhishek Yadav, a close kin of

Mulayam Singh Yadav, was set to be elected unopposed as there was no candidate contesting him. Besides, there are some districts where a large number of nominations were filed. Joint candidate of BJP and Apna Dal was in fray in Jaunpur where, Shrikala Singh, wife of don-turned-politico Dhananjay Singh and Neelam, daughter-in-law of former MP Hariwansh Singh, have filed their nominations. Here two candidates have filed their nominations from Apna Dal while Nishi Yadav from Samajwadi Party has filed their nominations. Neelam Singh and Shrikala Singh are independent candidates.

Four candidates are in the fray from Pratapgarh and three from Unnao. Arun Singh has also filed his nomination from Unnao against BJP's official candidate Shakun Singh. In Ayodhya, BJP's Roli Singh and Samajwadi Party's Indu Sen Yadav filed their papers.

In the 75 districts of the state, there are 3,050 members in district panchayats, who will elect respective district panchayat chairmen. The last date of withdrawal of nomination is June 29 and election, where necessary, would be held from 11am to 15 pm on July 3 and votes will be counted thereafter.

Food grains provided to over 96 per cent beneficiaries so far

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While ensuring transparency in the public distribution system, the UP government has so far provided free food grains to more than 96 per cent of beneficiaries across the state for May-June under PMGKY. In order to help the migrants, poor and under-privileged sections to tide over the hardship of Covid times, the government is providing 5 kg food grains free of cost to over 14.71 crore beneficiaries. Under the scheme, each beneficiary is supposed to be given 3 kg of wheat and 2 kg of rice.

An official of the Food and Supply department said that a total of around 1471859.520 MT of food grains was allotted by the Central government to distribute among the 14.71 crore beneficiaries of UP and the state government has till now distributed more than 1414906.605 MT of ration among the card holders of Antyodaya and Eligible Household Category. A total of 848944.003 MT of wheat and 565962.602 MT of Rice has been distributed under the

scheme. Notably, there are around 1,30,07,969 units of beneficiaries under the Antyodaya Ann Yojna and 13,41,77, 983 units under Eligible Household card holders. In May, about 33499599 card holders received a ration that included a total number of 141146920 beneficiaries. Similarly in June, ration was distributed to over 141834401 beneficiaries of as many as 33695326 card holders of the state. As per the Central government directives, the distribution from PMGKY will continue till Diwali. The UP government is also providing a free dry ration for June, July and August, which is over and above the ration provided under PMGKY.

While distribution through ePoS devices ensures that subsidised foodgrains were being provided to the rightful beneficiary through biometric authentication, integration of ePoS devices with electronic weighing scales was ensuring that the beneficiary was being given the right quantity of foodgrains by fair price shop dealers.



Varanasi, Amroha to be turned into hubs of fruit and vegetable export

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‘L’angda, the famous mango variety from Varanasi, is all set to tickle the taste buds of people around the globe. Similarly, people the world over will also be able to taste Ghazipur’s ‘parwal’ (pointed gourd), Sonbhadra’s green chillies, Jaunpur’s radish and Amroha’s mangoes & vegetables soon as the Yogi government has decided to turn Varanasi and Amroha into the new hubs of vegetable and fruit exports as part of a larger goal to increase farmers’ income.

The project will be actualised through integrated pack houses being built in Varanasi and Amroha to facilitate export of popular farm products of the region. The construction work is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Later, similar pack houses will be set up in Pratapgarh, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shahjahanpur, Ayodhya, Jhansi and Aligarh. With the commissioning of these integrated pack houses, the income of farmers of 13 districts adjoining Varanasi and seven districts adjacent to Amroha will increase substantially. Also Varanasi and Amroha will come to be known across the country as the new hub of vegetable and fruit exports.

“The chief minister has always attached considerable importance to farmers’ welfare and his first decision after taking over reins in Uttar Pradesh was to waive off their loans. Since then, several decisions have been taken aiming to multiply farmers’ income,” said a top government official in Lucknow on Saturday.

The state government decided to set up integrated pack houses in ten districts to facilitate export of fruits and vegetables last year. Subsequently, Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) announced financial assistance for building integrated pack houses whereas UP Mandi Parishad came forward to build them in those districts where fruits or vegetables were produced in abundance.

In the first phase, Mandi Parishad approved the budget for the construction of integrated pack houses in Varanasi and Amroha. It was followed by release of Rs 1559.185 lakh and Rs 1442.55 lakh for the construction of integrated pack

The project will be actualised through integrated pack houses being built in Varanasi and Amroha to facilitate export of popular farm products of the region

houses in Varanasi and Amroha respectively last year. The Varanasi pack house will enable farmers of Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Mau, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Gorakhpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Deoria and Kaushambi to dispatch their fruits and vegetable produce within the country and abroad. Similarly, farmers of Moradabad, Binor, Rampur, Bareilly, Sambhal and Hapur will be able to sell vegetables and fruits grown in their fields across the country and abroad through Integrated Pack House of Amroha.

According to officials, mango orchards are spread over about 12,000 hectares in Amroha district. Of the total production in the district, about 2,000 metric tonnes of mangoes are sent to other states or exported. Amroha’s mangoes are much liked in Gulf countries whereas the Langra mango variety of Varanasi is popular all over the world. Besides, Varanasi, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, Chandauli and Sant Kabir Nagar region produce several varieties of vegetables and fruits that are favourites with foreigners. In 2018-19, fruits and vegetables worth Rs 277.98 crore were exported from UP. Last year too, several tonnes of okra, green chilli, bottle gourd, luffa, brinjal and radish were exported from Varanasi and its adjoining districts to the UK, Italy, Germany and the UAE. As per officials, integrated pack houses being built in Varanasi and Amroha will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology. The MRL test machines, which show how many chemicals have been used to produce an agricultural product, will also be installed in these pack houses. Only those products that get a clearance certificate from the pack

CPI alleges rigging in nominations

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Alleging rigging in the nominations of zila panchayat chairmen on Saturday, the Communist Party of India (CPI) urged the Election Commission to order re-nominations in the districts, from where complaints poured in, and also initiate action against policemen and officials involved in it.

In a statement issued in Lucknow on Saturday, CPI state secretary Girish said that it was akin to aborting election proceedings before the completion of election. He alleged that such an anomaly hap-

pened for the first time in the history of the zila panchayat chairmen’s elections.

“Over a dozen contestants from the opposition parties were barred from filing nominations, several faced cancellation of their candidature, several others were kidnapped or forced to join the BJP by getting them bullied through the police,” he alleged.

The CPI leader termed the BJP regime as an emergency of brutal fascism. “Everybody knows that the BJP had faced a crushing defeat in the panchayat elections and had not enough winners to stake claim of

majority. Despite this, the chief minister announced that the BJP would be winning 65 posts of zila panchayat chairmen. The chief minister did a whirlwind tour to different districts guising them as stock taking of corona crisis but in fact, the tours were an indirect order to the administration and local BJP unit to achieve the target by hook or by crook,” he alleged.

Girish appealed to the opposition parties to protest against the BJP’s election rigging tactics and said that the CPI would continue to raise the issue in the times to come.

Government to set up Ambedkar Cultural Centre near Eidgah

Lucknow (PNS): In a politically loaded decision, the Uttar Pradesh government decided to set up an Ambedkar Cultural Centre close to Aishbagh Eidgah in Lucknow. The decision was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet in Lucknow on Friday. The BJP move is being understood to be a conspicuous step to woo the Dalits before the 2022 assembly polls.

President Ram Nath Kovind is expected to lay the foundation for the Ambedkar Cultural Centre at a pro-

gramme scheduled to be held in Lok Bhawan (Lucknow) on June 29. “Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be present on the occasion while Dalit leaders will also be invited,” well placed officials said in Lucknow on Saturday.

This will be the second such centre after BSP president Mayawati constructed a sprawling Ambedkar Memorial spread in over 40 acres at Gomti Nagar area of Lucknow in 1995. The Ambedkar Cultural Centre

will have a 25 feet high statue of Dr BR Ambedkar along with landscaping and will be spread over 5,493.52 sq metres in government land opposite Aishbagh Idgah. The UP government has decided to provide land free of cost for the Ambedkar Centre. The Cultural Centre will have a 750 auditorium, library, picture gallery, museum, multipurpose hall, dormitory, cafeteria, parking and other basic facilities. The government is expected to spend Rs 45.04 crore on this project.

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I, Sushil Kumar Srivastava, S/o C.B. Srivastava, R/o 543/316, Shekhpur, Habibpur Road, Rajajipuram, Lucknow declares that my son’s name Shrajal is wrongly in educational records. His correct name is Shrijal and is known as in all purpose.

NOTICE

I, am Shiv Kumar son of Narendra Bahadur Singh resident of Haripur Purejit Lalganj, district Rae Bareilly, which in my army service record my wife’s name has been wrongly entered as Sudha, while the real name is Sudha Singh. By Shiv Kumar Singh.

NOTICE

My original allotment letter no.1662 Dt.07.12.1983 & Possession certificate Dt.19.12.1983 of house No. C-203 EES II Gujaini Kanpur in favour of Indra Bahadur Singh S/o Rameshwar Singh has been some where lost, Chotey Singh S/o Subeydar R/o C-203 EWS-II Gujaini Kanpur.

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AAP leader continues attack over Ayodhya land deal controversy

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Continuing to attack the BJP over the alleged land scam of Ramjanmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and UP in-charge Sanjay Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should enquire about the reason for postponement of temple construction from Trust members.

“I have written to the Sangh Pramukh and will produce the evidence of the scam before him,” Singh said while addressing media-persons in Lucknow on Saturday.

“In the Ayodhya temple land scam, some BJP leaders are also involved besides the Trust members. I have given several pieces of evidence in the past and also presented the same in the media. But no

action came against the corrupt BJP leaders and others involved in the fraud. The accused embezzled several crores of rupees in land deals and misused the donations given by the devotees of Lord Ram,” he said.

The AAP Rajya Sabha MP further said that the construction work for Ram temple was stopped for the last one and a half years. “The reason behind the delay was the fraudulent act in land purchase. I want to ask the PM as to why he did not quiz the Trust members on the score yet, even as the issue surfaced 12 days back,” he said.

Singh added that Ravi Mohan Tiwari, who is a relative of BJP’s Mayor in Ayodhya, had sold a land, valued as Rs 2 crore, to the Trust for 18 crore which he purchased for Rs 10 crore on April 19. Singh presented details on several other sale

deeds during his address to media-persons. The AAP leader said that if the probe agencies were not capable of probing the Ayodhya land scam which shattered public trust, he hoped Sangh Pramukh would make public RSS’s viewpoint on the issue.

Without naming any party, Singh said even the most dormant government would have taken action against those involved in the scam but the BJP was shy of initiating action as the accused were its own party leaders. Speaking on the oxygen audit controversy, Singh said that the PM was busy addressing election rallies in West Bengal when 3 lakh people were battling with Covid in the country and the Delhi chief minister was demanding oxygen for the 2 crore people of the Capital. “Is this the fault of CM Kejariwal,” he sought to know.

Priest hails PM’s decision to review development work in Ayodhya



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Chief priest of Ram Lalla temple in Ayodhya Acharya Satyendra Das expressed happiness on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s decision to review the development work in the temple city on Saturday. Acharya said that the prime minister’s step would definitely prove to be a milestone in the development of Ramnagari Ayodhya.

Acharya Satyendra Das said in Lucknow on Saturday that a lot of development work was proposed in Ayodhya and it was a good thing that the prime minister and chief minister were associated with the project. “It is true that unless PM Narendra Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath themselves monitor the ongoing development work in Ayodhya, the work will be visible only on paper,” he said.

“This kind of review meeting of PM Narendra Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath is very important to keep the officials on their toes to complete the project at the earliest,” Acharya Satyendra Das said.

Acharya was appointed the chief priest of Ram Lalla Temple after the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya in 1992 and has served in that capacity for the last 28 years.

Priyanka likely to visit Lucknow in July

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With the 2022 UP Assembly elections only months away, Congress general secretary and UP in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is expected to visit Lucknow in July. Priyanka last came to Lucknow in December 2011. The Congress leader is expected to camp in Lucknow and visit different parts of the state to meet those families whose kin died of Covid.

Besides, during her Lucknow tour, Priyanka will hold a brainstorming session with local Congress workers and leaders to discuss the 2022 state elections. She also has plans to have a direct interaction with the media.

At the same time, Congress will set up photo galleries at vari-



ous places across the state on the Corona catastrophe.

UP Congress sources said in Lucknow on Saturday that the program of Priyanka’s arrival has been verbally informed party officials but the exact dates of the tour have not been given.

Meanwhile, Congress brass has asked each block to collect actual figures of deaths due to Corona infection across Uttar Pradesh before Priyanka’s tour. Local teams have been engaged for the exercise and its members were visiting towns, localities, villages and habitations.

Recently, Priyanka had sent 4.5 lakh kits of medicines and 6 lakh liters of sanitiser to the needy combating the global pandemic in Uttar Pradesh.

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