

## Shiv Sena Chief Uddhav Thackeray to visit Ayodhya today

**Agency  
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Shiv Sena Chief Uddhav Thackeray will visit Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh today along with 18 newly elected MPs of his party. This will be his first visit to Ayodhya after recently concluded General Elections.

Talking to media persons at Ayodhya on Saturday, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said that Mr Thackeray will offer prayers to Ram Lalla. Mr Thackeray had promised during his last visit to Ayodhya before elections that he will again visit Ayodhya with newly elected MPs. So he is coming to keep his

promise, Mr Raut said. Mr Raut said Ram Temple is not subject of politics but of faith and obeisance. He said that Shiv Sena has never asked for votes in name of Ram and will never do it in future. Mr Thackeray will pray for early construction of Ram Temple. Replying to question, Mr Raut said the government is serious

on Ram Temple issue and the matter is sub-judice and it will be constructed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. In reply to a question, he said his party will ally with BJP for Maharashtra Assembly elections and seat sharing has been finalized.

## Arrival of generation next alters dynamics of Maharashtra's Pawar family

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One scion of Maharashtra's influential Pawar family tried his luck in the just-gone-by Lok Sabha elections. Another scion is limbering up to try his in the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly polls in October. Other than their powerful surname and political legacy, the two Pawar scions have little in common. One is the 29-year-old son of Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar; the other is the 33-year-old grandson of Sharad Pawar's elder brother Dinkarrao Pawar. London-educated Parth Pawar recently burnt his fingers at the hustings, having contested from Maval constituency in western Maharashtra. He is more comfortable in English than his mother tongue, and was widely trolled for electioneering in his halting Marathi. He also has the dubious distinction of being the only Pawar — among granduncle Sharad, father Ajit and aunt Supriya Sule — to have lost an election in Maharashtra. Mumbai-educated Rohit Pawar began his electoral innings with the local self-government polls in 2017. A member of the Pune zilla parishad, Rohit is a good orator, fluent in Marathi and comfortable dealing with party cadre. He is now said to be

prepping to jump into the Assembly poll fray from either Hadapsar or Jambhed, both saffron strongholds. A graduate from Mumbai university, Rohit joined his family's sugar and poultry business, Baramati Agro, after he turned 21. But since his induction into politics, he has been seen accompanying Sharad Pawar on his political tours across Maharashtra's rural heartland. The buzz in the NCP is that Sharad Pawar is handholding Rohit much in the way he mentored nephew Ajit more than two decades ago. In some ways then, Parth's defeat in the Lok Sabha polls and Rohit's scheduled debut in the Assembly polls point to the changing dynamics within the Pawar family. "Parth's defeat has put Ajit Pawar on the backfoot, also because [Sharad] Pawar saheb was not keen on it [contesting elections]. It was Ajit's miscalculation that backfired... In this light, Sharad Pawar's mentoring of Rohit means he is openly backing him to take a bigger role in the party. The lines seem to be drawn," said a senior NCP leader, who did not wish to be named. Although this leader said Parth was not actively associated with the party organisation, Parth did not agree. "I am actively involved in

party activities. My association with Maval was never limited to the election. Over five lakh people voted for me and it's my responsibility to stay committed to them. At the end of the day, I am an NCP karyakarta and whatever the party decides for me, I will oblige," Parth said. Rohit said the final decision on whether he would contest would be taken by the party chief. "If saheb (Sharad Pawar) asks me to contest polls, I am ready. If I am asked to hold back and work for the party organisation, I will do that. I admit our performance in the Lok Sabha polls has been

disappointing but we will script a different story in the Assembly polls," Rohit said. According to Nitin Barmal, a Pune-based political analyst and associate professor at Dr Ambedkar Art & Commerce College, "There were major disagreements about Parth's candidature in the Pawar family and his defeat does cast a shadow on what happens next. The NCP chief is indeed backing Rohit to take a bigger role in the party. Rohit will align with Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule. Some years back, it was expected that power would pass from Sharad Pawar to his political heir Ajit. Now it seems unlikely."

## Govt convenes all-party meet today ahead of Parliament session

**Agency  
New Delhi June 16,**

Government has convened an all-party meeting in New Delhi today ahead of Parliament session. The session will commence tomorrow and will continue till 26th of next month. During the meeting, the government will seek the support of the opposition parties to ensure smooth functioning of both the Houses of Parliament.

Besides Triple Talaq Bill, the bills likely to be introduced in Parliament are The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers Cadre) Bill and Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill 2019. President Ram Nath Kovind will address the joint sitting of both Houses on Thursday. The Economic Survey will be presented on the 4th of July and the Budget on the 5th of July.

## PM announces high-level task force on structural reforms in agriculture

**Agency  
New Delhi June 16,**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the creation of a high-level task force on structural reforms in agriculture. Briefing media after the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog chaired by the Prime Minister, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said the Committee will be formed in near future and report will be submitted in next 2 to 3 months.

Mr Kumar said rainwater harvesting, drought situation and relief measures, aspirational districts, and security-

related items were among the items of the agenda of the meeting. He said the Prime Minister stressed on the need to promote export and every state should focus on export to enhance the economy. He said discussion also took place on agro-processing, value addition and supply chain and investment in the agriculture sector. Dr Kumar said the states have appreciated the initiatives on Aspirational Districts and the Prime Minister suggested to choose backward blocks for the development. Dr Kumar said extensive deliberations were held on

Left Wing Extremism and Jammu and Kashmir issue. He said development works have picked up in the LWE areas and LWE infested areas have shrunk and Centre is standing with States to tackle the menace. He said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved and Centre will focus on the development of the State. NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant said that NITI Aayog will look into the suggestions to review National Disaster Response Fund and State Disaster Response Fund and subsidy on drip irrigation. He said many states stressed the need to make amendment to the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act and Essential Commodities Act.

## Efforts on to end West Bengal doctors' agitation

**Agency  
New Delhi June 16,**

Efforts are on to end the West Bengal Doctors agitation which entered the 7th day today. The agitation began on Monday night when two junior doctors of NRS Hospital in Kolkata were injured in an attack by relatives of a patient who died. Except emergency services, all other services including OPD in government-owned hospitals in the state have stopped. Meanwhile, spokesman of the

agitating doctors said in Kolkata that they are open to dialogue. He said they are eagerly waiting to break the deadlock. The doctors are demanding their security at the workplace. State Governor KN Tripathi had written to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to take immediate steps to provide security to the medicos and find out a solution to the impasse. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan had also written to the Chief Minister. He also asked states to consider enacting

specific legislation for protecting doctors and medical professionals from any form of violence. Meanwhile, pressure on the State Government is building up. A large number of doctors of government hospitals in the state have resigned. Junior doctors in hospitals across the country have undertaken token strike to express their solidarity with the agitating doctors of West Bengal. Indian Medical Association has called a day's strike tomorrow.

## Heat stroke claims 43 lives in Bihar during past 24 hours

**Agency  
New Delhi June 16,**

In Bihar, heat stroke has claimed 43 lives during the past 24 hours. Official sources said, the maximum 30 deaths have been reported from Aurangabad district, while 7 people died in Gaya and 6 in Nawada districts. More than 70 people are undergoing treatment in different hospitals in these districts. Chief Medical officer of Aurangabad Surendra Kumar Singh said more than 30 people are undergoing treatment with symptoms of dizziness, dehydration and severe headache. Several parts of the state are reeling under an intense heat

wave for the past three days. Sweltering heat has paralyzed normal life in the state with the mercury touching 46 degree Celsius yesterday in Patna, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada and Dehri. The Met Department in Patna has forecast that there will be no relief for the next two days from intense heat wave conditions. The Disaster Management department has sounded in the state and appealed people to remain inside their homes during day time. It has been advised to drink ample water to avoid dehydration.

Chief minister Nitish Kumar has asked officials to provide all possible medical facilities to affected people. He also asked to provide ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to families of victims. A delegation led by Regional Health Director would today visit Aurangabad to take stock of the situation. Classes have been suspended in government and private schools in Patna and Bhagalpur till 19th of this month due to intense heatwave. The state education department has issued an advisory to all other districts to ensure school must be run during the morning period.

## India can boost export of 300 products to US, China amid trade war: Report

**Agency  
New Delhi June 16,**

The ongoing trade war between the US and China offers an opportunity to India for boosting exports of as many 350 products such as chemicals and granite to these countries, a study by the Commerce Ministry has said. The identification of these products is part of a study carried out by the ministry which states that the ongoing tariff or customs duties war between the US and China proves a big window of opportunity for enhancing India's exports to these two nations. Both the US and China are imposing heavy import duties on each other's products, which has triggered a trade war kind of situation. According to the study, as much 151 domestic products including diesel, X-ray tubes and certain chemicals have an outright advantage to displace the US exports to China. Similarly, 203 Indian goods like rubber and graphite electrodes have the advantage to displace Chinese exports to the US. It said that the specific



products in which India can potentially expand exports to China immediately based on its strengths and available market access in the neighbouring country and also those in which concerted efforts need to be made to acquire market access are being shared with the line ministries. The ongoing trade war may bring about a shift in the global trading patterns due to spillover effects and displacement of the bilaterally traded communities to other countries, it said.

The Indian products which can tap the Chinese market include copper ores, rubber, paper/paperboard, equipment for transmission voice/data in a wired network, tubes and pipes. Similarly, domestic goods which can grab exports opportunities in the US market include industrial valves, vulcanised rubber, carbon or graphite electrodes and natural honey. Increasing exports would help India narrow the widening trade deficit with China, which stood at USD 50.12 billion

during April-February 2018-19. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Ganesh Kumar Gupta said that the trade war between the US and China is benefiting India. He has said that India's exports to the US went up by 11.2 per cent in 2018 and to China by 31.4 per cent in the same year. Echoing the views, Ludhiana-based exporter and former FIEO president S C Rathnan said enormous opportunities are there in the engineering and machinery sector in both the countries and "we have to tap that".

## Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to visit Muzaffarpur today

**Agency  
New Delhi June 16,**

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan will today visit Muzaffarpur where he will take stock of the situation arising out of encephalitis. Dr Harsh Vardhan will visit Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital along with Kejrival Hospital where encephalitis affected children are undergoing treatment. In Muzaffarpur, he will also hold discussions with health officials of Centre and State. Before returning to New Delhi, Dr Harsh Vardhan will hold a review meeting with Bihar government health

officials where he will discuss measures to contain the disease. He will be accompanied by Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey. Meanwhile, Bihar Health Secretary Sanjay Kumar said that besides providing medical facilities at Muzaffarpur all arrangements have been made at Primary Health Centre-level to tackle the disease. He said all precautionary measures are being taken as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Mr Kumar visited both the hospital at Muzaffarpur on Saturday. So far 75 deaths have been reported due to

Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in which maximum have been reported from Muzaffarpur and adjoining areas. Union Minister of State for Home Nitayanand Rai said that a comprehensive study would be done in the encephalitis affected areas. Mr Rai who visited SKMCH, Muzaffarpur told media persons that experts would try to find out the exact cause of the encephalitis so that it's further spread is contained and precious lives saved. Mr Rai, who is also Bihar BJP President, said that experts would study the food habit, daily routine and family background of aggrieved parents.