

Medical profession is service to nation, training in doctor-patient communication essential: Prez

GORAKHPUR: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said that the medical profession is not merely about treating illnesses but also a vital form of national service, contributing significantly to the development of society and the country. Addressing the convocation ceremony of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Gorakhpur, she urged young doctors to extend their services to rural and remote areas, emphasising that a healthy population is essential for a progressive nation. She said patients from abroad are also coming to India for treatment, not only because it is affordable, but also because it meets global standards. She urged all stakeholders in medical education to ensure that doctors receive training not only in clinical skills but also in doctor-patient communication and the importance of the role of empathy in healing from the very beginning of their careers.



“Doctors face many challenges, but their patience and dedication set an example in society. Empathy must be deeply embedded in the system,” she said. “I want to tell all doctors that treatment is not just a means to serve people, but also a way to serve the country. Doctors do not merely cure diseases, they lay the foundation for a healthy society. When citizens are healthy, their productivity increases, and they actively contribute to

national development,” she said. Highlighting the importance of accessible and quality healthcare, the President said that AIIMS institutions were established in various parts of the country to ensure that world-class medical education and services are available even in the most remote regions. “Today, several AIIMS are functioning across India, providing high-quality healthcare to local populations. These institutions have also generated employment and educational opportunities in the health sector. “Patients from abroad are also coming to India for treatment, not only because it is affordable, but because it is of global standard,” she said. President Murmu lauded the role of premier institutions like AIIMS in promoting medical tourism and making India a hub for healthcare excellence. “The cost of treatment in India is significantly lower than in many

other countries. AIIMS, through its transparency, ethical practices and research-based treatment, has earned international recognition,” she said. She expressed confidence that AIIMS Gorakhpur, along with other AIIMS institutions, will play a pivotal role in establishing India as a global centre for medical care. Addressing the graduating doctors, the President said, “You could have chosen many other career paths for financial and social upliftment. “But by choosing the medical profession, you’ve shown a commitment to service. I thank you and your families for this.” She underlined the importance of empathy in medical practice, noting that a doctor’s behaviour can profoundly influence a patient’s mental and physical recovery. “A sensitive doctor not only heals with medicine but also with compassion. Studies show that empathetic care leads to faster patient recovery,” she said.

At least 4 including 72-yr-old woman killed in ambush in Manipur’s Churachandpur

CHURACHANDPUR: At least four people, including a 72-year-old woman, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Manipur’s Churachandpur district on Monday, police said. The ambush took place near Mongjang village around 2 pm when the victims were travelling in a car, a police officer said. Mongjang is around 7 km from Churachandpur town. Preliminary reports suggested that they were shot from a point-blank range, another official in the Churachandpur district headquarters said. The deceased were identified as Thenkthothang Haokip alias Thahpi (48), Seikhogin (34), Lengouhao (35) and Phalhing (72),



sources said. More than 12 empty shells were recovered from the spot. No organisation has claimed responsibility for the attack so far. Police and additional security forces have been rushed to the area.

AAP protest in Rajouri Garden, demands sacking of Delhi Minister Sirsa over ‘derogatory’ remark

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators and workers held a protest outside the office of Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa in West Delhi’s Rajouri Garden on Monday, demanding his removal from the Cabinet over alleged “derogatory” remarks. AAP said Sirsa’s alleged “derogatory” remarks targeted slum dwellers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. There was no immediate response available from the minister or the BJP on the allegations. The protest came a day after Sirsa said, “I want to tell Arvind Kejriwal, Atishi and AAP that you can protest as much as you want for Rohingyas and Bangladeshis, but we will not allow them to stay in this nation... We will not get involved in any

such politics that compromise the lives of people in Delhi.” He further alleged that “they commit crimes everywhere” and “their establishments will be demolished.” Reacting sharply, AAP MLA Sanjeev Jha told PTI, “The BJP is demolishing slums for days now, and Minister Sirsa crossed a line by calling the residents Rohingyas. Many of these people are from UP and Bihar. The people of Purvanchal are hurt. We demand that Sirsa apologise immediately or the chief minister must remove him from his post.” Joining the protest, AAP leader Vinay Mishra said, “This is the same person who stayed in slums before elections. Now, he insults those very people. The BJP’s hatred for Purvanchalis is not new.

Marital disputes to loan fraud, private detectives are Indian legal system’s secret search engine

NEW DELHI: On a dark winter night last year, a 33-year-old software engineer left his house in Delhi’s Shakur Basti, and went untraceable. His parents feared the worst, with his history of mental health issues. After multiple futile attempts to find him, they filed a missing persons report with the police. The first clue came only in February 2025—his last location and banking activity placed him over 2,100 km away, in Bengaluru. But this breakthrough didn’t come through the police. It came from Sanjeev Kumar, the CEO of DDS Detective Agency, a private firm. Kumar’s company not only helped the missing man’s parents with clues about his whereabouts, but also connected them with a lawyer to approach the court. The parents filed a habeas corpus petition in the Delhi High Court through a lawyer “empanelled” with DDS. This petition, seen by ThePrint, asked the court to direct police authorities to track down their son. The high court acted swiftly, pulling in police authorities in Delhi and Bengaluru, as well as the cyber cell, in an order passed days after

the petition was filed. In a subsequent order, the court urged Delhi Police to contact the Bureau of Immigration to find out if the man had left India. The man was then traced to Thailand, under the court’s close watch, including a video call between him and the judges. He also came down to the court for the last hearing. The case was solved as a result of an unusual collaboration between the man’s parents, the private detective agency and the police authorities. While the petition filed in the Delhi High Court does not mention Kumar or his company, their footprints are all over the case—from the man’s last location to any other independent attempt to trace him. “Police manpower is limited. A lot of their focus is on heinous offences. So, they often don’t have the resources to allocate to finding missing persons, especially if an adult is missing. That gap is filled by private detectives,” Kumar tells ThePrint. With the police often overburdened with cases, private detectives have stepped in to fill the gap as an invisible arm of the legal



justice system in India, unearthing evidence that often finds its way to the courtroom. These detectives have emerged as a critical, but invisible, player operating in the shadows across a range of cases from missing people and corporate fraud, to custody battles and tracking fleeing billionaires. India has dozens of such agencies that dig into cases by tapping into external sources, undertaking research, conducting background checks, and gathering evidence through field inquiries, surveillance and financial sleuthing to provide information that often becomes critical in court proceedings. However, with no regulatory mechanism in place for private investigators in India, they often

function in a legal grey area. Booming business detective agencies say the business has been good. DDS, officially registered as DDS Management Solutions Private Limited, is one of many agencies that have been thriving. It was founded in 2013 by a retired police officer. Kumar, also an ex-police officer, joined the industry in 2018. “Since 2018, by the grace of God, work has increased five to six times, so I foresee the work of private detectives will rise astronomically in India,” he tells ThePrint, attributing the increase to “awareness” among people. An obvious area of operation for such investigating agencies is matrimonial disputes, although it is not limited to proving cases of cheating. Maintenance applications also involve digging into the finances of both sides as both spouses seek to estimate the other’s exact income. In one case, advocate Rytim Vohra Ahuja recalls, a private detective helped locate a child at the centre of a custody battle. “The father had picked up the child and left the country without the consent of the

mother,” Ahuja, a senior associate at law firm Karanjawala and Co, tells ThePrint. More details were revealed once she filed a habeas corpus petition in the court, armed with the details that the investigator had uncovered. “The minute the court saw what was happening, the judge put the police to the task,” she says. It isn’t just matrimonial cases where private detectives have found a niche. Kumar says that a significant part of their work comprises intellectual property rights (IPR) cases. “We take authority letters from big companies, authorising us to investigate, hire lawyers and file complaints on their behalf. So we conduct our investigation, reach godowns and factories manufacturing such fakes.” The detectives then approach the police district investigation units, which focus on IPR cases. “We even assist with raids on such godowns and factories, and file FIRs on the company’s behalf as well,” he says. ‘Special’ relationship with lawyers from family and IPR disputes, private investigators are also playing a key role in corporate litigation.

Tribals in Great Nicobar not against development but lack info about mega project: NCST member

NEW DELHI: Tribal communities in Great Nicobar are not opposed to development but lack sufficient information about a proposed mega infrastructure project on the island, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) member Asha Lakra has said. The project, titled Holistic Development of Great Nicobar, involves the construction of a transshipment port, an international airport, a township and a power plant over more than 160 sq. km of land. This includes around 130 sq. km of pristine forest inhabited by the Nicobarese, a Scheduled Tribe (ST), and the Shompens, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), whose population is estimated to be between 200 and 300. In an interview with PTI, Lakra said she led an NCST team to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from June 5 to 7 to review the issues faced by the tribal communities. She said the commission held a detailed meeting with representatives of all tribal groups, including the Great Andamanese, Jarawa, Nicobarese and Shompens. “We met everyone.... We also had



talks with both Shompen and Nicobarese people living on Great Nicobar Island. Most of the people have no idea about the project. They are busy with their own lives.... They demand more ferries to travel between islands,” Lakra said. Asked about her interaction with the residents of Great Nicobar, she said, “They have no other problems. All they need is development.... Better transport, education and health facilities. This is what they told us. Ev-

eryone, barring the Sentinelese, said the same thing. They are in favour of development.” “They want employment and their financial situation to improve,” Lakra added. She, however, stressed the need for a stakeholders’ meeting with educated people from the island regarding “such a big project” and said all necessary information should be shared with them. However, Barnabas Manju, chairman of the Little and Great Nicobar

Tribal Council, told PTI over the phone that the council was not invited to the meeting and came to know about it through the local media. The council had written to the Union environment ministry and the Andaman and Nicobar administration in November 2022, withdrawing the no-objection certificate (NOC) issued in August that year for the denotification of 84.1 sq. km of tribal reserve and the diversion of 130 sq. km of forest for the project. It alleged that crucial information was withheld while seeking the NOC. The tribal council had expressed shock on learning that parts of their pre-tsunami villages would be “denotified and diverted” under the project. During a public hearing held at Campbell Bay in January 2021, the council’s chairman had said that although they support the development plan, “we want to go back to our ancestral villages”. Tribal councils in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are statutory bodies established under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009.

PIL in Cal HC seeking transfer of law college ‘gang rape’ probe to CBI

KOLKATA: A PIL was filed before the Calcutta High Court on Monday seeking a CBI investigation into the alleged gang rape of a law student in her college by an alumnus and two other classmates. The petitioner prayed for direction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to hold a preliminary inquiry into the incident as complained of by the alleged survivor and file an interim report before the court. Claiming that the main accused Manojit Mishra has close proximity with the ruling party in the state, the petitioner prayed in the public interest litigation (PIL) that the investigation into the alleged gang rape case be transferred to the CBI from the Kolkata Police for an impartial probe. It was stated that Mishra was very influential in the conduct of the day-to-day

affairs of South Calcutta Law College, of which he is an alumnus. He also sought a direction to the state authorities to compensate the survivor and her family members. The petitioner prayed for an order to appoint woman civic volunteers in government educational institutions for the safety of girl students in West Bengal. Earlier in the day, a division bench presided by Justice Soumen Sen granted permission to three advocates to file separate PILs over the alleged gang rape of a law student in her college. The petition by Vijay Kumar Singhal seeking the transfer of the probe to the CBI was filed later in the day. The others are seeking an investigation under the supervision of the court and steps to ensure security in colleges across West Bengal. Drawing the attention

of a division bench presided by Justice Sen, the three advocates sought permission of the court to file separate PILs over the alleged gang rape of the law student. The matters are likely to be taken up for hearing later this week, one of the lawyers who moved the court, said. The survivor has alleged that she was gang-raped inside the South Kolkata Law College on June 25. Following the alleged gang rape survivor’s complaint, the police have arrested prime accused alumnus Manojit Mishra, along with students Promit Mukherjee and Zaid Ahmed. A guard of the college was also apprehended on Saturday morning, according to the police. Kolkata Police formed a special investigation team (SIT), led by an assistant commissioner rank officer, to probe the case.

English translation of Telugu bestseller ‘Amma’s Diary’ to release later this year

NEW DELHI: “Amma’s Diary”, the English translation of the Telugu bestseller “Amma Dairylo Konni Pageelu” by acclaimed author Ravi Mantri, will hit the stands later this year, announced publisher Penguin Random House India (PRHI) on Monday. The novel, originally published in Telugu by Aju Publications — an imprint of Sapient Stories Pvt. Ltd. — quickly became a literary sensation selling nearly two lakh copies within its first year. It highlights the hidden interior lives of the women we call ‘Amma’. “From the hearts of the Telugu states to the hearts of the nation — Amma Dairylo Konni Pageelu, the cherished love story of Sarika and Ram, is coming to life in English! I hope you are ready to experience the magic, now in a language for everyone,” said Mantri in a state-

ment. At its heart, “Amma’s Diary” is an elegy for unspoken lives. So, in a culture that often celebrates the youthful adventures of men, but draws a veil over the pasts of women, Mantri’s novel asks: “What if we dared to read the pages of our mothers’ forgotten stories? What might we learn if we saw them not as the silent anchors of our homes, but as individuals shaped by desire, heartbreak, and the hope of second chances?” Through the quiet voice of Sarika, whose long-lost love story is rediscovered by the next generation, “Amma’s Diary” becomes a chronicle of time, memory, and the inherited weight of choices made and unmade. “Amma’s Diary” is a poignant and beautifully written narrative that captures the essence of human emotions, relationships, and experiences.

Economist, policy researcher-writer & ThePrint columnist Radhika Pandey passes away at 46

NEW DELHI: Economist, writer, policy researcher Radhika Pandey passed away on Saturday at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in New Delhi. She had recently undergone an emergency liver transplant surgery. An associate professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), Pandey was a macroeconomist with over 20 years of experience in public policy and teaching, previously having held the position of lecturer at the National Law University (NLU) Jodhpur. The 46-year-old was also a columnist for ThePrint, contributing a weekly article and video titled MacroSutra, in which she discussed topical financial and macroeconomic matters. “There are so many policies of the Indian government where you can see Radhika’s influence and research,” said Ila Patnaik, chief economist at the Aditya Birla Group and former professor at NIPFP. “It is a tremendous loss for the community, and for me

personally.” Patnaik and Pandey were long-time collaborators, working together at NIPFP and also in several policy research teams for central government ministries. Patnaik recalled how Pandey’s working paper on inflation targeting measures greatly influenced the actual framework developed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). “She was one of those rare academics who had experience in both law and finance, and her contribution in policy making was huge,” said Patnaik. “She didn’t focus on just publishing papers but on the real research that goes behind actual policy making.” Before joining NIPFP in 2008, Pandey was a professor at National Law University (NLU), Jodhpur where she taught finance, law, and regulation to post-graduate students. She did her MA and PhD from the Jain Narain Vyas University (formerly known as University of Jodhpur) in economics and B.A. in



economics from Banaras Hindu University. “More than anything, she was one of the most dedicated people I had seen. Right from 2008 when she joined, we have been working together and we never really stopped,” said Patnaik. ‘Great communicator’ Aside from being a regular columnist for ThePrint since 2021, Pandey was also the lead coordinator for the Task Force for Public Debt Management Agen-

cy, constituted by the Ministry of Finance in 2014. The list of her working papers and publications indicates Pandey’s breadth of expertise—from bond markets to public finance to carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) tax to even business cycles. She also worked with Patnaik in a research team led by Justice B.N.Srikrishna for the Financial Sectors Legislative Reforms Commission in 2011. Her interest extended beyond financial regulations in India, as she was also a part of the research team led by former civil servant U.K. Sinha for the ‘Working Group on Foreign Investment.’ “She was very sought after by news publications too, because she was a great communicator. I would follow her articles and videos regularly, even when I was not actively in touch with her,” said Mandar Kagade, the founder-principal at Black Dot Public Policy Advisors. Pandey, he said, was one of the only people he went to for any query about financial policy, reg-

ulations, and macroeconomic doubt. Patnaik also said that Pandey’s influence extended beyond the policy sphere, beyond the background work. Through her columns and videos for news organisations, she was not just doing research but also talking about it to the public, the economist said. “Look at her MacroSutra, the number of people that appreciated her work was huge. She was always interacting with the public, explaining and talking about economic policies, making them accessible,” said Patnaik. “Yes, she was an associate professor at NIPFP, but she was also so much more than that.” Pandey was admitted to the ILBS Hospital earlier this month, due to acute liver failure caused by jaundice. Her last MacroSutra video for ThePrint was shot while she was at the hospital, on Pandey’s own insistence. “I remember visiting her and asking her to take a break from work for a bit so she could recover,” recalled Patnaik.