

Rain fury: Mumbai crumbles; Sena lauds BMC

MUMBAI, AUG 30 /-/- The city's financial capital reeled under the impact of heavy rains, Shiv Sena, which rules the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, today complimented the civic body for ensuring that the situation did not "go out of hand".

The saffron party has been ruling the cash-rich Mumbai civic body since over two decades. "The BMC's preparedness to tackle the natural calamity ensured that the situation did not go out of hand. The civic body should be

complimented for this. Even after heavy rains, no big untoward incident has taken place," the Sena said in an editorial in party mouthpiece "Saamana".

"Mumbai and Maharashtra have always received the blessings of Ganpati. We believe that God will ease this trouble as well," the Uddhav Thackeray-led party said. It said the heavy downpour reminded the megapolis of the cloudburst on July 26, 2005, when there was about 850 mm rainfall in 24 hours.

"Even the IMD on Monday said the rainfall was more than their expectations. The

sun was not visible throughout the day and the high tide added to the city's woes. Yet, Mumbai's spirit won over the natural calamity," it said.

Torrential rains pounded the metropolis throughout the day yesterday.

Sena, BJP spar over relief work for rain-soaked Mumbai

MUMBAI, AUG 30 /-/- Even as yesterday's torrential rains wreaked havoc in Mumbai, the Shiv Sena, which controls the city civic body, today accused the BJP, its alliance partner in the state government, of taking "undue credit" for the relief work being carried out by the Uddhav Thackeray-led party. A Yuva Sena functionary has tweeted a photo

claiming that the BJP has "photoshopped" the Sena's name to take "undue credit" for the relief work being done by his party. Responding to the tweet posted by Yuva Sena social media consultant Sagar Pardehi, the youth wing president and Thackeray's son Aditya asked the BJP to stop such activities and concentrate on relief work instead. (PTI)

Will decide next step to oust TN CM, says Dhinakaran

CHENNAI, AUG 30 /-/- SIDDEENAI AIADMK leader T V Dhinakaran today said a decision would soon be taken on the next course of action to oust the Chief Minister K Palaniswami from his post. Asserting that the party would not be spared, Dhinakaran, commanding the support of 12 of the 134 ruling party MLAs, said he would consult legislators in a day or two and decide the next course of action. Days after his 19 loyalist MLAs petitioned Governor Ch Vidyasagar Rao to oust Palaniswami, he said. "We will select a good person, somebody who does not harbour thoughts of betrayal."

Stating that his faction would be the one to take the lead, he said, "I would like to see a good decision on the representation by MLAs seeking the chief minister's resignation. It is a proverb which means that those with patience will eventually win. Speaking to reporters here, he played down the possibility of ousting Chief Minister O Panneerselvam for 'betrayal', 'hankering after posts' and being 'self-centred'.

He categorically said that the feud in the party would end only if the duo are removed from their respective posts. Claiming that only 77 legislators had taken part in a recent party meet and Palaniswami, he said the party would not be intimidated by the MIM and of course for vote-bank politics," Laxman claimed. The BJP believes celebration of September 17—the party has been demanding it since 1998—is an issue close to the hearts and minds of the people. Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao stated several times that the non-observation of official celebration on September 17 had been the "conspiracy of the combined state (undivided Andhra Pradesh)", he said.

Chandrasekhar Rao had also said that when the TRS comes to power, it would officially celebrate September

Narayansamy slams 'those trying to block development projects'

PUDUCHERRY, AUG 30 /-/- In an apparent dig at Puducherry Lt. Governor Kiran Bedi, Chief Minister V Narayanasamy today claimed that there were some people who were trying to "block development" projects in the union territory. The projects include one related to the development of the port and the scientific disposal of solid waste, Narayanasamy said. Bedi had alleged that there were irregularities in the port development project and that it would pose a threat to the environment. Narayanasamy said that the chief minister's work was in progress to make it a satellite port of the Chennai Port Trust, a group of persons had tried to "stall" its implementation. The government would take all steps to counter the objection as development of the port would have benefits, including generating jobs and promoting industrial activities, the chief minister said.

"We want to generate employment, strengthen the financial position of the government and ensure that the port would be a top-ranking Union Territory," he said.

"There are at the same time some groups of persons trying to block development," Narayanasamy said, without naming anybody, after inaugurating a two-month long awareness programme on sustainable solid wastemanagement there. The programme is being organised by the Department of Science, Technology and Environment in association with Pondicherry University. The Lt. Governor has been at loggerheads with the Congress government on many issues, including the port development. Narayanasamy said that the government was providing a subsidy of Rs 20,000 to each household without toilet facilities. "Our goal is that the entire Union Territory should emerge as open defecation-free by 2018," the chief minister said. The Mahe region is open defecation-free and the T R Pattinam block in Karaikal was another segment that had achieved the goal, he said. For implementing the Operation Garbage scheme in association with private players, the government had earmarked Rs 1.87 crore in Puducherry Narayanasamy said.

People should be aware and segregate garbage into green, blue and non-degradable categories at their houses, he said, adding that several organisations from the US, Germany and the country have come forward to convert garbage into bio-fertiliser. "This scheme of the government is now facing hurdles," he said, but did not elaborate. The chief minister claimed that several



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu with Chief Minister of Nagaland T R Zeliang and his cabinet colleagues in New Delhi.

HC seeks govt's reply on relocation of child rape survivors

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 /-/- The Delhi High court today sought a response from the AAP government on a plea seeking amendment in the Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme (DVCS) to provide abode of child rape survivors as they may face threats in future from their assailants. The Delhi government on an application moved by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan is a pending PIL. The application, moved through senior advocate H S Phoolka and advocate Prabhshay Kaur, also sought a direction to Delhi Legal Services Authority to implement the provision of providing relocation of address to a minor rape survivor. It alleged that a number of cases of child sexual abuse entailed abuse or rape by neighbours or persons having physical access to the victims. "Once such an accused is granted bail, he again gains access to the child. This is bound to cause deep psychological trauma and a sense of fear for the child, for she/he is faced with the perpetrator of the crime inflicted on her/him. "Not only does this prejudice the trial, having inculcated fear in child's mind, but is deeply distressing for the mental health and rehabilitation of the victim child," it said. It also said that DVCS provided compensation to the victims of rape and other sexual offences, it was silent on the monetary compensation or assistance for relocation of the victim or a change of their residence. (PTI)

Ram Madhav drafted in to shore up BJP prospects in Telangana

HYDERABAD, AUG 30 /-/- The BJP has drafted senior leaders Ram Madhav, Narendra Singh Tomar and Mangal Pandey to shore up the prospects of the party as it sets its eyes to take on the ruling TRS in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. They have been made in-charge of the party in five Lok Sabha constituencies each, and the Assembly segments that come under them. Telangana BJP President K Laxman said during a media interaction here today. Union minister of State for Labour and Employment Bandaru Dattatreya, the long-time MP from Telangana, has been made in-charge in two Parliament seats, he said. Dattatreya, the long-time MP from Telangana, has been made in-charge in two Parliament seats, he said. Dattatreya, the long-time MP from Telangana, has been made in-charge in two Parliament seats, he said. Dattatreya, the long-time MP from Telangana, has been made in-charge in two Parliament seats, he said.

Hundreds of kids died in UP, Jharkhand govt hospitals: Cong

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 /-/- The Congress today alleged hundreds of children in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand have died in government hospitals. The party demanded the resignation of the two chief ministers, along with a judicial probe by a sitting High Court judge. Congress spokesperson R P Singh alleged that after the recent deaths of over 60 children in Gorakhpur, there have been 61 more deaths in UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's constituency. "We saw 61 children dying in just 72 hours in Gorakhpur. This is repeat of a similar tragedy in Gorakhpur where 60 children had died earlier," he said.

Yesterday, the former principal of Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College Dr Rajiv Mishra and his wife Dr Purnima Shukla were arrested over the child deaths at the college's hospital earlier this month. The issue had acquired a political hue with the BJP government in UP drawing opposition over the deaths in Gorakhpur, which Adityanath had represented five times in the Lok Sabha. Singh said the "gross complacency" and "utter negligence", more than 200 children have died in the same BRD hospital in Gorakhpur this month alone. "Notwithstanding the shameful tragedy which we saw 64 children died due to shortage of oxygen, the sheer complacency of the BJP government under Adityanath continues," he said. Singh alleged that in every BJP-ruled state, children are dying due to utter callousness of the state governments. "We demand the immediate resignations of Jharkhand CM

Raghubar Das and UP CM Adityanath on account of Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Gorakhpur deaths: Singh

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Protect peacocks: HC to Govt and agencies

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 /-/- "We have seen peacocks on the roads of Delhi... They are seen without food," judges of the Delhi High Court said today, as they lashed out at the authorities for doing nothing to protect the national bird of India. Expressing concern over the safety of peacocks including from stray animals in the city's parks, the court sought responses from the Centre and the Delhi government on a PIL seeking steps to protect these birds. Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Ch Hari Shankar also said they have seen peacocks roaming helplessly in Delhi's Lutyns' zone and issued notice to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Delhi government, DDA and South

Delhi Municipal Corporation directing them to submit status report in 10 days

Delhi Municipal Corporation directing them to submit status report in 10 days. "You have to protect the birds and animals roaming on roads. We have seen peacocks on the roads of Delhi's Lutyns' zone. They are seen without food. Nothing is being done by the authorities," the bench said. Petitioner Sumita Kapil, a south Delhi resident who claims to be a regular visitor to the Deer Park there, moved the court claiming that a large number of dogs, pigs and monkeys were threatening the peacocks, causing them to leave the park and come out on the road. The plea also said the animals were harming environment as their excreta was making it difficult for people to breathe or walk in the park.

Hardik, aide get 3-day police custody over assault case

AHMEDABAD, AUG 30 /-/- A magisterial court in Patan district remanded Hardik Patel and his aide Dinesh Bambhaniya to three-day police custody in connection with an assault and dacoity case registered against them on Sunday. Judicial Magistrate of Patan Court, V K Solanki, sent the duo to police custody after they were presented before him at his residence late last night. Patan police, who had formally arrested them yesterday morning, had sought a 10-day custody. The magistrate granted three days of custody. The duo had been arrested on September 1, one

Carcasses floating, riding a buffalo to safety: A Mumbaikar remembers 2005

MUMBAI, AUG 30 /-/- As the skies opened up and a city scurried for cover from torrential rain and high waves that came flooding in from the sea, memories of July 26, 2005 came back to haunt Captain Shivraj Mane, a Merchant Navy officer. That was the day five years ago when at least 500 people were killed, some electrocuted, other crushed under falling walls or drowned, with 90 mm of rain in a single day. That was also the day that Mane, like thousands of other Mumbai-kars, began walking home through the flooded streets of Mumbai and its suburbs. He reached home in the distant Mumbai suburb of Ambarnath only on the third day. Being a navy man, he was used to water. But nothing had prepared him for the nightmare that was to come.

I will never forget," Mane said

"I will never forget," Mane said. "They died in the worst possible way water can kill anyone. All day I travelled by road to reach Ulhasnagar, where I took a shelter at a friend's place. I was drenched and exhausted." Mane managed to get his phone charged from an internet cafe and called to his parents. The rain stopped only on the morning of July 28. He got home, covering the last bit of the distance in an auto-rickshaw. "I had lost all my key documents, including passport during that period. legs were swollen. It took next two days to get my life to recover. Those were my two toughest days of my life. I just pray there is no repeat of the rains and the miseries based on what I have seen." It was a wish many other Mumbai-kars echoed fervently. (PTI)

Mane and his aide arrested

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Shoppers throng Ghandi Khan Market in Srinagar on Wednesday ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.