



The reality show Voice India finalist Shikayana Mukhya from Dehradun was felicitated at Snowdrop School at Krishnanagar in Mirik on Wednesday. --- DEEP MILAN PRADHAN

Youth BJP leader shoots self to 'prove' love for woman

BHOPAL, JULY 4 /--/ A 30-year-old leader of the BJP's youth wing is in a critical condition after he allegedly shot himself one side the residence of his female friend to "prove his love for her" police said today. The incident occurred on Tuesday night when the Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) leader, Atul Lokhande went to meet the 27-year-old woman's father at their home. After a heated argument between the two, Lokhande came out and shot himself in the temple. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where his condition was critical, police said. Confirming the incident, Bhopal superintendent of police (SP) South, Rahul Lodha said, "The seriously injured man is undergoing treatment in the hospital. Police have registered a case in this regard and further investigation is going on."

Programme on kitchen gardening



Participants in the discussion --- EOJ Photo

SANJAY AGARWAL
RONGPO, JULY 4 /--/ A day-long program on kitchen gardening was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra West Sikkim under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan at Tikpur aspirational village on Wednesday. The programme was chaired by Niti Ayog joint director Jitu Das as nodal officer. A total of 64 progressive farmers from Tikpur village participated in the programme. Subject Matter Specialist Dr. Bishon Pradhan highlighted on kitchen gardening, its importance, the use of organic nutrients, growing of off-season vegetables and vegetable forcing, using artificial temperature.

The Niti Ayog Joint Director created awareness on aspirational districts spoke about the varieties of seeds distributed. Subject Matter Specialist Agri Economy J.P. Dulal explained the role of family members in kitchen gardening, cost minimization through the use of locally available resources and seed production of different local varieties of fruits and vegetables. Seeds of off-season vegetables were distributed.

Narayanaswamy wants SC's Delhi ruling replicated in Puducherry

PUDUCHERRY, JULY 4 /--/ The Supreme Court judgement curtailing the powers of the Lt. Governor of Delhi today prompted a demand for its replication in Puducherry, with chief minister V Narayanaswamy warning he would launch legal proceedings if the verdict was violated. Narayanaswamy, who is locked in a bitter turf war with Lt. Governor Kiran Bedi for a long time now, hailed the Supreme Court judgement, and insisted it was "totally applicable" to Puducherry. A combative Narayanaswamy warned he would file a contempt petition against those failing to act in consonance with the supreme court verdict, he said, without naming Bedi.

In a judgement seen as a major victory for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Supreme Court today ruled that the LG has no independent power to take decisions and is bound by the elected government's advice. The Supreme Court said that except for three issues - public or



der, police and land - the Delhi government has the power to legislate and govern on other issues. The Puducherry chief minister has repeatedly accused Bedi of "overreach and interference" in the day-to-day running of the administration. He has often deprecated Bedi's surprise field visits

and criticised her for issuing orders to government officials without consulting the chief minister or ministers concerned, besides sitting on files relating to farm loan waiver and free education for Dalits. Narayanaswamy often Bedi, who has often put "hurdles" in the way of implementation of various decisions of his government, would change her ways following the apex court judgement. "Now everything would become a thing of the past...the Supreme Court's verdict has established the spirit of democracy and the purpose of elected government," he said, noting that the apex court has ruled that the Lt. Governor should not be "obstructionist".

Cracks found on bridge at Grant Road station, traffic diverted

MUMBAI, JULY 4 /--/ Cracks were detected on a bridge at the Grant Road Railway Station in south Mumbai, hours after an overbridge collapsed at a station in suburban Andheri, the city civic body said today. The bridge was closed and traffic diverted, police said. The cracks were found on the Frere bridge at the Grant Road station around 11.30 pm on Tuesday following which traffic was diverted, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

The Mumbai Police also posted an update on its Twitter handle today, saying the bridge has cracks and hence, traffic has been diverted to Kama Chowk towards Kennedy bridge. The bridge has been closed and will be opened in a couple of days based on the civic body's instructions, police said. "We have closed the Grant Road bridge for vehicular movement on the BMC's recommendations. Till that time, we have diverted traffic towards Kennedy bridge. Traffic movement has been smooth," joint commissioner of police (traffic) Amitesh Kumar said. BMC officials and engineers will inspect the bridge and an audit will be carried out. Based on their instructions, the bridge will be opened for traffic movement in a day or two, he said. Engineers of the BMC's bridges department and other agencies have been asked to monitor and assess the condition of the Frere bridge, an official of the BMC's disaster management unit said.

An overbridge at a railway station in the Andheri area collapsed on Tuesday during heavy rains, disrupting train services, injuring five people and putting the spotlight once again on the city's infrastructure of the metropolis. Railway minister Piyush Goyal had visited the spot and ordered an inquiry by the Commissioner of Rail Safety. He had also said that during the next six months, a joint safety audit will be conducted by the railways, the BMC and the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, at the 445 road overbridges, foot overbridges and bridges over pipelines in Mumbai as part of efforts to improve safety of commuters.

The BMC today said the structural audit of 274 bridges was underway and a final action plan for repairs, maintenance and reconstruction will be prepared within a week. "Our department is carrying out the structural audit of 274 bridges since last year and the work is in final stages. We hope soon prepare a final list of bridges under various categories in good condition, requiring minor repairs, major repairs or requiring reconstruction," BMC's chief engineer (bridges) Shitaprasad Kori told news agency PTI.

J-K govt transfers 13 IAS officers

SRINAGAR, JULY 4 /--/ The Jammu and Kashmir government carried out the civic body's instructions to shuffle, transfer 13 IAS officers, including seven deputy commissioners.

According to an order issued by general administrator in a notice on Tuesday night, Asgar Hassan Samoon, financial commissioner, revenue, was transferred and posted as principal secretary, animal and sheep husbandry department, an official spokesman said. Sarita Chauhani, chairperson, Jammu and Kashmir Special Tribunal, was transferred and posted as commissioner/secretary, higher education department, relieving Muhammad Javed Khan, secretary, technical education department, and sports department of the additional charge of the post, the spokesman said.

Raj Kumar Bhagat, commissioner/secretary, animal and sheep husbandry department, was transferred and posted as commissioner/secretary, tribal affairs department, he said. Salma Hamid, secretary, tribal affairs department, was transferred and posted as secretary, PHE, irrigation and flood control department. Riga Sampahal, secretary, shall also hold the charge of the post of administrative secretary, school education department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

M Raju, secretary, PHE, irrigation and flood control department, also holding the charge of administrative secretary, transport department, was transferred and posted as commissioner, commercial taxes. Saugat Biswas, transport commissioner, shall also hold the charge of the post of administrative secretary, transport department, till further orders.

Why no quota for Dalits' admission in AMU: SC/ST panel seeks explanation

LUCKNOW, JULY 4 /--/ Maintaining that Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is not a minority institution, UP Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Commission today asked the university to explain as to why it does not give reservation in admission to the SC/ST community. The Commission sought the explanation, issuing a notice to the AMU and seeking its reply by August 8. "The AMU is not a minority institution. I have issued notice to it for not giving reservation to the SC/ST. In the notice sent to the AMU Registrar, he was asked to reply to it by Aug 8," chairman UP SC/ST commission Brijlal told newsmen here. "We have asked why SC/ST communities have not been given benefits of reservation and in what circumstances it has been done so. The Supreme Court has not yet passed any order in which AMU was prevented to provide reservation benefits. In light of the HC and the SC directives, it has been established that the AMU is not a minority institution," he said. "The AMU is like any other central university set up under a central Act and runs on its funds. It has to give due reservation," he said. Asked what the Commission would do if the AMU did not give its reply within stipulated time, Brijlal said, "The Commission will use its power and issue summons to them." He said in 1989, the University court had passed a resolution to provide 50 per cent reservation to Muslims in admission and sent the same to the President, who is also the Visitor of the university. The President in his reply had said providing 50 per cent reservation to Muslims is unconstitutional. The high court also termed it unconstitutional and said that the AMU is not a minority institution. In light of the HC and the SC decisions, it is established that AMU is not the minority institution," Brijlal said. In its six-page notice, the Commission expressed its displeasure over not providing benefits of reservation to the SC/ST students. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) chairperson Ramshankar Katheria too had yesterday directed the AMU to clarify its stand on reservations for scheduled caste community, failing which it may lose Central funding.

TN association accuses IRCTC of promoting Hindi via its ticket booking website

NEW DELHI, JULY 4 /--/ An association of railway users has alleged that the IRCTC website was imposing Hindi on non-Hindi speaking population of Tamil Nadu, accusing the catering and tourism arm of Indian Railways of promoting Hindi through its ticket booking portal. In a letter addressed to IRCTC as well as to the railway minister's office, the Kanyakumari District Railway Users' Association (KKDRUA) has alleged that the IRCTC's new website www.irctc.co.in for Indian railway ticket reservation is available in only two versions - Hindi and English and no other regional languages. "We found a lot of Hindi imposition in your IRCTC English version website service. Five type travel source and destination it is coming Hindi first then English. Already full Hindi version website is available. Why impose Hindi script in English version website? The Hindi speaking people will book the ticket from Hindi version website," the organisation president P

Edward Jeni wrote in his letter. Jeni further said the Official Language Act, 1976 was not applicable to Tamil Nadu and the people of the state neither read, write or speak Hindi. "May I request you to ensure that Hindi is not imposed on non-Hindi speaking Indians. You have got facility from the Ministry of Railways only for ticket reservation purpose. Your job is not to promote the Hindi language. Give respect to native people by including their native language in your products. Imposing Hindi is against linguistic equality and consumer rights. We hope you will respect our sentiments and stop imposing Hindi on non-Hindi natives," Jeni said, demanding that all Hindi texts in the English version of IRCTC website be removed and create Tamil version of IRCTC website for the benefit of the eight crore people of Tamil Nadu. KKDRUA has earlier pushed successfully for issuing of unreserved tickets in Tamil language just a couple of months ago.

Ten killed in blast at firecracker unit

HYDERABAD, JULY 4 /--/ A massive blast erupted at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Telangana's Warangal district today, killing at least 10 workers and wounding two others, officials said. The fire, which broke out around 11 am in Kotilingala area on the outskirts of the Warangal city is suspected to have been caused by electrical short-circuit, they said. "Ten bodies have been recovered from the fire accident site. Two injured persons have been rescued and rushed to hospital," Warangal (Rural) district collector M Haritha, who is supervising the rescue efforts, told news agency PTI by phone from the scene of the tragedy.



The condition of a road in north Sikkim after a landslide. --- DEEPAK SHARMA

Karnataka Assembly Speaker irked over ministers' absence in House

BENGALURU, JULY 4 /--/ Taking suo motu notice of the absence of several ministers in the Karnataka Assembly, Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar today took strong exception to it, saying it "cannot be tolerated" and the House could not be taken "lightly". Irked by the ministers' absence during the motion of thanks to the Governor for his address to the joint session of the state Legislature, the Speaker said 13 ministers should have been present in the House according to the official list sent to his office. "Only six ministers are present in the House, where have the rest seven gone," he questioned.

Calling out the names of ministers, Kumar said deputy chief minister G Parameshwara, cooperation minister Bandeppa Kashyampur, horticulture minister G Manguli, social justice minister Priyank Kharge, minor irrigation minister C S Puttaraju and health minister Shiv Prasad Patil were present.

The Speaker asked where PWD minister R D Revanna, Irrigation minister D Shivakumar, municipality and local bodies minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, animal husbandry and fisheries minister Venkata Rao Nadagonda, housing minister U T Khader, tourism and sericulture minister Sa Ra Mahesh, and food and civil supplies minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, had gone. "I will give 15 minutes, this will be viewed very se-

riously, they cannot take the House lightly," he said, as he directed the ruling side to ensure that ministers are present in the House. The Speaker and the Chair cannot be taken for granted, Kumar said, adding, such absenteeism from the House without any prior intimation or permission "cannot be tolerated."

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