

Tharoor kicks up row with "Hindu Pak" jibe, BJP demands Rahul's apology

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/NEW DELHI, JULY 12—/Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has kicked up a huge row with his remarks that if voted to power again, the BJP will rewrite the Constitution and pave the way for creation of a "Hindu Pakistan".

Tharoor's comments prompted cries for apology from Congress president Rahul Gandhi for the "attack on Indian democracy and Hindus". "If they have been able to win a repeat of their current strength in the Lok Sabha, then frankly, our own democratic Constitution, as we understand it, will not survive... because then they will have all the three elements they will need to tear up the Constitution of India and write a new one."

And that will enshrine the principle of Hindu Rashtra, that will remove equality for the minorities, and that will create a Hindu Pakistan... and that is not what Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad and great heroes of freedom struggle fought for," Tharoor told an event in Thiruvananthapuram yesterday.

A livid BJP came out strongly against Tharoor over his comments, with party spokesman Sambit Patra calling it "extraordinary" as it was an "attack on the Indian democracy and Hindus".

Yet again Tharoor has cattle-classed Indian democracy. The Congress' character is that it crosses the 'Lakshman

Rekha' (limit) in its hatred for Narendra Modi and the BJP, and in doing so, it assaults Indian democracy," he told reporters in the national capital.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's "khon ki dalali remark" on the surgical strikes launched by the Army against terrorists in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), he said the Congress president undermined India's defence forces.

He also referred to senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad's recent remarks about the Army killing more civilians than militants in the Kashmir valley to attack the main opposition party. "It is shameful to denigrate one's own country, one's own country's democracy, to denigrate the Hindu religion and again, this is a shameful act for which Rahul Gandhi should come out and not only apologise but explain to us why any leader of that party, whenever they open their mouth, they speak this way," he said.

A defiant and combative Tharoor took to Facebook to defend his comments, insisting that the BJP and RSS' idea of a Hindu Rashtra was the "mirror image" of Pakistan. "I have said this before and I will say it again.

Pakistan was created as a state with a dominant religion, that discriminates against its minorities and denies them equal rights. India never accepted the logic that had

partitioned the country. "But the BJP/RSS idea of a Hindu Rashtra is the mirror image of Pakistan a state with a dominant majority religion that seeks to put its minorities in a subordinate place. That would be a Hindu Pakistan, and it is not what our freedom movement fought for, nor the idea of India enshrined in our Constitution."

Tharoor said many proud Hindu like him cherished the inclusive nature of the faith and had no desire to live, as their Pakistani neighbours were forced to, in an intolerant theocratic state. "We want to preserve India and not turn our beloved country into a Hindu version of Pakistan," the Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram wrote.

Launching a tirade against Tharoor, Patra recalled his 'cattle-class' remarks, and said he was now "cattle-classing" Indian democracy. "You call yourself an educated and erudite spokesperson of the Congress. If you want to love Pakistan, do so, but do not display such hatred towards Indians," he said.

Tharoor had courted a controversy a few years ago when he was a minister at the Centre with his comment on Twitter that he would travel "cattle class out of solidarity with all our holy cows."

The comment had followed the then finance minister Pranab Mukherjee's advice to Congress leaders to observe austerity in out-

let to cut down expenditure in the wake of drought in several parts of the country.

Patra said it was an insult to compare India's democracy to that of Pakistan, which he called "terrorist" and demanded that the Congress stop "fear-mongering". "And you (Shashi Tharoor) compare our democracy to Pakistan's? Thanks to the Congress party, we have had black patches in our history, such as the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi during which the Constitution was suspended for two years," he said.

Tharoor, however, got some support from former vice president Hamid Ansari. "I have not read that he (Tharoor) has said. But he is an educated man, a writer, an MP, and heads Parliament's committee on external affairs. Whatever he says, he will say after thorough consideration," Ansari told a TV news channel.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Singh Rethore assailed Tharoor for his "Hindu Pakistan" comments, calling it "pure hallucination".

"This is pure hallucination by Shashi Tharoor. I think this is withdrawal symptoms of the fact that neither they are in power nor do they see power coming to them again. It's Congress that infringed our Constitution and freedom of our citizens," he told another news channel in New Delhi. (PTI)

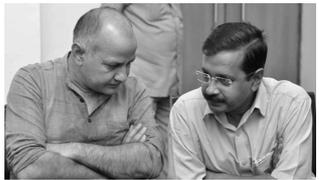
SER special trains

KOLKATA, JULY 12—/To clear the extra rush of passengers, it has been decided to run Special Trains between Santragachi and Jabalpur, leaving Santragachi on 26.07.18, 02.08.18 and 09.08.18 and leaving Jabalpur on 25.07.18, 01.08.18 and 08.08.192.

Santragachi-Jabalpur Special leaving Santragachi at 20.40 hrs (Thursday) will reach Jabalpur at 15.50 hrs, the next day in the opposite direction, 02191 Jabalpur-Santragachi Special leaving Jabalpur at 20.10 hrs (Wednesday) will arrive Santragachi at 16.00 hrs, the next day.

The Special Train consisting of one Composite Coach, two AC 3-Tier, ten Sleeper Class and four general second class coaches, will have stoppages at Kharagpur, Tatanagar, Chakradharpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Raigarh, Champa, Bilaspur, Pendra Road, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Katni and Sihora stations enroute. (EOIC)

Kejriwal, Sisodia visit school where KG students were confined in basement



NEW DELHI, JULY 12—/Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia today visited the school where 16 kindergarten students were allegedly confined in the basement for non-payment of fee.

Kejriwal said they interacted with the principal of Rabia Public School, Naheed Usmani, and warned her that this kind of treatment towards children would not be tolerated and the Delhi government and the police will take action. He said an inquiry would be conducted into the matter.

Kejriwal and Sisodia also interacted with students and teachers there. They were accompanied by Environ-

ment Minister Imran Hussain, the MLA from Ballimaran constituency under which the school comes.

Kejriwal yesterday sought a report from the education department about the alleged confinement of the students in the basement of the school for non-payment of fee. The matter came to light after police was informed by some parents that 16 children were confined in the basement by their teachers between 7 am to 12 noon in central Delhi's Hauz Qazi area. A case was registered against the school authorities, police said, adding that they were looking for the person responsible for the incident. (PTI)

Chamba continues to be the hottest in Himachal
SHIMLA, JULY 12—/Chamba continues to be the hottest place in Himachal Pradesh for the second consecutive day today, the meteorological (MeT) department said.

As per data provided by the MeT department, Chamba recorded the highest temperature in the state this morning at 33.1 degrees Celsius. It had experienced a highest of 32.7 degrees Celsius yesterday. Hamirpur recorded a maximum of 31.7 degrees Celsius today, followed by Bhuntar in Kullu district and Una where the maximum temperature was 31.6 degrees Celsius. However, the lowest temperature recorded in the state was 14.5 degrees Celsius in Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti district. Meanwhile, moderate to light rain occurred in some places since last evening.

The assistant professor was working in the MeT department, Devanga Aris College in Aruppukottai, affiliated to the Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU).

She was suspended after the scandal came to light. She, however, has denied a sexual angle to her advice and claimed she had made it "in the right spirit" and not with any hidden motive or agenda.

The CB-CID, which took over the case, implicated Professor Murugan of the Madurai Kamaraj University and Karuppusamy, a student in the case. (PTI)

College sex scandal: HC sets deadline for completion of trial

MADURAI, JULY 12—/The Madras High Court today set a September 10 deadline for the CB-CID to file its final charge sheet in the case of a woman professor who allegedly tried to 'lure' students to extend sexual favours to some varsity officials for marks, and dismissed the lower court to complete the trial within six months from that date.

Dismissing the bail plea one of the accused, Karuppusamy Justice G R Swaminathan said students were affected in the case and hence bail could not be granted to him.

The judge also made it clear that one of the accused in the case should be granted bail till the completion of the trial. The judge ordered the CB-CID to file the final chargesheet before September 10 and directed the Virudhunagar court to complete the trial within six months from that date.

Upgradation work on Naihati - Bandel Section

KOLKATA, JULY 12—/For upgradation work on Naihati - Bandel Section, 10 (ten) days traffic block will be imposed from 12.07.2018 to 22.07.2018 except 15 & 22.07.2018 for 90 minutes/day will be imposed. As a result two Naihati - Bandel locals (37535/37536) will be cancelled for those days. (EOIC)

Maneka urges Kolkata Police to take step in sexual assault of 2-yr-old boy

NEW DELHI, JULY 12—/Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi today urged Kolkata Police to immediately arrest the people responsible for allegedly sexually assaulting a 2-year-old boy at a playschool in the city.

The boy was allegedly sexually abused at the playschool in southern Kolkata last week. Police have said they are scanning the footage retrieved from CCTV cameras at the playschool. Following a complaint by the boy's parents, a case has been registered against unidentified people under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Gandhi expressed her displeasure at the slow pace of police investigation in the case. "I have spoken to Kolkata Police about the case and expressed my displeasure that they have not been able to arrest the ac-

colleague and MP, Ali Anwar, has also moved a similar plea against his disqualification from the Upper House. The court said that since Anwar was elected in April 2018, his plea was infructuous and disposed of it. The apex court on June 7 had allowed Yadav to stay in the official bungalow allotted to him, but had taken away the salary, allowances and other perks he was enjoying. Earlier the high court had allowed Yadav to enjoy the salary, perks and allowances till his plea challenging his disqualification was finally decided. Yadav has challenged his disqualification on several grounds, including that he was not given a chance to present his views by the Rajya Sabha chairman before he passed the order.

On the other hand, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh had sought disqualification of Yadav and Anwar on the ground that they had attended a rally of opposition parties in Patna in violation of party directives. Yadav joined hands with the opposition after the JD(U) president and Bihar chief minister, Nitish Kumar, had dumped the alliance with the RJD and the Congress in Bihar and tied up with the BJP in July last year. Yadav was elected to the Rajya Sabha last year and his term is scheduled to end in July 2022. Both Yadav and Anwar were disqualified under the Anti-Defection Law.

The former JD-U president's plea said that the December 4, 2017 order had disqualified him in an "extremely casual and callous way". (PTI)

METRO RPF's security awareness campaign

Separate help desk for women and children at Noapara Station



KOLKATA, JULY 12—/With a view to providing best security to the women commuters in Metro Railway RPF personnel have launched various measures since January, this year (2018).

Security awareness campaign specially for the women and children is being carried out regularly at Metro stations and in running Metros by displaying banners with toll free security helpline number 182, women helpline number 9007041908 and security helpline number 9007041789. These awareness programmes are being conducted by distributing pamphlets, announcements through loud hailers and organising Nukkad Natak in running trains as well as platforms/stations premises.

During this campaign, feedback forms are being collected from women passengers. It has also been planned to conduct such awareness programmes in schools. Apart from this, to instill confidence among the women commuters, escorting of night trains both (Up & Dn), running from 20.30 hrs has been started from 10.06.2018.

A separate "Help Desk" for women and children commuters has been installed at Noapara station w.e.f. 14.06.2018 to provide them better security. These measures have resulted in a remarkable downward in the crime figure/complaints. (EOIC)

Shardad Yadav has joined new party: Nitish faction MP to Delhi HC

NEW DELHI, JULY 12—/The Delhi High Court today sought to know the stand of former Janata Dal-United (JD-U) president Shardad Yadav on a plea by the Nitish Kumar faction seeking to file documents to buttress its claim that he has formed and joined a new political party.

The application was moved on behalf of Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, leader of JD(U) in the Rajya Sabha, before a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Rekha Palli which listed the matter for hearing on September 11. Singh said as Yadav has formed and joined the Loktantrik Janata Dal, he wanted to place on record the documents in support of his claim.

The court, however, made it clear that the arguments on the application will lead to delay in hearing of the main petition moved by Yadav, challenging his disqualification from the Upper House by the Rajya Sabha chairperson. The bench said since the Supreme Court on June 7 had asked the high court to expeditiously hear the main matter, it will start hearing it after the arguments in the application are over.

The court also laid down the schedule, including timings, for the arguments by both sides in the main matter. It gave 45 minutes to each side on September 11 and 18 afternoon for arguments on the main matter and 30 minutes for rebuttal on September 25 and made it clear that there would not be any change in the time allotted. "No more, no less," the bench said. Besides Yadav his

College sex scandal: HC sets deadline for completion of trial

months from that date. The Madras High Court today set a September 10 deadline for the CB-CID to file its final charge sheet in the case of a woman professor who allegedly tried to 'lure' students to extend sexual favours to some varsity officials for marks, and dismissed the lower court to complete the trial within six months from that date.

Dismissing the bail plea one of the accused, Karuppusamy Justice G R Swaminathan said students were affected in the case and hence bail could not be granted to him.

The judge also made it clear that one of the accused in the case should be granted bail till the completion of the trial. The judge ordered the CB-CID to file the final chargesheet before September 10 and directed the Virudhunagar court to complete the trial within six months from that date.

Upgradation work on Naihati - Bandel Section

KOLKATA, JULY 12—/For upgradation work on Naihati - Bandel Section, 10 (ten) days traffic block will be imposed from 12.07.2018 to 22.07.2018 except 15 & 22.07.2018 for 90 minutes/day will be imposed. As a result two Naihati - Bandel locals (37535/37536) will be cancelled for those days. (EOIC)

NSHM Knowledge Campus ties up with Bickram Ghosh Academy of Performing Arts

*To offer joint courses in performing arts

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, JULY 12—/NSHM Knowledge Campus will partner Bickram Ghosh Academy of Performing Arts to offer courses in Performing Arts from the ensuing academic session. The courses would be in three categories - Vocal & instrumental music besides Dance.

Announcing the partnership today, NSHM Chief Mentor & Managing Trustee Cecil Antony said, "We are very happy to tie up with the prestigious academy Performing Arts not only engages with the creative side of the brain, it also provides an ideal balance in students' patterns of study. Through creative expressions, students learn to comprehend our world better and are therefore better equipped to navigate the challenges they



Dansusee Jaya Seal Ghosh, Percussion maestro Bickram Ghosh & NSHM Chief Mentor & Managing Trustee Cecil Antony announced the partnership between NSHM Knowledge Campus & Bickram Ghosh Academy of Performing Arts to offer courses in Performing Arts from the ensuing academic session—Arijit Ganguly

face in life. Our students and other aspirants would now get a chance to train under

the very best". Percussion maestro Bickram Ghosh said, "I had

a dream to let the beauty of music resonate in as many lives as possible. In our city,

it is still not easy to find a good music or dance teacher, a congenial environment and an upgraded technique of performing. This partnership will offer that opportunity. Our handpicked faculty will be the best in their respective genre.

Joint performing arts can act as agent through which a variety of emotions can be learned, rehearsed and practiced. Young students sometime find it difficult to express their emotions and so the arts provide a great outlet for them to explore a wide range of feelings including delight, anger and unhappiness. This experience can define a student's growing sense of independence and interdependence.

Dansusee Jaya Seal Ghosh said, "Dance aids the development of kinesthetic intelligence and cre-

ates opportunities for self-expression and communication within the constraints of the medium of the body. Performing arts, whether representational, thematic, or abstract, is a repository of civilization that changes through time. It teaches the values and skills of creativity, problem-solving, risk-taking, making judgments in the absence of rules, and higher-order thinking skills".

The course under vocals would cover Hindustani vocals, Rabindra Sangeet, Ghazal/Sufi Kalam, Contemporary Vocals and Bhajan. Under instrumental there would be training in Sitar, Tabla, Guitar, Keyboards and Western Drums. In dance - Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Contemporary and Creative Dance forms would be taught.

After Kaur's graduation degree was found to be "fake", she faced demotion to the rank of constable as a candidate, according to service rules, has to be a graduate to hold the post of DSP in Punjab.

However, the Amarinder Singh-led government is likely to give Kaur three years to complete her graduation, official sources said. The government is also considering giving her the post of honorary DSP instead of demoting her. But a decision is yet to be taken, they further said.

Sodhi said there was no bad intention on the part of Kaur as far as her graduation degree was concerned. "She was offered the job on the basis of her performance in cricket," he said.

Punjab police, during verification of Kaur's testimonials, had found her graduation degree from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, to be "fake". Kaur who had come to Mohali on July 3 for an event had told media, "I am aware of it (controversy), government is taking care of that. I am hoping for a positive response." She was appointed as a DSP in March this year.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had offered her the post in July last year, following her scintillating performance in the Women's World Cup 2017. Kaur was earlier employed with the Indian Railway but was relieved of her duties this year after she put in a request to join Punjab Police. The state government had also taken up the matter with the Railway Ministry to waive the bond condition and allow Kaur, who is a native of Moga, to join as a DSP in Punjab Police from March 1. (PTI)

Read.....
THE ECHO OF INDIA
Your hometown newspaper
.....keeps you ahead