

Pendency of cases bring disrepute to system, says Justice Ranjan Gogoi

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30 /- Chief Justice of India-designate Ranjan Gogoi has said he has a plan to deal with the pendency of cases which has been bringing in a lot of "disrepute" to the judicial system. Justice Gogoi, who will take over as the 46th CJI on October 3, said Saturday he has a plan to deal with the backlog of cases and he will "unfold" it soon. He was speaking at an event 'Role of Bar and Bench in Social En-



gineering,' organised by the Youth Bar Association of India. "Two things are troubling me. One is pendency of cases as it brings a lot of disrepute to the judicial system. The problem has the potential of making the system itself irrelevant. "Accused in criminal cases are getting hearing after serving their sentence and parties in civil disputes are getting judgements after two-three generations. It is seri-

ous problem, but it is not too difficult and it can be resolved. I have a plan and will soon unfold it," Justice Gogoi said. He sought the support of bar and the bench in the process. Earlier, Justice Gogoi had pointed out that there were around 5,950 judicial vacancies in district courts across the country. He had said the problem does not lie in the short tenure (of judges) but lies in the

change of priorities with change of chief justices and battled for a consistent policy for the judiciary. "Then if you have a policy and if you implement it, then the tenure will not be a matter," Justice Gogoi had said then. Chief Justice Dipak Mishra had on September 4 recommended the name of Justice Gogoi as his successor. He will be sworn in as the next CJI on October 3, a day after Justice Misra's tenure ends.

Justice Gogoi was among four most senior judges who called a press conference in January and criticised Justice Misra on various issues, especially the manner of allocation of cases to certain benches. Justices J Chelameswar (since retired), Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph were among those who addressed the press conference, perhaps a first in the history of the Indian judiciary. (PTT)

Celebrating local myths a way of sustaining tourism in Kerala: KTM

KOCHI, SEPT 30 /- Celebrating local myths and showcasing them for a global audience is one way of sustaining tourism in Kerala by ensuring community participation, a seminar at the Kerala Tourism Mart noted Sunday. Be it the recent installation of a giant sculpture of the 'Jatayu' bird from the epic Ramayana or artworks based on local legends at editions of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, such endeavours would fresh sets of people to 'Gods Own Country', its speakers said at 'New Products and Interests in Kerala'. Riyas Komu, founder of the Kochi Biennale Foundation, that has been hosting India's only such biennial cultural event since 2012, said it was no coincidence that the art event has Fort Kochi as its main venue. "The place (a western suburb of Kochi) has a layered history that shows in its multi-ethnicity: 40 communities from Jewish immigrants to Kashmiri Pandits within a radius of a couple of kilometres," said Komu, secretary of the KBF, which is readying for its fourth edition from this December.

Aji Kumar Balaraman, CEO, Jatayu Earth's Center, said the eco-friendly Jatayu Rock Tourism project stands very close to Kerala's cultural heritage. Jatayu Earth's Centre at Chadayamangalam in Kollam district also offers adventure tourism. As for the Jatayu Nature Park, the chief attraction here is the huge sculpture of the bird that finds mention in the Ramayana. Legend has it that a peacock named Chadayamangalam that the mythological giant eagle fell while fighting Ravana while he abducted Sita. "The Park is an amalgamation of heritage, culture and pilgrimage. There is a museum and a 3D theatre coming up inside the rock," Balaraman said. The Muziris Projects, north of Kochi, is another such initiative that provides tourists the feel of revisiting one's rich heritage. "The major attraction is that one can complete the visit to all sites in a day," Managing Director P M Naushad said.

Prof Madan Kumar M K of the Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram, said the state's traditional wellness system, Ayurveda, continues to suffer from a lot of misconceptions, despite its immense popularity abroad. Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KINC) representative Joseph Thinu said KINC's cruise ship Nefertiti would be a major attraction in the tourism sector. Around 200 people can travel in the day-to-dusk package, he said. (PTT)

Land issues of 1993 quake victims to be solved soon: Fadnavis



MUMBAI, SEPT 30 /- All the pending issues related to additional land allotment to the people affected by the 1993 earthquake in Central Maharashtra will be solved soon, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said Sunday. Central Maharashtra was hit by a powerful earthquake on September 30, 1993. Latur and Osmanabad districts were the worst hit by the quake, which had killed thousands of people, left many more injured and destroyed around 52 vil-

lages. "There are some families who were given some pieces of land for rehabilitation. Today, the families have expanded and need more space," Fadnavis said. "Similarly, some people gave their land voluntarily for rehabilitation of earthquake-affected persons. They received very low compensation and have limited resources for earning. The state government will soon come up with plans to address these issues and we will try to solve this problem," he said.

Fadnavis was speaking at a function in Killari village, the epicentre of the 6.4 magnitude earthquake in Latur district located around 500km from Mumbai, organised on the 25th anniversary of the natural disaster. NCP president Sharad Pawar, who was then the chief minister of Maharashtra, and state ministers Sambhaji Patil, Nilangale and Arjun Khotkar were among those present on the occasion. Fadnavis also championed the idea of using solar energy as a power source for running drinking water

schemes in rural areas, where he said most people find it difficult to pay electricity bills. "I would like to run these drinking water distribution schemes 100 per cent on solar power," he said. Marathwada is an arid region in Central Maharashtra with low rainfall pattern. "Jalyukta Shivar (farm pond rejuvenation scheme) is creating more water storage capacity in the Marathwada region, but farmers need to maintain cropping pattern as well.

"If Jalyukta Shivar increases water availability, then farmers should not immediately shift to water intensive crops," Fadnavis said. The BJP-led government's flagship water conservation scheme has resulted in groundwater level increasing by four metres last year, the chief minister said. Speaking on the occasion, Pawar appealed to people not to oppose water conservation works on the ground of land acquisition-related issues. "If the region's water crisis is getting solved, then measures to achieve (that goal) should not be opposed," Pawar said.



Senior citizens from across the country staging a protest for universal old-age pension scheme, the rally organised by NGO HelpAge India and Pension Parishad, in New Delhi

Congress, Rahul Gandhi making a lot of 'noise' over Rafale deal: Athawale

MUMBAI, SEPT 30 /- Union minister Ramdas Athawale Sunday said opposition Congress and its chief Rahul Gandhi were "making a lot of noise" over the Rafale fighter jet deal which was "between two governments". Speaking on the sidelines of a function here, the minister of state for social justice and empowerment said French President Emmanuel Macron has said the deal was between two countries and no one else was involved in it, Athawale said.

He said Gandhi was maligning his own image on the issue. "There is nothing wrong in inducting a newly formed defence company to join hands when such a huge investment is going to come to India. The French government has also made it clear that Anil Ambani has nothing to do with this agreement, as it has taken place between the two na-

tions," the minister said. He claimed that the Rs 1,600 crore price for each Rafale jet was finalised by the French government and an agreement was reached by the two countries.

Athawale, whose party Republican Party of India (A) is a BJP ally also welcomed NCP chief Sharad Pawar's reported statement giving a clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Rafale deal.

Pawar, speaking to a television channel on September 28, had said people "do not have doubts" over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intentions. "I don't think people have doubts about Modi's intentions personally," Pawar had told the news channel. "NCP

chief Sharad Pawar has also given a clean chit to Prime Minister Modi over the Rafale deal. It is a good sign. The NDA would welcome (him) if he wishes to join us," Athawale said. "If the Congress decides to ditch the NCP I would like to welcome him (Pawar) here," he said. "Pawar is a seasoned politician and despite being in the opposition, he knows when to extend support to some good work (Rafale deal). He always supports genuine work of any government," Athawale said.

"Despite this, some people level allegations against the prime minister of our country. To defame the prime minister means defaming the nation," he

said. Replying to a query on senior NCP leader and Lok Sabha MP Tariq Anwar Friday resigning from the party and Parliament following Pawar's "defence" of Modi on the Rafale deal, the minister said Anwar need not have resigned from the party. He said it was Anwar and late P A Sangma who had first raised the question of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's foreign origins and it was not Pawar's idea. The three later left the Congress to form the Nationalist Congress Party. Athawale claimed that the NDA would win more than 300 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, if even a large number of regional parties joined hands against the

ruling alliance. The minister also said the alliance between Prakash Ambedkar's Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh (BBM) and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) would not affect his party RPI-A. He also said he agreed with the Shiv Sena's opinion that the BBM-AIMIM alliance would benefit the BJP.

Asked if there was a tacit understanding between his party and BBM, Athawale said he would like to have an "open alliance" with Ambedkar and not a "secret understanding". On a question on inflation, the Union minister said the Centre had been successful in curbing it. (PTT)

Pradesh's division was raked up by the AAP earlier this month. AAP spokesman and MP Sanjay Singh had said the Arvind Kejriwal-led party would launch a movement to fulfil the long-standing aspiration of the people of the state. "Uttar Pradesh is a big state, both in terms of area and population. Its population is more than that of any big country. It has practically become very difficult to govern such a vast state," Singh had said, adding that the AAP was in favour of the state's division into four parts. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), headed by Mayawati, was once a strong supporter of the demand when the Samajwadi Party was in power in Uttar Pradesh, maintaining that smaller states could be governed better.

As the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati had first raised the issue in 2007 and her government had even adopted a resolution in the Assembly, seeking division of the state into four parts. Both the Bahujan Samaj Party (BJP) and the Congress had supported the resolution brought by Mayawati in the 460-member House in November, 2011. But as Mayawati lost power in the state in 2012 after securing just 89 seats against 206 in 2007, the demand for a split steam. In Bundelkhand, the Bundeli Samaj is staging agitations at Mahoba, demanding a separate Bundelkhand state. Uttar Pradesh accounts for the highest number of 80 Lok Sabha seats in the country and holds a great significance in next year's parliamentary polls. (PTT)

BJP ally SBSP wants division of UP

LUCKNOW, SEPT 30 /- After the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), BJP ally Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) has also raked up the issue of division of Uttar Pradesh, saying it will make it a poll plank in 2019. "We have been demanding a separate Purvanchal state for over 16 years. Now, as we expand our party organisation all over the state, we support the demand of division of Uttar Pradesh into four parts. We will make it an issue in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, reach out to the public and stage agitations to press the demand," state minister Om Prakash Rajbhar, who is also the SBSP chief, told PTT.

He wants Purvanchal, Bundelkhand, Paschim Pradeshand Awadh Pradesh. As Uttar Pradesh has a population of over 22 crore, managing it administratively is difficult. Running the administration in small states is easy. This is an important issue. People want development and rights. Only at the time of elections, the leaders think of the people and afterwards, they forget their issues," he said.

The issue of Uttar

KIDS CORNER

I'm stalling for time—

WordWheel

No. 16

U	R
?	E
I	T
N	A

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No. 15: ALOPECIA

5x5

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

No. 16

R	G	O	P	T
V	S	S	S	S
D	S	S	S	S

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 15 (Other combinations may occasionally be possible.)

A	S	K	E	D
S	I	R	E	N
E	N	A	C	T
T	E	N	T	S

Reference: C.O.D. 1995

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"\$178.27. You know, you can always check your balance online."

WORD BUILDER

16

D	L	E
A	B	

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

TODAY'S GOALS:
Good - 11 Excellent - 18 Amazing - 22

SOLUTION 15: ers, her, herd, herds, hers, red, reds, she, shed, sherd

Bhujbal bats for reservation for Marathas in Maharashtra

BED (MAHA), SEPT 30 /- Senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal has said the Maratha community in Maharashtra should be given reservation for government jobs and education without disturbing the existing quota for OBCs. He also criticised the Modi-led government over various issues, including the Rafale jet deal. "Without disturbing the quota for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), the Maratha community should get reservation. Nowhere the law says that reservation cannot exceed above 50 per cent." Bhujbal said Saturday at the Santa Melava, a conclusive on social equality, here in Maharashtra. Tamil Nadu has given 69 per cent reservation, then why the Maharashtra government has not given reservation to Marathas, asked the former deputy chief minister.