

# Rain fury: Mumbai crumbles; Sena leads BMC

MUMBAI, AUG 30 /-/- Even as the country'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 see 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 10 hours. "Even the IMD on Monday said the rainfall was more than their expectations. The

city gauged a whopping 298 mm of rainfall, the highest in a day in August since 1997. Three persons, including two children, were yesterday killed in separate house collapses in suburban Vikhili in the wake of torrential rains that

lashed the megapolis, police had said. "The city and its suburbs virtually have a public holiday today with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis advising people to stay back unless there is an emergency (PTI)

## 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 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)



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 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 though 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 Lakshman 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. Telangana BJP President K Lakshman 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. Telangana BJP President K Lakshman 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. Telangana BJP President K Lakshman 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.

to power in Telangana. He also announced that Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh would address a public meeting in Nizamabad on September 17 to be organised by the BJP state unit to celebrate 'Telangana Liberation Day' (or Hyderabad Samsthan Liberation Day). Lakshman, in fact, would be kicking off a week-long 'Telangana Vimochana Yatra' from Friday primarily to mount pressure on the TRS government to officially celebrate September 17 as 'Hyderabad Samsthan Liberation Day'. He said during the agitation for separatist demands in the state, which picked up momentum after 2004, the TRS had also demanded observation of official celebration on September 17. In fact, during the run-up to the elections in 2009 and 2014, the TRS head and chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu 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. Chandrababoo Naidu also said that when the TRS comes to power, it would officially celebrate September

## 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 TN CM, he said. He said he would select a good person, somebody who does not harbour thoughts of betrayal."

Stating that his faction 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. "I will select a good person, somebody who does not harbour thoughts of betrayal."

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 divided. He had adopted resolutions against the Dhinakaran and the ruling faction had called for a vote of confidence majority of MLAs had attended it.

Harping on his 'sleeper cell' MLAs, refrain, Dhinakaran said it was not uttered for the sake of the media and reiterated that more MLAs would declare support to him "one by one". On the other hand, the faction convening the General Council and Executive Committee meetings on September 17, he said. Party General Secretary V S Sasikala had the authority to do so in and her absence, himself. "If they convene the party, it will be valid and you will realise it."

Earlier, several party functionaries appointed by him, including former Minister Puthi Ram Yazhuthi who was named Organising Secretary called on Dhinakaran at his Adyar residence here. (PTI)

## 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 said 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 the time some groups of people are trying to block development, Narayanasamy said, without naming anybody, after inaugurating a two-month long awareness pro-

## 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 Congress 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," said Singh. "We demand the health minister of Uttar Pradesh be immediately sacked, pending a judicial enquiry." "We also demand the prime minister should look into the serious deficiencies in the health infrastructure in BJP-ruled states. The women and child development ministry should immediately release more funds to Jharkhand to tackle this extremely important issue," said Singh, who is Congress in-charge of Jharkhand. "In Jamshedpur, 164 children died in past four months and in Ranchi more than 130 children have died in past 28 days," he claimed. The Congress leader alleged the Jharkhand government is saying the deaths are due to malnutrition, but that the truth is 50 per cent of funds for the women and child development ministry were slashed by the Modi government in 2015 after it came to power. Almost 300 children have died in the two biggest government hospitals of Jharkhand, he claimed.

The Congress party, he said, has filed a complaint with the NHRC which has issued a notice to the chief secretary in Jharkhand seeking a report in six weeks. "Our protests in Jamshedpur continue, due to which the High Court has also taken cognisance and asked the civil and sessions judge to visit the hospital and give a report."

What is more shocking is that the chief minister has not spoken a word about the hospital, despite it being his home district," Singh said. (PTI)

## 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 and his close 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, which will end at 5 pm on September 1. One

Narendra Patel, who claimed to be associated with Hardik Patel-led Patan Aam Aadmi Samiti (PAAS) had filed a complaint against Hardik, Bambhaniya and six to seven other supporters of Hardik at Patan B Division police station on Sunday. On the basis of the complaint, the police had registered a case against them under IPC sections 395 (dacoity), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506-2 (criminal intimidation) and 147 (rioting). A day after the complaint was lodged, Hardik and Bambhaniya were detained from Anand and Rajkot respectively on Monday and then handed over to Patan police, who formally arrested them yesterday morning. In the complaint, Narendra Patel had alleged that the quota stir spearhead and others roughed him up at Navjivan Hotel in Patan, when he along with three other persons associated with the PAAS had gone to meet them on Saturday ahead of Hardik's rally in Patan that day. Narendra alleged in the complaint that Hardik and others snatched a gold chain from his friend Dilip Patel and also broke his mobile phone following an argument over the quota stir.



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

## 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.

He waded, "sans protection gear" unlike a naval officer, rode a buffalo on water-logged stretches and saw many carcasses floating by, images imprinted vividly in his mind. It's a terrible sense of déjà vu, said the 31-year-old, reliving the day that every citizen of the Maximum City remembers with dread. "It was raining like any other monsoon day that day in Mumbai and that when I took a morning local train for Nerul (in Navi Mumbai) from Ambarnath for some official work," he recalled. By afternoon, he was done with work and was heading home in about two and half hours. It took two and a half days instead. "I was preoccupied with work and didn't realise what was happening outside, later I took a train from Nerul railway station

walked on to Thane, 21 km away from Kurla. He was planning to reach Ambarnath via the Thane-Kurla-Vithalwadi-Ulhasnagar road. "I did not opt to walk along rail tracks as the road was water-logged and a bit safer. When I reached Kurla, the magnitude of the destruction hit them. The railway tracks and platform had disappeared under water. I opted to stay that night on a foot over bridge like many others. I was stuck, but at a safer place. I, however, could not contact anyone at home to tell them what my whereabouts were. My relatives were without food. Sensing the magnitude of the calamity, the locals offered the commuters khichdi. That's Mumbai for you!" The next morning, on July 26, it was still raining and Mane