

Mukul rules out plans to float new party

KOLKATA, OCT 12 /- / A day after quitting the Trinamool Congress and his Rajya Sabha seat, Mukul Roy today said he had no plans to float a new political party. Roy, who is slated to visit the Election Commission, said he was not going there to talk about a proposal for a new party but to discuss upcoming Assembly by-polls. "By polls to two Assembly seats in West Bengal will be held in November and I will request the EC to ensure that the elections are held in a free and fair manner. I will give my suggestions in this regard."



to the EC. Roy, who was suspended by the Trinamool Congress last month, told a news channel.

Though Roy refused to comment when asked if he would join the BJP, a close aide of his told news agency PTI he was likely to do so after Diwali. "I don't want to

Kunal seeks probe into his role in Saradha, Naradascam

comment on it," Roy told the channel when quizzed about the BJP, but categorically denied any move to form a new outfit. "I repeat once again I have no plans of floating any new political outfit," he said. Meanwhile, suspended TMC MP Kunal Ghosh said Roy's role in connection with the Saradha, Naradascam and Alchemists scam should be probed.

Ghosh, an accused in the Saradha scam, said he had submitted a petition to the CBI seeking joint

interrogation with Roy. "I challenge Roy to sit with me for a joint press conference on the Saradha issue," he said. Asked to comment on Ghosh's remarks, Roy said, "I want to reiterate that I will fully cooperate with the CBI and the ED. Whenever they call me for questioning I will appear before them."

The Narada scam refers to sting operation in which TMC leaders were allegedly caught on camera accepting money, while the Saradha and Alchemists scam are chit fund frauds.

Himachal Assembly elections on Nov 9

NEW DELHI: The Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections will be held on November 9. The counting of votes however, will take place on December 8. The large gap between the two dates is because the Gujarat Assembly elections will be held in between. Presumably, the Election Commission has decided to hold the Himachal Pradesh elections earlier to avoid the harsh winters of the Himalayan region. The Election Commission has said the dates of the Gujarat Assembly election will be announced later. The counting for both states would be held together.

Allahabad HC acquits Talwars in murder cases of Aarushi, Hemraj

Relieved, we went through trying times, say people close to Nupur, Rajesh

ALLAHABAD, OCT 12 /- / The Allahabad High Court today acquitted Nupur and Rajesh Talwar in the 2008 murder case of their 14-year-old daughter Aarushi and domestic help Hemraj. Earlier, on September 7, the court had reserved its judgement in the case, which shook the conscience of the nation and saw several twists and turns.

Reacting to the verdict, the CBI said it would study the High Court order and decide the future course of action. Jailor of the Gaziabad's Dasna prison Dahiram Maurya said the Talwars felt they have got justice and were praying. "After having breakfast just after today and had tears of joy. Any person after spending this amount of jail will feel happy to get freedom. So they were

happy after they were told about the news," he said. Lawyer Rebecca John, who was part of Talwars' legal team, said she was relieved by the judgement. She claimed the whole case was



—File Pix

based on "innuendos" and would "not have carried through". John, who is a family friend of the couple, hoped that the Talwars, who have been in media spotlight for over nine

years, will be allowed privacy after their release from the jail. Jail sources said the couple were likely to walk free on Friday. Aarushi was found dead inside her room in the

Talwars' Noida residence with her throat slit in May 2008. The needle of suspicion had initially moved towards 45-year-old Hemraj, who had gone missing but his body was recovered from the terrace of the house a day later. As the Uttar Pradesh Police drew flak over shoddy investigation into the case which was making national headlines, the then chief minister Mayawati recommended a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The nine-year trial in the murder of their daughter Aarushi had left the Talwar couple emotionally drained. Nupur Talwar's father said today, thanking the judiciary for acquitting them.

B G Chitnis, a former group captain in the Indian Air Force, said it was very trying for him to see his

daughter, Nupur and her husband Rajesh behind bars.

"I am grateful to the judiciary for the verdict. They (the Talwar couple) have really suffered. They are emotionally drained. At my age it was very trying to see my daughter behind bars," he told reporters here. Vandana Talwar, Aarushi's aunt, said the entire family had suffered for nearly a decade as the case dragged on. "It was very exhausting and trying..." she said. She refused to go into the merits of the case and the judgement, saying the couple's lawyers would answer questions on who killed Aarushi and their domestic help Hemraj. "We are deeply grateful to the judiciary and relieved over the verdict. I would like to thank all the supporters who supported us through the ordeal," she said.

Prez asks GUVs to connect with legislators for development

Be catalytic agents of change in society, says PM

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 /- / Governors can provide a new dimension to the development of their states by communicating with legislators and deliberating on subjects related to public well-being, President Ram Nath Kovind said here today.

Addressing a two-day conference of Governors and Lt Governors of states and union territories, the president said their obligation to commit themselves to the welfare of the people was more pronounced in the "current paradigm of cooperative federalism". In his opening address at the conference, attended by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kovind said governors should inspire and connect all relevant stakeholders in their respective states for the creation of a 'New India' that is free of corruption, poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and unhygienic conditions.

The assertion comes in the backdrop of Delhi Lt Governor Anil Bajjal and Puducherry's Kiran Bedi having schemes to tribal, Dalits and women, matters with their chief ministers. "The President said that being an intrinsic part of the legislative system in their states, Governors can provide a new dimension to the development of their states by communicating with legislators, and inviting them to Raj Bhavan to deliberate on

subjects related to public well-being," a statement issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan quoted Kovind as saying. "The obligation of governors to preserve and uphold the Constitution and commit themselves to the service and welfare of the people is even more pronounced in the current paradigm of cooperative federalism," Kovind said.

The conference is being attended by 27 governors and three Lt Governors of states and union territories. The administrators of the union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu as well as of Lakshadweep are also participating as special invitees.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said Governors can be catalytic agents for change in the society while upholding the sanctity of the Constitution. The Prime Minister mentioned the target of 'New India' by 2022 and emphasised that this can be achieved only by making it a people's movement, a PMO statement said.

He also said that the Governors can "motivate" banks to give loans under Mudra scheme to tribals, Dalits and women, especially in the period between Constitution Day on November 26 and Ambedkar Mahaparivarna Diwas on December 6.

He encouraged them to interact at length with students and teachers in this regard, the statement said.



President Ram Nath Kovind addressing the opening session of the 48th Conference of Governors. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are also seen.

Students' agitate in UGB seeking VC's resignation

SOUMYA DE SARKAR

MALDA, OCT 12 /- / A large number of students of the University of Gour Banga (UGB) resorted to stir time again today demanding retrenchment of vice chancellor (VC) Prof Gopalchandra Mishra accusing him of inabilities of protecting academic interests of students.



Agitation by students in Gour Banga University seeking resignation of vice chancellor on Thursday-Utpal Mandal

They also accused VC as 'guardian of elephantine corruption in the varsity. The VC, who initially assured to look into the 'inconveniences' faced by students, walked out of the campus in face of the stir in the afternoon. Interestingly, the students' agitations were supported by many of the UGB teachers who believe that students were virtually compelled to resort to movement out of helplessness. The varsity was opened on Oct 9 after pusa vacation. Within 48 hours the students sat in demonstrations in front of the VC's office. They indulged in sloganeering against the VC and demanded that Prof Mishra should step down immediately. The agitations were led by the post-graduate students of UGB who

alleged that even after elapse of two years their final examinations were pending. They said that the prolonged delay in holding final examinations and subsequently publishing the results deterred them from appearing competitive recruitment examinations. We are not being able to apply for other courses too, they said. The agitation was joined by the fresh students of post graduate courses who alleged that even after four months of their admission to UGB the courses were not commenced. We are expected to appear our first semester examinations in four months but the varsity authorities could not conclude the admission within stipulated period, they said. The irate students further alleged that UGB authorities were collecting Rs 1200 per student for issuing certificates. According to them, no university in state levies such a high fee among students merely for offering them certificates.

The students further alleged that the VC had remained blind to several alleged financial scams occurred in UGB during his tenure. Senior teachers of the varsity, who did not intend to be named, said that the students were the worst sufferers for the mysterious delay. The students are the victims and so we strongly support the movement they have taken up, they said. Prof Mishra, however, said, "It's true that examinations of final year PG students and commencement of courses for fresh PG students could not be complete owing to flood and few other unavoidable reasons. We are trying to solve the problem as early as possible," he said. The VC also said, "We collect Rs 1200 as security money from students for issuing certificates. Education minister Partha Chatterjee also endorsed our move in state assembly terming as an exemplary decision that should ideally be followed by other varsities in state."

Jawan, porter killed in ceasefire violation by Pak Army in Poonch

JAMMU, OCT 12 /- / An Army jawan and a civilian porter were killed in Pakistani firing today at forward areas along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

"The Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked and indiscriminate firing of small arms and automatics from 1035 hours in Krishnagati Sector along the Line of Control (LoC)," a defence spokesman said here on the ceasefire violation. He said that the Indian Army is retaliating strongly and effectively. "Firing is still on," the spokesman said. A jawan and a civilian porter died in the unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan today morning in the sector, he said. On October 6, Pakistani troops had opened fire in Baba Khori and other areas in Rajouri district, and on October 4, three Army jawans were injured in unprovoked and indiscriminate firing in Poonch sector.

NITI Aayog suggests moving police, public order to Concurrent List

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 /- / A Niti Aayog paper has suggested enactment of an organised Crimes Act, providing statutory backing to CBI and moving police as well as public order to the Concurrent list to tackle increasing inter-state crime and terrorism under a unified framework.

It also made a case for revival and strengthening of the beat constable system. "The legislative changes include, enactment of the organised Crimes

Act, a single police act for the country, moving police to the Concurrent list, declaration of Federal Crimes, measures regarding registration of crimes, statutory backing for the CBI, Commissionerate system for large areas, revival and strengthening of the beat constable system and some changes in criminal procedure and evidence systems," the paper said. The paper - 'Building Smart Police in India: Background Into The

Needed Police Force Reforms' - also pitched for the Constitution to the Concurrent List.

"This can also be done by amending entry 3 in the Concurrent list formalising what is actually happening on the ground. The need for inclusion of Public Order in Concurrent list stems from significance of public order for national security, economic development and

legitimacy of the state," it said. The paper pointed out that by including 'Public Order' in the Concurrent list of the Constitution, the Union government can play a more proactive role in curbing violation of public order at a nascent stage. Another reason supporting the shift of public order to the Concurrent list is the rapid increase in inter-state crimes, it said. "Tackling these in the present framework is slightly challenging since all states

have varied legal and administrative framework," it added. Also, in light of the rapid growth in internet, communication and mobile technologies, organised crimes and terrorism can be best tackled through a unified legal, administrative and operational framework for the police forces across the nation, the paper said. "This can be accomplished only by empowering the union government to also regulate public order," it said.



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