



People cross a busy street on bicycles and electric scooters in central Beijing, China—REUTERS

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 Duwali. "I don't want to know," he said. Roy is also seen seeking probe into his role in the 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 Kinsh 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 Naradascam refers to a 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 9. The large gap between the two dates is because the Gujarat Assembly elections will be held 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.

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 interstate 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

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, saying they could not be held guilty as per the circumstances and the evidence on record.

The verdict ends a nine-year ordeal of the Noida-based dentist couple who were found guilty by a Ghaziabad CBI court on November 26, 2013 and were serving life sentence in Dasna jail. A division bench comprising justices B K Narayana and A K Mishra allowed the appeals of the Talwars, holding that neither the circumstances nor the evidence on record established a chain showing their involvement in the murders of Aarushi and Hemraj. Pronouncing the verdict in a packed court



-File Pix

room, the bench said that it is a fit case where benefit of doubt can be given to the appellants and set aside the judgement of the CBI court convicting the Talwars. 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 Ghaziabad's Dasna prison Dahiram Maurya said the Talwars felt they have got justice and were praying. "After having breakfast they were praying, their schedule was normal. She (Nupur Talwar) said they got justice today and had tears of joy. Any person under trying 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 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 chest slit in May 2008. The needle 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.

Cong seeks CBI probe into Jay Shah row

PANAJI, OCT 12 /- The Congress today demanded an inquiry by the CBI into a media report alleging that the turnover of a firm of BJP president Amit Shah's son Jay was managed after the saffron party came to power in 2014. The charge has been rejected by the BJP and Jay Shah, who termed the report as "false, derogatory and defamatory". Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi said: "I wonder if the prime minister can explain to us this model of getting Rs 15 crore loan for our businesses. He needs to tell us." Chaturvedi alleged that agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Income Tax department and Enforcement Directorate were being used to silence the opposition after the BJP-led government assumed office. "These (agencies) have become a tool to silence the voices, and for the CBI to function independently this is an important case," she told a press meet.

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 Krishnaagati 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. In a ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the LoC in Poonch on October 3 an Army jawan was killed, a day after two minors died and 12 civilians were injured in cross-border shelling. The year 2017 has seen a sharp increase in ceasefire violations by Pakistan.

Govt gears up machinery as Dengue menace grips Bengal

TORSHA BHATTACHARJEE
KOLKATA, OCT 12 /- With the scourge of Dengue almost assuming the proportion of an epidemic the West Bengal Government has pulled up all socks to fight the menace gripping most of the districts of south Bengal. So far in the last eight months 30 people died all over the state because of the malady, according to chief minister Mamata Banerjee who presided over a high level meeting, attended by ministers and top brass of the state administration, at the state secretariat of Nabanna, to chalk out a strategy to combat the menace. "There is no cause for panic. The number of deaths because of the disease is higher in other states than that in West Bengal. Many of the deaths that took place because of some other causes are being termed as Dengue deaths and this must be stopped. We have geared up to tackle the menace. While the Government is setting up awareness camps roping in various sorts of people including Anganwadi workers, we are warning diagnostic centres not to spread canards about the disease." Mamata said after the meeting. "Whatever be the claims of the chief minister, officials at district and sub-divisional hospitals which are being thronged by hundreds of patients afflicted with the disease, seem to have already pressed panic buttons over the increase in Dengue deaths. Said a senior official of Habra hospital at North 24 Parganas district: "This is



Mamata Banerjee addressing the media after taking the meeting on Dengue, at Nabanna today—Shyamala Maitra

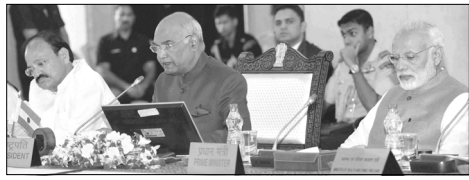
turning into an epidemic and the mortality rate is increasing day by day". The hospital is getting patients from places like Jhigra, Chanda, Sonapur, Digital Gram Haparita, Nagarukhra, Aamon danga of Nadia and places like Ashokenagar, Gobardanga of North 24 Parganas district. The official further said that while they have got only 80 beds in the hospital for admission of Dengue cases, they had to admit 200 Dengue patients for treatment who had been accommodated on the floors. However experts refuse to call the outbreak as epidemic. Said Nema Bhattacharya, head of the virology department at Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine: "We cannot label this as epidemic as this can only be seen in parts of some areas of the state. However Government must take preventive measures such as destroying the breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Areas having water bodies have a high risk of dengue. Type 2 and 4 of this disease are affecting people much more this time. The worst part is that mosquitoes are getting immune to insecticides and this is posing a serious problem," Bhattacharya 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 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 become 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 Mahaparinirvana Divas 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.

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 differences of opinion in administrative 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

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 the 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, 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.



shifting of police and public order from the State list in the VIIIth schedule of the Constitution to the Concurrent list.