

## International Yoga Day Last minute preparations, security drill on

**LUCKNOW, JUNE 18**—/Last minute preparations were underway to host the third International Yoga Day event here on June 21 in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead some 55,000 people in performing 'asanas' (yogic postures) at the Ramabai Ambekar Maidan here.

An elaborate security will be in place with commandos and paramilitary forces keeping a close watch in and around the venue.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will lead a rehearsal of YD function at the programme venue tomorrow and is himself monitoring all arrangements. "Police chiefs of adjoining districts of Lucknow have also been alerted to take preventive measures, especially in the wake of call given by Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) to stage dharna on highways," a police official said.

Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union Rakesh Tikait said, "Our party office bearers along with farmers will be performing yoga on the streets in various cities across the state. This will be our way to lodge protest against the government's attitude towards farmers."

BKU General Secretary Dhamendra Malik said that BKU supporters will perform 'Shushasan'.

Officials of the Lucknow administration said that more than 400 CCTV cameras will be installed. "Participants of the programme have been allowed to enter the venue from 2.00 AM to 5.30 AM. Giant LED TV screens will be installed at the programme venue to enable them to have a close look at the yogic postures." Additional District Magistrate (Lucknow East) Virendra Pandey said.

"Apart from this, we will install LED TV screens in 11 parks in Lucknow so that the public and morning walkers, who are not able to enter the Ramabai Ambekar Maidan, may also simultaneously participate," Pandey told PTI.

The main programme will begin at around 6.30 AM, for which the state government has sent invites to senior political leaders including former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav (of Samajwadi Party), BSP supreme Mayawati, and former chief ministers and governors.

Samajwadi Party (SP), on its part, has organised cycle yatras across Uttar Pradesh to spread the message of environment conservation.

SP national president Akhilesh Yadav has asked all the district presidents and office-bearers of the party to undertake cycle yatras on Yoga Day to spread the message of environment and health awareness," SP spokesperson Rajendra Chowdhury said.

The leaders of the party will perform Yoga at the district headquarters and the workers will ride bicycles in their constituencies," he said.

When the SP was in power in the state, it had shunned the International Yoga Day celebrations.

On May 14, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and the chief minister reviewed preparations in the presence of Union Ayush minister Shripad Yesso Naik.

To ensure that the Day was a grand success, the chief minister had issued directions to hold a 28-day workshop for the participants, which had begun last month.

While Modi will be performing

various 'asanas' here, around 92,000 inmates living in various jails of Uttar Pradesh will also be participating in parallel sessions from the confines of the prisons itself.

"Nearly 92,000 inmates lodged in various jails of the state will be participating in the International Yoga Day celebrations from the jail premises itself," UP minister of state for jail Jai Kumar Singh told PTI. He explained that the main purpose was that by doing yoga regularly, the jail inmates will remain medically fit and think positive, shunning thoughts of committing crime or suicide.

Meanwhile in Pratapgarh, at least 200 farmers are likely to perform yoga simultaneously with the Prime Minister.

"A television will be installed at the venue so that the farmers can not only follow the asanas being performed, but also take inspiration from the prime minister," event organiser Janki Sharan Pandey said. Pandey also said that farmers on this occasion will take a pledge to spend at least half an hour daily on yoga. (PTI)

## Rajinikanth meets farmers, assures support for linking rivers

**CHENNAI, JUNE 18**—/Tamil Superstar Rajinikanth today met a delegation of 16 farmers led by P Ayakkannu and assured them his support for their plea to interlink rivers.

Weeks after asking his fans to 'prepare for war', hinting that he might consider joining politics, the Kabali star today told the visiting farmers that their plea to link up rivers will be represented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and pledged Rs one crore in this regard.

"Rajini told us that he will take steps to facilitate interlinking rivers, he said first (Peninsular) rivers like Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Palaru, and Cauvery should be linked," Ayakkannu said after meeting the top star.

In 2002, Rajinikanth had famously offered Rs one crore towards interlinking Himalayan and Peninsular Rivers after a fast on the Cauvery issue.

"Rajinikanth offered to give us Rs one crore immediately towards river linking, which we have not taken," he said before PM Modi for a project in this connection," the farmer leader who kicked up a storm with his recent multiple forms of protest in Delhi told PTI.

He said, "we wanted Rajinikanth to help make a beginning (pillayar suzzi) for this river link-up effort and he will do it."

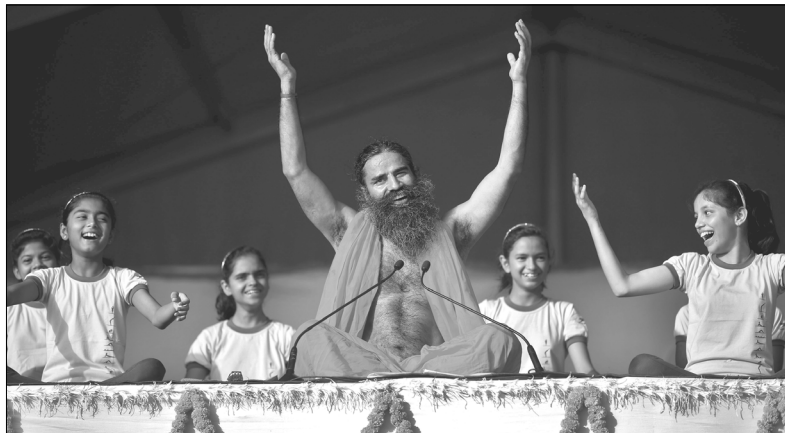
The farmer leader said the top star who is shooting for his upcoming flick 'Yaar' told them that he will represent the issue to PM Modi "though he did not specifically say that he will personally meet Modi in this regard."

Ayakkannu, president of National South Indian Rivers Inter-Linking Farmers Association said Rajinikanth assured support to farmers on all issues faced by them.

Rajinikanth while addressing his fans last month had asked them to be ready for war when it comes, asserting the "system is rotten" and that it needs to be changed.

While DMK working president MK Stalin had said that it was Rajinikanth's wish "whether or not" to support the farmers including pro-Tamil leader Seeman opposed it even as others like BJP welcomed the actor's remarks.

All India Mahila Congress General Secretary and actress Sagma had said days before Rajini addressed his cadres that the top star will be successful if he chose to come to politics. She had paired with Rajinikanth in the blockbuster 1996 movie Baasha. (PTI)



Yoga guru Baba Ramdev performs yoga at a four-day long camp ahead of International Yoga Day in Ahmedabad—REUTERS

## Church questions use of Goan soil for divisive conventions

**PANAJI, JUNE 18**—/The Goa Church has questioned BJP-led state government's absolute silence over increasing use of Goan soil for social and religious conventions which propagate divisive, anti-national and terrorist ideologies.

"We question the absolute silence of the Government of Goa over the increasing use of Goan soil for social and religious conventions which propagate divisive, anti-national and terrorist ideologies," Fr Savio Fernandes, executive secretary of Council for Social Justice and Peace, a wing of Goa Church, said in a statement today. The statement is issued in the backdrop of the just concluded All India Hindu Convention which passed several resolutions including India be declared a Hindu Nation.

"The emboldened rantings from some of the religious leaders and politicians to foist a theocratic state are an open rejection of the secular and democratic ideals of the Constitution of India." The advice given to people of a particular faith to store arms in their houses is tantamount to a call to violence and terrorism," the statement said.

Fernandes said "the people of Goa need to know the mind of the government about how such divisive, discriminatory and violent statements as pointed out above are different from the slogans of Azadi and sympathy to the Jammu and Kashmir or naxalite issue, in which students and social activists are hauled up and even jailed for sedition and anti-national activity."

"The Goa government owes a response to its people in the backdrop of the nationwide growing insecurity and anguish among citizens," he said. (PTI)

## Anti-LPG terminal protestersathi-charged, 20 hospitalised

**KOCHI, JUNE 18**—/At least 20 people were injured when police lathi-charged those protesting against the LPG import terminal project near here when they allegedly tried to breach a security cordon and storm the site.

The protesters of Puthuvype, who have intensified their agitation against the Indian Oil Corporation's project since last week, alleged scores of people, including women and children, were injured in the "brutal" police action.

The police said at least 20 people have been admitted to Ernakulam District General Hospital, where doctors said the condition of three with head injuries was serious.

Opposition parties condemned the police lathi charge with the Congress calling for a day-long hartal in the locality tomorrow.

In a related development, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan decided to hold a meeting with all stakeholders on June 21 at his office in Thiruvananthapuram to

discuss the issue, officials said today.

Citing the Chief Minister's intervention, the Indian Oil Corporation announced temporary suspension of the work on the project.

In a release, District Collector K Mohammed Y Saifullah referred to the IOC's decision and urged the people to withdraw their agitation.

"As the ground for further protest does not exist, the protesters are asked to withdraw their protest," he said.

Leader of Opposition in Kerala Assembly Ramesh Chennithala described as "brutal" today's police action against the protesters. The protesters demanded action against police for using force against them while they were staging a "peaceful protest".

The residents of Puthuvype have been up in arms for the past four months against the LPG terminal and storage project in the densely populated area, raising safety concerns.

The work on the facility was stalled for several days recently following intensified protest by people under the banner of "LPG Terminal Virudha Janakeeyya Samara Samiti" near the work site. They have alleged violation of environmental norms. The police were last week directed by the Ernakulam district administration to provide protection to the site.

Besides, the Kerala High Court had recently ordered that the terminal, functioning in the Special Economic Zone in Puthuvype, should be provided police protection.

Vijayan had earlier held a meeting with the protesters and appealed to them not to prevent the ongoing works at the terminal.

The district administration has said the LPG terminal and storage facilities had received all clearances from various agencies, including the Environment Ministry. (PTI)

## Centre firmly tells MP CM to end farmers' agitation

**L.S. HERDENA**

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan sprang a surprise on his supporters and admirers alike on June 9 evening by announcing that he would go a fast-unto-death from June 10 to restore peace in the state. Apparently, he believes that like Bapu's, his fast too would soothe frayed nerves and the farmers, who are on a rampage for the past ten days, would calm down. How much moral force can a chief minister tainted by a litany of scams wield is anybody's guess but even Chouhan's political opponents say that this is a deft political move on his part. Local newspaper, in fact, referred to his decision as 'Gandhigiri'.

For one, Chouhan knows very well that the farmers' organisations spearheading the strike had announced at the very outset that their agitation would last from June 10 to June 10. And so, within hours of

the chief minister beginning his fast (at 11 am on June 10), the agitation would cease and hopefully the violence would stop. And he can always walk away with the credit for restoring peace.

Secondly, Chouhan was reportedly under tremendous pressure from the BJP's central leadership to put an end to the violence, which was decidedly putting a big question mark not only on the party's 'Sushasan' claims but also on Chouhan's image as a kisan leader. But he had no clue as to how to go about it. The only obvious option was to give a free hand to the police to deal with the rampaging mobs. But that could have potentially translated into more deaths and more injuries. And that was something Chouhan could ill-afford. Far from asking the police to deal sternly with the trouble-makers, the government has issued strict instructions to the field-level officers not to use force against the farmers.

The police are dealing with the situation with their hands tied. Teargas and mild cane charge are all they are allowed to use. Chouhan is extremely wary of a repeat of Mandasaur, where six farmers were killed in police firing, creating a nation-wide furore. And to date, no one even knows who ordered the firing.

Thirdly, the kisan agitation is almost leaderless and no organisation has, so far, come forward to negotiate with the government. At some places, Congress leaders are leading the agitation, at other places different farmers' bodies are doing it and at some places there is no one who is, or even claims to be, the leader. The government was thus at sea on who to negotiate with. And there was no guarantee that even if it would link and agreement with one organisation, the agitation would end.

What must have added to Chouhan's desperation was the fact that on June 9, the agitation reached

right at his doorstep. Farmers indulged in vandalism and arson on the outskirts of Bhopal and the busy Bhopal-Indore highway was kept blocked for over six hours.

However, in a relief to Chouhan, two videos went viral on the social media on June 9, one showing a Congress MLA of Shivpur district enjoining his supporters to set the local police station on fire and another in which a district Panchayat vice-chairman belonging to the Congress is seen urging his men to torch vehicles in a closed-door meeting. Both the videos substantiate the BJP's charge that the Congress was instigating violence in the state.

Left with no options, Chouhan, in a desperate move, has begun his fast. The opposition has, predictably, described it as 'escapism' and 'political stunt'. But that is not the issue for Chouhan. His issue is whether his gamble will pay off. (IPA)

## Strict action against those creating law & order problems: Parrikar

**PANAJI, JUNE 18**—/Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar today warned of strict action against those trying to promote lawlessness in the state.

His comments come in the backdrop of the controversial statements made by a religious leader on the issue consuming beef.

Sadhvi Saraswati, the president of Sanatan Dharma Prachar Seva Samiti of Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh, recently attended a conclave of various groups in Goa where she said those who eat beef should be hanged in public, sparking a row amid the raging debate over cattle slaughter and consumption of beef.

"There are some sections which habitually raise some issues, often which have no relation to Goa. The state government already has clarity on these issues. We will abide by law," Parrikar said addressing a public meeting to commemorate Goa Revolution Day.

"There is no harm if anyone practices the things which are legally allowed. But if anyone tries to do things which are not permissible in law, strict action would be taken against them," the chief minister said, in an apparent reference to the statements made by the sadhvi. "There may be confusion amongst people (on the issue). Some confusions have been created purposely, some confusions arise due to ignorance," he said. "There is no need for the chief minister to give statements on the issues," he said, while avoiding specific reference to any issue in his speech.

Meanwhile, Parrikar also said that his government aims to make Goa free of plastic and garbage by June 18, 2018. "It is for the people to make Goa free of plastic and garbage by June 18 next year. Let's take a pledge," he said.

## Thambidurai meets TN Gov, dismisses horse-trading charges

**CHENNAI, JUNE 18**—/Senior AIADMK Amma leader and Lok Sabha Speaker M Thambidurai today met Governor Ch VidyaSagar Rao here, a day after opposition parties sought dismissal of the K Palaniswami government over alleged horse-trading of ruling party MLAs. The visit of Thambidurai, also party propaganda secretary, assumed significance as it came at a time when the DMK is raising in a big way the issue of alleged pay-offs to MLAs, which came to fore in a sting operation by a TV channel and pressing for a fresh trust vote. However, Raj Bhav officials described the meeting as "courtesy call." Emerging from the meeting with the Governor, Thambidurai rubbished the allegation of horse-trading, "ruling party MLAs ahead of the assembly 18 trust vote, saying purchasing legislators was not possible in view of the anti-defection law. "No one travels by horse these days and there is no horse trading," he told reporters here. A vote against party line violating the whip would strip the legislators of their assembly membership and hence there was no scope for bargain, the AIADMK leader asserted.

"When that is the case, giving money to MLAs can never happen," he said dismissing the charge of pay-offs to the legislators in support for the trust vote.

## AIADMK (Amma) MP loses bag

**COIMBATORE, JUNE 18**—/An AIADMK (Amma) MP lost his bag containing Rs 50,000 while travelling on a train Mettupalayam, police said today. The bag of the MP came to light around 5.30 AM yesterday when AK Selvaraj woke up and found his bag missing, they said. After the train, coming from Chennai, reached Coimbatore, he alerted and filed a complaint with the Railway Police, they said. A case has been registered and investigation is on, police said.

## Put clinics sealed

**MUZAFFARNAGAR, JUNE 18**—/Six private clinics, which were operating here without permit, have been sealed after a team of the Uttar Pradesh Health department carried out a surprise inspection. Six medicine practitioners failed to furnish required documents. Their clinics in Purkazi town were sealed during the exercise yesterday. Deputy Chief Medical Officer PS Mishra said the Chief Medical Officer PS Mishra said clinics of those lacking requisite qualifications will also be sealed shortly.

## Man robbed off Rs 5 lakh outside bank in Gorakhpur

**LUCKNOW, JUNE 18**—/A man was robbed off Rs five lakh right outside a bank by bike-borne unidentified men here, police said today. The incident occurred outside the Union Bank around 2 PM in Rajendra Nagar area when the man had come out with the money in a bag, police said. The man had hardly come outside the bank when two unidentified men came on a motorcycle, snatched his bag containing Rs five lakh and fled, according to a police statement issued here. Police have registered a case and started investigation.

## Tractor hits Scooty, 2 dead

**MACHILIPATNAM (AP), JUNE 18**—/A woman and her minor niece were killed when a tractor hit their two-wheeler in Krishna district this morning, police said. The two women, both sisters, and the daughter of one of them were going on a scooty from Vijayawada to Avanigadda when the tractor hit their vehicle near Veluvolu village at around 7.30 am. Challapalli circle inspector V Janardhana Rao said. In the mishap, Ankamma (47) died on the spot, while niece Sivaleela (15) succumbed to her injuries on way to hospital, he said. Sivaleela's mother, who also sustained injuries in the mishap, was admitted to Avanigadda Government Hospital where her condition was reported to be stable. Rao said. (PTI)

Appendix 'A' to CWE (P) Kolkata letter No. 8433/09ES dated 15 Jun 2017	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES	
Headquarters Commander Works Engineer (P), Military Engineer Services, Railwaygun Maidan Camp, Cursadaya Road, Kolkata - 700019 on behalf of President of India invites application for e-tender (online) under 2 cover system for the following work. For details refer website <a href="http://www.eprocurement.gov.in">www.eprocurement.gov.in</a>	
Please note that submitting of work will not be permitted.	
1	Name of Work : PROVISION OF ROAD OF GO RESIDENTIAL AREA AT AZAD HIND NAGAR AND VIKRAM VIHAR ENCLAVE, BANGALORE.
2	Estimated Cost : Rs. 13.00 Lakh
3	Period of Completion : 04 Months
4	Tender ID : 2017_MES_125066_1
For further details refer web site <a href="http://www.eprocurement.gov.in">www.eprocurement.gov.in</a> and <a href="http://www.mes.gov.in">www.mes.gov.in</a> (GATEWAY) (Sd/-) Singh, DSE, Commandant	