

## Sena dares BJP to crack down on foreigners staying in Goa

**MUMBAI, FEB 12 /-/-** The Shiv Sena today dared the BJP-led Goa government to crack down on foreigners staying in the coastal state, instead of lashing out at domestic tourists, a section of whom was dubbed as the "scum of the earth" by a minister. Claiming that terrorism jeopardised job avenues in the tourism industry of Jammu and Kashmir, the Sena said Goa minister Vijai Sardesai's remarks against the people of one region was "irresponsible". The Goa's agriculture minister Sardesai had described a section of domestic tourists as the "scum of the earth" and urged the state to look for "qualitative and not quantitative" improvement in tourists. Later, his cabinet colleague Manohar Aijaonkar threatened to "chase away" visitors who don't take care of "Goan culture and Goanness". Taking a dim view of it, the Sena said, in an editorial in its mouthpiece "Saamana", a minister of the BJP-led Goa government has blamed North Indians for turning Goa into a "gutter".

But the state runs on tourism and it fails to keep a check on the law and order situation, the Sena said. "There are some areas in Goa where the local police do not dare to go, as they are dominated by Russians and Nigerians... We dare the Goa administration to go to those villages and take control of them," it said. In a reply, the minister, it said though Goa had gone through an oppressive rule of the Portuguese for years, there are some ministers who prefer that regime as compared to the North Indians visiting the state.

"What sort of nationalism is this?" the Sena asked. Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, it said jobs of taxi and rickshaw operators and those running 'shikaras' in Dal lake, hotels and restaurants are affected by terrorist activities. In this backdrop, Sardesai's statement against people of one region is "irresponsible", the Sena said.

## Court summons Virbhadra, wife in money laundering case

**NEW DELHI, FEB 12 /-/-** A special court today summoned former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Virbhadra Singh and his wife and three others as accused in an amounting Rs 7-crore money laundering case. Special Judge Santosh Sheel Mann said there were prima facie, enough evidence against the accused persons and directed them to appear before the court on March 22. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had charged 83-year-old Singh with projecting around Rs 7 crore proceeds of crime as agricultural income in connivance with his wife and others, and investing them in purchasing LIC policies. Besides Singh and his 62-year-old wife Pratibha Singh, the court also summoned Universal Apple Associate owner Chundi Lal Chauhan and two other co-accused, Prem Raj and Lawan Kumar Roach.

# Ahead of polls, Rajasthan govt announces Rs 8,000 cr loan waiver for farmers

**JAIPUR, FEB 12 /-/-** Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje today announced a Rs 8,000-crore loan waiver for farmers, Rs 650 crore tax relief and Rs 44,135 crore expenditure on social and community schemes in the budget for 2018-19 presented in the Assembly today.

The state government has tried to touch every section of society including women, young, students, farmers and sectors like infrastructure, medical and healthcare, industries, education and others, Raje said. The chief minister, who also holds the finance portfolio, presented the budget for 2018-19 which envisage total outlay of Rs

1,07,865.40 crore on schemes and projects. A major share of the proposed outlay, 40.92 per cent, amounting to Rs 44,135.20 crore has been allocated to social and community services schemes as the state goes to polls this year. Power sector got 25.08 per cent while rural development sector 13.42 per cent of the planned outlay.

The chief minister announced one-time crop loan waiver up to Rs 50,000 for small and marginal farmers, exemption of lagan on land (land revenue) and constitution of Rajasthan state Farmers Debt Relief Commission

for settlement of crop loans on merit basis.

The loan waiver would cost Rs 8,000 crore to the exchequer. The estimated fiscal deficit for 2018-19 is Rs 28,011.21 crore, which is 2.98 per cent of GDP while estimated total revenue receipt for 2018-19 is Rs 1,51,663.50 crore. The budget has the estimated revenue deficit of Rs 5,454.85 crore without the effect of UDAY scheme and 17,454.85 crore with the effect of UDAY scheme. After presenting the budget, Raje told newsmen that the budget is well within the limits of the fiscal responsibility and budget management act.

"We have tried to touch every sector and section of society and have tried to make best use of the public money to support those deprived," Raje said. In tax proposals, the Rajasthan chief minister announced to set up a traders welfare board with initial corpus of Rs 10 crore for speedy disposal of problems related to dealers, their social security and insurance needs etc., 50 per cent exemption in stamp duty for the establishment of IT, entertainment and tourism sector units, increase of ten per cent in SGT based investment subsidy from 30 per cent to 40 per cent.



School students participating in the declaration rally of biodiversity in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday.

## J&K Assembly observes 2-minute silence in memory of Sunjwan terror strike victims

### BJP demands FIR against NCMLA for pro-Pakslog

**JAMMU, FEB 12 /-/-** The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly today observed a two-minute silence in memory of five Army personnel and a civilian who were killed in a terror strike on the Sunjwan Army camp here.

A group of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists struck the residential quarter of the sprawling camp in the early hours on Saturday and killed five army personnel and the father of one of the slain jawans, besides injuring 10 others including six women and children. Three JeM terrorists were gunned down. National Conference MLA Devender Singh Ram invited the attention of the chair towards the terror attack and suggested for a two-minute silence to pay tributes to those killed. Accepting the request of the member, Speaker Kaminder Gupta asked for observance of the two-minute silence.

Soon after the House assembled

this morning, NC member Mian Altaf sought a detailed statement from the government on the terror strike on the Army camp. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Rehman Veer said the operation at Sunjwan was in its final stage. However, inside the Assembly BJP MLAs today created a ruckus as they demanded registration of an FIR against NC legislator Mohammad Akbar Lone for raising pro-Pakistan slogan in the House. As the House assembled this morning, agitating BJP MLAs rose on their feet demanding apology, suspension of the member and filing of a sedition case against him.

BJP MLAs RS Pathania and Rajiv Jasrotia said it was not a minor issue and demanded a statement from the National Conference to clear its stand on the action of its member. "We demand an apology from the NCMLA and an FIR be registered against him," Pathania said. The National

Conference members countered the BJP and said the Speaker had already expunged Lone's remarks. The party too had disassociated itself from the slogan. Despite intervention by Speaker Kaminder Gupta, state parliamentary affairs minister Abdul Rehman Veer, deputy speaker Nazim Ahmad Gurezi, CPM MLA M Y Tarigami and Independent MLA Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen, the BJP members continued their protest and exchanged heated words with the opposition NC members.

Tarigami said that "we should not polarise" the situation. However, calm was restored in the House after the Speaker said "we should take lessons from whatever happens in the House". "We will not allow this House to become a stage to divide the people on the name of religion or against the nation. One learns lessons from a mistake and henceforth it will not be repeated," the Speaker said.

## Kamala Mills fire incident an opportunity to improve system: Bombay HC to BMC

**MUMBAI, FEB 12 /-/-** The Bombay High Court today said authorities must take the Kamala Mills fire incident as an opportunity to start monitoring hotels, restaurants and other eateries here as the safety of people was paramount.

The court observed that there was rampant violation of norms, and said constant checks were required, failing which such incidents would continue to occur. A division bench of Justices R M Borde and G Ketkar, hearing a PIL seeking a judicial inquiry into the Kamala Mills fire on December 29 last year, said the city witnessed a spate of fire incidents in 2017. This incident (Kamala Mills) has given you (the city civic

body) an opportunity to improve your system. Stakes are high as it is about citizens' safety which is of utmost importance," Borde said.

Fourteen people died and over 30 others were injured when a fire broke out at the 'I Above' and 'Mojo Bistrot' pubs situated in the Kamala Mills compound in Central Mumbai.

The HC said that it was time authorities, including the civic body and the state government, came up with an independent mechanism to regulate and monitor such establishments. "Prima facie, once licence is granted and there is no supervision.

There needs to be a constant monitoring or else

such cases of fire and negligence will continue. There are rampant violations," the court said.

The court also sought to know from the Panjamb Municipal Corporation (BMC) if there was any policy which allowed them to grant licences to hotels, restaurants and pubs to operate on the roof-top or terrace of a building. "We do not understand how a hotel or pub can be permitted to operate on the terrace of a building?" A terrace is supposed to be a common open area accessible to all occupants of the building," Borde said. The BMC's counsel, Anil Sakhre, informed the court that there was a policy in place.

He also stressed on the need to enhance IT proficiency at all levels to make use of such projects and asked officials at police station and supervisory levels to work on CCTNS. The chief minister directed the department to reward successes achieved through CCTNS, which he said has been linked to "Sachin" to provide citizen services in a more effective manner by automating the manual processes.

The basic objectives of the project include improving quality of investigation and prosecution, linking crimes with criminals and vice versa. Besides, CCTNS also aims to provide vital crime intelligence, better services to citizens and simplifying maintenance of records at the police station level.

## At least 8 hurt in Kerala political clashes involving CPM, RSS, RMP

**KOZHIKODE, FEB 12 /-/-** At least eight persons were injured in two separate incidents of political violence allegedly involving workers of CPM, RSS and RMP in the district, police said today. Both the incidents took place on Sunday, they said.

In the first incident, the CPM and RSS activists clashed after the marxist party workers were attacked in Pulancherry near Koylandy. Five CPM party workers and three women workers of BJP were injured. The CPM today observed a 12-hour hartal to protest the attack on its workers. In another incident, the Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP) office at Orkatteri village near Vadakara, about 48 kms from here, was attacked and ransacked by a group people allegedly belonging to the CPM (M), they added. The trouble began after an argument between an auto driver and an RMP activist, police said. In the ensuing clash between the CPM and RMP workers, several vehicles and houses in the area close to the RMP office were damaged in stone pelting. Meanwhile, as many as 18 RMP cadres, including its state secretary N Venu were taken into preventive custody, police said, adding details about the exact number of persons injured could be known only later.

## Jats agree to withdraw Jind rally after talks with Haryana CM

**CHANDIGARH, FEB 12 /-/-** In a development that will give a relief to Haryana's ruling BJP, the Jats have decided to hold their rally in Jind on February 15, when BJP chief Amit Shah will attend a bike rally in the town, after a marathon talks between the community leaders and the state government.

The decision was announced late on Sunday night after chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Union minister Birender Singh, senior BJP leader Anil Jain, held a five-hour-long meeting with Jats delegation led by All-India Jat Aaraksh Sangharsh Samiti president Yashpal Malik in New Delhi. Khattar had on Saturday invited Malik to hold talks in an apparent bid to pacify the angry Jats who had threatened to disrupt the BJP election campaign rally. After the talks, Malik said the Haryana government has decided to withdraw all cases registered in connection with the violence which broke out during a Jat quota agitation in the state in February 2016.

The issue of reservation and the registration of cases against the Jats, he said. The Jat body had threatened to disrupt BJP chief Amit Shah's rally after the government takes out their own rally in Jind on February 15 with 50,000 tractor-trolleys to disrupt the BJP election campaign rally. After the talks, Malik told newsmen the state government will place before the Backward Class Commission collected by it by March 31 to decide the reservation percentage. "The cases within the Haryana government's domain, all such cases will be taken back. Other issue pertaining to compensation to injured during the reservation agitation (in 2016) and job too have been resolved".

## Four Chinese men held for smuggling gold at Delhi airport

**NEW DELHI, FEB 12 /-/-** Four Chinese men have been arrested by the customs for allegedly trying to smuggle into the country 10 kilograms gold at the Delhi airport, according to an official statement issued today.

The accused were intercepted by the customs officials after their arrival here from Taiwan via Hong Kong on Saturday. A detailed personal and baggage search resulted in the seizure of 10 gold bars, collectively weighing 10 kg, wrapped in newspapers. The three passengers in pockets of trousers worn by them, it said. The gold bars, valued at little over Rs 3 crore, were seized and the Chinese men were arrested, the statement said. In another seizure on the same day, three Indian men, aged 51, 39 and 37 years, were intercepted by the customs after their arrival from Riyadh. A detailed search of the men resulted in the seizure of fine granules of gold weighing 300 grams. These three gold bars weighing about 350 grams, a total of 1.05 kg gold from them, the statement by the customs said. The gold, valued at Rs 31.56 lakh, was seized and the trio were arrested, it said.

## Mayawati attacks BJP over killing of Dalit student in Allahabad

**LUCKNOW FEB 12 /-/-** Attacking the BJP BSP chief Mayawati alleged today that the killing of a Dalit student in Allahabad was the result of narrow and casteist politics of hatred being pursued by the state's ruling party.

The barbaric murder of a Dalit student in Allahabad is not an isolated case as such incidents are occurring on a regular basis. And no one else but the BJP's narrow, casteist politics of hatred is responsible for it," Mayawati said in a press release here. Mayawati said that such incidents had vitiated the atmosphere in the country and the youth were experiencing frustration because of dearth of jobs for the educated ones among the 'sarv samaj'. There is also an increase in crime, she added. The BSP chief, who sent a state minister chief Ram Achal Rajbhar to meet the bereaved family in Allahabad, asked the state government to ensure the immediate arrest of the culprits and help to the family. A second year LLB student Dileep, 26, was thrashed by a group on Friday following an altercation outside a restaurant leading to his death two days later. One of the accused was arrested after CCTV footage of the incident went viral on social media.

## State Notes

### Man killed in bear attack

**COIMBATORE, FEB 12 /-/-** A 55-year-old man was killed in a bear attack at an estate near Valparai in the district early today. A few estate workers who were going for work noticed the body of Susai, a resident of waterfall estate, lying amid the bush, police said. On receiving information, police and forest officials rushed to the spot and found the footmarks of the animal, they said.

## ATM burglary bid foiled by alert neighbour in TN

**COIMBATORE, FEB 12 /-/-** An attempt to break open an ATM of a private bank at Sukrawarpettai here was foiled by an alert neighbour today, police said. The owner of the house situated across woke up on hearing a loud noise emanating from the ATM kiosk during the small hours and rushed out to see an unidentified man trying to break the machine using a crow bar, they said. However, the man got away when the house owner raised an alarm, they added. A case has been registered, police said adding that they are verifying the footage obtained from the CCTV camera in the kiosk to identify the robber.

## Man gets life term for killing wife

**MUZAFFARNAGAR, FEB 12 /-/-** A local court here today has sentenced a man to life imprisonment for beating his wife to death five years ago. Additional district sessions judge Amber Rawat also imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on accused Devraj after pronouncing him guilty under section 302 of the IPC. According to government lawyer Firoz Ali, Meera Devi (30) was beaten to death by her husband over some family dispute. The incident took place at Bamanheri Village in the district here on December 17, 2013.



Woman selling mussel at kiosk in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday.

## Punjab crime traffic project rolled out

**CHANDIGARH, FEB 12 /-/-** Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh today launched the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a project to keep digitised records of FIRs and information on crimes and criminals. FIRs and General Diaries can now be updated online by police officials on CCTNS 'Go-Live'. They would be provided Tablets

for this purpose, an official spokesman said. The chief minister said that Punjab was among the few states in the country to have launched CCTNS. Thirteen-year-old data such as FIRs and General Diaries has already been digitised as part of the project and all future data would be uploaded live from now on, the spokesman said. The launch was attended by

police officials, including Punjab DGP Suresh Arora, DGP-IT&V K Bhawra, DGP-Intelligence Dinkar Gupta, DGP-Law and Order Hardeep Dhillion, IG (Provisional) Gurneet Deo and JIG (Crim) Inderbir Singh.

Singh asked the police to make effective use of the data linked to 'Sachin' information that would be available through CCTNS.

He also stressed on the need to enhance IT proficiency at all levels to make use of such projects and asked officials at police station and supervisory levels to work on CCTNS. The chief minister directed the department to reward successes achieved through CCTNS, which he said has been linked to "Sachin" to provide citizen services in a more effective manner by

automating the manual processes. The basic objectives of the project include improving quality of investigation and prosecution, linking crimes with criminals and vice versa. Besides, CCTNS also aims to provide vital crime intelligence, better services to citizens and simplifying maintenance of records at the police station level.