

Still in dark about solar scam probe findings: Chandy

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 16 /- Former Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy said today that he was still in the dark about the findings of the judicial commission that investigated the multi-crore solar scam, days after the state government ordered a vigilance probe against him. "The actual facts and findings on which the

commission arrived at its conclusion can be known only if we get a copy of the report," Chandy told news agency PTI here. "The senior Congress leader said we want to challenge the facts and findings of the commission in court, we should know the contents of the report." The government has come out with accusations, but

nobody has seen the report of the commission, he said. Chandy said he would submit a letter to chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, seeking a copy of the report of the Justice G Sivaraman headed commission that probed the scandal, which rocked the previous Congress-led UDF government headed by Chandy. Asked whether he

planned to file a defamation case against the accused Saritha S Nair, who levelled the charges, the former chief minister quipped that "only after knowing the facts and findings can further steps be taken in this regard." Chandy said that though he had given an application seeking a copy of the report under the Right to

Information Act, he was approaching the chief minister as the government had made it clear that the report could be made public only after it was tabled in the state Assembly. "We are confident. The Commission's sittings were held in a very transparent manner and only interested parties had made statements before the

commission," the former chief minister said. However, it was not known whether the commission had overstepped its mandate, Chandy said. Asked whether the CPM-led UDF government's move was political, Chandy said that all the present accusations were levelled by the government. Besides the senior Left leader,

the government had also decided to order a probe on October 11 against former ministers Aryadan Mohamed and Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan after registering a case against them. Two former Congress MLAs - Thampoor Ravi and Benny Benhanan - have also been brought under the ambit of the probe.

Vijayan creating atmosphere of fear in Kerala, alleges Parrikar

KOLLAM, OCT 16 /- Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar claimed that while the BJP government at the Centre was trying to take the nation on the development path, his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan was 'creating an atmosphere of fear'. Taking part in the BJP's 'Jana Raksha Yatra' on Sunday to 'expose' the alleged 'political violence and jihad' under the CPM-led UDF rule in the state, he said all people in Kerala should unite to remove the state's 'tainted image' caused by attacks on BJP and RSS workers, allegedly by Left party workers. "While the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to take the nation on the path of development, the chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan is creating an atmosphere of fear," Parrikar alleged.



People thronging crackers shops at Island Grounds ahead of Deepavali festival, in Chennai on Monday.

UP CM asks officials to keep close eye on anti-social elements

LUCKNOW, OCT 16 /- UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to keep a close eye on anti-social elements and identify foreign nationals living illegally in the state. The direction comes in view of the festival season and urban local bodies' polls in the state. In an official statement issued late on Sunday night, Adityanath said, "There should not be any hurdle in celebrating the festivals in a traditional manner. Security arrangements should be made to ensure that idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh are established and immersed." He further said that steps be taken to ensure that incidents of hooliganism, dacoity, eve teasing, chain snatching etc. are curbed, and security arrangements made at different markets including bullion markets. The chief minister was addressing district magistrates, superintendents of police/senior superintendents of police through video conferencing. Issuing directions for peaceful conduct of urban local bodies' polls, Adityanath said: "Effective action is needed for peaceful conduct of urban local bodies' poll. Sensitive polling stations must be identified, and steps should be taken to ensure that no untoward incident takes place during the election." The chief minister noted that illegal foreign nationals are a threat to law and order.

EC bribery case: Enquiry to be completed in 4-6 weeks, Delhi HC told

NEW DELHI, OCT 16 /- The Delhi High Court was today informed by the Delhi Police it would take four-six weeks to complete its probe in the Election Commission bribery case allegedly involving AIADMK (leader) T T V Dhinakaran and others. The court directed the Delhi Police Crime Branch to file by December 5, a status report on the current status of investigation. Justice Ashutosh Kumar was hearing a bail plea of co-accused and alleged middleman Sukesh Chandrashekar, who has sought the

relief on the ground that he was in jail for six months and a chargesheet against him has been filed in the trial court. During the hearing, the court asked the police about the status of investigation against the other accused - Dhinakaran, his close aide Mallikarjuna, suspected hawala operators Nathu Singh and Lalit Kumar, who were earlier granted bail. To this, prosecutor Ashish Dutta and DCP (Crime) Rajesh Dev said the probe against the other accused was going on and it would be

completed within four-six weeks. The court then adjourned the hearing on Chandrashekar's bail plea and asked the police to file the status report. It also asked the police to inform it as to who was the person who had called the special judge asking her to grant bail to Chandrashekar. Senior advocate Sudhir Nandrajoo, who was appearing Chandrashekar, argued that till date the police has not identified a single person in the Election Commission whom the alleged middleman had met in pursuance to

the purported conspiracy to get the AIADMK 'two leaves' symbol for the Sasikala faction. Nandrajoo further claimed that the charge sheet was hurriedly filed to prevent him from getting bail and some stringent provisions were added in the case. Chandrashekar, arrested on April 16, has been denied bail once by the high court and thrice by the trial court. The High Court had on June 15 rejected his bail plea on the ground that the police had seized a fake Rajya Sabha member ID card from his possession.

Stone pelting on buses, violence reported during hartal in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 16 /- Incidents of stone pelting on KSRTC buses and forfible closure of shops were reported from various parts of Kerala where the Opposition Congress-led UDF is observing a hartal today. Private buses were off the roads, while autorickshaws and KSRTC buses operated services in several places in the initial hours of the dawn-to-dusk hartal, called to protest the alleged anti-people policies of Union and state governments and the rising petrol and diesel prices. Vehicles were seen plying on roads of the state capital. However, incidents of stone throwing on KSRTC buses were reported from Aryanad and Parasala. In Kochi, a KSRTC bus on its way to Guruvayur from Alappuzha was stoned and its window panes damaged at Palarivattom. In Thrissur,

police took into custody activists as they stoned vehicles. All universities have postponed examinations scheduled for today in view of the protest, while Public Service Commission examinations were being held. Police had made elaborate arrangements to prevent untoward incidents and all district police chiefs had been instructed to take stringent steps against those attempting to instigate violence and destroy public property. Police had also made it clear that action would be taken against forcible closure of shops and preventing people going for work. In Thiruvananthapuram, UDF workers took out a march to the Secretariat from Palayam Martyr's Column and were instructed to take the union and state governments.

TN CM urges police personnel to be courteous to people

CHENNAI, OCT 16 /- Tamil Nadu chief minister K Palaniswami today asked police and other uniformed personnel to be courteous and careful while dealing with citizens' complaints and urged them to be honest and unbiased in their approach. In his address after giving away appointment orders to new recruits selected by the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board (TNSURB), Palaniswami also asked them to discharge

"selfless public service." TNSURB recruits personnel for the police, fire and rescue and prison departments. The chief minister stressed that such personnel, including police, should show no "hatred or favour" while discharging their duties. "You should be courteous, careful, humble and caring while dealing with people's complaints and be honest and unbiased (in approach). This is your foremost duty," he said.

Lavishing praise on the police department, he said they were working diligently in ensuring maintenance of peace, law and order and harmony in Tamil Nadu. Further, the force had effectively ensured "terrorism did not raise its head" in the state. Palaniswami added, "Adequate numbers of police personnel, including women, had ensured that crimes against women had "decreased to a large extent"

in the state, the chief minister said. The state police also boasted of being the first one to recruit transgenders, he said pointing out to four members from the community being among the recruits today. The Fire and Rescue services, in association with police, had performed exemplary work during natural disasters by coordinating with other agencies, the chief minister said. (PTI)

2 more Dengue deaths in Delhi, number of cases rises to 5220

NEW DELHI, OCT 16 /- Two more persons, including a 26-year-old Manipuri woman, have succumbed to dengue in the national capital, even as the number of people affected by the vector-borne disease this season has mounted to 5,220, according to a municipal report released today. With the two deaths reported, the toll from dengue in Delhi has risen to three.

The mosquito-borne tropical disease had claimed its first victim in the city this year, when a 12-year-old boy died of dengue shock syndrome at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) on August 1. Rhoda Daimai, who was living in south Delhi's Sarita Vihar died on August 27 of septicaemia and other ensuing complications while 49-year-old Meena Devi, hailing from Bihar, died of dengue shock syndrome on September 2, the report said. Civilians said Daimai was a resident of a village in Manipur and had come to Delhi seeking treatment while Meena lived in Karawal Nagar in east Delhi. While Meena also died at the SGRH, Rhoda succumbed at the Holy Family Hospital. The number of malaria and chikungunya cases recorded in the city till October 14 at 1062 and 683 respectively, the report by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which tabulates data for the entire city, said. Of the total 5,220 dengue cases, 2564 were residents of Delhi, while the rest were from other states. Of the 2,564 Delhi cases, 757 were reported this month, it said.

Punjab police launches foot patrolling in all districts

CHANDIGARH, OCT 16 /- In a bid to check criminal activities in the state, Punjab police today launched an initiative whereby police personnel will patrol designated areas on foot to keep a watch on anti-social elements. According to a senior police official, the aim of this initiative is to reduce incidence of crime by increasing the presence of police in vulnerable locations. The initiative would ensure safety and security of women, children and senior citizens, and also build a bridge for people-friendly policing, the official said. "Foot patrolling has been launched in all districts of the state today," Punjab Director General of Police

(law & order) H S Dhillon said. Foot patrolling involves best patrolling on foot in a designated area which will be identified on the basis of criminal incidences, vulnerability, footfall in markets, strategic installations, educational, financial and religious institutions. It will also involve intelligence gathering and detection of crime, an official said. Ludhiana Police Commissioner R N Dhoke said foot patrol officers would do a round of their designated areas round the clock every day in eight-hour shifts depending on the type of beat area. "In each beat area, foot-patrol officers in a buddy pair will be assigned to engage in intensive policing. The average length of a beat area will be around

three km," Dhoke said. The age limit for these foot-patrol officers, who has to be physically fit, has been fixed at 45 years. They will be wearing jungle boots, specially designed arm-bands and will be equipped with weapons, baton, handcuffs and wireless sets, Dhoke said. "These officers shall have basic technical knowledge, experience of four years in service with field units and knowledge of the area," he said, adding each buddy pair would be given an android-based tablet with a specially designed mobile application to monitor and supervise their performance. Regular impact analysis of this initiative will also be done, the Ludhiana Police Commissioner said.

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State Notes

Man kills wife, buries body to hide crime

THANE, OCT 16 /- A 28-year-old man at a village here allegedly beat his wife to death and then buried the body in a bid to destroy the evidence of the offence, a police official said today. The police on Sunday exhumed the body for probe in the case and arrested the man, a casual labourer doing odd jobs, in the wee hours today, he said. The man and his wife, also aged 28, resided at Divanmali village in Bhiwandi area here along with their 12-year-old daughter. The couple used to have frequent quarrels over petty issues. Nizampur police station's senior inspector R E Yadav said. On October 13 late night, when their daughter was away at her grandparents' home, the couple again had a tiff over some issue, he said, quoting a police complaint lodged yesterday by a woman living in their neighbourhood. On hearing some noise from their house, the complainant went there and allegedly saw her husband man beating up his wife severely, Yadav said. She also told the police that the accused asked her to leave and not interfere in their personal matters, he said.

Fire incident at Jal Mahotsav event

HANUWANTIYA, OCT 16 /- The third edition of the Madhya Pradesh government's colourful 'Jal Mahotsav' began here today on a rough note as the venue was hit by a fire incident, but no one was injured. The fire started around 9.30 pm, gutting five to six tents containing goods. Three fire tenders were rushed to the spot, officials said. Chief minister Shivraj Chouhan ordered an inquiry into the matter and to station fire tenders at the festival venue. In such huge programmes, some shortcomings occur. I have ordered to check each and every tent to avert any other untoward incident. Since the incident took place in the beginning of the festival, it gives us a lesson to be more alert," he said.

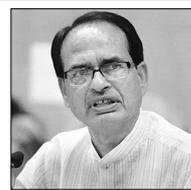
MP will be developed as a hub of water tourism: Chouhan

HANUWANTIYA (MP), OCT 16 /- Madhya Pradesh will be developed as a hub of water tourism and more islands in the backwaters of the Narmada river will be developed, which will be together called Madhya Dweep, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said today. The chief minister inaugurated a two-and-a-half-month-long water carnival yesterday which will be held till January 21st Hanuwantiya Island in the backwaters of Indira Nagar Dam in Khandwa district of the state. Chouhan also flagged off a boat race as part of the festival. "When I became the chief minister, the initial focus was on water,

electricity and roads. Increasing agriculture productivity was another major area of focus," Chouhan said. "But later, during a visit to Sentosa in Singapore the idea of developing similar tourist places in Madhya Pradesh occurred. After this, Indira Nagar dam was identified for the purpose. It took us eight years to develop Hanuwantiya Island," he said. In the next five years, this region will be on the top in the country in terms of tourism, Chouhan said. Infrastructure will be developed in Madhya Dweep and other parts of the state and private players will be given opportunity to operate various activities, hotels and services, he said. "In Kerala,

houseboats are running in dirty waters. Still, tourists stay there for days. But in Madhya Pradesh, water of the Narmada river is clean and pure and with houseboats on them, tourists will flock here," Chouhan said. Besides Hanuwantiya, areas around Gandhi Nagar dam, Bargi dam and lakes in state capital Bhopal will be developed as water tourism destinations. The state government is also celebrating Parvati Parva (Tourism Festival) from today till October 25. It is working on developing heritage and religious tourism too. This region from here till Ujjain via Omkareshwar will be developed as a religious tourism

circuit. The chief minister applauded the Tourism Board and the State Tourism Development Corporation for bagging 10 national tourism awards this year.



While Meena also died at the SGRH, Rhoda succumbed at the Holy Family Hospital. The number of malaria and chikungunya cases recorded in the city till October 14 at 1062 and 683 respectively, the report by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which tabulates data for the entire city, said. Of the total 5,220 dengue cases, 2564 were residents of Delhi, while the rest were from other states. Of the 2,564 Delhi cases, 757 were reported this month, it said.