

# 'Deliberate' attempts being made to destroy state's image : Kerala CM

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 8 /-** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Monday flayed those agitating against his government's move to implement the Supreme Court verdict on entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala temple, saying "deliberate" efforts were being made to destroy the state's unity and secular fabric. As protests against the verdict continued in the state with police chasing away BJP activists at Haripad in Alappuzha district, a plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of the judgement which lifted the ban on entry of women of all ages into the Lord Ayyappa temple. The petition filed by Shylaja Vijayan, president of National Ayyappa Devotees Association, said the September 28 judgement is "absolutely untenable and irrational." The issue has taken a political turn with main opposition Congress and LDF coming out against the BJP government's move to implement

the verdict, saying they are with the believers. Stepping up its agitation, BJP Monday said at Kochi that it would organise a five-day long 'Save Sabarimala yatra' from Pandalam to Thiruvananthapuram, a distance of about 100 km, on October 10 to protest the government's "hasty move" to implement the verdict. Accusing the state government of trying to divide Hindus to 'defeat' the protests by devotees of Lord Ayyappa, BJP state president P S Sreedharan Pillai, said the yatra would commence from Pandalam, where according to mythology, Lord Ayyappa is believed to have spent his childhood. Vijayan defended his government's decision and said it was committed to protecting the religious beliefs and customs of different religions and places of worship and there was no question of succumbing to "politically motivated" efforts to create tension in the state. "The people of Kerala faced the recent

unprecedented floods unitedly but deliberate efforts are now being made to destroy that unity, to destroy the secular fabric," he told reporters. Holding out an olive branch, Vijayan also made it clear that the government was prepared for talks with all concerned if they had any misunderstanding over the state's stand on the issue. Meanwhile, joining issue for the first time, Travancore Royal family member Ashwathi Thirunal Gowri Lakshmi Bayi said it was "very painful" to hear about the recent developments relating to the Sabarimala temple. "It is sad to note that centuries-old traditions are being violated," she said in a statement here. Reaffirming the government's stand not to seek a review of the apex court verdict, Vijayan said the government in its earlier affidavit had made it clear that it would implement the court's order. The government would go ahead with all "democratic and progressive steps" needed for

enriching and empowering women in society. He said his government's policy was to ensure equality and justice to all. Attacking the main opposition Congress and the BJP for the agitations against the apex court order, the chief minister said the Congress will "destroy" itself by joining hands with communal elements, and accused the saffron party of having "double standards" on the issue. The chief minister described as "ridiculous" the U-turn by Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala, who welcomed the court verdict before demanding that the government file a review petition against it. In BJP-ruled Maharashtra, the government had implemented the Bombay High Court orders on entry of women into the sanctum sanctorum of the Haji Ali dargah and Shani Shingnanpur temple, he said, adding it showed the "double standards" of the saffron party. Vijayan said the LDF government had taken a number

of women-friendly initiatives, including raising a women-only battalion, and increasing their presence in the state police and fire services. Meanwhile, Chennithala blamed the LDF government for the "crisis" and said they would not launch any open agitation, but would support the agitation by devotees. "The UDF is with the believers. We will not lend any support to anybody to hurt the sentiments of believers," the Congress leader told reporters. "The UDF will not allow converting Sabarimala into a war zone. We are against violent protests and hartals. Our stand is that the faith of believers will be protected," he said. The Congress leader said it was the Centre's responsibility to protect all religions and accused the BJP and RSS of misleading people on the issue. "The RSS-BJP combine is trying to mislead the people and is launching violent agitations. We are with the believers and want to protect their faith," he said. (PTI)

# Fish in formalin issue Goa to hire foreign agency to test fish for chemicals: Rane

**PANAJI, OCT 8 /-** The Goa government will hire an international agency to check fish and ensure that hazardous chemicals like formalin are not used as preservatives, state Food and Drugs Administration Minister Vishwajit Rane said Monday. A high level committee comprising Goa Town and Country Planning Minister Vijai Sardesai, Fisheries Minister Vinod Palekar, besides Rane, met in Margao Monday to discuss the issue. "There are fears being raised about use of formalin in fish."

We have decided to address it by hiring an international agency which will test the fish that is imported in Goa from other states," Rane told reporters after the culmination of the meeting. He informed that the state government would finalise the name of the international agency within 24 hours and it would be invited to work along with the state's FDA in this regard. He said that the decision to invite the international agency was taken after consulting Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The FSSAI, a Central body, is responsible for making regulations and setting standards, import of food, notifying law and ensuring cooperation with the states. The issue of formalin or formaldehyde, a potential cancer-inducing chemical, as a preservative in fish has rocked Goa for several months now.

Meanwhile, Goa Congress president Girish Chodankar Monday opposed the decision terming it "corruption" and reiterated the party's demand that fish imports into the state be banned. "The government wants to make money in adversity. When people are worried about formalin in fish, rather than banning imports, they (government) want to hire an international agency. This hiring means corruption," he alleged. Chodankar also claimed that the appointment of an international agency confirmed the Congress' fears that fish in the state was laced with formalin. "The decision clearly indicates that the government is not sure fish is free of formalin. By appointing an international agency they have confirmed our fears," Chodankar said.

He questioned the appointment of a foreign agency and said that India had enough scientists of repute for the work. Rane Monday said that unlicensed fish traders will not be allowed to operate in Goa after October 15. Goa Town and Country Planning minister Vijai Sardesai said Monday's meeting discussed measures to ensure highest standards are adopted so as to make fish safe for consumption. Sardesai alleged that the opposition Congress was creating doubt in the minds of the people about fish being consumed in Goa and added that Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar had been apprised of the issue. Parrikar is admitted in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi reportedly for a pancreatic ailment. (PTI)

# Women officials to manage 500 polling booths in MP

**BHOPAL, OCT 8 /-** A total of 500 "pink" polling booths, to be managed by all-woman staff, will be set up in Madhya Pradesh for the assembly elections that are scheduled to be held on November 28, a top officer announced Monday. Madhya Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) VL Kantha Rao said such booths would be spread across all 230 assembly segments in the state. "The Election Commission has told us to set up at least one pink polling booth in every assembly constituency of the state. But, we have planned to set up more such booths in urban areas. So, about 500 pink booths would be set up across 230 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh," Rao told reporters here. The CEO said political parties will have to submit lists of star campaigners within seven days of issuing a poll notification, which would be released on November 2. As many as 15,000 booths of the total 65,341 polling stations in the state are declared "sensitive". Rao said a total of 1,49,151 cases have been registered under the Defacement of Property Act since the Election Commission announced the schedule of assembly polls Saturday. Four FIRs were registered in this regard, he said. He said over 300 arms were deposited (by license holders) with district administration across the state in the last two days. The single-phase polling will be held on November 28. Counting of votes will be taken up on December 11. (PTI)



People watching the aircrafts displayed during Air Force Day celebration at Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad

# Guj CM appeals for calm; outfit claims over 20,000 migrants fled state in a week

**AHMEDABAD, OCT 8 /-** Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani Monday appealed to people not to engage in violence even as an outfit claimed over 20,000 Hindi-speaking migrants fled the state in the last one week after a spate of attacks following a rape incident. Rupani claimed that no untoward incident had taken place during the last 48 hours, while state Home Minister Pradeepsinh Jadeja said additional forces have been deployed in industrial areas for the security of migrants. Since the alleged rape of a 14-month-old girl in Sabarkantha district on September 28, six districts, most of them in north Gujarat,

have seen sporadic incidents of violence against Hindi-speaking people, police had said. The government said more than 400 people have been arrested in connection with the violence which started after a migrant worker from Bihar was nabbed in the rape case. Uttar Bharatiya Vikas Parishad president Maheshsinh Kushwah claimed that over 20,000 people belonging to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar had already fled Gujarat due to the prevailing situation. "Over 20,000 migrants from these states have fled due to fear as Hindi-speaking people are being attacked in different parts of the state. All non-Gujaratis

should not be seen as culprits for the misdeeds of one person," he said. Rupani said the situation has been brought under control by police. "Due to intense efforts by police, the situation is under control and no untoward incident has happened in the last 48 hours. "We are committed to maintaining law and order, and people can call police in case of trouble. We will provide them security," Rupani said in Rajkot. Minister of State for Home Jadeja, at a press conference Monday in Gandhinagar, said the Centre had been apprised of the steps taken by the Gujarat government to bring the situation under control. He said 431 people have been

arrested and 56 FIRs registered in connection with the attacks on Hindi-speaking people. Without naming opposition Congress, Jadeja said efforts were underway to find out whether "it is a conspiracy by those who are out of power in Gujarat since the last 22 years." "The attack on migrant workers is highly condemnable. The chief minister has instructed us to take all necessary steps to stop the attacks. Meanwhile, the Bihar Chief Minister, Mr Nitish Kumar said Monday he has spoken to his Gujarat counterpart Vijay Rupani and expressed concern over attacks in the western state on non-Gujarati people, including

those from Bihar. Condemning the alleged rape of a 14-month-old girl, which triggered the violent attacks, Kumar said the guilty must be punished but an entire community should not be "tarred with the same brush". "Our government is aware and alert. I spoke to the Gujarat chief minister Sunday. Our chief secretary and director general of police are also in touch with their counterparts in Gujarat," Kumar told reporters here. "If somebody has committed a crime, he must be punished severely. But on account of one incident, people should not generalise and hold a grouse against an entire state," he said. (PTI)

# Chronology of events in Najeeb Ahmed case

- NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /-** Following is the chronology of events in JNU student Najeeb Ahmed's disappearance case:
- Oct 14, 2016:** Najeeb goes missing after altercation with some ABVP students.
  - Oct 18:** JNU seeks CBI, NCRB's help to trace missing student.
  - Oct 20:** Home Minister Rajnath Singh asks police to set up special team to trace JNU student.
  - Oct 24:** Delhi Police declares Rs 1 lakh reward for information on Najeeb.
  - Oct 25:** Najeeb's mother moves Delhi HC for tracing son. HC issues notice to Delhi government and police asking them to explain their stand.
  - Nov 23:** Delhi Police raises reward for information on Najeeb to Rs 10 lakh.
  - Nov 28:** HC asks city police to "cut across all political barriers" and to find Najeeb as no one can just vanish from the heart of the national capital.
  - Dec 9:** HC slams cops for failure to trace Najeeb as police clueless about him even after 55 days.
  - Dec 14:** HC orders police to scan the entire JNU campus, including hostels, classrooms and rooftops, of the varsity by using sniffer dogs.
  - Dec 19:** More than 600 cops, sniffer dogs search JNU campus to get clues on Najeeb.
  - Dec 22:** HC asks Delhi police to do everything possible to find Najeeb and suggest to the police to conduct lie-detector test on his roommate and the nine suspects in the case.
  - Jan 28, 2017:** Najeeb's family alleges harassment by Delhi Police by conducting pre-dawn searches at their house at Badaun.
  - May 16:** HC transfers missing JNU student case to CBI with immediate effect and the probe to be supervised by an officer, not less than the rank of a DIG.
  - Nov 14:** CBI tells HC it has sent suspect students mobile phones to its forensic lab and was awaiting the report of analysis.
  - April 2, 2018:** HC pulls up CBI's forensic lab in Chandigarh for laxity in examining the suspect students' mobile phones.
  - May 11:** Nearly a year after being handed over the probe, CBI tells HC that no evidence found to show any crime was committed.
  - July 12:** CBI tells HC it was seriously contemplating filing a closure report in the missing case.
  - Sept 4:** HC reserves judgement in the case after CBI says it has investigated the case from all possible angles and has not got any clue on Najeeb. The agency said it wants to file a closure report.
  - Oct 8:** Nearly two years after he went missing from JNU, the Delhi High Court allows CBI to file closure report in the investigation. HC disposes of Ahmed's mother's plea seeking directions to police to trace her son. HC also declines her plea to set up a SIT and monitor investigation. It says she can raise all contentions before trial court. (PTI)

# KIDS CORNER



**WordWheel** No.25

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No.24: DEMENTIA

**5x5** No.24

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

|   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| P |   | R |   |  |
| L | W |   | R |  |
| L |   | V |   |  |
| V | N |   | S |  |
| D |   | E |   |  |

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No.23 (Other combinations may occasionally be possible.)

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | C | A | N | S |
| T | O | N | A | L |
| A | R | O | M | A |
| F | A | D | E | S |
| F | L | E | S | H |

Reference: C.O.D. 1995

**WORD BUILDER** 24

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five using each letter only once? No foreign words or words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

**TODAY'S GOALS:**  
Good - 9 Excellent - 15 Amazing - 17  
**SOLUTION 23:** apart, art, ar, par, para, part, pat, prat, rap, rat, rata, tap, tapa, tarp, tarp, trap