

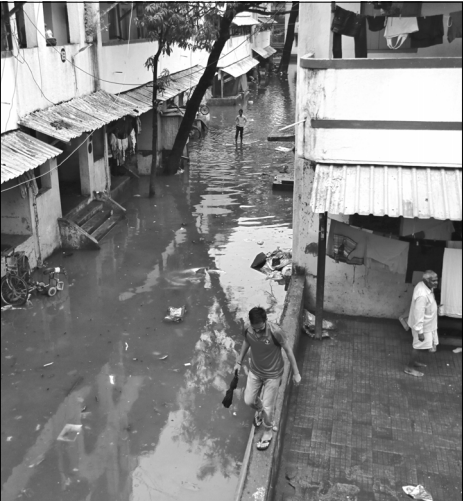
ECHO WORLD

THE ECHO OF INDIA

PORT BLAIR • THURSDAY • AUGUST 31, 2017 • PAGE 2



A man with his child use umbrella to protect themselves during heavy rain in Agartala on Wednesday



A man balances himself as he walks on a wall at a waterlogged neighbourhood in Mumbai — Reuters

AT A GLANCE State finally succeeds in getting the missing IT brand to set up shop

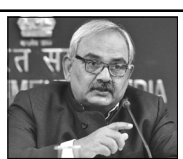
Hurricane victim's mom gets early morning call
290 children died at BRD Hospital

JAIPUR: Dr Suman Bhatia was home when the phone rang early on Sunday morning. It was a call from a US hospital, with a message that shook the Jaipur lecturer's world. Her son, Nikhil, who studied in the United States, was in the hospital, she was told. He had been rescued from a lake hit by Hurricane Harvey in Texas on Saturday but was in a critical condition. Bhatia left for the US as soon as she could. But he did not survive. Nikhil's cousin, Kushal Bhatia, told news agency PTI. As the news of his death, a gloom shrouded their house in the Mansarovar area, where the senior lecturer in a city government-run college lived alone. (Details on page 5)

GORAKHPUR: A total of 290 children have died in the Baba Raghav Das Medical College here in the month of August, of whom 213 died in the neo-natal ICU and 77 in the encephalitis ward, principal P.K. Singh said. There have been 1,250 deaths since January this year at the hospital, especially in encephalitis, infant and children's wards, he said. Giving a breakdown of the casualties at the medical college, Singh said 57 children died on August 27 and 28, of which 26 died in the neo-natal ICU (NICU) and 11 in encephalitis ward.

Pak creating hurdles in bringing Dawood back to India to face law: Union home secy

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 /-/- Underworld don Dawood Ibrahim is in Pakistan and Islamabad is creating hurdles in getting him back to India to face the law here, Union home secretary Rajiv Mehrisi said today. Mehrisi added that the government was taking all the required action so that the key accused in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts could be brought back to India. "Dawood Ibrahim is in Pakistan. That country has given him shelter. That country is also putting hurdles in bringing him back to India to face the law," Mehrisi further said. "The attitude of Pakistan was not in conformity with international law and it was working against India in Ibrahim's case. What further action is required, we are taking. We will get him. The



the attitude of the Pakistan government is not in conformity with the international law. Pakistan is working against India. The legal process is on. We will get him at an opportune time — Rajiv Mehrisi

process is on. But the attitude of the Pakistan government is not in conformity with the international law. Pakistan is working against India. The legal process is on. We will get him at an opportune time," he told news agency PTI. Ibrahim is the main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts case in Mumbai in which around 260 people were killed. He fled India post the bombings. In April, Home Minister Rajmoh Singh had stated there was no doubt that Ibrahim was still in Pakistan. During the last 10 years, India has sent several dossiers to Pakistan in this regard, naming Ibrahim as the accused in the Mumbai blasts case. India has for long been advocating an extradition treaty between SAARC countries in order to ensure quick

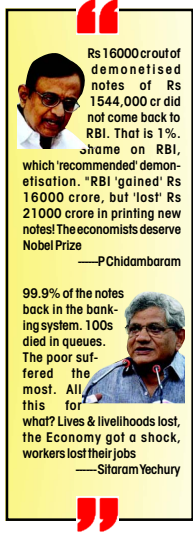
action against those involved in terrorist activities. Meanwhile, earlier this month Dawood was the only 'Indian national' on an updated list of financial sanctions released by the UK, which had also listed 21 aliases for the fugitive underworld don. The mafia boss appears on the UK Treasury department's 'Consolidated List of Financial Sanctions Targets in the UK', with three recorded addresses in Pakistan. His place of birth is recorded as Kher, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, and his nationality is listed as 'Indian' with a recorded Indian passport which was subsequently revoked by the government of India. It then goes on to list a string of Indian and Pakistani passports acquired by him and issued

Oppn attacks RBI, Centre after report on return of demonetised notes

India can't forgive Modi gov't for 'anti-national' act: CPM

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 /-/- Former Union finance minister P Chidambaram today used Reserve Bank of India figures to lash out at it, saying one per cent of the demonetised notes not coming back to the apex bank was a "shame on RBI". Chidambaram also questioned the Narendra Modi government whether its demonetisation decision was designed to convert black money into white. The Congress said government utterly failed and 104 innocent people were lost. "It is the exercise and demanded an apology from the prime minister," 99% notes illegally exchanged. Was demonetisation a scheme designed to convert black money into white," the former finance minister said on Twitter. He also said that the economists behind the demonetisation move "deserve Nobel prize" as the RBI gained Rs 16,000 crore, but lost Rs 21,000 crore in printing new notes. "Rs 16,000 crore of demonetised notes of Rs 1544,000 crore did not come back to RBI. That is 1%. Shame on RBI, which recommended demonetisation. 'RBI' gained Rs 16,000 crore, but lost Rs 21,000 crore in printing new notes. The economists deserve Nobel Prize," he said in a series of tweets. All but 1.4 per cent of the old Rs 1,000 notes have come back into the banking system post demonetisation, the RBI said in its annual report for 2016-17. Out of 632.6 crore pieces of Rs 1,000 currency

notes in circulation, 8.9 crore have not been returned post the note ban last November, it said. The Union government had on November 8, banned old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes in an attempt to weed out black money in the country. The old notes were allowed to be deposited in banks, with unusual deposits coming under income tax scrutiny. Conscience of RBI, but also credibility of India abroad. PM should apologise to the nation," he said in a series of tweets. He also said, "Re-wind: Modi's obfuscation exposed once again. On Ind. Day, PM claimed to have unearthed Rs 3 Lakh crore black money post demonetisation." The CPM today launched a stinging attack on the Centre over demonetisation, saying India can "never forgive" the Modi government for the "anti-national act", which allegedly hit the country's economy. CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said that the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) annual report for 2016-17 today revealed that all but 1.4 per cent of the scrapped Rs 1,000 notes have returned to the banking system. "Taking to Twitter, Yechury sought to know the aim of the move, implementation of which allegedly saw 100 deaths even as the poor 'suffered the most' because of it. He also reiterated that demonetisation's stated objectives of combating corruption, black money, counterfeit currency and terrorism have all "fallen flat". "99.9% of notes back in the banking system, 100s died in queues. The poor suffered the most. All this for what? 'Lives & livelihoods lost, the Economy got a shock, workers lost their jobs. India can never forgive Modi gov't for this anti-national act," Yechury tweeted.



Rs 16,000 crore of demonetised notes of Rs 1544,000 crore did not come back to RBI. That is 1%. Shame on RBI, which recommended demonetisation. 'RBI' gained Rs 16,000 crore, but lost Rs 21,000 crore in printing new notes! The economists deserve Nobel Prize — P Chidambaram

Hill parties divided on continuing shutdown

DARJEELING, AUG 30 /-/- Sharp differences have emerged among various hill parties and the GJM on whether to continue the shutdown in the hills on the 77th day today over the demand for a separate Gorkhaland state. West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee held talks with political parties of the Darjeeling hills at the state secretariat in Kolkata on Tuesday and requested them to withdraw the indefinite shutdown. But the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, which is spearheading the shutdown, had said a decision would be taken at the party's central committee meeting after discussion in the Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC). On Tuesday night, GJM supreme Bimal Gurung had said in an audio message that there is no question of withdrawing the shutdown until and unless talks begin on the issue of a separate state. "There is no question of calling off the shutdown until and unless the state government begins dialogue on the one point agenda of Gorkhaland. So many people have died. We have some duties and responsibilities towards the people

then the hill parties should have walked out. We will inform about our stand after discussing the matter in our central committee," he had said. A senior member of GMCC told news agency PTI today on condition of anonymity that members of GMCC are divided on whether to withdraw the shutdown as many hill parties feel that the two- and-half-month-long shutdown has not borne any fruit. "What use is the shutdown when various parts of the hills during the day demanding restoration of Internet services, which remain suspended in the hills since June 18 and an immediate withdrawal of police forces from Darjeeling. Some political party activists dressed in traditional Nepali attire also took out rallies and raised slogans in support of Gorkhaland. GJM activists and NGOs were seen distributing food among the local people like other days as food supply has been severely hit by the prolonged shutdown.

1 arrested for blast outside Kalimpong PS

DARJEELING, AUG 30 /-/- One person was arrested today for his alleged involvement in the August 19 bomb blast outside the Kalimpong police station killing a civic volunteer and injuring two others. "We have arrested one person from the hills today in the early morning. He was involved in the blast outside Kalimpong police station," a senior police official said. GJM chief Bimal Gurung and a few other GJM leaders were booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) following the grenade blast. An indefinite shutdown is on in the hills since June 15 over the demand of a separate state of Gorkhaland.

SC to hear a batch of pleas on Aadhaar matter in Nov

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 /-/- The Supreme Court today said it would hear a batch of petitions on Aadhaar-related matters in November after the Centre informed that it will extend the deadline to furnish Aadhaar to avail benefits of social welfare schemes. A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said there was no urgency to hear the matter after Attorney General K.K. Venugopal told the bench that the Centre will extend the September 30th deadline. Senior advocate Shivam Divan, representing various petitioners, mentioned the matter before the bench, also comprising Justices Amitava Roy and A.M. Khanwilkar and sought early hearing on the batch of petitions which have also challenged the Centre's move to make Aadhaar mandatory for availing benefits of various social welfare schemes. When Divan referred to the deadline of September 30, Venugopal said, "We (Centre) will extend it to December 31." "The urgency is not there. It will be listed in the first week of November," the bench said. A three-judge bench had on July 7 said that all issues arising out of Aadhaar should finally be decided by a larger bench. Later on July 12, the apex court said that its five-judge Constitution Bench will hear matters relating to Aadhaar, including the aspect of right to privacy. The five-judge bench on July 18 had constituted a three-judge bench to decide on right to privacy. A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the apex court had on August 24, declared the Right to Privacy as a Fundamental right saying it is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution.

Parents agitate against fee hike in private city school

KOLKATA, AUG 30 /-/- Guardians of students of B D Memorial School at Narendrapur in the southern extreme of the city agitated since yesterday over an alleged steep fee hike despite promise by the school authorities not to do so. A section of the guardians blocked traffic on the main road in front of the school demanding rollback of the hike. They had also similarly demonstrated on Tuesday, the police said. The demonstrators were later persuaded to withdraw the blockade following talks with the school administration, the police said.

The father of a student of class eight in the CBSE-affiliated B D Memorial School, said, "The authorities suddenly asked for additional payment of Rs 18,000 as development fee for September in the Secondary section." Principal B Choudhury said the parents had been informed about the fee hike beforehand and the hike was meant to better facilities. The hike consisted of tuition fees, expenses for multimedia and others to provide students quality education and the parents had been informed beforehand about the hike. However, the school authorities will sit with the guardians to discuss the matter soon, the principal said. The institution is one of the three B D Memorial branches in the city.