

ECHO WORLD



Bollywood actor Manisha Koirala during the social cause campaign 'My Hair for Cancer' organised by Hair care brand Richfeel and Nargis Dutt Foundation in Mumbai on Tuesday night.

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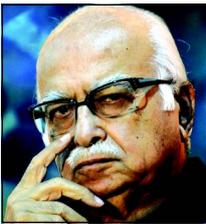
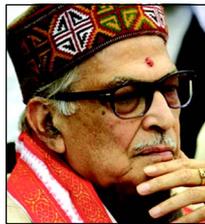
Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at Lord Jagannath Temple, in Puri on Wednesday.

Didi visits Jagannath Temple, calls for unity of regional parties

PURI, APRIL 19 /- West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee today visited the famous Jagannath Temple in Puri and performed arati, where she was surrounded by a team of servants. Mamata entered the shrine a day after one of the servants of the temple had objected to her visit over her support for consumption of beef. However, today the West Bengal chief minister was offered a guided tour of the temple compound by the priests of the temple. However, an arrangement was waiting for her in the form of 'go back' slogan by local BJP workers. Earlier today, Mamata Banerjee said all regional parties must work together for better federalism even as she accused the BJP of indulging in 'divisive' politics to defame Hindutva. "Our effort will be to ensure that all regional parties work together for better federalism in the country. They should be strong," Mamata, also the president of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC) told reporters at Puri. Mamata, who is on a three-day visit to Odisha since last night, came down heavily on the BJP and accused it of indulging in divisive politics. "The BJP wanted to divide the nation in the name of religion, region and caste. They pit Hindus against Muslims, Christians against Hindus, Odias against Bengalis, Biharis against Bengalis, and so on... This is not Hindutva," she alleged. Claiming that she was a real Hindu who believes in taking everyone together, the West Bengal chief minister said the BJP's attitude towards others was not acceptable. "According to them (BJP) the Odisha government is bad, the Bengal government is bad, the Bihar government is bad and all non-BJP state governments are bad. How are you good if you go on dubbing others bad," she said. Mamata claimed that Hindutva was not something practised by the BJP and dubbed the BJP members as "black sheep". "I'm a Hindu but not the one who defames religion. While the Hindu beliefs talk about the ideology of moving forward and taking everyone along, the saffron party is acting against the ideology and defaming Hindutva," she added. The TMC supreme today decided to field party candidates in the 2018 Odisha urban local bodies elections. TMC state president Arya Kumar Gyanendra said this after Banerjee met the party's state leaders in Puri. "We have been instructed to create a field for the next urban polls and strongly oppose BJP everywhere in the state," Gyanendra told newsmen after the meeting.

Advani, Bharti, Joshi to face trial in Babri demolition case

UP BJP to move trial court, Cong wants guilty to be punished



NEW DELHI, APRIL 19 /- Senior BJP leaders L. K. Advani, Murlidhar Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharti will face trial in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case as the Supreme Court today allowed the CBI plea and restored criminal conspiracy charges against them.

The apex court also clubbed the trial in the matter pending against the leaders and 'karsevaks' and said the proceedings should be completed in two years. "We have allowed the CBI appeal against the Allahabad High Court judgement with certain directions," a bench comprising Justices P. C. Ghose and R. F. Nariman said. The Supreme Court, however, noted that Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh enjoys constitutional immunity and can be tried only after he ceases to hold the office. Kalyan Singh was the chief minister of UP in 1992.

The court also gave significant directions including that separate trials be conducted in trial courts in Raebareilly and Lucknow will be

clubbed and conducted in the capital of Uttar Pradesh only. It also said that the trial judge of Lucknow "shall not be transferred" till conclusion and delivery of judgement in the sensational case. The apex court further said that no party shall be granted adjournment without the sessions judge being satisfied of the reasons for it and conduct day-to-day trial which should be concluded within two years. It also directed probe agency CBI to ensure that prosecution witnesses appear on each and every date for recording of evidence in the case and the trial court should start the proceedings within four weeks from today. It, however, clarified that there would be no de novo (fresh) trial in the matter. Unfazed by the apex court order that she be tried for "conspiracy" in the case, Union minister Bharti today said she is ready to sacrifice her life for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya. "Grand Ram temple in Ayodhya is my dream. Ready to go to prison or be hanged for India Raebareilly and Lucknow will be

leader told newsmen here. Putting up a brave face, the Uttar Pradesh unit of the BJP today said it has full faith in the judiciary after the apex court allowed the CBI plea. "We will go to the trial court. This does not make us convicts," state BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi told news agency PTI here hours after the Supreme Court restored the criminal conspiracy charges against the senior BJP leaders. The Congress today said the law of the land should prevail in the Masjid demolition case and the guilty should be punished. In an initial reaction to the Supreme Court order restoring criminal conspiracy charge against top BJP leaders including L. K. Advani, M. M. Joshi and Uma Bharti, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "The Supreme Court has spoken. Let law of the land take its own course without fear or favour. Let justice be done and guilty punished." "Law of the land is equal for everyone irrespective of status, caste, creed, religion or region," Surjewala said. (PTI)

Mallya likely to challenge extradition

LONDON, APRIL 19 /- Indian tycoon Vijay Mallya, who has been declared a proclaimed offender, is likely to challenge his extradition to India from the UK on the grounds that the charges against him are politically motivated, a legal expert said today. The 61-year-old liquor baron, who has been living in self-imposed exile in Britain since last year, was arrested by Scotland Yard yesterday on fraud allegations, triggering an official extradition process in the British courts. Mallya was released on conditional bail a few hours later after providing a bail bond worth 650,000 pounds



and assuring the court of abiding by all conditions associated with extradition proceedings, such as the surrender of his passport and a ban on him possessing any travel documents.

The UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will now argue the case on behalf of the Indian authorities. "The Crown Prosecution Service, acting on behalf of the Indian authorities, will need to demonstrate a prima facie case i.e. produce some evidence to show that the criminal charges against Mallya, for which his extradition is sought, are justified," said Javinder Nakhwal, partner at Peters and Walters Solicitors LLP and member of the UK's Extradition Lawyers Association. (PTI)

Narad scam

BJP's political vendetta; will fight it out politically, legally, says Mamata

Accused leaders decide to cooperate with CBI, not to move court

TANMAY CHAKRABORTY

KOLKATA, APRIL 19 /- Amid jitters of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probing Narada sting is gearing up to tighten the screws on the tainted leaders of the Trinamool Congress who purportedly were shown as taking bribes in the sting footage by Narada CEO Mathew Samuel, the party supremo Mamata Banerjee in her bid to keep her party's morale high reiterated that the charges against her party's leaders were the handwork of the BJP which is engaged in political vendetta against the TMC to make a dent in the state. They will be dealt with politically and legally. "The charges against the leaders of the party are politically motivated and we will fight it out politically and legally," Mamata said in response to queries from newsmen in Bhubaneswar. Countering the Opposition charge of her party leaders' alleged complicity in the Saradha and Narada scam, chief minister said, "The cases have its roots since 80s when the Left was in power. We came to power only in 2011. So how does it possible that the Trinamool Congress was the only party involved in the scam," she wondered. Meanwhile, earlier in the city today the accused 12 leaders, against whom the CBI had lodged an FIR, held a meeting chaired by party MP and All India Trinamool vice-president Mukul Roy today to discuss the possible steps to be taken to defend themselves in the event of CBI grill them. According to the sources close to the party several leaders who are feeling the heat from the alleged payoff were of the opinion to go slow and adopt the wait and watch policy instead of moving the court to challenge the CBI FIRs. With the party chief having advised the party leaders to stay united the party brass decided to walk tightrope on approaching the court to challenge the FIRs. They would instead cooperate with the Central agency when asked to appear before it.

Baby dies, parents allege negligence by Apollo Gleneagles

Angry relatives vandalise hospital, management forms panel to probe case



Grief-stricken parents of baby Kuheli Chakraborty leaving the hospital compound (R) Kuheli — Arjita Ganguly

KOLKATA, APRIL 19 /- With the family of a baby, who died today, alleging medical negligence by Apollo Gleneagles West Bengal health department has sought the treatment report from it. "We have asked for a preliminary report regarding the treatment of the baby from the hospital being conducted in trial courts," director of health services Biswaranjan Satpathy told news agency today. Baby Kuheli Chakraborty, who was transferred to Apollo Gleneagles Hospital on Saturday last, died this morning and her family members alleged that medical negligence on the part of the hospital was responsible for it. Relatives of the family vandalised the hospital which resulted in damage to glass doors. "Our baby was brought here for colonoscopy... She was not ill. But the doctors

have murdered her. We want justice," Shalu Chakraborty, mother of the deceased baby said. The baby's family lodged a complaint at the Phoolbagh police station against three doctors and the hospital authorities alleging medical negligence, a senior officer of Kolkata Police said. "As per the complaint of the family members a case has been initiated under IPC Section 304A (causing death by negligence)," he said. The newly set-up West Bengal Clinical Establishment Regulatory Commission (WBECRC) will take up the matter if the baby's family lodge a complaint with it, Satpathy said. "If the family members of the baby lodge a complaint to the Commission it will take up the matter," he said. Describing the death of the baby as "extremely unfortunate", Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals today said that a committee will probe into the incident. (PTI)

Sonu responds to fatwa by shaving off his head after tweet row

MUMBAI, APRIL 19 /- Shave off his head, said a cleric, enraged by Sonu Nigam's tweet on loud sermons. So the Bollywood playback singer did just that at a press conference he had himself tonsured by a celebrity hairstylist. The singer had called the press to talk about his tweets on Monday which led to an online furore and a fatwa being issued against him by the Kolkata-based cleric, Syed Sha Atef Ali Al Quaderi. Before hairstylist Aalim Hakim got into the act, Nigam stressed that his tweets were against the use of loudspeakers in morning sermons and not aimed at any particular religion. "I only spoke against the use of loudspeakers. Everybody has a right to his opinion. I have the right to have an opinion and it should not be misconstrued. Loudspeakers are not a necessity; they are not a part of any religion."



Nigam said, his intention, Sonu pointed out, was not to hurt anybody's sentiments. "If I have done anything wrong, please forgive me. My intention was just to talk on a social topic and not a religious topic," he added. The singer said it was wrong to focus on one particular tweet where he described the broadcasting of sermons on loudspeakers as 'gundagardi' (hooliganism). "People took one tweet of mine, where I mentioned 'gundagardi' and ignored other tweets where I also talked about temples and gurudwaras," he said. Nigam said if anyone thought him a person who considered the singer, Mohammed Rafi, as his father, and whose guru was Ustad Gulam Mustafa Khan - an anti-Muslim, then "it is not my problem, but theirs." People these days, he said, were either 'left wingers or right wingers, so a 'secular' person like him was in a minority. (PTI)