



Police personnel using umbrella to protect themselves from monsoon rain while maintaining traffic, in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday

ECHO WORLD

MHA sets up panel to look into 'racial discrimination' faced by people of N-E

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7 /-/- The Union government has set up a three-member committee for monitoring and redressal of grievances relating to the alleged racial discrimination faced by the people from the North-Eastern (N-E) region residing in different parts of the country. According to an order issued by the ministry of home affairs, the committee comprises Satyendra Garg, joint secretary (N-E) in the ministry, Alana Golmei, secretary, N-E Support Centre, New Delhi and Mizum Nyudu, assistant professor, Law Faculty, Delhi University. The panel has been constituted for monitoring and redressal of issues/grievances relating to the racial discrimination faced by the northeastern people residing in different parts of the country, the order said. Any person or group of persons or communities hailing from the North-east who claim to be victims or have faced any act of racial abuse, racial atrocities, racial violence, racial discrimination in any part of the country, can send their complaints, suggestions or grievances at designated e-mail: ne.complaints@mha.gov.in. The committee has been established following an order of the Supreme Court after a writ petition was filed in the wake of a series of attacks on people from the Northeast, including the death of a student from Arunachal Pradesh, Nido Tania, in Delhi. In its order, the apex court had said the panel would give directions for ensuring strict action in incidents of racial discrimination, racial atrocities and racial violence, and suggest remedial measures to curb such hate and racial crimes.

AT A GLANCE

WB Gov Tripathi given dual charge of Tripura

NEW DELHI: West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi was today given the additional charge of Tripura, according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President of India is pleased to appoint Keshari Nath Tripathi to discharge the functions of the Governor of Tripura in addition to his own duties, during the absence on leave of Tathagata Roy, Governor of Tripura, it said, without stating reasons for his leave.

Navy brings back 38 Indians from Yemen

NEW DELHI: Thirty-eight Indians were today brought back home by the Indian Navy, four days after they were rescued from the cyclone-hit Socotra Island in Yemen. Indian naval ship INS Sunayna, carrying the rescued Indians, entered the Port of Paradip in Odisha on Sunday after a cyclone hit the area and INS Sunayna on Sunday had evacuated them in an operation christened 'Nistar'.

Pak SC allows Musharraf to file nomination papers

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Supreme Court today ruled that former military dictator General Pervez Musharraf, disqualified for life, can conditionally file his nomination papers to contest the general elections on July 25. A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar, also directed the 74-year-old Musharraf, currently based in Dubai, to appear before the court on June 13.

Secularism is the only religion of India, Pranab declares at RSS pulpit



Former President Pranab Mukherjee with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat at the closing ceremony of 'Tritiya Varsha Sangh Shiksha Varg' in Nagpur on Thursday



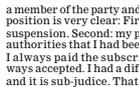
Every day we see increased violence around us. This violence is a form of darkness. Our motherland is asking for peace, harmony, happiness. We need to move from anger and violence to peace and harmony

Kunal bangs on TMC door, party still undecided

SABYASACHI BANDOPADHYAY

KOLKATA, JUNE 7 /-/- The recent incident of former MP Kunal Ghosh's organising the re-induction of independent Zilla Parishad member of Cooch Behar Krishna Kanta Burman into the Trinamool Congress (TMC) is considered to be another desperate bid of the suspended leader to make a come-back to the party.

Burman, who was the upadhyaksha of the zilla parishad but was denied ticket at the last panchayat elections by the party had contested as an independent and won. It was Ghosh who cajoled Burman, once his close aide, to rejoin the party and on June 3 took him to the house of party secretary general Partha Chatterjee to do the formalities. Earlier while he met chief minister Mamata Banerjee in Delhi on March 27 this year, he also met Partha Chatterjee at his house a month back. Political circles are thus drawing one conclusion from the chain of events: Ghosh's rejoining the party is just a matter of time. Ghosh, however, while denying that he was ever suspended by the party said he had always been a member of the party and he would continue to be so. "My position is very clear: First, I never received any letter for suspension. Second, my party also never told Rajya Sabha authorities that I had been punished in such a way. Third, I always paid the subscription of my party and it was always accepted. I had a difference of opinion with the party and it is sub-judice. That has got nothing to do with membership of the party," Ghosh told The Echo of India. And so far as his allegation against chief minister Mamata Banerjee that probe should be made against her to know her involvement in the scam, is concerned, Ghosh said he did not want to raise the issue right now. "I have told you, it's sub-judice, so I won't make any comment on this," Ghosh further said. Ghosh, once a favourite of chief minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, was arrested on November 28, 2013 for his alleged involvement in the Sharada scam and was released on bail on October 6, 2016. Since his release he had been trying desperately to get back to the party. The Echo of India, however, did not get any response from TMC on their stand regarding Ghosh. While party spokesperson Derek O'Brien said he was unable to make any comment as he was on leave, Partha Chatterjee did neither take the call nor did he reply to this reporter's text message. However sources in the party said TMC has not yet taken a call on his re-induction. "Didi has softened her stance about him, there is no doubt about it. And it seems his reinduction is just a matter of time. But we believe Didi has not yet taken any final call," a source said.



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Home Minister Rajnath Singh attend a news conference in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JUNE 7 /-/- The Union government has decided to withdraw cases against those 'misled into stone pelting' as it was concerned about the future of Jammu and Kashmir's youth, Union home minister Rajnath Singh said today. Singh, who arrived at the state's summer capital today, is on a two-day visit to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. "We believe that children anywhere are the same. We understand that some youth were misled into stone pelting... Children can make mistakes... That is why we decided to withdraw the cases against those children who were involved in stone pelting," he said. The Union home ministry late last year had ordered to withdraw cases against youths involved in stone pelting. Singh appealed to the youth not to tread the path of destruction and said the Centre and the state government had initiated several schemes to help them secure their future. "I want to appeal to the youth that they should take

KOLKATA, JUNE 7 /-/- Former President Pranab Mukherjee whose visit to the RSS headquarters triggered a shock across the country, particularly among Congressmen, today used the platform of the rightist organisation to extol the virtues of tolerance and pluralism and emphasised the fact that secularism was the only religion of India. "The soul of India resides in pluralism, tolerance and inclusiveness... for us the only religion is secularism. Nationalism is not one religion, one language, one caste or one creed, we are a huge country with 1.3 billion people yet we live under one system, one flag, one constitution and one identity, that is Bharatiyatva," Mukherjee said. Earlier during his address Sarsanghachalak Mohan Bhagwat welcomed the former President saying he had accepted the RSS invite with grace. Dwelling elaborately on the development of nationalism in India the former President of India who had been a Congressman for more than 60 years said India derived its strength from tolerance. "Diversity in language and culture is what makes India special. We respect our pluralism. We celebrate our diversity. Nation is defined as a large group of people sharing same language, heritage. Nationalism is defined as identifying oneself with one's own nation. Patriotism is defined as devotion to one's own country. Our national identity has emerged after a long process of confluence and

EOI CORRESPONDENT

assimilation, the multiple cultures and faiths makes special and tolerant," Mukherjee said. He also said doors of India had always been open for people from different parts of the world. "Intolerance will only dilute our national identity. Any attempt to define our nation through religion, dogma or intolerance will only fade our existence: As Gandhi ji explained, Indian nationalism was not exclusive or destructive, we indulge in hatred and discrimination, then there's threat to our identity. From our Constitution flows our tolerance to peace and harmony. Mother India is asking for peace, harmony, happiness. We need to move from anger and intolerance to peace and harmony," Mukherjee said. Earlier Bhagwat said all Indians were one. "Our ancestors were the same, no one is enemy. And Hinduism is the driving force to unite our society." The RSS chief said. Earlier today the former President and the Congress veteran Pranab Mukherjee today described Keshav Baliram Hedgewar as a "great son of Mother India" as he visited the birthplace of the RSS founding Sarsanghachalak. "Today I came here to pay my respect and homage to a great son of Mother India," Mukherjee wrote in a visi-

tor's book at Hedgewar's birthplace ahead of his much-anticipated speech at the RSS headquarters here. The Congress today said images of former President Pranab Mukherjee at the RSS headquarters had anguished millions of party workers and those who believe in pluralism and diversity of the Indian republic. Congress senior spokesperson Anand Sharma took to Twitter to express his anguish after images of Mukherjee attending a function at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur appeared on television. "The images of Pranab at the RSS Headquarter and ideologue at RSS Headquarters have anguished millions of Congress workers and all those who believed in pluralism, diversity and the foundational values of the Indian Republic," Sharma said. Senior Congress leader Prabhakar Patel expressed his disapproval at the former President visiting the RSS headquarters in Nagpur and said he did not expect this from him. Patel voiced his view on Twitter: "I did not expect this from Pranab" and Patel said in his one line tweet, Congress leader and Mukherjee's daughter Sharmista Mukherjee had on Wednesday said her father was giving the BJP and the Sangh a media report said false stories. His "speech will be forgotten" but the "visuals will remain", she said on Twitter. She also expressed her anger that the former president would realise how the BJP's "dirty tricks department" works and warned him of the consequences of attending such a meet.

Govt concerned about future of youth in Valley: Rajnath

Centre ready to hold talks with right-minded people, says minister

SRINAGAR, JUNE 7 /-/- The Union government has decided to withdraw cases against those 'misled into stone pelting' as it was concerned about the future of Jammu and Kashmir's youth, Union home minister Rajnath Singh said today. Singh, who arrived at the state's summer capital today, is on a two-day visit to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. "We believe that children anywhere are the same. We understand that some youth were misled into stone pelting... Children can make mistakes... That is why we decided to withdraw the cases against those children who were involved in stone pelting," he said. The Union home ministry late last year had ordered to withdraw cases against youths involved in stone pelting. Singh appealed to the youth not to tread the path of destruction and said the Centre and the state government had initiated several schemes to help them secure their future. "I want to appeal to the youth that they should take

treme love in the heart of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Jammu and Kashmir. "It is our responsibility to provide a secure future to the youth of the state and it can be done with the power of education and miracle of sports," Singh said. "With the help of the Jammu and Kashmir government, we will change the face and destiny of the state," the minister stated. Singh felicitated several sports person from the state, including Parvez Rasool, Mehrajuddin, Rajinder Singh, Manzoor Dar and Tajammul Islam. He also said that the Union government is ready to hold talks with all "right-minded" people in Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan, but the neighbouring country should stop terror activities emanating from its soil. Union home minister Rajnath Singh said today. Singh said if Pakistan is unable to stop terrorism from its soil on its own, it should take India's help.



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Home Minister Rajnath Singh attend a news conference in Srinagar —Reuters

Sushma undertakes train journey to mark Mahatma's eviction from 'whites-only' compartment

Pietermaritzburg, June 7 /-/- External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj today undertook a train journey from Pietermaritzburg, a railway station in South Africa where a young Mahatma Gandhi was thrown out of a "whites-only" compartment 125 years ago, an incident that acted as a catalyst for him to practice Satyagraha. Swaraj, who is in South Africa on a five-day visit, also inaugurated the two-sided bust of Gandhi, called the "Birth of Satyagraha". The bust "acts as a constant reminder to all of mankind, of the momentous moral journey that young Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi undertook," ministry of external affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted. "To practice this belief of

"Vasudeva kudumbakam" (the world is one family) we need to keep reminding us that Truth and Non-violence is the way," said Swaraj in her address at the event. His journey between Pietermaritzburg and Pietermaritzburg acted as a catalyst for Mahatma Gandhi to practise satyagraha, Kumar said. "125th anniversary of the Pietermaritzburg incident, 100th Birth Centenary of Madiba (Nelson Mandela) and 25 years of the diplomatic relations. It couldn't get bigger," Kumar tweeted. On the night of June 7, 1893, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a young lawyer, was thrown off the train's first class compartment at Pietermaritzburg station for refusing to give up his seat.



External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj waves from the train

Dubai-based Indian hoes job for threatening to kill Kerala CM

Dubai, June 7 /-/- An Indian man in Dubai was sacked from his job after he threatened to kill Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan in a Facebook video which went viral on social media, a media report said today. Krishnakumar S Nair, a former Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) supporter who worked as a senior supervisor at an Abu Dhabi-based construction company, said in the nearly four-minute long video that he was planning to travel to Kerala to carry out the act. "I am a former RSS worker. I am going to be active again. I am resigning my job here and returning to Kerala. I am staying in Dubai. I will be in Kerala for two-three days with an aim to kill," Nair said. "It is time to sharpen old knives. I am least bothered how my life is going to end. If I decide to kill a person then we need to finish the job," the Khaleej Times reported. Nair was sacked with immediate effect on Wednesday for the provoking Facebook post. He will be returning to Kerala soon after all formalities are over, the report said. Nair said the reason behind his decision to kill the chief minister was the apathy shown by the Kerala Police towards a former television artiste who had recently made derogatory remarks against a state BJP woman leader. "I have lost my job. I am ready to face any action. I remain an RSS supporter. I seek forgiveness from Pinarayi Vijayan and all politicians," Nair later apologised, saying the video recording was done when he was drunk. (PTT)