

« NEWS IN BRIEF »

Ambani offers prayers at Rameswaram temple

RAMESWARAM (TN): Billionaire industrialist Mukesh Ambani on Tuesday visited the Sri Ramanathaswamy temple here and offered prayers ahead of his daughter's wedding scheduled next month. He was accompanied by his son, Anand and was accorded a welcome by the executive officer Mangayarkarasi. After offering prayers, Ambani placed the wedding invitation card of his daughter Isha at the feet of the presiding deity.

3 staff of Children's home held for 'sexual abuse'

TIRUVANNAMALAI (TN): Three employees of a children's home, including its director have been arrested in the district on complaints of 'sexual abuse' of some girl inmates, police said Tuesday. As many as 47 children aged between 6 and 19 were staying at the private home, which was sealed Sunday following a surprise inspection carried out by the district authorities. The District Collector Kandhasamy visited the home and ordered the inmates to be shifted to another shelter.

Abandoned Pakistani boat off Gujarat coast seized

BHUJ (GUJ): An abandoned Pakistani boat was seized by the Border Security Force (BSF) near Sir Creek area off the Gujarat coast in the Arabian sea, an official said Tuesday. The fishing boat was found abandoned in the Sir Creek estuary along the Indo-Pakistan border near Kutch off the Gujarat coast Monday night by a BSF patrolling team, he said. No fisherman was found in the boat, the official said.

Rehana Fathima arrested

KOCHI: Activist Rehana Fathima, who had attempted to enter the Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala when it opened for monthly puja last month, was arrested Tuesday for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through her Facebook posts, police said. Fathima, 32, was arrested from office in Palarivattom in Kochi, a police officer said. The activist was booked by police on a complaint alleging that some of her Facebook posts hurt religious sentiments.

Doctors unsure if Hiba will regain complete sight

SRINAGAR: 18-month-old Hiba Nisar, the youngest pellet victim in Kashmir, has been discharged from hospital after surgery on her right eye but doctors are not sure if her eyesight will be restored completely. Hiba was playing inside her house in Shopian when clashes broke out between protesters and security forces in the wake of an encounter where six militants were killed on Sunday.

Delhi Wanted Sajad Lone, But I Didn't Want to be Dishonest: J&K Governor Sparks Another Row

Malik had abruptly dissolved the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly last week after the PDP staked claim to form a government with the backing of rival NC and the Congress

JAMMU: In remarks that can embarrass the Centre, Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik has said had he looked to Delhi, he would have had to install a government led by Sajad Lone, and history would have remembered him as a "dishonest man".

Malik had abruptly dissolved the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly last week after the PDP staked claim to form a government with the backing of rival NC and the Congress. This was followed by another bid from

the two-member People's Conference led by Lone which claimed the support of the BJP and 18 legislators from other parties.

During a pre-convocation academic conclave of ITM University in Gwalior on Saturday, he said, "Delhi ki taraf dekhta toh muje Lone ki sarkar banana padhti aur mein itihias mein ek bayiman aadmi ke tor pe jata...(Had I looked to Delhi, I would have had to install a government led by Lone, and history would have remembered me as a dishon-



est man)." "Therefore, I ended up the matter. Whosoever wants to scold, can do so now but I am convinced that whatever I did, was right," he said in his address after noted journalist Ravish Kumar had pointed out in his speech about faulty fax machine.

The governor also took a

dig at the Congress, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference and said that if they were so keen on forming the government, they could have come to Jammu a day earlier and met him.

"It was an Eid holiday and this is an auspicious day. Did they expect the governor to stand by the fax machine and wait for their fax," Malik said.

After dissolving the state Assembly, both NC vice president Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Mufti expressed happiness and claimed that this was what they wanted, Malik said.

"I returned at 4 PM from Delhi and I got a briefing from intelligence officials about the situation. I found

it needless to talk to Delhi, because two days ago I had met them all," he added.

The governor said that without seeking any advice or direction or holding any discussion with Delhi, he took the decision of dissolving the assembly. Malik said that as per the state Constitution he did not have to take permission from the president or Parliament.

On remarks of the Bharatiya Janata Party that the NC and the PDP attempted to form a coalition government on the direction of Pakistan, he said that he cannot blame Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah because they were children of Sheikh Abdullah, who "chose India" and were nationalists.

UP: Inmates allege death threats from jail staff, STF

In a separate video, Dixit and his fellow inmates allegedly showed the poor quality of food being offered inside the jail and further claimed that a "parallel canteen" was being run inside the prison premises

LUCKNOW: Some inmates of Raebareli jail in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday alleged getting death threats from senior jail officials and the Special Task Force (STF) officers.

The Additional Director General (Prisons) of Uttar Pradesh Police, however, rebuffed the charges.

The revelation comes a day after six jail officials, including a senior jail superintendent were suspended for failing to check the clandestine entry of liquor and firearms inside the prison.

In a video clip that has gone viral on social media, a prisoner Anshu Dixit

claimed that he along with fellow inmates Sohrab Khan and D S Singh were being threatened by "jail officials and senior STF personnel".

Naming all the officers, Dixit said if he or his fellow inmates were killed, an FIR must be registered against them.

In a separate video, Dixit and his fellow inmates allegedly showed the poor quality of food being offered inside the jail and further claimed that a "parallel canteen" was being run inside the prison premises.

"In the other canteen, besides sweets and also

paratha, cigarettes and other things are available. This facility is availed by a large number of inmates and lakhs of rupees are earned everyday. The money is shared from bottom to the top," the prisoners alleged.

Reacting to the video, ADG (Prisons) Chandra Prakash told PTI, "The videos are old and were shot as the inmates were facing strict action by the prison staff. The allegations (of death threat) are vague. Anyone can make such an allegation. The state government has already taken strict action in the matter."

TRS and Congress playing 'friendly match': Modi

NIZAMABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday accused the TRS and Congress of perpetuating family rule and said the two parties were playing a "friendly match" in Telangana elections.

Reaffirming the BJP's commitment to inclusive growth, Modi, addressing his first election rally in the state, said vote bank politics has harmed development like "termites".

"The chief minister of Telangana and his family thinks they can get away with doing no work like the Congress.... They have adopted the style of the Congress which ruled for 50-52 years without doing



anything. But that cannot happen now," he told an election rally in Nizamabad, as he took the poll battle to caretaker CM K Chandrasekhar Rao's turf.

Nizamabad is represented by Rao's daughter K Kavitha in the Lok Sabha.

Recalling that Rao had served as a minister in the UPA government, Modi

said the TRS chief did his "apprenticeship" under the Congress.

"Congress and TRS are two faces of the same coin. Both parties are competing against each other on who tells more lies.

"TRS and Congress are family-ruled parties playing a friendly match in Telangana polls," he said.

Don't lie for the sake of votes; KCR hits back at PM

MAHABUBNAGAR (Telangana): Hitting back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks that Nizamabad was grappling with shortage of water, electricity and proper roads, caretaker Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao Tuesday asked him "not to lie for the sake of votes".

"How can you say such a lie... You should not lie, being at the responsible post of Prime Minister, for the sake of votes," Rao said addressing an election rally in Mahabubnagar district.

Nizamabad is represented

by Rao's daughter K Kavitha in the Lok Sabha.

"Mr Narendra Modi, there is no power problem in Telangana... Don't lie. I am very sorry to say this. You cannot level false allegations against a chief minister. I am not afraid of anyone. I am not (Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N) Chandrababu Naidu," Rao said, reiterating that there was a need for a "federal front government" at the Centre. Rao said that Telangana was the only state in the country where farmers were supplied power 24x7.

Indian Producer Yuvraaj Parashar Appointed "Omovies Film Festival" President

International acclaimed actor and Producer Yuvraaj Parashar has been appointed president of the Omovies Film Festival in Italy. Yuvraaj has produced a steady output of well-received, often edgy, in 2014 Yuvraaj Parashar's film Dunno Y Na Jaane Kyun got the best film award at the festival and in 2016 Omovies Film Festival awarded him as an actor and film producer, and now this year



festival director Mr. Carlo Cremona and other members decided to make Yuvraaj Parashar as president of the festival.

Yuvraaj Parashar said, "It's like a dream come true and it's a big responsibility. I never thought that I will become president for a film festival, I am so happy and looking forward to attending the festival. And this festival is international, that we care about cinema from all over the world."

Yuvraaj Parashar recently completed his last film shooting Lights, Camera, Murder and web series Love life & Screw Ups Season 02 which is going to release in 2019.