

Business and Politics in Muslim World

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National Summary:

The Bharatiya Janata Party perceives the Ayodhya verdict as a sort of closure of the Ram temple movement it launched in 1989. For years, the party faced allegations from its supporters and voters outside and the Sangh Parivar members within that it had exploited the issue for political benefit and then abandoned the Lord when in power. While ruling out using the issue as a poll plank in Bihar or in Uttar Pradesh or elsewhere, party leaders were of the view that the process of legitimately constructing a Ram temple had begun and would help the BJP recover from the embarrassment of being seen to have abandoned the issue.

Congress General Secretary Rahul Gandhi called upon the youth in Madhya Pradesh to enter politics and expressed hope that a day would come when young leadership would be at the forefront in the state.

Congress leader Mr Rahul Gandhi said there was little difference between the banned outfit Students Islamic Movement of India (Simi) and RSS as both were “fanatical” and held “fundamentalist” views.

As part of efforts to check mushrooming of political parties, the Election Commission has come out with a set of new guidelines and conditions for their registration. Under the new guidelines, a political party seeking registration is required to get an advertisement published in two national and two local dailies giving the name and address of the party and its main office bearers.

The All-India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawerat, umbrella body of Indian Muslim organizations, on Friday described the Allahabad High Court verdict in the Ayodhya title suits as confusing, extra-legal and based on myths and legends. The Muslim community is dissatisfied and shocked by the judgment and is determined to exercise its right of appeal to the Supreme Court with a view to reversing the judicial stand from the mythological to the legal. While the Sunni Central Wakf Board decided to challenge the Allahabad High Court verdict on the Ayodhya title suits in the Supreme Court and asserted no person had been authorised to explore possibilities of an out-of-court settlement.

The Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) said it will prefer an out of court settlement in the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in the light of the recent Allahabad high court judgment.

British banking group HSBC in its recent report indicated that trade confidence in India is soaring and is the highest among the 17 countries surveyed by the bank during July and September this year. India's trade confidence index for the coming six months stood at 140, up from 133 in the first half of 2010. The index is higher than that of China which was 111.

The government said the ongoing Commonwealth Games may add about USD 5 billion

to the Indian economy and create about 2.5 million jobs in the next few years.

The International Monetary Fund has projected the Indian economy will grow by 9.7 per cent in 2010 and 8.4 per cent in the next fiscal, driven by robust industrial production and macro-economic performance.

India and the European Union hope to conclude the free trade agreement well in time for their summit meeting scheduled to be held here in December.

Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh have been shown as "independent entities" by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization which said this was its approach towards "disputed" areas.

Russia and India on Thursday firmed up plans to jointly design, develop and manufacture the fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) and multi-role transport aircraft (MTA). With the preliminary design contract for the advanced stealth FGFA all set to be inked when Russian President Dmitry Medvedev comes to New Delhi in December, it will be the biggest-ever defence project undertaken by India. With each FGFA costing at least \$100 million, and IAF looking to progressively induct 250 to 300 of them from 2017-18 onwards, India's investment could eventually go well past the \$25 billion mark.

Writer-activist Arundhati Roy on Saturday described the Allahabad High Court's judgment on the Ayodhya title suits as a "political statement" rather than a verdict based on evidence and sound legal principles. According to her, the court seemed to have been influenced by an anxiety to maintain the public peace over the vexed issue.

Regional Summary:

Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh has showed disappointed over the Allahabad high court verdict on Ramjanambhoomi and Babri Masjid issue that faith and belief and not law and evidence were given primacy in the judgment. This was not a good sign for the country, for the Constitution and for the judiciary itself, he said.

The ruling Janata Dal (United) in Bihar may well find that its effort at keeping its Muslim voter-base intact may have been ruined by the Ayodhya case verdict. For some time now, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his party have been going the extra mile to ensure that Muslim voters do not gravitate towards the Rashtriya Janata Dal-Lok Jan Shakti Party coalition. The JD(U), and especially Mr. Kumar, tried to show that the party, despite being in partnership with the Bharatiya Janata Party, would not allow the grossly communal element in it to campaign for the election. So much so Mr. Kumar almost risked a break with the BJP when he ruined its Patna national executive meeting a couple of months ago, making loud protests about Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's posters and newspaper advertisements that appeared in the city.

The claims of a wider Left unity to take on the NDA, the RJD-LJP combine and the Congress came a cropper in Bihar with none of the major allies willing to yield in the seat

sharing process. So, the major Left parties -- CPI-ML (Liberation), CPI and CPI-M -- have ignored the interests of five smaller parties like All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) and Revolutionary Socialist party (RSP), both constituents of the ruling Left Front in West Bengal. Besides AIFB and RSP, Socialist Unity Centre of India-Communist (SUCI-C), CPI-ML and Marxist Communist Party of India-United (MCPI-U) have announced to contest in 97 seats to protest the 'big brother attitude' of the three major parties.

Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal came down heavily on the Centre for “discriminating against Punjab”. Reacting to conditions listed by the Centre against the debt pay-off, he said the Centre should immediately withdraw these conditions.

Karnataka Governor HR Bhardwaj asked chief minister Mr BS Yeddyurappa to prove majority on the floor of the State Assembly by 12 October after 19 lawmakers in a joint letter to him withdrew their support to the first Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in southern India. Of the 19 legislators, 14 belong to Yeddyurappa's ruling party and five are Independents who extended support to it as it fell short of majority to form the government after the May 2008 elections to the 225-member state legislative Assembly.

National Report

Politics:

We now have answer for critics of Ram temple plank, says BJP

For the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Ayodhya verdict has come as a sort of closure of the Ram temple movement it launched in 1989. For years, the party faced allegations from its supporters and voters outside and the sangh parivar members within that it had exploited Ram politically and then abandoned the Lord when in power. A senior party leader on Friday said: “For years, we were asked repeatedly what had happened to our Ram temple plank and the movement that we began in 1989. We had no answer. But now, after the verdict, we have the answer. If a Ram temple does come up in Ayodhya, we can say our movement has succeeded. It has delivered ...” While ruling out using the issue as a poll plank in Bihar or in Uttar Pradesh or elsewhere, party leaders were of the view that the process of legitimately constructing a Ram temple had begun and would help the BJP recover from the embarrassment of being seen to have abandoned the issue. It was claimed the “BJP never used Ram temple as a poll plank. For us, it was a core national issue ...,” although in the 1991 Lok Sabha poll campaign this was the BJP's main agenda. In fact, in Bihar the verdict may have coincidentally helped to narrow down the differences between the BJP and its alliance partner, the Janata Dal (United), on the Ram temple at a time when the poll process in the State has begun and notifications have been issued for the first few phases of polls. “We were always for a Ram temple [at the disputed site] while the JD(U) favoured resolution through a verdict. Now a verdict has come, which we have welcomed,” said a senior party leader, indicating that there was no room left for any misunderstanding between the two parties on this issue. The BJP view was that “politically” a sort of framework for some kind of resolution of the conflict has been opened up by the verdict. Its statement after the verdict talked about the opening of a “new chapter for national integration,” meaning a fresh start for Hindu-Muslim relations. (The Hindu)

Rahul calls upon youth to enter politics

Congress General Secretary Rahul Gandhi on Monday called upon the youth in Madhya Pradesh to enter politics and expressed hope that a day would come when young leadership would be at the forefront in the state. Addressing a training camp of Youth Congress here, Gandhi said the party was encouraging youth and pointed out that the Dr Manmohan Singh-government has got a number of young ministers in it. He said a day will come when young leadership would be at the forefront in Madhya Pradesh. On the membership drive conducted by the youth wing of the party, he said the drive was a big success in Tamil Nadu as the organisation enrolled nearly 16,000 members in a state where the party had been reduced to almost nothing. Taking a dig at the BJP, Rahul said that instead of supporting the Congress in its developmental schemes, the party is becoming an obstruction and issuing senseless statements. (The Indian Express)

Now, BJP and Cong take fight to cyberspace

The BJP has slapped a legal notice on the Congress after it discovered that a portal — having a name very similar to its own domain — was diverting users to the AICC website. BJP spokesperson Nirmala Sitharaman, while accusing the ruling party of “petty, pick-pocket like theft” of its online identity, said a website called www.bjp.com was redirecting users to the Congress’s official website, www.congress.org.in. The BJP’s official website is www.bjp.org. “We tried to find out the site’s owner but it was masked. Some telephone numbers of the US are put up on the website, but nobody could be contacted as they were routed to answering machines,” she said. Sitharaman said the domain name of www.bjp.com was found to be registered in the name of one Bharat Journals and Publications in the US. “It is a very funny and an odd thing. If Bharat Journals and Publications was to run the www.bjp.com website, it should do it openly and in a transparent way. Why are they then linking the website to the Congress’s? It is clearly an attempt to steal BJP’s identity,” she said. If one types out www.bjp.com in the address bar of the internet browser, a single-page containing disparate, unrelated links opens. The page isn’t automatically routed to the Congress website. When www.bjp.com is typed in a search engine, the top result throws up the domain name of www.bjp.com but is named All India Congress Committee (AICC). The link also diverts users to the Congress’s official website. Interestingly, a search for Bharat Journals and Publications directly throws up www.congress.org.in as its first result. “Such tactics on behalf of the Congress is tantamount to petty theft like pick-pocketing, an attempt to use someone else’s identity for petty gains,” Sitharaman said. The Congress, on the other hand, scoffed at the allegations and termed it as a publicity stunt by the BJP. Head of AICC’s legal department, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, denied having received any such legal notice. “If and when it comes, we will give a befitting reply to such sensationalisation and distortion. It is laughable to suggest that the Congress should seek to copy the BJP’s website. Given the electorate’s rejection of the BJP and our connectivity and popularity in India, most people would believe it should be the other way round,” he said. Sitharaman said the notice had been sent on September 26 and had reached the Congress office the next day. But so far there has been no reply, she said. (The Indian Express)

Simi and RSS much alike, says Rahul Gandhi

In remarks that may trigger a controversy, Congress leader Mr Rahul Gandhi said there was little difference between the banned outfit Students Islamic Movement of India (Simi) and RSS as both were “fanatical” and held “fundamentalist” views. When a reporter pointed out that that such views expressed could be deemed controversial, the Congress MP said he failed to see any controversy in it. On being reminded that the radical Simi was a proscribed outfit, which was not the case with the Nagpur-headquartered Right-wing group, Mr Gandhi said it hardly mattered to him. “All I know is that both Simi and RSS are fanatical and hold fundamentalist views,” he said. There can be no place for people with fanatical views in the Youth Congress, said Mr Gandhi, who is in-charge of the Congress; youth wing. The young Congress leader is currently touring the BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh. (The Statesman)

Lalu swine flu virus: Congress

Reacting sharply to RJD chief Lalu Prasad's 'dengue remark', Congress hit back calling him 'a swine flu virus which has turned the state sick.' "Lalu is a swine flu virus and the impact of its spread is world-known... he has made the state sick," state Congress media cell chief Prem Chandra Mishra said. Mishra also took a dig at chief minister Nitish Kumar's remark that the Congress and RJD have a secret understanding. Kumar had sought to know from the RJD as how a leader with four MPs occupy a front seat in Lok Sabha. "Seat allocation is done by the Speaker and our party has no role in it", Mishra said adding Kumar should better put the question to the speaker. To a question, Mishra said the party was now busy finalising its campaign plans and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was likely to undertake a day-long electioneering for each of the six-phase polls. Congress president Sonia Gandhi and general secretary Rahul Gandhi would be addressing public meetings in different parts of the state on or after October 11. Chief ministers of Delhi, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, besides several Union ministers are also likely to campaign in the state, he claimed. (Times of India)

EC issues new guidelines for registration of political parties

As part of efforts to check mushrooming of political parties, the Election Commission has come out with a set of new guidelines and conditions for their registration. Under the new guidelines which would come into force from October 15, a political party seeking registration is required to get an advertisement published in two national and two local dailies giving the name and address of the party and its main office bearers. This was aimed at giving an opportunity to a person to place his objection before the commission on the registration of the party, the EC said in a press note on Friday. Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a party seeking registration has to submit an application to the EC within 30 days following the date of its formation with certain basic particulars like party name, address, membership details and names of officer bearers. "The commission has from time to time prescribed additional particulars to be furnished by applicant parties," it added. (Times of India)

Minorities' Issues:

Muslim umbrella body calls verdict extra-legal

The All-India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawerat, umbrella body of Indian Muslim organizations, on Friday described the Allahabad High Court verdict in the Ayodhya title suits as confusing, extra-legal and based on myths and legends. "The Muslim community is dissatisfied and shocked by the judgment and is determined to exercise its right of appeal to the Supreme Court with a view to reversing the judicial stand from the mythological to the legal," it said. AIMMM president Syed Shahabuddin said the community would accept the "final verdict of the Supreme Court as it is committed to the Constitution and the rule of law." The judgment highlighted the argument of "faith," which was "manufactured with political motives some years before 1949 and subsequently played up by the sangh parivar." He said the judgment allotted the area under the central dome of the masjid to Ram Lalla, recognising it as a deity, without

taking into account the fact that the idol and other items were placed in the inner courtyard by “human hands” and later shifted to the “minbar” under the central dome. The judgment, Mr. Shahabuddin said, emphasised that both Muslims and Hindus worshipped in the masjid. However, records showed that Muslims “always and exclusively” used the hall under the three domes and the adjoining inner courtyard for prayers while Hindus worshipped Ram at the Ram chabutra located in the outer courtyard. The judgment also “exceeded its authority in going beyond the 1994 directive of the Supreme Court” for determining the title to the disputed site. “Indeed, it does what the Supreme Court had itself refused to do; declare whether it is Ram Janmabhumi,” Mr. Shahabuddin said. Meanwhile, in a separate statement, the All-India Christian Council said the verdict was based on patently populist and political sensitivities rather than on points of law. Council president John Dayal also felt that there were “disturbing signals” in the judgment for other minorities. “The courts are not ruling on points of law but on the feelings and faith of people, which gives the majority community an extraordinary power in a multi-cultural nation such as India and can have serious implications in other disputes of this nature,” he said. (The Hindu)

Ayodhya: Wakf Board says no to out-of-court settlement

The Sunni Central Wakf Board on Tuesday decided to challenge the Allahabad High Court verdict on the Ayodhya title suits in the Supreme Court and asserted no person had been authorised to explore possibilities of an out-of-court settlement. The Wakf Board, a litigant in the Ayodhya title suit, held an emergency meeting here and decided to challenge the High Court's verdict in the Supreme Court, Wakf Board Chairman Zafar Ahmad Farooqui said. "On the basis of the legal advise from experts, it was decided to challenge the verdict in the apex court," he said. No date had yet been fixed on moving the Supreme Court, Farooqui said. He said the Board had clarified that no person had been authorised by it to explore possibilities of an out-of-court settlement. "We will move the Supreme Court only after getting a certified copy of the HC order," the Wakf Board Chairman said. On the possibility of a negotiated settlement of the contentious issue, he said no person had been authorised by the Board to explore talks in this regard. "If any person is negotiating with other parties, he is doing so on his own," Farooqui said. Hashim Ansari, one of the litigants in the case, on Sunday claimed he had initiated talks after being asked by the Sunni Wakf Board. "At its meeting, the Board resolved if any proposal of an out-of-court settlement is made by any party, it will be considered by the Chairman and appropriate decision will be taken after consultations among Board members," Farooqui said. (The India Express)

Hindu Fundamentalism:

RSS prefers out of court settlement on Ayodhya: Spokesperson

The Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) will prefer an out of court settlement in the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in the light of the recent Allahabad high court judgment, RSS spokesperson Ram Madhav said on Friday. "Of course, we will prefer an out of court settlement. The court has upheld the main contention of the Hindu litigants, that the site is the birth place of Lord Ram," Madhav said. Asked whether attempts have begun for an out of court settlement by the RSS or other parties, Madhav said it was

premature to comment. "Now, all parties are studying the voluminous verdict. It is too early to say anything," he added. "Our chief (RSS sarvsangh chalak Mohan Bhagwat) had said that we would welcome a settlement. There are some feelers, but it is premature to comment upon the developments," Madhav said. According to him, with the judgment, the movement for construction of a temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh has found judicial acceptance now. On Sept 30, a three-member Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, in a unanimous verdict, said that the site where the Ram idols were placed in Ayodhya was the birthplace of Hindu god Ram. In a majority judgment, the court further ordered the division of the disputed site into three equal parts among the litigants - two Hindu litigant parties and the rival Sunni Wakf Board. The Wakf Board, which had filed a title suit for the site in 1961, has said that it will appeal in the Supreme Court against the high court judgment. The RSS - a hardline cadre-based Hindu organisation - had been in the forefront of the Ram Mandir movement to claim the disputed site where the Babri Masjid stood till 1992, and build a temple there. Activists of Hindu radical groups demolished the 16th century mosque on Dec 6, 1992, claiming it was built after razing a Hindu temple there. The mosque razing triggered countrywide riots in which more than 2,000 people were killed. (Times of India)

Insurgency Movements:

Economic Front:

'India's trade confidence beats China's'

British banking group HSBC said its recent report indicated that trade confidence in India is soaring and is the highest among the 17 countries surveyed by the bank during July and September this year. HSBC Head of Trade and Supply Chain Bhriguraj Singh said that while India's trade confidence index for the coming six months stood at 140, up from 133 in the first half of 2010. He said that the trade confidence index indicates the business and economic scenario of the coming six months as perceived by Indian manufacturers, exporters and importers. The index is also higher than that of China which was 111. The range of that confidence index varied from zero to 200. The companies were asked for their opinion on seven parameters relating to trade. Singh said that 315 companies across sectors had been sampled by the bank with annual revenues ranging from Rs 30 crore to Rs 200 crore. He told reporters here that the cities surveyed were Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad. This also showed that India had not been affected by the world financial crisis. (The Indian Epress)

'CWG may add \$5 bn to economy, create 2.5 mn jobs'

The government said the ongoing Commonwealth Games may add about USD 5 billion to the Indian economy and create about 2.5 million jobs in the next few years. Inviting the business community of Commonwealth nations to invest in India, Minister of State for Agriculture and Consumer Affairs K V Thomas said opportunities for business during sports events are very large. "It is estimated that the (Commonwealth) Games will have an economic outcome of close to USD 5 billion over the next few years and succeed in adding 2.5 million new jobs. In fact, we will be gaining from this event for the next many years," Thomas said at the Commonwealth Business Forum in New Delhi. He said the

12-day-long games will create a new brand image for India as a global player, helping it strengthen and deepen the business partnership with Commonwealth countries. "The opportunities for business during sports events are very large. In Delhi, itself, the estimates for the city infrastructure, sports venues and other necessities stand at close to USD 10 billion," he said. Thomas said sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, modern technology, manufacturing and services have huge opportunities and potential for the 71-nation Commonwealth grouping. "The business opportunities derived from agriculture in India are enormous and not sufficiently exploited by overseas businesses. India has 14 agri zones and is capable of producing a wide variety of grains, fruits and vegetables," he added. He said India faces a large technology deficit in terms of agriculture productivity. "Our yields are far lower per unit area than that of other countries. This has implications for companies in technology and machinery, agri inputs such as fertilisers, biotechnology and other areas," Thomas said. "The absorption capacity of the Indian farming sector for such technology and advanced equipment is high," he said. He said that with the country's economy likely to grow by over 10 per cent in the next few decades, "This is the time to be in India, this is time to invest in India and this is the time to partner India's development saga." Two-way trade between India and Commonwealth nations currently stands at about USD 80 billion, which is expected to grow manifold in the coming years. (The Indian Express)

India to grow by 9.7%: IMF

The International Monetary Fund has projected the Indian economy will grow by 9.7 per cent in 2010 and 8.4 per cent in the next fiscal, driven by robust industrial production and macro-economic performance. However, neighbouring China is expected to grow at an even faster rate of 10.5 per cent in 2010 and 9.6 per cent in 2011, driven by domestic demand, the IMF said in its latest World Economic Outlook report. Advanced economies, on the other hand, are projected to grow by just 2.7 per cent in 2010 and 2.2 per cent in 2011, the IMF report said, adding that global trade is forecast to expand by 4.8 per cent in 2010 and 4.2 per cent in 2011, with a temporary slowdown during the second half of 2010 and the first half of 2011. "India's macroeconomic performance has been vigorous, with industrial production at a two-year high. Leading indicators ~ the production manufacturing index and measures of business and consumer confidence ~ continue to point up," the IMF said. "Growth is projected at 9.7 per cent in 2010 and 8.4 per cent in 2011, led increasingly by domestic demand. Robust corporate profits and favourable external financing will encourage investment," it said. "Recent activity (10 per cent year-over-year growth in real GDP at market prices in the second quarter) was driven largely by investment and the contribution from net exports is projected to turn negative in 2011 as the strength in investment further boosts imports," the IMF said. According to the World Economic Outlook report, growth in emerging Asia economies stands at about 9.5 per cent, with robust demand from China, India, and Indonesia benefiting other Asian economies. In China, a major fiscal stimulus, a large expansion of credit and a number of specific measures to boost household income and consumption increased domestic demand growth to almost 13 per cent in 2009, contributing to a large decline in the current account surplus. The recovery is now well established, and a transition from public stimulus to private-sector-led growth is underway, it said. Latin America has also

recovered strongly, with real GDP growth at about seven per cent. The recovery in Latin America is being led by Brazil, where real GDP growth has been close to 10 per cent since the third quarter of 2009 and the economy is now showing signs of overheating, the report said. A number of other economies have also returned to solid growth. However, Mexico is lagging behind, partly because of its strong trade linkages with the United States. Growth in Mexico recently picked up on the back of strengthening exports to the United States, but the output gap remains large. The World Economic Outlook projects that the output of emerging and developing economies will expand at a rate of 7.1 per cent and 6.4 per cent, respectively, in 2010 and 2011. "The global recovery remains fragile, because strong policies to foster internal rebalancing of demand from public to private sources and external rebalancing from deficit to surplus economies are not yet in place," it said. (The Statesman)

India, EU hope to conclude FTA soon

India and the European Union hope to conclude the free trade agreement well in time for their summit meeting scheduled to be held here in December. The EU is India's largest trading partner, while India is the 10th largest trading partner for the 27-nation bloc and the India-Europe FTA could help put the commercial ties between the two continents on a faster track. The issue figured in the meeting Vice President Hamid Ansari had on Monday with European Council President Herman von Rompuy. "Negotiations are progressing well. Better than before. There is a spirit of optimism," Latha Reddy, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs told reporters here. She said Ansari and von Rompuy reviewed the bilateral ties between India and the European Union. Ansari also met Finland Prime Minister Mari Kiviniemi who welcomed Indian investments in clean energy, ICT, forests and education sectors. Ansari also met Latvian President Valdis Zatlers who informed him about the programmes being organised in his country to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. (The Indian Express)

Foreign Relations/Geo-strategic developments:

FAO lists J&K, Arunachal Pradesh as separate countries

Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh have been shown as "independent entities" by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation which said this was its approach towards "disputed" areas. The categorisation came as a surprise to many as the UN has been so far only treating Jammu and Kashmir as a dispute between India and Pakistan while viewing Arunachal Pradesh as a part of India. In its report, FAO has shown Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh as separate countries along with India. The Indian states figure in country grouping for East Asia. The names are there in annexure five of the 2010 FAO report to assess greenhouse gas emissions from the dairy sector. When contacted, FAO representative in India Gavin Wall said the country grouping is based on FAO's Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL), which aims at compiling and disseminating information on administrative units for all countries in the world and it complies with the UNCS international boundaries map. Wall said because the GAUL is developed at the global level, controversial boundaries cannot be ignored. "The selected approach is to

treat disputed areas as independent entities not dependent from countries. "In this way the GAUL preserves national integrity for all disputed countries. Areas of then classified from a purely geographic point of view," he said. Arunachal Pradesh has been spelt as 'Arunashal' Pradesh in the list which also shows Aksai Chin as a separate country. China maintains that Aksai Chin is its integral part while India says it is part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. (Times of India)

India, Russia firm up 5th-Gen fighter, transport aircraft projects

Even as India flagged concerns about delays, cost escalations and inadequate product support in several defence projects with Russia, the two countries on Thursday firmed up plans to jointly design, develop and manufacture the fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) and multi-role transport aircraft (MTA). With the preliminary design contract for the advanced stealth FGFA all set to be inked when Russian President Dmitry Medvedev comes here in December, it will be the biggest-ever defence project undertaken by India. With each FGFA costing at least \$100 million, and IAF looking to progressively induct 250 to 300 of them from 2017-18 onwards, India's investment could eventually go well past the \$25 billion mark, as reported by TOI earlier. The MTA project, initially worth over \$600 million, will see Russia get 100 such planes, capable of carrying a 15-20 tonne military payload, while India will take 45 of them in the first phase. Another 60 will be sold to other countries. At a later stage, the MTA will also be modified into a passenger aircraft of a 100-seater capacity. "In the coming 10 years, the FGFA and MTA projects will be the flagship programmes in Indo-Russian defence cooperation," declared defence minister A K Antony after holding the 10th Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation meeting with his Russian counterpart Anatoly Serdyukov. Russia has for decades been India's largest defence supplier, notching up sales worth over \$40 billion since the 1960s, which is only going to head further north, but there have been continuing Indian concerns over delayed deliveries, shortage of spares and huge cost escalations. "There are some areas of concern. All these issues were discussed threadbare... We have arrived at satisfactory solutions for most. For the remaining, the Russian defence minister has assured me he will take personal interest to find satisfactory solutions at the earliest," said Antony. Serdyukov, in turn, said it was "quite natural" to have "some delays" given the "great volume" of military projects between India and Russia. "But I underscore there are no critical delays," he said. But the ongoing refit of aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, for one, has been hit by huge delays and cost escalations. India will now get the 44,570-tonne Gorshkov in 2013 -- instead of the earlier August 2008 -- by paying \$2.33 billion instead of the \$974 million earmarked for it in what was thought to be "a fixed price contract" when it was inked in January 2004. Similarly, the 10-year lease of the K-152 Nerpa Akula-II nuclear-powered submarine has been delayed to early-2011 now. India is also worried over Russia putting obstacles in India's plan to indigenously manufacture 1,000 T-90S main-battle tanks by delaying transfer of technology in some critical areas. This despite India first importing 310 T-90S tanks for over Rs 3,625 crore under a February 2001 contract, and then inking another Rs 4,900 crore contract in November 2007 for importing 347 more tanks. (Times of India)

Military:

Half of IAF's equipment is obsolete: Air Chief

About half of IAF's equipment is obsolete, Air Chief Marshal P V Naik said Monday. The startling revelation came at a time when the IAF has put an elaborate defence plan in place to protect the ongoing Commonwealth Games from possible aerial attacks. The IAF has moved several radars, anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles in a 60-km radius around the India Gate for the duration of the games. Though Naik emphasised that the Air Force was capable of defending the country from any threat, he admitted that the 'obsolescence percentage' would come down to 20 percent only by 2014-15. The IAF has ordered several new weapons systems like the indigenous Akash Air Defence System and the Israeli Spyder Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MR-SAM) system for its armoury, it currently relies heavily on ageing Russian-made Pechora and OSA AK Air Defence Missiles and Shoulder-fired Iгла Surface to Air Missiles (SAM). The Air Chief said the percentage of modern equipment in the IAF would go up to 80 per cent with the induction of new systems. He also revealed that India will order 200-250 fifth generation fighters that are being jointly developed with Russia, adding the first of these fighters would be inducted by 2017. On the positive side, the Air Chief said the attrition rate of officers has gone down over the past year, even though the Indian Air Force still faces shortage of officers. It is short of 550-600 officers in the flying branch alone. (The Indian Express)

Indian Occupied Kashmir:

'We are not puppets of the Centre' : Omar

Rejecting Opposition charges, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mr Omar Abdullah today said neither he nor his council of ministers were acting as "puppets" of the Centre. Mr Abdullah also made known his disapproval of Union home secretary Mr GK Pillai announcing lifting of curfew in the Valley, a move which he felt undermined the institutions of the State. "We are not puppets. There is no remote control. We take decisions for our people and for their benefit," Mr Abdullah said winding up the debate in the state Assembly on the prevailing law and order situation in Kashmir. The chief minister was reacting to the charge levelled by Opposition members including PDP president Ms Mehbooba Mufti who said the Centre was running the affairs of the state. "I have a grievance. There have been some instances where people have talked more than needed. The Union home secretary, Mr GK Pillai should not have spoken about curfew (on 9 July)," he said. Mr Pillai in an interview to State-run Doordarshan on the eve of 'Shab-e-Mehraj' had announced lifting of curfew. Mr Abdullah said by making such statements, they were undermining the institutions of the state and it would be better if they do not do so through media. On the Centre's eight-point initiative for Kashmir, he said it had not consulted the State on the issue of re-opening of schools. The state was consulted on the other issues. "It is wrong to say that the schools were closed for three months and opened only after the package was announced. The schools were functioning

in rural areas and closed only in urban areas and we had decided to open these schools even before the announcement of the package from the Centre,” he said. Mr Abdullah said he has received full support from the Centre over the past four months and hoped that it will continue in future also. Referring to the Kashmir imbroglio, he said the issue required a political solution. A dialogue process to address the external and internal dimensions of the issue needs to be started to resolve it. “It (Kashmir) is an outstanding issue which needs to be resolved. It is a political issue and cannot be addressed through development, employment or good governance only,” he said. Maintaining that separatists alone did not hold key to the resolution of the issue, he, however, said talks have to be initiated with them also. “It is an issue between India and Pakistan in which Jammu and Kashmir is getting smashed in between. An external dialogue process has also to be started,” he said. The chief minister said nobody has been claiming that the talks should be focused on Kashmir only. “People from Jammu, Ladakh and Kargil, besides the Valley have to be involved in the settlement process and a solution acceptable to them and our neighbours (Pakistan) has to be found.” (The Statesman)

Social front:

We decided to take the risk, says Justice Khan

Judges were required to clear the “innumerable landmines” at the disputed site at Ayodhya, “where angels fear to tread,” but we decided to take the risk despite some saner elements advising us against it, says Justice S.U. Khan. He was on the three-judge Bench of Allahabad High Court Bench in Lucknow, which gave its verdict on the Ayodhya title suits case on Thursday. Giving an insight into the complex issues before the judges, Justice Khan said they had decided to address it but not rush into it like “fools.” “Here is a small piece of land [1,500 square yards] where angels fear to tread. It is full of innumerable landmines. We are required to clear it.” “Some very sane elements advised us not to attempt that. We do not propose to rush in like fools lest we are blown. However, we have to take risk. It is said that the greatest risk in life is not daring to take risk when the occasion for the same arises,” he wrote in the prelude to his 285-page judgement. “Once angels were made to bow before man. Sometimes he has to justify the said honour. This is one of those occasions. We have succeeded or failed? No one can be a judge in his own cause.” Justices Khan, Dharam Veer Sharma and Sudhir Agarwal gave separate judgements running to over 8,000 pages. The court held that two parts of the disputed site of 2.77 acres would go to Hindus and the remaining one part to Muslims. The court held that the place where the makeshift temple of Lord Ram exists belongs to Hindus, paving the way for construction of a temple there. Justice Khan is of the view that the verdict has given Indian Muslims a good opportunity to spread to the world the teachings of Islam. Justice Khan bluntly told the parties to the dispute that the nation might not be able to rise again if the incident of December 6, 1992 (when the Babri Masjid was demolished) was repeated. In his verdict, Justice Sharma held that the entire disputed area of 2.77 acres at Ayodhya is the birth place of Lord Ram. He said the “place of birth is a juristic person and is a deity.” Justice Khan said both Muslims and Hindus had been using and occupying the disputed premises for several decades and so are declared to be joint title owners. “It is not proved by direct evidence that premises in

dispute including constructed portion belonged to Babar or the person who constructed the mosque or under whose orders it was constructed. No temple was demolished for constructing the mosque,” Justice Khan said in the gist of findings. Justice Khan said even though for the sake of convenience both Muslims and Hindus were using and occupying different portions of the premises in dispute, still it did not amount to formal partition and both continued to be in joint possession of the entire premises in dispute. He said that for some decades before 1949, Hindus had started treating or believing that the place under the central dome of the mosque was the birthplace of Lord Ram. “That idol was placed for the first time beneath the central dome of the mosque in the early hours of 23.12.1949.”

Quotes from Rig Veda

Justice Agarwal, who wrote the lengthiest judgement, began by quoting extensively from the Rig Veda with verses referring to the destruction and the subsequent creation of the universe. “During the Dissolution, there was neither existence nor nonexistence, and at that time neither Lok (world) was there nor was anything beyond the space. What encompassed all at that time? Where was the abode and of whom? What was the unfathomable and deep water?,” he quoted from Vedic text in the beginning of his judgment. Justice Agarwal, whose judgement ran into 21 volumes and more than 5,000 pages, further quoted: “None knows and none can tell as to from where and how the Creation took place, because even the scholars or those having foresight, were born after the Creation. Hence, none knows the source of this Creation.” “At that time there was neither death nor immortality, and there was also no knowledge of day and night in [the] absence of the Sun and the Moon. In that stage of vacuum, Brahm (the Supreme Being) alone was imbibing life from His own power. There was nothing beyond or distinct from Him,” he said. (The Hindu)

A political statement, says Arundhati Roy

Writer-activist Arundhati Roy on Saturday described the Allahabad High Court's judgment on the Ayodhya title suits as a “political statement” rather than a verdict based on evidence and sound legal principles. The court seemed to have been influenced by an anxiety to maintain the public peace over the vexed issue, she said.

‘Illogical reasoning’

Addressing a State-level convention of the People's Union for Civil Liberties here, Ms. Roy said the High Court turning Ram Lalla — whose idol was installed under the Babri Masjid's central dome in 1949 — into a human being by giving him a portion of the disputed land was “most baffling” and indicated the extent to which the “illogical reasoning” was stretched. Questioning the rationale behind the judgment delivered after 60 years of litigation, she said the threat of communal violence should be seen in the context of its political benefit before elections. “Was it really the worry for the public peace that led to this kind of verdict?” she said. Ms. Roy felt it was “hypocrisy” to treat the people who demolished the Babri Masjid with the same standards applied to the other

set of litigants in the title suits. “This is the real threat to equality before law, to which we shouldn't remain silent.” She reminded the audience, comprising mostly civil rights activists, of the Supreme Court's judgment in the Parliament attack case acquitting three of the four accused and awarding the death sentence to Mohammed Afzal. The court admitted that there was no clinching evidence against Afzal but went on to convict him to satisfy the “collective conscience of the nation,” she pointed out. “Should we keep quiet on an issue simply because the majority goes with it? It will not help and it is not nationalistic,” Ms. Roy said. Human rights activist Binayak Sen and Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan addressed the convention, which was devoted to the theme ‘State's aggression on life, liberty and democratic rights.’ (The Hindu)

New judge to hear Babri Mosque demolition case

The Allahabad high court on Friday nominated Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) (fourth) Vishnu Prasad Agarwal to hear the Babri Mosque demolition case. The nomination has come after the district judge had written a letter to the high court requesting nomination of a judge in the CBI special court, court sources said. The next hearing in the case is scheduled on October 26. The special CBI court hearing Babri demolition case had been without a judge since the transfer of Chief Judicial Magistrate Gulab Singh, they said. A key witness senior IPS officer Anju Gupta, who was deployed as a security officer with BJP leader L K Advani at the time of the demolition, will be cross examined by the defence counsel when the hearing resumes. (Times of India)

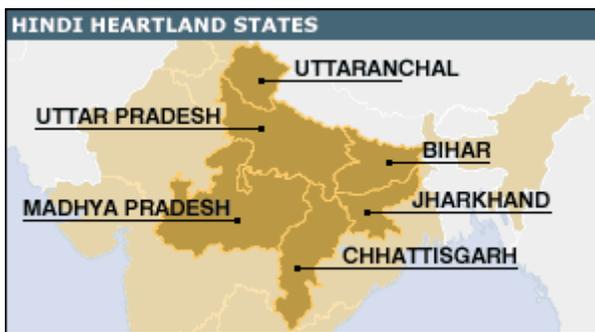
Order to unlock Ayodhya site was given in 'undue haste'

There was uncommon haste and violation of procedures in dealing with an application for opening the locks of the disputed Ayodhya site in 1986 which denied the Muslim party a fair hearing and also violated the need for justice appearing to be done. Justice S U Khan, one of the three judges on the Ayodhya Bench, has viewed the judicial order for unlocking the disputed site as being almost a premeditated decision. He has noted that the district judge may not have "bothered about the appearance of justice being done" as he perhaps felt he would otherwise not have been able to pass the order. The Babri mosque site, which housed the idols of Lord Ram, was unlocked after the Faizabad district judge passed an order on February 1, 1986. In his judgment on the Ayodhya title suits, Justice Khan dwelt on the procedure adopted by the DJ to allow an appeal by U C Pandey, not related to the dispute, for unlocking of the site, while a plaintiff in the title suit was disallowed impleadment. This more or less ensured a one-way hearing. Pandey had filed an appeal in the DJ's court after the Munsif court said an order on it could only be passed on the file of the original suit which the Allahabad High Court had summoned in a related case. In fact, Justice Khan questioned the undue haste shown in the appeal which was filed on January 31 and allowed the very next day. He also observed that Munsif court's order was not appealable and no order could be passed without the file of the leading case. Justice Khan rounded off his analysis of the order by observing, "It is a sound principle that not only should justice be done but it must also appear to be done. Before passing the judgment, the learned DJ first buried the second limb of the principle (appearance of justice) very deep." The stinging observation, alluding to what Justice

Khan feels may have been a pre-planned order facilitated by steps to ensure that the appeal for unlocking did not face opposition, is a firm comment against a ruling which saw a sharpening of religious polarisation over the Ayodhya dispute. Mohd Hashim, a plaintiff in the title suits, came to know about Pandey's appeal and sought impleadment. DJ K N Pandey rejected Hashim's application, saying he was "neither necessary nor a proper party". The same day, Pandey's appeal was allowed and on the Faizabad DM's assurance on law and order, the DJ ruled the locks were an unnecessary irritant to the public and an artificial barrier between "idols and the devotees". (Times of India)

Regional Report

Central India (Hindi Heartland)



Politics:

Verdict not a good sign for country, says Mulayam

Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh, reacting to the Allahabad High Court verdict in the Babri Masjid title suits, told a press conference here on Friday that he was "disappointed" that "faith and belief" and not "law and evidence" were given primacy in the judgment. This was not a good sign for the country, for the Constitution and for the judiciary itself, he said in a written statement distributed to the media. "Several crises can be created." Recalling his days as UP Chief Minister when the Ram temple agitation gained ground, he said he had stated in 1990 that "the country is run by the Constitution and the law of the land, and not by faith". This statement was made when preparations were being made for an assault on Ayodhya, he said. (The Hindu)

Verdict may blunt JD(U)-BJP edge

The ruling Janata Dal (United) in Bihar may well find that its effort at keeping its Muslim voter-base intact may have been ruined by the Ayodhya case verdict. For some time now, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his party have been going the extra mile to ensure that Muslim voters do not gravitate towards the Rashtriya Janata Dal-Lok Jan Shakti Party coalition. The JD(U) also did not relish the idea of the Congress, which had become somewhat optimistic of making a dent in this voter base, getting a slice of the cake. The JD(U), and especially Mr. Kumar, tried to show that the party, despite being in

partnership with the Bharatiya Janata Party, would not allow the grossly communal element in it to campaign for the election. So much so Mr. Kumar almost risked a break with the BJP when he ruined its Patna national executive meeting a couple of months ago, making loud protests about Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's posters and newspaper advertisements that appeared in the city. The BJP surrendered, promising the JD(U) that it would not send Mr. Modi for the Bihar campaign. The list of 40 BJP campaigners sent to the Election Commission does not include Mr. Modi and Varun Gandhi, who became a hate figure for Muslims after his vicious Pilibhit campaign in 2009. Even as the BJP on Saturday released a list of five more candidates — this time Janardhan Yadav has been denied ticket in Narpatganj, taking the total of sitting BJP MLAs refused ticket so far to five — those in the party who know Bihar well expressed apprehension that the RJD-LJP combine may gain at the expense of the BJP and the JD(U) as a result of the Ayodhya verdict. The Narpatganj ticket has gone to Damayanthi Yadav, after a party survey led to the dropping of Mr. Janardhan Yadav. In Kishanganj, another woman candidate Sweety Singh has been fielded by the BJP. The presence of Ravi Shankar Prasad — one of the advocates for Ram Lalla in the Ayodhya case and tall leader of the BJP from Bihar — in the campaign could be used by the RJD and the LJP to whip up anti-JD(U) feelings among Muslims. As for the upper caste vote, which had already begun showing signs of moving to the Congress, the Ayodhya verdict may not stop the drift, the BJP fears. A Congress source said: “The verdict has come from the court. What has the BJP done for the Ram temple for it to be able to exploit the issue? People are not so dumb as to give it credit where none is due.” With parties still finalising candidates — the last date for filing nominations for the first phase of the polls is October 4 — it is still too early to tell which way the wind will blow. The common wisdom is that the JD(U)-BJP alliance has begun the game with an edge. Will it be able to maintain that advantage? (The Hindu)

BJP wins C'garh bypoll

The ruling BJP in Chhattisgarh has retained Bhatgaon Assembly seat by defeating the Congress in a byelection, the result of which was declared Monday. BJP candidate Rajni Tripathi, widow of Ravishankar Tripathi, whose death in a road accident necessitated the bypoll, defeated Congress' U S Singhdeo by over 35,000 votes. CM Raman Singh said the victory “by such a huge margin shows people's faith in the BJP government”. State BJP chief Ram Sewak Paikra said the win was “the beginning of the process of Congress being wiped out from Sarguja region”. The Congress — visibly hurt as it was quite hopeful of victory — accused the BJP government of playing unfair. “We will have to analyse what went wrong but everyone knows how the ruling party misused official machinery during the elections,” said the party's state chief Dhanendra Sahu. Some in the Congress, however, blamed the defeat on the leadership's failure to project the party as a credible opposition. Chhattisgarh is up for another bypoll as Sanjari Balod seat is vacant following the death of BJP's Madanlal Sahu in August. (The Indian Express)

Left unity fails in Bihar

The claims of a wider Left unity to take on the NDA, the RJD-LJP combine and the Congress came a cropper in Bihar with none of the major allies willing to yield in the seat

sharing process. So, the major Left parties -- CPI-ML (Liberation), CPI and CPI-M -- have ignored the interests of five smaller parties like All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) and Revolutionary Socialist party (RSP), both constituents of the ruling Left Front in West Bengal. Besides AIFB and RSP, Socialist Unity Centre of India-Communist (SUCI-C), CPI-ML and Marxist Communist Party of India-United (MCPI-U) have announced to contest in 97 seats to protest the 'big brother attitude' of the three major parties. Though the three had announced on September 2 that they will fight jointly to avoid fragmentation of votes, it failed to happen. These parties reached a seat-sharing agreement for 171 seats so far and kept the option open for friendly fight in the rest 72 of the total 243 seats in Bihar. CPI-ML (L) office secretary Santosh Sahar said the three parties would contest 171 seats in alliance and "There will be friendly fight in at least 30 constituencies". The CPI has so far released a list 58 candidates with desire to contest in a few more seats. "Our party has tried its best to fully comply with the seat-sharing agreement with the CPI-ML (L) and the CPI (M). But the party has also decided to field a few candidates against their nominees in friendly fight," said CPI state secretary Badri Narayan Lal. CPI national executive member U N Mishra said though total alliance in 243 seats did not work out, the positive aspect was that the party was contesting with two other Left parties for the first time on common issues like corruption, land reforms, price rise and recurring floods and drought. CPI-ML (L) general secretary Deepankar Bhattacharya too said it was a good sign that the Left parties were showing an inclination for a united fight. While the CPI-ML (L) has released a list of 48 candidates for the first three phases, the CPI-M has announced names of 26 candidates and intends to contest Runisaidpur in the second phase, Lauriya in West Champaran in the third phase and Sasaram and Buxar in the sixth phase. The CPI and the CPI(M) which earlier had spurned the CPI-ML (L)'s offer for greater Left unity seemed to have realized that they lost much ground to the latter in the post-Lalu Prasad scenario as compared to their status before 1990. Till the '90s, CPI used to send its representatives to Lok Sabha from seats like Madhubani, Begusarai, Buxar, Jehanabad, Nalanda and Motihari. CPI-M's Subodh Rai too had won the Bhagalpur LS seat once. Rai has now deserted the party and joined JD(U) to contest from Sultanganj assembly seat this time. The CPI had won 35 seats in alliance with Congress in 1972. However, in 1977 it managed to win in only 21 seats. In 1980 it won 22 out of 324 assembly seats in undivided Bihar, but fared poorly in 1985 winning just 12 seats. Five years later, CPI in alliance with Lalu Prasad's Janata Dal won 23 seats and got three more seats in alliance with RJD in 1995. The party continued its alliance with RJD in 2000 and could win only five seats. This declined to three seats in 2005 when it allied with LJP. The CPI(M) on the other had won three seats in 1967, and four each in 1969 and 1977. The party's tally rose to six seats in 1990, which it retained even in 1995, following its alliance with the RJD. In 2000 the party won just one seat (Bibhutipur) and managed to retain it in 2005. The CPI-ML(L), earlier known as Indian Peoples' Front, since coming over ground in 1990 won seven out of 82 seats it contested. In 1995, 2000 and 2005 the party won six, five and five seats respectively. Meanwhile, the five smaller Left parties AIFB, RSP, SUCI(C), CPI-ML and MCPI(U) have declared that they would contest 97 assembly seats in protest against the 'big brother' attitude of the three major Left parties. CPI-ML coordinator for Bihar and Jharkhand Arvind Sinha charged the three Left parties with not taking smaller parties into confidence before finalising the seat sharing arrangements among themselves. SUCI (C) secretary Arun

Kumar Singh claimed that the alliance of smaller left parties would give the three big brothers a run for their money. (The Indian Express)

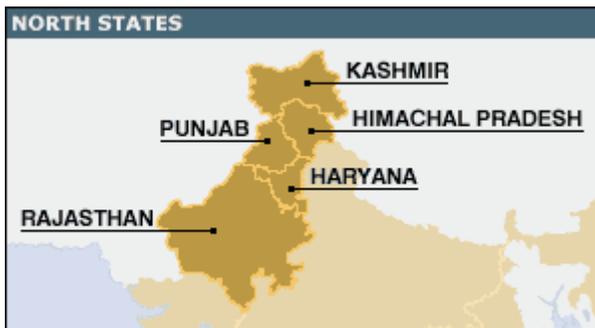
Social front:

Peace reigns in Ayodhya

Calm and peace prevailed as worshippers made their way to the makeshift temple in Ayodhya on Friday, a day after the Allahabad High Court verdict. Though the tensions felt in the town in the past few days might have eased, the security arrangements are still in place, with Central Reserve Police Force personnel guarding the route round the clock. The number of people visiting the temporary shrine has not picked up much. Business is as usual on both sides of the road that leads to the makeshift temple from Hanumangari. People buying religious artefacts from makeshift shops are also limited. Usually 9,000-10,000 people are said to visit the temple every month, but the number dipped in September, ahead of the verdict. (The Hindu)

Economic Front:

The North



Politics:

Centre discriminating against Punjab: Sukhbir

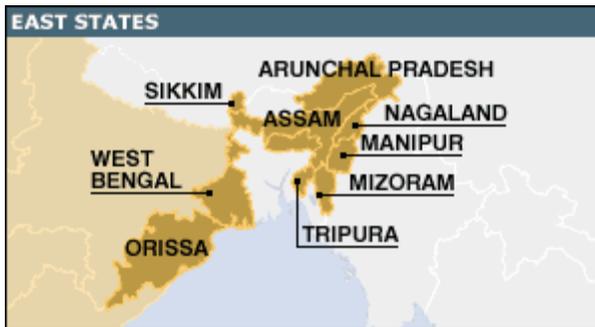
Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal came down heavily on the Centre on Sunday for “discriminating against Punjab”. Reacting to conditions listed by the Centre against the debt pay-off, he said the Centre should immediately withdraw these conditions. The deputy CM was in Sahnewal, around 20 kilometres from Ludhiana, on Sunday to lay the foundation stones of a Rs 70-crore project for 100 per cent water supply and sewerage disposal and a model police station. In response to Punjab’s request to waive Rs 71,000 crore debt, the Centre has asked Punjab to give up its populist power subsidy scheme, hike irrigation water charges, levy property tax, cap power subsidy and bar premature withdrawals from provident fund and take a few other steps. Attacking the Centre, Sukhbir remarked: “When Punjab’s farmers do not impose any condition while contributing wheat and rice for the national pool, why should the Centre impose

condition for waiving the state's debt? The Union government has been deliberately drafting policies, keeping Punjab out of its ambit, whether it is debt waiver or granting concession to hill states in the neighbourhood." Attacking the Opposition Congress in Punjab, Sukhbir said: "The Monsoon Session of the Assembly exposed the Congress and showed the public how disconnected this party is with the masses. No leader of the Congress could speak for more than 30 minutes." When asked to comment on the complaints of misuse of funds related to the development schemes sponsored by the Centre, the deputy CM said such a misuse, if any, would not be allowed. "Any body found guilty will be prosecuted," he said. (The Indian Express)

Social front:

Economic Front:

The East



Politics:

Social front:

Economic Front:

The South



Politics:

Yeddyurappa faces crisis, to prove majority by 12 October

Karnataka Governor HR Bhardwaj asked chief minister Mr BS Yeddyurappa to prove majority on the floor of the State Assembly by 12 October after 19 lawmakers in a joint letter to him withdrew their support to the first Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in southern India. Of the 19 legislators, 14 belong to Yeddyurappa's ruling party and five are Independents who extended support to it as it fell short of majority to form the government after the May 2008 elections to the 225-member state legislative Assembly. "Taking into consideration the withdrawal of support by 19 legislators, including seven ministers, the Governor has requested the chief minister to prove that his government has majority support in the legislative Assembly through a confidence motion on or before 12 October by 5.00 p.m.," a communique from Raj Bhavan said. In asking Mr Yeddyurappa to prove that he still enjoyed majority on the floor of the House by Tuesday, the governor also factored the recommendation of the chief minister to drop four Independents who are ministers for withdrawing support to his government. The four ministers are agriculture marketing and small scale industries minister Mr Shivaraj S Tangadagi, textile and sericulture minister Mr Venkataramanappa, social welfare minister Mr PM Narayana Swamy and youth services and prisons minister Mr D Sudhakar. "I have recommended the Governor to drop the four Independent ministers for expressing lack of confidence in me and roping in a section of our party legislators to revolt against my leadership," Mr Yeddyurappa told reporters after an emergency cabinet meeting at the state secretariat. Among the 19 lawmakers who withdrew support to the government are three BJP ministers ~ Mr MP Renukacharya (Excise), Mr Anand Asnotikar (Fisheries) and Mr Balachandra Jarkiholi (Municipalities and Local Bodies). This is the second serious political crisis confronting Mr Yeddyurappa since he became the chief minister in May 2008. In October-November last year, mine owners and ministers Reddy brothers ~ Janardhana and Karunakara, revolted against Yeddyurappa, demanding leadership change. The Reddy brothers were placated at the intervention of the BJP central leadership, and Yeddyurappa backed off from his confrontationist stance. (The Statesman)

Social front:

Economic Front:

West India



Politics:

Social front:

Economic Front:

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

News Monitoring Report No. 140 on South India

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Rushdy Nizar

Andhra Pradesh

News Headlines

Political Issues

- Gaddar set to dislodge TRS chief from Telangana leadership
- State gives a go-by to 'Year of Gram Sabha'
- Gaddar vows not to return home without achieving Telangana state

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- Andhra Pradesh CM reviews financial position of state

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- Ramalinga Raju discharged from hospital
- Process begins for withdrawing Telangana agitation cases
- Floral tributes to 'Bapu' in Andhra Pradesh
- BC communities demand right to register atrocity act
- Rs.120 crore to Andhra for scholarship

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- Make use of every drop of water: Andhra Pradesh, CM
- ICRISAT bags Research Leadership Award
- PM likely to inaugurate science meet in Hyderabad
- Andhra Pradesh for closer ties with Australian cities

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- Karnataka Guv directs Yeddyurappa to prove majority by Oct 12
- Karnataka crisis: Venkaiah Naidu to help resolve issues
- Congress has no role in political crisis: Kharge
- JD-S, Congress misleading Karnataka MLAs. Says BJP
- Karnataka's BJP rebel MLA tries to commit suicide
- Notice slapped on rebel BJP MLAs

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- Cong in better position to win civic polls: Karunakaran
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- Left did not utilize development funds in Kerala: Congress
- 3,443 nominations filed for local body poll rejected

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- 154 more under home quarantine
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- Women feel unsafe in Kerala capital: Report

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- Rains wreak havoc in Kerala

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- Oct 9 conference will be turning point for Tamil Nadu politics: TNCC Prez
- Arrangements in full swing as Sonia visits tiruchirapalli
- Tribunal on LTTE ban reserves order on plea by Tamil bodies
- BJP in TN to undertake Yatra
- CPI holding talks to work out alliance for assembly polls
- Tamil Nadu CM launches free bicycle distribution for Plus 1 students
- CM announces conveyance hike for differently-abled
- TN CM chairs meeting for procuring 10 lakh colour TV sets
- Over 1,400 policemen deployed for Sonia's visit
- Fishermen begin indefinite strike against attacks by Lankan Navy

Social/Humanitarian Issue

- Modernized vegetable market will be set up in Madurai: Azhagiri
- CITU plea to Tamil Nadu govt on recognition of TUs

Food, Environment and Energy Issue

- SRM univ develops drugs for diabetes
- TN Governor appeals to people to switch off lights for 10 minutes

Report Summery/ Andhra Pradesh

Political Issues

Revolutionary balladeer Gaddar tries to wrest the leadership of the movement from K. Chandrasekhara Rao of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS). The Telangana movement is poised to take a new turn when the Maoist sympathizer will formally launch the Telangana Praja Front (TPF) here Oct 9.

Gaddar says TRS which has been spearheading the movement for almost a decade and due to this he is going to spearhead the Movement by forming a new structural TPF and poised to intensify the movement with the support of Krishna Committee which was formed by the central govt to look into the demands for and against a separate Telangana state, he says he is not going to wait till the report of Committee, but will exert pressure on the central government to move a bill in parliament for carving out a separate state.

One of its leaders N. Narasimha Reddy that TPF would create confusion among Telangana people and dilute the movement. Balladeer says separate statehood can only be achieved by the mass movement and not by the fasting as KCR (k.Chandrasekara Rao's) nine days fast in last December which the central government paid its attention on the issue.

Lok Satta Party leaders Bandaru Rammohan Rao, Dr. K. Pattabhiramaiah and N. Saroja Devi says Grama Sabha should be emasculated as they allarg's that Grama Sabha system of AP's malfunctioning which is under the punchayat, panchayats conducted Grama Sabhas mostly on paper only to select beneficiaries of Government schemes at the behest of politicians.

Economic Issue

AP CM posted a nearly 20 per cent growth in resource mobilization in the first five months of current fiscal as there had been improvement in the collection of taxes and the other major sources of revenue such as Commercial Taxes, Excise and Transport. Dr Rosaiah said all priority welfare schemes like Aarogyasri, free power for farmers, tuition fee reimbursements would be implemented vigorously as the welfare schemes launched by former Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy.

Social/Humanitarian Issue

AP government has initiated the process to withdraw cases against students in district level and others who participated in the agitations for and against separate Telangana state last year, where as Police report's filed 1,171 cases against 5,374 people from November last year to Aug 15 this year. More cases were booked in Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra regions.

Andhra Pradesh Governor ESL Narasimhan and Chief Minister K Rosaiah led the people of the state in paying tributes to the Father of the Nation on his 141st birth anniversary today.

Backward communities today urged the Backward Community (BC) Commission to provide right to register atrocity cases on the lines of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) against the social discrimination.

The BC communities including Vaddera, Jangam (whose traditional occupation is begging), alleged that the community people were depressed by socially predominant communities and demanded to provide facility in registering atrocity cases against such upper caste communities. There are 134 castes now classified as BCs and sub-classification A has 7 per cent, B-10 per cent, C-1 per cent, D-7 per cent and E-4 per cent making the total of 29.

The central government has released Rs.120 crore to the AP government under the centrally-sponsored scheme of post-metric scholarship for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the scheduled castes students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage and to enable them to complete their education.

Food, Environment and Energy Issue

The Hi-tech City Flyover inaugurated by AP Chief Minister, K Rosaiah today has the distinction of being the first in using solar energy for lighting, lighting system on the flyover uses energy efficient Sodium Oxide (SOX) Lamps which were charged by Solar Power. Through this they plan's to promote this to remote & rural areas where energy was often crucial for human development.

AP CM K Rosaiah today asked the APGENCO to make use of every drop of

water to generate maximum hydel power in the state. CM said as the generate of hydel Power is cheap it could be used for agriculture, industry, trade and domestic sector.

The prestigious Research Leadership Award 2010 presented to the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) summit held in New Delhi on 29 September.

ICRISAT was cited as a pioneer of improving dry land agriculture, working with a wide array of partners in the developing countries of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. ICRISAT and its partners have released more than 600 improved varieties of dry land food crops and hybrids with almost 200 of these being used in India. ICRISAT DG William Dar said world's farmlands can be the frontline for the battle to feed the one billion hungry people in the world and a projected population of 9.1 billion by 2050 where this will be the necessary of global agriculture production by 70 per cent by then.

PM Man Mohan Singh may inaugurate Third World Academy of Sciences' (TWAS) general meeting and lay the foundation stone for the Hyderabad campus of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research here Oct 19. The 21st general meeting of TWAS will be held at L.V. Prasad Eye Institute Oct 19-22. More than 350 scientists from 35 countries are expected to attend the event.

The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the TWAS Regional Office for Central and South Asia will organize the meeting. TWAS founded in 1983 by a distinguished group of scientists from the south under the leadership of the late Nobel laureate Abdus Salam of Pakistan which was officially launched by the UN secretary general in 1985. The institute is coming up on 209 acres of land and plans to set up various research and academic facilities at the Hyderabad campus with an investment of about Rs.2, 500 crore over a decade.

AP is keen to develop closer ties with the Australian cities of Brisbane and Ipswich in the areas of agriculture, education, information technology, biotechnology and tourism and Tuesday they signed the agreement. AP CM said this by addressing five-member Australian delegation, including Brisbane Mayor Campbell Newman and Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale. The agreement will be valid for five years and the development will be documented and reviewed every two years.

Report Summery/Karnataka

Political Issues

The 28-month-old Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Government in Karnataka headed by B S Yeddyurappa is on the verge of collapse following over 20 MLAs, including six ministers, reportedly deciding to withdraw their support to the government.

State Janata Dal(S) President H D Kumaraswamy, who is working overtime to topple the only BJP Government in south, is leading the campaign after meeting the Governor. Sooner CM B.S. Yeddyurappa Wednesday sacked four ministers -- all Independent legislators. The decision took place after they submitted a joint letter to the governor stating that they were withdrawing support to the government as they lost confidence in the chief minister.

Later the Governor H R Bharadwaj directed Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa to prove his majority on the floor of the Assembly before October 12. With the withdrawal of support by the 20 legislators, the BJP government, this has strength of 117 in the 224-member Assembly, while the Congress has strength of 74; Janata Dal(S) has 28 members in the lower House. Bharatiya Janata Party has asked senior leader Venkaiah Naidu to intervene, as he rushed to Bangalore.

With Wednesday's developments it has been reduced to 104 members. The BJP now requires the support of 113 members to prove its majority. The BJP earlier had 117 MLAs including the Speaker, followed by Congress 73, JDS 28 and independents six.

Social/Humanitarian Issue

The Karnataka Government has decided to release gold and silver coins to mark the 400 years of world famous Dasara festivities on the opening day of the event on October 8. Gold coins in 10 to 20 gm and silver coins in 25, 50 and 100 gm would be embossed with the history of the festivities.

Food, Environment and Energy Issue

The retreating South West monsoon, strengthened by troughs of low pressure on either side of the peninsular India, caused havoc in Interior Karnataka claiming six lives during the last three days besides damaging crops over 9100 hectares. Nearly 1000 houses were damaged and the loss was put at Rs 61 lakh. The damage to crop was put at Rs 51 lakh. The total loss due to the heavy rains was Rs 1.35 crore. Relief camps have been set up in two places where 120 people had been shifted.

State-run gas utility GAIL Thursday said it has placed orders worth Rs.677 crore for laying a gas pipeline from Dabhol in Maharashtra to Bangalore in Karnataka. The construction work will start by November 2010 and the pipeline will be ready by March 2012.

Report Summery/Kerala

Political Issues

For the Kerala Local body election which will be held on 23-25 local bodies' polls in the state ending Monday; more than one lakh candidates are in the fray for 21,612 seats in 1,208 local bodies. More than 77,000 nominations were filed till Monday morning.

Veteran Congress Leader K Karunakaran said the Congress was in a better position and had winning chances in the local body elections in the State, he said the United Democratic Front was in a position to win the elections easily. The Kozhikode District administration will deploy as many as 26,000 officials for the smooth conduct of civic polls in the district on October 23.

Former chief minister and leader of opposition Oommen Chandy says the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government had utilized only Rs.1,784 crore of the total annual plan outlay of Rs.10,025 crore for this fiscal and also he criticised the four-and-a-half years of the ruling Left government had been miserable.

Economic Issue

The Interest Free Banking system is going to be introduced in the country offered a great opportunity to attract substantial investments from countries in the west Asian region, a leading authority on Interest Free Banking Muddassir Siddiqui. The traditional relationship between India and Arab countries would also act as a catalyst for selecting India as the investment destination, he added.

According to projections by global consultant major, McKenzie, investment surplus in the west Asian region was expected to be around nine trillion dollars by 2020. Currently, the investment surplus in the region was around the levels of 1.5 trillion dollars, he pointed out.

Social/Humanitarian Issue

In Kerala Nargarthpeedika near Thalassery, district the Police recovered 16 bombs, half-kilo gun powder and bomb making materials.

Adding panic due to the growing number of swine flu cases, 154 more people were placed under Home Quarantine due to H1N1 in Kerala today.

Fish workers will launch a nationwide stir demanding immediate withdrawal of the "anti-fishermen" Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (CRZN) 2010 from October 20. Kerala Swatara Matsya Thozhilali Federation (KSMTF) President T Peter and General Secretary P P John said the decision to launch the stir was taken by the National Fish Workers Forum (NFWF), on its meeting in Chennai. They also said Special Economic Zone, would ultimately jeopardize the interests of the fishermen in the country, the alleged. Besides, a convention would be organized on the World Fisher Workers Day in

all the states on November 21 to highlight their demand, they added.

Women feel unsafe in Kerala capital and face maximum harassment while using public transport, according to Kerala State Economic Review (2008). What is more startling is that the number of rape and molestation cases has increased steadily and a four-fold increase has been noticed between 1990 and 2005 in the Thiruvananthapuram city. As per the records of national Crime Records Bureau, the total rate of crimes in Kerala in 2007 was higher than that of the national average.

Food, Environment and Energy Issue

Kerala Horticulture Mission and Agriculture Department will jointly organize an international horticultural expo here from December one and many field experts are to be presented to the event. Exhibition on the methods of farming about floriculture, olericulture, pomology, medicinal plants and spices would be organized in this expo.

Due to torrential rain that continued to lash the State wreaked havoc to standing crops and destroyed houses in the southern districts in Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram Districts were the worst hits. About 234 houses were completely destroyed and 1,189 houses partially damaged in the rains.

The total loss was estimated at Rs 3.39 crore. They said 66 relief camps had been started in the two districts. About 9,186 people were accommodated in the 58 relief camps in Kollam and 263 persons in eight relief camps in Thiruvananthapuram. The total loss was estimated at Rs five crore, they said and added the total crop loss was estimated at Rs 2.36 crore.

Report Summery /Tamil Nadu

Political Issues

Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) President K V Thangkalu today claimed that the TNCC conference to be held in Tiruchirapalli on October 9 would be a turning point in Tamil Nadu politics. Over 1,400 policemen will be deployed on security duty during Congress President Sonia Gandhi's proposed visit to the city on October 9, police sources said.

Congress party's 125th year of celebrations to be held at Tiruchirapalli on October 9 under the patronage of AICC General Secretary Rahul Gandhi and the All India Congress President Sonia Gandhi. On the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri Musjid verdict by the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court, Mr. Thangkalu said it should promote harmony among people.

Delhi High Court Tribunal heard the petitions by Tamil Nationalist Movement

(TNM) and Tamil Nadu People's Rights Forum (TNPRF) about extending of the two-year ban on Sri Lankan rebel organization LTTE. The two organizations along with MDMK party of Vaiko are seeking to revoke the ban, while the Tamil Nadu government strongly advocates continuation of the ban. TNM, founded by Mr. Nedumaran represented by its counsel N Chandrasekaran, argued that it was an "aggrieved party" by virtue of being banned in the past for being sympathetic to LTTE.

Representing TNPRF, its counsel said Rajiv Gandhi assassination accused life convict Nalini in her plea seeking release having completed to two decades in jail, said the very existence of the LTTE was questionable in the wake of its decimation by the Sri Lankan army last year. The Tamil Nadu government submitted records, including cases filed against LTTE cadres in the last two years and sought to justify the ban, but Vaiko's plea was rejected.

To strengthen the party at the grass roots level ahead of the ensuing Assembly polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Tamil Nadu would undertake a Yatra covering across all districts of the State, highlighting various issues concerning the people. Communist Party of India (CPI) Tamil Nadu unit President D Pandian today said CPI was holding discussions for an alliance with parties who opposed the ruling DMK and its ally Congress. Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Pandian said the CPI has been in talks with DMDK president Vijayakanth also for putting together an alliance for next year's elections to Tamil Nadu assembly.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi today launched distribution of free bicycles to plus one student, studying in government and aided schools in the state. The distribution of bicycles to students of all communities at a total cost of Rs 149.58 crore to benefit 5, 68,359 boys and girls.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi today announced an increase in monthly conveyance from Rs 300 to Rs 1,000 for differently-abled people employed in government and local bodies. 10, 000 differently-abled people working in Government are targeted and said the hike would have effect from October 1. This would incur an additional expenditure of Rs 8.40 crore per annum to the State Government.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi today chaired a meeting for procuring additional ten lakh free colour TV sets to be distributed to the poor under the fifth phase of the scheme. CTV scheme was one of the populist poll promises that catapulted the ruling DMK to power in the May 2006 Assembly polls.

Fishermen in the Island town of Rameswaram who put out to sea in mechanized boats today embarked on indefinite strike to protest against attack on them by Sri Lankan Navy. The fishermen are ready to withdraw the strike, if the Centre guarantees protection of their lives from the Sri Lankan Navy. Due to this strike 1,000 mechanized fishing boats will not set sail into the sea

Social/Humanitarian Issue

A modernized mega vegetable cum fruit market will be constructed at a cost of Rs 85 crore in Madurai to cater to the needs of farmers of south zone. They say market would help farmers sell their vegetables and fruits directly to the consumers without hindrance of brokers.

Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) All India president A K Padmanaban today urged the Tamil Nadu government to enact a legislation making it mandatory for industries to recognize trade unions (TUs). He said the rights of the workers could not be protected as multi-national companies were ignoring the demands of trade unions for recognition. If the central government fails to take the necessary steps they would lead for a similar strike as they organized on September 7 All India Trade Unions' strike, pressing a six-point charter of demands.

Food, Environment and Energy Issue

SRM University recently adjudged as the best private University in India, in association with the Banaras Hindu University has developed a Siddha drug for Type-2 diabetes. The drug would be formally unveiled by Prime Minister Dr Man Mohan Singh during the inauguration of the 98th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) to be held at SRM University from January three to seven, 2011. Five Nobel Laureates and several eminent scientists from India and abroad would participate in the ISC.

As part of creating awareness on the growing concerns of Global Warming, Tamil Nadu Governor Surjit Singh Barnala today appealed to the people of the State to switch off lights for ten minutes as part of 5 tens Lights Out Campaign. He requested from the people to switch off the lights for 10 minutes at 2200 hrs on October 10, 2010.

Detailed Report

Detailed Report/Andhra Pradesh

Political Issues

Gaddar set to dislodge TRS chief from Telangana leadership

Hyderabad, Oct 4: Over a year after announcing plans to float a party for mass struggle to achieve separate statehood to Telangana, revolutionary balladeer Gaddar appears all set to wrest the leadership of the movement from K. Chandrasekhara Rao of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS).

The Telangana movement is poised to take a new turn when the Maoist sympathizer will formally launch the Telangana Praja Front (TPF) here Oct 9.

The new outfit is expected to intensify the movement ahead of the Srikrishna Committee's report to the central government on the Telangana issue and wrest the leadership from TRS, which has been spearheading the movement for almost a decade.

At the first meeting here Oct 9, Gaddar along with poets, writers and other Telangana activists will decide the TPF's organizational structure.

The Srikrishna Committee, formed by the central government in February to look into the demands for and against a separate Telangana state, is scheduled to submit its report by Dec 31.

However, Gaddar said that without waiting for the report, his organization would go to the people to strengthen the movement and exert pressure on the central government to move a bill in parliament for carving out a separate state.

That Gaddar's plans have already created a flutter in TRS circles is evident from the statement by one of its leaders N. Narasimha Reddy that TPF would create confusion among Telangana people and dilute the movement.

KCR, as TRS chief Chandrasekhara Rao is popularly known, has refused to comment on Gaddar's outfit but the TRS cadre is worried over the impact it could have on their political fortunes at a time when the goal of separate state is "nearer".

"It is KCR who has been fighting relentlessly for Telangana for about 10 years and he has almost achieved the goal. The new outfit is aimed at depriving him of the credit," said a TRS leader, who did not want to be named.

Gaddar, whose real name is Gummadi Vithal Rao, has been a bitter critic of KCR and his style of functioning. He decided to launch the front after holding series of consultations with poets, writers, cultural artists, human rights activists, backward class leaders, trade and employee unions and student leaders.

The Front is expected to bring all those who are not happy with KCR. Even the main opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has welcomed Gaddar's move to float the new outfit.

Taking a dig at KCR, Gaddar said the politics revolving only around votes and fasting can't achieve Telangana state. "Telangana can be achieved only through a mass movement," the balladeer said.

It was after a nine-day fast by KCR in December last year that the central government decided to initiate the process for the formation of Telangana state but constituted the Srikrishna Committee to look into the issue after angry reactions in coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh.

Gaddar, who had actively participated in Telangana movement of 1969, said TPF would not be a mere vote-based party like TRS but would try to achieve its goal through a people's struggle, including a cultural campaign.

After the TRS suffered reverses in last year's elections, the folk artist had apologized to the people of the region for sharing a dais with KCR, BJP leader L.K. Advani and former state home minister T. Devender Goud. On the debacle of TRS, he said people rejected it because it was only running after votes without a struggle.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55332.html>

State gives a go-by to 'Year of Gram Sabha'

Hyderabad, Oct 04: Andhra Pradesh Government has failed to obey the Government of India's directive that it must observe the Year of Grama Sabha.

Alleging this here today, Lok Satta Party leaders Bandaru Rammohan Rao, Dr. K. Pattabhiramaiah and N. Saroja Devi said the emasculation of the Grama Sabha did not portend well for democracy. It was high time the government of India amended the Constitution making implementation of Grama Sabha decisions mandatory.

The Government of India's guidelines stipulated that Panchayats which excel in conducting and implementing decisions must be honored at the end of the year.

According to the guidelines, a panchayats has to convene the gram sabha four times in a year, publicize the meeting, draw up an action plan for development, and review implementation of Government programs and policies at the village level, they said.

The Lok Satta leaders said panchayats conducted Grama Sabhas mostly on paper only to select beneficiaries of Government schemes at the behest of politicians.

They demanded that panchayat boards which failed to convene Grama Sabhas be abolished. The Government should ensure that their meetings take place at least this year.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55745.html>

Gaddar vows not to return home without achieving Telangana state

Hyderabad, Oct 5: Revolutionary balladeer Gaddar, who is set to launch a new political outfit Saturday, Tuesday vowed not to return home till the goal of a separate Telangana state is achieved.

The Maoist sympathizer told reporters in Warangal that he would leave his house for the people of Telangana Oct 9. "I will not see my house till separate Telangana is formed," said Gaddar.

The folk artist said the Telangana Praja Front (TPF) would achieve a separate state through mass struggle. The immediate goal of the outfit will be to pressurize all the parties to move and pass a bill in parliament for granting separate statehood to the region.

Gaddar, who appears set to wrest the leadership of the movement from K. Chandrasekhara Rao of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), said the parties fighting for Telangana failed to take the movement to its logical conclusion after Dec 9.

It was on Dec 9 last year that the central government had agreed to initiate the process for formation of Telangana state but following protests in other regions of the state, backtracked and constituted the Srikrishna Committee to look into the issue.

"What the leaders who got elected with the sacrifices of Telangana martyrs have done for achieving the goal of Telangana," asked Gaddar without naming the TRS leader. "Is it wrong if I take up the work which the MPs and MLAs (legislators) have failed to do," asked Gaddar while referring to the criticism from some parties to his plans.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56397.html>

Economic Issue

Andhra Pradesh CM reviews financial position of state

Hyderabad, Oct 4 : As Andhra Pradesh posted a nearly 20 per cent growth in resource mobilization in the first five months of current fiscal, Chief Minister K Rosaiah today reviewed the financial position of the state and the progress of the externally-aided projects.

Dr Rosaiah expressed satisfaction over the financial position and directed that not a single ongoing programme be allowed to suffer for want of finances.

He directed the Finance Department to release funds as per the requirement to various schemes. "We should ensure that no eligible or deserving person should be deprived of the benefits of the welfare schemes," Dr Rosaiah said and complimented Finance Department for judicious management and spending of funds.

He said he was happy that the mobilization of resources from various departments so far this year was good and hoped that the trend would continue.

The Chief Minister reiterated that all developmental and welfare schemes launched by former Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhar Reddy would be continued vigorously. All priority welfare schemes like Aarogyasri, free power for farmers, tuition fee reimbursements and Rs two-a-kg rice scheme would be implemented vigorously. The Chief Minister also asked the Finance Department to maintain utmost discipline and prudence in expenditure so that the State Finances were on a strong footing.

The Chief Minister, who also reviewed the externally-aided projects, directed the Finance Department to expedite finalization and approval of various projects to be sent to different International Institutions.

Dr Rosaiah expressed satisfaction that there had been improvement in the collection of

taxes and the other major sources of revenue such as Commercial Taxes, Excise and Transport.

The revenue mobilization from April to the end of August 2010 recorded a growth of 19.7 per cent over the figures for the corresponding period last year. The Chief Minister directed the Finance Department to ensure that all the departments concerned step up efforts to achieve their targets.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55772.html>

Social/Humanitarian Issue

Ramalinga Raju discharged from hospital

Hyderabad, Oct 2: B. Ramalinga Raju, disgraced founder and former chairman of Satyam Computer Services Ltd, was Saturday discharged from a government-run hospital here.

Raju, the prime accused in the multi-crore Satyam fraud case who was granted bail by Andhra Pradesh High Court Aug 18, was discharged from Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS).

NIMS doctors confirmed that Raju was discharged on his request but said his condition had improved. They advised him to visit the hospital once in 15 days for regular check-ups and treatment

.

It is after 20 months that the former IT czar, who fell from grace after admitting India's biggest ever accounting fraud in January last year, returned home.

Raju, who underwent treatment at the hospital for Hepatitis C for 10 months, cleared the hospital bill of about Rs.8 lakh.

Raju was shifted from Chanchalguda Central Jail to NIMS late last year and remained in the hospital under judicial custody till Aug 18, when the court granted him bail.

Even after getting bail Raju had remained in the hospital for treatment and has been attending the trial as per the bail condition. Ever since he was admitted to NIMS, Raju has been avoiding the court, delaying the commencement of the trial.

The 56-year-old Raju has been in jail since January last year when he admitted to an Rs.7, 800-crore accounting fraud in Satyam Computer Services Ltd, which he had founded.

While resigning as chairman of the firm, he confessed on Jan 7 that the company cooked up its books, resulting in an "inflated (non-existent) cash and bank balances" over several years. Two days later he surrendered before the police and was lodged in Chanchalguda central jail here.

The CBI, however, told the court in November last year that the scam is of over Rs.14,000 crore and during the hearing on his bail petition in the High Court, the prosecution said the investors suffered a loss of Rs.24,000 crore.

Hyderabad, Oct 5 : For the first time since the tainted founder of Satyam Computer Services Limited (Satyam) B Ramalinga Raju confessed on January 7 last year to the Rs 8000-crore accounting fraud, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) quizzed Raju at their office in IS Sadan here today.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-54191.html>

Process begins for withdrawing Telangana agitation cases

Hyderabad, Oct 2: The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated the process to withdraw cases against students and others who participated in the agitations for and against separate Telangana state last year, Home Minister Sabita Indra Reddy said Saturday. She told reporters here that the process for withdrawal of cases has begun at the district level.

The cases would be reviewed over the next 15 to 20 days and the number of cases to be withdrawn would be known only after the process is completed. "The government will issue an order withdrawing the cases," she said.

According to Reddy, police filed 1,171 cases against 5,374 people from November last year to Aug 15 this year. She said while withdrawing petty cases would not be a problem, cases relating to serious offences like attack on police, damaging buses and other public and private property would be reviewed before a decision is taken on them.

The state government started the process of withdrawing cases against Telangana and Samaikyandhra (united Andhra) agitators a day after Chief Minister K.Rosaiah held high-level meeting with Sabita Reddy, Director General of Police K. Aravinda Rao and former home minister K.Jana Reddy.The decision to drop the cases was taken on the

recommendation of a committee comprising Sabita Reddy and Jana Reddy.

This would meet a major demand of all the political parties and groups fighting for separate Telangana state. Congress leaders from the region had even petitioned Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Home Minister P. Chidambaram on this last month.

It was Chidambaram who had announced Dec 9 last year that cases against students and others during Telangana movement would be withdrawn. However, the cases could not be withdrawn due to various legal issues involved.

More cases were later booked in Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra regions when students and other groups took to streets and resorted to violence, opposing the demand for a separate Telangana state.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-54516.html>

Floral tributes to 'Bapu' in Andhra Pradesh

Hyderabad, Oct 2: Andhra Pradesh Governor ESL Narasimhan and Chief Minister K Rosaiah led the people of the state in paying tributes to the Father of the Nation on his 141st birth anniversary today. The Governor and the Chief Minister were among the early visitors to pay floral tributes to the Mahatma at Bapu Ghat in the city.

People from all walks of life took part in the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations recalling the great sacrifice of freedom fighters and the leadership of Gandhiji. Sweets was distributed in old age homes and social service organizations.

Celebrations were also reported from across the state to mark occasion.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-54591.html>

BC communities demand right to register atrocity act

Tirupati, Oct 4: Most of the backward communities today urged the Backward Community (BC) Commission to provide right to register atrocity cases on the lines of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) against the social discrimination.

The BC communities including Vaddera, Jangam (whose traditional occupation is begging), Pakayekari and Dudekula, who addressed before the Commission Justice D Subramanyam, alleged that the community people were depressed by socially predominant communities and demanded to provide facility in registering atrocity cases against such upper caste communities.

In their representation submitted to the commission during the public hearing, the Jangam community sangam demanded the commission to delete word 'begging' in the records and

urged the commission to recognize its community as 'Most Backward Class (MBC)' and include them in the ST community.

The community was recognized as ST category in other states in the country while Dudekula community sangam also demanded to give right on registering of atrocity cases.

However, the Rajaka community demanded to include their caste in ST community category which is already under process at the Centre.

The TTD backward class employees welfare association General Secretary P Lakshmi Narayana and President K V Ramana, who submitted their representation to the commission, demanded the commission to conduct an enquiry into the TTD-run SVBC and Veda patalas where rule of reservation in recruiting of posts by TTD administration, was not followed.

The Backward Classes Commission conducted its second public hearing in the state here to elicit the views of representatives of 'unrepresented' castes among the BCs to identify the 'Most Backward Class' for the purpose of sub-classification.

The panel, led by BC Commission Chairman Subramanyam, accepted representations from people on their deprivation levels with regard to job opportunities, total wealth, higher education, economic status and social backwardness so that a benchmark and yardstick could be created for doing justice to them.

While this was the second of the three such public hearings to be conducted in the state, the first one already conducted at Visakhapatnam and the last one in Hyderabad in November to cover all the three regions.

The panel would submit its report soon after the hearings and the government would take a decision on designing a strategy on covering the uncovered castes in rule of reservation implementation, the Chairman told reporters.

A pro-rata reservation was being aimed at depending on the population as per the latest census figures leaving away 'creamy layer' as directed by the Supreme Court. There are 134 castes now classified as BCs and sub-classification A has 7 per cent, B-10 per cent, C-1 per cent, D-7 per cent and E-4 per cent making the total of 29. Other members of the

panel, C Raghuram Prasad and Ch Panduranga were also present in the hearing.

The commission would also conduct a review meeting on the implementation of rule of reservation in TTD and also in TUDA tomorrow.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55716.html>

Rs.120 crore to Andhra for scholarship

New Delhi, Oct 5: The central government has released Rs.120 crore to the Andhra Pradesh government under the centrally-sponsored scheme of post-matric scholarship for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, said a statement released here Tuesday.

"The ministry of social justice and empowerment has released an amount of Rs.120, 41, 64,000 as central assistance to the government of Andhra Pradesh," said a statement issued by the ministry of social justice and empowerment.

"Apart from this, the state also has with it, an unspent balance of about Rs.156 crore from the previous financial year (2009-10). An ad-hoc assistance of Rs.47 crore was released to the state earlier this year. Therefore, with the current release of 120.41 crore, Andhra Pradesh has got the entire due amount for the current financial year for implementation of the post-matric scholarship scheme," the statement said.

It may be recalled that an amount of Rs.452.47 crore was incurred in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2009-10, out of which a central assistance of about Rs.212 crore was released for post-matric scholarship to Scheduled Castes student. Nearly 6.10 lakh students belonging to Scheduled Castes were benefited with the scheme in the State during the year.

The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the scheduled castes students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage and to enable them to complete their education.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56175.html>

Food, Environment and Energy Issue

First Solar Powered Lighting on Flyover

Hyderabad, Oct 2: The Hi-tech City Flyover inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, K Rosaiah today has the distinction of being the first in using solar

energy for lighting.

The lighting system on the flyover uses energy efficient Sodium Oxide (SOX) Lamps which were charged by Solar Power. This Green initiative places HMDA as a pioneer in using Solar Energy and reduces the carbon footprint.

The solar lighting system on the flyover has been designed and implemented by TATA BP Solar Limited, through their Business Partner Choice Solutions Limited. On the occasion, Mr. A Bhanu Prakash, Chief Financial Officer and Director, Choice Solutions Limited informed that the total solar energy absorbed by earth's atmosphere, oceans and land masses was approximately 3,850,000 exajoules (EJ) per year. In 2009, this was more energy in one hour than the world used in one year. Only a minuscule fraction of the available solar energy is used.

He further said although generally underestimated, solar water heating and cooling was by far the most widely deployed solar technology with an estimated capacity of 154 GW as of 2007.

While many solar energy products were perceived to be used in cities and towns, such renewable technologies were also suited to rural and remote areas where energy was often crucial for human development.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-54564.html>

Make use of every drop of water: Andhra Pradesh, CM

Hyderabad, Oct 3: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister K Rosaiah today asked the APGENCO to make use of every drop of water to generate maximum hydel power in the state.

He told the officials, "We need power for agriculture, industry, trade and domestic sector. The demand for power is on the rise and hence, it is necessary to augment generation. Thanks to abundant rains and good monsoon throughout the state, all reservoirs are full. We have to make the best use of this".

Dr Rosaiah appreciated APGENCO for record hydel power generation in September. "Keep it up, well done," he said. The Chief Minister said as hydel power generation was the cheapest; we must make optimum use of each drop of water and generate additional power.

The Chief Minister said as monsoon was very good, cultivation in the state was also extensive this time and hence, the increase in the demand for power.

He said with the record hydro power generation, Andhra Pradesh was not using the, power allocated to it by the Government of India from the Central Grid.

He directed the officials to supply quality power to all categories of consumers of the State.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-54977.html>

ICRISAT bags Research Leadership Award

Hyderabad, Oct 5: The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has been awarded the prestigious Research Leadership Award 2010 presented at the Third Agricultural Leadership Summit held in New Delhi on 29 September.

In meriting the award, ICRISAT was cited as a pioneer of improving dryland agriculture, working with a wide array of partners in the developing countries of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Among other impacts, ICRISAT and its partners have released more than 600 improved varieties of dryland food crops and hybrids with almost 200 of these being used in India.

Receiving the award on behalf of ICRISAT, Director General William Dar said, "We believe that the world's farmlands can be the frontline for the battle to feed the one billion hungry people in the world and a projected population of 9.1 billion by 2050. This will mean that global agricultural production will need to grow by 70 per cent by then."

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56628.html>

PM likely to inaugurate science meet in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Oct 6: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh may inaugurate Third World Academy of Sciences' (TWAS) general meeting and lay the foundation stone for the Hyderabad campus of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research here Oct 19, an official said Wednesday.

State Information and Public Relations Minister J. Geeta Reddy told reporters, after a meeting of the state cabinet, Wednesday that the Prime Minister was likely to visit the city to attend the two programmes.

"The state cabinet meet discussed the proposed visit of Manmohan Singh. We are still waiting for the confirmation of the visit," the minister said.

The 21st general meeting of TWAS will be held at L.V. Prasad Eye Institute Oct 19-22. More than 350 scientists from 35 countries are expected to attend the event.

The union science and technology ministry is sponsoring the meet. The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the TWAS Regional Office for Central and South Asia (TWAS-ROCASA) are the joint hosts.

Based in Trieste in Italy, TWAS is an autonomous international organization working to promote scientific capacity and excellence for sustainable development in the south.

The academy of sciences for the developing world was founded in 1983 by a distinguished group of scientists from the south under the leadership of the late Nobel laureate Abdus Salam of Pakistan. It was officially launched by the United Nations secretary-general in 1985.

The prime minister is also expected to lay the foundation stone for the Hyderabad chapter of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

The institute is coming up on 209 acres of land allotted by the state government. TIFR plans to set up various research and academic facilities at the Hyderabad campus with an investment of about Rs.2, 500 crore over a decade.

TIFR, which was founded by Homi J. Bhabha June 1, 1945, with the support of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the centrally-funded University of Hyderabad to facilitate collaborative research.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57161.html>

Andhra Pradesh for closer ties with Australian cities

Hyderabad, Oct 6: Andhra Pradesh is keen to develop closer ties with the Australian cities of Brisbane and Ipswich in the areas of agriculture, education, information technology, biotechnology and tourism, Chief Minister K. Rosaiah said here

Wednesday.

A five-member Australian delegation, including Brisbane Mayor Campbell Newman and Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale, met Rosaiah here. Noting that mechanization in agriculture in Andhra Pradesh is a slow process, Rosaiah said Australia could help the state in this area.

The chief minister hoped that the sister city agreement signed Tuesday by Hyderabad with Brisbane and Ipswich, would enhance friendship and cooperation between the three cities." With this type of agreements, we can learn more about one another, and have friendly and meaningful exchanges, with mutual benefits," Rosaiah said.

He also told the visiting delegation that an official business delegation from the state would be sent to Australia shortly.

The Brisbane Mayor Newman said Brisbane has one of the largest economies and has seen consistent economic growth in recent years as a result of the resources boom.

The city of Ipswich is thriving with agricultural technology and hotel industry, its Mayor Paul Pisasale told Rosaiah. Earlier, the mayors of the two Australian cities inaugurated tri-sister city trade promotion office here.

Paul Pisasale said that the sister cities agreement will give better businesses, investment in properties, and create jobs.

Newman said they will make a concerted effort to promote exchange of economic activity and trade between the three cities. The agreement will be valid for five years and the development will be documented and reviewed every two years.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57238.html>

Detailed Report/Karnataka

Political Issues

Dissidence hit BJP Govt in Karnataka plunges into crisis

Bangalore, Oct 6: The 28-month-old Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Government in Karnataka headed by B S Yeddyurappa is on the verge of collapse following over 20 MLAs, including six ministers, reportedly deciding to withdraw their support to the government.

State Janata Dal(S) President H D Kumaraswamy, who is working overtime to topple the only BJP Government in south, is leading the campaign.

Eight legislators, including three ministers, today met Governor H R Bharadwaj in the presence of Mr. Kumaraswamy and are likely to submit their resignation.

Soon they were joined by 16 others, who had camped in Chennai overnight, upping the ante of dissidence that put the government in a severe crisis, sources said.

Acting swiftly, Mr. Yeddyurappa sacked four ministers, independent legislators who had extended their support to the government but joined the dissident band yesterday.

The JD(S) leader met the Governor this morning along with five legislators, which including three BJP MLAs, and reportedly conveyed the decision of the legislators to withdraw their support to the BJP Government

Meanwhile, three ministers Renukacharya, Narendra Swamy and Venkataramanappa and 12 other MLA are who had gone Chennai, arrived in the city today and drove straight into Raj Bhavan. They were likely to withdraw their support to the government, sources said.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56824.html>

Karnataka Guv directs Yeddyurappa to prove majority by Oct 12

Bangalore, Oct 6: Acting swiftly after a group of 20 dissident legislators, including six ministers, decided to withdraw support to the BJP government in Karnataka, Governor H R Bharadwaj today directed Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa to prove his majority on the floor of the Assembly before October 12.

The Governor issued the direction immediately after four among the group met him

personally to hand over their letters, while 16 others, including some ministers who were camping in Chennai since yesterday, sent their resignations through fax to the Governor.

With the withdrawal of support by the 20 legislators, the BJP government, which has strength of 117 in the 224-member Assembly, plunged into a crisis and was on the verge of collapse.

While the Congress has strength of 74, Janata Dal(S) has 28 members in the lower House.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56968.html>

Karnataka crisis: Venkaiah Naidu to help resolve issues

Bangalore Oct 7: In view of the ongoing fiasco in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, the Bharatiya Janata Party has asked senior leader Venkaiah Naidu to intervene. He has been rushed to Bangalore to help resolve the issue within the state government.

Naidu is expected to mediate between Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa and the rebellious MLAs, who have withdrawn support from the government.

Nineteen MLAs on Wednesday handed over a letter to Governor H R Bhardwaj, withdrawing their support. They are reportedly unhappy over the recent Cabinet reshuffle in which six new ministers were inducted.

Following the withdrawal, the Governor has asked Yeddyurappa to prove his majority by October 12. Earlier, Yeddyurappa dropped four dissident ministers from his Cabinet.

The dropped ministers are (Textiles Minister) Venkataramanappa, (Minister for Agricultural Marketing) Shivaraj Thangadagi, (Youth Services and Sports Minister) D Sudhakar and (Animal Husbandry Minister) P M Narendraswamy.

Despite the crisis, Yeddyurappa seemed confident and said he'll prove the majority by October 11, a day ahead of the Governor's deadline of October 12.

"I talked to the Governor... the house will meet on October 11... The MLAs who have gone out of town will be back soon. I am confident of proving majority," said Yeddyurappa.

In the 224-member Assembly, BJP and independents together had the strength of 123 members.

With Wednesday's developments it has been reduced to 104 members. The BJP now requires the support of 113 members to prove its majority.

The BJP earlier had 117 MLAs including the Speaker, followed by Congress 73, JDS 28 and independents six.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57523.html>

Congress has no role in political crisis: Kharge

Gulbarga, Oct 6: Senior Congress leader and Union Labour Minister Mallikarjuna Kharge today said the Opposition Congress had no role in triggering the present political crisis being faced by the ruling BJP government in Karnataka.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57552.html>

JD-S, Congress misleading Karnataka MLAs. Says BJP

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Thursday expressed optimism that it would tide over the crisis engulfing its government in Karnataka and accused the Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) and the Congress of trying to mislead some state legislators.

"The problem will be resolved soon. The MLAs who have given a letter to the governor (withdrawing support to the government) should remember that they will lose their membership upon defection," party spokesman Shahnawaz Hussein said here in a scarcely veiled warning.

He said that JD-S leader H.D. Kumaraswamy and the Congress were out of power in the state and "were feeling desperate". "They are trying to mislead some MLAs... they should not indulge in this drama," he said.

The BJP leader said the party will make all efforts to see that its government in Karnataka stays. "It is the BJP's first government in the south and our opponents are feeling restless. The government will last its term," he said.

Answering a query, Hussein said there was no question of change of leadership in the

state. "There is no such question," he said.

BJP sources said that the party was working on various possibilities, including the possible disqualification of the dissenting MLAs, before vote of confidence is taken up, which will bring down the effective strength of the house.

The 29-month-old BJP government in Karnataka was Wednesday reduced to a minority in the 225-member assembly after 19 lawmakers, including 14 from the ruling party and five Independents, submitted a joint letter to the governor withdrawing support and expressing lack of confidence in Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-58083.html>

Karnataka's BJP rebel MLA tries to commit suicide

Bangalore, Oct 7: BJP dissident MLA H S Shankaralingegowda from Chamarajanagar Constituency here today tried to commit suicide after a tiff with his son. Police said Mr. Shankaralingegowda had a dispute with his son at the Legislators Hostel in the city before consuming poison.

The MLA was rushed to a near by hospital and was out of danger now, police added. Mr. Shankaralinge gowda was one of the leading rebels in the present political crisis created in the B S Yeddyurappa-led BJP government.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-58316.html>

Notice slapped on rebel BJP MLAs

Bangalore, Oct 8: The Karnataka Assembly Speaker, KG Bopaiah, on Friday slapped notices of 11 rebels Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs under provisions of the anti-defection law.

The notices to the MLAs, including state Excise minister MP Renukacharya, were served on the basis of a complaint filed by chief minister BS Yeddyurappa.

The 11 legislators have been asked to meet the Speaker before 5 pm of October 10 (Sunday) and tender an explanation.

The chief minister will face a vote of confidence in the floor of the House the next day (October 11) as per a directive by Governor HR Bhardwaj following withdrawal of rebel

BJP MLAs and Independents to the government.

The BJP is taking help of the anti-defection law provisions to bring pressurize the rebel MLAs to change their opposition and continue supporting the government under Yeddyurappa.

Meanwhile, the power drama in Karnataka shifted stage to Goa as a veritable tug of war started on Friday between BJP and Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) after the rebel MLAs took shelter in a hotel here since Thursday night.

JD-S president HD Kumaraswamy is also in the Goa capital. The BJP had accused the Congress and JD-S of plotting the latest political rebellion. Kumaraswamy was heckled outside the hotel by BJP workers when he reached there.

Goa Leader of Opposition Manohar Parrikar also rushed into the hotel close to midnight along with supporters, breaking security barricades, to hold discussions with the Karnataka BJP legislators." I will be meeting them (dissidents). There are some issues which would be discussed and settled," Parrikar said.

He said the BJP leaders would hold talks with dissident legislators here to defuse the crisis. "They have some problems but those are nothing against the party. They are ready to talk to a few people," Parrikar said.

He also asked why Kumaraswamy was here." The Congress has been trying to woo them with all possible means," the former Goa Chief Minister alleged.

Several Congress Ministers were also at the hotel even though the Congress had said the rebellion was an internal matter of the BJP.

"It's like they have kidnapped our MLAs, they are not letting us talk to them," said Janardhana Reddy, Yeddyurappa's trusted aide at this juncture who is also in Panaji, said.

The events were happening at Taj Exotica Resort at Benaullim, which has turned into a fortress since Thursday night, with tight security around after 15 legislators, including nine from BJP, checked in.

The BJP's strength in the Karnataka assembly was reduced to 104 from 123 after 19 lawmakers, 14 BJP MLAs and five Independents, submitted letters to Governor H R Bhardwaj withdrawing support to Yeddyurappa on Wednesday.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-58641.html>

Social/Humanitarian Issue

Koraga Community protest injustice

Mangalore, Oct 5: The members of the tribal Koraga Community from Daxina Kannada, Udupi, and Kasaragod in Kerala organized a protest today in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office here against the "injustice of the State Government."

Mr. Krishnappa Konchady, State Committee Member of the Budakattu Janara Hakkugala Rashtriya Vedike, said here the Koraga Community, the most backward Scheduled Caste Community, was facing a number of problems such as high mortality rate owing to malnutrition.

CPM State Unit President B Madhava, who spoke, demanded the Forest Department must give land to the Koraga people and even provide the relevant property documents. Citing Mohammed Peer Report, he said the Koraga members must be distributed two-and-a-half acre of agricultural land and urged the implementation of the ITDP Scheme.

He also said job opportunities should be provided for the youth of the community and children seats in professional colleges along with hostel facilities.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56632.html>

Gold, Silver coins to mark Dasara

Mysore, Oct 6: The Karnataka Government has decided to release gold and silver coins to mark the 400 years of world famous Dasara festivities on the opening day of the event on October 8.

Speaking to newsmen, Deputy Commissioner and Special Officer Harsha Gupta said gold coins in 10 to 20 gm and silver coins in 25, 50 and 100 gm would be embossed with the history of the festivities.

He said entry for the all the venues would be restricted with a bar coded passes including duty passes for the officials, to avoid rush. However, the public would be allowed in

separate enclosures.

Preparations at all the venues were expected to be completed tomorrow and invitations for the VIPs had already been dispatched. Various events would be held in different venues, he added.

The government had already released Rs five crores for the event and there was no dearth of funds for the sub committees to organize programmes.

As usual, the Gold Cards for the events was released. However, this year the gold card entry is restricted to October 15 to 17 only.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57549.html>

Food, Environment and Energy Issue

Six killed as monsoon rains lash Karnataka

Bangalore, Oct 5: The retreating South West monsoon, strengthened by troughs of low pressure on either side of the peninsular India, has caused havoc in Interior Karnataka claiming six lives during the last three days, besides damaging crops over 9100 hectares.

A Revenue department bulletin today said three people were killed in Shimoga district, two in Davangere and another in Haveri district in rain related incidents since Sunday.

Nearly 1000 houses were damaged and the loss was put at Rs 61 lakh. The damage to crop was put at Rs 51 lakh. The total loss due to the heavy rains was Rs 1.35 crore.

Relief camps have been set up in two places where 120 people had been shifted, the bulletin said.

Weather bureau officials said there would be an increase in rainfall during the next 48 hours with heavy rains at isolated places over the state.

The six people who were killed on October 3 and 4 included Shivakumar (35), who died in Yellapur in Haveri after he was electrocuted when the telephone connection at his house was connected with a live wire.

The bulletin said in Davangere, Shantamma (65) and a five month-old infant Sohail died in an incident of wall collapse. In Shimoga, three people travelling in a car were washed away in flash floods near Anavatti village of Sorab taluk. They were identified as Kortresh, K P Angora and the driver of the car Wilson.

Haveri district which was the worst affected in the heavy rains has been receiving heavy rains since October 2. Four cattle head perished while 579 houses were damaged. The district accounted for maximum crop loss in 8714 hectares.

Deputy Commissioner H G Shrivar visited the flood ravaged areas today to make an on-the-spot assessment of damage. He said two villages were totally cut off due to flood waters caused by breached tanks.

In Shimoga the heavy rains brought good inflows into Linganamakki Dam which houses the major hydro power generating plant in the state.

The level stood at 1812.3 ft against the full level of 1819 ft. The inflow was at 24,724 cusecs. In all, 13 tanks breached their bunds and were overflowing in the district.

The level at Bhadra Dam at Lakvalli in Chikmagalur district had reached the brim for the fourth time this season. Most of the 13,245 cusecs of inflow into the reservoir was being let out.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56630.html>

Rs.677-crore GAIL order for Dhabol-Bangalore pipeline

New Delhi, Oct 7: State-run gas utility GAIL Thursday said it has placed orders worth Rs.677 crore for laying a gas pipeline from Dabhol in Maharashtra to Bangalore in Karnataka.

"The construction work will start by November 2010 and the pipeline will be ready by March 2012. The gas supplies are expected to begin by June 2012," GAIL said in a statement.

According to the company, the project has been awarded to companies like Punj Lyod, which will lay seven spreads of the line out of a total 10.

Two spreads will be laid by the KSS-KSSIPI consortium. Advance Stimul consortium will lay one spread. The statement said the company has placed orders worth Rs.2, 000 crore in the last three months for buying pipelines and laying operations for the

Project.

The Dabhol-Bangalore pipeline is a 1,400-km gas transmission project which was approved by the company's board in June 2009 at an estimated cost of Rs.5, 000 crore.

After completion, the pipeline would have a transmission capacity of 16 million standard cubic feet per day (MMMSCMD).

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57802.html>

Detailed Report/Kerala

Political Issues

More than a loch in Kerala local bodies poll contest

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 4 : With the deadline for the filing of nominations to the Oct 23-25 local bodies polls in the state ending Monday, more than one lakh candidates are in the fray for 21,612 seats in 1,208 local bodies.

"More than 77,000 nominations were filed till Monday morning. By tonight (Monday night) the exact figure would emerge. The scrutiny will begin tomorrow and the last day for withdrawals is Thursday," a state election commission official told IANS.

Earlier, it was a mad rush of candidates to file nominations. As the deadline expired at 3 p.m., the authorities had to issue tokens to all those who were in line to allow them to file their nominations. Sixty-five-year-old A.M. Sebastian, a Congress candidate, died after suffering a cardiac arrest while standing in the queue to file his nomination paper.

Meanwhile, at ward no. 19 at Cherpu in Thrissur district, two sisters -- Vimala and Shylaja -- have filed nomination papers from rival fronts leaving their parents in a quandary. As the struggle for power begins, the state Forward Bloc has teamed up with the Bharatiya Janata Party in some areas in the capital district.

Of the total 21,612 seats, 11,135 are reserved for women.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55404.html>

Cong in better position to win civic polls: Karunakaran

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 4: Veteran Congress Leader K Karunakaran said the Congress was in a better position and had winning chances in the local body elections in the State.

Talking to reporters here, he said the United Democratic Front was in a position to win the elections easily.

Mr. Karunakaran, who had earlier raised complaints regarding the polls, said some of his complaints had been addressed.

He had earlier criticized the State Congress leadership in connection with the selection of candidates for the local body polls.

He had pointed out the state leadership had failed to seek the opinion of senior leaders during the selection of candidates.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55754.html>

6,000 officials to be deployed for local bodies polls

Kozhikode, Oct 4: The Kozhikode District administration will deploy as many as 26,000 officials for the smooth conduct of civic polls in the district on October 23.

The order for the deployment in 3,223 polling stations in the district was issued by Chief Electoral Officer and Collector P B Salim, according to an official press release here today.

The officials would be selected from the Central and State Governments, local self governing bodies, public setor, corporations, boards, anganwadis and banking establishments, the press release said.

The administration also proposed to hold training camps for the presiding officers and first polling officers on October 12, 13 and 14, the release added.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55776.html>

Left did not utilize development funds in Kerala: Congress

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 5 : Ahead of the local bodies poll in Kerala later this month, the Congress Tuesday said the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government had utilized only Rs.1,784 crore of the total annual plan outlay of Rs.10,025 crore for this fiscal.

According to former chief minister and leader of opposition Oommen Chandy, the four-

and-a-half years of the ruling Left government had been miserable.

"The only gain is for the CPI-M (Communist Party of India-Marxist) and that too not politically but financially. They spoke about a corruption-free government and are now neck deep in corruption. They had the full support of the centre and funds were not a problem, but they never had the will to perform," Chandy told reporters.

Discussing the actual implementation of central projects, Chandy said that as on Aug 31 this year, the total annual plan for this fiscal was pegged at Rs.10,025 crore but only Rs.1,784 crore had been utilized.

"Likewise, the government had promised Rs.2, 197 crore for local bodies this fiscal and have given just Rs.265 crore. For central schemes to be implemented by the local bodies, the state was given Rs.4, 276 crore but utilization was a mere Rs.654 crore. For 13 flagship projects, a sum of Rs.2, 048 crore was given and they have used just Rs.614 crore." Kerala holds local bodies' poll Oct 23 and 25.

Chandy was confident that the Congress would do well. "Kerala has gone back many years due to the Left rule."

The last time the local bodies' poll was held in 2005. All five corporations in the state are governed by the Left Democratic Front (LDF). Besides, 11 of 14 district panchayats, 33 of 53 municipalities, 114 of 152 block panchayats and 688 out of 984 gram panchayats are also ruled by the LDF.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56119.html>

3,443 nominations filed for local body poll rejected

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 6: The State Election Commission today rejected 3,443 nomination papers filed by the candidates for the ensuing elections to the local bodies on October 23 and 25, citing various reasons.

According to state election commission office, total 1, 49,649 nomination papers were filed by the candidates. The highest number of nomination papers rejected was from Kannur 590, followed by Kollam 582, Malappuram 357 and Thrissur 278.

As many as 142 nominations were rejected at Pathanamthitta while 255 from Idukki and 272 from Thiruvananthapuram, 173 from Alappuzha, 143 from Kottayam, 170 from

Ernakulam, 175 from Palakkad, 226 from Kozhikode, 55 from Wayanad and 24 from Kasaragod.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers was October 7; the commission office said and added that the election symbols for the candidates would be issued on the same day.

All national parties and all state parties except Kerala Congress would get their election symbols as allotted by the Election Commission, it added.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56836.html>

Economic Issue

Interest free banking system opened

Kochi, Oct 4: The introduction of Interest Free Banking system in the country offered a great opportunity to attract substantial investments from countries in the west Asian region, a leading authority on Interest Free Banking Muddassir Siddiqui, opined today

Addressing a press conference here, he said institutions and high net worth individuals from these countries were looking to investment opportunities in India, one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

The traditional relationship between India and Arab countries would also act as a catalyst for selecting India as the investment destination, he added.

According to projections by global consultant major, McKenzie, investment surplus in the west Asian region was expected to be around nine trillion dollars by 2020. Currently, the investment surplus in the region was around the levels of 1.5 trillion dollars, he pointed out.

India can attract a good portion of this huge investment potential by developing the appropriate regulatory framework, Mr.H.Abdur Raqeeb, ICIF said.

A regulatory framework suitable for Interest Free Banking would not have any impact on the existing financial system in the country, he added.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55741.html>

Social/Humanitarian Issue

Bomb and other materials seized in kerala

Kannur, Kerala, Oct 4: Police recovered 16 bombs, half-kilo gun powder and bomb making materials from Nagarthpeedika near Thalassery, in the district today.

According to police, nine powerful steel bombs, seven ice-cream bombs and half kilo gun powder and bomb making materials, kept under buses were recovered from a plot, which was not being used for some time.

Earlier, in the morning, New Mahe police and bomb squad seized five bombs, during a raid following a tip-off.

The raids would be continued in the coming days also, the sources added.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55737.html>

154 more under home quarantine

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 4: Adding panic due to the growing number of swine flu cases, 154 more people were placed under Home Quarantine due to H1N1 in Kerala today.

According to State H1N1 Control Room here, eight more patients were placed under hospital quarantine at various hospitals and throat swabs of 15 patients were sent for lab test.

Two patients were placed under ICU admissions, it said.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55744.html>

Fish workers to launch nation wide stir

Kozhikode, Oct 4: Fish workers will launch a nationwide stir demanding immediate withdrawal of the "anti-fishermen" Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (CRZN) 2010 from October 20.

Talking to newsmen here, Kerala Swatara Matsya Thozhilali Federation (KSMTF) President T Peter and General Secretary P P John said the decision to launch the stir was taken by the National Fish Workers Forum (NFWF), a 15-member umbrella organization, at its executive meet at Chennai on September 25 and 26.

Describing the notification as "pro-tourist lobby," they said there was no provision in it to look after the interest of the workers, including construction of dwelling units along the shore, among others.

The notification, which had clause to declare coastal areas as Special Economic Zone, would ultimately jeopardize the interests of the fishermen in the country, the alleged.

They said the NFWF and KSMTF would submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh, UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, the Environment Ministry, leaders of the major political parties and Members of Parliament on October 15 listing their grievances and suggestions thereof. The agitations would include dharnas and hunger strike in the district headquarters of all the coastal states from October 20 to 28, protest day and march to Union Government offices throughout the country on October 29.

Besides, a convention would be organized on the World Fisher Workers Day in all the states on November 21 to highlight their demand, they added.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55756.html>

Women feel unsafe in Kerala capital: Report

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 7: Women feel unsafe in Kerala capital and face maximum harassment while using public transport, according to Kerala State Economic Review (2008).

According to the report, atrocities against women have increased in Kerala by a whopping 338.40 per cent in the 15-year period starting 1992.

What is more startling is that the number of rape and molestation cases has increased steadily and a four-fold increase has been noticed between 1990 and 2005 in the Thiruvananthapuram city.

As per the records of national Crime Records Bureau, the total rate of crimes in Kerala in 2007 was higher than that of the national average.

"These were the findings of a survey on 'safety of women in public spaces of Thiruvananthapuram city,' conducted among 800 women by the Sakhi Women's Resource Centre here," Project Coordinator G Rejitha told UNI today.

"The survey was conducted before and after dark. Women's access to and visibility in public is compounded by several factors like time, place and purpose," she clarified.

"Conscious uses of time and space do's categories them as decent and respectable women. Thus, many spaces that women are able to access during the day become

inaccessible or more difficult to use at night," she said.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57473.html>

Food, Environment and Energy Issue

Intl horticulture expo to be organized in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 4: Kerala Horticulture Mission and Agriculture Department will jointly organize an international horticultural expo here from December one.

Exhibition on the methods of farming about floriculture, olericulture, pomology, medicinal plants and spices would be organized in this expo, a release said here today.

Besides this, seminars on the same topic would be organized and eminent scientists in the respective field would present papers in the expo, it added.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55742.html>

Rains wreak havoc in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 6: The incessant rains that continued to lash the State wreaked havoc to standing crops and destroyed houses in the southern districts.

Official sources said Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram Districts were the worst hit.

The total loss was estimated at Rs five crore, they said and added the total crop loss was estimated at Rs 2.36 crore. In Kollam, the agriculture loss stood at Rs 76 lakh and Thiruvananthapuram District suffered a loss of Rs 1.50 crore.

About 234 houses were completely destroyed and 1,189 houses partially damaged in the rains. The total loss was estimated at Rs 3.39 crore. They said 66 relief camps had been started in the two districts.

About 9,186 people were accommodated in the 58 relief camps in Kollam and 263 persons in eight relief camps in Thiruvananthapuram.

Reports from other parts of the State said many low-lying areas were under water.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57565.html>

Detailed Report/Tamil Nadu

Political Issues

Oct 9 conference will be turning point for Tamil Nadu politics: TNCC Prez

Dharmapuri, Oct 4: Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) President K V Thangabalu today claimed that the TNCC conference to be held in Tiruchirapalli on October 9 would be a turning point in Tamil Nadu politics.

Addressing media persons here, he said cadres of several political parties were joining the Congress to follow the leadership of AICC General Secretary Rahul Gandhi.

He said he was meeting with party cadres' district wise to garner their support for the Congress party's 125th year of celebrations to be held at Tiruchirapalli on October 9.

Mr. Thangabalu said TNCC cadres were welcome to share their ideas, suggestions and criticism but they should not make adverse remarks in public.

All the cadres should have the motto of strengthening party President Sonia Gandhi's hands.

On the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri Musjid verdict by the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court, Mr. Thangabalu said it should promote harmony among people.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55779.html>

Arrangements in full swing as Sonia visits tiruchirapalli

Tiruchirapalli, Oct 5: Necessary arrangements were going on in full swing for the proposed visit of All India Congress President Sonia Gandhi here on October 9, where she is going to address a Congress rally in which the supporters of former union minister S Thirunavukkarasar will formally merge into the Congress party, Tamil Nadu Congress President K V Thangabalu said here today.

He told media persons soon after inspecting the ongoing arrangements, that the team of SPG officials will visit the two places selected for conducting the Congress meeting, in which Ms Gandhi is going to address, to see the security arrangements tomorrow.

To a question, he said he met almost all the district office bearers of the party and the volunteers in their respective districts in the past few days across the state and motivated them towards bringing the Congress volunteers to the party.

Replying to a specific question, he said there was no groupism in the Congress party, adding that there were some misunderstandings among the volunteers as well the leaders of political parties.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56480.html>

Tribunal on LTTE ban reserves order on plea by Tamil bodies

Chennai, Oct 5 : A one-man tribunal that the Centre had set up to examine the validity of the two-year ban extended on Sri Lankan rebel organization LTTE today reserved its orders on the representation made by two Tamil organizations seeking to implead in the hearing.

Delhi High Court judge Justice Vikramjit Sen of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal heard the petitions by Tamil Nationalist Movement (TNM) and Tamil Nadu People's Rights Forum (TNPRF).

The two organizations along with MDMK party of Vaiko are seeking to revoke the ban, while the Tamil Nadu government strongly advocates continuation of the ban.

Justice Vikramjit Sen reserved orders on the petitions of TNM and TNPRF. He is likely to hold another sitting in Udhagamandalam, the dates for which have not been confirmed. TNM, founded by Mr. Nedumaran represented by its counsel N Chandrasekaran, argued that it was an "aggrieved party" by virtue of being banned in the past for being sympathetic to LTTE. Any ban on LTTE would also affect TNM, the lawyer argued.

Representing TNPRF, its counsel M Radhakrishnan, who had represented Rajiv Gandhi assassination accused life convict Nalini in her plea seeking release having completed to two decades in jail, said the very existence of the LTTE was questionable in the wake of its decimation by the Sri Lankan army last year. The forum wanted to implead itself to contest the ban as a sympathizer. Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor General A S Chandiyok argued if LTTE was not existent, how anybody could sympathize with it.

The Tamil Nadu government submitted records, including cases filed against LTTE cadres in the last two years and sought to justify the ban. Vaiko had appeared before the tribunal last month in New Delhi and sought to argue on behalf of the LTTE as his party had been dubbed as a staunch LTTE sympathizer. His plea was rejected.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56644.html>

BJP in TN to undertake Yatra

Chennai, Oct 6: In a bid to strengthen the party at the grass roots level ahead of the ensuing Assembly polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Tamil Nadu would undertake a Yatra covering across all districts of the State, highlighting various issues concerning the people.

Talking to reporters here today, BJP state president Pon Radhakrishnan said the "Thamarai Yatra" (Lotus Yatra) would commence from Thiruvottriyur in North Chennai on November 19, traverse across the State, and culminate in a rally at Chennai on January 29.

BJP national president Nitin Gadkari and senior party leaders would attend the rally and a procession to the state secretariat.

The Yatra and the rally was to demand educational assistance to poor students in Hindu community on the lines of being given to Minority students by the ruling DMK in the State.

The problems faced by farmers about non availability of seeds, fertilizers, and water for irrigation as the DMK government failed to take up the State's cause on Inter-state river issues, and issues faced by weavers, besides imposition of total prohibition were the others issues that would be highlighted during the yatra and the rally.

"If the DMK government cannot impose total prohibition, it should at least allow tapping of toddy by farmers," he said.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56921.html>

CPI holding talks to work out alliance for assembly polls

Chennai, Oct 6 : Communist Party of India (CPI) Tamil Nadu unit President D Pandian today said CPI was holding discussions for an alliance with parties who opposed the ruling DMK and its ally Congress.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Pandian said the CPI has been in talks with DMDK president Vijayakanth also for putting together an alliance for next year's elections to Tamil Nadu assembly. "The outcome of these talks would be made public soon," he said.

He condemned the state Government for permitting mining company Vedanta Holdings for mining the Chevarayan Hills for brass e-stones for quarrying. This was destroying a

temple where tribals offer worship. The tribals had been agitating against this, he charged.

Mr. Pandian requested the Centre to immediately take action to end the strike by Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) contract laborers, working out an amicable solution.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57539.html>

Tamil Nadu CM launches free bicycle distribution for Plus 1 students

Chennai, Oct 6: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi today launched distribution of free bicycles to plus one student, studying in government and aided schools in the state.

The Chief Minister launched the distribution of bicycles to students of all communities at a total cost of Rs 149.58 crore, an official release here said.

The bicycles were procured at the rate of Rs 2,670, a unit for Boys and Rs 2,555 for girls to benefit 5,68,359 boys and girls.

Mr. Karunanidhi launched the scheme by distributing the bicycles to seven boys and seven girls at the Secretariat here.

The students thanked the Chief Minister for providing them free bicycles and said this would help them to reach the schools in comfort.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57564.html>

CM announces conveyance hike for differently-abled

Chennai, Oct 7: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi today announced an increase in monthly conveyance from Rs 300 to Rs 1,000 for differently-abled people employed in government and local bodies. An official release said the hike would have effect from October 1.

In all, 10,000 differently-abled people working in Government, Local bodies, teachers, non-teaching staff and those employed in Government-aided educational institutions would be benefited by the hike.

This would incur an additional expenditure of Rs 8.40 crore per annum to the State Government.

The release said the conveyance had been hiked from Rs 150 to Rs 300 in June 2006 and now it has been further enhanced to Rs 1,000 per month with effect from October 1.

Mr. Karunanidhi issued necessary orders in this regard today, the release added.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57734.html>

TN CM chairs meeting for procuring 10 lakh colour TV sets

Chennai, Oct 7: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi today chaired a meeting for procuring additional ten lakh free colour TV sets to be distributed to the poor under the fifth phase of the scheme.

The free CTV scheme was one of the populist poll promises that catapulted the ruling DMK to power in the May 2006 Assembly polls.

An official release said Mr. Karunanidhi chaired the meeting of the Committee, comprising representatives of Legislature Parties, at the State Secretariat.

Deputy Chief Minister M K Stalin, IT Minister Poongothai, CLP Leader D Yasodha, CPI leader V Sivapunniam, MLAs Jeganmoorthy and D Ravikumar, Chief Secretary S Malathy, and senior officials participated in the meeting.

Since the scheme was launched on Anna Birthday on September 15, 2006, more than 80 lakh CTV sets were distributed to families those not owning a colour TV in four phases. The Government had already announced procurement of 40 lakh sets for the fifth phase.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-57761.html>

Over 1,400 policemen deployed for Sonia's visit

Tiruchirapalli, Oct 7: Over 1,400 policemen will be deployed on security duty during Congress President Sonia Gandhi's proposed visit to the city on October 9, police sources said.

The sources said Ms Gandhi will arrive by a helicopter from Puducherry on the evening of October 9.

After addressing a party rally in which the supporters of former union minister S Thirunavukkarasar will join the Congress, Ms Gandhi would leave for New Delhi by a special aircraft.

The sources said the SPG Team, which arrived here yesterday, inspected at least three places for the public meeting venue. They finally chose the military ground at Mannarpuam for the proposed meeting.

The SPG Team along with the local unit of the bomb detection and disposal squad conducted a thorough inspection of the entire area.

Another SPG Team was expected to arrive here by late this evening to take up the security responsibility of the venue.

Work on erection of bullet proof stage had commenced already under the direct supervision of Arya, Inspector General of Police, SPG, and New Delhi.

The sources said bullet proof cars were expected to arrive here tonight by a special flight from Delhi for Ms Gandhi's use during her programme.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-58153.html>

Fishermen begin indefinite strike against attacks by Lankan Navy

Rameswaram Island, Tamil Nadu, Oct 7: Fishermen in the Island town of Rameswaram who put out to sea in mechanized boats today embarked on indefinite strike to protest against attack on them by Sri Lankan Navy.

Talking to newsmen after an urgent meeting of All Fishermen Associations of Rameswaram, General Secretary of Tamil Nadu Fishermen Federation N J Bose said a resolution was also adopted at the meeting demanding the Centre to resolve long pending issues concerning the fishermen.

He said the fishermen were ready to withdraw the strike, if the Centre guarantees protection of their lives from the Sri Lankan Navy.

Following the frequent attacks, a situation had arisen preventing fishermen from venturing into sea for fishing. The fishermen were also rendered jobless in the recent weeks as they could not venture into the sea for fishing due to increasing attacks.

About 1,000 mechanized fishing boats will not set sail into the sea from today, he said.

The meeting also decided to go ahead with its proposed Katchatheevu stir on October 11. The fishermen will go to the controversial island by crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) carrying white flags. They would also stage an agitation in the Island to protest against the attacks on fishermen.

In another resolution, the meeting appealed to the Centre to hold talks with Sri Lankan government to find a permanent solution to the issue. It also urged the Indian government to help retrieve two mechanized boats of Rameswaram fishermen, which were apprehended by Lankan Navy and now stationed at Talai Mannar.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-58164.html>

Social/Humanitarian Issue

Modernized vegetable market will be set up in Madurai: Azhagiri

Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Oct 5: A modernized mega vegetable cum fruit market will be constructed at a cost of Rs 85 crore in Madurai to cater to the needs of farmers of south zone, according to Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister M K Azhagiri today.

In a press release issued here, the Union Minister said on his representation Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi had sanctioned an initial amount of Rs 30 crore to begin the construction works, which was expected to be completed by March 2012.

The remaining Rs 55 crore would be allotted soon. The market with all modern and infrastructure facilities and cold storage facility would be established in a 27 acres of land located near Mattuthavani Integrated City Terminal Bus Stand. The market was under the aegis of Tamil Nadu Agriculture Department.

Mr. Azhagiri, who is representing the Madurai Parliamentary Constituency, said the market would help farmers sell their vegetables and fruits directly to the consumers without hindrance of brokers.

It would generate employment opportunities besides export opportunities for the farmers, he added.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56067.html>

CITU plea to Tamil Nadu govt on recognition of TUs

Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, Oct 7: Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) All India president A K Padmanaban today urged the Tamil Nadu government to enact a legislation making it mandatory for industries to recognize trade unions (TUs).

Talking to newsmen here, he said the government should enact the legislation when the Assembly meets for the winter session on November 8.

He said the rights of the workers could not be protected as multi-national companies were ignoring the demands of trade unions for recognition.

He said the September 7 All India Trade Unions' strike, pressing a six-point charter of demands, including price rise and online commodity trading, was a grand success.

As the UPA-led Congress government at the Centre and Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh failed to take corrective measures, a similar strike would be organized on February 23, he said.

Mr. Padmanaban sought the intervention of Centre and the state government to resolve the more than two-week-long strike by the contract workers of public sector Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC).

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-58051.html>

Food, Environment and Energy Issue

SRM univ develops drugs for diabetes

Chennai, Oct 4: SRM University recently adjudged as the best private University in India, in association with the Banaras Hindu University has developed a Siddha drug for Type-2 diabetes.

The drug would be formally unveiled by Prime Minister Dr Man Mohan Singh during the inauguration of the 98th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) to be held at SRM University from January three to seven, 2011.

Talking to reporters today at the University campus at suburban Kattankulathur, SRM University Vice-Chancellor P Sathyanarayanan said the drug was developed by the research department of the University in association with Benaras Hindu University.

About the ISC, Prof Sathyanarayanan and ISC General President K C Pandey said five Nobel Laureates and several eminent scientists from India and abroad would participate in the ISC.

The theme of this year's ISC would be Quality Education and Excellence in Scientific Research in Indian Universities.

The Nobel winners who have confirmed participation were Venkataraman Ramakrishnan, Thomas A Steitz, Ada E Yonath, Martin Chalfie and Tim Hunt.

When asked about the theme being similar to that of ISC 2009 held at Shillong 'Science Education and Attraction of talent for Excellence in Research', Mr. Pandey said the focus of the 98th ISC would be on how universities could improve and contribute.

"We have been saying this for the past several years and even in earlier editions of ISC," he added.

In all 7,000 delegates would participate in the ISC which would have 16 plenary sessions on various topics.

A Space Summit would be held alongside the ISC, in which space agencies from NASA Japan Space Exploration Agency apart from ISRO will participate.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-55768.html>

TN Governor appeals to people to switch off lights for 10 minutes

Chennai, Oct 5 : As part of creating awareness on the growing concerns of Global Warming, Tamil Nadu Governor Surjit Singh Barnala today appealed to the people of the State to switch off lights for ten minutes as part of 5 tens Lights Out Campaign.

"I appeal to the people of Tamil Nadu to switch off the lights for 10 minutes at 2200 hrs on October 10, 2010, as your symbolic support to mitigate Global Warming," Mr. Barnala said, according to a Raj Bhavan communiqué.

The campaign was launched by ExNora International, an NGO in the field of environment protection, in association with various schools and other NGOs and Trusts. The 5 tens Lights Out Campaign was to save "Mother Earth" and create awareness on Global warming.

The 'Save the Earth five 10s Lights out' campaign' is to switch off lights for ten minutes at 2200 hrs on the 10th day of 10th Month (October) of the 10th year of this millennium.

People from different walks of life, including from legal fraternity, educational institutions, Film, TV and Radio, Trade unions, Bank, Industries NGOs and those from

The fields of sports and media, and politicians have pledged their support to fight against Global warming.

As Mother Earth was taking a biggest blow as the consequences of Global Warming have started to unleash posing a major threat to humanity, the campaign was to sensitize the people about the causes, consequences and solutions of global warming.

To create more awareness, hoardings featuring film and sports personalities were installed in several parts of the city in this regard.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-56086.html>

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