

CM denies link, DMK demands his resignation

Agencies, Chennai
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Saturday denied any links with the murder of a security guard and break-in at late Chief Minister Jayalitha's Kodanad Estate bungalow in 2017, as claimed in a video release by former Tehelka journalist and said legal action would be taken against those involved in publishing such false information.



Strongly condemning it, he said it was a deep-rooted conspiracy and all those behind this act would soon

Kodanad incidents

be identified. Only after a detailed probe, the truth on who were behind this would be known, the Chief Minister said.

"I have no links with the Kodanad incidents. A police complaint has been lodged, Mr Palaniswami said and termed it as aimed at tarnishing his image and that of the AIADMK government."

Earlier, Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar warned of legal action against those "conspiring" to "tarnish" the government's image.

He also threatened action against TV channels for telecasting the press conference. The media outlets had brought "disrepute" to the Chief Minister and the State government by broadcasting unsubstantiated claims, he charged.

It may be recalled Samuel Mathew, accompanied by Sayan and V Manoj, two of the accused in the break-in, claimed that another accused Kanakaraj (since dead) had liaised with Mr Palaniswami.

A video purportedly containing conversations with some of the accused, in which they made various allegations, was also played at the press conference.

Reacting to it, DMK President M K Stalin demanded the resignation of the Chief Minister and a reply from the Centre, which was trying to shield him. Mr Stalin, pointing out the video about the involvement of the Edappadi government in the murder to capture cash and documents from Kodanadu estate after the death of Jayalitha, said there were proofs.

Prez, VP, PM pay tributes to Vivekananda on his birth anniversary

Agencies, New Delhi

President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid tribute to Swami Vivekananda on his 156th birth anniversary.

"Tributes to Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary. In honour of this great scholar, monk and nation builder, we commemorate this day as National Youth Day. The ideals and vision of Swami Vivekananda continue to shape the minds of generations," the President tweeted.

"Paying tribute to Swami Vivekananda, the Vice President said, 'my tributes to one of the tallest sons of India, Swami Vivekananda, who was a spiritual teacher and an embodiment of Hindu culture on his birth anniversary, today.'



"Swami Vivekananda was a social reformer and was against religious dogmas. He believed in the uplift of humanity, irrespective of caste or creed and emphasized the importance of spiritualism for the survival and progress of mankind. We need to popularise the teachings of Swami Vivekananda among the younger generation so that they realise and assimilate the greatness of

India's culture, spiritual heritage and traditions,' the vice President tweeted.

"On the National Youth Day, celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. I call up on the youth of India to take active participation in nation building.

Read and Understand what Shri Vivekananda had said and wanted the youth of the nation to do. Awake, Arise and Stop

Not till the goal is reached,' the Vice-President tweeted.

Prime minister Narendra Modi also paid tribute to Swami Vivekananda. 'Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached. Remembering these powerful words, and the rich thoughts of the venerable Swami Vivekananda on his Jayanti. He emphasised on the ideals of service and renunciation. His belief in Yuva Shakti was unwavering,' Mr Modi tweeted.

"The thoughts and ideals of Swami Vivekananda inspire and energise crores of Indians, particularly our youth. It is from him that we draw the motivation of building an India that is strong, vibrant, inclusive and an India that takes global leadership in several areas," the Prime Minister tweeted.

Justice finally in Chattarpati case: IJU

Hyderabad: Welcoming the conviction of Dera Sacha Sauda Chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh for the murder of Sirsa-based Journalist Ram Chander Chattarpati, the Indian Journalists Union (IJU), the largest and most representative organization of journalists in the country, said his family and the Journalist fraternity have finally got justice.

Journalists Union welcomed the conviction and said "it has been a very long battle in which Chattarpati's son Anshul and a few friends stood together, and their fight has eventually not gone in vain.

IJU President D Amar and Secretary General Sabina Inderjit in a statement here on Saturday said that it was Chattarpati who first blew the lid on Ram Rahim's sexual exploits of the inmates at his Dera, for which he is now undergoing a 20-year sentence on charges of raping two Sadvhis. The IJU has stood by Chattarpati's family and had participated in the initial protests at Sirsa for Rahim's arrest and filing of case against him. The IJU backs Anshul's appeal to the CBI court to sentence Chattarpati "with maximum punishment", as it would send a strong message to all those who seek to silence journalists from carrying out their duties, the statement added.

Chattarpati, who ran a newspaper Pooch Sach, was shot dead in his house on October 24, 2002 following a news report published by him in May 2002 about an anonymous complaint by a Sadvhi about sexual exploitation of Sadvhis in Dera Sacha Sauda.

The case was registered in 2003 and handed over to the CBI in 2006. After 12-long years, the CBI court finally gave its verdict on Friday convicting Ram Rahim and three of his associates for Chattarpati's murder.

The IJU's State Union the Punjab & Chandigarh

SCR to run 7 Jansadharan Special Trains on Jan 13 to clear extra rush

Agencies, Hyderabad

South Central Railway (SCR) will run seven Jansadharan Special Trains to clear extra rush of passengers during Sankranti festival season.

An SCR statement here said on Saturday that Train No 07192 Secunderabad - Vijayawada Jansadharan Special Train will depart Secunderabad at 2330 hrs on January 13 and arrive Vijayawada at 0710 hrs on the next day.

In return direction, Train No. 07195 Vijayawada - Secunderabad Jansadharan Special Train will depart Secunderabad at 1200 hrs on January 13 and arrive Vijayawada at 1930 hrs on the same day.

In return direction, Train No 07193 Vijayawada - Hyderabad Jansadharan Special Train will depart at Vijayawada 2025 hrs on January 13 and arrive Hyderabad at 0300 hrs, next day.

Enroute, these Special Trains will also stop at Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Nadikudi, Piduguralla, Sattenapalli, Guntur and Mangalagiri stations in both the directions.

Train No. 07191 Kakina Town - Tirupati

Jansadharan Special Train will depart Kakina town at 1845 hrs on January 13 and arrive Tirupati at 0745 hrs on the next day.

Enroute this Special Train will also stop at Renigunta, Srikalahasti, Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Tenali, Vijayawada, Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Nidadavolu, Rajahmundry and Samalkot stations.

Train No. 07184 Vijayawada - Vizianagaram Jansadharan Special Train will depart Vijayawada at 2110 hrs on January 13 and arrive Vizianagaram at 0720 hrs on the next day.

In the return direction, Train No 07185 Vizianagaram - Vijayawada Jansadharan Special Train will depart Vizianagaram at 0745 hrs on January 13 and

arrive Vijayawada at 1630 hrs on the same day.

Enroute these Special Trains will also stop at Nuzvidu, Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Nidadavolu, Rajahmundry, Dwarapudi, Anaparthi, Samalkota, Pithapuram, Annavaram, Tuni, Narsipatnam, Elamanchili, Anakapali, Duvvada and Kottavalasa stations in both the directions

The fare from Secunderabad to Vijayawada is Rs 130, From Vijayawada to Hyderabad Rs 135, from Tirupati to Kakina Town Rs 175, from Vijayawada to Vizianagaram Rs 145 and from Vizianagaram to Vijayawada Rs 145, the statement said, adding that these Jansadharan specials are fully unreserved coaches with normal fare.

NATION BRIEF

Ex-MP accused in murder case held by UP STF

Lucknow: Former Member of Parliament (MP) Jawahar Jaiswal, an accused in Mahesh Jaiswal murder case, was arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh police on Saturday. Senior Superintendent of Police (STF) Abhishek Singh on Saturday here said the force had arrested ex MP Jawahar Jaiswal, resident of Chota-Lal Pur in Varanasi's Cantt area. The SSP said that the MP was carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 on his head and was an accused in the Mahesh Jaiswal murder case, while also carrying the 'wanted' tag in a case of defaulting crores of rupees in an incident of the Mahraganj Sugar mill and that the accused was arrested from Damoh in Madhya Pradesh. Mr Singh said that Mahesh Prasad Jaiswal, resident of Ardi market situated in the Cantt area of Varanasi, was murdered in 2012 and Jawahar Jaiswal was an accused in the case.

My position is due to strict adherence to principle: Lalu

Patna: RJD chief Lalu Prasad today renewed his attack on BJP and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar led JD (U) by saying 'he has acquired his position due to strict adherence to his principle'. Mr Prasad hit at NDA by taking to his official twitter account and interspersing his tweet with some chosen Urdu words. He said, "Main inquilab pasando ki ik kabil se hun jo hak pe dat gaya us lashkar-e-kaleel se hun. Main yu hi dast-o-gariba nahin, jamane se main jis jagah pe khara hu kisi dalil se hun". (I am from the camp of people inclined for revolution. I am from the small battalion those who take their fight for their rights to the last. Where I stand now, it is because of my principle".

26 employees suspended in central Kashmir

Srinagar: The district administration in the central Kashmir district of Badgam on Saturday suspended 26 employees of Power Development Department (PDD) and Roads and Buildings (R&B) for remaining suspended, an official spokesman said. He said following complaints Additional District Magistrate (ADM) today conducted surprise checking of different government department in Badgam today. During the checking 21 employees of PDD and R&B were found absent.

Kerala tops list with 5 out of 10 destinations in India

Thiruvananthapuram: Booking.com, one of the world's leading digital travel platforms, on Saturday revealed that Kerala topped the list with five out of 10 most welcoming tourist destinations in India. According to its 2018 Guest Review Awards survey data, the five destinations were Varkala, Kochi, Thekkady, Alleppey and Munnar. For the seventh annual edition of the awards, a total of 6,125 accommodation providers from India were recognised. "No matter the type, size or location of the property, what we see from our customers is that they value human connection when they travel, whether it's some extra attention to detail or a truly individualised approach to service," said Ritu Mehrotra, Country Manager India, Sri Lanka and Maldives at Booking.com.

BJP working on RSS, Hindutva agenda: GS Dotasara

Agencies, Ajmer

The BJP is working on the agenda of RSS and Hindutva and its only aim is to rename historical places in the country, Rajasthan's Education Minister Govind Singh Dotasara said here on Saturday.



directed the officials to reinstate the word Rajasthan in the talent search examination," he said.

"Congress doesn't believe in changing either history or names like the BJP. We believe in quality and holistic education for the proper growth of our students," added Rajasthan's Education Minister Dotasara.

Education Minister Dotasara also held a meeting with the officials of the Central Board of Secondary Education Board (CBSE) and discussed various issues related to school educa-

tion.

"I have asked the CBSE officials to review the changes made in NCERT textbooks by forming a review committee. We have also approached the subject experts and requested them to recommend changes in the textbooks meant for Classes I to XII students. The revised textbooks will be made available to the students from the next session 2020-21," said Dotasara.

In response to a question regarding the change in the schedule of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) examination, Dotasara said that the examination date was extended as the candidates did not get adequate time to prepare themselves for the examination.

"We earlier had sent a request to the RPSC to change the date of the examination citing an appropriate reason. They have accepted the request. So far the formal announcement has not been made but will soon be made," he said.

Sushma embarks on a visit to Uzbekistan to attend first India-Central Asia Dialogue

Agencies, New Delhi

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj left for a two-day visit to Uzbekistan to attend the first India-Central Asia Dialogue.



Ministers from other Central Asian countries and Afghanistan will attend," MEA spokesman Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

Ms Swaraj will co-chair the Dialogue along with Abdulaziz Kamilov, the host and the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

"The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan will participate in the Dialogue as a special invitee for the Session dedicated to connectivity issues in the region. Foreign Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan and the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan will represent their respective countries," an MEA statement said.

PM flays Naidu, Mamata for 'opposition' to CBI

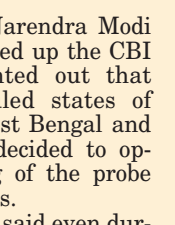
Agencies, New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday raked up the CBI bogey and pointed out that three opposition ruled states of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh have decided to oppose the functioning of the probe agency in these states.

In this context, he said even during his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister, all 'Congress-controlled' CBI and other agencies have tried to 'harass' him, but he never tried to stop the functioning of the probe agency in the western state.

Addressing the BJP National Convention here, Mr Modi said, "I fail to understand what is their fear? Why these three states have opposed the functioning of CBI....What wrong these people have done".

The remarks come in reference to recent decisions by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and



newly installed Congress regime in Chhattisgarh that 'withdraws' general sanction for the functioning of the premier agency in these states.

"When I was Gujarat Chief Minister for long 12 years continuously, they did everything to harass me. Congress, their remote controlled officers and the entire Sultanat have not spared a single opportunity to harass me." "There was no single agency, which did not create problems for me or harass me....," Prime Minister said.

Congress leaders also had claimed in 2007 that 'I would be jailed soon', Mr Modi said adding - "The Mumbai court verdict (on

Sohrabuddin case) has lately made it clear that the Congress wanted to implicate me. They had even jailed Amit Shah".

But, he said despite all that harassment, as Gujarat Chief Minister, "we never made any rule that would prevent the functioning of CBI in the state of Gujarat".

"We also had powers, we knew the law and could have framed such norms (as done by West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh)," Prime Minister pointed out adding, "we did not do so because we have faith in the rule of law. We have faith in the principle of difference between truth and falsehood".

Mr Modi said, "Today these leaders (Chief Ministers in Andhra, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh) do not have faith in CBI, tomorrow they will not have faith in some other institutions — Supreme Court, army, Election....as if everyone is wrong".

"Can people with such mindset be ever trusted," Prime Minister asked.

Mallikarjun Kharge refutes Narendra Modi's remark on Karnataka CM

Agencies, Bengaluru

Strongly refuting the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark that Congress in Karnataka is treating Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy as a 'clerk' Congress leader in the Loka Sabha M Mallikarjuna Kharge said that "PM's assumption is wrong".



han' and said that "it is not becoming of a Prime Minister to say that".

Expressing dissatisfaction about the SP-BSP alliance, sans Congress, will not help to keep the communal parties at bay, Mr Kharge said "anyhow it is the call of their parties and must have strong faith on their own strength".

Maintaining that there is a dire need for all the secular parties to join

hands and fight the communal forces, he said that "people belonging to exploited classes and poor will get the raw deal in the hands of the BJP. Congress is also having talks with several parties in many States in an attempt to put a combined opposition to the communal forces."

Reiterating his charge that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is not ready to face the Congress on the Rafal deal and showing running away from it, he said that "Modi is avoiding to answer our leaders on the issue".

Meanwhile, Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy also reacted sharply on the Prime Minister's remark and said that "such statements won't deter our coalition government from the development agenda".

UP mining scam: ED likely to register case against SP govt

Lucknow: More trouble is in store for former Samajwadi Party government as well as some IAS officers, including B Chandrakala, as Enforcement Directorate sleuths are preparing to register a formal case of money laundering in connection with siphoning off money earned through illegal mining in Uttar Pradesh.

Sources said here on Saturday that the ED sleuths had sought certified copies of documents and wealth recovered during raids from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team so that they could move ahead with the registering of the case.

In the case registered by CBI in connection with illegal mining, B Chandrakala was also named in the FIR.