

REBEL MPs INFORM VENKAIAH NAIDU OF THEIR DECISION

TDP melts down in Rajya Sabha, four of its six members cross over to BJP

Nadda welcomes TDP MPs, Naidu says they have 'personal agenda'

SREENIVAS JANYALA & LALMANI VERMA
HYDERABAD, NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

SWEPT OUT of power in Andhra Pradesh and handed a drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections, the TDP took another big hit Thursday as four of its six Rajya Sabha MPs joined the BJP while chief N Chandrababu Naidu was holidaying in Europe with his family.

Hours before BJP's new working president J P Nadda welcomed them into the party fold at a press conference in New Delhi, the four TDP MPs — Y Satyanarayana Chowdary, CM Ramesh, T G Venkatesh and Garikapati Mohan Rao — announced their decision to merge with the BJP "with immediate effect".

In a series of tweets later, Chandrababu Naidu accused the



TDP MPs Chowdary, Venkatesh and Ramesh join the BJP in New Delhi Thursday in the presence of J P Nadda, Thawarchand Gehlot and Bhupender Yadav. Amit Mehra

MPs of pursuing "their own personal agendas" and said the crisis will not affect his party.

Since the TDP has only six members in Rajya Sabha, the four teamed up to avoid the anti-defection law. The MPs said they were informing Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu about their decision. Their move to cross over is a shot in the arm for the BJP which lacks numbers in Rajya Sabha — its strength will

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2 MPs face CBI, ED, I-T probes, BJP had called them Mallyas

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

CM RAMESH and Y S Chowdary, two of the four TDP Rajya Sabha members who crossed over to the BJP Thursday, are also industrialists and have been under the scanner of Income Tax, CBI and Enforcement Directorate.

Ramesh's name came up during the tussle in the CBI between then Director Alok Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana, and there has been an Income Tax investigation regarding a company said to be linked to him. Chowdary, on the other hand, has been on the radar of the CBI and ED in a case of an alleged bank loan fraud.

In the past, both have

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Commentary or BCCI-IPL roles: World Cup TV experts face choice

BCCI ethics officer rules that multiple roles violate conflict-of-interest norm

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

THE STAR Sports panel of experts for the World Cup is expected to see a shake-up with the BCCI all set to give the stars two weeks to choose between commentary assignments and their official positions with the board and IPL franchises. Even active cricketers, either for India or the IPL, have been barred from being employed as commentators by the broadcasters.

The Indian Express has learnt that the BCCI's Ethics Officer, D K Jain, in an order passed on an internal conflict-of-interest complaint, has questioned the presence of stars like Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, V V S Laxman, Harbhajan Singh and close to 20 other former and current cricketers in the commentary box for the ongoing tournament in England.

It is learnt that Jain ruled that the experts were flouting the Supreme Court-appointed



Ganguly, Tendulkar among those under watch

Justice R M Lodha panel recommendations on conflict of interest as they were holding multiple positions in the BCCI or IPL.

Stressing on the "one person, one position" principle, Jain has ruled that Ganguly, who is the Delhi Capitals mentor, Cricket Advisory Committee member, Star Sports commentator and Cricket Association of Bengal chief, can be seen only in one role.

Similarly, Tendulkar and Laxman can either be in the

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THE IDEAS PAGE



MODI 2.0: MAN ON A MISSION

BY GAUTAM GAMBHIR
PAGE 15

Adani firm trying to impede our probe, DRI tells HC

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

THE Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has told the Bombay High Court in a June 13 affidavit that Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) is trying to "impede" its probe against a few Adani Group firms by challenging the "well settled procedure of issuance of Letter Rogatory" (LR) in the court.

ALR is a formal request from one country to another under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) seeking judicial assistance in accessing information on an offshore entity in connection with an ongoing probe.

Last year, AEL moved the Bombay High Court seeking to quash all LRs issued by the agency in 2017 to countries including Singapore against Adani Group firms being probed for alleged overvaluation of Indonesian coal imports. The High Court had, in September 2018, given an interim stay to AEL. The DRI moved the Supreme Court as its probe came to a halt. The apex court has now directed the High Court to decide the case by the end of this month.

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Research published in pay-and-publish journals won't count: UGC panel

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

SUGGESTING SWEEPING reforms to promote the quality of research in India, a UGC panel has recommended that publication of research material in "predatory" journals or presentations in conferences organised by their publishers should not be considered for academic credit in any form.

They include selection, confirmation, promotion, appraisal, and award of scholarships and degrees, the panel has suggested. The committee, which submitted its 14-page report to the UGC recently, has also recommended changes in PhD and MPhil programmes, including a new board for social sciences research (see box, page 2).

The four-member committee — headed by P Balram, former director of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru — was formed by the



The Indian Express report on July 19, 2018

UGC late last year after The Indian Express published a series of investigative reports on how India has emerged as one of the biggest markets for "predatory" publishers of substandard research journals.

The reports showed how over 300 "predatory" publishers bring out journals that claim to be international and publish

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Bhatt at the Jamnagar court, Thursday. Rakesh Chudasama

Gujarat custody death case: Sacked IPS officer Bhatt gets life in jail

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 20

A DISTRICT and sessions court in Jamnagar Thursday sentenced dismissed IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt to life imprisonment in a 1990 custodial death case when he was Additional Superintendent of Police in the district. He is already in Palanpur jail, under judicial custody since September last year, for allegedly framing a man in a drug seizure case.

His wife Shweta Bhatt said they plan to appeal the Jamnagar court order in a higher court after studying it thoroughly. In a press release, she called it "a classic case of political vindictiveness".

A Gujarat cadre IPS officer who had once made allegations against then Chief Minister Narendra Modi over his handling of the 2002 riots, Bhatt was suspended in 2011 and sacked by the Ministry of Home Affairs in August 2015, one of the charges

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2 killed in fresh Bengal violence, TMC & BJP blame each other

SWEETY KUMARI & SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, BHATPARA, JUNE 20

TWO PERSONS were killed and five injured in fresh clashes in Bhatpara, in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Thursday morning. While the BJP alleged that Ram Babu Shaw (17) and Dharamveer Shaw (40) were killed in police firing, the state police department said "some criminals and outsiders" had "hurled bombs and used illegal firearms". Section 144 has been imposed in the area.



Security personnel at Bhatpara after the clashes on Thursday. Partha Paul RELATED REPORT, PAGE 12

"Some criminals and outsiders created a law and order problem in Bhatpara today in

which two persons lost their lives. Police were also attacked."

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



EXPRESS NETWORK

AN-32 CRASH: BODIES OF IAF PERSONNEL RECOVERED PAGE 11

Moving to monetise idle land assets of PSUs, Centre kickstarts process to hire consultants

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE CENTRE has kicked off the process of hiring consultants to push its plans to sell idle land assets and properties owned by public sector enterprises. As the new government gets ready to present its first full Budget on

July 5, land monetisation will be a key component of disinvestment to help government raise revenues.

Assets of over two dozen public sector enterprises in various sectors including power, textiles and fertilisers are likely to be put up for monetisation. Unused land and residential properties held by these compa-

nies, closed industrial units, and plants are among the assets to be considered for sale, sources said.

The move is critical at a time when the government needs to raise resources to spend and push growth without derailing its fiscal consolidation roadmap. Sources said the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), in con-

sultation with the NITI Aayog, has done "sufficient" background work to initiate the process of land monetisation at a significant scale. The government may adopt different models for land monetisation depending upon the nature of assets. These could include securitising a pool of assets through

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At Rs 200-crore wedding in the hills, voices from the ground: 'What are you giving us?'

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SOMYA LAKHANI
AULI (UTTARAKHAND), JUNE 20

A PINK SARI with a purple border for Rekha Devi and a mustard shade for Lalita Devi, each priced at Rs 1,100 and bought from the "best" sari shop at Joshimath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. "Why not? Such a wedding is happening for the first time in Auli," said Rekha.

The two friends are not on the exclusive guest list for the

Rs 200-crore wedding extravaganza of the two sons of controversial business brothers Atul and Ajay Gupta in Auli, 16 km from Joshimath, but have showed up like hundreds others to simply "watch".

At 3,000m above sea level, Auli, an alpine meadow, has never been the centre of attention. From December-March, adventure junkies drive up for skiing — otherwise, the tiny hill station is a pit-stop for devotees on their way to Badrinath.

Last week, however, Auli entered the news cycle when the Uttarakhand High Court slammed the state government's decision to allow the extravagant



At the wedding venue in Auli, Thursday. Abhinav Saha

wedding at the pristine site, after a resident filed a petition against the event.

On June 18, the High Court ordered the Gupta brothers to deposit Rs 3 crore to the District Magistrate of Chamoli for restoration after the event, and directed that two monitoring assistants be deputed at the site to ensure measures suggested by the Court and the state pollution control board are adhered to.

But then, the Gupta brothers are not new to controversy — from becoming one of the most influential families in South Africa, with a business empire spanning computers, mining

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