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TDP chief, son detained, rally plan foiled

For several days now, he had been alleging that 10 party leaders were murdered and 500 incidents of attacks on party workers and supporters had occurred across the State in the first 100 days of YSRCP rule.

‘Victims’ evicted
The second part of the drama was witnessed at the rehabilitation camp with police swinging into action and evicting the ‘victims’ from there. They were then escorted to five villages, including Atmakuru, in five buses under police protection. Many TDP leaders who tried to prevent the police from entering the premises were arrested.
Former Ministers Prathipati Pulla Rao and Nakka Ananda Babu were placed

under house arrest at their homes in Chilakaluripet and in Guntur. Former MLA Alapati Rajendra Prasad was allowed to come to the rehabilitation camp but by afternoon, he along with other leaders were moved to Nallapadu police station.
Director-General of Police (DGP) D. Gautam Sawang said that Mr. Naidu was ‘detained at his house’, as he announced he would defy the prohibitory orders.

Enacting drama: YSRCP
The YSRCP slammed the TDP for enacting a “drama, hiring paid artistes”, and said the situation in Palnadu was peaceful and the people there had been living in peace for the last 100 days after “our government took over.”

Steep fines to save lives, not for revenue: Gadkari

Asked about some BJP-ruled States also not being in favour of steep fines, the Union Minister said that in the Act, the government has provided for a lower and upper limit for a fine, and States are free to take a decision.
“States have the right [to reduce fines]. They can do what they find suitable...the revenue goes to the State, it doesn’t come to the Central kitty... But people’s lives should be saved, accidents should be less... awareness should be spread. We have no objection with what the State government does.”
He, however, stressed that people’s lives should be saved.

“Post this Act, there is a queue in RTO offices for licence...about 30% licences were bogus... 30 years back, the fine which was ₹100, how much should it be today? I don’t need to tell you the value of the rupee now and then.”
Replying to a question related to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s comments that slowdown in the auto sector was caused due to the millennial mindset of using services such as Uber and Ola, Mr. Gadkari said the statement was “misinterpreted.”
“There are various reasons [for the slowdown]... FM said one of the many reasons is Ola, Uber... You need to understand that,” he said.

Additionally, the Union Minister said that any decision of reduction in GST – one of the key demands of the auto sector, will be taken only by the GST Council.

Post-study work visa back in the U.K.

Students entering the UK in the 2020-21 academic year intake are expected to be eligible, said a spokesperson from the UK High Commission in Delhi, adding that students who have entered the UK earlier but still hold a valid student visa at the beginning of the next academic year are also likely to be eligible for the new route.
The visa will require a new application including payment of a new visa fee, the amount of which is yet to be determined. The visa is not extendable beyond a two-year period, and time spent in the UK on this visa will not count towards settlement. Visa-holders will be allowed to work at any skill level. Once they find a suitable job, they will be able to switch to a skilled work visa if they meet re-

quirements.
Almost 22,000 Indian students got a UK visa in the year ending June 2019, a 42% increase from the 15,000 students who did so last year.
However, this still lags far behind the highs of 2010-11, when 39,090 Indians were granted student visas to the UK.
In 2012, then Home Secretary Theresa May scrapped the post-study work visa, claiming it was being abused by bogus colleges exploiting international students, including those from India. “Unlike the route which closed in 2012, this new route will also include safeguards to ensure only genuine, credible students are eligible,” said a statement from the High Commission.

Mamata assuages fear on Deocha coal block

‘Work only after rehabilitation’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that work on the proposed Deocha Pachami coal block will start only after rehabilitation of the 4,000 people, 40% of them tribal population, living in that area.
“We will not rush through the project and will take the people into confidence before commencing work,” Ms. Banerjee told press persons at the State Secretariat, while formally announcing the mining project.

‘MoU next week’
She said that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre and the State government on the project will be signed next

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MAMATA BANERJEE
West Bengal CM

week.
Deocha Pachami, located in West Bengal’s Birbhram district, has an inferred reserve of 2.1 billion tonnes and is among the biggest coal deposits in the world.
Three years ago, West Bengal was declared the sole allottee of the block by the Centre.
She assured that the people residing in the area need not fear. “We will take the responsibility of these families,” she said.

Cow important to the rural economy, says PM

Modi says it is unfortunate that some people are critical of the government’s policies to protect the animal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that livestock had always been vital for the rural economy in India, and stressed that his seriousness towards protection of cows could be gauged from the vaccination scheme introduced by the government.

Citing a scheme run by the Rwandan government to tackle malnutrition and poverty through the distribution of cows to elaborate on the role of cows in the rural economy, Mr. Modi said the African nation’s scheme donated a cow to each household. The first calf produced by the cow is then given to the government, which then donates it to other villagers who do not have a cow.

Rural economy
“This works like a chain,” Mr. Modi said, praising the Rwandan model for creating a network of employment. This also helped ensure that the cow, livestock and milk production became part of the rural economy, he said at the launch of the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NACDP) at Mathura in Uttar Pradesh. The programme aims to control and



Lending a hand: Narendra Modi helping women segregate plastic waste under the ‘Swachhta Hi Seva’ scheme in Lucknow. ■PTI

eradicate foot and mouth disease and brucellosis among livestock in the country.
He said “some people created a storm” after he had visited Rwanda last year and donated “250 cows” to its villagers. It was unfortunate that there were some in the

country who were critical of the Centre’s cow conservation policies.
“Some people, the moment the words Om and cow fall on their ears, their hair stands on end. They think the country has gone [back] to the 16th and 17th centuries,” Mr. Modi said.

It was people with such views who left no stone unturned to “destroy” the country, the Prime Minister said.
Later in the evening, Mr. Modi tweeted that he was saddened to see heaps of plastic being removed from the bodies of cows being op-

erated at the Pashu Arogya Mela in Mathura.
“This is deplorable and should inspire us to work towards reduced and careful plastic usage,” the Prime Minister tweeted.
In Mathura, Mr. Modi said that while the world was searching for a role model to

Some people, the moment the words ‘Om’ and ‘cow’ fall on their ears, their hair stands on end

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

protect the environment, India had always had “an inspiration” in Lord Krishna. Imagining Lord Krishna without [his] “love for environment” would be incomplete, the PM said.
More than 600 million cattle in the country are set to be vaccinated in an effort to mitigate brucellosis and foot and mouth disease as part of the Centre’s ₹12,652-crore programmes.

The PM launched the National Artificial Insemination Programme and a country-wide workshop in the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in all the 687 districts of the country on vaccination and disease management, artificial insemination and productivity.
The Swachhta hi Seva Programme was launched by him with a focus on reducing the usage of single-use plastic in the country. The Prime Minister appealed to people to rid their homes, offices and workplaces of single-use plastic by October 2, 2019.

‘FM’s response on economy a joke’

Congress flays Sitharaman for blaming millennials for the slump in car sales

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday hit out at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for blaming millennials for the slump in car sales, calling it a “gross overstatement” and a “grave joke” on the current state of economy.

Party spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Manu Singhvi said at a press conference that the dip in GDP had become the “new normal” for the BJP.



The gross overstatement made by the FM is a grave joke on the poor state of the economy. She must self-expunge her remarks and apologise
ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI
Congress leader

‘Shirking responsibility’
The gross overstatement made by the FM is a grave joke on the poor state of the economy. She must self-expunge her remarks and apologise,” the Congress leader said.
Ms. Sitharaman said in Chennai on Tuesday, “The automobile and components industry has been affected by BSG and the mindsets of millennials who now prefer to have Ola and Uber rather

than committing to buying an automobile.”
The Congress said that by using such logics, the government wanted to shrug off responsibility and blame others for its own state.
‘Long in the making’
Mr. Singhvi asked how come mobile app-based booking systems for taxis, which had been around in the country for a while, did not kill car sales for so long.

According to the data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, automobile sales fell 31% to 2,00,790 vehicles in July 2019 from 2,90,931 in July 2018.
It was the worst sales performance since a 35% decline in December 2000.
“Why is the Finance Minister more interested in cracking jokes and finding excuses instead of putting in efforts to bring the economy on track? How will India be able to become a \$5 trillion economy with such a slowdown,” Mr. Singhvi asked.

“Why is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is usually so eloquent, silent and hiding behind the Finance Minister. He should come to the front and take responsibility,” Mr. Singhvi said.

Chidambaram’s poser
Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram, who is in judicial custody in Tihar jail for an alleged corruption case, in a tweet expressed concern over the state of economy and questioned the government on its plan to get India out of this “decline and gloom.” Mr. Chidambaram has clarified that his family is tweeting on behalf of him.
“I am deeply concerned about the economy. The poor are the worst affected. Fewer jobs, less trade and lower investment affect the poor and the middle class. Where is the plan to get the country out of this decline and gloom,” Mr. Chidambaram tweeted.

Live-streaming: SC agrees to hear plea

Activist’s plea on Ayodhya hearings

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear on September 16 a plea to live-stream the Ayodhya title dispute hearings.

Appearing before the five-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, senior advocate Vikas Singh, for activist K.N. Govindacharya, said the hearings concerned an issue of social and constitutional gravity.
The petition has reminded the Supreme Court of its own judgment of September 2018 that ordered live-streaming of hearings in momentous cases of national importance. The verdict is yet to be implemented.



A 2018 SC order allowed live streaming for ‘cases of national importance.’

‘Large-scale interest’
The petitioner said the case, “famously known as the Ayodhya Ram Mandir matter”, has created large-scale interest across India.

“The Supreme Court has already held that sunlight is the best disinfectant. Live-streaming as an extension of the principle of open courts will ensure that the interface between a court hearing with virtual reality will result in the dissemination of information in the widest possible sense, imparting transparency and accountability to the judicial process,” the petitioner said.

‘MV Act very harsh, won’t implement it in Bengal’

It will overburden people, says Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Describing the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019 that proposes higher fines for several traffic violations as “very harsh”, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that her government will not implement it in Bengal.



Unilaterally you cannot take a decision which will harm people
MAMATA BANERJEE
West Bengal CM

“We are not implementing the Motor Vehicles Act, which was passed recently in the Parliament, at present in West Bengal because it is very harsh. Of course we are going for a ‘Safe Drive Save Life’ campaign,” the Chief Minister told journalists at the State Secretariat.
Speaking about the new law, Ms. Banerjee said that when it was discussed in the Parliament, her party members had raised objections saying that this matter was an interference into the federal structure.
“They didn’t listen to us. Unilaterally you cannot take a decision which will harm people. Now, if anything is wrong, instead of ₹500 they will charge ₹10,000. There are so many poor people all over, where will they get all this money from?” she said.
According to the Trinamool Congress chairperson, solutions to problems

Two anti-lynching Bills being examined by Centre

They were passed by Rajasthan & West Bengal last month

VIJAYTA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The anti-lynching Bills passed by the Rajasthan and West Bengal Assemblies last month will have to be cleared by the Union Home Ministry before they become law.
On August 5, the Rajasthan Assembly passed the Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019 providing for life imprisonment and a fine from ₹1 lakh up to ₹5 lakh to those convicted in cases of mob lynching leading to the victim’s death.
A senior official in the Rajasthan government told *The Hindu* that the Ministry was examining the Bill and it would respond to clarifications sent by them, if any.



The GoM headed by Amit Shah will suggest measures to combat lynchings.

On August 30, the West Bengal Assembly passed a Bill to prevent and punish mob assaults and lynching.
The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019 proposes a jail term from three years to life for those involved in assaulting and injuring a person and also defines terms such as “lynching” and “mob”. The State also proposed the West Bengal Lynching Compensation Scheme.
The Centre has recon-

structed with various Ministries or departments, no time frame could be fixed when the Bills would be cleared. Based on the comments by the Ministry, the President rejects or gives assent to a Bill.

‘Horrendous acts’
In 2018, the Supreme Court condemned the increasing number of incidents of mob lynchings across the country calling them “horrendous acts of mobocracy” and had then asked Parliament to make lynching a separate offence.
Meanwhile, last month, the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government in Andhra Pradesh withdrew two laws passed by the Assembly under previous Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.
The Andhra Pradesh Protection of Depositors of Financial Establishments (Amendment) Bill passed in 2015 and the Andhra Pradesh Money Lenders Bill, 2017 were being examined by the Ministry before they received assent from the President.

The Andhra Pradesh government withdrew the two Bills on August 27 and 31, respectively.
An official said since such consultations required inter-

‘Nitish is the captain of NDA in Bihar’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Days after party MLC Sanjay Paswan’s statement that Nitish Kumar should quit his post of Bihar Chief Minister and enter national politics, senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State unit and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Wednesday tweeted to say, “Nitish Kumar is the captain of the NDA in Bihar and will remain its captain in next Assembly elections in 2020 also.”
“Nitish Kumar is the captain of NDA in Bihar and will remain its captain in next assembly elections in 2020 also...when captain is hitting 4 & 6 defeating rivals by innung where is the question of any change,” tweeted Mr. Modi, who is considered close to Mr. Kumar.

An upheaval
Mr. Paswan had on August 9 created an upheaval in the State’s ruling NDA alliance by saying, “Nitish Kumar should now step down from the post of Chief Minister for BJP...we trusted him for 15 years and he should now reciprocate the same for the BJP for at least one term.”