



Up in arms: Journalists protesting against the communication blockade in Srinagar on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Scribes protest against blockade

Journalists stage sit-in to press for restoration of Internet, mobile phone services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Kashmir-based journalist organisations and editors' bodies on Thursday staged a silent sit-in protest at the Kashmir Press Club (KPC) to register their protest against continued denial to internet services and mobile telephone.

"The peaceful protest was to press for the restoration of Internet and mobile services to journalists as the communication blockade entered the 60th day on Thursday," said a joint statement of 11 organisations, including scribes' organisations and editors' bodies.

'Muzzling the Press'

The statement termed the blockade an attempt to muzzle the Press in the valley.

Civilian killed on LoC in Uri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

One civilian was killed in a fresh violation of ceasefire by the Pakistan Army on the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla's Uri on Thursday, a day ahead of the separatist Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front's call for a march from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir

"Limiting the access of media to a government-run hall at a private hotel, designated as Media Facilitation Centre, is to prevent the information out of the Valley," it read.

The media centre has just nine computers and a cell-phone connection for over

towards Srinagar.

An Army official said the civilian died of splinter injuries after Pakistan resorted to shelling in the Uri Sector's Rustum Post in the afternoon.

The identity of the deceased could not be established immediately. The Army said it retaliated in a "befitting manner".

400 journalists. "We have to queue up every day and spend hours together to file our reports. Wi-fi service is barred. Despite all journalists entering their names, no laptop is allowed to connect with the Internet service independently," a Kashmir

Working Journalist Association member, Ishfaq Tantray, said. No Valley-based dailies, including the prominent 'Greater Kashmir', or web portals, including the widely-read 'Kashmir Life', have updated their websites since August 5 due to inaccessibility to the Internet.

"There are no internet editions or updates on the web-portals in Kashmir," the statement added.

The Kashmir Press Club has held several rounds of talks with the authorities on the issue. "The authorities promised to restore mobile phone services and Internet two weeks ago. However, there is no headway. The government is silent on the timeline as to when the services will be restored," the KPC members said.

Classes empty as schools reopen in J&K

Presence of security personnel keeps students, teachers away from classrooms

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The J&K government on Thursday re-opened all higher secondary schools across the Valley, after 60 days of closure, only to a very negligible attendance by students, while teachers complained of several structures being occupied by the security forces.

Srinagar's prominent government-run Sri Pratap Higher Secondary School at Lal Chowk wore a deserted look, with no student presence on its sprawling campus. Just two students without uniform appeared from the nearby Barbar Shah area to know the status of the school.



Fear factor: An empty classroom at a school in Srinagar on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

"I was shocked to see a security bullet-proof picket come up at the gate. I was stopped by the security personnel and questioned. I immediately left the premises," the students said, on the

condition of anonymity.

Top officials of the school told *The Hindu* that no attendance of students was recorded. "We have around 1,500 students in the school. A very negligible number

turned up. We decided not to hold any classes. However, teachers met to chalk out the future course of action," school authorities said.

The teachers said around 500 security personnel had been stationed at the main building of the school after the August 5 decision to revoke J&K's special status. "Security personnel need to be vacated so that students feel safe in the school," said a teacher.

There was a similar scene at the all-girls Government Kothi Bagh Higher Secondary school, another prominent educational institution. "We are hopeful that attendance will improve in coming days," said an official.

'Railways will help achieve \$5 trillion economy goal'



A view of the Vande Bharat Express, which will ply from New Delhi to Vaishno Devi, Jammu. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Thursday that Mahatma Gandhi used the railway network to connect with people and gain independence. He was speaking at the inauguration of a Vande Bharat Express train.

"Bapu used the railways to connect with people. During one such journey, when he saw a woman without prop-

er clothes, he donated his clothes and vowed to lead a frugal life till he attained prosperity for his country... the Independence struggle got momentum as he used railway journeys to send his message across. In the same way, railways will be an important tool in achieving the \$5 trillion economy goal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

The new train will cut the

Indo-Chinese educational tie-ups need nod from Home, foreign Ministries

The directive comes just ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Indian educational institutions that plan to collaborate with Chinese counterparts must now get clearance from the Ministries of Home and External Affairs before signing any agreements or undertaking student and faculty exchange programmes. The new guidelines would also apply to existing tie-ups, the University Grants Commission made clear this week.

The Centre's directive comes just ahead of Chinese president Xi Jinping's visit to India to hold an informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is expected to take place at Mallapuram on October 11 and 12.

In a letter to the vice chancellors of all universities, UGC secretary Rajnish Jain notified them of a directive from the Human Resource



Chinese students reciting a song during their National Day celebrations in Coimbatore recently. ■ M.PERIASAMY

Development Ministry. "In addition to other clearances, prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs must be taken by all the academic institutions and universities before signing of MoUs, educational exchange programme, agreements, joint declaration of intent or letter of intent with Chinese institutions or universities,"

the ministry said in its directive.

The UGC letter added that those universities – including private universities – which have already entered into MoUs must seek clearance from the Home ministry for operating the MoU. Until the clearance is obtained, no further activities should be performed under the MoU, warned the letter.

A number of Indian universities already have faculty and student exchange programmes, apart from Chinese language centres run in collaboration with universities in China, although the exact number of such agreements is not known.

India and China signed an umbrella agreement for educational cooperation in 2006, under which government scholarships are awarded to 25 students, by both sides, in recognised institutions of higher learning in each other's country. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Beijing in May 2015, both countries signed an expanded Education Exchange Programme agreement which provides for enhanced cooperation in the field of vocational education and higher learning. Chinese students were also granted scholarships to study Hindi in India.

Clash breaks out among Matuas over NRC

One faction alleges false propaganda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Two groups of followers of a Dalit sect had a fight on Tuesday on the possible effects of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in West Bengal, resulting in many injuries. This is for first time that the two sects of Matua Mahasangha, a socio-religious body of a predominantly Dalit refugee sect, the Matuas, fought publicly, "tarnishing" the image of the apolitical body, followers said.

About 40-45 lakh Matua voters are spread over nearly 50 of the 294 Assembly segments in West Bengal.

On Tuesday, one section of the Matuas, headed by the Matua Mahasangha's chairperson Mamatabala Thakur, convened a meeting in its headquarters at Thakurnagar in North 24 Paraganas, about 70 km north of Kolkata. Ms. Thakur is a former MP of TMC, defeated by her brother-in-law's son Shantanu Thakur of the BJP in the recent Lok Sabha election.

"Our objective was to make people aware of the possible impact of NRC on people who came from Bangladesh. We also invited Muslims," a disciple close to Ms. Thakur's faction said. Mr. Thakur's faction opposed it and campaigned in

the area over the last few days against this meeting that was held to "build up resistance against the NRC".

Mr. Thakur's faction allegedly attacked Ms. Thakur's meeting, which took "a communal turn" as many Muslims were present. "They started shouting Jai Sri Ram and asked why Muslims are allowed to come inside Thakurbari [the headquarters], the disciple said. They alleged that their leader Sukriti Ranjan Biswas was also beaten up. The other faction, led by Mr. Thakur, denied the allegation.

"They [Ms. Thakur's faction] held the meeting in the venue even though we were scheduled to hold a meeting there. Moreover, they got Muslims to enter Thakurbari," said another disciple close to Mr. Thakur. He added that Ms. Thakur's faction was "spreading false news" about NRC despite BJP president Amit Shah's statement. "Mr. Shah said that there won't be any NRC in Bengal and they [Ms. Thakur's faction] were insisting that the BJP will push people out of the country, so we had to protest," the disciple said. The scuffle deeply disturbed the followers of the sect and one of the religious chiefs of a group, among the multiple bodies of Matuas, regretted the incident.

EOW arrests HDIL group directors Rakesh, Sarang

₹3,500 cr. assets attached provisionally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police on Thursday arrested Rakesh Wadhawan and his son Sarang, both directors of the Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) group, in connection with its ongoing investigation into the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank.

The EOW had on Monday registered an FIR against managing director of PMC Joy Thomas, the Wadhawans and other officials of both organisations.

EOW sources said that the Wadhawans were called for questioning to the EOW office in Mumbai police headquarters in Crawford Market on Thursday.

"They could not provide satisfactory answers to the questions put to them. Further, a prima facie trail of money was established from the bank to their accounts, after which they were both arrested," Mumbai police spokesperson DCP Pranay Ashok said.

The Special Investigation

Team probing the case has identified 44 bank accounts connected to the case, he said, which are now being scrutinised.

The Wadhawans had mortgaged several of their properties in Vasai, Virar and Nallasopara as collateral for the loans, and teams will be sent to these properties. The EOW is also collecting documents pertaining to these properties.

Shell companies

"We are trying to find out whether the same properties were also mortgaged fraudulently with other financial institutions so that they could get more money in the form of loans against them. Inquiries have also revealed that some of the loans taken from the PMC Bank were obtained through shell companies," the officer said.

On Thursday, the EOW also froze a demat account belonging to PMC chairman Warayam Singh, and provisionally attached assets worth ₹3,500 crore belonging to the HDIL group or the Wadhawans.

Kerala prisoner calls home as Amphalla jail in J&K introduces inmate calling system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

Kerala native Jatan, lodged in a jail in Jammu, heard the voice of his wife and minor daughter for the first time in nearly four years, thanks to authorities introducing a first-of-its-kind prison inmate calling system, which allows prisoners to make long-distance calls.

He is facing charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and is lodged in the dis-

trict jail Amphalla, which is the first prison in Jammu and Kashmir to get the facility along with modern interview rooms on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Gita Mittal, inaugurated the facilities on Wednesday evening in the presence of DGP (prisons) V.K. Singh and other senior civil and police officers.

A total of 587 prisoners are lodged in Am-

phalla jail in the city.

Facing imprisonment thousands of kilometres away from his home town, Jatan was the first to utilise the inmate calling facility and he talked to his daughter who was just two months old when he was arrested in Jammu.

10-minute call

"My parents have visited me a few times over the past three-and-a-half years but this facility has reunited me with my wife and daughter, and I

am very thankful to the prison authorities for providing such a facility to us," Jatan told PTI after talking to his family for 10 minutes.

Jatan, who was working as a salesman at a jeweller shop in his city before his arrest, has now become a painter taking advantage of the efforts being made by the jail authorities for the reformation of inmates through different vocational training programmes and educational courses.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice
Tender No: 04/2019-20/KWA/PHC/D4/TVM(RT1). AMRUT – Thiruvananthapuram Sewerage Scheme – Providing Sludge drier for Management of sludge generated at 107 MLD STP at Muttathara. EMD: Rs. 100000. Tender fee : Rs. 7500. Last Date for submitting Tender : 28.10.2019 03:00:pm. Phone : 04712322303. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram
KWA-JB-GL-6-312-2019-20

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
UNIT-VIII, BHUBANESWAR
e-mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
CAD-442
e-Procurement Notice No. 02 /OCCL/2019-20 (on-line)
Type of Work :- Dam & Spillway Work
Total No of works :- 01 (One) No.
Period of completion :- 18 calendar months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Amount put to Tender (Approx.) (in Rs.)	Bid Security (in Rs.)	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Tender (On-line)
Managing Director, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar	OCCL-GMP/01/2019-20	104,22,00,000.00	1,04,22,000.00	09.10.2019, 10.00 AM to 02.11.2019, 5.00 PM	09.10.2019, 10.00 AM to 02.11.2019, 5.00 PM

Date of opening of the Technical Bid: 05.11.2019, 11.30 AM
Further detail can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
3412011/0005/1920
Managing Director

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only) (Two Cover System)
No: KPCL/2019-20/PS/WORK_INDENT8748/CALL-2 Date: 26.09.2019
KPCL invites bids through GOK e-procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from the qualified bidders for the work of **Manufacture, supply, erection, Testing and commissioning of under slung EOT crane of 16T capacity for wagon tippler 2 of CHP-1 of Raichur Thermal Power station, including insurance towards transit risk/storage/ intra-site transportation for erection at site.** Those who have not registered in e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in may do so in order to participate in the bid. The brief Bid Notification containing the pre-qualifying criteria for the bidders, EMD, calendar of bid activities and other details can be accessed from e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the office of the Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs), KPC Ltd, No. 22/23, Sudarshan Complex, 2nd floor, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 009. Tel.No: 080-22206223, Fax.No:080-22386517, email: cetd@karnatakapower.com, kpclcetd@gmail.com, website: www.karnatakapower.com

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, East Division, 2nd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002
No.: EE/RI-East/TEND/04/2019-20 Date: 03-10-2019
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure (East Division) on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Improvement and asphaltting to Nandhidurga road from Jayamahall main road to millar road. (2nd Call)	177.00	2.70

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from **04.10.2019**, (2) Last date for submission of Tender through e-procurement on or before **18.10.2019 upto 4.00 PM**, (3) Date of Pre-bid meeting : **10.10.2019 at 4.00 PM** in the office of the Chief Engineer, RI, 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, BBMP Offices, Bengaluru-02. (4) Date of opening of Technical Bids: **21.10.2019 after 11.00 AM**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-East Division
"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"