

Lokesh's Apology Sets A New Tradition In Politics

Nara Lokesh has been emerging as a dynamic leader and a sensible politician. In what we can call a new tradition set by Nara Lokesh, the TDP minister apologized publicly for the recent arrests of CPI(M) leaders during the CM's visit to the Madakasira constituency. CPI (M) earlier released a press note condemning the arrests of their leaders early in the morning while the latter were in their sleep. The CPI

(M) leaders Peddanna, Ramesh, Gangadhar, and Venkatramudu were arrested and sent to Panukonda police station. Madakasira Anganwadi union district convenor Sridevi, District SFI head Veeresh were house arrested. CPI (M) also mentioned the dictating rule of YSRCP and the arrests they made against the protests during the then-CM's visit. CPI (M) demanded the TDP government to shed this culture of ar-

rests ahead of CM's visits. Responding to the same, Nara Lokesh apologized for the upfront arrests of CPM leaders and emphasized their stand against these arrests. He further promised these undemocratic acts of police won't repeat. He started the note with, 'Mammali Mannichandi Comrade'. Nara Lokesh's unconventional and frank response to CPI (M)'s anguish is being appreciated by many.



No one alive in Wayanad disaster zone: Army

The Army completes the construction of a Bailey bridge linking Mundakkai and Chooralmala; forest officials rescue several families stranded in a cave deep inside a forest following a landslide near Attamala; Kerala CM and Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visit the site. The rescue and disaster teams engaged in the rescue and search operations at Chooralmala in Wayanad have recovered 189 bodies including 85 men, 76 women and 27 children and 100 body parts from various locations, according to the Revenue department. The gender of a body is yet to be identified. All those stranded in the area have been evacuated and shifted to hospitals and relief camps, Major General V.T. Mathew sub-area general officer commanding, Kerala and Karnataka, who is coordinating the Army's rescue operations said. The Army completed the construction of a Bailey bridge linking Mundakkai and Chooralmala on Thursday. Forest



officials rescued several families stranded in a cave deep inside a forest following a landslide near Attamala. Braving heavy rainfall, the rescue team carried children to safety with the help of ropes. As many as 234 individuals rescued from the disaster zone were shifted to various hospitals. The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and other agencies are working relentlessly to speed up rescue operations and provide relief to those in need, despite the inclement weather. Unconfirmed reports put the death toll at 295. Forensic experts have carried out post-mortem examination of 252 bodies

and body parts. As many as 153 bodies and body parts believed to be those of the victims of the landslides in Wayanad were retrieved from various places along the banks of the Chaliyar river in Malappuram district. Rescue workers scoured the river banks for more bodies on Thursday also. The cascading wall of mud, boulders and uprooted trees had washed a large swathe of Mundakkai, Attamala and Chooralmala settlements into the Iruvazhinji River in the early hours of July 30. The massive earthfall bifurcated the river into two gushing streams, which washed the bodies downstream of the Chaliyar. Officials said 9,328 persons displaced by the landslides and heavy rain had been shifted to 91 relief camps. More than 1,800 personnel of the Indian Coast Guard Disaster Relief Team, the Indian Army, Navy, NDRF, SDRF, Military Engineering group, Territorial army, Fire and Rescue Services from Tamil Nadu and Kerala and local authorities, apart

from the volunteers of various NGOs, are active in rescue operations. The 190-metre Bailey bridge across the Punnapuzha bridge, where the old concrete bridge was washed off in the landslide, was opened for transportation by Thursday evening. This bridge will facilitate the movement of heavy equipment and expedite the evacuation of stranded individuals, Major General Mathew said. The bridge would also help transport huge equipment like excavators to the rescue site. More than 500 Army personnel were engaged in the rescue operations since July 30. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan visited the site and interacted with the officials of the Central forces on the rescue operations. Inclement weather, inaccessible terrain after the landslides and the transportation to the affected sites through slushy debris and huge boulders is adversely affecting the rescue operations. As many as 348 buildings, including houses, were destroyed or damaged by the landslides.

TTD is changing As Ashwini Vaishnaw slams Oppn 'trolls', SC expresses surprise at railways appointments



TTD is changing for Good. There is a review on food, hotels, darshan and also accommodation for the pilgrims here in TTD. Shayamala Rao the new EO is moving ahead daily. The enquiry on the corrupt practices of some officers is being probed. The quality of the food has improved. The ghee for the laddus has been changed and auroma is yet to be seen. General pilgrims that is the common man is being taken care of. The quality of the food in the hotels is also being monitored on a daily basis. Kids are getting milk in the lines for darshan. A new deputy has been appointed and he is also monitoring the situation. Sona masuri rice is being used to feed the pilgrims on a daily basis. SSD tokens are being distributed in large numbers and there is no misuse or diversion. Rooms are also being distributed in full to the extent possible. People are allowed into all the sheds and there is no problem for them. The quality of the spices to be mixed with laddus are also improved and fresh tenders are also called for the items. Some officers who have visited the TTD said that the change is evident on the 7 hills and they are getting a hassle free darshan

On a day when an unusually combative Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw accused the Congress of amplifying small incidents on the railway network through its "social media troll army" to create fear among 2 crore-plus passengers, the Supreme Court of India on Thursday asked how someone could be appointed to an Indian Railways job without proper checking and verification of documents. A bench of justices J.K. Maheshwari and Sanjay Karol was dealing with a matter concerning the termination of services of some employees who were appointed on compassionate grounds by Eastern Railway. The SC noted they were sacked as their appointments were found to be based on forged and bogus documents. "Before parting with the matter, however, in the facts of this case, we express our surprise towards the actions of the appellant-employer who appointed the respondent-employees on the basis of questionable documentation, which was later found to be forged, fabricated and bogus," the bench said in its verdict. In the Lok Sabha, meanwhile, replying to a debate on the demand for grants of railways, Vaishnaw asserted that Indian Railways was the preferred mode of transport for the common Indian, and the government has set in motion plans to produce an additional 2,500 general coaches in the coming months to address the issue of crowded trains. Indian Railways off the rails? Seventh accident



of July He listed a series of steps such as introduction of Amrit Bharat trains comprising general and sleeper coaches with better facilities, a recruitment calendar to fill vacancies, and offering the middle class a "Vande Bharat-class" of trains. Beleaguered by accusations of negligence leading to a steady stream of train accidents in the past two years, Vaishnaw slammed previous Congress governments for ignoring safety aspects of the vast network by delaying the implementation of the automatic train protection system, and also took a jibe at Congress MP and Lok Sabha leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi for making reels with loco pilots. "Hum reel banane wale log nahi, mehnat karne wale log hain (we don't make reels, we work hard)," Vaishnaw said, as Opposition benches booed him as "reel minister" in a reference to his numerous social media posts, and demanded his resignation in the wake of the series of accidents. "Those who are shouting here must be asked: in their 58 years of being in power why were they were not able to install automatic train protection (ATP), even 1 km? Today, they dare to raise ques-

tions," Vaishnaw said. Rahul Gandhi meets railways loco pilots, they complain of inadequate rest "When Mamata Banerjee was railway minister, and she would give the accident numbers that decreased from 0.24 to 0.19, these people used to clap in the House. Today, when it has decreased from 0.19 to 0.03, they place blame," Vaishnaw said. On loco pilot regulations highlighted by Gandhi, he said, the average working and rest times for loco pilots were established by a rule in 2005 and amendments were introduced in 2016 to provide additional facilities. He said the significant improvements made for loco pilots, including air-conditioning in all 558 running rooms and over 7,000 loco cabins, contrasted this with the previous administration's perceived shortcomings. However, the minister did not provide any timeline for the implementation of the ATP named Kavach across the entire network, saying only that smaller countries with much smaller railway networks took more than 20 years to implement the system. More than 8,000 engineers and technicians have been trained and six universities have introduced Kavach in their syllabus, Vaishnaw said. "Now, we are in such a situation that we can implement Kavach on a large scale. Tenders are in process for implementing Kavach on 9,000 km. In the next few months, we will start implementing Kavach 4.0 on 10,000 coaches," the minister said.

Oppn Hits Out At Modi Govt Over NCERT Syllabus Change, NEP; BJP Responds

The ongoing monsoon session of Parliament witnessed intense debate in the Lok Sabha over recent changes to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) syllabus. The debate, part of the discussion on the education ministry's demand for grants, concluded with the grant being approved through a voice vote.

Opposition Targets Govt On NCERT Syllabus Change And NEP
Opposition MPs, including AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, slammed the BJP-led central government for altering existing textbooks. Owaisi claimed these changes are linked to educational disparities among Muslims. "Direct connection can be drawn between policies of the government and the continued education backwardness of the Muslims. In both higher education and schooling, Muslims want to get formal education but because of government apathy and negligence, the Muslim dropout of education system is sooner than children of any other commu-



nity", Owaisi said. Congress MP Mohammad Jawed argued that the historical presence of the Mughals cannot be erased by removing their names from textbooks. "Mughals were here for 330 years, they are not going to be removed just because you remove the name," Jawed said adding that If there were no Muslims in this country, the BJP could not have opened its account. Jawed further attacked the BJP for alleged discrimination and poor management of education-related issues, including recent paper leaks. Taking a swipe at the ruling government, he said, "Outside Parliament, test papers are get-

ting leaked and inside Parliament, the roof is leaking. This is the Modi sarkar." Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Pratima Mondal also targeted the government for omitting chapters on prominent Muslim rulers from textbooks. "The systematic revision of textbooks by the current government threatens our children's intellectual integrity," she said. "Deleting chapters on Muslim rulers and the Gujarat riots has drawn widespread criticism from academicians. These changes contribute to intellectual stagnation, political manipulation, and undermine the intellect of Indian students," she added.

Education Minister Defends

In defence, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan described the NEP as essential for India's educational and global role. He pointed out NEP's focus on accountability, affordability, and quality. He highlighted increased funding for higher and primary education. According to Pradhan, funding for higher education by 63 per cent and primary edu-

cation by 40 per cent since 2013-14. The education minister also informed the Parliament about the updated education pattern that includes a 5+3+3+4 system and said that there has been an increase in female teachers from 36 lakh to 48 lakh. Speaking over the contentious NCERT syllabus changes, Pradhan said, "Western influence in the Indian education system has to be removed." "The National Education Policy is not just a 60-page policy document. It is a philosophical element for the rebuilding of India, enhancing brotherhood in the world, and solving global problems. The entire nation unanimously accepts it today", Pradhan said. BJP MP Sambit Patra accused opposition parties of hypocrisy, pointing out that reservations for SCs and STs were removed from Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University during Congress rule. He praised an increased budget for education and the government's commitment to global problem-solving through skills and innovation.

Puja Khedkar Flees to Dubai to Avoid Arrest?



Former IAS trainee officer Pooja Khedkar fled to Dubai? After her pre-arrest bail was dismissed yesterday, she suffered a major setback after a Patiala court in Delhi rejected her bail application on Thursday (August 1). There is a growing speculation that she may have already fled to Dubai to evade potential arrest. The police was set to decide on Khedkar's arrest after her pre-arrest bail application was rejected on Thursday, but rumours suggest she may have left the country even before the verdict. Authorities are considering the possibility of launching an international manhunt to apprehend her. Puja Khedkar's Anticipatory Bail Plea Rejected by Delhi Court, Arrest Likely Anytime Soon. Khedkar, accused of fraud and deception in securing her IAS position, had been facing imminent arrest following the Delhi High Court's denial of anticipatory bail. The UPSC had lodged a criminal case against her, alleging that she had manipulated her identity, including her parents' names, to secure a place in the civil service. Furthermore, it is claimed that she exceeded the permissible number of attempts at the UPSC examination by falsely claiming to belong to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie had issued eight memos to Khedkar for misconduct during her training. These accumulating charges against her intensified the pressure for her arrest. With the bail application now dismissed, Delhi Police are expected to take swift action to apprehend Khedkar. The possibility of her having escaped the country has added a new dimension to this high-profile case.

Supreme Court says no systemic breach, paper leak was limited to Patna and Hazaribagh

The Supreme Court on Friday (August 2) held that there was no systemic breach in the conduct of National Entrance cum Eligibility Test - Undergraduate 2024 (NEET-UG 2024) examination. It added that the paper leak was only limited to Patna and Hazaribagh. The apex court said the National Testing Agency (NTA) must avoid a flip-flop approach. The NTA gave the wrong question paper to over 1500 students, then gave grace marks and later a retest was called for. The court called for restructuring of the entire process. It spelled out the mandate for the Expert Committee constituted by the Centre for rejig of exam procedures. The top court said that it has highlighted all

the deficiencies in the structural processes of the NTAs. "We cannot afford this for the betterment of the students," said the court. It added that the issues must be rectified by the Centre this year itself. The court directed the Expert Committee to submit its recommendations by September 30. It also asked the Centre to take a decision on revamping exam procedures by October 30. The court also called for tightening of processes for printing and movement of question papers and advised not to use e-rickshaws. It asked for audit and surprise checks and sought tighter norms for the identification of candidates. On August 1, the Central Bureau of Investigation filed its first chargesheet



in the alleged NEET UG examination paper leak case naming 13 people as accused, officials told PTI. In its charge sheet filed before a special CBI court in Patna, the agency has invoked IPC sections of criminal conspiracy, cheating, and destruction of evidence among others.

Netizens Slam Rahul Gandhi's Visit to Wayanad, Term It 'Fashion Show' Amid Tragedy

New Delhi, August 1 Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited Wayanad in Kerala on Thursday, three days after landslides wreaked havoc in the region killing over 280 people. Now, questions are being raised about the timing and purpose of Rahul Gandhi's visit, with social media users criticising both him and his sister. BJP leader Shivam Tyagi wrote on X, "Rahul Gandhi's fashion show at the Wayanad disaster, 3 days late, 232 cameras, 20 guards so that 'King' Rahul isn't touched, and one person assigned to pick up his sandals. "Zero work, zero responsibility, and James Bond-like showiness. He has come to polish his image, not to save the people of Wayanad." The post in Hindi prompted questions about the timing and purpose of Rahul Gandhi's visit. In response to Tyagi's post, a user named Vivek Singh Paliwal wrote, "In the Wayanad landslide, 256 people have died so far and hundreds are injured. After that, the prince thought that it was a good opportunity for a photo session. That's



why he set out with his entourage and cameras." He also included the hashtag #OpportunisticRahulGandhi. Meanwhile, another user responded to Shivam's post by saying, "This is the grandeur of the prince. Moreover, the other prince (a reference to Akhilesh Yadav) has become his disciple." Durgaprasad, another user, asked, "Which movie scene is this from", while Kuldeep Vyas commented, "He took his sister along because she has to contest elections from Wayanad." Meanwhile, a user named Neeraj Mishra wrote, "They talk about equal justice, but couldn't even pick up their own sandals? Why should someone else do it? Political vultures have gone there as tourists." Shivam Tyagi had earlier said in a post, "This Gandhi family

is a panauti (disaster); wherever they go, they cause national ruin. Rahul was the MP from Wayanad, and Priyanka is the upcoming MP. But both brother and sister are enjoying the rainy season in Delhi. And the RSS volunteers, whom they criticise, are the ones helping people in Wayanad." On Thursday, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited Wayanad to inspect the area and meet with the victims' families. They offered condolences and assured every possible help to the victims. Rahul Gandhi said he stands with the people of Wayanad and is ready to provide all possible assistance. Priyanka Gandhi also expressed sorrow over the incident and assured the victims of every possible help. She said the Congress is ready to assist the victims in every possible way. The landslides that occurred in Wayanad in the wee hours of Wednesday have completely devastated four villages, leaving behind a scene of devastation. The rescue efforts are ongoing but are being hampered by heavy rainfall and further landslides.

