



FACEBOOK CEO MARK ZUCKERBERG TO TAKE TWO-MONTH PATERNITY LEAVE >HT WORLD P15

NEPAL PM SET TO VISIT INDIA >ht nation p6

'MY AMBITIONS IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS' KAJOL TALKS ABOUT BALANCING WORK AND PERSONAL LIFE >HT CAFÉ

Nitish Kumar joins NDA, Sharad Yadav terms it betrayal of voters

JANATA DAL DIVIDED

 Two factions of the party hold parallel meetings, supporters clash

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PATNA: The Janata Dal (United) led by Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar embraced the National Democratic Alliance at the Centre on Saturday, widening fissures within the party as leaders opposed to the tie-up called the move a betrayal of voters.

The formal decision paved the way for the party to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet, four years after it walked out of the BJP-led NDA.

A resolution to rejoin the NDA was unanimously adopted at the party's national executive meeting at Kumar's home.

"The decision was taken following a request by BJP national president Amit Shah," said JD(U) spokesperson KC Tyagi.

But several leaders, including former party president Sharad Yadav, are unhappy with Kumar's "unilateral" decision to break off from the alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal and Congress to patch up with the BJP on July 26. The Yadav faction held a parallel meeting named



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar with senior JD(U) leader KC Tyagi at the party's national executive meeting in Patna on Saturday. AP/DUBE/HT

Jan Adalat at SK Memorial hall in the state capital. The party's founding member, who was removed as JD(U)'s Rajya Sabha leader, said the party was his and that the "grand alliance" with the RJD and Congress in Bihar is intact. "We promised to continue this alliance for at least five years. The public gave us an opportunity... I am not happy with the alliance breaking," he said. His group is understood to

have plans to approach the Election Commission to stake claim to the party's "arrow" poll symbol. "I formed the party and some people are telling me that this is not my home. People are raising questions over my intention. I wanted to attend JD(U)'s national executive but they didn't allow me to participate and said that I don't belong to their party," he said. Yadav's remarks and action

JD(U) MAY GET UNION CABINET BERTHS

- The JD (U) is likely to get two berths in the Modi ministry despite having only two members in the Lok Sabha
- It has seven parliamentarians in the Rajya Sabha after two members - Sharad Yadav and

- Ali Anwar - distanced themselves from the party
- The JD(U) executive ratified Nitish Kumar's decision to walk away from the three-party grand alliance over corruption charges against the RJD.

I formed the party and some people are telling me that this is not my home. People are raising questions over my intention.

SHARAD YADAV, senior JD (U) leader

are seen as mutiny against Kumar's leadership and he might be suspended from the party's primary membership if he attends an RJD rally on August 27. Tyagi said the party does not plan to take any action against Yadav, at least for now. "But by deciding to attend the RJD rally, he will not only lose his stature and lifeline in the party but will also cross the Laxman rekha," he warned.

Also, he reaffirmed that the party in united and alleged that rumours were being spread about fissures. "Where is the split? Sixteen state presidents of the party attended the national executive meeting, despite the claim that the rival group had support in 14 out of 22 states where JD(U) has units. All 71 MLAs and 30 MLAs were there, so where is the split?" he asked.

CONTINUED ON P 8

23 killed as train derails in UP, higher toll feared

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MUZAFFARNAGAR/MEERUT/LUCKNOW: At least 23 people were killed and 40 injured when 14 coaches of Haridwar-bound Kalinga Utkal Express derailed in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district on Saturday, sending coaches ramming into each other, including into a house close to the tracks.

The DGP office in Lucknow confirmed the casualties after the Puri-Haridwar train derailed near Khatauli station around 5.45 pm.

The train had started from Puri in Odisha and was going to Haridwar in Uttarakhand, normally a journey of about 36 hours. UP's principal secretary (home), Arvind Kumar said the derailment was caused



People rescuing passengers from the mangled coaches of Utkal Express in Khatauli. HT PHOTO

by sudden application of brakes by the train driver. "There was some work on the tracks but no flagging was done," he told HT. Railway sources, however, said that the driver did not apply the brakes. "He felt a jerk and realised that the derail-

ment had happened. He couldn't apply the brakes. According to him, either the soil beneath the track was loose due to rains or the railways didn't do periodic ultrasonic fault detection of tracks," the source said.

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Rane moving to BJP? Talk returns as Shah in Mumbai next week

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MUMBAI: Speculation around Congress leader and former chief minister Narayan Rane joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has again gained momentum.

While the BJP has kept everyone guessing about Rane's entry into its fold, the recent buzz is owing to party chief Amit Shah's Mumbai visit next week.

BJP insiders, however, are still skeptical and say that Rane's entry is unlikely at this point of time for various reasons.

Rane's plan to defect from Congress to the BJP is now an



Narayan Rane

open secret in political corridors.

His hobnobbing with BJP leaders and his "successful intervention" during the recent Maratha silent march were clear indications that his move is just a formality.

CONTINUED ON P 8

Infosys announces ₹13,000-cr buyback day after Sikka quit

mint

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MUMBAI: The board of Infosys Ltd announced buyback of shares worth Rs 13,000 crore on Saturday, a day after chief executive officer and managing director Vishal Sikka's unexpected dramatic exit. This is the Infosys' first ever stock repurchase in its 36-year history.

After its board meeting, the information technology firm said that it will buy back up to 11,30,43,478 crore shares aggregating close to 5% of share capital via tender route at a price of Rs 1,150 per equity share.



Vishal Sikka

That price is at a steep 24.57% premium to the closing price of Rs 923.10 on Friday.

The stock had slipped 9.6% at closing, its sharpest fall since 12 April 2013 after Sikka resigned citing a "drumbeat of distractions."

During Friday trading, the stock has fallen by as much as

13.4% and touched near three year low of Rs884.40 a level last seen on 21 August 2014.

The firm's shareholders lost Rs 22519.50 crore in market value after the high profile exit.

The company, said in a statement, that the buyback price was at a 19.08% and 18.70% premium over the volume weighted average market price of the stock in the past three months preceding the date of intimation to the exchanges of the board meeting to consider proposal of buyback.

The record date for the buyback will be announced at a later date. Liquid assets including cash and cash equivalents and investments of Infosys were at \$6,091 million as on June 30, 2017.

CONTINUED ON P 8

Declare results in 3 days or pay ₹10L each: 3 students drag MU to court

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MUMBAI: Three final-year law students have filed a petition in the Bombay high court (HC) against the inordinate delay in announcement of results by the University of Mumbai (MU).

These three students have demanded that the results be announced within the next three days, or they be compensated with Rs10 lakh each for loss of job opportunities owing to the delay in declaring the results.

Two weeks ago, a group of teachers had filed a writ petition, seeking the attention of the judiciary in the ongoing results mess, which has happened owing to the onscreen marking (OSM) methodology introduced by university.

"Not only has the university missed the mandatory 45-day deadline, but even after three months, we have not received our results. Many of us are final-year students who are missing out on job opportunities because of the delay," said Sachin Pawar, petitioner and president of Student Law Council.

"We have also sought a high-level inquiry committee to look into the announcement of results this year, which has affected lakhs of students."

Apart from demanding action against the university officials responsible for the mess, the petitioners have also demanded easy admission to higher education courses in universities in other states.

CONTINUED ON P 8

Rahul, Yogi in war of words on Gorakhpur

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GORAKHPUR: The child deaths in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur triggered a political spat on Saturday as chief minister Yogi Adityanath described visiting leaders to the hospital as picnicers, prompting Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi to counter that the tragedy was "government-made".

Gandhi met families of children who died at Baba Raghav Das Medical College, the largest government hospital in five-term parliamentarian Adityanath's constituency before he became the Uttar Pradesh chief minister this March.



UP CM Yogi Adityanath (left) and Cong V-P Rahul Gandhi.

He was supposed to visit the hospital, which is in the news as more than 60 kids died since August 9 amid allegations of a shortage in oxygen supplementation after a private company withdrew supply of cylinders over a payment dispute.

But he didn't go after Adityanath's remarks.

CONTINUED ON P 8

RAIN RETURNS TO MUMBAI AFTER A FORTNIGHT



In a relief for citizens from the hot and humid conditions, the city witnessed moderate to heavy showers on Saturday. Weathermen said Powai, Mulund, Ghatkopar and Vikhroli recorded the most rain, while in Thane and Navi Mumbai, there were heavy sporadic showers throughout the day. The weather bureau has predicted heavy to very heavy rain for the entire Konkan coast, including Mumbai, till Monday.

PRATIK CHORGE/HT

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mustread

WOMAN STABS HUSBAND SEVEN TIMES IN CHEST, KILLS HIM IN CITY

A woman killed her 52-year-old husband by repeatedly stabbing him at their Malad (West) apartment on Saturday afternoon. The victim, Apayya Chenanda, had represented India at hockey tournaments in his youth, said police. The Malad police said they are trying to ascertain the motive behind the murder. The couple have a 23-year-old son, who is a college student. He was not at home at the time of the murder.

REPORT, P 3

Decoding trolls whose fandom for stars goes beyond the reel

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MUMBAI: An Ajith Kumar fan in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. A Vijay fan in Kochi. A self-professed Salman Khan worshipper from Kolhapur. And a Shahrukh Khan (SRK) devotee from Delhi. Two are students, one an engineer, and the last won't reveal his full name or his profession.

What is it that the four have in common? Their relentless fandom-fuelled activity on Twitter, and their contempt for anyone who suggests that their idols aren't perfect.

In the case of a bad film review, the virtual attacks organised by such fans and the pages they handle have become personal, hateful and occasionally threatening, that they've begun to make headlines. Journalists Dhanya Rajendra and Anna MM Vetticad have been the most recent victims.

OFTEN, THESE FANS ALSO TAKE ON RIVAL FAN CLUBS AND THEIR IDOLS

But Raviraj points to a 2014 tweet at reviewer Anupama Chopra where he said: 'Ghar jaake khana banana sikh lo thoda [Go home and learn to

cook a bit] otherwise your husband will KICK you out of the house @anupamachopra'. That was in response to her panning the Salman Khan film Kick. "This tweet appeared on national television," Raviraj adds proudly. "Twitter is like a jungle and animals are everywhere. To survive here, you have to hunt them."

Often, they also take on rival fan clubs and their idols - it's often Salman vs Shah Rukh Khan fans, devotees of Tamil actors Ajith vs those of Vijay. Why do they put so much time and effort into their attacks and hashtag wars? >>THE BARMY ARMIES, P 11

Operation Mithi clean-up: SC forms panel to restore river, directs state to pay ₹50L

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MUMBAI: In view of the state government's apathy towards restoring the Mithi river - which flooded Mumbai in 2005, killing more than 1,000 people - the Supreme Court slammed the Maharashtra government for not taking any effective steps to rectify the situation over the past 12 years.

In an order from August 16, published on Saturday, the SC asked for the formation a team - comprising the director of the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) and director of the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

IS MITHI A RIVER OR NULLAH?

- Stretching across 15km, the Mithi river meets the Arabian Sea at Mahim creek. It originates from Powai and passes through Kurla, Saki Naka, Kalina, Vakola
- Over the years, the river has been reduced to a nullah, where sewage, garbage and industrial waste is dumped
- According to experts, nearly 54% of the original riverbed has been lost to encroachments, roads and real estate development.



(NEERI) - convened by the either the state or the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), to ensure the pollution levels in the river reduce and its restoration work begins soon. The court directed

the state, or the SEIAA, to deposit Rs50 lakh with the court for expenses that will be incurred by the joint committee to study and restore the river. "We have been informed that as a result of the floods, more

than 1,000 people had died and perhaps several thousand had fallen ill with various diseases due to the polluted water in Mumbai," the Apex Court order said.

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'I pulled out 18 bodies from the wreck'

DEATH ON TRACKS Survivors recount horror of Haridwar-bound express train's derailment

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KHATAULI (MUZAFFARNAGAR): Rizwan and his fellow photographers run a photo studio at Jagat colony where the bogies of Kalinga Utkal Express derailed. The youngsters were discussing work when they heard a bang.

While they were trying to find out what caused it, Rizwan's friend Sandeep got a call on his phone about the accident.

At least 23 people were killed and 40 injured when 14 coaches of the Haridwar-bound Kalinga Utkal Express derailed on Saturday.

They all rushed to the spot only to find bogies on top of each other and flesh dangling out of the windows. Without wasting any more time, they got to rescuing the passengers.

Two bogies also hit the walls of the house of Pintu Choudhary, a local, and a tea vendor and his four customers. All were crushed to death under one of the bogies.

"What happened today has left us shocked," Sandeep said.

Rizwan claimed that he pulled at least 18 bodies from the train wreck. "Many of them were beyond recognition," he said.

Prerna, a B Tech student on NIT campus of Roorkee, who boarded the train at Tatanagar in Jharkhand, recalled her experience of dodging the death.

"The train stopped with a bang and the bogies rammed into each other. I watched at least four passengers die in front of me. They were trapped under their seats and I helplessly watched them die," she said.

She somehow came out of the bogie when social worker, Panjaj Choudhary, took her to a nearby house from where she informed her relatives in Delhi. For her, it's like getting



Two bogies of the train also hit the walls of house and tea shop. The vendor and four of his customers were crushed to death. HT PHOTO

CONG HITS OUT AT BJP

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Saturday slammed the Narendra Modi government over the railways' safety record. "Since Modi Govt took over in May 2014, 259 passengers have lost their lives and 899 injured in 27 train accidents. When will Govt wake up?" Congress spokesperson Sandeep Surjewala said in a series of tweets. "Heartfelt condolences to families of victims of Utkal Express. Railway safety under a serious cloud..."

another life, she said.

Asma and Uzma are sisters and they boarded the train from Agra along with her aunt. Though the sisters survived, there is no trace of her aunt. Parmendra was returning to his factory in Yamunanagar along with his wife and daughter.

They all sustained injuries, but were helped by the locals. "I have informed my employer and they are coming to take me to Yamunanagar," said Parmendra who boarded train for Odisha.

Meanwhile, local residents came out in big numbers to help cops and other rescue workers.

Track was under repair, but driver was not informed

LUCKNOW: The track on which Kalinga Utkal Express derailed was under repair near Khatauli but there was negligence in conveying the information to the train driver, an initial probe into the accident revealed.

Railway officials said at least 15 metres of the track had been taken off and was being replaced when the train appeared. With no option left, labourers ran for their lives leaving the equipments and the replacement track, which were later found under coach A-1 of the derailed train. "The railway track was found broken underneath the coach A-1 and clamps were lying on other side of the track," said a railway official. As per the probe, even the Khatauli station staff was not aware that the repair work was still underway.

The probe is now looking at why alert was not sounded between Meerut and Muzaffarnagar. UP's principal secretary (home), Arvind Kumar said the derailment was caused by sudden application of brakes by the train driver. "There was some work on the tracks but no flagging was done," he told HT.

Prima facie there was no indication of sabotage, added Kumar. Railway sources, however, told HT that the driver did not apply the brakes. **HTC**

Woman lynched by mob over suspicion of braid cutting

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RANCHI: A Jharkhand mob allegedly lynched a woman on Saturday on suspicion of her involvement in chopping off a local girl's braid, the second such death this month because of a mass hysteria that has gripped north India.

Police said villagers in Sahibganj district's Radhanagar attacked a group of four beggars, including the woman and a nine-year-old boy, roughly a week after a local girl's braid was cut. They pelted stones at the woman, said to be in her late 40s, and others

on suspicion that they were involved in witchcraft. The boy is critically injured.

"We have beefed up security in the area. For now, superstition seems to be the cause of the attack; we are still investigating," said Sahibganj SP P Murugan.

He said an eyewitness informed police, who spent an hour trying to control the mob. By the time the victims were rushed to hospital, the woman was dead.

Earlier this month, a 60-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly lynched in Agra after villagers thought she was out to cut hair of

sleeping women. This came after hundreds of reports of women's hair being mysteriously chopped off in Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

Women have reported waking up to the sound of scissors, spotting black cats, and seeing ghosts and shadows.

Such deaths are common in superstition-struck Jharkhand. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, the state has witnessed the maximum incidences of witch-hunting in India in the past five years. Police suspect many people are taking advantage of hysteria to mask crimes.

from page one

Nitish Kumar...

The scenario outside the venue of the meeting in Patna belied his words as party workers loyal to Yadav clashed with supporters of Kumar.

Tyagi refused comments on the possibilities of JD(U) joining the Modi ministry.

"It is up to the Prime Minister and our president (Kumar) to take a decision on joining the Union cabinet," he said, adding that no post has been offered to the JD(U).

The party is likely to get two berths in the Modi ministry despite having only two members in the Lok Sabha.

It has seven parliamentarians in the Rajya Sabha after two members—Yadav and Ali Anwar—distanced themselves from the party.

The JD(U) executive ratified Kumar's decision to walk away from the three-party grand alliance over corruption charges in the Lalu Prasad-led RJD.

23 killed...

Apparently, the engine and five bogies of the train, travelling at 106 kph, had crossed the spot smoothly when the accident happened.

ADG (law and order) Anand Kumar rushed a team of anti-terrorist squad under DySP Anoop Singh to the site to investigate if it was a case of sabotage or not.

Railway minister Suresh Prabhakar ordered an inquiry and said he has instructed railway board chairman and officials to oversee rescue and relief operations. "I am personally monitoring the situation," he tweeted.

He also announced an ex gratia of ₹3.5 lakh for the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 for passengers with serious injuries.

Railways have issued helpline numbers: 9760534045/5101 94106 09434, 0121-2604977, 94544 55183, 9410609434, 0121-2604977.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences over the deaths.

"Extremely pained by the derailment of the Utkal Express in Muzaffarnagar. My thoughts are with the families of the deceased," he said in a tweet and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath ordered free treatment for the injured and directed ministers Suresh Rana and Satish Mahana to rush to the site.

Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced ₹5 lakh ex gratia to the kin of Odia passengers killed in the accident and ₹50,000 for the injured.

Union minister Sanjeev Balian, who represents Muzaffarnagar in the Lok Sabha, reached the spot after the accident.

Two bogies rammed into the house of Pintu Choudhary, an eyewitness Sandeep Rodhia claimed, adding that five people, including a tea stall owner, were crushed under them.

Witnesses claimed that more than 20 bogies had been taken out after cutting iron rods of compartment windows.

Heavy cranes and gas-cutters were being used to lift or cut the mangled remains of the coaches and extricate passengers.

Varanasi-based deputy commandant of NDRF Devendra Kumar said, "A team of 44 NDRF personnel, equipped with rescue equipment, have left for the site from Ghaziabad."

Also, 12 companies of PAC were rushed from Lucknow to Muzaffarnagar to help in rescue operation, informed IG, PAC, Lucknow, Satish Ganesh.

All senior officials from Meerut and Muzaffarnagar were also sent to the spot.

Chief medical officer, Meerut, Dr Rajkumar said 26 government ambulances and 20 private ones were sent to the accident site for ferrying the injured to hospitals in Meerut.

Dr Rajkumar also informed that all hospitals, including the medical college in Meerut, have been put on high alert.

A separate 50-bed ward has been prepared for treatment of the injured.

A team of health officials from Meerut has also been rushed to the accident site.

Ladakh video...

Several serving officers shared similar views.

The video shows around 50 soldiers were involved in the scuffle.

The skirmish happened after Indian border troops asked Chinese soldiers to fall back when they crossed the LAC, the de-facto boundary, around the lake.

The area is prone to face-offs as two-thirds of the lake is under Chinese control.

Indian and Chinese border officials met at a marathon meeting in the sensitive Ladakh sector a day after the nasty fist-cuff and stone attack. The scuffle and ways to maintain "peace and tranquility" in the region were discussed.

The Asian giants have a long border dispute that led to a war in 1962. The festering feud causes around 400 face-offs every year from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

Firm...

"There are a set of norms that every industry needs to follow. After our sub-regional officers confirmed media reports that dogs were indeed turning blue due to air and water pollution, we conducted a detailed survey at the plant," said Anil Mohekar, regional officer, MPCB Navi Mumbai, adding that once they found out that none of the directions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, were being followed by the private company, closure directions were issued.

"Ducol Organics Pvt Ltd. is harming animals and birds in the area. We cannot let such an industry function. We will ensure that the plant does not function from Monday and the decision sets an example for other polluting industries, which may not be following pollution abatement measures," he said.

According to MPCB, the fur of five dogs from the veterinary area had turned blue. Veterinarians from a hospital examined all five dogs and admitted one of them to the hospital for pathology tests. A blood report revealed that the dog was healthy, did not have any infection and the blue dye was water soluble.

However, animal welfare activist Arati Chauhan from Navi Mumbai Animal Protection cell, who first identified the problem through the pictures of a dog, said shutting down the industry was not a solution as it was not addressing the larger issue of other polluters in the area. "Shutting down one industry, as MPCB has done, only results in daily wage labourers losing their bread and butter. There are many other industries in the area that pose a threat to the flora, fauna and a threat of more such cases is a possibility," she said. "There is a need for pollution monitoring of all plants and development of adequate green cover around industrial sites."

Nitesh, while changing his WhatsApp status on Saturday, dropped another hint at quitting Congress. His status reads, "Narayan Rane is the only party for us."

Revenue minister and senior BJP leader Chandrakant Patil had recently said that his party will welcome Rane if he shifts loyalties.

Infosys...

Analysts said that the buyback of shares may provide a fillip to the stock price for a short-term only while most investors are looking for more clarity on the new management.

"Buyback will be supportive to the stock price but it won't last long. What is most crucial and critical is the future roadmap of the company. Investors will keep an eye on how Infosys performs under the new leadership," said Rikesh Parikh, vice-president, institution corporate broking, Motilal Oswal.

Sachin Shah, fund (portfolio) manager, Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd said that the stock may recover 3-4% on the buyback of share but a probe on the company's unlawful prac-

tises may be a dampener for investors. According to Times Now, three US law firms Bronstein, Gewirtz & Grossman, Pomerant Law Firm, and Rosen Law Firm, have initiated investigation against Infosys on whether the company's directors are engaged in securities fraud or other unlawful business practices.

Rane moving...

His senior colleagues in the Congress, too, are not very keen on pursuing him to stay back. When asked about Rane's possible exit, Congress' state unit chief Ashok Chavan had said, "Some people can't live without power."

Shah is expected to be in Mumbai next week and is likely to visit the Lalbaugcha Raja to seek blessings. He has been visiting the famous mandal for the past couple of years. Speculation is rife that the official announcement of Rane's induction may happen during this visit. There are also rumours that Shah is likely to inaugurate the medical college built by Rane's institution at Sindhurg in Konkan during the visit.

Sources, however, said that the entry may not happen so soon. "During Ganeshotsav, Rane himself will not want the political atmosphere to heat up, as the festival is celebrated in Ratnagiri and Sindhurg, his citadel, and even in Mumbai with vigour," said a BJP leader. "There is no decision over the position he will be offered. If he is being offered a Rajya Sabha seat, the next elections are six months away, so there is no hurry then."

The leader also said the BJP was not in any hurry as the party knows the leader has himself cut all ties with the Congress and so the possibility of him staying with the party, if negotiations with the BJP fail, is bleak. The leader cited the example of how the BJP dealt with Gujarat politician Shankarsingh Vaghela, who quit the Congress before the Rajya Sabha elections.

"During initial talks, Vaghela, a Congress heavyweight from Gujarat, had aspired for higher posts, but the BJP cut him to size and made him agree to a less important position. Similarly, Rane is unlikely to gain much in BJP," he said.

There are also talks of Rane's MLA son, Nitesh, and his close confidant, Kalidas Kolambkar, defecting to the BJP from Congress. However, both are unlikely to join the BJP immediately as it would lead to immediate by-elections. "Besides risk of getting re-elected to the Assembly, the by-polls need significant resources and efforts in each constituency. Nitesh is not in favour of wasting both for the remaining term. In such a scenario, only Narayan Rane is likely to join the BJP initially," a Congress leader said.

Nitesh, while changing his WhatsApp status on Saturday, dropped another hint at quitting Congress. His status reads, "Narayan Rane is the only party for us."

Revenue minister and senior BJP leader Chandrakant Patil had recently said that his party will welcome Rane if he shifts loyalties.

The reports of Rane joining BJP gathered steam after he reportedly met Shah in the presence of chief minister Devendra Fadnavis in Ahmedabad a few months ago. He, however, denied that the meeting took place. Rane, Nitesh and Rane's elder son and former Congress MP Nilesh have been openly criticising the party leadership.

Rane, once a street-smart Shiv Sainik, was picked by Sena founder the late Bal Thackeray to become chief minister in 1999, when the party was in power with BJP as its ally. Rane, however, could not lead the party to victory. Following emergence of Uddhav Thackeray as heir apparent in the Sena, Rane was systematically sidelined. He then joined the Congress in 2005 and was made a minister. His ambition to become chief minister again was not fulfilled in the Congress. In fact, irked with the party leadership for ignoring

him for the post of state Congress chief, Rane has now set his sight on the BJP.

Incidentally, Rane is also under the Enforcement Directorate (ED) scanner for financial transactions and investments in a mega real estate project in south-central Mumbai. Significantly, BJP MP Kirit Somaiya had in November 2016 written to the ED, seeking a probe into the financial transactions of the companies owned by Rane's family. The ED has reportedly initiated an inquiry against him.

Rahul, Yogi...

"I called off my visit... but I realised that CM Yogi's visit there had caused a lot of trouble to the ailing kids. So I called off my visit in the interest of patients and children," Gandhi said.

Also, he said the deaths were a government-made tragedy resulting from an oxygen cut.

The BJP-led government in Uttar Pradesh has denied the deaths were caused by an oxygen cut, saying Japanese encephalitis and paediatric diseases were responsible.

The government has instituted an inquiry and several opposition leaders have visited the hospital since the tragedy surfaced.

Adityanath, who is also the head priest of Goraknath mutt in Gorakhpur, has criticized his rivals for politicising the hospital deaths.

"Yuvraj in Delhi and Shahzada in Lucknow can't understand the importance of cleanliness drive launched by the government," the chief minister said, launching a sanitation drive in the town.

"For them, Gorakhpur is a picnic spot. I think we should not give permission to anyone to make a picnic trip to Gorakhpur."

Yuvraj and Shahzada, both meaning prince, are terms used by opponents to allude to Gandhi and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, who is chief minister Adityanath's predecessor.

For his part, the Congress vice president took potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Modiji talks about a new India. Is this the new India? We don't want his new India. We want the India where people take their kids to hospitals and come out happy," he said.

"Yogiji stop the cover-up," he added. Among the families that Gandhi met during his visit was Brahmdev Yadav, resident of village on the outskirts of Gorakhpur. He lost his twins born on August 1.

"Rahulji assured all possible help, including efforts to get me a job," he said.

The chief minister blamed the previous Samajwadi government in UP for the tragedy.

"Had they joined the cleanliness drive the deaths from vector and waterborne diseases could have been checked," he said.

Modiji talks about a new India. Is this the new India? We don't want his new India. We want the India where people take their kids to hospitals and come out happy.

RAHUL GANDHI, Congress leader

Declare...

"Admissions to post graduate courses have been delayed due to the delay in results. It would be of great help if the state issues directives to other universities to provide provisional admissions to students," said Pawar.

The petition will be heard by the high court next week. "We want justice, and quick," said another petitioner.

Meanwhile, the Bombay University and College Teachers' Union (BUCTU) had approached the high court earlier this month over the inordinate delay in declaring the results of several

undergraduate courses. The petition has also raised concerns over the haphazard manner in which the OSM system was implemented by the university. According to the petition, the system was introduced without providing essential infrastructure such as adequate number of computers and proper internet connections.

"What's worse is that the university made it look like a mistake on part of the teachers who went on vacation in May, whereas the truth is that till third week of May, scanning of answer booklets was still pending so teachers had nothing to assess," said Madhu Paranjape from the BUCTU.

She said the next hearing of their petition is on August 24, where MU representatives have been asked to submit an affidavit with a response.

Operation...

"Notwithstanding this tragedy of enormous proportions, no effective steps appear to have been taken by anybody in the state of Maharashtra to remedy the situation in spite of the fact that a little more than 12 years have gone by."

NGOs Jalbiradri and Vanshakti had raised these issues three years ago before the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Environmentalists allege that hundreds of crores have been spent to restore Mithi river, but it continues to degrade with pollution levels much more above the permissible limit.

"The joint team will give us a factual report on what has transpired so far, what is the extent of damage caused to Mithi river, what steps can be taken to remedy the damage, and short term and long term future course of action," said the order passed by the SC bench of justice Madan B Lokur and justice Deepak Gupta.

The directors of IIT-B and NEERI have been directed to nominate experts to the joint committee and submit a report within three months. The matter has been scheduled to be heard on October 10.

HT had reported on May 10 that Mithi river is the most polluted water body in the city, a state pollution control board's water quality assessment had revealed. The analysis said that biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)—the level of oxygen that affects the quality of water, which plants and animals need for survival—was 250 milligrams per litre (mg/l) in Mithi, as against the safe limit of 20 mg/l as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The SC also directed the additional chief secretary, state environment department, Satish Gavai, to be the convener of the committee.

"I am convening a meeting with both agencies [IIT-B and NEERI] on Tuesday. We will be assessing what damage has been caused to the river as a consequence of construction by the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) and whether all environmental clearances were granted," Gavai told HT.

"We will try to submit a mitigation/restoration plan to the Apex Court well before the next hearing."

The petitioners welcomed the SC order. "Under the guise of flood control, various civil works were undertaken. The real reason for this was to spend public money and make the river a cash cow for milking funds," said Stalin D, director, NGO Vanshakti.

"The entire estuary of the river has been taken over by real estate and encroachments. Removal of encroachments from the flood plains, stopping the discharge of untreated sewage and industrial effluents into the river was left unaddressed."

HINDUSTAN TIMES HAD REPORTED ON MAY 10 THAT MITHI RIVER IS THE MOST POLLUTED WATER BODY IN THE CITY

NOTICE INVITING RFP

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) through Haryana PWD (B&R) invites proposals from eligible consultant empanelled for supervision by MoRTH under Category VI(B) for engaging Authority's Engineer (AE) for the following contract package in the State of Haryana through e-tendering portal of Govt. of India (<https://eprocure.gov.in>) and INFRACON Portal (<https://infracon.nic.in>).

Name of Work	NH No	Project Length (km)	Project Civil Construction Cost	Construction Period	Maintenance Period
Consultancy services for Authority's Engineer for supervision of work of construction of NH-21A (New NH-105) 4-Lane Pinjore bypass starting from Km 54.533 of NH-22 and Terminating at Km 3.800 of NH-21A (Bypass chainage from Km 0.000 to Km 7.700 Total length 7.700 Km) in The State of Haryana on EPC mode.	NH-21A (NEW NH-105)	7.700 km	Rs. 98.23 Crore	24 months	4 years from actual date of completion

The interested consultancy firms may download the RFP document from e-tendering portal of Govt. of India (<https://eprocure.gov.in>) and INFRACON Portal (<https://infracon.nic.in>).

Executive Engineer, Construction Division(NH), H. PWD B&R Br. Panchkula.

DIRECTORATE OF AVIATION
GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
PURCHASE OF TWIN ENGINE HELICOPTER

The Directorate of Aviation, Government of Maharashtra, invites Proposals from Helicopter Manufacturers in position to offer a Twin Engine Helicopter broadly meeting the following requirements.

- Twin Engine IFR approved.
- Max AUW less than 5700 Kgs.
- Range of minimum 250 nautical miles plus reserve
- VIP seating of 6 to 7 passengers

The proposals are to be submitted on line at <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in>. Hard copy of the same is to be forwarded in a sealed envelope at the Directorate's Office. On submission of proposal the manufacturers will be required to give a presentation to a committee formed by the Govt. of Maharashtra.

EVENT	TARGET DATE
Last date to send in request for clarification	11 Aug 2017
Last date of Submission of Proposal	1600 Hrs 24 th Aug 2017
Presentation to the Committee	1500 Hrs 31 st Aug 2017

Rules and Regulations for submission of tender:

- Those qualified/interested organizations who wish to download the E-tender form need to enroll themselves on <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in>.
- The participants who wish to take part in the tendering process need to obtain a digital signature and register themselves on the above mentioned website.
- The details of time, term and schedule of E-tender may be obtained from <https://www.maharashtra.gov.in>, <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in>.

DA/ADM/903/2017
03rd Aug 2017
DGIPR2017/2018/2405

Sd/-
(Capt. Sanjay Karve)
Director of Aviation
Government of Maharashtra.

NOTICE 469-0

FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "e-Procurement"
Bid Identification No. PMGSY Online-BLGR-04/2017-18

The Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Bolangir on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of Bolangir for 1 (one) number of packages with estimated cost totalling to Rs 3.80 Cr (Approximate) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt, preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. Dtd. 21.08.2017

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Office of E.I.C, R.W (O) / Chief Engineer (PMGSY), R.W.(O), Bhubaneswar/ S.E., R.W. Circle, Bolangir / Bolangir Executive Engineer, R.W. Division on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 05.09.2017 upto 5.00 P.M

For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to www.pmgstenders.gov.in.

Sd/- A.K.Mishra
Superintending Engineer
R.W. Circle, Bolangir

I & PR Key No. 25118/11/0008/1718

CENTRAL RAILWAY
AMC FOR TWO YEARS

Open Tender Notice No. CR-BB-Tele-N-2017-49. Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), 1st Floor, Parcel Office Building, Near P.F. No. 13, Central Railway, Mumbai CST 400 001, and on behalf of the President of India Invites E-Tenders (Open tender) from the reputed contractors. The last