

IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri removed for opposing fund misuse attempts

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE: Rohini Sindhuri IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri was "shunted out" as the secretary of the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board as she resisted attempts at possible misuse funds meant for upliftment of labourers, according to sources.

Sindhuri, 35, was transferred by the state government on September 20. Labour Commissioner K G Shantaram has been given concurrent charge of the Board, while Sindhuri has not been given a new posting. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa holds the labour portfolio.

The Board has a corpus of about Rs 8,000 crore, which is mostly through labour cess of 1% that is levied on all construction projects — government or private. Sindhuri was taking steps to streamline the Board's expenditure, what with



IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri

only about Rs 800 crore spent in the last eight years.

But according to sources, Sindhuri was under pressure to spend these funds in ways that could have led to pilferage. These claims were corroborated by a senior IAS officer who said was aware of the reasons behind Sindhuri's transfer.

For instance, Sindhuri was asked by one senior IAS officer to award various works of

the Board to the state-run Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (Keonics) without following the tendering process.

Sindhuri insisted on choosing service providers from the open market through a tendering process, given that Keonics was found to have an uninspiring track record in implementation of projects, sources said.

One such project that Sindhuri was expected to hand over to Keonics was a six-digit, 24/7 helpline dedicated to labour welfare. On August 30, Labour Secretary P Manivannan urged Sindhuri to expedite the helpline project.

Sindhuri was also under pressure to divert a portion of the Board's funds towards flood relief. Sources said Sindhuri was initially asked to part with Rs 3,000 crore — and then Rs 1,000 crore — to distribute food packets, furniture and lighting in flood-hit areas.

'Project NETRA' initiated by ISRO to safeguard Indian space assets

THE HINDU

BANGALORE: In the middle of its two-month Chandrayaan-2 campaign, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) last month quietly initiated 'Project NETRA' — an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.

The project estimated to cost 400 crore, when in place, will give India its own capability in space situational awareness (SSA) like the other space powers — which is used to 'predict' threats from debris to Indian satellites. It also goes so far as to serve as an unstated warning against missile or space attack for the country, experts say.

The space agency says our SSA will first be for low-earth orbits or LEO which have remote-sensing spacecraft. Under NETRA, or Network for space object Tracking and Analysis, the ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities: connected radars, tele-

scopes; data processing units and a control centre. They can, among others, spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.

With this the ISRO, which has placed satellites to track the earth from above, will also start training its eyes on space from earth.

Space debris could be floating particles from dead satellites or rocket parts that stay in orbit for many years. Satellite agencies agonise over even a speck of paint or fragment floating towards their spacecraft: it disables on board electronics and cripples the satellite worth several hundred crore rupees besides many services that run on it. Agencies constantly look for debris at the time of a launch and through the life of a satellite. NETRA's eventual goal is to capture the GEO, or geostationary orbit, scene at 36,000 km.

Baba Ramedev's yoga in Udupi

DAJIWORLD

UDUPI: A five-day long mega Yoga camp by internationally acclaimed Yoga guru, Baba Ramdev, will be held here from December 3 to 7 this year at Sri Krishna Math here, said Sri Vidyadheesha Theertha Swamiji of Palimaru Math.

He was addressing a press meet at Kanaka Mantapa of Sri Krishna Math here on Monday, September 23. He explained that the five-day Yoga camp is being organized by Paryaya Sri Palimar Math, in association with Patanjali Yog Peeth of Haridwar.

"I was thinking of organizing the Yoga camp here during my first year of Paryaya. But I am fortunate to at least organize this Yoga camp during the second year of my Paryaya. I want the people of Udupi to make the best use of this opportunity. I am sure that the camp will help them to have good health and sound body," he explained.

"From December 3 onward, the Yoga training will begin everyday at 5 am and go on till 7 am at the parking lot of Sri Krishna Math. A one day mega Yoga camp had been conducted in 2011 at MGM ground. It had cast a good in-

fluence on a large number of people," the Swamiji said.

State in-charge of Patanjali Yoga Peeth, Yogacharya Bhavaralalaji, said, "As usual, every year, Patanjali Yoga Peeth has been organizing such programmes once in a year in the state. This time we have chosen temple town Udupi. We are expecting 30000 people to take part in the Yoga sessions as participants,"

Yoga exponent, Baba Ramdev, has been conducting Yoga camps and spreading awareness about the importance of Yoga, Pranayama and drive to use indigenously produced goods at worldwide through Patanjali Yoga Peeth. Palimaru Swamiji would be felicitating and honouring Baba Ramdev on this occasion.

Bhavaralalaji further said, "The required preparations are on full swing. Prior to the camp, as many as 101 camps will be organized at different parts of Udupi district."

Balaji Raghavendra Acharya, district Samrakshaka of Bharath Swabhiman trust, Karamballi Shivaram Shetty, district president, Patanjali Yoga Peeth, will be present.

Lecture on poet Ratnakaravarni's Bharateshavaibhava

JESLIN

MANGALORE: The Mahakavi Ratnakaravarni Study Centre at Mangalore University along with department of Kannada, Government First Grade Women's College is organising guest lectures on the topic 'Rathnakaravarni's Bharateshavaibhava: A cultural insight' from 11 a.m. on Wednesday. The first lecture will be delivered by Prof. Shubhachandra, from the department of Jain studies, Mysore University. There will also be a talk on 'Bharateshavaibhava and message of Jainism' by Muniraja Renjala, renowned Jain scholar from

Moodabidri.

"Ratnakaravarni was a Jain poet of the 16th century, hailing from Moodabidri. He is one of the prominent poets of Dakshina Kannada. 'Bharateshavaibhava' is an epic. We want students to know more about it and develop an interest about the study of this epic. Ratnakaravarni is also known for 'Aparajiteshwara Shataka' and for writing songs and Jain stories, especially those related to Bharata-Baahubali. We will also be conducting seminars in colleges across Belthangady, Uppinangady, Moodabidri and Kasargod," said Prof. Somantha, coordinator of the event.

Leonardo DiCaprio lends support to 'Cauvery Calling'

DAJIWORLD

COIMBATORE: Oscar-winning Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio is well-known for his devotion to the promotion of environmental causes.

Lately, Leonardo was found supporting one such cause the 'Cauvery Calling,' a movement launched by the Isha Founda-

tion in India. He recently posted a message on his Facebook saying, "India's rivers are severely endangered with many of its smaller rivers vanishing. Join Sadhguru and the Isha Foundation in their fight to preserve the Cauvery river."

As per an Isha release, the Facebook post has been widely shared and has gained a lot of attention.

Green crackers will make their debut this Diwali

TIMES OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: This Diwali low emission 'green' crackers with a unique logo and QR code on boxes will finally be available in Delhi. According to CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute officials, over 550 emission testing certificates have already been handed over to manufacturers.

Around 60 compositions of 'green' crackers made by various manufacturers were approved for production till now, while 24 were rejected, Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO) chief M K Jhala told on Monday.

Delhi's air quality last Diwali day November 7, oscillated between "poor" and "very poor" categories as authorities warned of severe deterioration in air quality even if "partial toxic crackers" are burned compared to previous years. However, the next day, November 8, most air quality monitoring stations across the city had "very poor" air quality and AQI touched 390. Authorities attributed the spike in pollution level.