

GUEST COLUMN

Why Mamata Didi can't get a Central bail-out

A rather tongue-in-cheek comparison between the West Bengal CM and 'Kingfisher' Mallya

■ The Centre can only bail her out of ailments of her own making. Her West Bengal's bankruptcy is inherited through someone else's inefficiency, not self-created through gaudy and foolhardy display of opulence and corporate misadventure.

■ She wears dull, inexpensive cotton sarees and hawaii chap-pals, not designer jackets and shoes.



■ She wears her hair in a middle-class bun and virtually no makeup, not a carefully coiffed shoulder-length mess and shaggy sideburns and beard while sporting elegantly manicured hands.

■ She is mostly surrounded by middle class people like



her, or those seeking her help like rickshaw wallas, labourers, harried citizens or government babus who have managed to lead a life of leisure for decades on salaries drawn from the state's tax payers without doing much work, and not flanked by nubile nymphets in skimpy bikinis that cost the earth to cover next to nothing and who get paid to expose their well-toned nearly-all in calendars rarely used to mark the date.

• She lives in an old crowded street where rickshaws and pedestrians jostle to pass one another. She has never seen an FI car zoom past her, leave alone own a race team.

■ On a rainy day, her house does not resemble anything even remotely similar to the tycoon's island accessible only by his personal luxury yacht that has special VIP invitees aboard, including sportspersons, politicians, fashion and business media, and the glitterati.

■ She might grace Eden Gardens or Salt Lake Stadium if invited for a match, or distrib-

ute toys for the poor, but she'll never be able to buy herself an entire cricket or football team or even an FI car.

■ She does not invite her friends (and people to impress) to ring in the New Year or just let their hair down in a palatial Goan villa.

■ She cannot distribute complimentary ring-side special passes for cricket or football matches or FI races where sports is the last thing on the invitee's minds, or even host post-event parties. Nor can she give free business class flight tickets if bailed out.

■ She walked miles and miles in the blazing summer and cried herself hoarse to win her Parliamentary seat and her Party's majority in the State. She could not manage to get herself a Rajya Sabha seat.

■ She does not trail a heady combination of booze, babes, business class and bashes. She is about Ma, Manush and Mati, and sometimes Maoists.

■ Her do-it-now, no-nonsense attitude has already attracted promises of nearly Rs 3,00,000 crores of investment since she became chief minister, not a Rs 8000 crores loss.

® She is all over the media every day, despite not owning newspapers and TV channels.

■ She hopes to make Kolkata like London, but hasn't yet managed big time press conferences in Piccadilly Circus.

■ If bailed out, she may suc-

ceed in turning around West Bengal at least partially, getting re-elected and staying on for another term, and becoming a bigger threat to the powers that be in Delhi. She will not have one more go at grounding a floundering airline and remaining grateful for another round of bail-out and another round of partying to please.

• She does not own a fleet of



aircraft that provide royal service on a pauper's treasury. She has a pauper's treasury and no aircraft.

Her signature colour is green, not red.

■ She is not the King (or Queen) of Good Times, she is just the Didi of trying times.