



Leaders of Alternative for Germany (AfD) Alexander Gauland, Alice Weidel and Beatrix von Storch talk as they attend the two-day party congress in Augsburg, Germany—REUTERS

Mandsaur rape Rahul demands 'speedy justice', calls for protection of children

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30 /- / Sickened by the rape of an eight-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur, Congress president Rahul Gandhi today said "as a nation, we must protect our children" and demanded "speedy justice" for the victim.

Taking to Twitter, Rahul said the brutality that the child was subjected to sickens him. In Mandsaur, MP, an 8-year-old girl was kidnapped and gang raped, and is battling for her life. "The brutality this young child was subjected to sickens me," he said in a tweet. As a nation, we must come together to protect our children and bring the attackers to speedy justice, the Congress president added. The minor was abducted while she was waiting for her father outside her school on Tuesday.

Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia today sought separate CBI probes into the gang rape and the burning alive of a Dalit farmer in Bhopal recently. Scindia alleged that the BJP government in Madhya



Pradesh has failed to protect women and Dalits in the state. "CBI inquiries should be carried out into the gang rape of the 8-year-old girl on June 26 in Mandsaur district and the burning alive of the Dalit farmer in Bhopal last week," Scindia told reporters at a meet-the-press programme organised by the Central Press Club here.

The Guna MP also demanded strict action against the school where the rape victim studied, alleging the authorities there allowed the minor to walk out of school, after classes got over for the day, without the presence of her parents or guardian. Scindia said that schools must ensure that children are handed over to their parents once classes got over for the day. After being gang raped, her throat was slit with a knife while the attackers injured her private parts and left her to die.



Argentina's Lionel Messi looks dejected after missing an opportunity. France beat Argentina 4-3 and advanced to quarter final—REUTERS

PM reviews progress made on development of 26 islands

Stress on tourism-centric ecosystem in A&N

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30 /- / Prime Minister Narendra Modi today reviewed the progress made on the holistic development of 26 islands to boost India's maritime economy while preserving the natural ecosystem.

In the meeting chaired by Modi, the NITI Aayog made a presentation on the elements of holistic development, including key infrastructure projects, digital connectivity, green energy, desalination plants, waste management, promotion of fisheries, and tourism-based projects, the PMO said in a statement. Reviewing the work done in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Modi emphasised on the need for developing an integrated tourism-centric ecosystem, in the areas identified for tourism development, it said. The Prime Minister called for

expeditious pursuit of energy self-sufficiency in the islands, which could be based on solar energy, the statement added.

Modi was also briefed on the decision of the home ministry to dispense with the requirement of Restricted Area Permit for foreigners visiting the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it said. Greater connectivity of these islands with Southeast Asia was also discussed, the statement said.

During the review of development work in Lakshadweep, Modi was apprised of the steps taken to boost Tuna fishing, and the promotion of Lakshadweep Tuna as a brand. Development of vital infrastructure in both Andaman and Nicobar islands, as well as in Lakshadweep was also discussed.

Failure of GST's automatic digitised processed to rise in hawala transactions: Amit Mitra

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, JUNE 30 /- / In the wake of reports of deposits by Indians soaring in the Swiss banks last year, state finance minister Amit Mitra today claimed that hawala transactions had seen a rise due to failure of GST's automatic digitised process.

According to the design of the indirect tax system, GSTR 1, which is a form to be filled and unlinked, represents sales value figures, while GSTR 2 forms, which represent purchase figures, are self-populated, he said. Speaking on Facebook Live to mark one year of Goods and Services Tax (GST) roll-out in the country,

Mitra, who is also member of the GST Council, said a short form GSTR 3B was introduced and that form was "not backed by invoices". "Here, I make a claim. As a result of (GSTR 3B) not being backed by invoices, not only are we going completely manual, hawala transactions have increased massively, according to our studies... because you are not putting invoices and there is no way to check it," Mitra said. Referring to soaring Indian deposits in Swiss banks, the finance minister said: "Hawala transactions have increased due to the failure of the GST's automatic digitised process. Nobody was to talk about it." According to media reports, after falling for three years in succession, money parked by Indians in Swiss banks rose 50 per cent to Swiss francs 1.02 billion in 2017 over the previous year. "Export refunds are not happening and exports are under stress. Some three lakh refund applications are waiting (to be processed)," said Mitra who served as the chairman of empowered committee of state finance ministers. He alleged about Rs 2 lakh crore, which was lying in the Central government's coffers, is waiting to be disbursed.

"Why was Rs 2 crore held by the central government in its coffers? It should have been refunded to the people," he added.

J-K DGP asks families of Kashmiri ultras to urge them to shun violence

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30 /- /

Jammu and Kashmir Police Chief S P Vaid today urged the families of militants in the Valley to appeal to their sons to leave the path of violence and promised all possible assistance, including rehabilitation for those who leave militant ranks. Today once again I urge to the families to appeal to their boys who have taken the wrong path to leave the path of violence & (and) come home," the DGP wrote on Twitter. He said the Jammu and Kashmir police will provide all possible assistance to those who shun the path of violence and return to mainstream. "It is highly unfortunate & painful to see loss of life. @JmKmrPolice promises to provide all possible assistance including rehabilitation (sic)," Vaid said. The DGP had in the past also appealed to the families of Kashmiri militants to urge their sons to leave militancy and return to mainstream. Since last year, more than a dozen militants have laid down their arms in Kashmir when police announced that they will accept offer of surrender of local militants even during ongoing encounters. Most of these militants have returned home after appeals by their families to shun the path of violence.

Meanwhile, a police official today said that body of only one LeT terrorist was recovered from the site of encounter in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the other two believed to have been killed in the operation apparently managed to escape. The police spokesman said the LeT terrorist has been identified as Sajad Ahmad Shah, a resident of Gund in Chogal area in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. "He was involved in a number of attacks on security establishments and he has committed atrocities," he said. A rifle and ammunition were recovered from the encounter site in Thammuna village. The security forces on Friday launched the operation in the village after receiving information about the presence of three terrorists in a house there.

India welcomes FATF decision to put Pak on its 'grey list' for failure in checking terror financing

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30 /- / Days after a global anti-money laundering body placed Pakistan on its "grey list" for failing to curb terror financing, India today hoped that Islamabad will take credible measures to address international concerns on terrorism emanating from that country.

India also welcomed the decision by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to place Pakistan under its "grey list" and hoped that the action plan suggested by the global watchdog will be complied with by the country in a time-bound manner. "We hope that the FATF Action plan shall be complied with in a time-bound manner and credible measures would be taken by Pakistan to address global concerns related to terrorism emanating from any territory under its control," external affairs ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in response to a query on the issue.

India has been seeking global action against Pakistan for allowing terror safe havens in its territories, and has been pressing for punishing Pakistan-based terrorists involved in a series of attacks in

India, including the 2008 Mumbai attack and individuals. "Pakistan has given a high level political commitment to address the global concerns regarding its implementation of the FATF standards for countering terror financing and anti-money laundering, especially in respect of UN designated and internationally proscribed terror entities and individuals."

"The freedom and impunity with which designated terrorists like Hafiz Saeed and entities like Jamaat-Ud-Dawaa, Lashkar-e-Tayyabba, Jaish-e-Mohammed continue to operate in Pakistan is not in keeping with such commitments," Kumar said.

Pakistan was formally placed on the FATF "grey list" on June 27 for failing to curb anti-terror financing despite its diplomatic efforts to avert the decision. The decision was taken at the plenary session of FATF in Paris.

The global watchdog had reportedly recommended an action plan for Pakistan to counter terror financing and the body is likely to review its implementation after a few months.

Army Chief asks students to join armed forces

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30 /- / Army Chief, Gen Bipin Rawat on Friday met a group of Kashmiri students and exhorted them to join the Indian Army and serve the nation. The group of 25 students, comprising 20 boys and five girls, and accompanied by five teachers from Jammu and Kashmir has been on a National Integration Tour sponsored by the government. Gen Rawat shared his experiences with the students and motivated them to work hard and contribute actively in the nation building process. He also exhorted them to join the Indian Armed Forces and serve the cause of the nation.

He told the students that the peace and normalcy they see outside the Valley during their tour, can also be in Kashmir if the unrest and militancy goes. He said just like there are no army bunkers in Delhi streets, there would be no need to have army bunkers and check posts in the Valley if the normalcy returns. National Integration Tours are educational and motivational tours for youth of Jammu and Kashmir and Northeast states, designed to provide an insight into the rich heritage of the country as well as various developmental and industry initiatives that are underway. This initiative will expose them to various career options and enable them to interact with renowned personalities. Speaking to newsmen later, Rawat said that the Army was operating with "people-friendly" attitude in the Kashmir Valley and was only going after the "terrorists who create violence and disturbance". The Army Chief said there was "nothing" like stepping up operations in the Valley after imposition of the Governor's Rule there as Army goes by its standard rules of engagement.

Director General of Police S P Vaid and Army officials had said the terrorists were killed in the encounter.

"All three terrorists eliminated. Good job boys," Vaid had tweeted. The security operation was called off today, the police official said only one body was recovered from the site of encounter. He said that initial information had suggested the presence of three terrorists in the house in the village. "Pursuing credible leads regarding the presence of the terrorists in Thammuna village of district Pulwama, a joint patrol of the security forces yesterday launched searches in the afternoon

inside the village," the police spokesman said. He said as the search operation was progressing towards the house, the terrorists fired upon the joint patrol team of the security forces, thereby triggering the encounter. "The terrorists initially took five civilians hostage inside the house who were however safely evacuated along with the information. The presence of three terrorists inside the house, but as the final search was carried out, a lone body of a terrorist was recovered," the spokesman said. A case has been registered in this connection and investigation is on, the spokesman said.

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Narcotics worth Rs 40 cr seized From 5 Chinese nationals in Kolkata railway station

KOLKATA, JUNE 30 /- / Narcotics worth around Rs 40 crore were seized by Government Railway Police (GRP) of Sealdah division, as they arrested five Chinese nationals from Kolkata railway station on Friday night.

Six bags containing 197 Kg of amphetamine tablets, a synthetic drug that provides a feeling of euphoria, were recovered from the arrested Chinese nationals. The narcotic is used as the primary drug in parts of China and South East Asian nations.

They have not heard of such a big consignment being seized from anywhere in the country recently. These

people were carrying six bags, all stuffed with foils containing the tablets," said Aseeh Biswas, superintendent of railway police, Sealdah GRP. The tablets were concealed in foils that were kept in different compartments inside the bags.

According to Biswas, language barrier led to problems in communicating for the police as a result of which, they said could not find out where the accused were carrying the consignments from and where they were heading for. "We found out from their passports that they came to India in 2017 and 2016 as well. They have also been to



Passports and cellphones seized from arrested Chinese nationals—EOI Photo

other countries. Drug trafficking appears to be their profession," said Biswas. Those who questioned the five described them as "stubborn." The five were produced

in Alipore court on Saturday. GRP officers booked them under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985. The officers were surprised to find Chinese nationals bringing narcotics into the state, something not observed in recent decades.

The GRP unit was acting on a specific tip-off. "We were getting information for the past few days and had alerted the mobile units. The five Chinese nationals were found carrying six trolley bags that contained only foils. The fact that they did not have any clothes in the luggage raised our

AT A GLANCE

Sushma trolled on Twitter

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj was again trolled on Twitter today and accused of appealing Muslims. Her husband Swaraj Kaushal tweeted a screenshot of a post by a Twitter user who asked him to teach the minister not to do Muslim appeasement. Swaraj also retweeted some of the tweets by that person. This comes days after Swaraj was trolled and abused on Twitter over a controversy involving the issuance of passport to an interfaith couple.

Chargesheet against Dawood, 2 others

THANE: The city police has filed a charge sheet against fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim and his brothers Iqbal Kaskar, and Anees Ibrahim in connection with an extortion case filed on the complaint by a prominent builder last year. "The charge sheet was filed in the district court on Thursday," a senior inspector of Thane police's Anti-Extortion Cell (AEC) said today. In October last year, the police had registered an offence of extortion based on the complaint of the builder against Iqbal Kaskar and the gang members of Dawood. According to the builder's complaint, Kaskar had threatened and extorted Rs 3 crore from him over a deal of a 39-acre land in Gorai area.