



President Ram Nath Kovind being presented a bouquet by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal, at Ambala on Tuesday.

ECHO WORLD

After SC prod, CVC starts examining CBI officials

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 /- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) today examined some CBI officials probing crucial cases which figured in Special Director Rakesh Asthana's complaint of corruption against the probe agency's chief Alok Verma, officials said. Officials from the rank of inspector up to superintendent of police of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) were called and their versions were recorded before a senior official of the CVC, they said. The officials who recorded their statements Tuesday include those who handled the Moyn Qureshi bribery case, the IRCTC scam, involving former railway minister Lahu Yadav, the cattle smuggling case in which a senior BSF officer was caught with wads of cash in Kerala, according to the officials. These officials were called from the CBI headquarters here and some from zonal offices, including Kochi, they said requesting anonymity.

ATA GLANCE

Another setback for Khaleda Zia

DHAKA: In a stunning decision, a Bangladesh court on Tuesday doubled former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's jail term from five to 10 years in a corruption case. The decision came a day after she was sentenced to seven years in prison in another graft case. A High Court bench comprising Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Mostafizur Rahman announced the verdict after accepting the Anti-Corruption Commission's review petition to increase Zia's imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case, The Daily Star reported.

Modi holds talks with Italian PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today held talks with his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Conte and discussed a range of issues, including ways to boost cooperation in key areas such as trade and investment, Conte arrived here this morning and was warmly welcomed by Prime Minister Modi. "A warm welcome to the Italian Prime Minister, Mr. Giuseppe Conte in India. I look forward to meeting him and to participate together at the Tech Summit later today," Modi tweeted in English and Italian.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the valedictory session of the India-Italy Technology Summit, in New Delhi - PIB

Amid CBI controversy, Centre starts framing guidelines to handle complaints against CVC

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 /- The Centre has started the process of framing guidelines to handle grievances or complaints against the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), the personnel ministry has said.

There are no guidelines in place to handle complaints against the CVC, the ministry said in response to an RTI query. The personnel ministry's assertion comes amid a raging controversy in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) involving its director Alok Kumar and special director Rakesh Asthana. The two warring officers, who have alleged each other of impropriety, have been sent on leave by the Centre. On Friday, the Supreme Court asked the Central Vigilance Commission, that exercises superintendence over the CBI in corruption matters, to complete within two weeks its inquiry into allegations against Verma.

It is informed that as no guidelines to handle complaints against Central Vigilance Commissioner were in place, a process for framing guidelines to handle grievances/complaints against Central Vigilance Commissioner has been initiated, the ministry said. It added that suitable action will be taken on complaints once such guidelines are in existence. The ministry was responding to an RTI application filed by whistle-blower bureaucrat Sanjiv Chaturvedi. He had sought copies of correspondences from the Personnel Ministry related to a plea filed by him on July 15 last year with the president's secretariat.

The President's office forwarded it to the Personnel Ministry on July 27. The plea was filed by Chaturvedi invoking Section 6 of the CVC Act that empowers the president to refer cases of allegation of misconduct against the CVC for enquiry by Supreme Court. The secretariat had forwarded the application to the personnel ministry for necessary action. Chaturvedi had alleged that the CVC closed cases of corruption involving senior functionaries in Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Chaturvedi, who has sought probe against Central Vigilance Commissioner K V Chowdhary, had sent documents, running into almost 1,000 pages, in support of his claim to the office of the president. He shared the details of seven cases with the president's secretariat. These include one on his alleged victimisation while he was chief vigilance officer (CVO) at AIIMS. (PTI)

Two cops, DD cameraman killed in Maoist attack in Dantewada

I&B minister Rathore condemns act, Cong says Raman Singh has no right to be CM

RAIPUR, OCT 30 /- Two policemen and a cameraperson of Doordarshan were killed and two others were injured in a Maoist attack today in poll-bound Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district. The incident took place at around 11 am in a forest area near Nilawaya village, around 450 kms from here, Deputy Inspector General (anti-Naxal operations) Sundarraj P told PTI. The Maoists ambushed a squad of local police which was carrying out patrolling on motor cycles from Sameli camp towards Nilawaya this morning, Sundarraj said. A three-member team of Doordarshan was travelling for election-related news coverage at the same time and was caught in the cross-fire, he said. In the attack, Sub Inspector Rudrat Prasad Singh, Assistant Constable Mangal and DD News Cameraman Achyutanand Sahu were killed, the DIG said.



CRPF jawans carrying away a dead body from the spot after the Maoist attack at Dantewada

Sahu had come from New Delhi for the election coverage, he said. Other two members of the DD team, including a journalist, were safe, the officer said. Constable Vishnu Netan and assistant constable Rakesh Kaushal sustained injuries in the gunfight, he added. The injured have been admitted to Dantewada district hospital, he said, adding that if required, they would be airlifted to Raipur for further medication. Union information and broadcasting minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore condemned the attack and said the insurgents won't be able to

weaken the government resolve. "Strongly condemn the Naxal attack on @DDNewsLive crew in Dantewada. Deeply saddened by the demise of our cameraman Achyuta Nanda Sahu and two jawans of @crpfIndia. These insurgents will NOT weaken our resolve. We WILL prevail," the minister tweeted.

Teams of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Special Task Force (STF) and District Reserve Guard (DRG) were immediately rushed to the forest to trace the ultras, the DIG added. On October 27, four CRPF personnel were killed and Maoist others were injured when Maoists blew up their bullet proof bunker vehicle in Awapalli area of Bijapur district. The next day, a BJP leader

and member of Dantewada Zila Panchayat Nandlal Mudiyaami was seriously injured after ultras attacked him with sharp edged weapons at his village Palnar in Dantewada. Condemning the attack, Union information and broadcasting minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore tweeted: "Strongly condemn the Naxal attack on @DDNewsLive crew in Dantewada. Deeply saddened by the demise of our cameraman Achyuta Nanda Sahu and two jawans of @crpfIndia. These insurgents will NOT weaken our resolve. We WILL prevail". The Congress too condemned the attack and Maoist people were determined to oust the

Raman Singh government in the state. While Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the attack in the state's Dantewada district had saddened him, the party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala paid tributes to the deceased and termed the BJP government in the state "incompetent and worthless".

Chief minister Raman Singh has described the ambush as a cowardly act by Naxals who are against democracy and development and have acted out of desperation. Expressing his sorrow and condolences, the Congress chief said on Twitter: "I express my sorrow and deep condolences to the families of the two policemen and Doordarshan cameraman killed in the attack." Surjewala paid tributes to the deceased and said the people of Naxal-hit Chhattisgarh had made up their mind to oust the "incompetent and worthless government of chief minister Raman Singh".

"A coward and scared Raman Singh has no right to be the chief minister even for a minute now," he said. Chhattisgarh is going to polls next month and Naxalites have asked voters to boycott the exercise. The first phase of polls covering 18 constituencies of eight Naxal-affected districts Bastar, Kanker Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur, Kondagaon and Rajnandgaon will be held on November 12. The remaining 72 constituencies will witness polling on November 20. The counting of votes will take place on December 11. (PTI)

SC pulls up Bihar govt for not arresting ex-minister, asks if she is above law

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 /- The Supreme Court today pulled up Bihar Police for not arresting former state minister Manju Verma, who had stepped down in the wake of the Muzaffarpur shelter home scandal, in a case related to recovery of ammunition from her possession. The top court said even after her anticipatory bail application was dismissed by the Patna High Court on October 9, the police has not been able to arrest her.

Her husband Chandrashekhar Verma had surrendered before a Begusarai court on Monday in connection with the arms case registered against him, the apex court was informed by the Bihar government. The court also directed that Brajesh Thakur, the prime accused in the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual abuse case, be shifted to the Patiala high security jail in Punjab from Bihar's Bhagalpur jail. The court passed the order to shift Thakur out of Bihar after the CBI had on October 25 said that he was an influential person and was found in possession of mobile phone inside the Bhagalpur jail. A bench of justices MB Lokur, S Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta said Thakur shall be kept under watch of the Superintendent of Police of Patiala. "Brajesh Thakur be transferred to the prison in Patiala where he will be kept in watch by the Superintendent of Police. The movement of Brajesh Thakur should take place today or tomorrow on the outside," the bench said. It also refused to give time to Thakur for filing his reply to the show cause notice issued by the court on October 25 asking him to explain why he should not be transferred out of Bihar, saying, "We decline to give any time for filing a reply until he goes out of Bihar".

CBIDSP, middleman remanded to 14-day IC in bribery case involving special director

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 /- A Delhi court today remanded CBI DSP Devender Kumar and middleman Manoj Prasad, arrested in connection with bribery allegations involving the agency's Special Director Rakesh Asthana, to 14-day judicial custody. A special CBI court sent them to jail after the probe agency said that they were not required for further custodial interrogation. Both the accused were produced before special CBI Judge Santosh Sneh Mann who will hear the bail application of Kumar on Wednesday. During the hearing, Kumar, who was produced after the expiry of his seven-day custodial interrogation, told the court that the agency was tampering with and fabricating evidence in case against him. He submitted that a case of theft and extortion should be lodged against CBI officials probing case. Kumar told the court that his eight mobile phones, an iPad and his son's laptop were seized but the CBI's seizure memo (a mandatory list of all the seized items) "only shows one mobile phone."

The very foundation of this case is based on lies and fabrication and falsification of the evidence. They retained certain articles taken from me but did not show it in the seizure memo. They (CBI) are misusing their powers and misleading even this court. They are tampering with the evidence. They should be booked for theft and extortion," said advocate Rahul Tyagi, appearing for Kumar. Replying to Kumar's application seeking release of seized goods, the investigating officer (IO) of the case, Satish Dagar, told the court that he recently took over the probe and observed that though the seizure memo mentions about only one mobile phone, there were other items as well which were lying with the TAFSU branch of the CBI for the purpose of retrieving the data. The data of all the seized articles requires to be analyzed after retrieval to ascertain any relevance to the present case, the IO said.

The court also asked the CBI to file its reply to Kumar's bail application which will be heard on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Prasad also moved a bail application on which a notice was issued to the agency seeking its response by November 2. Two alleged middlemen - Manoj Prasad and Suresh Prasad - have also been named as accused in the case. The FIR in the current case was lodged on the basis of a written complaint from businessman Satish Sana on October 15. It was alleged that Kumar, being the IO in the case against most exporter Moyn Qureshi, was repeatedly calling the complainant to the CBI office to harass him and compel him to pay a bribe of Rs 5 crore for getting a clean chit in the case. The complaint had also said that a part of the bribe was paid by Sana.

Meanwhile, interim CBI chief M Nagewara Rao today denied any irregularities in the investments made by his wife in a private company. In a signed statement, Rao, a 1986-batch IPS officer from Odisha, said all the transactions and investments made by him or his wife, Manmoh Sanjivya, have been given to the competent authorities, and everything has been mentioned in his annual property return filed mandatorily with the government. Denying all reports and giving a chronological order of events, Rao said his wife had taken a loan of Rs 25 lakh from Anglia Mercantile Pvt Ltd, a company which belonged to "our longtime friend Praveen Agarwal for purchase of an immovable property in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh". (PTI)

Trump for ending birthright citizenship for non-citizens' babies

WASHINGTON, OCT 30 /- President Donald Trump is intensifying his hardline immigration rhetoric heading into the midterm elections, declaring that he wants to order the end of the constitutional right to citizenship for babies of unauthorized immigrants born in the United States.

Trump made the comments to "Axios on HBO" ahead of elections that "we're the only country in the world whose immigration policies, Trump, seeking to energise his supporters and help Republicans keep control of Congress, has



stocked anxiety about a caravan of Central American migrants making its way to the U.S.-Mexico border. He is dispatching additional troops and saying he'll set up tent cities for asylum seekers. Revoking birthright citizenship would spark a court fight over whether the president has the unilateral ability to change an amendment to the Constitution.

The 14th Amendment guarantees that right for all children born in the US. Asked about the legality of such an executive order, Trump said, "they're saying I can do it just with an executive order." He added that "we're the only country in the world where a person comes in and has a baby, and the baby is essentially a citizen of the United States." An excerpt of the interview was posted on Axios' website on Tuesday.

Ordinance on Ayodhya: Experts say propriety demands govt should wait for SC verdict

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 /- The demand by some saffron groups that the Union government should come out with an ordinance for constructing a Ram Temple at Ayodhya has not got support from legal experts who were of the view that propriety demands it should wait for the Supreme Court verdict.

According to senior jurists Rakesh Dwivedi and Ajit Kumar Sinha, there is no bar on the Centre to take the ordinance route but it should wait for the apex court's decision. But senior advocate Vikas Singh straightaway said no ordinance can be brought when the matter is pending before the top court and added that it was not about any provision but its propriety. "It's doctrine of separation of powers. Once it is before judiciary, it can't be done by any government," Singh, who is also the president of the Supreme

Court Bar Association, said. The debate arose immediately after yesterday's Supreme Court hearing in the Ayodhya land dispute case where the matter has been fixed for hearing in first week of January. There was a chorus of demands from within the BJP and various Sangh Parivar groups that the Centre bring an ordinance or legislation in the Winter session of Parliament for early construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha polls without waiting for the apex court verdict. Dwivedi and Sinha also said even if the ordinance is brought in, it can be challenged in the court of law. Dwivedi said: "Now

an ordinance can be questioned straightaway because of a 7-judges' judgement. I don't think BJP and government are going to do that. They will just keep the issue alive till election. It seems to me that nothing is going to happen." For an electoral purpose you may issue it, somebody will challenge it, Congress lawyers will question it, he said, adding the BJP will then get an opportunity to use the issue for the elections.

The senior advocate was referring to the judgement delivered in January 2017 by which it was ruled that an ordinance has to be promulgated in the case of extreme emergency and has to be placed before the legislature immediately after the House comes into session. Dwivedi said the judgement of the Allahabad High Court pertained to that party owned the land so they decided to divide it and now the apex court will also look into it. "Now the question will be whether the government of India is willing to acquire the land from whoever is owning the land and pay a compensation to them. And then, use it for public purpose. That power is there but the question is ultimately there is an element of religion which is getting involved. So, the problem arises can central government indulge in acquisition to favour one religion against the other religion. Therefore, it is proper to wait for the judgement of the Supreme Court and then work it out whichever way is the best," Dwivedi added. (PTI)

