

# BJP for continuing with Guv's rule in J&K: Ram Madhav

**NEW DELHI, JULY 7 /-** BJP general secretary Ram Madhav today rejected reports that his party was working to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir with rebel PDP MLAs and said that it was for continuing with Governor's rule in the state in the interest of peace, governance and development.

Madhav's comments on Twitter came after former state chief, minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah tweeted a news report that claimed that a "big chunk of PDP MLAs are in touch with the BJP high command and the saffron party was looking to form government." "Contrary to Ram Madhav's assertions, the state unit of the BJP confesses to being party to the efforts to break the PDP-Power at any cost would seem to be the

guiding philosophy," Abdullah said, adding the BJP leader in his tweet, Madhav, the BJP's pointsman for the state, replied: "Not true. I will certainly check with the state unit and ensure that BJP keeps itself scrupulously out of whatever is happening in other parties in the Valley. We are for continuing with the Governor's rule in the interest of peace, governance and development in the state," he said.

The BJP had last month pulled out of the coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir, bringing the state under Governor's rule.

Meanwhile, the National Conference today said it would apprise Governor N N Vohra of the alleged discrimination and atrocities against the people in Srinagar, the summer capital of

# Hardik, Alpesh, Jignesh booked over 'raid' at woman's house

**AHMEDABAD, JULY 7 /-** Patidar quota agitation leader Hardik Patel and Gujarat MLAs Alpesh Thakor and Jignesh Mevani were booked by police on trespass and other charges after allegedly leading a "raid" at a house where they claimed that liquor was illegally stored, an official said today.

Thakor, a Congress MLA, along with independent legislator Mevani and Patel, on Thursday "raided" the house of a woman, identified as Kanchanben Makwana, with over a dozen supporters claiming they wanted to expose the alleged "liquor den" operating there. The house is located near the office of Gandhinagar superintendent of police. Makwana filed a complaint at the Gandhinagar Sector 21 police station. The complainant said the trio and their supporters entered her house when no male member was present there. "They even planted two pouches of country-made liquor there to prove her house was

a liquor den," Makwana was quoted as saying by inspector V N Yadav.

"Makwana, in her complaint, said she does not sell liquor and the two pouches recovered from her house were planted by the people who entered her home," Yadav said. He said an FIR was lodged against Thakor, Mevani and Patel besides over a dozen others under various section of the Indian Penal Code including for house-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint (452), intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace (504), and intentionally giving false evidence (189). Yadav said no arrest has been made so far in the case. Gujarat has a law in force since 1960 that bans manufacture, storage, sale and consumption of alcohol.

"Taking to micro-blogging site Twitter, Patel alleged that the 'liquor mafia' can do anything in Gandhi's Gujarat, with the police and the ruling BJP giving them support."

# Guv's Twitter handle receives complaints of corruption, wrongdoings in Mufti govt; report sought

**SRINAGAR, JULY 7 /-** Two weeks after he took over the reins in Jammu and Kashmir, Governor N N Vohra's official Twitter handle has got several complaints of alleged corruption and other wrongdoings against the previous PDP-BJP coalition government headed by Mehbooba Mufti.

The Twitter handle was set up on June 19, the day Mufti submitted her resignation as chief minister of the state after the BJP pulled out of the government. The Governor, through Twitter, has been receiving complaints about issues which were considered dead and buried. The complaints received via the Twitter handle @jandkgovernor range from Mufti removing the director of super-speciality SKIMS hospital and nominating service professors as members of the governing council to former speaker and BJP leader Kavinder Gupta's doctor allegedly getting appointed through a backdoor. PDP youth president Wahid-ur-Rehman Para, who was working as Secretary, JK State Sports Council, is also accused of "adjusting" 250 people in various government departments and public sector



Security personnel diverting traffic from the areas where curfew like restriction were imposed at at Khaufia Bazaar in down town Srinagar on Saturday.

# Standard of living has improved in UP since BJP came to power: Adityanath

**SONBHADRA, JULY 7 /-** Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath today claimed that the standard of living of the people had improved since the BJP came to power in the state last year.

"Since the BJP came to power in the state, there has been a consistent improvement in the standard of living of the people," Adityanath said. The chief minister, who was here today, also dedicated nine projects to the public and laid the foundation stones of 45 other schemes. He participated in a marriage ceremony of a couple belonging to tribal communities and other economically weaker sections of the society.

Adityanath handed over marriage certificates to seven couples, in addition to certificates of the PM Awas Yojana. Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has special focus for the tribal-dominated Sonbhadra district, the chief minister said, "His (Modi's) intention is that more development works take place and the benefits reach the lowest strata of the society." (PTI)

# Goa Guv suggests setting up of pre-marriage counselling centre in varsity: Guv

**PANAJI, JULY 7 /-** Goa Governor Mrudula Sinha today asked students to take an oath that they will not break their marriage on petty issues and suggested setting up a pre-wedding counselling centre in the Goa University. "There is a need to set up a pre-marriage counselling (centre) for the youth in the Goa University. The youth should know how to run a family," Sinha said. "If they have any questions related to marriage, they can be answered (at the counselling centre) and this will help them lead a successful married life," she added. The Governor is also the chancellor of universities in the state. Sinha was addressing the 30th convocation of the Goa University here. President Ram Nath Kovind and chief minister Manohar Parrikar were also present on the occasion.

Sinha, in her speech, asked students present for the convocation to make five promises by raising their hands. The first of these was that students will not send their parents to old age homes. "Marriage is a necessity and that is why you will not break marriage on petty issues. You will make your marriage successful and will respect each other," the Governor said about the second promise. In the third promise, she appealed to the youth to fight against any injustice meted out to women. The Governor, who has been nominated the ambassador of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, asked students to keep their surrounding clean.

Sinha also appealed to the youth to not fall prey to any kind of banned substance or intoxicants.

# Simultaneous elections not feasible: Puducherry CM

**PUDUCHERRY, JULY 7 /-** Puducherry chief minister V Narayanasamy today said it is not feasible to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

"Simultaneous polls are not feasible. I have written to the Law Commission and home ministry stating my stand on the subject," Narayanasamy told newsmen here. The idea to conduct simultaneous elections is not an acceptable proposition, he said. He said the Law Commission has convened a two-day meeting with all national and state political parties to discuss its feasibility. The need for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies has been voiced for several years now. More recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also voiced his support to the idea.

The chief minister said he had apprised Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, who was on a day-long visit to Puducherry yesterday, of the various grievances of the territorial government. The chief minister said he had sought his intervention to procure sufficient funds for Puducherry and also placed before him the plea that it be granted "statehood with special category status." He said he also took up various other issues such as including Puducherry in the Fifteenth Finance Commission, waiver of loans and 25 per cent quota of seats in UG and PG courses in Pondicherry University. The chief minister said as the Vice-President is the chancellor of the central university

here, he had requested him to establish an institute of environment sciences and a department for skill development among others. "The Vice-President assured me that he would consider the plea to include Puducherry as one of the constituents of the Law Finance Commission," he added. Naidu had also assured him that he would soon convene a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of the university to meet all the demands in so far as university-related subjects were concerned.

Narayanasamy said: "He reiterated that Lt Governor Kiran Bedi 'does not have any authority to deny approval to any of the decisions the government took'."

The chief minister said the recent verdict of the Supreme Court on the power tussle between the Lt Governor of Delhi and the elected government there was applicable to the Puducherry, too. "The verdict is totally applicable to Puducherry also and this point has been repeatedly pointed out leaving no room for any doubt and wrong understanding," he said. The Lt Governor here "cannot reject" any of the cabinet decisions and could only seek clarification for any part of the decisions, Narayanasamy asserted.

Meanwhile, the government reimbursed students from the union territory who took the recent NEET examination in centres in other states. Narayanasamy said 304 students from Puducherry, who appeared for NEET in other states and incurred expenditure for travel and boarding, were reimbursed by the government.

# No-confidence motion against Chhattisgarh ministry defeated

**RAIPUR, JULY 7 /-** After a 14-hour debate, a no-trust motion moved by the Congress against the Raman Singh-led BJP government was defeated by a voice vote in the Chhattisgarh Assembly in the wee hours today. The debate started after 12 noon on Friday and ended at 2.10 am today. Several issues including a sex CD case, corruption and law and order situation were raised. Chief minister Raman Singh termed the allegations levelled by the opposition as "direction-less and baseless". The Congress has made a failed attempt to mislead people, he said during his reply which lasted for over an hour. "In the last 15 years, Congress has failed to play the role of constructive opposition and has never come up with any alternative policy. The no-confidence motion was direction-less, unprincipled, unsubstantiated and unplanned," Singh said. The Congress has failed to raise even one issue, fact or a piece of evidence which could have cornered the BJP government, the chief minister added.

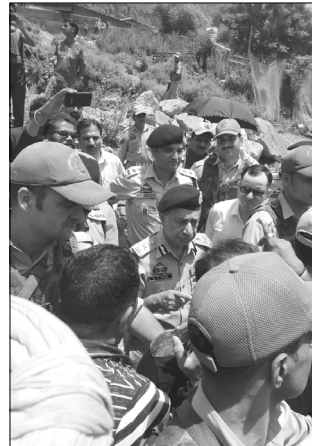
The BJP is in power in 19 states, ruling almost 70 per cent of the country, while the Congress's vote has shrunk to only six per cent of the country's territory, Singh said. "The charge sheet presented by the Congress in the no-confidence motion clearly shows it has already accepted its defeat. In the winter session it had moved a no-confidence motion which had 168 points, now the number is reduced to 15. 'Like the Congress party, its charge sheet has also shrunk," he quipped. Singh gave a detailed account of his government's achievements, and said it will retain power for the fourth time in a row in the coming Assembly polls.

Earlier, Leader of Opposition T S Singhdeo said the state government had cheated people by not fulfilling its promises and by perpetrating scams. "The government has failed on all fronts. Farmers are facing a crisis, the youth have no jobs, women are unsafe and public representatives are being targeted," the Congress leader said. Referring to the cases against state Congress chief Bhupesh Baghel, Singhdeo said Baghel was being

# Justice T B N Radhakrishnan new CJ of Hyderabad HC

**HYDERABAD, JULY 7 /-** Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan was sworn in as new Chief Justice of the Hyderabad High Court for the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh here today. Governor of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh ESI. Narasimhan administered the oath at a function in the Raj Bhavan. Telangana chief minister K Chandrababhai Rao and Andhra Pradesh deputy chief minister K E Krishna Murthy were present on the occasion.

Justice Radhakrishnan was Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court before being shifted here. After completing BSc Zoology in the University of Kerala, he had studied law in K G F Law College in Kolar Gold Fields under the Bangalore University. He had practised as an advocate in different courts and dealt with cases in different branches of law. He was the Acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court for a brief period.



Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dr S P Vaid interacting with Amarnath Pilgrims to review the security and transport arrangements placed for the safety and hassle-free movement of the Amarnath-bound pilgrims on the national highway at Ramban on Saturday.

# Punjab University dedicates shooting range to Kargil war hero Captain Vikram Batra

**CHANDIGARH, JULY 7 /-** The Panjab University (PU) dedicated today its state-of-the-art indoor shooting range to Kargil War hero Captain Vikram Batra, an alumnus of the varsity.

Captain Batra had died fighting Pakistani forces during the Kargil war in 1999 at the age of 24. He was awarded the highest

wartime gallantry award Param Vir Chakra posthumously. Punjab finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal unveiled the plaque of Captain Batra at the shooting range in the university, an official release said here. Referring to the sacrifice of Captain Batra, Badal said many people come and go in this world but some people

come but never leave, they become immortal. He urged youth to take the pledge for fighting against drug addiction, bribery, poverty and unemployment.

Earlier, PU Vice Chancellor Arun Grover said it is a great honour for the university to name the shooting range as 'Capt Vikram Batra, PVC Shooting Range'. The V.C said Capt Batra was an alumnus of the university who stayed in the hostel number one in the PU campus while pursuing MA English in 1965-66 session after completing his BSc from DAV College, Chandigarh.

Colonel Rajiv Kapoor, Commanding Officer of 13 battalion of the Jammu

and Kashmir Rifles, the Army unit in which Capt Batra had served, complemented the Punjab government and PU for the noble deed of naming the shooting range after the war hero.

Capt Batra was one in a billion having three country commissions for his bravery, sacrifice, courage and infectious smile still nests all hearts," the colonel added. Vishal Bera, twin brother of Capt Batra, said he was a great inspiration for youngsters.