

Chhattisgarh CM to launch 2nd phase of 'vikas yatra' from Sept 5

RAIPUR, SEPT 3 /-/ Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh will launch the second phase of his 'Vikas Yatra' from September 5 to highlight the achievements of the BJP's 15-year rule in the state.

The yatra has been renamed 'Atal Vikas Yatra' in the memory of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and would be flagged from Dongargarh, a popular religious destination in Rajnandgaon district, by BJP national president Amit Shah. A statement from Singh on Sunday also informed that the yatra would begin following prayers at the Ma Bameshwari temple in Dongargarh, and would culminate on October 5. The chief minister's statement added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would participate in the yatra at Janjgir-Champa district on September 22.

The first phase of the yatra was flagged off by Union home minister Rajnath Singh from Dantewada on May 12 this year and had culminated on June 14 in Bhillai town in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While the first phase of the yatra covered 5,000 kilometres across 65 Assembly constituencies, the second phase is expected to cover about 6,000 kilometres.

No infighting, all Rajasthan leaders on same page: Cong in-charge

NEW DELHI, SEPT 3 /-/ All Congress leaders in poll-bound Rajasthan were "on the same page" and working unitedly for the victory of the party, AICC in-charge of the state Avinash Pande has said amidst reports of infighting.

Pande also said a call was yet to be taken within the Congress on whether to go in for an alliance with the BSP and other parties in Rajasthan.

The AICC general secretary, however, asserted the party organisation was geared up and practically prepared on all the 200 constituencies of the state. Pande

also said all leaders were moving together, addressing the masses, workers, and the message was "loud and clear" all the leaders were united under the leadership of party president Rahul Gandhi and don't have any differences. "Rajasthan has got many senior leaders. While we have got a young leader in Sachin Pilot, we also have a very experienced face in Ashok Gehlotji.

"We also have the very experienced and organisationally strong C Joshiji, Girija Vyas ji. Then we have Bhanwarjitendra Singh, Namoo Narain Meena ji. They

64 persons arrested for gambling after raid on Maharashtra resort

THANE, SEPT 3 /-/ Sixty-four persons were arrested for allegedly gambling at a resort in Maharashtra's Palghar district and cash, mobiles phones and vehicles with a cumulative worth of Rs 1.63 crore were seized from them, police said today.

Palghar police, acting on a tip-off, raided a resort situated along the Mangrol-Ahmednagar Highway in the Maljpada area of the district in the early hours on Sunday and made the arrests and seized equipment. Superintendent of police Gaurav Singh said. He said that the 64 persons arrested in the raid were playing a card game called 'tea patti' and hailed from Gujarat, Mumbai, Thane and Palghar. Two persons who were operating the game were arrested, identified as Rishabh Shetty and Sanmit Shetty, and resort owner Harish Thakur were among those arrested, the SP said.

"Rs 8.63,250 in cash, 48 mobile phones valued at Rs 4,69,300 and 10 vehicles worth Rs 1.5 crore, totalling Rs 1.63 crore, were seized during the raid," an official said. A case under relevant Maharashtra Police Act, the Maharashtra Prevention of Gambling Act has been registered at Vaili police station, Palghar police commissioner Hemant Kumar Katkar said. (PTI)

Ornaments, cash stolen from Thane temple; 6 arrested

THANE, SEPT 3 /-/ Cash and ornaments worth around Rs 45 lakh were stolen from a temple here in Maharashtra's police official said Monday. Six people, including a couple, have been arrested in connection with the theft, he said.

The accused broke open the rear door of the Gopal Krishna Temple, located in the city's Jambli Naka area, on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. They decamped with ornaments and cash kept in a cupboard there. An additional commissioner of police (ACP) Satya Narayan told reporters here. The theft came to light Sunday morning when the management of the temple opened the premises and found the valuables missing. The accused also disconnected the CCTV installed in the premises, Narayan said.

However, police analysed footages of other CCTVs installed in the area outside the temple and on that basis, they managed to nab the main accused, Santosh Kamble (26), from Shil Phata in Diva township here on Sunday, he said. The police later arrested the other five accused, including Kamble's wife, while they were planning to flee the city with the booty.

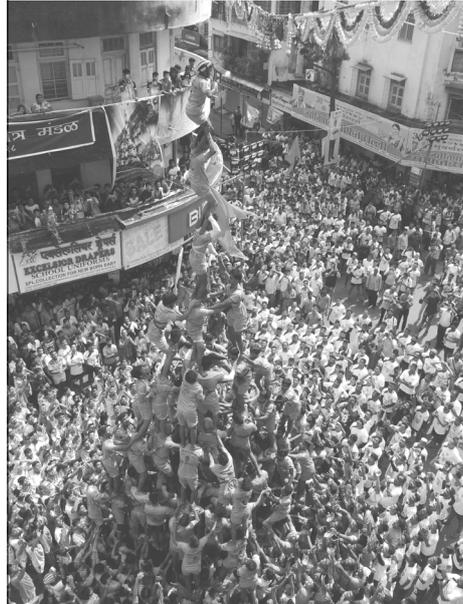
Cong, BJP in close race in Karnataka urban local body elections

BENGALURU, SEPT 3 /-/ The Congress was today locked in a close fight with the BJP in elections to urban local bodies in Karnataka but was set to gain control of a majority of the seats. Results for 2,628 seats out of 2,709 have been declared so far. Both the Congress and the JD-S contested the polls separately despite being partners in the state government, but they have already declared that they would tie up post-election in urban bodies. The Congress and the JD-S put together have won 1,339 seats that gives them a clear edge over the BJP and control of a majority of the ULBs.

These elections were considered a popular test of the Congress-JD-S coalition government which was formed post-May Assembly polls which had yielded a

hung verdict and also was an indicative of the voters' mood before the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP had ended up as the single largest party in the assembly polls but had failed to muster numbers to form the government, which paved the way for the Congress and JD-S to stitch an alliance and take over the reins of administration. The elections were held for three city corporations, 29 city municipal councils, 52 town municipal councils and 20 Town Panchayats. Polls to Kodagu urban local bodies have been withheld due to the recent floods in the district.

The BJP was in the leading position in the Bangalore, Belagavi, Chamarainganagar, Chitradurga, Dakshina Kannada, Davangere and Udipi districts. On the other hand, voters put the Congress in the saddle in Ballari, Bidar, Gadag, Haveri, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Mysuru, Raichur, Uttara Kannada, and Yadgir. The JD-S is in the leading position in its traditional strongholds, including Hassan, Mandya and Tumakuru.



Youths making human pyramid to break Dahi Handi (a curd pot), on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami festival in Mumbai.

Man's hand chopped off for enquiring about missing cow in MP village

RAISEN, SEPT 3 /-/ A 35-year-old man's hand was allegedly chopped off by members of a family when he went to their residence to enquire about his missing cow here, police today.

The victim, Kallu Sahu, went Saturday evening to the home of Sattu Yadav in Pipalwadi village, situated about 40 km from the district headquarters, in search of his missing cow. Sultapur police station's assistant sub-inspector Malkhan Singh Meena said. However, a simple enquiry about the cow turned into a heated argument when Yadav did not give a satisfactory reply on the matter following which Sahu allegedly abused him, he said. The enraged family members of Yadav then caught Sahu and tied him to a tree.

They allegedly thrashed Sahu mercilessly, attacked him with a sword and chopped off one of his hands and caused severe injuries to the other. Meena said. Sahu's kin rushed to the spot and freed him from captivity, he said, adding that they later admitted him to the community health centre at Sultapur from where he was referred to a hospital in Bhopal. Police registered a case in connection with the incident and arrested Yadav and his son on Sunday. Meena said.

A search was on for three others. Yadav's wife, his another son and a servant, who were also allegedly involved in the incident, he added. (PTI)

Stones hurled at MP CM's vehicle in Sidhi: police

SIDHI, SEPT 3 /-/ Miscreants threw stones on the vehicle carrying Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who is touring the state ahead of Assembly polls, in Churhat area near Sidhi district, a police official said. Chouhan was not hurt in the incident, Churhat police inspector Ram Babu Choudhari told PTI over phone. He did not give any more information, saying he was busy discharging his duties at a public meeting of the chief minister in the district. Stones were hurled at Chouhan's vehicle in

Telangana CM may have dropped idea of early election: Cong

HYDERABAD, SEPT 3 /-/ The Congress in Telangana today claimed that chief minister K Chandrababoo Naidu may have dropped his plans to go for early Assembly elections in the state after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Election Commission (EC) did not back his idea.

There has been speculation in recent days that Naidu may recommended dissolution of the Assembly, favouring clubbing of the state elections along with that in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram later this year. But keeping the suspense alive on Sunday, the chief minister had said he has been authorised by the party to take a final call on the issue.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief spokesperson Sravan Dasou said. "On early polls, Modi and EC have not given him (Naidu) permission. As a result of that, he has gone back; he actually wanted to dissolve the House and he had told so many of his close aides." Charging Naidu with being a 'katputli' (puppet) and 'slave' of Modi, Dasou said the chief minister's "remote control" is with Prime Minister, who did not say 'yes' to his idea of early poll.

"(Early Assembly polls in Telangana) does not (now) look like a possibility," he

People will break dahi handi of govt's sins in 2019: Maharashtra Cong chief

SATARA, SEPT 3 /-/ The Opposition Congress tapped the popular festival of 'Dahi Handi' being celebrated today in Maharashtra to protest against the alleged 'sins' of the BJP-led government in the state and at the Centre.

Maharashtra Congress chief Ashok Chavan broke a 'dahi handi' (an earthen pot), symbolising the alleged 'sins' of the two governments, while leading the protest at Karad here in the state. Party leaders and activists carried banners, having a message that the handi of government's 'sins' has got filled to the brim. "Now people will break the dahi handi of sins of this government in 2019," Chavan said.

Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan and state ministers Balasaheb Thorsat and Harshwardhan Patil also took part in the demonstration and shouted slogans against the two governments.

'Dahi Handi' is a ritual observed during 'Janmashtami', wherein young boys and girls form a human pyramid and one of them climbs up to break the earthen pot carrying curd, symbolising victory through unity. The Congress' protest is part of the first phase of its 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra', a public outreach exercise to highlight the alleged failures of the governments at the Centre and in Maharashtra, ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The outreach programme was launched Friday in Kolhapur and it will culminate in Pune on September 8.

The Congress intends to carry out similar drives in North Maharashtra (beginning October 2), Marathwada, Vidarbha and Konkan, including Mumbai. (PTI)

Lakhs pay obeisance at temples in Mathura on Janmashtami amid tight security

MATHURA, SEPT 3 /-/ Lakhs of pilgrims paid obeisance at major temples here today on the occasion of Janmashtami amid tight security.

The secretary of Sri Krishna Janmasthan, Kapil Sharma, said with special arrangements put in place this year, devotees could pay obeisance to the deity without an obstacle and could get prasadam easily. According to him nearly 20 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance in the temples of Mathura, Vrindaban, Barsana, Govardhan, Nandagan, Baldeo, Mahaban and Gokul. No untoward incident has been reported, district magistrate Sarvagya Ram Mishra said.

SP Babloo Kumar attributed incident-free Janmashtami to faultless security planning. Posting



Devotees celebrating Janmashtami festival at Sri Krishna Janmasthan temple in Mathura on Monday.

Leela Manch of Sri Krishna Janmasthan, Uttar Pradesh power minister Srikanth Sharma congratulated the audience on Janmashtami and appealed to them to cooperate with the authorities in maintaining cleanliness.

Vrindaban was centre of attraction for pilgrims this forenoon, where the festival was celebrated in three major temples - Radha Raman temple, Radha Damodar temple and Shah Ji temple. Over two lakh pilgrims performed 'parikrama' of hillock Govardhan, on the occasion Sunday night, priest of Dan Ghati temple Rameshwar Purohit said. Meanwhile, preparation for 'arrival of Krishna in Gokul' were in full swing, the priest of Raja Thakur temple in Gokul, Bhikoo Ji Maharaj, stated.

Cong demands Prez rule in Goa in absence of CM, 2 ministers

PANAJI, SEPT 3 /-/ The Opposition Congress demanded today that President's rule be imposed in Goa in the wake of the absence of chief minister Manohar Parrikar who is currently in the US for a medical treatment.

Congress Goa spokesman Ramakant Khalap said the state is facing a "constitutional crisis", and that he has sought an appointment with Governor Mridula Sinha to press for his party's demand for President's rule. Parrikar has been "constantly absent" from the state because of health reasons, without handing over his charge to anyone, he said. Also, Goa's power minister Pandurang Madkaikar and urban development minister Francis D'Souza have been down with ailments, he noted while talking to reporters here. There is no deadline when the chief minister and these ministers will be back in the state, Khalap said, adding: "It

is time for Governor Mridula Sinha to intervene in the matter as the state is facing a Constitutional crisis".

Parrikar, 62, underwent treatment at a US hospital for a pancreatic ailment between March and June this year. He flew to the US again on August 10 for a follow-up and returned on August 22, but was admitted to a private hospital in Mumbai the next day. The Goa chief minister left for the US again last Thursday on doctors' advice and is expected to return on September 8, a senior BJP leader said Friday. D'Souza also went to USA for a medical treatment, he said. Also, while Madkaikar is admitted to a hospital in Mumbai since June 5 after he suffered a brain stroke.

Khalap alleged that Parrikar and the two other ministers have violated the oath taken by them to discharge their duties towards the state.