

President of India to address the Nation on the eve of Independence Day

PIB New Delhi, Aug 14,

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, will address the nation tomorrow (August 14, 2018) on the eve of the 72nd Independence Day. The address will be broadcast from 1900 hrs. on the entire national network of All India Radio (AIR) and telecast over all channels of Doordarshan in Hindi followed by the English version. Broadcast of the address in Hindi and English on Doordarshan will be followed by broadcast in regional languages by regional channels of Doordarshan. AIR will broadcast regional language versions from 2000 hrs. onwards on its respective regional networks.

BSEB Senior Secondary Schools First Merit List to be Out on 19th Aug 2018; Stay Tuned

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Approximately 11.47 lakh candidates from class 10th have applied for class 11th or Senior Secondary admissions in the state of Bihar. BSEB Senior Secondary Schools First Merit is scheduled to be released on 19th August by the Bihar School Examination Board on its official website - offsbihar.in. Approximately 11.47 lakh candidates from class 10th have applied for class 11th or Senior Secondary admissions in the state of Bihar. As per a statement by BSEB Chairman Mr. Anand Kishore, students will be able to take admissions in Senior Secondary Schools on the basis of merit between 20th August and 25th August 2018 in a total of 3277 educational institutions in Bihar. On the other hand, approximately 5.27 lakh candidates from class 11th have applied for undergraduate courses in 10 universities of Bihar and the second merit list for the same is scheduled to be out on 25th August 2018.

Imphal Times will have no publication tomorrow the 15th August, 2018, on occasion of the Independence Day Celebration.

PM Modi's Independence Day Speech to Go Live on Google, YouTube

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The PM Modi-led government, which is known for its wide outreach on social media, is set to achieve another feat as 'tech-savvy millennials'. In a first-of-its-kind digital drive, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech, delivered from the ramparts of the Red Fort, will be live streamed on Google and YouTube. To ensure that maximum number of people watch Modi's last speech as prime minister in his present term, public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has tied up with the web search engine and the video-sharing website to telecast the I-Day programme live online. Google had first used the facility to live stream US President Donald Trump's inaugural address in January

last year. "As a part of our efforts to... increase our digital presence, we also decided to tie up with Google and YouTube for live telecast of the I-Day programme, online," Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati told a leading newspaper. On an average 1.5 to 2 million watch the event each year. The move will help the state broadcaster increase its digital footprint. The digital debut of Independence Day programme will coincide with Doordarshan anchors introducing the event from the Red Fort — a first — instead of doing it from inside their studios, the newspaper reported. Doordarshan will deputise anchors and station 22 high definition cameras at Red Fort and four at Raj Ghat for the coverage. Doordarshan will also translate the PM's speech in over 20 regional languages, telecast of which will be done later in the day on August

As a build up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech, Prasar Bharati will telecast a song by Shankar Mahadevan, focusing on what Independence Day means for India.

15. "Doordarshan is usually associated with nostalgia. So by increasing the digital presence we are making younger generation aware of Doordarshan who have never seen an era when there were only two or three channels," Mr. Vempati told another national daily. As a build up to the speech, Prasar Bharati will telecast a song by Shankar Mahadevan, focusing on what Independence Day means for India.

Congress releases a teaser to renew attack on Narendra Modi government

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Further raising the heat on the Narendra Modi government over its alleged complicity in the Rafale deal, the Congress party on Tuesday posted a small video in which it promised to shed more light on the controversial fighter jet deal between India and France. Posting the teaser on the Rafale deal on its Twitter handle, the Congress party asked its followers to "stay tuned as more will come on the issue later." "What 'really' is the Rafale deal? NOT for dummies. Here's the teaser, stay tuned for more later today. This is the latest in the series of attack from the Congress party on the Narendra Modi government over the Rafale deal between India and France, which is now mired in controversy over the alleged escalation of price and the secrecy clause. Continuing its attack on the Modi government on the Rafale deal, the Congress party had on Monday accused it of promoting crony capitalism and its own "self-interests" and ignoring national interests. Questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continued silence on the issue, the Rahul Gandhi-led party has asked why the Centre is not answering why Rs.41,205 crore more from the public money was paid for the Rafale fighters. It also accused the Prime Minister of violating the 'defence procurement procedure'. The main opposition party alleged that Reliance Defence was chosen as the local partner for offset contracts worth crores, as per the 2016 annual report of Dassault Aviation and a press statement of Reliance Defence. Reliance Defence and Aerospace, in a statement, said that it or any other Reliance group company has not received any contract from the Defence Ministry till date, relating to

the 36 Rafale aircraft. "This is absolutely unfounded and incorrect," the company said. It also claimed that there is no violation of any rule or preferential treatment to Dassault Reliance Aviation Ltd (DRAL), the joint venture company formed to fulfil the offset contracts in the Rafale deal. During the press conference, Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi accused the Prime Minister of making the announcement of "off-the-shelf" purchase of 36 fighter jets in Paris at a much higher rate than that negotiated by the UPA government. "Rafale is a scam and the government is in the scam. Indians feel deprived while the BJP ensured that crony capitalism thrived. Instead of protecting India's interest we have the Modi government protecting its self-interests," Chaturvedi said in a statement. "The Prime Minister announced the off-the-shelf purchase of 36 Rafale aircraft in Paris on April 10, 2015, for euro 7.5 billion (Rs. 1670.70 crore per aircraft which is Rs. 60,145 crore for 36 aircraft," Chaturvedi said. India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France in 2015 for 36 Rafale fighter jets in 'fly-away' condition. The president of the ruling BJP, Amit Shah, had on Friday rejected allegations of corruption in the Rafale deal, saying credence should be given to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's statement instead of others. Shah said Sitharaman has said the base price of Rafale fighters negotiated by the government is less than what was finalised by the previous UPA dispensation. Responding to Shah's claim, the Congress leader said when the international bid opened on December 12, 2012, for Rafale jets, the price negotiated by the UPA government was Rs. 526.10 crore per aircraft for 126 aircraft. As per the UPA deal, the price of 36 aircraft would have been Rs. 18,940 crore. Chaturvedi demanded an explanation on why an extra

amount of Rs. 41,205 crore of the public money is being paid for the jets. She asked why the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister were averse to the planning details of the commercial purchase price before Parliament. The government has said that a secrecy clause in the 2008 pact between India and France prohibits it from disclosing the pricing details in the purchase of the Rafale fighter jets. Experts describe the Rafale as a twin-engine 'air-dominance' aircraft. In French, "Rafale" means a gust of wind. The party also attacked Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, saying he is "a habitual offender in weaving lies" and is "brazenly misleading people sewing together a web of lies" to save Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Rafale deal. The party demanded that Modi government immediately set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the Rafale scam and must answer to the questions raised by Congress president Rahul Gandhi. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday hit out at Rahul Gandhi, saying he is spreading a "blatant lie" against Prime Minister Modi and his government over alleged corruption in the Rafale deal to escape the Income Tax Department inquiry against him related to the National Herald case. Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "Modi government's Law Minister is a habitual offender in weaving lies based on figments of his imagination. Today again he brazenly misled the people by sewing together a web of lies to save his master, Narendra Modi." BJP to lose MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to Congress in next assembly polls: Survey According to the latest CVOTER and ABP News survey, the BJP is likely to face defeat in MP, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in the next assembly polls.

Contd. from page 1

.... Army officers to move to SC

Produced below is the prayer mentioned in the plea as per reported by the Republic TV. "In light of the submissions made above, the Petitioners pray that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- a) issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ laying down specific guidelines to protect the bonafide action of soldiers under AFSPA, so that no soldier is harassed by initiation of criminal proceedings for actions done in good faith in exercise of their duties, as mandated by the Union of India, in protection of sovereignty, integrity and dignity of the Country;
- b) issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Respondents to take all steps to protect the soldiers protecting the Integrity and Sovereignty of the nation from persecution and prosecution by motivated and indiscriminate FIRs against the mandate of law;
- c) issue a writ of mandamus directing that protection of Soldiers acting in good faith under AFSPA is imperative to protect the soldiers engaged with the direct and proxy enemy and insurgency and cannot be diluted without a specific and categorical amendment in law;
- d) issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing that protection of persons acting in good faith under AFSPA is sacrosanct

with the Sovereignty and Integrity of the Nation and that in accordance with the mandate of the Act, no prosecution, suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted, except with the previous sanction of the Central Government, against any person in respect of anything done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by AFSPA; e) issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing that any investigation, assessment or adjudication qua the criminality, misuse, abuse, negligence, excessive power, judgment error, mistake, bonafide or malafide, of actions done in good faith by Soldiers operating in AFSPA areas, in disregard to the peculiar facts and circumstances of insurgency and proxy war, without taking into consideration the Standard Operating Procedures of Indian Army and operational realities, without the aid, advice, involvement and guidance of persons who understand full dynamics of such military operations, is illegal, unconstitutional and nonest; f) issue a writ of mandamus directing the respondent to carry out a comprehensive investigation into acts of individuals/organizations to target and attack soldiers in exercise of their bonafide duties of upholding the dignity of Indian Flag, by



launching mischievous complaints against them; g) issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Respondents to desist from engaging in arbitrary exercises of executive power which impairs the normal and bonafide functioning of the Army in the AFSPA areas; h) issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing that adequate compensation is provided to the effected serving personnel and their families, who have been unnecessarily embroiled in malafide criminal proceedings in discharge of their bonafide duties; and/or i) any other appropriate writ/order/direction as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

BJP to lose MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to Congress in next assembly polls - Survey

Agency NEW DELHI, Aug 14,

The Narendra Modi-Amit Shah led Bharatiya Janata Party would face defeat in three major states - Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan - where it is currently in power, in the next assembly elections, according to the latest survey. The survey conducted by CVOTER and ABP News claimed that the ruling BJP will be comfortably defeated by Congress by big margins, which has been trying to hard to make a comeback. The survey, however, indicated that the Narendra Modi factor would play a big role in reviving the fortunes of the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. According to the survey, the Congress is expected to win around 117 out of 230 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 54 out of 90 in Chhattisgarh and 130 out of 200 in Rajasthan. This means that the Congress party would gain a clear majority in all the three states in the next assembly elections. The BJP, on the other hand, is expected to win only 106, 33 and 57 seats in the three states respectively, the survey predicted. Winning the three states would be a major boost for Rahul Gandhi-led Congress, which has been reduced to power in just four states, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections as polls in these

states are being seen as a semi-final ahead of the grand finale next year. If the predictions of the survey come true then it would give Congress enough bargaining power to negotiate for seats for 2019 Lok Sabha elections with its alliance partners. Based on the feedback provide by nearly 28,000, the survey indicated that the voters are most likely to favour the ruling BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Interestingly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi still remains first choice and Congress chief Rahul Gandhi was a distant second for the top post. BJP, which had secured higher vote shares in all three states, is likely to win most of the total 65 Lok Sabha seats among them. **Rajasthan** The survey predicted that Congress would win nearly 130 in the 200-seat assembly by securing 51 percent votes as against the BJP's 37 percent. This would be in sharp contrast from 2013 when BJP had got 163 seats. According to the survey, senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot is favoured by 41 percent people for the chief minister's post against Sachin Pilot who is favoured by 18 percent people. **Madhya Pradesh** In Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led MP, the anti-incumbency factor against the ruling BJP would help Congress win

According to the latest CVOTER and ABP News survey, the BJP is likely to face defeat in MP, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in the next assembly polls.

nearly 42 percent votes here. The ruling BJP is likely to win just 40 percent votes. Making huge gains, Congress is expected to win around 117 seats in the 230-seat Assembly here. **Chhattisgarh** The survey predicted a close contest between the Congress and BJP in Chhattisgarh in the next assembly elections. The Congress party is expected to win around 40 percent votes against BJP which is predicted to 39 percent of the total votes polled. In view of its good showing, the Congress is predicted to win 54 seats in the 90-seat Assembly.