

Will not allow any dilution in SC/ST Act: Rajnath

Source: TNT
New Delhi, July 19,

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday assured the Rajya Sabha that the government will not allow any dilution in any of the provisions of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste Prevention of Atrocities Act. "The protection available to SC/STs in the Constitution cannot be snatched away either by any organisation or by any individual," Singh assured the Upper House while replying to supplementaries during Question Hour.

He said the NDA government had taken every step to strengthen the act and would not allow anyone to dilute it. "In 2015 our government not only made amendments into the act to make it more effective but also changed the rules to strengthen it," he said. Responding to a query over low rate of conviction of crime against SCs and STs community, Singh said the government had established 194 Exclusive Special Courts for speedy disposal of such cases. "The rate of conviction will increase," he said. The government also

rejected the claims that there has been any increase in cases of crime against SCs and STs. "There has been no increase in the cases of crime against SCs and STs," Minister of State for Home Affairs Hansraj Ahir said quoting data from the National Crime Records Bureau. He was responding to a query by Congress member Shamsher Singh Dullon, who alleged that crime against SCs and STs had increased in the last four years. "The government is serious to stop atrocities against SCs and STs," Ahir said.

Aircel-Maxis case: P Chidambaram, son Karti named accused in CBI's fresh chargesheet

Agency
New Delhi, July 19,

CBI today listed former finance minister P Chidambaram and his son Karti as an accused in the supplementary chargesheet filed in the Aircel-Maxis case. The charge sheet was filed

before special CBI judge O P Saini who has fixed July 31 for considering the document. The senior Congress leader's role had come under the scanner of investigating agencies in the Aircel-Maxis deal of 3,500 crore rupees and INX Media case involving

305 crore rupees. It was during his tenure as the finance minister in the UPA-I government that clearance from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) was granted to the two ventures in which alleged irregularities have been found.

Police seize 24 kg of Opium Worth Rs 26 Lakhs

CCpur, July 19,

Churachandpur district police seized 24 kg of opium (Kani) from Thingkangphai area of Churachandpur district in Manipur at around 10:00 am on Wednesday.

According to police sources, a police team checked a vehicle plying from Singat to Lamka town and on suspicion brought

the driver to Churachandpur police station and found the consignment of opium. After identification, SP of Churachandpur, K. Kabib made a media briefing saying that a man who has been identified as L. Khaipu Ngaihte, 32, son of Kaihenthang of Hiangtam Khunou, Singnat sub-division, has been arrested with opium. The seized opium

is estimated to be worth Rs. 26 lakh, he added. He further said that one Vivo mobile handset, one foreign motorcycle (Kenbo-Canda 125 cc), on EPIC card bearing number GMD0156390, wallet with Rs. 670 and a packet of Topaz blade were recovered from the arrested person. An FIR was registered and investigation is going on.

Cabinet nod to introduce Bill providing for death penalty for rape of girl below 12 years

Agency
New Delhi, July 19,

The Cabinet has cleared a bill providing for stringent punishment, including death penalty, for those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years. Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters in New Delhi that the bill will be introduced in the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018, once approved by Parliament, will replace the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance promulgated on 21st April, following the rape and murder of a minor girl in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir and the rape of a woman in Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.

Facebook to remove misleading posts

New Delhi, July 19,

Social media giant Facebook has said that it will remove bogus posts which are likely to spark violence.

Facebook's spokesperson said that the new policy will be implemented during the coming months and Facebook may remove inaccurate or misleading content, such as doctored photos, created or shared to stir up to ignite volatile situations in the real world. This is part of the Facebook's campaign to prevent the platform from being used to spread dangerous misinformation. The social network said it is partnering with local organizations and authorities adept at identifying when posts are false and likely to prompt violence

International & National News

US-designated terrorist and leader of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen announces support for Imran Khan's political party

Agency
Islamabad, July 19,

Fazlur Rehman Khalil, the founder of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM) and a US-designated global terrorist with links to al-Qaeda, on Tuesday said he would support Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party in the upcoming general elections. PTI senior vice president Asad Umar, a close aide of Khan, had initially announced Khalil's entry into the party on his official Facebook page. A post in Urdu said Khalil had joined the PTI with his followers and clerics to support Umar's campaign for a parliamentary seat in Islamabad. Khalil would also work to strengthen steps "to make Pakistan a true Islamic democratic state", the post added.

After the news spread on social media, Umar amended his Facebook post and said Khalil had announced his support for the PTI. Khalil also told the Pakistani media he would

support Umar, whom he had hosted at a meeting on Sunday.

The development comes close on the heels of members of several terror groups, including the Jamaat-ul-Dawah, contesting the July 25 general elections. After the Election Commission refused to register the HuM's political party, its candidates were fielded under the banner of the little known Allah-hu-Akbar Tehreek.

Umar is the son of Maj Gen Ghulam Umar, accused of involvement in the killing of innocent people during military operations in the erstwhile East Pakistan.

Khalil currently heads the Ansar-ul-Umma, which was designated a front for the HuM by the US in September 2014. At the same time, Khalil was designated a global terrorist. At the time, the US said Khalil's group was responsible for terror attacks in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. HuM was designated a foreign terrorist organization by the US in 1997 and it re-emerged as Ansar-ul-Umma in 2013.

Currently based in Rawalpindi, Khalil is believed to have retained links to several terror groups and the Pakistani military establishment. He was one of signatories of Osama bin Laden's declaration of global jihad in 1996 and has been accused of having close ties with al-Qaeda.

Khalil had co-founded Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI) in 1980 with Irshad Ahmad and Qari Saifullah Akhtar. All three had graduated from the Jamia Uloom-ul-Islamia at Banuri Town in Karachi. In May 2004, Pakistani authorities arrested Khalil for helping transport militants into Afghanistan but he was released after six months for lack of evidence.

After two former colleagues told the FBI in 2005 they had received training at an al-Qaeda camp run by Khalil, he went into hiding. At the behest of the Pervez Musharraf government in 2007, Khalil was among a group of clerics who attempted to negotiate an end to the Red Mosque standoff.

Sports News

Indian Eves shine on the Opening day at the Asian Juniors

Kiran outlasts Malaysian Chong; Manjit-Dingko duo make it to the second round

From our Correspondent
New Delhi, July 18,

Results:

- Men Singles:** Kiran George bt Chong King Ling 24-22, 21-16; Aman Farogh Sanjay lost to Karono Karono (INA) 16-21, 21-16, 17-21.
- Women Singles:** Dipti Kuttybt Aisha Zhumabek (Kaz) 21-18, 21-13; Medha Shashidharanbt Iya Gordeyeva (Kaz) 21-9, 21-10; Kavipriya Selvam bt Seng Jar Nan (MMR) 21-5, 21-8.
- Women Doubles:** Nafeesah Sara Siraj/Medha Shashidharan lost to Guo Lizhi/Yijing Li (CHN) 9-21, 18-21.
- Mixed Doubles:** Srikrishna Sai Kumar/Srishti Jupudi lost to Muhammad Juan Elgiffani/Windi Siti Mulyani (INA) 21-17, 13-21, 15-21; Orjiti Chaliha/Preethi Konadam lost to Lin Yu Chieh/Cheng Yu Pei 15-21, 18-21; Edwin Joy/Nafeesah S. Sriraj lost to Wu Guan Xun/Teng Chun Hsun 17-21, 13-21.
- Men Doubles:** Manjit Singh/Dingku Singh bt Mhod. C Chaniago/H.A. Hanifa (INA) 22-20, 23-21.

It was a mixed bag for the Indians in individual events at Badminton Asia Junior Championships on the opening day at Jakarta yesterday.

After surviving the first game, the 16th seeded Kiran George kept his date with destiny in men singles to outlast Malaysian Chong King Ling 24-22, 21-16 and cash in his teammates' wonderful day in women singles.

But a little before Aman Farogh Sanjay lost his first-round to tenth seed Indonesian, Karono Karono 16-21, 21-16, 17-21 after a good fight.

Kiran met a fine match in the unseeded Malaysian who kept challenging the superiority of India No. 3. But Kiran responded well and despite losing two match points won on the third to go confident in his next. Kiran kept a tight leash on Chong and made fewer mistakes which paid dividends in the end for the seeded Indian.

Earlier, Dipti Kutty, Medha Shashidharan and Kavipriya Selvam found easy opponents in their women singles matches to move into the next round even as the Manipuri duo of Manjit Singh Khwairakpam and Dingku Singh Konthoujam did themselves proud to hang on by a thin thread to live another day in men doubles. India No. 7 Dipti provided India some cheers after the two successive losses—

Srikrishna Sai and Srishti Jupudi and Orjiti Chaliha and Preethi lost in Mixed Doubles—in women singles as she prevailed over Kazakh counterpart Aisha Zhumabek 21-18, 21-13. Brushing aside her early problems, the girl form Kutich in Gujarat stopped the Kazakh three points short in the first set and went on to win the second rather easily. This win was followed up nicely by

Medha Shashidharan who accounted for Iya Gordeyeva, also from Kazakhstan, with utmost ease (21-9, 21-10) and then Kavipriya Selvam who put it across Myanmar's Seng Jar Nan 21-5, 21-8. But what overshadowed other Indian wins was the men doubles match in which the two Manipuri boys—Manjit Singh and Dingku Singh—put up a wonderful resistance to overcome their Indonesian rivals Muhammad C.

Chaniago and Helmi Abu Hanifa 22-20, 23-21.

No doubt, the match was over in 34 minutes but credit must be given to the Indian pair which came back nicely in the first game in their race to 21 points. But when the Indonesians deuced at 20-all, it was a touch-and-go affair for the Indian duo who held on to their nerves to claim the next two points.

Indonesians, tossing up well with deep serves and indulging in long rallies, kept the Indians on their toes in the next game as well which saw a couple of deuces and after saving a game point, Manjit and Dingku smashed the winner, much to their jubilation.

Later tonight, sixth seeded Indian Lakshya Sen is to take on Korean Hyeon Jung Kim in their first-round battle while Priyanshu Rajawat will meet Sri Lankan Vikum Fernando.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today pay visit at Raj Medicity and inspected the condition of the students who were undersgoing treatment after they sustain serious injury in police action. The Chief Minister assured to bear the cost of the injured students

