

President Putin personally bids farewell to PM Modi at Russian airport

Agency
New Delhi, May 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived here on late Tuesday midnight after wrapping up his one-day informal summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Russia's Sochi. In a special gesture, President Vladimir Putin personally bid farewell to PM Narendra Modi at the airport at the conclusion of PM's short visit to Russia. Modi on Monday held his first informal summit with Putin and discussed a range of bilateral topics, including defence cooperation as well as global

issues of common concern. Prime Minister Modi also visited the Moya Russia-Ethno centre, along with President Vladimir, where he saw various ancient artifacts crafted by Russian artisans and held talks with local artists. He then addressed students at Sirius educational centre situated at Sochi in Russia, where he invited the students to visit India. Following the event, children took Prime Minister Modi's autographs. One of the children brought along a glass slab, on which Prime Minister Modi wrote a

message. Prime Minister Modi also enjoyed a yacht-ride in the Black sea of the Atlantic Ocean situated in Eastern Russia along with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi held one-on-one talks with President Putin, in which he reiterated the strong bilateral relations between two countries. He further termed the Indo-Russian bilateral relations as a special privileged partnership. India and Russia expressed their concern over terrorism and radicalization during the

informal summit. The two leaders also expressed their determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The two sides also "noted with satisfaction" the expanding cooperation in the energy sector. The two leaders noted with satisfaction the expanding cooperation in the energy sector and, in this regard, welcomed the arrival of the first consignment of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) under a long-term agreement between Russian gas giant Gazprom and India's state-run gas utility GAIL, next

Cong-JD(S) Govt doomed without mandate: Amit Shah

Agency
New Delhi, May 22,

BJP president Amit Shah on Monday predicted the Congress-JD(S) dispensation in Karnataka is doomed to failure as it is against the mandate of the people. He also accused the Congress of trying to influence the Supreme Court's decision on Karnataka by releasing fake audio clips of BJP leaders offering bribes to its MLAs. Shah also claimed that in Goa and Manipur, the Congress slept over even after emerging as the single-largest party and thus allowed the BJP to legitimately stake claim to form Governments there. Scoffing at the Congress celebrations of its "victory", Shah said the BJP and the JD(S) had won votes in an anti-Congress campaign.

"The Congress and the JD(S) going hand-in-hand now is disrespecting the actual mandate of people of Karnataka," he said. Shah said but for the virtual arrest of Congress and JD(S)

MLAs in a five-star hotel and their incommunicado status, people in Karnataka would have told them to back the BJP. The BJP chief wondered as to why and for what the Congress is celebrating after half of its Cabinet Ministers in the erstwhile Government and even Chief Minister lost his seat "Kya Congress PPP (Punjab, Puducherry aur Parivar) ka Jashan mana rahen hain?" Shah quipped, adding the Congress has mastered the art of converting defeat as a victory.

Shah said after the recent developments, the Congress has now developed a new found respect for country's institutions like Supreme Court and Election Commission and for Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). He said people of Karnataka tried their best to give the BJP a majority in the Assembly and pointed out that his party lost 13 seats for less than NOTA (None of the Above) votes. The Congress was badly placed in the number of votes wherever it lost the polls, he said.

While rejecting charges of horse-trading against his own party the BJP president sought to claim that "the Congress had sold the entire stable of horses."

He said a wrong impression is being created on the formation of the BJP Governments in Goa and Manipur where the BJP staked claim first as the Congress was then "leisurely relaxing".

"The Congress there lagged behind and therefore Governors invited the BJP first," the party chief added. Shah said Modi-Rath has moved to South in Karnataka where like everyone in the country has approved of the 'Susashan' under the Prime Minister's four-year regime. He dismissed coming together of leaders like TMC's Mamta Banerjee or SP's Akhilesh Yadav.

He also claimed that the Congress' lawyer lied in the Supreme Court about BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa having sought seven days' time from the Governor to prove majority in the House.

No discrimination against anyone on basis of religion: Rajnath

Agency
New Delhi, May 22

India does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of religion or sect, and such things are not allowed in the country, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said today. His comments came in the wake of the Archbishop of Delhi referring to a "turbulent political atmosphere" in the country and appealing to

launch a prayer campaign ahead of the 2019 general elections. "India is such a country where there is no discrimination against anyone on the basis of religion or sect or any other such things. Such a thing cannot be allowed," Singh said on the sidelines of a function here.

In a letter written to all parish priests in the capital, the Archbishop of Delhi, Anil Couto, asked for a prayer campaign to be launched and also appealed for fasting on Fridays ahead of the 2019 general elections. Citing the turbulent political atmosphere which poses a threat to the democratic

principles enshrined in the Constitution and the secular fabric of our nation, the letter says, "It is our hallowed practice to pray for our country and its political leaders all the time but all the more so when we approach the general elections."

"As we look forward towards 2019 when we will have a new government let us begin a prayer campaign for our country," states the letter.

Anti-Sterlite protest in TN turns violent, 20 injured

Agency
Tuticorin (TN), May 22

The months-long protest demanding closure of Vedanta's Sterlite Copper unit here took a violent turn today with agitators pelting stones and toppling police vehicles after they were prevented from marching towards the plant. Police said section 144 of CrPc has been invoked in and around the Sterlite unit to provide security to it as per

the orders of the Madras High Court. However, angered over not being allowed to take out a rally, the slogan-shouting protesters forcibly tried to push back the security personnel in riot gear. They then started hurling stones at police and also overturned a vehicle after which the security personnel lobbed teargas shells to disperse them, they said. While more than 20 people

suffered minor injuries in stone-pelting incident, some vehicles were set on fire, leading to tension in the area, they added. Meanwhile, a peaceful demonstration was held near the old bus stand in the town, also demanding the closure of the Sterlite unit and the proposed expansion of the plant. Several shops in this town, Srivaikundam and Oddapidaram remained shut in

support of the protest, police said. The district has been witnessing several protests by locals and others against the Sterlite Copper plant here and its proposed expansion. Protesters have alleged that the plant was polluting ground water in their area. Sterlite Copper represents the copper unit of Vedanta Limited which operates a 400,000 tonnes per annum-plant in Tuticorin.

Reliance Jio plans overseas expansion, may set up Estonia unit

Agency
Mumbai, May 22

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd is planning to expand beyond the Indian market, and will set up a subsidiary in Estonia, according to two people aware of the plans.

Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Ltd, an investment holding company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), will give a loan of Rs12.20 crore (1.5 million) to the Estonian unit to begin operations, according to one of the two people cited above, both of whom declined to be named. "Thanks to its sophisticated e-solutions, over the last decade, Estonia has transformed itself into one of Europe's business success stories. Indian companies would certainly wish to collaborate and imbibe e-governance solutions in this regard and Jio is no exception," said the second person.

A company established in the northern European nation can operate worldwide, while all the compliance work and agreements can be handled digitally. A spokesperson for Reliance

Jio did not immediately respond to queries. In Estonia, 99% of public services are available online 24x7. Since 2000, all government services in Estonia are offered online and all documents are electronically available.

The reported move comes against the backdrop of Estonia wishing to develop a long-term relationship with India. According to an IANS news agency report on 13 March, Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, had in a meeting with an Estonian government delegation, expressed interest in collaborating with the country to develop better e-governance solutions or India.

"A statement from the company said Ambani envisaged to make lives better for millions in India by replicating innovative solutions offered by Estonia into the Indian context, adding that the 'e-residency programme' of Estonia will empower him with easy access to the entire European Union (EU) for his existing business while sitting in

India," the IANS report had said. E-Residency is a new digital nation for global citizens. Estonia is the first country to offer e-Residency, a government-issued digital ID available to anyone in the world. E-Residency offers the freedom to easily start and run a global business in the European Union. Estonia will give access to the European Union.

"We believe your solutions are easily scalable to India. We wish to have a very close cooperation with your talent in Estonia," Ambani had said. "Reliance Jio would want to diversify because, like it's

competitors it too is under great pressure in the Indian market. There is every reason to believe that the company may be running operations below cost," said Mahesh Uppal, director at communications consulting firm ComFirst India. "In such an environment, it makes sense for any company to diversify in markets where the margins may be better. Besides, the European Union has long worked for a single telecom market. Being in Estonia does give you a foothold to expand further in Europe and helps Jio to mitigate some of the risks in the Indian market," said Uppal.

REGISTRATION NOTICE

An association under the name & Style of SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SEWA) at Naharup Huiem Leikai, Imphal East is formed. So the Association is going to be registered in the office of the Deputy Registrar of Societies, Imphal East under the Manipur Societies Registration Act, 1989. If anybody who want to object to the registration of the Association may object within 3(three) days from the date of publication. No objection shall not entertained after the due date.

Sd/-
Secretary
Self Employed Women's
Naharup Huiem Leikai

Agency
Washington, May 22

A US navy veteran who shot and killed an Indian software engineer + and injured two others in February 2017 in Kansas pleaded guilty on Monday in federal court to hate crime and firearm charges, the Justice Department said. The shooting drew international attention as part of a wave of attacks nationwide against ethnic and religious minority groups following the 2016 election of US President Donald Trump, who has railed against illegal immigration.

The shooter, Adam Purinton, approached two Indian men,

Srinivas Kuchibhotla and Alok Madasani, at a bar, demanding to know where they were from, calling one a terrorist and shouting, "Get out of my country!" Two other patrons escorted him out of the bar. Purinton returned about a half-hour later and fired his semi-automatic pistol at the two men who he had harassed earlier. As he ran out, he shot another patron, Ian Grillot, who had chased him.

Kuchibhotla, a legal US resident, died of his injuries. Madasani and Grillot survived.

"While we cannot ameliorate the irreparable harm to the victims and their families, we hope that securing this guilty

plea brings them some measure of closure," said Jesse Panuccio, an acting associate attorney general, in a statement.

Purinton had already pleaded guilty to state charges + for murder and attempted murder, and was sentenced earlier in May to life in prison. The local prosecutor said at the time that Purinton will not be eligible for parole for 50 years. The sentencing is scheduled for July 2, the Justice Department said, and, despite the Kansas sentence, both federal prosecutors and the defence are seeking the maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Rahul appoints new HP Congress in-charge

Agency
New Delhi, May 22

Congress President Rahul Gandhi today appointed former Rajya Sabha MP Rajni Patil as the AICC in-charge of party affairs in Himachal Pradesh in place of Sushil Kumar Shinde. He also appointed Jitendra Baghel and Biswaranjan

Mohanty as AICC Secretaries for party affairs in Gujarat. "The party appreciates the hard work and contribution of Sushil Kumar Shinde, who will be stepping down from his responsibility as AICC general secretary in charge of Himachal Pradesh," AICC general secretary Ashok Gehlot said in a statement. Gandhi also appointed two

new All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretaries, Virender Singh Rathore and Rajesh Lilothia, for Bihar Congress. The Congress President also authorised Nadeem Javed as chairman of the party's Minority department. Javed replaces Khushid Ahmed Saiyed whose services the party appreciated, the statement said.

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