

National & International News

Sports News

Modi attacks Rahul over ready to be PM remark

Agency
Bangarpet (Kar), May 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today lashed out at Congress president Rahul Gandhi after he publicly declared his prime ministerial ambition, and wondered whether the country will ever accept such an "immature and naamdar (famous)" leader for the post.

"The naamdar who does not have confidence in his alliance partners... who doesn't care for Congress' internal democracy, whose arrogance has reached cloud

seven, and is declaring himself that he would be the prime minister in 2019.

....will the country ever accept such an immature 'naamdar' leader?" Modi told an election rally here.

Modi's attack came a day after Gandhi said he was ready to occupy the prime minister's post if his party emerged as the "biggest" party in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, making known his ambition for the topmost executive post.

"Yesterday in Karnataka and India's politics something happened. All of a sudden one person came and

he declared....did not care about others who are standing in the line. Did not care about other coalition partners.

"There are leaders waiting for 40 years....he came all of a sudden and placed his bucket, and said I will become the primeminister," Modi said during the final lap of his campaign blitz in election-bound Karnataka, where voting will be held on May 12.

The prime minister asked the gathering whether it was not a reflection of the Congress president's "arrogance".

He also wanted to know whether it did not show the state of internal democracy in the Congress party.

Speaking about attempts to forge and anti-BJP front, Modi said, "big, big meetings are happening, big, big stalwarts are meeting" to remove him from power, but keeping them all in the dark Gandhi declared he will be the prime minister.

"Doesn't this show the level of no-confidence within the (proposed) coalition?" he asked.

Continuing his tirade against the Congress, he called it a

"deal party."

Modi said during Manmohan Singh's tenure as the prime minister, the remote control of the government was with Congress president Sonia Gandhi, but in the four years of the his rule, the it was with people.

He also said "Congress culture, communalism, casteism, crime, corruption and contract system" were the six Cs "destroying" Karnataka's future.

Modi told the crowd that it was now Karnataka's turn to bid "goodbye" to the Congress.

Saina Nehwal, H.S Prannoy to spearhead India's challenge at 2018 BWF Thomas and Uber Cup

By-Soumitra Maity
New Delhi, May 9,

World No.8 H.S Prannoy and World No.10 Saina Nehwal will lead India's charge at the upcoming edition of the BWF Thomas and Uber Cup to be played from May 20-27, in Bangkok, Thailand.

The tournament which is in its 27th year of existence will see the Asian championship bronze medalist Prannoy along with World No.18 B Sai Praneeth, young and talented Sameer Verma and Junior World No.4 Lakshay Sen taking the court in the singles event of the men's championship, while 2018 CWG Gold medalist Saina will be complemented by rising shuttlers Vaishnavi Jakka Reddy (World Ranking 64/ Junior World Ranking 5), Sai Krishna Priya (World Ranking 66), India No.1 Anura Prabhu and India No.2 Vaishnavi Bhalu in the singles competition of the Uber Cup.

Anura is incidentally the first player from Goa to have ever achieved number ranking on the BAI ranking charts. The experienced duo of Sumeeth Reddy and Manu Attri along with World No.43, Shlok Ramachandran, MR Arjuna and the Indian number 1 ranked pair of Sanyam Shukla and Arun George will be responsible to drive India in the doubles category of the Thomas Cup.

J Meghana, Poorvisha Ram, Prajakta Sawant and Sanyogita Ghorpade will lead

the challenge in the women's doubles competition of Uber Cup.

"We have decided to give opportunity to young and aspiring talents along with our experienced players so that they not only gain valuable exposure they will also be have the experience to play alongside the top players. While selecting the squad, we have considered the performance of the players at the domestic level and those who have excelled in the national circuit have been given the opportunity to show their talent at the highest level," Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, President of Badminton Association of India said.

"This is the first time Badminton Association of India has chosen to go into the tournament with mix of experienced players and upcoming talents and this has been done keeping in mind the need to promote the next generation of players and ensure due opportunities come their way," Mr Ajay Singhania, Secretary General of BAI said.

The continental tournament that gets underway in Bangkok from May 20-27 will see India taking on France in the opening rubber, followed by Australia and China in the Thomas Cup while the women's team who are a bronze medal winner in the last edition will take on Canada in the first tie followed by Australia and Japan.

Malaysians vote in election defined by graft scandal, tax

Agency
Kuala Lumpur, May 9

Veteran Mahathir Mohamad spearheads Opposition battle against ruling combine of Najib Razak.

Voting is under way Wednesday in a fiercely contested Malaysian election that pits an opposition led by former authoritarian leader Mahathir Mohamad against the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Najib Razak, whose image has been battered by corruption allegations and an unpopular goods and services tax.

Polling booths opened at 8 a.m. and long queues had already formed at some voting locations in Kuala Lumpur and other cities. Watched by election officials, voters at a polling station set up at a school in central Kuala Lumpur dipped a finger in purple ink before casting their votes.

Analysts say the ruling National Front, in power since independence from

Britain in 1957, might lose the popular vote for a second consecutive election. But it could still win a majority of seats in parliament due to an electoral system that gives more power to rural Malays, its traditional supporters. Voting closes at 5 p.m. and results are expected in the late evening.

Razak woos younger electorate

Mr. Razak, in an election eve appeal to voters, promised income tax exemptions for young people and public holidays if his coalition wins. Mr. Mahathir Mohamad, who was Malaysia's authoritarian leader for 22 years until 2003, repeated the themes of a campaign that asserted a vote for the opposition would save Malaysia from a corrupt elite. The 92-year-old veteran emerged from political retirement and joined the opposition in attempt to oust Mr. Razak, his former protegee, after a multibillion-dollar corruption scandal at state investment fund IMDB

set up by the ruling leader. The U.S. Justice Department says \$4.5 billion was looted from IMDB by associates of Mr. Razak between 2009 and 2014, including \$700 million that landed in the Prime Minister's bank account. He denies any wrongdoing.

Here too, poorly-implemented GST

An unpopular goods and services tax, introduced by Mr. Razak in 2015 to boost government revenue as Malaysia's oil wealth dwindles, has also denied support for the ruling coalition. It hit poor rural Malays particularly hard. "Enough is enough. We want a clean and just government. We want a party for all races," Agnes Yap, a bank employee, told The Associated Press after she voted in a Kuala Lumpur suburb.

Reflecting Malaysia's racial divides, Ms. Yap said the

Chinese party in the ruling coalition had been subservient to Mr. Razak's Malay party and failed to defend the rights of the country's ethnic Chinese minority.

The National Front lost its two-thirds majority in parliament in 2008 polls and lost the popular vote in 2013. However that year it still won 60 per cent of seats in parliament. Tindak, a group advocating for reform of the electoral system, says one third of voters decide half of seats.

Mr. Razak, the son of Malaysia's second Prime Minister, cast his vote in the coastal city of Pekan.

Denigrating personal attacks

The election campaign had been "quite vicious in the content of the personal attacks which doesn't reflect

a mature democracy," the Prime Minister said after voting.

"But the most important thing is for the people to decide on the destiny of this nation and it must be based on facts, it must be based on policy," he said.

About 15 million Malaysians are eligible to vote and the Election Commission has predicted a turnout of 85 per cent.

"This time there is a real hope for change for a better future for our country. Malaysians want a better future for all. The country's wealth belongs to all Malaysians, not just to an elite few," said a civil servant who identified herself as Hani. But the opposition and election monitoring groups said the Election Commission's decision to hold the vote midweek was likely to lower turnout.

Netanyahu to meet Putin amid new round of Syria strikes

Agency
Jerusalem, May 9

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu traveled to Moscow today, where he and President Vladimir Putin will discuss military coordination amid new strikes in Syria blamed on Israel.

Syrian state-run media said Israel struck a military outpost near the capital, Damascus, on Tuesday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the missiles targeted depots and rocket launchers that likely belonged to Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard in Kisweh, killing nine people. Tensions between Israel and Iran are high over Iran's efforts to expand its military presence in Syria, where it is a key ally of President Bashar Assad.

Repeated airstrikes attributed to Israel have killed Iranian fighters and prompted threats of reprisal from Tehran. President Donald Trump's announcement yesterday that the US would withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran has triggered uncertainty and threatened to spark more unrest in the Middle East.

"The meetings between us are always important and this one is especially so," Netanyahu said ahead of his departure.

"In light of what is currently happening in Syria, it is necessary to ensure the continued coordination" between the two militaries. Netanyahu made no mention of the overnight strikes.

The Israeli and Russian militaries have been in contact throughout much of Russia's intervention in Syria, where Moscow has waged an air campaign in support of Assad's forces since 2015. Russia also considers Iran a strategic ally.

Israel views Iran as its archenemy, citing Iran's calls for Israel's destruction, support for militant groups across the region and growing military activity in neighboring Syria. Israel has warned that it will not allow Iran to establish a permanent military presence in Syria.

Israel's military went on high alert Tuesday and bomb shelters were ordered open in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights following reports of "irregular activity of Iranian forces in Syria."

After an uneventful night, the military today called on residents to return to "full civilian routine," meaning studies and excursions would continue as usual, although the shelters would remain open.

Israel, which almost never confirms or denies airstrikes in Syria, did not comment on Tuesday's attack. Such strikes have become more frequent recently. Iran has vowed to retaliate to recent Israeli strikes in Syria targeting Iranian outposts, including an attack last month on Syria's T4 air base in Homs province that killed seven Iranian military personnel. On April 30, Israel was said to have struck government

outposts in northern Syria, killing more than a dozen pro-government fighters, many of them Iranians.

Amos Gilad, a retired senior Israeli defense official, told a security conference in the coastal town of Herzliya that Iran's intentions in Syria meant a wider conflagration may only be a matter of time.

"They want to build a second Hezbollah-stan," he said, referring to the Iranian-backed Lebanese Shiite militant group that last fought a war with Israel in 2006. "They are determined to do it and we are determined to prevent it. It means we are on a collision course."

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Moirangthem Chingkhengnamba**, son of **Moirangthem Jiten Singh** of Yairipok Top Chingtha, P.S. Andro, District- Imphal-East Manipur, do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Moirangthem Neweyson**, as I have assumed my new name **Moirangthem Chingkhengnamba**.

Sd/-
Moirangthem Chingkhengnamba

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Rogi Thapa** of Lower Kalapahar, P.O/PS Senapati, Manipur, do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Rogi Thapa**, as I have assumed my new name **Rogi Thapa**.

Sd/-
Rogi Thapa

Science & Technology

Breathing Moon dust could decimate cells, alter human DNA and cause cancer

By: Immanuel Jotham

The idea of building a lunar base and living there seems fanciful and highly probable, and now there is evidence of water on the Moon. But, the reality of actually living there is completely different. Breathing in Moon dust, for example, is dangerous enough to cause cancer. Prolonged exposure to lunar dust is likely to cause inflammation of the lungs that can induce the growth of various cancers, notes a report by Popular Mechanics. One of the reasons for this is the way Moon's dust and soil work. Earth has a layered sheet of air protecting it from extra-terrestrial charged particles that are spewed out by the Sun. The wispy, thin air on the Moon makes it possible for the soil to get electrostatically charged.

The report notes that it can be compared to hair that clings to a balloon rubbed against wool. This property of lunar dust is well known. In fact astronauts who landed on the Moon were quoted as saying how, "particles covered everything and a stain remained even after our best attempts to brush it off," notes

Popular Mechanics.

A new study to find out what exactly lunar dust could do to humans saw researchers expose mouse brain cells and human lung tissue to samples of dust that mimic Moon dust. The cells and tissue were grown in controlled conditions and the dust was ground down to a fine, breathable consistency, notes the report. Their findings conclusively proved that if inhaled, lunar dust destroyed lung and brain cells up to 90 percent. For the lung cells, the damage was so severe that it changed the cell at a DNA level. Its clinging properties will actually make the dust more dangerous because it cannot fully be prevented from entering breathing areas. Even the Apollo astronauts were lucky to not be affected by it only because they did not spend too much time on the Moon. "If there are trips back to the moon that involve stays of weeks, months or even longer, it probably won't be possible to eliminate that risk completely," said Bruce Dimple, a biochemist at Stony Brook and senior author of the new study. Also, microgravity is not really a pleasant feeling either.

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