

## Haryana BJP leader who announced Rs 10 crore reward for beheading Deepika Padukone back in party

Agency  
New Delhi Oct 9,

The Bharatiya Janata Party rejected the resignation of controversial party leader Suraj Pal Amu, who was in the news for announcing a reward of Rs 10 crore for beheading actor Deepika Padukone and filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali before the release of Bollywood film 'Padmavat'. "It's like coming back to my home," Amu told news agency ANI on Monday.

"I had resigned from different posts of Bharatiya Janata Party Haryana Unit many months back and today Haryana BJP chief Subhash Barala has rejected it. For about 29-30 years I have been at different posts in the party and its student wing. These were very tough 8 months for me to stay away from the party, however, I kept working in different social organisations. It is like a homecoming for me," he added.

Amu, who heads Karni Sena, had quit from his post of party chief

media coordinator, Haryana, in November 2017, after the state BJP chief Subhash Barala issued him a show cause notice for his controversial remarks during the Padmavat protest. He had been arrested and released on bail earlier in January by Gurugram Police on charges of breaching peace prior to the film's release. Karni Sena and several fringe outfits had protested against the film's release, alleging that the film showed Rajput queen Padmini in poor light.

## J&K local polls: In north Kashmir, Kupwara records highest turnout

Agency  
Handwara, Kupwara Oct 9,

It is 11.30 am. The shops are shut and gun-wielding police and paramilitary personnel are out on the streets. People are occasionally walking into polling station at Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Handwara town. But by now, 129 votes out of 445 have been polled. By the end of polling time, Kupwara district recorded highest voter turnout in the Valley at 32.3 per cent.

While the media was given an easy access across the Valley, it was barred from

covering the polling in Handwara and Kupwara, with the officials citing "security of voters".

The Kupwara district of north Kashmir, a stronghold of BJP ally Peoples Conference led by Sajid Lone, has two municipal committees—Handwara and Kupwara. Eighteen wards were set up to polls on Monday and 18 polling stations were set up in the two towns. Forty-seven candidates were in the fray here.

At the Handwara polling station, a 47-year-old woman said: "I am here because the candidate is known to me. He has promised that he will

solve the local problems in the area."

On Monday, several barricades were set up by the police to prevent media from entering into Handwara district. Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Khalid Jehangir, said they decided not to allow media to enter into the district as there was a threat to the voters. Later, following intervention by senior J&K government officials, media was allowed to enter the town.

In nearby Kupwara town, permission was not given to media to enter into poll stations.

## BrahMos engineer arrested for leaking sensitive data: Police

Agency  
Mumbai Oct 9,

A SENIOR systems engineer with BrahMos Aerospace was arrested on Monday on espionage charges in a joint operation carried out by the Uttar Pradesh Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Military Intelligence (MI). The agencies are probing if Nishant Aggarwal (27) leaked sensitive data pertaining to the supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos, to his 'handler', who is suspected to be from Pakistan.

BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture between India's Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's Military Industrial Consortium, NPO Mashinostroyeniya. According to its website, "the company is responsible for designing, developing, producing and marketing BrahMos with active participation of a consortium of Indian and Russian industries".

Aggarwal's Facebook profile states that he studied at the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, and also worked as a research intern at IIT Roorkee. At BrahMos Aerospace, he worked as head of the hydraulics-pneumatics and warhead integration (production department), and

headed a 40-member team including personnel from systems, engineers, technical and technology R&D group. Last month, he was awarded the 'young scientist award' by DRDO.

According to police, Aggarwal's name cropped up during the interrogation of BSF jawan Achutanand Mishra, who was arrested last month for allegedly spying for Pakistan's ISI. Mishra, according to sources, was honey-trapped by a woman who claimed to be a defence correspondent from Pakistan. The two were in touch since 2016. During the course of this probe, the ATS came across two more Facebook accounts which had women on their profile pictures and were seen to be in touch with Aggarwal.

"He was contacted through Facebook by two women who offered him a job. We are probing if he was honey-trapped. He was chatting with these two for the last two years, and so far, we have found that the IP addresses of these accounts are Pakistan-based," said Inspector General, UP ATS, Aseem Arun. "We were investigating three FB accounts... We found two more people from Kanpur were approached in the same manner, but we have not found anything solid on

which we can make any arrests. We are still digging," said Arun.

According to sources, a team of UP ATS and the Maharashtra ATS had been camping since Sunday in Sonogaon, in Nagpur, where Aggarwal stayed in a rented accommodation.

"During the searches, a lot of material was seized and these are being studied. The police have also seized his laptop. Aggarwal has been confronted with the leads received so far from technical surveillance and a search of his house," said a senior official. The raids began in the early hours of Monday and continued till late afternoon, the official added. "We found confidential information pertaining to defence and security on Aggarwal's personal laptop, which is a crime under the Official Secrets Act. When Aggarwal was confronted on why such sensitive data was on his laptop, he was unable to give a satisfactory response. We suspect that he had procured this information to pass it on to his handlers who identified themselves as females... He was in touch with them for the last two years and we have managed to get the history of their cCourtesy

Imphal, Oct 9,

## Para Asian Games

Agency  
Jakarta, Oct 8,

India opened its Para Asian Games campaign in style by bagging two silver and four bronze medals on the opening day in Jakarta. The men's badminton team opened the country's medal account after narrowly losing to Malaysia 1-2 in the semi-finals to settle for a bronze.

In the 49 kg men's powerlifting event, Farman Basha claimed the silver and Paramjeet Kumar won the bronze. The gold went to Pia Laophalkeed of Laos for his effort of 133 kg.

## Manipur Centre notifies transfer of Gauhati HC judge to state HC

Agency  
Imphal, Oct 9,

The Central Government has notified the transfer of judges to the Manipur and Gauhati High Courts. The judges are to assume office at their respective courts by October 20.

Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, a judge of the Manipur High Court has been transferred the Gauhati High Court. The notification states:

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of

article 222 of the Constitution of India, the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, is pleased to transfer Shri Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, Judge of the Manipur High Court, as a Judge of the Gauhati High Court and to direct him to assume charge of his office in the Gauhati High Court on or before 20th October, 2018."

Simultaneously, Additional Gauhati High Court judge, Lanusungkm Jamir has been directed to assume office as an

Additional Judge of the Manipur High Court.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 222 of the Constitution of India, the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, is pleased to transfer Shri Justice Lanusungkm Jamir, Additional Judge of the Gauhati High Court, as an Additional Judge of the Manipur High Court and to direct him to assume charge of his office in the Manipur High Court on or before 20th October, 2018."

## IMF Predicts 7.3% growth for India in 2018, praises GST, bankruptcy code

Washington, Oct 9

The International Monetary Fund or IMF on Tuesday predicted a growth rate of 7.3 per cent for India in the current year and 7.4 per cent in 2019.

In 2017, India had recorded a 6.7 per cent growth rate.

"India's growth is expected to increase to 7.3 per cent in 2018 and to 7.4 per cent in 2019 (slightly lower than in the April 2018 World Economic Outlook [WEO] for 2019, given the recent increase in oil prices and the tightening of global financial conditions), up from 6.7 per cent in 2017," the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook report.

This acceleration, the world body said, reflected a rebound from transitory shocks (the cash ban and implementation of the national Goods and Services Tax), with strengthening investment and robust private consumption. India's medium-term growth prospects remain strong at 7.75 per cent, benefiting from ongoing structural reform, but have been marked down by just under 0.5 percentage point relative to the April 2018 WEO, it said.

If the projections are true, then India will regain the tag of the fastest growing major

economies of the world, crossing China with more than 0.7 percentage point in 2018 and an impressive 1.2 percentage point growth lead in 2019.

China was the fastest growing economy in 2017 as it was ahead of India by 0.2 percentage points. For the record, the IMF has lowered the growth projections for both India and China by 0.4 per cent and 0.32 per cent from its annual World Economic Outlook.

Released in Bali during the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank, the World Economic Outlook said its 2019 growth projection for China is lower than in April, given the latest round of US tariffs on Chinese imports, as are its projections for India.

In China, growth is projected to moderate from 6.9 per cent in 2017 to 6.6 per cent in 2018 and 6.2 per cent in 2019, reflecting a slowing external demand growth and necessary financial regulatory tightening, the report said.

The 0.2 percentage point downgrade to the 2019 growth forecast can be attributed to the negative effect of recent tariff actions, assumed to be partially offset by policy stimulus, it said.

Over the medium term, growth is expected to gradually slow

to 5.6 per cent as the economy continues to make the transition to a more sustainable growth path with continued financial de-risking and environmental controls, it noted.

"Owing to these changes, our international growth projections for both this year and next are downgraded to 3.7 per cent, 0.2 percentage point below our last assessments and the same rate achieved in 2017," the report said.

The growth rate of United States for 2018 is 2.9 per cent and that of 2019 has been powered to 2.5 per cent.

In India, the report said, important reforms have been implemented in recent years, including the Goods and Services Tax, the inflation-targeting framework, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and steps to liberalise foreign investment and make it easier to do business.

"Looking ahead, renewed impetus to reform labour and land markets, along with further improvements to the business climate, are also crucial," it said.

According to the World Economic Outlook, in India, reform priorities include reviving bank credit and enhancing the efficiency of credit provision by

accelerating the cleanup of bank and corporate balance sheets and improving the governance of public sector banks.

In India, a high interest burden and risks from rising yields require continued focus on debt reduction to establish policy credibility and build buffers.

"These efforts should be supported by further reductions in subsidies and enhanced compliance with the Goods and Services Tax," the IMF report said.

It also said inflation in India is on the rise, estimated at 3.6 per cent in fiscal year 2017/18 and projected at 4.7 per cent in fiscal year 2018/19, compared with 4.5 per cent in fiscal year 2016/17, amid accelerating demand and rising fuel prices.

The report said that aggregate growth in the emerging market and developing economy group stabilised in the first half of 2018. Emerging Asia continued to register strong growth, supported by a domestic demand-led pickup in the Indian economy from a four-year-low pace of expansion in 2017, even as activity in China moderated in the second quarter in response to regulatory tightening of the property sector and non-bank financial intermediation, it said.

## China Announces 48 High-End Drones For Pak, Days After India's S-400 Deal

Beijing, Oct. 9

China will sell 48 high-end military drones to its "all-weather ally" Pakistan in what a military observer said will be the largest deal of its kind between the two countries, official media in Beijing reported today.

The cost of the deal was not revealed. Wing Loong II, a high-end reconnaissance, strike and multi-role endurance unmanned aircraft system, is manufactured by Chengdu Aircraft Industrial (Group) Company.

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) will also be jointly manufactured, China's state-run Global Times reported. China, an "all-weather ally" of Islamabad, is the largest supplier of weapon system to the Pakistan Army. Both the countries also jointly manufacture JF-Thunder a single engine multi-role combat aircraft.

The announcement by China to permit the sale of high-end

military drones comes in the immediate backdrop of India's move to acquire the sophisticated S-400 missile defence systems from Russia. The deal was clinched during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi last week.

The deal for the acquisition of Chinese drones was announced by Pakistan Air Force's Sherdils Aerobatic Team on its official Facebook account on Sunday, the Global Times report said.

It did not reveal the cost of the deal, when it was struck or when the Wing Loong IIs will be delivered, it said.

The air force academy aerobatics team announced that in the future, the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex Kamra and the Aviation Industry Corporation of China's Chengdu Aircraft Industrial (Group) Company will jointly manufacture the drones, the report said.

Chengdu Aircraft Industrial Group did not confirm when

the deal was reached.

Wing Loong II made its maiden flight in February last year, an earlier report by the state-run Xinhua news agency said.

A Xinhua report in December last year said Wing Loong II UAS has already obtained the largest order of Chinese UAVs in the overseas market, even before its maiden flight. But the report did not specify the buyer.

According to the report, the system is composed of the ground station and various number of unmanned aerial vehicles.

Within 10 months of its maiden flight, multiple live firing tests had been conducted in accordance with the requirement of its customers, including stationary targets, moving targets, time sensitive targets and air-ground coordination, the report said.

A deal involving as many as 48 Wing Loong IIs, if confirmed, would be China's

largest export deal for drones to date, Song Zhongping, a military expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times.

It makes sense the aerobatic team was closely involved with the deal, Mr Song said, noting that the team is expected to train the drone operators.

The deal is trustworthy given the close military ties between the two countries and Pakistan's need for drones, Mr Song said.

US drones like the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper are technologically more advanced, but Washington limits their export, Mr Song said.

Chinese drones will enjoy more success in the international market in the future, he claimed, as they perform similarly at a lower cost.

"Chinese UAVs like Caihong series also has clients from countries like Iraq and Saudi Arabia," Mr Song added.

## Registration Certificate lost

I, the undersigned, Nongthombam Mandakini Chanu, have lost my Registration Certificate No. 4636/02, bearing Roll No. 3212046 of my BA 2nd Semester Examination of 2014 issued by Manipur University on the way between Khwairamband Keithel Imphal to Luwangshangbam Awang Leikai on October 5, 2018.

Finders are requested to hand over the mark sheet to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Nongthombam Mandakini Chanu  
Luwangshangbam Awang Leikai