

National News

'Talks only on PoK': Rajnath Singh stings Pakistan on Kashmir

Agency New Delhi Aug 18,

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hit out at Pakistan on Sunday and said that if talks are held between New Delhi and Islamabad it would only be on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

"If talks are held with Pakistan, it will now be on PoK," Rajnath Singh said at a rally in Kalka, Haryana. He was flagging off the BJP's 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' ahead of the assembly elections in the state.

On Friday, Rajnath Singh had hinted that India might change its "no first use" policy for nuclear weapons amid



heightened tensions between the two neighbours. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and other leaders have spoken against India after the central government decided to scral Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Rajnath Singh said on Sunday that Article 370 was nullified for the development of Jammu and Kashmir. "Our neighbour is knocking doors of international community saying India made a mistake. Talks with Pakistan will be held only if it stops supporting terror," he said.

'You have power to do extraordinary things': PM Modi to students in Bhutan

Agency New Delhi Aug 18,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday pitched for extensive cooperation between India and Bhutan in new areas such as space and digital payments and said the students in Bhutan have the power and potential to do extraordinary things, which will impact future generations. "The world today offers more opportunities than ever before. You have the power and potential to do extraordinary things, which will impact generations to come. Find your real calling and pursue it with full passion," Modi said while addressing students at the Royal University of Bhutan on the final day of two-day visit to Himalayan kingdom. He welcomed scientists from

Bhutan who are set to travel to India to work on designing and launching the country's satellite. "It is even a matter of great happiness that young Bhutanese scientists will travel to India to work on designing and launching Bhutan's own small satellite. I hope that someday soon, many of you will be scientists, engineers and innovators," he said. Modi said India was keen to cooperate with Bhutan in new frontiers. "We inaugurated the Timphu Ground Station of the South Asia Satellite and expanded our space cooperation. Through satellites, benefits of tele-medicine, distance education, resource mapping, weather forecast and even warning of natural disasters and reach even remote areas."

Prime Minister Modi hailed Indo-Bhutanese ties which he described "as modern as it is ancient". "The bond of learning between us is as modern as it is ancient. In the 20th century, many Indians came to Bhutan as teachers. Most Bhutanese citizens of older generations would have had at least one India teacher during their education, Modi said." He encouraged the students to overcome challenges and insisted that it is the best time to be young. "Yes, we have challenges. But for every challenge, we have young minds to find innovative solutions to overcome them. Let no limitation constrain you. I want to tell you all - there is no better time to be young than now," he said.

International News

Afghan president says Taliban can't escape blame for deadly bombing

Agency Taliban Aug 18,

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said on Sunday the Taliban could not escape blame for a "barbaric" suicide bomb attack on a wedding hall in the capital, Kabul, that killed 63 people.

"The Taliban cannot absolve themselves of blame for they provide platform for terrorists," Ghani said in a post on Twitter. The blast late on Saturday wounded more than 180 people, with many women and children among the casualties,



Hong Kong protesters kick off fresh weekend protests

Agency Hong Kong Aug 18,

In Hong Kong, democracy activists kicked off a weekend of fresh protests today. It will be a major test for the movement as China's state media in an apparent threat showing images of military personnel carriers across the border in Shenzhen.

It has prompted the United States to warn Beijing against sending in troops, which analysts say would be an economic disaster for China. Today's rallies began with thousands of teachers marching through torrential rain in support of the largely youth-led protests. In the afternoon crowds also began gathering for a march in Hong Hom and To Kwa Wan, two

harbour-side districts popular with mainland tourists. Billed as a rational, non-violent protest, it is being organized by the Civil Human Rights Front, a group that eschews confrontations with police and was the driving force behind record-breaking rallies in June and July that saw hundreds of thousands of people hit the streets.

Blast killed 63, injured over 180 at a wedding in Afghanistan

Agency Afghanistan Aug 18,

In Afghanistan, 63 people were killed and over 180 injured in an explosion targeting a wedding in Kabul last night. Authorities said, the blast, which took place in the city's west, came as Washington and

the Taliban are in the final stages of a deal to reduce the US military presence in Afghanistan. The Taliban denied any involvement in the attack. Interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said, among the injured are women and children.

The wedding was believed to be a Shia gathering. Shia Muslims are frequently targeted in Sunni-majority Afghanistan, particularly by the Islamic State terrorist group. The terrorist group is also active in Kabul but did not immediately issue any claim of responsibility.

officials said. A suicide bomber killed 63 people and wounded 182 in an attack on a wedding reception in the Afghan capital on Saturday night, the interior ministry said. The Taliban denied responsibility for the blast at a west Kabul wedding hall, in a minority Shiite neighbourhood, packed with people celebrating a marriage. The attack came as the Taliban and the United States are trying to negotiate an agreement on the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan in exchange for a Taliban commitment on security and peace talks with the US-backed government. It follows a bomb attack on a mosque in Pakistan on Friday that killed a brother of Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhundzada. No one claimed responsibility for that blast, which killed four people and wounded about 20. Pictures posted on social media showed bodies strewn amid overturned table and chairs at the wedding hall. The bomber struck the men's reception area, officials said.

More State News

Assam Rifles Distributes Books To Mary Kom Boxing Academy

IGAR (South) Imphal Aug 18,

In continuance with civic action initiatives, Mantripukhri Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) distributed a large number of books along with bookshelves to the sportspersons of Mary Kom Boxing Academy at Imphal. Mary Kom Boxing Academy located at Games village, Lamphelpat in Imphal, is one of the premier academies of boxing in India and provides world class facilities for training of boxers. During the visit of DG Assam Rifles to the Boxing Academy in June this year and interaction with Mrs Mary Kom, MP Rajya Sabha, it was learnt that the boxers required some books for their intellectual and recreational needs. Realising the necessity and to achieve meaningful socio-economic development in the State, the Battalion on behalf of the DG Assam Rifles conceived and undertook the project for provision of books and bookshelves to the sportspersons of the Academy. The distribution of books and



the bookshelves was carried out during a function organised at the Boxing Academy and was presided over by the Commandant, Mantripukhri Battalion. The grand event also witnessed attendance by the Warden, Assistant Manager, the Management Staff as well as locals from the neighbouring villages. During the distribution ceremony, over 165 books of various genres along with the bookshelves were formally handed over to the Warden and Assistant Manager of the Academy. The Assistant Manager of the

Mary Kom Boxing Academy, speaking on the occasion praised the thoughtful initiative of the Assam Rifles and conveyed his profound gratitude to the Battalion. Contribution by Assam Rifles was profoundly appreciated by the boxers, entire Staff and Management team of the Mary Kom Boxing Academy. The books will certainly assist in transforming lives every year while creating a cumulative effect and meaningful welfare aimed at overall personality development of the bright minds of the State.

Indian ARMY joins hands with aseem Foundation for career counselling of youth

PIB Guwahati August 18,

Innocence is not virtue, Virtue demands the active employment of an ardent mind in the promotion of the general good. Unemployment has always been a major concern for this nation as our youth need apt guidance before choosing their career. A career counseling - cum - interactive session through video conferencing was organised by Indian Army in co-operation with ASEEM foundation on



their 50th session. Counseling by leaders like Prashant Girbane (Hon. Director at Pune international centre) and Aditya Jhunjhunwala (Co-

founder of "The Enterprise Fellowship" was live streamed from Sumant Moolgaonkar Auditorium Pune at 1000 hrs at various schools at Baksa,

Barpeta, Udalguri, Kamrup and Nalbari Dist. This counseling was for the students of class 10th, 11th, 12th and above, which is their crucial phase to choose a career and decide their future. Always working for the welfare of this nation building, Indian Army took this opportunity to guide students about their career aspects as a soldier and as an officer. This event saw participation of around 1025 students from nearby schools as well as colleges. This session saw guidance of leaders and genuine questions from students regarding their interests and aspirations to explore possibilities according to their potential.

Assam Rifles Constructs Toilet Block

IGAR (South) Imphal Aug 18,

In sync with the Central Government's efforts to achieve open defecation free society and provide modern amenities to the remote villages, Sajak Battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) constructed the first of its kind modular two seater pre-fabricated Toilet block under Assam Rifles Civic Action

Program 2019-20 in Village Twilelon which was inaugurated by the SDO Chakpikarong Sh Rang David Kung on 16 August 2019. The facility will not only improve the living standards but also contribute towards creating cleaner and hygienic environment. The modular toilet block is a state of the art facility which is easy to transport and install. With minimal requirement of construction material, this

could prove to be a game changer for the far flung villages which remain isolated due to existing topography. Mr Hardik Vyas, Director, High Genics India which is of Tata Steel Nest In, authorized solution partner for NE Region facilitated the execution of the projects. He has expressed his satisfaction and willingness to work on more such projects in Manipur in close cord with Assam Rifles and the State Government.