

Rahul Gandhi takes on the Modi juggernaut

By - Swati Gupta, Courtesy - CNN New Delhi, March 26,

He is the heir apparent to India's most powerful political dynasty. But over the next few months, Rahul Gandhi will face an uphill battle in the country's general election campaign. The 48-year-old was born into the Nehru-Gandhi family, whose legacy is intertwined with an independent and democratic India. He is also president of the India National Congress — the main opposition to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Gandhi was a reluctant leader but has lately exceeded expectations, with his party winning key state elections late last year. Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh had been controlled for years by the BJP and the victories there were a significant boost for a party which had been decimated in the last national election. In 2014, the BJP swept to an unprecedented win as voters — suffering from Congress fatigue, incessant corruption scandals and an apparently wavering leadership — chose what they saw as a strong leader in Modi. The Congress was reduced to a humiliating 44 seats out of a total of 545 in the lower house of Parliament. The BJP has in the past year largely campaigned on a "non-dynasty, non-Congress" platform — promising voters that only it can bring the progress that has eluded India for the last seven

decades spent mostly under Congress rule. Gandhi in response has been campaigning on anti-Modi rhetoric. His party seeks to show that the economy has suffered in the last five years and that Modi's promises have fallen flat. **Gandhi family legacy** Gandhi is the son of a former Prime Minister, the grandson of India's only female Prime Minister and the great-grandson of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister after independence from Britain in 1947. His father, Rajiv Gandhi, and grandmother, Indira Gandhi, were both assassinated. Gandhi entered politics less than two decades ago, standing for a district that has been a family bastion. He moved slowly up the

Congress hierarchy to be elected party president in 2017. Despite his distinguished lineage, his path to the top of the party was slow and hesitant and he continues to face criticism as its leader. The Hindustan Times has taken Congress to task for its lack of answers to the agrarian and jobs crisis. "What the Congress needs to offer is thus a more detailed policy prescription, which identifies why some of these solutions have been difficult to achieve. That will make the alternative agenda more convincing," it said in a recent editorial. **Taking on the Modi juggernaut** Despite his landmark 2014 victory, critics say Modi has failed to deliver on his biggest dream, an

economically stronger nation. Joblessness remains an intractable problem among India's youth and farmers are burdened by debt. Two of his government's boldest economic initiatives — demonetization (a ban on high value currency) and the introduction of a national Goods and Services Tax — have also come under fire for crippling small businesses and destabilizing what remains a cash-based economy. Gandhi has seized on both policies, as well as attacking the Modi government for emboldening hardline Hindi nationalists who threaten India's secular fabric. During a speech last year in Hamburg, Germany, Gandhi blamed unemployment, resentment and the chaos caused due by Modi's economic policies for the increase in mob violence. "When you hear about lynchings in India, when you hear about attacks on Dalits in India, when you hear about attacks on minorities in India — that's the reason for it," he said. Yet it's not clear that a shrunken Congress alone can displace the BJP when polling begins on April 11, as Gandhi himself appears to acknowledge. He is throwing his weight, as the country prepares to vote, behind a so-called "Grand Alliance" with regional parties to take on the Modi juggernaut. The nationwide result — and the fate of Gandhi's political future — will be announced on May 23.

8th Kanglei Mega Sports Festival concluded



IT News Imphal, March 26: The 8th Kanglei Mega Sports Festival 2019 which begins from 20th of March concluded yesterday at Mapal Kangjeibung. The festival was organised by the Kangleipak Students Union (KSA) to encourage youth in the fields of sports.

AMWJU Annual Sports Meet concludes



IT News Imphal, March 26, The 9th Annual Sports Meet of the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union Concluded yesterday at Khuman lampak. The sports meet was attended by almost all working and non working journalist from the state of Manipur. It kicks start on March 20, the day when Yaosang began. All events, including athletics, Cricket, Football, badminton, Table Tennis, Volleyball were included in the sports festival of the journalist fraternity. Interestingly evening daily team won the football match and some of the athletes also got medal in the game. Prize distribution programme on the foundation day of the All Manipur Working Journalist Union.

Contd. from Page 1

PREPAK Chairman greets the people

According to Section 7(1) (b) of Indian Independence Act, 1947 and Article 2(1) of the United Nations Charter, Kangleipak and India are placed at the same political level. Thus the treaty signed at Shillong on 21 September, 1949 without consent of the people has no validity in the eyes of international laws. This was first objected to by the Manipur Legislative Assembly on 21 September, 1949, second, the Manipur People's National Convention held on 28-29 October, 1993 and third, National seminar on Human Rights held on 8-9 December, 1994. Copies of the resolutions were sent to the Government of India. Under these circumstances, the present generations have started asking whether Kangleipak would bear the responsibility for the issue of illegal immigrants caused by the division of India and Pakistan in 1947 or not. "In the case of Sarbanand Sonowal versus Union of India in 2005, Supreme Court of India had observed that the problem faced by Assam was the influx of illegal immigrants, so the illegal immigrants should be detected and deported to their country. It is clear that this directive of the Supreme Court has been attacked by the Bill. The manner in which India tried to push through the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill—2016 is a big mockery to the so called Federal character of Indian polity. It is a question that arises automatically whether India knows this but pretending that it doesn't know or acting ignorantly and why all the states of India are silent over this. The Uti Possidetis Juris presently followed in the

world provides that no provision of Indian Constitution can disturb the territorial, social, cultural and linguistic integrity of Kangleipak. Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter also mentions similar guarantee. When it is said that territorial integrity of Kangleipak cannot be disturbed, it also means that the indigenous people of this state, their language, culture and tradition cannot be destroyed. India ought to know this. As there is conflict between the Armed Forces of India and the armed revolutionary movement in Kangleipak. International Humanitarian Law should be ratified in this region too. "The 4th Geneva Convention held on 12 August, 1949, Article 3 of the United Nations Draft Declaration on Population Transfer and Implementation of Settlers and International Criminal Court of Rome Statute do not permit the attempts of India, which is the occupying, administering and high contracting State to grant citizenship to a large number of immigrants from Bangladesh by passing the religion based Bill, to enable them, whose looks, colour and language are quite different from the indigenous people, to settle in the North east including Kangleipak. Moreover, Article 25 (1) & (2) of the Statute points out such act as war crime and that everyone involved in such act should be liable for individual criminal responsibility. "Above all these, what all our people should discuss with alertness is the never ending peace talk of one rebel group which had been trapped in the dragnet of

deception laid by India, and which turned out to be the biggest hurdle in the united liberation movement of Kangleipak and the North East region. The demands they are making in the name of Peace Talk are not only creating problems to the integrity of Kangleipak but also hinders the united struggle for liberation to move forward faster. If India had made it known in advance that their demands cannot be granted, they should have given up their demands or withdrawn from the Peace Talk and joined the struggle for liberation of a united Kangleipak thereby building a more intensified liberation movement. However it was made to appear that the demands would be granted and their dream would come true. Thus they had been set against the fraternal revolutionary organizations of the North East. In their dream of building a big nation, bad feelings had been given birth to among the communities that led to the death of many people including women and children. Many villages had been uprooted. Even now they are blaming each other causing a tense situation. Not only these two communities, but also other communities living together are facing pains of such conflict. "Soon after this, the colonial master, India had sided with a particular community thus causing communal tension again. All our fellow countrymen's strength, stamina, courage and resources that should be used in the struggle for liberation of our land are being used and wasted in this mutual conflict. As a result lasting animosity

has been created among us. "Presently India is preparing to set up a regiment exclusively of this community to be used against the liberation movement of the North East consequently resulting in an internecine war. We need to understand this clearly and prepare to face it. Right now, we are all travelling in a sinking ship that is perforated here and there but none of us seem to notice that we are waiting for the ship to be sunk. Instead of abandoning this broken ship and boarding a new ship, everyone is trying to plug the leaks in their own areas which would be impossible. Instead of continuing to board this broken and sinking ship called India which has so many leaks everywhere, we all had better abandoned this ship and prepare to board a new ship at one time together to reach the destination. This will be the desire of our people who have lost freedom and are living under the colonial rule. "Colonial master India has been applying all sorts of covert and open tactics at its best level to suppress and destroy all traces of the struggle for liberation that has been waged since about 70 years back. So in keeping with the changing scenario in the world, the Red Army men need to reaffirm their commitment and determination to sacrifice for the struggle for freedom courageously. "On the other hand, it is not an easy task to regain the lost freedom of an occupied and colonized state by getting out of the colonial noose. It takes long time and needs to build a united struggle of the people for freedom. Only then it will become possible.", the statement added.

Srikanth, Sindhu aiming for second Yonex-Sunrise India Open title

By a correspondent New Delhi, March 26,

Raring to go after a couple of weeks of intense training, 2017 champion PV Sindhu is eager to lay her hands on the trophy again as the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2019 gets underway, here today. The World No. 6 reached the final of India's premier badminton tournament for the last two years. Losing a nail-biter has undoubtedly made her more determined this time. "I had a few weeks to train and am all set for the tournament. I hope I do my best. I was the 2017 winner and last year I was the runner-up. But I hope this time I get the title," said Sindhu on the eve of the tournament. The withdrawal of World No. 2 Chen Yufei has made the Indian shuttle queen as the top billing of this World Tour Super 500 tournament. However,



that hasn't put any extra pressure on the shoulders of the Rio Olympics silver medallist, Sindhu, in fact, is hoping to ride high on the crowd support at the Indira Gandhi Stadium. In the absence of Shi Yuqi due to injury, 2017 winner Viktor Axelsen has got the highest seeding and the Dane will be aiming to win his second crown. This also opens up the competition. "It is always really competitive, and the

Indians are always dangerous to face at home. But I am not focussing on it and am looking forward to my first round match," said the Rio Olympic bronze medallist on the quality of competition he will face at the tournament. 2015 men's singles winner Kidambi Srikanth was also upbeat about his chances at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2019. "I always play to win; it's a good draw and I feel it

will be a great competition with so many quality international stars coming in for the tournament." Srikanth, who is now ranked No. 7 in the world, also made it clear that his goal is to climb back into the top 3. Injuries had robbed him of consistency since his phenomenal season in 2017 but with an improved fitness, Srikanth is looking forward to creating fireworks again. 2012 Olympic gold medallist Li Xuerui was also present at the pre-tournament press conference and she hopes to use this tournament to continue her comeback to the highest echelons of the sport. The ninth edition of the Yonex-Sunrise India Open—part of HSBC BWF World Tour Super 500 will witness participation of 292 shuttlers from 13 countries across five categories at the Indira Gandhi Stadium till March 31.