

Newly-elected BJP MPs meet today to formally elect PM Modi as their leader

Agency
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Efforts to form a new government at the Centre has gained momentum. BJP parliamentary party will meet in New Delhi today to formally elect Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its leader. After this, Mr Modi will be elected leader of the newly elected NDA MPs in a meeting at the Central Hall of Parliament in the evening. Prime Minister is also expected to address the gathering.

Mr Modi yesterday called on President Ram Nath Kovind and tendered his resignation along with his council of ministers. The President accepted the resignation and asked Prime Minister and his council of ministers to continue till a new government is formed. President Ram Nath Kovind hosted a dinner for the members of outgoing Council of Ministers at Rashtrapati Bhavan last night. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Ministers including Rajnath Singh, Sushma Swaraj and Nitin



Gadkari were present on the occasion.

Earlier yesterday, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister recommended the dissolution of 16th Lok Sabha. After the meeting, Mr Modi also participated in a meeting of the council of ministers, which expressed its gratitude to the Prime Minister. Mr Modi also appreciated the role of his colleagues and their contribution.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President Amit Shah met party veterans Lal Krishna Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi, a day after BJP led NDA secured a landslide victory in Lok Sabha elections. Prime Minister visited Mr Advani's residence and sought his

blessings.

In a tweet, Mr Modi said the BJP's successes today are possible because greats like Mr Advani and Mr Joshi spent decades building the party and providing a fresh ideological narrative to the people. Mr Joshi also congratulated Mr Modi on his victory.

Formation of the new government will kick off after the election commission notification which will have the names of newly elected Lok Sabha MPs. Once the notification gets President Ram Nath Kovind's approval, the process of constitution of 17th Lok Sabha will formally begin. Election Commission is likely to meet today to finalise the list of winning candidates to be

handed over to the President. The EC source said once the list is finalised, the three commissioners will seek an appointment with the president. The term of the present Lok Sabha ends on June 3.

Polls were held in 542 of the 543 seats and the election in Vellore parliamentary seat was cancelled by the Election commission citing excessive use of money power. BJP has won 303 seats surpassing its previous record of 282 in 2014. The BJP-led NDA has secured 351 seats as against their previous tally of 336.

The UPA got 90 seats. This is the first time that a non-Congress party will take over at the Centre for the second term consecutively.

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Torture: A Tool of Impunity in Jammu and Kashmir

The innocent civilians became targets of both state actors as well as non-state actors. In state actors there comes security forces, police and newly formed Ikhwan-ul-Muslimoon (Renegades) and militants (Terrorists) form the group of non-state actors

The Indian army operating in the Kashmir valley has thoroughly violated all international laws regarding human rights by torturing and killing the civilians from the 1990s. Custodial deaths, extra-judicial executions and disappearances in the valley increased to a large number. The detainees arrested by security forces in the valley are tortured in various torture centres without any arrest warrants. Various methods like prolonged beatings, electric shocks, burning with heated objects and crushing the muscles by wooden roller were used against the detainees in the valley (Human rights watch 1993:36).

The most assault on civilians of the valley was in the form of sexual torture known as Rape. This method was adopted by security forces against prisoners in torture centres as well as women's, which were considered as well-wishers of the militants

(Terrorists). The practice of arresting common people particularly young people and were tortured with brutal methods in order to know the presence of militants. The detainees sometimes were threatened with death unless if they do not identify someone. The process of torture remains continue and some other violations also happened in the valley. The table below gives us the overall image of Human rights violation in the valley.

The torture was prevailing right from the 1990s in the valley. The special power ordinance (AFSPA) was legalised, which gave free hands to the state actors to arrest or detain the civilians and to use lethal force on unlawful assemblies on the ground of law and order. The crackdowns (Presently called cordon and search operation CASO) were done frequently in the valley and this leads to a large number of atrocities including mass sexual violence, illegal detentions leading to disappearances and custodial killings. In 1993, the state produced pro-government militants known as Naabid or Ikhwan, which was used as counter-insurgent force. These state militias operated with absolute impunity, openly engaging in criminal acts and

terrorising neighbourhoods. These state militias succeeded in creating a reign of terror by detaining the suspects. Besides that, they took an important role in establishing political power by forcing people to vote on gunpoint. After one year, these state militias were recruited in a force called Special Task Force (STF). Various international reports like human rights watch, Amnesty International, Physician for human rights states such forces became notorious for its atrocities and it was also found that these forces have done high custodial deaths and disappearances after detention.

The situation got even worse after the 2008, 2009 and 2010 mass uprising in Kashmir. The rage of stone pelting emerged in the valley. The state made mass detentions of the youth, classified them as criminals and was subjected to repeated cycles of illegal and unrecorded arrests on the basis of suspicion and profiling, prolonged detentions, inhuman treatment and securitization of these youth became the indication. Meanwhile, after the killing of Burhan Wani, the militant commander on July 08, 2016, the valley witnessed an uprising in the form of

protests, stone pelting, hartals and so on. However, the period has also witnessed unprecedented cycles of violence. From 2016, the gross violation of human rights in the form of arbitrary detention, torture, rape, disappearance, arson, restriction on religious activities, and internet ban. Besides that, the ban on Jammata-i-Islami and JKLF lead to the detention of thousands of people, schools were closed, and a reign of terror was created among the people.

The custodial torture by law enforcement agencies is endemic throughout India, such kind of violence occurs during criminal investigations in order to get information is a form of punitive violence that is prevalent during detention in police stations or army camps. The Kashmir valley which is considered as a sub-conventional or asymmetric war by the Indian state includes the elements of the insurgency, proxy war and border skirmishes. The state actors and intelligence agencies use the strategies of detention and torture for internal and national security. Besides that, these methods are common during crackdowns in which forces operate with special powers. It is remarkable that in modern warfare, detentions and torture are mostly used in counter-insurgency measures. These measures are a part of colonialism and are used to suppress the mass rebellion, establish territorial dominance and political sovereignty over the colony.

(Footnotes)

¹PhD candidate, central University of Gujarat. I have already worked on torture in m.Phil and Presently working on arbitrary detention in the Kashmir valley.



Sport News

India vs New Zealand warm-up: With Shankar injured, who will bat at No. 4?

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Vijay Shankar's untimely forearm injury poses an uneasy question in front of the Indian team management. Who will bat at No. 4 in their in their first warm-up match of the ICC World Cup 2019 against New Zealand at the Oval on Saturday?

Shankar, tipped as the first-choice batsman for the No.4 spot, which has given a lot of headache to the Indian think tank, suffered a blow on his forearm during the net session on the eve of the India vs New Zealand World Cup warm-up match. Though, there was no official confirmation from BCCI about Shankar's injury, but it is unlikely that India would risk its key player for a warm-up game. (Squads, Schedule, News: Full coverage of ICC World Cup 2019)

Shankar was hit on the forearm when he tried to pull a Khaleel Ahmed short ball. He immediately walked towards the dressing and appeared to be in a lot of discomfort.

"Shankar was taken for precautionary scans and a call on his participation in Saturday's warm-up game against New Zealand will be taken after the reports are out. It may come Friday evening (London time) or Saturday morning," a BCCI source told PTI.

In case Shankar doesn't regain his fitness on time, then KL Rahul in all probability will bat at No. 4 in the warm-up match against New Zealand. Selected originally as the third opener in the Indian side, Rahul has batted at No.4 previously but with little success. The other option, Kedar Jadhav too is unlikely to take the field on Saturday against New Zealand. Jadhav, who was sidelined from the IPL playoffs due to a shoulder injury, is yet to regain his full fitness. On the two days India trained at the Oval, Jadhav just focused on light drills and throwdowns.

The No.4 problem and injury woes aside, India's famous top three - Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli - would like to begin their World Cup journey on a positive note. The

fickle middle order means the experienced top there will have to take more responsibility.

There will be focus on India's bowling attack too, especially the wrist spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal. Both Yadav and Chahal did not have the best of IPLs and they would hope to put all that behind when India face New Zealand on Saturday.

After the two warm-ups, India begin their World Cup campaign against South Africa on June 5.

Squads

India: Virat Kohli (capt), Jasprit Bumrah, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shikhar Dhawan, MS Dhoni (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kedar Jadhav, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Hardik Pandya, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami, Vijay Shankar, Rohit Sharma, Kuldeep Yadav

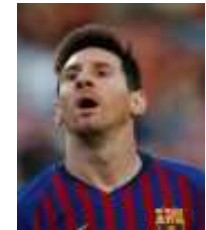
New Zealand: Kane Williamson (capt), Tom Blundell (wk), Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Lockie Ferguson, Martin Gupill, Matt Henry, Tom Latham (wk), Colin Munro, Jimmy Neesham, Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor.

Lionel Messi finishes Europe's top scorer for third straight year

Agency
Barcelona May 25,

Lionel Messi has become the first player to win Europe's Golden Shoe award for three straight years after his nearest challenger Kylian Mbappe failed to score the four goals he needed in Paris St Germain's final league match of the season on Friday.

Messi earned the honour, which goes to the leading scorer in league matches in Europe's top divisions, for a record-extending sixth time after finding the net 36 times for



Barcelona, while Mbappe ended the campaign on 33 goals after scoring PSG's only goal in a 3-1 loss at Stade de Reims. While Messi's goal haul helped

his side clinch the La Liga title last month the 31-year-old Argentine said earlier on Friday that he was not giving the Golden Shoe race much thought with the side still coming to terms with their Champions League semi-final elimination to Liverpool. "I haven't been thinking about that prize at all, we are still coping with what happened against Liverpool and I'm not thinking about personal awards," Messi told a news conference ahead of Saturday's Copa del Rey final against Valencia.

Uncertainty over Serena fitness, Osaka form at Roland Garros

Agency
Paris May 25,

Serena Williams heads into this year's French Open as an outsider for a Grand Slam title for possibly the first time in 20 years, with questions surrounding her fitness after a poor start to the season, while Naomi Osaka looks to solidify her position at the top of the women's game with a third straight major crown. The 37-year-old Williams is still waiting for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam triumph, with her last victory coming at the 2017 Australian Open shortly before taking a break from the sport due to pregnancy. She impressed initially after returning, but last year twice fell just short of drawing level with Margaret Court's mark, losing in the Wimbledon final to Angelique Kerber before her infamous meltdown en route to another final defeat by Osaka at Flushing Meadows. Williams' 2019 campaign has not gone to plan so far, with a series of injuries seeing her manage just four matches since her Australian Open quarter-final exit to Karolina Pliskova. But she is confident her work off the court can help her find her best game in the biggest tournaments.

"I actually haven't been able to train or practise a lot. I was out much longer than I expected," admitted the three-time French Open champion last week in Rome, before pulling out of the tournament ahead of a second-round tie with sister Venus. "But I did everything I could to stay fit. I knew that I love the clay season and I wanted to be a part of it. "It's not about today or tomorrow. For me obviously it's about playing well at all the big moments. Obviously the Slams, etc, just getting ready for those events."

Williams will face Russian world number 82 Vialita Diatchenko in the first round, with the draw also throwing up a mouthwatering potential quarter-final against Osaka.

- Osaka full of confidence - World number one Osaka has not been overly struggling since surprisingly splitting with coach Sascha Bajin in the wake of her Australian Open title. But the Japanese star has not won a title since, and like Williams, withdrew from the Italian Open through injury before her quarter-final against Kiki Bertens.

It has still been the 21-year-old's best-ever clay-court campaign, having also reached the last eight in Madrid and the semi-

finals in Stuttgart, and she feels her big-hitting game is now ready to dominate on all surfaces.

"Roland Garros, that's what I'm dreaming about right now," Osaka, who has never reached the second week in Paris, said.

"If you're talking about longer goals, of course I haven't won Wimbledon yet and it would be really cool to win everything in one year."

She also does not feel that her lack of a title since Melbourne will have a large bearing on her Roland Garros prospects ahead of her opening match against Slovakia's Anna Karolína Schmiedlová.

"I can't necessarily say it's been ups and downs because if I think about it, it's definitely been going up," she said.

- Halep the favourite - Reigning champion Simona Halep will enter the tournament somewhat under the radar with much of the focus on Williams and Osaka, but the Romanian remains the world's most consistent player on clay.

The three-time French Open finalist is the bookmakers' favourite for the title, despite having lost both her finals so far this year and being knocked out in her first match in Rome by Czech youngster Marketa Vondrousova.