

Rahul Gandhi accuses BJP of controlling EC, CBI, ED, claims Constitution 'under attack'

NEW DELHI/AGENCIES: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday claimed that the Constitution is "under attack" by the BJP as he accused the saffron party of controlling institutions such as the Election Commission, bureaucracy and central agencies.

He also said no force can stop the caste census and removal of the 50 per cent cap on the reservation.

"The Constitution is under constant attack from all sides, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, and it needs to be protected," Gandhi alleged while addressing 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan' in Ranchi ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly polls.

In a no-hold-bar attack,



he accused the BJP of "controlling the Election Commission, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), income tax department, bureaucracy and judiciary".

"The BJP also controls funds and institutions but

we possess honesty. The Congress fought the Lok Sabha elections without money," he claimed.

Gandhi said the caste census is a "medium for getting social X-ray but PM Modi is opposed to this".

"However, no force can

stop caste census, institutional survey and removal of 50 per cent cap on reservation despite no media, judiciary support," he said.

This was Gandhi's first visit to Jharkhand after the assembly poll schedule was announced.

The assembly polls will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20 and counting will take place on November 23.

Earlier in the day, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said that the INDIA bloc will contest the upcoming assembly polls together and the Congress and the JMM will field candidates in 70 of 81 seats.

Seat-sharing talks are on with alliance partners - the RJD and the Left parties - for the remaining 11 seats, he added.

Indo Latin American Chamber of Commerce & VPVV Techno Construction Pvt. Ltd. Signs Landmark Agreement to Propel India's Vision of Becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047



New Delhi : The Indo Latin American Chamber of Commerce (ILACC) and VPVV Techno Construction Pvt. Ltd. signed a landmark agreement at the Constitution Club of India, marking a significant step in driving India's vision of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047. The agreement, valued at USD 10 billion, focuses on large-scale investments in India, including the Industrial Corridor Development Program, Semiconductor Mission, National Logistics Policy, Production Linked Incentives (PLI) Scheme, Make in India and Made From India and many other initiatives focused towards defence and infrastructure development.

Minister of State, Mr Tokhan Sahu from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs attended the agreement signing ceremony alongside global dignitaries, including H.E. Mr Juan Angulo, Ambassador of the Republic of Chile, H.E. Mr Federico Salas Lotfe, Ambassador of the Embassy of Mexico, Acting High Commissioner Mrs Ronald Edwards-Horatio, The Cooperative Republic of Guyana and H.E. Anisa

Kapufi Mbega, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania, emphasizing the international importance of this landmark partnership.

Global Support and Strategic Importance: The presence of U.S. dignitaries and ambassadors at the signing ceremony highlights the global importance of this partnership. It also reinforces India's growing significance in the international arena, with Latin American and North American stakeholders showing strong interest in supporting the nation's ambitious development goals. This agreement will not only deepen ties between India and the Latin American region but also serve as a strategic bridge for future economic cooperation between India and global economies. Mr Raj Kumar Sharma, President of the Indo Latin American Chamber of Commerce (ILACC) Reg. By Govt. of India, highlighted, "Today's agreement is not just a financial commitment; it's a strategic alignment reinforcing our dedication to India's development goals. We are incredibly proud to partner with VPVV Techno Construction Pvt. Ltd. to

make substantial contributions to India's defence and infrastructure sectors. Our joint efforts will significantly accelerate the country's progress towards becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047."

This agreement marks the beginning of a long-term partnership aimed at fostering sustainable development across critical sectors in India. It represents a shared vision between ILACC and VPVV Techno Construction, where both organizations are committed to playing a pivotal role in India's journey to becoming a global powerhouse. The partnership is expected to drive employment, enhance technological growth, and attract additional foreign investments, all of which are key elements in making India the third-largest economy and propel towards the mission of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Mr Venkita Venkat, Chairman of VPVV Techno Construction Pvt. Ltd., expressed enthusiasm as he stated "This partnership represents a major leap forward for both organizations. VPVV Techno Construction Pvt. Ltd. is deeply invested in

India's future, and through this agreement, we aim to support the nation's infrastructural and defence capabilities to ensure sustainable growth.

We are confident that our combined efforts will contribute significantly to making India a global leader."

Mr. Yelethi Padmaraj Gopal, Chief Strategist of VPVV Techno Construction Pvt. Ltd., is the main architect for this collaboration who worked tirelessly to make this collaboration happen between both of the organizations. The signing of this collaboration is just the beginning of what promises to be a dynamic and long-lasting partnership. Both ILACC and VPVV Techno Construction Pvt. Ltd. are committed to supporting India's ambitious growth plans across various sectors. It is expected to generate thousands of jobs, stimulate innovation, and increase India's GDP. Additionally, it sets the stage for future collaborations with international partners, attracting more investments and driving India closer to its goal of becoming the third-largest economy in the world.

'Cleaning Yamuna was never AAP's priority,' says BJP leader, as river seethes under white foam

NEW DELHI/AGENCIES: East Delhi MP Harsh Malhotra on Saturday blamed the Aam Aadmi Party government for pollution in the Yamuna River, saying cleaning it has never been its priority.

Malhotra made the remark while visiting the river at Kalindi Kunj, accompanied by BJP spokesperson Anil Gupta and local councillor Brahm Singh.

"The Kejriwal government has only spread lies and illusions about cleaning the Yamuna," Malhotra, who is also a Union Minister, said, pointing to the thick white foam covering the river as evidence.

He said that despite a decade of promises, pollution in the Yamuna has only worsened, posing serious health risks to people living



near it.

Since Friday morning, the Yamuna has been covered with a thick layer of white foam. Experts have warned against taking a dip in the river, even as people gear up for Chhath.

The Delhi government on

Friday said it is closely monitoring the situation.

Meanwhile, Malhotra also questioned the AAP government's handling of the Rs 1,000 crore collected as pollution cess, intended for tackling air and water pollution.

"The Delhi government

should clarify what happened to these funds," he said.

He also highlighted the severe drop in oxygen levels in the Yamuna as it flows through Delhi and the absence of sewage treatment plants at critical drainage points.

The oxygen content of the river's water drops from 9 units when it enters Delhi, to zero as it leaves, making it hazardous for both residents and the environment, he told PTI Videos.

"When the Lieutenant Governor initiated steps to clean the Yamuna, the Kejriwal government approached the Supreme Court to block them. Cleaning the river has always been a political issue for AAP, not a priority," he alleged.

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar appointed new NCW chairperson

NEW DELHI/AGENCIES: Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed the ninth chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) succeeding Rekha Sharma, according to an official order.

The appointment made under Section 3 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, will be for a period of three years or until she reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first, a government notification issued on Saturday said.

Rahatkar's tenure will begin with immediate effect. The announcement will also be published in the Gazette of India.

In addition to the appointment of Rahatkar, Archana Majumdar has been officially named a member of the NCW for a tenure of three years, as per a notification issued by the Ministry of



Women and Child Development.

The NCW, a statutory body, is empowered to work towards the advancement of women's rights. Its mandate includes reviewing the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women.

According to a statement

issued by the Women and Child Development Ministry, Rahatkar has demonstrated leadership skills across various political and social responsibilities.

During her tenure as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women (2016-2021), she

spearheaded initiatives like "Sakshama" (support for acid attack survivors), "Prajwala" (linking self-help groups to Central government schemes), and "Suhita" (a 24x7 helpline service for women). She also worked on legal reforms focusing on issues like Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), anti-triple talaq cells, and anti-human trafficking units. Rahatkar also introduced digital literacy programmes and launched a publication named "Saad" dedicated to women's issues. As the mayor of Chatrapati Sambhajnagar from 2007 to 2010, Rahatkar implemented significant developmental projects related to healthcare and infrastructure.

She holds a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in history from the University of Pune.

NEW DELHI/AGENCIES:

Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly on Friday said the remaining Indian diplomats in the country are "clearly on notice" after Canada named the Indian High Commissioner in Ottawa as a person of interest in the assassination of a Sikh separatist leader.

Joly said the government would not tolerate any diplomats who contravene the Vienna Convention or put the lives of Canadians at risk.

India expelled six Canadian diplomats on Monday and announced that it was withdrawing its High Commissioner in Canada after dismissing Ottawa's allegations linking the envoy to the probe into the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Canada, however, said it had expelled six Indian diplomats.

Joly, comparing India to Russia, said Canada's national police force has linked



Indian diplomats to homicides, death threats and intimidation in Canada.

"We've never seen that in our history. That level of transnational repression cannot happen on Canadian soil. We've seen it elsewhere in Europe. Russia has done that in Germany and the UK and we needed to stand firm on this issue," she said in Montreal. Asked if other Indian diplomats will be expelled, Joly said: "They are

clearly on notice. Six of them have been expelled including the high commissioner in Ottawa. Others were mainly from Toronto and Vancouver and clearly, we won't tolerate any diplomats that are in contravention of the Vienna convention."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police went public this week with allegations that Indian

diplomats were targeting Sikh separatists in Canada by sharing information about them with their government back home.

Calling out the notorious Bishnoi crime gang, the RCMP said top Indian officials were passing information about Sikh separatists to Indian organised crime groups who were targeting the activists.

The relations between India and Canada came under severe strain following Prime Minister Trudeau's allegations in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in Surrey, British Columbia.

India has rejected the Canadian accusations as absurd and politically motivated.

India has repeatedly criticised Trudeau's government for being soft on supporters of the Khalistan movement who live in Canada.

5 arrested accused had sought Rs 50 lakh for Baba Siddique's killing, but backed out later: Police

MUMBAI/AGENCIES: The Mumbai police probing the Baba Siddique murder case have found that the five newly-arrested accused had demanded Rs 50 lakh for the killing, but backed out later due to disagreement over payment and also considering the NCP leader's clout, officials said.

They, however, provided logistical and other support to those involved in shooting the former MLA dead, they said. The city police's crime branch on Friday held the five accused for allegedly providing firearms and logistical support to the shooters of Baba Siddique, taking the total number of arrests in the

case to nine. Three key persons are on the run.

They were identified as Nitin Gautam Sapre (32), Sambhaji Kisan Pardhi (44), Pradeep Dattu Thombre (37), Chetan Dilip Pardhi and Ram Fulchand Kanoujia (43). Sapre is from Dombivali, while Pardhi, Thombre and Pardhi (27) are from Ambarnath in Thane district. Kanoujia is a resident of Panvel in Raigad, police said. "During their interrogation, the police found that the module led by Sapre had demanded Rs 50 lakh from the mediator to kill NCP leader Baba Siddique. But that did not work out. So, due to the disagreement over contract,

they decided to back out," an official said on Saturday.

Also, Sapre was aware that since Siddique was a high-profile politician, killing him would create a huge problem for his module. Hence, they decided not to go ahead, he said. "But the accused persons decided to give logistical support to the new shooters and provide other help," he added.

The investigators have found that the module led by Sapre was in contact with conspirator Shubham Lonkar and mastermind Mohammed Zeeshan Akhtar till the firing, the official said. The police are now investigating whether Shubham

and Akhtar brought the proposal of the NCP leader's killing to them through the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, he said.

Police earlier arrested four persons, including Haryana resident Gurmail Bajjit Singh (23), Uttar Pradesh native Dharmaraj Rajesh Kashyap (19), both alleged shooters; Harishkumar Balakram Nisad (23), and "co-conspirator" Shubham Lonkar's brother Pravin Lonkar, who hails from Pune. Siddique (66), a former Maharashtra minister, was shot dead on October 12 night outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Mumbai's upscale Bandra.

EC orders removal of acting Jharkhand DGP ahead of assembly polls

RANCHI/AGENCIES:

Ahead of the Jharkhand polls, the Election Commission on Saturday directed the state government to remove Acting Director General of Police (DGP) Anurag Gupta from his post with immediate effect due to a "history" of complaints against him in previous elections, sources said.

The Jharkhand Assembly elections will be held in two phases -- November 13 and 20.

The decision to remove Gupta was based on a history of complaints and action taken by the Commission



against him during previous elections, the sources said.

As an interim, the charge of the DGP will now be handed over to the senior most DGP-level officer in the cadre, they said.

The state government has also been asked to submit a panel of names of senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers by October 21 morning to enable the EC to pick an officer to be named the next

DGP.

The state government has to submit a compliance report of these directions by this evening.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Gupta was relieved of his duties as ADG (Special Branch), Jharkhand, following allegations of biased conduct made by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM).

He was reassigned to the resident commissioner's office in Delhi and barred from returning to Jharkhand until the election process was completed, the sources recalled.