KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

OUTDOORS Rain or thunder-

shower may occur Rainfall 19.5 mm TEMPERATURE Max: 34.7 (+3) Min: 26.3 (0) HUMIDITY SUNRISE 05:27 hrs

THUMBNAILS

17:27 hrs



Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy's mother addressing a protest against the decision to bifurcate Andhra Pradesh. In the Capital on Friday. = Rajat Gupta

INS chief: Ravindra Kumar of The States man was elected pres ident of The Indian Newspaper Society-for 2013-14. P4

Building collapse: Thirteen persons, including 3 of a family, dies and 29 were injured in a building collapse in Mumbai

Petrol price: The oil Minister has hinted at a petrol price cut. He will travel by public transport every Wednesday to save fuel.

Rupee down: As FM said 59-60 is the right value for the rupee, it dropped from a one-week high to end 44 paise lower at 62.51 vs US \$. **P8**

Bronze for eves: India defeated China via penalty shootout to clinch the bronze in the 8th women's Asia Cup hockey fixture. **P12**

Saradha victims: The Bengal govern-ment will give Rs 50cr compensation to Saradha scam-hit per-sons before Pujas. P13

Syria weapons: The USA and Russia have agreed on a draft UNSC resolution on destroy ing Syria's chemica weapons.

INDICATOR

-166 19,727Nifty **5.8**33 Gold **30,265** ▲ Silver 50,300

USA, IRAN HOLDTALKS ON N-ISSUE

USA SOUNDS CAUTIOUS NOTE **P10**



The Statesman

ARREST WARRANT **AGAINST** ADHIR FOR MURDER

OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Allowing casting of "nega-

stituency by pressing a but-ton for negative vote, said the apex court and added that this would compel politi-cal parties to field "sound"

candidates who are known for their integrity.

The Election Commis-

EOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

MORETROUBLE FOR KHEMKA OVER LAND DEAL

WHISTLEBLOWER IAS OFFICER

Apex court allows

negative voting



RAHUL DENOUNCES **ORDINANCE ON MPs**

'COMPLETE NONSENSE' REMARK TRIGGERS ROW

SHAHID PERVEZ & ALOK KUMAR

alokkumar@thestatesman.ne

Sending shock waves through the top echelons of his party and the party-led UPA government, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi today blasted the government's controversial Ordinance meant to shield convicted lawmakers from immediate disqualification, trashing it as "complete nonsense" which, he thun-dered, "should be torn up and

thrown away".

Making a surprise and dramatic appearance at a meet-the-Press event of the Congress general secretary and communication depart-ment chairman, Mr Ajay Maken, at the Press Club here, Rahul launched a fierce denunciation of the Ordinance, emphasising twice that the Ordinance should be torn up and dis-carded, and asserted that the government's decision in this regard was "wrong". The 43-year-old Rahul's

display of new-found rebellious streak and aggression instantly raised eyebrows as his bristling suo motu comments came at a time when the Prime Minister Dr Man-mohan Singh is in the United States on an official visit.

Rahul's stunning move ~ its timing and his tone and tenor ~ also raised a key question on whether he was taking on the leadership of not only the PM but also his mother, the Congress president Mrs Sonia Gandhi, who are part of the Congress Core Group which had

SNUB FOR PM



Mr Rahul Gandhi's blunt attack on the ordinance to protect convicted lawmakers caused political tremors. His remark is being seen as a sharp criticism of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

The ordinance to shield convicted lawmakers is complete nonsense and a document that should be torn up and thrown away

RAHUL GANDHI

The issues raised will be considered on my return to India after due deliberations in the Cabinet. The government is seized of all these developments.

MANMOHAN SINGH

apparently approved the Ordinance before its clear-

ordinance by the Union Cabinet on 24 September.

The Congress camp sought to downplay or refute such reports, but made it clear that Mr Gandhi's line will now be the narty's nol. will now be the party's policy on this issue, thereby making it clear that he will be now decisively calling the shots in the affairs of his party and the government, which until his outburst

had been staunchly defend-ing the Ordinance. Rahul made his scathing remarks while the PM was sleeping in his suite in a plush Washington hotel, hours before his scheduled meeting with the US President Mr Barack Obama.
His abrupt public condemnation of the Ordinance

reportedly took Dr Singh by surprise. In a brief statement later, the PM said the Ordinance has been a "matter of much public debate". 'The Congress Vice-Pres-

ident has also written to me on the issue and also made a statement. The government is seized of all these developments," the PM said. "The issues raised will be considered on my return to India after due deliberations in the Cabi-net." The PM thus indicatnet. The PM thus indicated that the fate of the Ordinance, which is currently pending before the President Mr Pranab Mukherjee for his assent, is now sealed.

The Congress camp held that following his return here on 1 October, the PM will hold a Cabinet meeting

PM ASSURANCE A RELIEF FOR

New Delhi, 27 September: The President, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, has been saved of much embarrassment in approving the controver-sial Ordinance related to the Representation of the People Act following Mr Manmohan Singh's state-ment from the USA that the Ordinance was likely to be reconsidered in view of public debate.

While the President

sought clarifications from Central Ministers yester-day on the urgency of the Ordinance and consulted legal experts today, after receiving political delegations stating that the Ordinance was meant to "protect" convicted MPs and MLAs, the Prime Minister provided much relief to the Head of State by saying the Gov-ernment was "seized" of the developments, and issues

raised would be considered.
The President not only engaged in his consultative exercise because of Con-stitutional requirements under which his office functioned, he was equally being made aware that the Ordinance was directed towards "reversing" a July Supreme Court judgment, and that an earlier "attempt" of the Government to enact the same law through a Bill in the monsoon session of Parliament was pending in the

tive votes", the Supreme Court today held that voters have a right to reject all candidates and noted that candidates and noted that this provision can be pro-vided in existing electron-ic voting machines (EVMs) without any "additional **PRESIDENT** cost" or change in the technology. The candidates have a right to reject all candidates contesting polls in a con-

sion will now have to provide an option for negative vot-ing in the EVMs and ballot papers. A Bench of Chief Justice P Sathasivam and Justices Ranjana Prakash Desai and Ranjan Gogoi, said negative voting, which is prevalent only in 13 countries would accelerate effective political participation of people and will "foster the purity of the electoral process" and "it serves a very fundamental and essential part of a vibrant democra-cy". Describing the right to

Rajya Sabha, and was being considered by the concerned Parliamentary Standing

provided in EVMs so that the voters, who come to the polling booth and decide

vote while maintaining their right of secrecy," it said.

The apex court said there

EC TO ABIDE BY COURT VERDICT



sion welcomed the apex court judgement

■ The EC said it would try to implement the order 'expeditiously

■ It said instructions to ensure compliance will be issued soon

abstain from voting as essential for "free and fair elections", the apex court asked the Commission to imple-ment the negative voting system either in a phased manner or at a time and asked the Centre to provide necessary help for implemen-

NONE OF

tation of its direction.
"We direct the Commission to provide necessary provision in the ballot papers/EVMs and anoth-er button called None of the Above (NOTA) may be not to vote for any of the can-didates in the fray, are able to exercise their right not to

is a "dire need" for negative

voting which will bring "systemic change" in the election process as "the political parties will be forced to accept the will of the people" and field clean candidates when a large number of people express their disapproval with the candidates being put up by candidates being put up by them. "For democracy to survive, it is essential that the best available men should be chosen as people's representatives for proper governance of the country. This can be best achieved through men of high moral and ethical values, who win the elections on a positive vote," the Bench observed. The Election Commission said it would implement the judgement on negative vot-ing and it would provide a "None of the Above" option.

SC restrains Srini from taking charge

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE New Delhi, 27 September

Controversial BCCI president N Srinivasan was today restrained from assuming the top post, if re-elected, until further orders by the Supreme Court, which asked why he was at the helm when his son-in-law was

chargesheeted in the IPL spot-fixing case. In the high voltage proceedings, the court, which allowed the Board to hold its proposed Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sun-Meeting scheduled for Sunday in Chennai, said Mr Srinivasan will have to wait to take charge if elected again as president of the cash-rich body until it decides the matter.

"In the meanwhile, the

proposed AGM of BCCI will be held on 29 September and the election in the AGM can also be held. In case Srinivasan is elected as president, he will not take charge until further orders," a Bench comprising Justices A K Patnaik and J S Kehar said.

The moment BCCI's counsel said that Mr Srinivasan was still in "charge" of the board's affairs, Justice Pat-naik thumped the Bench

SC asked why Srini was at helm when his kin was chargesheeted

The apex court allowed BCCI to hold its AGM in Chennai

■ Srini said he will stand for election as no one has stopped him

and said as to how he could be at the helm "when his son-in-law has been charge sheeted". "When the Supreme Court of India is hearing the matter, then why you are so keen? What about your son-in-law? Hold the election but don't take charge till we decide it," Justice Patnaik said questioning the holding of elections when the apex court was seized of the matter. "We do not know anyone.

We only know cricket. We only know BCCI," the Bench observed and posted the matter for hearing on Monday. Mr Srinivasan said he would stand for election as "nobody" has stopped him from doing it.

INDIA, US INK DEAL ON CIVIL **NUCLEAR POWER**



Washington, 27 September: India and the US have reached the first commercial agreement on civilian nuclear power, five years after a landmark deal between the two countries was clinched.

Addressing a joint media interaction after talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, President Barack Obama disclosed that the two countries have sealed the agreement.

During the media inter-action, Prime Minister Man-mohan Singh asserted that Pakistan remains the "epi-centre of terror" and said expectations have to be "toned down" over his meeting with Nawaz Sharif on Sunday.

DETAILED REPORT - P4

2GJPC clean chit to PM & FM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

As widely anticipated, the As whely anticipated, the joint parliamentary committee on 2G spectrum scam has adopted its report with a majority, giving a clean chit to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Finance Minister P Chidambaram.

The report was adopted with 16 votes in favour and 11 against by the 30-member panel. Three members were absent in the final meeting today the JPC chairman, Mr PC Chacko, told a media briefing here. The report came under firefrom the BJP, which slammed Mr Chacko and said a contrived major-



ity has been "unashamedly" used to adopt it. Outside supporters of the UPA, BSP (2) and SP (1), voted with 14 others of the ruling coalition ances given to him.

to approve the report that accused former Telecom Minister A Raja of "misleading" the Prime Minis-ter and "belying" the assur-

The Opposition votes votes of Congress (11), NCP were made up of the BJP's

to file their dissent report, Mr Chacko said. Of the 30 members in the

committee three members

5 and one each of the BJD, TMC, CPI,CPI-M, AIADMK and the DMK. All those who voted against the draft report would be given 15 days

including one from the BJP, were absent. Of the 27 present, the ruling side got the

(1), BSP (2), SP (1) and Nominated member Ashok Ganguly.

The draft report of the JPC rejected outright the loss figure of Rs 1.76 lakh crore estimated by CAG,

DEEPAK RAZDAN

saying it was "ill-conceived" The report also accuses Mr Raja of forging the Press note of January 7, 2008 after it was seen by the then Solicitor-General G E Vahan-

vati. "The committee wishes to point out that the proce-dure regarding the First-Come-First-Served (FCFS) criteria was a misrepre-sentation of facts and in tactic deviation from the existing procedure," it said.

CM FEARS BENGAL WILL LOSE MORE THAN RS 4.000-CR CENTRAL FUNDS

Rajan report shocks Mamata

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

The state will lose more than Rs 4,000 crore of the Central funds if the Centre goes by the Ragh uram Rajan Committee report, said chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

She today posted on a social networking site that she was deeply shocked and anguished by the "outright and dis criminatory approach" of the Central Government towards Bengal over the Raghuram Rajan Committee Report.

Miss Banerjee post-ed,"It is clear that the Centre is acting on politi-

C M Y K

The allocation of Central funds for Bengal will be reduced hugely from 6.93 per cent to 5.50 per cent, and thus it will directly hit lots of development projects in the state targeted at the poor and the needy

ry attitude. "The allocation of Central funds for Bengal will be reduced hugely from 6.93 per cent to 5.50 per cent, and thus it will directly hit lots of development projects in the state targeted at the poor and the needy," she

"I am happy that some states will be benefited. But Bengal will stand to suffer significantly in spite of the fact it is in the number one position in the list of debt-stressed states," the chief minister stated.

Miss Banerjee also hit out at the Centre, writing, "No one ever thought about the more than Rs 2 lakh crore of debt thrust upon us by

ment. No one ever thought that we will have to pay nearly Rs.28,000 crore this year towards loan repayment and interest liability."

"Where is the money to do development work," she asked.

The Raghuram Rajan panel report has made a case for ending the 'special category' criteria for providing additional assistance to poorer states, as it ranked Goa and Kerala as the most developed states and Odisha and Bihar the least. West Bengal has een identified as a "less developed" state.

GJMM climbs down, elects Binay Tamang GTA chief

In a major climbdown, the Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha (GJMM), which had earlier sought dissolution of the hill council in Darieeling over its Gorkhaland demand today unanimously elected party leader Binay Tamang, as the CEO of the headless Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA).

Mr Tamang, an assistant general secretary of the party, was unanimously elected as the CEO by 34 of the 45 GTA members at a closed-door meeting, GTA chairman, Pradip Pradhan told a Press conference here. Ten GTA members, who

are in jail with cases against them, could not turn up for

Mr Tamang, who was

arrested on 22 August for arson at a government bun-

galow at Chakdah and for blocking a highway during

the GJMM movement

besides other cases regis-

2007, took oath as the CEO after his release from judicial custody during the

tered against him



■ It is a climbdown for the GJMM which had sought dissolution of hill council

■ Ten GTA members who are in jail could not turn up for the voting

and GJMM leader Mr Ramesh Alley were making the rounds. After the GJMM said it wanted dissolution of the GTA, Chief Minister Mama ta Banerjee had proposed that the government would accept any GTA member as the CEO.

Earlier, names of Mrs Asha Gurung, wife of GJMM

president, Mr Bimal Gurung

PROTEST AGAINST CENTRE

It is clear that the Centre is acting on political lines and in a partisan manner. We strongly protest this discriminatory attitude

cal lines and in a partisan manner. We strongly protest this discriminato-