



OUTDOORS

Rain or thunder-shower may occur
Rainfall 19.5 mm

TEMPERATURE
Max: 34.7 (+3)
Min: 26.3 (0)

HUMIDITY
Max: 92% | Min: 58%
SUNRISE
05:27 hrs
SUNSET
17:27 hrs

THUMBNAILS



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 Statesman was elected president 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 government will give Rs 50-crore compensation to Saradha scam-hit persons before Pujas. **P13**

Syria weapons: The USA and Russia have agreed on a draft UNSC resolution on destroying Syria's chemical weapons. **P9**

INDICATOR

Sensex	-166
19,727	▼
Nifty	-49
5,833	▼
Gold	+185
30,265	▲
Silver	+200
50,300	▲

GJMM climbs down, elects Binay Tamang GTA chief

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Darjeeling, 27 September

In a major climbdown, the Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha (GJMM), which had earlier sought dissolution of the hill council in Darjeeling 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



USA, IRAN
HOLD TALKS
ON N-ISSUE

USA SOUNDS CAUTIOUS NOTE **P10**

LIFE IN HELL-HOLE

PUNISHED SPOT-FIXER MERVYN WESTFIELD RECALLS BELMARSH PRISON **P12**



ARREST
WARRANT
AGAINST
ADHIR FOR
MURDER **P13**

MORE TROUBLE
FOR KHEMKA
OVER LAND DEAL

WHISTLEBLOWER IAS OFFICER
TO BE CHARGESHEETED **P3**



RAHUL DENOUNCES ORDINANCE ON MPs

'COMPLETE NONSENSE' REMARK TRIGGERS ROW

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New Delhi, 27 September

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 thundered, "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 department 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 discarded, 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 Manmohan 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 clearance 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 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 defending 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-President 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 Cabinet." 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 to take a decision.

2G JPC clean chit to PM & FM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 27 September

As widely 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 fire from 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 to approve the report that accused former Telecom Minister A Raja of "misleading" the Prime Minister and "belying" the assurances given to him.

The Opposition votes were made up of the BJP's



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 to file their dissent report, Mr Chacko said.

Of the 30 members in the committee, three members, including one from the BJP, were absent. Of the 27 present, the ruling side got the votes of Congress (11), NCP

(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, 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 Vahanvati.

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

SC restrains Srinivasan 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 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 Patnaik thumped the Bench

EC TO ABIDE BY COURT VERDICT



- The Election Commission 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 implement the negative voting system either in a phased manner or at a time and asked the Centre to provide necessary help for implementation of its direction.

"We direct the Commission to provide necessary provision in the ballot papers/EVMs and another button called None of the Above (NOTA) may be provided in EVMs so that the voters, who come to the polling booth and decide not to vote for any of the candidates in the fray, are able to exercise their right not to vote while maintaining their right of secrecy," it said.

The apex court said there 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 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 voting and it would provide a "None of the Above" option.

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 interaction, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asserted that Pakistan remains the "epicentre of terror" and said expectations have to be "toned down" over his meeting with Nawaz Sharif on Sunday. **P11**

DETAILED REPORT - P4

CM FEARS BENGAL WILL LOSE MORE THAN RS 4,000-CR CENTRAL FUNDS

Rajan report shocks Mamata

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Kolkata, 27 September

The state will lose more than Rs 4,000 crore of the Central funds if the Centre goes by the Raghuram 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 discriminatory approach" of the Central Government towards Bengal over the Raghuram Rajan Committee Report.

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

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
- 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



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 wrote.

"I am happy that some states will be benefited. But Bengal will stand to suffer significantly in spite of the fact that 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

the previous government. 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 been identified as a "less developed" state.