

FROM PAGE ONE

PoK terror camps destroyed: Army Chief

However, defence sources rejected claims of Indian Army fatalities while observing that if there was one casualty “we have to declare” as the system is so and there are procedures to follow. “We have no scope to hide causalities,” the source added.

Gen Rawat said, after the current action by the Indian Army, Pakistan could try and avenge it and cautioned against such action. “Any action they attempt, the reaction they will get from us will be far more superior from what they have experienced so far,” he said.

He advised Pakistan to pay heed to the advice of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and “not provide any support to terrorists” across and cause disruption and violence across the LoC.

An Indian Army spokesperson said they had hit terrorist launch pads and Pakistan Army positions with heavy artillery in retaliatory firing. “As a result, calibrated escalation of area weapons was undertaken by the Indian side in which terrorist launch pads, Pakistan Army posts giving incidental protection to these launch pads, and certain gun positions were hit,” he said.



Structures damaged in shell- ing near the LoC. •REUTERS

A defence source said “it was a direct assault at the same time using heavy artillery” and each launch pad had over 15-20 terrorists waiting to infiltrate. One civilian was killed and three others from Ghundhishat village of Tangdhar district were injured.

The launch pads were located south of Zura in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and sources confirmed that the Indian Army had used 155mm heavy artillery guns. While small arms and heavy mortars are used during CFVs, heavy artillery has been intermittently used by both sides during escalations. During the day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Gen Bipin Rawat and was appraised of the developments and the situation along the LoC.

Cong., JJP give a tough fight to BJP in Haryana

Hooda and Selja galvanised the Opposition campaign

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

As Haryana votes on Monday, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is ahead of its rivals in the perception battle, though the Congress and the newly floated Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) are not out of the reckoning after a high-pitched campaign.

While the BJP's campaign, focused on national security and nationalism, saw a galaxy of leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the campaign trail, the Congress's senior central leadership largely kept away.

Former party president Rahul Gandhi addressed two rallies, but other prominent faces were missing.

Focus on economy

However, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Congress State president Kumari Selja galvanised the party campaign, cornering the BJP on promises not kept, farmers' distress, unemployment, economic slowdown and deteriorating law and order.



Women power: Officials of a 'pink booth' leaving Panchkula for Kalka. •AKHILESH KUMAR

Political analysts on Sunday told *The Hindu* that the party's decision to change the State leadership, besides promise of farm loan waiver, appears to have put the Congress party back in the reckoning.

The campaign also saw Dushyant Chautala of the fledgling JJP, which was floated after splitting from the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), leading from the front and creating a flutter among the rivals.

Focusing on issues faced by farmers and the youth, the JJP appears to be in a

close fight in over a dozen seats.

“Given the current indications, after the campaign, the position of the Congress and the JJP,” Mr. Ram said.

“The JJP, on the other hand, seems to have ignited some hope among the electorate who seem to feel that the mainstream political parties failed to keep their electoral promises. As the ground situation for both Congress and JJP has improved, the Opposition parties are in the reckoning even though the BJP still has an edge. Had the Congress and JJP joined hands, voters in Haryana could have been

swayed by the idea of alternative vision,” Mr. Ram added.

Lucrative promises
Vijay Chauhan, Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science at Dyal Singh College in Karnal, echoed the analysis. “As the campaign progressed, the ground situation changed. The Congress and the JJP seem to have improved their prospects. Congress is giving close fight to the BJP in over 50 seats. Giving command to ‘Selja-Hooda’ and making lucrative

Article 370 not an issue in State, says Selja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The dilution of Article 370 to divest Jammu and Kashmir of its special status is not an issue in Haryana, Congress State president Kumari Selja said on Sunday. The people had “seen through the BJP's game” of diverting attention from real issues, she said.

A day before polling for the Assembly election, Ms. Selja said the Congress would form the next government, pointing to a “rapid change” on the ground in fa-



Kumari Selja

vour of the party. Asked whether the Congress had countered the BJP's pitch of nationalism, Ms. Selja said there was nothing nationalistic about it, and it was a “political issue” for the BJP.

ECI appoints special observer for Assandh constituency

Decision taken after a video went viral on social media

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On the eve of the Haryana Assembly election, the Election Commission on Sunday appointed a special observer for the Assandh constituency to ensure free and fair polling on Monday.

The decision was taken as a video of the BJP incumbent claiming that pressing any button on the electronic voting machine would register a vote for the party went viral on social media.

In a statement, the EC said it had appointed Vinod Zutshi, a former Deputy Election Commissioner, as the special observer for the



Assandh constituency in Karnal district of Haryana “in light of the video circulating on social media”.

Proceed immediately

“Mr. Zutshi has been requested to proceed immediately to the constituency to take necessary corrective action and ensure a free, fair and peaceful election,” the

statement read. Mr. Zutshi had earlier served as the Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan and had also been appointed special observer in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tripura during the Lok Sabha elections held this year.

In the video shared on social media, the BJP candidate and MLA for Assandh, Bakhshish Singh Virk, told a crowd at a public meeting that they may press any button, but the vote would go only towards the lotus, the BJP's election symbol.

The audience at the meeting can be heard laughing at this.

Maharashtra votes to choose an alliance

The main contest is between the BJP-led *Mahayuti* and the front led by the Congress-NCP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Polling will be held on Monday in all 288 Assembly constituencies of Maharashtra where 3,237 candidates, including 235 women, are in the fray.

The voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The main contest is between the *mahayuti* or grand alliance led by the BJP, and the maha-aghadi (front) led by the Congress and NCP. Among other parties, the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) has fielded 101 candidates. As many as 1,400 Independents are also in the fray.

The election campaign, which ended on Saturday evening, was dominated by



All set: An official setting up a polling station inside a municipal school at Jogeshwari in Mumbai on Sunday. •VIJAY BATE

the BJP's aggressive narrative of the dilution of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent candidates include Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis from Nagpur South-West, and his prede-

cessors from the Congress – Ashok Chavan, who is contesting from Bhokar in Nanded district, and Prithviraj Chavan, who is seeking a re-election from Karad South in Satara district.

FIR against Dhananjay Munde

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEED

An FIR has been lodged against NCP leader Dhananjay Munde for allegedly making obscene comments against his estranged cousin and Maharashtra Minister Pankaj Munde at a poll rally, a police official said on Sunday.

A video purportedly showing the NCP leader making the remarks against the Minister went viral on social media, following which a BJP leader from Parli in Beed district filed a police complaint against him, he said.

Case filed against Bihar BJP president

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

An FIR has been lodged against Bihar BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal and party candidate for Kishanganj Assembly by-poll Sweet Singh late on Saturday evening, for alleged violation of the model code of conduct. The case was filed, after an allegedly incriminating video surfaced, in which Mr. Jaiswal is seen appealing to the businessmen in Kishanganj to close their establishments on voting day and give ₹500 to each of their staff members to go and vote.

SAARC varsity move upsets academics

‘Indian nationals only’ for top post

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

An advertisement seeking applications for the post of President of the South Asian University, the flagship educational centre of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), has caused disquiet among the university's academics.

Government circular

A government circular on the recruitment of the next president called for applications only from Indian candidates, prompting questions about the university adhering to the principle of rotation for the post among SAARC members.

The circular, issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, said, “The President should be a person with a global perspective and outstanding academic excellence and having at least 10 years of teaching and research experience at the level of professor in a recognised university or academic institution.” However, the advertisement brought out by the BIM-STEC, the SAARC division of the Ministry, made it clear that applications were invited only “from Indian nationals”.

Rule 5.1

Sources at the university said limiting the process to Indian nationals would vio-

late the university rules, as endorsed by the 38th SAARC Standing Committee (February 2011) and updated in May 2014. Rule 5.1 lays down the procedure for appointment of a president.

Rule 5.1.2 says, “The first President of the University shall be nominated by the host country. Subsequent Presidents...shall be nominated by the respective Member States of SAARC on the principle of alphabetical rotation.”

In view of this principle, the sources said, this year's process to find a president would deny a chance to countries like the Maldives that could fill the post after the tenure of Kavita Sharma ends in the first week of November.

‘Not aware’

“We are not aware of the procedure to select the new president as the process is being handled by the Ministry of External Affairs,” a source at the university told *The Hindu*.

The university has so far been led by two Indian presidents: late G.K. Chadha and Kavita Sharma. Under the rules, a new panel of candidates can be sought if a chosen panel fails to produce a president.

The sources pointed out that non-adherence to the principle of rotation would undermine the university's SAARC character.

Two panels formed to revamp ‘British-era’ IPC

Home Ministry seeks suggestions from States and UTs

VIJAYTA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Home Ministry is all set to overhaul the Indian Penal Code (IPC) designed by the British. A senior government official said rebooting the code introduced by the British in 1860 was necessary as it is primarily based on the spirit of “master and servant”.

At a function in Delhi on September 28, Home Minister Amit Shah had said that the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) should work on a proposal to amend various sections of the IPC and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) after seeking suggestions from people across the country.

He said that in the British era, the police were raised to protect their interests, but now their duty was to “pro-



Amit Shah

tect the people”, adding that since Independence more than 34,000 policemen across the country lost their lives in the line of duty.

Recently, the Ministry wrote to all States and Union Territories seeking suggestions to amend various sections of the IPC.

Two committees comprising legal luminaries have also been constituted by the Ministry. “The idea behind the overhaul is that the master-servant concept envisaged in the IPC should change. After it was framed,

the IPC has never been amended in totality. Some additions and deletions have been made,” the official said.

He explained that there was uneven punishment for crimes of grievous nature. “For example – snatching of chains or bags on road. It could be life-threatening in some cases but the punishment is not commensurate with the gravity of the crime. Depending on the whims of the police, it is booked under robbery or theft. We have to standardise the punishment,” he added.

In 2016, the Home Ministry had proposed insertion of two stricter anti-racial discrimination provisions in the IPC. The two amendments – Section 153A and Section 509A – “to deal with racially motivated crimes” received lukewarm response from the States.

Rahul Gandhi slams Piyush Goyal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday hit out at Union Minister Piyush Goyal for his remarks that Nobel winner Abhijit Banerjee is “Left-leaning”, saying “these bigots are blinded by hatred” and have no idea what a professional is.

Mr. Goyal, at a media briefing in Pune, had described Mr. Banerjee as a “Left-leaning” person. The Nobel winner on Saturday told a TV channel that the Commerce Minister is “questioning my professionalism”. “Dear Mr. Banerjee, these bigots are blinded by hatred and have no idea

what a professional is. You cannot explain it to them, even if you tried for a decade,” Mr. Gandhi said in a tweet tagging the media report on Mr. Banerjee's response to Mr. Goyal's comments on him. “Please be certain that millions of Indians are proud of your work,” said Mr. Gandhi.

Manmohan to skip Kartarpur inaugural

‘He will go as a common pilgrim’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will not attend the inauguration ceremony of the Kartarpur corridor in Pakistan but will go there as a common pilgrim, sources close to him said on Sunday.

On Saturday, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told presspersons in Multan that Dr. Singh had accepted his invitation and would attend the scheduled opening on November 9 as a common man rather than as a special guest, the *Dawn* newspaper reported.

Pakistani invite

In a letter in response to the invite sent by Pakistani authorities, Dr. Singh said he would not attend the formal inauguration, but would visit the historic shrine as a common pilgrim, sources said.



Manmohan Singh

The former Prime Minister would be a part of the Sikh Jatha delegation led by Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

They will pay obeisance at the shrine and would return the same day.

The proposed corridor will connect Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district of Punjab and facilitate visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims.



APPEAL

I am Sreeju aged 39 years old suffering from Muscular Dystrophy which has taken a toll on sixty percent of my body. I am in urgent need of an electric wheel chair to gain mobility and a world of opportunities. This wheelchair costs around Rs. 90,000/- only. The donations sent through Ch / D.D / NEFT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: SYNB006018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT. Your E-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Cordell Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324. E-mail ID: womenswelfarefund@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfarefund.org Sreeju