

**Press Information Bureau
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Ministry of Earth Science**

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**Union Minister for Earth Sciences and Science & Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan Dedicates
a Remote-Controlled Polar Vehicle to the Nation**

“India’s Capabilities on Monsoon Prediction Substantially Enhanced” - Dr Harsh Vardhan

Union Minister for Earth Sciences and Science & Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan today dedicated to the nation an indigenously developed remote-controlled Polar vehicle which would reach where no human can dare to go. It will be deployed in the extremely harsh Polar Regions and will be remotely operated by our scientists at our base in Antarctica. The Minister said that the results of its findings will contribute vastly to mankind’s understanding of climate besides enhancing our capability to predict the Monsoon”. He was speaking after a visit to the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), a part of the Earth System Sciences Organization (ESSO) in Chennai this evening.



Its successful development by ESSO-NIOT signals the beginning of a process of both self-sufficiency and entry into the highly sophisticated field of Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) engineering which has hitherto been dominated by the western powers. Dr Harsh Vardhan said. “We have taken the polar plunge. PROVe and its subsequent versions will enable us to

understand the Polar influence on ocean currents affecting the movement of Monsoon winds on which much of our economy depends”, he added.

After years of work based in Dakshin Gangotri (Antarctica), Indian scientists have discerned a clear connection between the thermohaline circulation that originates in the North Atlantic and southern Arctic and the Monsoon. It is a major force that drives not only the oceanic circulation but also regulates the global climate.

Dr Harsh Vardhan said, “Monsoon prediction and reading of pattern will become easier in the future. It will measure parameters like ocean currents, temperature and salinity in the Arctic. A moored ocean observatory has been set up in the Arctic in collaboration with the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) in 2014.”

The Minister said, “The ESSO-NIOT team that participated in the 34th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA) successfully deployed PROVe in the Priadarshini Lake located on the Schirmacher Oasis in Antarctica which is the source of water for Maitri, India’s second base in the icy continent.”

He added that PROVe’s systems have been integrated with Conductivity, Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen sensors and Irradiance meter. PROVe was later deployed near ice shelf from the ship at the India Bay in Antarctica at a depth of 62 metres. Further explorations and data analysis are in progress.

The country, he said, is on track with the objective of developing reliable technology to solve the varied technology problems associated with harvesting living and non-living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone which makes up about two-thirds of the land area of India.

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Under the Ministry’s Monsoon Mission program, ESSO-NIOT is part of an Indo-US initiative involving the participation of several institutions. This group is studying the science behind the monsoonal events of Bay of Bengal using both Indian and US research ships using special equipment. The results are very promising from the point of view of enhancing insights into air-sea interactions.

Dr Harsh Vardhan interacted with scientists and technicians of ESSO-NIOT and was briefed on the progress of research on coastal zone management. He urged them to keep in mind environmental concerns.

NC MLA accuses Speaker of promoting Hindutva

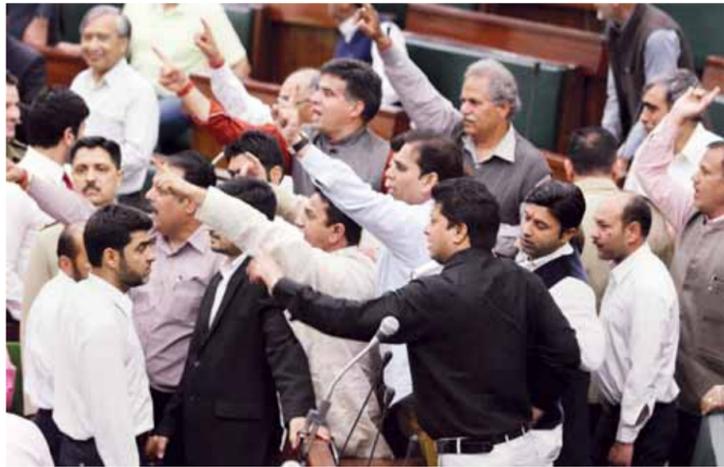
He was deprived of taking part in Budget debate as time allotted to the party was over

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Senior National Conference Legislator from Mendhar, Javed Rana, on Wednesday accused the Speaker of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly of taking directions from Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to promote hardcore 'Hindutva' agenda on the floor of the Assembly. Rana also advised the Speaker to take some lessons on how to run the House.

Rana had earlier triggered a storm in the House on Tuesday before staging a walk-out after he was denied an opportunity to take part in the debate on Budget.

Before stepping out of the Lower House, Rana raised



BJP MLAs protest in the Assembly during Budget Session, in Jammu on Wednesday

pointing fingers towards Speaker Kavinder Gupta and called him a 'Hindu Speaker' and 'BJP Speaker'.

the National Conference Legislator, the BJP legislators disrupted the Question Hour for over 15 minutes.

Leader of the Opposition, Omar Abdullah maintained silence even as members from the Treasury Benches demand-

ing Navrang Rizgin Zora and CPI (M) MLA MY Tarigami also intervened and condemned the remarks made by Rana against the Speaker.

Clarifying his position, Speaker informed the members during the discussion on Budget, he had allotted adequate time to all the parties on the basis of their total strength in the House.

As Speaker revealed National Conference legislators consumed more time than allotted, NC legislators maintained every member should respect the Chair as there is no scope of showing disrespect.

Ironically, after the Question Hour, Javed Rana once again accused the Speaker of preventing him from speaking in the grants of Finance department.

Javed Rana told reporters that the Speaker was running the House on the directions from RSS and not allowing legislators from backward areas to raise issues of general public affected by the cross-border firing and militant related violence. He said Speaker is allowing BJP legislators, PDP legislators but preventing the Opposition members from participating in the discussion.

Now a gang-rape threat to Jalpaiguri Christian school

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The spectre of gang-rape now loomed large in North Bengal with the management of a Christian missionary school in Jalpaiguri district getting rape-and-burn threats against girl students and Sisters if a senior nun whose name was mentioned in the letter did not leave the campus forthwith.

The matter was taken up with the district police that on Wednesday assured adequate bandobast.

The Jalpaiguri incident came close on the heels of Ranaghat case where a 72-year-old nun of a missionary school was gang-raped by a gang of raiders who still remain at large even after 12 days of the midnight attack.

According to reports, the school at Champaguri in Jalpaiguri received four letters from unknown persons. The letters' main target was a senior nun. It was demanded that she be removed from the school otherwise other women including children could face the risk of

The school received four letters demanding that a senior nun be removed from the school otherwise other women, including children could face the risk of rape. They could even be burnt after rape

rape. They could even be burnt after rape the letters threatened. A police picket was immediately posted at the school said district superintendent Rabinranathan adding investigations were on.

The school authorities were particularly worried about the safety of the 300 boarders who lived in a hostel inside the school campus, sources said.

Lashing out at the State Government for the deteriorating law and order situation BJP leader and the party's central observer for Bengal Siddharth Nath Singh said the "the law and situation is horrible in Bengal. The police have failed to arrest the culprits of the Ranaghat gang-rape case even there were CCTV footages. The police did not arrest the culprits even after a newspaper made their names public. This has encouraged other criminals."

Party cadre exchange blows at Bengal BJP headquarters

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There was absolute bedlam in front of the Bengal BJP headquarters for the second consecutive day on Wednesday even as the Tuesday's agitation against State leadership degenerated into a virtual brawl leaving a few persons injured.

All hell broke loose after a band of partymen from South 24 Parganas gathered at the State party office raising slogans against the district and State leadership bringing charges of corruption against them.

State BJP president Rahul Sinha, who had on Tuesday warned strong action, branded the disturbance as a one "sponsored by the TMC" before expelling three partymen for anti-party activities.

The State BJP chief was on Tuesday literally forced to remain confined inside the

party headquarters when scores of workers demonstrated against what they termed "faulty nominations" in the forthcoming civic elections leveling cash-for-ticket charges against a set of leaders.

While on Tuesday the scuffle was mainly around distribution of tickets on Wednesday the agitators mostly from South 24 Parganas brought corruption charges against the district leadership saying "repeated complaints to State leadership have fallen on deaf ears." One of them said "the BJP used to be a cadre-based party. But today it has been degenerated into a leader-based party with the leaders only listening to those who can pay."

Even as the demonstrators continued to raise slogans, a group of lathi-wielding people, reportedly from the BJP's Howrah unit, descended on the

scene beating them away. In the melee a few people received injuries and had to be taken for treatment agitators said.

Sinha later backed the operation saying "you cannot take such Trinamool sponsored drama lying down for hours on end. If the mischief mongers can create commotion for from 11 till 5 in the evening then our men are also not wearing bangles. They are bound to retaliate."

He said "all save four persons who were creating problem yesterday were hooligans with different political affiliations." On whether such problems would sully the image of the party in the run up to the civic elections Sinha said "the strong actions taken by the party would rather send a strong message that we are a tough party and would not tolerate any kind of indiscipline."

Azad encounter: Lower court dismisses pleas

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

KPadma, widow of slain top Maoist leader Cherukuri Rajkumar alias Azad said she was disappointed by the averse judgment of a lower court and she will challenge it in the State High Court.

She along with Babita, widow of a journalist Hemchandra, had filed a protest petition in Adilabad Court alleging their husbands were killed by the police in a fake encounter.

First class magistrate, Mary Sara Danamma, dismissed both the petitions saying they lacked the merit. The matter

was pending for the last one and a half years.

The controversy raged since CPI Maoist Politburo member Azad and journalist Hemchandra were killed on July 2, 2010 in Sarkapally forest area of Adilabad district.

Wives of the two alleged that Azad and Hemchandra were picked up from a train near Nagpur and shot dead in cold blood.

Noted activist Swami Amin had also filed a petition in the Supreme Court demanding a probe and on the decision of the apex court, CBI investigated the incident.



DMK treasurer MK Stalin and party MLAs interact with suspended DMDK MLAs, demanding to be allowed to attend the State Budget Session, at Secretariat in Chennai on Wednesday

Suspended TDP MLAs continue antics in House

They are protesting against alleged 'undemocratic, unconstitutional' style of functioning of T Speaker

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Suspended Telangana TDP MLAs were arrested, on the consecutive second day, on Wednesday after they staged a protest in the lobby.

Opposition TDP members, who were suspended for the entire duration of the current Budget Session after they disrupted the customary address by the Governor ESL Narasimhan and allegedly showed disrespect to the National Anthem, have been protesting outside the House

against alleged "undemocratic and unconstitutional" style of functioning of the Speaker.

After Tuesday's incident in which the TDP members protested in Speaker's Chambers till 9 pm, they were again involved in a tug of war with the security personnel.

TDP floor leader E Dayakar Rao alleged that when the party MLAs were going towards the media point they were stopped by the security personnel. Later when they tried to go towards Speaker's chambers to meet him, Marshals tried to stop them. Angered by this, they sat on protest in the lobby. They were forcibly removed by the Marshals and police took them in to custody and shifted them to the Old MLAs Quarters.

Scientists a step away from unravelling monsoon mystery

To develop country's first Polar Remotely Operated Vehicle to enhance capability to predict monsoon

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Scientists of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai under the Ministry of Earth Sciences have achieved a major technological breakthrough by developing the country's first Polar Remotely Operated Vehicle (PROVE)

which could be deployed in hitherto unreached and unexplored regions in Antarctica.

This breakthrough is being described as a great leap forward in forecasting with precision the ever elusive Monsoon, a weather phenomenon which determines India's economy.

This remotely operable vehicle developed exclusively by the scientists and engineers of NIOT will help unravel the mysteries behind the ever elusive Monsoon, according to a senior scientist in the team.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan, who made the formal

announcement about the achievement of the NIOT scientists said here on Wednesday that the results of the findings of this vehicle would contribute vastly to mankind's understanding of climate. "This will also enhance our capability to predict Monsoon," he said.

Dr MA Atmanand, director, NIOT, said though NIOT had developed a vehicle capable of probing the sea bed under normal temperature, the new vehicle is capable of exploring up to 200 meters in inhospitable and tough regions like the ice clad Antarctica. "We can study and find out details about dissolved oxygen in sea bottom, salinity and the quantity of sunlight hitting the bottom of the sea. The results will help us in understanding the biological activities taking place inside the sea," Atmanand told The Pioneer. The measurement of ocean currents, temperature, salinity and irradiants are factors playing a major role in the behaviour of Monsoon.

The PROVE is being deployed at India's base camp at Antarctica for collecting the parameters required in forecasting Monsoon. As on date scientists depend on Mathematical models for forecasting the Monsoon which many times vary from initial forecasts.



Union Minister for Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan at NIOT in Chennai on Wednesday

HARYANA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DETAIL NOTICE TENDERS
LUMP SUM RATE ON LINE TENDER

On behalf of Haryana Urban Development Authority Online bids on the website <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> are hereby invited for the works as mentioned below:-

Job No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of works (Rs.)	Bid Document Fee	EMD (Rs.)	Tender to be opened on	Time limit for completion of work
48	Special repair of roads and Boundary wall of staff colony at Main water works Tosham Road, Hisar. "Supply and laying of stone metal soiling coat, wearing coat to WBM specification and 25mm thick premix carpet with paver and construction and raising of boundary wall and all other works contingent thereto". (Including 3 years mtc and defect liability period free of cost).	Rs. 5.75 Lacs	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 11500/-	01.04.15 at 10:00 AM	3 Months
49	Annual mtc. of water works Tosham Road, Hisar. "Providing watch and ward services of HUDA water works Tosham Road, Hisar and all other works contingent thereto". for the period of 12 months w.e.f. 01.04.2015 to 31.03.2016. Scope of work covered in this contract has been given in details as per Annexure - I.	-	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 10000/-	01.04.15 at 10:00 AM	12 Months
50	Annual maintenance of sewerage scheme in Sector 14P Hisar. "Maintenance and operation of main disposal work, SW/RCC pipe sewer and all other works contingent thereto". for the period of 12 months w.e.f. 01.04.2015 to 31.03.2016.	-	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 9800/-	01.04.15 at 10:00 AM	12 Months

For other details, terms & conditions please visit website <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>

Executive Engineer,
HUDA Division No.II, Hisar
E-Mail:- ee2hsrhuda@gmail.com
Tel. No. 01662-245174

RO No. PRDH-AdvT No. 26548 Dt. 25.03.2015

HARYANA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

SINGLE PERCENTAGE / ITEM RATE ONLINE TENDER

On behalf of Haryana Urban Development Authority Online bids on the website: <http://etenders.hry.nic.in> are hereby invited from reputed firms/ contractors/ enlisted in PWD B&R, HUDA, MES, CPWD, State / Center Government Under Taking & pipe / machinery manufacturers fulfilling the eligibility criterion as laid down in the Tender documents for engineering procurement construction (EPC) works as mentioned below:-

Job No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Bid Document Fee	Tender to be opened on	Time Limit for completion of work
281	Re-invited Providing RCC pipe and D.I. rising main from Sector-3&4, dividing road to Bohar Drain on Sonepat road (Near Sheela Bye Pass at Rohtak. "Design, Supplying, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of coarse screen, storm water sump, Pumping Machinery, Transformer, DG set & all other contingent work thereto including Operation & Maintenance during defect liability period of 3 year of stor m water scheme at Rohtak, Haryana".	1.80 Lacs	Rs. 2000/-	17.04.2015	4 Months

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Executive Engineer,
HUDA Division 1, Rohtak
Tel No. 01262-292229
E.Mail:- xendivl.rtk@gmail.com

RO No. PRDH-AdvT No. 26549 Dt. 25.03.2015

UP BRIEFS

BJP STAGES WALKOUT OVER COMPENSATION ISSUE

Members of the BJP staged a walkout from the Upper House after they were unsatisfied with the reply of the Government on making estimated loss to crop damaged during recent rain and hailstorm. Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Leader of BJP group in the State Council, Hriday Narain Dixit, claimed the estimate of the total loss to crop in the State, as presented by the Government is not correct so the real picture should be made on the issue. Leader of House, Ahmed Hassan, denying the allegations said the State Government is concerned with the losses incurred to farmers and a compensation package to give immediate relief to the farmers has been already announced by the Government. The BJP members, however, were not satisfied with the reply and staged a walk-out from the House over the issue.

NO PLAN TO BAN LIQUOR SALE IN UP: GOVT

The State Government informed the Assembly that it has no proposal to enact total prohibition on liquor in the State "as it is not possible because of public interest and fear of loss of revenue generation". While replying to a question of Dr Dharampal Singh (BSP) State PWD Minister Shiv Pal Singh Yadav said total ban on liquor sale in the State would promote smuggling of the same and would also lead to increase in supply of hooch. "Ban on liquor could also lead to people purchasing hooch in which several people could die," the Minister said and added that the revenue collected through the taxes imposed on liquors is being used for public welfare and developmental works.

GOVT PASSES BILLS THAT CURB MAYORS' RIGHTS

Amid unprecedented protest from the BJP, the Uttar Pradesh Government got two controversial Bills, which curtails the rights of Mayors and even allows the State Government to sack them over financial irregularities, passed in Vidhan Sabha without any amendment from the Opposition. The Bills were tabled in the House at noon and were passed within next 90 minutes amid pandemonium in the House. Due to the uproar by the BJP members, the House passed budgetary grants of 41 departments through voice vote without going for a debate. On the other hand, assuring jobs to the educated youth Union Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister Kalraj Mishra said Government has launched 'Berozgar to Swarozgar' scheme where over three lakh educated youth have been given training in last nine months so as to make them financially independent.

RECRUITMENT SCAM: OPP PROTESTS AGAINST GOVT

Recruitment scam once again came to haunt the Government when Opposition protested in both the Houses. The unsuccessful candidates continued to protest across the State demanding cancellation of the process and action against the officials. Some activists, who joined the protesters, appealed either to announce a probe by the CBI or by SIT.

One-horned rhino census underway in Kaziranga

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI

Amid reports of unabated poaching of one-horned rhinos, the State forest department has started the census of one-horned rhinos in Assam's famous Kaziranga national Park. Park officials said the census process started in all the five ranges of the park-Bagori, Burapahar, Kohora, Agorotoli and Biswanath Ghat — on Tuesday. While the team carried out preliminary exercise related to the census, the counting of the animal started on Wednesday.

It may be mentioned that the park authorities have closed the park for tourists and safaris have been suspended for smooth conduction of the operation. The census will continue till Thursday and the report is expected by March 28, the officials said. The census of the one-horned rhinos in all the rhino habitats is a regular exercise carried out every three years. The last rhino census, carried out in 2012, spotted 2,290 rhinos in the park. Kaziranga DFO, SK Seal Sarma said the park has been divided into two parts and 81 blocks for smooth conduction of the census. Each block is headed by an enumerator. Elephants have been engaged to take the census teams to the rhino zones of the park and the enumerators have been hired from other forest divisions of the State also, he added.

India develops Polar vehicle

Odisha Channel Bureau

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