

ALL IN A DAY

**China Offered Arms to Sheikh Abdullah in 1960s: Omar**



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**Srinagar:** Former chief minister of J&K, Omar Abdullah on Thursday claimed that Chinese leadership offered National Conference founder Sheikh Abdullah, to launch an armed rebellion in the state in 1960s, which he refused. Abdullah stated that Chinese leader Chou-Enlai, made the offer during a Conference in Algeria, in presence of Algerian leader, Ahmed Ben Bella, who desisted Sheikh Abdullah from accepting the offer. "During Algerian Conference, the Chinese leader Chou-Enlai offered full support to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah to launch an armed revolt in the state. But he did not accept the offer. He didn't want youth of state to suffer," said Abdullah, while addressing a youth convention of the party in Srinagar.

Abdullah informed that Bella took Sheikh Abdullah to a graveyard and showed him the grave of his son. "Bella told Sheikh Abdullah, that all Kashmiris are your sons. If you want to bury your sons like this, then only you can accept this (chinese) offer," said Abdullah.

**Three Hizb-ul-Mujahideen Terrorists Killed in Encounter in Kashmir**

**SRINAGAR:** In a blow to militant network, three Hizb-ul-Mujahideen operatives were killed in an encounter in Tral area of South Kashmir. The militants were identified as Ashiq Hussain Bhat, Mohammad Ishaq Parry and Asif Ahmad Mir, all residents of south Kashmir. The trio was part of the HM group led by Burhan Wani, 23, whose frequent appearances on social media made him a household name in Kashmir. He hasn't uploaded any video of late. -OPB



BIJAL BAHADUR

**Prashant Kishor to Pen Book on How to Win, Lose Elections**

**NEW DELHI:** Prashant Kishor, a key strategist in the landslide victories of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar, will dissect what influences Indian voters, their aspirations and what they demand of their leaders in his debut book, to be released by the end of the year. How India votes has always been a mystery and Kishor book will talk about how elections are fought and how to win and lose them. "The Election Game" will be co-authored by Sankarshan Thakur. -PTI

**Paedophile Who Abused Hundreds Over 15 Years Arrested**



ANIRBAN BORA

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**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested a 50-year-old paedophile faith healer, who has allegedly abused several hundred children over last 15 years, in Sopore, 50kms from Srinagar in north Kashmir. The accused identified as Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh, was arrested on Thursday morning on complaint of a child, who has allegedly suffered abuse for around four years. Sheikh is married and has three children including two boys and a girl. Preliminary investigations re-

**NO LESS THAN DEMON**  
Sheikh would threaten children of dire consequences from demons, ghosts and spirits

vealed that Sheikh would threaten victims—in the age group of 8 to 14 years—of dire consequences from demons, ghosts and spirits, if they would not remain silent. As of now police has invoked section 377 of

RPC against the accused. Sheikh, police claim, would give away amulets and promise better financial future to gullible people to lure them into his trap. "The amulets would not work and then he asked them to bring children who can converse with jinns, which would ensure a better deal," a police official told ET. At any given time, the complainant told police, Sheikh would keep at least four to five children overnight at his house. "He would not only abuse the children, but ask them to have sex with each other. The victims would definitely be in hundreds," the official said. The fake faith healer was very popular and people would swarm around his residence all the time. According to police, the complainant has also identified certain victims and a few have come forward on their own. A student who is now pursuing higher studies abroad has also deposed before the police and accused Sheikh of abuse. "We haven't received any complaint from female till now. We request victims to come forward. They can also approach Child Line organisation for deposition and counselling. We would invoke relevant penal sections if we get any further evidence," SP Sopore Abdul Qayoom told ET.

**MINORITIES FROM BANGLADESH** BJP refugee wing urges govt to expedite the citizenship Bill, and also record atrocities committed on Hindus to build case  
**BJP Cell for Fast-tracking Grant of Citizenship to Hindus**

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**Kolkata:** Six months after the government issued a notification stating that minority refugees from Pakistan and Bangladesh can stay in the country even after their visas expire, a BJP cell has urged the government to expedite the citizenship Bill for Hindu refugees ahead of the Assam and West Bengal elections.

The BJP refugee cell requested the government also to start granting citizenship to the Hindu refugees under Section 18 of the Citizenship Act.

In a recent letter to union home minister Rajnath Singh, the cell said it doesn't want a "general amnesty" type arrangement for these refugees. Instead, it has proposed that a reason be stated for the exodus from Bangladesh, based on which the citizenship be given. These documents, according to them, will then be used to form a public opinion about the atrocities of an Islamic society on the Hindus in Bangladesh, which in turn will help bring "legal and financial assistance" from international fora. The Citizenship Amendment Bill was introduced by the home ministry last year and the government has invited comments from public. Home ministry officials said the process of consultation is still ongoing and that they will come up with a Cabinet note as soon as the decision is reached.

In its letter dated February 3, the cell proposed that each refugee apply for

**No Blanket Amnesty Please**

Last year, Modi government said minority refugees from Pak and Bangladesh can stay even after their visas expire



NOW, BJP affiliates want govt to expedite the citizenship Bill for Hindu refugees ahead of the Assam and West Bengal elections



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It says such a move will help bring "legal and financial assistance" from international fora

The cell proposed that each refugee apply for citizenship and state the reason for leaving Bangladesh

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**ASSAM THREAT**  
Assam Bengali Youth Students Federation warns govt of possible setbacks for BJP if Bill is not tabled before the upcoming assembly elections in the state

citizenship and state the reason for leaving Bangladesh. This will help generate documents of 10 million people about the atrocities they faced and form the basis for future research, it said. "The Refugee Cell of West Bengal BJP will assist the refugees to fill up these information forms," said the letter, written by Mohit Roy, convener of BJP's refugee cell in Bengal. Meanwhile, another group of activists, Assam Bengali Youth Students Federation, met the home minister on February 28 and warned him about possible setbacks for the BJP in Assam if the Bill is not tabled before

the upcoming assembly elections. Kamal Choudhury, president of the organization, told ET: "This is high time that the government table the Bill and implement it. It was an election promise of the Modi government. Recently, in a meeting at Kokrajhar in Assam, he (Modi) reiterated his stand on granting citizenship to Hindu refugees. However, things are not moving." Moreover, the Assam government continues to arrest Hindu refugees, though the Centre issued a notification giving legal rights to the Hindu refugees to stay here, he alleged.

**MISUSE OF POSITION** Complainant was threatened with "dire consequences" about her job

**Police Chargesheet Debunks Pachauri's Phone Hack Claim**

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FILE PHOTO

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police, in its charge-sheet filed against R K Pachauri, have told the Court that Pachauri threatened the complainant with "dire consequences" regarding her job when she "did not fulfill his wishes". The Police have said that Pachauri continued doing so "even after she (complainant) rebuked him" persistently.

ET has accessed the concluding portion of the charge-sheet which runs into over 1500 pages. The Police have debunked Pachauri's claim wherein he had maintained that his electronic devices—phone and computers—were hacked. The Police have submitted that the call detail records (CDR) of phone used by Pachauri shows that he used to call and SMS the complainant at odd hours.

To underline this, the Police have cited two dates on which, according to the

Police's investigation, Pachauri SMSed the complainant. The Police have said that Pachauri SMSed the complainant on March 16, 2014 at 2:36 am and called her on March 4, 2014 at 3:49 am. The Police have further submitted that Pachauri's call details further show that he made various calls, sent messages to the complainant from February 1, 2014 to February 20, 2015. Police sources told ET that these details, examined by the Police, are independent of the thousands (6,000) of messages submitted by the

**AVOIDING CONTACT**

Complainant says she used to hide in the bathroom whenever Pachauri used to come for rounds in office

complainant, allegedly sent to her by Pachauri, to the Police.

To strengthen its case against Pachauri, the Police have reproduced the statement given by the complainant to the Magistrate on oath under Section 164 of the CrPC. In her statement to the Judge, the complainant has submitted that Pachauri deliberately used to say vulgar things in Hindi on foreign trips so that none around could comprehend it.

She has deposed that she was constantly pressurised by Pachauri to drink alcohol with him in office and outside. The statement recorded by the Judge reads that in March 2014 on a trip in Amsterdam he suggested that the complainant should go with him to a sex shop.

She told the Judge that when she refused to give in to Pachauri's demands, he stopped giving him work. That she felt harassed and intimidated, the complainant has said that she used to hide in the bathroom whenever Pachauri used to come for rounds in office.

**INDO-PAK DIALOGUE**  
**Talk Date After Pathankot Probe Report**

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FILE PHOTO

**New Delhi:** India is waiting for progress in Pakistan's investigation into the January terror attack on Indian Air Force base at Pathankot in Punjab before rescheduling Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar's meeting with his counterpart AA Chaudhry. Sources here said that India had asked Pakistan to inform it about the SIT's visit at least five days ahead of its arrival. Islamabad, however, had not yet shared with New Delhi any information about the proposed visit.

On Wednesday, addressing Raisina Dialogue—India's major foreign policy Dialogue—Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar made it clear that terror attack like Pathankot will take precedence over political dialogue.

Meanwhile, MEA spokesperson Vikas Swarup giving details of attack on Indian consulate in Afghanistan, said, "Our Consulate in Jalalabad came under attack by a group of 5 terrorists at 12 noon. The attackers approached the Consulate in a van rigged with explosives... No member of the Consulate was injured except superficial injuries in right hand of one of the local staff members. Three persons reportedly died in the attack. National Directorate of

**5-DAY NOTICE**  
India had asked Pakistan to inform it about SIT's visit at least five days ahead of its arrival

Security (NDS) reported that 19 persons were injured, mostly Afghan National Police (ANP) guards, two of whom have serious injuries." Swarup also said additional forces, both from ANP and NDS, have been deployed around the Consulate. Electricity lines that were knocked out due to an explosion were repaired and power was restored on priority, he added. Once the encounter was over, Governor Salim Khan Kundoozi and security chiefs visited the Consulate to assured of all help.

**Accessible India: States Move, List Work in 50 Cities**

Our Political Bureau



FILE PHOTO

**New Delhi:** Work on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet initiative Accessible India campaign is making good progress, social justice and empowerment minister Thawar Chand Gehlot has said.

Speaking to reporters minister Gehlot said, "The work has started under the programme. In the next six months you will see good progress. We have initiated it from Maharashtra. Even in other states we would soon begin audit of buildings to be made disabled friendly."

Gehlot said states had sent lists of buildings in 50 cities which would be retrofitted with lifts and ramps to make them accessible.

Following an ET news report, the department of empowerment of persons with disabilities has received lists of buildings to be made disabled-friendly from states including Gujarat,

**WORK BEGINS**  
Govt empanels 18 access auditors to do checks on buildings in 50 cities.

Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The department has said it has been able to empanel 18 access auditors to audit buildings in 50 cities. In order to create capacity for access audit the department has tied up with the urban development ministry and educational institutes.

**BACK AFTER 13 YEARS** In 2003, Gegong Apang and his supporting MLAs merged with the BJP, making Arunachal Pradesh a BJP-ruled state  
**BJP to Join Pul Govt As Rebels Join PPA, Drop Cong Tag**

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**Guwahati:** While 30 dissident Congress MLAs, including CM Kalikho Pul, merged with the Peoples Party of Arunachal (PPA), BJP announced it will be part of the Pul government.

BJP is making a comeback in the state almost after 13 years. In 2003, Gegong Apang and his supporting MLAs merged with the BJP, making Arunachal Pradesh a BJP-ruled state. On February 25, Pul won the

floor test in the state assembly. Congress had then issued a three-line whip asking its members not to attend the session. Congress did not recognize Pul as the leader of Congress Legislature Party.

**Arunachal second state in NE after Nagaland where BJP will be part of govt**  
National executive member of BJP, Tapir Gao told ET, "As 30 members have joined PPA on Thursday, there is no hurdle in BJP joining the government now as there is



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**REGIONAL FLIP-FLOPS**

In 2014 assembly election, Peoples Party of Arunachal contested 16 seats and won five seats. All its legislators later joined the Congress

no Congress now. We were supporting the Pul government, however, now we will be part of the government." Arunachal will be the second state in the Northeast after Nagaland where BJP will be part of the government. In the house of 60, where two members are suspended, Pul now has support of 30 Congress, two independent and 11 BJP MLAs. In 2014 assembly election, PPA contested 16 seats and won five seats. All the five later joined the Congress.