

Odisha CM to campaign for party candidates in Ganjam

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha panchayat elections

Naveen Patnaik (Photo: Facebook)

Putting an end to all speculations, ruling BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, on Friday, decided to campaign for his party candidates in Ganjam district on

Govt move on rural housing target

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): With the progress of rural housing scheme sluggish, the State Government has directed district Collectors to achieve the target set for the current financial year.

The cumulative achievement in construction of houses for rural poor under different schemes is only 21 per cent as on January 30.

In 2016-17, the State Government has allotted seven lakh houses to the districts under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (BPGY).

A review of the rural housing programme by Chief Secretary AP Padhi with district Collectors over video conferencing revealed that only 1.5 lakh houses have been completed by end of January.

The ensuing panchayat elections should not come in the way of execution of work order already issued in favour of beneficiaries, Padhi told the Collectors.

The directive of the Chief Secretary came in the wake of opposition political parties petitioning the State Election Commission (SEC) against issue of work orders for projects already sanctioned by the State Government.

The Government has further set a target to impart masonry training to 30,000 persons by the end of this fiscal.

About 60,000 houses will be constructed during the training programme, sources in Panchayati Raj Department said.

Saturday.

Patnaik will cam-

the party, Patnaik is scheduled to cam-

in these areas will be held on February 13.



campaign for the BJD candidates contesting in the three-tier panchayat elections only in his constituency of Hinjilicut, though many party leaders wanted the chief minister to visit their areas, party sources said.

According to programme fixed by

campaign for BJD candidates at Tanhara, Pitala, Narendrapur, Patharapunji, Dhanantara, Dhabalapur, Takarada, Mahupadar, Kulagada, Khirida, Bandhaguda, Bara-munduli, Kuma-rapani and Karadakana in Seragada block.

Panchayat polls

Patnaik will hold road shows instead of addressing any public meeting, they said.

The BJD president who had attended at least 50 public meetings during the panchayat elections in 2012, preferred to concentrate in his own constituency this time,

even as chief ministers of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are campaigning for BJP candidates in different parts of Odisha.

Party sources said that Patnaik had already toured all the 30 districts of Odisha before announcement for the panchayat elections were made.

While Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh addressed three public meetings in Bolangir, Jharsuguda and Sundergarh yesterday and will be campaigning in the state again on Saturday, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das has also been campaigning in Odisha.

Union Ministers Jai Prakash Singh, Dharmendra Pradhan and Ram Kripal Yadav are busy campaigning for the BJP candidates in Odisha.

China on Masood Azhar's ban: 'All members of UNSC should follow rules'

Beijing (KCN): Reacting guardedly to India's diplomatic protests over its move to block US resolution to list Pakistan-based JeM leader Masood Azhar as a terrorist, China on Friday hoped all members of the UN Security Council who are part of the anti-terrorism committee will follow rules. "Will check on reports of India's diplomatic protest," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told media briefing here when asked about yesterday's demarche by India over China putting a technical hold of US resolution in the 1267 Committee of the UNSC to designate entities involved in terrorism.

Find Out What JeM Chief Masood Azhar Said To The Pakistan Government

Lu said China already reiterated its stand on its technical hold two days ago. "China is a responsible member of the UNSC as well as a

subsidiary organ. China has always been acting in accordance with UNSC resolutions and rules of procedure of its subsidiary organs. We hope that all members of the security council and its affiliation would follow the rules of the procedures," he said.

READ: India targets China for blocking ban on Masood Azhar On February 8, Lu defended China's move to block a US attempt to list Azhar in the UN saying that the "conditions" have not yet been met for Beijing to back the move. He said Beijing resorted to this move to allow the "relevant parties" to reach a consensus. "Last year 1267 Committee of the UN Security Council has discussed the issue regarding listing Masood in the sanctions list. There were different views with no consensus reached," Lu said.

READ: Change your stance on Masood Azhar for

consensus at UN: India to China

"As for the submission once again by relevant countries to list him in the sanctions list, I would say the conditions are not yet met for the Committee to reach a decision," he said. This is the second year China has blocked attempts to bring about a UN ban on Azhar which would warrant Pakistan to act against him. Jaish-e-Muhammad, a terrorist organisation based in Pakistan, has already been listed by the 1267 Committee. India moved for UN ban against him in March last year accusing of masterminding the Pathankot terrorist attack. China first blocked for six months followed by three months technical hold, which ended on December 31 last year. The US along with the UK and France approached the Committee again for the ban and Beijing once again put a six months technical hold on it.

Sasikala sacks Madhusudanan for backing Panneerselvam



AIADMK General Secretary VK Sasikala on Friday dismissed Presidium Chairman E Madhusudanan from the party for backing acting Chief Minister O Panneerselvam.

Sasikala said in a statement that Madhusudanan had violated the party's principles and brought disrepute to it and so was being ousted from the party post and the AIADMK's primary

Modi warns Congress to keep tongue in check

Dehradun (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned the Congress leaders to keep their tongue in check, otherwise threatened to disclose their 'Janampatri'. Modi devoted his Haridwar rally on Friday to Harish Rawat by making harsh attack on the Uttarakhnd Chief

membership.

She urged party members not to have any truck with Madhusudanan.

The dismissal came a day after Madhusudanan joined hands with Panneerselvam, who has revolted against Sasikala by saying that he quit as Chief Minister under duress.

Earlier on Friday, Madhusudanan told reporters: "As per the party by-law, a person

can become General Secretary of AIADMK only if he/she is a member for a continuous period of five years."

Madhusudanan said Sasikala was not a member of the AIADMK for a continuous five years and hence she was not qualified to be the General Secretary.

A former minister, Madhusudanan is one of the long-time members of the AIADMK.

chart.)"

Addressing the first public rally in Uttarakhnd, the PM raised the tv sting operation issue to allege that even after featuring in the sting Harish Rawat acts as normal by saying, "Do you need any court to prove ongoing corruption in Uttarakhnd? India saw it on tv.



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India vs Bangladesh: Patient Murali Vijay and flawless Virat Kohli give India the launchpad

Bangladesh (KCN): Opener Murali Vijay and skipper Virat Kohli slammed centuries in the first innings of the one-off Test match against Bangladesh at Hyderabad as India dominated proceedings on day one. Vijay got to his ninth century with a sublime display of patience and skill while 'King' Kohli slammed his 16th Test ton by dominating the visitors from ball one.

After Kohli won the toss and elected to bat on a pitch that had a tinge of green and offered some seam movement to the new ball bowlers, Vijay took his time to get used to the pace of the pitch. He applied himself well initially

and took a cautious approach to steady the ship after India

surviving the first hour of play, he entered his comfort

build a strong platform. He played shots at will and kept the

lucky to survive a run out chance in the 16th over, he didn't let it

partnership with his skipper after the departure of Pujara. His

Vijay played 160 balls, hit 12 boundaries and a six.

ward bowling and punished the loose deliveries with utter disdain. A smashing whip off through the mid-wicket region brought up his century in just 130 deliveries. In the process he equaled Mohammad Azharuddin's record of nine centuries as a captain and is now only behind Sunil Gavaskar's tally of 11.

With the scoreboard reading - 356/3 at the end of day's play and Kohli unbeaten on 111 ably supported at the other end by Rahane on 45, India will look to pile on the misery further on the visitors who seem hapless and devoid of ideas as of now.



lost KL Rahul on the fourth delivery of the morning.

However, once he got settled after

zone and added 178 runs for the second wicket with Cheteshwar Pujara which helped India

scoreboard ticking even when Pujara was seen buckling a bit under pressure. Though Vijay was

affect him and capitalised on it by bringing up his fifty. He then upped the ante and forged another

century stand with Kohli was the fifth between them this season. En route his ninth Test century,

also brought his deft touches into play.

He dominated the Bangladeshi attack for their way-

Yuna Kim reveals Olympic torch in countdown to 2018 Games

Gangneung (KCN): Kim Yuna holds the Olympic torch during the ceremony to mark a year to the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games in Gangneung. The one-year countdown to the Pyeongchang Games began Thursday with Yuna Kim revealing the Olympic torch.

The one-year countdown to the Pyeongchang Games began Thursday with Yuna Kim revealing the Olympic torch and organizers opening online ticket reservations.

South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn and an International Olympic Committee delegation led by Gunilla Lindberg, who heads the IOC's coordination commission for the games, also attended the ceremony in Gangneung, which will host the ice sports events next year.

"I am convinced that the Pyeongchang Olympics will be a success," Hwang said in a speech at the ceremony. "I believe in the great strength of our people who have successfully hosted international events like the 1988 Olympics and 2002 World Cup."

Kim, a figure skating gold medalist who is perhaps the country's most popular sports personality

even in retirement, carried the white-and-gold Olympic torch onto a stage built over ice as a group of pop singers sang "We Are the Champions," highlighting an event that also included a video message from IOC President Thomas Bach.

"It is my great pleasure to invite the national Olympic



committees of the world and their athletes to participate in the Olympic Winter Games Pyeongchang 2018," Bach said in the message.

Hwang has served as the country's acting head of state since December when President Park Geun-hye's powers were suspended after lawmakers voted to impeach her over a corruption scandal. He told organizers in a meeting earlier in the day that government is ready to invest "every reliable resource" to build buzz for the games and ensure the safety of athletes and spectators.

With preparations entering the last phases, the participation of North Korea

and Russia have emerged as major issues ahead of next year's games.

Relations between the two Koreas have worsened since North Korea conducted two nuclear tests and a string of rocket launches last year as it continues to expand its nuclear weapons and missile programs. Russian athletes have been

caught up in a scandal following allegations of state-sponsored doping around the time of the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Lee Hee-beom, Pyeongchang's organizing head, expressed hopes to see athletes from both countries at the games.

"Every country and every athlete who loves peace has a right and obligation to participate in the Olympics," Lee said. "North Korea is no exception. We are making preparations for the possibility that North Korea participates in the games."

The Pyeongchang Games will mark the second time the Olympics have been staged in South Korea, which also

hosted the 1998 Games in Seoul.

This time, organizers have had to overcome delays, local conflicts regarding venue constructions and difficulties attracting domestic sponsorships before putting preparations on track. Construction workers are putting the finishing touches on the 12 competition venues in Pyeongchang and nearby Gangneung, including six new facilities that organizers say are about 96 percent complete on average.

The athletes and media villages, an international broadcasting center, and a pentagonal stadium that will host the opening and closing ceremonies are expected to be finished by September.

The political turmoil surrounding President Park has been a massive distraction that slowed organizers' efforts to stoke lukewarm public interest, and also rattled the country's ministry of culture and sports, which oversees the Olympic preparations.

Lee said that the recent political situation "to a degree" negatively affected preparations for the games, but said such impact could be overcome with more help from government organizations and the business community.

Gautam Gambhir comes to 1998 Asian Games gold medallist Dingko Singh's support

Dingko Singh, 1998 Asian Games gold medallist boxer, had been recovering from a life-saving opera-

sports fraternity to improve. With his career long over, financial aid wasn't easy to come by. To raise

boxer Dingko Singh battles cancer

Ever since his medical plight was made public by the

Imphal. DG Media_SAI visited him & promised him all possible help. We pray for his speedy recovery."

The family moved back to Imphal from Delhi because of the rising costs of stay and treatment in the capital. Noticing the situation that has plagued the former champion, India cricketer Gautam Gambhir was saddened with the situation and has reportedly chipped in by providing financial support. He, however, has opted to not publicise how he is helping the boxer. Although, he has used Twitter to ask people to offer their support, "We must take care of our champions just as they make us proud. Help Asian Games Gold winner by sending a text to Babai's wife at 8131830664."



tion after suffering from liver cancer. He underwent the procedure in the early parts of January and during it, 70 per cent of his liver had to be removed.

Living in a tiny two-room apartment in Shahpur Jat locality of the national capital, the boxer since was left in a financial crunch and needed support of the

funds for his treatment, the former Navy man had to sell his house in Imphal. "We have already spent Rs 10 lakh so far and are really worried how we will manage the money for treatment. We definitely need help," Dingko's wife told Indian Express.

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media, the ministry chipped in to provide financial support. He was under treatment at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Sports Minister Vijay Goel had tweeted, "Dingko Singh has been provided initial financial aid & he has been assured that whatever his needs are will be taken care of. Dingko is also a SAI coach in

India Under-19 team have a plush hotel but no money for dinner

A FORTNIGHT into their 30-day home series against England, India's Under-19 cricketers and their support staff, including coach Rahul Dravid, are yet to receive their daily allowances.

Reason? The absence of an official signatory to release

funds after the Supreme Court removed BCCI secretary Ajay Shirke, and the cash withdrawal limit of Rs 24,000 per week following the demonetisation policy.

This bizarre combination has resulted in the junior cricketers going for half-a-month without their

entitled allowance of Rs 6,800 per day. So much so, the players have had to fend for themselves for dinner after play, and rely on their parents to help them with money.

Sources confirmed that the players were told the BCCI does not have an official signatory to sign

on daily allowance cheques — all payments need to have the approval of the secretary. After Shirke was shown the door, along with BCCI president Anurag Thakur, the board is left with joint-secretary Amitabh Choudhary and treasurer Anirudh Chaudhary.