

'Sabotage' angle not ruled out in submarine accident: Antony

NEW DELHI, Aug 22:

Not ruling out the "sabotage" angle behind explosions on Navy's destroyed submarine INS Sindhurakshak, Defence Minister A K Antony today said the incident has cast a shadow on the force's capability to safeguard country's maritime interests.

Giving clarifications in the Rajya Sabha on the August 14 submarine accident, he said the Navy has also ordered a study to assess the status of weapons on board the sunk submarine in view of fear of any further explosion during salvage operations.

"The Navy has ordered a Board of Inquiry (BoI) and it has started with all seriousness. Its terms of reference is to look into all aspects of causes of this incident will be examined by it. Nothing is ruled out. All likely aspects would be examined by the BoI," Antony said.

Several members including Chandan Mitra (BJP) and Naresh Agrawal (SP) sought to know if sabotage was one of the reasons behind the accident which took place on the eve of Independence Day.

The Defence Minister said at the moment, "We cannot say conclusively about the exact cause of the incident. Our armed forces work on war footing on these aspects and they are also anxious on this issue."

The Minister said of the 18 personnel on board the sunken vessel, bodies of eight had been



found till yesterday and they have been sent to the Naval hospital for postmortem. "Death certificates of eight bodies cite extensive burns as the cause of death."

He said five international and Indian companies are involved in surveying the vessel for salvage and after the vessel is dewatered and brought up, the team of Russian experts would be involved in the investigations.

Antony said the accident and the sinking of the vessel has "cast a shadow on capability of the Navy to safeguard interest in the vast coastlines and maritime area especially in the emerging security scenario in the Indian Ocean Region and extended region."

The Defence Minister said naval divers are submitting all the material "including metals and partially burnt yellow coloured material found near the jetty are being inspected by the Naval armament inspectors to ascertain its composition."

On the status of weapons still on board the submarine, he

said a team comprising the chief of naval armament depot and commanding officer of a missile base has been set up.

"The team has been asked to carry out a detailed study to assess the state of explosives on board and quantify the risk associated with salvage operations because there is fear about further explosions. So, we are trying to clear that," he said.

Antony said the water sample from the torpedo compartment of the submarine has been analysed in a laboratory in Pune and "immediate analysis does not indicate any presence of TNT in the water samples and the partially burnt yellow material. Further investigation is underway."

He said the submarine refitted in Russia for two years was most modern and it involved a "large amount" of money.

"I can assure you, on one side, we will leave no stone unturned to salvage this submarine at the earliest and after that, follow up with further action. Navy is taking all steps to salvage this submarine at earliest and try to find out exact reasons. After that we will study the salvaged parts of the submarine," he said.

The Minister clarified that there was no system of insuring warships and submarines in the Navy and armed forces.

He said diving operations of naval personnel were on to find out the "state of weapons and for locating water breaches in the vessel". (PTI)

VHP yatra row Mayawati says connivance between BJP, SP

NEW DELHI, Aug 22:

BSP supremo Mayawati today alleged connivance between BJP and SP over VHP's proposed yatra from Ayodhya, saying the parties wanted to create communal tension in Uttar Pradesh.

"I think the controversy about the VHP yatra is with an understanding between both the parties...BJP and SP are behind the controversy over the yatra and both these parties want to create communal tension. They want violence between" two communities, Mayawati told reporters outside Parliament.

She said both the parties were on a weak footing in the state. "The Samajwadi Party government has badly failed on the law and order front. People of the state are very much against the government because of the deteriorating law and order situation."

"On the other hand, BJP's position is also not good in the state and both the parties are aware of it. Lok Sabha elections are round the corner, so in this situation if Lok Sabha elections are held, the results will not be good for SP and BJP," she said.

Condemning the "political game plan" behind the controversy over VHP's yatra, she appealed both communities to be aware of the "sinister design of SP and BJP".

The former UP chief minister also demanded imposition of President's Rule in the state saying even "policemen are not safe in the state." Referring to the attack on a DSP and a constable by liquor mafia near Ghaziabad recently, Mayawati said, "When policemen are not safe in UP, how can the common man in the state be safe?" "People are suffering because of deteriorating law and order situation. When police tries to act against criminals, they are attacked," she said.

"That is why, I appeal to the UP Governor to take all these incidents seriously into consideration and recommend President's Rule in the state," she said. (PTI)

No proposal to raise retirement age of Govt servants: Minister

NEW DELHI, Aug 22:

There is no proposal at present to increase the age of retirement of Central Government employees to 62 years, Rajya Sabha was informed today.

As per rules, every Government servant shall retire on attaining the age of 60 years, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions V Narayanasamy said in a written reply.

"At present, there is no proposal to increase the age of retirement of Government employees," he said. There are about 50 lakh central Government employees working in various departments including the railways across the country. Recent media reports had claimed that the Government was working on a proposal to increase the age of service by two years as part of Government's plan to defer payouts in the form of pensions and other payments to check fiscal deficit.

The Centre had in 1998 raised the retirement age of its employees to 60 from 58 years. (PTI)

TDP MP Harikrishna resigns from RS over bifurcation issue

NEW DELHI, Aug 22:

TDP MP and son of N T Rama Rao, N Harikrishna today resigned from Rajya Sabha in protest against the decision to bifurcate Andhra Pradesh.

Harikrishna, 57, said he met Rajya Sabha Chairman M Hamid Ansari this morning and submitted his resignation.

Deputy Chairman P J Kurien informed the House that the Chairman has accepted his resignation.

Harikrishna alleged that the decision to bifurcate the state was taken to reap political benefit in favour of Congress in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

"By this decision, they (Congress) killed the Telugu spirit. They did it to make Rahul Gandhi next Prime Minister after the Lok Sabha polls," he said.

Striking an emotive note, Harikrishna, son of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N T Rama Rao, recalled the steps taken by his late father to keep the state united.

"My father stood firmly for the cause of united Andhra Pradesh. Now it is shattered. My conscience would not allow me to continue (as Rajya Sabha MP)," he said.

The TDP leader, who had announced his resignation few days back, had alleged that the Congress leadership announced the division without resolving the crucial issues like water sharing. (PTI)

Dec 16 case: SC allows JJB to deliver verdict involving minor

NEW DELHI, Aug 22:

The Supreme Court today allowed the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) to deliver its verdict in the December 16 gangrape-cum-murder case involving a minor.

The apex court, however, admitted a plea seeking fresh interpretation of the term 'juvenile' in the statute on the basis of mental and intellectual maturity of minor offenders instead of the age limit of 18 years while fixing their culpability.

A bench headed by Chief Justice P Sathasivam agreed to hear former MP Subramanian Swamy's plea seeking fresh interpretation of the term 'juvenile' but said the JJB can go ahead with pronouncing the verdict in the case.

The bench also issued notice to the Centre on Swamy's plea.

Earlier, the apex court had said that the JJB be informed not to pronounce its verdict involving the juvenile, who was one of six persons who had allegedly brutally gangraped a 23-year-old

girl in a moving bus here, till it decides the PIL. The girl died in a Singapore hospital on December 29.

On August 19, the JJB, presided over by Principal Magistrate Geetanjali Goel, had postponed till August 31 the verdict for the fourth time since July 11 on the ground that a PIL had been filed in the Supreme Court.

The inquiry against the juvenile in the gangrape and robbery case had concluded on July 5.

While the verdict in the gangrape-cum-murder case is yet to be pronounced, he has already been held guilty of robbing a carpenter who had boarded the bus the same night. The sentence, however, is yet to be awarded.

The apex court had on August 14 reserved its order on the maintainability of Swamy's plea that the Juvenile Justice Act provides for a "straitjacket" interpretation of the term 'juvenile' as a person below the age of 18 years and that it was in violation of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the

Child (UNCRC) and Beijing Rules on the issue.

The UNCRC and Beijing Rules say the presumption of "the age of criminal responsibility" be fixed while "bearing in mind the mental and intellectual maturity" of the offender, he has said.

Additional Solicitor General Siddharth Luthra while appearing for the Centre, had opposed Swamy's plea and questioned its maintainability on the ground that a third party has no legal authority to intervene.

Swamy had, however, clarified that his petition was not "individual-centric" and the reference to the juvenile accused in the December 16 gangrape case, in his plea, was merely an illustration.

Besides the juvenile, four other accused in the gangrape case are Mukesh, Pawan Gupta, Vinay Sharma and Akshay Thakur and they are facing trial before a fast track court. Proceedings against key accused Ram Singh abated after his death on March 11 when he was found hanging in his cell in Tihar Jail here. (PTI)

2G: Ambani resiles from statement, denies knowing Swan Tel

NEW DELHI, Aug 22:

Appearing before a Special Court hearing the 2G scam, industrialist Anil Ambani today deposed as a prosecution witness but CBI began cross-examining its own witness after he "resiled" from a statement made during the probe.

The CBI, which had presented Anil Ambani, Chairman of Reliance ADAG, as a witness to buttress its case switched strategy and cross-examined him when he said he had not handed over any note to the CBI in February, 2011 during the probe.

At this stage, Special Public Prosecutor U U Lalit submitted that Ambani was "resiling" from his previous statement and pleaded that he may be allowed to cross-examine him.

"Heard and allowed," said Special CBI Judge O P Saini, allowing CBI's plea. Ambani's company Reliance Telecom Ltd and three of his group executives are accused in the case.

Lalit's plea came when the 54-year-old corporate baron recalled that he had visited CBI in February, 2011 but did not hand over any note to the CBI officer.

When the court asked him if he was under any "threat, pres-

sure or coercion today from any quarter", he said "I am not under any threat, pressure or coercion."

"Yes sir, I am making my statement voluntarily and as per my own free will," Ambani told the judge when he was asked, whether he was now making his statement voluntarily and as per his own free will.

He replied in the affirmative to a query from the judge that he knew the consequences of giving a false statement and that he could be prosecuted and punished under the law.

Ambani's four-hour long deposition with a lunch break saw him denying that Swan Telecom was a front company of his group RADAG for securing the precious radio waves. Tomorrow, his wife Tina will also appear as prosecution witness.

Ambani, who was summoned to the CBI headquarters here in 2011 in connection with the probe, said he did not know whether any statement of his was recorded by the agency.

"I do not recall" was his stock reply to most of the questions put up by the prosecution. He said it was not in his knowledge that Swan Telecom Pvt Ltd

(STPL) had applied for unified access service licences (UASL) in 2007.

"Sir, you are forgetting too much. Try to recollect something," the judge told Ambani. At another point, the judge observed "This is an advice to you. It can go against you also that you don't know even the names of your companies. So be careful."

Further he did not "recall" if Reliance Telecom Ltd (RTL), an accused firm, had made an investment in STPL, also facing trial in the case along with its promoters Shahid Usman Balwa and Vinod Goenka.

"It is wrong to suggest that STPL was a shelf company of my group. It is wrong to suggest that it was in my knowledge that STPL had applied for UAS Licence for J&K service area in 2007. I cannot recall if RTL had made an investment to the extent of 9.9 per cent in equity shares in STPL," Ambani told the court.

During his cross examination by CBI prosecutor K K Goel, Ambani said although he was examined by CBI during the probe he does not know if his statement was recorded. (PTI)

Bachchan angry over fake video, Rajkot man apologises

NEW DELHI, Aug 22:

A furious Amitabh Bachchan has threatened legal action over a fake YouTube video that suggests he is backing Narendra Modi as the next prime minister.

Following Bachchan's strong protest online, a music composer from Rajkot has admitted to having uploaded it on YouTube and has apologised.

The 70-year-old veteran star, who is the brand ambassador of Gujarat Tourism, said the video was made by manipulating a voiceover that he did in 2007 for a 'Lead India' campaign.

Bachchan called the video "an illegal act, inviting strong action, one that I am appalled by, and one that has no concurrence from me at all."

"Dear all... Fake video circulation... In the year 2007, I did a 'Lead India' campaign... where we talked of the glorification of the country and India!

"Somebody has made a fake video by using my voice and text of what I spoke in the original, and falsely and mischievously, interspersed it with visuals which indicate a campaign for the promotion of the Hon Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi!!," Bachchan wrote on his blog.

Modi too shared Bachchan's concern and sought apology from the creator of the fake video.

"Agree with @SrBachchan. The author of the fake video should take action immediately and apologize to Amitabh ji," Modi said in his tweet.

Utpal Jivrajani, a musician, has claimed responsibility for uploading the video on YouTube but he denied being the brain behind its creation.

"I have nothing to do with this video. I just got it on WhatsApp from one of the many groups I am associated with and when I found it interesting I

uploaded it," Jivrajani said. "On August 15, I received this video of Mr Amitabh Bachchan and I found it very interesting, so I uploaded it. But when I realised that it has enraged him and our Chief Minister Narendra Modi, I have apologised to both of them and now I have deleted it from YouTube," he said.

He said since his music album 'Gujarati Shakira' and 'Gujarati Ganganam' became popular he has been included in various groups active on WhatsApp.

Jivrajani said he is in no way aligned to either BJP or Congress politically.

Bachchan said he has brought this to the notice of the concerned authorities and has also asked his digital team to find out its origin "so that we can initiate action against the perpetrator. Infuriated and angered!!." (PTI)

'Economic growth below target on domestic and global factors'

NEW DELHI, Aug 22:

India's growth rate during the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12) remained below the target due to domestic factors as well as the uncertain global economic environment, Parliament was informed today.

"Among domestic factors, the tightening of monetary policy between March 2010 and October 2011 in order to control

inflation resulted in the slowing down of investment and growth, particularly in the industrial sector," Minister of State of Planning Rajeev Shukla said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

The growth rate during the five year period remained at 8 per cent average annually, against the targeted 9 per cent, he said, adding that infrastructure bottlenecks, especially with large proj-

ects also contributed to the slow-down.

Global factors include two world economic crisis, one in 2008 and other in Euro-zone crisis of 2012 resulting in sluggish growth in several industrialised economies, he said. The 12th Plan (2012-17) has various strategies and steps to achieve the targeted growth rates in different sectors, Shukla said. (PTI)

SEALED TENDER ARE INVITED BY HEADQUARTERS 16 CORPS (SIGNALS) PIN CODE NO-908516 CARE OF 56 ARMY POSTAL OFFICER FOR ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Ser No	Items	A/U	Qty
1.	CDMA RF Planning tool	Nos	01
2.	Data Storage Terminal with UPS	Nos	01
3.	Training for CDMA RF planning tool at the user location for 10 persons in one batch	Nos	05

davn 10101/11/0075/1314

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR SURVEILLANCE CENTRE OF HEADQUARTERS 3 INFANTRY DIVISION GS (SD & WE) BRANCH, PIN CODE: 908 403, CARE OF 56 ARMY POST OFFICE

1. Headquarters 3 Infantry Division (SD & WE Branch) invites sealed tenders on behalf of President of India under two bid system i.e. **Technical Bid and Commercial Bid** for delivery and installation of the under mentioned IT hardware items to be installed at **Karu, Tangtse and Kairi in Leh- Ladakh region**. The bids are to be submitted to the Colonel GS (SD & WE), Headquarters 3 Infantry Division, c/o 56 APO, PIN-908 403.

Ser No	Item Type	Items	Quantity (No)
(a)	Description & specification of goods & quantity	Hardware Video Projection System Multi Display Controller Projection Screen Touch Panel Controller System Matrix Switcher Equipment Rack Cabling, connectors and installations	01 No 01 No 01 No 01 No 01 No 01 No As per requirement
(b)	Cost of tender	(i) Rs 250/- (Non refundable) (ii) The DD for cost of tender fee to be drawn in favour of Public Fund Account, HQ 3 Infantry Division, c/o 56 APO, PIN - 908 403. (iii) In case the tender documents has been downloaded from the website, the tender fees may be forwarded in the form of DD of Rs 250/- and can be deposited alongwith the bid.	
(c)	Place & timing of Sale of tender documents	From 23 Aug 13 onwards to 13 Sep 13 (between 1000hr to 1600hr) at GS (SD & WE) Branch, HQ 3 Infantry Division, c/o 56 APO, PIN-908 403.	
(d)	Address of website for downloading tender documents.	The tender documents can also be downloaded from the website www.tenders.gov.in/ www.eprocure.gov.in free of cost.	
(e)	Place and deadline for receipt of tenders	Place - Headquarters 3 Infantry Division, GS (SD & WE) Branch. Deadline for receipt of tenders - 13 Sep 2013.	
(f)	Place, time & date for opening of tender documents.	Within one week from deadline for receipt of tenders. i.e. on 14 Sep 2013.	
(g)	Amount and form of EMD/Bid security	Rs 1,48,806/- in form of an Account Payee DD, Fixed Deposit Receipt, Banker's Cheque of Bank Guarantee from any of the public sector banks or a private sector bank authorized to conduct Govt Business.	
(h)	EMD exemption	Vendors registered with the Central Purchase Organisation (e.g DGS&D), National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) or any Department of Ministry of Defence or Ministry of Defence itself are exempted from submission of EMD. These vendors, however, are required to submit letter of registration with these organization with their bids.	

2. Interested vendors (only OEM or vendors/channel Partners authorised to quote on their behalf) may obtain tender documents and specifications from the office of Colonel GS (SD & WE), HQ 3 Infantry Division, c/o 56 APO from Monday to Saturday (1000hrs to 1700hr) after publication of this tender notice or download the same from Govt procurement portal www.tenders.gov.in/ www.eprocure.gov.in. Duly completed bids (both technical & commercial) in separate sealed envelopes alongwith EMD/exemption certificate must be dropped in the tender box kept at the office at GS (SD & WE) Branch, HQ 3 Infantry Division or be delivered by Registered Post so as to reach this office on or before the last date of submission as specified in the tender notice. In case of any clarification the firms may contact at the above office during the working hours in person or at the **Mobile No 09596993839 (Lieutenant Colonel Maryada Sinha, GSO-1 (Info System), Headquarters 3 Infantry Division)** or may send email to this Office Email ID- infosystem242@gmail.com.

3. **Qualification Criteria.** Only OEM vendors/channel partners with adequate experience of executing IT projects.

4. **Earnest Money Deposit.** Bidders are required to submit earnest money deposit (EMD) for amount of **Rs 1,48,806/-** with their bids (technical) or EMD exemption certificate. The EMD shall be submitted in form of Account Payee DD/ fixed deposit receipt/ Bankers Cheque/ pay order or Bank Guarantee in favour of PCDA, Northern Command, Jammu from any public sector banks or private sector banks authorized to conduct Government business. EMD is to remain valid for a period of 45 days beyond the final bid validity period. EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them at the earliest after expiry of the final bid validity and latest on or before the 30th day from the award of Supply Order. The bid security of the successful bidders would be returned without any interest, whatsoever, after the receipt of Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG). The EMD will be forfeited, if the bidder withdraws or amends, impairs or derogates from the tender in any respect within the validity period of their tender.

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