

# NIC will extend full cooperation: Vaishnav responds to Dubey's letter seeking probe against Moitra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Tuesday said the National Informatics Centre (NIC) will extend "full cooperation" to the Parliament's Ethics Committee in the investigation of charges levelled by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against TMC's Mahua Moitra.

Sharing a copy of Vaishnav's letter on X, Dubey said it is the beginning of a 'dharma yuddh'.

Moitra said she is "amused" by Vaishnav's response to Dubey's letter and welcomed the BJP "to do a hit job on me".

Dubey has accused Moitra of accepting bribes and favours for asking questions in Lok Sabha at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani to target the Adani Group and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Earlier, the BJP MP wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in this regard.

In his letter to Vaishnav on October 15, Dubey urged the minister to take the allega-



tions against her with "utmost seriousness", investigate the IP addresses of Moitra's log-in credentials for her Lok Sabha account and whether there were any instances in which her account was accessed from a location where she was not present.

Replying to Dubey, the IT minister said the issues raised by him are of grave importance.

"National Informatics Centre acts as a service provider on the instructions of organisations availing services from NIC. As a service provider, NIC is instru-

mental in providing IT services to various organisations of the government of India," he said.

Matters related to user-access and website policy, etc. are within the purview of the organisations that avail services from the NIC, the minister said.

"In the case of the Lok Sabha website, the organisation availing services from the NIC is Lok Sabha Secretariat under the control of Speaker, Lok Sabha," he said.

"The issues raised in your letter are undoubtedly of grave importance. The sub-

ject matter of your letter is currently under investigation by the Committee on Ethics (Lok Sabha)," he said.

The NIC will promptly respond to any instructions in this matter from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the minister assured, adding, "NIC will also extend full cooperation to the Committee on Ethics in investigation of this matter."

In his post on X, Dubey said the greed of an MP put the country's security in danger.

"Beginning of 'dharma yuddha' after burning of Ravana's effigy... This is a question of the country's security and integrity, which goes above partisan politics," he said in Hindi.

In his letter to Birla, Dubey claimed that 50 of the 61 questions Moitra asked in the Lok Sabha till recently were focused on the Adani Group. The business conglomerate has often been accused of malpractices by the TMC MP, more so after it was at the receiving end of a critical report by short seller

Hindenburg Research.

Reacting sharply to Vaishnav's response to Dubey's letter, Moitra said in a post on X, "Amused to hear of @AshwiniVaishnav letter to Fake Degree Wala promising support in (a) probe against me."

"Still waiting for Home Ministry & Ministry of Civil Aviation to probe Farji Dubey's illegal entry into airport ATC room last year with kids," she said.

In another post, the Krishnanagar MP said two days ago, Dubey had said the NIC had already provided information to the probe agency.

"Who is lying? 2 days ago Fake Degree Wala said NIC already given details including 'Dubai' logins to probe agency. Now Ashwini Vaishnav says NIC will give info in future if asked by LS or Ethics Comm.," Moitra said.

"BJP, welcome to do hit job on me but Adani+Godda perhaps not best strategists," she said, referring to Dubey's parliamentary constituency.

# Cong accuses MP minister Govind Singh Rajput of poll code violation, demands dismissal

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday accused Madhya Pradesh minister Govind Singh Rajput of inducing voters and workers with money ahead of the assembly elections in the state and demanded he be dismissed and debarred from contesting.

Congress leader Shobha Oza also claimed that the Election Commission has booked Rajput for model code violation after a Congress worker made a complaint against him.

At a press conference here, Oza played a video purportedly showing Rajput, an MLA representing the Surkhi assembly segment, telling party workers that he would award Rs 25 lakh to in-charges of booths that get more votes for the BJP.

She said the Model Code of Conduct is in place in Madhya Pradesh and leaders of the BJP who know they are going to lose the elections are continuously engaging in malpractice and trying to influence voters.

Oza also shared a video of

senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya purportedly saying he would pay Rs 51,000 to in-charges of booths where no votes are polled for the Congress. She said Rajput was close to Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Oza alleged that Scindia talks about taking to the streets and fighting for the people but those close to him were involved in corruption and talking of "buying votes".

The Congress leader said party worker Sandeep Singh Baghel lodged a complaint with the Chief Election Commissioner and the State Election Commission and thanked the poll body for registering an FIR against Govind Singh Rajput under section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and section 178 of the IPC.

Shobha Oza is a former president of the All India Mahila Congress.

"We demand that strict action be taken against ministers and leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party who have been involved in corrupt activities... like Kailash

Vijayvargia and Govind Singh Rajput. We appeal to the governor to immediately dismiss Govind Singh Rajput...", Oza said. "We demand that they (such BJP candidates) be banned from contesting elections and their assets investigated to ascertain how they have collected so much money. We also demand answers from BJP president J P Nadda and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as to why they are trying to win elections in Madhya Pradesh through such corrupt practices," the Congress leader said.

Asked why no complaint was filed against Vijayvargiya, she said the BJP leader had allegedly made the offer prior to the enforcement of the model code. Oza, however, asserted that her party would file a complaint in case he did it again.

The BJP knows that its roots have been uprooted because of corruption in Madhya Pradesh in the last 18 years and the public will uproot such people this time," the Congress leader claimed.

# Pak government refuses to present former PM Imran Khan before election commission; cites security threat

**■ AGENCY**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's caretaker government on Tuesday refused to present Imran Khan before the election commission, citing security threats to the jailed former prime minister.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was hearing the contempt case against the Pakistan-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and other party leaders, including Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry, who were present for the hearing while Khan was represented by his counsel Shoaib Shaheen.

During the hearing, the Punjab Police informed the ECP that due to security threats, it was not possible to present the 71-

year-old leader who is in the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi in the cipher case.

An officer of the Punjab Police told the commission on behalf of the interior ministry that there were threats to Khan's life. "He has himself expressed it," he said. "Are you sure he is right?" the ECP members asked the officer.

The ECP was not satisfied with the response and asked how the country's security agencies could provide security during the upcoming general elections if unable to provide adequate security to one person. The senior police official suggested the ECP should hear the case in Adiala jail.

"How can you order us to hold a hearing in Adiala?"

If the Ministry of Interior cannot provide security to one person, how will we conduct the elections?" said the ECP.

The ECP, which had earlier issued production orders for the presence of Khan, decided to summon Interior Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani and adjourned the hearing till November 13.

Khan was arrested in August after a case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington in March last year.

Separately, a division bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), comprising Justice Miangul

Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat, rejected Khan's intra-court appeal against his jail trial in the cipher case.

His counsel Salman Akram Raja contended before the bench that the federal government did not have the authority to issue a notification for holding the cricketer-turned-politician's trial in prison.

"They are judicial officers. The federal government does not have any authority to pick and choose" [judges]," he added.

However, the bench rejected the plea.

An Islamabad High Court single-member bench earlier this month found no apparent malice behind conducting Khan's jail trial in the cipher case.

# More women as astronauts is a part of my wish list: ISRO chairman

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman S Somanath on Tuesday expressed his wish for increased female representation in the nation's space missions.

He said this desire echoes the sentiments of the nation, including that of the Prime Minister," he told PTI.

During an event at the Pournami Kavu temple here, where Somanath initiated children into the world of letters as part of the Vidyarambam ceremony on Vijayadasami, he shared his expectation of seeing more female astronauts in ISRO's ambitious Gaganyaan mission.

Somanath clarified that as astronauts had already been selected and trained, participation of women won't be feasible in Gaganyaan's inaugural mission, which aims to send

humans to space and bring them back safely to Earth.

However, he expressed optimism of greater female involvement in future Gaganyaan missions.

"More women astronauts in space missions is part of my wish list, and I only echoed the voice of the nation, including that of the Prime Minister," he told PTI.

On Sunday, the ISRO chairman had said the space agency prefers woman fighter test pilots or female scientists for its much-awaited human space flight programme-Gaganyaan-and it is possible to send them in future.

He had also said ISRO would send a female humanoid - a robot that resembles a human - on its unmanned Gaganyaan spacecraft next year.

The ambitious mission aims to send humans into space on a Low Earth Orbit of 400 km

for three days and bring them safely back to Earth.

"No doubt about it...but we have to find out such possible (women) candidates in the future," Somanath told PTI over phone in response to a query.

Acknowledging his spiritual inclination, the ISRO Chairman engaged in prayers on Vijayadasami day.

After completing his prayers at the temple on Tuesday, Somanath sat down for more than 30 minutes to help toddlers write their first letters to mark the beginning of their education.

Somanath justified his participation, saying the ceremony has got nothing to do with religion but is only considered as the initiation to education.

"Alphabets are worshipped in this temple. We can see the alphabets of the Malayalam language displayed as Gods and Goddesses here and wor-

shipped. So they belong to us as knowledge," Somanath said.

He said on the day of Vijayadasami, children are introduced to the domain of knowledge by gurus, who have already acquired something.

"So when they transfer that knowledge to the children, it is a blessing. So we transfer the blessing to them so that they can become great in the years to come," the ISRO chief said.

He said it is a blessing of spirituality from the gurus to the children to help them learn and understand about the whole universe.

Former ISRO chairman G Madhavan Nair and Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Director Unnikrishnan were also present in Pournami Kavu to help the children with Vidyarambam.

Shashi Tharoor, MP, took part in the Vidyarambam ceremony at Sree Saraswathy Devi Temple in Poojappura.

# Congress does only vote bank politics, has no love for people: Anurag Thakur

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
HAMIRPUR (HP): The Congress only does vote bank politics and the party has no love and affection

for the people, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said here on Tuesday.

# VC DDC inspects under construction WSS at Warnow Lolab

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KUPWARA: Vice Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir on Tuesday visited Warnow area of Lolab sub division to take stock of ongoing construction of Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Warnow. He inspected the under-construction water supply scheme at Rang-Warnow which involves a cost of Rs.961 lakh. Under the Scheme, 2 SRs are being constructed with capacities of 1.00 lakh gallon and 0.30 lakh gallon.

He also laid foundation of 2 Slow Sand Filtration Plants having capacity of 2.00 lakh gallon each at Affan and Rang

village. Officials from Jal Shakti Department including AEE were also present on the occasion. Meanwhile, Haji Farooq said that the execution and completion of these water supply projects will certainly address the long pending demand of the people of Warnow and other neighbouring villages. He further said that around 20000 souls living in 4 panchayats of Warnow area will get facilitated with potable water from these projects.

He directed the engineers to speed up the pace of work on JJM Projects in the Lolab sub division so that people get uninterrupted and filtered water in their households as promised by the Government through the ambitious programme of Jal Jeevan Mission.

# Portals of Badrinath Dham to close on Nov 18

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DEHRADUN: The portals of Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand will be closed on November 18 for the winter season and with this, the Char Dham Yatra will also come to an end.

Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee Chairman Ajendra Ajay on Tuesday said the doors of Badrinath Dham will be closed at 3.33 pm on November 18.

The mahurat' of the closing date was decided on the occasion of Vijayadashami. Priests and thousands of devotees were present at the Dham to witness the ceremony.

This year's Char Dham Yatra must end with the closing of the doors of Badrinath temple.

# Ahead of Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Rs 244 crore cash seized in last 15 days

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAIPUR: Ahead of the Assembly elections in Rajasthan, enforcement agencies have seized Rs 244 crore cash in the last 15 days, officials said on Tuesday. A strict vigil is being maintained by the police, excise, income tax and other enforcement agencies and a "new record" has been made in the seizure of illegal cash, liquor, drugs, gold, silver etc. The total seizure figure has crossed Rs 1,000 crore in 2023, officials said.

According to officials, this year there has been a three-fold increase in the total seizure, which was Rs 322 crore in 2021, Rs 347 crore in 2022

and Rs 1,021 crore so far in 2023.

Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta said that since June, the election commission has been working in direct coordination with all the enforcement agencies, and cash and other material worth Rs 648 crore have been seized since then.

In the last 15 days (from October 9 till now), cash and other material worth Rs 244 crore have been seized, officials said.

Gupta said that during this period, Rs 39.30 crore cash was seized by police, Income Tax Department and other agencies. Similarly, over 10.60 lakh

litre illicit liquor worth Rs 20.12 crore was seized by the Excise Department, police and other agencies.

He said that drugs and psychotropic substances worth Rs 46.76 crore were seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau, police and other agencies. Police, Income Tax Department and Customs Department have seized gold, silver and other precious metals worth Rs 30.40 crore.

He said that freebies and other items worth Rs 84.22 crore have also been seized by various agencies.

# Secy Revenue to hold public grievances redressal camp at Ramban on Oct 25

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Secretary, Revenue and Planning, Dr. Piyush Singla, is going to conduct a public grievances redressal camp to listen and resolve the public issues at Conference Hall, District Administrative Complex, Ramban at 11 a.m on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

One delegation of PRIs, Councillors from each Block and Urban Local Bodies of the district along with the general public has been requested to reach at venue as per schedule to highlight the issues of public interest before the Secretary for redressal during the camp.

**Beverly Hills, USA**

# NOW HIRING in J&K

TEAM LEAD | ADMIN POSITION | IT EXECUTIVE | NIGHT SHIFT JOBS

Qualifications	Salary
◆ In Depth Knowledge in MS Office Suite.	◆ Team Lead: 30,000 - 50,000 INR
◆ Great Email Skills.	◆ Admin Position: 15,000 - 30,000 INR
◆ Intensive Online Researsch Skills.	◆ IT Executive: 15,000 - 20,000 INR
◆ Outstanding Organizing Skills.	◆ Night Shift Jobs: 25,000 - 45,000 INR
◆ Excellent Time Management Skills.	
◆ "Go Getter & Will Do" Attitude.	Minimum Experience
◆ Great team Player.	◆ Team Lead: 5 Years
◆ Passion for the Organization and Growth.	◆ Admin Job: 3 Years
◆ Skilled LinkedIn User	◆ IT Job: 1 Year
	◆ Night Shift Jobs: 3 Years

**Location : Channi Himmat, Jammu**

Send Your CV and Cover Letter to  
[hr@dioz.com](mailto:hr@dioz.com)