# Bylaws made for Sher Shah Suri's 480-yr-old tomb in Bihar for conservation, periphery development

PATNA: Bylaws have been made for the 480-year-old tomb of Sher Shah Suri, an Afghan king who ruled parts of north India, to help the authorities resolve the problem of protecting the monument in Bihar's Sasaram, and developing the locality in

its vicinity at the same time. The National Monuments Authority (NMA) has enacted the legislation after obtaining objections and suggestions from various stakeholders of the memorial of the Afghan ruler, who was also known for his exceptional administrative skill.

Built between 1540 and 1545 CE, the tomb stands in the middle of an artificial lake at Sasaram, a historical

district of the state. Designed by Mir Muhammad Aliwal Khan, it is popularly referred to as the 'second Taj Mahal of India'.

According to experts, the bye-law will bridge the gap between managing the ambient environment near a protected site and the requirements of the populace inhabiting immediate vicinity of such monuments

It is expected that with a site-specific bye-law, common people as well as administrative and local stakeholders would find it easy to meet their construction, repair and other development-related requirements.

However, according to the bylaw, new constructions the existing architectural style and compatible with the surrounding historic character and streetscapes.

No intrusive materials like cladding or use of panelling on the exterior facade should be permitted, it said, adding that the use of coloured glazing should also be discouraged.

OPJaiswal, former Professor inDepartment of Ancient History and Archaeology, Patna University, welcomed the bye-laws for the tomb of Sher Shah Suri in Sasaram.

"The Central government and other authorities must come out with such bye-laws for other protected monuments is important for our next generation," Jaiswal told PTI.

The tomb features an octagonal structure with a central chamber, a wide verandah, and eight pillared cupolas. Accessed via a causeway, the tomb is elevated on a stone terrace with a battlemented parapet and domed pavilions.

Architectural details like stone jali fretwork and remnants of decorative tiles highlight its artistic brilliance, experts said. The NMA published the

bye-law on Sher Shah's tomb on December 21, 2021, and invited objections or suggestions from the

tions, received before the specified date, have been duly considered by the NMA in consultation with the Competent Authority. Now... the National Monuments Authority, hereby makes the bye-laws," says

the document. the "Although Development Plan (2010-2030), Sasaram' has been prepared, it does not provide specific land use guidelines. The existing use of land around the Protected Monument primarily consists of cultivation, open barren land, residential, and institutional areas," it said.

Now, the bylaws provide guidelines to the authorities, experts said.

## Besides Modi, Messi to meet CJI and Army Chief in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Argentine football icon Lionel Messi will meet the Chief Justice of India and the Army chief at a member of Parliament's house after his visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official residence during his Delhi leg of the India tour here Monday.

The final day of the GOAT India Tour will also see Messi exchanging greetings with two members of the Indian cricket team Ferozshah Kotla Stadium.

It is understood that the member of parliament is Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Praful Patel, who had served as president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for three

Messi will arrive in the

national capital at 10.45am, and after a 50-minute 'Meet and Greet' session at a city hotel, he will head to the PM's residence where he will spend 20 minutes interacting with Modi.

His next stop will be the residence of an MP, where he is also set to meet the Argentina Ambassador to India Mariano Agustin Caucino, besides CJI Justice Surva Kant and Army chief general Upendra Dwivedi.

The chief of Enforcement Directorate, Rahul Navin, is also likely to part of the select gathering at the MP's house, which will also comprise fee top government offi-

After his meeting with the VVIPs, Messi's convoy will leave for the Ferozshah Kotla Stadium where a few pro-

grammes are lined up.

At 3.30pm, Messi is scheduled to enter the stadium via the walkway that leads to the pitch, where the cars will be ready to then leave from there directly to the airport once the GOAT concerts ends.

Following a grand welcome with music, Messi will head to the small soccer field where some Indian celebrities will be engaged in a

match. Messi will greet the players, take group photo with teams. A football clinic with 22 children will be held from 3.55pm to 4.15pm.

Messi will then head to the centre of the field, and two Indian cricketers will give him a gift, and the Argentine footballer will hand over two pre-signed jersey to both.

### **Indian Navy Marathon draws** over 17,000 runners in Vizag

VISAKHAPATNAM: The 10th edition of the Indian Navy Marathon concluded here on Sunday on a grand note, drawing over 17,000 runners, including foreign nationals from 17 coun-

The marathon, which offered money prize exceeding Rs 10 lakh, saw participation from athletes and fitness enthusiasts from across India and abroad, setting a new benchmark for the event.

"Over 17,000 runners participated in the Vizag Navy Marathon 2025. reflecting unparalleled

Command (ENC) said in a press release.

The 10 km and 5 km runs were flagged off by District Collector M N Harendhira Prasad and Commissioner of Police Shankha Brata Bagchi, along with senior naval officers, civic officials, veterans and representatives of key partner organisations.

According to the release, meticulous planning and seamless execution, supported by the district administration, city police and volunteers, ensured a smooth experience for par-

This edition also intro-

including improved runner deliverables, discounts and insurance cover for all par-

The participation of foreign athletes highlighted the marathon's growing international appeal, firmly establishing it as one of the leading sporting events in the region.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla congratulated the winners, runners and organisers, and expressed gratitude to the district administration, police and volunteer organisations for their support in making the

#### Union MoS for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary named new UP BJP Chief **STATE TIMES NEWS**

LUCKNOW: Union Minister of Finance Pankaj Chaudhary was on Sunday named the new president of the BJP's Uttar Pradesh unit, with his election being formally Union announced by Minister Pivush Goval here.

The announcement was made in the presence of Chief Minister Adityanath and deputy chief ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh

Chaudhary had filed his nomination for the post on Saturday and was the sole candidate in the fray. He submitted the papers to former Union minister and BJP state election officer



Mahendra Nath Pandey and central election observer Vinod Tawde.

Aditvanath. his deputies, and Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh witnessed the filing of the nomination.

Outgoing state BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary

Goyal presented Pankaj Chaudhary with his certificate of election. At the programme, Sangathan Parv. Goyal called the BJP the world's largest political organisation, and said the global community is astonished by its disciplined and democratic functioning.

Goyal said that the party election was conducted at 1.62 lakh booths.

party's growth, carried forward from the vision of Dr Svama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and guided today by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president JP Nadda, has strengthened the organisation, which is evident from the large gathering at the event," he said. Goyal also announced the names of the party's newly

elected national council members, whose numbers ran up to 120, and included Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Modi represents Varanasi,

while Adityanath represents Gorakhpur. Minister Rajnath Singh is from Lucknow, Maurya from Prayagraj, and Pathak from Unnao. Other members of the national council include Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary (Sambhal), Smriti Irani (Sultanpur), Dr Mahendra Nath Pandev (Varanasi), Surya Pratap Shahi (Salempur), Swatantra Dev Singh (Banda), and Dr Ramapati

Ram Tripathi (Gorakhpur). Pankaj Chaudhary will be the 17th chief of UP BJP, former Union minister Mahendra Nath Pandev said. A seven-time Lok Sabha MP from the Maharajganj constituency,

Vajpayee's vision continues to guide India's

Pankaj Chaudhary belongs to the Kurmi community, categorised under Other Backwards Classes (OBC). He is considered a close confidant of Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Maurya said the 2027 UP assembly election is the next major challenge for the party and asserted that the BJP would secure an overwhelming victory under Chaudhary's leadership. Cabinet Minister Dara

Singh Chauhan said the party would scale new heights under Chaudhary's leadership, while MSME Minister Rakesh Sachan thanked the BJP's national leadership for the decision. BJP leader Dinesh Pratap

Pankai Singh said Chaudhary was fully capable of providing strong leader-

## Local body verdict sets stage for high-stakes Assembly battle in Kerala

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

THIRUVANANTHAPU-RAM: With the state Assembly elections just months away, the results of Kerala's local body polls have given the Congress-led UDF a favourable position for the upcoming contest and a more challenging situation for the ruling Left Front.

The results also indicated a favorable outlook for the BJP in upcoming state elections, where it currently holds no seats.

According to figures, of the total 1,199 local bodies, the UDF has won four corporations, 54 municipalities, seven district panchayats, 79 block panchayats, and 505 village panchayats in the two-phased LSGD polls held on December 9 and 11. The results were announced on Saturday.

While the LDF won one corporation, 28 municipalities, seven district panchayats, 63 block panchayats, and 340 village panchayats, the NDA secured victory in one corporation, two municipalities, and 26 village panchavats

The resounding victory in the local self-government elections has become a lifeline for the UDF, which faces a critical Assembly election, while the BJP-led NDA's striking performance has effectively ended the state's

For the Left Democratic Front, the months ahead of the Assembly election are crucial, as they must prove that their grassroots support base remains intact and that they still have the potential to win a third consecutive term in power.

While the UDF made it clear that it was not overconfident about victory and admitted it would need to work harder to maintain momentum, the CPI(M) state leadership rejected the Congress's allegations, attributing its own setback to unexpected political under-

The BJP state leadership said that the present achievement in the civic polls would help them move forward with greater strength in the upcoming Assembly elec-

The major political fronts are also busy analysing the reasons behind their successes and failures.

The wresting of the prestigious Thiruvananthapuram City Corporation, which had been ruled by the LDF for several decades, has been a major blow to both tradition-

According to the UDF, a huge anti-incumbency wave, fueled by issues such as the Sabarimala case, corruption,

lic relations, secured the Opposition front its large mandate.

Focusing on a range of

issues-most notably the politically sensitive Sabarimala gold missing case-the UDF's campaign appears to have resonated with a broad crosssection of voters. Allegations against the state government regarding

the PM SHRI scheme, the Centre's labour codes, and attempts to appease the majority community also contributed to their setback, they said. Soon after the results were announced, Leader of

Opposition V D Satheesan and KPCC Chief Sunny Joseph stated that their m sive victory reflects strong public resentment and anger against the LDF government. The Congress leadership

attributed the BJP's growth in the state-including its win in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation-to the policies of the LDF. UDF leaders said they would work hard to maintain momentum and replicate the victory in the Assembly polls.

The CPI(M) said the LDF would conduct a deeper review, followed by appropriate corrective action.

The ruling front, which mainly relied on the state government's various social welfare and development programmes, allegations against Pakakkad legislator Rahul Mamkootathil, and the UDF's alleged connections with the Jamaat-e-Islami. admitted that they had not

anticipated such a huge set-

The results indicated that the LDF's recent welfare measures, including hikes in social security and welfare pensions, higher honorariums for ASHA workers, and a new women's security scheme, among many other packages financial announced just before the civic polls did not impress

However, the leadership had suffered even more severe failures in the past but regained public confidence and made strong comebacks

"At every stage, the party has moved forward after conducting proper assessments and making necessary corrections. It is part of the party's history to regain the confidence of the people and bounce back stronger through such corrections, the CPI(M) state secretariat said in a statement.

The Marxist party accused the UDF of contesting the polls by openly and covertly aligning with all communal forces. The Left Front also rejected the claim that the BJP achieved a major victory in the civic polls, saying it does not align with the facts. Although the BJP emerged

as the single largest party in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, it failed to secure a simple majority, the ruling party pointed out. "The LDF reclaimed the

Pandalam municipality, which the BJP had previously won. In the Palakkad municipality, the BJP lost its majority. The LDF also wrested Kulanada, Cherukol, and Mutholi panchayats from the BJP. Across Kerala, the BJP holds only one district panchayat seat-in Kasaragod district-and that

BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that when people sincerely want change, it will definitely hap-

"India witnessed such a change in 2014. It is also becoming a reality in Kerala through the 2025 local govelections, ernment Chandrasekhar said in a Facebook post.

This movement for change is only going to gain strength in the coming days, he added, saving it will pave the way for decisive changes in Kerala's political culture and ensure development for its people.

#### self-reliance under PM Modi: Dhami **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MADANAPALLE Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday said that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's values, governance model and national vision continue to inspire India's journey towards self-reliance under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

Addressing a public meeting as the chief guest at the Atal-Modi Good Governance Yatra here, Dhami spoke after unveiling a statue of Vajpayee at Madanapalle in Annamayya

'Vajpayee's values, governance framework and national vision continue to guide India's march towards self-reliance under Prime Minister Modi's leadership," Dhami said.

He said the Atal-Modi Good Governance Yatra, which began on December 11, is being conducted across all districts and will continue till December 25. with the unveiling of Vajpayee statues forming part of the programme.

Dhami said Vajpayee's political life was rooted in integrity, nationalism and public welfare, earning him respect even from opposition leaders.

Recalling Vajpayee's speech during the 1996 no-confidence motion, the chief minister said the former prime minister had firmly asserted that governments may come and go, but the nation must endure.

Dhami said Vajpayee laid the foundation for Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) and transformed the country through initiatives such as the Golden Quadrilateral national highway project, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and telecom sector expansion.

The project refers to the national highway network connecting India's four major metropolitan cities-Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata-forming a quadrilateral.

It is a key component of the National Highways Development Project and aims to improve connectivity and promote economic growth.

provide connectivity to unconnected habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy. The government is working

PMGSY was launched to

to establish uniform technical and management standards while facilitating policy devel-

opment and planning at the state level to ensure sustainable management of the rural road network.

Dhami said Vajpayee demonstrated the strength of coalition politics by leading the country's first stable non-Congress coalition government

at the Centre. According to him, poverty eradication and inclusive development were central to Vajpayee's approach, with programmes aimed at making citizens active

partners in nation-building

Drawing parallels with the present, Dhami said Prime Minister Modi, inspired by Vajpavee, is strengthening India through development and welfare initiatives such as Startup India' and 'Vocal for Local'. The chief minister said India's digital revolution, driven by platforms such as PhonePe and Google Pay, has astonished developed nations, including the United States

and countries in Europe. He added that around 36,000 km of national highways are currently being laid across the country, while 99 per cent of village roads have

## Honour, respect for Indians abroad were 'never same' before 2014: Piyush Goyal

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

LUCKNOW: Union Industry Commerce and Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday claimed that the honour and respect Indians get abroad now were never the same before 2014.

He was addressing BJP

workers and leaders at a gathering in Lucknow, after announcing the name of Union Minister Pankaj Chaudhary as the state party

He said that before 2014 -- when the BJP came to power at the Centre -- the news featured corruption and major scams every day, and the law and order scenario was "very bad" in Uttar

Addressing the attendees, he said that by making Narendra Modi the prime minister and ensuring the formation of the NDA government with a huge majority, "you have been the witness to ('saakshi') and the facilitator of ('sutradhaar') the development spree it started". "In the journey from 2014 to 2025,

India's we go carrying the Indian

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the mindset and the way of working changed. At the international level, identity also changed. Today, wherever

passport, the honour and respect one gets abroad as an Indian, it was never the same before 2014," Goyal said. He also said the way Modi government

has made good governance its focal point, linked a developing country with development, made the spirit of 'antvodaya' reach houses in the true sense, and changed the lives of people after 2014, it is a "precedent" for the country and the

The Union minister also listed the achievements of the government and said it has pulled a record number of 25 crore people from poverty in 11 years.

He also said that in such a short time. the country's economy became the fastest-growing economy in the world, and is on the way to becoming the third-

Goyal, while praising Uttar Pradesh chief minister, said Yogi Adityanath has freed the state from land mafia, sand mafia and liquor mafia in the past eight

He has ensured good law and order and made Uttar Pradesh the second largest economy in India, which is moving towards USD 1 trillion, Goyal said.

"I feel that both leaders have worked to take India and Uttar Pradesh forward with a new thought and in a new direction, which is in front of us, and it inspires all of us," he said. The Union minister also said that

there is probably no other state that has

developed so much in eight years, and

there are unlimited possibilities (in the He claimed that when the BJP came to power in 2017, there was an atmosphere of exodus in the state, no job avenues for people, and the mafia pre-

"But today, an environment has been created by which industrialists feel secure here," he said.

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS** NEW DELHI: President

Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said behavioural change in every citizen is crucial to bringing energy efficiency to all sectors in the country.

Addressing Energy Conservation Day Function here, she said the consciousness of adopting a balanced lifestyle in harmony with nature is fundamental to India's cultural tradition -- this very sentiment forms the basis of our message to the world, "Lifestyle

"Participation of every sector and citizen is essential for the success of India's energy transition. Behavioural change is crucial for bringing energy efficiency to all sectors," she

for Environment -- LiFE".

The President said energy conservation is the most environmentally friendly and reliable source of energy.

Energy conservation is not



just an option, but the most crucial need of today, she

She underlined that saving energy doesn't simply mean using less, but utilising energy wisely, responsibly, and

efficiently. "When we avoid unnecessary use of electrical appliances, adopt energy-efficient devices, utilise natural light and ventilation in our homes and workplaces, or embrace solar and renewable energy options, we not only save energy but also reduce car-

bon emissions," she said. Energy conservation is also

important for maintaining clean air and safe water sources, and a balanced ecosystem, Murmu said, adding, "Every unit of energv we save will be a symbol of our responsibility towards nature and our sensitivity towards future generations.'

If the youth and children are aware about energy conservation and make efforts in this direction, the goals in this area can be achieved and the sustainable development of the country can be ensured, the President said.

Access to affordable and clean energy empowers communities, she said, adding that green energy is not limited to electricity generation; it is a powerful means of empowerment and inclusive

The President noted that initiatives, such as Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and the National Green Hydrogen Mission, are reducing dependence on fossil fuels. The government is also promoting renewable energy adoption and energy efficiency through the Renewable Consumption Obligation and Production-Linked Incentive schemes.

She noted that India's

energy efficiency efforts in

2023-24 resulted in energy savings of 53.60 million tonnes of oil equivalent. She said these efforts are leading to significant economic savings annually and have also resulted in a sub-

stantial reduction in CO?

emissions. The President said the participation of every sector and citizen is essential for the success of India's energy

transition. She appreciated all stake-

holders working in the field of energy conservation and said their contribution will ensure a healthy and bright future for coming generations.