

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

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
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

town in the south-western 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

should be in harmony with 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.

OP Jaiswal, former Professor in the Department 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 in the state.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
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 at the 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 terms.

Messi will arrive in the

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

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
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 countries.

The marathon, which offered prize money 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 enthusiasm and sporting

spirit," the Eastern Naval 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 participants.

This edition also intro-

## Union MoS for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary named new UP BJP Chief



Mahendra Nath Pandey and central election observer Vinod Tawde.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LUCKNOW: Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary was on Sunday named the new president of the BJP's Uttar Pradesh unit, with his election being formally announced by Union Minister Piyush Goyal here.

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

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

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

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: 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 panchayats.

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

traditional bipolar politics.

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 undercurrents.

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 elections.

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 traditional fronts in the state.

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

appeasement, and failed public 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 cross-section 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 massive 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

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 too is a pre-existing one," it said.

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

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

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

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

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LUCKNOW: Union Commerce and Industry 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 president.

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 Pradesh.

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 ('sutradahaar') the development spree it started".

"In the journey from 2014 to 2025,

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the mindset and the way of working changed. At the international level, India's identity also changed. Today, wherever we go carrying the Indian 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 'antodaya' reach houses in the true sense, and changed the lives of people after 2014, it is a "precedent" for the country and the world.

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-

largest economy globally.

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 years.

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 state).

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 prevailed.

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

## Behavioural change crucial to boost energy efficiency: President Murmu

**■ 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 National 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 for Environment -- LiFE".

"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 said.

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

Energy conservation is not

important for maintaining clean air and safe water sources, and a balanced ecosystem, Murmu said, adding, "Every unit of energy 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 development.

The President noted that initiatives, such as Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and the National Green Hydrogen Mission, are reducing

