

# Chhattisgarh: ED arrests retired IAS officer Tuteja in liquor 'scam' case

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

RAIPUR: Days after filing a fresh case, the Enforcement Directorate has arrested retired Chhattisgarh IAS officer Anil Tuteja in connection with a Rs 2,000 crore alleged liquor scam linked money laundering case in the state, official sources said on Sunday

The federal agency had detained the 2003-batch officer from the Economic Offences Wing (EOW)/Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) office in Raipur on Saturday evening where the bureaucrat and his son Yash Tuteja had gone to record their statements in the same case.

They were issued summons by the ED at the EOW/ACB office to join the investigation and record their statements following which they were taken to the central agency's office here.

The retired IAS officer was questioned and later taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Yash Tuteja was allowed to leave after questioning

Anil Tuteja is expected to be produced before a magistrate in the city where the agency will seek his remand, the sources said.



The officer retired from service last year. He was last designated as joint secretary in the industry and commerce department of Chhattisgarh. The ED had filed a fresh money laundering case in the

alleged liquor scam case after the Supreme Court recently quashed its earlier FIR that was based on an Income Tax Department complaint. The apex court ruled there was no scheduled offence and hence the money laundering case does not stand.

The agency, just before this ruling, had shared details of its probe in the case with the state EOW/ACB seeking registration of a criminal case and once they filed a FIR, the ED registered a new money laundering case taking cognisance of that complaint.

The EOW/ACB registered this FIR on January 17,

and Justice Manoj Jain.

about a month after the BJP defeated the incumbent Congress government in the assembly polls, and named 70 individuals and companies, including former excise minister Kawasi Lakhma, former Refuting these

chief secretary Vivek Dhand and others. The ED has estimated the alleged "proceeds of crime" in the case at Rs 2,161 crore. Money was "illegally" col-

lected from "every" bottle of liquor sold in Chhattisgarh and evidence of "unprecedented" corruption and money laundering of Rs 2,000 crore generated by an alcohol syndicate led by Anwar Dhebar, the elder brother of Raipur Mayor and Congress leader Aijaz Dhebar, has been unearthed, the ED had alleged

Slamming the BJP government in the state, former chief minister and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel earlier had said that the EOW/ACB action was politically motivated.

For the last three years, the EDand Income Tax Department were probing the cases and now they have recommended the ACB to register an offence, Baghel said. "Earlier the names of sever-

al of our party leaders did not come up in the probe but now their names have been mentioned in the (EOW/ACB) FIRs. It has been done to defame them ahead of the Lok Sabha polls...," Baghel had told reporters.

claims. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had said that the ED was "an independent agency and it has been doing its job. It has nothing to do with elections.

Anwar Dhebar, businessman Arvind Singh and Arunpati Tripathi, an Indian Telecom Service (ITS) officer and special secretary of the excise department, were arrested by the EOW/ACB as part of the January registered FIR.

Anwar Dhebar and Tripathi were arrested by the ED as part of the quashed FIR too. It has also been alleged by the ED in the past that "bribe" was collected from distillers in the state on a per liquor case basis procured from the CSMCL (state body for purchase and sale of liquor) and country liquor was being sold off-the-books. "In this (country liquor) case, not even Rs 1 reached

the state exchequer and all the sale proceeds were pocketed by the syndicate. The illegal liquor was sold from state-run shops only," the

agency had alleged. The ED has claimed that "bribes" were taken from distillers to allow them to make a cartel and have fixed market

share. "This cartel was exclusively a supplier (of liquor) for the state of Chhattisgarh," the ED said, adding the "commission" was also generated from the sale of foreign liquor in the state.

It alleged the syndicate also "manufactured and sold" illicit liquor in the state entirely on cash with no income tax or excise duty being paid.

"The entire sale considera tion was siphoned off with each person getting its share, including distiller, transporter, hologram maker, bottle maker, excise department officials and their higher echelons, Anwar Dhebar, senior IAS officers and politicians."

"ED investigation has found that between the years 2019 and 2022, this kind of illegal sale was almost 30-40 per cent of the total sales of liquor in he state," the agency claimed.

The agency alleged that the commission generated through this illegal sale of liquor was shared "as per the directions from the highest political executives of the state.'

STATE TIMES NEWS MUMBAI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J P Nadda on Sunday criticised the opposition parties, claiming they were trying hard to save their dynastic politics.

Addressing a rally in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, Nadda said the BJP provided a stable government in the last 10 years and crucial issues like the practice of instant triple talaq and the Ram temple construction in Ayodhya were resolved under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership

Targeting the opposition, he said political parties ment schemes, offering a earlier used to make tall comfortable life to the claims in their manifesto rural people," he said.

and forget their implementation after coming to power.

**Opposition parties trying hard to** 

save their dynasties: Nadda

"The opposition parties in the country are now trying hard to save their dynastic politics, be it the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP)Uddhav or Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT)," Nadda said. The BJP offered a stable

government in the last 10

years that helped in resolv-

ing crucial issues like the

Christians (from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who have come to India), Nadda said. The Congress never took

The BJP-led government

also came up with the

Citizenship (Amendment)

Act that now offers Indian citizenship to persecuted

Hindus, Parsis and

such steps to help them, he said. "After Modi came to

power, politics of the countriple talaq and Ram temtry changed and became ple construction, he said. "We also provided hunmore accountable to the dreds of thousands of people. In a way, it has homes to the homeless peobecome more responsible,' ple and increased the Nadda said. Polling in the Buldhana reach of various govern-

and seven other Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra will be held on April 26.

# Delhi HC to hear on Monday CM Kejriwal's plea against ED summons in excise case

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court will on Monday hear Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's petition challenging the summonses issued to him by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with its probe into an excise policy-linked money laundering case

Kejriwal, arrested by the agency on March 21 after the high court refused to grant him interim protection from coercive action, has also challenged the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act with respect to arrest, questioning and grant of bail. The plea is scheduled for hearing before the bench of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait for formulating the now-

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Teachings of

Indian Tirthankaras have

gained a new relevance at a

time when "many countries

are getting into wars". Prime

Minister Narendra Modi said

on Sunday and asserted that

India is making a place for

itself as "Vishwa Bandhu in a

Addressing the 2,550th

the principles of truth and

The prime minister also

stamp and a coin on the occa-

community for their bless-

ings. He said his government

put emphasis on promoting

heritage as well as material

development when it came to

power in 2014 at a time when

He cited his government's

like yoga and Ayurveda,

that self-pride is its identity.

drama

ous UPA dispensation.

divided world".

role in it as well.

The AAP national convenor had approached the high court in the wake of the ninth summons issued by the ED asking him to appear before it on March 21. The high court bench on March 20 asked the ED to file its reply with respect to

the maintainability of the petition. The next day, it asked ED to also respond to Kejriwal's plea seeking protection from arrest, saying "at this stage" it was not inclined to grant the Centre". any interim relief. Kejriwal was arrested by ED later that evening and is presentparty, a partner of the ly in judicial custody. INDIA bloc, the plea claimed that the ED being The federal probe agency has alleged that the accused in control of the Union govwere in touch with Kejriwal ernment has"weaponized".

scrapped excise policy that resulted in undue benefits to them, in return of kickbacks to the AAP.

In the plea, Kejriwal has raised several issues, including whether a political party is covered under the antimoney laundering law. It alleged that the arbitrary procedure under PMLA was being used to create a nonlevel playing field for the general elections to "skew the electoral process in the favour of the ruling party at

Stating the petitioner is a "vocal critic" of the ruling

Tirthankaras' teachings of non-violence getting

new relevance as wars break out: PM Modi

India" is being credited to

India's growing capabilities

and foreign policy. "But, I

want to tell you that the our

cultural image has a big role

"Today we put forward the

principles of truth and non-

violence with full confidence

on the global fora. We tell the

world that the solution to

global problems is found in

the ancient Indian culture

and tradition. This is why

India is making a place for

itself as 'Vishwa Bandhu' in a

divided world", the prime

He mentioned India's ini-

tiatives such as Mission

LiFE for combating climate

change and the vision of 'One

Earth One Family and One

roadmap of One World-One

International Solar Alliance.

During his address, Modi

also paid tributes to Acharya

Shri Vidyasagar Maharaj

along with a

and

Grid

in it," he said.

minister added.

Future'

Sun-One

been

# Many extreme events of 2023 in line with predictions of warmer world, study finds

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Multiple regions across the world simultaneously experiencing heat extremes could become an "emerging feature" of a warmer planet, according to a new study.

The new research that reviewed the weather and climate of 2023 also said that many of the extreme events experienced last year are consistent with predictions previously made about a warmer world

Putting the events of the warmest year on record in perspective, researchers said that in a warmer

Change in seasonality of extreme events too is another trend the researchers observed.

"We are seeing extremes appearing in seasons in which they are usually less likely. Heat waves, for example, appeared in spring 2023 in south western Europe, Brazil, Morocco and South Africa, Robin Clark of the Met Office in the UK, a coauthor of the study published in the journal Advances in Atmospheric Science, said, Further, multiple regions across the world simultaneously experiencing heat extremes



together experienced record-breaking hotextremes in the month of July last year.

Atmospheric Physics Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the lead author of the paper, said. Droughts in California in

the US and the Horn of Africa transitioned into floods in 2023, and more of such events are projected to occur in the coming decades, the authors said.

The compounding effects of drought-to-flood events can be more severe compared to when floods and droughts occur separately, they said.

2023. They said that an The researchers also found that wildfires, such increased occurrences of such events too are in line as those that occurred in with projections about the Hawaii and Canada last future under continued year, are causing wideglobal warming "Many of 2023's events

are consistent with project-

ed future changes in a

warmer world, showing the challenges that are to

come, while some were a

surprise, suggesting there

is still more to learn about

what's potentially around

the corner," Wenxia Zhang

from the Institute of

future, more events involving record-breaking hot temperatures occurring earlier in the year, and cyclones exacerbating rainfall extremes are in order.

who passed away in February

and recalled his recent meet-

ing with him, saying "his

blessings are still guiding

us". Referring to the Lok

Sabha polls, he said a big fes-

tival of democracy is happen-

ing "and, the country believes

from here a new journey into

The prime minister also

suggested to the audience

that they should use their

franchise early in the day and

added in a lighter vein that

saints have links to lotus, a

flower often used in holy

events which also is the

Bhagwan Mahaveer's Nirvan

Diwas even after 2500 years

and I'm sure that the nation

will continue to celebrate his

values for thousands of years

He asked people to follow

the teachings of Bhagwan

Mahaveer as revival of those

values is the demand of the

The prime minister said

that Jainism is the path of

The event is a rare occasion

and is happening at the

beginning of 'Amrit Kaal',

Modi said, adding the coun-

try is working to make cente-

nary year of freedom a "gold-

Prime Minister Modi

underlined that the idea of

'jin' or the victorious.

en centenary"

to come", the he said.

are celebrating

BJP's poll symbol.

"We

time.

future will also begin".

could become an "emerging feature" of a warmer planet, the researchers said. Many regions of North America, southern Europe, northern Africa, and Asia

The team also found that intense cyclones exacerbated rainfall extremes such as the Libya flooding in September and the North China flooding in July

## LS polls: TN records 69.72 per cent voter turnout

## **STATE TIMES NEWS**

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu recorded a voter turnout of 69.72 per cent during the April 19 elections to 39 Lok Sabha constituencies. the Election Commission announced on Sunday.

According to the "end of poll voter turnout data as uploaded by the respective Returning Officers," released by the Election Commission of India, Dharmapuri recorded the highest turnout of 81.20 per cent.

Central Chennai witnessed the lowest of 53.96 per cent.

# Lawlessness prevailing in Bengal under Mamata Banerjee dispensation: Rajnath

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JALANGI (WB): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday alleged that lawlessness was prevailing in West Bengal under the Mamata Banerjee-led dispensation. He said that despite the

state having a woman chief minister, incidents like Sandeshkhali were taking place.

"There is lawlessness in West Bengal under the Mamata Banerjee dispensation," Singh said, addressing an election rally here in Murshidabad Lok Sabha

'Amrit Kaal' is not merely a resolution but India's spiritual inspiration.

"For India, modernity is its body, spirituality is its soul. If spirituality is removed from modernity, anarchy is born," he said.

Modi said India is emerging from the period of corruption and despair as more than 25 crore Indians have come out of poverty. Union ministers of state

for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal and Meenakashi Lekhi were also present on the occasion among other dignitaries and saints from

the Jain community.

Gouri

constituency in favour of

BJP candidate Shankar Ghosh. He also said that "people across the world were

ashamed" over the allegations of atrocities on women in Sandeshkhali

Some local TMC leaders have been accused of committing sexual atrocities on women as well as grabbing land of villagers, including tribals, at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district. "Goons are ruling the roost here and people are afraid," Singh claimed.

spread damage, along with threatening emissions targets aimed at limiting global warming.

Ecosystems have come under immense pressure

due to wildfires, they said. The authors called for improved predictions and early warning systems to be better prepared for climate hazards

# Confident civil servants will continue to serve fellow citizens with nation first spirit: Prez



**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday greeted civil servants on Civil Services Day, and expressed confidence that they will continue to serve fellow citizens with the spirit of "nation first"

April 21 is celebrated as Civil Services Day and is an occasion for bureaucrats to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work.

"Greetings to all civil servants on Civil Services Day! You have carried forward the great legacy of working for the progress of the country with indefatigable spirit. Our civil services always face the challenge to adapt quickly to the dynamic environment, while upholding the three fundamental values Sardar Patel underlined in his speech on this day in 1947 - dignity, integrity and incorruptibility, she said. "I am confident you will continue to serve the fellow citizens with the spirit of Nation First. My best wishes to you in this endeavour,' Murmu said in a post on X. The day commemorates the of Sardar address Vallabhbhai Patel, the first home minister of independent India, to Administrative Services Officers on probation in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi. He had referred to civil servants as the "steel frame of India".

The first Civil Services Day function was held in Vigyan Bhawan here on April 21, 2006.

Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav here, Modi also cased on the occasion and said India is now projecting said the dedication of the vouth towards the values of non-violence on the global Bhagwan Mahaveer is a sign fora as a solution to the probof the nation moving forward lems in the world, and its culin the right direction tural image is playing a big

Modi also bowed before the Jain saints present at the event and conveyed his best wishes to all on the auspicious occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti on Sunday.

In his address, he said the 'teachings of our Tirthankaras have gained a new relevance in the time when, globally, many countries are getting into wars".

the country was engulfed in preachers of Jainism. despair, a swipe at the previpromotion of Indian heritage people to look at all the asserting that the country's aspects and embrace the views of others too.

new generation now believes Today, humanity is expect-He praised the dance ing peace from India in these 'Vartaman Mein times of conflict, he said. The "new role" of this "New Vardhaman' that was show-



released a commemorative sion and thanked the Jain

Tirthankaras are gurus or Modi recalled the philosophies such as Anekantavada and Syadvada that teach