

Navy should remain operationally ready to deter adversaries, says Admiral Tripathi after taking charge as new Navy Chief

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Shortly after assuming charge as the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi on Tuesday said the Navy should remain operationally ready at all times to deter potential adversaries in view of the emerging challenges in the maritime domain.

Admiral Tripathi, regarded as a communication and electronic warfare specialist, took the reins of the force following the retirement of incumbent R Hari Kumar after a career spanning four decades.

An alumnus of the Sainik School Rewa, Admiral Tripathi was serving as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff. The admiral took charge of the Navy at a time when various strategic waterways, including the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, were witnessing security challenges, especially with Houthi militants targeting merchant ships in the region.

"Over the years, our Navy has evolved into a combat-



ready, cohesive, credible, and future-proof force, for which I want to thank all the esteemed former Chiefs of the Navy," he told reporters. "The existing and emerging challenges in the maritime domain mandate the Indian Navy to remain operationally ready to deter potential adversaries at sea in peace and to win the war at sea when asked to do so," he said.

"That will remain my singular focus and endeavour," the new Navy Chief said.

Besides the situation in the Red Sea, there have been growing concerns in India's security establishment over China's increasing forays into the Indian

Before taking charge, Admiral Tripathi paid tributes to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial. He was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at the lawns of the South Block at the Raisina Hills.

He also took blessings from his mother Rajni Tripathi, who was present at the South Block complex.

An alumnus of the Sainik School Rewa, Admiral Tripathi was serving as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff before taking the reins of the force.

Born on May 15, 1964, Admiral Tripathi was commissioned into the executive branch of the Indian Navy on July 1, 1985.

A communication and electronic warfare specialist, he has had a long and distinguished service spanning nearly 39 years.

Prior to taking over as Vice Chief of Navy, he had served as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.

Admiral Tripathi has commanded Indian Naval Ships

Vinash, Kirch and Trishul.

He has also held various important operational and staff appointments which include fleet operations officer of the Western Fleet, director of naval operations, principal director, network centric operations and principal director, naval plans.

As Rear Admiral, he served as flag officer commanding of the eastern fleet. He also served as Commandant of the prestigious Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala.

An alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Admiral Tripathi has undergone courses at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Naval Higher Command Course, Karanja and Naval Command College in the United States.

He is a recipient of the Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM) and Nau Sena Medal (NM).

Admiral Hari Kumar retired following superannuation after a career spanning four decades.

Lodging false police cases against husband and in-laws amount to cruelty: HC; upholds divorce

STATE TIMES NEWS
MUMBAI: Observing that lodging of cases on false grounds against husband and his family members amounts to cruelty, the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court has refused to quash the divorce granted to a couple by a family court.

The HC dismissed the petition filed by a woman seeking restitution of her conjugal rights and challenging a February 2023 order passed by the family court granting the decree of divorce.

The man had sought divorce on the grounds of cruelty and desertion by his wife. In the order dated April 25, a copy of which was made available on Tuesday, Justice Y G Khobragade said initiating proceedings under the Domestic Violence Act and seeking restitution of conjugal rights do not by itself constitute cruelty.

"But, lodging of various false, baseless reports with the police authorities against the husband, his father, brother and other



family members certainly falls within the ambit of cruelty," the HC stated.

The couple got married in 2004 and lived together till 2012. The man claimed that in 2012, his wife left him for her parents and started living in their house.

The woman later filed various proceedings, including false criminal complaints, against her husband and his family members.

The man claimed in his plea against his wife in the family court that he and his family members suffered mental cruelty due to these false complaints.

He had claimed that his former wife had even gone to the extent of lodging fake

Unwarranted, unsubstantiated imputations: India on Washington Post report on Pannun case



STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: A day after The Washington Post named an Indian official for allegedly plotting to assassinate Sikh extremist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, India on Tuesday said the report made "unwarranted and unsubstantiated" imputations on a serious matter and that investigation into the case was underway.

The newspaper, citing unnamed sources, named a Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) officer in connection with the alleged plot to kill Pannun on American soil last year.

"The report in question makes unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations on a serious matter," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

he was involved in the plot to assassinate Pannun.

In November last year, US federal prosecutors charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta of working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun.

Pannun, wanted in India on terror charges, holds dual citizenship of the US and Canada. He has been designated as a terrorist by the Union home ministry under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"The allegations about the failed plot to kill Pannun came to fore weeks after the Canadian Prime Minister claimed in September of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia.

India had strongly rejected the charges.

On December 7, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in Parliament that India instituted an inquiry committee to look into the inputs received from the US in the Pannun case as the matter has a bearing on national security.

He said a high-level inquiry committee set up by New Delhi to look into inputs provided by the US on the alleged plot was still probing the case.

"There is an ongoing investigation of the high level committee set up by the Government of India to look into the security concerns shared by the US government on networks of organised criminals, terrorists and others," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to media queries on the report.

"Speculative and irresponsible comments on it are not helpful," Jaiswal said, slamming the report by the US daily.

The Washington Post report identified the RAW officer as Vikram Yadav and alleged that

SC appreciates 'marked improvement' in public apology by Ramdev, Balkrishna, Patanjali

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday appreciated the "marked improvement" in the unconditional public apology published in newspapers by yoga guru Ramdev, his aide Balkrishna and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd in the misleading advertisements case.

A bench of justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah told senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ramdev, Balkrishna and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, that language of the apology was adequate and the names were also there in it.

"I don't know the second apology is on whose vetting. There has been marked improvement," Justice Amanullah said, adding, "We appreciate that. Now finally they have understood."

He said earlier when the apology was published, only the company's name was there.

"Now the names have come. It is a marked improvement, we appreciate that," Justice Amanullah



observed, adding, "The language is adequate."

During the hearing, the apex court asked the firm's counsel as to why they have e-filed the apology published in newspapers when the court had on April 23 specifically asked that the original has to be filed.

"This is not compliance of our order," Justice Kohli observed.

"There is too much of communication gap Mr Rohatgi... Speaking for myself, I raise my hands now. Too much of an indulgence," Justice Amanullah

from personal appearance for Ramdev and Balkrishna for the next date of hearing in the matter.

"The exemption is granted limited to the next date of hearing," the bench said.

The apex court is hearing a plea filed in 2022 by the Indian Medical Association alleging a smear campaign against the Covid vaccination drive and modern systems of medicine.

While hearing the matter on April 23, the top court had said the public apology published in newspapers were not on record and asked those to be filed within two days.

Patanjali Ayurved Ltd had assured the top court on November 21 last year that it will not violate any law, especially those relating to advertising or branding of products manufactured and marketed by it.

It had also assured the bench that "no casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy or against any system of medicine will be released to the media in any

form".

The top court had said Patanjali Ayurved Ltd is "bound down to such assurance".

The non-observance of the specific undertaking and subsequent media statements had irked the bench, which later issued notices to show cause why contempt proceedings should be not initiated against them.

On March 19, the top court had directed Ramdev and Balkrishna, who is the managing director of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, to appear before it after taking exception to the company's failure to respond to the notice issued in the case relating to advertisements of the firm's products and their medicinal efficacy.

The top court had said it deemed it appropriate to issue Ramdev a show cause notice as advertisements issued by Patanjali, which were in the teeth of the undertaking given to the court on November 21, 2023, reflect an endorsement by him.

Money laundering case: Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal moves HC to seek bail on medical grounds

STATE TIMES NEWS
MUMBAI: Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal has moved the Bombay High Court seeking bail in a money laundering case on the ground that both he and his wife were suffering from terminal cancer.

A single bench of Justice N J Jamadar on Tuesday said it would hear the plea on May 3.

In his plea, Goyal said the medical conditions of his wife and himself have taken a toll on his mental health and as per a psychological report, he is suffering from major depression.

"As per the report, Goyal is severely depressed and expresses a dread of the future, has suicidal ideation and a sense of hopeless resignation," the petition said. In the present condi-



tion, not permitting Goyal to be with his wife was a gross violation of the basic human rights, the plea said.

"In the twilight of their lives, whilst they both battle life-threatening conditions, they (Goyal and his wife) must be permitted to provide each other succour as each other's primary caregiver," the petition said.

Goyal is presently undergoing chemotherapy, after which he

would require a clean, sterile, sanitized and hygienic environment and hence cannot be sent back to jail, it said.

"The special court while refusing him (Goyal) bail has proceeded on the premise that mere hospitalisation would suffice without realising the post-treatment case required and also the critical condition of his wife," the petition said.

Goyal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in September 2023 on allegations that he had laundered money and siphoned off loans to the tune of Rs 538.62 crore given to Jet Airways by Canara Bank. His wife Anita Goyal was arrested in November 2023 when the ED submitted its chargesheet in the case. She

was granted bail by the special court on the same day considering her age and medical condition. In February this year, a special court permitted Goyal to be admitted in a hospital of his choice for a period of two months for medical treatment.

The special court had, however, denied bail to Goyal, noting that he was being provided treatment at the hospital of his choice and was being taken care of by doctors. The court had also said that Goyal's wife was also undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

Goyal sought bail from the high court on the merits of the case too and said he has been implicated in a false case.

Goyal claimed that every single rupee of the money received

from the Canara Bank was utilised by JIL (Jet Airways India Ltd) towards legitimate business purposes. He added that he was a non-executive director/ chairman of JIL and hence had no powers of management of its day-to-day affairs. "The allegation that the money was issued for illegitimate purposes is ex-facie frivolous," the plea said.

It added that the probe against him is over and a prosecution complaint (chargesheet) has also been filed by the ED and hence his custody was not required.

Goyal in his plea said his right to life and dignity cannot be curtailed or suspended merely because he is accused of an economic offence.

Congress appoints Devender Yadav as interim chief of Delhi unit



STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday appointed former MLA Devender Yadav as interim president of its Delhi unit, two days after Arvinder Singh Lovely resigned from the post while criticising the alliance with AAP and statements of the party's candidates in the national capital.

Yadav, who won from the Badli assembly constituency in Delhi in 2008 and 2013 and lost to Ajesh Yadav of AAP in 2015, is currently the All India Congress Committee's (AICC) Punjab in-charge.

"My heartfelt thanks to Sh Kharge ji, Smt Sonia Gandhi ji, Rahul Gandhi ji, KC Venugopal ji and Smt Priyanka Gandhi ji and all senior leaders of the Congress, for the faith they have bestowed in me yet again!" Yadav said in a post on X.

"Will try my best to tread the coveted and ideological vision party has laid for me and give my 100 per cent!" he said.

According to a statement issued by the party, "Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has appointed Yadav as the interim president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) with immediate effect."

Yadav will continue in his role as AICC in-charge for Punjab, the statement added.

The development comes as the Congress and AAP prepare for the May 25 election to the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi.

In his resignation letter sent to the Congress president on Saturday, Lovely had said that he found himself "handicapped" as all unanimous decisions taken by senior Delhi unit leaders were "unilaterally vetoed" by the AICC's Delhi in-charge Deepak Babaria.

The Delhi Congress unit was against the alliance with AAP but the party high command went ahead with it, Lovely had said as his resignation brought to the fore the party's factional

feud.

He had also criticised Congress candidates -- Kanhaiya Kumar from North East Delhi and Udit Raj from North West Delhi -- for their statements and said tickets were given to two people who were total strangers to the Delhi Congress and party policies.

With a section of leaders demanding the removal of Babaria, the AICC Delhi in-charge had said it was "unfortunate" that Lovely's resignation came at a time when the general elections were underway but asserted that it wouldn't affect the Congress while AAP termed it an internal matter of its ally.

The BJP said it was an "unnatural alliance" forged by the leadership of AAP and Congress to "shield their corruption" but their party workers had not accepted it.

Lovely resigned from the post of Delhi Congress president in 2015 as well. He joined the BJP in 2017 but returned to the Congress about nine months later.

Congress having "vicious and divisive design", alleges BJP President Nadda

STATE TIMES NEWS
SHIVAMOGGA (KARNATAKA): Accusing the Congress of supporting the idea of religion-based reservation, despite the fact that it cannot be done as per the Constitution, BJP President J P Nadda on Tuesday charged the grand old party with having "vicious and divisive designs".

He said this while speaking at "professionals meet" organised here as part of the BJP's campaign for Shimoga Lok Sabha candidate B Y Raghavendra.

"In the Constitution, it is very clearly written that there is no place for religious reservation, but what they (Congress) did -- 4 per cent reservation to Muslims, from OBC quota (in Karnataka). Who is against the OBC? They are neither friends of Muslim brethren nor sympathisers of OBC," Nadda said. Addressing the gathering, he noted that in undivided Andhra Pradesh, Congress came out with a law four times, where they tried to take reservation of SC/ST and OBCs, to give it to the Muslim community.

"We are not against the Muslim community, but we have to understand that the Constitution clearly says that there will be no reservation based on religion, and it is a very deep thought...but these people (Congress) the kind of vicious and divisive designs they have. Are we going to support them?" he asked.

Veteran BJP leader B S Yediyurappa, Raghavendra and other party leaders were present. Accusing opposition parties of indulging in "divisive politics", Nadda said, "a few days ago there was a video and they were trying to create an impression and environment that BJP is against SC/ST and OBC, and if we (BJP) come to power the reservations for these communities will go."

"They came out with a fabricated video... people and media exposed the INDI Alliance's deep fake video. The sad part of it is that the fake video was uploaded on social media from Telangana CM Revanth Reddy's phone, and all partners of the INDI Alliance tried to make it viral...they

are in deep depression about BJP and NDA crossing 400 seats under PM's leadership. This shows their mentality," he added.

Nadda said on the one hand there is BJP, which is being led by PM Modi, under whom India was becoming stronger by the day and things have changed. He said it was sad to note on the other hand was the INDI Alliance, which has got "no perspective, no objective and no direction."

"They (INDIA bloc) are so frustrated that they are trying to build divisive forces and encourage divisive forces, they want to create a north and south divide. When PM speaks about 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas Sabka Prayaas', they talk about division of north and south," he added.

Claiming that the country has undergone a sea change in the last 10 years, Nadda said, "10 years ago the political discourse was-- nothing is going to change, full of depression, there was no enthusiasm and nothing is going to change; but today we can say with confidence that here is a

country which is aspiring to become a developed nation under PM Modi."

Speaking about India's growth on the global stage and the country having its say in the multilateral forums and "neighborhood first" policy under Modi rule, he said the PM paid more than a hundred overseas visits and ensured that the voice of India and its people should echo in every part of the world in the right perspective.

Shimoga goes to polls along with 13 other Lok Sabha segments in the state on May 7. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah always talks about Karnataka not getting its due, Nadda said. "Siddaramaiah will never get his due, because they (Congress) don't believe in mission, they believe in commission, that they are not going to get."

"There is a raise of 275 per cent from the UPA era, as far as allocating funds to Karnataka (from Centre during NDA) is concerned," he said, highlighting several centrally sponsored developmental and infrastructure projects in the state.

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