## Cong candidate's exit from race in Indore surprising, should not have happened: Sumitra Mahajan

### STATE TIMES NEWS

INDORE: Former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan has expressed surprise over the last-minute exit of the Congress' Indore Lok Sabha candidate, calling it unfair and stressing that voters have the right to decide in a democratic set-up.

In a major setback to the Congress in Indore, its candidate Akshav Kanti Bam pulled back from the contest on April 29, the last date for withdrawal of nominations, and joined the BJP.

In an interview with PTI, Mahajan said, "I was surprised to know about the withdrawal of the nomination of the main opposition party (Congress) candidate in Indore... This should not have happened. There was no need for this development as it was written on the wall that nobody can defeat the BJP in Indore.'

The commercial capital of Madhva Pradesh has been a stronghold of the BJP. Mahajan had represented the constituency eight consecutive times since 1989.

She said, "The Congress candidate (Bam) should not have done this in the elections. In a way, he also

betrayed his party (Congress). But why should I use such words?" Mahajan claimed she was

unaware of the circumstances that led to such a situation. The 81-year-old BJP leader, popular as 'Tai', said, "I don't know what actually happened. If all this has been done by our people, then it is wrong. There was no need to do it. If the Congress candidate has done it on his own, I will also tell him that he should not have done it."

She said candidates should contest polls if they have filed Lalwani) is in the fray, so they should vote for BJP nominations. instead of NOTA," Mahajan

said.

In 2019, BJP's Shankar

Lalwani defeated his nearest

rival of Congress, Pankaj

Sanghvi, by 5.48 lakh votes.

BJP has renominated

Lalwani from Indore, which

has the most number of eligi-

ble voters in the state at

25.13 lakh. The BJP has

given a slogan of victory by a

margin of 8 lakh votes here.

Just a week before the

Indore development, the BJP

candidate in Gujarat's Surat,

Mukesh Dalal, was declared

the winner after Congress

nominee Nilesh Kumbhani's

nomination was rejected and

which the state government

constituted the SIT to

Prajwal Revanna is said

to have flown abroad on

probe the scandal.

no such provision.

"Democracy is all about going to the people and obtaining their decision about what they want. That's why elections are held," she said. Mahajan said that after the first electoral change of its kind in the history of Indore Lok Sabha seat, some educated people from the city called her up to say that they would press NOTA (none of the above) option as "they did not like what BJP did".

"I explained to them that BJP has done nothing in this regard and that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party is sticking to its core ideology



and our candidate (Shankar other candidates dropped out of the contest

> Mahajan said she was not aware of what had happened in Surat as she was not present in the Gujarat city at that time.

On Congerss Rahul Gandhi contesting from Rae Bareli instead of Amethi, Mahajan said, "Is it not worth that Gandhi is working hard by touring the whole country? If he is changing his Lok Sabha seat, then let him change. That's good."

Mahajan said Gandhi should look at the entire nation from the right perspective so that when he sits in the opposition, he has a good knowledge of the basic issues and he can speak for

the country. On the questions raised by the opposition over her

party's election slogan of 'Abki Baar, 400 Paar', Mahajan said, "When a stustudies diligently dent throughout the year and believes that he has to pass in the first division, then why should we find his statement strange. Aiming less is a crime.

Mahajan claimed that based on the country's development, the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir and the enactment of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the BJP will adopt the slogan of winning over 400 Lok Sabha seats this time.

17 crorepatis candidates in race for four LS seats in Odisha

### STATE TIMES NEWS

BHUBANESWAR: Of the 37 candidates in the fray for the four Lok Sabha seats in Odisha going to the polls on May 13, as many as 17 are crorepatis, according to a report.

The Association for Reforms Democratic (ADR) said a total of 37 candidates are in the frav for the Nabarangpur, Berhampur, Koraput and Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituencies, of which 17 (46 per cent) candidates have declared their assets worth more than Rs 1 crore

The BJP and BJD candidates for the four Lok seats Sabhaare crorepatis. Three Congress nominees, four independent candidates, one from Bharatiya Bikash Parishad and another  $\mathbf{from}$ Naba Bharata Nirmana Seva Party have also announced their properties worth over Rs 1 crore, according to the ADR report.

With total assets of Rs 41.89 crore, the BJP candidate for the Kalahandi

#### LS seat, Malvika Devi is cent) candidates have the richest candidate. She declared their age to be between 25 to 40 years was followed by independwhile 23 (62 per cent) ent candidate for the Berhampur constituency, candidates are in the age V Chandra Shekhar (Rs group of 41 to 60 years. 28.70crore) There are four (11 per and Bharatiya Bikash cent) candidates whose age is between 61 and 70 Parishad nominee for Berhampur, Rajendra years. Dalabehera (Rs 10.30 As many as seven (19 crore).

assets of only Rs 20,625.

Panigrahy, the BJP nomi-

nee for Berhampur Lok

Sabha constituency, has

the highest liabilities

Similarly, 14 (38 per

cent) candidates have

declared their educational

qualification to be

between class 5 and 12

passed, while 22 (59 per

cent) candidates have

declared they are gradu-

ates. One candidate has

declared himself to be

just literate.

worth Rs 3.82 crore.

Kumar

Pradeep

per cent) candidates have declared they have crimi-As per the report, the SUCI(C) candidate for nal cases pending against the Koraput MP seat, them, the report said. Pramila Pujari is the PTI. poorest candidate. Pujari declared that she has

### Kerala: 'Kallakkadal' red alert revised to orange warning STATE TIMES NEWS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services on Saturday withdrew a 'red alert' issued for 'Kallakkadal' in the coastal areas of Kerala and the south Tamil Nadu coast and revised it to an 'orange alert'. 'Kallakkadal' is a phenomenon of sudden sea swells causing rough waves in

non, the low-lying areas of

the Kerala coast are likely to experience rough sea and

sea surge due to extremely

strong waves of 0.5 meters to 1.5 meters till 11.30 pm on Sunday, the INCOIS

to continue their caution

and avoid trips to the beach

and completely stay away from activities at sea.

The term 'Kallakkadal' lit-

erally means a sea that

comes suddenly like a thief.

INCOIS has earlier said

Out of 37 candidates, only seven are female. coastal areas. As part of the phenome-Besides, 10 (27 per

### **CBI likely to issue 'Blue Corner** President Murmu arrives in Shimla for 5-day Himachal visit Notice' against Prajwal Revanna: SIT

### STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office on Saturday said a special team probing the alleged sex scandal involving Prajwal Revanna has informed the CM that there is a possibility of the CBI issuing a "Blue Corner Notice" against the JD(S) Hassan MP, who is said to

have left the country. A Blue Corner Notice is issued by the international police cooperation body to collect additional information from its member countries about a person's identity, location or activities in

relation to a crime. Siddaramaiah held an "important meeting" with the officials of the Special Investigation Team (SIT). during which he instructed that immediate action be taken to arrest Prajwal Revanna.

"We will proceed for arrest with appropriate measures.

There is a possibility of CBI issuing a Blue Corner Notice, which will speed up the investigation," the officials told the CM. according to a release from his office.

"They (SIT officials) have assured that they will arrest and get the accused back, as soon as they get the information from the airports," it said. ing the rounds in Hassan in The SIT is said to have recent days, following

sent a request to the CBI, the nodal body for Interpol matters in India, seeking a Blue Corner Notice against Prajwal Revanna, official sources said "Once CBI issues this

notice, SIT hopes to get information about the whereabouts of Prajwal Revanna," they said. The 33-year-old Prajwal

Revanna, who is the grandson of former PM H D Deve Gowda, was the BJP-JD(S) alliance's candidate from Hassan, which went to the polls on April 26.



 $_{\rm clips}$ developments so far in the allegedly involving Prajwal case, his office said in the Revanna had started makstatement.

The officials explained to Siddaramaiah that Prajwal Revanna, the main accused in the case, is "missing", and that a lookout notice has been issued against him, and intensive search is also being conducted.

April 27, a day after the first phase of Lok Sabha "Immediate action should polls in Karnataka was be taken to arrest Prajwal Revanna. Decisive and held. His advocate had sought for seven days' time strict action should be for him to appear before taken against those involved in the case," the the SIT, to which the investigating team has replied it chief minister said as he is not possible as there is gave stern instructions to the officials that negligence At the meeting, the chief and delay in this matter minister was briefed by the will not be tolerated

#### STATE TIMES NEWS SHIMLA:

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday arrived in Shimla on a five-day visit to Himachal Pradesh

state capital by Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at Kalyani Helipad, Chhabra, which lies closetothe Rashtrapati Nivas, also called President's Retreat. Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania and Cabinet minister Dhani Ram Shandil gave bouquets of flowers to the

president. During her visit, the president will stay at the President Retreat near Mashobra, about 14 km from Shimla.

The retreat, which was officially declared open for the general public on April 20 last year, will remain closed to the public till the



president is in Shimla, offi-

District Shimla Magistrate Anupam Kashyap told the media that the president would leave for Delhi on May 8. Her itinerary includes a visit to the Shimla catch-

ment area on May 5. On May 7, she would perform a puja at Sankat Mochan and Tara Devi temples, take a stroll on Mall Road, enjoy a cultural evening at Gaiety Theatre, and join the dinner in her honour at Raj Bhavan.

On May 6, the president will attend the seventh convocation of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh in Dharamshala.

She is expected to award said. degrees and medals to sev-The low-lying coastal areas eral outstanding students, of south Tamil Nadu are also including 11 PhD and six likely to experience a similar MPhil gold medalists, as situation and high waves of well as 25 postgraduate 0.5 meters to 1.8 metres and five undergraduate may cause sea surge there toppers. till tomorrow night, the In light of her visit to agency warned.

Dharamshala, INCOIS, the central Kangra Deputy Commissioner agency that issues weather Hemraj Bairwa has prohibwarnings for fishermen in ited paragliding and drone the country, advised people to safely moor their fishing movement for the day. Police and security agenvessels in the harbour. Authorities advised people

cies will be exempt from these restrictions. Repairs of roads from the airport to the retreat and Sankat Mochan and Tara Devi temples were taken up ahead of the president's visit and movement of heavy vehicles in the town was barred, officials said.

that the swells result from strong winds in the southern Shimla Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar part of the Indian Ocean at Gandhi said security has certain times, and that they been deployed to ensure occur suddenly without any smooth run of traffic. particular indications or warning which is why it is CCTV cameras have been installed for surveillance.

## named 'Kallakkadal' Maximum temperature in Rajasthan likely

She was welcomed in the cials said.

## Adityanath attacks Cong manifesto, rakes up 'jizya' cow slaughter; likens it to Aurangzeb's rule

SIT officials about the

### STATE TIMES NEWS

BHOPAL: Uttar Pradesh Minister Chief Yogi Aditvanath on Saturday said the Congress manifesto talked of 'jizya' (tax imposed on non-Muslims in medieval India) and promotion of cow slaughter and likened it to the "cruel rule of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb".

He also accused the Congress of wanting to snatch the quota benefits of SC. STs and Other Backward Classes to please "its vote bank".

Addressing a rally in Ashok Nagar town of Guna Lok Sabha constituency in support of BJP candidate Union Minister and Jyotiraditya Scindia, the UP CM hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing respect to faith, bringing welfare schemes for the poor and honour to the country.

"You have heard the name



of a cruel Mughal ruler the wealth of your ancescalled Aurangzeb. Decent tors. Rahul Gandhi says he Muslim families don't name will X-ray your property their children after him. He and take half of it after his party comes to power and it levied jizva. What is it? It is inheritance tax being talked will be called virasat tax about by the Congress," (inheritance tax). Will you ever give jizva? No Indian can accept this," he said. On the other hand, PM Modi says heritage should

Karnataka.

from

added.

Attacking the Congress be respected as our movemanifesto further, he said ment for Ram temple in that party will try to curtail quota benefits of Scheduled Avodhva continued for 500 years and lakhs of Hindus Castes, Scheduled Tribes were martyred, Adityanath and OBCs and give it to its vote banks as it had done in Andhra Pradesh and

Adityanath claimed the

and 354A of the Indian Penal

Code and sections 10 and 12 of

the Protection of Children

(POCSO) Act has been regis-

tered against the accused

The accused would be placed

under arrest after the victim's

statement is recorded in the

presence of a magistrate, they

Sexual

teacher; police said.

Offences

heritage, the Congress is talking about levying tax on

Adityanath claimed.

told the gathering.

"Forget about respect to

Congress wants to give minorities all freedom to eat and drink as per their choice and then went on to link it to cow slaughter and beef consumption.

"Are the food habits of minorities different from that of the majority (community? The general food habits are the same but the majority of society does not eat beef and opposes cow slaughter. Now Congress has stooped so low that it will support cow slaughter," UP chief minister alleged.

"This is not the Congress that contributed to the Independence struggle. Will vou become a partner in this sin? Will there be cow slaughter in the land of Ram and Krishna?" he asked the crowd.

Hailing Modi, the UP CM cited the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the welfare schemes being run by the Centre.

"Terrorism and Naxalism

were at their peak before 2014. But now Pakistan comes forward with a clarification even if a firecracker bursts in India. This is new India. We are not aggressors but we don't spare those who make a against move us, Adityanath said.

Adityanath hailed the Scindias for their fight against the Afghans several centuries ago and recalled the contribution of Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia, grandmother of the Union minister, in the Ram Temple movement and nation building. Addressing the gathering.

Union minister Scindia list. ed the development works carried out in Guna.

He said he had heard about corruption and the presence of the land mafia Ashok Nagar and inwarned them of action after the elections.

Guna will go to polls on May 7.

# to increase by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAIPUR: Heat wave conditions are likely to prevail in parts of Rajasthan as maximum temperature is likely to increase by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius in the next few days, a MeT department official said Saturday. In a statement, the offi-

cial said that on May 7, the maximum temperature is likely to be 44-45 degrees Celsius at some places in Western Rajasthan and there is a possibility of heat wave at some places in Jodhpur and Bikaner divisions The department official

said heat waves are likely to hit isolated places in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, and Bikaner districts. On May 8, there is a possibility of a heatwave at isolated places in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Barmer, Nagaur, Bikaner, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Kota and Baran districts.

### Representatives of poll bodies from 23 nations to see LS elections up close

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Representatives of election management bodies from 23 countries, including Australia, Russia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, are here to observe the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. Seventy-five delegates will visit six states in small groups to witness the elections and preparations related to it in various constituencies. The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday described the visit of the foreign delegates as a first in terms of scale and magnitude of participation.

Beginning Saturday, the programme seeks to familiarise them with the nuances of India's electoral system as well as the best practices being used.

Election management bodies of Bhutan, Mongolia, Australia, Madagascar, Fiji, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Moldova, Tunisia,

Seychelles, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Chile, Uzbekistan, Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Namibia are participating in the programme.

Members of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and media teams from Bhutan and Israel will also participate.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu will address the delegates on Sunday.

The delegates will visit Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to observe the polls.

Members of international poll bodies are invited to witness elections in the country. Similarly, representatives of the EC are also invited by other countries during polls there.

## Himachal Pradesh: Govt school teacher booked for 'forcibly showing pornography' to student

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SHIMLA: A case has been lodged against a teacher of a government school in Himachal Pradesh for allegedly forcibly showing a pornographic video to a Class-9 girl and indulging in shameful acts with her, police said on Saturday. The girl's mother got a com-

plaint lodged against the drawing teacher of the Government

High School in Junga, located about 20 km from state capital Shimla, at the Dhalli police station on Friday.

The accused had allegedly asked the student to stay back for extra classes on May 2 and forcibly showed her a video of a naked girl on his phone. besides inappropriately touching her, the complaint said. A case for attempt to outrage modesty, sexual harassment

**STATE TIMES NEWS** LEH: Nominations of two and assault under sections 354

covering candidates and an Independent were rejected during scrutiny of papers for the Ladakh parliamentary constituency on Saturday, the Returning officer said.

The rejections left only five candidates in the fray, Santosh Sukhadeve said.

Ladakh Lok Sabha constituency, the largest in the country with a total area of  $173.266\,$  sq km and more

than 1.82 lakh voters, will go to polls in the fifth phase of

The last date for withdrawal of the candidature is May

After scrutiny, nomination dates Stanzin Lakpa and Smanla Dorje Nurboo were cancelled.

Independent candidate Ghulam Nabi Zia, whose form was found incomplete, was rejected as well, Sukhadeve told PTI.

Of the five remaining candidates, BJP's Tashi Gyalson and Congress's Tsering Namgyal are from Leh. The three Independents, Mohmad Sajjad Haneefa Jan, Hussain, and Kacho Mohd Feroz are all from Kargil.

Thupstan Chhewang won the seat in 2019 general electhe Ladakh Lok Sabha seat tion

from the BJP for the first time in 2014. He resigned from the party

in 2018 and is presently

heading the Leh Apex Body,

which, along with Kargil

Democratic Alliance, is

spearheading an agitation for

restoration of statehood and

extension of the sixth sched-

ule of the Constitution to the

The BJP managed to retain

through Jamyang

Union Territory.

Tsering Namgyal, who, after he was denied a ticket this time, openly revolting against the party.

He, however, joined the campaign for the party nominee Gyalson on Friday, ending the over week-long uncertainty in the party camp.

Congress has won the seat six times -- the highest. National Conference twice. and Independents thrice since it came into existence in 1967.

Five in fray for Ladakh Lok Sabha seat; 3 nominations rejected

elections on May 20.

6

forms of five candidates were found valid, while the candidatures of BJP's and Congress's covering candi-

The nomination of