

## Delhi HC quashes case of outraging modesty against man, asks him to plant 30 trees



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has quashed a case against a 61-year-old man after he reached a settlement with the woman who had accused him of outraging her modesty, and asked him to plant 30 trees.

While dealing with a petition moved by the accused to quash the FIR under IPC section 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty)

therefrom stand quashed," the court in an order passed last month.

"Instead of imposing the costs upon the petitioner, he is directed to plant 30 saplings of trees, which are up to three feet in height in the local part or in the area of P.S. Vasant Kunj, South after getting in touch with the competent authority..." it ordered.

The court said the upkeep of the saplings shall be undertaken by the authorities concerned and in case of non-compliance of the directions for planting of the trees, the petitioner shall pay costs of Rs 30,000 to the Delhi State Legal Services Authority.

In November 2016, the woman accused the petitioner of outraging her modesty.

The petitioner told the court that the FIR was

lodged on account of some differences which have been amicably resolved.

The court observed that heinous and serious offences involving mental depravity or offences such as murder, rape and dacoity cannot be quashed despite a settlement but offences which have a predominant element of civil dispute or those involving minor incidents, where the complainant or the victim has been compensated, stand on a different footing.

After interacting with the parties, the court said both of them wanted to put an end to the proceedings and the settlement would promote harmony between them and permit them to move forward in life.

It also said the chances of conviction are also bleak given the amicable settlement.

## Bengaluru court sends Prajwal Revanna to 14 days judicial custody

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BENGALURU: A court here on Monday sent former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of rape and sexual abuse against several women, to 14 days judicial custody.

He was produced before the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court as his Special Investigation Team (SIT) custody ended today.

The court on May 31 remanded him to SIT custody till June 6, and later extended it till June 10.

While in their custody, the SIT conducted a detailed investigation, including gathering evidence and interviewing wit-



nesses, and questioned Revanna extensively about the allegations.

The court, taking into consideration the gravity of the allegations and the evidence presented by the SIT, decided to remand him to judicial custody for 14 days, till June 24.

Kempegowda International Airport from Germany on May 31.

He had left for Germany on April 27, a day after Hassan went to the polls. A 'Blue Corner Notice' seeking information on his whereabouts had earlier been issued by the Interpol, following a request by the SIT via the Central Bureau of Investigation.

A Special Court for Elected Representatives issued an arrest warrant against Revanna on May 18, following an application moved by the SIT.

He was arrested in a case registered against him in Holenarasipura in Hassan district on April 28. He was

## "Warning bell for us", says Karnataka Cong chief on LS poll outcome, "fact-finding mission" on

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BENGALURU: Terming the Lok Sabha election outcome in Karnataka as a "warning bell" to the Congress, its state unit chief D K Shivakumar on Monday indicated that the ruling outfit in the State is currently on a fact-finding mission to find out the reasons for the below par performance.

Also the Deputy Chief Minister, he stressed on the need to look at what went wrong and rectify them, as he called upon party men not to speak before the media regarding the party's performance and blaming someone for it.

The NDA got 19 out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, with BJP winning 17 and JD(S) two. The ruling Congress, which banked heavily on the guarantee schemes that its Government had launched and expected them to yield rich electoral dividends, has won nine seats.

"When General Secretary (AICC) and Rahul Gandhi



came to Bengaluru, they told us. We are calling meetings and discussing. Today we have called a meeting to discuss Bengaluru city. For other places too we will fix dates. We need to examine things and review where we have gone wrong, what has happened," Shivakumar told reporters here.

He added: "I have asked party men not to speak to the media. Let us do the fact finding on what has happened where, and find solutions."

"People have given us a

warning bell. We need to be careful in the future. At least now we have to realise what has gone wrong, where and we should rectify it," Shivakumar said.

Claiming that the party was confident about winning 14-15 seats, Shivakumar said, "we have failed in it. People have given their verdict."

The party has not got votes on the home turf of several of its leaders, he said. "We are verifying why it happened. There may be several individual causes, but defeat is a

defeat. We have to accept that votes for us have gone down. People have given verdict, we can't give lame excuses. We have to set it right."

Shivakumar said no one has complained to him blaming other party leaders for the lower-than-expected performance.

"There is no use in it. Those who had taken responsibility for their respective area must answer for the performance there. They should speak to workers as to what went wrong and what is the solution," he added.

To a question on an MLA reportedly demanding that the party seek resignation of Ministers who failed to get lead for the party in their respective Assembly segments in the Lok Sabha polls, Shivakumar said: "it will be good if MLAs keep quiet."

## Pune car crash: Juvenile's parents, another accused to stay in police custody till June 14

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
PUNE: A Pune court on Monday extended till June 14, the police custody of the parents of a 17-year-old boy allegedly involved in the fatal Porsche car accident and another accused in a case pertaining to destruction of evidence. The teen's father, realtor Vishal Agrawal, and mother Shivani were arrested in the case for their suspected role in swapping of blood samples of the juvenile, who was allegedly drunk at the time of the May 19 crash in Kalyani Nagar which claimed the lives of two motorbike-borne IT professionals.

Shivani Agarwal was arrested on June 1 after revelation that the boy's blood samples were replaced with hers. Her husband Vishal Agrawal was arrested for allegedly being involved in destruction of evidence. Besides the Agrawal couple, one Ashpak Makandar, who acted as a middleman between them and doctors from state-



run Sassoon Hospital, where blood samples were collected, were produced before the court on Monday.

The prosecution sought extension of the police custody of the trio arguing they want to find out where the blood samples of the juvenile were disposed off.

It told the court that middleman Makandar was paid Rs 4 lakh by the driver of the teenager's father. Of this, Rs 3 lakh was given further (to Sassoon doctors) for replacing the juvenile's blood samples.

"Rs 3 lakh has been recovered from Dr Srihari Hahor and Sassoon Hospital employee Atul Ghatkamble and we need to recover the remaining Rs 1 lakh," said the investigating officer.

Defence lawyer Prashant Patil opposed the custody extension plea of the teen's parents, saying they have already spent several days in police remand and there was no need for their further custodial interrogation.

The minor boy has been sent to an observation home.

## Manipur CM condemns ambush on advance security convoy, assures 'rule of law' will be established



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
IMPHAL: Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Monday condemned the ambush on his advance security convoy near Kotlen in Kangpokpi district in which a driver was injured.

He termed it a direct attack on himself and the people of the state, assuring that the "rule of law" will be established.

Speaking to reporters at Shijia hospital, where the injured person is undergoing treatment, Singh said, "It is very unfortunate and highly condemnable. It's an attack on the chief minister, which means a direct attack on the people of the state. The state government has to do something...we will take a decision."

Singh explained that fortunately the person was not seriously injured. He added, "Earlier, the state government did not retaliate much

He had gone to Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which he described as his responsibility as a Chief Minister.

Earlier in the day, suspected militants ambushed the advance security convoy of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in Kangpokpi district, leaving one person injured, police said.

The convoy was on its way to violence-hit Jiribam district when it came under attack around 10.30 am near Kotlen village along a stretch of National Highway-53, they said. Multiple gunshots were fired at the vehicles of the security forces, who retaliated, a police officer said.

Meanwhile, additional state and central forces, including Assam Rifles and CRPF, rushed to the ambush site and launched search operations to apprehend the perpetrators. However, no arrests have been made.

Jiribam district has been affected by violence since June 6. More than 70 houses have been torched, along with two police outposts and one forest beat office. Around 600 people have been displaced due to the violence.

## Being 3rd largest party in NDA, Shiv Sena deserved Cabinet berth in Modi govt: MP Barne

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
PUNE: Shrirang Barne, an MP of Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde, on Monday expressed disappointment over the party not getting a Cabinet berth in the newly-formed Narendra Modi-led government and alleged partiality.

Notably, the NCP led by Ajit Pawar, which is also part of the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, on Sunday insisted on a Cabinet berth and refused to settle for a Minister of State offer.

Barne, who retained the Maval seat for the third time by defeating Sanjog Waghare Patil of Shiv Sena (UBT), pointed out that despite Shiv Sena winning seven seats in the recent Lok Sabha elections, the party was only allotted a Minister of State (MOS) position in the Modi 3.0 government. Barne said even leaders like HD Kumaraswamy and Jitan Ram Manjhi whose parties won two and one seats, respectively, were made Union cabinet ministers. He mentioned that Udayanraje Bhosale, the BJP MP from Satara, deserved a cabinet position as well. "We were expecting that Shiv Sena would get a Cabinet ministry, but even parties that won only one seat received Cabinet berths. For example, HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S),



whose two MPs got elected, secured two berths, and Jitan Ram Manjhi, who won one seat from Bihar, was also given a Cabinet berth," Barne told reporters. Prataprao Jadhav of Shinde Sena was the sole representation in the new Modi government who took oath as a Minister of State with independent charge on Sunday.

Barne added that Shiv Sena had won seven seats in Maharashtra of the 15 contested, whereas BJP bagged nine of 28.

"We were expecting at least one Cabinet and one MOS berth for Shiv Sena which is the oldest ally of BJP," he said.

Alleging partiality in the distribution of Cabinet berths, Barne claimed that after JD(U) and TDP, Shiv Sena is the third largest ally of the BJP.

"Chirag Paswan, whose party won five seats, was also given a Cabinet berth. But

Shiv Sena got only one MOS berth. I personally feel that there is partiality against Shiv Sena. Considering that we will face assembly elections together in the next three months, it is expected that Sena should get fair treatment," he added. He recalled that Eknath Shinde's "bold step" in the state led to the transition of power in Maharashtra.

"Considering all these factors, we expect a justified stance from BJP," Barne added.

Shinde had split Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and joined the BJP-led government in June 2022 with a bulk of MLAs loyal to him. Subsequently, he took oath as the chief minister.

Six MPs from Maharashtra were inducted into the Modi 3.0 coalition government on Sunday, with the BJP securing four berths and allies Shiv Sena and RPI (A) getting one each.

## Naxal problem now confined to only 5 J'khand districts: DGP

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RANCHI: Coordinated and concerted offensives against Naxalites in Jharkhand have restricted their activities to only five of the 24 districts, with Chaibasa being the most affected, DGP Ajay Kumar Singh said on Monday. Continuous operations are underway to minimise the threat posed by the rebels, and their impact is evident in the state, Singh added.

He made these remarks while speaking to reporters after a review meeting on key issues including law and order, the Naxal menace, and crime control. The DGP expressed confidence that the success of anti-Naxal operations would soon lead to a significant reduction in incidents.

Police have detailed information about Naxalites' movements and hideouts, and operations have been intensified accordingly, he added.

Over 400 Naxalites were arrested last year, he said. Singh also mentioned that spe-

cial campaigns are ongoing to curb drug trafficking and actions have been taken against peddlers under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, resulting in substantial opium recoveries.

The Jharkhand High Court recently criticised the state government for its failure to effectively tackle drug trafficking.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included the recent Lok Sabha elections, crime control, law and order issues, and the registration and disposal of cases under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

"The Lok Sabha elections were incident-free. Discussions also covered the upcoming Assembly elections scheduled for later this year," Singh added.

The meeting was attended by SPs from various districts, DIGs, IGs, and other senior officials.

## Rahul Gandhi to visit Wayanad on June 12

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is expected to visit Wayanad in Kerala on June 12, party sources said on Monday. His visit comes days after he secured a massive victory in Wayanad constituency in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. He defeated his nearest rival and CPI candidate Annie Raja by a margin of 3,64,422 votes. Gandhi is visiting the constituency amidst speculations that he would give up the seat in Kerala and retain Raebareilly, a traditional stronghold of the Congress party in Uttar Pradesh.

In view of the Congress leader's visit, a protest march to the state Assembly, announced by the opposition United Democratic Front on June 12, has been postponed, the UDF said in a statement here on Monday.

The Opposition front had announced the protest march last month soon after allegations cropped up against the Pinarayi Vijayan government over the liquor policy row. It is said there was a move by the Left regime to amend the state liquor policy in favour of bar owners. The Congress-led front had demanded the resignation of Tourism and Excise Ministers over the allegations and warned of holding a march towards the state Assembly, intensifying their protest.

However, UDF Convenor M M Hassan on Monday informed that the Assembly march was postponed to another day.

Both the march and the coordination committee meeting of the UDF, scheduled to be held on June 12, have been postponed as the front leaders have to take part in the programmes in connection with Gandhi's visit to Wayanad, he said.

## IAF chief to attend graduation ceremony at Air Force Academy, Dundigal

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari will attend the graduation ceremony at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, in Hyderabad that will be held on June 15 with traditional military splendour, officials said on Monday.

This will mark the successful completion of pre-commissioning training of flight cadets of the flying and ground duty branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the defence ministry said in a statement.

"The Combined Graduation Parade (CGP)

of the 213 Officers' Course at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, Hyderabad, will be held on 15 June, 2024, with traditional military splendour, to mark the successful completion of pre-commissioning training of flight cadets of the Flying and Ground Duty branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF)," it said.

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari would be the Reviewing Officer of the parade, the statement said.

During the function, he will confer the President's Commission to the graduating trainees.



The ceremony includes presentation of 'Wings' to flight cadets, officers of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and officers from friendly foreign countries who would be successfully completing their flying training. Being the culmi-

nation of a demanding period of training, the occasion marks the most important milestone in any military aviator's career, it said.

"The flight cadet from the flying branch who stands first in the order-of-merit will be awarded the Chief of

the Air Staff 'Sword of Honour' and the President's Plaque for excelling in overall training. This Flt Cdt also has the privilege of commanding the parade," it said.

The Reviewing Officer will also present the President's Plaque to the trainee standing first in the overall order-of-merit among ground duty branches.

An enthralling fly past by formations of Pilatus PC-7 Mk-II, Dornier, Hawk, Kiran and Chetak aircraft, as also aerobatic shows by Pilatus PC-7 Mk-II, SU-30 MKI, Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT)

and the Sarang Helicopter Display Team will mark the culmination of the CGP, the statement said.

The AFA, the premier training establishment of the IAF, is the cradle of training for pilots, ground duty and technical officers of the IAF.

The Academy formally came into being when the then President Dr Zakir Hussain laid its foundation stone on October 11, 1967. The training at this academy is designed to foster the spirit of camaraderie and promote healthy interaction among officers of every branch, it added.