



Polling officials in Bhubaneswar on Friday | PTI

Naveen slams BJP for 'spreading lies' about his health

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

HITTING back at BJP for making his health condition their major campaign issue in this election, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday accused the party and its leaders of spreading complete lies about him.

The chief minister said there is a limit to the lies the party can spread about his health.

"There is a limit to the amount of lies BJP can spread. As you can see I am in very good health and have been campaigning for around a month all over the state," he told a news agency while campaigning for BJD candidates in Mayurbhanj district.

BJD leader and star campaigner VK Pandian also termed the campaign by BJP leaders as unfortunate. "I only hope BJP comes up with innovative ideas instead of talking about something which is non-existent. You are all watching the chief minister. It is very unfortunate, below the belt."

Pandian said, the people of Odisha would not appreciate such act to demean the chief minister who enjoys huge pop-

ularity. "Targeting the chief minister by talking about his health is so sub-standard," he added.

Naveen and Pandian were responding to the aggressive campaign by the BJP where even top leaders of the party have alleged that the chief minister was not in good health. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had in a recent public rally had gone to the extent of saying that Naveen should retire due to his advanced age and health.

Several saffron party leaders including Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had raised the issue while campaigning for their party's candidates.

The BJP leaders had also alleged that the videos of the chief minister are AI-generated and deepfakes. While alluding to his failing health, they have been alleging that he is held captive and being manipulated.

The BJP's campaign had also come in for strong criticism from BJD organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das on Thursday. "The BJP is focusing on the health of the chief minister as it does not have any other issue," he had said.

Uproar over bar bribery charges against govt

Audio clip surfaces of a bar owners association member seeking money from others to pay kickback to LDF govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

A decade after the bar bribery scandal rocked the then UDF government led by Oommen Chandy, the LDF government has been caught in a similar situation after an audio clip, purportedly sent by a bar association leader asking money from bar owners to pay kickbacks to the government for a favourable liquor policy, surfaced on Friday.

The Opposition UDF, including IUML, flayed the LDF and demanded the resignation of Excise Minister M B Rajesh alleged corruption. The BJP termed it 'Delhi model bribery'. However, the CPM termed the charges baseless, while Rajesh asked the state police chief to conduct a detailed probe into the allegations. Both CPM and Rajesh said they suspected a conspiracy behind the allegation.

The leaked clip, suspected to be sent by Federation of Kerala

Bar Association Idukki district president Ani Mon to members during the executive meeting of the association in Kochi on Thursday, asks bar owners to give ₹2.5 lakh each to tweak the liquor policy and fulfil their demands such as scrapping of the dry-day policy and extending operations of bars from 11pm to midnight.

The speaker says a new liquor policy will be declared and implemented after the Lok Sabha elections with many favourable changes. To make it happen, "what needs to be given should be given," says the speaker. No sooner did the clip surface than the UDF targeted Rajesh, with KPCC president K Sudhakaran demanding his resignation, alleging that the new liquor policy was to be implemented after taking ₹25 crore as kickback from bar owners.

"The government move aims to facilitate huge profits for bar owners, by doing away with the dry-day policy, opening pubs in



IT parks and extending bar timings," alleged Sudhakaran. Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan alleged corruption to the tune of ₹20 crore, as owners of the state's 801 bars were allegedly being asked to pay ₹2.5 lakh each.

"The fund collection demand will not be made without the knowledge of someone in the government," Satheesan alleged in Kochi. He also claimed

that those who had accused former finance minister K M Mani in a ₹1-crore corruption scandal were now involved in a ₹20-crore bribery scam.

"Where is the currency counting machine now? Is it with CM Pinarayi Vijayan, the excise minister or at the AKG Centre," he asked. "The first Pinarayi government granted licenses to 669 bars, and the second gave it to 130 bars. Relaxation in liquor

policy aims to benefit bar owners," he alleged.

Rajesh rejected the allegations and said the government is yet to begin discussions on the policy. "For the past one month, there have been media reports on the policy. If anyone tries to collect money on the basis of such reports, the government will take strong action," Rajesh said. "The government filed 52 cases against bars in the past six months. Some might be uneasy with the government taking action against such people," he said.

He said contrary to UDF's claims, the LDF government had increased licence fee from ₹23 lakh to ₹35 lakh. "In the last liquor policy, the fee was hiked by ₹5 lakh. How can UDF say the government is trying to tweak the policy in bar owners' favour?" Rajesh wondered. The CPM leadership too termed the allegations baseless and dismissed calls for Rajesh's resignation.

Mullaiperiyar dam issue: Stalin against Kerala's move

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

STRONGLY objecting to the union government's decision to consider Kerala's proposal to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA) study for constructing a new dam at Mullaiperiyar, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday warned of strong legal action, including contempt petition in the Supreme Court, if Kerala government, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and its Experts Appraisal Committee (EAC) fail to adhere to the earlier orders of the SC on the issue.

In a letter to Union Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav, Stalin urged him to instruct the officers concerned to drop the item to consider the EIA for the new dam from the agenda of the EAC meeting scheduled for May 28.

The CM also urged the MoEF to not take up any such proposals from Kerala in the future.

"Our objections regarding the issue have already been communicated in detail by the Additional Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department, to the MoEF Secretary and other members of the EAC," the CM said in his letter.

Pointing out that taking up Kerala's proposal for a new dam for consideration will violate the orders of the Supreme Court, Stalin said, "We are informed that the EAC, under the aegis of the MoEF, has included the above proposal by M/s Irrigation Design & Research

Board (IDRB), Government of Kerala, in the agenda of its upcoming meeting. The proposal for constructing a new dam by Kerala, purportedly in lieu of the existing Mullaiperiyar dam, is against the directions of the SC."

The letter said, "The existing dam has been repeatedly found to be safe in all aspects by various expert committees and has been ruled so by the SC in its judgments dated February 27, 2006, and May 7, 2014. Later in 2018, when Kerala made an attempt to get approval for the ToR for EIA study for the proposal for a new dam, the issue was taken up by Tamil Nadu at the SC and it was clearly ruled

that any such step would require SC's permission," Stalin pointed out.

He also reiterated that the current act of Kerala on EIA study for a new dam would definitely be in contempt of the orders passed by the SC. Palaniswami recalled the legal battles waged by the AIADMK government under J Jayalalithaa starting with the demand for raising the storage level to 142 feet and told the DMK government to make efforts to increase it to 152 feet, which was the level before the dispute broke out in the early 1980s.

Other political parties like the Congress and the PMK had already objected to the Union Government considering Kerala's proposal and urged the State government not to allow the construction of a new dam and demolish the existing one.

Our objections regarding the issue have already been communicated in detail by the Additional Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department, to the MoEF Secretary and other members of the EAC — MK Stalin, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

GOONDAS ACT HC split verdict on detention of Savukku Shankar



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court on Friday delivered a split verdict on the legality of detention of jailed YouTuber 'Savukku' Shankar under Goondas Act in the wake of his arrest in five different cases including ones related to denigration of women police personnel and possession of ganja.

Justice GR Swaminathan, heading the division bench, quashed the detention order on the grounds of procedural lapses as he termed 'non-application of mind' by the authority concerned, the Greater Chennai Police Commissioner, in approving the detention order in a hurry. He also held that Shankar's activity is not a threat to public order which would warrant his detention under the Goondas Act.

The dissenting judge, Justice PB Balaji, underscored the need for granting time for the prosecution to file counter-affidavit before hearing the case as per the usual practice. The split verdict was passed on a habeas corpus petition (HCP) filed by the YouTuber's mother A Kamala seeking to quash the detention order passed on May 12, 2024. Even as the arguments were under way, Justice Swaminathan hinted at what was in store as he pointed out that even without his detention, the detenu has little chance to walk out of prison as five cases were already booked against him.

EXPRESS READ

Man booked for trying to open flight mid-air

HYDERABAD: An air passenger, Anil Patil, 29, has been booked by the RGIA police for attempting to open the door of an IndiGo flight while he was returning from Indore. Patil allegedly tried to open the aircraft door while it was landing. The alert cabin crew intervened and prevented a potential disaster. Later, they handed Patil over to the police and police issued notices to him.

Yellow alert issued for seven districts in Kerala

T'PURAM: The state will continue to receive heavy rainfall till Monday. The IMD has issued a yellow alert for seven districts - Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha and Ernakulam on Saturday. These districts may to receive rainfall between 64.5 mm to 115.5 mm. As per forecast, the state will receive rain or thundershowers till May 30.



BIRTHDAY SHOWER
Elephant 'Akhila' from Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Aklandeswari Temple bathes in a pool on her 22nd birthday in Trichy | PTI

25 from Vizag trafficked to Cambodia return home

USHA PERI @ Visakhapatnam

AS many as 25 of the total 58 individuals from the Port City, who were trafficked to Cambodia, landed at Visakhapatnam International Airport on Friday evening.

A total of 150 people from Andhra Pradesh were lured with false promises of employment in Singapore, only to find themselves held captive, tortured, and coerced into cybercrimes targeting Indian citizens in Cambodia.

Stressing that the rescued individuals will be treated as victims, Visakhapatnam Commissioner of Police Dr A Ravi Shankar explained, "We will not file cases against them, as they were there seeking legitimate employment. Our focus

will be on gathering details from them to take action against the actual traffickers."

Further, he asserted that the remaining individuals, who are in contact with the police through WhatsApp, will also be rescued shortly after all the legal proceedings are completed. The duration of captivity varied between one year and three months.

Giving an account of their experiences, the CP said the victims were tortured by being deprived of food, locked in dark rooms, and physically beaten with baseball bats. He said the victims received meals based on their performance. "Underperforming victims received food only once a day, while those who defrauded many were given two meals a day," he explained.

Governors have no discretionary powers to take call on anything on their own: Pinarayi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

TAKING a leaf out of discussions held in the Constituent Assembly, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan indirectly targeted Governor Arif Mohammad Khan stating that even the principal architect of the Constitution B R Ambedkar had said that governors do not have any discretionary powers to decide anything in their own capacity.

He was speaking after releasing the book 'India that is Bharat: An introduction to the constitutional debates' written by Minister P Rajeev on Friday. "Speaking at the discussion in the constituent assembly, Ambedkar had said that governors should seek the advice of state governments on all matters. However, today some governors in opposition-

Draws attention to CAA

The chief minister also drew attention to the discussions held on citizenship in the constituent assembly. "While participating in the discussion, Nehru said all laws and rules should be applicable to all religions. No law can be enacted only for Hindus, Christians, Muslims and Sikhs. However, now a law has been enacted to deny citizenship to Muslims. Some people say CAA being a central law, states cannot do anything on it. In the constituent assembly, an important discussion held was whether citizenship be granted on the basis of birth right or on the basis of race. And after discussions, it was decided that religion, belief or race should not be basis for granting citizenship.

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Four of a family among 8 die in Chikkamagaluru, Haveri road accidents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chikkamagaluru/Haveri

EIGHT people died in two road accidents in Chikkamagaluru and Haveri districts on Friday. Four members of a family died on the spot and 12 were injured in the accident involving two cars and a truck on NH 173 near Kottigehara in Chikkamagaluru district. They were travelling in Maruti Omni and Alto cars. After the van rammed the truck, the car hit the van from behind.

The deceased have been identified as Hampaiiah, 65, Prema, 58, Manjaiah, 60, and Prabhakar, 45. The injured were shifted to hospitals in Mangaluru. They were returning to Channapatana village in Holakere taluk after visiting temples in Dharmasthala.

Four members of a family died when their car fell off a bridge on the outskirts of Ranebennur in Haveri district. The deceased have been identified as Suresh Jadi, 43, Ishwarya Barki, 16, Chetan Sumangadi, 7, and Prabhuraj Sumangadi, 45. Four people were injured in the accident.

ICICI Home Finance Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400059, India
Branch Office: Plot No.7, 2nd floor, Block- N, Sec-18, Noida, UP- 201301
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Archana (Borrower) Uma Shankar (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. LHGHZ00001335347 & LHGHZ00001335739	Flat No.317, 16th Park View, Tower B, Gaur Yakuna City Pocket 3, Mirzapur Site Yelda Yamuna Expressway Greater Noida, Up, Noida- 201307	Rs. 32,50,644/- May 16, 2024	Rs. 39,68,280/- Rs. 3,96,830/-	June 18, 2024 11:00 AM 03:00 PM	June 28, 2024 02:00 PM 03:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BestAuctionDeal.com>) of our auction agency **GlobeTech**. The Mortgagee's notice is given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **June 27, 2024 before 5:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Plot No.7, 2nd floor, Block- N, Sec-18, Noida, UP- 201301** on or before **June 27, 2024 before 04:00 PM**. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Plot No.7, 2nd floor, Block- N, Sec-18, Noida, UP- 201301** on or before **June 27, 2024 before 05:00 PM** Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at Noida.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300** or our **Sales & Marketing Partner NexXen Solutions Private Limited**.
The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>
Date : May 25, 2024
Place : Noida
Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited