

SC rejects CBI probe in Karnataka honey-trap case

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea for a CBI probe into an alleged "honey-trap" attempt involving a minister and other politicians in Karnataka.

A three-judge bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta dismissed the PIL filed by social activist Binay Kumar Singh.

The plea had also sought the probe to be either monitored by the top court or by a committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge.

Advocate Barun Kumar Sinha, appearing for the petitioner, said the allegation reported in the media required a thorough investigation against the persons behind it.

The plea said the "honey trap" of judges by certain vested interests was a seri-



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— K N Rajanna, Cooperation minister

ous threat to the independence of judiciary and the rule of the law.

“On March 21, 2025 various media outlets carried the reports of troubling allegations made on the floor of the Karnataka state legislature, i.e., Vidhan Soudha that a person aspiring to

be the chief minister of the state has been successful in honey trapping several persons, amongst whom are judges,” the plea, filed by advocate Abhishek, said.

The plea went on, “The allegations have been made by a sitting minister who has claimed himself to be

a victim, thereby lending credibility to the serious allegations.” Cooperation Minister K N Rajanna on March 20 informed the assembly that there had been attempts to “honey-trap” him and that at least 48 politicians across parties fell victims to similar schemes.

“People say that there is a CD (compact disk) and pen drive factory in Karnataka. I have come to know that there are CDs and pen drives of 48 people available in the state. This network is spread across India and even several union ministers have been trapped,” Rajanna had said.

The issue created a stir in the assembly, prompting the home minister to announce a high-level probe whereas the opposition demanded a judicial inquiry by a sitting high court judge.

Rebel BJP MLA Yatnal expelled from party for six years

PTI, BENGALURU: The BJP has expelled its rebel MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal from the party for six years.

Yatnal said he has been expelled from the party for speaking against dynasty politics and corruption.

The MLA from Vijayapura was quite vocal against former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and his son, B Y Vijayendra, who is BJP state president, and their ‘dynasty politics’ and ‘corruption’.

He was twice served show-cause notices and finally sacked from the party on Tuesday.

“Central Disciplinary Committee of the party has considered your response to the show cause notice dated 10 February 2025 and has taken serious note of your repeated violation of the party discipline, despite your assurances of good behavior and conduct

in response to earlier show cause notices,” the order issued by the CDC member Om Pathak said.

“It has accordingly been decided to expel you for a period of six years with immediate effect from the primary membership of the party and you stand removed from any party position that you may hold until now,” it added.

Vijayendra termed Yatnal’s expulsion an “unfortunate necessity”. “There has never been, nor will there ever be, any compromise on discipline and ideology—values that have been steadfastly upheld by our esteemed senior leaders and the leadership before us,” Vijayendra said in a post on X’.

He said after thorough deliberation on recent developments within the party, a disciplinary action against Yatnal has been taken.

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Students celebrate after the final Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) examinations at the Cotton Hill Girls Higher Secondary School, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Minor among five rescued as prostitution racket busted in Mumbai

MUMBAI: A 16-year-old girl and four women were rescued and two pimps arrested after police exposed a prostitution racket in central Mumbai, an official said on Wednesday. The crime branch busted the racket in the Chembur (East) area on Tuesday, the police official said. Acting on the inputs that two men would be bringing women to a restaurant as part of their illicit activity, police sent a decoy customer with the help of an NGO for confirmation. Police then raided Sadguru restaurant in the area and nabbed the two alleged pimps, identified as Harilal Bandu Chaudhary (42) and Aftab Alam Ansari (26), the official said.

Ex-zila parishad member shot dead in Ranchi

RANCHI: A former zila parishad member was shot dead in broad daylight here on Wednesday, a police officer said. The incident occurred near Kanke Chowk under Kanke police station limits. The deceased was identified as Anil Tiger, a former zila parishad member in Ranchi. Jharkhand DGP Anurag Gupta termed the incident as unfortunate and said the killers would be nabbed soon. “The incident is unfortunate. I knew Anil Tiger personally. I assure that killers would be caught soon,” he said. Meanwhile, local people blocked the Kanke road disrupting traffic movement.

Four imposters posing as priests arrested for cheating at Delhi airport

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police has arrested four men posing as priests of Haridwar Akhara for allegedly cheating a man of his gold ring on the pretext of bringing him good fortune, an official said on Wednesday. The accused have been identified as Rinku Nath (30) and Sahil Nath (22), both residents of Haridwar, and Rocky Nath (35) and Vicky Nath (31), both from Sonapat, Haryana, he said. The complainant, Gagan Jain, a chartered accountant from Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), was attending a conference in Aerocity when he was allegedly approached by the four accused near JW Marriott Hotel on March 23, he said.

Parliament security breach: Delhi HC seeks police reply on bail plea

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought Delhi Police’s response on the bail plea of one of the accused persons held for the Parliament security breach on December 13, 2023. A bench of Justices Chandra Dhari Singh and Anup Jairam Bhambhani issued a notice to the police on Manoranjan D’s petition challenging a trial court’s order refusing him bail. The court posted the matter on July 24. The counsel for Manoranjan, who denied bail on December 24, 2024, said though their “method” of protesting was wrong, they had no intention to commit any terrorist act by entering Parliament. Justice Singh, however, remarked, “Highly educated people are more dangerous.”

Rajasthan: Man, wife among three dead in road accident

JAIPUR: Three people, including a couple, died, and two others were injured when the car they were travelling in collided head-on with a dumper in Jodhpur, police said on Wednesday. The deceased have been identified as Ganesh Ram (32), his wife Mamta (26) and their driver, Ajay Kumar (35). The couple’s 18-month-old daughter, Mansavi, and their relative, Giridhari Rami (30), are critically injured, according to police. The incident took place on Tuesday night in the Shergarh police station area when a speeding dumper coming from the opposite direction lost control and hit the car, which was returning from AIIMS Jodhpur.

FIR against 5 bogus doctors in Maharashtra's Ulhasnagar in 2 months

THANE: The Ulhasnagar civic body in Maharashtra’s Thane district has cracked down on bogus doctors operating in the city limits and lodged police complaints against five of them in the last two months, officials said on Wednesday. The Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation (UMC) took action against them based on a tip-off provided by the district authorities. Providing details about it, Ulhasnagar civic body’s health officer Dr Mohini Dharma said a list of 26 suspicious doctors had been received from the district authorities, following which a verification drive was conducted.

Man on the run in dacoity-murder case arrested after 14 years in delhi

NEW DELHI: A man who was on the run for 14 years after killing five members of a family and raping a woman here has been arrested by police, officials said on Wednesday. The accused, Raj Kumar alias Raju, was arrested from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, they said. Raju targeted the house of the cousin of a co-accused in the Yamuna Vihar area on July 6, 1996, suspecting that a large sum of cash was kept there, an officer said. During the attack, the officer said, the accused persons stabbed to death five members of the family, including a woman who was raped before being killed.

Lok Sabha being run in non-democratic manner: Rahul Gandhi

PTI, NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that he was not being given a chance to speak in the House which was being run in a “non-democratic style”, and said Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had made “unsubstantiated” remarks about him.

Gandhi’s remarks came after Birla asked him to follow the rules of procedure that members are expected to observe to uphold the dignity of the House. It was not immediately clear what was the reason for the Speaker to make the observation.

The former Congress president said the Speaker made remarks about him and then adjourned the House without giving him an opportunity to speak.

“The Speaker just got up and left. He did not allow



me to speak a word. He was speaking about me, and I don’t know what he said about me, all unsubstantiated. I said, ‘let me speak as you have spoken about me’, but he did not say a word and just left. He adjourned the House when there was no need of it,” the former Congress president said. About 70 Congress Lok Sabha MPs, including deputy leader of Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, party general secretary KC Venugopal and party’s whip in the Lok

Sabha Manickam Tagore, met the Lok Sabha speaker and raised the “denial” of opportunity to Gandhi to speak in the House.

Speaking with reporters in Parliament House complex, Gandhi said there is a convention that the Leader of Opposition is allowed to speak, but whenever he gets up to speak he is not allowed to speak.

“So, in what manner is this House being run? We are not being allowed to speak. I have not done anything, I was sitting quietly, I did not speak anything. In the last 7-8 days, I have not been allowed to speak,” the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

In a democracy, the opposition has a place and the government has its own place but here there is no place for the opposition, he alleged.

NATURE'S WONDER



A marine conservationist holds a newly-hatched olive ridley sea turtle at Valiaveli coast, in Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala

Cong urges Guv to dismiss Mahayuti govt for law-and-order failure

PTI, MUMBAI: The Congress has appealed to Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan to dismiss the BJP-led Mahayuti government for “failing” to maintain law and order in the state, the party’s state chief Harshvardhan Sapkal said on Wednesday.

Talking to reporters after a Congress delegation met the governor, Sapkal accused Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and his ministers of acting against the Constitution.

The delegation included members of the party’s fact-finding team that visited Nagpur, which witnessed violence over rumours claiming that a “chadar” with holy inscriptions was burned during the VHP protests demanding the removal of Aurangzeb’s tomb in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

He said BJP-affiliated organisations’ protests against the Mughal ruler’s tomb were part of the state government’s “policy” to disrupt social harmony and peace.

Sapkal said they handed over a memorandum to the governor urging him to dismiss the Mahayuti government of the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP.

“This government must be dismissed immediately,” he told reporters.

Minister Nitesh Rane has been making controversial statements, creating a rift between two communities for political gains, but the CM has not taken any action, he said.

It is the constitutional responsibility of the state government to maintain law and order, establish peace, and ensure an atmosphere of harmony among the people, said the Congress leader.

Protests over Waqf Bill rock Bihar, AIMPLB stages maha dharna in Patna

PTI, PATNA: Protests against the Waqf Bill rocked Bihar on Wednesday, from the legislature to the streets, as political parties within the state and outside stood in solidarity with the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), which organised a maha dharna here.

The AIMPLB demonstrations were held barely a kilometre away from the Vidhan Sabha premises, to demand rollback of the Bill brought by the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, and to request “secular” leaders like Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to reconsider “support” to the contentious legislation.

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav turned up shortly after ruckus created on the issue by his colleagues in the RJD and allies like the CPI(M) had forced adjournment of the assembly within minutes of commencement of proceedings.



Muslims attend a protest dharna over the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024, in Patna, Bihar

Yadav was accompanied by his father Lalu Prasad, the RJD president who chose not to speak owing to bad health.

The young RJD leader assured the gathering that he had the same “blood flowing in the veins” as of the former Bihar CM, who had famously stopped the Ayodhya Rath Yatra in its tracks by getting BJP patriarch L K

Advani arrested.

Earlier, BJP MLA Hari Bhushan Thakur Bachaul had claimed that the Bill attacked the Waqf Boards’ “extra constitutional” character, and advised the RJD to worry about the fate of Yadav with the assertion that its ally Congress has “refused” to accept him as chief ministerial candidate for the assembly polls, due

later this year.

Yadav asserted that his party will oppose tooth and nail the Bill that was “un-constitutional”, “dictatorial” and inspired by the ideology of the RSS (Nagpuria).

The maha dharna was also attended by leaders from outside the state like Bhim Army founder Chandrashekhar Azad alias Ravan and Indian Union Muslim League MP, E T Mohammad Basheer.

Ravan, who is an MP from the adjoining Uttar Pradesh, told reporters “after attacking the Waqf, the Modi government is now distributing Eid kits among Muslims. It is like offering spectacles after taking one’s eyes away”.

Basheer, elected to Lok Sabha from far off Kerala, wrote on X: “Representing IUML, I joined the AIMPLB-led protest in Patna against the Centre’s Waqf Amendment Bill”.

Centre directs States to set up feeding, changing rooms for women in public spaces

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Centre has directed states, Union Territories and some central ministries to establish feeding and changing rooms for women and children in public places to improve accessibility and convenience for mothers.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has written to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Railway Board and state governments to ensure such facilities are made available.

The civil aviation ministry has reported that a total of 312 feeding and changing rooms have been set up at various airports, including 164 under the Airports Au-



The advisory includes measures such as installing sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators in washrooms, allocating space for feeding rooms, restrooms and yoga rooms, and setting up creche facilities in public buildings with 50 or more employees

thority of India (AAI) and 148 at non-AAI airports.

Similarly, MoRTH has informed that feeding rooms have been installed at 26 bus stations in Telangana, two in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and

50 in Uttar Pradesh. Other states and Union Territories, including Delhi, Goa, Chandigarh and Meghalaya, have also reported progress in this regard.

In a related move, the

women and child development ministry has issued an advisory to all ministries and state governments urging them to create gender-friendly spaces in public offices and workplaces to support working women.

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Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur shared these details in the Rajya Sabha while responding to a question on Wednesday.

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