

Fresh plea in Delhi High Court seeks Arvind Kejriwal's removal as Chief Minister

The Hindu Sena on Friday filed a fresh petition in the Delhi High Court against Arvind Kejriwal, seeking his removal from the Chief Minister's post. The plea, moved by Hindu Sena President Vishnu Gupta, demanded that the court should order Delhi's Lieutenant Governor to dismiss Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal from the post and run Delhi through the central government via LG. Earlier on Thursday, the Delhi High Court dismissed a similar petition, seeking the removal of Arvind Kejriwal from the post of chief minister following his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in Delhi liquor policy case. A bench headed by Acting Chief Jus-

tice Manmohan refused to comment on the merits of the issue, saying the same fell outside the scope of judicial interference. "It is for the other wings of the government to examine in accordance with the law," the bench, also comprising Justice Manmeet PS Arora, said, reported news agency PTI. During the hearing, the court asked petitioner Surjit Singh Yadav's counsel to show the legal bar on the continuation of Arvind Kejriwal as the chief minister. "There may be practical difficulties, but that is something else. Where is the legal bar?" the court asked. The fresh PIL stated that the Constitution did not visualise a situation where, in the

event of arrest, the Chief Minister could run his government either from judicial custody or from police custody. "Therefore, the makers of the Indian Constitution have carefully made provisions in Article 163 & 164 to the effect of the Council or Minister with the Chief Minister as the head to aid and advise the Governor to exercise his functions except discretionary functions or the Governor under the Constitution," the plea said. "Arvind Kejriwal, as a Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi has committed a breach of the constitutional trust reposed in him by the Constitution of India as soon as he was arrested in connection with an ED un-

der the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. Therefore, owing to constitutional morality, he ought to have resigned before being taken into custody by the investigating agency". "However, Arvind Kejriwal decided to continue as Chief Minister and run the government either from police custody or judicial custody. Be it as it may, the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal as Chief Minister is in violation of constitutional trust, which is inhibited in Article 164 of the Constitution of India. Therefore, the Governor is under constitutional obligation to dismiss Arvind Kejriwal from the office of Chief Minister," stated the fresh petition.

India, Ukraine Discuss Ways To Reach 'Peaceful Settlement' To Moscow-Kyiv Conflict

India and Ukraine on Friday discussed efforts to achieve a 'peaceful settlement' to the Russia-Ukraine conflict which began on February 2022 during the visit of Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba to New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement. During his two-day visit that ended on Friday, Kuleba met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and Deputy National Security Adviser, Vikram Misri. According to the contents of the MEA statement, the meeting between Jaishankar and Kuleba focused on fostering constructive dialogue and strengthening bilateral relations between India and Ukraine, including in areas such as trade and investment, science and technology, defence, agriculture, health, culture, and education. Both ministers also held a separate discussion on matters related to the India-Ukraine Inter-Governmental Commission on trade, economic, scientific, technical, industrial, and cultural cooperation, and its working groups. New Delhi and Kyiv also promised to work towards arranging the seventh Inter-Governmental Commission meeting later this year. "The exchange of views on regional and global matters involved a comprehensive discussion on the ongoing conflict and efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement," the statement added. The two sides also acknowl-

edged that regular interactions at various levels and meetings of bilateral mechanisms have contributed to the strong and multifaceted partnership that exists between India and Ukraine. Earlier in the day, Ukrainian FM Kuleba said on social media platform X that he held "comprehensive talks" with EAM Jaishankar on bilateral ties and global security. The two leaders paid special attention to the Peace Formula and the next steps to be adopted for its implementation. He added that the two sides agreed to restore the level of cooperation between our countries that existed before the conflict between Russia and Ukraine started in 2022. EAM Jaishankar stated on X that the two sides had a wide-ranging conversation focussing on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and its wider ramifications. They also reiterated their commitment to strengthen the overall relationship, including bilateral cooperation. At the meeting, Jaishankar said that he looks forward to the visit, adding that India looks forward to hearing the Ukrainian perspective on their regional situation. "We have been looking forward to this visit... In recent months, we have had interactions at various levels, I am glad to see some of our bilateral mechanisms have also met and this has created certain momentum in our bilateral relationship. To-



day, after this discussion, we look forward also to the meeting of the intergovernmental commission," Jaishankar said. "Your visit gives us an opportunity to understand the situation in your own region and I look forward to hearing your perspective on that. Our teams have prepared a very substantial agenda for discussions," he added. While the Ukrainian FM stated that Kyiv will be looking forward to discussing new areas of cooperation with New Delhi. "We will be looking forward to restoring what had existed before the large-scale invasion of Russia in Ukraine began, existed between us. We will be looking forward to discussing new areas and projects of our cooperation because I do believe that this relationship has a strategic perspective," he said. In 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy first presented Ukraine's 10-point peace formula to world leaders at the G20 Summit in Indonesia's Bali. The 10-point peace formula includes a path to nuclear

safety and food security, a special tribunal for alleged Russian war crimes and a final peace treaty with Moscow. Ukrainian FM Kuleba arrived in India at the invitation of EAM Jaishankar on Thursday and said he will look to boost bilateral ties between the two countries and build on the dialogue between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He also paid respects to Mahatma Gandhi at the Rajghat in New Delhi. In December last year, Russian President Vladimir Putin praised steps Prime Minister Narendra Modi was taking to ensure a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Putin told Union external affairs minister S Jaishankar that he discussed the ongoing 2022 Russo-Ukrainian war with PM Modi on several occasions and said he will delve deeper into the Ukraine issue when both leaders meet in person once again. "Many times, I advised him of how things have been going there and I know that he (PM Modi) is willing to do his utmost so that the issue is resolved by peaceful means. So, we probably will delve into that deeper now, and we will give additional information to you at that time. India's role in the Ukraine war has been consistent despite having to engage in a tightrope act in order to maintain close ties with allies Russia and the United States.

Maharashtra: 'Kaun Banega CM' Amid Lok Sabha Elections 2024?; Eknath Shinde To Resign & Make Way For...

Mumbai: Days before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Maharashtra is set to witness another major political change. Speculations are rife that chief minister Eknath Shinde is likely to resign and make way for a new chief minister. However, it is still not clear who will replace Shinde. There are rumours that deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis is likely to replace Shinde. But another name doing the rounds is that of MNS chief Raj Thackeray taking over the reins of state from Shinde. Late Friday night meeting sparked off the rumours of imminent change in the state. On Friday midnight Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde group ministers Uday Samant and Shambhuraj Desai had a meeting at Shinde's official residence Varsha. Fadnavis was seen leaving the CM residence at around 3 am. According to reports, the meeting was scheduled to discuss the candidates for the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar constitu-



ncies. However, some reports claimed that the late-night meeting was not regarding seat-sharing or for the preparations of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. The Mahayuti alliance partners met to discuss a smooth transition for the new government.

Eknath Shinde Set To Resign As Maharashtra CM?

According to reports, Eknath Shinde is set to resign as the Maharashtra CM, if not today then very soon. While some reports claim that one of the deputy CMs either Ajit Pawar will take over or most likely Devendra Fadnavis will

make his comeback as CM. Eknath Shinde's son and Kalyan MP will take over Shrikant Shinde as his deputy. Eknath Shinde will move to Centre and hold his position as Shiv Sena chief, claimed some reports. Maharashtra Lok Sabha Elections 2024: 5 Reasons Why Raj Thackeray's MNS Can Be A Better Ally For BJP Than Shinde's Shiv Sena

Raj Thackeray To Get His Big Gift From BJP?

On the other hand, some indicate a bigger game to be played by the BJP to take full control of Maharashtra politics, which is a hard horse to handle. Surprisingly, MNS chief Raj Thackeray's name has cropped up in some reports, claiming that the saffron party might put their bid on Thackeray to take over as the CM after Shinde's resignation. It looks like, Raj Thackeray's recent meetings with Home Minister Amit Shah, then with CM Eknath Shinde and both his deputies has earned him a fortune in coming days. (R to L) Home Minister Amit Shah,

MNS leader Raj Thackeray, and Thackeray's son Amit As of now, the air isn't clear on any of the political speculations revolving in the political circles. However, Maharashtra has braced itself to go through a rollercoaster ride in the mere future. With Lok Sabha elections just around the corner, Maharashtra politics has proved to maintain its reputation of being unpredictable by bringing another interesting showdown for the public.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 Schedule

Regarding the schedule for the Lok Sabha elections, Maharashtra will conduct its polls across five phases on April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13 and May 20. The results will be announced on June 4. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections, spanning seven phases from April 19 to June 1, will encompass 543 constituencies nationwide.

'Can't Hide Behind Smokescreen': India Reiterates Its Demand Of Reforms In United Nations Security Council

India has reiterated its long pending demand for reforms in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at its meeting on Monday. India's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj, said India cannot stay behind the smokescreen to wait for a process that has no time frame and text. "We can no longer hide behind the smokescreen of the Intergovernmental Negotiations by delivering entrenched national positions in a process which has no time frame, and no text. We should embark upon the only established process in the United Nations, which is by engaging in negotia-

tions based on text and not through speaking at each other or past each other, as we have done for the past three decades. As the threats to international peace and security evolve, so must this council. We ask those blocking progress on this vital issue to heed calls for genuine reform and contribute to making this council truly fit for purpose for the 21st century," she said. This came days after Ruchira highlighted the need for immediate reforms in the UNSC while speaking at the 78th session's informal meeting in New York on Saturday. She said the world and the future generation cannot wait to see

this reform. "In addition, world leaders at the Millennium Summit in the year 2000 had resolved to intensify efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects. Nearly a quarter century has passed. The world and our future generations can no longer wait. How much longer must they wait?" she said while questioning the delay in the process of bringing reforms. "We must push forward a reform heeding the voices of the young and future generations, including from Africa, where the demand to correct historical injustice grows even stronger. Otherwise, we simply

risk sending the council down the path of oblivion and irrelevant," she added. UK sided with India on this issue saying it was high time when reforms must be introduced with a permanent seat to the countries including India, Germany, Japan and Brazil. "The Security Council should be more representative of today's world. We support its expansion & want to see a more diverse, effective Council. The G4 nations - Brazil, Germany, India & Japan - should have permanent seats and there should be permanent representation for Africa," UK at the UN posted on X.

Know all about Aseefa Bhutto, the next First Lady of Pakistan

Islamabad: In a first for Pakistan, newly elected President Asif Ali Zardari has decided to name his daughter, Aseefa Bhutto as the First Lady of the country. Usually the status of First Lady is given to the wife of a President. But Zardari is a widower. His wife and former prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in 2007. He did not remarry and when he served the first term as President, between 2008 to 2013, there was no First Lady in Pakistan. This time however in a break from tradition, the President decided to name his youngest child, Aseefa Bhutto as the First Lady.



the late Benazir Bhutto. She was the one who accompanied Zardari for the oath ceremony at the President's House in Islamabad. Aseefa was a teenager during Zardari's first term and is currently in her 30's. She was born in 1993 and is the younger sister of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari. The young

woman made her political debut at a rally in Multan on November 30, 2020. Aseefa completed her education from Oxford Brookes University, University College London, and the University of Edinburgh. She is also Pakistan's ambassador for polio eradication. Aseefa accompanied her father to all court hearings and has also fought for his release from jail, claimed the elder daughter of Zardari, Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari in a social media post. It was her tweet which led to further speculations that Aseefa would be the next First Lady of Pakistan. Bakhtawar's tweet read, "From accompanying president Asif Zardari to all his court hearings to fighting for his release from jail - now by his side as First Lady of Pakistan"

and added Aseefa's name at the end. Once the official declaration about her elevation is made Aseefa will be given all protocols of a First Lady. Earlier she was seen campaigning for her elder brother Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during the run up to the February 8 polls. At the time, he was PPP's candidate for the PM's post. This however is not the first time that a country has declared someone else other than the President's wife as the First Lady. Former United States president Andrew Jackson, who was a widower, had asked his niece Emily Donelson to serve as the country's first lady. Moreover, two other US presidents - Chester Arthur and Grover Cleveland - asked their sisters to serve as first lady.

Will Be First To Resign If Non-NRC Applicant Granted Citizenship Under CAA

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has made a bold statement, asserting that he would be the first to resign if any individual who has not applied for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is granted citizenship. This declaration by the Chief Minister comes amidst widespread protests in Assam against the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) by the BJP government. The CAA aims to provide citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. "I am a son of Assam and if a single person who has not applied for NRC gets citizenship, I will be the first to resign", the chief minister said on the sidelines of a programme at Sivasagar. The opposition parties in

Assam have strongly criticized the CAA, expressing concerns that it could lead to an influx of migrants into the state. Himanta Biswa Sarma, according to PTI, emphasizing his commitment to the people of Assam, stated that he would step down from his position if any discrepancies in the citizenship process are observed. Sarma emphasized the importance of the online portal for processing citizenship applications, stating that it would provide clarity on the situation. "There is nothing new about the CAA as it was enacted earlier, the chief minister said, adding that "now the time has come for application on the portal." "The data on the portal will speak now, and it will become clear whether the claims of those opposing the Act stand factu-

ally correct or not," Sarma said. With the CAA rules being issued, the central government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who came to India till December 31, 2014. These include Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians. The law could not come into effect as rules had not been notified till now.

IUML moves Supreme Court seeking stay of CAA
Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) has moved an application before the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the implementation of the rules notified by the Union Home Ministry under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). In its appli-



cation, IUML said that the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024 are manifestly arbitrary and create an unfair advantage in favour of a class of persons on the ground solely of their religious identity, which is impermissible under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.

Indian Military Crew Departs Maldives As Civilian Takeover Begins

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): In a report by the Maldivian media on Monday, it was stated that the first group of Indian military personnel stationed in the Maldives, who were operating a helicopter gifted by India, have departed from the island nation. The operations of the helicopter have now been handed over to an Indian civilian crew. A media official for the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) confirmed that approximately 25 Indian soldiers stationed in Addu city have returned to India, allowing the Indian civilian crew to take over the helicopter's operations.

istry regarding the withdrawal of the first batch of Indian military personnel from the Maldives, as reported by the local media. The MNDF official further confirmed that the Indian military troops left the country by the agreed schedule, preceding March 10. Going forward, the helicopters will be operated by civilian experts from India, who have been transferred to the Maldives for this purpose, as reported by PTI. Additionally, the official mentioned that the remaining Indian military personnel stationed elsewhere in the Maldives will also depart on schedule by May 10. President Mohamed Muizzu of the Maldives has reiterated that no Indian military personnel, even those in civilian attire, will be present in the country after May 10. Maldives Sees



33% Drop In Indian Tourists Amid Diplomatic Tensions; New Top Visiting Country Emerges
Muizzu's statement was reported by local media last week, emphasizing a stance perceived as pro-China. After a high-level meeting between the two countries in New Delhi on February 2, the Maldivian foreign ministry an-

nounced that India would replace its military personnel operating aviation platforms in the Maldives by May 10, with the first phase of the process completed by March 10. India had agreed to withdraw its troops from the Maldives under the condition that several civilians equivalent to the military presence would be brought in to operate the aircraft. This decision came after Muizzu's government took an anti-India stance and allowed a Chinese 'research ship' to dock at Male, among other developments, as per PTI reports. The first group of Indian civilian personnel arrived on February 26 to replace the military personnel operating a helicopter in Addu city. India also sent a new helicopter and transported the old helicopter used in Addu city for repairs.

