

Outrage Over Union Sport Minister's Reference to Money Spent on Olympics Medal Winner Bhaker

New Delhi: Union sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya's statement congratulating Olympic bronze medalist Manu Bhaker has veered off course from Bhaker's achievement. On the day when Bhaker made India proud by winning the medal, Mandaviya instead of congratulating her chose to reel out the money spent and facilities provided to her by the Narendra Modi government. Speaking to ANI, Mandaviya revealed that the government had spent around Rs 2 crore on Bhaker's training, sending her to Germany and Switzerland for specialised coaching. "Around Rs 2 crore was spent on Manu Bhaker's training. She was sent to Germany and Switzerland for training. Financial help was provided which was needed for her to hire a coach who she wanted. We are providing this ecosystem to all athletes so that they give the best performance at national and international competitions. I am confident that our athletes will perform well in the Paris Olympics too," Mandaviya was quoted as saying. He also highlighted the role of the 'Khelo India' initiative and the TOPS scheme in identifying and nurturing sporting talent. "By winning the first bronze medal in the Paris Olympics, Manu Bhaker has made India proud. In her interaction, she said that she has been a part of 'Khelo India'. I am delighted to tell you that PM (Narendra) Modi started 'Khelo India' and under this initiative, sports infrastructure was set up in the country, sports competition was increased, and



projects were floated to identify sports talent at school and college levels. Good coaches were hired to train the talents identified, they were provided good training and under the TOPS scheme, arrangements were made to ensure that they did not face any financial constraints," the minister said. Mandaviya told PTI: "When she met PM Modi (before the Games), she

told him that 'the initiative of Khelo India has helped many athletes like myself in shaping our careers' and today, through Khelo India, many athletes are participating in many events." A former bureaucrat from Haryana slammed the minister calling his comment "totally unwarranted". Slamming the minister for making these remarks at "this stage", a former bureaucrat from Haryana told The Wire, "She has at least got an Olympic medal, what has the minister delivered for the hundreds of crores spent on him from the exchequer." "Totally insensitive on the part of sports minister. This statement was totally unwarranted at this stage," the former officer added. Bhaker, became the first Indian woman to win a medal in shooting at the Olympics. In 2023, Bhaker was among select athletes who voiced her support for top

wrestlers agitating for action to be taken against then BJP MP and Wrestling Federation chief Brij Bhushan Singh, who they accused of sustained sexual harassment and highhandedness. "I am deeply pained to see the situation of my fellow athletes (Wrestlers) who have made the nation proud many times by winning medals and are now sitting on the roads to seek justice. I strongly stand with my fellow athletes and request for appropriate action on their complaints," Bhaker had posted on X.

In 2019, Bhaker had famously addressing Haryana youth affairs minister Anil Vij, asking whether he was going to make good on his promise of a Rs 2-crore cash prize to her after her Youth Olympics victory. "Someone in Haryana is really playing with Youth Olympic games cash prize!" she had.

BJP creates history, wins two seats in Kerala University Syndicate; huge blow for CPM

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: BJP has created history by winning two seats in the Kerala University syndicate elections. This is the first time in history that BJP representatives have emerged victorious in the Kerala University syndicate, which was dominated by Left organizations, including CPM, for many years. LDF won six out of nine seats. BJP won two seats, while Congress won one seat. CPI, which was not ready for an alliance with CPM, had not fielded a candidate in the elections. There are a total of 12 seats in the syndicate. Earlier, Left representatives had won unopposed in 3 of these seats. The elections were held for the remaining 9 seats. BJP, which did not have the strength to ensure the victory of two candidates, was helped by coups and undercurrents. It is indicated that the BJP candidates got preferential votes from other organisations. The BJP candidates who won the election are National Teachers' Union State President PS Gopakumar and Dr Vinodkumar TG Nair, senior Scientist of Palode Botanical Garden and

National Secretary of Vishwa Ayurveda Foundation. The election result is a heavy blow to the CPM, which had full domination in the last syndicate except for one Congress representative. The counting of votes took place amidst a tense atmosphere. Votes of four student representatives out of 17 nominated by the Governor, one teacher and 10 student representatives, whose terms expired on the last 23rd, were not counted. Earlier today, the High Court issued an interim order stating that the Kerala University Syndicate Election results can be announced by counting the undisputed votes. The High Court had clarified that 82 out of 98 votes can be counted. The court also stated its order that the disputed 15 votes should not be counted. A conflict erupted in the University premises after the CPM and the SFI protested against the action of the VC who refused to count the votes until the High Court issued the verdict. CPM representatives who won in the elections: Prof KC Prakash, Dr K Rahim, Dr N Pramod, Dr TR Manoj, Adv RB



Rajeev Kumar, DN Ajay. Elected unopposed: Dr S Naseeb, Prof V Manoj, Dr M Leninlal.

Cross-voting?

It is believed that some Congress and CPI members cross-voted for BJP. It is hinted that some CPM members too cross-voted for the BJP. CPI has two members, while the Congress has 10 members. The vote of one student representative of Congress was not counted. BJP has 12 members. Nine votes are needed for one candidate to win. Yet, the BJP managed to win two seats instead of one.

Not wanting to be burden on children, elderly couple commits suicide



The deceased, K Ramachandriah (75) and his wife Sarojanamma (69) had three sons and a daughter and they distributed their property among their children. Kothagudem: In a tragic incident, an elderly couple has allegedly died by suicide at Pagideru village of Manugur mandal in the district. The incident took place on Sunday evening. The sons live in Gollakotturu village of the same mandal. The woman, who was diabetic, used to stay at the houses of each of her sons for some days. A few days ago, Ramachandriah brought his wife to their house at ST Colony in the village. According to locals they were said to have confessed with their neighbours that they would end their lives as they do not want to be a burden for their sons. The couple who went out of the house on Sunday evening did not return. The villagers and family members searched and found their footwear and other items at an agricultural well in the village. While Sarojamma's dead body was found in the well, swimmers could not find Ramachandriah's body until night hours on Sunday. The search for his body continued on Monday and the locals found the body hanging from a tree on the outskirts of the village. As Ramachandriah knew swimming he did not jump into the well instead hanged himself to death, the locals said. Police booked a case based on the complaint of the family members and launched an investigation into the incident.

Hungry for 40 days, was unable to even speak. American woman found tied in chains in the forest

The American woman found tied with iron chains in the forest near Samantwadi in Maharashtra was hungry for 40 days. Her Indian husband had also given her wrong and dangerous medicines to get rid of her. Currently, the police have admitted the woman to the hospital after seeing her condition.

Woman found tied in chains in Samantwadi

A shocking news has come from Samantwadi in Maharashtra. Here an American woman was found tied in chains in the forest. On receiving the information, the police reached the spot, freed the woman from the chains and admitted her to the hospital. The police has started investigating the case by informing the American Embassy. During this, some such information has come to light, which even the police themselves are surprised to know and hear. This American woman has been identified as Lalita Kai Kumar S. While living in America, she was a famous belly



dancer and yoga teacher. She wanted to study further to make a career in the field of yoga. So she came to India and during a yoga training here, she came in contact with a young man from Tamil Nadu. During this time, Lalita decided to spend her life in India and married that young man. This woman, who was hungry and thirsty for about 40 days, was having difficulty in speaking.

The shepherds were the first to see

That is why she has written down her entire story and told it to the police. According to the police, this woman has been freed from the for-

est near Sonurli Ronapal in Sawantwadi taluka. Here this woman was tied with an iron chain. Shepherds saw her in this condition on Sunday and informed the police. According to the police, many things have become clear in the investigation of this woman's mobile phone, but the links of the incident are still to be connected.

Accused of providing dangerous drugs

It is not yet clear how this woman living in Tamil Nadu reached Samantwadi in Maharashtra. The woman has told the police during interrogation that her husband wanted to get rid of her. He not only kept her hungry, but also tried to kill her by giving her dangerous and wrong medicines. Finally her husband brought her here to the forest and tied her up. This woman, who has been physically broken due to not getting food for a long time, has now been admitted to Oros District Hospital for treatment.

'She wants Aishwarya to stay behind': Jaya Bachchan slammed for refusing to use husband's name

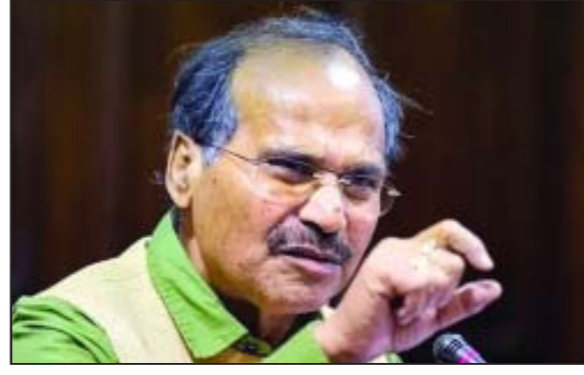
In the recent Rajya Sabha session, Jaya Bachchan was addressed as Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan. However, the actress-turned-politician was quite unhappy with this. She objected to Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh and reminded everyone that a woman has her own identity too and doesn't need to be identified by her husband's name. As Harivansh Narayan Singh called out her name to let her speak, he said, "Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan ji, please". Jaya's (who was born as Jaya Bhaduri) instant reaction was, "Sir, sirf Jaya Bachchan bolte to kaafi hojata (It would've been enough to call me Jaya Bachchan)". Singh then pointed out that that he used her officially registered name. However, Jaya continued, "Some new method has emerged that women have to be known by their husband's name. Women have no identity. They have no achievements, no identity of their own. This new thing." As the video went viral, now Jaya Bachchan is getting slammed for two reasons - for herself using her husband's name in her official papers and for an old Koffee With Karan video in which she said that she likes how her daughter-in-law Aishwarya Rai Bachchan stays behind. Here's what fans are saying. "Speak about women ka astitva and shit! Lekin KWK me bol rahi hai, She likes that her daughter in law, stays behind and quiet! Dogli aurat! Also agar itna hi problem hai, then change the name! Paper pe jo name likha hai, usi se usko sambodhit karenge," one of the users commented on Reddit. "If she has so much angst against being called by her husband's name, why would she change it at first place? If changed, why not just drop it now? Also, why would she assume that the speaker is patriarchal? He could be just calling her by her official name written (which he claimed he did)!", wrote another user while a third one said, "She hates Amitabh it's that simple". Amid the divorce rumours of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan doing the rounds, fans were once again reminded of how Jaya Bachchan had once said that she likes how her daughter-in-law stays behind, is quiet and listens.

You Touched NTR, So They Destroyed YSR: Sharmila



Andhra Pradesh Congress president YS Sharmila is leaving YSR Congress virtually restless with her relentless bombarding. She has been questioning Jagan over his intentions as he never protested in Delhi for special category status while he readily sat down on protest to politicize an unrelated murder in Vinukonda. This time, Sharmila has put another foot forward as she gave a new abbreviation to YSR Congress. Sharmila pointed out that YS Rajasekhara Reddy is in no way related to YSR Congress and the new full form of the party is Y-YV Subba Reddy, S-Sai Reddy (Vijayasai Reddy) and R-Ramakrishna Reddy (Sajjala). Sharmila added that several of the currently active leaders in the YSR Congress had belittled YSR and Vijayamma in the past. "If you hadn't destroyed NTR statues after coming to power in 2019, there wouldn't have been the destruction of YSR statues like what is happening now. If you hadn't changed NTR University's name, there would have been no need to remove YSR's name today. You are actively responsible for destroying YSR's name". Sharmila's funny new abbreviation of YSR Congress and her factual backing of the same is irking the YCP camp in more ways than one. She stressed on the point that Jagan not going to the assembly is a heinous act and vowed to fight against this till the end.

Adhir resigns as Bengal Congress president



Kolkata: Bengal Congress President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury resigned from his post on Monday. He met AICC in charge Venugopal in Delhi and submitted the resignation to him. Immediately after the electoral debacle of Congress in Bengal, Chowdhury offered to resign but at that time the Congress leadership told him to wait. They had told Chowdhury that they would review the situation and get back. But now Congress's high command has accepted his resignation. Sources close to Congress high com-

mand said that now to build up a strong Opposition against the Narendra Modi government, Trinamool Congress is an important political party in the national level political arena. Bengal Congress is not a priority for the Congress high command. Instead, they would prioritise developing strong Opposition forces against the BJP at the Centre. The high command of the grand old party is not keen on "damaging" relations with the Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool. Sources indicate that there is speculation about whether senior leader Pradip Bhattacharya will become the state president. However, the fate of Chowdhury is uncertain after he lost the Lok Sabha elections from Berhampur. There is, however, no report if Chowdhury received any offer from the BJP yet. Pradip Bhattacharya said that there is a political question as to who would be the next state president of the party and the situation is changing

daily. Adhir had earlier offered his resignation from the post of Pradesh Congress Committee chief. After a meeting with the state unit of Congress Chowdhury had said: "I am a temporary state Congress president. The full-time president will be elected soon." He made this announcement just a day after the Congress's Rajya Sabha member and former Union Finance minister, P Chidambaram, dropped in at the state secretariat Nabanna and had a 35-minute meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Adhir, a five-time party Lok Sabha MP from Murshidabad's Berhampur Constituency, was defeated by the Trinamool's celebrity candidate and former Indian cricketer Yusuf Pathan. News about Chowdhury's differences with the party's high command has been doing the rounds for quite some time over the issue of the party's relationship with the Trinamool in Bengal.

Rahul Gandhi's Halwa Speech Is A Super Hit

Other day in the Lok Sabha, Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi delivered a speech that captured significant attention, particularly for his remarks about the 'Halwa' ceremony associated with the Indian budget. This traditional event is held before the budget presentation, and the Congress leader uses it to highlight issues of representation and inclusion in the budget-making process. During his speech, Rahul Gandhi displayed a picture from the Halwa ceremony and pointed out that out of 20 officers involved in preparing the budget, only one was from a minority community and one from the Other Backward Classes (OBC). He criticized the government for a lack of diversity, stating, 'The budget halwa is being distributed, but 73% of the country's

people are not included in it'. His comments aimed to draw attention to the under-representation of Dalits, Adivasis, and other marginalized groups in government decisions. RaGa's remarks prompted a notable reaction from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who was seen covering her face and laughing during his speech, which many found inappropriate given the serious nature of the topic. This moment quickly went viral on social media, with many users sharing clips and memes related to her reaction. In addition to the Halwa comments, Gandhi made broader criticisms of the government's budgetary priorities, suggesting that it primarily benefits large businesses and political elites while neglecting the needs of ordinary citi-



zens. He also referenced the Mahabharata, likening the current political situation to a 'Chakravayuh,' a complex military formation, to illustrate the challenges faced by the country under the current administration. Overall, Rahul Gandhi's 'Halwa' speech echoed with many viewers and the combination of his serious analysis and the viral moments from the session made those videos viral in no time.

Salary of Nirmala Sitharaman and Taxes She Pays on Her Own Salary

Nirmala Sitharaman, as India's Finance Minister, holds one of the most significant positions in the government. Her salary, like that of other cabinet ministers, is determined by the government and includes various components. Understanding her salary and the taxes she pays provides insight into the financial responsibilities and transparency expected from public officials. As a Cabinet Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman receives a basic salary along with allowances. The basic salary for a Cabinet Minister in India is approximately INR 2.2 lakh per month. In addition to the basic salary, there are several allowances provided, including a constituency allowance, daily allowances for attending Parliament sessions, and other perks related to housing, travel, and medical benefits. These additional allowances and benefits can add up to a substantial amount, reflecting the responsibilities and status of the position. However, like any other salaried individual in India, Nirmala Sitharaman is subject to income tax on her earnings. The taxation of her salary follows the same income tax slabs applicable to all In-



dian citizens. For the fiscal year 2023-2024, the income tax rates for individuals are as follows: no tax for income up to INR 2.5 lakh, 5% for income between INR 2.5 lakh and INR 5 lakh, 10% for income between INR 5 lakh and INR 7.5 lakh, 15% for income between INR 7.5 lakh and INR 10 lakh, 20% for income between INR 10 lakh and INR 12.5 lakh, 25% for income between INR 12.5 lakh and INR 15 lakh, and 30% for income above INR 15 lakh. Given her salary structure, Sitharaman falls into the highest tax bracket. The total annual taxable income from her salary as a Cabinet Minister amounts to around INR 26.4 lakh, excluding other allow-

ances and benefits. Consequently, she is liable to pay income tax at a rate of 30% on income above INR 15 lakh, along with applicable cess and surcharges. Additionally, if she has any other sources of income, such as investments or properties, they are also subject to taxation according to the applicable tax laws. It is important to note that public figures like Nirmala Sitharaman are required to disclose their financial details and tax payments, promoting transparency and accountability. The taxes paid by government officials contribute to the nation's revenue and set an example of compliance with tax laws. Sitharaman's adherence to tax obligations demonstrates her commitment to the same financial responsibilities she oversees in her capacity as Finance Minister. The salary and tax payments of public officials like Nirmala Sitharaman not only reflect their earnings but also highlight the broader framework of taxation and transparency within the government. Understanding these aspects helps citizens appreciate the financial discipline expected from those in public service.

