

# Sonia continues to be UPA chairperson as she can pull allies together: Moily

HYDERABAD, JAN 30/-/ Sonia Gandhi continues to be the UPA chairperson because of her ability to pull the allies together, Senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily said today amid attempts at leading a united opposition to take on the BJP. There were speculations on whether Rahul Gandhi would step into the position after he recently became the Congress president, a post held by his mother Sonia Gandhi for 19 years. "Sonia Gandhi continues to be UPA chairperson... because she can pull the allies together," Moily said. He added that a broad alliance of opposition parties cannot be very cohesive and coherent as the Congress is fighting against regional outfits in some states, but the upshot has to be "well-knit". Regional parties cannot compromise on their own political existence in their respective states, he said. "You can have an alliance at the national level. You have to fight the BJP at the national level. That unity of opposition parties is necessary," the Congress leader said.

## US national barred from entering India: HC seeks govt's reply

NEW DELHI, JAN 30/-/ The Delhi High Court has sought the Centre's response on a US national's plea against denial of visa to him in India despite holding a business visa valid till June 2022.

Justice Rajiv Shukhdekar issued notice to the ministers of External Affairs and Home Affairs and sought their response by March 19 on the petition of Jensen Christopher Martin, who was detained at the Kempegowda International Airport at Bengaluru on January 3 allegedly without being given any reason.

His wife and kids were, however, allowed to enter India, but he was forced to travel to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, the US national has said in his plea.

Martin, represented by advocates Robin R David and Dhiraaj Philip, has also claimed that he had bought tickets to travel to London from Bengaluru, British Airways refused to let him board the plane. Business Malaysian Airlines took responsibility for him if he was denied entry into the United Kingdom. He was then forced to travel to Kuala Lumpur, his plea said and sought the reasons for the action taken against him by the Indian Immigration authorities.

The US national has claimed he has been in India several times in the past and his business and this time too, he was here to "promote and train social businesses in Bengaluru" on behalf of his company Global Entrepreneurs. He has claimed that no reasons were given while detaining him at the airport and deny him entry into India and the country despite a valid visa, and alleged that he was unlawfully separated from his family. Martin has been quashing or revoking of the orders, if any which barred him from entering India and also compensation for the financial loss incurred by him in purchasing the tickets for travel to Kuala Lumpur. In his plea, he has also claimed that the US national has claimed that barring him from entering India has affected his professional career and denied his international travel prospects as the "deportation/refusal of entry is likely to be seen internationally as a black mark against him". (PTI)

# Godhra train burning: Accused held after 16 years

AHMEDABAD, JAN 30/-/ On the run for the last 16 years, a man accused in the 2002 Godhra train carnage was today arrested by the Gujarat Police, an official said. Yakub Pataliya (63) was arrested from Godhra by a team of 29 Division police in the town after they received a tip-off that he was spotted in a locality this morning, the official said. "During patrolling, a team of Godhra B Division police received information about the presence of the accused. He was arrested soon after," the official said.

## 47 m children in India reside in most polluted areas: Report

NEW DELHI, JAN 30/-/ Around 47 million children in India under five years of age reside in areas where particulate matter levels exceed the prescribed limits, with 17 million among them inhabiting places where the pollution levels are more than twice the limits, says a recent report.

"Airpollution-11, a Greenpeace India report, said children are worst affected in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra and Delhi respectively. It said Delhi remained the worst impacted city with annual PM10 levels exceeding approximately five times the national ambient air quality standards.

According to the report, a massive part of the population i.e. 580 million or 47 per cent are living in areas where "no air quality data is available". It claimed that out of 630 million, close to 550 million people live in areas exceeding national standards for PM10, including 180 million living in areas where air pollution levels are "more than twice the stipulated limit of 60µg/m³ which has been set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)". As many as 47 million children under the age of five years are residing in areas where PM10 levels exceeded CPCB annual limits, including 17 million children under the age of five who are in the areas where pollution levels are more than twice the limits," the report claimed. Ranking of cities based on annual average of PM10 levels reveals that Delhi is the worst polluted city with 290 µg/m³ followed by Faridabad, Bhiwadi, Patna with annual average ranging from 272 µg/m³, 262 µg/m³ & 261 µg/m³, respectively, it said.

It said Dehradun in Uttarakhand, once thought to be a 'salubrious preserve of retiring elite', also made it to the top 10 list of worst-polluted cities with 238 µg/m³ annual average of PM10. The report added that the most-polluted cities are spread across the Indo-Gangetic basin with the southern cities being slightly better off than their northern counterparts.

However, cities in south also need focused and time-bound action plan to bring the air quality to achieve the WHO standards, thus showing a pathway for other cities across India, it said. (PTI)

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He will be handed over to the Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is investigating the case, the official said.

## MP by-polls: Cong nominees to file papers today

### \*BJP shortlists candidates

BHOPAL, JAN 30/-/ The ruling BJP in Madhya Pradesh has finalised its candidates for the February 24 bypolls in two Assembly constituencies.

Bai Sahab Yadav and Devendra Jain have been selected to contest from bypoll-bund Mungaoli and Kolaras Assembly seats, respectively, but their candidatures are awaiting final approval from the party said. Their names have been sent to the BJP Parliamentary Board for clearance, state BJP Chief Minister Shyam Narayan Chouksey said today here. The Congress, which currently holds both the seats, has fielded Brajendra Singh Yadav from the Mungaoli (Ashoknagar district) and Mahendra Singh Yadav from Kolaras (Shivpur district). They will file their nominations tomorrow. "We decided our candidates two days back and

they are going to file their nomination papers tomorrow," said state Congress spokesman Pankaj Chaturvedi.

The Congress and the BJP have already started campaigning for the bypolls, which are expected to test their popularity ahead of the Assembly elections slated by end-2018. While the Congress is aiming to retain both the seats, the saffron party is trying hard to wrest them.

Both the Assembly segments fall under the Guna Lok Sabha constituency, the pocket-borough of Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia. Scindia, the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha, is being pushed as the chief ministerial face by a section in the Congress, which is out of power in Madhya Pradesh since 2003. Aware of the high stakes involved in the

situation. In the PIL, Chouksey has submitted photos of defuncteries that he had come across during his visit to the monument in 2014 and then again in 2015 and 2016, when he claimed the situation had worsened.

He has alleged there were beetle stains at the entrance, broken floor tiles, rubbish lying all over the monument, the white marble has turned black due to lack of cleaning while the green carpet laid for visitors to walk was damaged. "Two defuncteries in very poor condition and unclean, and at many places sewage lines are exposed and filled with garbage, becoming 'breeding place for mosquitoes and other insects'", (PTI)

These included financial assistance for tackling malnutrition among the members of the Saharia tribe who form a major chunk of population in Kolaras and Mungaoli. (PTI)

Some departments and ministries have responded but some, instead of providing a comprehensive report, have submitted the requisite information in piecemeal manner, it said.

Therefore, financial advisors and joint secretaries (administration) of all ministries/ departments are requested to identify the posts which are vacant for more than five years and submit a comprehensive report on abolition of such posts in main ministry and their respective subordinate organisations at the earliest, the office memorandum, dated January 16, 2018, said.

Following this, the Ministry of Home Affairs has directed all its additional secretaries, joint secretaries, chiefs of paramilitary forces and other attached organisations to submit comprehensive reports, a home ministry official told PTI.

According to a preliminary estimate, there are several thousand central government posts which are lying vacant for five or more years, the official said. (PTI)



President Ram Nath Kovind paying tribute to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs Day at Rajghat, in New Delhi

# 47 m children in India reside in most polluted areas: Report

## Govt plans to abolish posts vacant for 5 years

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Govt of INDIA State Lotteries Result Sheet (29/01/2018)

Lottery Name	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	4th Prize	5th Prize
SUNAM Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000
SANDHYA Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000
SITARA Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000

Govt of MIZORAM State Lotteries Result Sheet (29/01/2018)

Lottery Name	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	4th Prize	5th Prize
SUNAM Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000
SANDHYA Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000
SITARA Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000

Govt of CHHATTISGARH State Lotteries Result Sheet (29/01/2018)

Lottery Name	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	4th Prize	5th Prize
CHETANA Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000
CHETANA Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000
CANA Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000

Govt of CHHATTISGARH State Lotteries Result Sheet (29/01/2018)

Lottery Name	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	4th Prize	5th Prize
CHETANA Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000
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CANA Weekly Lottery	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 25,00,000	₹ 12,50,000