

Don't post officials facing disciplinary action in Guj polls: SC to EC

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 /-/- The Supreme Court has directed the Election Commission (EC) not to post any official against whom disciplinary proceedings have already been initiated in key positions for poll duty during the upcoming Gujarat Assembly elections.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Mishra said this after the poll panel submitted that it would not post any "tainted officers", including those against whom disciplinary proceedings have already been initiated.

"We direct that the EC shall not post any officer/official against whom the disciplinary proceedings have been initiated for his key position in any district," the bench, also comprising justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, said.

board is concerned, we are of the considered opinion that the same is not permissible and accordingly, the said prayer stands rejected," it said.

The apex court order came while hearing a plea filed by Prakash Joshi, secretary of the All India Congress Committee, in which he had asked the EC to frame guidelines for counting of votes through Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines. During the hearing, Attorney General K K Venugopal told the bench that regarding the prayer to implement instructions on the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) with VVPAT, the EC has already implemented it.

He said that the poll panel already has guidelines for counting of votes through VVPATs.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Vivek Tankha, appearing for the petitioner, told the apex court that officials like collectors and superintendents of police (SPs) cannot be posted on contract in the poll-bound state.

Regarding the prayer for installation of CCTV cameras inside the polling booth, the bench observed

that it cannot expose a voter on camera while he or she is casting vote.

The petition has said the poll panel should be directed not to post any official, who is facing any inquiry or disciplinary proceedings, in key positions on contract basis or on extension of time from services.

The plea has said they had made representations to the EC on these issues but no decision was taken by it.

In August, the EC had told the apex court that it would be able to conduct the Gujarat assembly elections using EVMs with VVPAT machines.

The EC had told this to the court which was hearing a separate petition seeking direction for use of VVPAT machines in Gujarat Assembly polls.(PTI)

Jantar Mantar protest ban suits Centre: CPI

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 /-/- The CPI today alleged that the Centre had challenged the NCT's ruling banning all protests at the Jantar Mantar as it wanted to gag the opposition voices. "Democracy is at risk. There is an increasing attack on the fundamental and constitutional rights of the people. There is no space for the opposition to raise their voice. It suits the government. They do not want people to raise their voice against it. The government should have appealed against the ruling," CPI called a three-day protest at the Jantar Mantar. The Left party has urged all the political parties, specially the opposition parties, to chalk out their plans and take legal advice on how to challenge the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) order. (PTI)

by attacking the people's movement. It is a political drama being played by the NDA government," the Left leader said.

In November, the national capital is going to witness a series of protests. Tomorrow, farmers are scheduled to protest at the Jantar Mantar against the government. The protest is being organised by the farmers' unions. On November 8, opposition parties have decided to observe black day against demonetisation and from November 9 to 11, the Left trade unions have called a three-day protest at the Jantar Mantar. The Left party has urged all the political parties, specially the opposition parties, to chalk out their plans and take legal advice on how to challenge the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) order. (PTI)

IPS probationary may be dismissed from service for cheating

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 /-/- An IPS probationary officer, arrested for allegedly cheating in the UPSC examination in Chennai, is facing possible dismissal if he fails to give a proper explanation for his conduct, an official said today. The Union Home Ministry, which is the cadre controlling authority of the Indian Police Service, has also sought a report from the Tamil Nadu government about the conduct of the 2015 batch officer Saifeer Karim during the civil services (MANS) examination on Sunday. Such a person is not fit to be in a service like IPS and action such as suspension from the service may be initiated once a report from the state government is received, a home ministry official said here. However, action will be given an opportunity to explain his conduct.

The Tamil Nadu cadre IPS probationary officer was caught while cheating during the UPSC mains examination at a centre in Egmore, Chennai. He was apprehended in the examination to get into the IAS. Karim, an assistant superintendent of police in Nanguneri, Tirunelveli, allegedly used a mobile phone, a bluetooth-enabled miniature camera in a shirt button and wireless earpieces into the examination centre in Presidency girls higher secondary school. Karim's wife allegedly dictated the answers to him from Hyderabad, police officials said in Chennai.(PTI)

How many vehicles checked for pollution, HC asks police, govt

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 /-/- How many vehicles have been checked and fines imposed for causing pollution since August, the Delhi High Court asked the traffic police and transport department of the AAP government today. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar sought the information and an action plan from the authorities on how they intended to ensure compliance of the law and rules regarding polluting vehicles. The bench said if the authorities are able to address the issue of air pollution by inspection of vehicular emission, "then air quality in the city would improve positively". The court sought the data with regard to inspections carried out at the entry points to the national capital.

The bench also sought information regarding vehicle inspections carried out by cops in areas falling under the jurisdiction of the police stations of Daryaganj, Dhatla Kuan, ISBT, Anand Vihar, Nehru Place, Raja Garden, Nangloi, Laxmi Nagar and Mukarba Chowk. The bench said it was monitoring issuance of traffic challans, availability of public toilets and functioning of sewage treatment plants. The court also sought information on these administrative functions. It directed the transport department and the traffic police to provide the information sought before the next date of hearing on November 30.

The court was hearing a plea by an NGO, Campaign for People Participation in Development Planning, alleging that the rise in vehicle-generated air pollution in Delhi was due to "non-enforcement and non-implementation" of the 1988 Motor Vehicle Act, which prescribes punishment for driving a polluting vehicle. Advocate Anil Aggarwal, who has filed the petition, contended before the bench that the Motor Vehicle Rules empowered a police officer above the rank of Sub-Inspector and a transport department official above the rank of Inspector to inspect vehicles and impose fines. The court, thereafter, made the Delhi police a party in the case.

SC seeks data on conviction of politicians in criminal cases

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 /-/- The Supreme Court today sought to know the rate of conviction of politicians in criminal cases and asked whether its direction to continue the trial courts that a year was being effectively implemented. The apex court said that data about the conviction rate of politicians in criminal cases would open up a "new dimension" and sought to know whether it would act as a "deterrent" if it were against lawmakers completed in a year. "We are looking for conviction data and different heights, the bench said, adding, "we can see your anxiety for purity in elections". If the trial (against politicians) is over in one year, do you think it would be a deterrent," the bench asked. Referring to a data, the counsel claimed that an estimated 34 per cent of parliamentarians had criminal record.

The bench observed that a direction was earlier passed by the top court that trial against politicians should be completed within a year and wanted to know how effectively was that order being implemented. The court also asked what would

happen to a judge when charges were framed against him or an FIR lodged. To this, the counsellor said he laid down such a high and rigorous standards for judges. If this is the position in case of judges, why can't the same be there in case of politicians.

The lawyer argued that if a lawmaker was convicted by a court of law, he should be permanently barred from politics. The arguments remained inconclusive and would continue tomorrow. Advocate Ashwin Kumar Updhyay has filed a PIL in the matter, while several others have come to the apex court as intervenors.

The apex court had on July 12 pulled up the EC for not taking a clear stand on a plea seeking barring of convicted politicians for life. The Centre, in its affidavit, had said the prayer sought by the petitioner seeking lifetime bar on convicted lawmakers was not maintainable and the plea should be dismissed. The petition has also sought a direction to the Centre to set up a national educational qualification and a maximum age limit for persons contesting polls.

Delhi govt cracks down on city's hookah bars

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 /-/- In a crackdown on the city's hookah bars, the Delhi government today asked the police and municipal corporations to cancel the licences of restaurants, eateries and hotels where hookah smoking is allowed. Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said that hookah smoking was not allowed in either non-smoking or even smoking zones in the national capital. Jain has said Delhi Police and municipal corporations should immediately cancel the licences of restaurants or eateries having hookah bars. "The government has made it clear that hookah smoking is not allowed in non-smoking zone as per section 4 of COTPA (Cigarette & other Tobacco Products Act)," the government said in a statement. It said that a recent notification of the Indian government dated May 23, 2017, from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, completely prohibits use of hookah in the smoking zones also.

The government stated that as per the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an hour-long hookah session comprises 200 puffs compared to 30 puffs in a cigarette, but a number of hookah bars have been "flourishing" in metropolitan cities including Delhi these days, and has unfortunately become status symbol even in family functions," the statement said. (PTI)



Samajwadi party president Akhilesh Yadav paying tributes to Archarya Narendra Dev on his anniversary in Lucknow.

Sam Rajappa, Sarat Mishra to get Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 /-/- Veteran journalists Sam Rajappa and Sarat Mishra have been jointly chosen for the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award presented by the Press Council of India, for their outstanding contribution towards journalism, the council announced today. The award will be presented on November 16 on the occasion of the National Press Day. In a statement here, the PCI also announced other winners of the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2017. Shalini Nair of The Indian Express has been chosen for the award of Rural Journalism and Development Reporting.

K Sujith of Mangalam Daily (Kannur, Kerala) and freelancer Chitranagala Choudhury have been jointly selected in the category of 'Investigative Journalism'. The statement said. C K Thanaser of Chandrika Daily (Calicut, Kerala) and Vijay Verma of PTI are jointly selected in the category of Photo Journalism- Single News Picture, while J Suresh of Malayala Manorama has bagged the award in the category of 'Investigative Journalism'. Gireesh Kumar MP of Times of India (Kochi, Kerala) has been selected for the award in the category of best newspapers art, covering cartoons, caricatures and illustrations.(PTI)

Amarinder flays decision to use Army for constructing bridges

CHANDIGARH, OCT 31 /-/- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh today criticized the central government's decision to use the Indian Army for rebuilding the Elphinstone bridge in Mumbai, terming it as "deplorable" and "an admission of the failure" of the government and the Indian Railways. The Army's job is to train for war and protect the country's borders, not to build bridges and clean the roads, said Singh, who has served the Army as a Captain before joining the Congress party and the Army's services will be utilized in building new bridge at Elphinstone station and at two other suburban train stations in Mumbai, he termed the moves "arbitrary", and said the central and state governments should put their own resources at the disposal of the Railways if the situation was so urgent and serious. "Whatever the urgency of the situation, it does not merit such a decision, which would have adverse long-term implications as it could encourage the civilian authorities to seek Army help for major civilian works every time they find themselves ill-equipped to handle an infrastructural or other challenge," he said in a statement. He urged Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to refrain from diverting critical defence resources of the country to civilian works, saying it would set a bad precedent. Singh said Sitharaman was making the same mistake that Major General BM Kaul, General Officer Commanding in Chief of the 4th Division, had made before the 1962 war with China.

"The scandalous misuse, by him, of military manpower to build accommodation cost the Indian Army heavy during the Sino-Indian war," the chief minister said. These kind of actions would have serious impact on the defence sector, he said, and warned that the Army would end up suffering similar lowering of its status if the defence ministry does not withdraw its decision to use the armed forces for building civilian bridges in Mumbai. "As it is, the Army is regularly used to help out in emergency situations such as floods and earthquakes, and is even engaged in infrastructural development in sensitive areas, such as the North-East." "If it is now burdened with the additional task of helping out in other civilian tasks, merely because the civilian authorities are unable to handle it, it would lead to further impacting its resources," Singh said.

Compulsory Aadhaar threat to national security: Swamy

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 (PTI) BJP MP Subramanian Swamy today opposed a move to make Aadhaar compulsory, saying it would be a threat to national security and be struck down by the Supreme Court. Swamy said in a tweet he would write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue. "I am writing a letter soon to PM detailing how compulsory Aadhaar is a threat to our national security. SC will I am sure strike it down," he tweeted. His Twitter post came a day after the Supreme Court said its constitution bench would start hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the Centre's move to make the Aadhaar card, which carries a 12 digit unique identity number - mandatory for those wishing to avail themselves of services and benefits of government welfare schemes from the last week of November.

Table with 10 columns: Lottery Name, Prize Type, Prize Amount, and Winning Numbers. Includes results for various state lotteries like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

Govt. Of SIKKIM State Lotteries. Table with columns for Lottery Name, Prize Type, and Prize Amount. Includes results for National Weekly Lottery, Kerala Lottery, and other state lotteries.

Govt. Of SIKKIM State Lotteries Result Sheet (01/10/2017). Table with columns for Lottery Name, Prize Type, Prize Amount, and Winning Numbers. Includes results for SHIKHAR Weekly Lottery, SIDDHI Weekly Lottery, SHEELAL Weekly Lottery, and others.

MAGIC ONLINE WEEKLY LOTTERY. Table with columns for Lottery Name, Prize Type, Prize Amount, and Winning Numbers. Includes results for PIVUSH Weekly Lottery, PRACHI Weekly Lottery, PANKAJA Weekly Lottery, and others.