

CLOSED DA CASE AGAINST MULAYAM, SONS DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE, CBI TELLS SC | 10

TEN MLAS TOLD ME BJP TRYING TO LURE THEM WITH MONEY, SAYS MP CM KAMAL NATH | 17

Woman wakes up, drowns son, returns to sleep

Kota: A 35-year-old woman here allegedly drowned her six-month-old son in a water tank at her home, police said Tuesday. Deepika Gajjar claimed she got up from deep sleep, drowned the child and then resumed her sleep in the wee hours on Sunday, police said. She told police she didn't know why she committed the crime. According to police, she took the baby, Shiva, to the second floor of their three-storeyed house and drowned him in the water tank before resuming her sleep on the first floor. The incident came to light when her husband Sitaram Gajjar found the boy missing around 10.30am. The accused woman and her husband and mother-in-law Kolabai in the hunt for the child without disclosing the crime, police said. Kolabai found the baby in the water tank. According to police, the matter reached them Sunday but the woman continued misleading them till Monday afternoon. Later, she confessed to the crime during questioning. SHO Harendra Singh of the Bhorkehda police station said.

Binar oppn warns of boomerang over EVMs

UP DMs Write To EC, Say Strongrooms Can't Be Breached

Even as protests by opposition parties broke out in Chandauli, Ghazipur, Mau and Mirzapur seats of UP on Monday and Tuesday after videos of EVM tampering allegedly from strongrooms went viral on social media, Bihar Grand Alliance (GA) leader Upendra Kushwaha warned of "bloodshed and chaos" if there was EVM tampering on the counting day. He asked voters to remain alert as constituencies to the ruling party are trying to breach strongrooms. The DMs stressed that strongrooms can't be breached. In Patna, addressing a joint press conference of GA partners, Kushwaha accused the ruling NDA of attempting to replace the EVMs. "Sadkon par khoun bahega (There'll be blood on the streets)", Kushwaha, who heads RISP warned while accusing NDA of attempting to "loot the results". Using the popular BJP slogan to attack the ruling coalition, he said: "They (NDA) say Modi hai to mumin hai (Modi means possibility), but now they cannot succeed in their plans. They should stop their illegal activities. There is rage among common people because of NDA's post-political actions. It could lead to bloodshed and PM Narendra Modi and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar will be responsible for it." Kushwaha justified his call to arms saying socialist leader Karpoori Thakur had made a similar call to people to protect their rights in Amethi, hours after receiving Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's message to keep an eye on strongrooms and counting centres, party workers stationed themselves in Chandauli, Ghazipur, Mau and Mirzapur. Post Graduate College where the EVMs have been kept. In Ghazipur, BSP candidate Atfal Ansari, sat on a dharna with his supporters till Tuesday morning saying he feared EVMs could be changed. Suspecting EVM tampering attempts at counting centres in Mumbai, Congress's Mumbai South candidate Milind Deora wrote to Maharashtra chief electoral officer demanding access to CCTV feeds from the counting centres. He said he wanted Congress workers to monitor movement around the centres.



Ghazipur SP-BSP candidate Atfal Ansari on Monday protests outside a strongroom, alleging the administration was trying to tamper EVMs

EVMs safe, says EC, rubbishes tampering claims

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Tuesday rejected reports of alleged EVM tampering saying these were "absolutely false" and said all machines used in the elections are safe. Strongrooms. The EC also made a 24x7 EVM control room at its headquarters to monitor e-complaints relating to tampered EVMs. Police and BSF officials guard an EVM strongroom in Chandigarh. The control room will receive complaints related to storage issues at strongrooms, security, permissions to candidates to post their agents at strongrooms, CCTV monitoring, movement of EVMs, and any complaints during counting related to EVMs. The EC clarification came after allegations and some social media posts and video clips claiming that EVMs were being changed in strongrooms in UP and Bihar. "Election Commission of India would like to emphatically and unambiguously clarify that all such reports and allegations are absolutely false, and factually incorrect. The visuals seen viral on media do not pertain to EVMs used during the elections," it said. The EC said aspersions in elite being used in media merely pertain to the storage or movement of reserve unused EVMs. "However, any case of lapse is thoroughly investigated," it said. Earlier in the day allegations of EVMs being tampered with or being transported in some parts of UP, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana surfaced along with video clips. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav tweeted, "Visuals and claims of sudden movement

SC rejects PIL on counting of VVPAT slips of all EVMs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a PIL seeking counting of VVPAT slips of all EVMs while rebuking NGO 'TechAid' for making a "mockery of democracy" by moving the court despite a clear ruling by the apex court directed by the SC to count VVPAT slips of five EVMs per assembly segment. This decision by a vacation bench of Justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah assumes significance as there has been renewed efforts by opposition parties led by Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu to seek counting of VVPAT slips in 50% of EVMs despite failing to convince the SC to entertain their petition seeking review of the April 8 judgment directing counting of VVPAT slips of five EVMs per assembly segment. The PIL by the Chennai-based NGO expressed concern over the dependability of VVPAT in recording votes and said there were reports of malfunctioning of an unprecedented number of EVMs during the current Lok Sabha elections. However, the NGO petition mentioned errors in the machines in Odisha and Goa. "The EVMs should be replaced by the Ballot Securing Machine which upholds the tangible secret ballot system, verifiable even by a common man," it added. It criticised the NGO for moving a PIL knowing well that a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Mishra would give judgment on April 8 and this was unethical to move such a petition when the polls were over.

Goa corridor has 10 tigers: Forest dept

Panaji: In what could be considered to be the highest record figure for Goa, the forest department has said that there are 10 tigers in the state corridor images of which have been captured through camera traps. Eight of these big cats have been spotted in Goa while two have been seen on the border adjoining Karnataka. "We can anticipate that there are ten tigers existing in the Goa corridor," deputy conservator of forests Vikas Desai told TOI. The department's wildlife section had photos of five of the tigers. "There were photos of two more in Madhav, but since the area was on the boundary we didn't add the number," Desai said. Nida Sayed / News

Why SP-BSP men are now 'chowkidars'

Piyush Rai / timesgroup.com Meerut: Amid talks of EVM rigging surfacing from some parts of UP, an army of EVM chowkidars consisting of UP alliance workers and supporters is stationed outside the strongrooms of the state and is keeping a 24x7 eye on every movement around it. At one such camp in Meerut, the atmosphere is a little tense. Two tents have been built and the supporters are guarding the strongroom in three shifts of eight hours each outside Katali Mill in Meerut's Partapur area. One of them keeps a binocular handy. "We set up our camp on the evening of April 11, hours after polling ended. We have been on vigil here since then," says Subash Pradhan, BSP district president, Meerut.



SP-BSP workers have stationed themselves outside all strongrooms for EVMs in UP and are keeping a 24x7 watch

other tent. Supporters also use binoculars to monitor activity inside the premises and suspicious movements are reported to senior party leaders who follow it up with the local election officials. The tent is approximately 200m away from the strongroom. Binoculars make it easier for us to keep a watch on the activities inside and the night vision ensures the monitoring after dark as well," Shera Jant, a Samajwadi Party worker, said. Incidents of EVM fraud and manipulation have been reported from Jhansi, Mirzapur, Ghazipur and Chandauli in UP. Videos went viral on social media showing EVMs being tampered with in open vehicles. The EC, in an official release, rubbished all the allegations. doubling up as bed for people to rest. A king size cooler is keeping the temperature bearable amid heated discussions over exit poll outcomes. Some of these supporters are deployed to continue night watch CCTV feed from outside the strongroom on two monitors installed at another tent.

Managing the Greenhouse



Standing (L to R): A.S. Harinath, Santhosh Jayaram, Jyoti Chetal, Divya Dutta, Sidharth Singh, Ajay Nagpure, Jarnail Singh. Sitting (L to R): Kirit Parikh, O.P. Agarwal, Chandrabhusan, K.J. Ramesh

Aditya Mukherjee

PREPARING TO DEAL WITH RAPID URBANISATION

As a precursor to the ninth edition of the JSW-TOI Earth Care Awards (ECAs), a series of Round Table Discussions (RTDs) are being held across the country. The RTD held in Delhi was the third in the series

wave, he stressed. Bhushan was moderating the discussion, "Managing Urbanization Issues", which was attended by experts from various fields. His co-moderator was Santhosh Jayaram from KPFG. Those who attended the seminar were Padma Bhushan Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRMA; OP Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer, WRI India; Divya Datta, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), India; K.J. Ramesh, DGM, India Meteorological Department, RR, Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, Earth Science and Climate Change - TERI, Siddharth Singh (IAS Retd), Chairman of WICS Connect Group, Ajay Nagpure, Head, Air Pollution, WRI India, A.S. Harinath from World Bank and Jarnail Singh, India Director - The Climate Group. Kirith Parikh spoke about how a city like Delhi continues to face problems like air pollution, transportation problem, road dust and fuel use. He also said how stubble burning from Punjab creates air pollution during winter in Delhi reducing the capital city to a gas chamber. According to him, in Delhi, the concept of livability has gone down. He also attributed the rise of air pollution to growing travel time which leads to more fuel use. Parikh suggested that unless public transport system is given maximum importance in the scheme of things, Delhi would continue to remain an urban nightmare.

To submit entries: www.earthcareawards.com | Last date: June 15, 2019

The RTD series is being held with the aim to discuss local climate change issues, ways to address it and share best practices to be replicated by other regions

- AWARD CATEGORIES
Leadership in urban climate action
Community-based mitigation and adaptation in water resources, agriculture and forestry, other land use, animal husbandry and climate risk proofing
Innovation in climate action
GHG mitigation in large enterprises
Leadership of women-led enterprise in climate action

OP Agarwal said that in order to deal with the challenges of urbanization, cities should have proper empowerment to decide the issue of building capacity. Talking about the climate-friendly transport system in urban areas, Agarwal was of the view that there can be a system of premium services which can be app based and can facilitate door to door pick and drop facilities. He also suggested that we can think in terms of 'climate smart cities' just like China which is focusing on this aspect. Then he also spoke about the need for both affordability and quality in public transport system. Divya Datta said that issue of governance is the fundamental factor in any modern urban city in our country. According to her, urban planning is the most developed one in our cities. She said it is also a cultural and behavioural issue. A.S. Harinath opined that in order to make urban areas more livable, there is a need for paradigm shift in the way we think about urban management and transport. He stressed on the need of information sharing and community roles to produce more positive results. Siddharth Singh spoke about the growing challenges to urbanization posed by people from rural areas to haphazard urban growth. He also said that in the coming days, the demand for portable water is going to shoot up. Singh also reiterated the need to focus on public transport system in urban areas to deal with air pollution. He suggested schools should have books on climate change so that students are able to understand its ramifications at a young age. Jarnail Singh felt that when it comes to climatic changes, it is all about being sensitive to this issue. He was of the view that people need

to be proactive enough to create that continuum of action in these matters. Taking the example of Anna Hazare, who mobilized public opinion some years ago in his crusade against corruption, Singh felt that there is an urgent need to create a public platform where people can come together at the local and mohalla level to take up issues like climate changes, air pollution and other issues hampering urban growth. In other words, according to him, it will be a consensus-building exercise. K.J. Ramesh felt that in order to deal with haphazard urban growth and its attendant problems, there is a need to identify urban infrastructure. He said that it is time we thought about introducing emergency warning systems in case of pollution and climatic changes. He was also in favour of relocating industries. He said that land use needed to be properly monitored to discourage haphazard urban growth. Ajay Nagpure said that there is an urgent need to link air pollution and climatic changes with needs of the cities. He said that it is working in a proxy way. He regretted the fact that even today people are using biomass which leads to air pollution. Nagpure also spoke about how waste management methods vary from colonies to colonies. He said he visited several areas of Delhi where this pattern was visible. He relatedly well-heeled areas people are very methodical in disposing of their waste, while in some colonies, people are quite casual about their approach to disposing of their waste. He believed that such approach should now change. "The Earth Care Awards were instituted in 2008 and this is the ninth edition of the award. They are given in five categories to those who are working in the fields of mitigation or adaptation of climate change," said Jyoti Chetal, General Manager, JSW, KPFG in India is the Knowledge Partner for the event. Indian Chamber of Commerce is the Outreach Partner and TERI is the Technical and Learning Partner.

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

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