

**FROM THE FRONT PAGE**

**SC 'no' to 100% verification...**

"While maintaining a balanced perspective is crucial in evaluating systems or institutions, blindly distrusting any aspect of the system can breed unwarranted scepticism..." Justice Datta said.

The bench also asked the EC to examine the EVM for vote counting the paperslips and whether along with the symbol there can be a bar code for each party.

Besides seeking to return to the ballot paper system, the three petitions before it had prayed that VVPAT slips should be given to the voter to verify and put in the ballot box for counting and there should be 100 per cent counting of VVPAT slips, the bench said. "We have rejected all of them," Justice Khanna said. Hearing the matter on April 24, the bench had said it cannot "control the elections" or issue directions simply because doubts have been raised about the efficacy of EVM.

The petitions had claimed the polling devices can be tinkered with to manipulate

the results.

NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, one of the petitioners, had sought reversal of the poll panel's 2017 decision to replace the transparent glass on VVPAT machines with an opaque glass through which a voter can see the slip only when the light is on for seven seconds.

The petitioners have also sought the court's direction to revert to the old system of ballot papers.

Justice Dipankar Datta in his statement said that there seems to be a concerted effort to discredit, diminish and weaken India's progress on every possible frontier and any such attempt has to be "nipped in the bud".

Writing his views in a separate verdict while concurring with the opinion of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who was heading the bench, Justice Datta said question of reverting to "paperballot system", on facts and in the circumstances, does not and cannot arise.

**SC verdict on EVMs tight...**

the Opposition with trying to "steal" reservations meant for OBCs, SCs and STs "for the sake of their favourite vote bank of Muslims".

"When the Congress, the RJD and other I.N.D.I. alliance parties were in power, the poor, backwards and Dalits used to be deprived of their votes through booth capture. With the introduction of Electronic Voting Machines, they are no longer able to play their old game.

Hence, they committed the sin of creating distrust against EVMs," alleged the Prime Minister in Araria.

"But today, the highest court of the land has delivered a verdict a few hours earlier which comes as a tight slap to these parties," said Modi, referring to the judgement by which pleas seeking cross-verification of votes cast through EVMs with VVPAT have been rejected.

**Over 63% turnout in...**

Tharoor, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar and actor-turned-politician Arun Govil, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's brother DK Suresh (Cong), and former Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy (JDS) are among the key candidates while BJP's Hema Malini, Om Birla and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat seeking a hat-trick of wins from their respective constituencies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the morning urged people to cast their votes in record numbers and said a high voter turnout strengthens democracy. Stressing on the importance of each vote,

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi issued impassioned appeals asking people to step out and exercise their franchise in the second phase of the Lok Sabha election.

In Kerala, the turnout was 65.91 per cent. The election process, held amid tight security arrangements, was primarily incident free except for instances of bogus voting and breakdowns of electronic voting machines (EVMs) being reported in some booths of the state. Such incidents resulted in delaying the polling process in the affected booths. One person each reportedly died at Palakkad, Alappuzha and Malappuram after casting their vote and a polling agent died after collapsing at a booth in Kozhikode.

Tripura East Lok Sabha constituency recorded a turnout of 79.46 per cent. Election officials said there were some complaints from a few booths but those were "promptly addressed".

Central forces were using metal detectors outside the house to check whether more arms and ammunition were buried. A robotic device was also deployed for the purpose.

In Chhattisgarh a voter turnout of 73.62 per cent was recorded.

A polling booth at Sivni village in Balod district (Kanker seat) was decorated like a wedding 'mandap', with a display of rituals of traditional weddings. Several brides and grooms, dressed in their wedding finery, cast their votes at several polling booths.

The EC said people from 46 villages in Bastar and Kanker seats cast their votes in a polling booth set up in their own village for the first time in a Lok Sabha election.

In neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, there was a turnout of 57.88 per cent.

An estimated 71.11 per cent of the 77,26,668 voters exercised their franchise in the five parliamentary constituencies of Assam that went to polls in this phase.

In restive Manipur, where polling is being held under high presence of security personnel, the turnout was significantly high 77.32 per cent.

There were reports of intimidation by suspected militants, altercation between Congress workers and NPF supporters and damage of EVM at a polling station in the Tangkhul Naga-dominated hill district.

At KK Leishi Phani polling station in Ukhrul, irate voters destroyed an EVM and other items after alleged disturbances by armed militants. The overall voting percentage in Karnataka was 68.30.

A case was booked against BJP MP and Bangalore South Candidate Tejasvi Surya for allegedly posting a video on a social media platform and soliciting votes on the grounds of religion, the Election Commission said.

**CBI's search operation in...**

is a relative of Shajahan Sheikh, sources in the CBI said. "It is not yet clear why such a huge cache of arms and ammunition, and explosives were stacked inside the house," they said.

The house, which was cordoned off by the security forces, was built amid water bodies used for fish farming. Central forces were using metal detectors outside the house to check whether more arms and ammunition were buried. A robotic device was also deployed for the purpose.

On January 5, an ED team was attacked in Sandeshkhali -- a riverine delta bordering the Sundarbans -- where it had gone to raid the premises of Sheikh in connection with an alleged rorting scam.

The CBI, during its probe, received inputs of a large cache of weapons hidden in Sandeshkhali.

Sheikh was arrested by the West Bengal Police on February 29 in connection with the attack by around 1,000 people, in which three Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials were injured.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with the Second Lady Sudesh Dhankhar visits Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Tirumala, in Tirupati district. (PTI)

**People tasted 'real democracy' under PM Modi: Jitendra Singh**

JAMMU, Apr 26 (PTI)

THE people of the country, especially those in Jammu and Kashmir, tasted "real democracy" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Friday.

On a day when voting is underway in 88 constituencies spread across 13 States and Union Territories in the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections, Singh said the BJP will register a "landslide" victory and form a "stable and strong" Government for the third consecutive term.

"After Modi took over in 2014, the people got a feel of real democracy, especially in

Jammu and Kashmir where the grassroots level democracy was strengthened with the holding of panchayat and urban local bodies elections and implementation of the 72nd and 73rd constitutional amendments after the Congress deprived the people of these benefits," Singh told reporters here after casting his vote in Jammu Lok Sabha constituency.

The minister and his wife and children cast their ballots at a polling station in Trikuta Nagar.

"There is enthusiasm among the voters, especially the first-timers. The country has witnessed revolutionary transformation in the past 10 years under the leadership of Modi.

**PM Modi working round the clock to make India a developed country by 2047: Vaishnav**

RAJKOT, Apr 26 (PTI)

UNION Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnav on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working 24x7 to make India a developed nation by 2047 and the people of the country are lucky to have such a hardworking and visionary leadership.

Addressing a gathering in Rajkot city of Gujarat, Vaishnav accused Congress of wasting five decades, between 1950 and 1990 and during the ten years of UPA rule from 2004 to 2014.

He said the country was brimming with enthusiasm when it gained independence in 1947. "But unfortunately,

**SC decision on EVMs exposes I.N.D.I.A. bloc parties that tried to defame EC: Meghwal**

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (PTI)

UNION Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision on the use of electronic voting machines in polls and said it has exposed Opposition parties, including the Congress, that had left no opportunity to "defame" the Election Commission.

The court has rejected pleas seeking complete cross-verification of votes cast using EVMs with a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) and said "blindly distrusting" any aspect of the system can breed unwarranted scepticism.

"The Supreme Court in its decision said that the EVM (electronic voting machine) system is all right, its credible and there cannot be any tampering with it. The Supreme Court has given a fabulous decision. We welcome this decision on behalf of the BJP," Meghwal told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here.

The decision has exposed the Congress and other constituents of the opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc, the senior BJP leader said and added that they had left no opportunity to "defame" the Election Commission by raising questions on the credibility of EVMs.

**Firing outside Salman's residence: 2 men nabbed from Punjab sent to police custody till April 30**

MUMBAI, Apr 26 (PTI)

A MUMBAI court on Friday remanded to police custody till April 30 two men arrested from Punjab in connection with the firing outside Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's residence in Bandra.

Subhash Chander (37) and Anuj Thapan (32) were produced before a magistrate's court. The crime branch on Thursday arrested the duo, who had allegedly provided weapons and cartridges to the shooters, from Punjab.

The police informed the court that the accused were key persons in the crime and were arrested based on technical evidence.

They need to be interrogated to find out who supplied them with weapons and asked them to give the same to the two shooters arrested earlier, police said.

The police have alleged that Chander and Thapan had come to Panvel (in Raigad district near Mumbai) on March 15 to hand over two country-made pistols and 38 live rounds to the shooters Sagar Pal and Vicky Gupta.

The court on Thursday remanded Pal (21) and Gupta (24) to police custody till April 29.

Besides these four accused, the police have declared jailed

gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and his younger brother Anmol Bishnoi as wanted accused in the case.

Appearing for the accused, advocate Ajay Dubey submitted that Chander and Thapan had not provided weapons to the other accused or visited Panvel, and they had no connection to the Bishnoi gang.

All charges against them are baseless, and they were falsely implicated in the case, he said.

Gupta and Pal allegedly fired outside 58-year-old Khan's house at the Galaxy Apartment in Bandra in the early hours of April 14 before fleeing the spot on a motorbike.

**Omar, Mehbooba ask EC not to postpone polls in Anantnag-Rajouri LS seat**

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, Apr 26 (PTI)

NC leader Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday asked the Election Commission not to postpone polls in the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat.

The former Chief Ministers made the appeal after the EC sought a report from Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and the Chief Electoral Officer on representations submitted by some parties and three candidates seeking rescheduling of elections in the constituency due to adverse weather conditions.

"I appeal to the EC that such a step should not be taken. The demand for postponement is not from all parties. The weird thing is that some of the people who have written to the EC are not contesting. If I write to the EC about constituencies in Tamil Nadu etc. Will they take notice," he told a press conference in Srinagar.

Abdullah said "all options are open", including legal recourse, for his party

if the Election Commission decides to postpone the polls.

"All options are open to us. First and foremost, we appeal to the Election Commission not to do it (postpone the elections). The Election Commission should issue a directive to the local administration to keep the road open," he said.

Abdullah, who was accompanied by National Conference candidate for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat Mian Altaf Ahmad, said the EC should not pay heed to the letter written by some parties and individuals, including the BJP for postponement of the elections under the garb of closure of the Mughal Road, the fair weather road which connects south Kashmir to Poonch-Rajouri region on other side of the Pir Panjal mountain range.

Abdullah said he failed to understand why anyone would seek postponement of an election based on presumption that the road will be closed due to inclement weather.

**Over 600 Tripura tribal voters boycott polls over bad road**

AGARTALA, Apr 26 (PTI)

MORE than 600 voters of a remote tribal village in Dhalai district, part of Tripura East Lok Sabha constituency, abstained from voting on Friday due to the unrepaired condition of a 7-km village road, an election official said.

The villagers, numbering around 900, have been persistently demanding repairs for months, emphasising the road's critical importance to their

community, the official added.

"As per schedule, the polling team reached Sadai Mohan Para polling station under Raima Valley Assembly constituency in Tripura East Lok Sabha seat," the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Gandacherra (Raima Valley), Arindam Das, told PTI over the phone.

The villagers are standing outside the polling booth but not entering it to cast their votes as they are protesting against government apathy, the official said.

after 1947, the Governments that came during the first four decades finished India's core strengths and entrepreneurial spirit. The four decades between 1950 and 1990 were our lost decades," said Vaishnav at an event organised by the Rajkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Young entrepreneurs today won't believe that during those days you had to contact a Congress leader in Delhi if you wanted to change the design of your car steering or increase production in your factory. Such an ugly situation was prevalent under Congress rule back then," he said.

Vaishnav, who also handles

the Communications, Electronics and Information Technology portfolios, said though former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee took steps to improve the situation, everything came to naught under the Congress rule between 2004 and 2014.

Today, India is the fifth largest economy in the world and may become fourth in the near future, he said.

"In 2000, our rank was 11th in the world. Between 2004 and 2014, everyone expected that we would go up some rank. But, when Modi assumed office in 2014, it was on 11th rank only, with no change in the last decade. So we lost those ten years," he said.

**Uproar in MCD House over postponement of mayoral polls in Delhi**

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (PTI)

THE MCD House session witnessed an uproar over the postponement of the mayoral elections that were slated to be held on Friday, with both AAP and BJP councillors raising slogans against each other before the proceedings of the House began.

Polys to elect the mayor and deputy mayor were postponed late Thursday night due to the non-appointment of the presiding officer of the elections. BJP councillors surrounded the mayor's seat and raised slo-

gans demanding the presence of Mayor Shelly Oberoi who was running late for the meeting.

AAP councillors initially raised slogans against the BJP near the Ambedkar statue at the corporation headquarters. Later, they reached the House and continued raising slogans against the opposition party calling them "Dalit Virodhi BJP".

The AAP has called the BJP "anti-Dalit", saying it was trying to ensure that a candidate from the reserved category does not become the mayor of Delhi.

<p><b>Public Notice for E-Auction Gum Sale</b></p> <p>Registered office 27BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051</p> <p>Corporate Office: Kotak Infinity, Zone-II, 4th Floor, Bldg. No.21, Infinity Park, Off. W.E. Highway, Goregaon, Mumbai - 400 097; Branch/Regional Office: Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., 5th Metro Tower, Vijay Nagar Indore (M.P) 452001</p>				
<p>Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd and the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, on dated 14-02-2024, and will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHAT EVER THERE IS" basis, offers are invited to submit online through the Web Portal of our e-Auction Service Partner, M/s.C1 India Pvt Ltd i.e. www.c1india.com by the undersigned for sale of the immovable property of which particulars are given below:-</p>				
<p><b>Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s)</b></p> <p>LOAN ACCOUNT NO. RHB-531275 and RHB-482460 CRN No. 900044300.</p> <p>1. Mr. Mukesh Kumar Barhaiya, (Borrower) 2. Mrs. Nisha Barhaiya (CO-BORROWER) both Having address: LIG 90, Vaishali Nagar, Ward No. 10, Supela Bhlial Durg CG 490023.</p>	<p><b>Demand Notice Date and Amount</b></p> <p>Demand Notice dated 17-08-2018 Rs. 41,23,099.98/- (Rupees Forty One lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Ninety Nine and Ninety Eight Paise only) as on 17TH August 2018 28-08-2023,</p>	<p><b>Description of the Immovable properties</b></p> <p>All the piece and parcel of the Immovable property being Residential property land area of 1566 Sq. Ft. and constructed portion of 1600 Sq. Ft. at LIG 90, Housing Board Vaishali Nagar Bhilai Ward No. 10, Supela Bhlial Durg Pin Code 490023. Boundary: East: LIG 80, West: Rasta, North: LIG 91, South: LIG 89, Owned By: Mr. Mukesh Kumar Barhaiya</p>	<p><b>Reserve Price</b></p> <p>Rs. 72,77,500/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lacs Seventy Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only)</p> <p><b>Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)</b></p> <p>Rs. 7,27,750/- (Rupees Seven Lacs twenty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Only)</p>	<p><b>Date of Inspection of Immovable properties</b></p> <p>20/05/2024 11:00 hrs - 12:00 hrs</p> <p><b>Date/Time of Auction</b></p> <p>03/06/2024 from 11:00 hrs to 12:00 hrs</p>
<p><b>Bid Increase Amount 50,000/- Last Date for Submission of Offers / EMD:- 31/05/2024 till 5.00 pm.</b></p>				
<p><b>Important Terms &amp; Conditions of Sale:</b></p> <p>(1) The Auction is conducted as per the further Terms and Conditions of the Bid document and as per the procedure set out therein. Bidders may go through the website of our E-Auction Service Provider, M/s.C1 India Pvt Ltd i.e. https://www.bankauctions.com. for bid documents, the details of the secured asset put up for e-Auction and the Bid Form which will be submitted online; (2) All the intending purchasers/bidders are required to register their name in the Web Portal mentioned above as https://www.bankauctions.com and generate their User ID and Password in free of cost of their own to participate in the e-Auction on the date and time aforesaid; (3) For any enquiry, information, support, procedure and online training on e-Auction, the prospective bidders may contact the M/s C1 India Pvt Ltd Department of our e-Auction Service Partner Mithlesh Kumar, through Mobile No.: 7080804466 &amp; E-mail ID: mpcog@c1india.com &amp; support@bankauctions.com; (4) To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized officer, there is no encumbrance in the property/ies. However, the intending bidders may inspect the property and its documents as mentioned above or any other date &amp; time with prior appointment and they should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrance, title of property/ies put on e-Auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute any commitment or any representation of KMBL. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to KMBL. The Authorized officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues; For participating in the e-Auction, intending purchasers/bidders will have to submit/upload in the Web Portal (https://www.bankauctions.com) the details of payment of interest-free refundable Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the secured asset as mentioned above by way of Demand Draft in favour of 'Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited' payable at Delhi along with self-attested copies of the PAN Card, Aadhaar Card, Residence Address Proof, Board Resolutions in case of company and Address Proof as specified above. (5) The EMD of all other bidders who did not succeed in the e-Auction will be refunded by KMBL within 72 working hours of the closure of the e-Auction. The EMD will not carry any interest;</p> <p>The Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) are hereby given STATUTORY 30 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2), 8(6) &amp; 9(1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT to discharge the liability in full and pay the dues as mentioned above along with upto date interest and expenses with in thirty days from the date of this notice failing which the Secured Asset will be sold as per the terms and conditions mentioned above. In case there is any discrepancy between the publications of sale notice in English and vernacular newspaper, then in such case the English newspaper will supersede the vernacular newspaper and it shall be considered as the final copy, thus removing the ambiguity. If the borrower/guarantors/mortgagors pay the amount due to Bank, in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.</p> <p>For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, contact the Authorized Officer Mr. Ravi Dwivedi @ 9764443818, and Mr. Ashok Motwani @ 9873737351 at above mentioned Regional office of Bank.</p> <p><b>Special Instruction:</b> e-Auction shall be conducted by our Service Provider, M/s. C1 India Pvt Ltd on behalf of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), on pre-specified date, while the bidders shall be quoting from their own home/offices/place of their Bid as per their choice above the Reserve Price. Internet connectivity and other paraphernalia requirements shall have to be ensured by bidders themselves. Please note that failure of internet connectivity (due to any reason whatsoever it may be) shall be sole responsibility of bidders and neither KMBL nor C1 India Pvt Ltd shall be responsible for these unforeseen circumstances. In order to ward-off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/ alternatives whatever required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and still be able to participate in the e-Auction successfully. However, it is requested to the Bidder(s) not to wait till the last moment to quote/improve his/her Bid to avoid any such complex situations.</p> <p>Place:- Raipur C.G Date: 27/04/2024</p> <p>Sd/- Authorised Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.</p>				