

AAP's Sanjay Singh writes to Modi, VK Saxena; alleges Kejriwal kept under CCTV surveillance

NEW DELHI, APR 25: AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Thursday wrote letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, alleging Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal lodged in the Tihar Jail was put under round the clock CCTV camera surveillance.

The senior AAP leader also charged that Tihar Jail has been turned into a "torture house" for Kejriwal.

Kejriwal, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 in a money laundering case, is lodged under judicial custody in Tihar Jail since the beginning of this month.

Singh said that the treatment meted out to Kejriwal was against "democratic dignity" and needed to be stopped immediately.

The three-page letter penned by Singh in Hindi also attacked the two while raising the issue of alleged



24-hour CCTV surveillance and "harassment" of Kejriwal citing that the chief minister was provided insulin for high blood sugar after 23 days in jail.

"His each activity is being watched as if he was being spied by some big time spy," Singh alleged.

Citing former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the AAP MP wrote, "It is very important to have opposition in a democracy. Governments will come and go, political parties will

be formed and disintegrated but the country should survive and democracy should always remain." Singh questioned was it Kejriwal's "crime" that he gave good education to the poor children of Delhi, provided good treatment to people, made electricity and water free, planned a scheme for providing Rs 1,000 per month to women.

He said the people of Delhi are "very sad" due to Kejriwal's arrest.

"Kejriwal ji's old parents are also extremely saddened by your atrocities. His wife Sunita Kejriwal is taking his message to the entire country in this hour of grief. Her heart is also deeply saddened by your unjust conduct," he said.

The BJP has hit back at the AAP, alleging that it was using Kejriwal's imprisonment to create sympathy in the Lok Sabha polls.

"The Aam Aadmi Party is trying to save its political existence by portraying Arvind Kejriwal's arrest for corruption as political martyrdom, but now not only Delhi but also the people on all the 22 seats in the country where they are contesting the Lok Sabha elections have decided to reject it," charged Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

He claimed that AAP's support has completely waned in Delhi after Kejriwal's arrest in "liquor scam".

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath on Thursday alleged that the Congress' attempt to give reservations to Muslims from the OBC quota in Karnataka was part of its agenda to push the country towards "Islamisation and division".

The firebrand BJP leader claimed that the Congress wanted to deprive the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other backward classes of their constitutional rights.

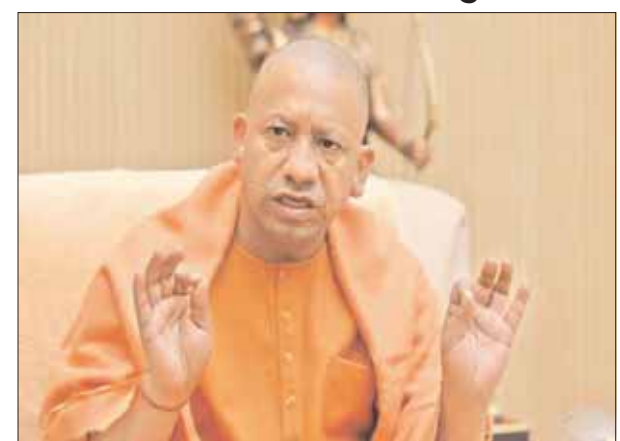
According to the data submitted by the Karnataka Backward Classes Welfare Department, all castes and communities within the Muslim religion have been enlisted as socially and educationally backward classes under Category 2B in the State List of Backward Classes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders have targeted the Congress over the issue, alleging it wanted to transfer the reservation share of OBC to the Muslim community, but the Congress has rejected their claim and accused them of spreading "lies".

Asked about the quota to Muslims issue, Adityanath said, "This is very unfortunate and is part of its (Congress) agenda to push the country towards Islamisation and division".

He said that after the UPA government came to power, Congress made such vile attempts at that time too.

"Previously, during the UPA government, a committee headed by Justice Ranganath Mishra was formed. The Ranganath Committee in its report recommended that 6 per



cent out of the 27 per cent reservation meant for the OBC category should be given to Muslims.

"Additionally, the committee's report proposed that a specific segment of Muslims, those who have converted, should be included in the Dalit category and provided with the same benefits as Dalits," he said.

He highlighted that the BJP had launched a massive movement against the move at that time. "The reports of the Justice Ranganath Mishra Committee or Sachar Committee smack of Congress' evil intention to encroach upon the rights of OBCs, SCs, and STs," he alleged.

He urged the people to be vigilant against such moves. "Judicious use of democratic rights is needed to foil the conspiracies of the Congress and INDI alliance," he said.

Adityanath also claimed that the Congress was contemplating imposing an 'Inheritance Tax' to "forcibly seize the properties of common people and then give it to infiltrators from across borders, who have no connection with India".

"The party, which has looted the country's resources for 60-65 years,

wants to rob the SC/ST, OBC and the poor of their rights," he alleged.

"The mentality of Congress towards the country and the general public during the UPA government was once again exposed yesterday.

"There were indications of all this in the Congress manifesto as well. What Sam Pitroda said yesterday had been repeatedly advocated by the then minister P Chidambaram in 2011, 2012, and 2013," Adityanath said.

A political row erupted after Pitroda, the president of the Indian Overseas Congress, talked about the inheritance tax law in the United States while referring to the redistribution of wealth issue.

The Congress distanced itself from Pitroda's remark, saying its sensationalisation was an attempt at diverting attention from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "malicious" poll campaign.

Adityanath claimed Congress' "vote bank politics" was responsible for the large-scale infiltrations into the North East, Assam, and other parts of the country.

"They (Congress) have always politicised issues at

the expense of the nation. Inheritance tax is also part of the same agenda," he added.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister said that it was good that people bid farewell to the Congress in 2014. "otherwise it would have implemented the Inheritance Tax long back, robbing people of their properties".

On Wednesday, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah defended his government on the Muslim reservation issue.

"Where has the Congress stated that it would take away reservations from backward classes and SC/STs to give them to Muslims? Which state government under the Congress has implemented such a policy?" he said.

The senior Congress leader also justified the 4 per cent reservation for Muslims under the backward classes category in Karnataka.

It's true that in Karnataka, Muslims have been included in the '2B category' for backward classes, Siddaramaiah said, pointing out that "this is not something done now".

It has been based on the reports of the Backward Classes Commissions starting from the one headed by L G Havanur in 1974, he said, this reservation has been in place for the past three decades.

At the fag end of its term, the previous BJP government in Karnataka ordered in April 2023 the scrapping of four per cent reservation for Muslims under the 2B category. The four per cent was to be distributed among Vokkaligas in the 2C category and Lingayats in the 2D category.

Lok Sabha polls: Sena (UBT) releases manifesto, focuses on 'reclaiming' Maharashtra's glory

MUMBAI, APR 25: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday released his party manifesto, a day before voting in the second phase of the Lok Sabha polls, focusing on stopping the "loot" of Maharashtra, job creation and farm loan waiver.

Thackeray said the Sena (UBT), in association with the INDI Alliance government, will work to "bring back the glory of Maharashtra".

Referring to the GIFT City in Gandhinagar, he said a financial centre, which he claimed was moved to Gujarat, will be built in Maharashtra, enabling employment opportunities in the state.

He said jobs will be created at the district level so that youth from the state won't have to migrate.

Thackeray said an industry-friendly atmosphere will be created in Maharashtra and environment-friendly projects will be en-



couraged in the state. His party has been opposing the Jaitapur nuclear power project, a refinery project in Barsu and the Vadhaven port - all along the state's coast.

"After Maha Vikas Aghadi was toppled through betrayal, the state government is running an agenda of looting Maharashtra, obviously with the blessings of the Centre. Maharashtra's businesses are being moved out of the state. This loot will be stopped after the INDI AI-

liance government comes to power," he said.

The manifesto said in the last eight years, the states got subordinate treatment and also proposed changes in the Goods and Service Tax. He said agricultural equipment and seeds will be made free of GST, adding that "tax terrorism" will be stopped.

For farmers, the former Maharashtra chief minister also promised a loan waiver. Through the 'INDIA' government, Thackeray said, they will not only

waive farm loans but also revise the conditions concerning crop insurance.

He assured implementation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) recommended by the Swaminathan Committee report. Thackeray said warehouses and cold storages will be built to check the loss of perishable agricultural items.

He also proposed setting up a research centre under the Agriculture Ministry that can conduct surveys about the demand for crops across the country and the world. This can help guide farmers in growing crops that are in demand.

Thackeray emphasised on strengthening the health infrastructure in the country. He also said action will be taken against those using objectionable language against women.

Eight seats in Maharashtra will go to polls in the second phase of the Lok Sabha polls on Friday.

Ban Narendra Modi from election campaign over his statements in Banswara, Gehlot demands EC

JODHPUR PARK, APR 25: Former chief minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot on Thursday demanded that the Election Commission ban Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the entire election campaign after his "redistribution of wealth" statement in Banswara.

He said the Election Commission has served notices to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as well as Prime Minister Modi but he will consider the commission impartial only when the prime minister is banned from campaigning.

Gehlot claimed the Congress is going to win the elections, therefore PM Modi has become "worried" and is making such statements. He further claimed that the entire nation is "worried and un-



happy" with his statements.

Addressing a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara, PM Modi had suggested that if the Congress comes to power, it would "redistribute" people's wealth to Muslims. He had alleged that the Congress plans to give people's hard-earned money and valuables to

"infiltrators" and "those who have more children".

In another rally in Tonk, PM Modi accused the Congress of making an attempt to reduce the reservation for Dalits, tribals and backwards and give it to Muslims against the "spirit of the Constitution".

"The first phase of Lok Sabha elections were held

on April 19. The Congress is winning most of the seats, not only in Rajasthan but also in the entire country. Due to this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in panic and the kind of language he spoke in Banswara and Tonk about the Congress manifesto is beyond understanding," he told reporters in Jodhpur.

"There is not a single line written in the Congress manifesto that sends any message that the Congress has promised anything wrong. Even after this, Modi has got the illusion that whatever he says gets accepted by the public, whether it is right or wrong but he does not know that his illusion has now ended," he said.

He accused PM Modi and the BJP of misleading the people of the country.

My family faces threat from strangers who filmed inside my house: Neha Hiremath's father

DHARWAD (KARNATAKA), APR 25: Niranjan Hiremath, father of student Neha Hiremath who was murdered by her former classmate Fayaz Khondunai on April 18, said on Thursday that his family faces a threat from some unknown people who allegedly filmed the post-funeral rituals in their house.

Talking to reporters here, Hiremath who is a Congress Councillor in Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, demanded security for his family.

"On the fifth day of the incident when we were busy with rituals, a person came to our house, made videos of our house and family members, Hiremath said.

He added that when he asked the person filming his rooms who he was, the stranger did not give any satisfactory reply and left.



"I got to know from a Swami that the stranger too had been hanging around for the past many days before the incident (Neha's murder)," Hiremath said.

The Congress Councillor alleged that there is a larger

conspiracy behind his daughter's murder. "It was not something that was hatched and executed within a week but it was conspired for years and many people were involved in it," he claimed. Neha Hiremath

(23) was stabbed to death by Fayaz Khondunai on the campus of BVB College on April 18. CCTV footage showed Fayaz stabbing Neha multiple times before fleeing the spot. He was arrested by police later.

Bombay HC permits woman to terminate 27-week pregnancy in private hospital

MUMBAI, APR 25: The Bombay High Court on Thursday permitted a woman to terminate her 27-week pregnancy with severe congenital abnormalities at a private hospital as the government-run hospital did not have the facility of selected foetal reduction.

The medical board at the state-run JJ hospital had, after examining the woman, permitted her to undergo the termination procedure.

The board, in its report, opined if the baby is born alive during the procedure then it would be admitted in the neo-natal intensive care unit.

The woman in her plea, however, sought to undergo the procedure at a private hospital of her



choice. She also expressed apprehension over the birth of a live baby and sought for selected foetal reduction.

A division bench of Justices A S Chandurkar and Jitendra Jain had earlier this week sought to know if the woman could opt for the same and if the civic-

run Cooper hospital or the state-run JJ hospital had the facility.

On Thursday, Advocate General Birendra Saraf informed the bench that the woman could undergo the selected foetal reduction but added the facility was not available at Cooper or JJ hospitals.

Saraf said the woman could be referred to the Wadia hospital, which is part managed by the civic body.

On this, the woman's advocate, Meenaz Kakalia, said if the procedure has to be done at Wadia hospital then she may be permitted to at least select a hospital of her own choice.

Kakalia also submitted an affidavit filed by private Cloudnine hospital that said it has approval from the civic body to carry out termination procedures and also the required facilities.

The bench accepted the affidavit and said the woman was permitted to undergo termination procedure at Cloudnine hospital considering the peculiar facts of the case.

NIA arrests key accused in connection with attack on Indian High Commission in London

NEW DELHI, APR 25: In a major breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested a key accused in a case related to the attack on the Indian High Commission in London in March last year.

Inderpal Singh Gaba, a resident of Hounslow in the UK, has been arrested for carrying out unlawful activities during protests that took place on March 22,



2023, in London, a statement issued by the agency said.

NIA investigations in the

case so far have revealed that the incidents in London on March 19 and 22 last year were part of a

larger conspiracy to unleash vicious attacks on the Indian missions and its officials.

The attacks in London in March 2023 were found to be in retaliation to the action taken by the Punjab Police against pro-Khalistani separatist Amritpal Singh on March 18, 2023, it added.

Further investigations in the case are continuing, the statement said.