

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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A 12-year-old opens fire at a school north of Helsinki, killing a classmate and seriously injuring two other children. Police say they are investigating the motive and lead-up to the incident, P 20

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AAP MP Sanjay Singh, in jail since Oct, gets bail from SC

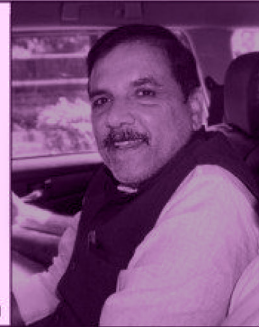
ED Doesn't Oppose After SC Cautions It Would Go By Merits Of Case

Amit Anand.Choudhary @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a big relief to AAP, whose top leadership, including Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, is behind bars in money laundering cases, Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to its MP Sanjay Singh in the alleged scam relating to changes in excise policy and allowed him to engage in political activities after coming out of jail.

The respite for the politician, who was arrested in Oct 2023, came as Enforcement Directorate conceded and preferred not to oppose Singh's bail plea after the court asked it to

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make its stand clear whether it still wanted to keep him in detention even after six months. Kejriwal and former Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia are in custody in the same case and former minister Satyendar Jain is also in jail in another money laundering case.

After hearing from senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who contended that there was no substantial evidence against Singh and it was a fit case for bail after six months in custody, the bench

asked additional solicitor general S V Raju, in the pre-lunch session, to take instruction from ED whether it still wanted his continued detention. It told the agency to keep in mind that if it wanted to argue the case, then the court would have to go by the merits of the case and it would pass an order keeping in mind Section 45 of PMLA. The court also said any observation could have implications on the trial.

► 'Singh not implicated,' P 2

Kejriwal key conspirator of scam: ED to HC

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ED latched on to Kejriwal's submission when he argued in person before the trial court that he didn't oppose ED's plea for custody. "In light of the above submission... he cannot now be allowed to argue that his custody as on today is illegal," the response added. **P 2**

► Agencies couldn't show I got money: Sisodia, P 3

Centre vs states in SC over control of industrial alcohol

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A nine-judge Supreme Court bench addressing a tricky question—whether 'industrial alcohol' is same as 'intoxicating liquor'—would have been a treat for tipplers as the lead advocate, a self-confessed whisky lover, spiritedly tried to establish states' exclusive jurisdiction over all sorts of alcohol—from denatured spirits to whisky, vodka, gin, rum and country liquor — to curb Centre's regulatory power to manufacture them.

Arguing for UP govt, advocate Dinesh Dwivedi said Tuesday all liquors having alcohol qualify as intoxicating liquor and fall under Entry 8 of List II in Seventh Schedule, which confers exclusive jurisdiction to states to control and regulate all kinds of spirits produced from molasses.

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- Delhi HC acquits 4 men of abduction, gang rape due to 'falsified' police probe | P 4
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The seriousness of the issue, involving a major revenue-generating source, wasn't lost on SC, with a judge saying, "The argument of states is that whether intoxicating drinks bring joy to human beings or not, it should bring joy to state revenue."

Recently, SC reserved verdict on another Centre-state dispute over taxation of mineral-bearing land.

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'Lip service': SC refuses to accept Ramdev apology

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SC also criticised Centre and Uttarakhand govt for "keeping their eyes shut" and giving Patanjali a long rope. **P 7**



DANCE of DEMOCRACY

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► Maharashtra deputy CM Fadnis's political rival Eknath Khadse set to leave NCP (SP), return to BJP **P 15**

Cop suspended for praising Mukhtar

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7 killed as auto hits dumper in Chitrakoot

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MCD's property tax collection in financial year 2023-24 went down by 11.5% compared to the previous fiscal, reports Vibha Sharma. While the civic body had collected Rs 2,417 crore last year in FY 2022-23, the figure stood at Rs 2,137 crore in 2023-24, a dip of Rs 280 crore. The number of taxpayers also dropped, from 13.3 lakh in 2022-23 to 12.6 lakh in 2023-24. The collection figures come as a disappointment for MCD as property tax is a major source of revenue. Officials say the collection dipped as no amnesty scheme was introduced this year. "With no such scheme, they (taxpayers) are waiting for the right time," an official said. **P 3**

Twelve Maoists gunned down in Chhattisgarh & MP, toll may rise

Raipur: At least 10 Maoist insurgents, including a woman, were gunned down in Bijapur in one of the biggest security ops in Bastar division of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, reports Rashmi Doria. Additionally, two Maoists, carrying a combined reward of Rs 43 lakh, were killed in a night shootout in MP's Balaghat district, police confirmed Tuesday.

The seizure of a light machine-gun, AK-47 rifles and several under-barrel grenade launchers in Bijapur suggests the presence of a high-ranking Maoist leader among those killed. According to police, the toll may rise as several other insurgents were wounded.

Since the Vishnu Deo Sailed BJP govt took office last Dec, a total of 47 Maoists have been killed in the state.

► 22 Maoists killed, P 18

Kejriwal must stay on as CM, run govt from jail, party MLAs tell Sunita

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New Delhi: Amid speculation that Sunita Kejriwal may replace her jailed husband as CM, AAP legislators and corporators met her Tuesday to convey that Arvind Kejriwal should not step down, but run govt from jail.

► Atishi claims BJP 'offer'; prove it, says party, P 2 & 3

AAP MLAs met her at the CM's residence hours before she was to speak to him via video conferencing. He was sent to Tihar Jail on Monday, in judicial custody, for 15 days. "All MLAs requested her to give the message to Kejriwal that he was, is and will always be Delhi CM as 2 crore people were standing with him," minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

► Sunita key link, P 2

ED attaches assets of former DJB official

ED Tuesday attached properties worth Rs 8.8 crore of Jagdish Arora, former chief engineer of Delhi Jal Board, his wife and a contractor in a money laundering case in which CM Kejriwal is also under investigation. Arora is accused of taking bribe and transferring some of it to AAP. **P 2**

In Tihar, Kejriwal wields the broom

On the first morning of his two-week stint in Tihar, CM Kejriwal picked up the broom and swept his cell and around a tree outside, sources said. Officials said he was given home-cooked food on court orders. He woke up early Tuesday to do yoga and was seen walking or reading, they said. **P 2**

SBI won't reveal electoral bond SOP under RTI

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New Delhi: State Bank of India has refused to disclose the standard operating procedure (SOP) issued to its authorised branches for sale and redemption of electoral bonds.

In its response on March 30 to an RTI application, SBI refused to share the information, citing the "exemption" clause of Right to Information Act. SBI said the SOP was meant only for "internal circulation".

Transparency activist Anjali Bhardwaj, in her RTI application dated March 4, sought a copy of the SOP related to electoral bonds since April 2017. Not satisfied with the response, Bhardwaj will be filing an appeal.

► Exemption clause, P 18

Lawyer crashes Merc into popular eatery, 6 injured



Siddhvi.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: It was a busy afternoon as usual at Fateh Chandra Kachori, with customers milling around, when a speeding Mercedes ploughed into the eatery (photo) around 3pm Sunday. Tables and display boards were flung about; CCTV cameras captured frantic moments as people searched under the car, fearing the worst.

Six people were injured, two or three of them have sustained severe fractures.

The car driver, 36-year-old lawyer Parag Maini of Noida, has been arrested, police said Tuesday. Civil Lines police have registered a case under Sections 279 (negligent driving) and 337 (negligent act endangering human life) of the IPC.

► 'No time to react,' P 4

60+ Vistara flights cancelled, regulator seeks daily updates

Saurabh Sinha & Manju V | TNN

New Delhi/Mumbai: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday asked crisis-hit Vistara to provide it with daily information on flight cancellations and delays and to extend flyers all facilities due to them, along with refunds and compensation. The development came on a day

► EDIT PAGE: Why Vistara Pilots Are Protesting...

that saw the airline cancelling more than 60 flights, after almost 50 on Monday, as reported by TOI.

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DGCA norms not enough, fume flyers

DGCA has asked Vistara to follow regulations pertaining to facilities and compensation it should pay passengers hit by flight cancellations, delays and boarding denials. But flyers have learnt that those norms do not address some of their core concerns. **P 7**

flights out of Delhi and Mumbai were worst hit. Kolkata had one cancellation and several delays. The airline has yet to issue a statement.

► Crew unavailability, P 18

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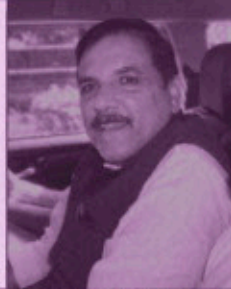
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► PM, FM silent on China invasion, says Cong, P 9

► India got Wadge Bank in place of island: TN Cong, P 9

ting the country's territorial integrity Hardeep Puri said Cong govt in 1974 ought to have taken Parliament's nod. **P 9**

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Two sisters killed in Sadar Bazar blaze

Two sisters perished in a fire that engulfed a four-storey building in north Delhi's Sadar Bazar Tuesday. The girls, aged 12 and 14, were found unconscious inside a bathroom of their house. They were alone at that time as their mother and brother had stepped out after locking the main door. "The children may have tried to save themselves by hiding in the bathroom," a fireman said. An explosion in an AC unit's compressor could have sparked the blaze. **P 4**

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