

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Country's biggest leader given up morality, does not walk on path of truth: Priyanka Gandhi on PM

CHITRADURGA, APR 23: Country's biggest leader given up morality, does not walk on path of truth: Priyanka Gandhi on PM

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that "the biggest leader of the country has given up morality, does drama before people and does not walk on the path of truth."

She alleged that attempts are on to weaken the opposition by suppressing their voice, seizing their bank accounts and jailing two chief ministers. "There was a time when a leader would stand up, and people of the country expected him to be an ethical person. They would expect morality from him but today 'the biggest leader'



of the country has given up morality and does drama before you," Priyanka said, addressing a public meeting in this district headquarters town. "There was a time when we expected that our leaders would tread on truthfulness. However, today the biggest leader of the nation goes out to show off his clout, his pride, and his fame but does not walk on the path of truth," she remarked.

Speaking about the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme, the Congress leader said that companies that were raided gave donations to BJP, and then the cases

against them were closed. She further alleged, "It is now clear how the black money was made white through demonetisation and then it was deposited in BJP's account."

She wondered "how the companies that were unable to earn even Rs 100 crore, donated Rs 1,100 crore to the BJP (under the electoral bond scheme)." "The opposition is targeted by calling them corrupt but the reality is that the BJP is corrupt and it has misled the country in the past 10 years," Priyanka alleged.

Recalling a BJP leader's statement that they would change the Constitution, she asked people to be careful. "You must carefully listen to those who talk about changing the Constitution because it will directly impact your lives," she said.

"Very sorry. We will be on your side," CM Siddaramaiah to slain student's father

HUBBALLI (KARNATAKA), APR 23: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday spoke to father of slain student Neha Hiremath over phone and said "sorry" over his daughter's killing, and assured that "we will be on your side".

The Chief Minister also informed Niranjan Hiremath, who is also a Congress councillor of Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, about the government's decision to hand over the murder case to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and setting up a special court to fast-track trial.

"Niranjan...Very sorry. We will be on your side," Siddaramaiah told Hiremath over the phone call during state's Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil's visit to Hiremath's house here. In the conversation on Patil's phone with speakers on, Siddaramaiah can be heard informing Hiremath about the CID probe



and setting up a special court.

"It is a serious offence...Setting up a special court we will ensure punishment for the accused person." Hiremath thanked Siddaramaiah on behalf of his family well-wishers and the community for handing over the case to CID and setting up a special court. "...Ensure there is an order at the earliest and provide us justice," he said, as he also thanked Patil,

of Computer Application (MCA) student and Fayaz was earlier her classmate.

Siddaramaiah on Monday had announced his government had decided to hand over the investigation into the incident to the Crime Investigation Department, and to set up a special court for speedy disposal of the case.

The case of brutal murder, which sparked widespread outrage, has snowballed into a political slugfest between ruling Congress and opposition BJP.

While the ruling party has tried to project it as an incident with personal angle, the saffron party has called it a "love jihad" case and has said it's a testimony of deterioration of law and order in the state. Earlier, Siddaramaiah's statement that the murder was due to "personal reasons" and Home Minister G Parameshwara's comments that the duo was in love, has elicited sharp reactions from Hiremath and family members and opposition parties.

Replying to this, Siddaramaiah said, "we will ensure it, at the earliest." In a shocking incident, Neha Hiremath (23), was stabbed to death on the campus of BVB College last Thursday. The accused Fayaz Khondunaiq, who fled from the scene, was arrested by the police subsequently. Neha was a first year Master

2 Indian students killed in traffic collision in US' Arizona

WASHINGTON, APR 23: Two Indian students in the United States were killed on the spot in a head-on traffic collision near Lake Pleasant in Arizona, according to police.

The victims, reportedly from Telangana, have been identified as 19-year-old Nivesh Mukka and 19-year-old Goutham Parsi.

They were enrolled as international students at Arizona State University.

According to the Peoria Police, the fatal traffic collision occurred around 6:18 pm on April 20, when they responded to a report of a collision on Castle Hot Springs Road, just north of State Route 74.

The multiple-vehicle collision involved two vehicles -- a white 2024 Kia Forte and a



red 2022 Ford F150 -- that had collided head-on.

Preliminary investigation shows that the driver of the red F150 was travelling southbound on Castle Hot Springs Road while the white Kia Forte was travelling northbound.

Mukka and Parsi "died from their injuries on (the)

scene", while the driver of the car in which they were travelling was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries and has since been released.

The other car's driver, the sole occupant of the vehicle, was also taken to a local hospital with serious injuries and has been released, the

statement said.

The area was closed for several hours during the investigation but was reopened for normal traffic Sunday morning.

"The cause of this collision is still being investigated," the police said.

"Our thoughts are with the victims, their families, and everybody who rendered aid during this tragic incident," the Peoria Police Department said.

The Arizona State University said the International Students and Scholars Centre is working with the dean of students, counselling services and housing representatives to identify the student groups, friends and roommates of the victims so that they can offer any needed support.

nation is strengthening and the saffron party will be isolated even further.

Modi, during a poll rally in Rajasthan's Banswara on Sunday, said that if the Congress comes to power, it would redistribute people's wealth to Muslims. He also alleged that the Congress plans to give people's hard-earned money and valuables to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children." Criticising the statement, Vijayan had a day ago accused the prime minister of carrying out a communal campaign by fabricating imaginary stories to create anti-Muslim hatred among people.

EC not acting in non-partisan manner: Vijayan on PM remarks regarding

KANNUR (KERALA), APR 23: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday said that it was "unfortunate" that the Election Commission (EC) was not acting in a non-partisan manner by taking immediate action in connection with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent alleged remarks against Muslims.

Vijayan contended it was a situation where the EC ought to have acted immediately, but till now it has been silent on the issue. "It is unfortunate. The EC should have shown it was non-partisan. It should have acted immediately," the Marxist veteran said at a press meet here.



Vijayan said that this is an issue which would have to be raised before the Supreme Court. At the same time, he claimed that because of such statements by the PM, the anti-BJP sentiment in the

Mayawati promises to work for separate state comprising districts of western UP

MEERUT, APR 23: BSP chief Mayawati on Tuesday promised to work for a separate state comprising districts of western Uttar Pradesh and fulfil the "longstanding demand" of setting up a bench of the Allahabad High Court in Meerut, if voted to power at the Centre.

Addressing an election rally in support of her party nominee from the Meerut Lok Sabha seat, the BSP chief attacked the Congress and BJP and also targeted the Samajwadi Party (SP) on the issue of reservation, alleging the SP does not want the people belonging to SC/ST communities to get quota benefits.

She also said that her party, if voted to power, will work to fulfil the demands and address problems of the region. "We will take positive steps with regards to your longstanding demand of an Allahabad High Court bench here in Meerut like that in Lucknow," she said.

"The central government has not been paying attention to it but when we come to power at the Centre, we will take positive steps in this regard," Mayawati said.

Referring to how her government in Uttar Pradesh had passed a resolution for a separate state, which was sent to the Centre, she said, "Since the beginning, our party has been of the view that the western region should be made a separate state for better development of the region.

"We had got a resolution passed by the state assembly and sent to the central government but they did not act on it. When our party comes to power at the Centre, your western UP will be made a separate state," she said.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister alleged that the quota facility meant for the Dalits, adivasis (STs) and OBCs in government jobs has not been filled up in the country for years and the quota in promotions for the SCs/STs has also been made ineffective.

"I want to remind the members of the SCs/STs that when the SP was in power



in Uttar Pradesh, it had ended reservation in promotions. Will the members of these sections give even a single vote to them and waste it on a party which is bent upon finishing their reservation. The SP does not want SC/ST people to get full benefits of reservation," she said.

She also alleged that when an amendment bill for reservation in promotions was presented in the Rajya Sabha, the SP MPs had torn it. "Will such Samajwadi Party do good for the Dalits and shoshits (exploited class)?"

"Not only this, the districts, parks, universities that we (BSP government) had made in the name of great men belonging to these sections of society were mostly changed by the subsequent Samajwadi Party government," she said. She also alleged that like the Congress, the BJP's casteist and pro-capitalist thinking and policies have not helped in ensuring the real development and uplift of the poor, Dalits, adivasis, backward, Muslims and other religious minorities among the "sarv samaj".

Telling her voters that in these Lok Sabha elections, the Congress, BJP and their supporting parties have to be stopped from coming to power, she alleged their wrong policies and working style has been tried by all.

She also warned against the "saam, daam, dand, bhed" policies allegedly being adopted by these parties to attain power.

Seeking vote for her party nominee from Meerut, Mayawati said unlike the

past elections when her party had fielded Muslim candidates, it has this time given ticket to Devvrat Tyagi.

In Meerut, the BJP has fielded Arun Govil. Samajwadi Party's Sunita Verma and BSP's Devvrat Kumar Tyagi are the other prominent candidates in the fray.

The BSP chief, who reached Aligarh several hours late due to bad weather, said that voters from the Aligarh Lok Sabha seat had many times made BJP's Brahmin community candidate successful, but the public was not satisfied with his working style.

She said that had the public not got an alternative, they would have let him (BJP MP from Aligarh, Satish Gautam) win out of "compulsion", but by giving a candidate from the Brahmin community, "we have given an alternative to them, who stands with the public during their happiness and sorrows."

Regarding Aligarh's BSP candidate Hitendra Upadhyay, she said that not only Brahmins, but people from all sections of society and the Muslim community also came to Lucknow and recommended his name for the party's ticket. In the Aligarh meeting itself, she also appealed for the victory of Hathras (SC) Lok Sabha seat candidate Hem Babu of the Dhangar community.

Also, explaining the reason for fielding a Jat candidate from Mathura, Mayawati said the people of the constituency wanted that an educated local person should be their candidate, and not an outsider, "so we have made Suresh Singh the candidate from Mathura."

In Aligarh, there are 14 candidates in the fray, including BJP's Satish Kumar Gautam, SP's Bijendra Singh and Hitendra Kumar Upadhyay of the BSP.

Voting in the second phase will take place on April 26 and it will cover eight parliamentary constituencies of Amroha, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautambuddh Nagar, Bulandshahr (SC), Aligarh and Mathura. Counting of votes will be held on June 4.

Kejriwal given insulin in Bihar after spike in sugar level; AAP welcomes move

NEW DELHI, APR 23: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been administered a "low dose" of insulin after his blood sugar level spiked, officials of Bihar jail here said on Tuesday.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) welcomed this news received on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti and said the development was the result of the blessings of the deity.

Delhi Cabinet minister Atishi said in a post on X in Hindi, "Jai Bajrang Bali! Good news received on Hanuman Jayanti. Bihar administration finally gave insulin to Arvind Kejriwal ji. This is the result of the blessings of Hanuman ji and the struggle of the people of Delhi. Even in this time of struggle, the blessings of Bajrang Bali remain on all of us."

Her cabinet colleague Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that the officials



were deliberately not giving Kejriwal insulin.

"Today it became clear that the chief minister was right, he needed insulin. But the officials under the BJP-led Centre were deliberately not treating him. Tell me BJP people! If there was no need for insulin, why are they giving it now? Because the whole world is cursing them," he said in a post on X in Hindi.

According to a Bihar official, Kejriwal was given two units of low dose insulin on Monday evening on the advice of AIIMS doctors.

His blood sugar level reading was found to be 217 around 7 pm, following which the doctors at Tihar looking after him decided to give him the insulin, the official said.

AIIMS specialists, during a video conference with the chief minister on April 20, had advised Tihar doctors that insulin could be given to him if his sugar level crosses a certain level, he added.

The Delhi chief minister was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money-laundering case linked to the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy. He is lodged in Bihar jail since April 1.

You are freeloader, not students: JNUSU slams VC Pandit

NEW DELHI, APR 23: The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) has hit out at Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit over her "freeloaders on campus" remark and accused her of failing to address "slandering narratives" of certain films targeting the varsity.

In an open letter to the VC, the union accused her of "conveniently" ignoring the "lavish perks enjoyed by certain politically favoured groups on campus" and said she was a "freeloader", and not the students.

"Who's the real freeloader here? Is it the students and faculty striving for academic excellence, or perhaps it is you who is occupying the VC's office, earning a salary from the taxpayers' dime while failing to fulfil your responsibilities to the university community?" the open letter released Monday late night read.

Pandit in an interview with PTI had said the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has a problem of "freeloaders" --

both overstaying students and illegal guests -- and the administration is now tightening the noose on them.

The vice-chancellor had also said that with the appearance of rival political outfits, the Left dispensation in the Jawaharlal Nehru University has weakened and is forced to join hands since it struggles to win elections independently.

The JNUSU urged the VC to introspect and reconsider her statement on the characterisation of students as "freeloaders".

The union also accused Pandit of favouritism and allowing RSS-backed events on campus.

"It is concerning that while you accuse students of being freeloaders, RSS-affiliated events enjoy unrestricted access to campus facilities, including classrooms, auditoriums, convention centre, lawns without so much as a penny exchanged. This double standard is glaring, especially when students have to protest merely to access basic resources, only to get is-

sued proctorial notices," the letter read.

"Our VC proudly claims to be an alumni of JNU, and she finds no shame in speaking to the media about certain 'freeloaders' in the campus who are wasting taxpayer's money. She conveniently ignores the lavish perks enjoyed by certain politically favoured groups on campus," the union retorted.

"The taxpayers' money should indeed be utilised for education and research, not for propagating ideological agendas under the guise of academic activities," it added.

The JNUSU further accused Pandit of recruiting substandard faculty and asserted, "We are not freeloaders. You are wasting taxpayers' money by recruiting substandard faculty and not ensuring a conducive environment for us (students) to study."

It also criticised Pandit for being "silent" on defamatory films targeting JNU students such as 'Bastar' and 'Jahangir National University'

which allegedly show the varsity in negative light.

"It is shameful that you, being an alumni of this university yourself, have allowed the screening of Bastar on campus; a film that openly calls for killing JNU students in full public sight. These films not only misrepresent our community but also perpetuate harmful stereotypes and prejudices. As the custodian of our university's reputation, you have failed to address such slanderous narratives," the students' body said in the letter.

Responding to Pandit's remark on weakening of Left politics on campus, the students' body, the union said, "Your role as VC should transcend partisan interests and prioritise the welfare of all students, regardless of their affiliations. However, you are quick to comment and make statements when your beloved ABVP faces electoral setbacks," the union said.

The JNUSU is jointly held by Left groups and Birsra Ambedkar Phule Students' Association (BAPSA).