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**BRIEFLY**

**Gas price hike put on hold, Centre tells SC**

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that in the light of the Election Commission's directive to defer the hike in gas price for Reliance, it would not notify the proposed increase from \$4.2 to \$8.4 per mmBtu from April 1. Page 15

**ACHIEVE & INSPIRE OTHERS ATTEND KESHAV SIR'S MOCK INTERVIEWS HIMALAI IAS**  
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**Sahara makes repayment proposal**

NEW DELHI: The Sahara Group on Tuesday submitted a fresh proposal in the Supreme Court seeking to repay Rs. 20,000 crore in five instalments spread over a year. Page 12

**Rajat Gupta conviction upheld**

WASHINGTON: A U.S. court has upheld the 2012 conviction of former Goldman Sachs director Rajat Gupta on insider trading charges, making it likely that he will serve his two-year jail term. Page 12

**MH370: families demand answers**

BEIJING: As search operations for debris on Tuesday remained hampered by adverse weather, several dozen relatives of the passengers on board MH370 demanded answers from the Malaysian government. Page 12; Article on Comment Page

**EMPOWER** - on Pages 17 & 18  
**METROPLUS** - 4 Pages

## Alagiri expelled from DMK

**Rebel vows to move court for justice**

B. Kolappan, L. Srikrishna & Varghese K George

CHENNAI/MADURAI/NEW DELHI: The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on Tuesday expelled its south zone organisational secretary and former Union Minister, M.K. Alagiri, for his persistent slanderous attacks on party seniors and anti-party activities, taking the sibling rivalry in the



DMK's first family to a point of no return ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. "Despite having been al-

**FOCUS ON MODI'S RIVALS**

**STRONGER NOMINEE** Congress fields its general secretary MADHUSUDAN MISTRY to take on Narendra Modi in Vadodara. He replaces Narendra Rawat

**WHY THE CONTEST** "Why do I want to contest from Varanasi? It is because at a time when leaders look for safe seats to fight elections, I take them on to defeat them"

**NO COMMON NAME** AKHILESH YADAV rules out fielding joint candidates, backed by all 'secular parties', against Modi in Varanasi and Rajnath Singh in Lucknow

**WIELDS THE AXE** BJD leader Naveen Patnaik denies ticket to 6 MPs in Lok Sabha polls, and 35 sitting MLAs in Odisha Assembly election fray

rebel leader's clout in the south.

Even as this jolted the DMK's campaign, led by his younger brother M.K. Stalin, an unfazed Alagiri in Madurai refused to be cowed down by "such threats by some self-appointed leaders in the party." He accused Mr. Karunanidhi of being "partial" to Mr. Stalin, reiterated he was a "DMK man" and added that he would "approach court and seek justice."

In Delhi, the BJP declined to comment on Mr. Alagiri's expulsion, but appeared open to exploring possibilities thrown up by the turn of events. The move shows the DMK's "intolerance," a senior BJP leader said, alluding to Mr. Alagiri expressing support to its prime ministerial candidate, Narendra Modi.

ready suspended from the party, [Mr.] Alagiri continued to violate party discipline, and is hence dismissed from the DMK," party general secretary K Anbazhagan declared in a statement in Chennai, after consulting party president M. Karuna-

nidhi. The decision was the culmination of Lok Sabha aspirants like MDMK chief Vaiko and those from other parties, including the BJP and the Congress, trooping to Mr. Alagiri's residence in Madurai, seeking his support, in a bid to cash in on the

## Kejriwal to test the waters in Varanasi



Arvind Kejriwal takes a dip in the Ganga in Varanasi on Tuesday. - PHOTO: PTI

Omar Rashid

VARANASI: Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday challenged Narendra Modi to a face-to-face debate on the latter's claims regarding development in Gujarat, while announcing that he would contest against the BJP's prime ministerial candidate from the Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency.

Keeping the pressure on Mr. Modi, the Congress raised the stakes in Vadodara in Gujarat — the second constituency from where the BJP leader is contesting — by fielding party general secretary Madhusudhan Mistry, a close aide of party vice-president Rahul Gandhi. The party replaced

Narendra Ravat, who had earlier been named as the candidate from Vadodara.

During a road show the AAP leader took out, Mr. Kejriwal's face and shirt were splattered with ink by unidentified protesters, who he said were "paid workers of Modi."

Mr. Kejriwal's campaign in Varanasi was marked by showmanship. He started the day by taking a dip in the Ganga before offering prayers at the Kal Bhairav temple, followed by a visit to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

At the rally, he sported a skull cap presented by the Imam of Varanasi and even paused for a few minutes to show reverence to the 'azaan' (Muslim call to prayer). More details on Page 12

## SC asks Srinivasan to step down as BCCI chief

To ensure fair inquiry into IPL betting scandal

J. Venkatesan

NEW DELHI: Shocked at the revelations in the report submitted by the Justice Mukul Mudgal panel in a 'sealed cover', the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president N. Srinivasan to step down on his own to ensure a fair inquiry into allegations of betting in the Indian Premier League.

A Bench of Justices A.K. Patnaik and Ibrahim Kalifullatol senior counsel Aryama Sundaram, appearing for the BCCI: "You ask Mr. Srinivasan to step down, otherwise we will give our verdict asking him to step down."

Justice Patnaik said "unless the BCCI president steps down, there won't be a fair inquiry. The man at the top must go. Why are you [Mr. Srinivasan] sticking to the post? It is nauseating. You [Mr. Sundaram] should be honest as a counsel and not as a lawyer for Mr. Srinivasan."

Justice Kalifulla said: "If

**IN A TIGHT SPOT**  
SUPREME COURT WARNS THAT IT MAY HAVE TO PASS ORDERS IF N. SRINIVASAN FAILS TO QUIT AS BCCI PRESIDENT

**CAUGHT OFF GUARD** I would like to study the order - N. SRINIVASAN

**PRESSURE MOUNTS FROM WITHIN** He should resign and keep himself away - RAVI SAWANT BCCI VICE-PRESIDENT

**LEGENDS SPEAK** We have to respect the honourable court's observations - SHIVLAL YADAV BCCI VICE-PRESIDENT

Justice Mudgal was a providential arrival for Indian cricket - BISHAN SINGH BEDI

In the interest of the game, he must step down - MOHINDER AMARNATH

Two-judge Bench gives him two days to take a decision  
Next hearing is on March 27

there has to be a far and dispassionate inquiry, Mr. Srinivasan must step down."

Mr. Sundaram told the court he had not seen the contents of the report in the sealed cover. Justice Patnaik then asked the counsel to come near the judges' podium and showed him the conclusions in the report.

Justice Patnaik said:

"Though there is no definite finding in the report in the sealed cover, the allegations are so serious they require further investigation, which the BCCI cannot do on its own and it has to be done by an outside agency."

More reports on Page 21

## IM de facto chief arrested

Devesh Pandey & Kritika Sharma

NEW DELHI: In yet another breakthrough, the Delhi Police Special Cell on Tuesday arrested Tehsin Akhtar alias Monu, the de facto chief of the Indian Mujahideen.

Monu is accused of recruiting members for the outfit's modules through his close links with the banned Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

His arrest comes three days after Zia-ur-Rehman

alias Waqas, an alleged Pakistani member of the outfit, was nabbed from Ajmer in Rajasthan along with three other suspects.

Monu, 23, was heading the terror outfit's operations after the arrest of the previous IM-India chief, Yasin Bhatkhal, last August. He is considered a confidant of Pakistan-based IM founder Riyaz Bhatkhal. The National Investigation Agency had announced a reward of Rs. 10 lakh on Monu's head.

Special Commissioner of

Police, Special Cell, S.N. Shrivastava said: "Sustained interrogation of Waqas and the other arrested members of the IM's Rajasthan module led us to Monu. We received a tip-off that Monu had moved out from his hideout to a neighbouring country [Nepal] and was expected to come to India to cross over to another country. Acting on the information, a team was sent to the Indo-Nepal border in Darjeeling and Monu was arrested," Mr. Shrivastava said.

## Deve Gowda, 121 others file nomination papers

Special Correspondent

BANGALORE: The former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) national president H.D. Deve Gowda was among the 122 candidates who filed their nomination papers in Lok Sabha constituencies in the State on Tuesday.

With this, the number of candidates filing nomination papers in various constituencies has gone up to 318.

These candidates have filed

444 sets of nomination papers, in all.

Speaking to presspersons, Officer on Special Duty in the Chief Electoral Officer's secretariat V. Ponnuraj said that the 122 candidates who filed their nomination papers on Tuesday included 12 from the Bahujan Samaj Party, five from the Bharatiya Janata Party, six from the Congress, seven from the Janata Dal (Secular), eight from the Aam Aadmi Party and three each

from the Communist Party of India and Communist Party of India (Marxist).

The other prominent Janata Dal(S) leaders who filed their nomination papers are the former Minister Bandappa Kashempur from Bidar, the former MLA Mahima Patel from Davangere and the former MLC Abdul Azeem from Bangalore North.

P.C. Gaddigoudar of the BJP filed his papers in Bagalkot, while Bhagavant Ray

of the Congress submitted his in Raichur.

**Cash seized**

He said that a team comprising officers implementing the Model Code of Conduct and a flying squad seized Rs. 20 lakh in cash from a four-wheeler driver at Padubidri check-post in Udupi-Chikmagalur on Monday.

He said that Rs. 9.5 lakh in cash was seized from a person at Hoskote, Rs. 2 lakh and Rs.

1.5 lakh in cash from two vehicles from Kerala and Rs. 75,000 in cash from another vehicle, all these in Mangalore, were seized.

In Honnali of Davangere constituency, Rs. 1.5 lakh in cash was seized. He said that 100 litres of liquor in 300 ml bottles were confiscated in Honnali and saris worth Rs. 2.9 lakh were recovered in Chickballapur. Those carrying the cash and the material were arrested.

## Drunken driving: licences of even first-time offenders to be suspended

Rules are applicable with immediate effect: Additional Commissioner of Police

Special Correspondent

BANGALORE: As part of a drive against drunken driving, the police have, in association with Transport Department officials, decided to suspend Driving Licences (DLs) of even first-time traffic offenders in Bangalore.

Hitherto, first-time offenders in such cases had their DLs impounded, with their vehicles and documents, which they had to reclaim after paying penalty in a court of law. With the number of drunken driving cases increasing in the wake of extension of deadline for closure of bars, the traffic police have invoked the provision for suspending DLs of first-time offenders under the State Motor Vehicles Act 1988 and also the Central Motor Vehicles Act of 1989.

"These rules are applicable with immediate effect and

**OFFENCES THAT ATTRACT SUSPENSION OF DL**

**DRUNKEN DRIVING** (Section 185 of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Act 1988)

**REFUSAL TO GO ON HIRE** (Section 16 (p) of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Act 1989)

**DEMANDING EXCESS FARE** (Section 16 (j) of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Act 1989)

**USING MOBILE PHONE WHILE DRIVING/RIDING** (Section 230 (a) of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Act 1989)

**CARRYING PASSENGERS IN GOODS VEHICLE** (Section 66 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988)

**HIT-AND-RUN CASES** (Section 134 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988)

police officials have been instructed to follow the orders," according to Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic) B. Dayanand.

As per the rules, traffic offenders would not only be asked to pay fine but also have their licences impounded. Their licences would be sent to the Transport Department with a recommendation that they (licences) be suspended for three to six months.

"It is left to the discretion of the Transport Department

officials to fix the duration of the suspension, depending upon the type of violations," Mr. Dayanand said and added that the licences of those who repeat the offence will be cancelled.

After the deadline for closure of bars was extended, the number of drunken driving cases has gone up from an average 800 to 1,500 a day during the weekends, he said.

The rules, Mr. Dayanand said, are applicable not only to drunken driving cases but

also to the use of mobile phones while driving, hit-and-run cases, autorickshaws and taxis refusing to go on hire and those demanding excess fare. Drivers of goods vehicles carrying passengers will also be booked under the new rules, he said.

Though the rules to suspend Driving Licences of first-time offenders are applicable to also those using mobile phones while driving, a Transport Department official said that there is no such provision to include the latter under this law.

However, Mr. Dayanand said that drivers using mobile phones were included under the law to ensure discipline among motorists and reduce the number of road accidents.

A police official said that the Transport Department should also make it mandatory for motorists to carry original DLs while driving.

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