

Rs 500 cr row: Sena leader accuses Jarange of conspiring with BJP to 'finish off' Dy CM Shinde

MUMBAI: A day after Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange presented an audio clip that claims payment of Rs 500 crore done to him through MP Shrikant Shinde, Shiv Sena leader Ramdas Kadam on Friday accused him of conspiring with the BJP to "finish off" Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Addressing a press conference, Kadam alleged that Jarange was fooling the Maratha community and wedging a divide between communities, and claimed that he has been "exposed" now.

The BJP and Shinde-led Shiv Sena are part of the Mahayuti alliance government in the state, with NCP being the third ally.

"You (Jarange) are trying to hatch a conspiracy to finish off a Maratha leader by colluding with the BJP," Kadam said,



apparently referring to Ekanath Shinde.

He also accused Jarange of being linked to various government tenders in the state.

The former minister claimed that BJP MLC Pravin Darekar, known to be a close aide of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, was also named in the audio clip.

500 crore had already been delivered to Jarange through MP Shrikant Shinde, while another part of the recording discusses whether Jarange's influence would be beneficial to the party in the assembly elections.

Kadam said the day Jarange targets Shinde, his community will also go after him.

The Sena leader also sought to know as to when Jarange received the audio clip.

Kadam said he has written to Fadnavis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat with a request for a forensic probe into the clip.

"Who in the BJP are trying to finish off Eknath Shinde?" Kadam asked.

Keralam seeks extension of deadline for ration card e-KYC

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Keralam Food and Civil Supplies Minister Anoop Jacob has urged the Centre to extend the three-month deadline for activating ration cards through e-KYC and defer the implementation of new provisions for temporarily cancelling cards unused for six consecutive months.

In a letter to his counterpart at the Centre Pralhad Joshi, Jacob sought flexibility in implementing the 2025 amendment order to the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, which provides for temporary cancellation and subsequent verification of ration cards that have not been used for six months.

The minister also sought permission for the state to maintain a waiting list of eligible families in the order of first-in, first-out (FIFO) to fill vacancies arising from the cancellation of cards, according to a statement issued by his office on Friday.

He proposed that cards identified for removal could be temporarily shifted to or retained under



der the state's tide-over/non-priority category, subject to conditions.

The entitlement to foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) should not be withdrawn merely because a ration card has remained unused for a period, Jacob said.

He said foodgrains can be provided under the state category whenever required, subject to Aadhaar-based biometric authentication.

Eligibility can be reassessed through e-KYC and field verification within a specified period, and

NFSA status can be restored if the beneficiary was found eligible, he pointed out.

Such a system will help remove ineligible families while preventing genuine beneficiaries from being inadvertently excluded and ensuring that NFSA entitlements are availed of only by eligible people, he said.

The minister said the first phase will affect 44,279 priority ration cardholders in Keralam, including 5,370 yellow-card and 38,909 pink-card holders, who had not purchased ration supplies for more than six months.

SRFTI asks parents to take protesting students home amid campus stir

KOLKATA: SRFTI has asked parents of students who are on an indefinite sit-in following violent incidents on the campus to "take their wards home" since film, and electronic and digital media classes have been suspended till the second week of November, officials said on Friday.

The agitating students have alleged that the institute's administration was trying to exert pressure on them to withdraw the protest against "attacks by right-wing forces on the campus". A day earlier, they had alleged the administration had denied them access to basic facilities.

Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute students have been on the sit-in outside Vice Chancellor Santosh Ajmera's office since October 12, demanding his resignation over incidents of violence.



Students and members of the Akhil Bharatiya Grahak Panchayat (ABGP), an RSS-affiliated consumer awareness group, got into a clash on September 27 during a programme. On October 4, the campus again witnessed a scuffle during a protest organised by members of the Bangiya Hindu Jagaran Mancha. Some of the agitators had tried to break open the institute's gate when they were stopped by police.

SRFTI suspended regular academic activities in its film as well as electronic and digital marketing departments until November 13, and had asked students to vacate the premises within 24 hours. The institute has had its puja vacation till October 21.

The protesting students have been adamant in continuing their stir over concerns about campus security and seeking accountability for the violence as their academic boycott entered its 26th day. A senior SRFTI of-

ficial said, "Under the current circumstances, we had to inform the guardians of the students still staying on the campus, urging them to take their wards home as we have suspended film, electronic and digital media classes till November 13."

"We have sent the message to the parents on their registered email IDs," he said, but did not specify the number of parents who have been sent the email.

However, SRFTI students union spokesperson Sudip Chakraborty termed the administration's move "pressure tactics". "Parents of several of our batchmates have received the mail, asking them to take away their wards home. But we are determined to continue with the protest," he told PTI.

Chakraborty said most of the agitating students are from outside Bengal and they have stayed back to take part in the agitation.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch urges Centre to deny Starlink licence on security grounds

NEW DELHI: The Swadeshi Jagran Manch on Friday urged the Centre to deny permission to Elon Musk-owned Starlink to launch commercial satellite broadband services in India, citing national security concerns and alleging that its technology poses challenges to meeting India's regulatory requirements. In a memorandum submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi following a demonstration against Starlink at the Teen Murti Chowk here, the RSS-affiliated organisation said the company's use of laser-based satellite links to transmit data directly between satellites raises concerns about Indian internet traffic bypassing domestic gateways during security-related emergencies. "The government is examining this system to ensure that data cannot bypass Indian gateways during security-related emergencies. A key regulatory condition is that Starlink must be

able to precisely restrict its services at the government's behest; however, Starlink has not committed to meet this requirement, or its technology may not permit it," SJM national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan wrote in the memorandum. The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) alleged that instead of responding to clarifications sought by the Centre on national security grounds, Musk has indirectly levelled allegations against Indian businesses and the government. "It appears that Starlink is perhaps not prepared to meet those specific requirements. Consequently, it seems Elon Musk is either attempting to secure the licence by creating public pressure against the government or is making these statements out of frustration," Mahajan said. The SJM also claimed that Starlink's inter-satellite laser links could allow data to bypass Indian gateways and travel through foreign infra-

structure, potentially making lawful monitoring and enforcement more difficult. "Currently, India is grappling with various law-and-order challenges. In such situations, internet-based social media often fuels rumours and anti-national narratives. Disrupting internet services frequently becomes essential to maintain law and order during instances of separatism, terrorism, riots, protests and similar events," Mahajan said. The SJM also expressed concerns over the possible use of satellite internet by hostile actors, smugglers and insurgent groups to communicate beyond conventional telecom networks. Arguing that India's existing mobile and broadband networks offer services at affordable rates and can be restricted in specific areas when required, the SJM said the domestic telecom operators have also been cooperating with security and investigating agencies.

Bihar: Two accused in murder of policeman's son held after encounter

GAYA JI: Two accused in the murder of a sub-inspector's son were arrested following a brief exchange of fire with police in Bihar's Gaya Ji district, an officer said.

The accused, identified as Shyam Bihari and Gaurav alias Kala, sustained bullet injuries on their legs and were admitted to Anugrah Narayan Magadh Medical College and Hospital, Gaya Ji SP Abhinav Kumar told reporters.

Their condition was stated to be stable, he said. "The brief encounter took place around 2 am in Bichha village under the jurisdiction of Muffasil police station. The police and STF teams had been conducting searches to arrest the accused. Two others had already been arrested in connection with the case," the SP said.

Karnataka completes hearings for 43.82 lakh SIR notices, final roll on Oct 27

BENGALURU: Hearings have been completed across Karnataka for more than 43.82 lakh notices issued to electors as part of the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, the CEO office said on Friday.

The final electoral roll will be published on October 27, as per the schedule for the Special Intensive Revision-2026 issued by the Election Commission of India, it said.

The notices were issued to electors whose names fell under the 'no mapping' and 'anomalies' categories during the revision exercise, officials said.

"A total of 43,82,824 notices have been generated and delivered, and hearings have been completed across the state," a statement from the chief electoral officer's office said.



According to data shared by the CEO's office, it received 10,42,863 Form 6 applications, 4,840 Form 6A applications, 2,28,917 Form 7 applications and 13,10,841 Form 8 applications between June 16 and October 22, taking the total number of applications received to 25,87,461.

Form 7 is used to file objections to proposed inclusions or seek deletions from

the electoral roll, while Form 8 is used to apply for a change of residence or correction of entries in the existing electoral roll.

All Form 7 applications received up to September 23 have been cleared on a priority basis, the statement said.

"Enrolment of names and correction of entries are continuous processes," the CEO's office said.

Applicants can submit Form 6, 6A, 7 or 8, as applicable, to the concerned Electoral Registration Officers online through the ECINET (Election Commission Internet) app or the voters.eci.gov.in portal, or offline at the offices of Booth Level Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers or Electoral Registration Officers, it added.

SSR begins in Keralam; final electoral roll to be published on Jan 4, 2027

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Keralam CEO D Sajith Babu on Friday said the SSR of electoral rolls had begun in the state, with the final voters' list scheduled to be published on January 4, 2027.

Addressing a press conference, Babu said the campaign, which began on October 15, aims to enrol all eligible voters aged 18 and above, include missing names in the electoral rolls and correct registration details.

Camps are being organised at all village offices and will continue next month. Applications can be submitted online through the ECI Net portal or in hard copy, he said.

Form 6 is meant for new registrations and the inclusion of missing names, Babu said, adding that those aged 17 who will turn 18 on or before January 1, 2027, can also apply.

Form 7 is used to delete the names of deceased voters, people who have given up Indian citizenship and duplicate entries. Authorities will use local body databases, information from regional passport offices and Election Commission



software to identify such cases, he said.

Form 8 is meant for correcting details or shifting voter registration, including cases where family members are registered at different polling booths after relocation, he added.

Sajith Babu said only 3,676 applications had been received since the campaign began, despite extensive efforts at the local level, including awareness campaigns and arrangements at polling booths.

Giving details of the electorate, the chief electoral officer said the voter count frozen on October 27, 2025, before the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) began, stood at 2,78,50,855 in Keralam.

The draft electoral roll published after

the SIR exercise contained 2,54,42,352 voters, while the final roll after the revision listed 2,69,53,644 voters.

The electoral roll published ahead of the previous Assembly election contained 2,71,42,952 voters, he said.

As part of the 'Campus to Booth' campaign, special enrolment activities will be held at higher secondary schools and colleges from November 2 to 7 to encourage 17-year-olds to register as future voters. Directions have been issued to district election officers in this regard, he said.

The Election Commission has directed the rationalisation of polling stations, as some booths have fewer than 500 voters while others have more than 1,200, Babu said.

"At a meeting with political parties, concerns were raised over the exercise, with the parties seeking more time to complete it," he said.

Babu said the parties' request would be conveyed to the Election Commission. He said shifting voters between polling booths would require the approval of political parties.

Fisheries sector writing new saga in development in MP, says CM



BHOPAL: The fisheries sector in Madhya Pradesh is writing a new saga of development and prosperity with production touching 4.45 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Friday.

He was speaking after inaugurating the National Fisheries Investors and Exporters Conclave 2026 along with Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Union Minister of State P Singh Baghel.

"Today, fisheries in Madhya Pradesh is writing a

new saga of development and prosperity. With fish production of 4.45 lakh tonnes in the year 2024-25, the state is touching new heights in this sector," Yadav said.

With an investment of more than Rs 910 crore, initiatives of Fisheries Investment and Export Promotion Policy 2026 and Bhopal Cluster with 316 cages at Halali Reservoir are giving impetus to fisheries development, the CM added.

"In the budget of 2026-27, there is a provision for the development of 49 reser-

voirs and five Amrit Sarovars at Rs 88.25 crore. These initiatives will boost employment, investment and exports and open new doors for livelihood and prosperity of fishermen," Yadav said. The occasion, Yadav and the two Union ministers released the 'Madhya Pradesh Fisheries Investment and Export Guidelines-2026'. They also released the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to increase the fish export potential of inland states. Yadav, Singh and Baghel transferred the approval for the development of the reservoir and the integrated development project of Amrit Sarovar during the programme. They also distributed certificates to the selected beneficiaries under Kisan Credit Card, Fisheries Cooperatives, Startups and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Saha-Yojana.

Andhra local body polls: SEC directs officials to facilitate nomination for 'restrained' candidates

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha on Friday directed the district administrations to contact any MPTC and ZPTC election candidates allegedly "restrained" from filing their nominations and facilitate them in filing them.

He also asked officials to provide the "restrained candidates" personal security wherever required.

Punetha directed the district collectors and superintendents of police (SP) to ascertain whether any complaints have been received from persons alleging that they were prevented from filing their nominations, an official press release said.

"In respect of such complaints (candidates restrained from filing nominations), the concerned officials shall immediately contact the complainants over the phone and facilitate



them in filing their nominations before the stipulated deadline of 5 pm on October 23," said Punetha in the press release.

The State Election Commissioner (SEC) directed the SPs to arrange for personal security, wherever required, to accompany such persons to their respective nomination receiving centres and facilitate the peaceful filing of their nomina-

tions within the stipulated time. The commission issued a notification to conduct the second ordinary elections to the Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTCs) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTCs) on October 19. As per the election schedule, receiving nominations commenced on October 21 and will end at 5 pm on October 23.

Sikkim CM attends Mathur's swearing-in as Keralam Gov

GANGTOK: Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Friday attended the swearing-in of Om Prakash Mathur as the governor of Keralam. Tamang also offered prayers at the Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram for peace and prosperity of Sikkim. Mathur served as the 18th governor of Sikkim from July 31, 2024 to October 19 this year, before being appointed as the governor of Keralam. Dushyant Kumar Gautam was sworn in as the 19th governor of Sikkim on October 19.

Tamang, in a social media post, congratulated Mathur and expressed confidence that his experience and distinguished public service would guide him in discharging his responsibilities.

"His vast experience, distinguished public service, and commitment to the na-

tion will undoubtedly continue to guide him in discharging his responsibilities with wisdom, dedication and integrity," he added.

The CM wished Mathur a successful tenure, saying he hoped the latter's new assignment would contribute to the progress, prosperity and well-being of the people of Keralam.

The CM said he also visited the Padmanabhaswamy Temple along with Mathur and offered prayers.

Tamang said he prayed for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Sikkim, and for the continued progress, happiness and harmony of the Himalayan state.

Describing the visit as a blessed experience, he expressed hope that the divine grace of Lord Padmanabhaswamy would continue to guide and protect the people of Sikkim.