











# Centre Declares Both Factions Of Muslim Conference J-K As Unlawful For Five Years

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday declared the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Sumji faction) and Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Bhat faction) as unlawful associations for the next five years. The move comes after the MHA found that these outfits have been engaging in activities against the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. The MHA made the declaration through two separate notifications, banning the two outfits with immediate effect by exercising the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967. As per the notification, the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Sumji faction), chaired by Ghulam Nabi Sumji, is known for its anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda. It also mentioned that the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Bhat faction), or MCJK-S, chaired by Abdul Ghani Bhat, has been indulging in unlawful activities that are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, and security of the country. The Ministry noted that the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Sumji faction) members have remained involved in supporting terrorist activities and provid-

ing logistic support to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and that its leaders and members have been involved in raising funds through various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy organizations, for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone-pelting on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir. It said that the outfit constantly asked the people of Kashmir to refrain from taking part in elections and thereby targeted and hampered the very basic constitutionally recognized fundamentals of Indian democracy, and its members by their activities show sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional set up of the country. "The MCJK-S and its members have been indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, and security of the country. It is involved in promoting, aiding, and abetting the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from India by involving in anti-national and subversive activities; sowing seeds of disaffection amongst people; exhorting people to destabilise law and order; encouraging the use of arms to separate Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India; and promoting ha-

tered against the established government by giving a clarion call to boycott elections on multiple occasions in Jammu and Kashmir," pointed out the notification. Considering these activities, the MHA announced, "Now, Therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the Central Government hereby declares the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Sumji faction) (MCJK-S) as an unlawful association." "The Central Government, having regard to the above circumstances, is of firm opinion that it is necessary to declare the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Sumji faction) (MCJK-S) as an 'unlawful association' with immediate effect, and accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 3 of the said Act, the Central Government hereby directs that this notification shall, subject to any order that may be made under section 4 of the said Act, have effect for a period of five years from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette," it added. Another notification mentioned that the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Bhat faction)

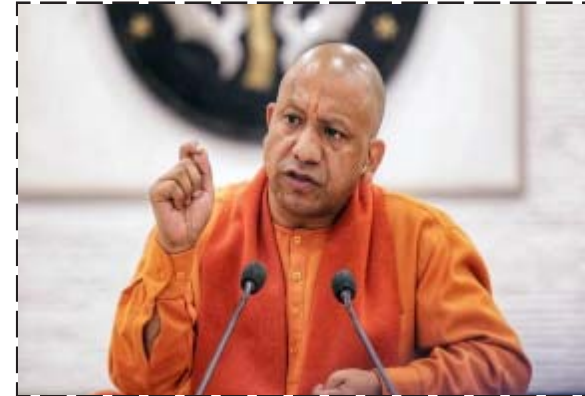


has been indulging in unlawful activities that are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, and security of the country and that it has linkages with banned terrorist organizations and has supported terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. "The members of the MCJK-B have been indulging in generating feelings of hatred and disaffection against India to separate Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India; and its leaders and members have been involved in raising funds through various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy organizations, for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone-pelting on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir," it added. Taking cognisance of the acts of the outfit, the notification mentions that "the Central Government hereby directs that this notification shall, subject to any order that may be made under Section 4 of the said Act, have effect for five years from the date of its publication in the Official."

# Uttar Pradesh govt to provide buses for 2024 Lok Sabha elections

Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) : Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) on Thursday to ensure availability of buses for the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, the state government said in a statement on Thursday. According to the instructions, the buses which will be deployed for election duty must undergo a safety inspection. As per the government's guidelines, unfit buses should not be sent under any circumstances on election duty. Only those drivers whose licences are valid should be sent on election duty. Uttar Pradesh Transport Minister (independent charge), Daya Shankar Singh, said, "Under no circumstances should the offroad buses be over one percent during the election period. The physical condition of buses should be good, and

issues with seats, handles, windows, doors, etc., should be rectified by conducting inspections. "Ensure that headlights, tail lights, indicators, horns, wipers, etc., are functioning properly and undergo necessary inspections. Buses should have a first aid box with medicines available," he added. Transport Minister further directed that the helpline number '18001802877' be mentioned at the designated place in the buses. If a bus develops a major fault for any reason, arrange for an alternative bus at that location. Arrangements for alternative vehicles should be made for this purpose. The Transport Corporation will now take charge of producing diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) used in BS-6 buses. The Transport Corporation is working rapidly in this direction.



"Currently, urea used in BS-6 buses is procured through tenders in the open market by reputable companies. After setting up production units in this sector, the Transport Corporation estimates a reduction of approximately 20 percent in future expenses. In recent days, officials of the Transport Corporation have inspected urea production units operat-

ing in the market. Following this, technical experts are considering establishing urea production units within the Transport Corporation itself," the state's Transport Minister, Daya Shankar Singh, mentioned. He further stated that by retreading the tyres used in their buses, the Transport Corporation has significantly reduced expenses. Similarly, the establishment of urea plants for the urea used in BS-6 buses will bring a considerable reduction in economic costs and prove beneficial for the corporation. He mentioned that BS-6 buses, besides being modern, also contribute to minimal pollution. The purchase of BS-6 buses is not only in the interest of the Transport Corporation but also enhances the convenience of passengers, posing no health risk.

# Parents to Move Court Against Quota Due to Reduction in College Seats in Open Category

Mumbai: Parents are once again approaching the Court against the 10 percent reservations in educational institutions and government jobs in the state for socially and educationally backward communities to ensure that Marathas get the benefit of reservation. The reservation decision came into effect on February 26. The parents have decided to challenge the reservation decision as it will reduce 10 percent of seats in the open category. Parents of medical students have taken the initiative for this. The 10 percent reservation will reduce 400 seats in undergraduate courses in



open-category government colleges and 300 seats in private colleges. There are very few seats available for postgraduate courses in medicine. Reservations are going to have a big impact there. Sudha Shenoy, a representative of the parents, said they had no op-

tion but to challenge the decision in court. The state government has invoked a caveat in the high court to prevent a stay on the decision. So our fight won't be easy. We will have to file this petition for the future of the children," Shenoy said.

## A three-year court battle

The Supreme Court had earlier set aside the reservation implemented in 2014 and 2018, holding that the Maratha community was not backward. Parents had to fight for three years against the reservation implemented in 2018.

## 62 percent total reservation

With the enactment of a law to

implement 10 percent reservation for the Maratha community, the reservation given by the state government to various social groups has now increased to 62 percent. It was earlier 52 percent. According to the Supreme Court verdict, reservation has to be implemented within the 50 percent limit. Therefore, the challenge will be to uphold the Maharashtra government's 62 percent reservation on the test of law.

## Financial assistance necessary rather than reservations

"Smart, promising but poor students don't need any reservation.

## PM Modi To Students At 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday advised parents against treating their child's report card as their own visiting card, and suggested that students should compete with themselves and not others. Interacting with students, parents and teachers during his annual "Pariksha Pe Charcha" programme, the prime minister said competition and challenges act as inspirations in life but competition must be healthy. "You must not compare one child with another as that can be detrimental to their future. Some parents treat their children's report card as their visiting card, this is not good," he said. The prime minister explained that the stress on students is of three types---induced by peer pressure, by parents and self induced. "At times children take pressure on themselves that they are not performing up to the mark. I suggest that you should set small goals during preparation and gradually improve your performance, this way you will be completely ready before the exams," he said. Describing students as the shapers of India's future, Modi said the Pariksha Pe Charcha programme is like an examination for him too. Speaking at the seventh episode of his outreach programme with students ahead of examinations, he said students have become more innovative than ever. "Our students will shape our future," Modi said. Organised by the Ministry of Education, Pariksha Pe Charcha has been engaging students, parents and teachers for the past six years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fourth edition was held online, while the fifth and sixth editions returned to the town hall format. A total of 31.24 lakh students, 5.60 lakh teachers and 1.95 lakh parents participated in the previous year's edition. This year, an estimated 2.26 crore registrations have taken place on the MyGov portal, highlighting the widespread enthusiasm among students. This year's event has been held in a town hall format at the Bharat Mandapam here. Two students and a teacher from each state and Union Territory, along with winners of the Kala Utsav, have been invited.

## Body of top Delhi cop's son found in Haryana canal, main accused arrested



The Delhi Police recently found the body of a police officer's son in a canal. Lakshya Chauhan, son of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Yashpal Singh, had been missing since January 22. On January 28, the police also arrested the main accused in the case, Vikas Bharadwaj. Lakshya, who was in his mid-thirties and a practising lawyer, had gone to attend a wedding in Bhiwani in Haryana on January 22 in an SUV with two others, Vikas Bharadwaj, who worked as a clerk in Tis Hazari Court, and Abhishek. However, Lakshya didn't return home, following which the ACP filed a missing person complaint on January 23. A search operation had been started. On January 26, Abhishek, 19, was arrested by the police from Jawahar Camp in Narela in Delhi. During interrogation, he said Vikas had called him on January 22 and asked him to come with him to a wedding function in Sonapat. Vikas told him that Lakshya, who also practices in Tis Hazari Court, had taken a loan from him and misbehaved with him when he asked for the money. They then planned to murder Lakshya, according to the police. Vikas and Abhishek met at Mukarba Chowk on January 22 afternoon and went to Sonapat in Lakshya's car. Abhishek told the police that while they were returning

## Congress yatra enters Bihar today, day after 'betrayal' Nitish Kumar's U-turn



NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): A day after Nitish Kumar's return to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' led by Rahul Gandhi entered Bihar on Monday. This will be Rahul Gandhi's first visit to the state since the assembly poll campaign in 2020. The Bihar leg of the yatra started from Kishanganj, which is a Congress stronghold with a heavy Muslim population. In Kishanganj, Rahul Gandhi is scheduled

to address a public meeting followed by a big rally in the adjoining district of Purnea on Tuesday. A day later, another rally is planned in Katihar. Nitish Kumar, who played an instrumental role in bringing together various Opposition parties that resulted in the formation of the INDIA bloc, was expected to share the stage with Rahul Gandhi during the yatra in the state. RJD supremo Lalu Yadav is likely to take part in the rally either in Purnea or in Katihar on January 31, subject to his availability in view of the Enforcement Directorate summons. CPI(ML)-L general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya has also been invited to the rally in Purnea. The yatra will cover four districts in three days in Bihar, and Rahul Gandhi will leave for West Bengal again on Thursday via Araria district. He will return to Bihar a few days later via Jharkhand. Ending the days-long uncertainty in Bihar, Nitish Kumar on Sunday severed ties with the Mahagadbandhan comprising the RJD and Congress on Saturday as he re-

signed as the Chief Minister. Hours after the resignation, he was sworn in as the Chief Minister for a record ninth time with the support of the BJP and other NDA constituent parties. Targeting Nitish Kumar, Congress leaders condemned his decision to join the NDA and accused him of "betrayal" while maintaining that it would not affect the INDIA bloc. In his latest response, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said it was a "complete betrayal". "Nitish Kumar called a meeting. Eighteen parties were present in Patna. The meeting was held in Bengaluru and Mumbai. Nitish Kumar was present at all the meetings. He didn't give any hint (that he would break ties with the INDIA bloc). It is a matter of regret that he left our hands at the last moment. This is a complete betrayal of trust and the people of Bihar will answer him soon for this (betrayal)," he said. The INDIA bloc was formed by several opposition parties to take on the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

## Adani Group is 'too big to ignore', US brokerage firm notes: 'India needs'

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): Adani Enterprises is the centre of everything India wants to accomplish, US brokerage firm Cantor Fitzgerald said as it gave the group an 'Overweight' rating and a target price of ₹ 4,368 per share while expecting an upside of over 50% on Adani Enterprises shares. Cantor Fitzgerald said that Adani Enterprises' current valuation does not reflect all the parts. A publicly-trading incubator, Adani Enterprises has many business segments that will be demerged, Cantor Fitzgerald noted. "We believe AEL's current valuation is largely driven by three main segments: airports, roads, and its new energy ecosystem, which in our view, means investors are getting a free call option on the rest of AEL's business, which accounted for 85%+ of revenue in FY23 and includes

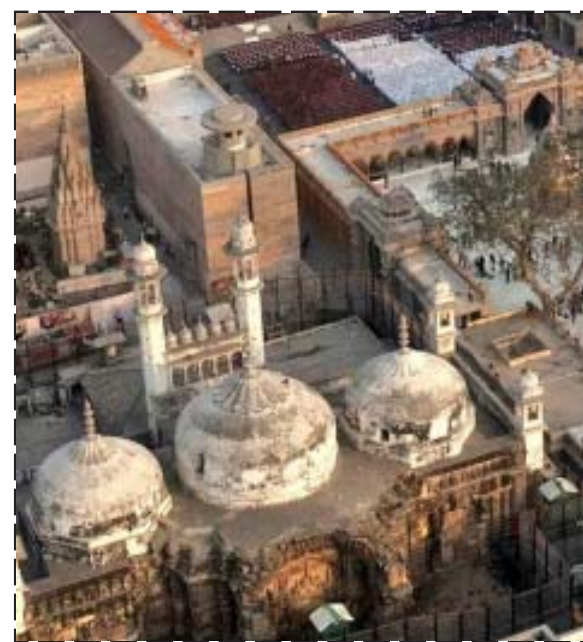
many businesses that are in incubation phase and will materially contribute to financials over the coming years," Cantor Fitzgerald said in a report. Currently, Adani Enterprises owns eight airports, seven of which are operational. Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), which is slated to be completed by year-end, is under development. "This means that shareholders, in our view, are effectively getting the other six businesses for free, which partially explains why we believe shares are attractive at current levels. Our SOTP derived price target would imply a target FY26E EV/EBITDA multiple of 23.5x, which compares to shares currently trading at 13.9x our FY26 EBITDA estimate," the report said, adding, "As we approach FY27E, when Phase 1 of its green hydrogen facility becomes operational, we ex-



pect this will serve as an additional potential catalyst to propel shares higher." On the Hindenburg report, the brokerage firm said that Adani Enterprises has taken actions to reduce liquidity risk, improve governance, and increase transparency so "at this juncture, we believe Adani is too big to ignore, and for India, we believe the country needs Adani as much as Adani needs the country."

## Gyanvapi Case: De-seal Wazukhana Area, Fresh Plea by Hindu Side in Supreme Court

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): The Hindu side on Monday filed an application in the Supreme Court seeking the de-sealing of 'wazukhana' area in the Gyanvapi mosque. The area of 'wazukhana' was sealed in 2022 following an apex court order after discovering what was said to be a 'Shivling'. In its plea, the Hindu asked the top court to allow the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to carry out another comprehensive survey in 'wazukhana' without harming the 'Shivling'. Earlier on Saturday, the VHP claimed the ASI survey report has "reconfirmed" that the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi was constructed after demolishing a "magnificent temple" at the site and demanded that the structure be declared a Hindu temple and handed over to the community. It also demanded that Hindus be permitted to offer "sewa puja" to the 'Shivling' found in the "so-called Wazukhana area" at the disputed site. "The evidence collected and the conclusions provided by the ASI do prove that the religious char-



acter of this place of worship existed on the 15th day of August 1947, and as at present is of a Hindu Temple," VHP working president Alok Kumar said in a statement. "Thus, even as per Section 4 of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, the structure should be declared as a Hindu temple," he also demanded. The VHP also called upon the Intezamia Committee that manages the mosque to agree to "respectfully shift" the Gyanvapi mosque to

another appropriate place and to hand over the original site of Kashi Vishvanatha to the Hindu society. As per ASI's survey report, as many as 55 stone sculptures were found inside the Gyanvapi mosque premises. This included 15 "Shivling", three Lord "Vishnu" sculptures, three of Lord "Ganesh", two "Nandi", two "Krishna" and five "Hanuman" sculptures. The ASI report, as quoted by Indian Express, said that the temple "appears to have been destroyed in the 17th century, during the reign of Aurangzeb and part of it... modified and reused in the existing structure". It was also said that one stone sculpture of "Makara", one "Dwarpala", one "Apasmara Purusha", one "Votive Shrine", 14 "fragments" and seven "miscellaneous stone sculptures" were found by ASI. The survey report noted that 23 terracotta figures were also found, of which two were of gods and goddesses, 18 were human structures and three were of animals. The description of the Hanuman sculpture

