

TWIST IN MEGHALAYA GOVT FORMATION; HSPDP MLAS SUPPORT SANGMA'S NPP, PARTY WITHDRAWS

MEGHALAYA ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2023: ON FRIDAY, CONRAD SANGMA HAD SUBMITTED A LETTER OF SUPPORT SIGNED BY 32 LEGISLATORS—ONE MORE THAN THE REQUIRED 31- AND STAKED A CLAIM TO FORM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT.

The road to forming the next government in Meghalaya doesn't appear smooth for the National Peoples' Party (NPP) as a regional party, two MLAs of which had extended their support to Conrad Sangma, withdrew the same late on Friday evening. On Friday, Sangma had submitted a letter of support signed by 32 legislators—one more than the required 31- and staked a claim to form the next government. The oath-taking ceremony was expected to take place on March 7.

The letter contained the signatures of 26 MLAs from the NPP, two from the BJP, two from the Hill State Peoples Democratic Party (HSPDP) and two Independent MLAs. "We have an absolute majority.

The BJP has already extended its support. Some others have also given their support," Conrad said after submitting the letter. But in a new twist later in the evening, the HSPDP issued a letter claiming it had not authorised the party MLAs to support the formation of an NPP-led government.

"HSPDP didn't authorize the two MLAs-Methodius Dkhar and Shakliar Warjri to lend support to the formation of your government as we have seen through press/media report," HSPDP president KP Pangniang and secretary Panborlang Rynthathiang stated in a letter to Conrad, who is also president of the NPP. "The party (HSPDP) has no role in this affair and therefore withdraws our support to your party....effective from today," the letter, which HT has seen, and a copy of which was also sent to the Governor, read.



'HOW MANY DEMERIT POINTS DID GABBA PITCH GET WHEN MATCH ENDED IN 2 DAYS': SUNIL GAVASKAR SLAMS ICC

Batting great Sunil Gavaskar lashed out at ICC for giving three demerit points to Indore Pitch as it got rated 'poor' after the third Test match was finished on Day 3. Australia dominated India at Holkar Cricket Stadium and registered a clinical 9-wicket victory to bounce back 1-2 in the series with one match left to play. Gavaskar pointed out that last year a match between Australia and South Africa ended in two days but it was not treated the same way.

"One thing I would like to know, there was this Test match in November in Brisbane Gabba, where the match finished in 2 days. How many demerit points did that pitch get and who was the match referee there," Gavaskar lashed out in an interaction with India Today.

Match referee Chris Broad stated that the Holkar Cricket Stadium pitch was favouring spinners from the start and didn't provide fair competition between bat and the ball.

"The pitch, which was very dry, did not provide a balance between bat and ball, favouring spinners from the start. The fifth ball of the throughout the match," Broad said.



WHY THERE ARE LESS WOMEN IN HIGHER JUDICIARY? CJI DY CHANDRACHUD ANSWERS AT ABA CONFERENCE

On February 23, 2023, Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud inaugurated the American Bar Association (ABA) Conference, a three-day international conference on "Law in Age of Globalisation: Convergence of India and the West". During his keynote address, CJI Chandrachud highlighted the importance of inclusivity and diversity in the legal profession. While doing so, he answered a question which has long plagued many- 'Why can't we have more woman judges in higher courts?' He answered the question in the following manner "The state of our institutions in terms of inclusion and diversity reflects the state of the profession two decades ago.

1 WEEK LATER, ONGC ENGINEER STILL MISSING; FATHER SEES FOUL PLAY

"I AM LEAVING THE CITY NOW. I WAS IN MUMBAI FROM FEBRUARY 25. I HAVE NOT GOT ANY SATISFACTORY ANSWERS FROM ANYONE, NOR HAVE THEY BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIS BODY. MY WIFE SIBI IS UNWELL, AND MY MOTHER SHASHMA BABY IS ALSO UNWELL AND HOSPITALISED," SAID REJI VARGHESE, THE FATHER OF THE ENGINEER - ENOS VARGHESE.

"One of our relatives told my mother about the incident which further deteriorated her health. When they called me, they told me that my son jumped into the sea. He was never disturbed. He had spoken to his mother and was to soon return home. However, later we learnt from his friends that he had chatted with them and told them that his life was in danger from another person," said Reji, a retired army personnel who hails from Adoor, Kerala. (HT PHOTO)

The father of the 26-year-old electrical engineer, who went missing from an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) platform last week, suspected foul play in his son's disappearance. "I am leaving the city now. I was in Mumbai from February 25. I have not got any satisfactory answers from anyone nor have they been able to find his body. My wife Sibi is unwell, and my mother Shashma Baby is also unwell and hospitalised," said Reji Varghese, the father of the engineer - Enos Varghese.

Verghe has been missing since February 24. He was working as an electrical engineer with System Protection, a Gujarat-based company, that had deployed its men on the ONGC platforms at Bombay High South (BHS). He had gone to the platform on February 12.

"One of our relatives told my mother about the incident which further deteriorated her health. When they called me, they told me that my son jumped into the sea. He was never disturbed. He had spoken to his mother and was to soon return home. However, later we learnt from his friends that he had

"MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN EVER ABOUT INDIA": BILL GATES AFTER MEET WITH PM

Bill Gates and Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the "innovative work" in India in health sector, climate change, India's G20 presidency and other crucial issues when they met on Friday, the Microsoft co-founder said in his official blog.

New Delhi: Bill Gates and Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the "innovative work" in India in health sector, climate change, India's G20 presidency and other crucial issues when they met on Friday, the Microsoft co-founder said in his official blog.

Sharing the "highlight" on GatesNotes - Mr Gates's official blog, the billionaire philanthropist praised India for its "amazing ability to manufacture lots of safe, effective, and affordable vaccines, some of them supported by the Gates Foundation" and said these vaccines saved millions of lives during the COVID-19 pandemic and prevented other diseases around the world. Besides producing new lifesaving tools, India also excels at delivering them - its public health system has delivered more than 2.2 billion doses of COVID vaccines through an open-source platform in Co-WIN, which allowed people to schedule billions of vaccine appointments and delivered digital certifications for those who were vaccinated, Mr Gates said in the write-up."Prime Minister Modi believes that Co-WIN is a model for the world, and I agree," Mr Gates, who is co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, added.



The Microsoft co-founder also praised India for embracing digital payments during the pandemic. At least 300 million people, including 200 million women, received emergency digital payments, he said.

"This was only possible because India has made financial inclusion a priority, investing in a digital ID system (called

'RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH OF THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS': INDIA SLAMS PAKISTAN AT UNHRC

Seema Pujani said Pakistan is obsessed with India at a time when its citizens battle for their lives, livelihood and freedom.

India has used its right of reply at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to respond to Pakistan on issues of religious minorities and terrorism. "No religious minority can freely live or practice its religion in Pakistan today. The Ahmadiya community continues to be persecuted by the state for simply practising their faith... Pakistan's policies are directly responsible for the death of thousands of civilians around the world," India's representative Seema Pujani slammed her Pakistani counterpart Hina Rabbani Khar.Khar on Thursday had said, "Political expediency has condoned the Hindutva regime to dehumanise the Kashmiri people by falsely equating their legitimate pursuit of rights with the canard of terrorism."

"The Indian occupying authorities have stepped up collective punishment of Kashmiris by demolishing residential homes and terminating land leases to deprive Kashmiris of their livelihoods," she said.

In reply, Pujani, said, "In the last decade, Pakistan's own Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances has received 8,463 complaints. The Baloch people have borne the brunt of this cruel policy. Students, doctors, engineers, teachers and community leaders are regularly disappeared by the state."

ANI @ANI

India's Right of Reply in response to the statement delivered by Pakistan at Human Rights Council, UN, "Pak's representative has once again chosen to misuse august forum for its malicious propaganda against India".

5:24 AM · Mar 4, 2023

1.2K Reply Copy link

Read 14 replies

14-YEAR-OLD DIES BY SUICIDE; FATHER ARRESTED FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING HER



Mumbai: The police arrested a man on Friday for allegedly sexually assaulting his teenage daughter, who died by suicide two days ago. The police learnt about the crime from the suicide note that the girl had left behind.As per the police, the teenager who stayed with her parents and two siblings in Waliv, Vasai East, hanged herself on Wednesday. The girl's mother had gone to the market and on returning home found the girl hanging from the ceiling of their house.

Kailash Barve, senior police inspector of Waliv police station, said that the police were looking for the motive behind the girl's drastic step. However, since the parents were in shock their statements could not be recorded immediately after the incident.

"On Wednesday, we found a suicide note that the girl had written in one of her notebooks, which was in their neighbour's house. The girl's friend gave us the note," added Barve.

MUMBAI POLICE ISSUES PREVENTIVE ORDER FOR CITY, SHARES LIST OF PROHIBITORY ACTS AND EXEMPTIONS

In the order, the Mumbai Police said that the order prohibiting acts will come into effect from March 7 and will remain in place till April 5

Mumbai Police on Friday issued a preventive order for the city. The city police, in the order, said, considering the necessity for the preservation of public peace and public safety in certain acts were being prohibited.

The order said that the following acts throughout the Brihanmumbai area were being prohibited for the period from 07/03/2023 to 05/04/2023.

The police also shared the below list of acts being prohibited-

The Carrying of arms, cudgels, swords, spears, bludgeons, unlicensed guns, knives, sticks or lathis or any other article which is capable of being used for causing physical harm (violence).

- The carrying of any corrosive substance or explosives,
- The carrying, collection and preparation of stones or other missiles or instruments or means of casting or impelling missiles,
- The exhibition of persons or corpses or figures or effigies thereof,
- The public utterance of cries, singing of songs, playing of music,
- Delivery of harangues, the use of gestures or mimetic representations, and the preparation, exhibition or dissemination of pictures, symbols, placards or any other object or thing which may in the opinion of any police officer posted in Mumbai city, offend against decency or morality or undermine the security of or tend to overthrow the state. The order further said that if any person goes armed with any such article or carries any corrosive substance or explosive or missile in contravention of such prohibition, he/she shall be liable to be disarmed or the corrosive substance or explosive or missile shall be liable to be seized from him/ her by any police officer, and the article,