

KARNATAKA ELECTION DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED BY POLL BODY AT 11.30 AM

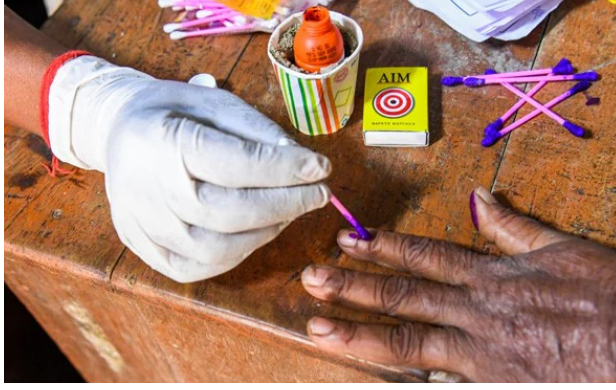
Bengaluru: The Election Commission of India will announce the schedule for the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections today. The poll body will announce the date at 11:30 am.

The term of the 224-member Karnataka Assembly ends on May 24.

The BJP has set a target of winning at least 150 of the total 224 seats in the Assembly that will go for polls in May. Out of the 224 seats in the Karnataka Assembly, the ruling BJP has set a target of winning at least 150. Meanwhile, the Congress and the JD(S) have announced their first lists of 124 and 93 candidates respectively.

In what could be a key poll issue in the state, the Basavaraj Bommai-led Karnataka government last week announced two new categories for reservation in jobs and education. Chief Minister Bommai also scrapped the 4 per cent quota reserved for Other Backward Classes (OBC) Muslims. The 4 per cent reservation will now be distributed among the Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities equally.

The 224-seat-strong Karnataka Assembly currently has 119 MLAs of the BJP, while Congress has 75 and its ally JD(S) has 28 seats. Chief Minister Bommai on Tuesday accused Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar of luring BJP MLAs by offering them tickets to constituencies where the Congress is yet to announce its candidates for the upcoming polls. "KPCC President D K Shivakumar since the last two to three days has been making phone calls to our MLAs in 100 constituencies where they are yet to announce tickets. He is stating that if you (BJP MLAs) come (to Congress) we will give you the ticket," Mr Bommai said, as quoted by news agency PTI.



MAHARASHTRA: 18 PER CENT HIKE IN MUMBAI-PUNE EXPRESSWAY TOLL FROM APRIL 1

TOLL FOR TWO-AXLE TRUCKS WILL INCREASE TO RS 685 FROM THE CURRENT RS 585. FOR BUSES, IT WILL INCREASE TO RS 940 FROM RS 797

The toll for vehicles on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, the first access-controlled road of the country, will increase by 18 per cent from April 1, officials of the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) said.

A senior MSRDC official said on Tuesday that though the toll increases by six per cent annually, it is implemented cumulatively at 18 per cent after every three years, as laid down in a government notification of August 9, 2004.

The new toll will be Rs 320 for four-wheelers like cars and jeeps instead of the current Rs 270, and Rs 495 for vehicles like mini-bus and tempos instead of the current Rs 420, another official said. The toll for two-axle trucks will increase to Rs 685 from the current Rs 585. For buses, it will increase to Rs 940 from Rs 797.

Three-axle trucks will be charged Rs 1,630 instead of Rs 1,380 and multi-axle trucks and machinery vehicles will have to pay Rs 2,165 instead of the current Rs 1,835. The toll would remain the same till 2030 as there would not be any revision after three years in 2026, officials said.

About 95 km long, the six-lane Mumbai-Pune Expressway was fully operationalized in 2002. The toll is collected at five toll plazas, of which ones at Khalapur and Talegaon are the main ones. Around 1.5 lakh vehicles use the Expressway every day.

FAIZAL WAS DISQUALIFIED AFTER A CONVICTION, WHICH WAS LATER SUSPENDED BY THE KERALA HIGH COURT, IN AN ATTEMPT TO MURDER CASE.

Shortly before the Supreme Court was set to hear a petition filed by Lakshadweep MP P P Mohammed Faizal challenging his disqualification from Parliament, his membership to Lok Sabha was restored on Wednesday, Bar and Bench reported. Faizal was disqualified from Lok Sabha on January 13, 2023, after he and three others were sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 1 lakh each by a sessions court in Kavaratti for attempting to murder Mohammed Salih, son-in-law of the late Union Minister P M Sayeed, during the 2009 Lok Sabha elections.

On January 25, however, the Kerala HC suspended the conviction and 10-year sentence given to Faizal. In his plea, Faizal called the Lok Sabha Secretariat's action as "unlawful" as it failed to withdraw its disqualification notice, more than two months after the Kerala High Court stayed the MP's conviction. The MP had said, "The swiftness in disqualifying me after the Sessions Court verdict has been missing in the withdrawal of the notification after the Kerala High Court stayed the conviction. The Lok Sabha Secretariat's decision is arbitrary and a violation of my constitutional rights."



IN HOSHIARPUR, AMRITPAL SINGH, PAPALPREET SINGH ESCAPE PUNJAB POLICE AGAIN

AMRITPAL SINGH AND HIS MENTOR PAPALPREET SINGH REPORTEDLY ONCE AGAIN DODGED THE PUNJAB POLICE AFTER A MASSIVE SEARCH OPERATION WAS LAUNCHED IN A HOSHIARPUR VILLAGE TO ARREST THEM.

Pro-Khalistani leader Amritpal Singh and his mentor Papalpreet Singh reportedly once again dodged the Punjab Police after a massive search operation was launched in a Hoshiarpur village late on Tuesday night to arrest them. The police were chasing a white coloured Innova car (PB-10 CK0527) from Phagwara after they suspected that fugitive Amritpal and his aide could be travelling in that vehicle. The car ran past a police checkpost before stopping at a gurdwara in Mehtiana. The occupants of the vehicle abandoned the car near Gurdwara Bhai Chanchal Singh in Marnaia village and fled, officials, told news agency PTI.

The police, however, detained two of his aides in the search operation. The detained persons were following the Innova car. The village has been cordoned off and a search operation has been launched, while checkposts and barricades have been raised on the roads to nab the suspects. The 'Waris Punjab De' remains at large since a police crackdown against him and the members of the outfit on March 18, about three weeks after he and his supporters stormed into the Ajnala police station near Amritsar to secure the release of an arrested man. The preacher escaped the police dragnet in Jalandhar district on March 18, switching vehicles and changing appearances.



Amritpal and his associates have been booked under several criminal cases related to spreading disharmony among classes, attempting to murder, attack police personnel and creating obstructions in the lawful discharge of duty by public servants.

A new video of Amritpal Singh with his key aide Papalpreet Singh surfaced on social media on Tuesday, showing the pro-Khalistan preacher without a turban and wearing a mask. The updated CCTV camera footage said to be from a market in Delhi, showed the fugitive walking down streetwear.

BIHAR BOARD 10TH RESULT 2023 LIVE: BSEB MATRIC RESULT TODAY?

AN OFFICIAL UPDATE ON THE DATE AND TIME FOR THE RESULTS OF THE MATRIC OR CLASS 10 FINAL EXAM CONDUCTED BY THE BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD (BSEB) IS EXPECTED SOON. BSEB WILL ANNOUNCE THIS INFORMATION ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER. BSEB MATRIC RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS SOON. AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE RESULT LINK WILL BE ACTIVATED ON THE BOARD WEBSITE. IF STUDENTS ARE UNABLE TO CHECK THEIR RESULTS ON THE BOARD'S PORTAL, THEY CAN USE THE HT PORTAL LINK BELOW TO VIEW THEIR SCORES.

IN ORDER TO VIEW BIHAR BOARD MATRIC RESULTS, STUDENTS HAVE TO USE THEIR ROLL CODE AND ROLL NUMBERS. THESE DETAILS ARE MENTIONED ON ADMIT CARDS. WHEN ANNOUNCED, STUDENTS CAN CHECK BIHAR BSEB MATRIC RESULT DATE AND TIME HERE. IF THERE IS ANY ERROR ON ONLINE MARKS SHEETS, CANDIDATES SHOULD INFORM THEIR SCHOOLS. HOWEVER, THE HARD COPIES OF MARKS SHEETS, WHICH THEY HAVE TO COLLECT FROM SCHOOLS, WILL BE TREATED AS FINAL AND CAN BE USED FOR ADMISSION, ETC. STUDENT'S WAITING FOR BSEB MATRIC RESULT CAN PRE-REGISTER ON THE HT PORTAL. THEY WILL RECEIVE SMS ALERT WHEN RESULT IS DECLARED. TO ENSURE AUTHENTICITY, BSEB CONDUCTS VERIFICATION OF BOARD EXAM TOPPERS. THEIR ANSWER SHEETS. .

MUMBAI CRIME: 'MOLESTED, THEN FORCED TO LEAVE BANDRA PUB'

BANGALORE WOMAN PARTYING AT 145 CAFE & BAR AT PALI HILL ALLEGES BOUNCER IGNORED HER COMPLAINT, WHILE MANAGEMENT WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND

A woman from Bangalore, who was in Mumbai for her friend's engagement party, has alleged that she was molested at 145 cafe and bar in Bandra West and the management took no action against the man at the time. Instead, she was asked to leave the pub, the 30-year-old digital illustrator said. The incident happened at the Pali Hill joint in Bandra West, on Saturday night and was captured on a CCTV camera. She posted the footage on Instagram the next day, seeking help to identify the man or his friends. Speaking to mid-day, she said, "I was in Mumbai with my family to attend my friend's engagement ceremony. After the ceremony, we went to 145 Bandra. We were dancing when a man, taking advantage of the crowd, moved close to me and groped me from behind." "I caught his hand, turned around and slapped him. As I confronted him, a few of his friends apologised to me, but the others tried protecting him and asked me to calm down," she added.



"All this while, the management at 145 cafes and bar was missing. I informed a bouncer and demanded that he take action against the molester, but he didn't. At first, we were asked to move away from the area and eventually told to leave, whereas his friends were allowed to stay," she said. Before leaving, the woman said she asked the bouncer for the CCTV footage, which the management sent her the next day and offered an apology as well. She said, "They offered to help me and I appreciate it. However, my problem is with the fact that the incident wasn't dealt with any urgency or protocol on the day it happened. A place like 145 can't get away with a wishy-washy approach to someone being groped."

She did not inform the Mumbai police, as she had a flight back home in Bangalore early Sunday morning. "I have asked the cafe to find out his details, which I plan to send to the Mumbai police. I want the accused arrested," she said, adding that she tagged the Mumbai police in the post on Tuesday.

"We helped the woman and also provided CCTV footage. We are also trying to find the person through bill records. One team is working just on this and has been in touch with the woman. While it is an individual's decision to file a police complaint, we have bouncers at the cafe for the safety of visitors," the management of 145 told mid-day. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 9) Anil Paraskar said, "We are looking into this matter."

MUMBAI: HOURS BEFORE DISCHARGE, MAN JUMPS TO DEATH FROM NAIR HOSPITAL'S 2ND FLOOR

Deceased, a Sindhudurg resident, had successfully undergone angioplasty



After undergoing treatment for a cardiac issue, a 40-year-old inexplicably jumped from the second floor of civic-run Nair hospital's OPD building on Tuesday morning, ending his life. According to hospital officials, he was due to get discharged on the same day. The deceased, Avinash Sawant, a resident of Panchsheel Nagar, Sindhudurg, was admitted to the hospital on March 1.

On the condition of anonymity, a senior hospital official said, "On March 8, he was shifted to the cardiology department. The angiography was done and his report revealed that he had a blockage. Doctors then decided to perform an angioplasty. Sawant underwent the procedure three days ago and doctors decided to discharge him on Tuesday. Unfortunately, we were informed by the staff that the patient died by suicide by jumping from the toilet window. He succumbed to his injuries at the spot." "On the condition of anonymity, a staff member said, "The patient was admitted to the high dependency unit (HDU) of the cardiology department in the OPD building. Around 8.30 am, he went to the toilet and opened the window. Another patient's relatives who happened to be there found his behaviour odd and they alerted the staff. But the patient jumped and he was found lying in a pool of blood. The staff immediately took him to the casualty room but he was no more."

According to the Agridada police station, the patient didn't leave behind a suicide note and no one had any idea about his intentions. As per protocol, his body was sent for a post-mortem. A person known to the deceased, who did not wish to be named, told mid-day, "He had been ill since December. The family brought him here from the Konkan for treatment. He was treated for the illness and was on the verge of getting discharged. He may have been depressed due to a long illness. We never thought that he would take such a step." Dr Pravin Rathi, dean, Nair hospital, said, "It is a very unfortunate incident. We will make sure such an incident doesn't take place again on our premises."

FAMILY FIRST TOLD OF SHIPPIE SON'S 'DEATH', THEN GET RANSOM MESSAGES

The family first told of shipping son's 'death', then get ransom messages



A 22-year-old merchant navy oiler from Mulund mysteriously disappeared from a vessel in Malaysia five months ago. The agent, who promised him a job, claimed that he had died in an accident on the vessel. But soon after, the oiler's sister received WhatsApp messages seeking ransom for his release. After his family's efforts, the Royal Malaysian police are looking for him. The Mulund police recently registered a case of cheating against the agent, whom the family found to be dubious. Manikandan Udiyar had gone to Kapit, Malaysia, to be employed as an oiler on a vessel. But he was apparently asked to work on a temporary basis till he paid a pending amount promised to his agent. His family has had no communication with him since October 15, 2022. The agent claimed that he had died in an accident on the ship. An FIR has been registered against the agent for cheating Udiyar and his family by accepting Rs 1.95 lakh. The police said the agent is in Malaysia. Udiyar, a resident of Mulund West, completed the Merchant Navy course from Pune in 2020 and was employed at Dubai. But he lost his job during the Covid-19 lockdown and came back to Mulund in July 2021. He then got the contact of a Kolhapur-based agent named Rehan Ramjan Pathan through his colleague Pratap Jadhav, who said he could help them get employed on a ship in Malaysia. Udiyar contacted Pathan who told him to pay Rs 2.50 lakh for the job. The final amount was settled at Rs 2.20 lakh. Jadhav had told Udiyar that he was also going to Malaysia through this agent. A highly placed source in the Directorate General of Shipping said, "There are registered people who can send people overseas for jobs. But in this case the person and the docume.

MUMBAI: BANDRA RESIDENTS TO ATTEND PARKING LOTS' PRE-BID MEET

As local residents and activists intensified opposition to underground parking lot under open space, civic body takes cognisance and assures a fair hearing



The BMC's traffic department has expressed willingness to hear out residents and activists who have been vocal in their opposition to a plan for a parking lot beneath a part of Patwardhan Park in Bandra West. In a letter to residents on Tuesday evening, the BMC promised to meet with them. However, the venue, date and time are yet to be fixed. There is a pre-bid meeting regarding three underground parking lots, including the one at the park, on March 31 and residents plan to attend it to get a clear picture. Since March 20, many residents have sent emails to the traffic division of the roads department raising objections as it had floated a tender for the construction of a three-storey parking lot under a portion of Patwardhan Park.

On March 28, at 6.11 pm, a few residents received a three-line reply from the deputy chief engineer of traffic. It stated, "With respect to your mail regarding the construction of underground parking at part of Patwardhan Park, this is to inform you that your suggestions/objections will be heard by this office. You will be informed about the date, time and venue shortly." Various BMC departments are busy preparing for the G20 meet this week.

WON'T BOW DOWN...: PM MODI ATTACKS OPPOSITION PARTIES, SAYS ALL THOSE DEEP IN CORRUPTION...

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON TUESDAY INAUGURATED THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BJP CENTRAL OFFICE (EXT.) IN DELHI. SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURAL EVENT, HE CALLED THE BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY THE "MOST FUTURISTIC PARTY OF INDIA" AND RECALLED THE "TIRELESS AND CONTINUOUS JOURNEY" OF GOING FROM 2 TO 303 LOK SABHA SEATS. HE ALSO LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON CONGRESS BY RAKING UP THE ISSUES OF THE 1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS, EMERGENCY, AND CORRUPTION. "THE COUNTRY CAN NEVER FORGET THAT BLACK CHAPTER OF 1984. CONGRESS GOT A HISTORIC MANDATE IN THOSE ELECTIONS, IT WAS AN EMOTIONALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE. WE WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED IN THAT WAVE, BUT WE WERE NOT DEMORALIZED AND DIDN'T BLAME OTHERS."