



NOT FATEHPUR SIKRI, WILL CONTEST ONLY FROM MATHURA, SAYS BJP'S HEMA MALINI

VARUN GANDHI MAY BE PLANNING TO SHIFT TO HIS MOM MANEKA'S TRADITIONAL SEAT PILIBHIT

Nirav invested scam funds in US firm he bought in 2010

ED: He Used Shell Cos To Divert ₹327cr

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AMERICAN DREAM? Nirav Modi

Mumbai: Fugitive diamondaire Nirav Modi had purchased one of America's oldest jewellery companies — Bailey Bank & Biddle — in 2010 and invested around Rs 327 crore of the money from the Punjab National Bank fraud into the company, says the supplementary chargesheet filed by Enforcement Directorate (ED).

ED officials said Nirav purchased Bailey Bank & Biddle through a shell company and his brother Nehal was made one of the directors in the jewellery retailer. They said all the instructions related to the running of the company were issued by Nirav himself. ED submitted related

details to the court as part of the chargesheet and attached statement of an expert who carried out due diligence and helped Nirav in the purchase. ED also attached email communication on transfer of funds between Nirav and his aides from a 'secret server'.

The firm's website says that it was founded in 1832. "On September 10, 1832, Bailey & Kitchen, the name of Bailey, Banks & Biddle at the time, was founded by Joseph Trow-

UK sought intel on Nirav only in June: ED

The ED has denied reports that UK Serious Fraud Office (SFO) had communicated to Indian authorities about Nirav Modi's presence in the country in March last year and said the extradition request was sent by the agency only in July after filing of a chargesheet against him. The Interpol had issued a red notice against Nirav around that time. "In June, the National Central Bureau of UK, which is the nodal agency for matters relating to Red Corner Notice, had asked ED to provide them with intelligence suggesting that Nirav Modi is in UK," the agency said. No such formal or informal communication was received by ED from UK authorities in March, 2018 or later, the officer added. The consistent stand of the UK government regarding execution of arrest warrant is that it can be done only through an extradition request for which filing of chargesheet is mandatory. The extradition request cannot be sent at the stage of investigation. **TNN**

bridge Bailey and Andrew Kitchen in Philadelphia. This founding date makes us the oldest nation-wide jeweler in America," it says.

The website says that Bailey & Co was commissioned to create a mortuary medal after President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865. In 1878, Bailey and Co changed its name to Bailey Banks & Biddle.

Officials said that they are yet to trace the money source

that Nirav used to purchase the company but unearthed investment of \$47 million (Rs 327 crore) into it which is layered through a series of transactions. ED officials examined bank statements of several shell companies in Barbados, Dubai and Hong Kong and traced the flow of funds into several accounts. The total attachment and seizure of movable and immovable properties in the case are to the tune of Rs 2,362 crore, ED said.

J&K polls: Spl observers' visit 'at the earliest'

New Delhi: The three special observers for J&K appointed by the Election Commission — former bureaucrats Noor Mohammad, A S Gill and Vinod Zutshi — will be visiting the state "at the earliest" to make an independent assessment of the security situation there and report back to EC on whether it is conducive for holding assembly polls.

Though EC didn't announce state polls in J&K along with the Lok Sabha schedule, it is seen to hold the assembly polls there at the earliest. EC sources hinted that the options include holding the assembly election either before or soon after the LS poll is over. A lot will depend on how the security situation is in the coming days, as political parties and candidates get on with their Lok Sabha campaign. **TNN**

Asthana threatened to make my life hell in India: Michel

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New Delhi: British national Christian Michel, an accused in the Agusta Westland chopper deal case, on Tuesday claimed before a special court that he met Rakesh Asthana in May, 2016, in Dubai when he was warned that his life would be made hell in India. Michel spoke directly to the special judge, presumably making the claim about the former CBI director.

Michel further told special judge Arvind Kumar that inmates of "Islamic origin", maximum of whom were murderers, were put in the high security Jail No. 1 of Tihar jail, where he was lodged. Sensing a conspiracy, he said one of the inmates even

claimed to have killed nine people. "In May 2016 in Dubai, warned by Rakesh Asthana that my life would be made hell... I don't understand why I am being treated so roughly. Jail No. 1 is the toughest. I haven't had a European breakfast. There are no books or newspapers. I want to go to Jail No. 7. There's not a single murderer there. Here I've already met 27 murderers and one of them told me that he's committed nine murders," Michel told the court.

He was produced from Tihar jail on court's directions and after his lawyers Aljo K Joseph and Vishnu Shankar filed a plea, urging the court to pass direction to move Michel from the high security

cell to a normal cell. Upon his production from jail on Tuesday, Michel expressed displeasure over being kept in the same jail as 16 or 17 Kashmiri separatists.

Special ED prosecutor NK Matta and advocate Manu Mishra contested Michel's claims and argued that he was trying to hamper the investigation by filing such a plea.

Meanwhile, on ED's plea seeking Michel's interrogation, judge Kumar allowed it to quiz him for four hours on Wednesday and Thursday. Michel, seeking to be shifted back to Jail No. 7, said: The jail authority was directed to file a report and submit CCTV footage of the last five days.



Disenchantment has hit sections that growth left behind: Rajan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Former Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan has blamed the shrinking of communities for disenchantment among certain sections of societies, such as the mid-West in the US, and for uprisings like the Yellow Vest movement in France.

Rajan said markets have become global and governments have followed but communities have been left behind. He said that developments in information and communications technology have increased the power of education and expanded reach. This has resulted in successful people moving to the richest neighbourhood they can afford, leading to disenchantment in the neighbourhoods they leave behind.

The former RBI governor was delivering his acceptance speech here after receiving the Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018 for outstanding contribution to national integration, democratic values and social and economic development of India. In his speech, Rajan shared thoughts from his next book, "The Third Pillar: How the State and Markets are Leaving Communities Behind".

Rajan said technology was helping complement physical connections and bringing people together for low-level engagement. Technology, however, was also destroying communities with workers in Europe returning to villages after their factories shut. "This is similar to what happened with the Mumbai textile mills," he said.

Technology has also made it possible to access a much larger market, he said, adding that when the community is dysfunctional, populist nationalism offers one a vision of a larger imagined community. The solution, Rajan said, is that countries need to think about how they can remain open.

Know identity of downed F-16's pilot: Sitharaman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Indian military knows the identity of the Pakistani pilot whose F-16 was shot down by Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman's MiG-21 "Bison" on February 27, defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Tuesday. But she refused to give any more details.

She said Pakistan would not admit having lost the F-16 or its pilot, much like it did not acknowledge the "sacrifices" of its regular soldiers during the Kargil conflict. The F-16 pilot was beaten up by local villagers in Pakistan, and probably died in a hospital, said Sitharaman, adding that "Pakistan lives in a state of denial."

As for Wing Commander Abhinandan, who suffered acute mental harassment in Pakistan army's custody, Sitharaman said, "His josh is high. He is extremely cool headed after what he has gone through. He said he just did his duty and is trained for such situations. He bore no malice against Pakistan."

We arrested Azhar, but BJP freed him, says Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday saying Congress had arrested Masood Azhar, who later founded the terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed while BJP released him, the opposition party put out a 2010 interview of national security advisor Ajit Doval in which he had said releasing Azhar was a "political decision".

Congress cited extracts from the interview to claim Doval "blamed" the BJP-led government for Azhar's release in the Kandahar swap following the hijack of Indian Airlines flight IC-814.

"Modi government's NSA Ajit Doval 'spills the beans'. Doval said (in the interview) 'releasing Masood Azhar was a political decision'," Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said on Twitter. In the same interview, Doval had al-

so said he did not agree with the decision to release Azhar.

Congress's attack came a day after BJP latched on to Rahul's reference to the JeM chief as "Masood Azhar ji". The party accused BJP of doublespeak and put out a video of Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad referring to JeM chief Hafiz Saeed as "Hafiz ji" during a press conference. It also challenged Modi and his ministers to admit to being "anti-national" for freeing a dreaded terrorist.

Congress also sought to take credit for Doval's statement in the 2010 interview that the UPA, after coming to power in 2004, put in place a "no concessions" policy on hijacking. Tipping his hat to Doval for acknowledging the "real nationalistic policy of Congress-UPA to tackle terror", Surjewala asked Modi why the BJP government "did not show the same guts".



Stir spreads, TN asks CBI to probe gang that raped & filmed women

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai/Coimbatore: As protests broke out across Tamil Nadu demanding action against the Pollachi sexual predators who targeted scores of women with impunity until a 19-year-old college girl's complaint, the AIADMK government accused by opposition of shielding the culprits, is moving to transfer the case to CBI.

A government official said "The director general of police has begun the process of transferring the case

to CBI. The central agency has been reached out too."

Police officers close to the investigation said they were finding it difficult to get other women to come forward to file a complaint. The four arrested are suspected to be part of a larger gang that preyed on college students, working women and housewives in and around Pollachi since 2012 by befriending them on social media and then shooting videos of them and blackmailing them for sex and money.

On Tuesday, DMK leader Kanimozhi courted arrest in Pollachi along with party workers and allies MDMK and VCK demanding action against the culprits.

AIADMK, meanwhile, filed cases saying it was being maligne.

The party had earlier sacked one of its party leaders in Pollachi, A Nagaraj who had attacked the college girl's brother for beating up the men who assaulted her. The college student had confided in her brother after she was assaulted.

Twitter will face action under IT Act for evading norms: Govt

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New Delhi: Twitter has been "warned and asked to comply with the provisions under the Indian IT Act. Otherwise, it will face action under Section 69A of the IT Act. A notice has been sent in this regard", senior government officials, on condition of anonymity, told TOI. Section 69A of the IT Act gives powers to the government to seek the blocking of content or accounts which carry information that is seen as detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of the country, or has the potential to create public disorder. The Act says that any intermediary (internet platform) who fails to comply with the direction "shall be punished with an im-

prisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine".

A detailed questionnaire sent to Twitter officials on the matter remained unanswered at the time of going to print. As the country approaches national elections, the government has asked social-media and internet giants such as Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp to ensure that their platforms are not used to undermine or influence the political process.

The issue has also been flagged by IT and law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who has warned of strict action against any internet company whose platform is misused for spreading fake news and other kinds of misinformation. *Full report on www.toi.in*

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