



Congress Punjab in-charge seeks report into face-off between Amarinder, Sidhu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE & PTI CHANDIGARH, MAY 21

THE CONGRESS in-charge for Punjab, Asha Kumari, Tuesday sought a report from the party's state unit over the war of words between Capt Amarinder Singh and his cabinet colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu, even as more party leaders backed the chief minister and several sought the cricketer-turned-politician's resignation. Sidhu is under fire from his own party leaders after he questioned during electioneering in Bathinda why no FIR was lodged against the Badals, who headed the previous state government, for the desecration of religious texts in 2015.

"We seek a report on every event and in this issue too a report has been sought from the PCC (state Congress committee)," Kumari said.

She said state party chief Sunil Jakhar, who is seeking re-election from Gurdaspur, will give the report once he is free from the election process after the declaration of the results.

Amarinder on Sunday had accused Sidhu of "damaging" the Congress in the state and suggested that maybe he harboured ambition of becoming the chief minister.

Meanwhile, more Congress leaders came out in support of the Punjab CM.

"Amarinder Singh is an undisputed leader of Punjab. There are many facets to his personality," said former Union Minister and Congress leader Manish Tewari. He praised Amarinder as a "protector of Punjab's waters", a writer, an able administrator who has a mass appeal.

"People need to learn and grow," he added, in a veiled attack at Sidhu. He said nothing could be more laughable if anyone compared himself to "Captain Sahib".

Chairman of the Punjab Congress Election Managing Committee, Laal Singh said Sidhu's statements were ill timed and ill advised and have the potential of sabotaging the party's 'Mission 13'. He said, if the party misses the mark, it will be entirely for the statements made by Sidhu.

In a statement, Laal Singh said, Sidhu was in the Congress for just 27 months and had been accorded "all the privileges, honour and respect". Laal Singh pointed out that the former BJP



MP was instantly offered the party ticket and then made a minister. Besides, he was assigned the task of campaigning for the party across the country. "All these things come with a sense of responsibility, which Sidhu should have honoured and acknowledged," he said, adding, if he had any such issues, he could have raised these at different party forums or he could have taken these up with the party high command.

Laal Singh also said that Navjot Sidhu was wrong in joining his wife, Dr Navjot Kaur Sidhu, in blaming the Punjab CM for denial of Lok Sabha ticket.

Jails Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa too hit out at his cabinet colleague saying, "Making such a statement during elections meant directly helping the Badals."

Randhawa said that the Local Bodies Minister should know that "in the 2017 assembly polls, the Congress came to power in Punjab with an overwhelming majority as people voted in Amarinder Singh's name".

"The party high command is with the chief minister. Our party has never tolerated indiscipline," Randhawa said, adding that Sidhu should know that the state government had set up a special investigation team (SIT) over the desecration issue. "Does Sidhu not know that action is being taken and some people have already been arrested. Is he ignorant of these facts," he said.

Randhawa alleged that when Sidhu's wife was a BJP MLA, she never spoke a word on the issue.

Food Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu and Industries Minister Sham Sunder Arora, in separate statements, said Sidhu should resign as his outburst may affect party's prospects.

Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, who is BJP's Lok Sabha candidate from Amritsar, also took a jibe at the Congress, saying, "All along the campaign, one could sense unease in their ranks."

"Now the cat is out of the bag," he tweeted, adding that Sidhu was under attack from his own cabinet colleagues.

Punjab minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot had Monday asked Sidhu to resign from the state cabinet if he could not work with Amarinder Singh.

PDA comes out in support of Sidhu, Khaira asks him to quit ministerial berth

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA CHANDIGARH, MAY 21

PUNJAB EKTA Party (PEP) president, Sukhpal Singh Khaira and Lok Insaaf Party (LIP) president, Simarjeet Singh Bains, Tuesday said Navjot Singh Sidhu, who is engaged in a war of words with Chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh, should quit his cabinet

ambitions to be the CM.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Khaira said that he appreciates Sidhu for having raised the issue during a political rally held in Bathinda ahead of the May 19 polling in the state. "This is a testing time for Sidhu because he has taken on the feudal families of Punjab who need to be exposed. If need be, Sidhu should quit his cabinet berth in order to force the Chief Minister to act against the guilty," he said.

Khaira said Badals have not been booked in any case by the state government. "This is because the SAD-BJP government, in its dying days, had given a clean chit to Amarinder in the Amritsar Improvement Trust case and Ludhiana City Centre scam," he alleged.

Bains said Congress president Rahul Gandhi needs to intervene and remove Amarinder as the CM to save Congress in the state.

"All those Congressmen who are jumping to defend Amarinder are doing so because they are indulging in corruption. I have proof against people at very top and will reveal it after May 23," he said.

Bains added that though it was an internal matter of Congress yet the party will crumble in Punjab too, like the rest of the country, if it did not act in time.



PDA leader Sukhpal Khaira in Bathinda. Gurmeet Singh

Haryana: At strategy meeting, Khattar asks MLAs to give inputs for Assembly polls manifesto

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, MAY 21

IN VIEW of the upcoming Assembly polls in Haryana, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Tuesday asked all the MLAs of BJP to come up with suggestions to be included in party's manifesto (Sankalp Patra) ahead of the Vidhan Sabha polls, scheduled in October this year.

The party shall also be constituting a committee headed



CM Manohar Lal Khattar

by Khattar himself for drafting the manifesto.

Addressing a meeting of all the MLAs of the party, Khattar also took their feedback on the voting in Lok Sabha polls on all 10 parliamentary constituencies across the state.

MLAs had been called for the meeting at CM's residence, here this evening. Khattar and BJP's state president Subhash Barala chaired the MLAs meeting called for formulating strategy on the upcoming vidhan sabha polls in the state.

In the meeting, chief minister Khattar also asked MLAs on

the progress of development works going on in each and every Assembly constituency across Haryana.

The MLAs also looked confident about BJP's victory in the Lok Sabha polls.

"We are excited about the counting on May 23. The party is all set for celebrating our victory. All the MLAs shall remain in their respective constituencies, while Chief Minister shall either be in Rohtak or Chandigarh," Subhash Barala said.

stituency, where 549 tender votes were reported in Kharar assembly constituency and 20 in SAS Nagar assembly segment.

They were followed by Amritsar LS with 61 tender votes including 20 each from Attari, Amritsar East and Majitha assembly segments and 1 from Amritsar South. Twenty such cases reported from Fatehgarh Sahib LS, 5 from Bathinda and 3 from Sangrur, 2 each from Jalandhar and Faridkot, 1 each from Khadoor Sahib, Hoshiarpur, Firozpur and Patiala.

The Election Commission website states that if a regis-

tered elector, after signing or putting their thumb impression on the Register of Voters, "decides not to record his/her vote, he/she shall not be forced to...A remark to the effect...shall be made in the remarks column against the entry relating to him/her in the Register of Voters by the presiding officer...under Rule 49 O of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961..."

Electors who do not wish to vote also have the option of pressing the None Of The Above (NOTA) on the EVM.

Data sourced from the CEO office shows that Gurdaspur Lok Sabha Constituency has

BJP mulls action against Cong LS candidate's father — a BJP MLA — for missing Modi rally

DHARMENDRA JOSHI SHIMLA, MAY 21

THE BJP's Himachal Pradesh unit may soon take action against its Mandi MLA for not attending a rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi held in the assembly segment earlier this month, a party leader said.

During the Lok Sabha election campaign, Modi had addressed a rally at Paddal Maidan in Mandi on May 10 in support of sitting BJP MP Ram Swaroop Sharma. The local MLA, Anil Sharma, whose son, Aashray, was fielded by the Congress opposite Ram Swaroop, gave the rally a miss.

Disciplinary action will definitely be taken against Anil Sharma after talking to the party high command, state BJP president Satpal Singh Satti said. "As far as his membership of



Anil Sharma

the legislative assembly is concerned, legal opinion will be taken on that and action may be taken against him through Speaker Rajeev Bindal. Being the leader of the House, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur will decide in what manner action will be initiated against the MLA," Satti said.

"However, as far as the party is concerned, being a legislator, Anil Sharma is a member of the

No EVMs replaced, tampered with: Fatehabad admin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, MAY 21

DISTRICT AUTHORITIES in Fatehabad have dismissed allegations of alleged tampering/replacing EVMs that had cropped up in the district of Haryana on May 14.

A truck full of steel boxes that had entered the Bhoria Khera college in Fatehabad district where a strongroom is located was intercepted by Congress workers. While Congress alleged the boxes carried EVMs that had to be replaced with those in the strongroom, district administration

JALANDHAR

BSP workers keep 24-hr watch on strongrooms

ANJU AGNIHOTRICHABA JALANDHAR MAY 21

WITH SAFETY of the electronic voting machines kept inside strongrooms in focus, BSP workers in Punjab's Jalandhar (Reserved) seat have been camping round the clock outside the premises of the district's land record office to guard the EVMs. This while workers from other political parties have only been making rounds to the spot.

In Jalandhar, EVM and VVTA machines have been deposited at the office of the Director Land Records, Government Sports School and the State Patwar School, both located at the premises of land record office.

The administration has deployed 900 security personnel, including Paramilitary, Punjab Armed Police (PAP) and Punjab Police to guard these machines.

"The forces may be guarding the strong rooms but still nothing is free from the control of the state.



Labourers carry EVM machines to a strong room at Ghannati near Shimla, Monday. File

So our supporters are there to keep a check on every activity," said Balwinder Kumar, BSP candidate, who is contesting as part of the PDA. He added that at a time five to six party workers sit outside the strongroom to keep a vigil.

Sitting Congress MP and Congress candidate Chaudhary Santokh Singh, who visited the lo-

cal BJP's state executive. We will discuss in our disciplinary committee his removal from the state executive for not attending our topmost leader Narendra Modi's rally held in his home constituency," he added.

Aashray, who was eyeing BJP ticket from Mandi, joined Congress after BJP decided to renominate Ram Swaroop.

After Aashray's candidature was announced by Congress, Anil Sharma resigned as state power minister due to constant attack from within BJP and uneasy equation with Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. He had told the BJP he would neither campaign for the party candidate, nor for his son.

The Mandi Lok Sabha constituency is very important for the BJP as it is Thakur's home district.

Polling was held in Mandi on May 19 and it recorded a voter turnout of 73.39 per cent.

satisfied with our reply. Since we did not want any misunderstanding, thus we sent the empty boxes back and deferred bringing them again till the counting concludes."

He added: "The EVMs were kept in safe custody in the strongroom set up in Chaudhary Maniram Godara Women College in Bhoria Khera. The strongroom is guarded round-the-clock in a three-tier security cordon. Representatives of political parties are also guarding the strongroom...On May 14, around 4.30 pm, we had received information that a truck loaded with empty steel boxes reached the college."

EVM MOVEMENT

Reserve machines, not used at all, clarifies EC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, MAY 21

COMMENTING ON a purported video clip claiming EVM machines were being transported in Phagwara outside polling centre on May 19, Chief Electoral Officer Punjab S Karuna Raju has clarified that these were reserve machines and that "nothing wrong or out of rules" had happened.

Raju said it was being reported that a man on voting day was moving near Senior Secondary School Bhanoke carrying EVMs.

"It was ascertained after investigations that this man was one Balwinder Kumar of BDPO office Phagwara who had been appointed incharge of Sector 4 by Returning Officer Hoshiarpur and he had 9 Polling stations under him," he said.

He further said that Balwinder Kumar had been given provided two complete sets of EVMs in a GPS fitted car to exchange the machines in case of any discrepancy during voting at any of these nine booths. A videographer Manish Kumar was also present in the car carrying EVMs, he added.

Raju said that to allay all apprehensions, those present at site were taken to dispatch centre at Guru Nanak College and they were shown that on those machines it was clearly mentioned that those were reserve machines and had not been used at all.

Outer security cover to the counting centres/strongrooms of each Assembly segment was being provided by 450 employees of the Punjab Police, while second layer of security around the counting centres/strongrooms was being provided by one platoon of the Punjab Armed Police for each assembly segment, he added.

According to Kumar, inner security cover to strongrooms and counting centres was being provided by one platoon each of paramilitary. CCTV cameras have also been installed for e-surveillance of these centres round the clock.

Meanwhile, a polling day video of an EVM went viral on social media in which it was shown that an EVM was being transported in Phagwara by an officer on election duty. But after an inquiry by the CEO Punjab, it was found that there was no illegal transportation of any EVM, rather it was an extra EVM, which are given to the polling staff in case of any glitch in the EVM, which was being taken for deposit purpose.

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669 cases of voter impersonation recorded across Punjab

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA JALANDHAR, MAY 21

THIS LOK Sabha election, 669 cases of voter impersonation were recorded across Punjab, while 153 others opted to exercise their right to refuse to vote under Rule 49 O of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961.

Under Rule 49P of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, if an individual come to vote at a polling station after another person has already voted in his/her name, the presiding officer shall first ascertain the identity of the elector and once satisfied, shall allow the elec-

A total 153 people also opted to exercise their right to refuse to vote under Rule 49 O of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961

tor to vote by means of a tendered ballot paper, and not a voting machine.

Data sourced from the Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) showed that out of 669 voter impersonators, the maximum were reported from Anandpur Sahib LS con-

stituency, where 549 tender votes were reported in Kharar assembly constituency and 20 in SAS Nagar assembly segment.

They were followed by Amritsar LS with 61 tender votes including 20 each from Attari, Amritsar East and Majitha assembly segments and 1 from Amritsar South. Twenty such cases reported from Fatehgarh Sahib LS, 5 from Bathinda and 3 from Sangrur, 2 each from Jalandhar and Faridkot, 1 each from Khadoor Sahib, Hoshiarpur, Firozpur and Patiala.

The Election Commission website states that if a regis-

tered elector, after signing or putting their thumb impression on the Register of Voters, "decides not to record his/her vote, he/she shall not be forced to...A remark to the effect...shall be made in the remarks column against the entry relating to him/her in the Register of Voters by the presiding officer...under Rule 49 O of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961..."

Electors who do not wish to vote also have the option of pressing the None Of The Above (NOTA) on the EVM.

Data sourced from the CEO office shows that Gurdaspur Lok Sabha Constituency has

topped the chart in this category where 81 voters had refused to vote under Rule 49 O, which included 75 voters from Gurdaspur assembly segment and 5 from Dina Nagar Assembly segment.

In Amritsar LS constituency, 20 electors refused to vote in Majitha assembly constituency while 17, 12 and 11 voters refused to vote in Patiala, Firozpur and Anandpur Sahib LS constituencies respectively. There were three each in Fatehgarh Sahib and Faridkot LS, two in Muktsar.

Apart from this, Sangrur, Khadur Sahib, Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur LS had one such

voter each.

NOTA results will come after counting of votes.

The Punjab CEO also released an age-wise voter list on Tuesday, according to which 50.25 per cent of the state's voters are below the age group of 40 years.

According to this list, there are 20781211 voters in Punjab, out of which 10442665 are aged between 18 and 39 years, 71,59001 are between 40 and 60 years (34.44 per cent). A total of .02 per cent are aged 100 and above, while 13 per cent are between 61 to 80 years, and 1.5 per cent are between 81 and 90 years.

than the turnout in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Of the total 2.07 crore electors, 1.37 crore have sealed the fate of 278 candidates in Punjab.

Barring stray incidents of clashes on Sunday, polling in Punjab remained peaceful.

SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, Bollywood actor Sunny Deol and two union minister Harשמרר Kaur Badal and Hardeep Puri and Congress heavyweights Manish Tewari and Preet Kaur were among the prominent faces in the fray.

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(ii) Extension of date for Rolling Advertisement as mentioned under reference (i).

Ref.: (i) Notification No. CUJ/AA/HRW-T/0005/00016 dated 01.02.2019

(ii) Notification No. CUJ/AA/HRW-T/0002/0006 dated 01.03.2019.

In continuation to Rolling Advertisement mentioned under reference and the direction received from UGC regarding the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Ordinance, 2019 (No. 22 and No. 1013 dated 07 March, 2019), it is notify that the last date for receiving the application forms (under 1st Phase) has been extended till 13.06.2019 till 5.00 PM. The application form is now available 'ON-LINE' only.

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