EXPRESS NETWORK

Considering ban on mining in area 10 km around Chittorgarh Fort: Rajasthan to SC

HAMZA KHAN **JAIPUR, APRIL 8**

THE RAJASTHAN government on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that it is "actively considering" a complete ban on mining activities up to 10 kilometres from the outer boundary of the historic Chittorgarh Fort, seeking time to place on record its affidavit.

The statement was made by Additional Advocate General Shiv Mangal Sharma, appearing on behalf of the state, before a bench comprising Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice SV Bhatti.

The matter arises from a long-standing legal battle between Birla Corporation Limited and the State of Rajasthan and others, regarding mining operations near the Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The current proceedings relate to the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by Birla Corporation against the Rajasthan High Court's May 2012 order in Bhanwar Singh vs Union of India, which had prohibited all mining and blasting activities within a 10 km radius of the fort wall, directing cancellation of mining leases in the restricted zone, Sharma said.

The SC, while dealing with the matter earlier, had directed Indian Institute of Technology -Indian School Mines, Dhanbad, to conduct a detailed scientific study on the impact of mining and blasting. In its report submitted in January 2024, the institute had concluded that controlled blasting beyond 5 km radius may be allowed, stating no significant deterioration to the environment or structural risk to the fort, as per Sharma. However. several stakeholders and experts raised seri-

ous objections to the methodol-

Key objections raised included claims that the report did not follow established protocols for blast impact and vibration studies, that it failed to analyse soil and rock structure, which is critical to understanding the propagation of vibrations, that no long-term monitoring or time-series modelling was proposed, and that the definition and effectiveness of "controlled blasting" was left undefined and unverified. Additionally, limited sampling, lack of joint institutional study, and insufficient modelling of combined effects of

rainfall, temperature, and vibrations were highlighted as major shortcomings Sharma said that experts from institutions such as the Central Building Research Institute

(CBRI), Geological Survey of India (GSI), Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and even a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Mines, chaired by MP Rakesh Singh, have submitted opinions or reports broadly in favour of restrictions on mining in the vicinity of the fort. The CBRI and ASI emphasised the fragile condition of Chittorgarh Fort's structure and its vulnerability to underground vibrations and

the Water (Prevention and

Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

blasting activities, even if done in a controlled manner. Environmental implications were also highlighted during the hearing. Chittorgarh district hosts

eight rivers, including Bedach and Gambhiri, which flow adjacent to or through mining areas. Local testimonies gathered during public hearings have reported discharge of polluted water into rivers from Governor (L-G) V K Saxena. mining operations, in violation of

Noting that Patkar, the leader of Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), had received multiple awards for her work, Additional



TWO ARRESTED; DGP SAYS ISI, BKI BEHIND ATTACK Grenade blast at Punjab BJP leader's house, cops point to Lawrence gang

A forensic team at the residence of former Punjab Minister

Manoranjan Kalia after the blast in Jalandhar on Tuesday.

(right) Kalia at his residence. Express

e-rickshaw used in the attack.

"We cannot share more details

as it will hamper the investigation.

We are exploring the involvement

of Happy Passia and others as well

as that of BKI in the matter."

Shukla said, adding that an oper-

ation is underway in conjunction

peated grenade attacks in Punjab

over the past few months. Shukla

When asked about the re-

with central agencies.

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA CHANDIGARH, APRIL 8

ogy and findings of the IIT report. THE PUNJAB Police claimed to have solved the case of the grenade attack on the house of BJP leader and former minister Manoranjan Kalia in Jalandhar within 12 hours with the arrest of two people.

Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh, Special DGP (Law and Order) Arpit Shukla said Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, along with Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), was behind the attack to create communal disturbance in Punjab.

"Preliminary investigations revealed a larger conspiracy orchestrated by ISI to disrupt communal harmony in Punjab. The plot was masterminded by Zeeshan Akhtar, a close associate of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and Pakistan-based ISI-sponsored gangster Shahzad Bhatti," he said, while not ruling out the possible links of the accused with BKI mastermind Harwinder Singh alias Rinda and gangster Happy Passia. Shukla said the two suspects have been nabbed along with the

DELHI L-G DEFAMATION CASE

NIRBHAY THAKUR NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

A DELHI court on Tuesday granted one-year probation to social activist Medha Patkar in a 24year-old defamation case moved against her by Delhi Lieutenant

Sessions Judge Vishal Singh of

बिड आमन्त्रण सूचना सं. ०१/२०२५-२६

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(AIT), PUNE

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CORRIGENDUM / AMENDMENT our Advertisement Regarding E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE of Borrower M/s DEV TENT AND DECORATION, Loan A/c. No. : ABUDPSTS000000644154 Published i this Newspaper on Thursday, 03.04.2025 & Tuesday, 08.04.2025. KINDLY NOTE THAT pursuance of the order dated 24.03.2025 passed by Ld. NCLT, Ahmedabad, the Hon'ble LT, Ahmedabad was pleased to allow the Amalgamation of Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. with

IIM-Rohtak director sent on leave until side door near the entrance was damaged in the blast. CCTV footage revealed that the attacker arrived on an e-rickshaw, threw the grenade and fled in probe is over the same vehicle, he said. Police have deployed heavy force and

RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

FOLLOWING THE Union Government's decision to launch an inquiry against IIM-Rohtak Director Dheeraj Sharma, the in-

to power in Punjab the law and stitute's Board of Governors order situation in the state has (BoG), in a meeting held last deteriorated. Pakistan will almonth, "unanimously decided" ways try to create trouble in to send him on leave and to "in-Punjab, but the Punjab Police struct" him to move out of the have the primary responsibility campus until the inquiry is over, The Indian Express has learnt.

As first reported by The Indian Express on February 24, the Centre had sought President Droupadi Murmu's approval to launch an inquiry into the "misappropriation of public funds" at IIM-Rohtak during Sharma's tenure, including the use of "manipulated figures" to pay "huge amounts" of variable

salary to him. The inquiry order was issued on March 5, and IIM-Mumbai Director Professor Manoi Tiwari has been asked to submit his report within three months. With Sharma under scrutiny for allegedly misrepresenting his

duct. The court also reduced the educational qualifications to sefine of Rs 10 lakh imposed on the cure his initial term as IIM-70-year-old activist to Rs 1 lakh Rohtak Director in 2017, the institute's failure to send Sharma's Last Wednesday, the court had degree certificate to the Ministry of Education despite "repeated" requests will also be probed.

her conviction in the defamation case filed in 2000 where she had According to the minutes of allegedly called Saxena – who the BoG meeting held on March headed an NGO in Gujarat at the 20, the Board took up the matter time – a "coward" and alleged his of the Visitorial inquiry against involvement in hawala transac-Sharma after receiving two lettions. A magistrate court, on May ters from the Ministry of 24, 2024, had held Patkar's state-Education on March 13 and March 19. The Board then decided to send him on leave "till the completion of the inquiry" and to also ask him to stay away from all campuses/ rented areas of IIM-Rohtak until further orders. The minutes also state that Sharma would be given "reason-

able time" to move out The proceedings of the last BoG meeting were submitted by Additional Solicitor General of India Satypal Jain in the Punjab and Harvana High Court, which s currently hearing a case challenging Sharma's appointment as the IIM-Rohtak director. It is learnt that the BoG reso-

lution will only be implemented

IIM-Rohtak Director Dheeraj Sharma

Sharma is the first such action since amendments to the IIM Act in 2023 gave the education ministry greater control over the IIMs. According to the ministry, the

inquiry has been launched based on an earlier probe by its principal chief controller of accounts, which had found "serious irregularities and grave misappropriation of public funds at IIM-Rohtak".

The alleged irregularities, according to the order, included: "Wrongfully inflating the financial health of the institute and using such manipulated figures to pay huge amount of variable pay (more than Rs 1 crore for each year) to the Director of IIM-Rohtak, for the years from 2018-19 onwards; violating General Financial Rules 2017 in managing the finances of the institute: and procuring and gifting mobile phones and other inducements to unnamed persons."

The ministry's order said it had "repeatedly sought" Sharma's degree certificate during his first term as Director, but this was not sent by IIM-Rohtak "till the fag end of his tenure". Sharma first served as IIM-Rohtak Director from 2017 to 2022. In 2022, he was reappointed for a second term, which is to end in 2027. According to the order, the inquiry will look into the "omission/ commission of acts" with respect to the "irregularities" mentioned and will also cover the method of storing and verifying the degree certificates of the Director and other faculty at IIM-Rohtak, as well as the procedure followed in "sending/ withholding replies" including queries raised by the Ministry of

Education. The inquiry comes almost three years after the ministry told the Punjab and Haryana HC in 2022 that Sharma had allegedly "misrepresented" his credentials leading to his illegal appointment. According to the ministry, a firstclass Bachelor's degree was necessary for appointment as

Medha Patkar, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena

अधिशाषी अमियन

Saket court released her on probation for good conduct as the offence committed by her was not grave to warrant imprison-

प्रमियन्ता राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, खण्ड अलवर

रम्भत काय काया गुनुन अनुन मायूर्गनेट (www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) के माध्यम लाख हेतु ऑन–लाईन बिंड ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट (www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) के माध्यम दिनांक 05.05.2025 तथा अन्य हेतु दिनांक 28.04.2025 को सांय 6.00 बजे तक आमं

(AIT), PUNE

ment. Probation refers to noninstitutional treatment of offenders on the discretion of the court if the convict has met cer-

ments defamatory and sentenced her to a five-month jail term on July 1. However, Additional Sessions Judge Singh had suspended Patkar's sentence and granted her bail on July 29 last year. The defamation case stems from a press release issued by Patkar on November 25, 2000.

Court grants Medha Patkar 1-yr probation, reduces fine tain criteria such as good con-

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day, Kalia had said that he heard a loud noise around 1 am. "I was asleep when I heard the sound, and I thought it was thunder. Later, I was informed that it was a blast. WITHENSJALANDHAR

to be paid to Saxena.

dismissed Patkar's appeal against

titled 'True Face of Patriot'.

of Punjab.

police commissioner Dhanpreet to maintain peace. Unfortunately, Kaur had said that they received it has not been the case for the reports of the blast around 1 am past three years," he said. In the on Tuesday. "Our team arrived at the scene promptly and began the investigation. The forensic team examined the situation, and also

reviewed CCTV footage. DCP Manpreet Singh, who also visited the spot, said that a

said most cases have been solved

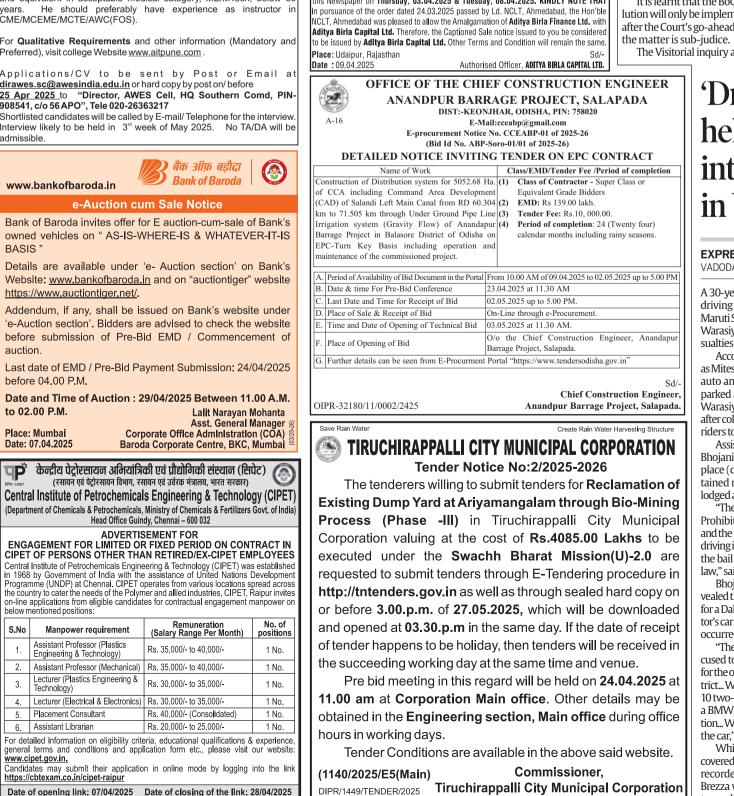
Earlier in the day, Jalandhar

also cordoned off the entire area. Meanwhile, reacting to the development, Manoranjan Kalia told the media that if the Punjab Police were satisfied with the probe, so was he. Kalia said the police must also investigate if the people they have arrested also carried out attacks in other parts

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Requirements and other information (Mandatory and college Website www.aitpune.com Date : 09.04 2025 s/CV to be sent by Post or Email a wesindia.edu.in or hard copy by post on/ before "Director, AWES Cell, HQ Southern Comd, PIN-APO", Tele 020-26363217 didates will be called by E-mail/ Telephone for the interview A-16 to be held in 3rd week of May 2025. No TA/DA will be 🕖 बैंक ऑफ़ बडौदा Bank of Baroda ofbaroda.in e-Auction cum Sale Notice oda invites offer for E auction-cum-sale of Bank's cles on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS & WHATEVER-IT-IS available under 'e- Auction section' on Bank's ww.bankofbaroda.in and on "auctiontiger" website auctiontiger.net/. if any, shall be issued on Bank's website under ection'. Bidders are advised to check the website mission of Pre-Bid EMD / Commencement of EMD / Pre-Bid Payment Submission: 24/04/2025) P.M. me of Auction : 29/04/2025 Between 11.00 A.M. Lalit Narayan Mohanta Asst. General Manager Save Rain Wate Corporate Office Administration (COA) Baroda Corporate Centre, BKC, Mumbai)25 प्रेरोरसायन अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (सिपेट) 📀 गयन एवं पेट्रोरसायन विभाग, रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार) ite of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET emicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers Govt. of India Head Office Guindy, Chennai – 600 032 ADVERTISEMENT FOR NT FOR LIMITED OR FIXED PERIOD ON CONTRACT IN RSONS OTHER THAN RETIRED/EX-CIPET EMPLOYEES of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) was established ernment of India with the assistance of United Nations Developmen DP) at Chennai, CIPET operates from various locations spread across r the needs of the Polymer and allied industries, CIPET, Raipur invite ns from eligible candidates for contractual engagement manpower of positions Remuneration (Salary Range Per Month) No. of power requirement positions Professor (Plastics Rs. 35,000/- to 40,000/-1 No. ring & Technology) Professor (Mechanical) Rs. 35,000/- to 40,000/-1 No. (Plastics Engineering & Rs. 30,000/- to 35,000/-1 No. (Electrical & Electronics) Rs. 30,000/- to 35,000/-1 No. Rs. 40,000/- (Consolidated) nt Consultant 1 No. Rs. 20,000/- to 25,000/-Librarian 1 No. prmation on eligibility criteria, educational qualifications & experience and conditions and application form etc., please visit our website submit their application in online mode by logging into the lin .co in/cipet-raipur ng link: 07/04/2025 Date of closing of the link: 28/04/2025



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D held for crashing into 10 vehicles in Vadodara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

VADODARA, APRIL 8

A 30-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly driving in an inebriated condition and crashing a Maruti SUV into at least 10 vehicles in Vadodara citv's Warasiya area Monday, said police Tuesday. No casualties have been reported in the incident.

According to the police, the accused, identified as Mitesh Baria (30), crashed a Maruti Brezza into an auto and at least eight stationary two-wheelers parked along the roadside on a 50 meter stretch in Warasiya Monday night and finally came to a halt after colliding with a two-wheeler, throwing off two riders to the ground.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, G Division, MP Bhojani told The Indian Express, "No casualties took place (during the incident) but some people sustained minor injuries, One of the injured persons lodged an FIR on the intervening night on Tuesday".

"The accused driver was first arrested in a case of Prohibition and released on bail as per provisions and the process of re-arresting him in the case of rash driving is on. Since both sections are bailable offences, the bail will be granted as per the provisions of the law," said the ACP.

Bhojani added that primary investigation had revealed that the accused worked as a part-time driver for a Dabhoi-based doctor and was driving the doctor's car to Bhayli in Vadodara city when the accident occurred.

"The car-owner, a doctor, had instructed the accused to pick his family from Bhayli and take them for the ongoing Narmada Parikrama in Narmada district... We have learnt that before crashing into about 10 two-wheelers and an auto, he also collided with a BMW car at a petrol pump near the earlier junction... We have also recovered a bottle of alcohol from the car." said the ACP.

While the alleged accident spot is reportedly not covered by the CCTV cameras, videos of the incident recorded by bystanders shows the white Maruti Brezza with a damaged left side ramming into the two-wheeler and throwing off the riders.

Jaipur