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COMMENCES IN 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

R G KAR RAPE-MURDER

TMC's Sircar to quit RS, flags Bengal's 'faulty handling', graft

Govt action too little, late... can't accept corrupt officers, doctors getting top posts: Prasar Bharati ex-CEO to Mamata



A protest against the August 9 rape and murder of a junior doctor, in Kolkata on Sunday evening. Partha Paul

ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 8

BATTLING PUBLIC protests and Opposition attacks over the R G Kar junior doctor's rape and murder last month, the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal came under fire from within on Sunday, as the party's Rajya Sabha member and former Prasar Bharati CEO, Jawhar Sircar, announced his decision to resign, citing the "faulty handling of the most spontaneous public movement".

In his letter to Banerjee, which he posted on X, Sircar also flagged the issue of corruption and the "increasing strong-arm tactics of a section of leaders" in the Trinamool Congress. He said he had "decided to resign from Parliament and also from politics altogether".



'NOBODY WAS LISTENING ... HAD ADVISED CM TO TAKE SOME STEPS'

JAWHAR SIRCAR
TMC RAJYA SABHA MP

Saying that "the present spontaneous outpouring of public anger" is against the "unchecked overbearing attitude of the favoured few and the corrupt", Sircar wrote: "In all my

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In Rudraprayag, 'non-Hindu' warning by local outfits triggers fear & unease

AVANEESH MISHRA
RUDRAPRAYAG, SEPTEMBER 8

THE OMINOUS signboards are gone but the tension remains, seeping into conversations in village squares over 'chai' and inside homes.

For years, the villages of Rudraprayag, a key stop along the Kedarnath Yatra, saw communities working together peacefully, their livelihoods tied to the pilgrimage season in Uttarakhand. But a marked shift over the past few months has left



One of the now-removed boards at Shersi village in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand

2 Goa Ministers, local BJP, Cong leaders — look who benefits from tweak in state land use law that threatens 'green zones'



A paddy field in Tiswadi taluka that has received approval for 'correction' to settlement land.

Records show Town and Country Planning Minister and Environment Minister, key to regulation and approval process, among the beneficiaries; both Ministers say all changes as per law; Union Minister Shripad Naik also got land use changed

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA & DHEERAJ MISHRA
PANAJI, NEW DELHI, SEPT 8

RAISING QUESTIONS of conflict of interest and political influence on policy, at least two state ministers, a clutch of politicians cutting across party lines and several real-estate companies in Goa are alleged beneficiaries of a controversial change in land use law, records investigated by *The Indian Express* show.

In all these cases, it is the state's Town and Country Planning (TCP) department that approved change in land use over the past 18 months, converting "green zones" into "settlements" — allowing construction activity for both residential and commercial purposes, pushing up the land's value manifold.

Records show that one beneficiary is a firm that has TCP Minister Vishwajit Rane and his spouse as directors; Environment Minister Aleixo Sequeira is himself a beneficiary. Significantly, Rane also holds the Forest



Everything has been strictly done as per the guidelines and under the ambit of law.

VISHWAJIT RANE
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING MINISTER



(The property) was incorrectly zoned as an orchard. It was a mistake, so we got it corrected.

ALEIXO SEQUEIRA
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER



Whatever the government does (in purview of law), it stands.

AVERTANO FURTADO
CONGRESS LEADER, FORMER MLA

EXPLAINED WHY CHANGING GOA LAND USE LAW, THE PROCESS RAISE RED FLAGS PAGE 9

Ministry and Sequeira the Law portfolio, departments that are key to regulating the changes.

An investigation of TCP records shared with the Goa Assembly last month shows that approval was received to change — officially called "correct" — the land use of a total expanse of at

least 20 lakh sq m. This area is of green zones, including paddy fields, orchard land and no-development zones, and will now be "settlements".

Such changes were allowed after a March 2023 amendment [section 17 (2)] to the Goa Town and Country Planning (TCP) Act

1974, which allows conversion of plots without public consultation if the owner approaches the department with a request to "correct inadvertent errors" or "rectify inconsistent/incoherent zoning" in Goa's Regional Plan 2021.

The absence of public scrutiny and who decides what is "inadvertent error" form the nub of the controversy.

Who got approval

An investigation of records shows the following public figures and corporates among the beneficiaries:

■ **The Forest, Town and Country Planning Minister and spouse:** Karapur Estates Private Ltd, which lists TCP Minister Vishwajit Rane and his wife Deviya Rane as directors, got clearance to convert 11,580 sq m of land in Bicholim taluka's village Sarvona. Records show approval was received for "correction" of the zone to "settlement", which was earlier earmarked as "partly paddy field with CADA" in the 2021 regional plan.

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Your spirit flows on



Remembering Dr Kurien on his 12th death anniversary

ALL-PARTY DELEGATION'S J&K VISIT IN 2016

Sent Opposition MPs to speak to Hurriyat, convey we are ready to talk peace: Rajnath

Did everything to restore peace but separatists did not respond: Minister

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 8

THE FOUR Opposition MPs, on whom separatist Hurriyat Conference leaders had shut their doors in September 2016, had visited them as part of Centre's outreach for peace talks, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Sunday.

"I was the Home Minister of India and the PDP government was here in Jammu and Kashmir. I used to tell Mehbooba Mufti (the then Chief Minister) that the situation shall be normal and even a delegation of MPs led by me as Union Home Minister came here," said Singh, addressing a poll rally in Ramban district. "There were senior leaders



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a poll rally in Ramban district, Sunday. ANI



DECISION 2024 J&K

like Sharad Yadav (of the JDU) and from the Left parties (in the delegation)," he said. "I told them that we are from the BJP and the Hurriyat people do not like us and they get irritated on seeing us. You talk to them and tell them that we are ready to talk, but there shall be peace in Kashmir."

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BIREN CALLS ON CENTRE TO PROTECT STATE'S INTEGRITY PAGE 8

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

How one woman's search for another led to murder charge against Tytler

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

WHEN THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2007 filed a closure report against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler, 80, in connection with his alleged role in the deaths of three Sikh men at Delhi's Gurdwara Pul Bangash during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, multiple persons moved protest petitions. However, the trial court said it would only accept a



Lakhwinder's husband Badal Singh was killed in the riots

plea from one of the victims' family members. In 2007, the families of two of the three vic-

tims could not be traced. For Nirpreet Kaur, 56, who lost her father in the same riots in another part of Delhi, the case against Tytler — who is accused of inciting a mob that set fire to the gurdwara, leading to the three deaths — being closed without going to trial was unacceptable. Nirpreet, who has been helping senior advocate H S Phoolka track down other victims like her since 2006, took it upon herself to look for

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IDEA EXCHANGE

'We have a region where flashpoints could lead to catastrophic conflict'

PHILIP GREEN
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

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'Had seen fall in Tokyo... So I was not really scared of the (Paris) outcome'

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

SHE BECAME India's first athlete to win two medals at the Olympics in Paris but Manu Bhaker very nearly gave up the sport three years ago after the heartbreak she endured in Tokyo. It was the restlessness within that put her back in the hunt.

The twin bronze medal winner made this revelation at the Express Adda on Saturday, where she was the guest along

with Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain. They were in conversation with Mihir Vasavia, Deputy Associate Editor, *The Indian Express*.

Manu, who won an individual bronze in 10m air pistol and followed it up with a mixed team podium finish along with Sarabjot Singh, said she faced many "hardships" after the Tokyo debacle, "doubted" her choices and even "thought of opting for a different career".

"I had hardships also after that. I was really doubting my choices. I was actually thinking of opting for a different career path. But destiny is something..." she said. Asked what would have



Olympians Manu Bhaker and Lovlina Borgohain at the Express Adda in New Delhi on Saturday. Tashi Tobgyal



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well but I wasn't able to win any competition before I was heading to Paris. But still I was very positive about it.

"I was like, I'll try my best and let's see what will happen because I had seen the fall in Tokyo and what happened after that. So I was not really scared of the outcome," she said.

Manu and Lovlina — whose Olympic fortunes have contrasted so far, Manu could not win a medal in Tokyo, where Lovlina won a bronze; Manu finished on podium this time while Lovlina couldn't — have been two of the faces of the rising power of Indian women at the Olympics.

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