Polls to local bodies, co-operatives put off

VIJAY TIMES NEWS

Bangalore: Chief Minister S M Krishna on Friday said that elections to all Agriculturral Produce Market Committees (APMCs), local bodies and co-operative societies will be postponed by six months in view of the coming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Laying the foundation stone for a whole-sale vegetable market complex at Byatarayanapura on Bellary Road, he said: "All co-operative societies, local bodies and APMCs, which were scheduled to conduct their elections, will now have to wait for another six months in view of the general and assembly elections to be held in the State. I hope the parties concerned understand that we need the men and machinery to be wholly devoted to the State elections," he said.

> 'I hope the parties concerned understand that we need the men and machinery to be wholly devoted to the State elections'

The Chief Minister said that he had issued directions to all district commissioners and superintendents of police to have on stand-by water tankers for supplying drinking water to areas with water scarcity.

Dwelling on the subject of drought relief, Krishna said that following his talks with the Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani on Thursday, he was informed that the Centre would immediately release Rs 249 crore funds and 4,13,000 tons of foodgrains delivered over the next five months. "We had been requesting the Central Government to assist us and thankfully they have finally heard our plea," he said.

Krishna said: "Yeshasvini, the health scheme launched for the farmers has drawn worldwide attention, so much so that a chair has been established in an esteemed university in United States to study the contributions of this programme". The Chief Minister referred to Stree Shakti initiatives and said that women's empowerment was a focus area of the Congress Government.

CM carries the cross of his Govt's misdeeds

VIJAY TIMES NEWS

Bangalore: What would happen if a Government acts irresponsibly and turns negligent without weighing the pros and cons of poor governance? It wouldn't be a surprise if the officials and contractors openly swindle huge sums of Government funds in executing projects. This is the hard truth about the manner in which Chief Minister S M Krishna and his entourage of ministers conducted affairs of the State.

The State Government displayed scant interest in checking the duplicate records submitted by project engineers in the pretext of constructing barrages, canals and dams. Further, the powers-that-be turned a blind eye and seldom brought to book errant officials, who looted the treasury in the process of purchasing cement and steel for irrigation projects.

Though the Karnataka Lokayukta hunted down the officials and submitted reports pinning the blame on certain greedy officials, the Government stopped short of filing criminal cases against them. Though Krishna never misses an opportunity to portray the irrigation department's so-called strides over the last four years, it is common knowledge that administrators have shown that much-vaunted 'efficiency' only on paper, courtesy exaggerated statistics. The Congress has in effect brought about misery on itself by shielding the corrupt in Bennetora and Mallamaari irrigation projects. After all, what extraordinary feat was achieved over the past four-and-a-half years? In Tungabhadra basin, the farmers reached the peak of frustration. In Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gulbarga and Raichur, the farmers are still crying for water. Irrigation projects are yet to reach the dry areas around Dharwad. A success indeed!

KRISHNA'S HOLLOW PROMISES

Uneasy lies the head...

During the tail-end of Krishna's tenure, the Government split the Water Resource Department and kept the whole department in a dilemma. The farmers who had earlier reposed complete faith in Krishna have no water to drink.

This Government lacked the competence to construct something as elementary as a canal to distribute water from Almatti reservoir. What's worse, the Government failed to prove its stand before Supreme Court to keep the neighbouring State away from irrigation projects such as Honnagondanahalli, Chitravati Srishailam and Pulichintala.

This Government has little interest in ensuring that the second tribunal on Krishna river succeeds. The Centre has agreed to form the tribunal. But why is the Government soft-pedalling on the formation of the tribunal?

The farmers from Mandya and nearby villages are struggling for water, while a fearful Government released water to Tamil Nadu. A permanent solution to the Cauvery imbroglio is no where in sight. It's Chief Minister Krishna who has to carry the cross for his lack of focus instead of the honest tax payer.

Poojary justifies induction of turn-coats

VIJAY TIMES NEWS

Bangalore: Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President Janardhana Poojary on Friday justified the induction of eleven AIPJD leaders into the party and said it had not only strengthened the party but also negated the accusation of Opposition that the ruling party had neglected Northern Karnataka and the Lingayat community.

Addressing a press conference, Poojary said these leaders have joined the party without any precondition, and they are senior leaders with credibility in Northern Karnataka. Their entry has strengthened our hold in the area.

According to the party's calculation, the induction of APIJD leaders would boost the voting percentage to 51 per cent and thereby result in increased of number of winning seats for the party. With this, he said the party would make an all-time record surpassing 1989 results of 179 seats in the assembly to get a two third majority in the coming elections, he claimed.

On party workers apprehensions over APIJD leaders entry and fear of neglect, Poojary said there is no need for such apprehensions as the development is more favourable to them. Poojary said the party had weighed the pros and cons before their induction.

Based on the capacity of each individual member, the party would decide on giving the ticket with a priority for winning the seat. He said if, the party is getting two third majority, it would lead to more Council and Rajya Sabha seats. Moreover, with the party coming back to power, several party workers would get multiple opportunities.

On the other hand, the defeat of the Congress would lead to devastating effect on the local bodies, majority of which are under Congress hold. What will happen to these party workers, he asked? Poojari also assured the S/Cs, S/Ts and Backward Class partymen that their interests would be safeguarded.

On BJP's allegation of land-grabbing by the Congress for the party office, he said the party had not received the land free of cost and that no concession was given to it by the Government. The land was earlier allotted to a Government organization, but they had failed construct any building for several years. The Government after due review had allotted the land for the party.

AIPJD, Cong leaders join JD(S)

Bangalore: Former minister and senior AIPJD leader Vaijanath Patil along with several former legislators f rom his party as well as from the Congress joined the Janata Dal (S) on Friday in the presence of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda.

Also to join the AIPJD were former minister and Congress leader Madanagopal Naik, former legislators M Y Patil (Cong), Hanumantharao Desai (AIPJD), former Gulbarga Zilla Panchayat President Pramila Bai and several Taluk Panchayat members of Afzalpur and Chincholi.

They pledged to defeat the Congress in the next general elections. Speaking on the occasion Janata Dal (S) State President Siddaramiah said, "with today's development we have emerged stronger in North Karnataka. We will give a tough fight to the Congress". He expressed the confidence of winning a lion's share of seats in Gulbarga district, which has 13 assembly constituencies, in the next election.

State President Siddaramiah said, "with today's development we have emerged stronger in North Karnataka".

PUBLIC NOTICE

[illegible]

KARNATAKA STATE LOTTERY

Results of 741st Ashandhi Monthly Draw held on 20.2.2004 at 4.15 p.m.

First Prize Rs.25,00,000
AHB 77517 Mysore

2nd Prize Rs. 50,000

AHA	12363	Shimoga
AHB	05036	Mysore
AHC	36797	Udupi
AHD	48780	Mysore

All Tickets ending with the following digits in all series

Rs.5000	Rs.1000	Rs.500	Rs.100	
08510	01436	0130	085	073
17108	19050	1666	117	184
24052	25436	2610	245	282
30790	32935	3705	330	340
40460	46550	4509	485	478
54677	56249	5225	505	500
66447	65893	6536	602	693
74246	75350	7738	716	745
89318	80245	8117	851	812
94301	96185	9154	975	981

H Raghupathy, Director, Karnataka State Lottery

Marketed by : MSIL

Mayors file petition

VIJAY TIMES NEWS

Bangalore: A petition jointly filed by six Mayors including from Bangalore seeking directions to the State Government to extend their term from the existing one year to five years came up before the Karnataka High Court on Friday. Justice K Bhakthavatsala issued notices in this regard.

> They have challenged the validity of Section 10 (2) of the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act

The Mayors of Bangalore, Hubli-Dharwad, Belgaum, Mangalore, Gulbarga and Mysore, P R Ramesh, Anil Kumar Patil, Sambaji Laxman Patil, Divaker, Iqbal Ahmed and Moda Mani respectively filed the petitions. In their petition, they also challenged the validity of Section 10 (2) of the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act, which prescribes that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall hold office for only a year. The petitioners further contended that the term of the corporator is five years and added that the office of Mayor should be co-terminus with the office of the corporator. They also stated that the term of all the local bodies is also five years which should be reflected in the term of a Mayor.

They further submitted that all the developmental works undertaken by them will suffer if their term has a short span of time.

Chief Minister S M Krishna beating traditional drums after laying the foundation stone for the Byatarayanapura vegetable market in Bangalore on Friday. VT photo

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients are proposing and negotiating to purchase all that piece and parcel of land forming part of the property bearing Survey No. 96 situated in Kadathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring approximately Two Acres Land area and which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder as set out in the schedule hereto from its owner. The congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Claretian Fathers Represented by Father Francis K J, Aged about 51 years residing at Claret Bhavan, Kaimathan Post, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore - 560 035. Whereas it is represented to my clients by the land owners that they are the absolute owners & in possession of the Schedule Property having a marketable title & there is no encumbrance on the properties.

Any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the schedule property or any rights of the interest or claim in the schedule property or having any claim against the owners or objecting to such sale in favour of my clients should write to the undersigned within fifteen days of the issuance of this Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regards to the Schedule Property or any part thereof.

Any objections received thereafter will not be taken into cognizance & my clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land comprising two acres of land in survey No. 96, situated in Kadathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded by as follows :

East by : The remaining portion in S.No. 96 belonging to M.R. Munisvamy.
West by : Dodakadathi Village Road.
North by : Bangalore - Sarjapur Main Road and on the
South by: Country and portion the same survey No. 96 belonging to M.R. Munisvamy.

Sri Basavaraj K.M. Advocate
No 33, 2nd Floor, Margosa Road,
15th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560 003

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Nagarahole forest was arson: Conservator

VIJAY TIMES NEWS

Bangalore: The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Ram Mohan Ray, on Friday said that the manner in which the recent fire at Nagarhole forests spread over 200 hectares in a short time suggests that it was lit 'by one or two persons.'

In a statement on the incident, Ray said if an arsonist sets fire to the forests "it would be difficult to apprehend him or prosecute him."

Noting that the forests of Nagarhole are traditionally a high fire-risk area, he said, the Rajiv Gandhi National Park where the fires raged recently, were spread over 643 sq kilometres of rugged terrain. In the event of a fire it posed problems for the Forest personnel to reach the spot quickly, he said. Sufficient number of fire-watchers were engaged at Nagarhole forests to detect fresh fires and prevent its spread, he added.

"It takes many persons to toil in the face of danger to put out the fire," he said. He pointed out that the fire occurences in Nagarhole were ground fires which do not destroy forests. "Repeated ground fires, however, retard regeneration and causes soil erosion".

150 huts gutted

Bangalore: Two persons including a child sustained injuries and about 400 people were rendered homeless when a major fire gutted 150 huts at a slum in Ullala Upanagara in Kodigenahalli on Friday.

The fire services personnel said the fire started due to electric short circuit. A 38-year-old construction worker, Ziya, sustained severe burns when he single-handedly tried to put out the fire. He was admitted to Victoria Hospital.

Take The Bharat Pledge

If you fly Singapore Airlines to and from India, if you use the services of Singapore Telecommunications, if your business uses the facilities of the PSASICAL (Tuticorin Container Terminal), if you fly Virgin Atlantic to and from New Delhi, if you use the services of Bharti Telecom, if you bank at ICICI Bank, ***you may be doing great injustice to all Indians in general, and especially to the families of those who lost lives in the Parliament attacks on December 13, 2001, The Jammu and Kashmir Legislature attacks, and The Mumbai Suicide attacks of August 2003.***

Take The Bharat Pledge and hold these Companies responsible for Terrorism Financing Connections.

What is The Bharat Pledge About?
On December 18, 2003, the High Court of Karnataka ordered issue of notices to the Union of India and the Union Home Ministry following a Public Interest Litigation Writ Petition which sought a direction from the court to investigate the affairs of Singapore Airlines and Singapore Telecom with reference to Temasek Holdings of Singapore and their involvement with international terrorism financing groups and banned terrorist organizations.

What is Temasek Holdings?
Temasek Holdings Private Limited is the direct investment arm of the Government of Singapore. Singapore-Airlines, Singapore Telecom, and PSA Corporation are direct subsidiaries of Temasek.

What are the India Connections of Temasek Holdings?
- Singapore Airlines has a multitude of flights to New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad.
- Singapore Telecom has a strong foothold in India, with offices in New Delhi, Chennai, and Bangalore.
- PSA Corporation has a partnership with South India Corporation Agency Limited (SICAL) in the Tuticorin Container Terminal, and a partnership with Tuticorin Port Trust.
- Singapore Airlines owns 49% equity stake in Virgin Atlantic Airways.
- Singapore Telecom owns 32% of Bharti Telecom.
- Temasek Holdings owns 5.2% equity stake in India's Second Largest Bank, ICICI Bank.

How is Temasek Holdings involved with Terrorism Financing?
Temasek, through its subsidiary, is in partnership with one of the world's most notorious terrorism financiers, Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz of Saudi Arabia. Sheikh Khalid founded and financed Muwaffaq (Blessed Relief in English). Muwaffaq was indicted as a FRONT for Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden by the United States Government on October 12, 2001, soon after the horrible September 11, 2001 attacks on the country.

How is Temasek Holdings, its subsidiaries, and its partners in India connected to the terrorist attacks in India?
The notorious Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz and family have proven nexus with Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, through al Qaeda. These two hard core terrorist groups are responsible for the horrible December 13, 2001 attacks on the Indian Parliament, the attacks on the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature, and the August 2003 attacks in Mumbai. Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba are specifically listed as terrorist organizations in the Schedule I of The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002 (POTA).

What are your options?
You should contact your respective candidates for the April 2004 National Elections and demand that the existing BJP Government take action against the above companies and hold them accountable! Demands should also be made that these companies assume at least partial responsibility for the attacks on the Parliament, Jammu & Kashmir Legislature, and the suicide attacks in Mumbai. Because the money from the income flowed into the terrorists' coffers. These companies should pay compensation to the families who lost their loved ones in these attacks.

Conclusion
Right from Independence, India has been a martyr to terrorism. All through these decades, India fought three wars, lost thousands of men and women including their leaders, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, exhausted an enormous amount of its wealth while endeavouring to eliminate this evil. As His Excellency A. B. Vajpayee had remarked in his historic speech before the U. S. Senate, months before the horrible September 11 attacks on the United States, the world has realized that terrorism has no boundaries or limits. To thwart it all nations have to come together and work in unison.

For additional information, contact: internationalwatch.org via E-mail or write:
1259 West Clift Court, Suite 2B, Kettering, Ohio 45409, USA or Call: 1-937-290-0500 or Fax. (937) 293-3769