

Delhi HC denies bail to Manish Sisodia in excise policy case

Judge says former Deputy CM was a powerful and influential person and possibility of indulging in destruction of evidence cannot be ruled out

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday rejected the bail plea of former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the corruption and money-laundering cases lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) respectively in connection with the Delhi excise policy scam.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said Mr. Sisodia has “not been able to make out a case for grant of bail” and added, “The case at hand is a grave misuse of power and breach of public trust by the applicant who was serving as Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi at the relevant point.”

The court said, “As a Minister having 18 portfolios, including the Department of Excise, the applicant was entrusted with the formulation of the new liquor policy.”

“However, the material collected during the investigation showed that the applicant subverted the process of framing the excise policy by fabricating public feedback to suit his predetermined goal. The aim was to frame a public policy which benefits select individuals, especially the wholesale distributors,” the court added.

The judge however, said Mr. Sisodia could continue



No relief from court: Aam Aadmi Party leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. FILE PHOTO

to meet his ailing wife once a week as per the terms and conditions laid down by a trial court in February. The judge, who started pronouncing the order at 6.28 p.m., said Mr. Sisodia indulged in the destruction of crucial evidence, including electronic evidence. He was a very powerful and influential person within the corridors of power of the Delhi government and the possibility of indulging in destruction of evidence cannot be ruled out if he is let out on bail, she added.

Custody extended
Earlier on Tuesday, a trial court hearing Mr. Sisodia’s plea challenging the rejection of his bail on April 30, extended his judicial custody till May 31. Special judge (PC Act) Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue court noted that an application for postponement of arguments on the charge is pending before the High Court.

The trial court also fixed May 30 for further arguments on framing of charges in the case.

The trial court had dismissed Mr. Sisodia’s bail pleas in the corruption and money-laundering cases lodged by the CBI and ED respectively in connection with the alleged irregularities in the formulation and execution of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy for 2021-22. On April 30, the trial court turned down his plea saying the stage is not right for grant of bail.

The AAP leader was arrested by the CBI on February 26, 2023 for his alleged role in the “scam” and the ED arrested him in a money-laundering case stemming from the CBI FIR on March 9, 2023.

The probe agencies alleged that the beneficiaries diverted “illegal” gains to the accused officials and made false entries in their books of account to evade detection.

Notice to Himachal govt. over violation of human rights at children’s home

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has issued a notice to the State government and others, seeking a reply on the alleged violation of human rights of children at an observation-cum-special home in Shimla.

The court issued the notice based on a letter, which it treated as a PIL, and has sought the reply within four weeks.

The other respondents are the Director, State Women and Child Development Department; the District Programme Officer; the Superintendent of the observation home; and three of its employees – the cook, the kitchen helper, and the security guard.

Ajai Srivastava, chairman of the Umang Founda-

tion, in a letter to the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh HC, M.S. Ramchandra Rao, had raised the plight of the inmates at the State-run correctional home at Hira Nagar in Shimla.

Mr. Srivastava wrote that the observation home seemed to defeat the basic purpose of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the Indian Constitution, and hence the court should “save the children”.

It has been alleged that about a dozen inmates were being treated badly. The letter was based on the ordeal of a child. Mr. Srivastava said the staff members resorted to thrashing the boy and other inmates on several occasions.

Also, they often remained under the influence of alcohol while on duty.

☀️🌧️ Timings				
MUMBAI				
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 22				
☀️ RISE	06:02	🌅 SET	19:09	
🌧️ RISE	18:11	🌅 SET	04:50	
THURSDAY, MAY. 23				
☀️ RISE	06:02	🌅 SET	19:09	
🌧️ RISE	19:08	🌅 SET	05:31	
FRIDAY, MAY. 24				
☀️ RISE	06:02	🌅 SET	19:10	
🌧️ RISE	20:07	🌅 SET	06:16	

Mumbai Weather	max	min
Mumbai Airport	35	29
Pune	41	26
Mumbai City	35	29

Mumbai Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight warm. Day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night also will be slight warm.

Mumbai Tomorrow
36°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night will be slight warm.

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THE HINDU
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INDIA bloc candidates look to breach NDA strongholds at Bihar’s borders with Nepal, U.P.

GROUND REPORT

Amarnath Tewary
VALMIKINAGAR/WEST CHAMPARAN

Valmikinagar and West Champaran, the two north-westernmost Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar, are situated along the border with Nepal and neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. The region is known for its verdant jungles, the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, sugarcane cropping and sugar mills, and the historic Bhitiharwa ashram.

The battlelines here are drawn between the National Democratic Alliance and the Mahagathbandhan, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s popularity could make the contest easier for the NDA candi-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated in Bihar. FILE PHOTO

dates.

NDA stronghold
Valmikinagar, earlier known as Bagaha, became a LS constituency after delimitation in 2008. Since 2009, the NDA’s candidates – the JD(U) thrice and the BJP once – have been winning from here, but this time, the Mahagathbandhan candidate, Deepak Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), is putting up a tough chal-

lenge to JD(U)’s Sunil Kumar.

Mr. Kumar won the by-poll in 2020, defeating the Congress’ Pravesh Mishra by a thin margin, following the death of his (Mr. Kumar’s) father, the then sitting MP, Baidyanath Mahato, who represented the seat in 2009 and 2019. In the 2019 election, Mr. Mahato defeated the Congress’ Shashwat Kedar by over 3.5 lakh votes.

In 2014, BJP’s Satish

Chandra Dubey won the election. This time too, Mr. Dubey wanted to contest from here, but under the NDA’s seat-sharing arrangement, Valmikinagar fell to ally JD(U)’s kitty.

The RJD candidate Mr. Yadav is a local sugar mill owner. He is posing a tough challenge to Mr. Kumar as he is popular with the sugarcane farmers of the area. However, until he secured the ticket to contest the election from the RJD, Mr. Yadav was an active member of the BJP.

Issues that vex voters here include floods, drought, migration caused by the lack of employment, and the woes of sugarcane farming.

In West Champaran, the BJP’s three-time sitting MP Sanjay Jaiswal is pitted against the Congress’ Ma-

dan Mohan Tiwari. In 2019, Mr. Jaiswal defeated the then Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (since renamed the Rashtriya Lok Morcha) candidate Brijesh Kumar Kushwaha by nearly three lakh votes.

When Ramji Prasad, Sunil Kumar and Ghanashayam Pandey of Gonahi village said they would be voting for the NDA, a local school teacher, Ganesh Ram, reminded them of the “haunting unemployment” among youths.

In the adjoining Kathari village, Zia-ul-Haque, 72, and Ashraf Alam, 48, rued the frequent ‘Hindu-Muslim’ references by BJP leaders and “flip-flops” by the party’s alliance partner and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar.

Both constituencies will vote on May 25.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENCH AT MUMBAI COMPANY SCHEME PETITION NO. C.P.(CAA)/66(MB)2024 IN COMPANY SCHEME APPLICATION NO. C.A.(CAA)/251(MB)2023

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;
And

In the matter of petition under Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016;
And

In the matter of the Scheme of Amalgamation amongst Tata Steel Limited and The Indian Steel & Wire Products Limited and their respective shareholders.

...Petitioner Company/ Transferee Company

...Non-Petitioner Company /Transferor Company

NOTICE OF HEARING OF COMPANY SCHEME PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that the above named Company Scheme Petition (“**Petition**”) under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 (“**Rules**”) seeking sanction to the Scheme of Amalgamation amongst Tata Steel Limited (“**Petitioner Company/Transferee Company**”) and The Indian Steel & Wire Products Limited (“**Non-Petitioner Company/Transferor Company**”) and their respective shareholders was admitted by the Hon’ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench-VI (“**Hon’ble Tribunal**”) vide order dated April 30, 2024.

In terms of Rule 16 of the Rules and the directions of the Hon’ble Tribunal, notice is hereby given that the said Petition is fixed for hearing before the Hon’ble Tribunal on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. (IST) or soon thereafter as may be further directed by the Hon’ble Tribunal.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send to the Advocates of the Petitioner Company at their below mentioned address, a notice of such intention, signed by the person/Advocate representing the person, together with the full name and address of the person (“**Notice**”). Where any person seeks to oppose the Petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of the affidavit, intended to be used for opposition of the Petition, shall be filed with the Hon’ble Tribunal and, a copy thereof, shall be furnished to the Petitioner Company’s Advocates along with the Notice. The Notice, the grounds of opposition and/or a copy of the affidavit, intended to be used for opposition of the Petition, must reach the Advocates for the Petitioner Company not later than 2 (two) working days before the date fixed for the hearing of the said Petition.

A copy of the Petition along with all the exhibits will be furnished by the Advocates for the Petitioner Company to any person concerned requiring the same on payment of the prescribed fees for the same, upon a request made in writing not later than 2 (two) working days before the said date fixed for the hearing of the said Petition.

Dated this 21st day of May 2024

Sd/-

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Check surface of fingerprint scanning device for paper/film, when using AEPs*
(*AEPs - Aadhaar Enabled Payment System)

To prevent frauds, insist on a transaction slip and check details

For more details, visit <https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/aeps>
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