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Mumbai cops book EVM critic based abroad for fake claims

Police Action Comes After Complaint By Top Poll Official In Maha

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New Delhi: Acting on a complaint from Maharashtra chief electoral officer (CEO), Mumbai Cyber Police on Saturday night registered an FIR against foreign-based EVM basher Syed Shuja in connection with a video showing him making "false, baseless and unsubstantiated claims" that he could hack and tamper EVMs in the recent Maharashtra polls by isolating their frequency.

Shuja was booked under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and clauses 43(g) and 66D of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Shuja, who Election Commission sources said is based in a "third country", was last in the news for having addressed a press conference in London on Jan 21, 2019, with a handkerchief covering his face as he made similar claims that EVMs could be hacked by isolating their frequency, and that the 2014 Lok Sabha polls were rigged. He had, however, provided no proof in support of his



EC sources said both Delhi and Mumbai police will take all possible steps to apprehend anyone within India who is in contact with individuals like Shuja or complicit in their malicious activities

shocking claims. There are reports that Shuja is in the US. EC had taken serious note of Shuja's mischievous claims at the London press event — where, interestingly, Congress leader Kapil Sibal was present — timed months ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. It had then directed Delhi police to file an FIR against him under Section 505 (1)(b) of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with acts of public mischief through circulation of content that may cause fear or alarm in the public.

Though Delhi police has, through the ministry of external affairs, repeatedly approached relevant authorities "in the third country" for help to investigate Shuja, there has been no forward movement on

the other end. Sources in EC said while access to Shuja may be dependent on cooperation of a foreign govt, both Delhi and Mumbai police will take all possible steps to identify and apprehend anyone within India who is in contact with individuals like Shuja or complicit in their malicious activities.

"Such actions are a serious offence, and no one who is involved will be spared," a senior EC official told TOI.

Regarding his latest video offering to hack EVMs in the Maharashtra polls for a hefty payment by isolating their frequency, which he claimed would alter the result, the Maharashtra CEO office clarified in a post on X on Sunday that the EVM being a standalone de-

vice, "cannot be connected to any network including any Wi-Fi or any Bluetooth by any person whatsoever". "Therefore, question of manipulating EVMs does not arise. EVMs are completely tamper-proof," it said.

Recalling that Supreme Court has time and again reposed faith in EVMs, the post on X also mentioned the FIR registered by Delhi Police against Shuja in 2019 on EC's directions.

Section 318(4) of BNS — under which Shuja has been booked — states that whoever cheats and dishonestly induces a person to be deceived to make, alter or destroy anything which is signed or sealed, shall be punished with imprisonment up to seven years, with a fine. While clause 43(g) of the IT Act makes it illegal to help someone access a computer resource in violation of the Act and its rules, clause 66D deals with cheating by personation by means of any communication device or computer resource, punishable with a jail term of up to three years and a fine up to ₹1 lakh.

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Now, CPM MP asks EC to clarify Maha poll percentage surge

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Thiruvananthapuram: CPM Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas on Sunday wrote to the Election Commission of India stating that there is an "urgent need" for clarification on alleged discrepancies in voter turnout percentage of the recently concluded Maharashtra Assembly polls. The letter by Brittas has come two days after the Congress raised with the EC "serious and grave inconsistencies" which it said were being revealed in the data relating to the polling and counting processes for the Maharashtra elections. Responding to the issue regarding the voter turnout data, the EC on Saturday asserted that there was no discrepancy in it and the data was available with all candidates polling station-wise and is verifiable. In the letter addressed to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, Brittas said certain allegations have recently emerged in the public domain regarding voter turnout figures and post-poll patterns, particularly in the context of the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

ஓட்டு இயந்திரம்
குறித்து அவதூறு
ஒருவர் மீது வழக்கு

புதுடி, டிச. 2-
'மின்னணு ஓட்டுப்
பதிவு இயந்திரத்தை
என்னால் முடக்க முடியும்' என கூறியவர்
மீது, தேர்தல் கமிஷன்
அளித்த புகாரின் அடிப்
ப்படையில், மும்பை
போலீசார் வழக்கு
பதிவு செய்தனர்.

மஹாராஷ்டிரா சட்
டசபைக்கு சமீபத்தில்
தேர்தல் நடந்து முடிந்
தது. இந்நிலையில்,
சமூக வலைதளங்
களில் சையது சுஜா
என்பவர் ஓட்டு இயந்
திரம் குறித்து பேசும்
வீடியோ பலரால்
பகிரப்பட்டது.

அதில், 'மஹாராஷ்
டிரா தேர்தலில் பயன்
படுத்தப்பட்ட மின்
னணு ஓட்டுப்பதிவு
இயந்திரத்தின் அலை
வரிசையை பிரித்து,
என்னால் ஓட்டுப்ப
திவு இயந்திரத்தை
முடக்க முடியும்; அதி
லுள்ள தகவல்களை
மாற்ற முடியும்' என
கூறியிருந்தார்.

இந்த தகவல் மஹா
ராஷ்டிரா தலைமை
தேர்தல் அதிகாரியின்
கவனத்திற்கு வந்தது.
அவர், 'வீடியோவில்
கூறியுள்ள தகவல்கள்
அனைத்தும் தவறா
னவை; அடிப்படை
ஆதாரமற்றவை' என,
கூறினார்.

மேலும், தவறான
தகவலை வெளியிட்ட
தற்காக சையது சுஜா
மீது மும்பை சைபர்
கிரைம் போலீசில் புகார்
அளிக்கப்பட்டது.

விசாரணையில்,
இதே போன்ற தக
வலை 2019ல் சையது
சுஜா வெளியிட்டு
இருப்பதும், அதற்
காக டில்லி போலீசார்
வழக்கு பதிவு செய்தி
ருப்பதும் தெரிந்தது.

வெளிநாட்டில்
இருந்து கொண்டு
இந்த அவதூறு தக
வலை அவர் வெளி
யிட்டதாக போலீசார்
தெரிவித்தனர்.

THE HINDU - TAMIL Dated: 02.12.2024

மகாராஷ்டிர வாக்குப் பதிவில் பிரச்சினை காங். பிரதிநிதிகளுக்கு ஆணையம் அழைப்பு

புதுடெல்லி
மகாராஷ்டிர சட்டப் பேரவைக்கு கடந்த மாதம் 20-ம் தேதி ஒரே கட்டமாக தேர்தல் நடைபெற்று, 23-ம் தேதி நடைபெற்ற வாக்கு எண்ணிக்கையில் பாஜக, விண்டேவின் சிவசேனா, அஜித் பவாரின் என்சிபி கட்சிகள் அதிக இடத்தைப் பெற்று மீண்டும் ஆட்சியைப் பிடித்துள்ளன.

இந்நிலையில் தேர்தல் ஆணையத்துக்கு மகாராஷ்டிர காங்கிரஸ் கட்சித் தலைமை அனுப்பிய புகாரில், "மின்னணு வாக்குப்பதிவு இயந்திரங்கள் தொடர்பாக சுமார் 450 புகார்கள் பெறப்பட்டுள்ளன. இந்த நிலையில், தேர்தல் நியாயமான முறையில் நடைபெற்றுள்ளது என்று எப்படிச் சொல்ல முடியும்? எனவே, வாக்குச்சீட்டுகள் முறையில் தேர்தலை நடத்தவேண்டும்" என்று கூறியிருந்தது.

இதையடுத்து டெல்லியில் இன்று காங்கிரஸ் கட்சி பிரதிநிதிகளுக்கு தேர்தல் ஆணையம் அழைப்பு விடுத்தது. அப்போது காங்கிரஸ் எழுப்பியுள்ள கவலை, புகார்கள் குறித்து விவாதிக்கப்படும் என்று தேர்தல் ஆணையம் தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

Daily Thanthi Dated: 02.12.2024

ஓட்டுப்பதிவு எந்திரம் பற்றி வதந்தி கிளப்பியவர் மீது வழக்கு தேர்தல் கமிஷன் புகாரின்பேரில் நடவடிக்கை

புதுடெல்லி, டிச.2-
சமூக வலைத்தளங்களில் வெளியான ஒரு வீடியோவில், ஒருவர் தன்னால் மின்னணு ஓட்டுப்பதிவு எந்திரங்களில் தில்லுமுல்லு செய்ய முடியும் என்று கூறியிருந்தார். அதை பார்த்த தேர்தல் கமிஷன், அந்த நபரின் பெயர் சையது சுஜா என்று கண்டறிந்தது. அவர் சொல்வது பொய் யானது. அடிப்படை ஆதாரமற்றது என்று அவர் மீது மும்பை சைபர் போலீசில் மராட்டிய மாநில தலைமை தேர்தல் அதிகாரி புகார் கொடுத்தார். அதன்பேரில், பாரதிய நியாய சன் ஹரிடா, தகவல்தொழில்நுட்ப சட்டம் ஆகியவற்றின்கீழ் அவர் மீது சைபர் போலீசார் வழக்குப்பதிவு செய்தனர்.
கடந்த 2019-ம் ஆண்டும், இதேபோல் கூறியதற்காக சையது சுஜா மீது டெல்லியில் போலீசார் வழக்குப்பதிவு செய்தது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. அவர் ஏதோ ஒரு வெளிநாட்டில் பதுங்கி வாழ்ந்து வருவதாக தெரிகிறது.

D.T. Next

Date: 09-12-2024

More voters per booth: SC to hear plea on EC move

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on December 2 a PIL challenging the Election Commission's decision to increase the maximum number of voters per polling station from 1,200 to 1,500.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar will take up the PIL filed by one Indu Prakash Singh, who has challenged two communications issued by the Election Commission in August 2024 increasing the number of voters per polling stations in each constituency across India.

Singh has contended that the decision to increase the number of voters per polling booth was arbitrary and not based on any data.

On October 24, the top court refused to issue any notice to the poll panel but allowed the petitioner to serve the copy to the standing counsel of the Election Commission so that its stand on the issue is known.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the petitioner, contended that increasing the num-

ber of voters from 1,200 to 1,500 would lead to the exclusion of underprivileged groups from the electoral process as it will take a longer time for an individual to cast their franchise.

He had also submitted that longer queues at the polling station and longer waiting periods would dissuade voters from going to cast their votes.

The bench said the poll panel wants more and more people to vote and with the use of EVMs, it takes a shorter time compared to ballot papers, adding,

it is trying to reduce the time taken to cast votes by increasing the number of EVMs at booths.

The petitioner has contended that the poll panel's decision would impact the voters during the assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand (since concluded) and Bihar and Delhi to be held next year.

Singh said that elections are normally held for 11 hours and it takes around 60 to 90 seconds to cast one vote, and therefore 660 to 490 persons can cast their vote in a day at one polling station with one EVM.



EC's move to increase voter count: SC to hear plea today

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Monday a PIL challenging the Election Commission's decision to increase the maximum number of voters per polling station from 1,200 to 1,500.

A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar will take up the PIL filed by one Indu Prakash Singh, who has challenged two communications issued by the poll panel in August 2024, increasing the number of voters per polling stations in each constituency across India.

Ms Singh has contended

that the decision to increase the number of voters per polling booth was arbitrary and not based on any data.

On October 24, the SC refused to issue any notice to the poll panel, but allowed the petitioner to serve the copy to the standing counsel of the EC so that its stand on the issue is known.

Petitioner's counsel Abhishek Singhvi contended that increasing the number of voters from 1,200 to 1,500 would lead to the exclusion of underprivileged groups from the electoral process, as it will take a longer time for an individual to cast the vote.

EC files case against EVM 'hacking' video

Mumbai: Amidst allegations of manipulation of electronic voting machines (EVMs), a video created a buzz in Maharashtra, which showed a man claiming that he could hack the EVMs by isolating machine frequency. While the Election Commission has denied the claims, it has also registered a complaint with the Mumbai cyber police in this regard. In the viral video, a man on a video call explains how he can allegedly manipulate and tamper with the EVMs in the Maharashtra polls. He states that he has "access" to 281 out of 288 seats, though he adds that "frequency isolation is not possible" in some regions. He also mentioned that ₹52-53 crores will be charged for allegedly ensuring victory in 63 seats. "I need someone to carry a phone and access a particular application that will scan the area and come up with which frequency we can isolate."



SC to hear plea against raising voter count per polling booth

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a PIL petition challenging the Election Commission's decision to increase the maximum number of voters per polling station from 1,200 to 1,500. A Bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar will take up the petition filed by Indu Prakash Singh, who has challenged two communications issued by the EC in August increasing the number of voters per polling stations in each constituency across India. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that longer queues at the polling station and longer waiting periods would dissuade voters from going to cast their votes. PTI

EC files police complaint against 'EVM hacker'

The Mumbai Cyber Police have lodged a first information report (FIR) against a man who claimed he could hack electronic voting machines (EVMs) by isolating machine frequency, Election Commission (EC) officials said. The complaint was lodged by the Maharashtra chief electoral officer, alleging that the claims made by the accused, Syed Shuja, were false and unsubstantiated. The FIR was registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the IT Act at the Cyber Police Station, Dakshin Mumbai on November 30 "against the person in this video", the CEO said. PTI