

Ex-Minister Gopinath Munde's nephew wants probe after expert's claim

Agency Mumbai, Jan 22, Nationalist Congress Party or NCP leader Dhananjay Munde has demanded a probe either by the R&AW or a Supreme Court judge into the death of his uncle and former union minister Gopinath Munde after a cyber expert claimed that the BJP leader was "killed" as he was aware of hacking of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. Dhananjay Munde, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council, also termed as "shocking" the claims made by the self-proclaimed US-based Indian cyber expert. He said those who loved Gopinath Munde had always raised questions over his death wondering "if it actually

was an accident or a sabotage". Gopinath Munde died in a road accident in New Delhi in 2014. "A cyber expert has made a sensational claim that former Union Minister Late Gopinathrao Munde saheb was murdered. This claim needs immediate attention and investigation from RAW/ Supreme Court, as it is directly linked to the death of mass leader. #EVMHacking," Dhananjay Munde tweeted. "Everybody who followed Munde saheb's leadership and loved him had raised questions about his death. After today's revelation, the doubt has been addressed. If the claim of #EVMHacking is true, then it also violate the norms of the biggest democracy of the world(sic),"

the NCP leader alleged. In another tweet in Marathi, Dhananjay Munde said, "Each of those who loved Munde Saheb had doubted that he died in the accident, but it was a sabotage." "Hence, the startling claims made by cyber expert Syed Suja in a live press conference backs the suspicion," he claimed. The cyber expert, identified as Syed Shuja who is seeking political asylum in the US, claimed on Monday that the 2014 elections were "rigged" through the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), which, he claims, can be hacked. The Election Commission of India has denied the charge. Addressing a press conference in London via Skype, Syed Shuja said he fled India in 2014 because he felt

threatened in the country after the killing of some of his team members. The cyber expert also claimed that BJP leader Gopinath Munde was "killed because he was aware of EVM hacking in the 2014 elections." He however, provided no proof to back up his allegations. Syed Shuja also claimed that NIA officer Tanzil Ahmed, who was investigating Munde's death, was planning to file an FIR noting that the BJP leader had been murdered, but was himself killed. The Central Bureau of Investigation or CBI in October 2014 ruled out any foul play in the death of Gopinath Munde, claiming that the politician had died due to injuries sustained in a road accident.

BJP Cancels Narendra Modi's Kolkata Event Planned at Site of Opposition Rally

Agency New Delhi, Jan. 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed rally at the Brigade Parade Grounds in Kolkata next month has been cancelled, the Bharatiya Janata Party said on Monday, adding that the prime minister will initially attend three rallies in West Bengal starting next week. The historic ground, also known as the Maidan, was the venue for the mega opposition rally organised by West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee last Saturday. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address three rallies in West Bengal. On January 28 (Monday), he will address

a rally at Thakurnagar in Bongaon. On February 2, he will address a rally at Siliguri in north Bengal," state BJP president Dilip Ghosh said. Modi's scheduled rally at the Brigade Parade Grounds on February 8 has been cancelled and, instead, he will be addressing a rally at Asansol - represented by party MP Babul Supriyo - on the same day, Ghosh said. "So far, this is the schedule." Asked why the BJP was not organising the Kolkata rally as scheduled, Ghosh said the party would be holding three rallies in various parts of the state, that was why they had decided to call off the rally. "We will organise a rally at the Brigade Parade Grounds later," he added. According to the *Telegraph*,

the massive turnout at the opposition rally may have made the BJP re-think its plans. "Our central leaders are unsure whether a large enough crowd could be ensured to fill the Brigade Parade Grounds at such short notice.... We are postponing our February 8 meeting there," the newspaper quoted Ghosh as saying. The state BJP will kick-start its Lok Sabha polls campaign in the state from Tuesday, with a rally of party president Amit Shah in Malda district. Shah will be addressing two other rallies at Jhargram and Suri in Birbhum district on Wednesday. The saffron party has set a target to win 22 out of the total 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state for the upcoming general election.

Congress distances itself from London presser on EVM hacking

Agency New Delhi, Jan 22,

The Congress on Monday distanced itself from the London press conference wherein a self-proclaimed Indian cyber expert claimed electronic voting machines (EVMs) can be hacked and the 2014 parliamentary election was "rigged", and demanded an investigation into the allegations. Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said party leader Kapil Sibal was invited by a journalist and he did not represent the Congress party at the press conference, held under the aegis of the Indian Journalists' Association (Europe). He said the Congress and other parties want that there should be a system in place to check 50 per cent of voter verifiable paper audit trails (VVPAT) to reassure the country on the infallibility of electronic voting machines. "The charges made are very serious. I cannot vouch for

them or deny them, as they have not been investigated. But they certainly need investigation. These should be looked into with an open mind by the election commission," he told reporters. On the BJP's charge about the involvement of the Congress in organizing the event as it was attended by Sibal, Singhvi said, "Obviously, the Congress party had nothing to do with organizing the press conference and does not know the principal actors and has no role to play." He said Sibal has himself clarified that a journalist had invited him and he went, "but he was certainly not claiming to be representing the Congress party". "But, I think this approach of shooting the messenger without looking at the message must change. And that is the sum and substance," he told reporters. "Which is why the only demand in the short-time that is available before the 2019 elections is that now you

have...a 50 per cent sample check (of VVPAT) to at least give a great reassurance of faith." "It will at best mean a little delay in the results. Is a little delay better than a grave doubt on democracy itself. This touches on the core of our democracy. So why can't we have a 50 per cent sample check," he said. Singhvi said even before the London presser, all opposition political parties are extremely concerned about EVMs and "although in theory we would like to revert to the physical paper ballot, we understand that the time is too short to switch whole-scale to physical paper ballot". He said both in Kolkata and in Delhi, leaders have repeatedly asserted that there should be at least the use of 100% mandatory VVPAT. "What is the use of having 100 per cent mandated VVPAT paper trail in all machines, and use only one or three per cent sample check."

"All that we are saying is in view of paucity of time in elections, have at least a 50 per cent sample check to reassure the public," he said. Addressing the press conference in London via Skype, the self-proclaimed US-based Indian cyber expert, identified as Syed Shuja, said he fled India in 2014 because he felt threatened in the country after the killing of some of his team members. Shuja, who said he is seeking political asylum in the US, claimed the telecom giant Reliance Jio helped the BJP to get low frequency signals to hack the EVMs. However, he provided no proof to back up his claim. Also, Reliance Jio launched its services publicly in September 2016. The outlandish and explosive claims, made in a cloak and dagger manner, could not be immediately confirmed. He claimed he was part of a team at the public sector Electronic Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL), which designed and developed EVMs. Although he appeared on screen through Skype, his face was masked. In New Delhi, the Election Commission asserted that it firmly stands by the 'foolproof nature' of its machines even as it said it is examining as to what legal action "can and should" be taken in the matter.

Agency Moscow, Jan. 22

Two ships carrying Indian, Turkish and Libyan crew members have caught fire in the Kerch Strait separating Crimea from Russia, killing at least 11 persons, media reports said on Tuesday. The fire broke out on Monday off Russia's territorial waters. Both vessels were flying Tanzanian flags. One of them was a liquefied natural gas carrier and another one was a tanker. The fire broke out as the two ships were transferring fuel from one to the other. One of the ships, the *Candy*, had a 17-member crew, including nine Turkish citizens and eight Indian

nationals. The other one, the *Maestro*, had 15-member crew, including seven Turkish nationals, seven Indian citizens and an intern from Libya, Russian news agency Tass quoted maritime authority as saying. At least 11 sailors have died, Russian Maritime Agency said was quoted by RT news, a Russian television network. "Presumably, an explosion occurred (on one of the vessels). Then the fire spread to another vessel. A rescue tug is en route," said a spokesman for the Russian Maritime Agency. Some three dozen sailors managed to escape the burning ships by jumping off the vessels. Twelve persons have so far

been rescued from the sea. Nine sailors are still listed as missing, the spokesperson said. Severe weather conditions at sea have prevented rescue ships from taking victims to the shore for medical treatment, the report added. The Kerch Strait is a key waterway that holds strategic importance for both Russia and Ukraine. It is an important economic lifeline for Ukraine that allows ships leaving the port city of Mariupol to access the Black Sea. It's also the closest point of access for Russia to Crimea, a peninsula Moscow annexed in 2014. A Russian-built bridge over the Kerch Strait opened in May last year.

Man gets 7 years rigorous imprisonment for robbery

Agency Thane, Jan 22

A Thane court has awarded seven years' rigorous imprisonment to a 36-year-old man for robbing a person and injuring him. Additional Sessions Judge R N Ambatkar pronounced the punishment last week after convicting the accused, Shaukat

Ali Abdulsalam Shaikh, under Indian Penal Code Sections 392 (robbery) and 397 (robbery or dacoity with an attempt to cause death or grievous hurt). The court also imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on him. Another accused, Mohammad Mehtabali Mohammad Sharafali Khan, has been absconding since the registration of offence in the case in 2009. According to the prosecution, the victim, Rakesh Kanawade, a resident of Savarkar Nagar in Thane city, was waiting near the Golden Dyes Naka to go home on September 14, 2009 when a car stopped there and its driver offered him lift towards Cadbury Junction. While one of the accused sat with the victim, the other one drove the car towards the

Mumbai-Nashik Highway. The two accused then robbed Kanawade of his valuables at knife-point. They also beat up the victim and later threw him out of the car near Saket area in Thane. The victim, who received injuries in the incident, lodged a police complaint the next day following which Shaukat Ali, a resident of Mumbai, was arrested. Judge Ambatkar observed that the accused used dangerous weapons, committed the offence with proper planning and caused injury to the victim. Ali was earlier also held guilty under IPC Section 397 by a court in the neighbouring Raigad district, he noted. "This shows that the accused repeatedly committed the offence of robbery," the judge said while pronouncing the punishment.

Contd. from page 2

Scientific Knowledge as Reflected ...

The study of astrology flourished in Manipur in a well founded basis during the reign of king Bheigyachandra. Khumbong Maniram the renowned astrologer was appointed as the head of king astrological department of the kingdom by the order of the king. He was directed to write an astrological book to the effect of Manipur as to introduce a new era named "Meitei Kangleipakhi Shok" in "Chandrabadda" fashion Khumbong Maniram had compiled an astrological book titled "Jyotish Chandrika", the provisions of which were rendered to enforce in the Manipuri astrological sphere since then by the order of the monarch on Thursday, the 12th day of 'Hiyangei' ¹⁰ in 1760 A.D. The difference between Chandrabadda and Sakabadda is 710 and between Christian era is 788. This Chandrabadda was found on the gold coin issued by the king Gambhir Singh i.e.

Chandrabadda 1043 on four corner square shape coin.¹¹ One Khumbong Debakishore who was also an eminent astrologer during the period of King Gambhir Singh (1825-1834 A.D.). He wrote a book named "Laghu Jyotish Chandrika" and the book was released on Wednesday the 1st day of 'Sajiphu' ¹² in 1831 A.D. by the king Gambhir Singh. **THUMKHONGLON** The word Thumkhonglon means the science of the salt-spring/well and the salt brine/ well known by the State and people of the past days. In Manipur, there were many salt wells and were taken with great importance. So the kings took measure and appointed salt officers of the State.¹³ The salt was evaporated traditionally and over and above the domestic, therapeutic, uses the cake of the salt was used as a reward given by the king to the people who were champions in any activities, including sports. In

this regard mention may be made "Thumbon nama" (100 Cakes of Salt) as the name of a prize or reward awarded to the best winner in any of the various fields. The process of extraction/ manufacturing of the salt was in a traditional way which taken up by the village, it may also be accounted as in a scientific process in the modern context. Even in the village of Ningel is still continuing the process of salt in traditional way. The manuscripts of Manipur reflect the scientific knowledge's as shown above. The past scholars of Manipur may not know whether it was a subject of science or art, but in the present context it may easily identify as a scientific process. The above mentioned manuscripts are discussed as an exemplification, but it will be better when the interested person in this topic have analyze more about this and it will bring many benefits in the archival library.

Affidavit

I, Laishram Nirmala Devi is Legally Wedded Spouse of No.14263064A Rank NAIK Name LAISHRAM RAMESHWAR SINGH Presently Residing at Thoubal Kshtrileikai PO/PS & District Thoubal Manipur, has been changed my Name from Nirmala Devi to Laishram Nirmala Devi vide Affidavit dated 17/01/19 before the Oath Commissioner Manipur at Thoubal. And my only daughter's name has also changed from LAISHRAM NIRARANI DEVI to NIRA LASHRAM vide Affidavit dated 17/01/19 before the Oath Commissioner Manipur at Thoubal.

Sd/-

Laishram Nirmala Devi
Thoubal, Manipur

Name changed

I, the undersigned, Rajkumar Amarjit Singh, do hereby declared that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandon the use of my old name Rajkumar Amerjeet Singh as I have assumed my new Rajkumar Amarjit Singh. Hence I shall be called and known as Rajkumar Amarjit Singh from today.

Sd/-

Rajkumar Amarjit Singh
Moirangkhom Makhla Loklaobung
Imphal, Manipur