

HC: Independence of probe agencies crucial

Bombay High Court Questions Enforcement Directorate On Protection For Eknath Khadse

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Thursday asked the Enforcement Directorate what is the problem if former BJP minister Eknath Khadse, now in NCP, is protected from coercive action for a while, observing that he was "cooperating" with the investigation in an alleged Pune land grab case.

Khadse (68), former revenue minister of Maharashtra, who had earlier this month been summoned by the ED in connection with an

alleged land grab case, has petitioned the HC to have the case quashed and for interim protection against coercive action. His counsel Aabad Ponda said Khadse cannot be compelled to implicate himself or make incriminating statements against himself. He had in response to the ED summons visited the agency's office on January 15, he said. Khadse had quite BJP last October. The ED had last October filed its Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), which is akin to a First Information Report

(FIR), but the procedure under it is different.

A bench of Justices S S Shinde and Manish Pitale posted the matter to January 25 to hear Ponda and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, who appeared for the ED, on the issue of whether a prima facie case is made out for relief.

Singh, orally assured the HC that no coercive steps would be taken till the next date.

Ponda sought orders against Khadse's arrest and said

he had been cooperating and honoured the summons, which the HC noted too.

The HC bench spoke of how democracy has three pillars—the judiciary, executive and legislature—and a fourth one, the media. It said the independence of investigating agencies like ED and CBI was important. There is a threat to democracy if these agencies do not act independently, said the bench.

The case is of alleged "misuse of official power and government machinery" by Khadse when he was revenue minister in 2016. The ED case is against Khadse, his wife Mandakini and son-in-law Girish Chaudhari for a Rs 62 crore alleged loss to the exchequer. The Pune MIDC had given a notification to acquire land in Bhosri. It was a huge tract of land, and the owner sought fair compensation under acquisition laws.

The allegations against Khadse are that he purchased the land at a throwaway price of Rs 3.75 crore, when the actual market price was

over Rs 31 crore. He is accused of having an intention to make huge profits from MIDC later. Khadse's case is that "when admittedly there are no proceeds of crime," could ED initiate a case against him? Khadse's petition said the land was bought by his wife and son-in-law from its original owner legally. Khadse had, after receiving the summons, said it was only because he had shifted out from BJP to the NCP that he was being summoned. The ED in a reply sought dismissal of Khadse's "premature" petition.

UP man, who married 10 times, murdered over property

Bareilly: A man, who had married at least 10 times, was allegedly murdered by unidentified persons over property in Bhojipura area of Bareilly on Wednesday. Jaganlal Yadav, 52, was a farmer who inherited ancestral property worth a few crores and he was about to transfer it to a 24-year-old man believed to be his adopted son. **rw**

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Netaji's kin not for renaming Victoria Memorial after him

Subhro.Niyogi
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Kolkata: A rumoured proposal to rename Kolkata's iconic Victoria Memorial Hall after either Subhas Chandra Bose or the Azad Hind Fauj hasn't found favour with his kin, who believe that "an apt tribute" to Netaji would be to build a separate memorial and a research centre "independent of any hangover".

Chandra Bose, a grandnephew of Netaji, received multiple calls on Thursday, enquiring whether Victoria Memorial Hall was being renamed like some prominent British-era Mumbai landmarks, including the erstwhile Victoria & Albert Museum (renamed Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum), Victoria Terminus and Prince of Wales Museum (both renamed after Chhatrapati Shivaji).

Officials in the Union ministry of cultural affairs, which oversees the administration of Victoria Memorial, denied knowledge of any official move.

According to Chandra Bose, the BJP candidate pitted against West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Bhowanipore constituency during the 2016 elections, obliterating history is no way to honour Netaji.

3 Bengal BJP partymen arrested for raising 'goli maro' slogan

Chandernagore: Police arrested three BJP organizers on Thursday for shouting "Desh ke gaddaro ko, goli maro salo ko" at the party's roadshow the day before at Mankundu in Bengal's Hooghly district. A local court has remanded of them in jail custody till January 30.

The jail custody sparked a row among rival political parties over the treatment meted out to BJP activists when police didn't take any action against Trinamool supporters who had shouted a similar slogan. **TNN**

Furfura cleric enters poll fray with new outfit

Kolkata: Cleric of Furfura Sharif in West Bengal, Abbas Siddiqui, launched his outfit — the Indian Secular Front — on Thursday, prompting a Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader to call the pirzada a "BJP stooge." The new outfit — launched as a platform for Muslims, Dalits and Adivasis — has come as an irritant for TMC, which has the support of the minority vote bank, particularly in North and South 24 Parganas. **TNN**

TIMES ascent

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WORKSPACE MATTERS

WITH WFH BECOMING THE NEW NORM, SETTING UP A PERFECT PLACE TO WORK WITH THE RIGHT TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES IS IMPORTANT. HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO DO IT RIGHT

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India has seen several employees setting up an office in their own homes since the onslaught of the pandemic and subsequent lockdown. According to various reports, Work From Home (WFH) will soon become a regular and inevitable part of the 'New Normal'. Today, WFH is an accepted norm in almost all sectors, as it promotes a good work-life balance and enhances productivity.

However, there is a drawback to this. With remote working on the rise, more and more employees are experiencing pain and discomfort due to poor workstation set up at their homes. Working from the bed, sofa, or dining chair at home, however appealing it could be might do permanent harm to a person's posture and productivity. Especially for those living in compact spaces working from home can sometimes feel more like a stressor than a perk. Trying to work comfortably while constantly rotating between the workspace and the floor is not only irritating but also potentially bad for the health. The most common physical issues being neck stiffness, hunched posture, wrist aching, and fatigue.

In this scenario where most home offices are not ergonomically-optimized, finding the perfect chair and a desk that is well integrated with other ergonomic tools that meet the WFH requirements is an absolute must. Here are some tips for setting up ergonomic work tools and accessories that suit all your WFH

needs, ensuring complete comfort and enhancing productivity.

Finding the perfect chair is an important first step when creating a healthy, comfortable workspace. A good choice would be a comfortable ergonomic chair, especially one that automatically adjusts to the sitter so they don't need to fumble with confusing knobs and levers to be comfortable as they change tasks and positions throughout the day. This can lead to an increase in alertness as well as an increase in blood flow, benefitting a person's well-being.

The next step is to find a desk. It's important for people to be able to move freely throughout the day in order to be healthy, comfortable, and focused at work. Ideally, a good sit/stand desk is recommended which should be simple, intuitive and easy to use, so if a person needs to stand or sit while working, the process of raising or lowering the desk is seamless.

Natural light in the workplace has a positive influence on productivity, creativity, and mood, but it is just one of the many light sources needed to fully address wellbeing at work. With the rise of backlit screens and open floor plans, task lighting, as a supplement to natural or overhead lighting, is necessary for an optimal work experience.

Though often overlooked, monitor arms promote a clutter-free workspace and support a healthier, more ergonomic working posture, making it a must-have for the ideal desk setup. Many professionals tend to lean in toward their computer monitor in order to see it better, whereas monitor arms enable them to pull the monitor closer so they can sit in a healthy posture, with their back against the back of the task chair, and still see the work on their screen.

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