



## Ayodhya priest invites Rahul Gandhi to stay in Hanumangarhi temple

**PATNA: CONGRESS**

**DARPAN**

A mahant at the Hanumangarhi Mandir here on Monday invited Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to stay on the temple premises after he vacates the government bungalow allotted to him as Member of Parliament.

Gandhi was recently served a notice to vacate

the bungalow following his disqualification from Lok Sabha on being convicted by a Gujarat court in a criminal defamation case and awarded a two-year sentence.

The "offer" was interpreted by some as an expression of support for the Congress from a mahant of a temple in a BJP bastion.

"We, the seers of

Ayodhya, welcome Rahul Gandhi to this pious city, we offer him our place to reside," priest Sanjay Das said.

Mahant Sanjay Das is heir to the prestigious seat of Mahant Gyan Das, the elderly seer of Hanumangarhi. Sanjay Das is also the national president of the Sankat Mochan Sena.

Talking to PTI, Das

said if Gandhi wants to come and live in the Hanumangarhi campus, he is most welcome.

"Rahul Gandhi must come to Ayodhya and visit Hanumangarhi and offer prayers here. There are many such ashrams in the campus area of Hanumangarhi, he should come and stay in our ashram, we will be happy," he added.





## Rahul Gandhi's disqualification a campaign issue in poll-bound Karnataka, says Congress leader Veerappa Moily

**PATNA: CONGRESS DARPAN**

The disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as a Lok Sabha member would be a campaign issue for the Congress in the Assembly elections in Karnataka and it would contribute to the defeat of the BJP government in the state, senior party leader M Veerappa Moily said on Monday.

In an interview with PTI, the former Karnataka chief minister said there is a "groundswell" of support for the Congress in the state, and his party's campaign on corruption issues have worked, while the BJP is facing a "strong, anti-incumbency wave".

"Definitely, it (Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's disqualification following his conviction and sentencing by a Surat court) will be a campaign issue," the former



Union minister said.

Asked if the disqualification issue would serve to the "political advantage" of the Congress in the poll-bound state, Moily said: "It's everywhere in the country;

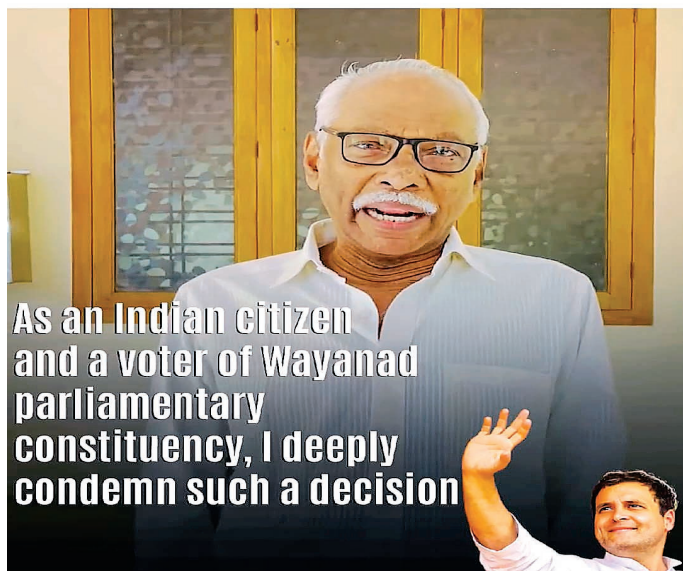
after all, it (the issue) shows that it's the peak of vendetta politics". He said the issue would create a sympathy wave in part for the Congress becoming "one of the factors that will be responsible

for the fall of the BJP". Moily said his party's campaign is far more aggressive than the ruling BJP, which is concentrating more on the Narendra Modi—Amit Shah image, adding that the Congress would also focus on "exposing" the BJP and the Narendra Modi-led government and their "revengeful politics".

He alleged that the BJP government has "messed up" the reservation issue in Karnataka.

Moily was referring to the Basavaraj Bommai government's recent decision on scrapping four per cent reservation for Muslims within the OBC category and earmarking an additional two per cent each to Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva—Lingayat communities and creating four sub-categories to introduce internal quota for different Dalit communities under the SC category.

#WayanadSpeaks



As an Indian citizen and a voter of Wayanad parliamentary constituency, I deeply condemn such a decision

**M N Karassery**  
Writer

M. N. Karassery, the celebrated writer & lecturer on politics, literature, art & culture, sheds light on how fascism can cripple a democracy. Hear his insightful views on Rahul Gandhi ji's recent disqualification from the Lok Sabha in this video.



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**Padma Shri Cheruvayal Raman**  
Farmer

Padma Shri awardee Cheruvayal Raman, who is India's 'living paddy gene bank,' pledges his unwavering support to Shri Rahul Gandhi and vows to protect him. Hear this tribal farmer's inspiring words about his favorite leader in this video.





## As Rahul Gandhi leaves for Surat to appeal against conviction, Congress workers gather in support

PATNA: CONGRESS DARPAN

As Congress leader and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi readied to land in Surat Monday along with his sister and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, party workers and leaders from across the state gathered in solidarity in the city. Kirit Panwala, the lawyer who represented Gandhi in the magistrates court, told The Indian Express Monday he will first file an application for regular bail and then appeal against the two-year conviction in the criminal defamation case.

Before that, Rajasthan Chief Minister and the Congress's senior observer in Gujarat Ashok Gehlot is scheduled to address a press conference at the Surat Circuit House at 1 pm.


Congress leaders from other



districts who are in Surat alleged the Gujarat Police, which have deployed its personnel in large

numbers in and around the city, were "preventing" them from entering. Former Congress MLA

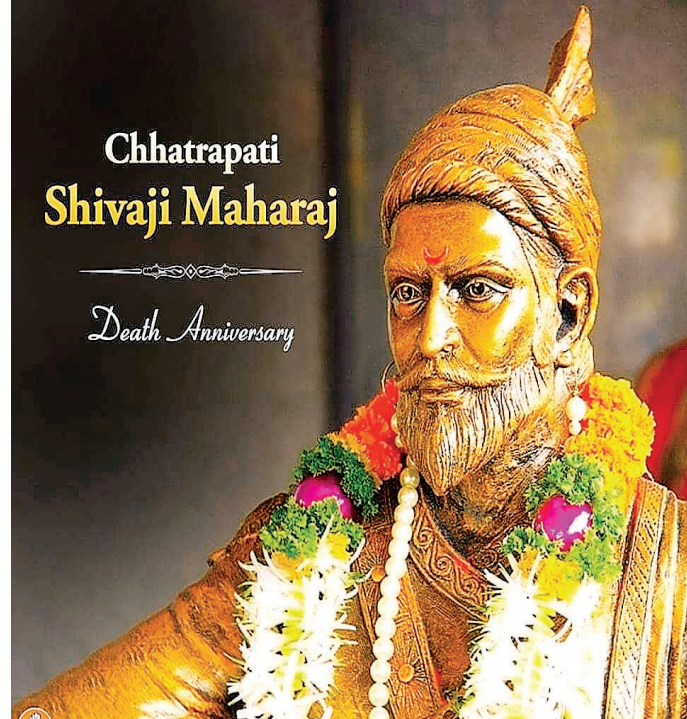
Anand Chaudhary arrived on a motorcycle covering 100 km, to avoid the police.



**Padma Vibhushan**  
**Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw**  
3 April 1914 - 27 June 2008

On his birth anniversary, we salute Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. He was the first Indian Army officer to be promoted to Field Marshal. One of the chief architects of India's 1971 victory against Pakistan, he delivered India one of its swiftest and most remarkable military victories.

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**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**  
*Death Anniversary*

We salute the great Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, hailed as a valiant king and true legend. He continues to be a source of inspiration to all.

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