



## Mamata escapes hotel room fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday had a narrow escape after a fire broke out in a hotel room she was staying in Malda district while she was campaigning for parliamentary poll.

Police said that at around 6.40 pm, the air conditioner in the room caught fire while she was inside the toilet. She felt uneasy after inhaling the smoke as she shouted for help.

West Bengal Transport Minister Madan Mitra, who accompanied Mamata in her campaigning along with filmstar-turned lawmaker MP Mithun Chakraborty, said that "after hearing the cries of Mamata, her aide Joydeep rushed to her help and wrapped her with a blanket, pulling her out of the room. The room was filled with smoke."

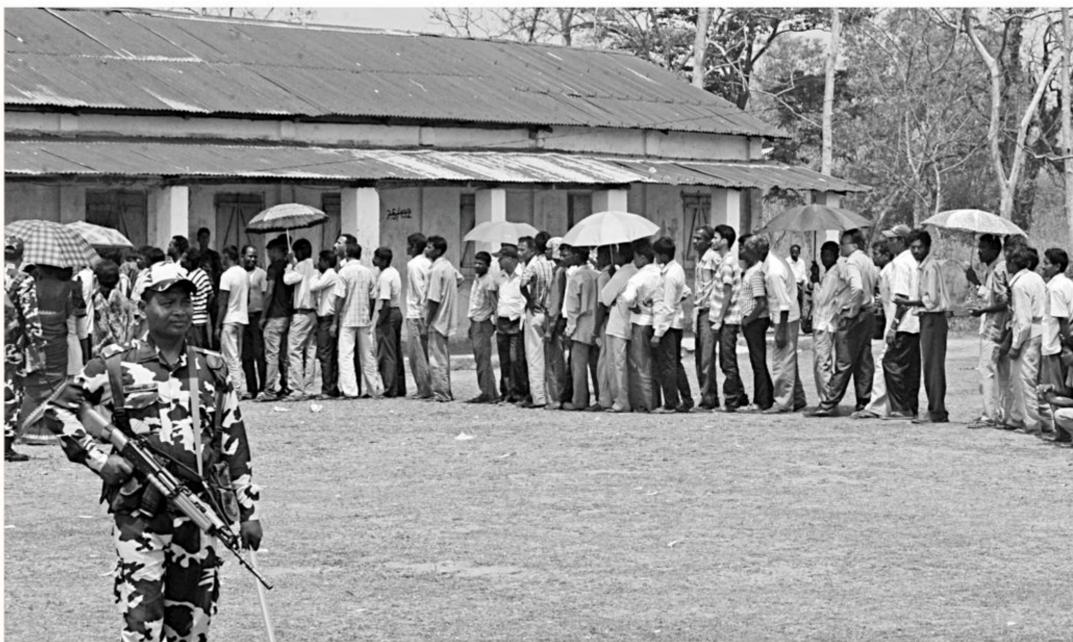
The police said a doctor came soon and examined her. Fire tenders arrived soon and extinguished the fire. According to Madan Mitra, Banerjee is unhurt and safe.

An investigation is on into the incident, the police said adding they suspected a short circuit behind the fire.

Madan Mitra alleged there was a 'conspiracy' behind the fire.

Mitra said while Mamata was in the first floor room, he himself was in the third floor along with Mithun when the incident took place.

# LOK SABHA POLLS 2014



An Indian para-military trooper stands guard as residents queue at a polling station in Siliguri during national elections yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Gujarat model a myth Mulayam eyes PM's post

Jayalalithaa sharpens attack on Modi Says 3rd front to form govt

PTI, Krishnagiri

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa yesterday dismissed as a "myth" the Gujarat model of development and said Tamil Nadu was placed far better in various sectors.

In a strong rebuttal to the BJP's prime ministerial nominee Narendra Modi on his charge that her party was not concerned about people's welfare, she said Tamil Nadu was ahead of Gujarat in various indicators including social indices and industry.

"A myth has been created that Gujarat is No. 1 in India. But that is not true. The fact of the matter is that Gujarat is keen to market itself, but Tamil Nadu, under my leadership, is focussed not in making empty claims, but more determined to deliver," she told an election rally in Krishnagiri, a day after Modi campaigned for the NDA in the town in western Tamil Nadu.

Stepping up his attack on the AIADMK and the DMK, Modi had accused the two parties of being interested only in settling personal scores rather than working for people whenever they came to power.

Reeling out statistics to repudiate the Gujarat development model, the main plank of Modi, Jayalalithaa said Below Poverty Rate rate was 16.9 per cent in



Jayalalithaa



Narendra Modi

Gujarat while it was only 11.3 per cent in her state which was also better placed in terms of Infant Mortality Rate, at 21 per 1000 as against Gujarat's 38.

So was the case with Maternal Mortality Rate, with Gujarat accounting for 122 as against Tamil Nadu's 90, she said.

Tamil Nadu was ahead of Gujarat in other indicators like number of graduates in the manufacturing sector, better coverage of PDS even as it was ranked third in terms of Gross State Domestic Product, two places ahead of Gujarat.

Number of industries in Tamil Nadu outnumber Gujarat even as the state's food grains production touched 101.51 lakh tonnes in 2011-12, even as Gujarat produced only 88.74 lakh tonnes, she said adding her state was way ahead of Gujarat in many sectors, she noted.

Jayalalithaa also listed out various welfare schemes of her government including marriage assistance to poor women, free bicycles and laptops to students and the flagship free mixer-grinder-fan scheme.

Holding that she had launched the low-cost Amma unavagams (Amma canteens) besides a slew of social security schemes, she asked, "Aren't these schemes designed with the aim of benefiting the poor?"

PTI, Uttar Pradesh

Samajwadi Party supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav yesterday claimed that third front would form the government at the Centre, with SP as its largest component, and said he would stake claim for the prime minister's post.

To a question whether he would stake claim for the prime minister's post, he told PTI that SP would emerge as the largest party in the third front government and he would stake his claim.

But, it would be decided by all partners of the front, he said.

The SP supremo said that at the initial stage leaders of like-minded political parties had held interaction and after long deliberations it was decided that the leader of the third front would be decided after the elections.

Mulayam said BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi is no threat to SP and he is a only media creation and added that BJP would not be in a position to form the government.

Earlier, at an election rally here, he said poor Muslims would get reservation like the backward community. He said that free higher education would be ensured to all irrespective of caste, class or religion.

Attacking Congress, the SP supremo said it was a "dead force" and widespread corruption and high prices of essential commodities would show its proper place.

# India's youth: the decisive factor

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Over the next six weeks more than half a billion Indians will go to 930,000 polling stations in the 16th general election since the country won independence from Britain in 1947. The exact impact of the 120 million first-time voters expected to cast their ballots is hotly debated. What is undisputed is that the youth will decide their nation's future.

First there are the sheer demographics: a third of the population is under 15, more than half under 24; every third person in an Indian city today is between 15 and 32; the median age in India is 27; around 150 million people are eligible to vote for the first time in the coming polls.

Then there is the wider story of present-day India. The powerful growth that boosted incomes and significantly reduced poverty has faltered in recent years. Traditional values and customs have given way to a new uncertainty. Much is changing, and the process of transition is traumatic for millions.

India's youth could be a "demographic dividend", ensuring stability and prosperity for decades to come – or a disaster, condemning the country to years of deep social tensions, drift and fear.

Educational institutions are grossly over-subscribed and hugely under-resourced. Worse, perhaps, there is little guarantee of satisfactory employment whatever the investment of time and money. According to Indian government data, although growth averaged 8.7% from 2005 to 2010, only 1 million jobs were created, leaving 59 million new entrants on to the labour market with nothing.

B Narayanawamy, of Ipsos Indica, a leading local market research company, traces four generational shifts since India gained its independence in 1947. In the early 1950s, patriotism and self-sacrifice were dominant as values, with young

people wanting to be teachers. Twenty years later, after the 1971 war with Pakistan and with the autocratic Indira Gandhi committed to a socialist programme, the most popular professions were in the military. By the early 1990s, there came an identity-based reaction to a globalisation both channelled and encouraged by a newly resurgent Hindu nationalist ideology. Finally, today, values are increasingly determined by urbanisation.

Many have pointed out that this is a generation for which doctrine arguments pitting socialism against capitalism, the developing world against the west or even events such as the destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, in 1991 have little, or at least less, relevance.

Pratap Bhanu Mehta, president of the New Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research thinktank, has argued that it is unlikely that young voters would vote as a bloc.

"A lot of the old historical examples by which the parties used to discredit each other, probably, for good or bad, no longer have any resonance. Memories of the Emergency [a period of unrest in the mid-70s], 1984 [anti-Sikh riots], all of that, which in a sense defined that ideological space, perhaps even around secularism and so forth, are not very big for these kids," Mehta told the local Mint newspaper.

This explains why senior Bharatiya Janata party officials believe that their party's message of economic reform and decisive leadership will appeal to a widespread desire for both solutions and "empowerment".

However, some experts downplay the likelihood of any "youth revolution".

"There are some signs of a greater interest in politics compared with the past, but it's marginal. There's a lot of euphoria but any difference from the last election is likely to be purely demographic," Professor Sanjay Kumar, of the Centre for



First time voters flash their voter ID cards outside a polling booth in Bangalore yesterday.

PHOTO: THE HINDU

## Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla) Comilla, Bangladesh

জালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস ও গৃহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জালানি

### Invitation for International Re-Tender

Ref. No. 28.02.1900.011.53.433.14 (Re-Tender)		Date: 10.04.2014
01.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
02.	Agency	Petrobangla.
03.	Procuring entity name	Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited.
04.	Procuring entity district	Comilla, Bangladesh.
05.	Invitation for	Procurement of one No. of skid Mounted Transfer Prover for calibration of Turbine Gas Meter with necessary accessories including Installation, Testing & Commissioning on turn-key basis. Size: 2" to 12", Capacity: 10 to 6500 m <sup>3</sup> /hr.
06.	Invitation Ref. No.	28.02.1900.011.53.433.14(Re-Tender).
07.	Date	10.04.2014.

KEY INFORMATION		
08.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
09.	Budget and source of funds	BGDCL's Own Fund, Cash Foreign Exchange.
10.	Time limit to selling tender document	From 22.04.2014 to 20.05.2014 during office hours.
11.	Tender last selling date	20.05.2014.

12.	Tender receiving date & time	21.05.2014	12-00noon
13.	Tender opening date & time	21.05.2014	12-15hrs.
14.	Name & address of the office(s) - Selling tender documents	Tender documents will be available in the following offices of BGDCL during office hours. a) Accounts Department, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh. b) Dhaka Liaison Office, House No. 222, Lane No. 15, Lake Road, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh.	
15.	Receiving tender documents	Purchase Department, Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh.	
16.	Opening tender documents	Purchase Department, Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh.	

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
17.	Eligibility of tenderer	All bonafide manufacturer(s)/suppliers are eligible. But they must have overseas track records/experience in manufacture/supply of at least one No. of Transfer Prover with necessary accessories including Installation, Testing & Commissioning on turn-key basis for last 5(five) years.
18.	Brief description of goods or works	One No. of Skid Mounted Transfer Prover for calibration of Turbine Gas Meter with necessary accessories including Installation, Testing & Commissioning on turn-key basis. Size: 2" to 12", Capacity: 10 to 6500 m <sup>3</sup> /hr.
19.	Price of tender document	US\$ 65.00 or Tk 5,000.00 (non-refundable).

20.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Tender security amount	Delivery and completion of works in all respect
	1	One No. Transfer Prover. Size: 2" to 12", Capacity: 10 to 6500 m <sup>3</sup> /hr.	US\$ 11,500.00 or Tk 9,00,000.00	180 days from the date of receipt of letter of credit

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
21.	Name & designation of official inviting tender	Nurul Huda, Deputy General Manager (Purchase).
22.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Purchase), Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited, Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh. Tel: +880-81-68681, E-mail No. dgm_purchase@bgdcl.org.bd
23.	Special instruction	a) Local bidders are not eligible to participate in this tender. But this will not bar anybody to work as local agent of foreign manufacturer/supplier. b) Should the submission date of tender happen to fall on holiday, tenders shall be received and opened at the same time & place on the first subsequent working day. c) BGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

## Award for Modi's wife!

TNN, Indore

Raking up BJP's PM candidate Narendra Modi's marital status, national president of Women Congress Shobha Oza, on Wednesday, demanded an award for Modi's wife Jashodaben for spending her life as a simple teacher despite being the wife of Gujarat chief minister.

Earlier, Congress had sought Z+ security for her. "Jashodaben completed her studies the hard way and continues to live in isolation," said Oza, while addressing a press conference here on Wednesday.

Training guns on Modi, she said a man, who cannot care for his wife is today talking about women's empowerment. "How can the nation accept a person as its leader, who has not even given due recognition to his wife," asked Oza. Modi remembered his wife after 46 years just to be in power, she said.

Taking potshots at the Gujarat chief minister, Oza said, "It is not a personal attack. It is a legal issue. Modi concealed facts and gave wrong information on his marital status to the poll panel in three elections." She said we are demanding rejection of Modi's nomination papers from Vadodara Lok Sabha seat.



## Alleged killers, rapists are in the polls fray

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

Alleged killers, abductors, robbers and even a rapist are among those who contested for a seat in the Lok Sabha in these elections despite a growing public campaign for cleaner politics. They make up 17% of the total number of contestants in the fray so far.

Data gleaned from mandatory declarations by candidates featuring in polling rounds held so far shows that the BJP tops the list with 34% of its 202 candidates declaring a criminal case against them while 23% among 193 Congress candidates have similar charges, according to the Association for Democratic Alliance (ADA), an advocacy group. Likewise, 16% of AAP's 200 candidates and 18% of the BSP's 207 candidates have had a brush with the law.

Last year, the Supreme Court barred convicted lawmakers from contesting an election for six years even if their convictions were under appeal. Yet, as political parties gird up for another dead-heat election, they have not hesitated in picking candidates with grave charges — offences that can attract a jail term of more than five years.

Criminality remains endemic to electoral politics. Findings from ADA show that a candidate with a criminal case is twice as likely to win an election (23%), compared to a candidate without any charges, whose chance was just 12%.



## KRISHI GOBESHONA FOUNDATION

A non-profit foundation for sustainable support to agricultural research & development Established 2007 (Company Act. Reg. No. C-684(05/07)

### Announcement Competitive Grants Program (CGP) Call for Submitting CGP Research Proposal

Krishi Gobeshona Foundation (KGF) is a government sponsored non-profit organization registered in 2007 with Certificate of Incorporation from the Joint Stock Companies & Firms, Bangladesh. KGF, as a grant making organization, among other programs is responsible for operating short-term Competitive Grants Program (CGP) under Bangladesh Krishi Gobeshona Endowment Trust (BKGET) fund. It provides technical and financial support to priority agricultural research and development (R&D) activities. It serves as a pluralistic entity where public sector NARS Organizations, Universities, NGOs and Private Organizations have access to participate for creating an enabling research environment. The researchable areas of KGF are selected by its Board from the national priorities set by BARC. List of researchable thematic areas (12) with one general priority problem area is given in the website and also can be collected from KGF. The opening of CGP of KGF to other entities with proven capacities to undertake agricultural research would help to develop a more heterogeneous research system in Bangladesh. KGF under its CGP would fund location-specific, short-term, problem-solving research and development activities. It also supports strategic and innovative research projects seeking invention of new knowledge and technology for improving agricultural productivity in Bangladesh.

KGF supports projects relevant to CGP researchable areas/issues seeking solution to the problem (s) with clearly defined methods and objective (s) achievable within the predetermined timeframe (maximum period of 36 months). Total cost will depend on the severity and extent of the problems that are linked with the volume of research work/activities required for solving the problem (s)/issue (s). Incomplete proposal and those with unrealistic/unjustified budget will be rejected at first screening. No grants will be made to an individual having no institutional affiliation and proven capacity to perform for the desired output/result.

KGF invites research project proposal in prescribed format. The list of CGP priority researchable areas/issues under different thematic areas, prescribed format and guidelines for preparation and submission of the proposal are available at KGF website: [www.kgf.org.bd](http://www.kgf.org.bd). Please note that an appropriate and specific Title of the proposal should be given by the proponent researcher (Principal Investigator (PI)). One PI is eligible to submit only one proposal in his/her relevant field of expertise and the PI should normally be available for the entire period of the project implementation. Project proposals received by KGF will undergo a series of screening, peer reviewing and evaluating procedure following the guidelines of CGP research.

Deadline for submission of completed research proposal/application in prescribed format is 4 (four) weeks after publication of this announcement. The proponents are hereby requested to submit research proposal both in online proposal submission system available at website: [www.kgf.org.bd](http://www.kgf.org.bd) (Menu name: Online Proposal) and one (1) hard copy within the last date 20 May 2014 04:00 pm. The application containing 1 (one) hard copy of the proposal must be put in a sealed envelope and sent to the Executive Director, Krishi Gobeshona Foundation (KGF), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, AIC Building, BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215. Thematic Area, Researchable areas/issues and Title of the proposal with name and address of the PI and proponent organization should be clearly written on the envelope. Proposals which are not consistent with the guidelines and prescribed format will not be considered as valid. KGF authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason thereof.

Executive Director Krishi Gobeshona Foundation (KGF)