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PAPER CLIPPINGS

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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: other state matters

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Indian Express

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 24/7/2024

# Gehlot unfazed, says raids won't deter him

RAJESH ASNANI AND RICHA SHARMA @ Jaipur/New Delhi

18/2/24

DESPITE a setback in the Supreme Court, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot continues to be combative. A day after the Enforcement Directorate raided his brother's residence in Jodhpur, he remained re-asserted that his government had a majority in the Assembly. He indicated calling the Assembly session soon.

"The ED, CBI and Income Tax could be very active in our state, but we are not scared about the raids. These people are trying to destroy democracy, but people will never forgive them," he said. On the alleged BJP attempts to bring down his government, Gehlot said the audio clips revealing the "conspiracy" were genuine. "Obviously, the accused would always say 'it wasn't my voice'. They are also threatening people. Nothing is going to work. *Satyamev Jayate*," he told the media.

Gehlot said the clips could be sent abroad for tests. "They should step forward for a voice test. Leaders give speeches, so everyone knows whose voice it is," said the Chief Minister.

He also defended his letter to PM Modi. "I wrote it so that he would not later say he didn't have information or his people gave him incomplete information."

The Congress's central team is in Jaipur and has reportedly briefed Sonia and Rahul Gandhi on the developments in the state, said party sources. The team has reportedly informed the leadership



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot speaks to mediapersons in Jaipur | EXPRESS



**The ED, CBI and Income Tax could be very active in our state, but we are not scared about the raids. These people are trying to destroy democracy, but people will never forgive them**

Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan CM

that Gehlot, as of now, has the numbers, and that the BJP is working hard to lure away party MLAs and Independents with money and ministerial berths.

Party sources said till the Supreme Court gives a decision in the matter, the MLAs would continue to stay in a hotel to avoid poaching. About Sachin Pilot, the leadership was urged that the door should remain open for his return, if he gives up his demand for the CM post.

## 'Despair in party over treatment to Scindia, Pilot'

HARPREET BAIWA @ Chandigarh

HARYANA Congress leader Kuldeep Bishnoi on Thursday said there is a sense of despair among party workers over the treatment meted out to young leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sachin Pilot, and also urged the leadership to promote mass leaders in every state in the war against the BJP.

"Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sachin Pilot are very good friends and their leaving the party is hurting the Congress a lot. The treatment meted out to them by the party, there is

a sense of despair among the party workers. I am a Congressman by birth and will never quit it," Bishnoi said in a video posted on Twitter on Thursday.

Taking a swipe at the old guard within the Congress, he said, "I want to tell the high command to bring mass leaders forward as they are the people who can give a fight to the BJP. Those people who have been occupying high posts for 30-35 years, who never fought elections, they should be given other responsibilities as we are headed towards a big war."