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Kejriwal orders inquiry against 3 IAC colleagues

TWIST 3 retired judges to probe allegations against Damania, Bhushan and Gandhi

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NEW DELHI: Under pressure to come clean on allegations of improper land deals against some of his prominent colleagues, activist-turned-politician Arvind Kejriwal announced the setting up of a panel of three retired high court judges on Friday.

He said former Delhi high court chief justice AP Shah, former Bombay high court judge BH Marlapalle and former Delhi high court judge Jaspal Singh would probe the allegations against social activists Prashant Bhushan, Anjali Damania and Mayank Gandhi.

Bhushan welcomed the announcement, saying he was ready to face any probe since he had nothing to hide. The IAC decision came after the Congress party alleged that the BJP government of Himachal Pradesh had allowed Bhushan to buy a tea estate at Palampur in violation of rules.

On Friday, Damania faced allegations that she purchased agricultural land in Maharashtra and sold it four years later after getting its land use changed. Gandhi has been accused of having close links with some Mumbai-based builders.

Kejriwal, who heads India

IAC TO LOOK INWARDS

After a string of allegations against its members, India Against Corruption has set up a three-member panel of retired judges to look into the matter

THE ALLEGATIONS



ANJALI DAMANIA
Bought agricultural land at throwaway prices; sold it for commercial use



PRASHANT BHUSHAN
Irregularities in land purchase in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh



MAYANK GANDHI
Misled Mumbaiites to gain development rights; has links with builders

INTERNAL LOKPAL

AP SHAH, former Delhi high court chief justice

BH MARLAPALLE, retired Bombay high court judge

JASPAL SINGH, retired Delhi high court judge

The cases will be sent to them on Monday. The panel will be requested to "expeditiously" inquire into the charges and submit report as early as possible, or within three months

'HAD NAMED PAWAR'

Refuting former IPS officer YP Singh's allegations that he concealed info about Sharad Pawar, Arvind Kejriwal said he had raised corruption charges against the NCP chief earlier.

Against Corruption, said, "We have from time to time requested the government to launch an independent enquiry into the matter and give us double the punishment than prescribed if found guilty. Unfortunately, the government has been more interested in mud-slinging."

He said if any member is found guilty of any illegal or immoral

activity, he will have to resign from the proposed party.

Asked whether a probe by a panel set up by the IAC itself would be seen as credible by the public, Kejriwal replied: "These judges enjoy a reputation of high integrity and will have complete independence to inquire into any charges made against key members of the IAC."

We are ready for any probe, say IAC activists

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MUMBAI: IAC activists from Mumbai, Anjali Damania and Mayank Gandhi, on Friday said the allegations against them are baseless and that they are ready to face any enquiry.

Damania has allegedly not provided adequate records to prove herself as a farmer and is said to have misled farmers and sold off their land; Gandhi has been accused of misleading Mumbaiites to gain development rights; and Prashant Bhushan is charged with irregularities while buying land in Himachal Pradesh.

"The allegations are baseless. The government can constitute a probe or our internal Lokpal will do so," said Gandhi. Damania said: "I am a farmer and have documents to prove it."

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