

SC refers to practical difficulties of IT sleuths if advance search notice served on offenders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: The Supreme Court on Tuesday highlighted the practical difficulties faced by investigators in the digital age and said giving a prior notice before a search and seizure could effectively end an investigation before it begins. The top court was hearing a PIL challenging the scope of search and seizure powers

under Section 132 of the Income Tax Act on the ground that it has the potential of misuse by the authorities. Section 132 of the Income Tax Act empowers IT officials to conduct a search and seizure when they have "reason to believe" that a person has undisclosed income, assets, or documents. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and N V Anjaria heard submissions by senior advocate Sanjay

Hegde, appearing for PIL petitioner Vishwaprasad Alva, for some time and later deferred it for consideration after two weeks. During the hearing, Justice Bagchi highlighted the practical challenges of issuing prior notice in search and seizure cases, particularly in the digital era. Justice Bagchi said giving advance notice could defeat the very purpose of an investigation, as electronic evidence can be easily destroyed. "If notice is given for search and seizure, there is a potential for destroying the evidence. The best way to snub out such an investigation against the digital record is to destroy the device itself," he said. Hegde said the impugned provision provides excessive power in the hands of tax authorities and exposes not only the alleged tax evader but also third parties to coercive action. "Suppose you go

after the lawyer, then you go after the clerk's phone. Please see, it is not only the evading assessee who is at risk. Anybody in contact is at risk, and the power is kept with the Joint Commissioner," the senior lawyer said. The CJI said the statutory powers were neither uncontrolled nor unbridled. "This is not an uncontrolled or unwieldy power. Your concerns will go," the CJI said.

Canada should take action against killers of Chandan Kumar: Karnataka Home Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU, FEB 10: Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said the Canadian government should take stern action against those who shot dead 37-year-old techie Chandan Kumar in Toronto two days ago in a suspected killing. Hailing from Thyamagondlu village at Nelamangala on Bengaluru outskirts, Kumar was the only child of Nanda Kumar, a retired teacher. His parents have appealed to the Centre and the Karnataka government to help bring back his body for o m Toronto. Speaking to reporters, Parameshwara said he is deeply pained to learn about Kumar's killing. He added that there is no proper information available as to why the techie was targeted.

"He was a talented person who went there and worked as a project director. Strict action should be taken in accordance with the existing laws in Canada. I learnt that the investigation has begun," Parameshwara said. Regarding bringing the body back to India, he said the matter has come to the notice of the Indian authorities and they will make some arrangements. The grieving parents of Kumar told Parameshwara that they have no reason to live anymore after losing their lone child. "Please help us bring the body back at the earliest," Kumar's mother pleaded with the minister. Parameshwara said the Karnataka government has reached out to the Indian Embassy in Canada in this regard.

IN BRIEF

Report on social justice

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: Rajya Sabha Congress MP Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik on Tuesday asked the government to come out with annual report on social justice and table it in Parliament on the lines of economic survey. The government tables economic survey in Parliament prior to the Union Budget. Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the House, Wasnik said India should institutionalise an annual report on the state of social justice and table it in Parliament just like the economic survey. "This report should serve as a data-driven strategic guide to uphold the constitutional values of equality and inclusivity, and should be available for discussion in and outside Parliament," he said. The Congress MP said the report on social justice must systematically evaluate existing legal and policy frameworks to ensure they meet constitutional mandates.

Taskforce setup on dark net, crypto to monitor illegal narco trafficking: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: The Government has set up a task force on darknet and cryptocurrency under the multi-agency centre (MAC) to monitor platforms facilitating narco-trafficking, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. In a written response, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Government has taken various steps for inter-agency coordination between the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), state anti-narcotics task forces (ANTFs) and border guarding forces to curb cross-border and inter-state drug smuggling. Listing out the steps, Rai said the task force has been set up under the MAC mechanism with a focus on monitoring platforms facilitating narco-trafficking, sharing of inputs on drug smuggling amongst agencies/MAC members, interception of drug networks, continuous capturing of trends, modus operandi and nodes with regular database updates and review of related rules and laws.

In addition, a Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) has also been set up at the central and state levels to oversee significant drug seizure investigations. "NCB collaborates with other agencies like Navy, Coast Guard, Border Security Force, and State ANTFs to carry out joint anti-drug operations," he said. Rai said a centralised digital database, namely National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-Offenders (NIDAAN), developed by the NCB in collaboration with the Inter Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), has also been established to combat the drug menace. "The NIDAAN portal integrates data of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) offenders arrested by all Drug Law Enforcement Agencies across the country, including information such as identity details, photographs, fingerprints, case particulars and court-related information.

RS MP Kartikeya Sharma urges govt to regulate online gaming ecosystem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: Rajya Sabha MP Kartikeya Sharma on Tuesday urged the government to regulate online gaming, from development to streaming, to ensure that the digital space is for children. Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the House, the independent MP also demanded that the government should grant official sports status to eSports, which is recognised globally. "I want to address a digital frontier that is full of promise as it is of peril. I am talking about the world of electronic gaming as we march towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat in 2047. We must recognize the Orange Economy. Our creative and digital sector is no longer a peripheral industry. It is a vital pillar of our USD 1 trillion digital economy goal," Sharma said. He said that India's creative economy is valued at about USD 30 billion, contributing to nearly 8 per cent of our working population. "However, we must distinguish between two very different realities within the sector. On one hand, we are witnessing the crisis of unregulated amateur gaming and its impact. The sprawling nature of unregulated amateur online gaming has led to grave repercussions," Sharma said, as he referred to death of some children because of game addiction. Clinical studies now show a direct link between excessive, unregulated gaming and the rise of ADHD, acute anxiety and depression amongst our children and youth, Sharma said. "As a parent, not merely as a member of parliament, I request the government to regulate the entire ecosystem from game development to streaming, and mandate game audits to ensure these digital spaces are safe for our children," He emphasised the need to create a safe and conducive ecosystem. On the other hand, Sharma said there is a potential for professional eSports, which largely remains untapped. "We have millions of serious, highly skilled electronic gamers who are passionate about this craft. India now boasts of 500 million amateur gamers, the largest gaming audience in the world, and lakhs of professional gamers," he said, and added that India's gaming market is currently valued at about USD 3.7 billion and projected to soar to USD 10 billion by 2030.

He further said the animation, visual effects, gaming and comics (AVGC) sector alone would require roughly about 20 lakh skilled professionals by 2030. "It is a great opportunity for our youth, for employment, particularly to unlock the full value of gaming design development professional leagues. I urge the government to grant official sports status to eSports, as they are also being accepted by international competitions, Olympics and other bodies," Sharma said. In her Zero Hour mention, Sumitra Balmik (BJP) had expressed concern over the increasing use of mobile phones among children and their exposure to social media. "Phone has become an addiction among them," she said, and added that children keep vying for maximum likes on their social media posts. The BJP member emphasised the need to implement a digital detox initiative to promote the overall well-being of students. AIDAMK member M Thambi Duraid demanded that, as in Karnataka, the Valmiki community should be treated as tribals. He said the then chief minister of Tamil Nadu, J Jayalalithaa, had passed a resolution in the assembly to include the Valmiki community as a tribal category.

Resolve disputes peacefully: Delhi HC to Sunjay Kapur's mother, wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the mother, wife and family members of late industrialist Sunjay Kapur to "peacefully" resolve their differences and not let God's "blessing" of financial wealth turn into a "curse". Calling it a "sorry" situation, Justice Mini Pushkarna observed that the family members, who are in litigation with each other over their estate, were grieving and efforts should be made to be respectful of each other. The judge therefore asked the senior counsel appearing for Sunjay Kapur's mother, wife as well as sister to sit together to resolve the issues in a manner that everyone's interest was safeguarded.

"Any chance of mediation? Dirty linen is being washed in court. God has blessed you with financial wealth," the court said during the hearing. "All of you should try to respect

relations... Way forward is resolution in a peaceful manner. Blessing should not become a curse. Efforts need to be from both sides," the court orally observed. The court was dealing with a lawsuit by Sunjay Kapur's mother, Rani Kapur, seeking that their purported family trust be declared "null and void". In her lawsuit against her daughter-in-law Priya Kapur and others, 80-year-old Rani Kapur has alleged that the trust, which was constituted in her name in October 2017, was a product of "forged, fabricated and fraudulent" documents and she had been wrongly divested of all her rights, assets and legacy.

During the hearing, Justice Pushkarna observed that the daughter-in-law should see that it was the plaintiff's husband who "founded everything" and fruits of his labour should be shared by all. The court issued notice to Rani Kapur on an application by Priya Kapur seeking

rejection of the lawsuit. Rani Kapur's senior counsel denied all allegations against her. It also issued notice to Priya Kapur and other defendants on Rani Kapur's application to stay the disbursement of dividends of a company to the daughter-in-law and to preserve the estate. In the lawsuit, Rani Kapur has sought a direction to permanently restrain the defendants - her daughter-in-law Priya Kapur and others, including grandchildren, from utilizing or acting in furtherance of the "RK Family Trust" in any manner whatsoever. Rani Kapur said in her lawsuit that she was the sole beneficiary of the entire estate of her late husband Surinder Kapur, who was the promoter of various businesses, including the Sona Group of Companies, and a "systematic fraud" was committed on her when the assets were transferred to the "RK Family Trust". Till the time of his demise, Sunjay never confirmed to Rani

Kapur that she had actually been divested of all her rights, assets and legacy and never provided a copy of the purported RK Family Trust to her, the plea claimed. "By means of a complex web of illegal transactions undertaken by the defendant Nos. 1 to 9 (Priya Kapur and others) in an unfortunate collusion with the plaintiffs now deceased son, late Mr. Sunjay Kapur, all the plaintiff's assets vest in one fraudulent trust titled - RK Family Trust, without her knowledge," the lawsuit said. Sunjay Kapur passed away on June 12 after collapsing during a polo match in England. He reportedly suffered a sudden cardiac arrest. A plea by Karisma Kapoor's two children challenging the authenticity of the purported will of their late father is also pending in the high court, with the kids accusing his wife Priya Kapur of being "greedy". The case will be heard next in March.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), Feb 10: Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly V D Satheesan on Tuesday claimed that the Congress took only four months to acquire land for building houses for the Mundakkai-Chooralmala landslide victims, while the state government took a year for the same purpose. Satheesan said that the party initially had no plans to acquire land, as it was to be provided by the state government to build 100 houses. "However, the state government, at the last moment, informed us of its unwillingness to do so, and therefore we had to acquire land on our own," he claimed while speaking to reporters here. The July 2024 landslides in the Mundakkai-Chooralmala area of Wayanad claimed over 200 lives and destroyed hundreds of homes. He further said that the party had acquired around 3.5 acres of land and was in the process of completing the registration of another parcel of land nearby. "Once that is completed, we will hold the foundation stone-laying ceremony, after which construction will commence. It took us only four months to acquire land, while the government, with all its paraphernalia, took a year. So where was the delay on our part?" he asked. Satheesan also said that the

Congress-led Karnataka government had provided funds to the

Kerala government for constructing homes in Wayanad, and that the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)—a key constituent of the UDF opposition—had already completed the construction of 52 houses, which would be handed over to the beneficiaries soon. "We will also do that," he added. At the same time, he alleged that the state government had received Rs 1,642 crore for helping the Mundakkai-Chooralmala disaster victims, but was neither providing them with money for medical treatment nor building a road or a bridge to the area. "The poor people are being victimised by the government, which has collected money in their name and is holding on to it. Nothing is being done for them. That is the problem," he alleged. He further accused the state government of being "incompetent", stating that it could not even properly prepare a list of those affected by the landslides in three wards. During the press meet, Satheesan also said that the Left front was "weakening", which was evident from the differences between the CPI(M) and the CPI on various issues, including the signing of the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme. "Team UDF, on the other hand, stands united," he added.



Sr/Lot No.	Name & address of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s / Mortgagor (s)	Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any (owner/Mortgagor name) Branch: Metro Point	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price EMD amount Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1	M/s Natures Beverages and Foods Enterprise Proprietor-Mr. Lila Ram Koirala, House No. SMK/02/104/1, Sharma Nanda Koirala, Near Turin Khola Bridge, Raley, East Sikkim, Sikkim-737107 Mr. Pukar Pandey (Guarantor) S/o Somnath Pandey, West Pandam, Lower Sawney, Above District Hospital, Singtam - 737134	1. Property Registered mortgage of land and with construction thereon i.e. building along with land development / protection works situated at Raley Khese Block, n Samdong Elaqa, Gangtok sub Division, East District, Sikkim. Khathian No. 564, Plot No.1616/2518, plot measuring 0.0410 hectare in the name of Shri Lila Koirala (Lila Ram Koirala). Butted and bounded by: North -Property of Sharma Nanda Koirala. South - Property of Sharma Nanda Koirala. East - Property of Sharma Nanda Koirala. West - Property of Sharma Nanda Koirala. 2. Machinery- All Plants, Machinery & Miscellaneous fixed assets which are attached to or kept inside the unit along with Civil works and were hypothecated to the Bank.	Rs. 1,15,45,342.32 (Rupees one crore fifteen lakhs forty five thousand three hundred forty two and thirty two paise only) + Unapplied interest + Unserved interest + other cost thereon.	17-03-2026 Time 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Rs. 1,05,80,000.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Symbolic	10-03-2026 3:00pm-5:00pm Mobile: 7908403996 (with prior appointment)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/link to the websites link <https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://baanknet.com> Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile 7908403996.

- The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor Bank.
- Property is in Symbolic Possession and Bidder is purchasing the property in symbolic possession at his/own risk & responsibility.
- Bank will hand over the possession of property symbolically only and successful Auction bidder/purchaser will not claim physical possession from the bank.
- Bank will not be responsible or duty bound for handing over of physical possession.
- Successful Auction purchaser will not be entitled to claim any interest, in any case of return of money.
- Successful Auction purchaser has to submit the Declaration Cum Undertaking confirming the above terms & conditions immediately after e-Auction.
- Subsequent to sale if successful bidder fails to submit Declaration Cum Undertaking, the Bid EMD amount will be forfeited.

Date: 10-02-2026
Place: Gangtok

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

Metro Point Branch, Gangtok
Opposite Titanic Stand, Sikkim Traders Building
Gangtok, East Sikkim 737101, E.mail: vjgatk@bankofbaroda.com

Appendix IV, Rule 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Metro Point Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice Dated 29.10.2025 calling upon the borrower Mr. Amrit Gurung S/O Late Durga Bahadur Gurung residing at Bhusuk, Naitam, Near Daragaon Cooperative Society, Merung, East Sikkim, Pin - 737103 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being aggregating to Rs.8,35,906/- + unapplied and Unserved Interest + Further Interest + Other Charges (Rupees Eight Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Six + unapplied and Unserved Interest + Further Interest + Other Charges) as on 29.10.2025 within 60 days from the date of notice / date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 09th Day of February of the year 2026.
The borrower's /guarantor's /mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda for an amount of being aggregating to Rs. 8,35,906/- + unapplied and Unserved Interest + Further Interest + Other Charges (Rupees Eight Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Six + unapplied and Unserved Interest + Further Interest + Other Charges) as on 29.10.2025

Description of the Immovable Property
Registered Mortgage of land & building. Measuring 0.0399 hectare, Khathian No.668, Plot No.398/1518 recorded under Rongyeg Block Khathian, Gangtok Sub division of East District of Sikkim situated at Merung Busty, SPWD Bhusuk Road, near building of Sri.Dasana Sherpa under P.O.Raj Bhawan, East District, Sikkim- 737103.
Bounded; On the North by : Land of Shri Phurba Sherpa, On the South by : Property of Lt.Prem Kumari Gurung, On the East by: Road from Chandmari Gangtok to Bhusuk. On the West by: Prop. Of Sri.Hira Gurung.

Date: 09.02.2026
Place: Gangtok

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

METRO POINT BRANCH
Opposite Titanic Stand, Sikkim Traders Building, Gangtok,
East Sikkim - 737101 Email- VJGATK@bankofbaroda.bank.in

ANNEXURE-A
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (6) & or 9(1)]**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & or 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts/. The details of Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor/Secured Asse/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/link to the websites link <https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://baanknet.com> Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile 7908403996.Date: 10-02-2026
Place: GangtokAuthorised Officer
Bank of Baroda