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‘Constitution supreme’: SC issues contempt notice to Kerala Congress over post against CJI Surya Kant



Agencies, New Delhi : The Supreme Court of India on Friday issued a contempt notice to office bearers of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) regarding a post targeting Chief Justice of India Surya Kant last month.

The matter was heard by a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi. Addressing the court, the bench noted that the Constitution is supreme and no political organisation or institution is above it.

"The Constitution is supreme. No individual, no institution or political organisation stands above it. The independence of the judiciary is not a matter of political convenience. It is a constitutional guarantee owed to the Republic, to the people of this Republic," read the order issued by the court, according to Bar and Bench.

The top court also noted that any attempt to "undermine the authority of the court is required to be dealt with an iron hand."

The top court added it has appointed a senior advocate as amicus curiae in the matter to examine whether criminal or civil contempt would apply in

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HC sets aside Jharkhand govt order cancelling exams amid protests against irregularities

Agencies, Ranchi : The Jharkhand High Court on Friday set aside the state government’s order cancelling the Combined Graduate Level (CGL) examinations and the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC) recruitment process, as students took to the

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‘This organisation is united’: Farooq Abdullah dismisses reports of rift in National Conference after meeting MLAs



Agencies, Srinagar : National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday dismissed reports of divisions within the party after meeting several MLAs in Srinagar, amid alleged discontent among legislators over the cabinet expansion carried out by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in October.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, which was also attended by Omar Abdullah, Farooq said the party remained united, termed reports suggesting a split within the National Conference baseless and assured that the concerns raised by party legislators would be addressed.

“The baseless reports being spread that the National Conference is divided are completely false. This organisation is united, and those who think they can break this organisation should understand that it has never been broken and will never be broken. We have spoken to them. Their issues were genuine and have been given due consideration,” he

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Police, mining authorities bound to register FIRs for theft of state-owned minerals, says NGT

Agencies, Lucknow : The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ruled that local police and mining authorities are legally bound to register First Information Reports (FIRs) under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for theft of state-owned minerals, making it clear that payment of penalties for illegal mining does not exempt offenders from criminal prosecution.Disposing of an application concerning illegal sand mining and storage in the Mahanadi riverbed at Chikhili village in Bargarh district, the NGT’s Eastern Zone Bench ordered the state government to initiate criminal proceedings against the alleged offender and recover environmental compensation for the ecological damage.

The NGT also directed the Bargarh Superintendent of Police and the Regional Officer of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) to register separate FIRs against Prem Kishore Patel, who was allegedly carrying out illegal sand mining and large-scale storage in the Mahanadi riverbed at Chikhili under Ambabhona tehsil without a valid mining lease. The bench, comprising judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert members A Senthil Vel and Ishwar Singh, said that compounding of offences under Section 23A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, or payment of administrative penalties does not preclude criminal proceedings for theft of minerals. Such criminal liability has to be dealt with independently.

Relying on Supreme Court judgments in

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Notices purportedly issued at police’s behest for takedown of IFF, SFLC accounts fake, X tells HC

Agencies, New Delhi : X Corp (formerly Twitter) on Friday told the Delhi high court that the notices purportedly issued to it at the behest of the Delhi Police, seeking takedown of the accounts of digital rights groups Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) and the Software Freedom Law Center (SFLC) and certain posts, were fake and not genuine. X’s

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Telecom regulator recommends new licence to let satellite firms rent out networks to telcos

Agencies, New Delhi : The telecom regulator on Thursday recommended a new licence that would allow companies to build and run satellite communication networks in India and rent them to telecom operators, without selling services directly to the public.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposed the “Satellite Communication Network (SCN) provider authorisation” under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The recommendations are not binding and would take effect only if the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) accepts them.

If DoT accepts the recommendations, global satellite firms such as Starlink and Eutelsat OneWeb could enter India purely as network providers. Telecom companies such as Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel could offer satellite services without building their own satellite networks.

Under TRAI’s proposal, the licence holder would operate the ground segment of a satellite network in India, including gateway earth stations that communicate with satellites, network equipment, and spectrum. It would then rent this network to licensed telecom companies, such as mobile operators or internet service providers.

The telecom companies would sell satellite internet, calls or messaging to customers under their own brands. TRAI has recommended that, to be eligible, a company should have satellite capacity authorised by the Department of Space, be a subsidiary of such a company, or have an agreement to run its gateways in India. It has proposed

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Excise Commissioner transferred; Keralam minister says it is routine procedure

Agencies, Thiruvananthapuram : The Keralam government on Friday transferred Excise Commissioner Seeram Sambasiva Rao amid dissatisfaction expressed by Excise Minister M Liju over officials in the department issuing bar and horti-wine licences, officials said.

However, Liju denied that the transfer was linked to his dissatisfaction with the department's functioning and described it as a routine administrative procedure.

An order to this effect was issued by the General Administration Department.

As per the order, Rao, who was serving as Excise Commissioner and Special Secretary in the Electronics and Information Technology Department, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department.

He will also hold the additional charge of the Backward Classes Development Department.

"The officer is relieved of the charge of Excise Commissioner with

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Reservation-category Indian faculty match general category peers in teaching, research despite fewer PhDs: Study

Agencies, New Delhi : Faculty recruited under India’s reservation policies have, on average, lower academic qualifications, less experience, and fewer senior positions than their general-category counterparts, but this does not translate into poorer teaching or research performance, according to a new study on faculty at engineering colleges, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

The study examined whether faculty recruited under caste-based reservation policies differ from general-category faculty in teaching, research, and other academic responsibilities. It found that students taught by reservation-category faculty performed marginally better in their immediate course examinations, scoring an average of 1.44 percentile points higher.

The study also found no meaningful differences in longer-term academic outcomes, including standardised test scores, attendance, dropout rates, and graduation rates.

Titled ‘Affirmative Action, Faculty Productivity and Caste Interactions: Evidence from Engineering Colleges in India’, the study is authored by four researchers: Robert W. Fairlie of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER); Saurabh Khanna of the University of Amsterdam; Prashant Loyalka of Stanford University; and Gagandeep S. Sachdeva of the University of California, Santa Cruz (UC Santa Cruz).

The authors said further research was needed to examine the findings in other settings. The paper is a working paper from NBER, a US-based non-profit organisation that conducts and publishes economic research, circulated for discussion and has not been peer-reviewed by the organisation.

The findings come against the ongoing debate over caste representation and discrimination in premier institutions like IITs. As agency reported in June, 4,804 of the 12,498 sanctioned teaching posts across the 23 IITs were vacant.

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Karnataka reports ethanol concentration in petrol up to 31.2%

Agencies, Bengaluru : Petrol sold in seven Karnataka districts contained ethanol concentrations as high as 31.2%, with eleven of 14 samples exceeding the 20% blend specified under the E20 standard, according to the state government.

The government said the highest concentration was recorded in a sample collected from an Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) outlet, containing 31.2% ethanol. A sample of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)’s Power petrol had 30.5%, while another sample from the company recorded 27% and a BPCL Speed sample contained 26.5%, it added.

The samples were collected from fuel stations in Bengaluru, Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Mangaluru and Tumakuru, covering IOCL, HPCL, BPCL, Nayara Energy, Shell and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, according to a state government statement. Agency has reached out to the companies for a response and the story will be updated with their replies.

The statement said testing was conducted at the Shriram Research Institute in Bengaluru, measuring ethanol content using gas chromatography. It added that the results showed substantial differences not only between companies but also among samples from the same company.

Variations between samples

The statement said two IOCL samples recorded ethanol concentrations of 31.2% and 20.8%. It added that BPCL samples ranged from 19.9% to 26.5%, while Shell samples recorded 13.5% and 25.5%. The statement said that across all 14 samples, 11 exceeded 20%, the remaining three were below that level, including one at 19.9%.

The government said it first sent samples to the in-house laboratories of IOCL and BPCL. “The test reports issued by these laboratories did not disclose the ethanol content of the fuel, despite

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EDITORIAL

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For taxpayers, a welcome easing

In the Union Budget 2024-25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a review of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The rationale for this exercise was straightforward — to make the Act simpler to "read and understand", thus helping bring down tax disputes and consequent litigation. The budget took a step in this direction by proposing simplification of provisions for reassessment and capital gains taxation, among others. There was a need to reexamine the capital gains tax framework considering the differences in both the tax rates as well as the holding periods for determination of long-term gains across asset classes such as equities, debt, real estate etc. The budget had proposed levying a tax of 12.5 per cent on long-term capital gains on all financial and non-financial assets. However, it also proposed to eliminate the benefit of indexation that was available to investors for property, gold and unlisted assets for the purpose of estimating long-term capital gains. While this was done to "ease computation of capital gains for the taxpayer and the tax administration", the proposal was met with widespread criticism. After first defending the proposal on grounds that the lower tax rate of 12.5 per cent, from 20 per cent, compensates for the removal of the indexation benefit, the government has now changed tack, heeding the concerns of taxpayers.

Taxpayers now have the option to pay long-term capital gains tax of 20 per cent with indexation benefits on the sale of a property that has been acquired before July 23, 2024. Indexation refers to the adjustment of the purchase price of an asset based on the rate of inflation over the period that it has been held by the investor. With this option now available, all purchases before the date of the budget presentation have been grandfathered. Investors, though, can also choose the option proposed in the budget of paying a lower tax rate of 12.5 per cent, but, without availing the indexation benefit. This framework now provides investors the option of being able to select the tax structure which leads to a lower tax liability for them. Over the years, the government has taken steps to ease the burden on ordinary taxpayers. For instance, in order to reduce tax uncertainty and disputes, the recent budget has said that an assessment can only be reopened beyond three years if the "escaped income" is Rs 50 lakh or more. But, more needs to be done.

In riot-hit Britain, first real test for Keir Starmer's government

Rishabh Bhandari

Britain is in the throes of a devastating tragedy that has segued into wider questions about perceived far-right-led violence, the role of social media and deeper anxieties about immigration. The murder of three girls and injury to 10 others during a dance class in Southport just over a week ago has left a community and a country in mourning. That grief was compounded by events that have taken place since. As rumours about the attacker cascaded online, hundreds of far-right zealots set upon the quiet coastal town, hurling bricks at the local mosque, putting vehicles on fire and assaulting the police. The ensuing violence has raised the first real test for Keir Starmer's government. The Prime Minister needs to reassure the public with decisive action while also acknowledging that deeper issues will be assessed. The rioting across several towns has painted a picture of havoc and dismay. In Sunderland, a citizens advice office was burnt down. In Rotherham and Hull, hotels housing asylum seekers were attacked. A library was razed in Liverpool. In Hartlepool and elsewhere, mosques were attacked. Dozens of officers have been injured and, according to the National Police Chief's Council, more than 370 people have been arrested. The violence continued over the weekend with rioters chanting vitriolic slogans, abusing Muslims and the police and demanding a return to a mythical insularity. The scenes seemed far removed from notions of British fair-play and tolerance. That said, the best of Britain was also on display with grief-stricken residents being vocal that the mischief-makers did not speak for them. The image of resolute Southport residents helping to recast the wall outside the mosque the day after the damage was inflicted comes to mind. Those residents embodied the true qualities of Britishness: Tolerance, empathy and decency. What might be the root cause of the violence then? Put simply, the riots seem to be the effect of a combination of anti-immigrant far-right views mixed with falsehoods about a traumatic news event, amplified by thugs. They represent the most serious civic disorder in the UK since the riots of summer 2011. As was the case then, the police, judiciary and ministers need to ensure those responsible face the full force of the law. Starmer has called for a "standing army" of specialist police officers. He needs to explain how that would be resourced and operationalised promptly. The courts also need to be ready to deal with the volume of cases and judges prepared to hand down swift and exemplary sentences that deter others. There are several broad aspects to consider too. First, the way that far-right elements have grown their support base online warrants attention. A false claim that the Southport perpetrator was an asylum seeker on a security watchlist was shared by Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, former English Defence League leader who uses the name Tommy Robinson, and also by Andrew Tate, the misogynist influencer. The speed with which this fake news was amplified with consequences for public safety and policing needs deeper analysis. Britain is not alone in facing such challenges. The rise of the far-right in Europe, including in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Hungary, also bears this out. We have also seen consequences in the US with the violence in Capitol Hill in 2021. Second, politicians on the right who prefer suggestive rhetoric to thoughtful restraint can also inflame tension. In this vein, Nigel Farage, the new MP for Clacton and leader of Reform UK, may have been irresponsible when he posted a video about Southport asking "whether the truth is being withheld from us". Words matter greatly when lives and livelihoods could be at stake. Further, it is also clear that anxiety over immigration needs to be tackled through an open and a grown-up dialogue by mainstream parties. It should not be left to fringe elements. This is a conversation that has typically been avoided by centrist politicians. In policy terms, having shelved the Tories' Rwanda deportation scheme, Starmer and Yvette Cooper, the home secretary, need to come up with credible plans to deter people smugglers and "take back control". In doing so, they will need to be honest about the merits of legal migration, given an ageing population, while also balancing social cohesion and infrastructure pressures. This has been a difficult week for the UK. The truth is the vast majority of Britons stand for tolerance and compassion. But the riots also reveal that the far-right's influence has gained traction and it is no longer a passive bystander in British politics. Tackling their inflammatory rhetoric and acting decisively to reassure the public represent the first key challenge for the Labour government.

With Bangladesh in turmoil, why India should exercise caution

Shyam Saran

The old order in Bangladesh has changed irreversibly and India will have to adjust to the change. A student protest against reservation morphed into a wider people's movement against the increasingly autocratic and corruption-ridden rule of Sheikh Hasina. She has resigned and left the country and may take shelter in India. India should not deny her that. The Bangladesh Army appears to have taken charge though it has promised an interim government of "stakeholders" to pave the way for free and fair elections. Whether the protests will die down and the current unrest on the streets of Dhaka will be stemmed remains to be seen.

Sheikh Hasina's rule was tolerable as long as the Bangladesh economy, centred on export of garments, was registering sustained growth and delivering on jobs and better living standards. However, the pandemic in 2020 and a slowing global economy, thereafter, hit the garment industry badly. A toxic mix of economic distress and the increasingly high-handed behaviour of the government and its Awami League party members turned a student protest into a full-scale anti-government people's movement. Whatever decision Delhi takes concerning Sheikh Hasina's possible stay in India, it must acknowledge that the people of Bangladesh have rejected an unpopular government and have the legitimate right to chart their own future.

This reminds me of 2006, when a people's movement in Nepal gathered in the capital, Kathmandu, asking for an end to an increasingly dictatorial monarchical rule and restoration of multi-party democracy. India chose to align itself with popular sentiment in Nepal, declaring that it would respect whatever choice the people of Nepal made. This defused a potentially ugly situation since there was a widespread belief in Nepal that India was pro-monarchy. In the current evolving situation in Bangladesh, India as a vibrant multi-party democracy, should be seen as supporting the expression of popular will in a sensitive neighbouring country. This may also go some way in diluting the negativity born out of the admittedly close relations between the two governments and Indian and Bangladesh leaders.

Since 2009, the rule of Awami League leader, Sheikh Hasina, helped transform India-Bangladesh relations into a success story for India's neighbourhood policy. The gains for India are significant. Bangladesh is no longer a sanctuary for elements hostile to India. This has helped bring relative peace to India's Northeast. Connectivity projects between the two countries, including the restoration of cross-border river transportation, have advanced mutually beneficial economic integration. India has also emerged as a major source of power for Bangladesh, and this has been a critical factor in that country's economic success.

A benign political dispensation in Dhaka provided the opportunity to put in place long-term interdependencies, which should survive a change in government. India should express its readiness to expand the bilateral economic engagement with a successor government. The temptation to brand the ongoing political change as anti-India or anti-Hindu should be avoided.

There is no doubt that both Pakistan and China will see the political change in Bangladesh as an opportunity to challenge India's presence in the country and try to tar it with a pro-Hasina brush. This may even get some traction. However, India should bide its time and allow the logic of economic interest to assert itself. There are also strong people-to-people relations and close cultural affinities which are assets that have prevailed even when political relations have been strained and a negative political sentiment has been deliberately stoked in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has a border only with India, except for a short stretch with Myanmar. This is a challenge, but it is also a strategic advantage. Delhi should let the current storm dissipate, be cautious and discreet in its reactions. A new dispensation in Dhaka may adopt hostile policies similar to what one witnessed when Mohamed Muizzu took over as the President of the Maldives. The Indian reaction was mature and kept the door open for the continuance of close and mutually beneficial ties through discreet engagement and dialogue. Relations have returned to an even keel. That is a good template to follow.

It is not clear who will constitute an interim government. Will the Bangladesh National Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami be represented? Will the Army also insist on being part of the government or will it operate at arm's length? Should the unrest and street violence continue despite Sheikh Hasina's exit, will the Army take on a direct political role? After all, it has done so in the past. Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's statue in the capital was vandalised. Does that presage a wholesale repudiation of his legacy as leader of the liberation of Bangladesh and its establishment as an independent nation? There are sections within Bangladesh society who rejected the separation from Pakistan. Even though that history cannot be reversed, will the posture towards India once again become sharply adversarial as has happened in the past, when Bangladesh was led by such elements? All these are questions to which there are no ready answers and should not influence Delhi's policy in this fluid situation. The situation in Bangladesh is changing rapidly. Several questions will remain to be answered in the coming days. The time-tested diplomatic response to this should be that we are waiting and watching to see how things will develop and to reiterate our friendly sentiments for the people of a close and important neighbour. So let us wait and watch.

Why accusations of witchcraft persist in India

Bibek Debroy

I asked a young man if he had heard of witches. Thanks to Harry Potter, he had. There were the Salem witch trials in 1692 and 1693 and witches routinely feature in films and fiction. There are the good and wicked witches of Wizard of Oz and we read about witches on broomsticks and their covens. Our films and fiction often feature daains. I asked our young man if he had heard of Birubala Rabha. (She died in 2024 and was conferred a Padma Shri in 2021. She spent all her life fighting against witch-hunting.) He hadn't. That's understandable. Indian society has many slices.

In July 2021, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the elimination of harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks (HPAWR). Through the UN, we have data on documented HPAWR (between 2009 and 2019) in 60 countries. Understandably, many cases go unreported and undocumented. Nevertheless, the total figure is 20,000. We might think this is an African problem. As the UN compilation shows, that perception isn't true. The intensity might be higher in Africa. But HPAWR exists in the USA and Europe, and even in India. Since 1953, NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) has been a standard source of data on crime in India. That has a category on "motives for murder" and mentions witchcraft. In 2022, there were 85 such murders, concentrated in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha. In addition, there are instances from Assam, Bihar and Telangana. The numbers may have declined a bit. But we are still at about 100 a year and these are just murders with witchcraft as a motive.

The word "witch" is gender-neutral, etymologically, although there is a popular perception that the male of the species is wizard (wicca), while the female is a witch. Ipsita Roy Chakraverti is a familiar name in some Kolkata circles. She declared herself a good witch (she is also an author). In principle, witchcraft can be benevolent. But in perception and practice, it is dubbed malevolent. The roots are old. However, that dubbing as malevolent is used for crimes against women, not always leading to murder. As a less diabolical motive, there is a lack of education and ignorance, with mental health patients dubbed as witches, especially when there is disease in the neighbourhood. As a more diabolical motive, there are widowed and single women, with their property being a target. (There are also examples of childless women and young and educated women who become a threat to vested local interests.)

Do you remember the film Kala Sach, based on a true story? What do we do about witch-hunting practices? Depend on the spread of education and awareness? Depend on NGOs and panchayats? Jharkhand has "Project Garima", to restore the dignity of women branded as witches. Assam has "Project Prahari", a community-policing initiative. Should a country aspiring to be a developed country do more, or should one hope that the problem will simply wither away with time?

Perhaps more importantly, the intent of the legislation is not always clear. Take Odisha's law for example. It penalises witch-hunting, but penalises the practice of witch-craft too. Assam and Rajasthan also punish alleged witches. Rajasthan also penalises communities/groups. Maharashtra's focus is on practice of black magic. A column is not the place to compare and contrast the state-specific laws, except to point out that they are often like holdalls, with everything dumped in. As a start, should one carefully distinguish practice of witchcraft from witch-hunting? And certainly as a start, NCRB reporting should be refined, with a separate category for both crimes, not simply murders with witchcraft as a motive? Should IPC (and now its replacement) have specific sections on both crimes? More generally, legislation doesn't work if it gets stuck in lack of police reform and tardiness of the criminal justice system. Our young man, with dreams of a developed India and hailing from metro India, may not be aware of a problem that has plagued parts of Indian rural society for ages.

However, it isn't quite a matter of pride that in the UN documentation, India should alone figure in the South Asian list, along with Nepal. And, to repeat a point made earlier, this is incomplete compilation and reporting. The numbers are probably higher.

Gauhati HC quashes detention under NSA of land rights activist Pranab Doley

Agencies, Guwahati : The Gauhati High Court on Friday quashed the detention of Assam land rights activist Pranab Doley who had been detained under provisions of National Security Act (NSA).

The petition seeking quashing of Doley's NSA detention was heard by a division bench of justices Kalyan Rai Surana and Susmita Phukan Khaund.

"The court quashed NSA detention on several grounds. One was that Doley had been detained citing 13 different cases. The court held that most of these cases are several years old and that he has been exonerated in 12 of them," said Dipesh Agarwala, Doley's counsel.

"Doley was also not given all documents related to his case and initially he was not allowed to meet a lawyer or his family members. He was able to get legal counselling after his father approached the court and the HC allowed it. The court also pointed these observations while pronouncing its order," he added.

Details of the court order are awaited and the story will be updated once it is available.

The Assam government invoked the NSA against activist Pranab on July 28, a day after a sessions court granted him bail in a case linked to protests against a luxury hotel project near Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR), preventing his release from custody.



The government, in a communication to Doley said that 13 cases have been filed against him, accusing him of inciting hatred against the state, instigating violence between communities and obstructing officials from carrying out their duties, among other charges. The government said 13 police cases had been registered against him.

"It is therefore considered essential to prevent you from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the state or from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order by detaining you under Section 3(2) of the National Security Act, 1980," the letter from the home and political department, seen by agency, mentioned.

Doley was arrested on July 12, days after he took part in protests by activists and locals on June 28 at Ingle Pathar village near the UNESCO World Heritage Site against the proposed hotel project.

In its FIR, police alleged that Doley and others "trespassed" into the site of the project "with pre-planned manner, being armed with deadly weapons like machete, sharp sticks, etc", "attempted to set fire" to a cement mixer there, "injured 12 police personnel and outraged the modesty of women police officers on duty", "instigated the crowd" and "threatened" further agitation, among other allegations. Granting bail to Doley on July 29, additional sessions judge (ASJ) Nur Muhammad Abdullah Ahmed said the dispute stemmed from "a deep-rooted anxiety regarding environmental degradation" and stated, "In matters where ecological preservation intersects with indigenous survival, the standard apparatus of criminal law cannot be used to suppress local anxieties. True public order is achieved not by silencing the affected, but by listening to them."

Khel Maharan 3.0 to cover 166 GP and ULB areas across Cachar

NE News SILCHAR : In a major initiative to promote grassroots sports and provide young sporting talents with a platform to demonstrate their abilities, Cachar district is gearing up for the GP and ULB-level competitions under Khel Maharan 3.0 with sporting activities scheduled to be conducted across the district from November 7 to 21, 2026. As per the schedule issued by the District Administration, Cachar, the competitions will cover 166 Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Body areas across different development blocks and municipal jurisdictions of the district. The extensive programme is designed to bring sporting activities closer to local communities and encourage wider participation in organised sports at the grassroots level. The competitions will feature three major sporting disciplines, namely Athletics, Football and Volleyball. The events have been distributed across different dates to facilitate the smooth conduct of competitions in the respective GP and ULB areas. The scheduled dates for the sporting events are November 7 and 10, November 12 and 13, November 16 and 17, November 18 and 19, and November 20 and 21, 2026. The schedule covers various development blocks, including Kalain, Katigorah, Lakhipur, Binnakandi, Rajabazar, Rongpur, Udharbond, Silchar, Sonai, Banskandi, Dholai-Narsingpur, Barjalenga, Palonghat, Borkhola and Tapang, besides the Municipal Boards and Silchar Municipal Corporation. Designated playgrounds and other identified sports venues in the respective areas will host the competitions. Alongside the outdoor sporting disciplines, the schedule has also earmarked venues and arrangements for Yogasana and Chess competitions at designated locations adding further diversity to the sporting activities under the programme. The schedule also specifies the reporting arrangements for participants. All players participating in the different disciplines have been instructed to report at their respective designated venues at 8 AM. The initiative also seeks to encourage a stronger sporting culture at the community level by bringing together young participants from different localities through healthy competition. (DDIPR Silchar Release)

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & Rule 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) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot. No.	A) Name of the Branch / B) Name of the Account / C) Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 / B) Outstanding Amount as on(in Rs.) / C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 / D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical/Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) / B) EMD / C) Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1	**SILCHAR (003720)** **MD. NASIR HUSSAIN LASKAR** **1) Md. Nasir Hussain Laskar,** S/o Md. Aftab Uddin Laskar, Kanakpur Part-II P.O- Kanakpur, Silchar, Dist.- Cachar, Assam- 788005. **(Borrower & Mortgagor)** **2) Md. Aftab Uddin Laskar**, S/o Late Abru Mia Laskar, Kanakpur Part-II P.O- Kanakpur, Silchar, Dist.- Cachar, Assam- 788005. **(Co-Borrower & Mortgagor)** **3) Md. Asuk Uddin Laskar**, S/o Nimar Ali Laskar, Kanakpur Part-II P.O- Kanakpur, Silchar, Dist.- Cachar, Assam- 788005. **(Co-Borrower & Mortgagor)**	All that part and parcel of Land and properties consisting of Land measuring 2 Bighas, 13 Kathas and 10 Chataks covered under Dag No. 509, 513 of 2nd R.S. Patta No. 136 with non-conventional Assam Type building/ Sheds on it of Mouza- Kanakpur Part- I, Pargona- Barakpar, Dist.- Cachar, vide Regd. Deed of Sale No. 462 dated 07.03.2012/ 12.03.2012, in the name of Nasir Hussain Laskar and Asuk Uddin Laskar. **Bounded by: -** **EAST:** Barak River **WEST:** PWD Road **NORTH:** Lakshmi Saw Mills **SOUTH:** Hojai Saw Mills	**A)** 15.05.2023 **B)** Rs.60,64,912.16 + further interest W.e.f. 01.05.2023 and other charges **C)** 11.08.2023 **D)** Symbolic Possession.	**A)** Rs. 71.40 **B)** Rs. 7.14 (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs 0.10 lakhs	From 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM 26.11.2026	Not Known to Bank
2	**KARIMGANJ (003620)** **RAJESH KUMAR DEY** **1) Mr Rajesh Kumar Dey**, S/o Late Ranjit Kumar Dey, Netaji pally Road (near Azad Sagar Road) P.O & dist.- Karimganj, Aasam-788710 **(Borrower & Mortgagor)** **2) Mrs. Babli Dey**, W/o Mr. Rajesh Kumar Dey, Netaji Pally Road (Near Azad Sagar Road) P.O & Dist.-Karimganj, Assam- 788710 **(Guarantor)**	All that part and parcel of the properties consisting of building and Land located at Mouza -Karimganj Town Part-III, Block No.- 02, Pargona- Kushiarkul, Dist.-Karimganj, measuring an area of 2Katha, 10 Chatak and 14 Gonda under Dag Nos.-161 & 164 Classed as Residential- III, under Patta No.- 145, Holding No.-253, Ward No.-3, vide Regd. Deed No.-2830 dated 17.06.2016in the name of Rajesh Kumar Dey which is bounded as follows: **NORTH:** 4.5 ft. common passage **SOUTH:** Land and Building of Jadab Bhattacharjee & Pannalal Dey **EAST:** Land and Building of Jadab Bhattacharjee and 2 ft. wide drain **WEST:** Municipal Road	**A)** 20.12.2021 **B)** Rs.16,13,284.53 + further interest W.e.f. 01.12.2021 and other charges **C)** 20.06.2022 **D)** Symbolic Possession.	**A)** Rs. 30.14 **B)** Rs. 3.014 (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs 0.10 lakhs		
3	**SILCHAR (003720)** **KRISHNA SHARMA** **1) Mr. Krishna Sharma,** S/o Late Ananda Sharma, Ward No. 7, Tarapur Silchar Assam-788001 **(Borrower & Mortgagor)** **2) Mrs. Ira Nath**, W/o Late Subrata Kumar Nath, Kurmi Bungalow Road Near Rajib Gandhi Institute Silchar-788004 **(Guarantor)** **3) Mr. Suman Kumar Nath**, S/o Late Subrata Kumar Nath C/o - Anandamoyee Janiganj, Assam-788001, **(Borrower & Mortgagor)**	All the Part and parcel of the properties consisting of: - **PLOT No. 1:** Equitable mortgage of2nd R.S. Dag No. 52, Patta No. 10, Pargona-Barakpar, Mouza- Tarapur Part- VII, measuring 2 Katha 8 Chatak with RCC building in the name of Krishna Sharma, through vide Regd. Deed No. 5327 dated 12.12.2008 and Deed No. 3713 dated 04.12.2009, situated at FCI Road, Ramnagar, Cachar- 788003. **Bounded by: -** **EAST:** Land of Shri Prabir Singha & others **WEST:** FCI Road **NORTH:** Land of Shri Prabir Singha & others **SOUTH:** Other Land of Krishna Sharma **PLOT No. 2:** Equitable mortgage of 2nd R S Dag No. 3403, Patta No. 462, Pargona-Barakpar, Mouza- Silchar Town, measuring an area of 2034 sq. ft., with RCC building measuring 186 sq. mtr. standing on it in the name of Mrs. Ira Nath & Suman Kumar Nath, vide Regd. Gift Deed No. 3619 dated 06/07/ 1981, situated at Ambicapatty, Near Rajiv Gandhi Institute, Silchar- 788004. **Bounded by: -** **EAST:** Land of Subhas Chandra Nath, **WEST:** Road, **NORTH:** Road, **SOUTH:** Road	**A)** 20.04.2021 **B)** Rs.1,10,94,645.21 + further interest W.e.f. 24.03.2021 and other charges C) 05.10.2021 D) Symbolic Possession.	**PLOT No.1** **A)** Rs. 52.63 **B)** Rs. 5.26 (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs. 0.10 **PLOT No. 2** **A)** Rs.50.38 **B)** Rs.5.038 (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs 0.10 lakhs		
4	**GHUNGHUR (084820)** **M/S BELA TRADERS** **1) Mr. Anup Kar,** Prop: M/s Bela traders, Tarani Road, Silchar-788005, Cachar District, Assam **(Borrower)** **2) Mrs. Tara Rani Roy** W/o Late Madhab Chandra Roy, Public School Road, Lane No. 3 (Left side), Silchar-788005, Cachar District Assam **(Mortgager)** **3) Mr Nazrul Haque Choudhury** S/o Md Gias Uddin Choudhury, Near Noor Khatun ME School, Vill. & P.O.-Kanakpur Part-I, P.S Sadar- Silchar Dist. Cachar, Assam-788005 **(Mortgager)**	All the parts and parcel of Land and building in the name of MD Nazrul Haque Choudhury area measuring 07 Kathas under Dag No. 294, 2nd RS Patta No. 100, Mouza Kanakpur Part I, Porgana Barakpar Dist. cachar Assam, vide Regd. sale Deed No. 2510 dated 11.11.2011 read in conjunction with amendment Deed No. 118, dated 12.01.2012 duly registered in the office of Senior Sub-Registrar, Silchar, Cachar(Assam) **Bounded by: -** **NORTH:**12 ft. Road **SOUTH:** Land of Moin Uddin Choudhury **EAST:** Land of Siraj Uddin Choudhury **WEST:** Remaining land of Gias Uddin Choudhury Dag No. 294.	**A)** 15.10.2016 **B)** Rs.41,91,359.83 + further interest W.e.f. 16.10.2016 and other charges **C)** 27.02.2017 **D)** Physical Possession.	**A)** Rs. 34.42 **B)** Rs.3.442 (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs 0.10 lakhs		
5	**KARIMGANJ (003620)** **M/S JOYRAM ELECTRICALS** **1) Mr. Rajdeep Banik,** Prop: Joyram Electricals, S/o Mr. Ratan Banik H.no/ 98, Ward No. 21, Madan Mohan Road, Karimganj, Assam-788713, Mob-9401210491 **(Borrower)** **2) Mrs. Niva Banik**, W/o Ratan Banik, Ward No.26, Indra Road, P.O-Karimganj, Assam- 788713 **(Mortgager)**	All the parts and Parcels of the properties consisting of land and Building located at Mouza- Karimganj town Banamali Part- II, Block No.- III, Pargona Kushiarkul, Dist.- Karimganj, Assam, measuring an area of 0.07 acre= 4.23 Kathas, bearing Old Dag No. 216, Khatian no.- 7, Patta no.- 164, New Dag 280, in the name of Smt Niva Banik, W/o Ratan Banik, registered under Sub-Registrar office Karimganj having Deed No. 566 dated 09.02.2011. **Bounded by:** **NORTH:** Residence of Suresh Das **SOUTH:** Residence of Ramu Das **EAST:** Vacant Land **WEST:** 6 Feet Road	**A)** 17.07.2024 **B)** Rs 70,05,721.13/- + further interest W.e.f. 01.07.2024 and other charges **C)** 24.09.2024 **D)** Symbolic Possession.	A) Rs. 45.44 B) Rs. 4.54 (25.11.2026) C) Rs 0.10 lakhs		
6	**KARIMGANJ (003620)** **M/S SAHARA TRADERS** **1) M/S SAHARA TRADERS** Prop.: Zakir Hussain Choudhury, S/o Jalal Ahmed Choudhury, Add.: Kanishail Jame Masjid Complex, P.O- Kanishail, Dist.- Karimganj, Assam- 788711 **2) Zakir Hussain Choudhury**, S/o Jalal Ahmed Choudhury, Vill.: East Kanishail, P.O- Kanishail, Dist.- Karimganj, Assam- 788711, **(Borrower & Mortgagor)** **3) Jahanara Begum Choudhury**, W/o Jalal Ahmed Choudhury, Vill.: East Kanishail, P.O- Kanishail, Dist.- Karimganj, Assam- 788711 **(Guarantor)** **4) Jalal Ahmed Choudhury** S/o Irsad Ali Choudhury, Vill.: East Kanishail, P.O- Kanishail, Dist.- Karimganj, Assam-788711 **(Guarantor)**	All that part and parcel of Landed properties situated at Vill: East Kanishail PO: Kanishail, Mouza: Karimganj Town, Kanishail Part-I, Block No. 5, Pargona: Kushiarkul, Dist. Karimganj, New Dag No. 541 (Part), Patta No.- 369 measuring an area of 05 Kathas and 07 Chataks, standing in the name of Sri Zakir Hussain Choudhury as per Gift Deed No. 3596 dated 02.11.2012 and Rectification Deed No. 2948 dated 14-08-2013/16-08-2013. **Bounded by: -** **NORTH :** Land of Abdul Kalam and Abdul Rouf **SOUTH :** Common Passage and Panchayat Road **EAST :** Land of Jallal Ahmed Choudhury **WEST:** Common Passage	**A)** 28.05.2021 **B)** Rs.28,11,788.14 + further interest W.e.f. 01.04.2021 and other charges **C)** 10.09.2024 **D)** Symbolic Possession.	**A)** Rs. 27.69 **B)** Rs. 2.77 (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs 0.10 lakhs		
7	**KARIMGANJ (003620)** **ABDUL HAQUE** **1) Abdul Haque,** S/o Late Muzammil Ali, House No.-351, Vill. - Maizdhi, BSF Camp Road, P.O- Karimganj, Assam-788710 **(Borrower & Mortgagor)**	All the part and parcel of Land and properties consisting of land measuring 8 Kathas & 8 Chataks covered under Dag No. 1231, Classed as Residential-III, under Patta No.- 657 of Mouza-Karimganj Town Part- I Block No.- V, Porgana- Kushiarkul, P.O. & PS.- Karimganj, Dist.- Karimganj, in the name of Abdul Haque, vide Regd. Deed No.- 2226 dated 21.04.2003, butted and **Bounded by:** **EAST-** Land of Pakhi Mia & others **WEST-** Common Path (Municipal Road) **NORTH-** Land of Fajlu Mia & others **SOUTH-** Land of Legal Heirs of Gopal Goswami	**A)** 15.11.2021 **B)** Rs. 56,32,130.27 /- + further interest W.e.f. 01.11.2021 and other charges **C)** 02.06.2022 **D)** Symbolic Possession	**A)** Rs. 105.88 **B)** Rs. 10.60 (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs 0.12 lakhs		
8	**SILCHAR (311000)** **M/s SMART MOTORS PVT LIMITED** **Director No.1: Sri Sushanta Kumar Basak**, S/o- Late Sudam Chandra Basak Lane No.3, Sonai Road, Near Holy Cross School, Silchar-788006 **(Borrower & Mortgagor)** **Director No. 2: Mrs. Madhuparna Basak**, W/o- Sri Sushanta Kumar Basak Lane No.3, Sonai Road, Near Holy Cross School, Silchar-788006 **(Borrower & Mortgagor)**	**PLOT No. 1:** All the part and parcel of the land measuring 2 Bighas in total and RCC commercial Building constructed thereon in Dag No. 218, 2nd RS Patta No. 91 pertaining to Mouza Tarapur Part-V of Pargana-Barakpar, Silchar Dist.- Cachar, in the name of Sushanta Kumar Basak, vide Regd. Deed No. 1761 dated 20.07.2011 and Deed No. 1762 dated 20.07. 2011. **Bounded by:** **NORTH:** Silchar-Karimganj Road **SOUTH:** Land of Dag No 244 **EAST:** Land of Dag No 257/258/259 **WEST:** Lane **PLOT NO. 2:** All the part and parcel of the land measuring 3 Katha in total in Dag No. 257, 2nd RS Patta No 106 pertaining to Mouza -Tarapur Part V of Pargana - Barakpar, Silchar, Dist-Cachar, in the name of Sushanta Kumar Basak, vide Regd. Deed No. 856 dated 10.06.2011Bounded by: **NORTH:** Land of Nijam Uddin **SOUTH:** Land of Owner(borrower) **EAST:** Land of Intaz Ali **WEST:** Land of 1 No. Baya Goy	**A)** 28.04.2016 **B)** Rs.10,03,55,359.00 + further interest W.e.f. 01.04.2016 and other charges **C)** 01.08.2016 **D)** Symbolic Possession.	**A)** Rs. 426.00 **B)** Rs. 42.6 (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs 0.24 lakhs		

TERMS AND CONDITIONS :

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and tothe following further conditions:

1. The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and **"WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"**
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://baanknet.com
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://baanknet.com& www.pnbindia.in.
5. The Authorised officer or the bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances or any other dues to the government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-auction) not known to the bank. The intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues, etc.
6. The Authorised officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or very the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspects the property in consultation with the dealing official as per the details provided.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor

Date : 06/11/2026
Place : Silchar

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) & Rule 9 (1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

FROM PAGE - 1

‘Constitution supreme’

the matter and sought Attorney General R Venkataramani's assistance in the matter.

The Supreme Court's order comes after a post by the KPCC targeting CJI Surya Kant over a remark made during a hearing by the top court on a bunch of petitions seeking a probe into excesses by the Delhi Police during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protests in the capital city.

Following the controversial post, the two bar associations of the Supreme Court – Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCOARA) – condemned the demand for the CJI’s resignation.

The post was later deleted due to backlash, and Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) leaders also issued an apology. The party added that it had fired the person responsible for the post against the CJI.

HC sets aside

streets against alleged irregularities in July and August. The court observed that there was no definitive or widespread evidence on record proving a complete paper leak compromised the selection of the entire pool of successful candidates. Over 1,900 selected candidates had cleared the exams.

In August, the cancellation of the JSSC-CGL examination and all other recruitment tests conducted by the private firm TSR Data Processing Private Limited met one of the main demands of students protesting alleged irregularities in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) examinations. Chief minister Hemant Soren also promised to look into irregularities in all recruitment exams in the state since 2014.

Students protested against alleged irregularities for 24 days. Some of them sat on a hunger strike for 16 days.

A bench of Justice Deepak Roshan ruled in favour of the successful candidates, effectively restoring the JSSC-CGL selection process. It clarified that the ongoing Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probe into individual cases of exam malpractice and fraud will continue uninterrupted. The court said final appointment of the recruits would be subject to the outcome of the finality of the ongoing probe. The state government issued a blanket notification cancelling the entire JSSC-CGL recruitment drive, citing interim CID findings and student protests.

‘This organisation

said, according to agency. He further said the party leadership had heard everyone's concerns and would take steps to resolve them, adding that efforts would be made to strengthen both the party and the government.

“Everyone was heard, and some steps will be taken soon, while others will be taken gradually. We will strengthen the party and the government so that people's difficulties can be addressed. Alongside this, our fight for the restoration of Statehood, as well as our fight for Articles 370 and 35A, will continue, and it will be taken to its final conclusion,” Abdullah added.

Unhappy over the recent cabinet expansion in Jammu and Kashmir, 18 NC legislators reportedly held a closed-door meeting on Thursday to voice their concerns over the exclusion of senior members and the lack of regional balance, agency had reported earlier.

This coincided with Srinagar Lok Sabha MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi's resignation from both Parliament and the party. Mehdi had earlier accused the party of failing to act on its commitments concerning the restoration of Article 370, the release of prisoners and the protection of people's rights.

NC MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan also dismissed speculation about the emergence of a separate faction within the party, saying that the legislators had only raised their concerns with the party leadership.

“Every time, we approach our party leadership with our issues. A few days ago, we were sitting together at one place, and the media projected it as though a separate party had emerged from the National Conference. No new party was formed. We had certain issues which we raised before our Chief Minister and Farooq Sahib, and they have assured us that these issues will be addressed,” Khan told reporters, according to agency.

He added that the leadership had assured the legislators that their concerns, including political and other matters, would be addressed in phases.

Notices purportedly

counsel told a bench of Justice Amit Mahajan that no action would be taken against the two organisations pursuant to the notices. The counsel submitted that X conducted an internal investigation, which showed that the notices had not been issued by the Delhi Police. The company informed the court that it had filed a complaint with the Delhi Police regarding the fake notices. The submission was made in the petitions filed by IFF and SLFC challenging the purported notices. SLFC, through advocate Nakul Gandhi, challenged the purported October 31 and November 2 notices, concerning the takedown of its X account and certain posts. The SFLC submitted that it received the notices on October 29 and November 1 from an individual claiming to represent the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), demanding that it cease documenting and publicising instances of online censorship in India. It stated that the Special Commissioner of Delhi Police issued notices to X on October 31 and November 2, seeking the withholding of allegedly illegal content, including URLs linked to the organisation’s account. The petitioners said the authenticity of the notices remained unverified. SLFC’s petition said it sought to verify the authenticity of the notices from Delhi Police and X, their origin, authorisation and authenticity, but could not get them confirmed. The court noted X’s statement and closed the petition.

Police, mining

Lalita Kumari vs Government of Uttar Pradesh and State of NCT of Delhi vs Sanjay, the tribunal underscored the obligation of law enforcement agencies to register FIRs when information discloses a cognisable offence involving theft of state-owned minerals.

Shivaji Patel of Bargarh had filed an application before the NGT, alleging that Prem Kishore Patel had been carrying out illegal sand mining and large-scale storage in the Mahanadi riverbed at Chikhili under Ambabhona tehsil without a valid mining lease. He alleged that sand was extracted using suction pumps mounted on boats and supplied commercially to construction projects and brick manufacturing units in the region.

During a raid on June 22, 2024, enforcement officials had reportedly detected around 8,688 cubic metres of illegally stored sand. However, the applicant alleged that the authorities repeatedly compounded the violations by imposing minor penalties instead of initiating criminal prosecution or seizing the machinery used for illegal mining.

A joint fact-finding committee comprising the Bargarh Collector, a senior scientist from the OSPCB and the district Mining Officer found that Chikhili was not a notified sand source and that no mining permission had ever been granted there.

The tribunal observed that the administration’s claim of not finding active mining during monsoon inspections could not absolve it of responsibility for taking action against illegally extracted and stored sand and its continuing commercial trade.

Besides directing criminal action against the alleged offender, the NGT ordered the OSPCB to initiate proceedings for the assessment and recovery of environmental compensation.

The NGT also asked the director of Mines and Geology to ensure that all vehicles transporting minor minerals were fitted with operational GPS-based vehicle tracking systems and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags. Vehicles without such tracking systems should not be allowed to operate for mineral transportation, while those found to be involved in illegal activities should be seized, it said.

The tribunal also directed the Odisha chief secretary to personally review compliance with mineral monitoring regulations at least once every quarter. Minutes of the review meetings and transparency reports must be uploaded on the state government’s official website. It also said all illegally mined or stored river sand seized by enforcement agencies must be disposed of through public auction, with the proceeds deposited in an OSPCB fund earmarked exclusively for environmental restoration in the affected region..

Telecom regulator

that the licence be national, valid for 20 years and renewable.

The proposed licence would not be permission to launch or operate satellites, which remains with the Department of Space. Holders would not be allowed to sell services directly to consumers. They would also not need to own satellites, as a company running gateways for a foreign satellite operator could qualify.

How it would work

Under the proposed model, a satellite company would operate the network, while its telecom partner would sell the service, bill customers, and handle complaints. TRAI has suggested that the SCN provider could either seek its own spectrum from DoT, naming the partner it would serve, or use spectrum the partner already holds, but only to serve that partner.

TRAI has recommended that spectrum be allotted administratively, not auctioned, for up to five years. It has asked DoT to decide on applications within 30 days, once security clearances are in place. The regulator did not propose a new spectrum price. It said SCN providers should pay whatever DoT finally decides for satellite operators. That decision is pending on TRAI’s May 2025 proposal of 4% of adjusted gross revenue.

TRAI has proposed an entry fee of ?37.5 lakh and a licence fee of 8% of adjusted gross revenue. It has also recommended that telecom companies be allowed to deduct what they pay SCN providers from their own revenue for fee purposes, so the same money is not charged twice.

Satellite signal on ordinary phones

TRAI also recommended allowing direct-to-device services, in which satellites connect directly to regular smartphones in areas without mobile towers. Under its proposal, mobile operators could use their existing spectrum for this at no extra charge, without waiting for the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference. However, the same frequency channel would have to be available across all 22 telecom circles.

The regulator has proposed that all traffic from users in India pass through gateways located in India and not be routed or copied abroad, even if a local gateway fails. Providers would have to allow real-time monitoring and lawful interception, and gateways would have to be running within 12 months of approval.

Excise Commissioner

immediate effect. The Additional Excise Commissioner will hold the charge of Excise Commissioner until further orders," the order said.

Liju had openly expressed dissatisfaction after three bars in Ernakulam and Kottayam districts were granted licences under the liquor policy of the previous LDF government.

The minister maintained that the UDF government was in the process of formulating its liquor policy and that no licences should be granted under the previous government's policy until the new one was finalised.

He had suspended two Excise Deputy Commissioners for granting licences to the three bars.

The minister had also expressed dissatisfaction with the grant of a licence to a bakery chain based in Chalakudy to sell horti wine, a move permitted under the previous regime.

He intervened to cancel the licence and transferred the official who had granted it.

Liju has announced that the UDF government's liquor policy will be presented by the end of this month.

Reacting to the transfer of the Excise Commissioner, Liju told reporters on Friday that it was not the first time such a change had occurred.

He said attempts were being made to link the transfer to issues with various licences issued by the Excise Department for liquor sales.

"Transfers of Excise Secretaries or Excise Commissioners are administrative decisions. The concerned department naturally takes such decisions," he said.

He said 35 civil servants from various departments had recently been transferred and the present move could be considered the 36th such transfer.

He said action had been taken against Deputy Excise Commissioners for issuing bar licences while the government was formulating a new liquor policy.

Liju also said the government had informed the High Court that no fresh licences would be issued until the new policy was announced.

Reservation-category

Only nine IITs provided caste-category-wise vacancy data.

Of the 1,501 vacancies reported by these institutions, 888 were in the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes categories combined.

Details on the study

The study was released as a working paper in October by the NBER and is also listed as forthcoming in the ‘Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics,’ a US-based journal published by the University of Chicago Press.

The researchers examined data from 50 engineering and technology colleges across India, covering 2,710 faculty members and 20,239 students. The sample included computer science and electrical engineering departments.

Eight elite institutions were randomly selected from among IITs, National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and other institutions ranked among the top 100 in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). The remaining 42 colleges were selected from non-elite institutions, with their selection weighted by size.

The data were collected in two phases — October to December 2017 and January to March 2019 — as part of a larger project funded by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), India’s technical education regulator. The researchers reported response rates of about 95% for both baseline and endline surveys.

A key part of the study involved randomly assigning students to faculty members in 12 colleges. This allowed researchers to compare the academic performance of students taught by faculty from reservation and general categories, reducing the possibility that differences in student characteristics or faculty selection could explain the results.

The researchers also noted that the colleges used standardised course content and centrally graded end-semester examinations, making comparisons across faculty members more reliable.

Teaching outcomes of reserved and general-category faculty

The study found clear differences in the academic profiles and seniority of faculty members. About 14% of reservation-category faculty members held a PhD, compared with 21% of general-category faculty. The share with a master's degree as their highest qualification was 64% among reservation-category faculty and 58% among general-category faculty.

Reservation-category faculty were also more likely to be assistant professors — 80%, against 74% among general-category faculty. Only 3% were professors, compared with 8% of general-category faculty.

Their average teaching experience was 8.91 years, against 10.06 years for general-category faculty.

The researchers, however, found that these differences did not correspond to lower classroom performance. As the paper puts it, “These lower observable qualifications do not translate into lower quality teaching”.

In the random-assignment analysis, students taught by reservation-category faculty scored 1.44 percentile points higher in course examinations. The result remained broadly similar after researchers accounted for differences in faculty experience, rank, qualifications and gender.

“We find that reservation category faculty actually teach slightly better than general category faculty as measured by course grades; students taught by reservation category faculty have a higher percentile rank for a given course, with the magnitude of difference varying between 1.3 to 1.5 percentile points,” the researchers said.

The study found “no meaningful difference” between students taught by reservation-category and general-category faculty in standardised tests conducted after two and four years, attendance, dropout rates, graduation or plans to pursue postgraduate studies.

It also examined whether students performed better when taught by faculty members from their own caste category — a possible “teacher-like-me” effect. The researchers found no evidence of a consistent advantage for students taught by faculty from their own social group.

The study found that “even in the face of resentment and possible discrimination, general category students obtain slightly better grades (in absolute terms) in classrooms taught by reservation category faculty than general category faculty.” Research output and administrative work The researchers also compared faculty members' research productivity and administrative responsibilities. They found no statistically significant differences between reservation-category and general-category faculty in research funding, publications or the likelihood of holding administrative positions.

Buddhadeb Bhattacharya: Communist who saw the future



Agencies, Kolkata : Buddhadeb Bhattacharya — Buddhada to us — passed away Thursday morning. He had been suffering for quite some time. His condition had worsened due to prolonged lung-related afflictions. In and out of the hospital, a couple of times his doctors managed to bring him back home. But not this time. He succumbed to a severe cardiac attack.

Buddhada was one of the younger generation of leaders who came into prominence and contributed to the resurgence of the Party and the Left in West Bengal in the turbulent late '60s. Initiated through student activism, he soon became the main face of the youth movement as the first general secretary of the youth organisation in 1968 and built the democratic youth federation across the state. He emerged as a key leader and organiser of the younger generation, instrumental in mobilising the youth against severe assaults on the Party and the Left in resisting the semi-fascist terror of the '70s.

After its emergence in 1977, the Left Front established itself at the helm of affairs in the political landscape of West Bengal. First as MLA and then as a prominent member of Jyoti Basu's government, Buddhada played a key role in consolidating the advances on people's issues. In 2000, when Jyoti Basu stepped down, Bhattacharya became the chief minister. He led the Party and the Left Front in the assembly elections in 2001 and subsequently in 2006.

Buddhada combined a firm commitment to the principles of the struggle for the emancipation of downtrodden sections with an effort to assert a modern and contemporary outlook geared to meet the changing global and national context. He believed deeply that the significant advances etched out by the Left and the progressive movement, based on economic and social justice ushered in by agrarian reforms, had led to stunning advances in deepening justice, improving the conditions of the working people and providing a strong foundation for further progress. He wanted to give a vigorous push to the industrial policy initiated in 1994 to take a big leap in providing employment by building industry. Despite the decline in public sector investment in industry and agriculture, he believed, along with the collective opinion of the Party and the Left, that transforming the nature of Bengal's economy with greater priorities on modern industry, was essential for the state, which was at a crossroads, to move forward. Critics denigrated him for this stance, but his approach was not at the cost of economic and social justice, which was on firmer ground.

Buddhada's personal life was modest and frugal. He never moved out of his small two-bedroom flat in South Kolkata, even after reaching high office. He did not believe in enjoying anything beyond what was necessary for life. He deeply believed in a democratic style of government.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank

Email : cosilcharrecovery@pnb.bank.in

CO: SAM, Circle Office Silchar (903200)
Circle Office, Central Road Silchar 788001(Assam)

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 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) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot No.	A) Name of the Branch / B) Name of the Account / C) Name & addresses of the Borrower/ Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 / B) Outstanding Amount as on(in Rs.) / C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 / D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical/Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) / B) EMD / C) Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1	**A) Badarpur (003820)** **B) Mr Sajal Kumar Das** **C) Borrower-** 1) Mr Sajal Kumar Das, S/O-Late Jaladhar Chandra Das, Vill-Siddheswar Part-II, P.O-Katirail, Dist-Cachar, Assam-788705	The property is a Land & building property at Mouza- Siddheswar Part-II, Pargona-Katigorah, Cachar measuring an area of 5 Katha under Dag No.192, 2nd RS Patta No.72 in the name of Sri Sajal Kumar Das. **Bounded by:** **North:** 12ft common passage leading to Kalain Badarpur Road. **South:** Common passage. **East:** Land of Joy Kishor Kahar **West:** Land of Sukhamay Das.	**A)** 10.02.2022 **B)** Rs.9,96,892.00 with further interest from 01.02.2022 **C)** 05.05.2022 **D)** Symbolic Possession.	**A)** Rs.52.60 Lakh **B)** Rs 5.26 Lakh (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs.0.10 Lakh	26.11.2026 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Not Known to Bank
2	**A) Silchar (003720)** **B) Mahmood Hassan Mazumder** **C) Borrower:** Mahmood Hassan Mazumder, S/o Lt. Mohibur Rahman Mazumder Vill & P.O:-Berenga Pt-II, Silchar. Assam 788005. **Guarantor/ Mortgagor:** Kabul Hussain Laskar, S/o Lt. Mozir Uddin Laskar, Vill & P.O: Kanankpur Pt-II, Silchar, Assam: 788005	All that part and parcel of the properties consisting of semi RCC building standing on a plot of land measuring 15 Kathas, 10 Chataks 3 Gondas under Dag No 549,547 and 509,531,530, 532,550,545,570 and 2nd RS Patta No. 196,5 Mouza: Kanakpur pt II, Pargona :Barakpur Situated at Kanakpur, Silchar in the Name of Kabul Hussain Laskar. **Bounded by:** **North :** Land of Md Monjur Ahmed Barbhuiya **South :** Lane 6 Feet **East :** Land of Mustt Rumi Begum **West :** Purchased Land of Md Kabul Hussain and thereafter land of must Fakrun Nessa	**A)** 25.06.2021 **B)** Rs.26,60624.51with further interest from 01.06.2021 **C)** 09/06/2022 **D)** Symbolic Possession.	**A)** Rs.33.84 Lakh **B)** Rs 3.384 Lakh (on or before 25.11.2026) **C)** Rs.0.10 Lakh		
3	**A) Silchar (003720)** **B) Sharmistha Deb Purkayastha** **C) Borrower-**1) Sharmistha Deb Purkayastha, W/o Animesh Deb Purkayastha, 1st Link Road, Lane No 15, House No. 28, Silchar, Assam - 788006. **Guarantor: 1)** Animesh Deb Purkayastha, 1st Link Road, Lane No 15 House No 28, Silchar, Assam - 788006	The property is residential land and all structures measuring 05 Kathas, under 2nd RS Dag No 5 and 2nd RS Patta No. 3 Mouza: Kanakpur Pt I, Pargona: Barakpur situated at lane no 15, 1st Link Road in the name of Sharmistha Deb Purkayastha. **Bounded by:** **East:** Link Road Lane No 15. **West:** Link Road Lane No. 14. **North:** Residenceof Smt. Binapani Nath Choudhury **South:** Residence of Sri. Nibhu Ram Das	**A)** 18.05.2021 **B)** Rs.29,55,103.60 with further interest and other charges w.e.f. 01.01.2022 **C)** 20.10.2021 **D)** Symbolic Possession	A) Rs.77.76 Lakh B) Rs.7.776 Lakh (on or before 25.11.2026) C) Rs.0.10 Lakh		

TERMS AND CONDITIONS :

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and tothe following further conditions:
1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://baanknet.com
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://baanknet.com& www.pnbindia.in.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor

Date : 06.11.2026
Place : Silchar

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) & Rule 9 (1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

From Uttarakhand to Wayanad: Balancing realpolitik with green transition

Agencies, Dehradun : One, it is not a uniform national transition. There are several, varying state-led transitions. Two, there is tension between the drivers of this transition and our trade policy. Three, there is an imbalance between the realpolitik of governance and the ethical imperative of sustainable development. What should be the actions that flow from these thoughts is beyond the scope of this article.

The green energy transition is predominantly about green electrification. The pace, scope and size of the shift from fossil fuels to a clean, non-carbon energy system depend on the electrification of transport, industry, buildings and residential areas. As such, given that electricity generation, transmission and distribution is a Concurrent Subject, the design and effectiveness of the green energy transition is the joint responsibility of the Centre and states.

The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has made impressive progress. There is a roadmap for meeting 50 per cent of India's energy requirements from renewables by 2030. The objective is to create 500 GW of RE installed capacity by that year, and the MNRE is committed to bid out 50 GW of solar generation capacity every year. They exceeded this target by almost 25 per cent in 2023. More significant, perhaps, is that the silos that segregate the functioning of different government ministries have been perforated. MNRE and the Ministry of Power, along with the regulatory agencies under the latter's umbrella (Central Electricity Authority (CEA); Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC); Central Transmission Utility (CTU); and Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSCO)) are working in harmony.

More, of course, needs to be done. Transmission connectivity is inadequate. Scale-up requires grid-scale energy storage, and even as costs and technology move in the right direction, this remains a long-haul problem. Green finance is limited and of too short a duration. There is no dearth of interested investors in RE. There is, however, a dearth of "patient" green capital. The majority of the current investors are looking for a profitable exit within 6-7 years, whereas what is required is a 25-year time horizon.

On balance though, the central government deserves credit for going beyond atmospherics and for spelling out the specifics of the milestones to be crossed and how.

A less clear picture emerges when the energy transition is seen through the lens of state governments. Some states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha, and Delhi have moved further and faster because of a combination of a conducive policy environment, demographics, and OEMs. Others, like Haryana, have comparably supportive policies, but progress has slowed because of their failure to put in place the machinery for implementation. And then there are states like Rajasthan, which are financially stretched and have struggled to provide the incentives to propel the shift away from fossil fuels.

The fact is there is no uniformity in the pattern of the clean energy transition across the states. They are proceeding at varying speeds. Eventually though, given that this transition does not respect political and institutional boundaries, all entities — central government, state governments, public sector companies, private sector generators, and consumers — should align. This will, however, require major structural and institutional redesign.

Trade policy must subserve national interest. That is beyond debate. But what is not, is the weightage to be given to contributory facets of national interest. In the context of the energy transition, this surfaces a policy dilemma — one best exemplified by the outsized presence of China in the clean energy market. The International Energy Agency (IEA) reported that in 2023, China accounted for 63 per cent of the incremental global addition in renewables (298 GW of the 473 GW added); that it has an abundance of components of the solar/wind value chain from polysilica, wafers, cells, and modules; and that it can produce world-class quality solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries at the cheapest price. Bloomberg has, for instance, reported that Chinese solar panels are 85 per cent cheaper than US panels and 55 per cent cheaper than those made in Southeast Asia. The fact is, were Indian manufacturers allowed unconstrained access to cheap Chinese products, the competitiveness gap between clean energy and incumbent fossil fuels would narrow even further, and that would accelerate the transition. But this is, of course, a geopolitically unrealistic proposition. India cannot expose itself to the vulnerability of over-dependence on China. There would be national security implications.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBER

SILCHAR

FIRE Brigade-	245801
ASEB Complain-	234400
Municipality-	233830
Silchar Police Station -	246279
Rangirkhari Police Outpost-	225067
Tarapur Police Station -	245846
Malugram Police Outpost-	262173
Gungoor PoliceOutpost -	261825
Traffic Police-	246336
Lakhipur Police Station-	287425
Udharbond Police Station -	281424
Katigorah Police Station-	268175
Borkhola Police Station-	286433
Dholai Police Station -	258422
Sonai Police Station -	274424

GOVT. AND NON GOVT. HOSPITAL

Silchar Medical College Emergency-	233819
Mritanjoy-	108
Silchar Civil Hospital-	245735
Redcross---	263107
Kalyani Hospital-	268460
Shiv Sundhari Nari Shikhasram-	246400
Mediland Nursing Home--	261828
South CityNursing Home-	240991
Lions Eye Hospital --	231 001
Green View Nursing Home-	234043
KC Nursing Home -	234145
Nightangle Nursing Home--	242 171
Ellora Nursing Home-	247 854
Mousawmi Hospital -	230152
Sudipta Nursing Home-	220255
Cancer Hospital -	268447
Vally Hospital--	242852

ENQUIRY

Railway--	263094
Airport -	282311
Air India (City)	245707
Telephone--	197

TRAVELS

StateTransport-	268844
Capital Travels-	247751
Jagannath Travels-	220597

BLOOD BANK

Silchar Medical College-	241229
Barak Blood Bank-	222185

KARIMGANJ

Civil Hospital-	262025
Mritunjoy -	108
Redcross-	262099
Fire Brigade-	262101
Municipality-	262085
ASEB Complian	262006
Asirbad Nursing Home -	266938
Lifeline Hospital-	260046
Karimganj Police Station-	262023
Badarpur Police Station--	255429
Ramkrishnagar Police Station --	259429
N ilambazar Police Station -	258422
Bazarichara Police OutPost-	287955

ENQUIRY

Railway -	262010
State Transport-	222280
Telephone--	197

HAILAKANDI

Fire Brigade-	222101
ASEB Complain --	222223
Civil Hospital--	222423
Police Station -	222253
Municipality-	222248

ENQUIRY

Railway-	222470
State Transport-	222280
Telephone-	197

GUWAHATI STD CODE-0361

HOSPITAL

Gauhati Medical College & Hospital-	252957
Down Town Hospital-	2331003
Mahandra Mohan Choudhury Hospital-	2543998
B. Barka Centre Hospital -	2472366
Asom International Hospital-	2347700
Bharmaputra Hospital Limited -	2451634
Arya Hospital -	2606663
Good Health Hospital-	2268230
Nan care Hospital-	252 8587
Dispur Pollyclinic --	2260864
Nabajiban Hospital -	2334654
Win--Hospital-	2351986
Gauhati Naurogical Research Centre-	2227700
East Nursing Home-	2550334
Sankardev Natralaya -	2228879
North East &Institute-	9435404988
Ajaid-- Hospital-	9864070675

BLOOD BANK

Marawari Hospital Research Centre -	2733737

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Karnataka reports

it being one of the prescribed testing parameters," the statement said. The state then commissioned independent testing at the Shriram Research Institute. The laboratory certificates attached to the statement record the ethanol concentrations in the samples, including 31.2% in an IOCL sample and 30.5% in an HPCL Power sample. The government said the omission in the oil companies' reports raised questions about transparency in fuel marketing. It added that the laboratory findings establish the ethanol content of the samples tested. They do not, by themselves, establish how widespread such concentrations are across the state's fuel supply, the statement said.

Concerns over vehicle damage

The government raised concerns about the impact of higher ethanol blends on vehicles designed to operate with lower concentrations. It added that estimates suggest that 99% of India's vehicles were not built to handle blends exceeding E20. The government said even vehicles sold after April 2023 are certified for ethanol blends of up to 20%. The statement estimated that motorists lose ?62,000 crore annually through lower fuel efficiency. That calculation assumes a 10% reduction in mileage, annual petrol consumption of 6,200 crore litres and a price of ?100 a litre. It separately estimates annual repair costs for vehicle components at ?39,000 crore. "With a conservative estimate, consumers are facing a hidden burden of nearly ?1.01 lakh crore annually," the statement said.

The government questioned whether fuel dispensing infrastructure was equipped to handle higher ethanol blends. It said most dispensing units at petrol stations were designed for fuel containing up to 15% ethanol and argued that the necessary upgrades might not have been made.

The state government has asked the Union government to explain the ethanol concentrations found in the samples. It sought clarification on the actual blend being supplied to consumers and sought action against oil marketing companies found selling petrol containing over 20% ethanol.

Centre proposing parity in mineral taxation, states' rights to remain intact: Union Mines Secretary

Agencies, Panaji : The proposed amendments to the Mines and Minerals Act, or MMDR Act, seek to bring greater parity in taxation and production costs across states while maintaining their rights to collect taxes and cess, Union Mines Secretary Keshav Chandra said on Thursday.

The senior IAS officer was addressing a conference of mining ministers on reforms in the mining and coal sector in South Goa.

Chandra said India needs to strengthen its domestic capacity to explore and process critical minerals and manufacture products using them to avoid dependence on imports and the resulting disadvantages in the global economy.

Union Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Union Minister of State for Mines Satish Chandra Dubey were also present.

According to Chandra, the availability of critical minerals, including rare earth elements, lithium and nickel, along with domestic processing facilities, is crucial for manufacturing permanent magnets and batteries.

"We are taking very important steps towards self-sufficiency," he said, adding that the Centre has announced substantial subsidies for industries coming forward to establish lithium and nickel processing facilities.

Chandra said the government has also launched a scheme with an outlay of ?1,500 crore to promote recycling of black mass and electronic waste.

Around 58 recycling entities have registered under the scheme, pledging a combined processing capacity of 850 KTPA , against the initially envisaged 270 KTPA, he said.

The Mines Secretary expressed confidence that India would be able to generate sufficient quantities of critical minerals and other essential inputs for manufacturing permanent magnets and batteries over the next three to four years.

Explaining the rationale behind the proposed MMDR Act amendments, Chandra said significant variations in the cost of mineral production and taxation between neighbouring states could adversely affect industries and lead to a shift in economic activity to states offering more favourable conditions.

Citing the example of bauxite, he said the situation could create supply-related challenges and even encourage imports despite domestic availability.

"There has to be parity. There has to be economic sense in imposing certain cesses and taxes on all the minerals," he said.

Chandra underlined that the proposed amendments would not undermine the rights of states, asserting that they would continue to retain the authority to collect taxes and cess. He said 92 to 93 per cent of the revenue generated from mining activities goes to states, while the Centre does not receive any significant revenue apart from GST, which he claimed is also devolved to states. About three per cent of the royalty-related revenue is utilised for exploration activities, he added. The Mines Secretary urged states to adopt a broader and more prudent approach towards mining policies, stressing the need for a rational tax structure and an enabling economic environment to facilitate industrial growth. Emphasising the importance of cooperative federalism, he said the Centre respects the rights of states while also recognising the need to ensure economic growth and competitiveness in the mining sector.

100 pc targets under cleanliness, records management campaign achieved: Union health ministry

Agencies, New Delhi : The Union health ministry has achieved 100 per cent of the targets under a campaign aimed at clearing administrative pendency and overhauling records management, with over 1.20 lakh physical files weeded out, 5.82 lakh square feet of office space cleared and more than 1 crore generated through disposal of scrap and e-waste, the ministry said.

Special Campaign 6, conducted from October 2 to 31, covered 1,62,325 sites across offices and institutions under the Department of Health and Family Welfare, including central government hospitals, attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and central public sector undertakings. During the campaign, 12,840 public grievances and 6,026 associated appeals were disposed of, while 119 references received from MPs were addressed, a ministry statement said.

The ministry also simplified 19 rules and processes as part of efforts to reduce administrative pendency and streamline procedures.

Under the records management exercise, 1,25,114 physical files were reviewed and 1,20,115 weeded out. In addition, 37,481 e-files were reviewed and 32,542 closed, the statement said.

These measures resulted in reclamation of 5,82,449 square feet of office space, the ministry said.

The disposal of scrap and e-waste generated revenue exceeding ?1 crore while facilitating responsible management of obsolete materials.

The campaign focused on institutionalising cleanliness, improving records management, reducing pendency and creating cleaner and more efficient working environments across health ministry institutions, it added.

Union Health Minister J P Nadda visited AIIMS, Delhi, during the campaign to review cleanliness, waste management and patient amenities.

Minister of State for Health Prataprao Jadhav visited a health check-up camp at Kartavya Bhawan-1 and interacted with 'safai mitras'. The health secretary also reviewed the campaign's progress.

HOTELS NAME AND ADDRESS IN SILCHAR

Borail View Hotel
Park Road, Silchar
Ph. : 03842-248561

Hotel Siddharth
Nazirpatty, Tarapur
M. : 8811098517

Hotel Barak Continental
Nazirpatty, Silchar
Phone : 03842-231354

Sewak Lodge
Premtola Point, Silchar
Phone : 03842-224013

Rose Valley Hotel
Ukilpatty Silchar
Phone : 03842-235004

Hotel Bengal
Itkhola Road, Silchar
M.: 8011703273

Hotel Suruchi
Gopal Ganj, Silchar
Phone : 03842-260223

Sri Nataraj Hotel & Testaurant
Station Road, Tarapur
M. : 9706551627

Parijat Hotel & Restaurant
Trunk Road, Silchar
M. : 9531015673

Hotel Sudakshina
Silchar
Phone : 03842-230156

Hotel Oishee
Hospital Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-222007

Hotel Geetanjali
Club Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-236440

Hotel Aradhana
Sonai Road, Silchar
M. : 9435071128

Hotel Rambo
Sonai Road, Rangirkhari
M. : 9401429292

Hotel Milan Sree
Premtala Point, Silchar
M. : 7002195499

Hiranmoyee Lodge
Club Road, Silchar
Ph. : 03842-247567

Hotel Centre Palace
Central Road, Silchar
M. : 9152451846

Riya Palace Hotel
Park Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-260200

Hotel Holiday Inn
Hospital Road, Silchar
M. : 9152444893

Hotel Shiva
Hailakandi Road, Silchar
M. : 9435070375

Open Hotel
Panchayat Road
M. : 8723803770

Bani Hotel
Narshingtola, Silchar
Phone : 03842-262904

Hotel Anjali
Nazirpatty, Silchar
M. : 9957566210

Mamoni Hotel
Station Road, Tarapur
M. : 8402964129

J K Star Hotel
Lakhipur Road
Ph. : 03842-238694

Orbit Hotel
Central Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-235004

SPOT ON 37646 Hotel
Central Road, Silchar
M. : 9152827339

Sharma Hotel
VIP Road, Rongpur
M.: 8135046656

Hotel Sarada Lodge
NN Dutta Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-261467

Hotel Ashroy
Central Road, Silchar
M. : 7002879083

J L Loadge
Central Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-234212

Sai Lodge
Itkhola Bazar, Silchar
Mobile-8761945190

The Cachar Club
Club Road, Silchar
Phone : 0342-263461

Ellora Hotel
Club Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-247412

Mayur Hotel
Hospital Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-230868

Hotel Galaxy
Ramnagar, Silchar
M. : 9435238522

Hotel Kanishka
Narshingtola, Silchar
M. : 8723060119

Hotel Dhakya
Club Road, Silchar
M. : 9859975760

Swagat Hotel
Central Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-231130

Hotel Kalpataru
Circuit House Road, Silchar
Phone:03842-245672

Hotel J C International
Circuit House Road
Phone : 03842-260708

Maruti Hotel
Hospital Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-247702

Hotel Gateway
Norshingtola Road, Silchar
Phone : 03842-238888

Narataj Hotel
Itkhola Road, Silchar
M. : 7002533121

Samrat Hotel
Sonai Road, Rangirkhari
M. : 8720999745

Hotel Dreamland
Circuit House Road, Silchar
M.: 9435811209

For any New Entry in our Hotel List
CONTACT
03842231397

HOTELS NAME AND ADDRESS IN GUWAHATI

VIP International Hotel
Kahilipara, Guwahati
M. : 9613092338
Phone : 0361-2472798

Nakshatra Hotel
Beltola
M. : 99571 81929

Hotel Embassy
Paltanbazar
Ph.: 0361-2544886

Sumi Lodge
Paltanbazar
M.: 9864202539

Sinha Lodge
Ganeshguri
Ph.: 0361-2201509

Hotel Prince
Paltanbazar
Ph.: 0361-2548831

Hotel Rituraj
Fancy Bazar
M. : 9152767057

Saraighat Lodge
Khanapara
M. : 9935119442

Hotel Nandan
Paltan Bazar, G.S.Road
M. : 97060 98845

Kironshree Portico
Paltanbazar
Ph.: 0361-2735300

Vandana Hotel
Paltanbazar
Ph.: 0361-2739555

Hotel Brindavan
Paltanbazar
Ph.: 0361-2912222

Radisson Blu Hotel
Gotanagar, NH-37
Ph.: 0361-7100100

Hotel Tibet
Paltanbazar
Ph. : 0361-2519815

Hotel Siroy Classic
Paltanbazar
M. : 9152710110

Trimurty International
GS Road, Paltan Bazar

Atithi Hotel
Paltanbazar
Ph. : 0361-273 2111

Hotel City Heart
Rehabari
Ph.: 0361-2130160

Hotel Rajdoot
Paltanbazar
Ph. : 0361-2522461

Hotel Novotel
Dispur
Ph. : 0361-7104444

Hotel President
Gnb Road, Panbazar
Ph. : 0361-2544682

Eastin Homestay
Zoo Road
M. : 9152677105

Janta Hotel
Paltanbazar
Phone-0361-2739723

Ambarish Hotel
Paltanbazar
Ph. : 0361 234 6709

Geetanjali Hotel
Paltanbazar
Ph.: 0361-2541346

Hotel Joydurga
Paltanbazar
Ph. : 0361-2544138

Vivanta BY TAJ
Khanapara
Ph.: 0361-7106774

Grand Starline Hotel
G S Road
Ph. : 0361-2341755

Rains Inn
Paltanbazar
M.: 9957223231, 8751983810

Mayur Hotel
Paltanbazar
M. : 076700 02100

Ambassador Hotel
Paltanbazar
Ph.: 0361 254 4886

Hotel Sampat Plaza
Paltanbazar
Ph.: 0361-2730770

Capital Lodge
Dispur
Ph. : 0361-2265871

Tribeni Lodge
Paltanbazar
Ph.: 0361-2734466

Hotel Vandana
Paltanbazar
M. : 9152827339

Hotel Mahalaxmi Indo Myanmar
Paltanbazar
M. : 9152618512

For any New Entry in our Hotel List
CONTACT
03842-231397

Virat Kohli hurls a mouthful, gives aggressive send-off to Charith Asalanka after Kusal Mendis charges at Siraj



Agencies, New Delhi : India enjoyed a dream start to the 2nd ODI against Sri Lanka, with Mohammed Siraj dismissing the in-form Pathum Nissanka first ball of the match. However, there was no such excitement on Wednesday in the series decider as the India quick came in for some real pounding. Siraj leaked boundaries and with Nissanka taking him to the cleaners, the India pacer's figures read 0/22 after the first three overs. Siraj's second spell was equally woeful as he conceded two sixes and a boundary to Avishka Fernando with India running out of options. Siraj was clearly having an off day – and the fact that it was against a team he loves bowling against – made matters even more frustrating for India's only frontline pacer in the match. And perhaps it was this very frustration that landed him in a situation with Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka.

In the 39th over, Siraj mouthed a few words to Kusal Mendis, which were not taken pleasantly by the Sri Lanka batter. The two kept having a go at each other, with Siraj looking at Mendis and gesturing something towards the dressing room. Mendis, however, who was unbeaten on 30 and with Sri Lanka's score on 183/3, was having none of it and charged towards the India pacer. Siraj tried to get under Mendis' skin by dishing out the chirping hand signal before turning back to walk towards his run-up. Tempers clearly flared.

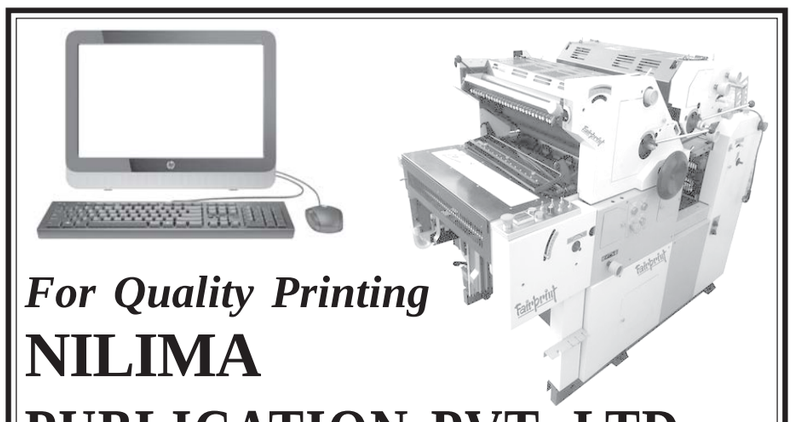
Watching his teammate getting involved in verbal volleys, the original master of it, Virat Kohli decided to have a go himself. Unlike Siraj, Kohli's target was not Mendis, but the Sri Lankan captain Charith Asalanka who came to bat after the fall of opener Fernando's wicket. India, in dire need of a wicket, were given a breakthrough by none other than debutant Riyan Parag. His leg-break first claimed the wicket of Fernando four short of a century, before trapping Asalanka for a 10. The moment the umpire's finger went up, Kohli pulled off a sendoff reminiscent of his younger days. Kohli, brimming with excitement, dished out his trademark roar, a mention of 'Ben Stokes' and then hurled a mouthful to the Sri Lankan captain as he made his long walk back.

From 173/1, Sri Lanka were eventually restricted to 248/7, setting India their biggest target of the series. Barring the top three, none of the Sri Lankan batters could contribute as India roared back in the last 12 overs to keep them under 250.

Sri Lanka win

India's joy was short-lived as a similar pattern unfolded with their batting. For the third time in three matches, India's batting capitulated – this one being the worst of the lot – as the reigning T20 world champions were bowled out for just 138, giving Sri Lanka a handsome 110-run win and their first bilateral ODI series against the Men in Blue since 1997 – 27 years ago.

Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill added 37 runs for the opening wicket, which shockingly was the highest of the innings. Once Gill played an awful shot and Rohit perished out caught behind, it was shambolic as usual. Kohli looked in good nick, creaming four boundaries en route to 20 before getting out LBW for the third time this series. For Sri Lanka, it was that man once again, Dunith Wellalage, who picked the bones, finishing with 5/27 – his second five-for against India in five ODIs.



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Vinesh Phogat and athletes 'weight cutting' — why they do it and the health dangers



Agencies, New Delhi : In wrestling, the equation is slightly different. Weight can sometimes add to the advantage of an athlete. Imagine a 30 kg person or a 40 kg person wrestling a 60kg person. If the 60kg person puts the 40 kg person down, there is little chance that the 40 kg person can counter that. To avoid any unfair advantage, wrestling associations have demarcated categories such as under-50kg, under-53kg, under-57kg so that similar body structure athletes are competing with each other and chances of any unfair edge are negligible. Despite this, athletes try to use these categories to their own advantage. Let's suppose an athlete's weight is 52kg. She should typically be competing in the under-53kg category. However, what athletes can do is register for the under-50kg category because they know that they will be able to manage their body weight accordingly and use the lean mass to their benefit. A few days before the competition, they begin a weight-control programme which includes excessive workouts so that they burn calories. They stop eating and start restricting their fluids so their bodies do not retain water. In addition, through exercise, they perspire and continue to lose liquids. This is essentially similar to what we categorise as intermittent fasting or complete fasting to lose weight. The way this works is that first, one can start losing weight by burning calories, which in turn burns fat. Once the fat is burnt, the next resource is fat and carbohydrates together. Once that is depleted, there is only protein, which is an inefficient source of energy. This puts the body into what is known as a catabolic state — the athlete is now beginning to lose lean mass, which is not the aim. But it occurs when the person overshoots the weight-loss target and can land the athlete in health trouble. Immediately after the competition, they have what we call the "binge eating" phase. On average, say in a period of about 48 hours, one can easily put on one to two kg. This is possible through carbohydrate loading and in some cases, hyperalimentation. Athletes are then able to transit back to their normal weight. Through this, over a period of time, they master the ability to get the right weight just before the competition. Vinesh's nutritionist felt that 1.5 kg of nutrition over the day was enough to give her energy for the bouts. However, this process is harmful to the athlete's body and generally discouraged by associations. It can lead to injury and a vicious cycle of other related issues such as stress, bulimia and depression. Nonetheless, athletes continue to engage in this practice. According to reports, Vinesh Phogat was about 150 gm over the weight limit of 50 kg. So if she were to shed that extra mass, it would take her about three to four, maybe even five hours with a good and continuous workout. But there is no average number of hours that can be generalised across the board — it depends on the physical exertion already undertaken.

India slump to 110-run defeat, lose ODI series to Lanka after 27 years

Agencies, New Delhi : Sri Lanka's spinners spun a web around India's vaunted batting lineup for the third match in a row to inflict a 110-run defeat in Colombo on Wednesday and win the three-match series 2-0. This is the first time in 27 years that Sri Lanka have won a bilateral ODI series against India, and it couldn't have been sweeter as their spinners accounted for a record-breaking 27 wickets in just three matches, the highest against India for any side in a bilateral series.

The real tragedy, though, wasn't in the result but the appalling loss of competition that reduced this series into a walkover. For all the attacking verve Rohit Sharma has tried to inject in each of the three ODI chases, not once has India's middle-order been able to temper the quick starts with the level of skill that could thwart Sri Lanka's spinners. Only Sharma, Virat Kohli and the spunky Washington Sundar could cross 20 as six batters were dismissed for single digits. India are No.1, seventh-placed Sri Lanka haven't even qualified for the Champions Trophy but this defeat told a different story as India were schooled by spinners in a hark back to the 1990s.

"I don't think it's a concern," said Sharma at the post-match presentation when asked if playing spin was a worry. "But it's something we need to look at seriously, our individual gameplans, and it's something we were definitely put under pressure with in this series." Giving credit to Sri Lanka for playing well, Sharma admitted they hadn't been up to par but this loss shouldn't set off alarm bells.

"We didn't play good cricket throughout the series, and that is why we stand here. There were a few positives too. How the spinners bowled, some of the batters in the middle as well. We lost the series, and I feel there are a lot of areas we need to look at rather than the positives. We need to go back and look at what we need to do when we come up against conditions like this. Series lost doesn't mean the end of the world. These guys have been playing very well over the past few years, very consistent, you will lose the odd series."

The capitulation to spin, however, must ruffle a few feathers. If it was Jeffrey Vandersay who broke India's resistance with six wickets in the second ODI, on Wednesday it was Dunith Wellalage's turn with five wickets. There was no plan against spin, just the odd show of defiance or innovation when ideally batters should have turned to grafting the gettable run rate. Failure to do so for three matches in a row points to an inexplicable nosedive of technical and mental prowess in the space of a week. So shambolic has been India's batting that perhaps only Sharma can escape scrutiny. Shubman Gill averaged 19, ending this series being bowled, missing a wild slog after charging down the pitch. Brought in place of KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant departed in similar fashion — skipping down the track to Maheesh Theekshana who pulled the length back and beat his outer edge so comprehensively that his stumping could easily be mistaken as a run out. Unprecedented too has been the form of Kohli, who averaged 19.33 in three matches — his lowest in seven bilateral ODI series against Sri Lanka. Neither Axar Patel nor Shreyas Iyer could read the ball off the hand or the pitch to be bowled and trapped leg-before respectively. Nothing however summed up India's ignominy more aptly than the dismissal of Riyan Parag, looking far from a debutant till he shouldered arms to a good length ball from Vandersay that didn't turn and clattered into his middle stump. Washington's feisty cameo ensured it wasn't a complete surrender but it was only delaying the inevitable after India's batting spine had been systematically dismantled.

It only underscored the importance of opener Avishka Fernando's 96 off 102, setting up Sri Lanka for a potentially massive finish before they lost 28 runs for five wickets and had to settle for 248/7. Still, it was an improvement on their previous two scores here — 230 in the first ODI and 240 in the second. The first two partnerships — No.3 Kusal Mendis scored 59 —contributed 89 and 82 but once again India's spinners delivered crucial blows as they bowled 37 overs, their highest in an ODI since 2011. Washington (1/29), Patel (1/41) and Kuldeep Yadav (1/36) kept the runs in check but Parag proved to be the trump card as he removed Fernando, Charith Asalanka and Wellalage to finish with 3/54 in his maiden ODI. From 171/1, Sri Lanka slid to 199/6 in no time but Kamindu Mendis's 19-ball 23 ensured the hosts had plenty to defend.

Deed Changing Name/Surname

I, Imam Uddin Mazumder (new name) now lately called Imamuddin Majumdar (former name) employed as Lascar (Designation) in the post held at the time by the Government servant at No. 22 Wing Airforce, C/o. 99 APO where employed in the Ministry/Department of the Government of India hereby -

Wholly renounce, relinquish and abandon the use of my former name of Imamuddin Majumdar and in place thereof do assume from the date thereof the name of Imam Uddin Mazumder and so that I may hereafter be called known and distinguished not by my former name of Imamuddin Majumdar but by me assumed name of Imam Uddin Mazumder.

In have hereunto subscribed my former and adopted names of Imamuddin Majumdar and Imam Uddin Mazumder and affixed my sela this 27th day of October, 2025.

I swear, and sign this Affidavit before the Judicial Magistrate at Silchar on this the 4th day of November, 2026.

Deponent

Imam Uddin Mazumder

Supreme Court refuses to entertain Azam Khan's bail plea in ED case, urges HC to hear matter

Agencies, New Delhi : The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan's plea challenging his arrest in a fresh money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and urged the Allahabad high court to hear the matter on November 16. "The high court has been granting you liberty at every stage. We do not want to bypass the high court," a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and justice Joymalya Bagchi said.

Khan was arrested on October 31 in the money laundering case, shortly after he and his son Abdullah Azam Khan were released from Rampur prison in Uttar Pradesh in an alleged dual PAN card case. The latest case pertains to alleged misuse of government funds in the construction of the Mohammad Ali Jauhar University that was established in Rampur by Khan. The 78-year-old SP veteran was produced before the special Ghaziabad court and subsequently sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

The top court bench directed the transfer of Khan's bail petition to the Allahabad high court within two days. It also directed the registrar general of the high court to immediately place the matter before the chief justice, to constitute a division bench for the hearing on November 16. "The division bench is requested to pass order on the prayer for interim relief (bail)," it said.

Appearing for Khan, senior advocate Kapil Sibal alleged that ED has opened 28 new Enforcement Case Information Reports (ECIR) based on predicate offences dating back to 2006. He argued that the whole purpose of arresting his client now is to keep him in custody ahead of the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh early next year.

"Your argument may have substance but if we say something in your favour it will prejudice the case. We will request the high court to decide on the very first day of reopening after the Diwali vacation. If there is a vacation bench, we will ask the chief justice to consider," the bench said.

Sibal said the Allahabad high court granted Khan bail on October 29 in the dual PAN card case, but ED officials were already waiting outside the jail before he could walk out.

He cited Khan's age and the 87 previous cases in which he has secured bail. He also pointed out that the latest arrest comes ahead of the state assembly elections scheduled to be held next year.

"They have shown goats and cows as proceeds of crime, does it not shock judicial conscience? And 28 fresh cases have been lodged by ED. It will take years for me to be released in all these matters. This is pure persecution as they want me to die in jail. They knew I would be released by the high court, so they filed a fresh ECIR. This is to make sure in the next elections I am not there," he said.

The bench told Sibal: "It appears the nub of the ED material is Income Tax proceedings where a substantial amount has been shown as part of the management of the university. Your argument is that it is malafide. There is a substantial passage of time but what the ED plead is that because of your supervening influence, FIR was not registered back then." It was referring to the SP rule in Uttar Pradesh in 2006, when party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav was chief minister.

The court also said one of the ECIRs is with regard to misuse of Haj Committee funds. On October 29, Khan was granted bail in the dual PAN case, in which he was awarded a 10-year prison term. The high court suspended the sentence but refused to stay the conviction.

'Don't need blessings of foreign powers': Hasina on if she wants US, India to pressure Bangladesh for her safe return

Agencies, Dhaka : Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina has said she does not need the backing of any foreign country to return home. Her decision to return to Bangladesh from exile in India by December remains unchanged despite the possibility of arrest or death, Hasina said on Thursday.

Asked whether she expected countries such as the United States and India to put pressure on Bangladesh to ensure her safe return, the ousted leader said she was not seeking foreign protection.

"I value friendship and cooperation with all nations. That has always been our (Bangladesh's) foreign policy. But I do not need the blessing of a foreign power to return to my own country," Hasina told news agency AP in an email interview.

Hasina fled Bangladesh in August 2024 after a student-led uprising forced her out of power. She has been living in India ever since and has repeatedly expressed her intention to go back to Bangladesh in December, despite being sentenced to death by a Bangladeshi tribunal over the crackdown on protesters.

"If death is my destiny, I would rather die on the soil of my own country, among my own people," she told AP. "So, I will return to Bangladesh. That decision has not changed."

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal sentenced Hasina to death in absentia in November 2025 for crimes against humanity over the deadly crackdown on student-led protests in July-August 2024. Nearly 1,400 people were killed during the violence, according to the United Nations. Hasina has denied wrongdoing, rejected the verdict and questioned the legitimacy of the trial.

Bangladesh has repeatedly sought her extradition, but India has not handed her over.

Hasina acknowledges risk of arrest, torture on return

Earlier this year in a virtual press conference from Delhi, Hasina acknowledged the risks involved in returning, saying she could be killed, arrested or tortured as soon as she landed in Bangladesh.

"Now I have decided. Yes, I know. If I go back, the moment I will land they can kill me, or they can arrest me and torture me," she said.

She also thanked the Indian government and people for providing her shelter after she fled Bangladesh, saying she had not planned to leave her country.

In a September interview with agency, Hasina said that she intended to return by December and would announce the date, time and point of entry later.

"I have said I intend to return by December because Bangladesh's political crisis cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely. I will announce the specific date, time and point of entry in due course," she said.

She also maintained that her return was not about regaining power but about standing with the people of Bangladesh.

"My decision to return is my own, and it is a matter of political discussion within my party," she said, adding that the timing of the return of other Awami League leaders living abroad would depend on consultations within the party and an assessment of the security situation.

Hasina alleges persecution of Awami League members

In the agency interview, Hasina also accused the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-led government of continuing the persecution of Awami League leaders and workers, alleging that party members were being killed, arrested and targeted through criminal cases.

She claimed that more than 600 cases had been filed against her and described the judicial proceedings as politically motivated. She also alleged that party workers and their families had faced attacks, harassment and displacement.

Questioning the ban on the Awami League, Hasina said the party should be allowed to contest elections and let voters decide its political future. "Why did they ban the Awami League? If the Awami League has done a lot of bad things, let the people decide," she said. Hasina also criticised the BNP government's reported plan to acquire Chinese J-10CE fighter jets under a $2.3-billion deal, questioning the spending at a time when Bangladesh was facing power and gas shortages, rising prices and economic difficulties. She further raised concerns over the growing influence of extremist groups, warning that developments in Bangladesh could have implications for regional security and neighbouring countries.

EC announces Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls in 6 States, UTs; final rolls on January 21

Agencies, New Delhi : The Election Commission on Thursday announced the annual Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls in Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, Mizoram, Odisha and Sikkim. The poll roll revision exercise seeks to enrol eligible voters, particularly young and first-time electors, and facilitate advance applications from those who will become eligible on April 1, July 1 and October 1, 2027.

Draft electoral rolls to be published on Nov 30

The draft electoral rolls will be published on November 30.

Final publication of electoral rolls will take place on January 21, 2027.

Deletion applications must undergo field verification in cases involving repeated or multiple entries. Electoral registration officers must personally cross-check deletions exceeding two per cent of electors at a polling station or where the same objector files more than five objections.

Furnishing Aadhaar details in Forms 6 and 8 will remain voluntary. No application for enrolment can be rejected, nor can an existing entry be deleted, for failure to provide Aadhaar.

On October 15, the poll authority had announced SSR in 17 states, including poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Goa and Punjab.

After Agnipath revision, a question: What does it do to armed forces capacity, experience?

Agencies, New Delhi : In the Indian Navy, that person was often a member of a specialised cadre, the artificers. He began with four years of apprenticeship and spent much of the next two decades acquiring the judgement of a Chief Artificer: Knowing how machinery behaved at sea, in rough weather, and not merely how the manual said it should. Agnipath has brought technical entry under the same four-year tenure as everyone else. The old apprenticeship alone lasted as long as an Agniveer's entire engagement.

On November 4, the Union Cabinet approved a second, two-year engagement for the 75 per cent of Agniveers otherwise due to leave after four years. For some 18,000 Agniveers approaching discharge, this is welcome relief, and the government deserves credit. But the decision changes the scheme more fundamentally than the assurance of its continuity suggests.

Agnipath rested on three propositions: Rapid turnover would lower the forces' average age; limiting regular absorption to 25 per cent would restrain pension liabilities; and the remaining 75 per cent would return to civilian life with savings, skills and preferential employment.

The revision unsettles all three. If most Agniveers now serve six years before entering regular service, the intended age profile and pension savings require recalculation.

Civilian reintegration is no clearer. The Chief of Defence Staff suggests that wider opportunities within the forces remove the need for reserved vacancies in the police and paramilitary forces. Yet regular absorption remains conditional. Those rejected after six years will enter the civilian job market two years older, potentially without the employment support originally promised.

Military effectiveness depends on recruits becoming skilled operators, supervisors and eventually the junior leaders on whom units rely. Each step beyond Seaman, Rifleman or Aircraftsman brings greater competence, responsibility and authority. The badges signify a professional progression, not merely seniority.

An Agniveer cannot advance through this structure during the initial engagement. By year six, a batchmate absorbed at four will have spent two years in regular service, with access to professional courses, promotion opportunities and the accompanying pay progression. The Cabinet promises unspecified "seniority benefits" for those serving a second engagement, though the CDS says they will rank below the 25 per cent first chosen. It leaves unclear whether they will enjoy comparable opportunities for training, advancement and remuneration.

Technical trades expose a deeper change. The former Artificer Apprentice entered after Class XII and underwent four years of naval apprenticeship before progressing through an established technical career. The new Agniveer (Apprentice) arrives with a three-year civilian engineering diploma, receives naval training and must subsequently qualify for regular service. The difference lies not simply in educational qualifications, but in how the Navy develops and retains technical competence. A diploma provides the foundations; mastery of a warship's machinery comes through sustained training, experience and responsibility.

There is a legal dimension too. In Ex Navy Direct Entry Artificers Association v Union of India (2018), the Honourable Supreme Court noted that the four-year apprenticeship of Apprentice Entry Artificers had been counted towards pension eligibility. The judgment does not govern Agnipath, but underscores why the distinction between training, engagement and pensionable service matters. Will an Agniveer's years before regular enrolment count towards qualifying service, or will the pension clock begin only upon absorption?

Chris Demchak's Military Organizations, Complex Machines explains why technical competence becomes more consequential as equipment grows sophisticated. Complex machines demand specialised knowledge that cannot be readily replaced. The Indian Navy invests years developing such expertise, which civilian and foreign employers readily value. Former artificers have served in Oman's royal yacht fleet and air force.

Agnipath itself recognises the need for exceptions, exempting certain medical technical cadres whose professional skills take years to develop. Avionics, radar maintenance and marine engineering demand comparable rigour. Having served as Class Authority for naval aviation, I wonder how those responsible for technical standards reconcile shortened career pathways with the demands of safety, reliability and operational readiness.

The Cabinet cites an objective assessment but does not show whether Agnipath has delivered the force structure, competence or savings promised. Christopher Paparone's The Sociology of Military Science reminds us that military reforms must be examined through evidence and their consequences, not merely their stated intentions.

The assessment belongs before the Parliament's Standing Committee on Defence. Retention should reflect the requirements of individual services and trades, with appropriate protection for technical cadres. Six-year selection criteria must be published early. Second-engagement Agniveers need access to professional training and advancement, alongside clarity on how their service counts towards promotion, qualifying service and pension. Seniority alone cannot settle these questions.

Agnipath was conceived as military reform, not simply a recruitment contract. Its revision must, therefore, be judged by what it does to the institution and its capacity to fight the nation's wars.

The armed forces can purchase sophisticated machines. They cannot purchase the years of experience needed to understand them. That competence must be grown, and four years, or even six, is not enough.

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