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KEJRIWAL WALKS OUT OF JAIL AS SC GRANTS BAIL

Delhi CM asked not to make any public comment on merits of case
Justice Ujjal Bhuyan questioned timing of Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the corruption case lodged by the CBI in connection with the excise policy 'scam', saying prolonged incarceration amounts to unjust deprivation of liberty.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan granted the relief to Kejriwal on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 10 lakh, and two sureties of like amount.

Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED in the excise policy case on March 21, was granted interim bail on May 10 for campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls and has been in jail since June 2 when he surrendered.

The top court directed Kejriwal not to make any public comment on the merits of the case and added that terms and conditions as imposed in the ED case would



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses the party workers after being released from Tihar Jail in New Delhi on Friday. (ANI)

CAGED PARROT?

"The CBI must dispel notion of being a caged parrot, must show it is an uncaged parrot"
-Ujjal Bhuyan



'Jail has only strengthened my resolve'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In his first remarks after being released from the Tihar Jail, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said he will continue to fight "anti-national" forces working to weaken the nation, and asserted the incarceration has only strengthened his resolve. He stepped out of the jail to a resounding welcome by his party leaders and supporters.

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"They put me in jail to break me but my resolve has only grown stronger. Jails cannot break me"
-Arvind Kejriwal

Kejriwal still can't enter CM office, sign files

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding the relaxation in bail conditions by the Supreme Court while releasing him in the CBI's corruption case in excise policy 'scam', Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal still cannot visit his office at the secretariat and sign any official file.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan retained only two bail conditions that he shall remain present before the trial court on each and every date of hearing, unless exempted and fully cooperate in expeditious conclusion of the trial.

It decided to do away with the conditions that the chief minister cannot go to Delhi Secretariat or sign files.

P4

A shot in the arm for AAP in Haryana, may prove a blow for Cong

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party has got a significant boost ahead of Haryana assembly elections as the Supreme Court has granted the bail to the party's top leader and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The Supreme Court's ruling has injected new energy into the party's campaign. The party's Haryana unit posted a video of Kejriwal with a fire emoji, exclaiming: "He is back".

With the collapse of its alliance talks with Congress, AAP is now set to contest Haryana elections alone. The party's campaign has been gaining momentum, with leaders predicting that Kejriwal's return will significantly bolster their efforts. "I congratulate everyone and there is excitement in Haryana. Arvind Kejriwal, who has already been named among the star-campaigners of the party will come to Haryana and we will form the government in Haryana," stated an enthusiastic AAP leader.

Kejriwal's reentry into Haryana's political scene

could potentially complicate matters for Congress, as it may lead to a split in anti-BJP votes, particularly in constituencies near the Punjab border and National Capital Region.

Despite past setbacks, including an unsuccessful Lok Sabha alliance with

"We will now fight the polls with double energy. Kejriwal ji will soon start his campaign in Haryana"
-Sushil Gupta
AAP Haryana chief

Congress, AAP is vigorously campaigning in Haryana, the home state of Kejriwal.

The party, having already established governments in neighboring Punjab and Delhi, has mobilized its leaders, including Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Senior Leaders Sanjay Singh, Manish Sisodia, Sandeep Pathak, and Sunita Kejriwal, who have collectively addressed over

40 rallies in Haryana.

Political analysts suggest that a Congress-AAP alliance would have been advantageous for both parties given the current multi-cornered electoral landscape in Haryana. With the state facing a fragmented vote, such an alliance could have mitigated vote-splitting and potentially enhanced both parties' chances. The Congress high command had supported the idea, recognizing that vote division could jeopardize their prospects, especially considering that in the last elections, the winning margins in ten constituencies were below 2,000 votes.

Soon after the Supreme Court's decision, AAP's Haryana unit chief, Sushil Gupta, emphasized that Kejriwal's release has revitalized party workers. "With the arrival of Arvind Kejriwal, the enthusiasm among all the party workers has increased, especially in Haryana. We will now contest this election with even more strength," Gupta declared in a video message.

Gupta also expressed confidence that Kejriwal's campaign

P4

Chandigarh grenade blast was ISI-backed terror attack: Police

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

In a significant breakthrough, the Punjab Police in joint operation with Central agencies on Friday cracked the Chandigarh grenade blast case, masterminded by ISI-backed, Pakistan-based terrorist Harwinder Singh alias Rinda of Babbar Khalsa



A team of CSFL inspects the spot where a suspicious explosion took place at a residence in Chandigarh.

International (BKI) and USA-based Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passia with the arrest of a main perpetrator. Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav has identified the arrested accused person as Rohan Masih, a resident of village Passia in Amritsar. Police teams have also recovered one sophisticated 9MM

P4

Four Army soldiers injured in gunfight with terrorists in J&K

TDG NETWORK
KISHTWAR

Four army soldiers were injured in a gunbattle with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's (J-K) Kishtwar district on Friday, said officials.

"Based on the intelligence inputs, a joint operation with Jammu and Kashmir Police was launched in area Chatroo at Kishtwar. A contact has been established with the terrorists at 1530

Based on the intelligence inputs, a joint operation with Jammu and Kashmir Police was launched in area Chatroo at Kishtwar.

hrs. In the ensuing firefight, four army personnel have been injured. The opera-

tion is in progress," posted White Knight Corps of Indian Army on X.

According to Indian Army officials, "Four Indian Army soldiers have been injured in the ongoing encounter with terrorists in Kishtwar. One of the injured has been evacuated to the nearby Command Hospital for treatment, while three are being treated locally."

"The security forces have

P4

Port Blair renamed Sri Vijaya Puram

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday announced that Andaman and Nicobar Island's capital, Port Blair, has been renamed as "Sri Vijaya Puram".

"Inspired by the vision of PM @narendramodi ji, to free the nation from the colonial imprints, today we have decided to rename Port Blair as 'Sri Vijaya Puram....'" the Home Minister posted on X.

Ford decides to drive back to India, two years after its exit

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

US carmaker Ford on Friday announced its intent to restart operations at its manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu.

The news was shared by Kay Hart, President of Ford's International Markets Group, through a LinkedIn post, where she revealed that the company had submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Tamil Nadu Government, outlining plans to repurpose its Chennai facility for export-focused manufacturing.

The decision follows several high-level discussions between Ford Motor Company and the Tamil Nadu government, including a



recent meeting between Hart and Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M K Stalin during his visit to the United States. Hart expressed her gratitude for the support the government has extended as the company explored various options for the plant's future use. She noted that Ford intends to leverage TN's manufacturing expertise.

Hart posted, "I am pleased to share that today we are announcing that we have submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Government of Tamil Nadu in India, outlining

ing Ford's intention to utilize our Chennai plant for manufacturing for export. The decision follows multiple meetings with the Tamil Nadu Government, including one I had last week with the Chief Minister of the Government of Tamil Nadu as part of his visit to the US. We appreciate their ongoing support as we have explored different options for the plant."

"This step underscores our ongoing commitment to India as we intend to leverage the manufacturing expertise available in TN to serve new global markets. I know people will be curious, but we will have more to share about the type of manufacturing and which export markets we'll be focusing on, in due course."

Doctors seek PM's intervention to resolve impasse

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

Junior doctors in West Bengal have reached out to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking urgent intervention to resolve the impasse surrounding the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front (WBJDF)



Junior doctors continue their protest against the RG Kar murder and rape case amid heavy rains, at Swasthya Bhawan in Kolkata on Friday. ANI

penned a four-page letter to President Murmu, which was also copied to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Health Minister JP Nadda.

The letter detailed a series of recent attacks on the hospital campus, including vandalism and ransacking by a mob. The violence, which followed the tragic incident on August 9, has led to an extended strike by

junior doctors in the State-run Government hospitals.

A post-graduate trainee was raped and murdered in the State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. Junior doctors have been on "cease work" since then.

"We humbly place the issues before your esteemed Excellency, as the Head of State, so that our unfortunate colleague who has

P4

'OUR GOVT IS COMMITTED TO GOOD GOVERNANCE': CHHATTISGARH CM

TDG NETWORK
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai emphasized that fear of the law should be instilled in the minds of criminals, and justice should be ensured to the victims in a swift manner. He emphasized on the importance of maintaining the trust and confidence of public in police administration, ensuring that no citizen is harassed. The police must adopt a friendly attitude towards the common man, and police stations should foster an environment that assures citizens of assistance when they enter. He made these remarks while reviewing the law and order situation on the second day of the Collector-SP Conference at New Circuit House in the capital.

The CM urged the Collectors and Superintendents of Police to coordinate effectively to ensure robust action in controlling crime across the state. He highlighted that the Union Government has amended the Penal Code, now known as the Code of Justice. Police officers must adapt themselves to the new laws and ensure their thorough implementation on the ground. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to good governance, noting that crime rates have



decreased compared to previous years.

State needs to promote social policing anew: The Chief Minister emphasized the necessity of promoting social policing across the state to curb crimes. He stressed the need to raise public awareness and instill confidence among the people that the police stand with them. Shri Sai also highlighted the pressing issue of cow smuggling and drug abuse in the state, calling for strict measures to ensure end-to-end action against such offences.

He directed a campaign against the illegal transportation and sale of alcohol, gambling, betting, and cannabis smuggling, ensuring that legal action is taken against the culprits. He called for a vigilant eye on those spreading unrest or rumours in society, with prompt actions against them. In cases of murder, he insisted on swift

investigation without delay, giving such cases the highest priority. Chief Minister asserted that district expulsion orders and preventive actions should not cease. He stressed that preventive measures must be timely, and district expulsion orders should not merely exist on paper but must be actively enforced.

Crackdown on illegal liquor sales: The Chief Minister expressed concern over the rampant illegal sale of liquor, for which the police are often accused of offering protection.

He stated this must not be tolerated, and all illegal liquor sales must cease completely. In many places, there is public outrage over the investigation into such sales, with complaints about investigation teams' inefficiency and absenteeism of officers. Such negligence, he remarked, would not be tolerated. He also addressed

fraudulent activities in the Farmer's Honour Fund, calling for swift action in such cases.

The CM acknowledged that while the crime rate has declined in the Bilaspur police range, there is still room for improvement in police efficiency. Similarly, he emphasized the need for greater efforts in the Durg police range, expressing dissatisfaction over unresolved murder and robbery cases persisting for over six months. Many culprits remain at large, and urgent action is required.

Chief Minister lauded certain achievements in the Rajnandgaon police range, such as the effective implementation of the Trinetra app and actions taken in chit fund cases, but he remarked that more needed to be done. Chief Minister voiced concern over the increasing number of road accidents in the state and urged the police to educate the public on following traffic rules and the importance of wearing seat belts and helmets. The meeting also delved into potential measures to make policing more trustworthy, transparent, and accountable in the coming days. Close surveillance on land mafia: While reviewing the Raipur police range, the Chief Minister focused on the quality of policing in the capital. He stressed that Raipur, being the state capital, must uphold

the highest standards of policing. He expressed serious concern over complaints of land encroachment by land mafia on government and private properties and instructed the police and revenue department to jointly monitor the issue closely and take swift action.

Launch a campaign against drugs: The Chief Minister directed immediate stringent action against the sale of narcotic drugs. He urged the police to dismantle the ecosystem of this illegal trade by addressing its root causes. He also underscored the need for extensive awareness campaigns in schools and colleges in Raipur to protect youth from the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Night patrolling in the capital: Emphasizing the need to enhance night patrolling in the capital, the Chief Minister instructed continuous police patrols and strict action against organized crimes. He called for well-planned and sustained campaigns against criminals to ensure control over crime and improvement in law and order. The Collector-SP Conference was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Amitabh Jain, Director General of Police Shri Ashok Juneja, divisional commissioners, inspectors general of police, collectors, superintendents of police, and other senior officials.

Conference on 'Buddha's Middle Path for Global Leadership' in Mumbai today

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, and International Buddhist Confederation are jointly organising a one-day conclave on "Buddha's Madhyama Marg/ The Middle Path to Guide Global Leadership" on Saturday, September 14 at

the Nehru Science Centre, Worli. Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju, will be the chief guest at the event.

The event aims to deliberate ways of disseminating and internalising universal values for the followers of Dhamma across the philosophical, academic, cultural, and national diversities; to work together

in addressing the current challenges both within an individual and globally to offer a sustainable model for the future of the world. The conference will also honour the legacy of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, whose contribution to modern Buddhism remains indispensable.

The Buddha's Madhyama Marg (Middle Path) and the Eightfold Path embrace every type of righteous conduct covering every aspect of life essential for the sustenance and welfare of the individual and society.

Buddha Dhamma is not just a doctrine but includes the processes of 'learning and understanding', 'practicing' through practical application, and it is

'experienced', which is the state of gaining 'enlightenment'.

The conference will consist of three sessions, namely "Role and Relevance of Buddha Dhamma in Modern Times," "Significance of Mindful Techniques," and "New Age Leadership and Implementation of Buddha Dhamma."

Gujarat home minister flags off 20 new Volvo buses for GSRTC

TDG NETWORK
GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi flagged off 20 new Volvo buses for Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC).

Gujarat Home Minister said on Thursday that these are the first such buses in India that have the fire-prevention technology used in submarines and aeroplanes.

According to Minister Sanghavi, the bus contains all primary facilities like emergency windows, modular stairs and ultra-hi-tech hydraulics.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi said, "20 hi-tech Volvo buses have been inaugurated. These are the first such buses in India that have the fire-prevention technology used in sub-



marines and aeroplanes... All windows of these buses are emergency windows... There are modular stairs... Ultra hi-tech hydraulics are used for those who cannot use the stairs due to knee pain..."

Sharing a video post on social media platform X, Harsh Sanghavi wrote, "Travel with comfort and happiness! #GSRTC #Hi-techBuses #Gujarat"

Meanwhile, Gujarat is set to witness a monumental leap in its public transportation infrastructure with the

launch of the much-awaited Metro Rail Extension, an official release statement said.

This project, developed by the Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC) in collaboration with the Government of Gujarat and the Government of India, will further expand the metro network, linking key locations between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar like GNLU, PDEU, Gift City, Raysan, Randedan, Dholakva, Infocity and Sector-1.

BJP's Assam unit inducts 20 lakh new members in 9 days

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

BJP's Assam unit has enrolled over 20 lakh new members in just 9 days in the state during the party's membership drive.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday that the BJP's membership drive in Assam has now crossed over 20 lakh. "The Bharatiya Janata Party, Assam Pradesh, has already enrolled 20,43,796 members in just 9 days. In fact, we have already surpassed the total membership enrolled in 2019. We will continue the membership drive with even greater dedication," Sarma said. In 2019, total members were 18 lakh and it was done in one and a half months. But in the last 9 days, the BJP's membership drive in Assam has crossed 20.43 lakh. The BJP's membership drive will be continued till September 25.

Bail to Kejriwal has confirmed faith in judiciary: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah lauded the decision of the Supreme Court to grant bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a corruption case in the alleged excise policy scam stating that it has further confirmed faith in the country's judiciary.

In a post on X CM Siddaramaiah said, "The Supreme Court order granting bail to the Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal and releasing him from jail has further confirmed our faith in the country's judiciary. This order gives hope to all those fighting for truth and justice."

He further hit out at the BJP and alleged it of misusing the constitutional institutions.

"This order of the Supreme Court is a rebuke to the central BJP government, which is misusing the con-



stitutional institutions for their political nemesis. Let the Narendra Modi-led government, which has descended into politics of hatred, learn a lesson from this court order and wake up. Ultimately truth will prevail, justice will prevail. Satyameva Jayate," Siddaramaiah said.

The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to the Delhi Chief Minister in a corruption case registered by CBI in the alleged excise policy scam. The Supreme Court said prolonged incarceration amounts to unjust

deprivation of liberty.

Kejriwal was arrested by the ED on March 21, 2024, in connection with a money laundering probe relating to alleged irregularities in the now-cancelled Delhi excise policy 2021-22. On June 26, 2024, AAP Chief Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by CBI while he was in custody of the Enforcement Directorate in the excise case.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan granted bail to Kejriwal saying prolonged incarceration amounts to unjust deprivation of liberty.

NCB Mumbai disposes about 982 kg of illicit drugs

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Mumbai Zonal Unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has disposed of about 982.100 kg of illicit drugs, which were earlier seized by the national nodal drug law enforcement agency. The illicit drugs were seized in various cases wherein numerous offenders, including foreign nationals, were arrested during the investigation.

A Regular Drug Disposal Committee (RDDC) was constituted in accordance with the guidelines, after which the cases were reviewed and only fit cases were selected for disposal. Accordingly, all legal terms were complied with, after which the seized drugs were finally disposed of

The illicit drugs were seized in various cases wherein numerous offenders, including foreign nationals, were arrested during the investigation.

through incineration on Thursday (September 12) at Mumbai Waste Management Ltd., Talaja, Maharashtra.

Among the disposal conducted, 20 kgs Mephedrone seized from Dongri Mumbai in June 2023 was also disposed of, wherein multiple accused persons with criminal antecedents, including kingpin, financiers, and key associates, were arrested and multi crore assets have seized.

The disposed drugs include Ganja, Mephedrone,

Ephedrine, CBCS, Nitrazepam tablets, Heroin, Cocaine, MDMA/Ecstasy, Methamphetamine, Charas, Opium, Zolpidem, Alprazolam, and Tramadol, totalling to 982.100 kg. These were seized from multiple international as well as interstate drug syndicates. NCB has been robustly engaged towards ensuring a drug-free society, in which it has clamped down the interstate as well as international drug syndicates by curbing the drug trafficking and bursting the financial linkages.

'Won't be surprised if he holds meetings with terrorists someday'

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Tejasvi Surya slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks and meetings during his visit to the United States and said that he would not be surprised if he held meetings with terrorists someday.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, the BJP MP from South Bengaluru said that the comments

made by the Lok Sabha LoP over the removal of reservations were quite damaging.

He further criticised Gandhi for meetings with "anti-India" elements like Ilhar Omar and alleged that the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha was holding meetings with Khalistan, Pakistan, China and Bangladesh agents.

"Rahul Gandhi's statements on the removal of reservations are quite dam-

aging... If you see, the kind of people he is meeting is also shocking. Ilhar Omar is anti-India... He is holding meetings with Khalistan, Pakistan, China and Bangladesh agents. It won't be a surprise if he holds a meeting with terrorists someday," Surya said.

During his visit to the US, Gandhi spoke of scrapping the reservations system in India when the country becomes a "fair place" during his interactions with

students and faculty at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, on September 9 (local time).

On the stone pelting incident at a Ganapati procession in Mandya, Tejasvi Surya criticised Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara's remark and questioned if he would call it accidental if stones were pelted at Parameshwara's house.

"I want to ask the state Home Minister, G

Parameshwara, if stones were pelted at your house during the Ganesh procession, would you call it accidental?" Surya added.

Earlier on Friday, former Karnataka Chief Minister and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy visited the Nagamangala area of Karnataka's Mandya district after violence was reported from the area following an incident of alleged stone pelting at a Ganesh procession.

Met office predicts heavy rainfall again in parts of MP after Sept 15

TDG NETWORK
BHOPAL

The Meteorological Department has predicted that the weather condition will remain normal for the next two days and predicted that heavy rainfall is likely to occur again in parts of Madhya Pradesh after September 15.

A regional meteorologist said the system which was active in the state moved

toward South West Uttar Pradesh as a result of which there was decline in rainfall though there were chances of sporadic rainfall in the state.

"A system which was active in Madhya Pradesh has now moved towards South West UP. The effect will weaken within around six hours, therefore there has been a downfall in rainfall activities. But there are

chances of sporadic rainfall right now in the state," said B S Yadav Meteorologist, IMD Bhopal. Speaking about the rainfall activity in the last 24 hours in the state, he said that Damoh recorded the highest rainfall of 27 mm in the state. "There will be normal weather for two days in the state but again a low pressure system has formed in the Bay of Bengal.



Former Tripura Chief Minister and Communist Party of India (Marxist) Politburo member Manik Sarkar pays tribute to party General Secretary Sitaram Yechury, in Agartala on Friday. ANI

“Congratulations to AAP family! Kudos for staying strong. Wishing also the soonest release of our other leaders.”
-Sunita Kejriwal



“This had to happen. This will happen in every case because all cases were fake, fictitious, and hatched in the Delhi BJP office. Power keeps transferring. Listen to High Court observation in the case of Hemant Soren, read it, and read about today's case—it is a slap to not just ED, I-T, and CBI but also to those who plot this.”
-Manoj Jha, RJD MP



“Congratulations to him. Coming out (from jail) is only through court. This is a betrayal which was done to the people of Baramulla, they were told that they could bring anyone out through vote. Nobody is released through votes, it is done only through court.” National
-Omar Abdullah, National Conference leader



“I congratulate the people of the Aam Aadmi Party and the family of Arvind Kejriwal. It is good that he has been granted bail, but if we look at the Supreme Court's comments, it is clear that government agencies are being exposed. The way opposition leaders are being targeted and the reprimand from the Supreme Court is significant.”
-Tejashwi Yadav, RJD leader



'THICK WALLS OF THE JAIL AND THE BARS CANNOT BREAK ME'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In his first remarks after being released from Tihar Jail on Friday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said he will continue to fight against “anti-national” forces working to weaken the country and asserted that incarceration has only strengthened his resolve.

Hours after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the Delhi excise policy case, Kejriwal stepped out of jail to a resounding welcome by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders and supporters.

Addressing the party workers from the sunroof of a vehicle, Kejriwal, clad in a blue shirt, raised slogans such as “Inquilab Zindabad” and “Vande Mataram”.

“These anti-national forces that are trying to weaken the country, divide it... I have always fought against them and will continue fighting against them,” he said and raised the slogan of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai”.

The chief minister, who was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money-laundering case linked to the excise policy and then



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal being welcomed by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and party leader Manish Sisodia as he arrives at his residence after being released from Tihar Jail on interim bail in New Delhi on Friday. (ANI Photo)

by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in June in a corruption case linked to the policy, stressed that the time spent in jail has only strengthened his resolve.

“I have struggled a lot in my life and braved huge difficulties, but god has supported me in every step. He has supported me because I was truthful. They put me in jail. They thought that by putting me in jail, they will

break my morale. My resolve has grown 100 times stronger and my strength has grown by 100 times.”

“The thick walls of the jail and the bars cannot break me,” he said.

He thanked those who prayed for his release from jail.

“I want to thank god by whose blessings I came out today. Lakhs of people prayed for me, went to tem-

ples, mosques, gurdwaras to pray for me. I want to thank all of them and those who came here braving rain. My life is dedicated to the country. Every moment of my life, every drop of my blood is dedicated to the country,” he said.

Hundreds of AAP workers and senior party leaders, including Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and former Delhi deputy

chief minister Manish Sisodia, were waiting outside the prison to welcome Kejriwal.

Drenched in rain, Mann and Sisodia raised slogans from atop a truck hailing Kejriwal. Slogans like “Jail ke taale toot gaye, Kejriwal chhoot gaye” and “Bhrastachaar ka ek hi kaal, Kejriwal, Kejriwal” rent the air.

After the court decision, AAP leaders lashed out BJP and the Modi government. Manish Sisodia alleged them for arresting Delhi CM under “premeditated conspiracy”.

Sisodia further said that this order judgement by the Supreme Court gives assurance that only the Constitution will run a country.

“This judgement is not only important for us but for all citizens.”

The SC's order has given an assurance that if someone is a dictator or misusing the agencies, then the Constitution of India is there to protect and only the Constitution will run the country. The judgement also clears that the BJP was using ED and CBI as a caged parrot to hatch conspiracies against Arvind Kejriwal.

The Supreme Court itself said that the way CBI arrested the CM, it was clear that CBI arrested him knowingly.

It was the BJP's aim to keep him inside the jail. When Arvind Kejriwal was coming out of jail from the ED, he was arrested by the CBI. It was “Sochi-Samjhi-Saazish,” said Sisodia.

Calling ED and CBI a “caged parrot,” Manish Sisodia said that it's a clear message from the Supreme Court for the BJP to stop their “dictatorial regime.”

Addressing a joint press conference, Manish Sisodia said, “The bail granted by the Supreme Court to Arvind Kejriwal is important in several ways. First of all, this is a matter of relief and joy for AAP, the Delhi government and our families that our political guru Arvind Kejriwal will come out of jail despite several conspiracies of the BJP. The SC has given a message to the BJP that they have to stop their dictatorship. The SC has said that the BJP is misusing the agencies and has made them their caged parrot. The SC said in very clear words that the CBI is working as a caged parrot.”

'Jail wala' CM now 'bail wala': BJP's Gaurav Bhatia takes dig at Kejriwal

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Gaurav Bhatia on Friday took a jibe at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying the 'jail wala' CM has become a 'bail wala' CM now. His remarks followed the decision by the Supreme Court today granting bail to Kejriwal in a corruption case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Bhatia said, “The Supreme Court has shown a mirror to 'kattar beimaan' AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal once again... He has got conditional bail... The 'jail wala' CM is now a 'bail wala' CM.” Bhatia further attacked Kejriwal for his past statements that politicians should resign if faced with allegations, adding that Kejriwal won't resign because he lacks even a drop of morality.



“The most important is that Arvind Kejriwal CM should resign as per the voice of the people of Delhi... But he will not do that because he does not have even a drop of morality... He used to say that a politician should resign even if there is an allegation. And now he is out on bail, he was in jail for 6 months, but he is not resigning... Bhrastachaar yukt, CM abhiyukt... Now, he is in the category of an accused,” the BJP leader said. Bhatia also slammed the AAP for celebrating the bail order and said that Kejriwal has not been acquitted.

Court puts Jagdish Tytler on trial in Pul Bangash riots case

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue court on Friday put Congress leader Jagdish Tytler on trial in the Pul Bangash rioting and Sikh killings case. The court has listed for the recording of prosecution evidence after formally framing charges against Tytler. Congress leader Jagdish Tytler appeared before the court and he denied charges framed against him. This case pertains to the killings of three Sikhs near Gurudwara Pul Bangash on November 1, 1984. Special judge Rakesh Syal has listed the matter for trial and recording of evidence on October 3. The first witness called for evidence is Lakhvinder Kaur, whose husband Badal Singh was killed during riots. On August 30, the court said that there are sufficient grounds to presume that he abetted the killing of three Sikhs by instigating the mob that attacked Gurudwara Pul Bangash, and some of them set it on fire. Special CBI Judge Rakesh Syal said, “There appears to be sufficient grounds to presume that the accused has committed offences



punishable under Sections 143, 147, 188 and 153 A IPC, Sections 295, 436, 451, 380 read with Section 149 IPC, and Section 302 r/w Section 109 IPC.” The Rouse Avenue court directed to frame charges against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in the Pul Bangash Sikh Killings case. The court directed to frame charges under sections 143, 153A, 188, 149, 380, and 436 IPC read with 302 and 109 IPC. He has been discharged under Section 148 IPC. This incident occurred after the assassination of then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The CBI had filed a supplementary charge sheet against Tytler on May 20, 2023. On July 26, 2023, the court

issued a summons to Congress leader Jagdish Tytler after taking cognisance of the supplementary charge sheet filed by the CBI against him. A supplementary charge sheet has been filed by the CBI in the case of killings in the Pul Bangash area in 1984. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Vidhi Gupta Anand had issued a summons to Jagdish Tytler.

“I have gone through the supplementary charge sheet, case record, statement of eyewitnesses, and other witnesses. There is sufficient material to proceed further,” ACMM Vidhi Gupta Anand said. Tytler was granted bail on August 5, 2023, after his appearance before the court.

HC grants bail to co-owners of basement, asks them to deposit Rs 5 cr with Red Cross

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday granted interim bail to four co-owners of a basement linked to the tragic deaths of three IAS aspirants in Old Rajinder Nagar. The bail will be in effect until January 30, 2025, said the court.

The bench of Justice DK Sharma also requested the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi to form a committee, which will operate under the supervision of a retired High Court judge, to ensure that no coaching centres are run in basements without sanction across Delhi.

Justice DK Sharma, while delivering the verdict, remarked that the actions of the four co-owners were “unpardonable” and demonstrated their “greed.” Additionally, the court directed the four co-owners of the basement to deposit Rs 5 crore to the Red Cross Society. On Thursday, the Delhi High Court asked the CBI to submit a status report addressing the primary causes of waterlogging



in the area and the rainfall data from that day. Recently, the trial court denied bail to the four co-owners and said that the liability of the co-owners stemmed from their illegal act of allowing the basement to be used as a coaching institute. Their bail plea moved in Delhi High Court stated that the trial court failed to consider that the applicants were not named in the FIR.

Additionally, the plea highlights that the co-owners voluntarily reported to the police station and cooperated with the investigation, demonstrating their bona fides despite not being called in by the investigating officer. Their plea further contends that the trial court overlooked the principle

that vicarious liability does not apply in criminal jurisprudence.

Their plea stated that strict criminal liability pertains only to the person who directly commits the criminal act, which, in their view, does not apply to the current applicants. In their earlier bail application, the accused argued that the tragic incident was caused by heavy rain, which they described as an “act of God.”

They also attributed part of the blame to the civic agency for the area's dysfunctional sewer system. Before trial court, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is handling the case, has stated that the basement was designated solely for storage, not for educational purposes.

High Court drops contempt proceedings against man who used abusive language in court

TDG NETWORK
RANCHI

The Delhi High Court dropped contempt proceedings against a man who was frustrated after separation from his son after accepting an apology. During a hearing, he used abusive language in trial court. Division bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma dropped the contempt proceedings against the contemnor after accepting apology by subject to depositing Rs. 25000 to the Delhi High Court Legal Service Committee with a week.

“Keeping in mind the overall facts and circumstances, this court accepts the apology of the contemnor subject to the condition that the contemnor shall deposit a sum of Rs. 25,000 to the Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee within 1 week,” the division bench ordered on September 11. The Division Bench observed that the conduct of the Contemnor, though completely unbecoming, appears to have taken place in a circumstance



of frustration and in the midst of a matrimonial spat with his wife where his son's custody was also involved.

This Court is of the opinion that the contemnor may not have had any intention to show disrespect to the court. The contemnor has admitted, in a moment of anger and frustration, had misbehaved with the learnt Family Court, the High court noted. The contemnor had filed an affidavit cum reply before the High Court.

The High Court said that there can be no doubt that a litigant cannot be allowed to indulge in contemptuous conduct against a court. However, a perusal of the affidavit filed shows that the said conduct occurred at a time when the son of the contemnor was being separated from him, it observed.

JNU students, faculty bid farewell to famous alumnus Yechury

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of students and faculty members of Jawaharlal Nehru University paid tribute to late CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, as his body was kept at JNUSU office for paying homage on Friday.

Yechury (72), a pragmatic Communist and one of the key architects of the Left bastion in JNU, died on

Thursday at a hospital here after battling a lung infection.

With the famous “Laal Salam” slogan, Left supporters paid respect to the Left stalwart, whose mortals were kept in a casket adorned with flowers.

“Long live comrade Sitaram Yechury” read a banner placed above the garlanded photograph of the veteran leader surrounded with the students and faculty mem-



People pay their last respects to the mortal remains of Communist Party of India (Marxist) General Secretary and former JNU Students' Union President Sitaram Yechury, at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi on Friday.

As a student at JNU, Yechury was a part of the Students Federation of India (SFI).

bers. As a student at JNU, Yechury was a part of the Students Federation of India (SFI), which he joined in 1974 and was arrested a few months later during the Emergency. He served

as the president of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) thrice during 1977-78. Yechury was elected as All-India Joint Secretary of SFI in 1978 and later became its All India Presi-

dent. When he became SFI president in 1978, he was the first person who did not belong to either West Bengal or Kerala to occupy the post.

Yechury is survived by his wife Seema Chishti and his two children, Akhila and Danish. His elder son, Ashish Yechury, passed away due to Covid in 2021. Yechury was earlier married to Indrani Mazumdar.

RAIN LASHES THE CITY; WATERLOGGING, TRAFFIC SNARLS REPORTED

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Rain lashed the Delhi-National Capital Region on Friday, causing waterlogging and traffic snarls in several areas.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for Friday in the national capital.

At many places in Delhi, vehicles could be seen making their way through the waterlogged roads.

According to the IMD, a combination of factors will likely keep Delhi wet. It may cause waterlogging, especially in low-lying areas, and possible traffic disruptions.

The IMD has predicted more rainfall accompanied by gusty winds reaching speeds of 30 kmph for the national capital until Friday.

The maximum temperature in Delhi on Friday is expected to hover at 28 degrees Celsius, six notches below normal, according to the weather department.

A depression that formed over the Bay of Bengal and is now in central Uttar



Pradesh is one of the factors for the downpours that Delhi and other places in North India are receiving.

"Depression over central Uttar Pradesh lay centered at 0530IST of 13Sept over northwest Uttar Pradesh

& NBD, about 20km southwest of Bareilly(UP), 70km west-northwest of Shahjahanpur(UP). Likely to continue moving nearly north-northwestwards & weaken gradually," IMD posted on X.



The IMD predicted heavy to very heavy rain, with extremely heavy rain at isolated places over Uttarakhand and west Uttar Pradesh, heavy rain at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh and Delhi, heavy to very heavy

rain at isolated places over Haryana, Chandigarh, east Uttar Pradesh and east Rajasthan, and thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places over north-west India except Haryana for today.

Delhi villages demand infrastructure, development ahead of assembly elections

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi's villages are currently in a sorry state, lacking basic infrastructure for the inhabitants and turning into slums with waterlogged streets, improper drainage, and inadequate sewerage systems. Several of the city's villages do not even have functional sewer systems, forcing people to live in poor conditions with broken roads, dirty streets, and a long list of civic woes.

Crucial issues related to land reforms in the city's villages have remained unresolved for a long time. These concerns are now being voiced by the rural leaders of the Khap Panchayats, led by the Palam 360 Khap. The Khap has brought these issues of Delhi's farmers to the forefront by organizing a Maha Panchayat last year. On September 15, another Mahapanchayat will be held at Jantar Mantar to raise the pending issues of the city's villages, according to the Pradhan of Palam 360 Khap, Chaudhary Surender Solanki.

Chaudhary Solanki has been holding regular meetings with farmers from all of Delhi's villages, garnering support for their cause, which is crucial for the preservation of their native land. The key demands of the Khap include:

The resumption of land mutation processes, which have stalled in the city's villages.

The reinstatement of previously recruited home guards, who should be kept in service until the age of 60, with necessary benefits and facilities.

Village leaders have expressed frustration, stating



Ownership rights for poor farmers who were allotted land under Section 74/4.

Allotment of alternative plots, as per the government scheme, to those whose lands were acquired.

Ownership rights for ancestral property should be granted to villagers without any stamp duty under the government's Swamitva Scheme.

Implementation of the GDA policy, notification of the 2041 Master Plan, and an amended land pooling policy to develop villages into smart villages.

The repeal of Sections 81 and 33, with cases under Section 81 withdrawn.

An end to sealing and demolition drives.

A stop to MCD interference and bullying by power companies in villages, with immediate provision of meters to residents.

The reinstatement of previously recruited home guards, who should be kept in service until the age of 60, with necessary benefits and facilities.

Village leaders have expressed frustration, stating

that their residents are treated with less respect than those in urban areas. While urban areas are undergoing beautification, the villages are deprived of basic amenities. The poor state of the villages' water bodies and the Sahibi River, which has turned into a drain, is also a matter of grave concern.

This neglect has not only affected the native residents but also the large migrant population living in the city's villages, who face similar issues due to the lack of civic work. The situation worsened during the recent rains, with waterlogged roads and damaged infrastructure disrupting traffic and daily life.

In strong words, the leader of the Khap declared that the villagers will no longer tolerate empty promises. They demand that the pressing issues of the villages be addressed before the upcoming Assembly elections. Solanki emphasized that villagers are done with exploitation, particularly as their lands were acquired at lower prices without the promised facilities being provided.

AAP's Manish Sisodia offers prayers at Ganesh Puja Pandal in Patparganj area

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi and Aam Aadmi party leader Manish Sisodia on Thursday offered prayers at the Ganesh Puja Pandal in Delhi's Patparganj area.

"In our society, Lord Ganesha is called Ganaadhipati. I work on education. I pray to Ganpati everywhere that every child of Delhi and the country gets a good education. I come here every year, except last year I could not come," Sisodia told ANI.

Manish Sisodia, in a post on X, wrote, "Vakratunda Mahakaya Suryakoti Samprabha" - The glory of Lord Ganesha is limitless! Today, in Patparganj Assembly, I participated in the worship in various Ganesh



Mandals and performed the aarti of Ganpati. Vighnaharta, Gajanan Lord Ganesha is the factor of auspiciousness and the god of wisdom and discretion. We pray to Bappa to provide happiness, peace, prosperity and wisdom to all the countrymen. Remove the obstacles of all the people".

Earlier, on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the auspicious Ganesh Puja at

the residence of Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandrachud.

The Prime Minister prayed to Lord Ganesha to bless us all with happiness, prosperity and wonderful health. The CJI, along with his wife Kalpana Das, welcomed the PM at his residence.

"Joined Ganesh Puja at the residence of CJI, Justice DY Chandrachud Ji. May Bhagwan Shri Ganesh bless us all

with happiness, prosperity and wonderful health," the PM also said in a post on X.

Ganesh Chaturthi, a 10-day festival, will continue until Anantha Chaturdashi. This festival is also known as Vinayak Chaturthi or Vinayak Chavithi.

During Ganesh Chaturthi, Lord Ganesha is worshipped as the god of new beginnings and the remover of obstacles. Devotees across India and abroad celebrate Lord Ganesha's wisdom and intelligence.

Homes and pandals are adorned with elaborate decorations, and the air is filled with prayers, music, and festive chants. The streets come alive with vibrant processions and traditional rituals as people prepare delicious offerings and visit the beautifully decorated pandals.

Gym owner shot dead in Greater Kailash area

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A gym owner was shot dead by some assailants in south Delhi's Greater Kailash on Thursday night, according to Delhi police.

The deceased was identified as Nadir Shah.

"He was immediately rushed to the hospital by his friends but was declared dead. A case under relevant sections is being registered, and further investigation is underway," the Delhi police said.

"Around 10:45 PM, we received a PCR call about a firing incident. We got the information about the firing incident in the E-block of GK (Greater Kailash). He was identified as Nadir Shah and runs a gym in partnership. Around 7-8 rounds of bullets were fired," DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan said.

Salesman assaulted over liquor credit, 15 accused booked

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A group of 15-20 youths attacked a liquor shop salesman after he refused to provide alcohol on credit. The incident escalated when the assailants attempted to drag the salesman out of the shop. The shop owner intervened to save the salesman but was also assaulted and left seriously injured. The attackers fled when passersby arrived, but one suspect was caught at the scene.



According to Inspector Renu Shekhawat, SHO of City Police Station, Mainpal Rawat, a resident of Rajpura village, lodged a complaint stating that he owns shops on the Palwal-Hathin Road, one of which is rented to a liquor contractor. Around

8:15 PM last night, the salesman called him, reporting that a group of youths was creating trouble and trying to drag him out of the shop. Rawat rushed to the scene and tried to reason with the attackers, but they struck him with the butt of a gun, leaving him bleeding.

The attackers reportedly shouted, "Shoot him." When Rawat's brother Chaman tried to intervene, he was also beaten. The commotion attracted the attention of nearby villagers and passersby, causing

the attackers to flee. During the escape, one youth, identified as Shivam from Rajpura village, was caught by the crowd. Shivam revealed that others involved were Saurav, Gaurav, Vikas, Nitin, Sanju, Lokesh, Kuldeep, Arun, and a few other unnamed individuals, all from nearby villages.

Based on Rawat's complaint, a case has been registered against 15 individuals, including 10 named suspects. The police have launched a manhunt, and arrests are expected soon.

Delhi court grants bail to accused in cyber fraud case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Rohini court has recently granted bail to a man accused of selling financial details of customers to fraudsters who allegedly use this to defraud credit card holders. This case pertains to an FIR registered at Cyber Police Station.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Shefali Sharma granted bail to accused Kshitij Raghuvanshi on furnishing of bail bond for a sum of Rs 50,000 with two sureties of the like amount.

While granting bail, the court noted the only alle-

gation against the accused connecting him in the present offence is that four pages of screen shots regarding the customer information had been taken by the accused, Manish, from the laptop of the applicant for some money.

The court said, "The investigation qua the present applicant is however complete and charge-sheet has been filed. No other recovery of any electronic evidence or other evidence has to be effected from the applicant. There is no previous involvement of the applicant. He is a boy of young age."

"There is no beneficial fa-

avour which the applicant might have taken allegedly for exchange of information which has been brought forth. There are no details of any merchant investigation which have been procured by the Investigation Officer (IO)," the court observed.

The court also noted that there is no cheated amount from any customer, which the IO has been able to show went into the account of the applicant.

The court held that the screen shots of the customer information, if any, were taken by the applicant himself or by the co-accused Manish from the laptop of

the applicant is a matter of trial and cannot be decided at this state, especially when the IO has failed to interrogate the co-accused Manish till date.

"It is impressed upon that the area ACP/SHO monitors the investigation in the present case, especially because a number of customers are involved," the court said in the order dated September 10.

Advocate Shilpesh Chaudhary, along with Himanshu Yadav, appeared for the accused and argued that the accused is an innocent person and he has been falsely implicated in the present case.

IIT Delhi experts to investigate causes of fire in CNG and E-buses

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A team of experts from IIT Delhi has been assigned to investigate recent incidents of fires in electric and CNG buses in the capital. A six-member team has been formed to determine the causes of the fires and provide recommendations to prevent such incidents in the future. The team is expected to submit its final report to the Transport Department within eight weeks.

This decision follows two recent incidents of bus fires on May 19 and August 29. Delhi's Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot had directed the Transport Department to conduct a detailed investigation, after which the department sought assistance from IIT Delhi.

The investigation team will be led by Professor Anjan Ray from the Mechanical Engineering Department. Other members include Professor A.K. Saroha from Chemical Engineering, Pro-



The Transport Department officials stated that the team will analyze the reasons behind the bus fires. If any negligence in maintenance is found in the case of CNG buses, the team will recommend necessary steps to prevent future incidents. The report will also explore whether there is a need to install technical devices in buses to alert drivers in case of fire. Additionally, the team will assess the need for special training for drivers and conductors to handle such emergencies effectively. These key aspects will be included in the final report.

fessors Krishnakant Aggarwal, Sumit Kumar, Saurabh Saxena from Electrical Engineering, and Professor Rahul Goyal.

Investigation Focus and Key Areas of the Report
The Transport Department officials stated that the



and three fire tenders were pressed into service, an official of the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) said.

The official said that two persons were rescued but a few people were fear

trapped under the debris of the wall. The fire officials, local police and other rescue teams were on the spot.

The rescued operation was underway, the official said.

Man strangles wife over social media use, surrenders to police

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a shocking incident in Prashant Vihar, a man strangled his wife to death after being frustrated with her frequent activity on social media platforms. The victim, identified as Kanchan, was killed by her husband, Ram Kumar, who later surrendered to the police.

Following his confession, the police accompanied the man to his residence, where they recovered Kanchan's body. A case of murder has been registered against Ram Kumar, and he has been taken into custody.

During the investigation, it was revealed that the couple had been married for seven years but had no children. The husband reportedly doubted his wife's loyalty, which often led to arguments between them.

INDIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES CONTINUE TO RISE HITTING FRESH HIGH OF \$689.2 BILLION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 5.248 billion, touching a fresh record high of USD 689.235 billion, during the week that ended on September 6, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Friday.

The previous record high was USD 683.987 billion. The reserves have been on an upward trend for some time. In 2024 alone, they have risen by over USD 65 billion cumulatively. This buffer of foreign exchange reserves helps insulate domestic economic activity from global shocks.

According to the latest data from the RBI released today, India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the



largest component of forex reserves, rose by USD 5.107 billion to USD 604.144 billion.

Gold reserves during the week increased by USD 129 million, bringing the total to

USD 61.988 billion. As per estimates, India's foreign exchange reserves are now sufficient to cover about a year of projected imports.

In the calendar year 2023, India added about USD

According to the latest data from the RBI released today, India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of forex reserves, rose by USD 5.107 billion to USD 604.144 billion.

58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves.

In contrast, India's forex reserves saw a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. Forex reserves, or foreign exchange reserves (FX reserves), are assets held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority.

These are generally held in reserve currencies, typically the US Dollar and, to a lesser extent, the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling.

The RBI closely monitors the foreign exchange markets and intervenes only to maintain orderly market conditions, aiming to contain excessive volatility in the exchange rate without reference to any pre-determined target level or band.

The RBI frequently intervenes in the market through liquidity management, including the sale of dollars, to prevent a steep depreciation of the rupee.

Govt notifies foreign exchange rules 2024 to simplify investments and ease of doing business

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Finance on Thursday notifies the new Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules 2024 to simplify rules and regulations for foreign investments.

The new rules are aimed at streamlining and rationalising existing rules and regulations to further facilitate ease of doing business.

The Finance Ministry said in a statement, "As part of a broader initiative to streamline and rationalise existing rules and regulations to further facilitate ease of doing business, the compounding proceeding rules were comprehensively reviewed in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India."

The new rule will replace the existing Foreign Ex-



change (Compounding Proceedings) Rules 2000.

The ministry said that the government is emphasising simplifying the provisions to expedite and streamline the processing of compounding applications.

The finance ministry is also working to introduce digital payment options for application fees and compounding amounts, with a focus on simplification and rationalisation of the provisions to eliminate ambiguity and clarify the

process.

"These amendments indicate the commitment of the government towards promoting 'ease of investment' for investors and 'ease of doing business' for businesses," the ministry said.

The Compounding of Foreign Exchange (FEMA) Proceedings Rules, 2000 govern the process of resolving or settling offences related to violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

SEBI disposes of co-location case against NSE and others without any further action

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has disposed of proceedings against the stock exchange NSE, its former Vice Chairman Ravi Narain, former Chief Executive Officer Chitra Ramakrishna, former Group Operating Officer Anand Subramanian, and others in the co-location case.

In an order released on Friday, September 13, the market regulator says, "There is no dispute to the fact that NSE did not have a detailed defined policy for the use of Colo (co-location) facility. It even failed to monitor the use of the secondary server by TMs without having sufficient reason.

"The defence put forward by NSE about the issuance of welcome email in the form of 'registration enablement mail' at the time of providing Colo facility to TMs, can't be said to be justifying its role as a first-level regulator. The issuance of guidelines without proper



SEBI EMPLOYEES PROTESTED AGAINST REGULATORS STATEMENT THAT THEY ARE MISGUIDED

Mumbai: The employees of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Thursday gathered at the SEBI office and protested against the statement released by the regulatory body on Wednesday evening.

The Wednesday statement of SEBI said that its employees were being misled by external elements to undermine the credibility of the institution and its leadership. SEBI released the statement amidst reports that SEBI employees have written a letter to the finance ministry complaining of 'toxic work culture' in the organisation. As per reports, SEBI employees have made a complaint to the finance ministry last month, accusing the regulator's leadership of fostering a 'toxic work culture' and setting unrealistic targets for employees.

monitoring demonstrated a lack of due diligence."

However, the order clarified that these findings do not address whether there

was collusion between OPG Securities

Private Limited and its directors with NSE and its senior management.

SEBI chief terms all recent allegations as 'false, incorrect, malicious and motivated'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

In a joint statement on Friday, SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch out rightly termed the allegations labelled against them in the recent past as "false, incorrect, malicious and motivated".

The allegations themselves were based on their Income Tax Returns, the six-page joint statement said, asserting there was no merit in those allegations.

"In other words, all these matters are a part of our income tax returns in which all these matters have been fully disclosed and taxes have been duly paid," the joint statement read.

Madhabi and Dhaval Buch asserted that their income tax returns have been obtained by the accusers by illegally and by adopting fraudulent means.

"This is a clear breach of not only our right to privacy (which is a fundamental right) but also a violation of the Income Tax Act. The facts, transparently reflected in our income tax



returns, have been twisted deliberately to create a false narrative. Further, going by the pattern of creating a false narrative at periodic intervals, it appears that the allegations are being made in instalments, only to keep the pot boiling," the statement read.

"If the objective had been to arrive at the truth rather than to malign individuals and institutions with distortions of facts, we wonder why all allegations would not be brought out, in public, at one go, we would then have given all the facts at one go. If, however, this false narrative is motivated, to achieve some other objective, then the possibility of further allegations being made repeatedly in instalments in the future may not be ruled out," they added.

Adani Group rejects allegations concerning Swiss bank accounts, terms them baseless

TDG NETWORK
AHMEDABAD

The Adani Group has rejected and denied "baseless allegations" over reports concerning freezing of some funds in Swiss bank accounts.

The Business conglomerate asserted that it has no involvement in any Swiss court proceedings, nor have any of the company accounts been subject to sequestration by any authority.

The Adani Group said in a statement that the allegations are clearly preposterous, irrational, and absurd and it is yet another orchestrated and egregious attempt by the same cohorts acting in unison to inflict damage on the group's reputation.

"We unequivocally reject and deny the baseless allegations presented. The Adani Group has no involvement in any Swiss court proceedings, nor have any of our company accounts been subject to sequestration by any authority. Furthermore, even in the alleged order, the Swiss court has neither mentioned our group companies, nor have we received any requests for



clarification or information from any such authority or regulatory body," the statement said.

"We reiterate that our overseas holding structure is transparent, fully disclosed, and compliant with all relevant laws. These allegations are clearly preposterous, irrational, and absurd. We have no hesitation in stating that this is yet another orchestrated and egregious attempt by the same cohorts acting in unison to inflict irreversible damage on our group's reputation and market value,"

the statement added.

In a post on X, US-based short seller Hindenburg Research cited a news report by Swiss media outlet Gotham City and alleged that Swiss authorities have frozen over USD 310 million in funds across multiple Swiss bank accounts as part of an investigation into the Adani group.

Adani Group said it remains steadfastly committed to transparency and compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements and condemned any such effort at baseless allegations.

India's priorities in SCO shaped by PM's vision of SECURE, says Commerce Secy

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In the 23rd meeting of Ministers from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal noted that India's priorities within the SCO align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'SECURE' SCO, which stands for Security, Economic Development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territo-



rial integrity, and Environmental protection.

In his virtual address, Barthwal highlighted India's active contributions to the SCO's development agenda since becoming a member in 2017.

He also emphasised the SCO's importance in the global economic landscape, congratulating Pakistan for its Presidency of the SCO Heads of Government and welcoming Belarus as a new member.

Barthwal said that digitalisation holds the promise for rapid economic development and prosperity. It was reiterated that India had successfully created a strong digital public infrastructure platform for financial inclusion,

education, and improving overall governance in the country.

The use of digital technology as 'public goods' has led to widespread benefit across the population irrespective of their position in the economic hierarchy, which can be replicated in the area of green energy transition, which is a necessity to meet our net zero targets and in our common pursuit to reduce carbon footprints for sustainable growth.

DFPD and FCI sign MoU to boost efficiency in food grain distribution

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the fiscal year 2024-25 to improve the efficiency and accountability of food grain procurement and distribution.

According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the MoU details specific performance benchmarks and



accountability measures designed to optimise public fund utilisation in food security operations.

These benchmarks include evaluating FCI Depots on criteria such as capacity utilisation, operational loss-

es, security measures, and the modernization and automation of depot processes.

The MoU represents the Central Government's dedication to improving the Public Distribution System (PDS) and ensuring the ef-

ficient management of food subsidy funds through enhanced performance of FCI operations and its depots.

Established in 1965 under the Food Corporations Act, 1964, FCI is responsible for the purchase, storage, transport, distribution, and sale of food grains.

Operating on a public service mandate from the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), FCI has no independent revenue sources and is entirely funded by food subsidies from the Government of India (GOI).

Bengaluru-based startup Trip Cabinet secures \$6.5m in funding to accelerate growth and innovation

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

A Bangalore-based travel startup, Trip Cabinet, raised USD 6.5 million in a recent funding round. This investment will fuel the company's growth plans and drive innovation in its travel offerings. From strategising efficient travel solutions to focusing on the client's needs, the company can optimise its deliverables with the help of this substantial financial transference.

The founder, Vijay Arora, welcomed the funding, stating, "This investment will effectively boost our next level of growth. We aim to improve our technological strength, expand our market presence, and develop new, sophisticated, and personalised travel packages."

Furthermore, the visionary founder elaborated on how the funds will be effectively utilised to strengthen the company's basic functioning and products. "A good percentage of the capital expenditure will be directed towards developing a better online envi-

STARTUP CORNER



ronment for Trip Cabinet clients," Arora explains. "Upgrading this chain will allow the customer to take a smooth journey throughout the planning phase right through to implementation."

Leveraging over 12 years of experience in the travel industry, Arora built Trip Cabinet to simplify travel planning. His deep understanding of destination management has helped him establish this brand as a customer-centric venture. He is continually looking for innovative ways to de-

velop the brand services. Thus, his firm specialises in curating exceptional travel experiences to exotic destinations such as Singapore, Malaysia, Maldives, and Mauritius.

One of the rising brands in the travel industry, Trip Cabinet plans to diversify its product offerings, introducing unique travel products tailored to specific market segments. "Innovation is our ever-green working principle," the founder emphasised. "This funding will help us expand our range of services and develop novelities that set us apart from competitors."

The investment will bolster marketing efforts, enabling comprehensive branding campaigns both nationally and internationally. This expanded outreach will significantly increase the company's visibility and market share.

Trip Cabinet's business model revolves around providing personalised itineraries, quality accommodations, seamless logistics, and 24/7 customer support. The company

prides itself on its commitment to responsible travel and its ability to offer authentic, locally-informed experiences through its network of partners and guides. With the travel industry's continuous evolution, Trip Cabinet's successful funding round signals strong investor confidence in the company's vision and strategy. Its focus on tailored experiences and customer satisfaction allows the company to capitalise on the growing demand for unique, hassle-free travel solutions.

Vijay Arora concluded, "This funding is not just an endorsement of our business model, but also a vote of confidence in our vision for the travel industry. We are committed to optimising these funds to deliver our customers the best travel products and services." As Trip Cabinet embarks on this new chapter of growth and innovation, travellers can look forward to an enhanced range of options and an even more streamlined experience in planning their dream vacations.

MENACE OF ONLINE APP SCAMS IN DIGITAL LANDSCAPE: A REALITY CHECK

OPINION

DR.S.KRISHNAN AND
RAJVARDHAN SINHA



A 22-year-old student in Bengaluru allegedly ended his life at his house in HMT Layout, Jalahalli, in 2023 after being harassed by a loan app company. Tejash Nayar, a 6th-semester engineering student, had reportedly borrowed 46,000 using a loan app. When he was unable to repay the loan, the company executives allegedly harassed him. Unable to bear the harassment, he ended his life, after leaving behind a note apologising to his parents.

In another case, Shivani Rawat, a 23-year-old college receptionist in Delhi, faced her own ordeal. In June 2023, she applied for a 4,000 Rupees (\$48) loan through an app called "Kreditbe", since her salary was delayed. Her loan request remained pending, with no funds received. Yet, within a week, she began receiving 10-15 calls demanding 9,000 Rupees (\$108) for repayment. Kreditbe's name is a rip-off of a legitimate loan app called KreditBee, a common modus operandi for these illegal loan apps which often choose names similar to reputable brands to create a sense of authentic-

ticity. In both above mentioned cases, Nayar and Rawat had borrowed money from lending apps, which offer loans to users in a convenient, few clicks and without the extensive documentation that a traditional bank loan requires. The money is credited to the borrower's account within a few minutes, unlike the five to seven days that a bank loan takes for borrowers who meet the high eligibility bar. These online apps lend small sums to people, charge high interest rates and often resort to torture and incessant mental harassment to make the borrowers pay up. The proliferation of fraudulent loan apps on social media platforms poses a significant risk to borrowers, with instances of outrageous interest rates and mental harassment on the rise. Despite the rapid growth in digital lending, a regulatory vacuum allows scam apps to thrive, exploiting unsuspecting users.

One of the most prevalent scams involves fake loan apps. These apps promise

COMMON TYPES OF ONLINE APP SCAMS

instant loans with minimal documentation but charge exorbitant interest rates and processing fees. They often access the user's contacts and harass them with constant calls and messages for repayment. Another type of online app scams is that of E-commerce Scams. Fake e-commerce apps lure users with attractive discounts on popular products. Once the payment is made, either the product never arrives, or a substandard item is delivered. In some cases, these apps disappear after collecting payments, leaving users with no recourse.

The scammers use another method such as the Phishing Apps, wherein these apps mimic popular services like banking, social media, or email platforms. They trick users into entering sensitive information, such as login credentials and financial details, which are then used for fraudulent activities. Scammers also target users through gaming and entertainment apps that require in-app purchases. These apps may overcharge users or collect personal data under the guise of providing enhanced gaming experiences. Fake investment apps promise high returns on investments in a short period. Users are lured into investing large sums of money, only to realize that the app is a scam when they try to withdraw their funds.

MODUS OPERANDI

An entire digital ecosystem has shaped up to take on such fraudulent loan-issuing apps. It was also found that borrowers use artificial-intelligence-generated 'information packs', which include fake government-issued ID cards (Aadhaar and PAN cards), a text message folder, a contact list and a gallery full of images, to set up their fake profiles on these apps.

The average loan tickets in these apps range between 10,000 Rupees to 25,000 Rupees (\$120 to \$300) with monthly interest rates of 20 percent to 30 percent and a processing fee that can be as much as 15 percent. Loan app representatives typically begin the recovery process 15 days after approving the loan. However, in many cases, they have been known to start harassing people just four to six days after disbursing the loan, and in Rawat's case, it was even before she actually received the loan. Apart from the information packs used to create a fake digital trail, another requirement to scam the lending apps is an empty phone where the forged documents (Aadhaar and PAN cards) are loaded. All that this job requires is minimal editing skills on platforms like Photoshop and entry-level computer knowledge to create a database of contacts on an Excel sheet and convert it into the vCard (a Virtual Contact File) format so that Android phones can read them.

The fake digital history is created in such a fool-proof way that the apps are tricked into issuing the loan, which often ranges between Rs 5,000 and Rs 20,000 per week. The repayment of the money is usually sought around the fifth day after the loan is issued. These apps then threaten borrowers with the personal data collected from their phones during the loan application process. Apart from access to borrowers' contact lists, text messages, call logs and photo galleries, the apps also have access to their Aadhaar and PAN card details. If borrowers default, they are abused and harassed during the recovery process.

THE IMPACT OF ONLINE APP SCAMS

The financial impact of these

scams is substantial, with victims losing thousands of rupees. Beyond the immediate financial loss, the emotional and psychological toll on victims is severe. Many users feel embarrassed and guilty for falling prey to these scams, which can lead to a loss of trust in digital platforms and financial services. Moreover, these scams can have broader economic implications, as they undermine consumer confidence in online transactions and digital financial services. This distrust can slow down the adoption of digital payment systems and other online services, hindering the progress towards a digital economy.

COMBATING ONLINE APP SCAMS

Addressing the issue of online app scams requires a multi-faceted approach involving technology, regulation, and user awareness. The government banned 94 lending apps, which included names like BuddyLoan, CashTM, Indi-abulls Home Loans, PayMe, Faircent, and RupeeRedee. These apps had been flagged by the RBI for various reasons, and many of them had either Chinese investors or had been involved in harassing borrowers. Some of these apps, including RupeeRedee, have said that they were being impersonated by scammers. Despite the action taken, the government and regulatory bodies need to enforce stringent regulations for app stores and developers. Ensuring that all apps undergo rigorous verification processes before being listed can help reduce the number of fraudulent apps. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other financial regulators should also monitor and act against fake financial apps.

Another step that can be taken is that Advances in

technology, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, can help detect and prevent fraudulent apps. App stores can employ these technologies to scan for malicious code and suspicious behavior patterns. Additionally, cybersecurity firms can develop tools to identify and report fraudulent apps in real-time.

Educating users about the risks associated with online apps and how to identify potential scams is crucial. Campaigns through social media, traditional media, and community programs can raise awareness. Users should be encouraged to download apps only from official app stores and to check reviews and ratings before installation.

A collaborative effort between the government, tech companies, financial institutions, and cybersecurity experts is essential. Sharing information about new scams and developing joint strategies can enhance the overall security of the digital ecosystem.

WAY AHEAD

Online app scams in India represent a significant challenge in the digital age. While technology and regulation play crucial roles in combating these scams, the importance of user awareness and education cannot be overstated. By adopting a comprehensive approach that combines regulation, technology, and public awareness, India can create a safer digital environment for its users and ensure the continued growth and trust in digital services.

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Mercedes front wing concept: Formula 1 legal controversy

OPINION

ANINDYA JENA

The Formula 1 (F1) world has stirred up in the last couple of months with the latest developments of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team, the ground-breaking front wing design that has stated to revolutionize the aerodynamics of the cars in the sport. What has been speculated is that this innovation might just be potential to give Mercedes a competitive edge, which has driven the spark for the legal controversy for the emotive balance between technological progress and the adherence to the F1 regulations.

REGULATORY SCRUTINY AND COMPLIANCE DISPUTES

The debut of the Mercedes' new front wing at the 2024 Canadian Grand Prix, made a big-note on the series of aerodynamic modifications that it brought, a feature that aimed at providing a more rebalanced downforce

in comparison to the old wings (Straw). However, this innovative design came under the immediate radar of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) the governing body of motor sports.

The technical regulations of the FIA have always been notoriously stringent, which have placed exceptionally detailed specifications on the material to be used, the dimensions and the prohibition of movable aerodynamic devices in F1 motor-cars. The Technical Regulations of the FIA under Article 3 explicitly define these parameters. Under the subsection of Article 3, that is 3.2 which talks about the General Principles and Legality Checking, 3.2.1 talks about the Objective of Article 3, which is an important objective of the Regulations in Article 3 is to enable cars to race closely, by ensuring that the aerodynamic performance

loss of a car following another car is kept to a minimum (2024 Formula 1 Technical Regulations). Keeping this in mind an initial assessment of the Mercedes' wing suggested a breach of the boundaries of these rules.

PATENT BATTLES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PERTINENCE

The cutting-edge innovation brought out by Mercedes along with regulatory compliance also raises significant intellectual property (IP) disputes as well. Concerns have always surrounded almost every sport where the teams have spent millions on research and development. To protect these crucial and much needed investments patents are generated. One might instinctively assume that patent protection would be the national resource for safeguarding F1 teams' intellectual property, given that traditionally, a patent grants exclusive rights to inventive and "non-obvious" creations, providing a limited monopoly over their use (Dhamsania).

However, even after Mercedes filing several patents in regard to their new front wing design, many rival teams, especially Red Bull Racing and Scuderia Ferrari are monitoring their

situation to spot any kind of patent infringements. And statements have built that in the hypothetical situation of Mercedes infringing on any existing patents then legal charges could be set on them, resulting in modification in the design or ban.

COMPETITIVE DYNAMICS AND POTENTIAL PROTESTS

The front wing design has inevitably stirred the competitive pot for all F1 teams. It is well aware that even a marginal aerodynamic advantage of any car can result in significant gains on the track. And through reports, many teams have considered lodging formal protests against the Mercedes design with the FIA.

Any protest involves a process of detailed review by the FIA, resulting in hearings before the International Court of Appeal. This has set multiple questioning in relation to whether the legalities of the sport are being followed. Much adversities can follow, with the element of uncertainty in the competition.

BROADER IMPACT FOR THE FUTURE OF F1

What the main highlights of front wing issue has been to

accentuate the broader tension between innovation and the regulations that limit some of these possibilities. The Mercedes saga has undoubtedly created a challenge for the FIA to assess the thin grey line between innovation and the maintenance of safety and fairness. Most importantly, mid-season directives, could become a reality to address the new developments, with the controversies we have seen so far. With the progress of this season, there is no doubt that all eyes would be on Mercedes and their performance alongside handling the legal challenges that they faced. As the technology evolves, driving will be seen with a new era of aerodynamic innovation which needs to be incorporated in the rules and regulations of the FIA.

The legal interest in this case would definitely be influenced by all the factors enlisted above and much more, setting precedents for the future of moto racing as well. This intersection would absolutely provide competition to all the teams participating in the race, because of the intersection of the critical aspects of technology and law in the Formula 1 races.

CONCLUSION

To conclude is to say that the front wing dispute of Mercedes is more than just a dispute based on technical regulations. This case threads on many levels, with issues at just the concept design of the new car, to the infringement cases based on IP law that could adversely effect Mercedes this season. On some not the developments in such manner would definitely strengthen other teams to look into such enhancements for healthy and fair competition. But at the same time speaking conversely, if it is held non-compliant then it is natural that all the teams will have to be cautious in the innovations that are done, encouraging a clear framework. At the same time the growth and popularity that Formula 1 has seen in the recent years, has also led to fans, sponsors, and stakeholders, keenly observing the disputes, issues and developments. Hence it is pre-emptive to balance the reputation and regulation of the sport with the developments that are done. At this crucial juncture it is the unique blend of law, technological prowess, and competitive spirit that drives the dynamic sport to the glory it is.

PERSPECTIVE

HOODA, MAKEN STAMP ON CONGRESS TICKETS FOR HARYANA

It is very evident now that the Congress has decided to fully stand by former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda in Haryana, as the party declared its names, many of them, hours before the last date for nomination ended on Thursday. Out of the 89 out of 90 constituencies, the Congress is contesting in the state where the BJP has been in power for the past 10 years, Hooda's loyalists were allotted 72 seats, with the 19 going to others. In addition, if the ticket distribution did not lead to a demonstration outside the AICC, as it has happened in the past so far as Haryana is concerned, the credit should go to Ajay Maken, whose strategic and tactful handling of the situation was for all to see. In fact, Ajay had convinced the High Command to release the lists in phases, seven, perhaps, and the last one, where there were contentious seats, only towards the end, so not many got the opportunity to demonstrate at the AICC headquarters. In fact, the disgruntled leaders, also had left for their areas, and many out of them filed their nominations as Independents. The exercise has now commenced to persuade the dissidents to withdraw their names by September 15th, which is the last date of withdrawal and by a coincidence also happens to be Bhupinder Singh Hooda's birthday. The Congress went about its task methodically and Ajay Maken's homework on the basis of surveys and the data he collected, was instrumental while taking the final decision. The broad analysis of the Congress list shows that despite fierce infighting till the very end, the Central leadership stood by Hooda.

There are 27 Jats, who have been given the tickets, the same as last time, and other communities have been accommodated, depending on their winnability. The Punjabis, who have a population scattered all over the State, and have a dominant presence in many urban areas have been given six seats, as compared to two last time. This is where Ajay Maken could have played a role, since he is considered even by Rahul Gandhi, as someone, who takes up the Punjab cause, given that they get ignored in many places, and thus need to have their voices in Legislative Assemblies and Parliament. The difference in ticket distribution this time as compared to 2019 is that there were no quotas which were allotted to various state leaders going by the previous experience, where those who were selected by some of the top functionaries lost the polls. The instructions were to choose from the applicants and only identify those who had winnability on their side. Even though many believe that the Congress has an edge in the State polls, the High Command was not willing to allow any wrong choices to impact the outcome. At the last minutes, at Hooda's insistence, many experienced leaders got the preference though there were many deserving candidates, who thus got overlooked. For instance, in Bawal (Reserved) which the Congress has not won in 32 years, Dr ML Ranga, was selected though the expectation was that Delhi University lecturer and young aspirant, Dr Teena Karamvir would get the seat. It is obvious that the party may have other plans for the likes of Teena and therefore she got overlooked. In fact, the Congress has fielded 12 women, more than any other party and this could help in the campaign. In deciding the seats, the party has accommodated the sons of Randeep Surjewala, Chaudhury Birendera Singh and some others.

The BJP which was also facing dissensions from those who have been denied tickets is also trying to sort out the differences. The issues across the State concern elementary matters related to job and existence. For instance, the slogan of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, has Jai Peahwan added to it, in view of Vinesh Phogat contesting the polls and her colleague, Bajrang Punia joining the Congress. The opposition to the Agniveer scheme, the farmer's agitation and the wrestlers' protests, shall be factors in the elections. The BJP is aware of this and has asked Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the former boss of the Wrestling Federation to not open his mouth and refrain from giving statements that could have an adverse impact on party nominees. Brij Bhushan had stated that it was good that Vinesh Phogat did not win the gold medal at the Olympics, a remark, which was widely condemned, even by many in the BJP.

How could a sports lover speak like this and observe that it was good for the country not to have won the Gold in respect of Vinesh Phogat. In Haryana, it is being seen as pure blasphemy. The break-up of talks between the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party too, has been welcomed by many in the Congress. However, what is not understandable is the decision of AAP to field nominees on all the seats. The question is that the party has negligible presence in the State from where Arvind Kejriwal hails, and why would it spend so much money and resources, knowing fully well, that the chances of victory of the nominees were very low. It is also a matter of debate whether the presence of the AAP candidates, most of whom would forfeit their deposits perhaps, would harm the Congress or the BJP. The outcome would determine how the people voted in the end. However, like always, Independents shall emerge victorious on some seats while smaller parties too may win a few in the contest which is largely between the Congress and the BJP.

PANKAJ VOHRA

KEJRIWAL OUT, ALLEGATIONS PERSIST: DELHI EXCISE POLICY PROBE CONTINUES

Friday marked a significant turning point in the ongoing political and legal battle surrounding Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. His release from Tihar Jail, following months of legal proceedings, highlights the complexity of the case, involving charges of corruption and money laundering in the Delhi Excise Policy.

The Delhi Excise Policy case has drawn significant attention, involving allegations of corruption against top officials in the Delhi government, including Kejriwal. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have led parallel investigations, focusing on irregularities in implementing the Delhi Excise Policy introduced in 2021.

The CBI's investigation into the Delhi excise policy was prompted by a recommendation from Delhi's Lieutenant Governor, V.K. Saxena, in July 2022. He raised concerns about potential irregularities and corruption in the policy's formulation and implementation.

THE MAIN TRIGGERS FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION INCLUDED:

Allegations of favouritism and corruption: There were accusations that the Delhi Excise Policy of 2021



AAP leaders and workers celebrate the release of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal ANI



Manish Sisodia



Sameer Mahendru



Vijay Nair

and ensuring that contracts were awarded to companies willing to pay kickbacks.

expanding and challenging the central government. We have done nothing wrong, and the people of Delhi know that."

CBI spokesperson (on the chain of command): "The policy was designed and executed at multiple levels, with each participant playing a distinct role in ensuring that illegal benefits reached certain businesses."

COURT PROCEEDINGS

Since the investigation began, there have been several key moments in the legal process:

Arrests and bail pleas: After Manish Sisodia's arrest in early 2023, the focus shifted to Kejriwal. He was questioned several times before his arrest by the ED in March 2024. His subsequent bail applications were initially denied by lower courts.

Supreme Court intervention: Kejriwal's legal team moved to the Supreme Court, challenging the legitimacy of his arrest and the evidence against him. The Supreme Court eventually granted him bail on

WHAT IS THE CONSPIRACY ACCORDING TO AAP AND KEJRIWAL?

Kejriwal and his party, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), have repeatedly claimed that the entire case is politically motivated. They allege that the central government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is using the CBI and ED to discredit AAP and prevent its political rise, particularly

Aspect	Details	Quotes
Policy Introduction	November 2021: Delhi Excise Policy introduced, intended to restructure the liquor industry	Arvind Kejriwal: 'This policy was designed to promote fairness and transparency in the liquor industry.'
CBI Investigation Initiation	July 2022: CBI begins investigating alleged irregularities and corruption in the policy	CBI Spokesperson: 'We have substantial evidence of irregularities in the formulation of the excise policy.'
ED Investigation Initiation	August 2022: ED starts probing money laundering linked to the excise policy	ED Officer: 'Our probe into money laundering revealed suspicious financial links between liquor vendors and political figures.'
Key Evidence (CBI)	CBI claims documents and WhatsApp chats show manipulation of the policy for kickbacks	CBI Official: 'We conducted thorough raids and seized digital evidence, including WhatsApp chats, indicating kickbacks.'
Key Evidence (ED)	ED traces financial trails, alleging money was laundered through shell companies	ED Officer: 'We traced proceeds of crime through bank accounts and shell companies used to launder money.'
Key Witnesses	Key witnesses include Manish Sisodia and various liquor businessmen and aides in the Delhi government	Prosecutor: 'Testimonies from key figures in the industry highlight the intricate workings of this conspiracy.'
Court Proceedings	March 2024: Kejriwal arrested; September 2024: Granted bail by the Supreme Court	Supreme Court: 'Prolonged incarceration without trial would amount to an unjust deprivation of liberty.'
AAP Allegations	Kejriwal and AAP claim the case is politically motivated, alleging a conspiracy by the central government	Arvind Kejriwal: 'This is a politically motivated plot to halt AAP's rise. We have done nothing wrong.'

had been designed to benefit private liquor retailers and distributors in exchange for kickbacks. These allegations suggested that certain businesses were given preferential treatment, leading to an unfair distribution of liquor licenses.

Revenue losses: Critics claimed that the Delhi government's policy resulted in significant losses to the state's exchequer. The policy was believed to have favoured specific companies at the expense of government revenue, raising concerns about financial mismanagement.

Complaints from the opposition: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and other opposition parties in Delhi had been vocal about the alleged malpractices in the excise policy, pressuring authorities to investigate the matter further.

Audit findings: Certain reports, including from the Delhi government's bodies, highlighted discrepancies

in the implementation of the excise policy. These reports suggested that there were irregularities in how the policy was executed, prompting further scrutiny.

WHAT PROOF DID THE CBI AND ED HAVE AGAINST KEJRIWAL?

Financial trail of kickbacks:

The ED uncovered significant money transfers from companies like IndoSpirit, with much of the funds moving through shell companies controlled by figures such as Sameer Mahendru. These transactions were reportedly part of a broader scheme to launder kickbacks received in exchange for preferential treatment under the excise policy.

Forensic financial audits:

Audits on liquor vendors, intermediaries like Dinesh Arora, and shell companies revealed discrepancies in financial transactions, linking these directly to the kickbacks tied to the excise

policy. The audits helped trace the money flow and provided insight into the illegal payments.

Digital evidence:

The ED recovered WhatsApp chats and emails between Sameer Mahendru, Vijay Nair, and others, showing discussions about funnelling money for favourable policy outcomes. These digital exchanges were crucial in demonstrating the manipulation of the policy for personal gain.

Statements from key figures:

Arrested individuals, including Sameer Mahendru and Dinesh Arora, provided statements that supported the ED's findings. They explained how money was funneled through shell companies to bribe officials and secure favorable treatment.

ED Officer (on financial transactions):

"We have traced the proceeds of crime through bank accounts and shell companies that were used

to launder money. The evidence points to a larger conspiracy."

CBI official (on investigative methods): "We conducted thorough raids and seized digital and physical evidence, including detailed financial statements that highlight an elaborate system of kickbacks and manipulation."

WHO ARE THE KEY WITNESSES WHO SPOKE AGAINST KEJRIWAL?

Several key individuals have provided testimony or been named as witnesses against the Delhi government. These include:

Manish Sisodia: Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and a key figure in the excise policy, Sisodia was arrested and interrogated. Although he has denied the allegations, investigators claim his statements suggest a deeper political conspiracy.

Liquor businessmen and middlemen: Certain liquor businessmen have reportedly admitted under questioning that they paid bribes to secure favourable contracts. Their statements form a crucial part of the ED's investigation.

Aides in the Delhi government: Some lower-ranking officials in the Delhi government have been questioned, with investigators claiming that they provided details about how the policy was drafted and who benefited from it.

Prosecutor (on witness statements): "We have gathered crucial testimony from individuals directly involved in the policy's implementation. Their statements shed light on

the intricate workings of this conspiracy."

WHAT IS THE CHAIN OF COMMAND IN THE EXCISE POLICY ACCORDING TO CBI AND ED?

According to the CBI and ED, the conspiracy surrounding the excise policy involved multiple levels of government and external actors:

Arvind Kejriwal: At the top of the chain, the Delhi Chief Minister is accused of sanctioning the policy changes that favoured private liquor distributors. Though the

CBI has not directly charged him, the ED maintains that he played a significant role in orchestrating the policy.

Manish Sisodia: As the Deputy CM, Sisodia is alleged to have been the key facilitator of the excise policy changes. He is accused of directly liaising with business interests to ensure favourable outcomes for select vendors.

Middlemen and Bureaucrats: These individuals reportedly acted as intermediaries between the Delhi government and liquor businesses. They are accused of facilitating bribes

in national politics.

Political vendetta: Kejriwal has argued that the excise policy was designed with the best interests of Delhi in mind and that the charges are fabricated to undermine his governance.

No direct evidence: AAP leaders claim that there is no direct evidence linking Kejriwal to any wrongdoing. They assert that the financial allegations are based on manipulated testimonies and circumstantial evidence.

Arvind Kejriwal (in public statement): "This is nothing but a plot to stop AAP from

September 13, 2024, noting that prolonged detention without a trial could be seen as a violation of his rights.

Prolonged legal battle: While Kejriwal is currently out on bail, the investigations by CBI and ED continue. Both agencies have indicated that more evidence could surface, potentially complicating his defence in the future.

Supreme Court (on granting bail): "Prolonged incarceration without trial would amount to an unjust deprivation of liberty. The balance of justice requires that bail be granted."

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra



Arvind Kejriwal being welcomed at his residence ANI

Aspect	Details	Quotes
Favourable Contracts in Exchange for Kickbacks	Liquor vendors such as IndoSpirit allegedly received preferential treatment under the policy, reportedly paying kickbacks to government officials.	ED Officer: "We traced proceeds of crime through multiple layers of financial transactions involving shell companies."
Use of Intermediaries and Shell Companies	Key intermediaries, including Vijay Nair (AAP communications head), were involved in funnelling bribes through shell companies to conceal the payments.	ED Official: "Bribes were disguised as business deals and funneled through a network of intermediaries."
Money Transfers to Close Associates of Government Officials	Funds were eventually transferred to individuals with close ties to officials like Manish Sisodia (former Deputy CM), who allegedly facilitated these transactions.	ED Officer: "Funds were directed to individuals with close ties to government officials."
Magnitude of the Financial Kickbacks	Kickbacks are estimated to be in the hundreds of crores, involving firms like Pernod Ricard , with funds used for personal gain or political reinvestments.	ED: "Kickback amounts could be in the hundreds of crores, involving both personal gain and political reinvestments."
Evidence Collected by the ED	The ED collected bank records, forensic audits, WhatsApp messages, emails, and statements from individuals like Sameer Mahendru , a liquor businessman.	ED: "We have detailed forensic audits, digital communication, and testimonies that reveal the money-laundering scheme."
Key Liquor Vendors Involved	Companies like IndoSpirit , represented by Sameer Mahendru , are alleged to have paid bribes in exchange for monopolizing the liquor market in Delhi.	ED: "Key liquor vendors benefited from the policy in exchange for illegal payments."

THE PRESIDENT



US President Joe Biden speaks during an event honouring the 30th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act in Washington. Source: Shutterstock

Trump refuses another presidential debate with Harris

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

The possibility of a second meeting between the two US Presidential candidates before election day was dashed on Thursday when former President Donald Trump announced he would not take part in another debate with Vice President Kamala Harris.



Biden.

Trump, in a strong attack on the Biden-Harris administration, said that they have 'destroyed' the country.

"She and Crooked Joe have destroyed our country, with millions of criminals and mentally deranged people pouring into the USA, totally unchecked and unvetted, and with inflation bankrupting our middle class. Everyone knows this, and all of the other problems caused by Kamala and Joe. It was discussed in great detail during the first debate with Joe, and the second debate with Comrade Harris," the former US President said.

"She was a no-show at the Fox debate and refused to do NBC & CBS," Trump said in his post, adding "KAMALA SHOULD FOCUS ON WHAT

SHE SHOULD HAVE DONE DURING THE LAST ALMOST FOUR YEAR PERIOD. THERE WILL BE NO THIRD DEBATE!"

Both Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are the official presidential candidates of their respective parties, after they accepted the nomination at the conventions earlier this year.

The US presidential elections are scheduled to be held on November 5 this year. Notably, the first presidential debate was held in June between President Biden and Trump, where the former's performance expressed concerns over his age. Following this, Biden made an exit from the race and endorsed Harris.

It is pertinent to note that Trump and Harris debated on Tuesday this week. It was their first meeting since Harris became the Democratic presidential nominee in late July, The Hill reported.

The ultimate face off between Trump and Harris took place during the presidential debate conducted by ABC News on Tuesday (local time).

'Rule of law is gaining ground,' EAM Jaishankar tells Indians in Geneva

AGENCIES
GENEVA

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar while addressing the Indian diaspora in Geneva said that the cause of social justice, the idea of inclusive growth, of rule of law is gaining ground and is today very central to the policies and activities of the government.



"This morning I had the privilege of paying homage to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, whose statue

is just outside this hall and the naming of this hall after Hansa Mehta. In a way I also want you all to think of all these as reflecting on what is also happening at home in India. Meaning, just like we have built a chancery, modern India is also getting built, brick by brick, step by step, building by building. Just as we paid homage to Dr Ambedkar here - the cause of social justice, the idea of inclusive growth, of rule of law is gaining ground and is today very central to the

policies and activities of the government," he said. Naming of a hall after Hansa Mehta reflects the ideal of women-led development.

"Just as we honoured Hansa Mehta, today in India, not just the idea of gender equality or gender justice, the idea of women-led development- this was actually our big push during the G20 Presidency last year. We were really very pleased to see that it was a strain of thinking that we were able to successfully inculcate into the international community.

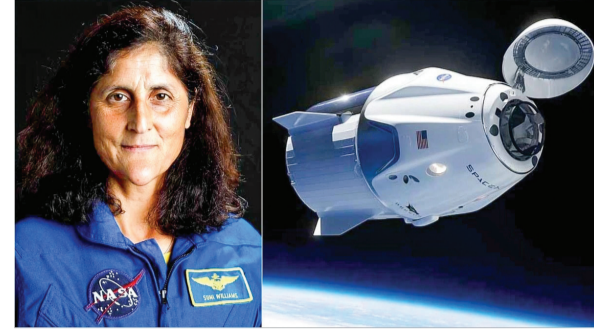
NASA ASTRONAUT SUNITA WILLIAMS TO ADDRESS EARTH FROM ORBIT

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

NASA astronauts Sunita 'Suni' Williams and Barry 'Butch' Wilmore will put a call to Earth and participate in a press conference aboard the International Space Station in low Earth orbit, the US space agency said.

The space call is scheduled at 2:15 p.m. EDT (local time) on September 13 to the newsroom at NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Houston.

The pair had launched aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft on June 5 for its first crewed flight, arriving at the space station on June 6. A decision was made to return Starliner to Earth without its crew and the



spacecraft successfully returned on September 6 after more than three months in space. It made a safe landing at White Sands Space Harbor in New Mexico.

Both astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore called down to flight controllers to thank teams for their support before the uncrewed Starliner spacecraft returned to Earth.

"You guys it's time to bring Calypso home. We have your backs and you have got this. Bring her back to Earth," Sunita Williams said in the radio message referring to the spacecrafts nickname. Both the astronauts will remain on the international space station as part of the Expedition 71/72 crew and return home in February 2025 aboard the

SpaceX Dragon spacecraft with two other crew members on NASA's SpaceX Crew-9 mission.

Meanwhile, crew of the Polaris Dawn the Elon Musk-led private charted spaceflight created history when they completed the first commercial spacewalk.

Donning newly-designed SpaceX extravehicular activity (EVA) suits, the crew began their approximately two-hour operation at 3:12 a.m. EDT while traveling at 17,500 miles per hour in an elliptical orbit of 190 x 700 km above the Earth. The spacewalk represents an important milestone of the Polaris Program, a developmental program designed to further the advancement of human spaceflight.

Russia expels 6 British diplomats it accuses of spying, UK calls it 'completely baseless'

AGENCIES
MOSCOW

Russia on Friday accused six British diplomats of spying and said it decided to expel them. The U.K. said the "completely baseless" move came weeks ago and was linked to its action in May to revoke the credentials of an attaché at the Russian Embassy and limit Moscow's diplomatic activities in London.

The latest East-West tensions unfolded as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer visits Washington for talks that will include Ukraine's request to use Western-supplied weapons to strike targets inside Russia. President Vladimir Putin has warned that Kyiv's use of long-range weapons would put NATO at war with Moscow.

Russia's Federal Security Service said in an online statement that the Foreign Ministry withdrew the British envoys' accreditations, and Russian TV quoted an FSB official as saying it was decided to expel them.

The FSB said it received documents indicating the diplomats were sent to Russia by a division of the U.K.'s Foreign Office "whose main task is to inflict a strategic defeat on our country," and that they were involved in "intelligence-gathering and subversive activities." It did not identify the six diplomats.

Ukraine wants to use western long-range missiles inside Russia

AGENCIES
KYIV

Ukraine is pushing for permission from its western partners to use the long-range missiles they have provided to strike targets deep inside Russia, as Ukrainian forces struggle to hold back Russian advances in eastern Ukraine.

Kyiv officials argue the weapons are vital to weaken Russia's ability to strike Ukraine and force it to move its strike capabilities further from the border.

Russia has warned that it would consider allowing such long-range strikes an act of war, and Ukraine's Western allies are wary of antagonizing the country with the world's largest nuclear arsenal.

The issue is likely to weigh



heavily on White House meetings Friday between President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, as well as with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later this month.

WHAT ARE THESE WEAPONS? The long-range missiles include systems like the British-led Storm Shadow and the similar French-made SCALP or the U.S.-made Army Tactical Missile System, ATACMS.

US imposes sanctions on suppliers to Pakistan's ballistic missile programme

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

The US State Department imposed sanctions on China-based firms, for their supply to Pakistan's ballistic missile programme under the missile sanctions laws on Thursday.

"The Department of State is taking action against five entities and one individual that have been involved in the proliferation of ballistic missiles and controlled missile equipment and technology. Specifically, the Department of State is designating the Beijing Re-

search Institute of Automation for Machine Building Industry (RIAMB) pursuant to Executive Order 13382, which targets proliferators of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a press statement. Notably, RIAMB has worked with Pakistan's National Development Complex (NDC), -which the United States assesses is involved in the development and production of Pakistan's long-range ballistic missiles. "Additionally, the United States is imposing sanctions

under the missile sanctions laws (i.e., the Arms Export Control Act [AECA] and the Export Control Reform Act [ECRA]) on three PRC-based entities, one PRC individual, and a Pakistani entity for ballistic missile proliferation activities: PRC-based firms Hubei Huachangda Intelligent Equipment Company, Universal Enterprise Limited, and Xi'an Longde Technology Development Company Limited (aka Lon-tek); PRC individual Luo Dongmei (aka Steed Luo); and Pakistani-based entity Innovative Equipment," the press

statement read further. The State Department spokesperson further added that the US "will continue to act" against proliferation and associated procurement activities of concern, wherever they occur.

"These sanctions are being imposed because these entities and individual knowingly transferred equipment and technology controlled under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Annex, in support of MTCR Category I missile programs, to a non-MTCR country," he said in a statement.

PUTIN WARNS NATO NATIONS; NORTH KOREA SHOWCASES ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES

After days of regional and international summits, the world politics returns to its usual this week. This week remained steady in terms of developments and events. However, the nuke alert from North Korea raised the eyebrows of the global leaders. On the other hand, the Russian President Putin has warned the NATO nations that if they permit Ukraine to launch aerial strikes on Russian territory using their missiles, it would constitute their direct confrontation with Russia and would take the war to a different direction. This week, amid the intensification of war between Russia and Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin has asserted that if the West permits Ukraine to launch aerial strikes on Russian territory using

Western-supplied long-range missiles, it would constitute a direct confrontation with Russia, fundamentally changing the nature and extent of the conflict. For several months, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy has been urging Ukraine's allies (read: NATO nations) to provide Ukraine with the capability to deploy Western missiles, such as the long-range ones, into Russian territory to diminish Russia's capacity for offensive operations. Putin emphasized that such actions would involve the nations in to the war who would be supplying long-range missiles to Ukraine in the conflict. Putin stated while making his address, "If this decision is taken, it will mean nothing less than the direct involvement of NATO countries,

WORLD RECAP

ANSHU JOSHI

the United States and European countries in the war in Ukraine. This will be their direct participation, and this, of course, will significantly change the very essence, the very nature of the conflict. This statement makes the situation more complicated as already many nations are involved indirectly into the war and facing serious repercussions. Their direct involvement would take the war and the entire world to a different tangent altogether. Indian Prime Minister Modi's trip to Russia and Ukraine generated great hope that the leaders might come to the diplomatic table to end the war. However, the war has further intensified and has taken unexpected twist after Zelenskyy's plea to the NATO nations. More than a war between Russia and Ukraine, this war seems to be going on between the NATO led by the US and Putin. We must not forget what Russia-Ukraine war brought to this world thousands of civilians' casualties and military casualties, displacement of people, food crisis, energy crisis, economic issues, extensive environmental damage, intensification of lobby politics in global affairs and more. Both the

leaders should have had realised by now the brunt and cost of this war. Why they are still adamant not to stop the war remains a relevant question. Another alarming news came from the Korean Peninsula this week. This week, North Korea has publicly displayed the images of its centrifuges utilized in the production of nuclear bomb fuel for the first time. During his visit to a uranium enrichment facility, North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un emphasized the need for increased production of weapons-grade material to enhance the country's arsenal. The state media's coverage of Kim's tour at the Nuclear Weapons Institute and a facility dedicated to the production of weapon-grade nuclear materials included these unprecedented photographs of the

centrifuges, offering a rare glimpse into North Korea's nuclear programme, which is prohibited by several United Nations Security Council resolutions. It is widely believed that North Korea possesses multiple facilities dedicated to uranium enrichment. Analysts have indicated that commercial satellite imagery has revealed construction activities in recent years at the Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Centre, particularly at its uranium enrichment facility, which may indicate a potential expansion of operations. This news raises alarm for the regional as well as global security as it is supported by China and Russia. Russia and North Korea have further strengthened their bilateral relations by signing

a mutual defence pact in June this year itself. This pact enables them to provide immediate military assistance to each other in the event of any armed aggression. This significant pact was signed during Russian President Vladimir Putin's first visit to North Korea in 24 years this week, and is considered as the revival of 1961 mutual defence pact between the two nations, which was cancelled when the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations with South Korea in 1990. The comprehensive strategic partnership agreement, signed by President Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un represents one of Russia's most high-profile diplomatic initiatives in Asia in recent years. Both Russia and North Korea oppose the 'West

lobby' and share same political ideology. Russia is already engrossed in war with Ukraine presently to stop the 'NATOfication' of Ukraine in specific and Europe in general. On the other hand, North Korea stays aligned with China in opposing the US and its allies in Asia. Though the leaders remain concerned, where is the solution still remains a question. Russia-Ukraine war ignited a very critical debate - Is world getting sharply and clearly divided in to two lobbies day by day? Or, was it always like this? Meanwhile it can only be wished that the leaders understand the consequences that the lobby politics brings along, and choose to remain lobby-neutral and development-oriented. The author is Professor, School of International Studies, JNU

THE POWER OF INNER VISION



SARAH FITZGERALD

"We see things not as they are but as we are" - Immanuel Kant

What we see is shaped by our inner world. Our inner vision is like becoming aware of the lenses through which we perceive reality, and spirituality introduces a new dimension to that perception. Our beliefs, knowledge, experiences, current emotional state, and our personality are the basis of our interpretation of what we see and hear. If we become more aware of what our inner state of consciousness is, then we are able to perceive the deeper meaning of what lies beyond our physical sight. In the same way as specialists in

their subject have a deeper understanding of what they see. A doctor understands patterns of physical conditions and can diagnose accurately. An engineer can see a blueprint and understand deeper structural issues. A lawyer looks at a document in a completely different way from a layman, and understands the nuances and interprets them with a deeper understanding of the law.

Many of us have come to understand that under the law of physics, a solid table is not really as solid as it seems. It is made up of atoms, and is in fact, 99.9 per cent vacuum, yet even having that understanding, we are unable to perceive that constantly, and treat the table as a solid piece of matter. Our physical world is so much more dynamic than we can perceive through our physical eyes. We go about our daily life locked into roles of parent, teacher, our place in society, our nationality, and behave accordingly. If we could hold our inner vision in the awareness of who we really are and what we are really doing, our



lives would be so much richer. especially what is happening stand that life is really just a theatre. Just like all actors, The way to become free of our limited awareness is to understand that life is really just a theatre.

More than that, we would really see the deeper meaning in everything that is happening,

directly around us. The way to become free of our limited awareness is to under-

stand that life is really just a theatre. All of us have roles to play, but we are not the roles. We do not even originate from

we have a home to which we will return. We actors are higher beings, extremely subtle

points of consciousness, light, similar to stars. We sparkling entities come onto the stage and adopt our costumes and masks, and initially experience it all to be a glorious and joyful game. However, just as those who like to experiment with virtual reality begin to experience that virtual reality as real, and the longer the headset is on and the game is playing, the more likely they are to 'forget' they are human beings, so too, over time we have also lost sense of what is 'real'. On stage, actors know who they are. Some are very clever at observing themselves as actors while acting their parts - they do not buy into the story and the roller coaster of emotions they are being asked to play out. They keep themselves above and give a perfect performance while understanding what is happening and appreciating the other actors and their roles. In the same way, the more we can hold on to the awareness of who we really are, the more we are free to play our parts with the full depth of experience and with love and compassion

for others. Everyone is good, everyone's truth is beautiful, whatever is happening, because it is all an immense and seemingly chaotic drama. But, as with all dramas, there is a plan and all is working exactly as it should. We are all on a journey and when we are 'awake' to what is really happening, the love we generate transcends all the limitations of the stage.

As with all good plays, there is One who remains beyond all the action. The One who is in a position to remind us that we are not of the stage, but on the stage, as actors. That is the One bright star of Supreme consciousness that cannot be seen with physical eyes. This Friend can be felt and perceived through meditation, and because He constantly sees us in our own perfection we can define ourselves not through our roles, but through His vision.

Sarah Fitzgerald is an interior designer, English language teacher, and Rajyoga teacher with the Brahma Kumaris in Cambridge, UK.

The mindset for changing times



B.K. SHREYA

One way we can live life is to have everything happen according to our wishes. If that transpires, how do we feel? Peaceful, content, and happy. But how often does everything go according to our plan - there are no challenges, and everyone does exactly what they are told to do? Most people say they do not see a single day like that. And what happens when problems crop up? Do we get stressed, angry, depressed, or remain in control of ourselves and the situation?

Take this example: many people get irritated when they encounter heavy traffic on the roads. Is traffic inherently irritating or do we get annoyed by it? It is important to make the distinction, because situations

all around us are changing, often unpredictably, and if we are hostage to them, then there will be little peace and happiness in our life.

The certainties we took for granted in an earlier age are fast vanishing. Not too long ago, people used to retire from the company they joined as a trainee. Once you got a job, it was more or less assured that you would work there until you retired. But now there is no such certitude. Even if you do well in your job, you may be laid off because the employer has decided to downsize and cut costs.

A cloud of uncertainty hangs over nearly every sphere of human life, including our health. Those in their twenties and thirties are being diagnosed with diseases that used to be seen only in senior citizens earlier.

Relationships are also taking unexpected turns all too often. In India, divorce used to be rare a few decades ago and was seen as a disaster in one's life. The few cases that did occur, usually had major reasons behind them which were mitigating factors. But now couples decide to part ways simply because they



The key to facing any challenge is a positive and strong mind.

find that they do not think alike. Can two people ever think exactly the same way?

These developments are often attributed to the increasing challenges and complexities of modern life. Going by the current trends, the problems will only increase in future. If I believe that I can be happy only when everything out there is to my liking, then what will be my mental and

emotional state amidst the growing troubles?

Many people believe that it is natural to be stressed in difficult times - thoughts of fear and worry arise automatically, they say. Do thoughts emerge on their own in response to circumstances? If that were the case, every individual facing a particular situation would have the same kind

of thoughts. But that does not happen, and we find different people reacting differently. That is because we choose what to think in every situation. The choice is made in a fraction of a second, and is determined by our perception, beliefs, and tendencies. If we want to be masters of our destiny, not its victims, this is the first thing we need to recognise: our thoughts are our choice and, in our control, not the result of what is happening around us. We can magnify a problem or shrink it with our perspective. As the nature of our thoughts, so are our feelings and vibrations. If I think that a challenge is no big deal, I can cope with it, it will be resolved, then I will feel confident and light. My vibes will reassure those around me and everyone will look at the matter with a positive frame of mind. On the other hand, if I panic and start thinking, "What will I do now", "How can I deal with this", "What will happen", I can very well imagine how I am going to feel. Those around me will be similarly worried, everyone's energy level will be low, and decisions made in that state of

mind would not be the best. Fear and worry constrict our mental horizon and restrict our choices, often stopping us from taking steps that offer a way out of the problem.

The key to facing any challenge is a positive and strong mind. I cannot control other people or events in the world, but I can certainly choose how I respond. The practice of meditation helps a great deal in this. It improves our mental focus and clarity, allowing us to think better, see all the options before us, and take the best decision.

We may not have all the resources needed to deal with the issue at hand, and it may not be resolved entirely to our satisfaction, but a strong mind ensures that we are calm, stable, and even happy while dealing with it - we come away from it unscarred. And that is what matters, because problems come and go, but what remains for the rest of our lives are the memories, the experience, and the lessons from how we coped.

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A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Gentleness is a great power. Gentleness is sometimes seen as a lack of strength because it does not force or disturb. The true weakness is to become aggressive when frustrated or unfulfilled. It requires spiritual power to remain gentle in a world of injustice and violence. Today let me experience the strength of gentleness.

Your life is right now!



CHIRYA RISELY

Your life is right now! It is not later! It is not in that time of retirement. It is not when you have moved into the new house, or when you get a better job. Your life is right now. It will always be right now. You might as well decide to start enjoying your life right now, because it is never going to get better than right now - that is, until it gets better right now!

When someone greets us, let us not ignore, nod, mumble or casually say 'morning'. Saying 'Good Morning' should not be difficult.

Rather, be in the moment, experience the energy of the meeting, and the one who has greeted us gets our message plus our pure energy. No matter what mood the person is in, happy, sad, silent, but regardless of their response, in those two seconds we can make their experience of meeting us a good one. Let us not wait for others to greet us on the basis of hierarchies, of age, position, or power. We often overlook the power of simple gestures that add happiness, like making eye contact, smiling, paying a compliment, or waving a greeting. By helping others feel good about themselves, our own happiness significantly grows.

Everyone is looking to be acknowledged, that they matter, through our words and actions. Sometimes, this is all that people need from us. When we greet an old friend, hold the door open for a stranger, or thank a family member, how do we



Our responses to situations determine our happiness, and the response begins with the thoughts our mind creates.

feel? Our kindness in action will let others know we understand their value and importance. Each day, we

can have unconditional acceptance of others and give good wishes.

Our responses to situa-

tions determine our happiness, and the response begins with the thoughts our mind creates. We can

take time early each morning to sit and experience the self as a soul, meditate, and count our blessings, and in

this way program our mind with only positive thoughts for a perfect day. Feeding the mind with good thoughts

first thing in the day is like planting healthy seeds in fertile ground.

Our inner mental preparation, done with care, creates beautiful outer realities for us. Situations and people may be imperfect, but our state of mind should remain perfectly calm, happy, and peaceful. The outer environment is a reflection of our thoughts. There is no point in trying to change the outer environment - it is only change 'within' that will produce the change 'without'. There's no time like the present, and the present is all we have. Let us be still and appreciate what is right in front of us, be present, pay attention, really be with the people we are with, because in a flash, it is gone and a new moment has taken its place. 'In-joy' each day, moment by moment, right now!

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DESPITE TALK OF DIVERSITY, WOMEN STILL A MINORITY IN INDIAN BOARDROOMS: HOW CAN WE CHANGE THE STRUCTURE?

MANJARI DAS

The call for gender diversity in Indian boardrooms has gained momentum over the past few decades. To fuel this change, India introduced the Company Act in 2013, which acknowledges the importance of gender neutrality in boardrooms and mandates the appointment of at least one female director in the different classes of companies. However, including women in boardrooms is more than just a matter of numbers. Instead, it concerns what companies and societies need to acquire the diverse perspectives women can bring.

Following a report titled 'Women on Boards' published by the International Labour Organization, increasing women's participation in the business sector would increase the world GDP by \$5.8 trillion by 2025. The report further discusses the advantages of having women on board. Because women make most consumer decisions in households, they develop a deeper understanding of customer behavior and needs. Consequently, they are most likely to bring this knowledge to the commercial board, improving the standard of commercial decisions and transforming them to be in touch with cus-



tomers requirements.

How Gender Diversity Can Be Achieved in Boardrooms?

It is the need of the hour for organizations to focus on acquiring diverse candidates. They need to correspond with other institutions that can help them find suitable candidates through new pipelines. Companies need to identify the flaws in their existing systems that have prevented boards from being diverse and introduce new practices and approaches in the future. For instance, companies can curate a matrix of current board members and their characteristics to identify gaps.

Enterprises must adopt a new paradigm to establish gender equity in leadership

positions. They can develop effective strategies to establish gender equity on the board. Companies should actively strive to ensure that women candidates are included in the pool for board positions. They can identify senior women executives within the organizations who have the potential to become board members and encourage them for board membership.

Furthermore, firms need to set targets for diversity, such as the introduction of numerical goals for female representation on the board and at the executive level.

Also, they need to ensure that women in the organization feel accomplished, valued and competent in

contributing to its success. However, this change cannot be achieved overnight. Only after continuous and sustained efforts of companies to develop mentorship and leadership opportunities for women can this be accomplished in the long run. The government and regulatory bodies can also play a colossal role in driving this change by implementing quotas for women's representation on boards and investing in early childhood education and care.

While a large section of society still perceives women as caretakers and homemakers, there has been a considerable improvement in India's ranking in terms of gender parity. In 2022, the

country ranked 142 among 146 countries in gender parity but now stands at 129 as of 2024. However, the country still has a long way to go to fill the gender gap.

One reason women are still a minority in boardrooms is that the boards are primarily composed of men. These members then hire individuals like them, which leads to a self-perpetuating cycle. Also, owing to the corporate culture in India, women who tend to take time off from work are not considered suitable candidates for executive positions. The burden of childcare, policies, and working hours prevent women from balancing work and home life in a way expected of a

corporate board member. Furthermore, there is a lack of awareness about the significance of establishing gender diversity on boards. Many organisations do not condone the benefits of gender diversity, thus boards rarely address this issue.

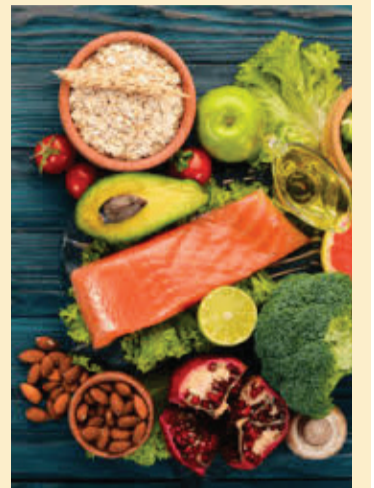
The current lack of gender diversity in corporate boards is appalling. While numerous studies have pinpointed the benefits of having diverse leadership, India needs to move faster in addressing this issue. Both private bodies and federal policymakers should work to cultivate equitable systems to improve board diversity. It is essential to identify suitable candidates, reform the selection criteria, and institute regulatory and legislative measures to direct board rooms to reflect the diversity of India. Data from a leading financial advisory company, Deloitte, reveals that women only account for less than a quarter of boardroom seats worldwide, i.e., 23%. Despite the extensive efforts to diminish gender disparities in boardrooms, it is difficult to anticipate when the world will be ready to implement gender neutrality in these settings.

Manjari Das is an Associate Vice President at WD Partners (I) Pvt. Ltd.

Diet and lifestyle factors in the success of IVF

DR. SHEETAL JINDAL

In the field of reproductive medicine, in vitro fertilization (IVF) represents a vital lifeline for numerous individuals and couples aspiring to parenthood. Fertility treatments are advancing rapidly, with major improvements in medical technology and a better understanding of contributing factors. For example, India's fertility market has grown by 20% over the last five years, with IVF success rates reaching 60-70%. This increase in both demand and success emphasizes the critical need to optimize all aspects of the IVF process. While advanced medical treatments are essential, growing data suggests that nutrition and lifestyle choices play key roles in enhancing IVF success.



THE NUTRITIONAL FOUNDATION

The adage "you are what you eat" holds significant relevance in the context of fertility. Emerging research indicates that specific dietary patterns can markedly influence IVF success rates. The Mediterranean diet, celebrated for its rich inclusion of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats, has gained notable attention in fertility discussions. Studies suggest that adherence to this nutrient-dense eating regimen can enhance IVF success rates, especially among women under 35 who maintain a healthy weight. This association highlights the potential of tailored nutritional interventions in improving fertility treatment outcomes.

LIFESTYLE FACTORS - SMALL CHANGES, BIG IMPACT

Beyond nutritional factors, other lifestyle choices have a substantial influence on IVF success:

1. Alcohol Consumption: The impact of alcohol on fertility cannot be overstated. A 2011 study revealed a stark 21% reduction in live birth rates among women who consumed more than four alcoholic drinks per week during IVF treatment. Interestingly, this adverse effect was also observed when both partners exceeded this consumption level, highlighting the critical importance of moderation for both prospective parents.

2. Tobacco Use: The detrimental effects of smoking



on overall health are well-documented, and fertility is no exception. Both active and passive smoking can significantly diminish the chances of IVF success, affecting everything from egg quality to implantation rates.

3. Body Composition: Maintaining an optimal body mass index (BMI) is crucial for reproductive health. Both extremes of the weight spectrum can disrupt hormonal balance and egg quality, potentially compromising IVF outcomes.

4. Stress Management: The emotional rollercoaster of infertility and IVF can be overwhelming. Implementing effective stress-reduction techniques not only enhances the quality of life during treatment but may also contribute to improved success rates.

5. Physical Activity: Regular, moderate exercise provides numerous health benefits that can positively influence fertility. However, it is crucial to strike a balance, as excessive physical exertion may have adverse effects on treatment outcomes.

THE AGE FACTOR

While lifestyle modifications can notably influence IVF success, it's imperative to acknowledge the paramount importance of maternal age. Fertility naturally declines with advancing years, particularly after the mid-30s, with a more pronounced drop after 40. This age-related decline stems from reductions in both egg quantity and quality, factors that play crucial roles in IVF outcomes.

Thus, achieving parenthood through IVF involves a multifaceted approach that extends beyond medical interventions alone. Integrating advanced medical treatments with strategic lifestyle adjustments can enhance the prospects of IVF success for individuals and couples alike.

Dr. Sheetal Jindal is an MBBS, MD (OBG), EPHM (IIM Kolkata), Senior Consultant, and Medical Director at Jindal IVF, Chandigarh.

The role of women in driving circular economy solutions at home and beyond



PALLAVEE DHAUNDIYAL PANTHRY

Women are emerging as powerful champions of the circular economy, a concept focused on reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling resources. From kitchens to communities and corporate boardrooms, women are leading the charge to create a more sustainable and equitable future.

Sustainable Solutions at Home

Women are transforming their homes into hubs

of sustainability by embracing circular economy practices in their everyday lives. They are adopting sustainable cooking methods, such as meal planning and creative use of leftovers, which significantly reduce food waste. Many are turning to composting kitchen scraps, using natural cleaning products, and opting for reusable containers over single-use plastics.

By prioritizing zero-waste living, they are showing that sustainability starts at home and inspiring others to follow suit.

Women are also playing a crucial role in educating their families about environmental responsibility. They instill in children the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling, nurturing a new generation of eco-conscious citizens. Through these efforts, women are driv-



ing a cultural shift toward mindful consumption, where every choice made in the home contributes to a larger, global impact.

Community Advocacy and Grassroots Leadership

Beyond their homes, women are at the forefront of community-driven initiatives that promote circular economy principles. As community leaders, they organize local recycling drives, advocate for waste

reduction policies, and lead grassroots movements focused on sustainability. Women-led community groups often champion initiatives such as community gardens, clothing swaps, and repair cafes, which encourage sharing, repairing, and reusing goods.

Women are also harnessing the power of social media to spread awareness, educate others, and rally support for sustainable practices. By sharing their journeys

toward zero-waste living, they inspire countless others to make small changes that collectively make a big difference.

Pioneers in the Workplace In the business world, women are making strides in driving the circular economy agenda forward. As entrepreneurs, they are launching businesses that focus on sustainable products and services, such as eco-friendly packaging, biodegradable materials, and sustainable fashion lines.

In leadership roles, women are pushing companies to adopt green policies, integrate circular practices into supply chains, and set ambitious sustainability targets.

Women's contributions to the circular economy also extend to policy-making and advocacy. They are influencing environmental

legislation, supporting initiatives that promote sustainability, and fighting for the inclusion of marginalized voices in environmental decision-making. Their leadership is proving that sustainable practices can drive both profitability and social equity.

A Catalyst for Change

Women are not just participants in the circular economy; they are vital drivers of change. By leading by example, advocating for sustainable practices, and shaping policy, women are making the circular economy a reality. Their efforts are crucial in building a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable world for future generations.

Pallavee Dhaundiyal Panthry is the Chief Communication Advisor at WOCE-World of Circular Economy.

Poker and the female mind: How women excel in this mental sport

TDG NETWORK

Poker has long been considered a game dominated by men, but the tide is turning as more women break into the world of professional poker. This shift isn't just about numbers; it's about the unique strengths that women bring to the table, making them formidable opponents in this mental sport.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND PATIENCE

One of the key attributes women often excel in is emotional intelligence, a vital skill in poker. Reading opponents' tells, gauging the atmosphere at the table, and understanding subtle cues are essential for making strategic decisions. Women are often more attuned to these

emotional nuances, giving them an edge in anticipating opponents' moves and bluffing strategies.

Patience is another area where women shine. Poker is a game of endurance, where waiting for the right moment can make or break a player's success. Women are often more disciplined in their approach, carefully selecting their hands and avoiding impulsive decisions. This patience allows them to stay focused and maintain control over the long stretches of play that can wear down less disciplined opponents.

STRATEGIC THINKING AND ADAPTABILITY

Women are also known for their ability to think strategically and adapt to changing situations.



In poker, adaptability is crucial, as the game is dynamic, with each hand presenting new challenges. Women often approach the game with a long-term perspective, focusing on the bigger picture rather than short-term gains. This strategic mindset helps them navigate the complexities of the game, adjust to different playing styles, and outmaneuver their opponents.

Moreover, women are adept at balancing risk and

reward. In poker, knowing when to take calculated risks is essential for success. Women are often more cautious, but when they do take risks, they are well-considered and informed by a deep understanding of the game. This careful risk management can lead to significant payoffs, especially in high-stakes situations.

BREAKING STEREOTYPES AND BUILDING CONFIDENCE

For many years, poker was seen as a male-dominated space where women were often underestimated. However, as more women excel in this arena, they are not only proving their skills but also inspiring others to follow in their footsteps. Confidence plays a crucial role in this transformation. As more women succeed in poker, they gain the confidence to compete at higher levels, enter prestigious tournaments, and challenge the status quo. This confidence is contagious, encouraging more women to take up the game and pursue professional careers in poker.

CONCLUSION

From emotional intelligence and patience to strategic thinking and confidence, women bring

a unique set of strengths to the poker table. As more women continue to excel in this mental sport, they are not only redefining what it means to be a successful poker player but also paving the way for future generations of women to follow in their footsteps.

Nikita Luther is the Brand Ambassador at Natural8 India.



Nikita Luther

