

BJP, BJD spar over Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik's proposed foreign trip during budget session

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The proposed foreign tour of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

sembly session from Rome, through virtual mode during the presentation of a full

the Chief Minister planned his foreign trip before or after the monsoon session. His absence in the House during the session is not acceptable. Since a large number of important issues concerning the development of Odisha will be discussed during this session, the physical presence of the Chief Minister is highly desired."

Taking exception to the BJP leader's remarks, ruling BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said as the tour of Chief Minister has not been finalised yet, it was improper on part of the Opposition party leader to make statements.

Lenin said that the Chief Minister has

been working continuously for the welfare of the 4.5 crore population of the State. "He is always dedicated to uphold the interests of the State and has, thus, made a place in the people's hearts," he said.

The remarks of the BJP leader stemmed from the fact that the Chief Minister had not attended a single session of the Assembly physically in the last two years after the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. The monsoon session of the State Assembly will start from July 2 and continue till August 4. The budget for 2022-2023 financial year is likely to be presented on the first day of the session.



from June 28 has sparked a war of words between the BJP and ruling BJD with the Opposition party questioning his absence from the Assembly during the crucial monsoon session when the State budget for the current financial year will be presented.

Expressing concern over media reports that the Chief Minister will attend the As-

sembly session from Rome, through virtual mode during the presentation of a full budget for 2022-23 on July 2, State BJP president Samir Mohanty said that such a practice is not acceptable. The Chief Minister not being physically present during the budget session is not a good sign for the democracy and is against the tradition of Odisha Assembly, he stated. In a series of tweets, Mohanty said, "It would be better had

Top Congress leaders, workers march in solidarity with Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi (KCN): Walking in the blistering summer heat and raising slogans of solidarity with Rahul Gandhi, Congress members defied police restrictions as they joined their party



leader when he headed to the Enforcement Directorate office for questioning in the National Herald case on Monday.

Several workers were detained in the morning when they were on their way to join the 'Satyagraha march' called by the opposition party, but scores of others gathered at the party headquarters here by 9 am, holding the national and party flags.

Congress protests outside ED office in Bhubaneswar over notice to Rahul, Sonia

Modi Government is Misusing ED and other Enforcement agencies to tarnish the image of Rahul Gandhi and Congress Party :Sarat Pattanaik

Bhubaneswar (KC-N): Congress leaders, along with party workers, on Monday protested outside the En-



forcement Directorate (ED) office in Bhubaneswar as their leader Rahul Gandhi was being questioned by the agency in connection with the National Her-

Advertisement

Slogans of 'Inquilab Zindabad' and 'Rahul tum sangharsh karo hum tumhare saath hain (Rahul you fight, we are with you)' rent the air as Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and other prominent leaders of the Congress reached the party office.

The protesters waved placards that read: 'Satyamev Jayate' (Truth Alone Triumphs) and 'Will not fear, will not bow, will fight for truth anyhow', as the procession comprising senior leaders, party functionaries and grassroots-level workers moved from the AICC headquarters towards the ED office nearly two kilometres away.

A worker was seen walking barefoot as his slippers broke. "Blisters have appeared on my feet. But the march must continue as Rahul Gandhi is our favourite leader," he said.

A small cage that had a CONTINUED ON: P-7

ald case. Odisha PCC President Sarat Patnaik lead Congress leaders' march from CRP Chowk to the regional ED office. The march was joined by former PCC chief Niranjan Patnaik, senior Congress leaders Narasingha Mishra, Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Ramesh Jena, Jayadev Jena and MLA Suresh Routray. "This is completely unconstitutional. They are misusing the power of ED, it is not a good sign for democracy. The BJP should withdraw case against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," Odisha PCC President Sarat Patnaik said.

Rahul Gandhi's ED appearance: Congress workers detained from outside AICC office
Rahul Gandhi's ED appearance: Congress workers detained from

CONTINUED ON: P-7

High Security for Snan Purnima

Puri(KCN): A five-layer security cover would be placed in and around the Sri Jagannath temple and along the Badadanda (Grand Road) to en-

Narasingha Bhol and Puri SP KV Singh "Three commandants, 11 deputy commandants or ASPs, 21 additional commandants or DSPs, 50 In-



at sea beach and other important points during the Snan Purnima.

ADGP, Law and Order, RK Sharma reviewed the security arrangements and held with police officials and other concerned officers in presence of IGP (Central Range)

Besides, one ODRAF and one Quick Rescue Team have been deployed for the Jatra, he said.

Forces have been deployed inside and outside the temple to manage crowds. Two commandants have been given the re

CONTINUED ON: P-7



UK to introduce law unilaterally changing post-Brexit rules for Northern Ireland

LONDON(KCN): Britain's government is expected to introduce legislation Monday that would unilaterally change post-Brexit trade rules for Northern Ireland amid opposition from lawmakers who believe the move violates international law.

The proposed bill aims to scrap parts of a trade treaty that Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed with the European Union by removing checks on goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K. Britain's government has said the bill is lawful, but the EU CONTINUED ON: P-7

Arukha New Speaker OLA

Bhubaneswar(KCN): A six-time BJD MLA and former Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha



on Monday elected as new Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly.

Arukha was elected to the post unanimously in a special session held in the Assembly. Members from Opposition parties BJP and Congress too supported his candidature for the prestigious seat.

Chief Minister and Leader of the House, Naveen Patnaik proposed his name before the Assembly for the post, which was supported by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari. Following adoption of the motion, Deputy Speaker Rajanikant Singh, elected Arukha as new Speaker on a voice of votes. After Arukha's name was announced as new Speaker by Deputy Speaker Rajanikanta Singh, he was escorted to the Speaker's podium by the Chief Minister, Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari, Government Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Congress member Taraprasad Bahinipati, Minister Pramila Mallick and Pradip Amat. Congratulating the new Speaker of the august House, Chief Minister appealed to all members to extend wholehearted support to him to discharge his duties.

Stating chair of the Speaker is supposed to be impartial, opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi said, "On behalf of CONTINUED ON: P-7

Obituary



✓ **Bheemsen Ojha**

DoB 24.08.1938,

DoD 15.06.2020

Barigaon, Anandapur, Keonjhar

Pray for the departed soul

Fondly remembered by Family, Friends and relatives

Odisha records 20x growth in job applications in the last 90 days

Bhubaneswar(KCN)As one of the fastest-growing states in terms of economy in India, Odisha has been witnessing a steady growth in job opportunities across sectors and industries and has emerged as a popular destination for job seekers.apna.co- India's largest jobs and professional networking platform - recorded**20x quarter on quarter growth in job postings** in the state's capital, Bhubaneswar in the previous quarter. The platform has also noted increased job openings for multiple roles in the last three 90 days.

After recording an economic rating higher than India's GDP, Odisha has become a promising destination for employers to invest in, strengthening the state's economy and creating more job opportunities. apna has become a trusted partner for various popular companies such as Zomato, Bharti AXA, Burger King, TeamLease, Byjus, and Delhivery amongst others in the state to fulfill their hiring requirement. In the last quarter, there has been an increased hiring momentum for roles such as telecallers/BPO, sales, computer/data entry operator, delivery persons, and business development executives amongst others.

The capital city continues to be one of the top commercial hubs in Eastern India.

With more than 25 percent female users from Bhubaneswar, apna has become a default partner for women to build their professional networks and participate in helping India unlock its economic potential. According to the platform, there has been a quarter-on-quarter increase in women joining the workforce from the state and participating in uplifting Odisha's economy. Telecalling and business development have consistently been the most popular role amongst women in Bhubaneswar followed by data entry

operators. Interestingly, women also opted to get on the field by joining the sales workforce for various organizations after COVID cases dropped drastically.

Commenting on the growth, **Manas Singh, Chief Business Officer, apna.co** said, "Odisha is witnessing tremendous growth in the past quarter, emerging as one of the key markets with a rise in both workers and employers on apna. We will continue creating more hyperlocal opportunities to help accelerate the economic growth of Bhubaneswar."

apna has been catering to job seekers irrespective of their educational qualifications. Not only graduates and postgraduates, but apna is also connecting nearly 45 percent of users from Bhubaneswar with education qualification, 12th pass or under, with hyperlocal opportunities.

Apart from Bhubaneswar, the platform is available in 70-plus cities in India and can be accessed in more than 10 vernacular languages.

About apna

Founded in 2019, apna.co is India's largest jobs and professional networking platform dedicated to helping India's rising workforce to unlock unique professional networking and skilling opportunities. Having secured more than \$190 million from marquee investors such as Tiger Global, Owl Ventures, Insight Partners, Lightspeed India, Sequoia Capital India, Maverick Ventures, GSV Ventures, Greenoaks Capital and Rocketship.vc, apna is on a mission to enable livelihoods for billions in India. With 22 million-plus users present in 70 cities and counting, and more than 200,000 employers that trust the platform, India has a new destination to discover relevant opportunities.

CS Conclave On 16-17 June

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Team Odisha Administration headed by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra will attend the All Chief Secretaries Conclave to be held at Dhramshala in Himachal Pradesh on

Bishnupada Sethi and Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development G Mathivathanan will attend the Conclave. Principal Secretary School & Mass Education Bishnupada Sethi will make de-

attend the meet. Chief Secretaries Conclave will deliberate on issues to ensure coordinated efforts of states.

Officials say that details of the schedule are being prepared by the Ministries con-

when the Centre is trying to convince states to join the Centre's Flagship Initiatives.

While Odisha has earned both national and International recognition on Urban Governance, the achievements will be presented in the Chief Secretaries Conclave. Similarly Agriculture sector in Odisha has caught the imagination of the Union Government as Prime Minister's pet project, 'Doubling Farmers' Income' has received boost in Odisha.

Union Secretary Agriculture, Manoj Ahuja, who will be attending the Conclave was Principal Secretary Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment in Odisha and has been implementing various pro-farmer programs planned by Naveen Patnaik Government. Odisha has been appreciated for 'Doubling Farmers' Income' in Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Sector. Keeping with the idea of cooperative federalism, such a Conclave is being organized. It is like Annual Meet of DGPs.

Officials say NITI Aayog will be coordinating the Conclave, which is likely to help both the states and Centre discuss various ideas to make governance effective.



16-17 June. This is first of its kind Conclave of Top Mandarins across the country to discuss the key issues in detailed manner. The focus of the Conclave will be on key issues of Education, Urban Governance and Agriculture. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Conference. From Odisha, ACS Agriculture & farmers' Empowerment, Sanjeev Chopra, Principal Secretary School & Mass Education,

tailed presentation on the issue of Education in general and implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) in particular, said sources.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the Conclave of Chief Secretaries. Minister Personnel Jitendra Singh, Principal Secretary to PM P K Mishra, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, Union Secretary Personnel & Training, S Radha Chauhan and other Secretaries will

Self-Care in the hybrid Work World

How to manage your life as you head back to work from office

Kolkata(KCN): After over 2 years of disruption, life is slowly crawling back to normalcy with work from home life being replaced by hybrid model of going back to office. It is certainly stressful to adjust into a new routine again and to manage both, the family and office.

"After the initial unrest, confusions and technology issues, we've all gotten used to working from home. In the last 2 years, we devoted our time to inculcate safe and healthy habits. Now with most of us returning to office, we have to reset the existing routine so that we continue to stay safe and healthy," says Sangita Gopinath, PR Consultant.

Continuing the healthy lifestyle while returning to office may seem daunting, but it is not impossible. Keep the stress at bay by taking one day at a time. Create a new routine without discontinu-

ing the good habits that you developed. If you are one of those who will have to work from the office permanently or in a hybrid mode, here's how you can manage your work routine and your home in the post-WFH world, with a bit of planning. **Fast Food:** Plan interesting breakfast's menu to beat the fatigue. Deciding what to cook is half the battle won. Try some quick meal recipes off the internet. Always plan and prep the night before for a stress less start of the day. Include fresh fruits and vegetables for a balanced diet. Just soak them in a 100% natural vegetable & fruit wash like ITC's Nimwash Vegetable & Fruit Wash to remove pesticides with no side effects. Don't forget to indulge your sweet tooth.

Kitchen Diaries: Do all your heavy-duty cooking and prepping over the weekend. Don't be scared of stubborn cooking

stains on your utensils. Products like ITC's Nimeasy Dishwash Gel combat tough stains with ease. Simply apply gel on your utensils and soak them in water for 25 minutes for enzyme technology to lift off tough food stains. A clean kitchen helps to maintain a good aura in the house and clean food has a positive effect on your health.

Set cleaning time: Cleanliness can be achieved by being smart and not necessarily by working hard. Set aside 15 minutes each day to keep your home tidy with dusting and cleaning. Plan your cleaning schedule in the morning or in the evening once you return home. Make it a point to keep things in their place and clean spills and dirt immediately to save time and effort. Don't let your guard down, continue to use a natural cleaner like Nimyle that has the power of neem to

keep your house safe. Time for self-care: Self-care and personal wellbeing should remain a priority even if work from home is over. Do not let it take a back seat. Dedicate 10-15 minutes a day to be in the comfort of yourself. Use this time to mediate, for a power walk, to read a book or to simply soak your feet in warm water after a long day at work.

Connect with your favorite content: Those shows and movies on the OTT platforms need to be watched. Schedule an hour daily to watch your favourite shows. Choose the afternoon of one of the weekends, if you are someone who likes to binge watch so you can still head out to enjoy the evenings. Try to include these easy tips in your new found day to day life and you'll be gradually back on track managing your home and work with ease.

Delayed monsoon spells misery for farmers of Odisha's Nabarangpur district

UMERKOTE(KCN): The delay in arrival of monsoons has not

running behind schedule this season owing to inadequate

and August. Sharing their apprehension, many farm-

the district administration to improve irrigation facilities. "We could not sow seeds on time due to delay in monsoons. If there's no rainfall this week, all of us will suffer huge losses," said Bhakchand Nayak, a farmer leader from Nabarangpur.

Contacted, additional district agriculture officer (ADAO) Bijay Patnaik said, "There are different varieties of paddy. Farmers should opt for long duration paddy seeds which will be profitable in case of delayed monsoon."



augured well for farmers in Nabarangpur district, with most of them yet to sow seeds for kharif cultivation due to deficit rainfall so far this year. There are nearly two lakh farmers in Nabarangpur district most of whom depend on rainfall for cultivation as irrigation facility is reportedly available for less than 10 per cent land in the region.

For this kharif season, the district agriculture wing had set a target to cultivate paddy over 1,30,000 hectare (ha) and maize on 85 ha. Usually, sowing is completed by first week of June every year. However, agricultural activities are

rainfall till now Official sources said rainfall from May till June first week this year is only seven per cent (pc) as compared to corresponding period in 2021. The month of May recorded 571 mm rainfall against 671 mm last year while June recorded only 48 mm as compared to 671 mm in the corresponding period last year.

As a result, over 80 per cent farmers are yet to begin work for the kharif cycle. This could mean huge losses for them as many have already purchased high quality seeds. Besides, paddy and maize crops cannot grow well without good rains between June

ers from Umerkote, Nandahandi and other blocks said a drought-like situation may prevail in the coming days if there is no rainfall within seven to 10 days and demanded

Truck terminal plan from Odisha's Rourkela city to see light of the day

ROURKELA: Put on the back burner for over a decade and half, the proposal for a truck terminal to de-congest Rourkela city has been finally revived. The truck terminal proposal will be replaced with a logistics-cum-fulfilment centre at Beldihi and preliminary works are underway in this regard.

A few days back, a delegation of Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) met Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pawan Kalyan to expedite the project and relieve the city from the intolerable traffic congestion. Sources said that 11.92 acre of land at Beldihi has been allotted to the Odisha Carriers and Trade through IDCO on April 20 this year to develop the logistics-cum-fulfilment centre with private partnership. Now, the perimeter wall is being erected and work on the project is likely to start soon.

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Veteran Film Director N Chandra to be Awarded 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in the Rajasthan International Film Festival-2022

Jaipur (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): The 8th Rajasthan International Film Festival



edition of the Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF) will be organized by RIFF Film

given to such a personality in the film industry who has dedicated his whole life to the cinema. Chandrashekhar Narvekar (N Chandra) is an Indian producer, writer and director who is known for crisp realism in his early Dark and Loud films. His most successful commercial films are 'Ankush' starring Nana Patekar, 'Pratighaat' starring Sujata Mehta and Nana Patekar, 'Tezaab' starring Anil Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit and 'Narasimha' starring Sunny Deol and Dimple Kapadia. The filmography of N

'Xcuse Me', 'Kagaar: Life on the Edge' and 'Ye Mera India' etc. After his schooling, N Chandra began his career as a film edi-

career, leading to films by Raj Ghosla, BR Chopra and Ravi Tandon. Gradually, N Chandra continued to grow as a film editor

Film Awards 2019 (which were awarded in 2021). Anshu Harsh, the Managing Trustee of RIFF Film Club said



Club from 25-30th March 2022 and will also celebrate Rajasthan Diwas. Somendra Harsh, Founder & Festival Director of the

Producer and Director Chandrashekhar Narvekar (N Chandra) at the 8th Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF). This award is

tor at the Film Center in Tardeo, Mumbai, where his father also worked. He started his film career as an assistant editor in Sunil Dutt's film 'Reshma Aur Shera' in 1969. He got a break in the film industry as a clapper boy in Gulzar's 'Parichay' (1972). N Chandra worked as an assistant editor with Pran Mehra, Vaman Bhosle and Guru Dutt early in his

and assistant director. N Chandra has been a member of the Governing Council of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. Along with this, he has also been the Chairman of the jury of Indian Panorama of 2010 and 2011 and was also included in the Indian Film Entry Jury for Oscars in 2006 and 2011. He was also the Chairman of the Jury at the 67th National

that "In this 8th edition of the Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF) Short, Documentary, Animation, Feature, Regional, Rajasthani films as well as music albums can be submitted by visiting the website www.riffjaipur.org and also by filmfreeway. The next deadline to submit the film is 31st January 2022."

Decoupled, dissonance, and deja vu: Madhavan, Surveen Chawla on marriages and more

At the outset, Netflix's latest release, Decoupled, might seem like the antithesis of love and romance because it tracks a broken marriage, and how worse romantic life can get. And yet, the glimmers of love and hope shared by Madhavan's Arya and Surveen's Shruti is the lifeline of this series. "I liked the take on splitting up. It is normal for people to grow apart. Not all splitting or divorces need to be about something dramatic. There is both a real image and a projected image in a marriage/relationship, and when there is a vast difference in what we are and we are projecting, all that remains is our intent to be together," says a sagely Madhavan tapping into his 22 years of marriage. In this conversation with Cinema Express, he is joined by an equally philosophical Surveen Chawla as they discuss marriages, literally and metaphorically.

Excerpts: Marriage of their real and onscreen selves Surveen Chawla (SC): Playing Shruti was so much fun. There were times when it felt like I was talking to my real-life husband, and not Madhavan's Arya. It was not about the manner of speech, but simply about the way both conduct themselves. The relatability factor is that the basic issues faced by this couple are things we might have experienced. Just because there is relatability, it doesn't mean all couples have to end up like Shruti and Arya. Relationships are always a work in progress. Madhavan (M): There were so many instances

that were well-written; I could see such fights erupting between my wife, Saritha, and me. When you are really fond of each other, the intensity of arguments flares up. But the difference between a marriage that works and one that doesn't is that once this argument is done, any residual anger will not seep into the next conversation. The power equation is reset after every disagreement, and this was written beautifully in the series too. This resetting of the power equation between Shruti and Arya is what gives us the hope that this couple might actually work. I thought it was mature, and it was a great insight into the marriages of today.

Marriage between thinking and acting languages SC: Having the same acting and thinking language can make all the difference to our performances. Although we are fluent in other languages, English has been the thinking language for both Madhavan and me. The pauses, the commas, the casualness... everything is effortlessly translated from our minds to our dialogues. When I am thinking in English and delivering lines in another, it runs the risk of becoming dialogue-y. Also, points to Hardik Mehta (director) and Manu Joseph (writer) for allowing me to put down on paper what Surveen was thinking as Shruti. They gave us the liberty and scope for improvisation. M: My son Vedanth gave me a huge nod of approval and not only felt that the show looked trendy but was also candid about how the En-

glish we spoke didn't feel forced. To be honest, I haven't done anything like this before. Our language of communication at home was English, and we wanted it to have the flow in which the language is spoken in our country.

ALSO READ: Decoupled Series Review: Madhavan, Surveen Chawla impress in this take on urban relationships

Marriage between the content and audience SC: We are not regional actors anymore. In fact, we are global actors and not just pan-Indian. The pandemic propelled the OTT movement, and it has definitely taken centre stage. The world itself has shrunk, and it is important to have the right team and trust them to make the right decisions. But more than anything else, the end game is really the content we are doing. For now, I honestly don't have a preference about the kind of release as long as I am doing the content I love to do.

M: We have to decide if the content is worthy of the format it chooses to be presented in, and that choice has become paramount for the success of the content. Secondly, with experience, it does become an easy and informed choice. There is no way I could make Breathe into a film. Thirdly, having stepped away from the industry for a long time, I am more in touch with what people really want. Kids are now watching anime because they care more about relationships than the VFX. In this pandemic, people don't want to watch morbidity anymore. So, when I read a script and depending on the place where I am in my life, I see if I am able to relate to it. If yes, and then the team is a solid one, I am completely committed to the film/series.

Marriage between reality and social media personas



Foundations of India's international relations: Religion or humanity

Nupur Sharma, the 37-year-old lawyer was a much-desired "official BJP spokesman" who appeared night after night on TV debates to advocate and defend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government until she was fired. Ms Sharma, a law student at Delhi



University, began her political career in 2008 when she was elected president of the students' union as a candidate of the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). When she returned to India in 2011 after completing her master's degree in international business law at the London School of Economics, her political career took off. Her ability to argue and present her point of view in both English and Hindi earned her a spot on the BJP's media committee for the Delhi assembly elections in 2013. When new elections were called two years later, she ran as the BJP's candidate against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Although no one anticipated her to win, her energetic campaign catapulted her into the spotlight: she was named an official spokesman for the BJP in Delhi, and in 2020, she was promoted to "national spokesperson" for the party.

The suspension of Nupur Sharma a week after she recounted a contentious scene on TV has generated more concerns than it has solved. The fury of many BJP supporters or free speech absolutists who stood by her throughout the week, as well as the curiosity of those who heard about what she said for the first time, had reached a peak. However, the diplomatic questions that have emerged have now become the talk of the town. The fact that the Indian Vice President was on a visit to Qatar at the time increased the stakes much higher. It was not an election that anyone expected her to win, but her energetic campaign propelled her farther into the spotlight. To make sense of the ruling party's choice, three sets of opinions or reactions have evolved. Surprisingly, they don't fundamentally contradict one other. In reality, it is only when they are all put together that the jigsaw can be seen in its whole.

The initial reaction came from a group of persons who professed to represent Indian Muslims. They are not all Muslims, but they do include persons whose writings about how the Indian Muslim is continuously oppressed find a home in the opinion pages of numerous periodicals. The choice has been met with reluctance by this class. As they admit, their resentment stems from the fact that, despite their indignation for a week, which could have sparked a riot at home, the ruling regime was unaffected. In fact, the ruling dispensation continues to ignore their problems, but was quick to respond and react when the Arab world raised the same issue. Putting away their track record, it's tough to find a mistake in their argument, at least in the section where they discuss their irrelevance. The second reaction,

which appears to be the most common, is

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

fundamentally one of fury. Did India, which used the Ukraine conflict to expose the West's racial hypocrisy in front of the world and use it as leverage in its quest to establish itself as an independent pole in a multipolar world order, genuinely bend over itself in front of the Arab world? There's a sense of scepticism. After all, Qatar is a minuscule and despised speck in the area. Al-Jazeera, its propaganda arm, has disseminated numerous misconceptions about India throughout the world. This is the country that provided political refuge to the allegedly blasphemous MF Hussain in a similar situation. Above all, when the Arab world severed connections with Qatar in 2017 and closed all air and sea links to the country, India was the only country that could feed the country. India's goodwill in the region ensured that Indian shipments would never be halted.

Qatar is just one of many examples. In most parts of the Arab world, large

and domestic policies. Oil, gas, remittances, and

investments are the most conspicuous and important, yet they represent only one aspect. Because India is partially controlled by Pakistan, the growth of the Taliban in the Indian subcontinent poses a security concern to India. Qatar, an old friend of India's, does, however, control a section inside it, providing India some power. India is building the Chabahar Port in Iran as a counter to China's Gwadar Port in Pakistan, as well as a route to Central Asian markets. Oman, which is strategically placed on the Arabian Peninsula's south-eastern coast, is an important defense partner for India. The Indian Navy as well as the Indian Air Force use the Duqm Port there. Several Arab countries have partnered with India to track terror financing, as the majority of finances for such activities originate in the area. India's standing is demonstrated by the fact that it is one of the few countries in the world capable of successfully carrying out rescue and relief

This suggests that their priorities differ significantly from those of the Indian instigators. They believe what Nupur Sharma said to be a crossing of a line, but don't seem to mind if Kashmir's autonomy is thrown out the window or if India refuses to speed up the citizenship process for Muslims. This is where the second viewpoint comes into play. It's simple for a neutral observer to blame them for selectively interfering in the affairs of another country, or for interfering despite their own bad human rights record. We tend to forget where their priorities lay, as we saw with Nupur Sharma's speech and other Indian concerns for which these countries have maintained a purposeful silence. As a result, even if it were perpetrated by a country other than China, the Arab world would likely maintain a strategic silence, especially if trade or other incentives were involved. Whatever their principles and priorities may be, the Nupur Sharma situation went beyond their worst excesses.

After completing the jigsaw, the only



segments of the population continue to live in the past, treating women as second-class citizens and engaging in the most heinous human rights violations. In Xinjiang, where Uighurs are tortured in Chinese concentration camps, they have neatly thrown their co-religionists under the bus. What moral authority do these elements have to determine how India should treat an internal issue, given how well they contextualise the situation? Why in the world would India tolerate this? The third point of view, while not addressing who they are to dictate to India, does address why the ruling party has acted in response to their demands. It's best described as a calculated or pragmatic reaction. Despite the region's many and complex fault lines, India has successfully navigated the tensions through diplomacy and trade. In fact, it could be argued that no other global power, actual or imagined, has been able to connect with such a wide range of players in the region.

A lot of factors contribute to the region's importance in India's foreign

operations each time a war breaks out between two opposing camps in the region. When a government that some claim is anti-Muslim, entered power in 2014, many predicted a deterioration in India's relations with Arab countries. In reality, the exact reverse occurred. Even when the Modi government repealed Article 370 and established the CAA, India's Arab friends remained silent. In other words, why upset the apple cart over a 20-second TV discussion segment?

While the first perspective blames the Modi government for listening to its Arab allies rather than the local Muslim population it purports to represent, it fails to mention that India's Arab allies do the same. Since this class first arose and began creating an image of Muslims being systematically targeted in India eight years ago, the Arab world has largely disregarded it. Even when this class urged people to take the street-veto method against certain government choices, as previously stated, the Arab world declined to utilize the issues in question as a leverage against India.

remaining question is whether India could have managed the diplomatic situation more effectively. Given how the situation escalated and how skilled Indian diplomacy has been in the region, India is quite likely to have. Instead of allowing the Arab world to speak against India and making a domestic political sacrifice solely to keep international waters calm, India should have anticipated and diffused the situation. The fallout, on the other hand, isn't quite as awful as it's made up to be. For the time being, the ruling party has lost a powerful voice. The status quo with the Arab world, a region with archaic character and behaviour but vital to India, is likely to be maintained. Iran, a major power, has removed its formal declaration on the subject. Meanwhile, a cabal claiming to represent Indian Muslims is fueling the flames and sparking riots at home, but their voice remains irrelevant and unheard in both Delhi and the Arab world.

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'Unemployment most burning issue in country': Varun Gandhi hits out at Centre again



NEW DELHI: Noting that unemployment is the most burning issue in the country, BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Monday appreciated AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi for mentioning him while raising the is-

ssue in a speech. Gandhi, who has often put the government in a dock over a host of issues, posted a video of a speech of the fiery Hyderabad MP who cited a large number of vacancies in different sectors of government and

added that the figures were first quoted by the BJP leader. "Unemployment today is the country's most burning issue, and leaders from across the country should draw the government's attention to this. Unem-

ployed youths should be given justice. Only then the country will grow strong," Gandhi tweeted. He said he was thankful to Owaisi for mentioning the questions raised by him over the issue in his address.

Kuwait to arrest, deport expats who protested over Prophet remark

DUBAI: The Kuwaiti government has decided to arrest and deport an unspecified number of expats who participated in a protest against the controversial remarks by two former BJP functionaries against Prophet Mohammad, as the Gulf nation's laws do not allow such demonstrations, according to a media report. Instructions have been issued to arrest expats from the Fahaheel area who organised a demonstration after Friday prayers in support of

The ministry welcomed the statement issued by the ruling party in India, in which it announced the suspension of the leader. The BJP suspended its national spokesperson Nupur Sharma and expelled its Delhi media head Naveen Kumar Jindal after their controversial remarks against the Prophet, as it sought to defuse a row over the issue. ALSO READ | Website of Nagpur's Institute of Science hacked by 'DragonForce Malay-



Prophet Muhammad, Arab News, an English-language daily newspaper published in Saudi Arabia, quoted sources as saying. Kuwait said that the protestors will be deported to their respective countries as they violated the laws and regulations of the country which stipulates that sit-ins or demonstrations by expats are not to be organised in the Gulf nation, it said. ALSO READ | Nupur Sharma seeks time to appear before Bhiwandri police over remarks against Prophet Mohammad "The detectives are in the process of arresting them and referring to the deportation center to be deported to their countries and will be banned from entering Kuwait again," reported Al Rai, a Kuwaiti newspaper. The report did not mention the nationalities of those expatriates who took part in the demonstration. All expats in Kuwait must respect Kuwait laws and not take part in any type of demonstration. The Kuwait government was one of the few countries that had summoned the Indian envoy over the remarks of the former BJP functionaries. The Kuwait Foreign Ministry said that the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sibi George was summoned and handed over an official protest note by the Assistant Secretary of State for Asia Affairs expressing Kuwait's "categorical rejection and condemnation" of the statements issued by an official of the ruling party against the Prophet.

Prophet Muhammad, Arab News, an English-language daily newspaper published in Saudi Arabia, quoted sources as saying. Kuwait said that the protestors will be deported to their respective countries as they violated the laws and regulations of the country which stipulates that sit-ins or demonstrations by expats are not to be organised in the Gulf nation, it said. ALSO READ | Nupur Sharma seeks time to appear before Bhiwandri police over remarks against Prophet Mohammad "The detectives are in the process of arresting them and referring to the deportation center to be deported to their countries and will be banned from entering Kuwait again," reported Al Rai, a Kuwaiti newspaper. The report did not mention the nationalities of those expatriates who took part in the demonstration. All expats in Kuwait must respect Kuwait laws and not take part in any type of demonstration. The Kuwait government was one of the few countries that had summoned the Indian envoy over the remarks of the former BJP functionaries. The Kuwait Foreign Ministry said that the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sibi George was summoned and handed over an official protest note by the Assistant Secretary of State for Asia Affairs expressing Kuwait's "categorical rejection and condemnation" of the statements issued by an official of the ruling party against the Prophet.

Bengal speaker rejects BJP's motion for suspension order withdrawal against seven MLAs

KOLKATA: West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay on Monday rejected a motion by the BJP to revoke suspension of seven MLAs, citing some technical errors. Bandyopadhyay asked BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul to submit a fresh one, when she sought to know the fate of the motion moved by legislator Bishwanath Karak.

one of the suspended BJP MLAs, told reporters outside the Assembly that they will not submit any fresh motion and instead wait for the direction of honourable high court on the matter. "We will not attend the business advisory committee meeting until the motion is accepted and the suspension revoked," he asserted. Clashes had broken out broken out in the

Assembly on March 28 between the legislators of the ruling TMC and BJP, following which the

The MLAs, led by Adhikari, moved the Calcutta High Court in April on the issue of suspension. A hearing session on the matter is scheduled before the court on Tuesday. Earlier in March, saffron camp MLAs Mihir Goswami and Sudip Mukhopadhyay were suspended over their conduct during Governor's address in the House.



"You have to move the motion again correcting the technical defects. Your party did not do the same today. That makes the possibility of the motion being considered tomorrow remote. You have to follow the procedure," he told Paul. Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari,

fresh motion and instead wait for the direction of honourable high court on the matter. "We will not attend the business advisory committee meeting until the motion is accepted and the suspension revoked," he asserted. Clashes had broken out broken out in the

speaker suspended the five MLAs. Along with Adhikari, the four suspended BJP MLAs -- Manoj Tigga, Narhari Mahato, Mihir Goswami and Shankar Ghosh -- staged protests against the speaker's move on the Assembly premises during the day.

A hearing session on the matter is scheduled before the court on Tuesday. Earlier in March, saffron camp MLAs Mihir Goswami and Sudip Mukhopadhyay were suspended over their conduct during Governor's address in the House.

Odia Samaj Abu Dhabi Celebrates Utkal Dibas

Abu Dhabi(KCN): Odia Samaj Abu Dhabi (OSA) Celebrated Utkal Dibas – 2022 with pomp and splendour. The Celebration coincided the Annual Function of OSA entitled 'UTKARSHA – 2022'. The ceremony venue historic Abu Dhabi Theater facing the serene and scenic Arabian Sea was decked up aesthetically befitting to the Grand Oc-

Attending the Festival as Guest of Honour, Eminent Journalist and Chairman of World Odisha Society (WOS) Kishore Dwibedi lauded the leading role of Odia Samaj Abu Dhabi in promoting and popularizing Brand Odisha in United Arab Emirates.



Addressing the gathering Chief Guest Second Secretary of Indian Embassy in UAE Risha Oberai appreciated OSA's all round support in strengthening Indian diaspora in UAE. Delivering his speech special Guest representative of the Chairman of Raraan Group Braja Kishore Mishra, CEO of Teras company Anil Sahu showered huge praises on the activists of OSA in serving Odia communities. Representing Sheikh Mohammed – bin – Sultan – bin – Hamdan – Al – Nehayan Charged Affairs Dr Talal – Al – Baloushi, Advisers of OSA Dr. Himanshu Das, Ashok Panda and hounourable guest Mulk Raj shared the dias and were warmly felicitated. The Anniversary celebration witnessed the release of a Colourful Souvenir entitled 'PRABASI UTKARSHA'. The prize publication was edited

casation and was wearing the Lavish look of a Mini Odisha. The entire ambience of the Theater was agog with Festive fervour. The Distinguished gathering include members and relatives of OSA, prominent Non Resident Indians, Officials of Indian Embassy and Members of Diplomatic core



belonging to different Countries. The Odia Community in Abu Dhabi had a special reason to go for a massive and spirited celebration because, Utkal Dibas commemoration is taking place in offline after a gap of two years due to Corona disruption. The Festival commenced with the lighting of ceremonial lamp by the Invited Guests. Delivering Welcome Address the President of Abu Dhabi Odia Samaj Pradeep Rath elaborated the series of charitable and social services rendered by OSA during covid period and Fani Cyclone in Odisha. Specially, Shri Rath was highly praising the active role of the members of OSA in evacuating 2000 stranded Odias safely to Odisha by 14 Chartered Flights during the advent of Pandemic. Exhibiting his astounding oratory calibre, the distinguished Guest Cine Star Kuna Tripathy eulogized the exemplary endeavours of OSA in uniting NROs at Abu Dhabi. Shri Tripathy gave a clarion call to Odia Community abroad to be Pure Odia and Proud Odia.

by Satyabrata Patra and Arunima Mishra. The special attraction of Utkal Dibas was presentation of a cultural Jamboori by the Czars and Czarinas of Ollywood like Kuna Tripathy, Abhijit Majumdar and Anuradha Panigrahi. They were supported by musical accompanists Saumyajet Parida, Jyotiranjana Mahalik and Dushmant Das. The audience were spellbound by the unique rendition of two Plays based on the theme of corona by male and female members of OSA. Conceptualised by Banhi Prava Rath, the plays were directed and executed by Saugat Nayak, Kamal Panda and team. Musical tributes to Bappi Lahiri and Lata Mangeshkar were super duper hits. The Fashion Show staged by Swati Das and Shubra Samal was unique in all respect. The Cultural session was ably conducted by ace anchor Ankita Mohanty, OSA's Cultural Secretary Prathik Dash and Assistant Cultural Secretary Santosh Tripathy coordinated the performances smoothly. The main function was compered by Arunima Mishra. Dr Himanshu Das presented the vote of thanks. The whole arrangement of the Mega Event was managed by the competent organisers of OSA like Pradeep Rath, Sidhartha Das, Kamal Panda, Dillip Nayak, Santosh Tripathy, Sudhanshu Patro, Rabi Narayan Dash, Sukarna Behera, Kartik Singh, Sushanta Mohapatra, Sushanta Choudhury, Abdur Rauf and Jyotiranjana Dash. The dignitaries present include Priyadarshi Panigrahi, Baidyanath Jena and Kishore Kumar Dash.

'Congress welcomed ED grilling of Abhishek Banerjee, it should do so for Rahul': Trinamool Top Lankan official quits days after making controversial allegations against Modi, Adani

AGARATALA(KCN): The TMC on Monday exhorted Congress members to refrain from holding protests over ED summonses to the grand old party's top leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in a case of financial impropriety as "law must take its own course". TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh pointed out that Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury, too, had taken a similar stance when the Mamata Banerjee-led party's MP, Abhishek Banerjee, was grilled by central agency officials as part of the probe into a coal pilferage case. Tripura Congress president Birajit Sinha, however, lashed out at Ghosh, stating that the "TMC MP was an accused in multiple cases, unlike Gandhi, and the two issues cannot be compared". Sinha did not mention the cases that he was referring to in his statement against Banerjee. Talking to reporters, Ghosh said, "We have nothing to say on the Enforcement Directorate's summons to Rahul Gandhi. The Congress and the CPI(M) had welcomed CBI and ED questioning of Abhishek Banerjee."

"They had said that the law should take its own course. If that is Chowdhury's stand, he should ideally be accompanying Gandhi to the ED office." Congress leader Rahul Gandhi faced ED officials during the day, while his mother and Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, sought time citing her ill health as reason. Activists of the grand old party staged protests across the country on Monday claiming that central agencies were being "misused" to harass its leaders.

ALSO READ | 'ED's questioning of Rahul Gandhi is political vendetta': Top Congress leaders hit out at Centre

Maintaining that the Congress was working as the 'B team' of the BJP in West Bengal, Ghosh said one party should not be having two points of view on the same subject.

"When the TMC had raised its voice against the misuse of central agencies by the Centre, the leaders of the Congress and the CPI(M) seemed to be in no mood to listen. That's why the two parties have almost become non-existent in Bengal," he stated.

Ghosh promised that if the TMC gets the mandate of people in Tripura next year, all welfare schemes introduced in West Bengal will be extended to northeastern state.

Meanwhile, slamming Ghosh over his remarks, Sinha alleged, "The nation knows that didi (Mamata Banerjee) shook hands with (prime minister) Modi under the table to save her nephew (Abhishek). Rahul Gandhi was summoned by the ED, despite not being involved in any corruption. The two cases are different." Rahul Gandhi was on Monday questioned for over eight hours by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering probe linked to the National Herald newspaper, as the opposition party held protests across the country, accusing the Centre of targeting its leaders by misusing agencies.

Gandhi, who appeared before a central probe agency for the first time for questioning, was still in the ED office here till 9 pm, having arrived at 11.10 am, accompanied by a battery of leaders including sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and escorted by armed CRPF personnel, and leaving for an 80-minute break in the afternoon. Hundreds of Congress workers in Delhi and state capitals took to the streets and several senior leaders, including Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Randeep Surjewala and K C Venugopal, were detained here amid a massive show of strength by the party which had called for the Satyagraha march against the ED summonses.

The opposition party alleged that some of its leaders were manhandled by the police and lashed out at the government for "not allowing" peaceful protests.

The BJP hit back at the Congress, accusing its leaders of putting pressure on the ED, supporting corruption and protecting the alleged assets worth Rs 2,000 crore of the Gandhi family.

Noting that nobody is above the law "not even Rahul Gandhi", BJP leader and Union Minister Smriti Irani claimed that never before such a blatant attempt was made by a political family to hold a probe agency to ransom to protect its "ill-gotten" assets.

Gandhi, 51, went from the party headquarters in Akbar Road to the ED office in central Delhi a few kilometres away in a convoy of seven cars around 11.10 am after walking for some distance with his supporters.

After about two-and-a-half hours, he left the ED office for a lunch break and returned at 3.30 pm.

The former Congress president, a Z+ category protectee of the CRPF after the Union government withdrew the Gandhi family's SPG cover in 2019, is expected to write down his statement, official sources said.

Prohibitory orders were imposed in parts of central Delhi that were heavily barricaded.

ALSO READ | Congress protest aimed at putting pressure on ED: BJP, alleges opposition party trying to protect Gandhis

The ED is recording the statement of the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad in Kerala under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The probe is related to alleged financial irregularities in the party-promoted Young Indian that owns the National Herald newspaper, published by the Associated Journals Limited (AJL).

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are among the promoters and shareholders of Young Indian.

Rahul Gandhi is expected to be grilled about the incorporation of the Young Indian company, the operations of the National Herald and the fund transfer within the news media establishment.

"We are not scared. The Modi government should be ashamed that they have turned central Delhi into a fortress just because our leader is going to the ED with his supporters," Indian Youth Congress President Srinivas BV told PTI near the ED office just before he was detained by the police.

Tempers rose as the day progressed with scenes of slogan shouting, Congress workers jumping barricades and resisting attempts by police to



detain them.

Slogans such as "down down BJP", and "we want justice" rang out in cities such as Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Guwahati, Jammu, Dehradun and Jaipur.

The party claimed it was starting Mahatma Gandhi's 'Satyagraha', peaceful resistance, again with the march against the Modi government and vowed not to bow down.

A host of Congress leaders spoke out on the alleged harassment.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Gehlot alleged that the government was misusing central probe agencies and this was nothing but "political vendetta".

Asked whether the Congress would stage a similar show of strength on June 23 when Sonia Gandhi has been asked to appear before ED, Gehlot said, "The Congress is competent to deal with the situation".

"This is a fight for democracy. The government is trying to muzzle the voices of opposition leaders," added former Uttarakhand chief minister Harish Rawat.

"Now, a satyagraha will take place at every corner," he added. Surjewala said Congress leaders had done nothing wrong and alleged that "Godse's descendants fear from the truth and they will not be able to suppress the truth".

Ahead of Rahul Gandhi's appearance before the ED, brother-in-law Robert Vadra came out in his support and expressed confidence that he would be exonerated from all "baseless accusations".

ALSO READ | National Herald case: Top Congress leaders, workers march in solidarity with Rahul Gandhi

"I believe the truth will prevail and this harassment of the prevailing dispensation will not have the effect they desire," he added.

The Congress party said in a press conference in the morning that all fund movements in this case were legitimate.

In April, the agency questioned senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal as part of the investigation.

The questioning of the senior Congress leaders and the Gandhis is part of the investigation to understand the shareholding pattern, financial transactions and role of the promoters of Young Indian and AJL, officials had said.

The ED recently registered a fresh case under the criminal provisions of the PMLA after a trial court here took cognisance of an Income Tax Department probe against Young Indian Pvt Ltd on the basis of a private criminal complaint filed by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Swamy had accused Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others of conspiring to cheat and misappropriate funds with Young Indian Pvt Ltd paying only Rs 50 lakh to obtain the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that Associate Journals Ltd owed to the Congress.

The Delhi High Court in February last year issued a notice to the Gandhis for their response to Swamy's plea seeking to lead evidence in the matter before the trial court.

The Gandhis had secured separate bails from the court in 2015 after they furnished personal bonds of Rs 50,000 and one surety.

They, however, contended in the Delhi High Court that the plea by Swamy was "misconceived and premature".

The other accused in the case filed by Swamy are close Gandhi aides Suman Dubey and technocrat Sam Pitroda.

Days after he alleged Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pressurized the Sri Lankan government over allotting a wind power project to Adani group, the Chairman of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) MMC Ferdinando has quit. Ferdinando's revelation had sparked a political controversy forcing him to retract his statement and finally leading to his resignation on Monday.

Sri Lanka's Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera tweeted, "I have accepted the letter of resignation tendered to me by the CEB Chairman Mr MMC Ferdinando. Vice Chairman Nalinda Ilangoakoon will take over as the New Chairman CEB."

Ferdinando had told the Parliamentary Watchdog Committee On Public Enterprises (COPE) session that Sri Lankan President

Gotabaya Rajapaksa asked him to award a 500-megawatt renewable energy project to the Adani Group due to pressure from Narendra Modi.

Later, Ferdinando retracted his statement claiming that what he had said was incorrect. Issuing a statement addressed to COPE Chair Dr. Charitha Herath, the former CEB chairman had said that he was compelled without limitation to express the word 'Indian Prime Minister' due to unexpected 'pressure and emotions' during the discussion.

Ferdinando said he had become "emotional due to pressures and unreasonable allegations" levelled against him during the testimony.

ALSO READ | Sri Lanka economic crisis: PM announces Rs 200 billion financial safety net for social security

"Therefore, due to un-

expected pressure and emotions, I was compelled without limitation to express the word 'India agamathi bala kara bawa kiwwa' (stressed by the Prime Minister of India), which is totally incorrect. Hence I wish to withdraw the relevant statement and record my apology unconditionally," local media reports quoted Ferdinando as saying.

"In regard to the clarification made by me at the COPE (Parliament's Committee on Public Enterprises) meeting held on 10 June 2022, in replying to the allegation made against me on the proposed Mannar and Pooneryn wind and solar projects with Adani Green Energy Limited to generate renewable energy of 500 MW, I explained the circumstances behind my letter dated 25 November 2021," Ferdinando said.

Even before the chair-

man of the state-owned CEB withdrew or apologised for his remarks, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had already dismissed the claims and wrote "I categorically deny authorisation to award this project to any specific person or entity. I trust responsible communication in this regard will follow".

The Adani Group reportedly acquired contracts to develop two wind power projects in December last year. Adani Green Energy, a subsidiary of the Adani Group, had submitted its proposal to the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and the CEB.

Sri Lanka had recently amended its electricity law effectively eliminating competitive bidding for energy projects. In the wake of it, the opposition lawmakers had criticized the government for eliminating competitive bidding saying that it was to facilitate projects like that of the Adani Group.



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UK to introduce law unilaterally changing post-Brexit rules for Northern Ireland

Continued from page-1

has threatened to retaliate, raising the possibility of a trade war between the two sides.

On Monday, Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney said the bill "marks a particular low point in the U.K.'s approach to Brexit." Coveney tweeted that the U.K. was seeking to "deliberately ratchet up tension with an EU seeking compromise."

Johnson sought to brush aside criticism, telling reporters that the proposed change is "relatively simple to do."

"Frankly, it's a relatively trivial set of adjustments in the grand scheme of things," he told LBC Radio.

He argued that his government's "higher and prior legal commitment" is to the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement and to preserve stability in Northern Ireland.

Arrangements for Northern Ireland — the only part of the U.K. that shares a land border with an EU nation — have proved the thorniest issue in Britain's divorce from the bloc, which became final at the end of 2020.

At the center of disputes is the Northern Ireland Protocol, which seeks to maintain peace between Northern Ireland, a part of the U.K., and the Republic of Ireland, part of the EU, after Brexit.

Britain and the EU agreed as part of their Brexit deal that the Irish land border would be kept free of customs posts and other checks because an open border is a key pillar of the peace process that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland.

Instead, to protect the EU's single market, there are checks on some goods, such as meat and eggs, entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K.

But the arrangement has proved politically damaging for Johnson because it treats Northern Ireland differently from the rest of the United Kingdom, potentially weakening the province's historic links with Britain. Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party has refused to return to the region's power-sharing government until the protocol is scrapped or substantially changed to address those concerns.

The bill to override that arrangement is expected to face opposition in Parliament, including from members of Johnson's Conservatives. Critics say unilaterally changing the protocol would be illegal and would damage Britain's standing with other countries because its part of a treaty considered binding under international law.

"Breaking international law to rip up the Prime Minister's own treaty is damaging to everything the U.K. and Conservatives stand for," opponents of the bill said in a note being circulated among Conservative lawmakers, according to the Financial Times.

After a conversation with British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic said "unilateral action is damaging to mutual trust and a formula for uncertainty."

Congress protests outside ED office in Bhubaneswar over notice to Rahul, Sonia

Continued from page-1

outside AICC office

Rahul Gandhi seeks more time from ED in National Herald case

Rahul Gandhi seeks more time from ED in National Herald case

ED summons Sonia, Rahul Gandhi in money laundering case

ED summons Sonia, Rahul Gandhi in money laundering case

"If they think Congress will be suppressed then they are wrong, all the workers stand together with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi," OPCC chief added.

Earlier today, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi appeared before the ED in the national capital for questioning in the National Herald money laundering investigation.

The Enforcement Directorate will record the statement of the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad in Kerala under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The probe pertains to alleged financial irregularities in the party-promoted Young Indian that owns the National Herald newspaper.

Rahul Gandhi was earlier summoned to appear before the ED on June 2 but couldn't as he was abroad.

Fed rate hike fears: Rupee falls 20 paise, closes at record low of 78.13 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee plunged 20 paise

The local unit finally settled at its all-time

that after Friday's US inflation data, money

pave way for 78.50 and 78.70 while on

six currencies, rose 0.55 per cent to

104.71. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined

1.58 per cent to USD 120.08 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 1,456.74 points or 2.68 per cent lower at 52,846.70, while the broader NSE Nifty tanked 427.40 points or 2.64 per cent to 15,774.40.

Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth a net Rs 3,973.95 crore on Friday, as per stock exchange data.



to close at an all-time low of 78.13 against the US dollar on June 13, as a lacklustre trend in domestic equities and stronger greenback overseas weighed on investor sentiments.

Forex traders said weak Asian currencies and persistent foreign capital outflows were the other major factors that dragged the local unit down.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 78.20 and witnessed an intra-day high of 78.02 and a low of 78.29 against the US dollar.

Parma further noted

low of 78.13, down 20 paise over its previous close.

On June 10, the rupee had tumbled 19 paise to close at a record low of 77.93 against the US dollar.

"The Indian rupee, taking cues from weaker regional currencies plummeted to a life low. The dollar extended gains today as US treasury yields rose after Friday's inflation shock raised speculation of a more aggressive rate hike from the Federal Reserve this Wednesday," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Parma further noted

markets are pricing a 175 bps hike by its September decision, implying two half points and one 75 bps hike.

"The last 75 bps hike by the Fed was made in November 1994. Spot USD/INR is expected to trade higher and a cross above 78.30 will

the downside 77.70 acts as support," Parmar noted.

ALSO READ | Indian rupee hits record low on Fed rate hike worries, crosses 78 per US dollar

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of

Arukha New Speaker OLA

Continued from page-1

members of my party, I congratulate you and we hope that you will give us all equal opportunity in participating and putting forth our views on the floor of the House on the basis of your long-standing Parliamentary experience gathered since 1995."

Similarly, Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra congratulated the new Speaker and said, "There was a tradition that the member resigns from the party after electing as Speaker. All parties have now stopped following the tradition. The same is reflected in the Odisha Assembly too."

He requested the new Speaker, who is having vast experience and successfully discharged duties on various positions including the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, to listen to all members irrespective of their party.

The Congress leader further said that the ruling party should have consulted the Opposition parties before proposing a name for the Speaker post. "The opposition party has not filed nomination for the election and supported the CM. However, if the Opposition parties would be taken into confidence before proposing a name for the Speaker post, it will create a healthy tradition in the democracy," he said.

The 60-year-old Arukha was elected six times from Bhanjanagar assembly constituency in Ganjam district in a row since 1995.

The post of the speaker was lying vacant after Surya Narayan Patro, also from Ganjam district, resigned from the post on June 4 due to his health problems.

Arukha is the sixth MLA from Ganjam district to be elected for the prestigious post and second man from his own constituency — Bhanjanagar.

Before SN Patro, Chintamani Dyan Samantra of the district was the Speaker in the eleventh Assembly. Dyan Samantra, who had been elected as an Independent MLA in 1995 from Chikiti assembly constituency, had served as the speaker from February 16, 1996 to March 10, 2000.

Similarly, Somanath Rath, who had been elected as the MLA from Bhanjanagar segment in Congress ticket in 1980, served as the speaker of eighth Assembly from June 12, 1980 to February 11, 1984.

Lingaraj Panigrahi (July 1, 1961 to March 18, 1967) and Lal Mohan Patnaik (May 29, 1946 to March 6, 1952) from Ganjam district also served as Speaker of the House.

Besides, Rama Chandra Panda, was elected as the Deputy Speaker from March 27, 2000 to February 6, 2004.

Top Congress leaders, workers march in solidarity with Rahul Gandhi

Continued from page-1

poster with ED and CBI written on it was put at the party office in a symbolic protest by the party which has accused the Centre of misusing agencies to target opponents.

"We have tried to show that the ED and CBI are inside BJP's cage. The agencies are no longer autonomous. They have become parrots of BJP," said a worker.

The Congress, which has claimed that the charges against its leaders in the case are baseless and has accused the Modi government of political vendetta, dubbed the march as a start of Mahatma Gandhi's 'Satyagraha' (peaceful resistance).

The ruling BJP, however, criticised the Congress, accusing it of celebrating corruption.

The opposition party's march made it through two points of barricading but was stopped at the third point, where several prominent leaders, as well as workers, were detained and taken away in police vans and buses.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, who shared a picture on Twitter after being taken away by the police, alleged that "thousands" of party workers have been arrested and compared the Modi government to the British imperialists.

Due to the barricading, Rahul Gandhi had to take a detour to reach the probe agency's office and sat in his car for the last few minutes of his 15-minute journey as a sea of people surrounded his vehicle.

While the streets around the headquarters and ED office were heavily barricaded, chaotic scenes erupted as defiant Congress workers refused to move back despite police's numerous warnings.

Prominent among those detained were Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, KC Venugopal and Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

A worker climbed atop a bus in which detainees were being taken away and raised slogans. The police eventually brought him down.

Congress leader Vamshi Chand Reddy also shared a picture of Rajya Sabha MP Venugopal, who was allegedly manhandled by the police during detention.

"This man @ckvenugopalmp is just recovering from Covid but look at his fighting spirit. Got arrested and standing strong with @RahulGandhi, the man fighting for the 'idea of India'," Reddy tweeted.

The party also shared pictures of Priyanka Gandhi meeting the detained leaders at a police station.

The ED will record the statement of the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad in Kerala under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The probe pertains to alleged financial irregularities in the party-promoted Young Indian that owns the National Herald newspaper.

National Herald is published by the Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by Young Indian Pvt Limited.

The Gandhis are expected to be grilled about the incorporation of a Young Indian company, the operations of the National Herald and the fund transfer within the news media establishment.

IPL TV and digital rights valued at Rs 44,075 crore, sold to two entities

MUMBAI: The IPL media rights value for the 2023-2027 cycle has been sold

for per match TV, and digital rights is Rs 107.5 crore. According to ANI

is exclusive for TV (broadcast) for the Indian subcontinent while package B is

each season for digital space. In Package D all games will be for combined TV and



for a whopping Rs 44,075 crore for 410 matches on Monday as per sources in the ongoing e-auctions. According to the latest information with ANI, Package A of TV is sold at Rs 23,575 crore which is Rs 57.5 crore per match and Package B of Digital Rights for India is sold at Rs 20,500 crore which is Rs 50 crore per match. The details of who bid what is yet to come but the value

sources, there are two media houses who have won the bid, one for TV and the other for digital. The media rights value has grown more than two and a half times than what Star India paid in the year 2017. EXPLAINED: IPL's mega media rights auction - what's in store? The process was divided into a total of four packages (A, B, C and D). Package A

for digital-only grouping for the same region. The winner will be able to digitally broadcast the games across the Indian sub-continent. There are four specific packages in which e-auction is being conducted or 74 games per season for a five-year period with a provision of increasing the number of matches to 94 in the final two years. Package C is for 18 selected games in

digital rights for overseas markets. All bidders made separate bids for each package. Bidders for Package A must have a net worth of Rs 1,000 crore; it is Rs 500 crore for those bidding for other packages. The biggest media houses in the country were fighting to earn the right to broadcast the world's richest cricket league on their platform.

Erling Haaland completes move to Manchester City

MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland has come home. The Norway striker finalized his move to Manchester City from Borussia Dortmund for 60 million euros (\$63 million) on Monday to seal his return to England, the country of his birth. His father, Alf-Inge, played for and briefly captained City in the Premier League from 2000-03 and Erling supported the team as a kid, often going to Maine Road — the club's former home — with his mother to watch his father play. He has posted on social media

“He is a huge talent and has been one of the best strikers in Europe over the last few seasons. His goalscoring record is exceptional and his performances at Borussia Dortmund and in the Champions League in particular have proved he can succeed at the highest level. Erling has everything we want in a striker, and we are certain he will excel in this squad and this system.”

Former England striker Gary Lineker called the signing of Haaland a “seminal moment for the Premier League.”

“The first time a young superstar, sought by all, has come to an English club over the Spanish giants,” Lineker said on Twitter.

Haaland has scored 20 goals in 21 appearances for Norway and netted 86 goals in 89 games in two and a half seasons with Dortmund. Before that, he was at Molde in Norway and then Salzburg in Austria, where he initially grabbed the attention of Europe's major clubs thanks to his performances in the Champions League. It's that competition which has proved elusive for City despite its heavy spending on players under its Abu Dhabi ownership since 2008. Haaland's arrival should improve City's chances of becoming European champion — the ring tone of his cell phone is the Champions League anthem — and of retaining the Premier League title.

Pep Guardiola's team didn't play an out-and-out striker last season but still successfully defended the league title and reached the Champions League semifinals.

“There are so many world-class players in this squad and Pep is one of the greatest managers of all time, so I believe I am in the right place to fulfil my ambitions,” Haaland said.

“I want to score goals, win trophies, and improve as a footballer and I am confident I can do that here. This is a great move for me, and I can't wait to get started in pre-season.”



pictures of himself wearing a City jersey as a young boy.

Haaland said his family connections were among the reasons why he is joining City despite interest from many other major clubs in Europe. “First of all, my father, a little bit,” he said. “I was born in England. I have been a City fan my whole life. I know a lot about the club. “In the end, (there were) two things. I feel at home here and I feel I can develop and get the best out of my game at City. I like the style (of play). I like the attacking football. I like the positive vibe we have when City play football. This is what I like a lot, so I think it's a good fit.”

Haaland, regarded as one of the world's top young players along with Kylian Mbappe, is joining on a five-year deal. City activated the release clause in Haaland's Dortmund contract and looks to be getting a superstar on the cheap. “We have been monitoring Erling for several years now, so we are delighted to bring him here to Manchester City,” said Txiki Begiristain, the club's director of football.

New Zealand dismisses England for 539, leads by 14 runs in second Test

NOTTINGHAM: New Zealand will take a 14-run lead into the second innings of the second test against

hitting a six from a reverse-scoop shot typically seen in white-ball cricket, before hammering Boult to

run out for 56 after a mix-up with new batter Matthew Potts, who turned back after initially calling for a

Bracewell. Playing his first test, Bracewell had figures of 3-62.



England on Monday after dismissing the hosts for 539 before lunch on Day 4, with left-arm pacer Trent Boult claiming his 10th five-wicket haul in test matches.

England resumed on 473-5 and Joe Root started aggressively,

Tom Southee at short extra cover for 176.

Root added 13 runs to his overnight score.

Daryl Mitchell took a diving one-handed catch at slip to remove Stuart Broad (9)

off the spin bowling of Michael Bracewell. Ben Foakes was then

quick single.

Boult (5-106) completed his five-fer by bowling Potts through the gate — half of his five-wicket hauls

have come against England — and Jimmy Anderson (9) was the last man out, stumped off Michael

Bracewell. Playing his first test, Bracewell had figures of 3-62.

All results remain possible at Trent Bridge, which has been a batter's paradise so far.

The onus is on New Zealand to win the match after losing the first test at Lord's by five wickets.



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