



Last day of Parliament Monsoon session:
FM Sitharaman to move Central Goods and

PG 05 >>



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On the medical ground SC grants two-month interim bail to NCP leader Nawab Malik



Malik had sought relief from the HC, claiming he was suffering from a chronic kidney disease apart from various other ailments. The Bombay High Court had previously rejected a plea by NCP leader Nawab Malik seeking bail on health grounds in a money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail for two months to former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik on medical grounds in a money laundering case. Opposition NCP, led by Sharad Pawar welcomed bail granted to party MLA Nawab Malik by the Supreme Court. The Bombay High Court had previously rejected a plea by Malik seeking bail on health grounds in a money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Nawab Malik should join BJP to stay out of jail?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Former Maharashtra Minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik was very vocal against the misuse of central agencies. The NCB, then led by the former Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede, had arrested Nawab Malik's son-in-law Samir Khan in January 2021, hurling the NCP leader and minister into controversy's lap. Months later, when Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan was arrested in the drugs-on-cruise case in October 2021, Nawab Malik made a series of verbal jabs against Sameer Wankhede, who was then heading the investigation of the case at the time.

After the war of words with Fadnavis, Malik, late in November

2021, had claimed that a conspiracy was underway to frame him in an 'Anil Deshmukh-style fake case,' allegedly at the 'behest' of some officials in central agencies. Nawab Malik brutally exposed Sameer Wankhede and later on even court raised questions on Sameer Wankhede's intentions in Aryan Khan case, some of the ACB officers claimed that the case against Khan was fake and manipulated to extort money and grab overnight fame. In the name of investigations many Bollywood actors were harassed and booked wrongfully. When Malik madly went after Wankhede the film fraternity got some respite.

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Editoritis

Nawab Malik should join BJP to stay out of jail?

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Many believe that the arrest of Mallik was desired by Sharad Pawar himself because Mallik was growing larger than life in state politics.

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Well, Mallik's arrest came after a passionate feud between the BJP and him. While the latter had accused Fadnavis of protecting Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) official Sameer Wankhede, the saffron party leader had 'exposed' Malik's alleged mafia dealings.

There is another story making rounds in the political corridors about the arrest of Mallik. Many believe that the arrest of Mallik was desired by Sharad Pawar himself because Mallik was growing larger than life in state politics. He became a face of Muslim leaders on all India level, there is still a tendinous craze for him among Muslim organizations, Maulavis and Mosques. Mallik has earned love and respect in these pockets. In Maharashtra, there is an internal conflict between the UP born Muslim leadership and the Marathi Muslim leaderships, the battle being linguistics and provincialism. During his recent tenure he became unstoppable. Nawab Malik, a five-time MLA, was the national spokesperson of Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which was a part of Maharashtra's Shiv Sena-led government. He was the minister in charge of minority affairs.

Nawab is one of the most studious leaders and his arguments in parliament had put BJP and opposition in dizziness. Sharad Pawar has that typical backbiting tendency; he never wants any leader to grow beyond some limits. We have several examples to refer such as Vijay Singh Mohite Patil to Nawab Mallik Pawar who sacrificed many good leaders for his own whims and fancies. We can give many such examples where Sharad Pawar played a culprit in spoiling the careers of his own leaders.

Well, Mallik's arrest came after a passionate feud between the BJP and him. While the latter had accused Fadnavis of protecting Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) official Sameer Wankhede, the saffron party leader had 'exposed' Malik's alleged mafia dealings. Talking to media persons, Malik claimed that he had acquired some emails and WhatsApp chats of officers of central probe agencies "instigating" people to lodge false complaints against him.

The Enforcement Directorate claims Nawab Malik grabbed property in Mumbai's Kurla worth ₹ 300 crore by paying just ₹ 55 lakh in 2005, with the help of Dawood Ibrahim's sister, Haseena Parkar, and two associates. The National Investigation Agency registered a case against Dawood

Ibrahim and his associates for terror financing through hawala networks. There being no First Information Report in the land grab issue, the Enforcement Directorate took note of this case and initiated a money laundering probe.

The agency says a Dawood Ibrahim associate, Salim Patel, had taken control of the Kurla property from its original owners through Power of Attorney in 1999. One portion of this property was transferred to Nawab Malik and the other to Haseena Parkar. Later, in 2005, Nawab Malik paid ₹ 55 lakh to Dawood Ibrahim's sister and bought the entire property, which is how he aided in the financing of Dawood Ibrahim's gang, the agency claims.

Nawab Malik told the Bombay High Court that he has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for a transaction, which is 22 years old, by retrospective application of provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The agency had searched Nawab Malik's residence briefly before taking him to its south Mumbai office. The minister was arrested after over five hours of questioning.

We know that the judicial procedures take time and Mallik has to go through the hell he invited for himself. After repeated appeals, the Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail for two months to Malik on medical grounds. The Bombay High Court had previously rejected a plea by Malik seeking bail on health grounds. Malik had sought relief from the HC, claiming he was suffering from a chronic kidney disease apart from various other ailments. Here after Mallik has three ways, wait for his jail term to finish or come clean in all the cases registered against him or join BJP holding the hand of Ajit Pawar and seek salvation?



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Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road,
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

Vaidehi has received several Awards like I Congo-karmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

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Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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Letters to the Editor

Provide drivable roads before fines are imposed on motorists for any offence!

Observing 'No Honking Day' for a couple of days makes no sense & it actually should be treated as an offence by R.T.O with steep fines on all days so that motorists don't unnecessarily honk for no reason. License of offenders should be suspended & confiscated so that motorists follow driving discipline on roads.

However, if the govt is collecting fines for breaking driving rules for safety reasons, is it not the duty & responsibility of the people in power to provide drivable roads to vehicle owners who pay hefty registration fees, road tax PUC changes & other levies to various govt departments to be eligible to drive their vehicles on roads?

S.N.Kabra

Oversight on Drug Trade

Every house in Punjab is worried that my son will get addicted to drugs. Drug trade is on the rise in terror-stricken Punjab. According to a news report, 900,000 people are registered in de-addiction centers. This is a matter of concern. According to the NCRB, 544 lives were lost due to drugs in the state in the last seven years. 272 deaths are recorded in the past 19 months. From 2016 to 2021, the Police Department seized 1,239.49 kilograms of heroin and 1,044.31 kilograms of opium from drug dealers. But the smuggling is running by now. Border fortification is needed to save Punjab. The government could not stay clueless. It must take an appropriate action as soon as possible. In any case, the government must first of all crack down on drug dealers and put them behind bars, because there is no more important work for the government than this. If the government does not become strict, drug addiction will increase among young people and the elderly.

Aitbar Ahmad

A step closer

The passage of the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill, 2023 in Rajya Sabha, is a step closer towards realising the long-awaited reforms process that includes theaterisation of the Armed Forces in India. The Integration of forces with renewed vigour and future-readiness will indeed be a confidence booster. The passage of the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill, 2023 is a significant step in that direction.

Jahangir Ali

Needless accommodation

It is not a shock or a surprise if the Supreme Court is seen to be overly deferential to the wishes of the government. The order allowing Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra to continue till September 15 on the Centre's request is unduly accommodating. On July 11, the court declared the extension granted to Mr. Mishra in 2021 and 2022 as illegal.

As the anti-money laundering enforcement agency, the ED may have a key role in developing the country's offering, but it is hard to believe that the process rests on a single individual. One can understand the argument that the country's image depends on a positive review by the FATF, but the claim that not extending Mr. Mishra could result in a "negative image" is far-fetched. India's credentials will be assessed on its compliance with laws, systems, and global standards and not on who prepared the report. The court's authorization prevents the government from committing to accountability for actions it itself has declared illegal.

G.Champa

HAPPY HAPPIER HAPPIEST



Happiness and detachment are indeed both states of mind, but they differ in their nature and their relationship to external factors.

Happiness is often associated with positive emotions and a sense of contentment. It is typically derived from fulfilling desires, achieving goals, or experiencing pleasant circumstances. Happiness may fluctuate depending on various external factors such as relationships, material possessions, achievements, and life circumstances. People often pursue happiness by seeking out these external factors and relying on them for their well-being.

On the other hand, detachment refers to a state of being free from attachment or dependence on these external factors. It is the ability to let go of desires, expectations, and clinging to outcomes. Detachment doesn't necessarily mean being emotionless or

apathetic; it means having a sense of inner peace and freedom from being controlled or affected by external circumstances. Detachment allows individuals to observe and experience their thoughts, emotions, and situations without being consumed by them.

While happiness may be influenced by external factors and is often reliant on specific conditions, detachment allows for a sense of inner peace regardless of external circumstances. Detachment enables individuals to avoid being caught up in the rollercoaster of emotions and desires, and instead, find stability within themselves. It allows people to approach life with equanimity and acceptance, regardless of whether situations bring happiness or sadness.

In comparing the two, happiness can be fleeting and subject to change, as it often depends on external conditions and circumstances. Detachment,

on the other hand, offers a more consistent and stable state of mind, not reliant on external factors. By cultivating detachment, individuals can experience a deeper sense of contentment and inner peace, independent of external circumstances.

It's important to note that detachment does not necessarily mean completely avoiding or withdrawing from experiencing life; it is more about letting go of attachment to outcomes and finding a sense of inner harmony. While the pursuit of happiness is natural and valid, embracing detachment can provide a greater sense of freedom, resilience, and inner well-being.

-Er. Rajesh Pathak

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com
No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

We are confident that he will soon be declared innocent: Narendra Rane, Mumbai NCP chief of Ajit Pawar group on Nawab Malik bail



It is wrong to say that Nawab Bhai has been granted bail because NCP joined hands with the BJP. We were always sure that Nawab Bhai cannot do any wrong and it was the case in ED which resulted in him being under arrest for so long. We are confident that he will soon be declared innocent. Nawab Bhai

has yet not declared his support to Ajit dada, but as we all know he has always maintained good relationship with Ajit dada. Once he comes out, he will decide the right thing," Narendra Rane, Mumbai NCP chief of Ajit Pawar group.

The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail for two months to former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik on medical grounds in a money laundering case. Malik had sought relief from the HC, claiming he was suffering from a chronic kidney disease apart from various other ailments.

Train firing incident: Court rejects police's request for narco test after accused RPF refuses to consent

The Borivali magistrate court on Friday rejected the application of Borivali railway police seeking permission for brain-mapping, narco, polygraph tests. This comes after RPF constable Chetansinh Chaudhary, 33, refused to give consent to undergo three scientific analysis tests. The court also sent the accused constable to 14-day judicial custody. Chaudhary is allegedly of killing his senior officer and three passengers on board the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express on July 31.

Police seek permission for brain-mapping, narco, polygraph tests

The Government Railway Police (GRP) has moved an application before the Borivali magistrate court seeking permission to perform three scientific analysis tests (brain-mapping, narco-analysis and polygraph tests) on RPF constable Chetan Singh, who allegedly killed his senior officer and three passengers on board the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express on July 31.

ITS Francesco Morosini, Italian Navy's Multipurpose Offshore Patrol Vessel, arrived in Mumbai



ITS Francesco Morosini, Italian Navy's Multipurpose Offshore Patrol Vessel, arrived in Mumbai yesterday for a port-call as part of a world tour that will see the patrolling vessel engage in a five-month-long deployment in the Indo-Pacific area. According to the officers on board the vessel, the patrolling vessel is slated to be stationed at Mumbai Port Trust until September. This is the first Italian vessel to arrive in India since the 2012 incident wherein two Italian marines on board oil tanker Enrica Lexie gunned down two Indian fishermen returning from a fishing expedition near Lakshadweep islands on board fishing vessel St Antonio on February 15, 2012.

Nitin Desai suicide case: Bombay HC to hear Edelweiss officials' plea on Aug 18, issues notice

The Bombay High Court has issued notice in connection with the pleas filed by Rashesh Shah, chairman of Edelweiss Financial Services and Raj Kumar Bansal, the CEO of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, along with its official Keyur Mehta and Jitendra Kothari insolvency resolution professional. The petitioners sought to quash the FIR against them under charges of abetment to suicide in connection with the death of art director Nitin Desai. The accused have



also sought interim relief of "no coercive action" and requested that the probe be stayed until the hearing of the plea. The HC will

hear the pleas in August 18 when the prayer for interim relief will be considered. The HC said they can wait till hearing in next week.

HC refuses immediate relief to accused from coercive action in Nitin Desai death case

Bombay High Court to hear pleas of accused in art director Nitin Desai death case on August 18. The Bombay High Court on Friday refused immediate relief in pleas by Rashesh Shah, the

chairman of Edelweiss Financial Services, and Raj Kumar Bansal, the CEO of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, along with its official Keyur Mehta and Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP)

Jitendra Kothari, seeking to quash the FIR against them under abetment to suicide charge in connection with the death of art director Nitin Desai. The high court will hear the pleas on August 18.

Devendra Fadnavis to be on five-day tour to Japan from Aug 20

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will head to Japan for a five-day tour from August 20, following invitation from the Japan government. During the visit, Maharashtra government is likely to enter into collaborations in projects related



to infrastructure, education and social sector.

Maharashtra: Two men attacked, killed in Nashik city; four detained

Two persons were attacked and killed by a group of youngsters, some of them minors, in Maharashtra's Nashik city, police said on Friday.

The police have detained four persons, including two minors, in connection with the attack that took place at Sanjeevnagar area

in Ambad MIDC on Thursday night, an official said.

The incident took place around 7.30 pm when a group of seven to eight youngsters attacked two men with sharp weapons, he said.

Mehraj Asgar Ali Khan (18) died on the spot, while his

friend Ibrahim Hasan Sheikh (23) succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at the district civil hospital, the official said.

The attack was captured by the close circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed in the area, he said. PTI

Nation

Last day of Parliament Monsoon session: FM Sitharaman to move Central Goods and Service Tax Amendment Bill



in Lok Sabha, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Centre is set to push legislation in Lok Sabha to impose a 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) for online gaming, casinos and horse racing. Sitharaman will also introduce the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023. Both bills will be discussed for consideration and passage. YSRCP MP Reddeppa Nallakonda Gari will move a private member resolution on the 'Beautification and Modernization of Railway Stations under the Adarsh Station Scheme' in the Lower House. ANI

The ongoing session of Parliament is set to conclude on Friday after three weeks of tumult, during which the Opposition and treasury benches faced-off on the issue of ethnic violence in Manipur. Meanwhile, the suspension of the Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the

Lok Sabha is likely to dominate proceedings in the Lower House. Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has called a meeting of party Lok Sabha MPs today morning to discuss the suspension of Chowdhury. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the party's parliamentary office at 10:30 am. According to the listed legislative business

Goa govt incurred 'infructuous' spending of Rs 1.91 crore through excess procurement of tur dal during pandemic: CAG

The Goa government incurred "infructuous expenditure" of Rs 1.91 crore on procurement of tur dal or pigeon peas for distribution to people during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Comptroller Auditor General (CAG) has said in its report. The tur dal procured was 400 metric tonnes (MT), which was in excess to the quantity required for its distribution to citizens, it said, adding that more than 240 MT of the produce remained undistributed and ultimately became unsafe for consumption, even for cattle and poultry. The CAG 2021 report,

which mentioned this, was tabled in the state legislative assembly on Thursday, the last day of the Monsoon session.

The state civil supplies department faced a loss of Rs 1.91 crore due to the procurement of large quantity of tur dal without assessment of consumer demand and lifting capacity of the fair price shops in the state, the CAG said. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (DCSCA) decided to provide a relief to the population of 2.04 lakh above poverty line and Annapurna ration card holders (ANP) by sup-

plying one kg tur dal per cardholder for four months (April to July 2020) under the public distribution system, the report said. The CAG observed that the sale of 100 metric tonnes of tur dal was planned through the Goa State Horticultural Corporation Limited (GSHCL), while the remaining produce was to be sold through fair price shops. Accordingly, the DCSCA placed an order with the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) on March 30, 2020 for the supply of 800 MT of tur dal at Rs 79,000 per metric tonnes, the report said. PTI

Haryana: Curfew lifted in Nuh district; schools reopen

Schools and educational institutions on Friday opened in Nuh after being shut down due to incidents of violence. The district administration had said that the curfew will be relaxed from 7 am to 3 pm today.

According to Ravinder Jain, Principal of Model Sanskriti Sr. Sec. School, some students from the primary section have returned



to school, but higher-grade students are still not attending.

"Some students of the primary section have come however the higher grade students

are not coming. Students who are participating in the 15th August program have also come. This is a good move by the administration," he said. ANI

New bill on IPC will completely repeal offence of sedition: Amit Shah in LS



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said in Lok Sabha that the new bill on the Indian Penal Code (IPC) will completely repeal the offence of sedition. Shah introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha to replace the IPC, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act. Speaking on the three bills in the Lower House, Amit Shah said, "Under this law, we are repealing laws like Sedition."

"From 1860 to 2023, the country's criminal justice system

functioned as per the laws made by the British. With these three laws there will be a major change in the criminal justice system in the country," he said.

"Under this Bill, we have set the goal that the conviction ratio has to be taken above 90 per cent. That is why, we have brought an important provision that the Sections which provide for 7 years or a greater jail term, under all those cases forensic team's visit to the crime scene will be made compulsory," Amit Shah said. ANI

"Allow Ariha to celebrate Indian Independence day in Germany": Family stage protest

Dhara Shah, mother of Ariha Shah, Indian baby in German foster care, held a demonstration on Friday at Jantar mantar demanding that German authorities allow Ariha to celebrate Independence Day with the Indian Community in Germany in order to protect her cultural rights. Ariha's family says they will go to the German embassy and request the German Ambassador that since the Indian Independence day is around the corner, Ariha should be allowed to celebrate the Independence day of her country. Dhara said that it is her cultural right and it needs to be preserved.

"We will go to the German embassy. We will request the German ambassador that 15th August is coming and every Indian has the right to celebrate it. We will ask him to let Ariha celebrate the Indian independence day. She should not be deprived of her cultural identity," Dhara Shah said while speaking to ANI.

"Our main motive to gather here is that Ariha has cultural



rights and they should be preserved," she added. She said that in June this year, the court gave Ariha's German child services. "We are here to restore Ariha's rights. She is an Indian citizen, she has linguistic and social rights which should be preserved," she said.

"They told us yesterday that all visitation is closed because they have no one to pick and drop Ariha. They also returned the gifts we gave her during the previous visitation. We don't know where she is and in which condition. We are worried about her safety," Dhara Shah said. She also demanded that the Indian embassy should get consular access. ANI

World

China, Russia and Iran are engaged in foreign interference in New Zealand, intelligence agency says



China, Iran and Russia are engaged in foreign interference in New Zealand, the nation's domestic intelligence agency said Friday after making its threat assessment report public for the first time.

In the report, Director-General of Security Andrew Hampton said the Security Intelligence Service sees enormous value in sharing more of its insights publicly.

The agency had previously taken a secretive approach. It

decided to change course after it and other agencies were criticised for focusing too much on the perceived threat from Islamic extremism and being blindsided when a white supremacist shot and killed 51 worshippers at two Christchurch mosques in 2019. In the report, the agency says the most notable case of foreign interference is the continued targeting of the nation's diverse Chinese communities by people with links to the intelligence arm of China's ruling Communist Party.

It said China's efforts to advance its political, economic and military involvement in the Pacific was driving strategic competition. The agency said it was aware and concerned about ongoing Chinese intelligence activity "in and against New Zealand." The report said Iran had been engaged in societal interference by monitoring and reporting on Iranian communities and dissident groups in New Zealand.

The agency linked Russia's war in Ukraine to a number of problems, including increased geopolitical competition, supply chain disruptions, and efforts to spy on other countries and seed disinformation. "Russia's international disinformation campaigns have not targeted New Zealand specifically, but have had an impact on the views of some New Zealanders," the report found. PTI

Journalist jailed in China for 3 years describes standing in sunlight for just 10 hours each year



A Chinese-Australian journalist who worked for China's state broadcaster and was convicted on murky espionage charges has spoken out about her detention conditions, including being able to stand in sunlight for just 10 hours a year.

In a letter to the Australian public, on the three-year anniversary of her detention, journal-

ist Cheng Lei voices her love for her adopted country. After being found guilty on national security charges at a closed-door trial last year, Cheng has yet to be sentenced.

"I relive every bushwalk, river, lake, beach with swims and picnics and psychedelic sunsets, sky that is lit up with stars, and the silent and secret symphony

of the bush," Cheng said, in the letter shared by her partner, Nick Coyle. She hasn't seen a tree since she was detained, she wrote, and she misses the sun. "In my cell, the sunlight shines through the window but I can stand in it for only 10 hours a year." Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the nation would continue to support Cheng and her family and advocate for her interests and well-being. "Ms. Cheng's message to the public makes clear her deep love for our country," Wong said in a statement. "All Australians want to see her reunited with her children." Wong said Australia had consistently advocated for Cheng and "asked that basic standards of justice, procedural fairness and humane treatment to be met for Ms. Cheng, in accordance with international norms." Coyle said Cheng had been allowed to write to him since last September in an interview with the national broadcaster Australian Broadcasting Corp. PTI

UN to focus on North Korea rights violations and missile program



The United States has requested a public UN Security Council meeting on August 17 to review North Korea's human rights record and how it relates to global peace and security, Voice of America (VOA) reported. North Korea launched numerous intercontinental ballistic missiles as well as a large number of ballistic missiles this year, according to Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

North Korea frequently claims that the joint military drills between the United States and South Korea are to blame for the tense situation on the Korean Peninsula and claims that its missile programme is designed to intimidate and "strike fear" into its adversaries, VOA reported. "We know the government's human rights abuses and violations facilitate the advancement of its unlawful weapons of mass de-

struction and ballistic missiles program," Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told reporters in a joint interaction with the ambassadors of South Korea, Japan and Albania. "The Security Council must address the horrors, the abuses and the crimes being perpetrated daily by the Kim regime against its own citizens, and people from other member states, including Japan and the Republic of Korea," the US envoy said about the systemic human rights abuses, VOA reported.

The United States holds the 15-nation Security Council's rotating presidency this month and Thomas-Greenfield has said that human rights would be the core theme. It is the first time the council will hold a public session on the rights issue in the North Korea since 2017 and the US envoy said it is "long overdue." ANI

US: Death toll in Hawaii wildfire climbs to 53



At least 53 people have now been killed by the Lahaina fire as the firefighting efforts continue in Hawaii, CNN reported citing Maui County's statement. Maui County in the statement said, "As firefighting efforts continue, 17 additional fatalities have been confirmed today amid the active Lahaina fire. This brings the

death toll to 53 people." More than 14,000 people have been shifted from the island of Maui on Wednesday (local time) amid raging wildfires. Hawai'i Tourism Authority in a news release said that an additional 14,500 people are expected to be moved off by the end of Thursday, according to CNN. ANI

Setback for AAP as Delhi Bill Passes in Rajya Sabha



Satish Singh

Senior Columnist

Finally, the Delhi Service Bill, which limits the authority of the Kejriwal government, was passed in the Rajya Sabha as well. In the Rajya Sabha on Monday, 131 votes were cast in support of the bill and 102 votes against it. However, now after being passed by both the Houses of Parliament, the bill will take the form of law after the signature of the President. The central government has successfully passed this bill to control the arbitrariness, corruption and irregularities of the Kejriwal government, due to which the opposition and especially the Congress has also been defeated.

The stubbornness, arrogance and political ambition of the Aam Aadmi Party got defeated in front of the Constitution in the 'Parliament', the temple of democracy. Because the constitution does not only give rights, it also expects pure conduct. Undoubtedly, this is a historic victory of the BJP government because earlier it was being speculated that despite getting the votes of all the allies of the NDA, the central government would not be able to get the bill passed in the Rajya Sabha. That too when all the constituents of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance 'India', including the AAP and the Congress, which were constant attackers on each other, had united against the bill. In fact, due to the majority in the Lok Sabha, the NDA government had easily passed the bill, but the lack of majority in the Rajya Sabha increased its concern. At such a time, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal and Jagan Mohan Reddy's party YSRCP crossed the NDA's boat. Definitely a major failure of the 'India' alliance. Due to corruption and violation of other democratic values, this kind of defeat is also necessary for the new India, despite Delhi being the national capital; the Aam Aadmi Party and its leader Arvind Kejriwal have continuously shown insensitivity towards the people of Delhi for their political ambitions.

Remember that the Aam Aadmi Party tried its level best to stop the passage of this bill. AAP's surveyor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal even went on a 'India tour' to garner support for the bill from chief ministers of all non-BJP governments and anti-BJP political parties. Even after the opposition of Delhi Congress, the national leadership of Congress was forced to support the Aam Aadmi Party against this bill in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Even after this, when nothing came in the hands of AAP, its leaders tried to adopt other unethical and undemocratic ways as well. In Rajya Sabha, AAP MP Raghav Chadha proposed to send this bill to the Select Committee. Expressing strong objection, five members of the ruling party said that their names were included in the resolution without their consent, which considering its high degree of arbitrariness, forgery and crime, demanded that the matter be sent to the Privileges Committee, Deputy Chairman Harivansh. There is talk of investigation. It is possible that your MP Raghav Chadha may be punished for this.

Tales of various kinds of corruption and forgery had become a common thing in the Delhi government; the irony is that the AAP government, which specializes in mobilizing the sympathy of the innocent people of the country by terming these corruptions as BJP's ploy, did not even spare the Parliament. The AAP party, caught in the allegations of forgery inside the Parliament, instead of showing regret, has started making noise that the BJP is now after its MP Raghav Chadha, fearing action. It is the same thing that 'one is theft and on top of that, pilferage'. If Raghav Chadha is right, he has not committed any forgery, then why should he and his party leaders need to fear?

The politics and thinking of the AAP party and its leader Kejriwal is distorted, their behaviour is false, they have covered more masks than faces, they have destroyed all democratic and political values. Due to such worthless politics, crores of people are worried and confused about the future of the country. The time has come to be cautious and careful to preserve the glorious heritage of the country's political culture. New standards will have to be set in front of the directionless leadership. Those



political parties who consider forgery and corruption as normal, they will have to be shown a mirror. Say anything, do anything to throw dust in the eyes of the public everywhere and go ahead by apologizing when exposed that perverted thinking, cleverness and opportunistic politics have to be controlled. Perhaps the successful passing of the Delhi Service Bill in the Parliament is a worthwhile initiative in this direction, a lesson, a message that beware those who mislead the country.

AAP's leaders, who understand political dissension as politics, should understand that a platform like Parliament is not meant for such petty, narrow and selfish activities. Anything should be placed on any table of the Parliament only after serious investigation. But those who have made the assembly of Delhi as their political fiefdom and have made it an arena to vent their anger and commit arbitrariness, how fair would it be to expect the dignity of Parliament from them? Even if Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called this bill enslaving the people of Delhi or other opposition parties including Congress have said that the central government does not have the moral authority to bring this bill, it is an attack on the federal structure, etcetera. Amit Shah answered the questions and allegations of the AAP party and its allied parties in a very logical and factual manner while keeping the government's stand on this bill. Shah said that it was necessary to bring the bill in view of the manner in which the

Kejriwal government of Delhi had started transfers of officers after the Supreme Court's decision and made the investigation files disappear overnight. The AAP government was desperate to keep the vigilance probing several cases against the Delhi government under its wing so that corruption would not be exposed.

Certainly, the AAP government's unnecessary confrontation with the central government has resulted in the fact that Delhi will hardly get full statehood now. The people of Delhi suffered a lot due to the passing of this bill. The Central Government gave full details of the historical background of Delhi, the capital of the country, the status of the state in 1993, with the discussion about the rights and functions of Delhi in the Constituent Assembly, with the Legislative Assembly with limited powers. Obviously Delhi is not a full state and the Central Government has the right to make laws on any subject of Delhi as per the constitutional provisions. Skilled, experienced and mature Chief Minister runs his administration in the light of these things by constructive cooperation with the Centre. During the time of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dixit, there was never any confrontation with the centre and she always got the cooperation and support of the Central Government. Kejriwal, who considers himself the Chanakya of politics, could not understand this in his short political career.

Entertainment



Raghav Chadha, Parineeti Chopra twin in blue as duo papped at airport

Newly-engaged celebrity couple Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha popularly known as 'RagNeeti' were spotted twinning in blue outfits in Mumbai on Friday. Several pictures and videos of the couple have surfaced on social media in which they could be seen coming out of their car and walking towards the airport security check.

Parineeti looked beautiful in a long blue coat and matching pants with a white top. She paired the look with white sneakers and dark sunglasses.

Raghav, on the other hand, looked dapper in a light blue check shirt paired with black pants and brown shoes. The couple was seen waving at the paps before heading inside the airport. The duo got engaged on May 13 at Kapurthala house in New Delhi in the presence of their loved ones. **ANI**

Jeff Lewis apologises to Kyle Richards for shady comment

Jeffrey Thomas Lewis, a radio and television personality, issued a clarification after implying that American actress Kyle Richards "was a lesbian on Ozempic" earlier this week. The 'Jeff Lewis Live' host explained in a statement to Page Six, "I was simply poking fun at these ridiculous rumours that have been circulating about my friend, Kyle. I never expected anyone to take this seriously and have apologized publicly and privately."

Lewis said with a direct message to Richards, "If I could say one thing to Kyle; please text me back." After he made the remark, the 'Real Housewives of Beverly Hills' actor stopped responding to his texts that he revealed on Wednesday. He told TMZ, adding that he was unaware whether his friend was upset or not, "I've yet to hear back. I don't know. I hope not." **ANI**



The 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) commenced on August 10 (local time) with an inauguration press conference which marked the presence of several B-town celebs like Karan Johar, Kartik Aaryan, Mrunal Thakur, and Vijay Varma among others. Several pictures from the film festival are currently surfacing on social media.

In one such picture, filmmaker Karan Johar and actor Kartik Aaryan could be seen posing together for the camera.

In the picture, both KJo and Kartik could be seen donning formal suits. In another picture, both the celebs could be seen sitting together.

The 'Dhamaka' actor will be honoured with the Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema award at the annual awards Gala night on August 11.

ANI

Kartik Aaryan's poses with Karan Johar at Melbourne film festival, pic goes viral