

Why government rush on women's quota law?

An all-party meet should be held after April assembly polls.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday, asking why the government was in a "great hurry" to amend the women's quota law.

In his letter to Rijiju, Kharge also reiterated that an all-party meeting should be held on the matter after the current round of assembly elections is completed in April.

Kharge's letter came in response to one from the Union minister to the Congress chief seeking a meeting with the party on plans to amend the Nari Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, suggesting that the meeting be held after April 29th, 2026, to discuss the



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023," the Congress president said.

"I simply fail to understand why the government is in such great hurry to further amend a Constitutional Amendment Act, 30 months after it was initially passed. We are all extremely busy with the election campaign. That is the reason why we had suggested that the meeting be held after the election campaign is over," Kharge said.

This will, in no way, affect the implementation of the amended Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, from the 2029 Lok Sabha election onwards, he said. "In fact, on 21st September, 2023, during the debate in the Rajya Sabha, I had myself demanded the immediate implementation of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, but the government had not agreed with my demand. I once again request you to convene an all-party meet-

ing any time after April 29, 2026," Kharge said.

Several opposition parties on Tuesday wrote to the government, asking for an all-party meeting to be convened to discuss the modalities of the implementation of the women's quota law. In a letter to Rijiju, the opposition leaders had said the meeting should be held after the current round of assembly elections is completed in April.

"You may recall that I had written to you on March 16, 2026, requesting that an all-party meeting chaired by the PM be convened at the earliest to discuss, as desired by you, the modalities and roadmap for the implementation of the Nari Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023," the letter written on Congress president Kharge's letterhead had said. The letter had signatories from several opposition parties, except the Trinamool Congress.

'Connected Worlds'

MUMBAI: Amazon Ads marked 10 years in India by hosting its first major event, 'Connected Worlds' in Mumbai, unveiling AI-powered tools, simplified campaign management, and the Amazon Ads Creators Program to help brands enhance customer engagement.

The platform integrates content, edtech, and commerce to deliver a seamless full-funnel advertising experience. Key innovation includes Creative Agents—an AI tool enabling advertisers to create high-quality ads quickly using retail insights and natural language prompts, making advanced advertising accessible to brands of all sizes.

The company introduced Creative Agents, an AI tool that helps advertisers create high-quality ads quickly using retail insights and natural language prompts, enabling brands of all sizes to deliver effective campaigns across the consumer journey.

HC notice to K'taka CM, wife, Lokayukta police and ED

Press Trust Of India

Closure report filed by the Lokayukta police in the MUDA site (plot) allotment case.

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court on Thursday ordered serving notices to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his wife Parvathi B M in connection with the closure report filed by the Lokayukta police in the MUDA site (plot) allotment case. The court also sought a response from the Lokayukta police and the Enforcement Directorate on the B-Report (Closure report). Hearing a plea filed by activist Snehamayi Krishna challenging the B-Report filed by the Lokayukta police, Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav ordered the issue of notices. In the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case, allegations were made that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife in an

upscale area of Mysuru, with a higher property value than the location of her land that had been acquired by MUDA. MUDA had allotted plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land, where it devel-

FASTFACTS

● **Allegation:** Siddaramaiah's wife got costlier Mysuru site.

● **MUDA gave Parvathi plots under 50:50 scheme for 3.16 acres.**

oped a residential layout. Under the scheme, MUDA allots 50 per cent of developed land to landowners in exchange for undeveloped land acquired for residential layouts. The Karnataka Lokayukta police, which registered the case against Siddaramaiah, his wife, and his brother-in-law, later gave them a clean chit by filing a closure report, which was admitted by the Special Court to try Public Representatives on January 28.

NEWSLINE

SRINAGAR

CIK raids

The counter intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday carried out raids at multiple locations in the valley in connection with a UAPA case and cracked a transnational terror recruitment module operated by the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, officials said. The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) conducted extensive searches across three districts of Srinagar, Ganderbal, and Shopian, leading to the busting of the module operating in coordination with handlers from across the border and in connivance with a network based in Bangladesh, they said. The searches were carried out at 10 locations in the Kashmir Valley in pursuance of search warrants issued by the court of special judge designated under the NIA Act, Srinagar, in connection with case FIR No. 01/2026 under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act registered at CIK police station, the officials said.

'They hugged him, then killed him': Teen stabbed to death

Press Trust Of India

Mother says attackers known, lured him out then attacked.

NEW DELHI: Three juveniles have been apprehended for the murder of a 16-year-old boy, who was stabbed to death near his home in Delhi's Dayalpur area for allegedly bullying one of the accused, police said on Thursday.

The victim's mother claimed that the attackers were known to her son, luring him outside before assaulting him. "He was called out by three to four boys. As soon as he stepped outside, they first hugged him and then stabbed him multiple times," she told PTI.

"He never fought with anyone. He was killed for no reason," she added. In response to the incident, the victim's father has urged the police to try the accused juveniles



FASTFACTS

● **Victim's father urged police to try the accused juveniles as adults.**

as adults. According to the police, the incident occurred on Wednesday night when a few peo-

ple called the teenager out of his house. Shortly afterwards, his family members found him lying unconscious nearby and rushed him to Jag Pravesh Chandra (JPC) Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. During the prelimi-

NAME CHANGE NOTICE

I, Kanchana, residing behind the Oil Depot, Tarbahar, Bilaspur (C.G.) - 495001, hereby declare that my pre-marital name was "Kanchana" which has been changed to "Kanchana Das". Therefore, the aforementioned name shall be valid in all government and legal records henceforth. Date: 26 March 2026 Place: Bilaspur (C.G.)

Sincerely
Kanchana Das

NAME CHANGE

I, HERMAN TOPPO, Son of ATWA MARSHAL, Residing at HK-5 POLICE LINE PARRI SURAJPUR C.G 497229, hereby declare that I have changed my name from HERMAN KUMAR TOPPO (old name in High School exam certificate) to HERMAN TOPPO (New name) for all future purposes.

HERMAN TOPPO
HK-5 POLICE LINE PARRI SURAJPUR C.G 497229

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

1st Floor, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Divisional Office, Magarpara Road, Bilaspur C.G. Ph: 07752-418136

(Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the securitization of financial assets & reconstruction and security interest Act 2002). (1) Sr. No. (2) Loan A/c No. (3) Borrowers Name & Address (4) Property Address (5) Sanction Amount & Date (6) O/S Amount Due.

Sr. No.	Loan Number	Name of Applicant/ Gurantors and Address	Address of Property	Sanction loan in Rs Date	Amount Due in ₹
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	12020007423 12020007424 8003020002504	Borrowers- Mr. Ashok Kumar Gidwani, Ms. Sapna Gidwani, Mr. Mohit Kumar Gidwani, Ms. Pushpa Bai Gidwani. All of their Add.: 38, Narayni Tower, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001. Bounded: North- Road, South-Plot of Mr. Janadin Singh, East- Road, West-House of Mr. Rao	All the piece and parcel of the Plot no. 569, Khasra No. 1216/23, having area 1658 sq.ft., Hemu Nagar, Mouza Torwa, Ph no. 22/34, Ward no. 38, Shaheed Hemu Colony Nagar Ward, Sheet No. 14/11, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001.	40,00,000/- 15/11/2021 30,00,000/- 15/11/2021 20,00,000/- 24/06/2025	Rs. 81,63,728.00/- + Interest & other Charges.

On your request we have sanctioned home loan to you in the form of financial amount as per the conditions in the agreement, which was accepted by you. (1) Details regarding the aforesaid amount of loan, date of sanction and you account number is mentioned above. (2) As you are aware that loan amount disbursed to you is secured against above mentioned (Column No. 4) Assets/ Security contact (secure asset). For this you have executed the necessary documents and pledged as security. (3) We also inform you that frequent notices were served upon you to repay the total amount of loan and you were requested orally also for the same but so far you have not settled the amount of loan. You are therefore at a serious fault for the repayment of the loan (4) Upto today's date you are liable to pay the above amount column no. 6. (5) Due to the reasons mentioned above, we hereby inform you that you that you pay the total amount payable by you within 60 days of receipt of this notice, if the amount is not paid, we shall use the powers entrusted to us under section 13(4) of the securitization act. (6) The amount realised after acting under the above power firstly be used for all the expenses and charges, which in our opinion have been spent genuinely or related to the matter. The remaining amount will be used to clear our dues upto days date 31.03.2026 to execute the agreement as mentioned above and the balance amount (if any) will be paid to you (7) Under Section 13 (13) of the act be informed that you can not transfer/sale/mortgage any of the secured assets mentioned in the notice, after you have received the notice without a written and complete permission from the loan payer. (8) Under section 13 (10) of the act we also inform you that if the amount of loan given by (DRT). This Demand Notice is being published in two newspapers.

By Order- Authorised Officer
LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1,11/2 &12/28, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Branch Office: Malay Heights 1st Floor, Above IDBI Bank, In front of RBI, Mahadevghat Road, Sundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)-492001.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagees have availed loans from Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as Non-performing Asset, whereas Jana Small Finance Bank Limited being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower's/Co-Borrower's/Guarantor's/Mortgagees as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower / Guarantor/ Mortgagee	Loan Account No. & Loan amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount due in Rs/ as on
1	1) Mr. Lalit Singh S/o. Manharan Singh, 2) Mr. Manharansingh S/o. Ajitsingh	Loan Account No.: 31399420000613 Loan Amount: Rs.8,40,000/-	All that piece and parcel of Diverted land bearing part of old Khasra No. 1446 & New Khasra No. 1446/2, total admeasuring area of 139.38 Sq. Mtrs., together with construction thereon, Mouza Gram - Champa, Situated at Railway Colony Ward, P.H. No. 7, Ward No. 17, R.N.M. Champa, Block Bhamidih, Tehsil Champa & District Janjgir Champa (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Inner Road, West by: Remaining land of Seller, North by: Remaining land of Seller and South by: Remaining land of Seller.	NPA Date: 03-03-2026 & Demand Notice date: 23-03-2026	Rs. 8,60,264.43/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Four and Forty Three Paise Only) as on 12-03-2026

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor & Mortgagee as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/Co-Borrower within 60 days of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to Jana Small Finance Bank Limited against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagees of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor. Date: 26.03.2026, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.) Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

CIN: L65190MH2004G0148838
Registered Office: W-4/638A, Manappuram House, P.O. Valad, Thiruvananthapuram-689 567, Kerala, India

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/04/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-
RAIGARH, KOTRA ROAD, 126070700024624
Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:-
Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of Cash on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 7076372064.

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

IDBI BANK LTD. Regional Office- Bilaspur (C.G.)

CIN: L65190MH2004G0148838

APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IDBI BANK LIMITED under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice(s) dated as below mentioned dates calling upon the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagee(s) as mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and same is mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/ Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/ Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/ Mortgagee(s) in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of IDBI BANK LIMITED, for amount mentioned below and interest thereon. The Borrower's/ Mortgagee's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl No.	Name of the Borrowers, Mortgagees	Date of 1) Demand Notice & 2) Possession Notice	Claim Amount as per demand notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
1.	Borrower- Shri K Appal Raju S/o Shri K Pakeer & Co-borrower Smt. V S Tejasri Pinninti W/o Shri K Appal Raju, Branch- Link Road, Bilaspur	(1)28.11.2025 (2)23.03.2026	Rs. 35,37,771.35/- + Further Interest & Other Charges thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Residential Land and Building bearing Mouza- Mahmand, P.H. No.-40/24, RNM-Bilaspur, Vikas Khand-Bilha, Tehsil and Dist- Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, Gram Panchayat Mahmand, Khasra No.- 7/36, Area- 2400 Sq. Feet within the Registration Sub-District Bilaspur and District Bilaspur. Bounded: North: Land of M M Pathak, South: Land of Hira Das., East : Sold property of Rafik., West : 20 foot wide Road. Together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.
2.	Borrower- Shri Chatratr Shiv Kumar Rao S/o Shri Chatratr Ram Lakman Rao & Co-borrower- Mrs. Chatratr Reeta Rao W/o Shri Chatratr Shiv Kumar Rao. Branch: Vyapar Vihar, Bilaspur	(1)11.12.2025 (2)23.03.2026	Rs. 29,26,885/- + Further Interest & Other Charges thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No 307 (Area 686 Sqft.), 3rd floor, Om Heights Apartment, Situated at kh. No. 883/5, 885/14, 883/6, 885/15 sheet no.-27, Bhukhand kramank-189, Mauza-Juna Bilaspur, PH. No.-22/34, RNM-Bilaspur, Vyapar Vihar Road, Ward no.-19 Sanjay Gandhi nagar ward Tehsil & Dist- Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh within the Registration Sub-District Bilaspur and District Bilaspur. Bounded:North: Place for stair, South: Flat No.-306, East: Passage, West: Open Sky. Together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.
3.	Borrower-Shri Harsh Chand S/o Shri Chit Ram & Co-borrower, Smt. Divya Sahu W/o Shri Harsh Chand. Branch: Vyapar Vihar, Bilaspur	(1)28.11.2025 (2)23.03.2026	Rs. 23,01,415.67/- + Further Interest & Other Charges thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Bhukhand Kramank: D/270, Yadunandan nagar plot No. 04 Rani Durgabai Ward, Yadunandan nagar plot No. D/270 Chhattisgarh within the Registration Sub-District Bilaspur and District Bilaspur. Bounded: North : 30ft Road, South : House No D/243, East: House No D/271, West: House No D/269. Together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

Date : 27.03.2026, Place : Bilaspur Authorised Officer, IDBI Bank Limited

AXIS BANK

AXIS Bank Ltd
A.C.Market, 4th Floor, 1, Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata- 700071

Public Notice for Auction of Pledged assets being Gold Ornaments

The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch. That the below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the Axis Bank Limited against the pledge of gold ornaments ("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on 27-04-2026 at 11:00 AM on "As Is Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis". Auction will be held at Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Branch Name	Customer Name	Loan A/c No	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross weight grams.	Net weight grams
AMBIKAPUR [CT]	NITIGYA CHOUDHARY	XXXXXXXXXXXX2956	975056.00	12/Feb/26	141.300	129.500
AMBIKAPUR [CT]	HALDHAR KESHARI	XXXXXXXXXXXX3846	546698.00	26/Feb/26	105.500	102.600
AMBIKAPUR [CT]	SANJAY KUMAR KESHRI	XXXXXXXXXXXX9760	73231.30	16/Feb/26	48.700	47.400
TAGORE NAGAR [CT]	SHYAMA TIWARI	XXXXXXXXXXXX9606	3962273.00	23/Feb/26	616.100	584.200
TAGORE NAGAR [CT]	KHUSHI SHEETAL JAIN	XXXXXXXXXXXX1567	504940.00	10/Jan/26	93.400	90.000
TAGORE NAGAR [CT]	SHUBHAM PRAJAPATI	XXXXXXXXXXXX3397	214194.04	10/Jan/26	35.600	34.300

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF TENDER
The Base/Reserve price will be given on the auction day/date to the tenderers on which the auction bid will be considered. The bid/offers in the prescribed tender form provided by the bank shall only be considered for bidding. Incomplete bid form/tender are treated invalid and shall be rejected. The tender documents along with the terms and conditions shall be collected from the above branch. The tender document duly completed to be handed to the concerned branch official during working hours on 27-04-2026. Tenders received after the due date will not be considered. The said properties is/ are offered for sale on "As Is Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" And "No Recourse" Basis. The Bank does not undertake any responsibility to standard, purity and/or any other dues, taxes, if any, in respect of the said property. Tenders will be opened by the Bank on the auction date in the presence of the tenderers who may choose to remain present on the day and time as said above, inter alia, for raising/ revising their respective offers. Branch Names Mentioned Above. Auction Date : 27-04-2026. Offer/tender once submitted cannot be withdrawn and bidder will liable to deposit the bid amount if there is single bid/offer for particular article/asset/ornament. If there are more than one bid for particular article/asset/ornament, inter-se bidding shall take place amongst the bidder and highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder. Bidder should submit all KYC documents i.e. PAN Number, PAN Card, Adhar Card & Address proof etc. Bidder should submit valid E-mail ID & Contact Number. The Bank reserves its right to accept or reject the offer at its sole discretion. Any disputes / differences arising out of sale of the said property/ offered for sale shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of Courts / Tribunals at Mumbai only.

Date: 27.03.2026 Place: kolkata Authorized Officer, Axis Bank LTD



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

Every bed that replaces a bunker is a victory for humanity over fear

[Anonymous]

OUR VIEW |

From Barracks to Beds: Bastar's Healing Turn

The announcement that nearly 400 security camps in Bastar will be converted into hospitals, schools, and public infrastructure marks a profound shift in the region's narrative. For decades, these camps stood as symbols of India's protracted battle against Maoist insurgency, fortresses of vigilance in a land scarred by conflict. Today, they are poised to become sanctuaries of healing, learning, and livelihood—a transformation that speaks to both the resilience of Bastar's people and the evolving priorities of the state. The surrender of senior Maoist commander Papa Rao, along with 17 cadres, has been described as a turning point. It is not merely the weakening of an armed movement but the opening of space for development. By reimagining security camps as hospitals, the government acknowledges the urgent need for accessible healthcare in interior Bastar, where medical facilities have long been scarce. For communities that once lived under the shadow of guns, the promise of beds, medicines, and doctors is nothing short of revolutionary. Equally significant is the plan to establish schools and forest produce collection centres. Education, denied to generations by violence and displacement, now becomes a tool of empowerment. Economic integration through forest produce centres will strengthen livelihoods, ensuring that Bastar's rich natural resources benefit its people rather than fuel insurgency. This is development as deterrence, a strategy that replaces barbed wire with opportunity. The symbolism cannot be overstated. Camps once associated with fear and surveillance will now embody care and progress. The shift from militarization to humanization restores faith in governance and signals that Bastar is ready to move beyond its troubled past. It is a reminder that true security lies not in the proliferation of guns but in the assurance of dignity, health, and education. Challenges remain—ensuring that these promises translate into functioning institutions, staffed and resourced adequately. Yet the intent is clear: Bastar's future will be built not on the ruins of conflict but on the foundations of healing and hope. In turning barracks into beds, India is scripting a new chapter where the architecture of war becomes the architecture of peace.

GUEST VIEW |

A New Era of Judicial Vitality and Discipline

The Supreme Court's decisive strike against the "adjournment culture" marks a historic turning point for Indian jurisprudence, ensuring that the archaic tareekh pe tareekh phenomenon is replaced with a framework of strict accountability that upholds the constitutional right to a speedy trial. This reform acts as a rigorous enforcement of institutional discipline, restricting delays to truly exceptional cases—such as bereavement or health crises—to prioritise the pressing needs of the litigant over the convenience of the Bar. The requirement for transparency, where every prior delay must be disclosed, transforms an opaque process into a model of professional responsibility. With over 5 crore cases pending nationwide, these measures are the necessary medicine for a system seeking to reclaim its moral authority. Far from being a burden, these rules empower efficient lawyers and provide a clear path for judges to manage their dockets with precision. This shift doesn't just speed up the clock; it restores the public's faith that the temple of justice is a place of resolution, not a waiting room. By valuing every minute, the Supreme Court is ensuring that justice is not just a promise, but a timely reality.



Anantha Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Comment

The deterioration and depreciation of the rupee

On March 20, the Indian rupee sharply declined against the US dollar, reaching a low of 93.24 before recovering to 93.12. This depreciation is primarily due to rising crude oil import costs and ongoing foreign investment outflows from Indian markets. At the start of March, the rupee was trading around 92, marking a concerning trend. Historically, the rupee's value has plummeted from 4 to 93 per dollar since 1947, showcasing a significant depreciation.

Geopolitical tensions, particularly between the US and Iran, have driven global crude oil prices above \$110 per barrel, significantly impacting India, which relies on imports for roughly 85% of its oil consumption. As oil trades in US dollars, this has increased demand for dollars, straining India's foreign exchange reserves, which stood at about \$709.76 billion as of March 22, 2026. Recent weeks saw reserves decline by \$7.052 billion by March 13, following an \$11.68 billion reduction the week prior.

Furthermore, uncertainty has led Foreign Portfolio Investors to withdraw around \$8 billion (approximately Rs. 83,000 crore) from the Indian stock market by March. This outflow has compounded pressure on the rupee as investors shift to safer US Treasury bonds. The

Strait of Hormuz is critical to global oil supply, accounting for nearly half of India's oil imports. Ongoing tensions in this region threaten supply stability, suggesting that the rupee will remain volatile as long as geopolitical tensions persist.

In response to the challenges in the foreign exchange market, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is actively intervening to stabilise the Rupee by selling US dollars from its reserves. The depreciation of the Rupee raises import costs, particularly for essential goods like crude oil and electronics, which is expected to widen India's Current Account Deficit and strain the economy. Companies with international debt will face higher repayment costs, further burdening them.

Additionally, a weaker Rupee impacts the affordability of overseas education, potentially reducing the number of Indian students studying abroad. Rising crude oil prices may lead to increased inflation, complicating the RBI's efforts to lower interest rates and potentially slowing economic growth. This cycle can hinder recovery efforts and intensify inflationary pressures. The depreciation of the Rupee benefits the economy by boosting exporters in sectors like IT, pharmaceuticals, and textiles, as they receive higher revenues when converting US

dollar payments. This can lead to increased investments, hiring, and improved offerings. Additionally, a weaker Rupee makes India more attractive to international tourists, as accommodations and activities become cheaper, supporting local businesses and creating jobs in hospitality, transportation, and retail, thus driving economic growth.

The depreciation of the Rupee increases the value of remittances sent by Indians working abroad, providing families with more financial support for expenses, education, and healthcare. Overall, a depreciated Rupee fosters economic opportunities and enhances financial well-being for many in India. However, experts caution that unless global crude oil prices stabilise and the sell-off by foreign investors diminishes, the Rupee is likely to remain weak. Predictions suggest that if the current global situation does not improve, the Rupee could even fall below 94 against the US dollar. The value of any nation's currency is predominantly influenced by the dynamics of supply and demand in the international market. For example, if India increases its import volume, especially concerning crude oil, it requires a larger supply of US dollars to facilitate these transactions. An uptick in demand for dollars raises its value, which in turn weakens the Rupee.

Additionally, a currency's valuation is affected by various economic factors, including the country's inflation rate, interest rates, and the confidence levels of foreign investors. Low inflation generally encourages economic growth, while a stable economic environment fosters a sense of security among investors, leading to increased dollar inflows and subsequently strengthening the Rupee. In essence, a currency's value is directly proportional to its demand relative to its supply in the global marketplace.

In summary, while a weaker Rupee may offer some benefits, the disadvantages appear to outweigh these benefits. Presently, India is confronted with an elevated inflation risk, exacerbated by challenges related to cooking gas supplies and rising petrol and diesel prices. Global economic uncertainties, coupled with soaring inflation, are expected to hinder growth. Economic stability is at stake as foreign exchange reserves dwindle, the challenges of importing crude oil become more pronounced, foreign investor hesitancy continues, and the overall value of the Rupee is likely to decline further.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper)



Satish Singh, Senior Banking and Economic Columnist

Global Conflicts and India's Economy: Navigating an Era of Uncertainty

For India, the implications are immediate and multi-layered, cutting across energy, inflation, trade, and financial stability.

As multiple conflicts unfold across regions, most notably in West Asia, the global economy is entering a phase of heightened uncertainty. For India, the implications are immediate and multi-layered, cutting across energy, inflation, trade, and financial stability.

Energy Shock: The Core Transmission Channel: India's vulnerability begins with energy. The country imports nearly 85% of its crude oil needs, with a significant share sourced from the Middle East. As conflicts disrupt supply chains and shipping routes, crude prices have surged sharply, rising 40% to over \$100 per barrel in recent weeks, with some estimates placing increases as high as 65%. This has a direct fiscal impact. Higher oil prices inflate India's import bill, widen the current account deficit, and exert pressure on the rupee. If oil sustains near \$100 per barrel, India's GDP growth could drop to 6.6%, and inflation could rise to 4.1%.

Inflation: The Second-Order Shock: Energy costs quickly cascade into broader inflation. Fuel is a key input for transport, manufacturing, and agriculture. Rising oil prices push up logistics costs, which in turn increases the prices of essential goods. Economists estimate that a 10-20% rise in oil prices could add 25-50 basis points to inflation, potentially pushing it into the 4.5-5% range. Some projections suggest headline inflation could reach 5.1% in FY27 if



Divyam Aggarwal, Indian Institute of Management Raipur



Dr. Sanjeev Prashar, Indian Institute of Management Raipur



Dr. Archana Parashar, Indian Institute of Management Raipur



tensions persist. Already, input costs across sectors are rising at the fastest pace in years, driven by higher energy, food, and metal prices.

Growth Slowdown: Demand and Investment Pressures: The inflation shock feeds into growth. As costs rise, both consumers and businesses cut spending. India's private sector growth has already hit a three-year low, with manufacturing activity particularly affected. According to a report, a prolonged conflict could shave up to 1 percentage point off India's GDP growth, while simultaneously increasing inflation and interest rates by 1.5-2 percentage points. This combination, slower growth and higher inflation, creates a "stagflation-like" risk scenario, complicating monetary policy decisions for the Reserve Bank of India.

Trade and Supply Chain Disruptions: Beyond oil, wars

disrupt trade routes, especially through strategic chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz, which handles a significant portion of global energy flows. Any blockage could affect around 20% of global oil supply. India's exports are also at risk. West Asia is a major market, accounting for billions in agricultural and commodity exports annually. Rising freight and insurance costs are further squeezing exporters' margins and increasing overall trade friction. Domestically, supply disruptions are already visible. India is facing an LPG shortage, highlighting the fragility of energy supply chains during geopolitical crises.

Financial Markets and Currency Volatility: Global uncertainty has led to volatility in equity and currency markets. Rising oil prices tend to weaken the rupee, as more dollars are required for imports. This

increases the cost of servicing external debt and fuel's imported inflation. Indian stock markets have also reacted negatively to oil shocks, with broad selloffs reflecting investor caution.

Policy Response and Strategic Implications: Recognizing these risks, the Indian government has set up dedicated groups to assess the economic fallout and ensure supply stability. In the medium to long term, the crisis underscores the need for structural changes including diversification of energy sources (renewables, ethanol blending, EVs), expansion of strategic petroleum reserves, and reduced dependence on volatile regions.

Conclusion: Wars today are not geographically contained, they ripple through global supply chains, energy markets, and financial systems. For India, the economic impact is less about direct involvement and more about exposure to global linkages. The immediate risks are clear: higher inflation, slower growth, and increased volatility. Yet the situation also presents an opportunity to accelerate energy transition and strengthen economic resilience.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper)

YOUR LETTERS

Mahadev App Assets Seized: A Blow to Illicit Wealth

The recent attachment of properties linked to the Mahadev App syndicate is a welcome assertion of accountability. For too long, online betting platforms have thrived unchecked, eroding public trust and exploiting vulnerable citizens. By striking at the financial roots of such operations, enforcement agencies send a clear message: illicit wealth will not be shielded. This decisive action must be followed by systemic reforms to regulate digital platforms and protect society from predatory practices.

P Basanti, Bhilai

Fresh Hearings Signal Hope for Justice in Jaggi Case

The reopening of the Ram Avatar Jaggi murder case is a reminder that justice delayed must not become justice denied. With fresh hearings ordered, the judiciary has an opportunity to restore public confidence by ensuring transparency and accountability. Political influence should not overshadow the pursuit of truth and fairness. Citizens expect this renewed process will deliver closure to a case that has lingered for decades, reaffirming faith in the rule of law and democracy.

Prakash Sharma, Bilaspur

Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: editorialcc007@gmail.com The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.