

National & International News

Journalist Upendra Rai's assets seized, Government can book him under Secrets Act too

Upendra Rai is being probed by the CBI and ED for allegedly extorting money from businessmen on the pretext of helping them settle cases of the Income Tax Department and other agencies.

Agency
New Delhi Aug 30,

As the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Wednesday said it has attached properties worth over Rs 26.65 crore of journalist Upendra Rai in connection with a money laundering case, the Law Ministry has allowed the CBI — probing extortion charges against Rai to book him under the Official Secrets Act. Rai is being probed by the CBI and ED for allegedly extorting money from businessmen on the pretext of helping them settle cases of the Income Tax Department and other agencies. During searches, agencies have allegedly found in his possession call data records of businessmen and nearly 140 classified Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in a pen drive. "As such, the availability of those STRs with an unauthorised person appears to be prejudicial to the interests of the state and the unauthorised possession of STRs by a private person warrants the offence under the Official Secrets Act," the Department of Legal Affairs advised on August 9. The STRs, sources said, pertain to 2015-16 and are connected to

firms being probed by various agencies. This confidential information from the FIU was sent to law enforcement agencies for further intelligence gathering and building money laundering, black money generation and export/import fraud against individuals or firms. The Law Ministry opined that a "private person was found in possession of such a classified official document which is not even available to the concerned government officials in normal course". As per FIU rules, STRs disseminated to a law enforcement agency is meant to be accessed only by the concerned agency. They are not disclosed under the Right to Information Act. Reading out sub-section 2 of Section 3 of the 1923 OSA Act, the Law Ministry said that "it would not be necessary to show that the accused person was guilty of any particular act tending to show a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of the state". It further advised that the person could be convicted "if, from the circumstances of the case or his conduct, it appears that his purpose was prejudicial to the interests of

the State". The OSA violation, punishable with imprisonment extending up to three years in this case, would be in addition to penalties that are handed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and the Prevention of Corruption Act for which Rai is being probed by the ED and the CBI, said sources. The assets the ED attached include nine residential flats spread across Delhi-NCR and Uttar Pradesh and three luxury cars apart from bank deposits and mutual funds. Incidentally, the Supreme Court Tuesday had rejected Rai's petition to restrain ED Joint Director Rajeshwar Singh from probing cases against him. Rai had alleged that he was being probed because he had made allegations of corruption against Singh. He had also earlier filed petitions against Singh in the court which were all rejected on the ground that the similar allegations had been made earlier and the same had been probed. The CBI had arrested Rai on May 3, while the ED apprehended him on June 8. The ED has already filed a prosecution complaint on August 6 against Rai at a special court in Delhi. "Upendra Rai was found involved in extortion of huge amount of money from different companies and corporate houses. He then layered the ill-gotten money and integrated the same into the financial system, finally projected it as untainted money. Upendra Rai has been involved in generation and laundering of proceeds of crime worth Rs. 29,58,09,570 as

per estimates," said an ED statement. According to the ED, the alleged extortion money Rai got was projected as received from different companies in the name of consultancy services that he provided. "Upendra Rai sent cash to different companies and asked them to return it to him through banking channels. These transactions were not legal. To give genuine and legal shape to those transactions, he insisted that those companies enter into an agreement with them/their associates for consultancy services, issued false invoices and received payments through banking channels against the cash sent by him," said the ED statement. The agency also said Rai had also set up various shell companies, which he used to move his ill-gotten money. Rai's immovable assets attached by ED include four flats in Greater Kailash in Delhi, a flat and a penthouse in Lucknow, two flats in Noida and one flat on Hailey Road near Connaught Place. The ED has also attached Rs 5.62 crore in fixed deposits and mutual funds. "He also operated many bank accounts in his and in the name of his wife, brother, sister and other associates and invested the money generated illegally in the fixed deposits and mutual funds. The amount invested in 20 bank accounts and three mutual funds in the name of Upendra Rai and his accomplices have been traced out," said the ED statement.

Arrest of activists: Case false, fight against fascist policies not conspiracy, says Varavara Rao

Agency
Hyderabad Aug 30

Dubbing the case against him and other activists over Maharashtra's Koregaon-Bhima violence as false, Leftist poet and writer Varavara Rao insisted Thursday their fight against "fascist policies" cannot be called a conspiracy. He said the case for Koregaon-Bhima clashes between Dalits and upper caste Marathas should have been filed against the Maharashtra government and the Centre and not activists. "This is a false case. If the fight against fascist policies is called a conspiracy, then there cannot be a bigger conspiracy than this (calling

the fight a conspiracy)," Rao, who was brought here by Pune police in the morning following a Supreme Court order, told reporters at the airport. Also read | **Policemen referred to my caste, asked why no sindoor, says Rao's daughter** The Supreme Court had yesterday pulled up Maharashtra police over the arrest of five prominent human rights activists for their alleged Maoist links and ordered that they will not be lodged in jail but kept under house arrest till September 6. "They (the Supreme Court) have ordered house arrest. As we have been saying, this is a false case against us. Bhima-Koregaon case should have been filed against the state and

central governments," he said. According to Rao's wife Hemalatha, he was flown here from Pune at 7 in the morning and barring his close relatives nobody was being allowed to meet him. Rao's counsel said Telangana police was not permitting even his lawyers to meet him. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Zone) Viswa Prasad said Hyderabad police was enforcing the apex court's order of house arrest. Prasad said since the poet-activist was under house arrest, he was not allowed to come out of confinement or make public appearances. He said only his wife and children, if they are living with him in the same house, will be allowed in. The city police has made elaborate security arrangements around Rao's apartment building. Apart from Rao, human rights activists Vernon Goregaonkar, Arun Ferreira, Sudha Bharadwaj and Gautam Navlalkha were arrested from different states on Tuesday for their alleged links to Naxalites. In a blow to the Maharashtra police, the apex court had yesterday questioned its decision of arresting the activists nine months after the violence between Dalits and upper caste Marathas in Koregaon-Bhima village near Pune following 'Elgar Parishad', a conclave of Dalits, on December 31 last year. Provocative speeches allegedly made at the conclave had triggered the violence which soon spread to several districts of Maharashtra, leaving a trail of destruction.

483 dead in Kerala floods and landslides, losses more than annual plan outlay: Pinarayi Vijayan

Agency
Kochi Aug 30

During the special Assembly session convened to discuss the relief and rehabilitation measures underway to cope with the state's worst floods in a century, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan informed the House that a total of 483 people lost their lives in rain-related incidents this monsoon. While 14 people are reported to be still missing, around 140 people were admitted to hospitals during this period. Vijayan, who deferred his trip to the US for medical treatment scheduled for earlier this month to lead his administration's rehabilitation exercise, said the losses due to the floods and landslides are more than the state's annual

Kerala's annual plan outlay was pegged at Rs 26,500 crore. "The rescue operations which took place at the height of the monsoon are without comparison. To all those who sacrificed their lives to help others, who took brave and daring steps to rescue one another, we want to offer a big salute," the chief minister said in his speech. "The rescue operations are over, rehabilitation measures are continuing and rebuilding of the state is left," he added. On August 21, when the monsoon took its fiercest form, a total of 14.5 lakh people belonging to 3.91 lakh families had to be rushed to nearby relief camps. Many others moved to their relatives' homes when their houses got flooded.

NIA arrests Syed Salahuddin's son in terror funding case

Agency
Srinagar Aug 30,

The National Investigating Agency (NIA) has arrested Syed Shakeel Yousuf, the second son of Hizbul Mujahideen supremo Syed Salahuddin. Shakeel was arrested Wednesday night from his Rambagh residence in Srinagar in connection with a terror funding case. "In an operation today morning, the NIA team along with the CRPF and local police, arrested Shakeel s/o Syed Salahuddin from Rambagh Srinagar in a terror funding case," NIA said in a statement. A senior lab technician at Sheri Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Shakeel is the second son of Salahuddin to be arrested by the NIA. His older son Syed Shahid Yousuf was arrested by the agency in October last year in the same case. Shahid was a government employee in Jammu and Kashmir's Agriculture department. Pakistan based Syed Salahuddin is the Supreme Commander of J-K's largest indigenous militant outfit Hizbul Mujahideen. He is also the chairman of United Jihad Council (UJC), an umbrella group of militant outfits operating in the valley. The NIA alleged Shakeel used to receive funds through a US-based international wire transfer company from Aijaz Ahmed Bhat, another accused in the case who is absconding and based in Saudi Arabia. The agency alleged Shakeel was "one of several Indian contacts of Bhat" who had been in telephonic contact with him for receiving money

transfer codes. The case, registered by the NIA in April 2011, relates to transfer of money from Pakistan to Jammu and Kashmir through hawala channels via Delhi, which the agency believed was used in funding terrorism and secessionist activities. The NIA has so far filed two charge sheets against six people including G M Bhat, a close aide of pro-Pakistan separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mohammed Siddiq Ganai, Gulam Jeelani Lilo and Farooq Ahmed Dagma. All four are in judicial custody. Two others Mohammed Maqbool Pandit and Bhat were also charge sheeted by the NIA but are absconding. An Interpol Red Corner notice has been issued against them. Shakeel's father Mohammed Yusuf Shah better known as Syed Salahuddin was declared a Specially Designated Global Terrorist by the US Department of State. Besides heading terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, he is the chairman of the United Jihad Council (UJC), a conglomerate of terrorist outfits operating in the Kashmir Valley. The NIA had also registered two other cases related to terror funding one in November 2011 and the other in May this year. The agency had filed a charge sheet against 10 people including Syed Salahuddin in the April 2011 case. In the recent case, the NIA arrested 10 people including some close relatives and aides of Geelani.

Asian Games 2018-Day 12

Asian Games 2018 Medal Tally

S1	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	106	68	50	224
2	Japan	53	47	64	164
3	Republic of Korea	37	43	53	133
4	Indonesia	30	22	37	89
5	IR Iran	19	17	19	55
6	Uzbekistan	13	18	18	49
7	Chinese Taipei	13	17	21	51
8	DPR Korea	12	8	11	31
9	India	11	20	23	54
10	Thailand	9	13	36	58
11	Kazakhstan	9	11	34	54
12	Bahrain	9	3	6	18
13	Vietnam	4	15	13	32
14	Hong Kong, China	4	12	17	33
15	Malaysia	4	11	9	24
16	Qatar	4	3	3	10
17	Philippines	4	0	13	17
18	UAE	3	6	3	12
19	Singapore	3	4	10	17
20	Mongolia	3	3	6	12
21	Kyrgyzstan	2	6	10	18
22	Jordan	2	1	8	11
23	Kuwait	2	1	1	4
24	Cambodia	2	0	1	3
25	Saudi Arabia	1	2	1	4
26	Macau, China	1	2	1	4
27	Iraq	1	2	0	3
28	Lebanon	1	1	2	4
29	Korea	1	0	2	3
30	Tajikistan	0	3	0	3
31	Lao PDR	0	2	2	4
32	Turkmenistan	0	1	2	3
33	Nepal	0	1	0	1
34	Pakistan	0	0	3	3
35	Afghanistan	0	0	2	2
35	Myanmar	0	0	2	2
37	Syria	0	0	1	1
-	Total	363	363	484	1210

***Updated at 12pm on August 27, 2018

Indian Track and Field athletes to continue their superb run



Agency
Jakarta, Aug 30,

Indian Track and Field athletes will look to continue their superb run at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia today when they compete in six medal events. Men's 800 metres Gold and Silver medalists Manjit Singh and Jinson Johnson will vie for top honours in the 1,500 metres Final. Chitra Unnikrishnan and Monika Chaudhary will figure in the Women's section. Lakshmanan Govindan will aim for Gold in the Men's 5,000 metres. India will also be in action in the Men's and Women's 4X400 metres Relay Finals. Besides, all eyes will be on Discus Thrower Seema Punia

who, along with Sandeep Kumari, will be looking to make the country proud. Of the total 54 medals bagged so far, India has won the most in Athletics, that is 14 - 5 Gold and 9 Silver. In the last edition of the Games in 2014, the athletes had won 13 medals, that included just 2 Gold. Meanwhile, in Men's Hockey, India will clash with Malaysia in the semi-finals. All India Radio will broadcast live commentary on the game from 3:55 PM onwards. The Women's team yesterday made it to the Gold medal match after 20 years when they defeated China, 1-0. The Singles events in Table Tennis are being held today. Mouma Das has crashed out

in the opening round. Three other Indian paddlers - Manika Batra, Achanta Sharath Kamal and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran - are yet to begin their campaigns. In Squash, the Indian Women's team is playing Hong Kong in a group match. It was disappointing day in Cycling as many Indians failed to qualify to their respective Finals. Judo, Kurash, Canoe, Sepaktakraw, Bridge, Equestrian and Diving are also witnessing the Indian participation today. India currently has 11 Gold, 20 Silver and 23 Bronze in its kitty and it continues to be 9th in the table. China maintains its massive lead at the top, with Japan second and South Korea third.