

ED summons Delhi CM Kejriwal in excise policy case

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal for questioning on November 2 in alleged liquor policy scam case.

According to sources, Kejriwal has been asked to appear before the ED on November 2.

Kejriwal was questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in April this year.

The summon comes on the day when the Supreme Court dismissed former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's plea.

A bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and S.V.N. Bhatti also directed that Sisodia's trial should be completed within six to eight months. The bench further added that if the trial



proceeds slowly, Sisodia can file an application for bail again.

Justice Khanna, while delivering the judgement, said that even as many questions remain unanswered, one aspect with regard to the transfer of Rs 338

Arvind Kejriwal skips ED summons

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal skipped the Enforcement Directorate summons for questioning in connection with the alleged liquor policy scam.

Kejriwal, who was summoned by the ED to appear before it on November 2 for questioning, will be skipping the ED questioning and participate in a roadshow along with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli.

On Wednesday he dubbed his summons as illegal and politically motivated.

Responding to ED summons, Kejriwal said in a post on X in Hindi, "The summons are illegal and politically motivated."

He said that the notice was sent at the behest of the BJP.

"Notice was sent to ensure that I am unable to go for election campaigning in four states. ED should withdraw the notice immediately," Kejriwal alleged.

This is the first time that the Chief Minister has been summoned by the ED in relation to the alleged scam.

He was scheduled to visit Rajghat before appearing before the ED, and in view of the same the Delhi Police had also heightened the security at ED office and Rajghat with deployment of large number of police personnel, including the paramilitary force.

ED searches 12 places including premises of Delhi Minister in hawala transaction case

NEW DELHI: Ahead of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's questioning in connection with the alleged excise policy scam case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out searches at more than 12 locations in the national capital, including the premises of Minister and AAP leader Raaj Kumar Anand.

The raids were carried out in connection with false declaration of imports for customs evasion of more than Rs 7 crore and international hawala transactions. An ED source told to media, "Raaj Kumar Anand, Cabinet Minister is being searched by ED today in connection with money laundering investigations initiated under PMLA." The source said: "The



investigations were initiated based on the Prosecution Complaint filed by DRI alleging false declarations in imports for customs evasion of more than Rs 7 crore and international hawala transactions." The court has taken cognisance of the complaint, the source said.

"Around 12 premises are being searched at different locations including Delhi," the source added. Meanwhile, Kejriwal is scheduled to appear before the ED during the day for questioning in the case, in which AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh have already been arrested.

This is the first time that the Chief Minister has been summoned by the ED in relation to the alleged scam. He was earlier questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the case in April this year.

Paddy procurement touches 161 LMT till November 1



NEW DELHI: A quantity of 161.47 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy has been procured till November 1 under the ongoing Kharif marketing season, benefiting about 9.33 lakh farmers with minimum support price (MSP) value of Rs 35, 571.14 crore, an official statement said on Thursday.

Rice procurement estimates for Kharif marketing season (KMS) 2023-24 (Kharif crop) are 521.27 LMT out of which 20.76 per cent (108.23 LMT) has already been procured of which major contributors are Punjab (66.42 LMT), Haryana (36.11 LMT), and Tamil Nadu (3.26 LMT), it said.

CPCB Report: 7 cities in Haryana recorded most polluted

SATISH HANDA

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report out of the 17 most polluted cities declared in the country, there are 7 cities from Haryana state only which include Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Bhiwani, Bahadurgarh, Faridabad and Rohtak. The particulate matter (PM) of these cities was recorded 2.5 which is harmful for human health. Apart from this, Air Quality Index (AQI) has also been recorded more than 200 in these cities as such the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has started taking strict action and has declared alert due to increasing pollution in these cities, and has directed the Haryana government to submit the report on the stone crusher units running in Mahendragarh, Charkhi Dadri and other places in the state, besides the report about permission granted to run these units. However, the state government has already taken action against illegally operating stone crushers in the state. Meanwhile, NGT has also taken



stern action against the illegally running stone crushers in NCR.

The Haryana government had submitted a report to the NGT last month, which stated that out of 133 stone crushing units operating in Mahendragarh district, 49 stone crushers have been closed. These stone crushers were being operated illegally. Moreover, 104 such stone crushers were found in Charkhi Dadri which were being operated against the norms and the government has closed 40 of these units. Haryana State Pollution Control Board also closed a large number of stone crushers functioning illegally in Naraingarh area in Ambala district in the past

Amit Shah launches five Antyodaya Upliftment schemes in Haryana

SATISH HANDA
Karnal

In view of completion of nine years BJP rule, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar during a gathering at Karnal launched five Antyodaya Uplifting Schemes in the ongoing efforts for the welfare of the people in the state initiated by the state Haryana government.

The Haryana government under the leadership of the Double Engine government is making efforts to provide health facilities to the citizens. Under the Central Government's Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana 15 lakh families in Haryana receive free annual treatment of up to 5 lakh rupees.

The Haryana government's Chirayu Scheme has already benefited approximately 11 lakh families. The Union Home Minister after inaugurating this scheme included 14 lakh new families in this scheme, combining the schemes of the central and state governments nearly 40



lakh Antyodaya families in Haryana having annual income between Rs can avail the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat - Chirayu Scheme. Furthermore, this scheme also includes around 38,000 families with an annual income ranging from Rs. 1.80 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh.

The Haryana Income Growth Board has been constituted to increase the income

families with an annual income of less than Rs. 1 lakh having three or more members will receive the benefit of free travel on Haryana Roadways buses for up to 1000 kilometres per year.

The Union Cooperation Minister also launched the Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Dugdh Utpadak Cooperation Incentive Scheme to provide incentives to Antyodaya families who wish to start mini-dairies by taking loans. Under this scheme when these families sell milk in the milk unions, they will receive an additional Rs.10 per litre above the cooperative union's price for one year.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also inaugurated the Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Scheme. Under this scheme, members of families with an annual income of less than Rs. 1.80 lakh who are over 60 years of age will be taken for pilgrimages to Ayodhya, Varanasi, and other sacred places the state government will bear all the expenses for their travel.

15-point strategy to reduce road accidents increase by 20% in a year in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

Information reveals, this year so far 9,951 road accidents have been reported in Haryana in which over 4,500 people lost their lives and nearly 8,500 people were injured.

While reviewing the action taken in this regard in the meetings of Road Safety Council, the Haryana government decided to opt for a 15-point strategy to reduce road accidents by nearly 20% in a year, which includes fixing of illegal road cuts on the highways made by the dhaba and petrol pump owners and keeping a strict watch on illegal liquor vends on roads. Among other major reasons for road accidents include driving a vehicle under the influ-



ence of liquor, parking vehicles on the road side and over speeding. Information reveals that the accidents recorded in the state during the past six years indicate a large reduction in road incidents. In state witnessed nearly 16% decline in 2020 and 2021 as compared to 2019 due to limited movement of the vehicles on roads during the spread epidemic outbreak in the state.

According to the Road Trans-

port & Highways Ministry report the number of road accidents and persons died and injured in road mishaps was disappointing. The number of road accidents in the country in 2022 was 4,61,312 in which 1,68,491 accident victims lost lives and 4,43,366 persons sustained serious injuries, witnessing 11.9% increase in road mishaps, 9.4 increase in deaths and 15.3 increase in injured as compared to the previous year. Information also revealed that the major reason for increase in road mishaps was high speed while driving on the highways and expressways as well as limited number of traffic police staff to check the vehicles. Police data revealed that during the year 2022 more

Gurugram festival like in Dubai proposed in Haryana: Dushyant Chautala

SATISH HANDA

Gurugram festival will be held at Gurugram in Haryana similar to one being organized in Dubai has been proposed, while talking to media persons Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that after having a talk with the Chief Minister action will be taken. He said that in Dubai festival people come from far and wide to buy everything from electronic goods to gold jewelry in the Dubai Festival in which big companies participate and in the same way big indigenous



companies will also be able to display their products for sale in proposed Gurugram Festival, which will also prove to be a big platform for new companies for branding their products.

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that after discussing with the Chief Minister the outline of the Gurugram Festival will be finalized. He said, the idea of Gurugram Festival came up during a conversation with the entrepreneurs at the expo organized in Gurugram recently when some entrepreneurs advised that the Gurugram Festival could be organized to benefit in promoting their sale as well branding of their products. Chautala said, since Gurugram is a big industrial hub, auto hub, IT hub and real estate hub in NCR, there is a lot of potential for organizing the proposed Gurugram Festival here and making it successful.

Omar Abdullah calls for investigation into Apple's snooping alerts



FW DESK

Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, has called for a thorough investigation into the probe alerts sent out by Apple to opposition leaders. Abdullah, who currently serves as the vice-president of the National Conference, expressed concerns over potential snooping activities and urged Apple to share all pertinent information regarding the alerts. "It should be investigated. Information was received earlier also that Israel's software Pegasus was sold to this country and used to spy on people," Abdullah said during his address at a rally at Karnah in North Kashmir district of Kupwara. "Apple should share all the details and after proper investigation, the truth should be told to the people." Abdullah also criticized the central government for the delay in holding elections and pledged that his party, the National Conference, would make every effort to reinstate statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He firmly stated, "The NC will participate in the elections and will get Statehood back, come what may," he said. Abdullah reiterated his stance regarding his direct participation in elections held under the Union Territory. He announced that he would not personally contest the polls, but assured that the National Conference would actively engage in every election to represent the interests of the people.

AMU VC Elections: For the first time women professor in the panel

KAVITA SHARMA
Aligarh

The most awaited Vice Chancellor Elections of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) are around the corner. The Executive Council of the University has five potential candidates for this position of which one is a woman. In the history of the century old University this is the First time when a woman Dr Naima Gulrez is shortlisted for the post. Dr Naima is the Principal of the Women's College of AMU and she is also a wife of acting Vice Chancellor Professor Mohd Gulrez. The other four are Professor Faizan Mustafa, Prof Qayyum Hussain, Prof Furqan Qamar and Professor M U Rabbani. Out of the 20 names that were proposed for consideration, these five candidates have been chosen through a voting process through ballot papers.

The AMU authorities have already initiated the process of appointing a new VC. According to the AMU Registrar Imran the Election Council special meeting was convened on 30 October. From the list of 20 candidates, the five names have been shortlisted and now the University court will sit on November 6 to finalize the



three names. These names will go to the visitor (President of India) who has the authority to select one name from the three. Speaking to the Media in University premises today the Acting V-C Prof. Dr Gulrez said "it was a long pending demand and for which I was appointed. I am happy we have fulfilled the promise, total 32 applied for the post and 20 contestant were shortlisted, of which 19 voted...now five names have been recommended, and we have a Court's meeting on 6th November, he added. The court will finally select three out of five and the list will be sent to the Visitor.

According to Mohd Amir Minto, Ex student Of AMU, This is the first time a women applicant name is mentioned

Kharge, Sonia, Rahul offer floral tributes to Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary

NEW DELHI: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday offered floral tributes to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 39th death anniversary.

The Congress leaders offered floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at Shakti Sthal here.

Kharge took to X and said, "As long as I have breath, my service will never stop and when I die, I can say that every drop of blood that is mine, every drop of blood will keep India alive,"



Indira Gandhi."

"Humble tribute to Indira Gandhi, India's first woman Prime Minister and our icon, who played an important role

in building a strong and progressive India with her strong will, efficient leadership, unique working style and foresight, on her martyrdom day," he said.

Adani group to set up Food Processing unit in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

Adani group is going to set up a Food Processing unit in an 80 acre area on Gohana-Kharkhoda road in Sonapat district on which amount between Rs 1500-1600 crore will be spent. Talking to the media persons, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that the proposed unit will produce essential commodity products including wheat flour, oils, ghee, a variety of biscuits and confectionery and other food products. Chautala said, Haryana state government has also launched 'One District, Product Product' scheme to boost small scale manufactur-



ers in the state in which state government will also assist such entrepreneurs in sale, branding and packaging their products. Chautala said that industrial investment in the state is fast rising and some time ago Maruti Suzuki has started commissioning of their manufacturing unit in 800 acres area at IMT Kharkhoda and another plant in 100 acre area in the same complex by Suzuki. He said, the state government is getting a large number of proposals for industrial investment in the state.

Better policy formulation and support developing industries in Haryana state: Dushyant Chautala

SATISH HANDA

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala presiding the closing ceremony of Industrial Expo and Trade Fair at Gurugram on Sunday stated that there is no trade in the country that is untouched in Haryana and the state government is continuously working on policy formulation to better the support to the industries in the state. He said that at present the industrial institutions operating in the state believe that no state has a better and safer business environment other than



Haryana. The Deputy Chief Minister was addressing as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the Gurugram Industrial Expo and District Trade Fair organized by the District Administration Gurugram under the joint aegis of MSME Directorate and Federation of National Industries at the Leisure Valley Parking Ground, Sector 29, Gurugram on Sunday.



Slow growth and rising inflation are key concerns

Amidst the bustling economic activity, recent data from India's core industries and manufacturing sector signal a concerning deceleration in economic momentum. The government's provisional figures for September reveal a marked slowdown in the production growth of key infrastructure industries, including cement, coal, steel, and electricity, to a four-month low of 8.1% year-on-year growth, down from 12.5% in August. This deceleration was evident across all but the fertilizer sector, which saw an uptick as farmers prepared for the rabi cropping season. The heavy monsoon rains in September, which exceeded expectations by 13%, likely played a role in dampening demand and production, particularly affecting cement, electricity, and steel industries. A sequential analysis shows a contraction across all eight core sectors, with a notable 4.8% decline from August. Coal production, however, remained a bright spot, with a slight dip in growth but maintaining a robust 16.1% year-on-year pace. The weakening demand, especially for consumer goods, has led to the slowest rise in new orders in a year, with international sales also losing momentum. Alarmingly, less than 4% of the surveyed companies reported workforce expansions, indicating a significant slowdown in job creation within the manufacturing sector since April. Manufacturers are also grappling with accelerated input cost inflation, yet factory gate inflation has slowed, suggesting producers are hesitant to pass on the higher costs amid uncertain demand. Business confidence is waning, with inflation expectations identified as a primary concern that could further dampen demand and production in the coming year. Additionally, the anticipated lower kharif crop output could signal limited support from the agricultural sector, potentially impacting rural incomes. Policymakers are now faced with the daunting task of addressing the dual challenges of slowing growth and persistent inflation, a balancing act that requires strategic foresight and decisive action to sustain economic stability and progress.

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"Every day may not be good...but there is something good in every day."

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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ASHOK LAVASA EXPLAINS HOW UNCIVIL ACTIONS BY NATIONS YIELD ENDURING WOUNDS, NOT SOLUTIONS

Reconciliation over retribution

The image of shattered solar panels in Gaza amid billowing smoke is a grim reminder that peace is a prerequisite for progress. If the political leadership of the world cannot ensure a peaceful present, how do we expect them to protect us from other threats like "global boiling"? Francis Bacon in his essay *On Revenge* describes revenge as "a kind of wild justice." 'Wild' means raw or not regulated by judicial restraint or civilised conduct. Revenge is an act of retaliation implying an earlier act of provocation. Even if that is the case, and whatever its irrationality, an act of vengeance by the establishment can never be justified like the earlier act. The state can punish an unlawful act through its statutory organs but can it subject an entire community to retribution by mindless annihilation? There cannot be any apology for the perpetrators of violence but the responsibility of the state lies in bringing them to justice as administered by the strong arm of law and not in bulldozing its way in a manner that grinds everything to dust.

Revenge may never be able to settle issues, let alone settle scores. It creates its own vicious cycle, a chain that keeps adding links to an unending series of self-destructive events. The human mind is designed to react but it also possesses the capacity for restraint. Animals understand risk and restrain themselves if they perceive an action as risky. But take away restraint from a human being and you remove the foundation of social behaviour. The laws of any land, international law and treaties bind people and countries to acceptable conduct. Its absence would lead to disorder and unmanageable conflicts. Nations that



cross the boundaries of civilised behaviour can only give lasting wounds, not lasting solutions, even as they achieve the myopic objective of causing mayhem by taking revenge.

Nobody should be forgiven for acts of terror but even the anachronistic Hammurabi code demanded "an eye for an eye", and not the entire human body. Gandhi thought that even that would make all of us blind in the long run. He was not a preacher but a practitioner of non-violence who was ultimately able to defeat the worst form of colonial violence where others who followed retaliatory tactics, were defeated. Recall Gandhi's response in South Africa when a police officer's wife saved him from a violent mob that manhandled him upon his return from India. When asked to lodge a complaint against those who used force against him, he refused because that would fuel acrimony and cause a scar difficult to heal. His accepting their behaviour as a manifestation of

deviant conduct not meriting his response had a greater chance of not perpetuating animosity between the two communities.

It is possible that in the real world, this behaviour is dismissed as fictional. It may not be held viable in statecraft too although there are examples where cooperation has lasted longer than divisive action that has invariably led to permanent conflicts. Forces of unity and adjustment provide longer lasting solutions. In the short run, the ability of an individual to subdue his opponent and a nation's success in subjugating a community might seem as a triumph. Still, it might not be so easily possible to extinguish subterranean sentiments that take their own time to erupt. Inhuman destruction generally leaves cinder that smoulders underneath.

It is the responsibility of the judicial system to punish the offenders and that of governments to find solutions to minimise conflict. Lack of efforts to find consensual solutions gives opportunity to fringe elements to rise and be perceived as crusaders for a cause and creates disorder. This invites the wrath of law thus discrediting the cause and giving the establishment a legitimate ground to retaliate. The champions become the quarry along with the cause and the wave of government retaliation causes more collateral damage nullifying the legitimacy of its action. This is the vicious conundrum of violence that gives those in power, the image of being ruthless, inconsiderate and disproportionate in their response to acts of unlawful aggression by the fringe.

Encounters staged by the police against hardened criminals might be approved by a frenetic crowd but this is not sustainable for a civilised society. The establishment must punish as per due process but not as a desperate avenger.

Retaliation has a strong logic that sounds convincing when passions are inflamed. The forces of evil inflict indiscriminate injury, invite the wrath of the victims and approval for consequential action however disproportionate. We crave instant justice but an exchange involving more innocent deaths can never be fair. Such an exchange does entail unintended casualties of the innocent being used as shields. So, while the first set of deaths were of innocent victims, the second set of innocent unintended victims is a price people are willing to pay in order to carry out a seemingly justified retaliation. In the heat of the situation, nobody has the patience to go to the root of the problem and the manner in which grievances are allowed to take the form of ghastly terror.

One of the strengths of an effective administrator or an empathetic human being is the ability to retain equanimity and restraint in any situation. Those in power cannot act as angry bystanders or the instruments of nemesis due to their inflamed egos. The unreasonable hubris of a sovereign can only lead to retribution, not reconciliation. Dialogue is the only reasonable way forward in a civilised world where might can't determine who is right.

Ashok Lavasa is a former Election Commissioner and former Vice President of Asian Development Bank. Views are personal.



ARUL GEORGE SCARIA BELIEVES AI-GENERATED WORK REQUIRES CAREFUL IP PROTECTION EXTENSION CONSIDERATION

Adapting copyright law for the human element in AI

The Executive Order in the United States, issued by the Biden administration on October 30, on 'Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI)', illustrates the changing attitude of global leaders towards AI regulation. Implementation and the use of AI without the necessary safeguards can have enormous implications for the future of humanity, and the changes in regulatory approaches are a welcome development.

One of the many areas wherein AI has raised tough questions is ownership and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. For example, while generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and Midjourney allow people with minimal creative skills to produce reasonably beautiful outputs with the help of a couple of text prompts, their use has raised a number of copyright-related questions. These include whether the use of copyrighted materials, including texts and images, as training data infringes the rights of millions of authors and artists on the Internet. A related query revolves around copyright ownership over output generated by AI, autonomously or with inputs from humans.

A recent decision of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in *Stephen Thaler vs Shira Perlmutter* is remarkable because it provides some insights on whether copyright can exist in work autonomously created by AI. In this case, Mr. Thaler owned an AI system named 'Creativity Machine' which he claimed had autonomously created a piece of visual art. In his application for copyright registration before the U.S. Copyright Office, 'Creativity Machine' was mentioned as the author of the work. Mr. Thaler also added that the copyright of the work would be transferred



to him, as the owner of 'Creativity Machine'.

The copyright office rejected the application on the ground that the submitted work lacked human authorship. His pleas to the Office to reconsider its decision were also rejected on the same rationale. He challenged the rejection before the District Court subsequently. The primary legal question before the Court was whether a work autonomously generated by an AI system could be copyrightable. After reviewing the relevant statutory provisions, case laws, and theoretical justifications for copyright protection, the court concluded that human creativity was essential to copyright protection.

The court's line of reasoning is in tune with the general position of the U.S. Copyright Office thus far vis-à-vis work created autonomously by an AI system. In a document entitled 'Copyright Registration Guidance: Works Containing Material Generated by Artificial Intelligence', released in March 2023, the copyright office had categorically stated that "copyright can protect only

material that is the product of human creativity. Fundamentally, the term 'author,' used in both the Constitution and the Copyright Act, excludes nonhumans".

The office also clarified that copyright applicants had a duty to disclose the inclusion of AI-generated content in any application, followed by detailed guidelines on doing so in registration forms. Recently, it also initiated a public consultation on various copyright-related questions posed by AI.

The case in India

Compare the U.S. episode with the prevailing situation in India. In 2020, the Indian Copyright Office registered a work of art called 'Suryast', for which an AI system named "RAGHAV Artificial Intelligence Painting App" was listed as a coauthor. The Copyright Office had previously rejected an application in which the same system had been listed as the sole author. While India has not effected any legislative changes in the Copyright Act 1957, the Copyright Office ignored the human authorship requirement in Indian copyright law when granting registration with an AI system as a co-author.

When the matter became controversial, the office sent a notice to the human co-author in the application declaring its intent to withdraw the registration. But the data from the Indian Copyright Office website suggests that the work concerned continues to remain registered. The Copyright Office is also yet to articulate mandatory disclosure requirements on the use of AI or even initiate broader consultations on this important issue.

It may also be useful to review the current scenario in light of the recommendations of the 161st Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce entitled 'Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India' (July 2021). The report had suggested reviewing the Copyright Act 1957 and the Patent Act 1970 to "incorporate the emerging technologies of AI and AI-related inventions in their ambit".

A careful reading of the report suggests some of its recommendations aim to relax the standards for securing copyright and patents. But these recommendations do not appear to be informed by any study of IP-related challenges and needs of the AI innovation ecosystem in India. The committee did not consider the potential adverse implications of such an approach for the startup ecosystem in India. This is alarming.

IP rights confer monopoly protection, and as any monopoly rights can have extensive negative consequences on society, we need to be cautious about extending, in a straightforward way, existing IP protections to AI-generated work. Many of the traditional economic arguments such as the need to incentivise authors and inventors through copyright or patents, do not hold with the autonomous creative output of AI systems, since machines are not influenced by such incentives.

In sum, policymakers and courts in India also need to assume a more cautious approach against diluting the human-centricity in copyright law. There needs to be a cautious approach in extending existing IP protections to work generated by Artificial Intelligence

Arul George Scaria is an Associate Professor at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU). Views are personal.



BOOKS: REVIEW

Resilient opposition: Swatantra's impact on India's economic policy

In "Toward A Free Economy: Swatantra and Opposition Politics in Democratic India," Aditya Balasubramanian provides a meticulous dissection of India's early post-independence political landscape, focusing on the opposition's role in shaping the nation's developmental trajectory. This scholarly work is not just a historical account; it's an exploration of the ideological battles that defined a nascent democracy's path.

Balasubramanian's narrative weaves through the lives and legacies of influential opposition figures and institutions, such as C. Rajagopalachari and the Swatantra Party, the Libertarian Social Institute, and publications like 'The Indian Libertarian'. He paints a vivid picture of a time when India's political and economic discourse was rich with debate and diversity of thought.

The book challenges popular conceptions of the Swatantra Party, often dismissed as a relic of royalty or a mouthpiece for big business.

Instead, Balasubramanian uncovers a complex entity that grappled with issues of inflation, taxation, and property rights, offering a stark contrast to the Congress-led narrative of the time. His impartial treatment of these opposition figures is commendable, providing a balanced view while not shying away from critique.

One of the book's highlights is the intriguing tale of the Lotvalas, a Bombay-based family that championed libertarianism through their publication, advocating for a 'free economy' and making a case for English as India's lingua franca. Their story is a testament to the power of ideas and the impact of intellectual investment in shaping societal views.

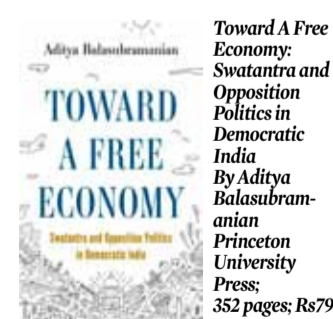
Balasubramanian's work is a treasure trove for researchers, laying the groundwork for further exploration into India's liberal traditions, the geographical spread of political ideologies, and the reasons behind the success or failure of

The book challenges popular conceptions of the Swatantra Party, often dismissed as a relic of royalty or a mouthpiece for big business

certain economic thoughts. He prompts questions about the indigenous roots of liberalism in India and the factors that confined the opposition's influence to specific regions.

The book is dense, perhaps not a casual read, but it's a goldmine for the serious student of Indian politics and economics. It's a call to delve deeper into the rich tapestry of India's developmental narrative, offering insights into the country's past and potentially guiding its future.

Balasubramanian's decade-long



Toward A Free Economy: Swatantra and Opposition Politics in Democratic India
By Aditya Balasubramanian
Princeton University Press
352 pages; Rs799

research journey culminates in a work that celebrates India's pluralistic and diverse democratic ethos. His contribution is a crucial addition to the understanding of India's political economy, inviting readers to reflect on the nation's past decisions, current direction, and future possibilities. "Toward A Free Economy" is a profound acknowledgment of the power of opposition in shaping a democracy, and a recognition of the need to preserve the multiplicity of voices in the ongoing discourse of development.

scenes, debates that were as much about the soul of India as they were about its economic direction. The Swatantra Party and its contemporaries are presented not merely as political entities but as carriers of a vision for India that starkly differed from the socialist path taken by the ruling Congress. This vision, rooted in principles of a free economy and individual liberty, was a bold counter-narrative in a time when central planning and state intervention were the norm worldwide.

The book also serves as a mirror to contemporary politics, reflecting on how the debates of the past continue to resonate in modern India's policy-making. The discussions on the role of the state in the economy, the importance of individual freedoms, and the impact of government policies on entrepreneurship and innovation are as relevant today as they were in the era of Swatantra. Balasubramanian's work prompts readers to consider the cyclical nature of politics and economics, where old ideas often resurface in new guises, and the battles of the past are never truly settled, only reframed for a new generation.

