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1. What a Blue Corner notice will mean for Prajwal Revanna

Why in News?

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is likely to issue a Blue Corner notice against absconding Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna. Prajwal fled to Germany on a diplomatic passport after nearly 3,000 videos showing him allegedly sexually abusing party workers and other women went viral on April 28.

TYPES OF INTERPOL NOTICES



RED NOTICE: To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition or similar lawful action.



YELLOW NOTICE: To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.



BLUE NOTICE: To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.



BLACK NOTICE: To seek information on unidentified bodies.



GREEN NOTICE: To provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.



ORANGE NOTICE: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.



INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE: Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council sanctions committees.



PURPLE NOTICE: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

Source: www.interpol.int

NATION GRAPHICS

Interpol's colour-coded notices

A Blue or a Blue Corner notice is a part of Interpol's elaborate system of colour-coded notices, which, according to the organisation's website, enable countries to "share alerts and requests

for information [on wanted persons/crimes] worldwide". This sharing of critical crime-related information is crucial for tackling internationally spread out criminal activities.

There are seven types of notices — Red Notice, Yellow Notice, Blue Notice, Black Notice, Green Notice, Orange Notice, and Purple Notice. Each has a different implication.

Red Notice: To seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.

Yellow Notice: To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.

Blue Notice: To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.

Black Notice: To seek information on unidentified bodies.

Green Notice: To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.

Orange Notice: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.

Purple Notice: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

These notices are issued by the Interpol's General Secretariat at the request of a member country's Interpol National Central Bureau, and are made available for all member countries. The International Criminal Police Organization, commonly known as Interpol, facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. Based out of Lyon, France, it is the world's largest international police organisation.

What Blue Corner notice means for Prajwal

At this point of time, a Blue notice is simply to further the investigating agencies' enquiries.

The CBI website refers to them as 'B Series (Blue) Notices' or "enquiry notices" which are issued "to have someone's identity verified; to obtain particulars of a person's criminal record; to locate someone who is missing or is an identified or unidentified international criminal or is wanted for a violation of ordinary criminal law and whose extradition may be requested."

Generally speaking, Blue notices are issued prior to or immediately after the filing of criminal charges, whereas Red notices, which request the arrest of a fugitive, generally follow criminal convictions.

That being said, all Interpol's notices are completely discretionary, i.e. Interpol itself cannot compel law enforcement authorities to act on a particular notice. Very often, actual action on the notices is predicated on the relations between the two countries. Given India's amicable

relations with Germany, where Prajwal has fled to, it will be fair to expect that Indian and German law enforcement will fruitfully cooperate to resolve the case.

In 2020, Interpol issued a Blue Notice to locate fugitive Godman Nithyananda, who had fled the country amidst allegations of sexual abuse and rape in 2019.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Organisations

Source: Indian Express

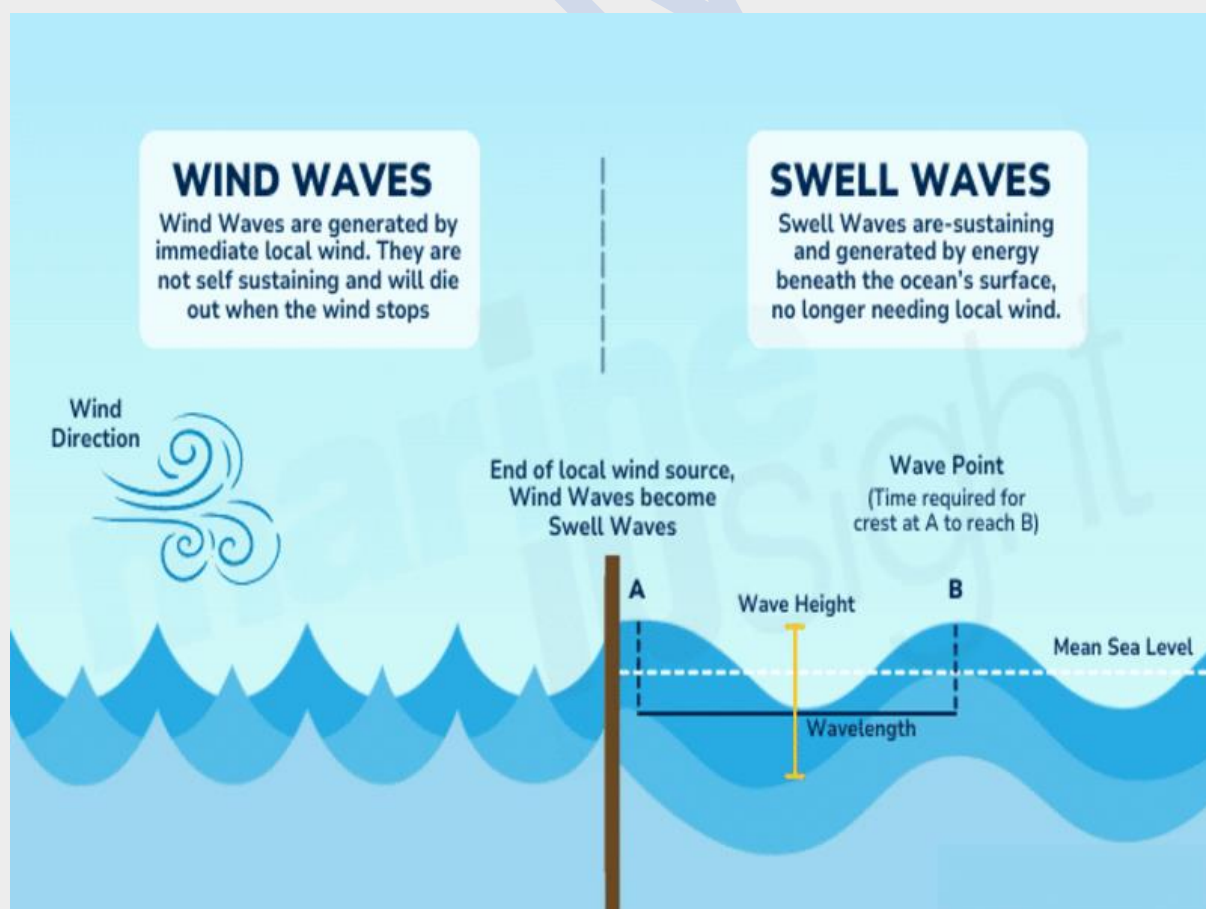
2. Swell waves likely to hit several coastal areas over the weekend, says INCOIS: What are these waves?

Why in News?

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) recently forecasted that high sea waves, also known as swell waves, might hit the western coast of India.

INCOIS cautioned fishermen and coastal population and urged for total suspension of operational/recreational activities at beach/nearshore regions.

In March, swell waves led to flooding in several areas of Kerala — the worst affected were Alappuzha, Kollam, and Thiruvananthapuram districts. Such flooding events are called Kallakkadal in Kerala.



What are swell waves?

These waves are formed by an ocean swell, hence the name swell surge. Ocean swells occur not due to the local winds, but rather due to distant storms like hurricanes, or even long periods of fierce gale winds. During such storms, huge energy transfer takes place from the air into the water, leading to the formation of very high waves. Such waves can travel thousands of kilometres from the storm centre until they strike shore.

Usually, states like Kerala witness swell waves as a result of strong winds in the southern part of the Indian Ocean, where an ocean swell is generated, and the waves then travel north to reach the coast in two or three days.

The March swell waves were generated after a low atmospheric pressure system moved over the region from the South Atlantic Ocean — 10,000 kilometres off the Indian coast. The arrival of the pressure system resulted in strong winds, which led to the formation of swell waves of up to 11 metres in height. These waves hit the Kerala coast and Lakshadweep.

To forecast swell waves, INCOIS launched the Swell Surge Forecast System in 2020 which can give forewarning seven days in advance.

What is the difference between swell waves and tsunamis?

Unlike swell waves, a tsunami is a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance usually associated with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean. Tsunamis are around 10 times faster than swell waves. Although both swell waves and tsunamis slow down near the coast, the latter hit land at 30–50 km/h.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper I; Geography

Source: Indian Express

3. With the Delhi Chief Minister in jail, how is the administration carrying out its tasks?

Why in News?

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been lodged in Tihar Jail since April 1 after being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on charges of corruption and money laundering in the execution of the Delhi government's now scrapped excise policy for 2021-22. Recently, the Supreme Court forewarned the ED that it may "consider" granting interim bail to Mr. Kejriwal due to the Lok Sabha election. Delhi votes on May 25.

What is the Aam Aadmi Party's strategy?

Foreseeing his arrest, the Aam Aadmi Party in December, 2023 ran a "Main Bhi Kejriwal" (I am also Kejriwal) campaign that asked the people of Delhi if Mr. Kejriwal should continue as the Chief Minister of Delhi from jail if arrested. After his arrest, in an unprecedented decision, AAP decided that Mr. Kejriwal would remain the Chief Minister and that he would run the government from behind bars proclaiming it as the "will of the people of Delhi".

Mr. Kejriwal's decision has led to a peculiar situation in the capital where various administrative decisions have been stalled. For instance, the election to appoint the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) scheduled to be held on April 26 was postponed

after Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena refused to appoint a presiding officer to conduct the election saying he "did not deem it appropriate to exercise his power as Administrator to appoint the Presiding Officer in [the] absence of inputs from the Chief Minister."



Is the Chief Minister meeting his Ministers?

When Mr. Kejriwal was in the custody of the ED from March 21 to April 1, he was sending written instructions to his Ministers on ensuring uninterrupted water supply and medicine as well as

messages to the public to be read out by his wife Sunita Kejriwal.

However, since being lodged in Tihar Jail, communication has been reduced to media bites from those going to visit him. The Tihar Jail Manual says that every interview with a prisoner shall take place in the presence of a prison officer, who shall be positioned at a place from where he can see and hear what passes between the prisoner and his interviewer and he shall prevent any article being passed between the two parties.

Since April 1, apart from his family and lawyers, Mr. Kejriwal has met AAP general secretary Sandeep Pathak and Cabinet Ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj once and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann on two occasions. Mr. Pathak said Mr. Kejriwal would meet two Cabinet Ministers every week for 30 minutes each.

How is the government being run?

Mr. Kejriwal does not have any portfolios under him and there have been no cabinet meetings since his arrest. There has also not been a session of the Delhi Assembly since then. Individual ministers have been looking after their own departments. The party is currently focused on its election campaign. While deferring the MCD elections, the LG said that the circumstances were "peculiar" and "unprecedented" where the serving Chief Minister "cannot discharge his constitutionally obligated functions."

The Constitution is silent about whether a person can continue as Chief Minister as remand prisoner. Section 8(3) of the Representation of People Act of 1951, states that an MLA or MP can be disqualified when convicted and sentenced to at least two years in prison. Mr. Kejriwal has not yet been convicted in the case.

When can President's Rule be imposed?

President's Rule can be imposed in Delhi under Article 239AB of the Constitution. Delhi's power structure is characterised by a delicate balance between the elected government and the Central government-appointed LG. If Mr. Kejriwal continues to remain in prison, stalling various administrative work, the LG can recommend to the President who can invoke Article 239AB citing "failure of constitutional machinery". President's rule under Article 239AB was

invoked in Delhi only once, in 2014, subsequent to Mr. Kejriwal's resignation 49 days into his first tenure as Chief Minister.

What are the challenges going forward?

In a recent order, the High Court censured the AAP government over non-supply of educational material and other statutory benefits to eight lakh students in the MCD-run schools. While noting that it is Mr. Kejriwal's prerogative whether to continue as the Chief Minister or resign, the High Court said national and public interest demands that no person who holds this post is incommunicado or absent for a long stretch of time or for an uncertain period time.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: The Hindu

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