

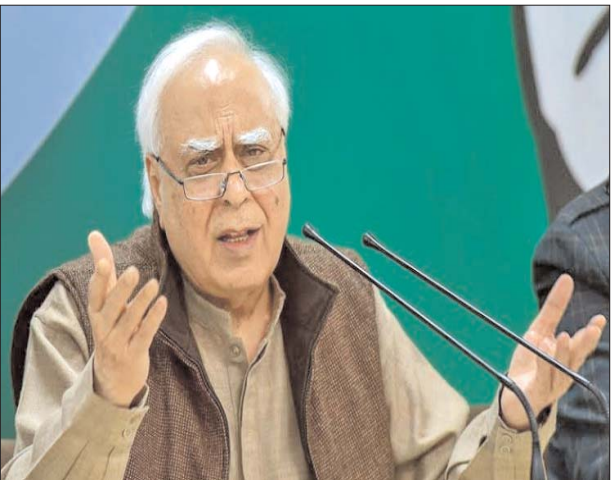
China benefited most from BRICS summit: Kapil Sibal

NEW DELHI, SEPT 14: Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday described the BRICS as a "motley" collection of nations from which no definitive resolutions can emerge, and claimed that China benefitted the most from the grouping's just-concluded summit in New Delhi.

Sibal, who is a former Union Minister, said that for India, as chair, it was like navigating through the Strait of Hormuz to finally come out with a joint statement.

"For us, it was like navigating through Hormuz. China and Russia want to make it an alternative anti-western bloc and RIC (Russia, India, China), is now actually Russia, Iran and China.... We will not want it (to be an anti-Western bloc)," he said at a press conference here.

"But we have got to know, as well as other countries of



the world, that the US will not win the war against Iran. That reflected in our resolution as there was talk of Palestine and two-nation theory," Sibal said.

He said the BRICS is a "motley" collection of nations from which no definitive resolutions can easily emerge.

"That is precisely why I

noted at the outset that its a notable achievement for our Government that a joint resolution was passed without sparking any controversy. I want to say that this cannot be a non-western alliance. China benefitted the most from it," the Independent Rajya Sabha MP said..

Sibal said the New Delhi declaration did not talk of an

alternative currency and de-dollarisation, which is an achievement.

He said it was an achievement for India that a joint statement was issued without any controversy.

The former minister, however, said sometimes declarations remain just on print so only time will tell whether the New Delhi declaration will be implemented on the ground.

The annual summit of BRICS, a grouping of 11 major emerging economies representing around 49.5 per cent of the world's population and 40 per cent of global GDP, concluded on Sunday with key outcomes in logistics supply chains, startups and infectious disease control, with its member nations calling for a better global governance and trading architecture to navigate current challenges.

75 students fall ill due to suspected food poisoning at Surat boarding school

SURAT, SEP 14: At least 75 students of a private boarding school in Surat fell sick due to suspected food poisoning, with 12 of them needing hospitalisation, an official said on Sunday.

All the students are out of danger, he said.

"Seventy-five students residing in the hostel of P P Savani School in the city's Abrama area developed symptoms including diarrhoea and vomiting from Saturday night," said Medical Health Officer P H Umrigar from Surat Municipal Corporation.

A total of 12 students, including nine girls, aged between 15 and 17 years, were admitted to the hospital, he added.

Of these 12 students, four have been discharged after treatment, while the condition of the remaining students is stable, Umrigar said.



As soon as the Surat Municipal Corporation received information about the incident, its health department initiated action, the civic body said in a release.

"Teams from the Food Department, Health Department and Sanitation Depart-

ment conducted an inspection at the P P Savani School hostel. During the inspection, four food samples were collected and sent for necessary testing," it said.

A mobile medical team is currently conducting health check-ups of other students

residing in the hostel to ensure their medical assessment, it added.

A total of 2,200 students reside at the boarding school, along with 300 staff members. All of them had the same food on Saturday, Umrigar said.

Fmr Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal surrenders before Goa court; sent to jail to serve 10-year sentence

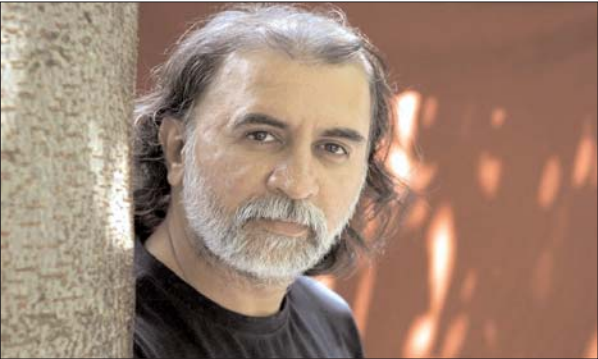
PANAJI, SEP 14: Former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal surrendered before a Goa court on Monday to serve his 10-year rigorous imprisonment sentence in a 2013 sexual assault case.

On August 25, the Supreme Court had directed Tejpal to surrender within three weeks to undergo his 10-year prison sentence following his conviction by the Bombay High Court. A SC bench of Justice Alok Aradhe had dismissed Tejpal's plea seeking exemption from surrendering.

Tejpal surrendered before the Additional Sessions Court at Mapusa, after which he was sent to Central Jail at Colvale in North Goa to begin serving his sentence.

The apex court had listed his appeal challenging his conviction and sentence for hearing on September 22, subject to the filing of the surrender certificate.

"In case the surrender certificate is filed on or before September 21, 2026, the registry shall list the criminal



appeal for hearing on September 22, 2026 before the regular court," it had said.

On August 6, the Bombay HC convicted Tejpal of raping a junior colleague inside a hotel elevator in November 2013 during an event organised by the magazine in Goa and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years, overturning his acquittal by the trial court five years ago.

Tejpal was convicted under several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 376(2)(f) (rape committed by a person in a position of trust or authority), 354(a) (sexual harassment) and 354(b) (assault or

use of criminal force with intent to disrobe). Under Section 376(2)(f), the maximum punishment is life imprisonment.

The HC had imposed a fine of more than Rs 10 lakh, with the court directing that the amount be paid to the victim.

Tejpal was arrested in November 2013 in the case and remained in custody for several weeks before being granted bail.

The trial was conducted before the Additional Sessions Court at Mapusa, which, in May 2021, acquitted Tejpal of all charges, holding that the prosecution had failed to establish the case beyond reasonable

doubt.

The Goa government challenged the acquittal before the Bombay High Court, contending that the trial court had erred in its appreciation of the evidence.

After a prolonged hearing, the High Court on August 6 allowed the state's appeal and set aside the acquittal.

While reversing the trial court verdict, the High Court placed considerable reliance on the testimony of the woman and other evidence, including CCTV footage and emails exchanged after the alleged incidents.

The High Court also criticised the trial court's approach towards the conduct of the complainant, saying that a survivor of sexual assault cannot be expected to behave according to stereotypes of an "ideal victim".

The High Court rejected Tejpal's defence that the allegations were part of an attempt at extortion or character assassination and held that his position of authority over the woman was relevant to the case.

Lack of AI knowledge could leave societies 'weaponised,' warns Malaysia PM

KOZHIKODE, SEP 14: Malaysia Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Sunday called for greater expertise in artificial intelligence and modern technology, warning that societies lacking an understanding of AI risk being "weaponised" by foreign forces.

Ibrahim was speaking after receiving the first "Excellence Award" instituted by the Sheikh Abu Bakar Foundation at the Karanthur Markaz in Kunnamangalam here.

The Malaysian Prime Minister visited Keralam to meet prominent Sunni scholar and Indian Grand Mufti Kanthapuram A P Aboobacker Musliyar after attending the BRICS 2026 summit in Delhi. This was the Malaysian leader's second meeting with Kanthapuram in four years in the state.

Addressing a gathering at Markaz, Ibrahim said scholars and societies must recognise the realities and challenges posed by modern technology, new sciences, digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

"The scholars have to accept the new realities and the challenges of the present time. That includes our understanding of modern technology, new sciences, digital transformation, and artificial intelligence," he said.

PM Ibrahim said technological advancement should be accompanied by a strong value system.

He said knowledge and expertise in AI were essential as the technology rapidly transformed societies.

"Without knowledge, we will fail. Without understanding artificial intelligence, we will be colonised, and we'll become just weapons... weaponised by foreign forces to weaken our resolve," PM Ibrahim said.

Even leading figures in the technology sector, including AI pioneers and entrepre-



neur Elon Musk, had expressed concerns about the implications of artificial intelligence.

He said the challenge was two-fold -- acquiring knowledge and expertise in AI while ensuring that technological progress did not erode moral values.Executive Branch

"Our concern is: We need the knowledge. We need the expertise. But our concern is also the need to have it to protect our moral values," PM Ibrahim said.

He referred to a recent proposal at an Asian forum to discuss ways to embrace AI while ensuring that values and moral principles remained strong.

He also stressed on the importance of preserving cultural and intellectual heritage while embracing new technology and knowledge.

"Our problem is--we grab new technology, new knowledge, but we lose sight of our own heritage."

PM Ibrahim said Malaysia, a multi-racial country with Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and people of other religious denominations, was committed to promoting humanity, mutual respect and friendship among different communities.

He also spoke about the importance of education, knowledge and translating principles into practice, saying merely discussing good

governance, opposing corruption and advocating tolerance was not enough.

"The failure is to actualise and practice what we preach," he said.

Referring to Keralam's historical links with the Malaysia, the prime minister said the Malabar Coast had maintained profound historical ties with the Malay Archipelago.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for facilitating his visit to the southern state and said he would meet Keralam Chief Minister VD Satheesan and his cabinet colleagues on Monday to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations between India and Malaysia.

Discussions would also be on strengthening ties between Keralam and Malaysia.Government

PM Ibrahim also praised the Keralam government officials and security personnel involved in his visit, noting that many of them belonged to different communities.

"The respect, kindness and working together" demonstrated during the visit showed the importance of cooperation, he said.

The PM was earlier received at Kariapur airport in Malappuram district by state Agriculture Minister T Siddique on behalf of the state government, according to a statement issued by the district administration.

He later travelled by road

to Karanthur Markaz in Kunnamangalam, the headquarters of the Sunni faction led by Kanthapuram.

At Markaz, PM Ibrahim was given a reception by scholars and held discussions with Kanthapuram.

"Had a fruitful interaction with YAB Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, at Markazu Saquafathi Sunniyya, Kozhikode," Kanthapuram said in a Facebook post accompanying photographs of their meeting. Ibrahim later attended a special reception at the Markaz Convention Centre attended by several scholars from the state.

During the function, Ibrahim and Kanthapuram walked to the stage holding hands, following which the latter led a prayer session with the Malaysian Prime Minister seated beside him.

Kanthapuram then presented Ibrahim with the first "Excellence Award" instituted by the Sheikh Abu Bakar Foundation.

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leaders Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal and PK Kunhalikutty also met Ibrahim at the event.

The Malaysian leader later visited the Madavoor C M Valiyaullahi Maqam, a prominent pilgrimage centre, along with Kanthapuram. He is scheduled to return t Malaysia via the Maldives on Monday.

This is Ibrahim's second visit to Keralam to meet Kanthapuram. His first visit to Markaz was in September 2022, a few weeks before he became Malaysia's prime minister, organisers said.Psychology

The visit comes as Malaysia prepares for its next general election, expected in 2027.

The country has a sizeable Muslim population and a significant ethnic Tamil community.

UCC In 21 BJP-NDA States By 2029 Will Prove Milestone For Gender Equality: VHP

NEW DELHI, SEP 14: The Vishva Hindu Parishad on Monday welcomed Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that a Uniform Civil Code will be implemented in all BJP-ruled states by 2029, saying it will prove to be a "milestone" in eliminating gender inequality and discrimination in the country.

Shah on Sunday said the BJP-led NDA governments in 21 states will introduce the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) before 2029.

Shah was speaking to reporters in Mumbai, highlighting the achievements of the Centre over the last 12 years and the BJP's 25-year journey under Narendra Modi's leadership.

"Triple talaq has been abolished, giving Muslim women equal rights. We have introduced the Uniform Civil Code in several states, and I am confident that we will introduce it in all the 21 BJP-NDA states before 2029," Shah said.

The next Lok Sabha polls are scheduled to be held in 2029. VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said the UCC will enable a large section of women, who had been deprived of their rights over the past 75 years, to secure them.

It will also help free women and children from the clutches of fundamentalists and separatists," Bansal said in a post on X.

He said Shah's statement is welcome, claiming that the UCC has already been implemented in five states and is in process in three others.

"UCC in 80 per cent of India by 2029! Kudos to the Modi government... This decision will prove to be a milestone in eliminating the remaining gender inequality and discrimination in India and in advancing the rights of women and children," he wrote on X.

Speaking to PTI Videos separately, Bansal said, "It is a very welcome and important step that should be supported everywhere. UCC has already been implemented in four-five BJP-ruled states; it has been in place in Goa

from the beginning. The process is underway in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and several other states, including Bengal. I feel that it will be implemented in most states by the end of this year."

He also urged the non-BJP states to take the initiative on this issue.

"States that are not ruled by the BJP should also consider implementing UCC. After all, giving equal rights to citizens, giving rights to women, and restoring lost rights to children is the responsibility of the government and the administration. It is not just a moral responsibility, but also a constitutional duty," Bansal told PTI Videos. (PTI)

3-day meeting of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple Construction Committee begins in Ayodhya

AYODHYA (UP), SEP 14: A three-day meeting of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple Construction Committee began in Ayodhya on Sunday, with committee chairman Nripendra Misra inspecting the ongoing construction of a memorial pillar and beautification work.Find Local Churches

The construction of the memorial pillar is nearing completion and Misra reviewed the work at the site. He also inspected the beautification work being carried out at the old temporary temple, trust sources said.

Later, Misra held a meeting with officials and representatives associated with the construction and other re-

lated projects at the auditorium of the Pilgrim Facilitation Centre (PFC).

The sources said the committee is scheduled to hold meetings with construction agencies on September 13-14 to review the progress of the temple and associated projects, including technical aspects and upcoming works. The construction of an outer security wall, about four-kilometre long, around the temple complex is also expected to be discussed during the meetings.

The committee will hold its deliberations at the Ram Katha Museum on September 15. The newly-appointed CEO of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, re-



tired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra, is expected to attend the meeting for the first time.

Mishra, 62, was appointed the trust's first chief executive officer (CEO) as part of an administrative restructuring aimed at strengthening its functioning.Hire Local Contractors

Mishra is scheduled to return to Ayodhya from New Delhi on September 15. His first formal meeting with construction committee chairman Nripendra Misra is expected to take place on the same day.

The new CEO is expected to be briefed on the temple's administration, ongoing construction, other projects and upcoming works.

Arrangements for the CEO's residence are also nearing completion. Om Bhawan, located near Rampath to the south of the Jagadguru Shankaracharya entrance, is being prepared as his residence, the sources said. Some changes have also been introduced in the worship and temple-related procedures. From Janmash-tami, changes were made to the process of aarti, while the religious committee has prescribed attire for priests.

The carrying of mobile phones and outside material into the sanctum sanctorum has also been prohibited, the sources said. (PTI)