

Centre announces Praveen Sood as new CBI Director

Vijaita Singh

NEW DELHI

Karnataka's Director-General of Police (DGP) Praveen Sood was appointed Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday, according to an order of the Department of Personnel and Training.

The key appointment will see Mr. Sood at the helm of affairs of the investigating agency during the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Sood — who has never served with either the CBI or the Union government — was not empanelled as DGP at the Centre. His name was not among the original panel of officers shortlisted for the job.

An official said that the empanelment at the Centre will not apply in the case of the CBI Director, unlike in the case of other Central government appointments, as he or she derives powers under the Delhi Police Special Establishment Act, 1946.

"Approval of the Competent Authority is hereby conveyed to the appointment of Shri Praveen Sood,



Praveen Sood

IPS (KN:86) as Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office vice Shri Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, IPS (MH:85) consequent upon completion of his tenure," the order said.

Mr. Sood's name was finalised on Saturday by a three-member panel comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

The two-year fixed tenure of the present incumbent Subodh Kumar Jaiswal is coming to an end on May 25.

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What is CBI?

- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating police agency in India.
 - It provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.
- It functions under the superintendence of the Deptt. of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India - which falls under the prime minister's office.
 - However for investigations of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, its superintendence vests with the Central Vigilance Commission.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries.
- Its conviction rate is as high as 65 to 70% and it is comparable to the best investigation agencies in the world.

How is the Director of CBI Appointed?

- Director, CBI as Inspector General of Police, Delhi Special Police Establishment, is responsible for the administration of the organisation.
 - Till 2014, the CBI Director was appointed on the basis of the DSPE Act, 1946.
- In 2003, DSPE Act was revised on Supreme Court's recommendation in the Vineet Narain case.
 - A committee that had members from Central Vigilance Commission, Secretaries from Home Ministry, Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances would send recommendations to Central Government for the appointment of CBI Director.
- In 2014, the Lokpal Act provided a committee for appointment of CBI Director:
 - Headed by Prime Minister
 - Other members - Leader of Opposition/ Leader of the single largest opposition party, Chief Justice of India/ a Supreme Court Judge.
 - Home Ministry sends a list of eligible candidates to DoPT. Then, the DoPT prepares the final list on basis of seniority, integrity, and experience in the investigation of anti-corruption cases, and sends it to the committee.
- Director of CBI has been provided security of two year tenure, by the CVC Act, 2003.

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- In November 2021, the President promulgated two ordinances to allow the Centre to extend the tenures of the directors of the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate from two years to up to five years.
 - Amendments in DSPE Act:
 - Provided that the period for which the Director holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the Committee (the committee led by the Prime Minister and leader of Opposition and CJI as members) and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time.
 - Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.

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IMD issues fourth heatwave alert for the Konkan region

Mumbai, Palghar, Thane, Konkan, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, have been given the warning, says the agency; people have been advised to follow the guidelines to mitigate impact

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has declared a heatwave in various regions of Maharashtra, including Mumbai, Palghar, Thane, Konkan, central Maharashtra and Vidarbha.

This is the fourth heatwave alert for the Konkan region and the first in May, the IMD said.

The State is currently experiencing high temperatures, with the mercury soaring above normal levels. Authorities and individuals are advised to take immediate preventive measures and follow necessary guidelines to mitigate the impact of the heatwave and ensure the safety of residents in these affected areas, it said.

Several areas in central Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha have been reeling under above-normal temperatures for the



No respite: A file photo of an award ceremony on the outskirts of Mumbai on April 16, during which 13 people died of heatstroke. AFP

past three weeks.

On May 12, in areas of the Central Maharashtra region, the maximum temperature in Jalgaon was 44.9 degrees Celsius, and in Jeur, 43 degrees Celsius. In Akola, in the Vidarbha region, the maximum temperature was 44.5 degrees Celsius; in Parbhani and in the Marathwada region, 43.6 degrees Celsius. Mumbai recorded 35.2 degrees Celsius.

Lubaina Rangwala, Associate Director, World Resources Institute (WRI) India, said, "This year's summer has been brutal, and each year, it is getting progressively worse. Last April, Mumbai saw temperatures higher than 35 degrees Celsius with relative humidity upwards of 80% in some areas."

"What this means is that the city was exposed to a heat index (or wet bulb

temperature) upwards of 50 degrees Celsius. In coastal cities, temperatures higher than 35 degrees Celsius are dangerous because they surpass a body's ability to cool off after exposure and result in severe illnesses and fatalities. In this scenario, across the country, it is a national emergency that cities and districts prepare heat action plans that are well-monitored and tailored to the needs of those most vulnerable," Ms. Rangwala said.

"Along with heat wave warnings, there is a need to issue clear directives to citizens at the city and district levels to avoid going out during the afternoon hours during the warning period, particularly for senior citizens and children wherever possible, stay hydrated, and take other basic precautionary measures," said Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.

What is Heat Wave?









- Heat wave as a hazard causing disaster scenario, is little more than the physical phenomenon of high heat conditions and is characterized as a complex of hydro-climatic risks coupled with social, occupational and public health risks.

Definition:

- As such there is no universal definition for heat wave.
- It is generally defined as a prolonged period of excessive heat.

▪ **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Criteria:**

- Heat Wave need not be considered till maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at-least 30°C for Hilly regions.
- If the normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40°C, then an increase of 5°C to 6°C from the normal temperature is considered to be heat wave condition.
 - Further, an increase of 7°C or more from the normal temperature is considered a severe heat wave condition.
- If the normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C, then an increase of 4°C to 5°C from the normal temperature is considered to be heat wave condition. Further, an increase of 6°C or more is considered a severe heat wave condition.
 - Additionally, if the actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more irrespective of normal maximum temperature, a heat wave is declared.

Heat wave Scenario		40°C	30°C
Maximum Temperature		Plains	Hills
Heat wave conditions prevail when...		Severe heat wave conditions prevail when....	
Normal maximum temperature	Deviation from normal	Normal maximum temperature	Deviation from normal
			
Above		Above	
40°C	4-5°C or more	40°C	6°C or more
			
At or below		At or below	
40°C	5-6°C or more	40°C	7°C or more

To What Extent Heat Wave is the Problem?

- Heat Stress:
 - 350 million Indians exposed to strong heat stress between April and May 2022
- Temperature Trends:
 - Summer temperatures have risen by 0.5-0.9°C across districts in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan between 1990 and 2019.
 - 54% of India's districts have seen a similar rise in winter temperatures.
 - Maximum temperature is expected to rise by 2-3.5°C in 100 districts and by 1.5-2°C in around 455 districts between 2021 and 2050.
- Urban Heat Island Effect:
 - Rising temperatures lead to **urban heat island** effect with temperatures 4-12°C higher than rural area.
- Climate change exacerbates local weather patterns, leading to weather variability and losses in agriculture.

What are the Causes?

- Sparse Pre-Monsoon Season Showers:
 - Less moisture in many areas, leaving large parts of India arid and dry.
 - The sudden end of pre-monsoon rain showers, an uncommon trend in India, has contributed to the heat waves.
- El Nino Effect:
 - **El Nino** often increases temperatures in Asia, combined with the weather pattern to create record high temperatures.
 - Trade winds coming from South America normally blow westward towards Asia during **Southwest Monsoon** and warming of the Pacific Ocean results in weakening of these winds.
 - Therefore, moisture and heat content get limited and results in reduction and uneven distribution of rainfall across the Indian sub-continent.

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What are Government Initiative Regarding Heat Waves?

- National action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC):
 - There are 8 national missions forming the core of the NAPCC which represent multi-pronged, long term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in climate change. These are-
 - National Solar Mission
 - National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
 - National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
 - National Water Mission
 - National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
 - National Mission for A Green India
 - National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
 - National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change
- India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP):
 - ICAP is a long-term vision to address the cooling requirement across sectors. Reducing cooling demand by 20-25% and refrigeration demand by 25-30% by the year 2037 are the goals of this plan.
- NDMA Guidelines:
 - In 2016, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued comprehensive guidelines to prepare national level key strategies for mitigating the impact of heatwaves.

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Three killed, roofs torn off as Cyclone Mocha makes landfall in Myanmar

Associated Press
DHAKA

Thousands of people hunkered down on Sunday in monasteries, pagodas and schools, seeking shelter from a powerful storm that slammed into the coast of Myanmar, tearing the roofs off buildings and killing at least three people.

The centre of Cyclone Mocha made landfall on Sunday afternoon in Myanmar's Rakhine state near Sittwe township with wind speeds up to 209 kilometres per hour, Myanmar's Meteorological Department said. Earlier, the storm passed over Bangladesh's Saint Martin's Island, causing damage and injuring people, but turned away from the country's shores before landfall.

Myanmar's military in-



Fury unleashed: Residents checking the damages after Cyclone Mocha crashed ashore, in Kyauktaw in Myanmar on Sunday. AFP

formation office said the storm had damaged houses, electrical transformers, cell phone towers, boats and lampposts in Sittwe, Kyaukpyu, and Gwa townships. It said the storm also tore roofs off of sport buildings on the Coco Islands, about 425 kilometres southwest of the country's largest city, Yangon.

Rakhine-based media reported that streets and basements of the houses in Sittwe's low-lying areas were flooded, and that people in low-lying areas were trapped in their houses and unable to communicate.

Much of the area is cut off from telephone and Internet service after high

winds crumpled cell phone towers.

More than 4,000 of Sittwe's 3,00,000 residents were evacuated to other cities and more than 20,000 people are sheltering in sturdy buildings such as monasteries, pagodas and schools located on the city's highlands, said a volunteer in Sittwe.

Titon Mitra, the U.N. Development Program representative in Myanmar, tweeted: "Mocha has made landfall. 2 million people at risk. Damage and losses are expected to be extensive. We are ready to respond."

Roxy Mathew Koll, a scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, said cyclones in the Bay of Bengal are becoming more intense more quickly, in part because of climate change.

Prraneeth is India's 82nd Grandmaster

CHESS

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

V. Prraneeth became Telangana's sixth and India's 82nd Grandmaster when he outwitted GM Hans Niemann of the US in the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023. The win against the top seed helped Prraneeth cross Elo 2500 in live ratings, 2500.5 to be exact.

The 15-year-old Prraneeth earned his first GM-norm at the First Saturday tournament in March 2022 where he also became an IM. He earned his second GM-norm at Biel MTO in July 2022. Nine months later, he earned his final GM-norm at the second Chesable Sunway Formentera Open 2023.

"One dream is fulfilled. It is an unforgettable moment in my career," a visibly delighted Prraneeth told *The Hindu* on Sunday. "Though it is part of my journey to some of the bigger goals, it is a very significant milestone," he said.

"The immediate targets are crossing Elo 2500, then 2700. Obviously, the ultimate goal is to win the World Championship which I know is not that easy but I will not be found wanting in terms of effort and hard work," the youngster said.



V. Prraneeth.

"One year back, though I had a decent game I was getting into time pressure. But, now slowly improving in this regard," Prraneeth said. "I was trained by N.V.S. Ramaraju Sir till 2021 before hiring Israel GM Victor Mekhalevski and he is helping me a lot in analysing games," the Intermediate first year student of Vishwa Chaitanya College said.

"It is good to see so many young GMs from India and I feel this helps Indian chess in a big way," said the young player who admires Magnus Carlsen and Anatoly Karpov.

"The next big event for me is the Asian Continental championship in Kazakhstan and I hope to do well," he said.

"Definitely, looking for some kind of sponsorship as you all know it is very challenging to train and compete at the highest level because a lot of travelling is involved. Hope the GM title will get me a sponsor," Prraneeth added.