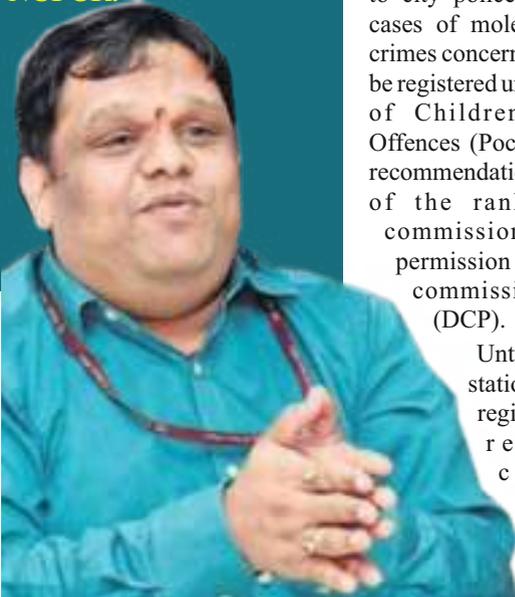


“This order issued by the Maharashtra police will cause a serious infringement upon the right of victims of sexual abuse and cause undue delay for victims to their access to justice. Moreover, this order is observed by the Commission to contravene the true aim and spirit of the Act and beyond the scope and purview of the provisions laid down under the Act. Therefore, keeping in view of the rights of minor sexual abuse victims, the Commission recommends and requests that this order may be reviewed by your good office and withdrawn thereafter. An action taken report in the matter may be sent to the Commission in the next 07 days.”

Signed letter by Priyank Kanoongo, chairperson, NCPDR.



Maharashtra Police may cause serious infringement upon the right of victims of sexual abuse - NCPDR

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) opposes Mumbai CP Sanjay Pandey

Saket Loke & Akash Nirmal
@VaidehiTaman

City police commissioner Sanjay Pandey issued letter made instructions to city police stations that the cases of molestation or sexual crimes concerning minors should be registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act only after recommendation from an officer of the rank of assistant commissioner (ACP) and permission from a deputy commissioner of police (DCP).

Until now, a police station would directly register an FIR if it received any complaint. Henceforth, the ACP will have

to verify a complaint and then recommend registering an FIR. For this, the ACP will also have to send a recommendation to the DCP for approval before registering the FIR.

In such cases, earlier the FIR was filed immediately after the complaint and the accused gets arrested afterwards; bail is rare. During investigation, if it is found that the complaint is false, the suspect gets discharged under Section 169 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The process, though, leaves the person's reputation tarnished, and he suffers a lot.

Pandey's letter stated “it has been pointed out that sometimes, because of quarrels, personal rivalry or monetary disputes, motivated complaints are lodged under Pocso or IPC for sexual molestation. However, the

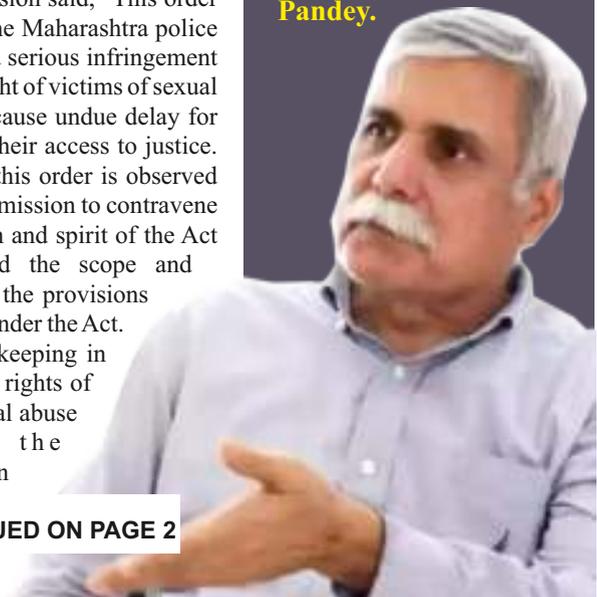
National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) on Thursday objected to the commissioner's order.

In a letter to state director general of police Rajnish Seth, the commission said, "This order issued by the Maharashtra police will cause a serious infringement upon the right of victims of sexual abuse and cause undue delay for victims to their access to justice. Moreover, this order is observed by the Commission to contravene the true aim and spirit of the Act and beyond the scope and purview of the provisions laid down under the Act. Therefore, keeping in view of the rights of minor sexual abuse victims, the Commission

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

“In such cases, the accused is immediately arrested before any inquiry. If the complaint is found to be false, the accused is being discharged under section 169 of the CrPC. However, the process is time-consuming. The arrest tarnishes the image of the accused, who is being defamed and faces individual losses.”

Stated letter by Sanjay Pandey.



Rahul Mukerjea - Sheena Bora most tragic love story of city

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Rahul Mukerjea - Sheena Bora loved each other immensely without bothering about the baggage they were carrying. Rahul Mukerjea is the son of Peter Mukerjea, one of the accused in Sheena Bora murder case. Rahul told the court that he ran pillar to post to trace Sheena, who had disappeared after meeting her mother Indrani Mukerjea, the prime accused in the case, on April 24, 2012.

Indrani had two children from her partner Siddharth Das, Sheena and Mikhail. Mikhail lived in Guwahati with Indrani's parents. The relationship between mother and daughter was not amicable. Indrani got married three times and she also had one daughter from her second

marriage. Indrani's present husband Peter Mukerjea was married several times and had children from all of them.

In early 2012, Sheena had resolved her differences with Indrani, as she wanted financial help to pursue an MBA course at Oxford Brookes University. The mother-daughter duo then met for some time at a five-star hotel near Mumbai airport and after the meeting, Sheena told Rahul that “Indrani's attitude had changed and she had accepted their engagement and was helpful. Indrani was against the relationship between Rahul and Sheena because Rahul was Peter Mukerjea's son and Shreena was his daughter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Editoritis

Rahul Mukerjea - Sheena Bora most tragic love story of city

>>PAGE 1

But gradually, the mother-daughter duo had decided to meet again on April 24, 2012 – the day they allegedly killed Sheena. On that day, Rahul dropped Sheena on Linking Road at Bandra where he saw a parked Silver car in which Indrani was sitting in the back seat and Shyamwar Rai, another accused in the case who has turned approver, was in the driver's seat. He also saw Indrani's ex-husband Sanjeev Khanna, also arrested in the case, on the spot.

After reaching home, Rahul messaged her intermittently. When he received her first reply, they were having drinks at a hotel in Bandra and later went for dinner at another hotel. In a subsequent message, Sheena replied to him that she was having fun with Indrani and wished to spend the night with her. Rahul was shocked with the message because the day before Sheena was in two minds... whether to go or not for the meeting.

The next morning, he didn't hear anything from her. When he sent a message, she replied that she will be home in a couple of hours. But, half an hour later got another message from her saying she had met someone very wealthy and she was in love with him and no longer wanted to be with me and that Rahul shouldn't chase her. Rahul messaged her that she should at least call him. He received a reply. Not now, maybe in a couple of months. On receiving the reply, Rahul suspected "something may have happened...possibly someone else was sending the messages from her phone."

Rahul could never imagine that Sheen's life could be in danger. However, he immediately started searching for Sheena and went straight to Indrani's house in Worli. He checked both her adjoining flats but didn't find anyone except a lady, who had no idea about Sheena. On failing to track her whereabouts, Rahul went to the Worli police station and explained the situation to the officers on duty.

Two police constables came with him to check at Indrani's residence, but in vain. He then tried to give a written complaint to Worli police, but they said he should stop worrying, as Sheena had gone with her mother. She would be fine and may return in a few days. At the suggestion of the Worli police, he visited Bandra police station, within whose jurisdiction he had last seen Sheena, to lodge a complaint. The Bandra police told him the same thing and eventually directed him to the MIDC police station in Andheri. He then called his mother (Peter Mukerjea's first wife) at Dehradun and informed her that Sheena had gone missing. His mother obtained former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh's number through a common friend and spoke to him. Rahul said Singh told him to file a missing person report, saying it was very important.

Eventually, when his mother came to Mumbai, MIDC police took down whatever he said in the police diary, but did not



Rahul could never imagine that Sheen's life could be in danger. However, he immediately started searching for Sheena and went straight to Indrani's house in Worli. He checked both her adjoining flats but didn't find anyone except a lady, who had no idea about Sheena. On failing to track her whereabouts, Rahul went to the Worli police station and explained the situation to the officers on duty.

investigate further. Thereafter, he called Indrani, his father, Sheena's friends, her boss and even her grandparents, but no one had any idea of her whereabouts. He suspected Indrani was not telling the truth, as she kept telling him different stories about Sheena. First, she told him that Sheena had gone to Nagpur, and then said she had gone back to Guwahati and later that she was in the USA. On one occasion Indrani told Rahul that she had dropped Sheena at the place (Bandra) from where she had collected her.

Indrani informed the court that she herself would be cross-examining Rahul. Once prosecution completes examining Rahul, he would be cross questioned by the accused's lawyer. Indrani told the court that she would need a gap of at least 15 days to prepare for his cross examination. The court would decide on it by June 17 According to police, Indrani and her ex-husband Sanjeev Khanna strangulated 25-year-old Sheena, Indrani's daughter from her previous relationship, on April 24, 2012, in a car in Mumbai. The following day, they disposed of the body in a forest area in Gagode village of Raigad district.

The murder came to light after the Khar police arrested Shyamvar Rai, Indrani's former driver, in another case in August 2015. Indrani was arrested on August 25, 2015 – immediately after the crime came to light, followed by Khanna's arrest. Peter Mukerjea was arrested on November 19, 2015, after the case was transferred to CBI.

Vaidehi

Maharashtra Police may cause serious infringement upon the right of victims of sexual abuse - NCPCR

>>PAGE 1



recommends and requests that this order may be reviewed by your good office and withdrawn thereafter. An action taken report in the matter may be sent to the Commission in the next 07 days." The letter was signed by Priyank Kanoongo, chairperson, NCPCR.

Afternoon Voice spoke to Lawyers :

"The decision taken by commissioner is good" - **Advocate Avinash Salve**



"It is a good suggestion by CP. We have seen peoples are misusing child protection law which was supposed to protect child. DCP approval should not take more

than 1 hour" - **Advocate Majid Memon**

"High court has not pass any order and Mumbai CP has no power to pass this order. This is wrong and it should directly get register or else the criminal will get flee" - **Advocate Anita Sunil Gauri**

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Voices



Letter's to the Editor

Deposit rates too need to be raised if lending rates are increased by the RBI!

50 bps repo rate hike by RBI was on expected lines as govt is desperately trying to curb inflation by reducing demand & this will have adverse affect on economy & growth. EMI's on Home & Auto loans will rise substantially thus affecting the household budget of the common man who is already struggling to make both ends meet.

Deposit rates too should be raised if lending rates have been risen as it is the very funds we deposit in banks or park in saving instruments that are used to give loans to the needy. PPF & post saving instrument rates have not been increased for more than a year & govt should increase them to give relief to the poor who depend on fixed deposits & small saving accounts to meet their daily needs.

- S. N. Kabra

Addiction of online games

In the present days, addiction is biggest issue in our life. Addiction is snatching everything, take the case of one boy, he leaves in Lucknow he murdered his mother because his mother stoped him from playing video games. This boy got upset and took such a big step. He 36 lakh from his mother's bank account to pursue his hobby of video game and he hid his mother dead body in house. Now you imagine how serious a problem the addiction of online gaming has become.

The children of our country are commenting thefts in their own homes, withdrawing money from their parents bank account and also commenting crimes like murder and kidnapping. The central government had banded the PUBG game in India but now a south korean company has launched this game in India with a changed name, BGMI.

41 percent of India's population is 20 years of age. These children are badly caught by the addiction of online gaming. In a survey conducted in the year 2020, 65 percent of children under the age of 20 believed that they are even ready to give up food and sleep to play online games. I am of the view that government must think of banning all online video games as it's bad for our country.

- Sanskrati Rathore

Follow the rules Avoid accidents

The government is in a hurry to force both the riders to wear helmets. This decision is very good from the point of view of safety of both the riders on the two wheelers. There should have been enough public awareness before doing so. But that did not happen. Therefore, there will be no transparency in it. On the contrary, corruption will get fertilized. So what will happen on the day of actual action? It is not possible to say this. We have a tendency to break the rules. There is no need to talk about traffic rules. This is the biggest reason for traffic congestion. In the coming time, everyone will have to suffer the serious consequences.

- Uday Waghvankar

The issue of Jihadi terrorist

Al-Qaeda a jihadi terrorist organisation has threatened India with carrying out suicide attacks saying, 'we are ready to blow ourselves up for the honour of Prophet Muhammad.' This threat has been issued in response to the alleged disrespectful comment made by BJP Spokesperson Nupur Sharma. Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) a terrorist organisation has threatened to attack in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, and Mumbai. This makes it clear that Jihadi terrorist organisations do have a religion. Hindus are criticised by calling them 'Saffron terrorists', but the Hindus have never issued such threats when their religion is disrespected. So India should be positioned in such a way that no one should dare to even think of harming India! And the issue of Jihadi terrorist organisation to target the Hindus and armed forces should also be resolved permanently.

- Aparna Jagtap

Child Labor A Demon

A child below the age of 14 whose labor is used for earning or for hazardous occupational employment is called child labour.

According to a study, 10.1 lakh children in India are engaged in child labor which includes children in the age group of 5 to 18 years. According to a report by UNICEF, 9 lakh new children in the world have been forced to do child labor by 2022.

According to the International Labor Organization, child labor has decreased by about 38 percent in the last 10 years, but still 152 million children are still forced to work worldwide. The report released by the International Labor Organization shows that we are still far behind in eliminating child labour. ILO data for the year 2016 shows that we are still miles away in making the world free from child labour.

The ILO report 'Global Estimates of Child Labour: Outcomes and Trends, 2012-2016' states that 152 million children between the ages of five and 17 are being forced to labor in undesirable conditions. According to government figures, 47,635 children were found involved in child labor in 2017-18,



50284 children in 2018-19, 54894 children in 2019-20, 58289 children in 2020-21. Child labor is increasing in the country.

This has been accepted by the government in the Parliament. Labor and Employment Minister Rameshwar Teli has told in the Lok Sabha that more child laborers are being rescued every year for the last four years. Even in the corona epidemic from above, the children went to the lap of labor. It was also told in the Lok Sabha that last year 24 crore children could not get education due to Corona. Because of this, more children went into child labor. Due to Corona, the financial condition of the families deteriorated, due to which the children also started earning money along with their parents.

Due to the busy studies, this

situation got aggravated. Child labor is a subject on which both the federal and state governments can make laws.

Child labor ban 1986 was amended in the year 2016, according to which making any kind of work done by a child below 14 years of age comes under the category of crime. Children of 14 to 18 years are prohibited from working in any hazardous industry.

Child labor is no less than a demon, the main reason for this is poverty and illiteracy. Due to poor financial condition of the families, the children of these families have to work to earn some money. The only remedy for child labor is to connect the children with education in any way. Only then will this demon end. Therefore, to shed light on this, every year 12 June is celebrated as World Prohibition Day on Child Labor.



Khemu Parashar

Writer and Columninst

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own.)



Greetings to Women's cricket legend Mithali Raj who announces retirement from the Gurukul Students

City

Argument on Nawab Malik's bail plea

The bond which can be given can only be bail bond under section 439 of CrPC and other sections. He is an undertrial prisoner. He should have moved an application before the appropriate court for appropriate relief and not seeking a release under Art 227 (supervisory jurisdiction). Malik is permitted to amend his petition forthwith with liberty to move before appropriate bench.



Amit Desai: Seeking orders for his release under police escort to vote and not pressing for his release on bond.
ASG for ED: Plea not maintainable. Trial court already dealt with his bail plea and rejected.
HC: From tenor of application before special court and this court - primary prayer is for releasing him on prison on bond for casting vote.

Rajya Sabha elections
Seven candidates are vying for six seats

- Shiv Sena has nominated Sanjay Raut and Sanjay Pawar-
- NCP Praful Patel and Congress Imran Pratapgarhi
- BJP has fielded Union minister Piyush Goyal, Anil Bonde and Dhananjay Mahadik.



A senior NCP leader said BJP, on its own, can secure the victory of Goyal and Bonde, Sena that of Raut. There will be a contest between Pawar and Mahadik. NCP and Congress can see through their lone

candidates. MVA will have to mobilise 10 votes for victory, while BJP has to get 16 additional votes, the leader explained, considering 42 as the quota for victory.

Shiv Sena vs BJP in first contested Rajya Sabha polls in Maharashtra in 24 years

After almost 25 years, elections for six Rajya Sabha seats in the state on Friday will witness a contest --- one that is being viewed as a fierce battle between friends-turned-foes CM Uddhav Thackeray and his predecessor Devendra Fadnavis. Since 1998, all RS



elections in the state had been unopposed.

A further element of drama was injected in the proceedings with pleas of NCP's Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik to be allowed vote in the election where every vote will count being rejected. Both are behind bars in money laundering cases.

CBI without informing mumbai court, in whose custody Wadhavans are have taken the custody



A special court on Thursday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take "immediate urgent" steps to bring back Dewan Housing Finance Corporation promoters Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan and restore their custody to Taloja Central Prison, Navi Mumbai. They were taken away "abruptly and directly taken to UP," special PMLA Judge MG Deshpande said in an "initial order".

Wadhawans approached the special court and their counsel Amit Desai and Aabad Ponda said they were taken from Taloja prison without the court's

permission or knowledge and sought their return. The court had sought an explanation, too, from the jail superintendent.

The special court under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) said matter will be heard when CBI files its reply and till then passed urgent orders saying the Wadhawans, accused of money laundering in the Yes Bank case, "were taken to Lucknow in UP without intimation to this court or to any other CBI courts where cases against these accused are pending."

The process adopted by the CBI was "prima facie" "against the law" said the court order. The courts said, "It cannot be ignored that these two accused persons are facing a number of trials in this court as well as in CBI courts and they are undertrial prisoners" in these cases. The court said "it has to be noted that no request letter with.

Production warrant is received by this court by the court at Lucknow."

Showers hit Mumbai, but June 11 onset of rain unlikely

AV Staff
afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

Rains are likely to miss the official June 11 onset date, said experts, even as pre-monsoon showers hit parts of the city and suburbs on Thursday.

June first week usually sees significant pre-monsoon activity, but this year, the pre-monsoon rain recorded so far is below normal with dry, hot air still hanging over the city.

IMD on Thursday said conditions have become favourable for advancement of monsoon to enter some parts of south Maharashtra in a day, which is a positive indicator, but experts said that heavy rain activity may only pick up after June 20.

Mumbai division students rank lowest in Maharashtra

With a pass percentage of 90.91, students from Mumbai division ranked the lowest among all the nine divisions that appeared for offline Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams this year. The results were declared by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education on Wednesday.

Last year, when the board exams were cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic, Mumbai had ranked second among all divisions with a pass percentage of 99.79. The results were declared on the basis of a formula designed to

evaluate students on internal assessment and earlier academic record.

Educationists from the city insisted on comparing this year's results with that of 2019-20, when exams were held offline in pre-pandemic times. The Mumbai division had then recorded a pass percentage of 89.35 and ranked six among all divisions.

If compared to the 2019-20 results, the students have fared better this year. However, the performance of Mumbai division — comprising Mumbai city and suburbs, Thane, Raigad and Palghar — is still the poorest among the nine divisions.

Bombay HC order bullet train project compensation amount for property acquire is not taxable

The Bombay High Court has held that income tax cannot be deducted from an amount given by way of compensation for property the National Hi-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) acquired for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. A division bench of Justices S V Gangapurwala and M G Sewlikar

passed its order on Thursday, on a petition filed by one Seema Patil, who sought a refund of the income tax deducted at the source by the NHSRCL after it acquired her property at Bhiwandi in Thane district for the project.

"If the parties would not agree with the negotiations and direct purchase, then compulsory acquisition is resorted to," the bench

said. "No income tax can be levied in the present matter for the amount of compensation. Hence, the NHSRCL could not have deducted the TDS amount from the compensation paid to the petitioner. Income received by the petitioner on account of property acquired by the NHSRCL by private negotiations and sale deed is exempted from tax," the bench said.



State Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari presided over the Concluding function of the Centenary Celebrations of the Parle Tilak Vidyalyaya Association at Vile Parle in Mumbai

News

BJP alleges poll code violation by 3 MLAs of Maha Vikas Aghadi



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday alleged a violation of the poll code by three MLAs of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the Rajya Sabha elections in Maharashtra and urged the Returning Officer to hold their votes invalid.

The BJP demanded that the votes of NCP leader Jitendra Awhad, Congress leader

Yashomati Thakur and Shiv Sena's Suhas Kande be declared invalid. "BJP has raised objections on three votes of MVA- Yashomati Thakur of INC, Jitendra Awhad of NCP and Suhas Kande of Shiv Sena. BJP has requested the Returning Officer to hold their votes invalid," BJP's Parag Alawani, who is polling agent for party leader Piyush Goyal said.

Alawani said the objection was raised because two MLAs gave their ballot papers to the polling agents of their parties. "Objection was raised because two MLAs gave their ballot papers to the polling agents of their parties which is a violation of rules. They can only show their ballots to their agents and not handover them to anyone," he said.

"BJP knows that all four MVA candidates will get elected and that is why they are trying to create confusion," she said. A total of 285 MLAs had cast their votes till 3.30 pm in Maharashtra. There is contest in Rajya Sabha polls in Maharashtra with the ruling fielding four and BJP three to the six vacancies in the state. The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) includes Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress.

- ANI

Home minister says situation under control in Maharashtra

Members of the Muslim community staged protests in several cities of Maharashtra demanding action against suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and her former party colleague Naveen Jindal for their alleged objectionable remarks against Prophet Mohammad. No untoward incident was reported from anywhere during the protests, police said. The protests were staged by various organizations following the Friday prayers after 3 pm, a police official said.

In Panvel city in neighbouring Navi Mumbai, at least 3,000 protesters including around 1,000 women took out a protest march, seeking the arrest of Sharma and Jindal. A delegation submitted a memorandum to Panvel tehsildar and the protest was over peacefully by 4 pm, said a local police official. A protest was also held at Shivaji Chowk in Vashi, where a delegation submitted their demands to the Vashi Police Station, he said.

Similar protest gatherings or marches were also held in Thane, Aurangabad, Solapur, Nandurbar, Parbhani, Beed, Latur, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Pune districts. Everywhere,



protestors shouted slogans and demanded registration of FIRs and arrest of Sharma and Jindal, police said. Heavy police security was deployed at all protest venues but there was no untoward incident anywhere, officials said. State home minister Dilip Walse Patil said the protests passed off peacefully as police handled the situation well. Nobody should offend other people's faith, he said.

The BJP suspended Nupur Sharma following her remarks about Prophet during a TV debate, while Jindal was expelled from the party when he tweeted similar remarks. The Union government has already distanced itself from the controversial statements from the members of the ruling party even as they provoked strong reactions from many Muslim countries.

- PTI

Maharashtra villagers Melghat water criers

A group of villagers in Maharashtra's Khadial village hurling their plastic and metal cans, buckets and bottles strung with ropes down a deep well to fetch water is now a common sight. In the peak of summer, the parched residents of the village in Melghat district are facing a severe water crisis. According to the villagers, they are 'risking their lives for a bucket of water'.

Speaking to ANI, a villager said, "There are only two wells in the village which have almost dried up. A village of 1,500 population is dependent on 2-3 tankers for water every day." With the onset of summer, the water crisis has been reported from different parts of the country, including Maharashtra.

"Water is supplied to the village through two tankers that pour water into dry wells. People risk their lives to draw water from wells. Diseases are increasing after drinking dirty water," said another villager. According to the people, the road condition is also bad. "If a person gets sick, there is no road to take them to the hospital," added a villager.

- ANI

MVA will win four Rajya Sabha seats in Maharashtra Poll

Expressing confidence that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will win four Rajya Sabha seats in Maharashtra, polling for which was held on Friday, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said the ruling alliance has numbers in its favour. Talking to reporters, Raut, who was one of the candidates of the Sena in this election, said an atmosphere was being created that the contest would be tough. "But this is incorrect...An illusion is being created in Maharashtra," he claimed.

"The MVA (comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress) under



the leadership of Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray has the support of 179 MLAs. There is one MLA less due to the demise of (Sena legislator) Ramesh Latke. You will see these numbers (are) clearly (with us) in today's polls," Raut said.

- PTI

Over 6,200 penalised in one day for helmetless riding: Official

The Mumbai Traffic Police has penalised more than 6,200 people for riding two-wheelers and pillion without a helmet, an official has said. The action was taken on Thursday, he said. According to the traffic police official, in south Mumbai alone, over 3,100 persons were penalised for riding motorcycles and pillion without wearing a helmet. "From Thursday, the city traffic police

launched a drive against the helmetless riding. Wearing helmets while riding two-wheelers or pillion has been made mandatory. Earlier, action used to be taken only against the riders, but now even the pillion riders will be penalised if found not wearing a helmet," he said.

The traffic police had penalised 2,500 motorists for honking without reason, official said.

- PTI

Thane nullahs only look cleans from outside



Thane residence claims that nullahs has not been clean in their area. Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) started the nullahs cleaning work in the month of April and claims that they have completed the work. Thane municipal stared the work in Mid-April and Vipin Sharma needs to survey areas like Vartak Nagar, Wagale Estate and Kasarvadavli.

"As part of our monsoon preparations, we have completed the nullah-cleaning work across the city. However, there continue to be miscreants who dump garbage and debris in these nullahs. We have ensured that the boundary walls in most of these places are built properly to ensure less incidents of littering takes place," said a senior officer from TMC.

Nation

TRS leader questions Centre over its women's empowerment campaign



Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leader K Kavitha on Friday questioned the Centre over its campaign for women's empowerment. In a series of tweets, Kavitha slammed the Centre and said that it should stop using women for public relations. "PM and entire BJP government should for once out of sheer respect for women stop their PR against women's empowerment, when they continue to hide the truth behind extravagant publicity," she tweeted. The TRS leader also questioned the Centre over price rise saying that it directly affects the lower-middle-class

women.

"Anganwadi sisters have shielded the villages from covid waves and have been working hard to increase nutrition levels of mother and child," she added.

Yesterday, in a series of tweets by MyGovIndia which PM Modi shared, the Centre had remarked that with the 8 years of women's empowerment "The government has furthered the spirit of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and tried to create a discrimination-free and opportunity-filled environment for the girls" and "A big shift in empowering women through reforms has resulted in giving them wings to fly to newer heights."

Recently on May 30, BJP completed its 8 years in power and conducted several programmes in the entire country on the occasion advocating the government's achievements of the flagship schemes.

- ANI

Don't panic, no new variant of concern observed : ICMR ADG

Panic does not serve as a COVID pandemic response or public health response as it does not help analyse the data, therefore, panic doesn't serve any purpose, said Dr Samiran Panda, Additional director-general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). In an Exclusive Interview with ANI, Panda said, "Panic does not serve as a COVID pandemic response or public health response because a panic does not help to analyse the data or looking carefully to be so that's why panic doesn't serve a purpose."

"It is about examining the data very carefully. So, if from a particular site or from a district or a few districts in the state upsurges or peak is being observed, then we need to look at the number of tests conducted in that area. The local data needs to be examined carefully for local-level decision making," he added. He stated, "The surge in the cases doesn't mean it's reported from all over the country it's from a few districts.

for another variant, he said, "Threat can only be characterised once a new variant is identified. So whenever a new variant is observed, it is called a variant of interest or variant under investigation and variant concern but not every variant turned out to be a variant of concern. The Variant of concern is the term used for a variant when it gets associated with rapid spread or even the clinical severity of the disease caused by the variant of the virus is more leading to increased hospitalisation or increased requirement of oxygen or increased requirement of the ventilator. So nothing of that sort is being observed."

"Those who are elderly and who have comorbidities, or who are suffering from let's say, cancer or getting treated with immunosuppressive therapy, not necessarily because of COVID only but also it's better if the special subgroups are protected against tuberculosis, air pollution or other respiratory tract infections," said Dr Panda. Special care needs to be taken for the elderly population, he added.

- ANI

Protests erupt in Prayagraj, other parts of UP over Nupur Sharma's inflammatory remarks

Several incidents of violence including sloganeering and stone-pelting were reported from several parts of Uttar Pradesh after Friday prayers when people began protesting against the inflammatory statements of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma and expelled party leader Naveen Kumar Jindal. A clash erupted in Prayagraj between police and protesters. Stones were also hurled during clashes in the Atala area of Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj. Prayagraj's Additional Director General of Police's (ADGP) vehicle was damaged after a protest erupted in the Atala area. The ADG was on the ground to control the law and order situation as a protest erupted.

A huge protest was witnessed in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur over the inflammatory



statements of the above-mentioned BJP leaders.

Similarly, a huge crowd in Moradabad also protested against suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma demanding her arrest over her inflammatory remarks. "Friday prayers concluded peacefully in the district today. Those who raised slogans were dispersed later. I appeal to all to help maintain law and order in the district," said Moradabad District Magistrate. Meanwhile, Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed to take strict action against hooligans after incidents of stone-pelting broke out in various parts of the state.

ACS Home Awanish Awasthi, acting Director General of Police (DGP), ADG Law and Order, are monitoring the situation from police headquarters. Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Home Awanish Awasthi has also asked for reports explaining the situation in the districts. Earlier on June 3, a violent clash broke out between two groups belonging to different communities allegedly over a market shutdown in Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. As many as 36 persons were arrested and 3 FIRs have been registered in the Kanpur violence case and further investigation is underway.

- ANI

Delhi court sends 30 AIMIM activists to 3-day judicial custody

AIMIM activists to three days of judicial custody in connection with the demonstration at the Parliament Police Station over inflammatory remarks by suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma and expelled leader Naveen Jindal against Prophet Muhammad. The New Delhi District Police on Thursday arrested 30 AIMIM activists in connection with the demonstration. According to the police, they were neither allowed to protest at Jantar Mantar nor at the police station. All of a sudden these people came to the police station and started protesting.

Later an FIR was registered under sections 186, 188, 353, 332, 147, 149 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The members of the Muslim community staged protests over inflammatory remarks by suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma and expelled leader Naveen Jindal against Prophet Muhammad. Meanwhile, Delhi Police registered two FIRs-- one against former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and the other against 31 people, including AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and controversial priest Yati

Narsinghanand - for allegedly spreading hate and hurting religious sentiments, officials said on Thursday. This comes as the row over the comments on the Prophet by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma has blown up, leading to global outrage. Over the last few days, several countries such as Malaysia, Kuwait and Pakistan condemned recent remarks made by a few BJP leaders. While Nupur Sharma made comments during a TV debate, another leader Naveen Jindal posted a controversial remark on Twitter.

-ANI

Interpol issues Red Corner Notice against Goldy Brar

The Interpol has issued a Red Corner Notice against Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar who claimed responsibility for the killing of singer Sidhu Moosewala, within eight days after the CBI forwarded a request, officials said Thursday.

Mr. Brar is currently living in Canada.

The Punjab Police had sought the Red Corner Notice against Mr. Brar on May 30 in connection with two old cases, officials said.

Mr. Brar, a native of Sri Muktsar Sahib, had gone to Canada on a student visa in 2017 and he is an active member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, according to Punjab Police.

Moosewala's murder was allegedly in retaliation to Akali youth leader Vicky Middukhera's killing that took place last year.

The Punjab Police on Tuesday had said it had arrested eight people so far in connection with the 27-

year-old singer's brutal murder.

CBI moves Interpol on Sidhu Moosewala murder case

The CBI, which is the liaison agency of the country with the Interpol, had earlier in the day said that the Punjab Police had sought the Red Corner Notice against Mr. Brar on May 30, a day after the singer was killed, as against the claims of the state police that it had sent the request on May 19.

- ANI

World

South Spain forest fire three firefighter hurts

A wildfire in mountains in southern Spain has forced evacuation of 2,000 people from the centre of the town of Benahavis and injured three firefighters, authorities said. The blaze started on Wednesday afternoon on the slopes of Pujerra Mountain in the Sierra Bermeja, above the Costa del Sol, a magnet for British tourists on the Andalusia coast, Andalusia's Wildfire Department (INFOCA) said on Twitter.



Image Courtesy : WION

BENAHAVIS, Spain, June 9 (Reuters) - A wildfire in mountains in southern Spain has forced evacuation of 2,000 people from the centre of the town of Benahavis and injured three firefighters, authorities said. The blaze started on Wednesday afternoon on the slopes of Pujerra Mountain in

the Sierra Bermeja, above the Costa del Sol, a magnet for British tourists on the Andalusia coast,

Andalusia's Wildfire Department (INFOCA) said on Twitter. Advertisement · Scroll to continue Hot summer weather and adverse winds are stoking the blaze, it said in a post late on Wednesday. Emergency services set up tents in the town of 7,000, but most of the evacuees found shelter

with relatives or at hotels. As many as 200 firemen from the department together with 100 military personnel and 50 firefighters from other Costa del Sol towns are battling the fire. Spotter aircraft were over the area early on Thursday.

"Sadly, we have to report that three firefighters from INFOCA suffered burns of different kinds and one of them has 25% of his body burned and was evacuated to Malaga hospital," Andalusia's regional president Juanma Moreno told reporters. Another wildfire ravaged that same mountain range in September, reducing at least 7,780 hectares (30 square miles) of woods and bushes to ashes in days. About 1,000 firefighters backed by some 50 aircraft worked to put out that blaze.

- Reuters

Sievierodonetsk reported intense fight

Ukrainian forces were holding their positions in intense street fighting and under day and night shelling in Sievierodonetsk, officials said, as Russia pushes to control the bombed-out city, key to its objective of controlling eastern Ukraine.

Sievierodonetsk and its twin city Lysychansk, on the opposite bank of the Siverskyi Donets River, are the last Ukrainian-controlled parts of Luhansk province, which Russia is determined to seize as one of its principal war objectives. Ukraine's Security Council Secretary Oleksiy Danilov said on Thursday the situation in Sievierodonetsk was "extremely complicated" and Russian forces were focusing all of their might in the area.

"They don't spare their people, they're just sending

men like cannon fodder ... they are shelling our military day and night," Danilov told Reuters in an interview.

Ukraine says its only hope to turn the tide in its favour in the small industrial city is more artillery to offset Russia's massive firepower. "Yesterday was successful for us - we launched a counteroffensive and in some areas we managed to push them back one or two blocks. In others they pushed us back, but just by a building or two," he said in a televised interview.

"Peter the Great waged the Great Northern War for 21 years. It would seem that he was at war with Sweden, he took something from them. He did not take anything from them, he returned (what was Russia's)," Putin said.

- Reuters

European Parliament calls for sanctions on Chinese officials

An overwhelming majority of the European Parliament (EP) adopted its strongest language yet concerning the ongoing gross human rights violations in China's Xinjiang province, citing "crimes against humanity and serious risk of genocide".

The EP "condemns in the strongest possible terms that the Uyghur community in the People's Republic of China has been systematically oppressed by brutal measures including mass deportation, political indoctrination, family separation, restrictions of religious freedom, cultural destruction, and extensive use of surveillance."

The EP advocated additional sanctions targeting Chinese high-ranking officials, such as Chen Quanguo, Zhao Kezhi, Guo Shengkun and Hu Lianhe. They reiterated calls to a few

remaining EU Member States to suspend extradition treaties with China and Hong Kong.

According to the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), an import ban on all products produced by forced labour and on products produced by all Chinese companies listed as exploiting forced labour is also on the Parliament's list of policies to be implemented. Finally, the EP demanded the release of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' long-awaited report on human rights abuses in Xinjiang. IPAC, an international cross-party group of legislators, welcomed the "strong and united voice" of the European Parliament and hopes that the European Commission and the member states will listen to this call to action.

- ANI

India, China capable of resolving boundary issue via talks says Beijing

After a US General visiting India termed the Chinese activity level in eastern Ladakh as "eye-opening" the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Thursday stated that China and India have the will and capability of resolving the question of the border situation through dialogue and consultation and that US officials were trying to add "fuel to the fire".

The reaction by China came in the wake of remarks made by US Army's Pacific Commanding General Charles A. Flynn who is on a four-day visit to India. Flynn had on Wednesday in an interaction with journalists talked about the "alarming" infrastructure development by China along its borders with India in the Ladakh sector, and called the Chinese activities in that region "eye-opening".

Addressing a regular press

conference, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said, "Some US officials have pointed fingers and sought to fan the flame and drive a wedge between the two countries. This is disgraceful. We hope the US could do more things that contribute to regional peace and stability." India on Thursday said that it is carefully monitoring the developments along with its border areas including the construction of infrastructure by the Chinese side in the eastern Ladakh sector.

After the Galwan clash last year, several rounds of military and diplomatic talks have taken place to resolve the standoff. Disengagement at some border points did take place but by and large, there is an impasse on complete disengagement. "As far as the current situation (in eastern Ladakh) is concerned, we have maintained

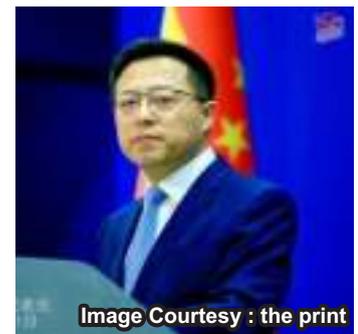


Image Courtesy : the print

continuous communication with the Chinese side both through diplomatic and military channels," MEA spokesperson Bagchi said. On the Chinese aggression which started in April-May last year, the Defence Ministry in its Year-End review had stated that unilateral and provocative actions by the Chinese to change the status quo by force, in more than one area on the LAC, have been responded to as an adequate measure.

- ANI

Afghan refugees urge global community to consider asylum

Hundreds of Afghan refugees in Pakistan on Thursday called on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the international community to respond positively to their asylum applications. Holding protest with the slogan "Save

Us" that entered 57th day, they lamented the fact that the world has forgotten Afghanistan in the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine war, reported Tolo News.

"Due to the war in Ukraine, the world has forgotten Afghanistan; not only the issue



Image Source : ANI

of Afghans in Pakistan but the focus on Afghans in all countries has stopped," said Safiullah Sultani, a protesting refugee.

"So far, no country that provides asylum for the refugees, not even the United Nations, has paid attention to

the problems of Afghans refugees," Abdul Sami Khatibi said "Some of the refugees are concerned that after six months they will deport us and say we are not taking the census sheets," said Latifa Stanekzai, an Afghan refugee.

- ANI

Business

RBI to soon regulate digital lending platforms



The Reserve Bank of India will soon come out with regulatory architecture for digital lending platforms, many of which are unauthorised and illegal, Governor Shaktikanta Das said. There have been increasing cases of alleged suicides of borrowers due to harassment by a few of the operators of digital lending apps.

coming out with a broad regulatory architecture, which should be able to address the challenges that we are confronted with regard to lending through digital platforms, many of which are unauthorised, unregistered and, should I say, illegal," Das said while delivering a lecture on - Indian Businesses (Past, Present and Future).

He was speaking at the Iconic Week celebration as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence, organised by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Das on Wednesday suggested that customers borrowing from unregistered digital lending apps should approach the local police in case of any issue.

In a first, CIL to import 2.416 mn tonne coal

The State-owned Coal India Limited on Thursday said that it has floated its maiden tender to import 2.416 million tonnes of coal to ensure adequate supply of the fuel to power plants in the country.

The development assumes significance in the wake of the government making all efforts to build up stock of coal to avoid the reoccurrence of power outages which happened in April on account of shortage of the fossil fuel. "In a first ever, Coal India Limited (CIL) on Wednesday floated an international competitive bidding e-tender, seeking bids for import of 2.416 million tonnes of coal," the company said in a statement.

The coal being sourced on behalf of the state generating companies (gencos) and independent power plants (IPPs) is based on the indents

received from them. It is for July-September period of the current fiscal year, the statement said.

Though coal import is an uncharted terrain for CIL, within a week of receiving indents from the seven state gencos and 19 IPPs, for a total of 2.41.6 million tonnes of coal, the company on a war footing has finalised and floated the tender. The current short-term tender for import of dry fuel for the second quarter of the ongoing financial year is source agnostic. This means the coal can be sourced from any country.

The Centre had nominated the maharatna firm as a centralised agency to increase coal supplies to state gencos and IPPs through import of dry-fuel at a time when the demand for coal is high. The last date for the receipt of bids is June 29.



There is an option of pre-bid meeting on June 14 to seek clarification on any nuances of the tender, CIL said. After the price discovery, CIL will immediately execute a contract with the successful bidder for supply of coal. Then the state owned coal miner will enter into a back-to-back pact with state gencos and IPPs to whom coal has to be supplied.

The coal imported will be routed through nine ports located in east and west coasts of the country.

Fitch revises India rating outlook to Stable from Negative

Fitch Ratings on Friday said it has revised the outlook on India's sovereign rating to Stable from Negative as downside risks to medium-term growth have diminished on rapid economic recovery.

Fitch Ratings kept the rating unchanged at 'BBB-'.

"The Outlook revision reflects our view that downside risks to medium-term growth have diminished due to India's rapid economic recovery and easing financial sector weaknesses, despite near-term headwinds from the global commodity price shock," it said.

It, however, cut the economic growth forecast to 7.8 per cent for the current fiscal (April 2022 to March 2023) from the 8.5 per cent prediction it made in March due to the inflationary impact of the global commodity price shock.

BPCL ceases divestment ops after Centre's temporary about-turn

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has discontinued all activities associated with the divestment of the company after the government dropped plans to privatise the firm for now.

In a stock exchange filing, the company said the government has through a letter dated June 3, 2022, called off the present



tender to sell its entire 53 per cent stake in the company. "Accordingly, all the activities in connection with the divestment including the data room are being discontinued," the firm said. The move by the central government to call off the expression of interest (Eoi) followed two out of the three bidders walking out. BPCL had in April last year opened a

virtual data room, mostly containing financial information on the company, for the qualified bidders signing Confidentiality Undertaking (CU).

A 'Clean Data Room' containing commercially sensitive information on the firm subject to their signing an additional confidentiality agreement was also opened for bidders.

SL economic crisis: PM announces financial safety net for social security



Sri Lanka aims to set up a financial safety net of Rs 200 billion to provide social security support to the needy amidst the worst economic crisis in the country, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has announced.

"The government is making maximum effort to reduce the

impact through providing financial and logistical support," said Wickremesinghe, who also holds the post of the finance minister of the debt-ridden economy.

"A Rs 200 billion financial safety net is being raised for social sector support," he said while addressing the owners of Sri Lankan media organisations.

He said a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would visit the country on June 20 and hoped that a staff-level agreement with the IMF would be reached by the end of

Passenger vehicle wholesales jump over two-fold to 2,51,052 units in May



Passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers in India rose over two-fold last month on a low base of Covid-19-hit May last year.

As per the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle

wholesales rose to 2,51,052 units last month as compared to 88,045 units in May 2021.

The two-wheeler sales rose to 12,53,187 units in May as compared to 3,54,824 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, the total three-wheeler dispatches stood at 28,542 units last month as against 1,262 units in May 2021.

Overall sales of PVs, two-wheelers and three-wheelers rose to 15,32,809 units in May. The same stood at 4,44,131 units in the preceding year.

BSE Sensex
54303.44
(-1.84%) ▼

Currency exchange

Nifty **NSE**
National Stock Exchange of India Ltd
16201.80 (-1.68%) ▼

1 USD 77.8400 (INR)
1 GBP 96.9536 (INR)
1 EUR 82.4860 (INR)

Top Gainers

| Scrip Name | Price | %Gain |
|-----------------|----------|-------|
| Grasim | 1,326.50 | 1.33 |
| Apollo Hospital | 3,700.50 | 0.83 |
| Asian Paints | 2,708.75 | 0.82 |
| Dr Reddys Labs | 4,351.55 | 0.66 |
| Divis Labs | 3,528.05 | 0.59 |

Top Losers

| Scrip Name | Price | %Loss |
|----------------|----------|-------|
| Kotak Mahindra | 1,791.80 | -3.94 |
| Bajaj Finance | 5,667.50 | -3.92 |
| HDFC | 2,179.80 | -3.78 |
| Hindalco | 385.75 | -3.50 |
| Reliance | 2,714.25 | -3.02 |

Sports

Wimbledon announces prize money of 2 million pounds

Wimbledon on Thursday announced that this year's total prize money will be a record 40.3 million pounds with men's and women's singles champion each will receive 2 million pounds, organisers said on Thursday.

The organisers made the announcement as The All England Lawn Tennis Club is all set for this year's Grand Slam event. The 2020 edition of the tournament was cancelled, while 2021 was held with a fewer number of spectators. This year's Wimbledon will also see full capacity crowd attending the tournament for the first time in three years since 2019.

"From the first round of the Qualifying Competition to the Champions being crowned, this year's prize money distribution aims to reflect just how important the players are to The Championships as we

look to continue to deliver one of the world's leading sporting events, and with a particularly special tournament ahead of us as we celebrate 100 years of Centre Court on Church Road," said Ian Hewitt, Chairman of the All England Club in an official statement released by Wimbledon.

There has been a 40% boost in prize money awarded to Wheelchair and Quad Wheelchair events, at the same time as the number of players competing in the tournament has doubled. There had been the assumption that the lessening of ranking points by the ATP (men's) and WTA (women's) tours, following Wimbledon's controversial decision to exclude Russian and Belarusian players due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, could lead to a reduced prize account.

- ANI



India beat Cambodia 2-0, both goals coming in from Sunil Chhetri - one in each half

India score encouraging numbers against Cambodia

Team India got off to a winning start in the AFC Asian Cup 2023

Qualifiers final round against Cambodia, and the data analysis displays some interesting performances. The Blue Tigers played 776 passes among themselves with 705 accurate passes, as India beat Cambodia 2-0, both goals coming in from Sunil Chhetri - one in each half. There were also 24 shots on the rival goal. Defender Akash Mishra covered the maximum ground running 11.44 km in the match, followed by Suresh Singh at 10.72 km, and Liston Colaco at 10.42 km.

Brandon Fernandes, had an incredible game from the middle of the park, dictating the proceedings with a total

of 84 successful passes at a rate of 90 per cent, and three key passes. The 27-year-old got yet another assist to his name when he swung in a cross for his captain to cushion a header home. Apart from that, Brandon has also had the highest rate of successful actions at 88 per cent, having completed exactly 100 successful actions during the match.

Right-back Naorem Roshan Singh is another player that has caught the eyes of all and sundry, completing a whopping 117 actions at a rate of 85 per cent. The defender has also completed the most accurate passes (89), and shown a solid defensive side to his game, winning 11 of his 14 attempted challenges during the game. Liston also had a great game in terms of the numbers, having two key passes to his name, with an 87 per cent passing accuracy. The midfielder is also among the highest successful action takers with 90 successful actions to his name.

- ANI

Maharashtra sprint star Sudeshna not stoped even asthma



As Hanmant Shivankar stood stoically near the victory podium, his mind raced to the day, several years back, when he had learnt that his daughter had sneaked away to compete in a running event.

"A wave of panic gripped me," he told as he watched his daughter soak in the adulation at a Khelo India Youth Games victory ceremony, disclosing in an emotional voice that she had been diagnosed with childhood asthma and the family had done everything to keep her away from smoke and dust to avoid inflaming her lungs and her airways.

Swiatek skips Berlin event with Shoulder issue

French Open champion Iga Swiatek will skip next week's Berlin Open WTA 500 tournament due to a shoulder issue, but the world number one said on Friday that she hopes to be fully fit for Wimbledon starting later this month.

Poland's Swiatek defeated American Coco Gauff 6-1 6-3 in the Roland Garros final last week to win her second Grand Slam title following a triumph in Paris in 2020.

However, she will now head to the Wimbledon grasscourt Grand Slam starting on June 27 without any preparatory tournament.

"Due to a recurrent

discomfort I am feeling in my shoulder, unfortunately I need to withdraw from the bett1open in Berlin," Swiatek tweeted.

"I'm sorry I will not be able to play there. I will focus on recovery and rest in order to be ready

for Wimbledon." Swiatek, who took over as number one when Australian Ash Barty announced her shock retirement in March, has been in red-hot

form recently and has won 35 consecutive matches - matching the longest unbeaten streak since Venus Williams in 2000. The Berlin Open will begin on Monday.

- Reuters



In European open Indian Judo team left to take participate

The Indian Judo Team has left for Spain after securing last-minute visas for their participation at the European Open Madrid 2022 competition that begins on Saturday. The athletes as well as their coaches and support team managed to obtain their visas in the nick of time after the Union Sports Ministry coordinated with the External Affairs.

The team left from India on Thursday morning for the competition scheduled in Madrid on June 11 and June 12. A total of 15 men and 15 women will be competing at the event. They are accompanied by a

total of 6 coaching and support staff. Logistical arrangements have also been done by SAI-TOPS well within the time-frame for the Madrid event.

This is the first international exposure the Judo team is getting in three years. Following the end of the competition, the government has also given approval to conduct a preparatory training camp in Madrid and Alicante, Spain, from June 13 to July 2, for the team. The total financial amount sanctioned for the competition and the training is Rs 1.49 crore.

- ANI



Opinion

Relevance of Nitish & Laloo in Power politics

For over three decades, the political power in Bihar has revolved around two personalities Nitish Kumar, a technocrat and Laloo Prasad, a law graduate. Both ruled the State directly or indirectly for about 15-15 years, each leading the regional parties with the support of national ally BJP and Congress respectively. Before the pre-Mandal era, the two leaders worked unitedly & were termed as "Hira-Moti" by their well-wishers, and "Ranga-Billa" by rivals. Laloo Prasad was elected as an MP in his first attempt in 1977, but Nitish lost two consecutive elections and reached the Vidhan Sabha in his third attempt in 1985. After the demise of Karpoori Thakur, Nitish Kumar was instrumental in Laloo's projection as leader of the legislature party; although legislatures had advised him to project himself for the post, but he denied. He was also influential in Laloo's election as CM, when the Janata Dal came to power in the 1990 Vidhan Sabha election.

When the Mandal commission report was implemented by V.P. Singh government in 1990, aggressive anti-reservation protests were held by the upper caste. To counter the anti-reservation protests, pro-reservation campaigns were launched by the backward and SC communities. The outspoken Laloo spearheaded the pro-reservation campaigns and backward community of all castes rallied behind him. Soft-spoken Nitish lagged behind in this movement. After becoming the centre of power, Laloo started ignoring not Nitish. Laloo proclaimed "MY" equation as against earlier "All BC".

In the pre-Mandal era, the Backward classes were not united cohesively and the majority of small artisan & landless castes were not

in Power politics



Whatever be the ifs and buts of the two personalities, both of them have served the State in their own ways. It was Laloo Prasad who rolled & crushed the fundamentalist forces and strengthen political pitch for the depressed masses; which also helped Nitish to bat & ball smoothly.

vocal. Laloo united backwards to fight for their cause. In his first 5-year tenure, he experimented some innovative schemes like Charwaha Vidyalaya for working children, Construction of houses for the poor, cleanliness programme in slum areas, Rainbasera for poor rickshaw-pullers & labourers in urban areas. Unlike the Chief Ministers of the Congress, he occasionally visited the areas of the depressed classes & intermingle with them. These activities were just a miracle for the people who had seen the earlier CMs as a ruler & not as a leader and this established Laloo as a mass leader.

In second & third tenure of Laloo Prasad or his wife, minimal works took place in roads/bridges and power generation. The graph of Crime high up and rape, murder & kidnapping become a daily routine. Corruption were deeply rooted in government department & board-nigams. After 15 years of power, only social awareness with hollow promises was not enough and people should have development works. On social forum, he cornered himself from the non-Yadav

backwards. His mass-base gradually deteriorated and he was eventually ousted from power in 2005.

When Nitish Kumar came to power in November 2005, he focused himself on law & order and infrastructure sector. Fast track courts were set up for speedy trial of criminals, resulting in political heavyweight criminals behind bars. He re-oriented all the infrastructure works. Roads, bridges, school/college/hospital/police station/Panchayat buildings etc. were constructed in every nook and corner of the state. The production & distribution of electricity increased. Cycle/Dress/sanitary napkin/stipend/student credit card and other educational schemes have resulted in a decrease in the drop out ratio. Technical and Medical institutions have been opened in backward regions. Drinking water to every household & metallization of drains & streets is in progress. The provision of 35% reservation for Women in recruitment, reservation in Panchayats for SC/ST/EBC community and reservation in judicial services has changed the gender as well as socio-political scenario.

Along with good

governance, Nitish Kumar put his hand on social issues also, which are of no importance to politicians. He made laws and started intensive campaign for public awareness against social evils like dowry system, child marriage & alcoholism. There is often hue & cry by the opposition and mafias over the ban on alcoholism, but in fact it has led to a reduction in domestic violence against women.

A generation has changed in the span of three decades. They have not faced the anarchy & havoc situations as their parents or grandparents. The benchmark of the current generation is not the same as it was 20-30 year ago. After the bifurcation of Bihar, all the mineral & coal-fields as well as factories move to Jharkhand. Revenue collection is at stake, as the southern part of the State is draught-affected and the northern part is flood-affected. There is problem of unemployment like in other states. With no major factory in the State, there is limited scope in the government service sector. Educated youth do not want to work in farm sector, private sector or in the field of self-employment, but all want

government job. Whatever limited resources the State had, Nitish worked day & night to accelerate the development works. But the dark face of democracy is that, caste-oriented society donot keep in mind development works in elections and ultimately votes are being casted on the caste lines.

A lot of work has been done under Nitish-regime, but a lot of work is still to be done. Small-scale and agro-based industries will have to be encouraged. The rivers of north and south areas needs to be interconnected. The ambitious 7-Nisachy programme have to be intensified and properly monitored. Education, health, transport sectors need more attention. Defunct sugar factories should be revived.

Whatever be the ifs and buts of the two personalities, both of them have served the State in their own ways. It was Laloo Prasad who rolled & crushed the fundamentalist forces and strengthen political pitch for the depressed masses; which also helped Nitish to bat & ball smoothly. Nitish paid attentions to the poorest of the poor and kept himself away from caste & family based politics. One, the lawyer, is the symbol of social justice & resurgence; the other, the technocrat, is the synonym of development and good governance. Laloo and Nitish are strengths and weaknesses for themselves; but in the power politics of Bihar as well as India, both are relevant.



- Er. Prabhat Kishore

Technocrat & Academician

Different Strokes

Sports Authority of India (SAI) terminated the contract of the chief cycling coach for the alleged inappropriate behaviour during training during the tour of Slovenia. Women's team instead of preparing for the tougher challenges ahead of primary tournaments, passed the session with the fear of the coach taking undue advantage during such training sessions. SAI not only ensured safety of the woman cyclist and hence called off the tour and called back the entire contingent to avoid further controversy.

In other sports, the team is handled by women for the sake of convenience and for following conventional practices applicable to women in field sports. Women can take care of themselves and do better planning than male members. When this is the case then why are males pressed into service in women's sports team events?

Our sports ministry and sports bodies must look into the practical problems faced by the women playing members when they go out to play field sports like hockey, cricket and other games. It is time not to appoint male members to manage teams of such nature in future. Let us stop the patriarchal mindset and appoint women in these fields of sports. This step would also help the women players to be more transparent in the matter of women's issues, which need not be discussed with men in the open.

To start with, women started playing alongside men in field sports like cricket. Initially, they were given a chance in a cricket team as a 10th or 11th player to test their talent during the early 1980s. But later on a lot of importance was given to women's sports and they started doing well in team sports just like in individual sports. But the awkward situation is faced when the woman player has to face the coach face to face.

Once it so happened that I was giving catch practice to a set of boys and one girl joined the set of boys to bring out her best in catching. When I started giving low catches practice there was a stiff competition not to miss anything coming their way.



Stop appointing men in Women's Sport

Suddenly the only girl joining our group dropped out saying something whispering to my ears saying that her pants had given way at the back and she would like to go home and change. I felt awkward initially but later on felt that is part and parcel of an ordeal for women players. At times they feel the pinch of menses and informing it to a male coach appears rather uncomfortable. Such ticklish situations arise in women's sports and a woman coach can handle it better in the mutual interest of both.

As a sports scribe, I was able to promote Women's cricket from the year 1981 with an article " Why not women's Cricket? Later on when I was asked to join a league side in Nandanam Teacher's College ground, Madras during my vacation and when my turn for batting came in the mandatory overs of the match started with shadows lengthening on the field. I was surprised to see two young ladies were introduced as number 10 and number 11 in the team and two men were sent out to balance the team

combination. Immediately the young lady bowlers attacked from both ends on a New Year day in 1983 and I dug myself out for 20 overs to draw the match and earn one point for my team. The women bowlers troubled me very much but somehow I stood firm even though I was nervous playing them for the first time.

The Chak De film saw Sharukh Khan coaching the women's hockey team. There was a difference of opinion between a particular player and Shahrukh Khan and it died down before taking a serious shape. Women are generally jealous of other women. If a particular player is given lift by the coach, some players may not like it by their nature. It is very difficult to console women players as they start shedding tears at the slightest pretext and the male coach will be put in a precarious position. Sexual harassment cases are also lodged against male member standing as coach. So, it is better to have a woman coach to balance all these problems. There are exceptions- O. Nambiar did well for his state

Kerala and as an international coach and was awarded the Dronacharya Award as well.

As might be expected, athletes have different views on what they want from their coach and how they want to be treated; no two people are ever the same. As such, one of the key requests by female athletes is for the coach to get to know them as individuals. This includes understanding their personalities, what motivates them in their lives and in sport, what their goals are, and which methods will bring out the best in them. This is not to say that all the athletes interviewed wanted their coach to be their friend, but they needed the coach to understand the type of relationship they did want.

Many athletes see themselves as athletes first and women second. They want to be pushed as hard as male athletes and demand the same expectations. That said, the athletes we spoke to acknowledged that women are different to men; for example, women can be more emotional, they will talk more

and are more inquisitive. As such, the coach may need to tailor the way he or she communicates with the athlete or team to meet these needs, but still train them as hard and with the same technical rigour.

Regardless of the coach's style, athletes want their coach to provide them with personalized feedback. If the athlete does something wrong, she wants to correct it based on her coach's observations. Female athletes don't want constant praise, but they do want to hear it when it is well deserved. Well-placed praise boosts motivation and confidence among female athletes. It is time to have a holistic approach in not having a male coach for women's team games at the international level.



- C K Subramaniam

Columnist and Writer

Review

Vikram' is a reasonably good film that has a generous serving of action sequences and the unmistakable signature of director Lokesh Kanakaraj on it.

There have been situations earlier when directors, looking to please their lead actors, have ended up making films that are far from what they originally had in mind. But to his credit, Lokesh Kanakaraj seems to have held his nerve and more importantly, called the shots. The film leaves no one in doubt that he's narrated the story the way he actually wanted to.

The story starts with a series of killings. A group of trained masked men, who claim to be fighting against the system, kill three people one after the other. The first of those killed is Prabhanjan (Kalidas Jayaram), a police officer actively involved in the seizure of a huge quantity of raw material required to prepare cocaine.

The next is a person identified as Stephen Raj (Hareesh Peradi) and the third is Karnan (Kamal Haasan), who is believed to be the adopted father of Prabhanjan.

The killings don't look like stopping any time soon, leaving the police chief (Chemban Vinod Jose) worried. He chooses to bring in a specialised Black Ops team led by Amar (Fahadh Faasil) to track and eliminate the gang of masked murderers.

The Black Ops team begins its work. Of the three killings, the death of Karnan catches the attention of Amar as the other two are government servants.

He begins to carefully investigate the death of Karnan, eventually discovering that there is much more to what actually meets the eye. He figures out that Karnan had deliberately made himself appear like a womaniser, alcoholic and drug addict only to those around him to enable him to go after big fish without raising suspicions.

Eventually, he realises that Karnan is in fact Vikram and that he was going after Sandhanam (Vijay Sethupathi), a drug addict and a drug lord who has a huge family that includes three wives and an army of thugs.

Why is Vikram after Sandhanam? Is Vikram still alive? Who is Vikram in reality? Does Vikram manage to get the better of Sandhanam? What does Amar do? 'Vikram' answers questions like these -- and more.

The film works as an action entertainer, but doesn't leave you impressed or awe-struck. That is a tad disappointing, considering that it has so many

'Vikram'

Fahadh Faasil steals the show in this action entertainer



heavy-duty performers such as Kamal Haasan, Fahadh Faasil and Vijay Sethupathi and expectations from the film were quite high.

Most action sequences are intense, but what they fail to establish is the emotional connect. One or two of the sequences that manage to establish the connect, work big time.

Take for instance the fight sequence in which a woman team member, identified as Tina, blows her cover as a maid to take on the thugs entering the house of Karnan to kill Vikram's

Film:
'Vikram'

Director:
Lokesh Kanakaraj

Cast:
Kamal Haasan, Vijay Sethupathi, Fahadh Faasil, Kalidas, Chemban Vinod Jose, Hareesh Peradi, Gayathrie, Suriya, Narain and Santhana Bharathi

Rating:



several elements in common with the story of one of Lokesh Kanakaraj's previous films -- 'Kaithi', giving room for boredom to set in.

For instance, 'Kaithi' too was about goons looking to reclaim drugs that had been confiscated by the authorities. 'Kaithi' also had the hero looking to use powerful arms and ammunition to wriggle out of a tight corner. There are several more similarities, but these must be good enough to make the point.

On the positive side, the film has some spectacular performances coming from its lead artistes. Kamal Haasan does a neat job of playing Vikram as does Vijay Sethupathi who plays Sandhanam. The characterisation of Sandhanam makes Vijay Sethupathi's performance that much more appealing.

For instance, the mafia don, we are told, takes specific drugs for specific situations. If he is losing a fight he needs to win, he takes a specific drug. If he needs his senses to be alert to track a bomb that has been planted in his place, he takes another. Vijay Sethupathi just revels in this role.

But it is Fahadh Faasil as the Black Ops team lead Amar who



grandchild. This sequence works big time. But unfortunately for the makers, the same cannot be said of several other action sequences in the film.

One other aspect of the film that does not work in its favour is the narration. The manner in which the story is narrated in the first half makes it difficult for audiences to follow the plot.

It is not that the sequences don't add up. They do. It is just that the audiences have to make a conscious and determined effort to keep all the details of the plot in mind if they wish to follow the story.

That apart, the film's story has

steals the show. Sharp, smart and swift, Fahadh manages to hog all the attention, despite sharing screen space with some of the most powerful performers in the film industry.

The film has a decent background score by Anirudh and some exceptional visuals by Girish Gangadharan.

On the whole, 'Vikram' works if one looks at it as just an action entertainer. One cannot but heave a sigh of disappointment, however, when one realises that the film could have been so much more than what it has just been made into.