

Afternoon VOICE



BJP holds meets,
tells cadre to gather...
PG 04»



VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 13 Issue: 268

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022, MUMBAI

12 Pages, ₹2 /-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com

ShivSena vs ShivSena

Next Hearing On **11th** July

Afternoon Voice Bureau

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As the Maharashtra political crisis deepened, several Shiv Sena workers took to the streets against the party rebels across Maharashtra and Delhi on Sunday. Amid the battle for control of Shiv Sena between Uddhav Thackeray and rebel leader Eknath Shinde, claims and counter-claims kept surfacing

throughout the day.

Meanwhile, the Shinde camp moved the Supreme Court. Two petitions have been filed challenging the disqualification notice issued by the deputy speaker and the appointment of Ajay Chaudhary as leader of the legislative party.

The SC is likely to hear their plea today. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has written to

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla requesting that the adequate provision of Central security forces be made and kept ready if needed.

We tried to speak to many BJP leaders but they refused to comment upon present crisis in ShivSena.

Devendra refused to speak to media saying "it's internal matter of Shiv Sena".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

No explanation given by Adv Kaul as to why this case should come to SC directly: Argues MVA Adv Singhvi

When the hearing began, the SC asked the Shinde Sena why the matter wasn't taken to the HC first. To which Shinde camp Advocate replied, "Shinde and other rebel MLAs didn't approach HC as a minority of the legislative party is 'subverting the state machinery, attacking their houses'. He said, "They're threatening that our dead bodies will return from Assam. The atmosphere is not conducive for us to exercise our rights in Mumbai."

However, MVA Advocate Singhvi has again raised the question asked by the SC and said that the Shinde Sena has not provided an explanation for the same.

Eknath Shinde's pleas being heard in Supreme Court - Highlights

Senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul appearing for Eknath Shinde and others tells the Supreme Court that the Deputy Speaker cannot proceed with the disqualification proceedings when the resolution seeking his removal is pending

- Supreme Court asks Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde why he has not approached the High Court with his plea against disqualification notices issued to him and other rebel MLAs
- Kaul says they didn't approach the High

Court as Supreme Court had passed the order in a number of cases like floor test, disqualification

- Kaul says Shinde & other MLAs didn't approach HC was that a minority of the legislative party is subverting the state machinery, attacking our houses. They're saying that our dead bodies will return from Assam. The atmosphere is not conducive for us to exercise our rights in Mumbai
- Senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul

appearing for Eknath Shinde and others says threats have been given to these MLAs and it was said that bodies of 40 MLAs will arrive back

- Senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, appearing for rebel MLAs, tells SC that the Dy Speaker has no authority to deal with the issue till the question of his removal is decided. What is sought to be done in this matter is undue haste, violation of principles of natural justice.

Editoritis

ShivSena VS ShivSena

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“Shiv Sena is not a weak party, its roots are installed by Prabodhankar Thackeray it has very emotional presence in Maharashtra and at the end of day whatever may happen no one can eliminate Shiv Sena from its roots.”

- **Kishori Pednekar, Mayor of Maharashtra**



“Most people especially workers working on ground levels will go with the party rather than supporting rebelled MLAs.”

- **Suresh Bhau Lad, NCP**



“This is a very sad state of democracy. The way Shiv Sena has broken shows no part is safe. All three parts come together to survive. The same situation happens in MP, Karnataka, and Uttarakhand. This is definitely a very parallel situation as per Indian democracy.”

- **Sachin Sawant, Congress**



“Shiv Sena further will be bright, Shiv Sena was a party and will be a party in the future also.”

- **Priyanka Chaturvedi, ShivSena MP**



“Our leader Devendra Fadnavis had predicted that we don't have to work toward bringing this government down, it will come down with its own internal conflicts. Also, our Party president Chandrakant Patil said it is Shiv Sena's internal issue and BJP has nothing to do with it. I reciprocate this.”

- **Ram Kadam, BJP**



Uddhav Thackeray reshuffles departments of ministers

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has reshuffled the departments of ministers. This has been done so that the issues of public interest are not neglected or ignored, the CMO office stated.

The allotted departments are as follows -

- Eknath Shinde's urban development department handed over to Subhash Desai
- Gulab Raghunath Patil's Water Supply and Sanitation department handed over to Anil Parab
- Dadaji Bhuse and Sandipanrao Bhumre's Agriculture department handed over to Shankarrao Gadakh
- Uday Samant's higher and technical education department handed over to Aaditya Thackeray
- Shambhuraj Desai's three departments handed over to Sanjay Bansode, Satej Patil and Vishwajeet Patangrao Kadam
- Rajendra Patil Yadravkar's four departments handed over to Vishwajeet Patangrao Kadam, Prajakta Tanpure, Satej Patil and Aaditya Thackeray

Uddhav offered CM post to Eknath Shinde on May 20, claims Aditya

In a major revelation, Maharashtra Minister Aditya Thackeray on Sunday claimed that Maha Vikas Aghadi's Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had offered the CM's post on a platter to his cabinet colleague Eknath Shinde on May 20. "However, at that time, Shinde had dilly-dallied, was evasive and did not give a proper response... I had heard of some murky goings-on... Exactly a month later on June 20, Shinde and his group started the rebellion in the party," said Thackeray Jr. He termed as "good riddance" that all the 'muck' has gone out of the party on its own, now leaving it clean, amid a thunderous round of applause.

Due to ongoing political crisis, Maha BJP leaders allowed to skip national executive in Hyderabad on July 2

Maharashtra BJP leaders have been allowed to skip the National Executive meeting going to take place in Hyderabad on July 2-3. Maharashtra leaders Devendra Fadnavis and Chandrakant Patil are among the members of the national executive. Amidst the hectic political activity, they have preferred to stay put in Maharashtra.

Shiv Sena Rebels said they would consider themselves fortunate if they die while saving ideology of Bal Thackeray

Launching a fresh attack on Shiv Sena leadership, dissident leader Eknath Shinde on Sunday wondered how could Bal Thackeray's party support the people having a direct connection with Dawood Ibrahim who was responsible for killing innocent Mumbaikars by triggering bomb blasts.

He said the banner of revolt was raised by him and other MLAs to protest against such support and he doesn't care for his life in the bid to save Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena.

Shinde's tweets on Sunday night are an apparent reference to Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) minister Nawab Malik who is in jail in connection with a money laundering case allegedly involving relatives of Dawood Ibrahim.

The tweets are also seen as a reply to Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut who had termed Shinde and other rebel MLAs "bodies without souls" which will be sent to the morgue.

"How can Hinduhradaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sena support those who have a direct connection with Dawood who killed innocent Mumbaikars by carrying out Mumbai bomb blasts? We are taking this step to oppose this; Don't care if this step leads us to the brink of death," Shinde tweeted in Marathi.

Volume No. 13 | Issue No. 268



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Vaidehi has received several Awards like Icongo-karmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

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Letter's to the Editor

Proud Assamese

Tapan Kumar Deka becomes the first Assamese to be elevated to the post of Director, Intelligence Bureau and we can be nothing but superbly proud of it. Deka, a 1988 batch IPS officer was the go to man to probe into the 2008 Mumbai blasts. Deka has along the road added many feathers to his cap and is a revered name in the police world. I remember once my father telling me that Deka is a people person and knows how to maintain friendly relations with people. Now that he will take over one of the most powerful positions in the country, Assam and specially Tezpur is really proud and I would like this opportunity to congratulate Mr.Deka through your esteemed daily.

- Noopur Baruah

Shiv Sena will rise again

Rebellion in a regional party like Shiv Sena is not a new thing. There had been similar revolts before. Therefore, nothing is achieved by fleeing Shiv Sena MLAs, this is history. In this way, the voters will teach a lesson to the MLAs who are betraying the people by betraying the party. Those who betray the party for their own benefit should not consider the people as fools. They plan to take advantage of themselves by promoting the name of the people. What will those who have not become their own party do to serve the people ?

- Uday Waghvankar

National Doctors' Day

One feels sorry for Uddhav Thackeray who was ditched by his close associates in an lust for power but the crisis would have been handled better if Raj Thackeray was heading the Shiv Sena. Uddhav & his son Aaditya Thackeray handled COVID situation in Maharashtra remarkably well but were so busy in good governance that they could not handle anti-party activities of fellow politicians behind their back.

Politics is a dirty game & it certainly is not Uddhav's cup of tea as he is an man of art apart from being an ace wild life photographer. Uddhav should join hands with Raj Thackeray to strengthen the old Shiv Sena on the ideologies of Balasaheb & than pave for the younger Thackeray's Aaditya & Amit to take on the baton from there on.

- S.N.Kabra

National Doctors' Day

National Doctor's Day in India is celebrated on July 1 every year. The day honours doctors across the country for their relentless service throughout the year. In India, Doctors' Day is celebrated to honour the legendary Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, who was also the second Chief Minister of West Bengal. This day serves to show gratitude to all those who have selflessly aided us in our time of need and tirelessly worked for the health of their patients by commemorating the greatest representative of these ideals. With the number of infected people on the rise every day and hospitals teeming with hundreds of patients, it has never been more important to appreciate the efforts that doctors make to ensure that we recover from whatever may be ailing us and continue to remain healthy. Doctors' Day is an opportunity to thank all the heroes in the medical fraternity for their selfless contribution. They are putting long hours and working round the clock to cure people from whatever sickness they may be suffering from. Instead of thinking about their own safety and their family's safety, they chose to serve the nation. Kudos to their spirit and dedication that they continued to work untiringly in the hour of crisis.

- Jubel D'Cruz

Picking the president for the prestigious post



This is the Presidential season. The Country wants a new President. So, it's raining Presidents. The entire opposition groups have been having conclaves, eating samosas and Jalebis, having coffee and drinking tea, it would be seen as endorsing Chaiwalla and generally notching up frequent flyer points on air travel and hotel stay.

Last heard a massive conclave of 18 parties, decided on three potential nominees, as a joint candidate. The first one refused flat out. Don't want trouble. The second one – Nero who fiddled while Kashmir burnt, reluctantly said no. Simply because, if he had said yes, and God forbid, got elected, he would have had to give up dalliances with starlets; golfing across the globe, and generous quaffing of Glenlivet and other nectars of life. However much the Presidential gardens had an appeal.

The third candidate – who fortunately or unfortunately, no one knows, and surely no one will know either, has said no. While these parties were playing who will be the President by lot, the ruling party is firm on only one candidate.

While all this action was going on, I was wondering why the ragtag collection of parties working out strategy overnight. Which leads me to wonder. Why so much drama around a consensus candidate? And how a Presidential Election

has become a power play. While the post of Prime Minister, by nature, is political and party affiliated, the President is a large ceremonial but at important times, the bulwark of a Constitutional Democracy.

We would need a person of stature, of impeccable integrity and who rises well above partisan party politics and who is the large wall against dictatorial tendencies. And most of the people who have occupied this position in the past have been people of stature, who the Nation looked up to. Presidents like S Radhakrishnan, V V Giri, Zakir Hussain, R Venkatraman, A P J Abdul Kalam, Pranab Mukherji etc. are the people who adorned the office of the President and give it the necessary gravitas. In fact, Pranab Mukherji, while a lifelong Congressman, when he became President, infused the office with the dignity which his predecessor had managed to drown out.

In this search for the next President, we need an intellectual, a person of impeccable integrity, a brilliant communicator and someone who will make us proud as a Nation. However, at the time of writing two people have been nominated by the ruling party and the opposition.

The opposition candidate, in my view, is a joke. A disgruntled, disillusioned, disappointed, displaced

gentleman, who was upset at the prominence his son got with the current government and who jumped ship to the Calcutta Party is the nominee – because he was part of TMC party and so he has been nominated.

The choice of Ms. Draupadi Murmu as Presidential candidate by BJP is master stroke. Better it had been if she could be a consensus candidate. India is a mature democracy by reposing faith in an Adivasi for the highest post of the republic NDA is upholding that tradition. wonderful decision of the central government. No doubt the well educated voters even from the opposition would be tempted cast their vote in favor this daughter of our tribal zone for a better cause with a convincing reason.

With Orissa Chief Minister joining the NDA in supporting Murmu, the result is a foregone conclusion from all angles. The BJP has always stressed that it is far different from the upper caste, upper class party that it is perceived to be and the choice of Ms. Murmu, belonging to the Adivasi community, a particularly marginal group in India, to be its choice for the next President of India is a big move in that direction.

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(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

BJP holds meets, tells cadre to gather around Mumbai airport on July 3



Image Courtesy : TOI

With the state's political situation fluid, the BJP's Mumbai unit has begun mobilising its cadre "for all

eventualities".

On Sunday, the party's 16 MLAs, five MLCs and members of Parliament held a meeting of 500 office bearers in every assembly constituency, laying the ground work for the developments the coming days may see.

Party workers were cautioned not to be overenthusiastic as the fight was between two Shiv Sena groups and the BJP had nothing to do with it.

Man steals scooter as return gift for friend, held

The city police recently arrested a 30-year-old man who stole a scooter to present it as a return gift to his friend who helped him secure bail in an assault case.

Police have recovered three scooters and four mobile phones from the accused. Antop Hill police arrested Shahid Shaikh from his Malwani residence.

"We were probing scooter theft cases when we learnt about Shaikh. We got his mobile number and using technical and human intelligence, we arrested him. We have recovered a scooter and phones kept in the dicky,"



said Nasir Kulkarni, senior inspector. Shaikh admitted he stole the gearless two-wheelers since he can't ride bikes with gears.

"He was arrested in an Oshiwara police case and was in jail. He had stolen a scooter and gave it to the person who helped him to get bail," said an officer. API Shivaji Madane is probing the case.

Panvel man (38) dies in fire after saving his 3 kids



A cable operator (38) with a passion for acting died in a fire in his bungalow in a Panvel village Sunday morning.

Rajesh Thakur rescued his children (11, 16 and 18), who were on the first floor, and then switched off power supply, but got trapped when he went back to remove some documents.

A short circuit seemed to have sparked the fire. Police said Thakur was working on a laptop kept for charging through the night, so an overcharged laptop battery having exploded is not being ruled out.

Now, 8th min jumps ship; only 3 Shiv Sena men left in Uddhav cabinet

With the Shiv Sena on the warpath in a bid to reclaim the party, the rebel Eknath Shinde faction retaliated strongly on Sunday bringing higher education minister Uday Samant over to Guwahati to join the coup.

The rebel camp also moved the Supreme Court against the disqualification notices sent to 16 of their MLAs by deputy speaker of the state assembly Narhari Zirwal.

A second petition demands that Zirwal recognise Shinde as group leader of the Shiv Sena's legislature party.



Thane reports 1,306 new Covid-19 cases; tally jumps by over 900 in one day

Maharashtra's Thane district has reported 1,306 new COVID-19 cases, taking its infection tally to 7,25,471, a health official said on Monday.

These new cases were recorded on Sunday, a jump of over 900 cases in a single day. On Saturday, Thane had

reported 383 new COVID-19 cases.

The district currently has 5,425 active COVID-19 cases, the official said, adding that the recovery count has reached 7,06,708.

The death toll in Thane remained unchanged at 11,902, he said.

NCB trains Mumbai GPO staff to identify drugs



The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) recently conducted a training session for 40 supervisory level officers and staff of General Post office, Mumbai, regarding the identification of drugs through courier and modus operandi used by the smugglers.

While observing International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Sunday, the NCB conducted several awareness programs about the menace of drug trafficking.

During this month, NCB Mumbai had also organised many drug awareness programs including a ride with 100 bikers, street plays etc.

NCB officials distributed posters and pamphlets among people about drug awareness.

Mumbai NCB busts inter-state drug syndicate; 286 kg of ganja worth Rs 3.5 cr seized; 2 persons held

The NCB zonal unit here on Monday claimed to have busted an inter-state drug racket and seized 286 kg of high grade ganja worth Rs 3.5 crore from traffickers moving in a car on the Solapur-Mumbai highway. Two persons were arrested following the

anti-drugs operation carried out on the intervening night of Sunday-Monday, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) official said. The NCB had received inputs about an inter-state drug trafficking syndicate planning transportation of a huge drug consignment to Mumbai, he

said. Immediately, various intelligence networks were activated and the NCB sleuths learnt about a vehicle which was to be used for the transportation of a huge quantity of ganja sourced from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, he said.

Rain-related diseases rising in Mumbai- BMC

While the monsoon is not too active in Mumbai at the moment, rain-related diseases have already started increasing. Cases of dengue, gastroenteritis and hepatitis are rising in June as compared to June 2021, says BMC's health update. The city recorded two cases of H1N1, formerly swine flu, and one case of

chikungunya between June 1 and 19, said BMC executive health officer Mangala Gomare. Malaria cases haven't started rising rapidly (189 in June so far), but Dr Gomare said people must keep surroundings clean to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. The city registered 22 cases of dengue between June 1 and 19 as compared to 12 in June 2021.

Biz rivalry: Man and four others abduct ex-employee

Bangur Nagar police arrested the owner of a recording studio and his four aides for abducting an exemployee over business rivalry. Goregaon resident, Anuj Kiraag (23), who worked for the

accused, Ranvir Rajput, started the same business after allegedly stealing Rajput's client database. On Kiraag's complaint, an FIR was registered against Rajput and his aides and he was arrested on Saturday.

News

Nagpur Congress protests against Agneepath scheme



Image Courtesy: Midday

Congress workers on Monday held protests in various parts of Nagpur against the Centre's new Agnipath military recruitment scheme. The protesters against the scheme, which stipulates a four-year-tenure for recruits and discharge without pension, included workers of affiliated units like the Youth Congress, NSUI, Seva Dal and Mahila Congress.

As part of the protest, some Youth Congress workers led by national secretary Bunty Shelke stopped a train for about half an hour before police removed them from the spot and the train proceeded, officials said. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the past eight years has arbitrarily imposed several such schemes on the people and put them in distress. We also know who is behind the current instability (Shiv Sena rebellion) in Maharashtra," the Congress' city unit chief Vikas Thakre said. The Agnipath scheme is not in the interest of the youth or defence forces and must be rolled back, he said.

- PTI

Sanjay Raut should use words carefully: Shrikant Shinde

Kalyan MP Shrikant Shinde, son of Shiv Sena rebel Eknath Shinde, on Monday asked party leader Sanjay Raut to watch his mouth, a day after the latter's "bodies without souls" remarks against the dissident MLAs camping in Guwahati caused a flutter.

Talking to reporters at the 'Shakti Sthal' memorial of the late Shiv Sena leader Anand Dighe here, Shrikant said Raut should be careful about the choice of words as he is also the father of someone and his family is watching his remarks.

"This is not the culture of Maharashtra. The state is watching the manner in which he is passing comments. This happens when one realises that

Maha Dy Speaker had issued notice to rebel MLAs under pressure: Shrikant Shinde

Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's son and party MP Shrikant Shinde on Monday said Maharashtra Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal had sent the disqualification notice to his father and 15 other dissident legislators under pressure which is evident from the supreme court order. In a relief to rebel Shiv Sena lawmakers, the apex court on Monday kept in abeyance the disqualification proceedings before the Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly till July 11 and sought responses to pleas by rebel MLAs questioning the legality of



notices seeking their disqualification.

The top court, however, refused to pass any interim order on the plea of the Maharashtra government that there should not be any floor test in the Assembly and said they can always approach it in

case of illegality. "The speaker has rights in the Assembly. He has the power if anyone goes against the whip in the legislature. It does not apply to anyone not coming for any meeting. The 'tughlaqi farman' (the disqualification notice) was issued (by him) under pressure and the court has shown that today," Shinde, the MP from Kalyan, said. His father and senior Sena leader Eknath Shinde is leading the rebellion against Shiv Sena leadership and has been camping in Guwahati with a majority of Sena legislators.

"This is not the culture of

Maharashtra. The state is watching the manner in which he is passing comments. This happens when one realises that power is slipping out of hand," he said. Addressing Shiv Sena cadres in Mumbai on Sunday, Raut said, "We have learnt a lesson on whom to trust...These are bodies whose souls have died. Their mind is dead...40 bodies will come from Assam and will be sent directly to the morgue for postmortem". The remarks are seen as a reference to Shinde and other MLAs camping in Guwahati.

- PTI

IT professional held for repeatedly raping colleague

A 31-year-old IT professional was arrested for allegedly raping a colleague after getting her drunk in his house in Bavdhan area of Pune, a police official said on Monday.

The incident took place on June 6 when the accused called the woman, who is his subordinate, for a meal, then forced her to have liquor and raped her, the Hinjawadi police station official said.



"He again called her to his home on June 10 after threatening to make videos of what conspired on June 6 viral. He raped her again. When the accused forced her to come home on June 25, she approached police," he said.

The man was held under IPC sections 376 (rape), 354 (sexual harassment) and 327 (causing hurt by means of poison), the official informed.

- ANI

Four held for killing 29-year-old man during drinking session in Palghar

Four persons were arrested for allegedly killing 29-year-old man and dumping his body on Tarapur-Boisar road in Palghar, a police official said.

The body of the man, later identified as Pawan Mulik, was found on June 17, Rural police

spokesperson Sachin Nawadkar said.

"The victim and accused had an argument while drinking. It escalated and the four smashed Mulik's head with a stone. They then threw the body by the road near a petrol pump," he said.

- PTI

Victory of Bal Thackeray's Hindutva: Eknath Shinde

Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde on Monday termed the relief by the Supreme Court to him and other dissident Sena lawmakers as the victory of Bal Thackeray's Hindutva and the ideals of his mentor Anand Dighe.

The Supreme Court has kept in abeyance the disqualification proceedings before the Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly till July 11 and sought responses to pleas by rebel MLAs questioning the legality of notices seeking their disqualification.

"This is the victory of Hindu hridayasamrat Balasaheb's Hindutva and the ideals of (the late) Dharamaveer Anand Dighe," tweeted Shinde, who is camping with the dissident MLAs in Guwahati.

The top court also refused to pass any interim order on the plea of the Maharashtra government that there should not be any floor test in the Assembly and said they can

always approach it in case of illegality.

"This is the victory of Hindu hridayasamrat Balasaheb's Hindutva and the ideals of (the late) Dharamaveer Anand Dighe," tweeted Shinde, who is camping with the dissident MLAs in Guwahati.

In Thane, Shinde's son and party MP Shrikant Shinde said Maharashtra Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal had sent the disqualification notice to his father and 15 other dissident legislators under pressure which is evident from the supreme court order.

Their main demand is that the Sena withdraws from the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance, which also comprises the Congress and NCP. Shinde moved the Supreme Court on Sunday against the disqualification notice issued by the deputy speaker to him and 15 other rebel legislators, calling the action "illegal and unconstitutional" and seeking a stay on it.

- PTI

Rebel Maha ministers lose portfolios

Moving against rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday took away portfolios of nine ministers who have jumped ship, while the dissident MLAs took their fight to the Supreme Court, which kept in abeyance the disqualification proceedings against them before the Assembly Deputy Speaker till July 11.

A week into the political crisis – which was triggered when Shiv Sena minister Eknath Shinde, who has claimed the support of more than three dozen party MLAs, raised a banner of revolt against the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government – both sides have refused to blink and appear prepared for a long fight.

- PTI

power is slipping out of hand," the MP said.

When asked about the summons issued to Raut by the Enforcement Directorate asking him to appear before it on Tuesday, Shrikant said, "I came to know about this from you, best wishes to him."

Addressing Shiv Sena cadres in Mumbai on Sunday, Raut said, "We have learnt a lesson on whom to trust...These are bodies whose souls have died. Their mind is dead...40 bodies will come from Assam and will be sent directly to the morgue for postmortem". The remarks are seen as a reference to the number of MLAs camping in Guwahati with Eknath Shinde.

- PTI

Nation

Court grants remand of activist Teesta Setalvad, former Gujarat DGP Sreekumar to crime branch

A metropolitan court granted remand of social activist Teesta Setalvad and former Gujarat DGP RB Sreekumar to the Ahmedabad crime branch for questioning till July 2. Setalvad and Sreekumar were granted remand in a case registered against them on charges of forgery and criminal conspiracy, among others. Earlier on Sunday, the Gujarat government decided to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by the state's Anti-Terrorism Squad DIG Deepan Bhadrans to investigate the role of Setalvad, Sreekumar and former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots. An FIR was lodged against Setalvad, Sreekumar and former IPS officer Sanjiv



Bhatt for giving false testimonies in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots, a top police official said.

The Gujarat Police Crime Branch on Sunday arrested Teesta Setalvad in connection with a case against her NGO which gave baseless information about the 2002 Gujarat riots to the police. The action came after Union Minister Amit Shah in an

interview with ANI said that Teesta Setalvad-run NGO gave baseless information about the 2002 Gujarat riots to the police. On Saturday, Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) team detained Setalvad from Mumbai in connection with a case on her NGO and later in the night she was taken to Ahmedabad. The Gujarat ATS team took Teesta Setalvad to the Santacruz police station. The Supreme Court had on Friday, dismissed as "devoid of merit" an appeal by Zakia Jafri in a plea challenging SIT's clean chit to the then chief minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi and others in cases related to the riots. Zakia Jafri is the widow of former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri who was killed in the riots.

- ANI

SC to hear on July 11 plea alleging attacks on Christian institutions



The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on July 11 a plea alleging a rising number of attacks on Christian institutions and priests across the country. A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala agreed to list the matter on re-opening of the apex court when senior advocate Colin Gonsalves appearing for the petitioner sought listing of plea on attacks against Christians and priests. "What you are saying is unfortunate, if it is happening. What we can ensure is that your matter is listed on the re-opening day itself," observed the bench. Gonsalves

mentioned the matter for urgent listing saying that in May 57 cases of violence happened and more attacks are anticipated.

The petition has sought implementation of the guidelines issued in the Tehseen Poonawala judgement in which nodal officers were to be appointed to take note of hate crimes and register FIRs across the nation. The Supreme Court 2018, had issued a slew of guidelines for the Centre and State governments to control and prevent the increasing number of hate crimes, including mob violence and lynching. The guidelines included fast-tracked trials, victim compensation, deterrent punishment and disciplinary action against lax law-enforcing officials. The top court had said offences such as hate crimes, cow vigilantism and lynching incidents should be nipped in the bud.

- ANI

BJP to hold two-day national executive meeting in Hyderabad; party expansion key agenda



Image Courtesy: ANI

The Bharatiya Janata Party is scheduled to hold a national executive meeting on July 2 and 3 at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, party

sources said here on Monday. Expansion of the party, the 2024 general election, and new party policies are likely to be on the meeting agenda, sources said. According to a senior BJP leader, the expansion of the party will be the key agenda of the meeting. They will also discuss areas where there is a need to induct more party workers, sources said.

"Other likely agendas are preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the upcoming state election, new party policies among others," party source added. BJP national

president JP Nadda is likely to do a roadshow in Telangana and inaugurate an exhibition during the two-days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to arrive in Hyderabad on July 2 and is likely to address the meeting on both days, sources said. Assembly elections are due to be held in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh later this year. Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana will hold state assembly elections in 2023.

- ANI

Police seized drugs worth Rs 50 lakh in Assam's Karimganj

Police seized a huge quantity of contraband drugs worth Rs 50 lakh and apprehended two drug peddlers in Assam's Karimganj district. The apprehended persons were identified as Nayan Kuri and Bidhan Kuri. According to the Karimganj district police, based on a tip-off, Karimganj police launched an operation in the Lakhicharan area near Karimganj town on Sunday night and apprehended two drug peddlers.

"After receiving information about two drug peddlers, we sent our two people to buy drugs from them and caught the drug peddlers. We had recovered 10 soap cases containing 125 grams of heroin and Yaba tablets in possession from them. The market value of the seized drugs is estimated at around Rs 50 lakh," Partha Pratim Das, Additional Superintendent of Police of Karimganj district said.

Flax a restaurant for all things healthy - Satisfy your appetite without guilt!

A household name for healthy food in Mumbai, Flax - Healthy Living provides a solution to balanced eating with a lot of flavours, making sure the patrons recall them when they think of eating clean. The whole voyage of Flax is not a product-based sale, but selling a lifestyle. Some of the new additions to the already existing menu are Korean Kimchi Bowl, Vietnamese Bowl, Tapenade Fish Salad, Smoked Chicken Salad, California Cottage Cheese Salad, Chicken Tikka Sandwich, Smoked Chicken Sandwich, Honey Mustard Chicken Sandwich and Calabrese Bocconcini Sandwich. Also known for its lip-smacking bowls and thick milkshakes, Flax offers meal plan subscriptions for you to follow.



Currently only operating as a delivery service in Mumbai and a dine-in space in Bangalore, Flax Healthy Living will have you spoilt for choice. With a plethora of options in the vegan, vegetarian and non-vegetarian as well as gluten-free categories, their neat packaging will hit the sweet spots with you. The menu has a wide variety of food from wholesome bowl meals and rice to refreshing salads and wraps. All the ingredients are indigenous to India and are either organically sourced or prepared in-house with utmost care. Some of their must-try food items include the Burrito Bowl, Shawarma Spiced Chicken Bowl, Falafel Bowl, It's a Tofu Thing Salad, Glow Bowl Salad, Summer Refresh Salad, Mediterranean Veggie Sandwich, Hummus and Chicken Wrap.



Flax is the brainchild of Gurmeet Arora, Founder, a DJ-turned-entrepreneur who has been in the hospitality industry for about a decade.

He says, "The idea of curating healthy food was missing and this is where I thought that Flax can fill the gap. Flax came as a necessity to correct my own lifestyle. It's only when I understood that healthy food is going to be everyone's daily requirement in the coming future. Starting from a 200 sq ft space inside a gym is where Flax was born, my vision is to be India's answer to health food, ailment food backed with science & nutrition. With Flax, I am building a team where everyone associated with the brand can grow together."

So what can we expect in this new year from Flax?

"Plenty on the cards with Flax. We have a range of hot meals coming up and are also looking to open a dine-in cafe in Mumbai in addition to undertaking expansion in different cities. The health food segment has picked up substantially in India and more so in the past two years where health has come into focus during the pandemic. We want everyone to know that eating healthy is also nutritious and delicious. That is the goal for us."

- Arora



World

Water crisis in Pakistan impacts food security

The ongoing water crisis in Pakistan has badly impacted the agriculture sector and agri-driven export industry as the situation is leading to severe drought in several areas of the country. Despite the grave situation, not much attention is being given by the Shehbaz Sharif-led Pakistan government. "There has not been sufficient focus on tackling the water crisis by investing in water governance, safeguarding water resources or building small and localized dams for water conservation," said Arif Jabbar Khan, country director for Water Aid Pakistan as quoted by Daily Times. "Institutional confusion over responsibilities for the provision



of water and water management has been another important problem at the national and provincial level," he said. Notably, the crisis not only impacts Pakistan's agriculture sector, which contributes to 23 per cent of the nation's GDP, according to the media outlet, but is also an existential threat to energy and

food security, and therefore national security. According to the data shared by the Punjab Irrigation Department, the Taunsa Barrage supplied only 6,700 cusecs. It is 73 per cent less than its requirement of 25,000 cusecs. Moreover, the Thal Canal was facing 75 per cent scarcity as 2,000 cusecs of water were released into it against the need of 8,000 cusecs. The Panjnad Barrage was also running with a 66 per cent shortage, receiving 4,300 cusecs against the requirement of 12,700 cusecs. Rasul Barrage was suffering 59 per cent water stress with a supply of 9,900 cusecs against the need of 24,200 cusecs.

Bulgarian PM submits government's resignation

Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov submitted the resignation of his coalition government to the National Assembly on Monday after it was ousted in a noconfidence motion, the press office of the Parliament said. According to the country's Constitution, resigning is compulsory after a losing vote. Petkov's government will continue to act until the election or appointment of a new Council of Ministers. The cabinet was overthrown on Wednesday, two weeks after the There Is Such A People party, one of the four partners in the ruling coalition, withdrew its participation in the government, which was elected last December.

- ANI

Australian emissions rise in 2021: Reports

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions increased in 2021, government data has revealed. According to the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory update for December 2021, which was published on Monday, Australia produced 488 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2021, an increase of 0.8 per cent from 483.9 million in 2020. Emissions from the electricity sector fell by 4.2 per cent due to an increase in renewable energy but were offset by increases in transport and manufacturing emissions as travel increased. Agriculture emissions increased 4.2 per cent as the industry continued to recover from drought.

Chris Bowen, the minister for climate change and energy, said the data reflected the former Coalition government's failure on climate policy. "Their failure to deliver proper climate policy over a decade undermines the great



strides in emissions reduction made through household solar, the Renewable Energy Target and state-based renewable schemes in the electricity sector over recent years," he said in a media release. "Good climate and energy policy is good economic policy -- it doesn't rely on recession and drought for short term and temporary emissions reduction." Compared to 2005, the benchmark for Australia's emissions reduction targets, emissions were down 21.4 per cent. The new Labor government has committed to cutting emissions by 43 per cent from the 2005 levels by 2030.

- ANI

China to relocate 17,000 Tibetan people

Around 17,555 Tibetan people will be relocated away from high-altitude places in Nagqu City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region under a relocation plan that aims to improve the living conditions of the people and protect the region's fragile ecosystem. In the next one and half months, the people will move from places with an average altitude of over 4,500 meters above sea level to more hospitable areas of about 3,600 meters in Shannan City, Xinhua reported.

Regional forestry and grassland administration Director Wu Wei stated that the people in the city had lived in places with harsh weather and relatively backward production and living conditions, where the grassland degraded. "The relocation scheme reflects a people-centered development thought, taking consideration of both the ecological



Image Courtesy : Organiser

protection and people's demand for a better life," Wu added. More than 130,000 people in around 100 Tibet towns will be covered under the relocation plan in eight years, the media added. This comes after a recent White Paper of Tibet titled 'Tibet since 1951: Liberation, Development and Prosperity from Beijing' highlighted very clearly how there was no concern about the level of destruction to Tibet's environment, reported Tibet Press.

- ANI

Russian President Putin to embark on first foreign trip to Tajikistan

Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to make his first foreign trip to Central Asian countries - Tajikistan and Turkmenistan - since the beginning of the February 24 conflict with Ukraine. Pavel Zarubin, the Kremlin correspondent of the Rossiya 1 state television station, said Putin would visit Tajikistan and Turkmenistan and then meet Indonesian President Joko Widodo for talks in Moscow.

In Dushanbe, Putin will meet Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, a close Russian ally and the longest-serving ruler of a former Soviet state. In Ashgabat, he will attend a summit of Caspian nations including the leaders of

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Iran and Turkmenistan, Zarubin said.

Russian leader's first known trip abroad since ordering the invasion of Ukraine comes in the wake of multiple sanctions imposed on Moscow. Moreover, the G7 Summit being held in Germany will have a special focus on Ukraine as the leaders of the world's wealthiest nations gathered in the Bavarian Alps on the sidelines of the G7 Summit indicating Ukraine was a main topic of conversation.

President Joe Biden said, "Together, the G7 will announce that we will ban the import of Russian gold, a major export that rakes in tens of billions of dollars for Russia."

- ANI

Growing presence of Pakistani radicals in Europe raises alarm for Israel

Amid the spike in illegal migration of radical Pakistanis to Europe, the security concerns of Israel is under threat as this time in Italy where over a dozen people of Pakistani origin (or nationality), were arrested in Genoa all a part of the "Gabar Group". Genoa is a warning for Italy and Europe, to pay closer attention to Pakistani migrants and asylum seekers, it also should be a red flag to Israel given the globalization of jihad. Israel has

declared these groups to have close terroristic links stating that Europe could become a nursing ground for such cross-pollination of terror, given the hate for Israel that is found in Pakistan, the Times of Israel reported. When arrest warrants were issued for fourteen Pakistanis in Italy connected with the terrorist attack on the Charlie Hebdo office in Paris in September 2020, Europe felt a sudden jolt as it confirmed the growing presence of Pakistani

radicals in Europe. The people of Pakistani origin (or nationality) that were arrested in Genoa are said to be a part of the "Gabar Group".

While Genoa comes as a warning for Italy and Europe, to pay closer attention to Pakistani migrants and asylum seekers, it has become a red flag to Israel amid perpetration of jihad on a global level. As per local media reports, a two-year-long investigation unravelled the active existence of a terrorist cell

formed by young Pakistanis in several Italian provinces and in some European countries. Calling for terrorist attacks against those who insult the Prophet or Islam, the extremist sympathisers network across Europe through social media platforms calling for terrorist attacks against those who insult the Prophet or Islam.

All of them admitted to being members of TLP, a group which had the support of the Imran Khan government as well as the

army. With active and numerous followers in Spain, France, Greece and Italy, these men were circulating audiovisual material through Facebook and Tik-Tok which glorified terrorist attacks. According to the Italian ambassador to Pakistan, Andreas Ferrarese, as of February 2021, there are around 200,000 Pakistanis in Italy and only 140,000 are documented.

- ANI

Business

NITI Aayog launches report on gig economy



NITI Aayog on Monday launched a report that presented comprehensive perspectives and recommendations on the gig economy in India titled 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy', the apex public policy think tank said in a statement. Gig workers are typically those who work

freelance, contractual, temporary, or on-call basis. The report was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, CEO Amitabh Kant, and Special Secretary K Rajeswara Rao. The report provided a scientific methodological approach to estimate the current size and job-generation potential of the sector. Besides, it highlighted the opportunities and challenges of this emerging sector and presented global best practices on initiatives for social security. Being a new-age phenomenon, there are a number of aspects of platform work that remain unexplored, and this study attempted to

plug these knowledge gaps through a structure of four key pillars - data, job creation, comparison, and lessons from global peers, and recommendations for policy interventions.

CEO of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant highlighted the job creation potential of this sector given the rising urbanization, widespread access to the internet, digital technologies, and smartphones in India. "The recommendations in this report will serve as a crucial resource for ministries, state governments, training providers, platform companies and other stakeholders to work

in collaboration for promoting growth and employment opportunities in this sector," Kant said. Further, to harness the potential of the gig-platform sector, the report recommended accelerating access to finance through products specifically designed for such workers, linking self-employed individuals engaged in the business of selling regional and rural cuisine or street foods. Other recommendations include undertaking a separate enumeration exercise to estimate the size of the gig and platform workforce.

- ANI

INCOR Group buys stake in Renovis Pharma

Hyderebad based conglomerate INCOR Group and Renovis Labs, promoted by Prof. Javed Iqbal - country's esteemed scientist, have entered into a new JV 'INCOR Renovis'. The new company will focus on developing cost effective and green technologies in the areas of Human health, Animal health and Agriculture and will work towards making India self-reliant in manufacturing medicines under the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

One of the major problems highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic was India's increased dependency on China for raw materials and APIs (for essential medicines). Over the last few decades, Indian Pharma companies have struggled to develop technologies for the raw material or the intermediates, which are superior to the Chinese technologies in terms of cost, scalability, and quality and environmentally friendly.

- ANI

IRS officer Nitin Gupta appointed new CBDT chairman



Image Courtesy : Business world

The government has appointed Nitin Gupta as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). A Committee of Secretaries held a meeting on June 25 and selected Gupta, a 1986 batch IRS officer, as the Chairman of the apex body of Income Tax.

According to the order issued by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet, a copy of which is reviewed by ANI, he has been approved for the appointment as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He is currently a Member of CBDT handling the charge of Investigation. Gupta is the first CBDT Member after 3 years who gets the independent charge of Investigation. Last year on August 26, Nitin Gupta was appointed Member CBDT. As earlier Chairman of the CBDT used to keep the charge of the very sensitive investigation vertical of the income tax with themselves like last full-time Chairman J B Mohapatra had been handling the charge in an additional capacity like his predecessors P C Mody and Sushil Chandra.

- ANI

Annapurna Finance raises USD 15mn from Proparco

Bhubaneshwar-based Annapurna Finance ("Annapurna"), among the top five NBFCMFIs in the country, has raised funds worth USD 15 million from Proparco in Series A2. With the fresh funds, the total round size amounts to USD 100 million. This is the fourth capital raise by Annapurna in the last 15 months, after attracting a USD 30 million investment from Nuveen Global Impact Fund in

March 2021, USD 20 million from DEG in November 2021 and USD 35 million from Encourage Capital, Accion and existing investor Oikocredit.

Annapurna will use the funds to grow its loan book, invest in technology, expand geographically and further its vision of enabling financial inclusion at scale. With a pan India rural distribution network and a multi-product strategy, it offers micro-credit loans, home

improvement, and MSME loans to individuals and small businesses. Then fundraise will help Annapurna in strengthening its tech stack to bring in more efficient, automated and paperless financial products to the unbanked and underbanked. Annapurna, founded in 2009 by Gobinda Chandra Pattanaik and Dibyajyoti Pattanaik, has crossed the INR 6,500 crore AUM milestone.

- ANI

Zomato shares tumble after it announces Blinkit acquisition

Shares of food aggregator Zomato tumbled sharply on Monday after the company's Board of Directors approved a proposal to acquire a cash-strapped quick commerce company Blinkit for Rs 4,447 crore.

The proposed acquisition will be an all-stock deal. Last year, Zomato extended \$50 million loans to Grofers India Private Limited, which has now been renamed as Blink Commerce. At 12.14 p.m, the shares of Zomato traded at Rs 65.90, down 6.5 per cent from the previous session. So far in 2022, it had fallen 53 per cent on a cumulative basis. Even though the company reported healthy gains on its listings on the stock

exchanges in July last year, it could not capitalize on it further.

"The recently announced acquisition of Blinkit by Zomato Ltd. is expected to add to its woes of high operating losses. The Blinkit is synergistic to Zomato's food delivery business and the management expects the business to grow significantly in the future. The quick commerce market, however, has become incredibly competitive, and it will take a very long time to figure out the unit economics and turn profitable," said Punit Patni, Equity Research Analyst, Swastika Investmart on the decline in Zomato shares.

- ANI

India Lesotho Business Council launched



India Lesotho Business Council has been launched by the Indian Economic Trade Organization and the High Commission of Lesotho to accelerate the trade relationships between both countries.

The MOU was witnessed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Honorable Matsepo Ramakoae,

Govt of Lesotho and was signed between the High Commissioner of Lesotho H.E.

Lineo Irene Molise-Mabusela and the President of the Indian Economic Trade Organization Dr Asif Iqbal during the event which was attended by the business community in New Delhi.

- ANI

BSE Sensex
53161.28
(0.82%) ▲

Currency exchange

Nifty **NSE**
National Stock Exchange of India Ltd
15,832.05 (0.85%) ▲

1 USD 78.8650 (INR)
1 GBP 96.4800 (INR)
1 EUR 82.9113 (INR)

Top Gainers			Top Losers		
Scrip Name	Price	%Gain	Scrip Name	Price	%Loss
Coal India	182.05	3.12	Apollo Hospital	3,794.50	-1.14
ONGC	141.50	3.02	Eicher Motors	2,848.30	-1.03
Larsen	1,535.80	2.74	HDFC Life	558.00	-0.61
HCL Tech	992.35	2.65	Kotak Mahindra	1,691.55	-0.40
Tech Mahindra	1,007.20	2.65	Reliance	2,492.65	-0.30

Sports

Morgan England captain retire from International cricket



England's World Cup-winning white-ball captain Eoin Morgan is set to announce his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday, ending a career in which he played more than 300 times across 50-over and Twenty20 formats, British media reported. Morgan, who led England to 50-over World Cup glory in 2019, captained England in a record 126 ODIs and 72 T20s. His 118 wins as skipper across the two formats is also a record.

The 35-year-old, who made his ODI debut as a 16-year-old with Ireland in 2006 before he was called up by England in 2009, has played 248 ODIs and 115 T20s, scoring 10,159 runs in total. He has also played in 16 tests, scoring 700 runs. However, he has been battling form and fitness problems in recent months. Batsman Jos Buttler, who has been Morgan's deputy since 2015 and has led the white-ball teams on 13 occasions, has been tipped as a favourite to become the next captain.

- ANI

India skipper Hardik praises Ireland batter Harry Tector



After registering a thumping win over Ireland in the first T20I, India skipper Hardik Pandya lavished praise on rival batter Harry Tector for his brilliant batting in the match. Blistering knocks by Deepak Hooda and Hardik Pandya guided Team India to a seven-wicket over Ireland, in a rain-curtailed first T20I of the two-match series, here at Malahide Cricket Club Ground on Sunday.

Earlier in the first innings, Harry Tector's unbeaten 64 off 33 balls guided Ireland to 108/4 against India. "He played some fantastic shots, and obviously, he's 22, I've given him a bat as well, so maybe he can score

some more sixes and maybe get an IPL contract, and I wish him luck. Just look after him well, give him the right guidance," said Hardik in a postmatch press conference.

"It's not always about cricket; it's about understanding your whole lifestyle and what is at stake. If you can manage that, I'm sure he's going to be around - not just in IPL, in all the leagues in the world," he added. Team India went with Deepak Hooda in place of their regular opener Ruturaj Gaikwad in the first T20I. Hardik revealed that the batter had a niggle in his calf which forced him to send Hooda as the opener.

- ANI

Mayank Agarwal to join India's squad as Rohit Sharma's replacement

India batter Mayank Agarwal is all set to join Team India's squad as a replacement for skipper Rohit Sharma for the upcoming fifth Test against England. Rohit Sharma had tested positive for COVID-19 following a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) conducted on Saturday.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Agarwal will fly out to England on Monday and link up with the rest of the Indian squad this evening. As per the latest government rules, Agarwal will not be required to undergo any quarantine, and will thus be available to play immediately if required. Earlier, Agarwal was left out of Team India's squad for the Edgbaston Test named in May but KL Rahul's injury and doubts over Rohit

Sharma's recovery have given a chance to him.

Agarwal played his last Test match in March against Sri Lanka, where he scored only 59 runs in two matches, at an average of 19.66. Later, he captained Punjab Kings in IPL 2022 and had a forgetful season. The batter could manage only 196 runs in 14 matches, an average of 16.33 and a strike rate of 122.5, as the team finished sixth on the table. Coming to the fifth Test, India and England will be squaring off for the one-off Test at Edgbaston Cricket Ground in Birmingham on July 1.

The rescheduled match is a part of last year's five-match Test series that had to be delayed after the fourth Test due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the Indian camp.

- ANI



Kerley, Jefferson emerge as U.S. best 100m hopes

Olympic silver medallist Fred Kerley and Melissa Jefferson lead the United States' hopes in the 100 metres when the world championships kick off next month, with superstar record-holder Sydney McLaughlin unstoppable in the 400 metres hurdles. Kerley won the U.S. championship final in a dominant 9.77 seconds, after setting a world-leading time of 9.76 in the



semi-final stage in Eugene, Oregon, and said he was targeting eight-time Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt's record of 9.58. He can expect a challenge from compatriot and reigning title-holder Christian Coleman, who returned to action in January from an 18-month suspension for breaching anti-doping whereabouts rules and produced a solid 10.87 in the semi-final.

- ANI

Mark Cavendish fails to make cut for Tour de France

Mark Cavendish will not ride in the Tour de France after the British rider was named as a first-reserve rider by Belgian team Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl on Monday. Cavendish had made his case for Tour de France selection after winning his second British road race title on Sunday, saying he will win stages if selected. The 37-year-old equalled the all-time record for stage wins last year and was hopeful of breaking the record at the July 1-24 race but will be on reserve along with Florian Senechal while Julian Alaphilippe is not in the eight-man team. Dutchman Fabio Jakobsen, who has 10 victories this year, will be Quick-Step's sprinter.

"We have riders who can support Fabio, riders who can climb, but who can also do



something in the breakaways," said Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl sports director Tom Steels. World champion Alaphilippe said he was disappointed to miss out but understood he would not be at his best having only just returned to action following his crash at Liege-Bastogne-Liege.

"I have a natural affection for the race, from my days in the yellow jersey over the past three seasons, my stage victories and many other great memories with my team mates," he said. "To miss another opportunity to wear my beautiful rainbow jersey in my home country is very sad for me and I knew that this decision would be difficult for the team to take." The Tour begins in Copenhagen on Friday.

Different Strokes

SHSB can succeed only with support of party members from all over India for realizing 'Akhand Bharat' (SAARC) with US-led global order

One can't understand the meaning of ongoing crisis in Shiv Sena (SHS) without understanding the meaning of 'brand Balasaheb' and this brand can be made successful even by Eknath Shinde if Shinde not only launches a separate 'Gut' (faction) of the SHS as 'Shiv Sena Balasaheb' (SHSB) in Maharashtra Vidhansabha but also takes the support of the Shiv Sainiks from all over India and not merely from Maharashtra. This will (on the basis of Hindutva) enable Shinde to take-over Shiv Sena (as happened in case of Jaylalita who took over AIADMK from the wife of MGR or as happened with Chandra Babu Naidu who took over TDP from the wife of N.T. Rama Rao) as explained below:-

(1)- First of all the people should understand that once the SHSB led by Eknath Shinde forms government with the BJP in Maharashtra for remaining two and half years of its term then most of the Shiv Sainiks will leave Uddhav camp and will join Shinde camp especially in view of the fact that Balasaheb (earlier Bal Thackeray) became Balasaheb when he championed Hindutva. Hence Shinde has advantage in the sense that Shinde can always discredit Uddhav because Shiv Sena (contested election in alliance with another Hindutva party BJP) but Uddhav formed a government with NCP & Congress hence Shinde can claim to be the real champion of 'brand Balasaheb'.

(2)- What is a brand in politics? If we use the terminology of Hinduism then any society has three 'Gunas' namely 'Tamo Guna' (related to Economy of the country), 'Rajo Guna' (related to 'Rajya' the State) and 'Sato Guna' (related to Religion). Any political party based on 'Tamo Guna' depends on family and remains confined to the Provinces / States (which has police force at its command) like major political parties in India which are more or less in



power mainly in States namely Congress party of Nehru-Gandhi, Lalu Yadav's party, Mulayam Simgh Yadava's party, Sharad Pawar's party, Badal's party SAD, Naveen Patnaik's Party, YSR-Congress Party, Parties of Abdullahs & Muftis in J&K, DMK in Tamil Nadu etc. These 'Tamo Guna' based parties are meant to merely come in power and always need a family to even survive.

(3)- The 'Tamo Guna' (merely economy) based parties tend to wither away if there is no capable member of family (children etc) to takeover the party as is happening in BSP of Mayawati, in NCP of Sharad Pawar, AIMDK of Jiallita etc. Even Uddhav Thackeray (incompetent to run a 'Sato Guna' / religion based party) converted the SHS into a 'Tamo Guna' / merely economy based party hence lost face & power.

(4)- Whereas parties based on 'Sato Guna' / religion are ideological parties which may be started by someone (like Balasaheb Thackeray) but does not need their children to make it a success rather mostly such children become a hurdle in the success of such an ideological party as is happening with the SHS. These 'Sato Guna' parties (based on religion and subsumes 'Tamo Guna' / economy also) not only flourish in States but at center too (which has military power

and controls States also through 130, 131 CrP.C. and article 121, 142 and 144 of the constitution through Supreme Court and even by Article 356 etc).

(5)- But 'garam-dal' (as SHS is) has one major problem, namely it invariably fails to understand that there is only one fundamental difference between a 'naram-dal' and 'garam-dal'. The 'garam-dal' keeps the executive & judicial elements of the State under discipline of the laws and constitution of the country (and agitate and suffers for it even by offering arrest in order to protect the majesty of law) whereas generally the 'naram-dal' merely gives lip service to rule-of-law. The SHSB will succeed only when it realizes this basic nature and difference between 'garam-dal' and 'naram-dal'.

(6)- In India Balasaheb was the only politician which started a 'Sato Guna' / religion based political party because he had religio-political predilections (not merely because he wore 'Bhagwa' rob which Yogi Adityanath is also wearing but who doesn't know even abcd of ideological politics). The BJP is controlled by the RSHS and not by any religio-political leader hence it can't be an ideological party in any future hence will wither away in due course of time, if it doesn't improve. The less said better about AIMIM led

by Owaisi who even doesn't say that it is based on Islam and merely says that it is for Muslims hence it is also a 'Tamo Guna' based party.

(7)- There is one huge difficulty with any 'Sato Guna' / ideological party. It expects unwavering integrity about the basic principle & policies of such a party from its members and especially from its office bearers. This was the main reason that even Balasaheb could not make 'brand Balasaheb' successful in his time due to four main mistakes as mentioned at <https://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/exclusive-reports-details/222>.

This is the main reason that Uddhav Thackeray also has failed to make the 'brand Balasaheb' successful.

(8)- The latest proof of Uddhav Thackeray's mistake is about the above mentioned second mistake which the SHS committed even during Bala Saheb's time which is about the tendency of Shiv Sainiks (on the instigation of its office bearers) to indulge in violence against people. On June 23 also the SHS leader (and MP) Sanjay Raut from Uddhav Thackeray's camp gave a threat, publicly that - "[For the SHS MLAs (who have gone with Eknath Shinde to Guwahati Assam) it will be difficult to come to Maharashtra and move in Maharashtra]". Now Uddhav supporters Shiv Sainiks have not only started violence in Mumbai (the financial capital of India) against Shinde supporters but as per media reports this violence by Uddhav supporters has started spreading in other parts of Maharashtra also. In such a situation SHSB (Eknath Shinde) should demand that the Governor should recommend to the President to dismiss Uddhav Thackeray govt under Article 356 of the Constitution.

(9)- This only proves that it is beyond the capacity of Uddhav Thackeray to make 'brand Balasaheb' successful which in the first place it (brand Balasaheb) didn't

require son or grandson of Bala Saheb to make it a success because 'brand Balasaheb' is a 'Sato Guna' / religion based brand hence only those (unlike Uddhav) can make it successful who have integrity towards its basic policies and principles.

(10)- In such circumstances Eknath Shinde can make 'brand Balasaheb' successful if BSHS takes the support of the Shiv Sainiks from all over India and not merely from Maharashtra by making the party based on major policies and programs as mentioned in above PCP article 222 including and especially by declaring that - "[The regular organizational elections will be carried out all over India and the elections of the candidates of the party (for Parliament, State Legislatures and Local bodies) will be financed by the party because the elected representatives generally work only for those who finance their elections]".

(11)- The BSHS will succeed mainly by realizing that the USA supported the UK in partitioning India in 1947 for containing USSR (by making Pakistan member of SEATO & CENTO) and now the USA would support India in realizing 'Akhand Bharat' by uniting said mini-SAARC (and even in realizing SAARC) in order to contain China during on-going cold war - II.

It is hoped Eknath Shinde will make 'brand Balasaheb' successful through SHSB which (with the support of party members from all across India) will work for 'Akhand Bharat' (FSD-SAARC) which in the present situation can easily be achieved by working in tandem with US-led global political order during on-going cold war - II.



- Hemraj Jain

Author of 'Betrayal of Americanism'

Opinion



Natural Disasters need a long-term planning

Some troubles catch us unprepared, while some natural disasters are well known to the state government, central administration, local government, and common citizens also. Warnings are issued in advance, yet year after year natural disasters such as floods keep coming, devastating the states and its people. Assam - the largest state of Northeast India, suffers every year the tragedy of horrific rains and incessant floods. Everyone knows that there will be floods during the monsoon season. This has been happening for decades. The floods are also so severe that delivery of relief material becomes a big task for the armed forces and NDRF.

Millions of people become homeless and get upset because every time their property gets ruined hopelessly. Houses get submerged in the flood water, as is happening this time again in Assam and elsewhere. Floods continue to wreak havoc in 28 districts of the state of Assam, with Silchar district being the most affected, where more than one lakh people are trapped on the second or third floors of their houses, or on the roofs, as the lower floors are submerged in flood waters and are completely

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submerged. Moreover, thieves come stealthily in boats and flee after robbing closed shops and houses.

In Assam, the Indian Air Force is providing necessary help to citizens in flood-hit areas as part of a flood relief drive, but food packets and water bottles are running out as the demand is ever-growing. The Air Force is in need of more water bottles and food packets that are being dropped from helicopters. Relief materials are not reaching the needy people properly, who say that black marketing is at its peak in the area. There a bottle of drinking water is being sold at an exorbitant price of Rs 500 each, while a simple candle is selling at Rs 50 each. There is

no electricity in the flood-affected areas in Assam, so in the dark of night, the candle becomes the support of the suffering people. When the tragedy of floods repeats itself every year, and everyone knows about it, then why not some long-term plans are worked out to combat the misery? The state government should think about it along with the central government. So that the citizens there do not have to be a victim of floods every year.

Something similar is the case with Uttarakhand, where the

Char Dham Yatra is at its peak, but some flaws have been found in the all-weather road built for this journey leading to Kedarnath and other spiritual destinations in the Himalayas. Geologists and other experts opine that several water bodies were buried under the debris. Due to which water is seeping into the huge stationary rocks and reaching inside, due to which there is a danger of the rocks slipping down. Now think for yourself that the vehicles which are passing through the all-weather road, including cars, buses, and others, are in maximum danger. Rocks can fall from above at any time and major accidents can happen at any time. Experts have warned the state government about this upcoming danger. Scientists know a lot about this. It seems that everything will continue like this until some major accident happens.

For the next two-three days, the Meteorological Department has issued a high alert regarding heavy rain in Uttarakhand, as there is a possibility of rain and storm. That is why those going on Char Dham Yatra are being stopped for two-three days at least. They are being forbidden to go ahead and are being warned not to proceed on the

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path of Chardham Yatra. Along with Uttarakhand, an alert of heavy rain and storm has also been issued in Himachal Pradesh. The possibility of incidents like heavy rains, landslides, stone-falls, road blockades, and power outages have increased across the state. Monsoon has almost arrived in the state and it is expected that from June 27, the monsoon will be fully active in Himachal Pradesh. That's why people have been asked to be careful.

Meanwhile, in the entertainment industry of India, there were no specific rules and regulations in place regarding the presence of young children in acting and shooting projects, which caused many kids the utmost inconveniences and troubles. Children used to suffer from mental stress and anxiety. For this, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has issued a draft paper, which states that the shooting of TV programs and feature films should not make young children work for more than 27 days a day, and 20 percent of their income should be deposited in fixed deposit (FD) accounts. Minor children who are acting, participating in TV, film, or reality shows, or participating in any entertainment show and are part of shooting often miss

school classes, and their studies suffer a lot. Such children should be supported in their education by employing private tutors for them.

Minor children will have to be given a safe environment at the shooting spot. Children have to be given a safe environment. They should not be put in any physical danger. Their make-up room or change room should not be shared with adult artists. Children cannot be shown to be smoking, drinking, or indulging in any crime. For those who do not follow these rules, a provision has been made for both fine and imprisonment. Also, the producers will have to take permission from the district magistrate where the shooting is to take place, to involve children in the shooting. The producers also need to submit a statement before the magistrate that the child has not been subjected to any kind of abuse or exploitation. Before the shooting starts, the producer will also have to give in writing to the district administration the full details of the precautionary steps being taken for such children.



- Narvijay Yadav
Senior Journalist & Columnist

Entertainment

'Ek Villain Returns': First look posters out



The makers of the upcoming thriller film 'Ek Villain Returns', on Monday, unveiled the first-look posters of John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor, Tara Sutaria and Disha Patani. In the posters, every actor can be seen in a dark and intense look, showing up their villainous avatars and holding up a yellow smiley mask, which was a part of the earlier part 'Ek Villain' as well. Sharing the first look posters, the 'Ek Villain returns' star cast captioned, "In the world of Villains, Heroes don't exist! And #EkVillain is back after 8 years. Beware #EkVillainReturns on 29th July 2022.

In all four posters, the only thing that can't go unnoticed is

the mask being held by Tara. The mask that the 'Marjaavaan' actor holds is the only one with star eyes, whereas in all other three posters the masks are with round eyes. Is this any kind of a cryptic message for the fans?

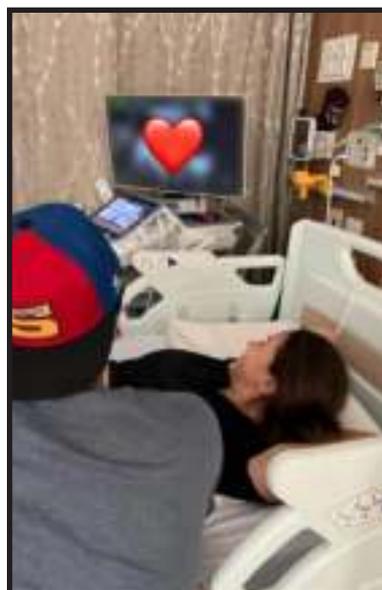
Soon after the posters were out, fans flooded the comment section with heart and fire emoticons, as they can't hold up their excitement any longer for the much-anticipated sequel.

Directed by Mohit Suri, 'Ek Villain Returns' is the sequel of the super hit thriller film 'Ek Villain' which starred Sidharth Malhotra, Shraddha Kapoor and Riteish Deshmukh in the lead roles and the film is slated to hit the theatres on July 29, 2022.

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Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor announce pregnancy with special post

Actor Alia Bhatt, on Monday, announced the news of her pregnancy with a special post on her Instagram account. In the picture, the 'Dear Zindagi' actor can be seen in a hospital with Ranbir Kapoor, wearing a cap. She can be seen smiling and looking at the monitor, during her ultrasound, which is covered with a heart emoticon. Sharing this post, the 'Kapoor and Sons' actor captioned, "Our baby Coming soon" followed by a heart and sparks emoji.



Along with this, she shared another post of a lion family, where the lioness can be seen nudging the lion and the cub is looking at them, indicating that the couple's little cub is on its way.

Soon after Alia shared the post, fans swamped the comment section with their wishes and reactions, as fans weren't expecting this news

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from the couple so soon. Many big Bollywood celebrities also poured wishes to them. "Oh my my Congratulationssssss" Actor Rakul Preet Singh commented on the post.

The 'Brahmastra' couple tied their knot on April 14, 2022,

after dating for many years at Ranbir's Mumbai residence in an intimate ceremony. Just

after two months of their marriage, the couple have treated their fans with such a big surprise.

Meanwhile, on the work front, the 'Highway' actor was last seen in Sanjay Leela

Bhansali's

'Gangubai Kathiawadi' and will be next seen in Ayan Mukerji's 'Brahmastra Part 1: Shiva' along with Ranbir Kapoor. The 'Rockstar' actor on the other hand, will be next seen in 'Shamshera' with Vaani Kapoor and Sanjay Dutt. The film is all set to hit the theatres on July 22, 2022.

BTS' new album 'Proof' tops the Japanese Oricon chart



Global K-pop group BTS' new album 'Proof' has topped the Japanese Oricon 'Weekly Album Ranking' chart. According to the latest Oricon chart which was released on June 24, BTS' album 'Proof' has earned 546,373 points between June 13 and June 19, and topped the 'Weekly Album Ranking' chart, as per Global Economic. Their agency Big Hit Music said, "BTS' 540,000 points were the highest points for the Oricon weekly album chart." BTS has topped the weekly album chart with a total of six albums, including their latest album 'Proof.' This is the largest number of albums ranked on the chart. 'Proof' is an anthology album containing BTS' 9-year history since their debut in 2013.

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Shah Rukh Khan's performance on his song 'I am the best



After surprising his fans with his first-ever Instagram live session, superstar Shah Rukh Khan, on Sunday, enthralled everyone with his special performance at Mumbai Police annual event Umang. Several videos and images from the star-studded gala have surfaced online in



which SRK is seen grooving to his song 'I am the best' from his film 'Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani'. He looked dapper in a black suit and shades. SRK's performance has made his fans extremely happy and nostalgic as he gave his first stage performance in many years. "He is the best...he is the best," a netizen wrote on Twitter. "@iamsrk..You are the best of the best #ShahRukhKhan dancing on the song I Am The Best at #Umang2022," another one tweeted.

"Can't take my eyes off him," a Twitterati wrote. Also, SRK made a grand entry on a bike. His entry reminded fans of his entry scene in his Bollywood debut 'Deewana'.

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ED questions Jacqueline Fernandez

The ED on Monday questioned Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez in connection with a money laundering case that involved jailed conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar, sources informed. Fernandez appeared before the ED headquarters, following the summons of a federal agency to record her statement in the case. The move came nearly two months after the ED attached assets worth Rs 7.27 crore of Fernandez in April end in the case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. Investigation with regards to the tracing of proceeds of crime is currently being progressed, as Fernandez has been questioned in the case earlier too.

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