

Afternoon

VOICE

ON OF CITY



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Abu Saleem Would Be A Free Man?



With Agency Inputs

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Gangster Abu Saleem who is in Indian jail from 2002 seeks bail. A bench of Justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh said the Central government is bound to advise the President of India for exercise of power under Article 72 of the Constitution and the national commitment on completion of his sentence. Saleem's sentence cannot exceed 25 years, as per a solemn assurance given by India to Portugal for his extradition in 2002.

The Supreme Court on Monday said the Centre is bound to honour

its commitment given to Portugal and release gangster Abu Saleem on completion of his 25-year sentence in the 1993 Mumbai blasts case. Saleem had said his sentence could not exceed 25 years as per a solemn assurance given by India to Portugal for his extradition in 2002.

"The necessary papers are forwarded within a month of completion of 25 years. In fact, the government can itself exercise the power of remission under CrPC within the time period of one month upon completion of 25 years," the bench said.

On February 25, 2015, a special TADA court had awarded life

imprisonment to Saleem in another case for murdering Mumbai-based builder Pradeep Jain in 1995 along with his driver Mehndi Hassan. Saleem, also a convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, was extradited from Portugal on November 11, 2005, after a prolonged legal battle.

The attorney for Abu Saleem informed the Supreme Court of India that the Supreme Court of Portugal had ruled that the accused (Abu Saleem) would be returned if the requesting state (India) went beyond the parameters of the extradition agreement. The SC was informed

by Abu Saleem's attorney that there had been a breach of the promises made to Portugal and the conditions of the agreement.

The Union of India honouring its pledge won't become apparent until the 25-year term has passed, according to an earlier submission by the Centre. The judiciary, as the Indian Constitution envisions, is independent in deciding all cases in accordance with the relevant laws, the Centre had stated. The judiciary will comply with the assurance given to the Portuguese government during the extradition of gangster Abu Saleem at a "appropriate time."

What if a billionaire gangster comes out of jail on bail?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Saleem was known as an underworld gangster who terrorized the Bollywood film industry by extorting money from film producers and seizing the overseas distribution rights. It is believed that Saleem was the mastermind behind intimidating Bollywood film producers Gulshan Kumar, Subhash Ghai, Rajiv Rai and Rakesh Roshan. While his gang members assassinated Gulshan Kumar in 1997, they failed in their attempt to assassinate Rajiv Rai and Rakesh Roshan. He was also involved in several murders, extortion among other crimes.

In 2002, he was arrested in Portugal on charges of using a fake passport and extradited to India. He was tried and convicted in a few

cases and was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2015. The Supreme Court on Monday said the Centre is bound to honour its commitment given to Portugal and release gangster Abu Saleem on completion of his 25-year sentence in the 1993 Mumbai blasts case. He was convicted for the 1993 Bombay serial blasts case, and murder of Gulshan Kumar in 1996, shooting at Indian actress Manisha's secretary, murdering a property builder and more than 50 other cases.

On 20 September 2002, Interpol arrested Monica Bedi in Lisbon, Portugal. They tracked his satellite phone using GPS technology.

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Editoritis

What if a billionaire gangster comes out of jail on bail?

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Monica Bedi was a film actress who reportedly had a relationship with him. In February 2004, a Portugal court cleared his extradition to India to face trial in the 1993 Bombay bomb blasts case. In November 2005, Portuguese authorities handed him over to India on the assurance by the Government of India that they would not give him death penalty. When Salem was in Lisbon, fighting India's extradition attempt, the only proof that he was indeed Salem was provided by the fingerprint and photographs taken after his arrest in 1991. Monica Bedi was also extradited to India and later convicted of passport forgery in 2006 and served her imprisonment but she was not involved in any of the businesses operated by Abu Salem.

A lower court in Portugal cancelled his extradition to India for violation of deportation rules by Indian authorities by instituting fresh cases against him that attracted the death penalty. In July 2012, the Portuguese Supreme Court of Justice questioned the legal right of Indian authorities to challenge the cancellation of the extradition order. On 27 June 2013, Devendra Jagtap, an accused person in the Shahid Azmi murder case inside Taloja Central Jail in neighbouring Navi Mumbai, shot Salem. Salem sustained injury to his hand as Jagtap fired one round.

Abu Salem, Mustafa Dossa, and 4 others were convicted by a Special CBI court in Mumbai on 16 June 2017 in connection with the 1993 Bombay blasts case. Salem is currently lodged in Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail. Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act Court Gives Life Imprisonment To Abu Salem in Mumbai 1993 Blast Case. In 2010, a violent clash broke out between the gangster Abu Salem and Mustafa Dossa, which led to Salem's face being slashed with a sharpened spoon.

On 7 June 2018, A Delhi court held him guilty for extorting Delhi businessman Ashok Gupta and



sentenced him to seven years in prison. In 2002, Salem called Gupta asking him to call a number in Dubai. Salem had threatened Gupta and his family. In August 2013, Punjabi singer Sukhwinder Singh Maan alias Sukha Delhi wala revealed that he would release a song composed by Abu Salem while lodged in Tihar Jail, in his next Music Album. The Music Album shall also feature many other celebrities like Rahul Mahajan and Vindu Dara Singh.

After spending years in jail Salem had said his sentence could not exceed 25 years as per a solemn assurance given by India to Portugal for his extradition in 2002. A bench of Justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh said the Central government is bound to advise the President of India for exercise of power under Article 72 of the Constitution and the national commitment on completion of his sentence.

Abu Salem worked in the D-Company (Dawood Ibrahim gang) as a driver transporting artillery and contraband. Later he rose among the ranks after he introduced a new strategy of hiring unemployed youths from his hometown Azamgarh to come to Mumbai, execute shoot-outs and return to Azamgarh the next day remaining untraced by the Mumbai police. He is currently serving life sentence in India. He played an active role in March 1993 Bombay serial bomb blasts which killed over 250 people, left 700 damaged property worth Rs 270 million. In 1993, he left the country and moved to Dubai, United Arab Emirates when the police started rounding up suspects in serial blasts cases. Now Salem is seeking his bail and if he gets out of jail what would he be doing? He can become a politician or business owner or something else, is this not dangerous?

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Vaidehi

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Voices



Letter's to the Editor

Power companies should plug power theft than raise tariffs to sustain in their business!

Our electricity bills are going to rise as power generators have dropped a bombshell that the coal crisis would force them to recover the losses from the consumers. Levying fuel adjustment charges from consumers to offset rise in coal prices on account of coal crises is unjustified & unfair. Electricity companies do not compensate consumers at times of windfall gains & ups & downs in commodity prices is market mechanism that needs to be absorbed by power generators.

Corruption rules roost in our country & thousands of units of electricity is either lost while transmission or gets stolen while being supplied to actual users. These needs to be plugged so that the burden of higher tariffs doesn't fall on the consumers. Pandemic has been tough on most citizens who are struggling to make both ends meet. Power companies should spare consumers at this stage & look for other means to optimize their cost so that they are able to sustain in business!

- S.N.Kabra

Summer Vacation and Reading

Summer Vacation holds different meaning for different classes of people. The fortunate ones travel to foreign lands, a little less fortunate ones go to fairs and splurge in toys or travel to nearby hill station and the less fortunate ones help their parents in their work. But the one thing that can be and should be common is reading. Every class of people can afford a book and read it. It is kind of a leveller. Travelling too brings with it realms of experiences but there is nothing superior than reading a book. We not only gain experiences but it strengthens our thought process and helps us in being a better version of ourselves.

Now reading can be fun if we experiment with a different medium than ours. The English medium students can read a Hindi or a book in their mother tongue and the students from all different mediums can buy an English novel and read it. There is a common perception that English medium students are not good in their mother tongue and vice versa and I think it is time we give a fitting reply to those who think like that.

- Noopur Baruah

Shinzo Abe was an outstanding leader

With the assassination of the Japanese PM Shinzo Abe on July 8, the world has lost the finest leader wedded to democracy and the welfare of humanity. Shinzo Abe was considered to be a towering personality who immensely contributed a lot to Japan's economy during his long term as the prime minister.

He was a towering global statesman, an outstanding leader, and a remarkable administrator. He dedicated his life to make Japan and the world a better place.

India shared a deep relationship with Japan, much of which must be credited to the personal bonding between Shinzo Abe and Narendra Modi. Like Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto, he too was shot because some people did not like him. He was Japan's longest serving Prime Minister. May his soul rest in peace.

- Jubel D'Cruz

Looking beyond 'Ganga- Jamuna Tehjeeb'



In 1983 Indira Gandhi's government was there in the centre. It was the time when the Adivasis (schedule tribes) of Assam living particularly in Nellie village of Morigaon District were facing hell of a life due to illegal infiltration, unbridled encroachments and unlawful activities of hordes of Bangladeshi Muslims in the surrounding regions. The things further worsened when gradually the jihadists among them began to run their dictate in the community. And a time came when the patience Adivasis parted with them, and they came to firm determination to eliminate the problem from the root itself. One day they surrounded the dozens of villages, and massacred hundreds of people there. Realising the gravity of the problem, later in 1985 Rajiv Gandhi acted according to the provisions of 'Assam accord', and announced that who had settled in Assam before 25th March, 1971 would only be granted citizenship. And rest of the infiltrators would be deported out of the state.

However, the things could not go beyond the announcements under 'Assam accord'. And why?

That requires separate debate to get to the answer. But, looking at above incident, this is not difficult now to understand that how the peaceful co-existence between two communities jeopardised when the communal elements began to rule the roost. But problem here is that hardly anybody openly prefers to talk on this fundamental cause.

Though, sometimes the truth within inner-self prevails upon the political-compulsion. Just like what happened with ex-president Pratibha Patil when she was invited in the ceremony organised on occasion of Maharana Pratap Jyanti in the premise of Udaypur Municipal Corporation on 17th June, 2007. Addressing the crowd she said-'The practice of taking the veil came into being to protect the women folk from the Mughal invaders'. Taking inspiration from the message given by Pratibha Patil- basically a congress by ideology- it should be kept in the mind that sometimes what is required is to be truthful about the facts, keeping at bay the display of high-sounding 'Ganga-Jamana Tehjeeb'. Only then the recurrence of the

incidents of terrorising the people ensued after Nupur Sharma's comments could be put under check.

Now see what is happening out of the country. In 1970 Afghanistan had over 1 lakhs Sikhs. And now when country is in possession of Taliban there left only 140 Sikhs, that's too in Kabul ! And, on the other side, a news is recently flashed from Bangladesh that the principal of a college named Swapna Vishwas has been garlanded with shoes and made to be paraded in the city. His crime was that a student named Rahul Roy of his college dared to post the photograph of Nupur Sharma in social media !! Be it remembered, once there were 25% Hindus in Bangladesh; and now they are 8%. And see, how in terror they are bound to live there. (Hindu Post)



- E. Rajesh Pathak

Writer and Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com
No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

Eknath Shinde camped MLA Bharat Gogawale's car met with an accident

The car in which rebel Shiv Sena MLA Bharat Gogawale was travelling met with an accident on Mumbai's Eastern Freeway on Monday morning after a vehicle ahead of it applied brakes suddenly, though no one was injured in the incident, a police official said.

The pile-up took place near Orange Gate on the arterial



road and saw five cars rear-ending each other as a chain reaction after the vehicle ahead applied brakes, he said. "None of the persons in the cars, including MLA Bharat Gogawale and his driver, have approached police with a complaint. Therefore, no case has been registered," the official added.

- PTI

Cash and jewellery were dumped outside the house of BJP leader Prasad Lad

AV Staff

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The incident has put the authorities on alert mode as they fear that instead of these articles, something that could cause potential harm could also have been dropped, creating a problem with the law-and-order situation in the city. In a bizarre incident that reportedly took place in the early Sunday morning, police officials in Mumbai found a bag – containing articles like – cash, coins, the idol of God and

jewellery – outside the house of BJP leader Prasad Lad.

Lad is one of the ten newly-elected members of the Maharashtra Legislative Council who were sworn in on Friday. In a video shared by news agency ANI on Twitter, three to four plastic bags filled with coins can be seen lying on the ground. A stack of notes can also be seen in the video.

Apart from this, the clip shows some utensils, a gold-coloured idol of the Hindu god Ganesha intact in a plastic box, a pot full of bangles and several other items. A stack of

jewellery, presumably containing a necklace, bangle and earrings can also be seen lying on a crumpled pink paper.

Explaining the details of the incident, officials told ANI that all these items were dropped by a man outside the Lad's house at around 5:30 am. When the cops confronted the man, he fled the spot. The incident has put the authorities on alert mode as they fear that instead of these articles, something that could cause potential harm could also have been dropped, creating a problem with the law-and-order situation in the city.

The City skywalks are hazardous for commuters BMC and MMRDA officials are not keen in maintaining it for public usage

Saket

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Ahead of each monsoon, BMC claims various tasks to be fulfilled, such as trimming roadside trees, garbage collection from gutters and addressing railway stations and skywalks. Mumbai has a lack of public spaces like gardens, parks or even footpaths. Some people find respite in the spaces provided by the recently developed skywalks.

Biggest mess and mismanagement is the Borivali skywalk. Skywalks, which are meant for walking, have become a misfortune for commuters. The skywalk tiles are broken and have sharp edges, which can hurt commuters. Some parts of the skywalk have no and when it lashes, the sky walk gets slippery.

There are no lights in some parts of the skywalk. No lighting is a great opportunity for fraudulent or illegal activity like gambling or doping. In such scenarios, women's safety becomes a significant concern. For women, the skywalks don't really present a safer alternative to the street.

The Mumbai Skywalk Project has been a controversial one since its inception in 2008. They built the elevated expressways to take walkers from the busy railway stations, which are crowded with pedestrians, hawkers, rickshaws and public buses, and connect them to targeted destinations like residential areas, bus stations, taxi stands, office spaces and shopping areas.

You can find people leaning on the railings, talking to their loved ones, taking a smoking break (although it's illegal in public spaces), waiting for

friends, reading a newspaper or taking an afternoon stroll above the hustle and bustle of the city.

Children, who feel the lack of space most, use the skywalks as a playground, ignoring the dangers posed by low railings. Despite the lack of privacy, the spaces have also become clandestine meeting spots for young couples. At Grant Road, people living in the buildings along the skywalks often get a full view of the young lovers, and complain to security guards: yet another public space in Mumbai at risk of being sanitized.

But with the BMC still sitting tight on the proposal, MMRDA officials seem resigned to fate. Many of the skywalks including the ones at Borivali West, Santacruz East and West and Bandra West are in poor condition mainly because the private agencies appointed by MMRDA did not do their job.

13 Sena Lok Sabha MP present in the prez poll supported Murmu



Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray in suburban Bandra.

He did not provide details. Besides 18 Lok Sabha members in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena also has its MP, Kalaben Delkar, in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Kiritkar said 13 MPs physically attended the meeting, while three others — Sanjay Jadhav, Sanjay Mandlik and Hemant Patil — could not make it to the gathering, but affirmed their support to the leadership.

"Most of the MPs were of the opinion that the party should support Droupadi Murmu," Kiritkar told PTI. Two Lok Sabha MPs of the Sena – Bhawana Gawali and Shrikant Shinde (son of Chief minister Eknath Shinde) – did not attend the meeting, he added. The presidential elections will be held on July 18.

- PTI

Thirteen of the 18 Lok Sabha MPs of the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra on Monday physically attended a key meeting on the presidential elections and a majority of them suggested supporting the BJP-led NDA's candidate Droupadi Murmu, party leader Gajanan Kiritkar said.

However, party MP and chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut claimed of the 18 MPs in the Lok Sabha, 15 attended the meeting held at 'Matoshree', the private residence of Shiv

NCP in Maharashtra has to fight for 27% seats for OBC in local body polls

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has decided to give 27 per cent seats to candidates from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the upcoming local body polls in Maharashtra, its state president Jayant Patil said on Monday.

Elections to 92 Nagar Parishads and four Nagar Panchayats (bodies that govern smaller towns in semi-urban areas) in Maharashtra will be held on August 18, the State Election Commission (SEC) had announced on Friday. No provision for OBC reservation has been made in elections to these civic bodies as a related case is pending before the Supreme Court.

"Since it is important that the OBC community gets justice,

the NCP has decided to give 27 per cent of the total seats in the local body polls to the candidates of the community," Patil tweeted. The Supreme Court had refused to restore OBC reservation in local bodies in the state for want of empirical data.

Patil said the apex court's decision regarding OBC quota is being awaited and his party will make all efforts to ensure that backward communities get political reservation in local self-governing bodies. The BJP had earlier opposed the holding of local body elections until the OBC quota, set aside by the Supreme Court in March last year, was restored.

- PTI

Maha CM and Dy CM to review flood situation in Gadchiroli

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will visit Gadchiroli district to take stock of the flood situation owing to heavy rainfall in the state.

"To review the flood situation, along with CM Eknath Shinde, we have left from Mumbai, for visiting Gadchiroli district," tweeted Deputy CM Fadnavis. A

flood-like situation occurred in different areas of Gadchiroli district due to incessant rainfall in Maharashtra in the past few days.

Waterlogging and incessant downpours have created a flood-like situation in the Gadchiroli district. Heavy rainfall warnings have been issued in Mumbai for the next few days.

Nation

Panneerselvam appears set to repeat war for 'Dharma'

The beleaguered O Panneerselvam who initiated a 'Dharma Yudham' in 2017 to reclaim his position in the party appears to be heading towards the same path, this time 'war for Dharma, 2.0,' after his expulsion from the AIADMK on Monday.

Panneerselvam, following his dismissal from the party and when authorities descended on the AIADMK headquarters to lock and seal the premises in view of the violence, told reporters he would meet party workers, take legal action and approach court.

Precisely, this was what Panneerselvam, popularly known as OPS had done years ago against VK Sasikala that culminated in the coming together of the factions led by him and Edappady K Palaniswami (EPS).

In the present 'round two,' political observers say one cannot be sure about the outcome of such moves. Also, the BJP, which is aggressive now in Tamil Nadu is yet to take a firm stand on taking sides in the AIADMK's bickering.



After being the Chief Minister thrice, Panneerselvam agreed to be the deputy CM in 2017. Following DMK's win in Assembly election last year, he also accepted the offer of Deputy Leader in the Assembly, while EPS became the Leader of Opposition. All along, the supremacy of Palaniswami in the party was unmistakable. With his expulsion, OPS is also set to lose his Deputy Leader position in the House.

He has already approached the Election Commission and in his June 27 memorandum to the panel, had underscored a bid to 'sabotage' the party administration by raking up the demand for a single leadership favouring EPS, neglecting him and thereby violating party bylaws.

- PTI

SC sentences Vijay Mallya for four months; directs him to return \$40 million with interest

The Supreme Court on Monday awarded four months in jail to fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya who was found guilty of contempt of court in 2017 for withholding information from the court.

A bench of Justices UU Lalit, Ravindra S Bhat and PS Narasimha also imposed a cost of Rs 2,000 on the Mallya while observing that he showed "no remorse" for his conduct and did not appear before it during the sentence hearing.

The apex court asked Mallya to deposit the fine within four weeks to the Supreme Court legal services authority and failing which a further sentence of two months will be added.

It also directed Mallya's family members to return USD 40 million, transferred to them, with eight per cent interest within four weeks failing which attachment proceedings will be initiated against his properties.

The bench said an adequate sentence must be imposed on him

to "uphold the majesty of law".

In 2017 the top court had held Mallya guilty of contempt of court for withholding information from the court about transferring USD 40 million to his children in violation of the court's order, and sought his presence before it on various occasions. He was found guilty of contempt of court in a case filed by a consortium of banks led by the State Bank of India.

The apex court, during the hearing of the contempt case, had noted that Mallya behaves like "a free person" in the United Kingdom and no information was forthcoming about the proceedings concerning Mallya there.

Last year, the top court while saying that it has waited "long enough" and cannot "wait longer now" for Mallya to get extradited from the United Kingdom to India, decided to go ahead with the hearing on the quantum of punishment in the contempt case against him.

Giriraj makes fresh pitch for stringent population law

Union minister Giriraj Singh on Monday made a fresh pitch for a stringent law to control the population of the country, which he compared to the ever-expanding mouth of mythical female demon "Sursa".

The firebrand BJP leader came out with a video statement on the occasion of World Population Day and shared it on Twitter.

Singh, who represents the Begusarai Lok Sabha seat in Bihar, rued that in the past three decades, India lost out to China in the pace of economic progress but surpassed its neighbour in the growth of population.

"We have limited resources. Our population is expanding like the mouth of Sursa. The perverse mindset (vikrit mansikta) out of which one



person sires 10 children can not be allowed," Singh fumed.

He added that the need of the hour was a stringent law ('kada kanoon') for population control, "applicable across the country and to people of all religious affiliations".

"The demand for such a law must be raised, from Parliament to the streets ('sansad se sadak tak')," said the BJP leader.

The declamation of Singh is in

sharp contrast to the view held by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, whose JD(U) is the BJP's largest ally at the national level.

Kumar has often disapproved of a legislative route for achieving population stabilisation and cited the state's own experience where fertility rates have shown a decline corresponding to the rise in women's education.

Moreover, political parties have often been of the view that the BJP raises the bogey of population explosion for dog-whistling against Muslims whom it accuses of trying to change the demographics by procreating more.

Interestingly, anxieties over "changed demography" has often led "fringe elements" to appeal to Hindus that they should produce more children.

- PTI

Delhi HC lists bail plea of Khalid Saifi before the special bench



The Delhi High court on Monday transferred the bail plea of Khalid Saifi, an accused in a larger conspiracy case of North East Delhi riots, before the special bench hearing the connected bail matters.

The Division Bench of Justice Mukta Gupta and Justice Anish Dayal at the request of the petitioner's counsel, listed the matter before the special bench of justices Sidharth Mridul and Rajanish Bhatnagar for July 22, 2022.

Advocate Rajat Kumar, counsel for the petitioner, submitted that it is an appeal against the trial court order in a riot-related matter and other connected matters are pending before the special bench.

So this matter should be listed before the same bench. Special public prosecutor Amit Prasad did not oppose the request. The High Court on May 9, 2022, had issued notice to the Government of NCT Delhi on an

appeal of Khalid Saifi, an accused in a larger conspiracy connected with the northeast Delhi violence challenging the trial court order refused bail to him.

Saifi was booked under UAPA by the Delhi Police. It was alleged that Khalid Saifi was one of the main organizers of the Khureji Protest site which was near Badi Masjid in the Khureji area. The Division Bench of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar on May 9, 2022, issued notice to the Government of NCT Delhi and listed the matter for July 11, 2022.

Then the bench was changed and the matter had been listed before another bench. Appearing for Khalid Saifi, Senior Advocate Rebecca John submitted, "my case is different from other appeals pending before this court in the related case. Let me be different even if that has to be delayed. Let those be over. Let me show how my case is different".

Earlier Trial Court's Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat dismissed the bail plea saying, "I am of the opinion that allegations against the accused Khalid Saifi are prima facie true."

- ANI

3 labourers killed, 2 injured in lightning strike in Sagar district MP



Three labourers were killed and two others seriously injured after lightning struck them during heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district, an official said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday evening in Semadhana village under Jaisinagar police station limits, the official said.

The five labourers were working at an under-construction house. Due to heavy rains, they took shelter under a tree when lightning struck them around 6 pm on Sunday, Jaisinagar police station in charge Shashikant Gurjar said.

Three of them - Mohit Raikwar (30), Chhotu Raikwar (18) and Mahendra Singh (65) - died, while two others were injured and undergoing treatment at the Sagar district hospital, he said.

Opinion

Rising Hunger & Thoughtless Governance Policies

In the latest United Nations Global Food Security Report, the situation of hunger in the world is more dire than before, a stigma on the picture of all development. The increase in the number of hungry people among the emerging economic superpowers, systems and development in the world is a serious question on the development of the world and the structure of a balanced society. Somewhere there is a flaw in the development model of the world or there is a difference between the words and deeds of the present governments. It seems that the tempting nature of development is being considered as success, but keeping its basic aspects at the centre, necessary steps have not been taken or they have not been implemented, only then the ironic conditions of hunger and hungry people are increasing like never before.

What an insensitivity and neglectful mentality it is that no new report on the tragic and horrifying issue of hunger does not come as a surprise, but it certainly shows that there is no balanced approach to the formulation and implementation of policies around the world. This only shows the flaw in the policy and intention of the governance systems.

About two billion and thirty crore people in the world are facing hunger and scarcity. The difficulties, crises and tragic situations that this population is facing in order to collect food for two times, proves the statements of the development of the governments and systems of the world to be meaningless. According to this UN report, the Corona epidemic and the subsequent Russo-Ukraine war have played an important role in worsening hunger. The report, published jointly by several UN agencies, says that the world is moving away from its goal of eliminating hunger, food insecurity, health and malnutrition in all forms by 2030.

In the latest report of the United Nations, even though



How much the measures adopted in order to cope with the corona epidemic helped in the prevention of the spread of the virus, is yet to be assessed, but as to its practical effect, if people are faced with a crisis of filling their stomachs, then why this condition persists, we need to think again.

the causes of starvation, corona epidemic, war, conflict, violence, climate change, natural disaster etc. have been talked about, for this, on big reasons like neo-imperialism, neoliberalism, free economy and market structure. No attention is paid, the growing gap between rich and poor, etc. is not discussed. One of the major discrepancies in the economies of the world has been that on one side it is poor and on the other hand it is super-rich. There is a big gap between these two. If there is not much noise on this growing gap, one reason for this is also that it is assumed that the goal of poverty alleviation will automatically be achieved through the rise of prosperity of the upper classes or through high growth rate. This expectation is completely misleading and does not seem to be fulfilled.

On the contrary, the World Food Program report states that due to high food prices set by the governments, 75 million people in the world have fallen into the grip of starvation which was earlier than it. In this increase in the population going hungry or undernourished, 30 million people belong to India only. Add to this the lack of drinking water, education at least up to secondary level and basic medical facilities, then

we can see that India is really a world of the underprivileged even after seven decades of independence. A large section of today's world, riding on development, science and achievements, still lives a suffocating life in poverty, deprivation, hunger, which does not struggle with the circumstances, but makes compromises. Feels insecure all the time. In which lack of self-confidence teaches to live in darkness. For which justice and authority become meaningless. How much the measures adopted in order to cope with the corona epidemic helped in the prevention of the spread of the virus, is yet to be assessed, but as to its practical effect, if people are faced with a crisis of filling their stomachs, then why this condition persists, we need to think again.

The big question is that when the figures of hunger can be exposed with the help of modern technology and science in the world, then why such systems are not developed which can stop hunger. What is needed is that there are a large number of high-level systems, including institutions, experts, techniques, which are deeply monitoring the issue at the international level, so why are concrete policies not prepared for its far-reaching solution!

Why is hunger not controlled? On the contrary, this problem has become more and more serious. In fact, if balanced and sensitive systems-policies are made and serious efforts are made to make better use of the resources on the earth, then ways can be found to deal with the situation of food insecurity and starvation. But due to the spending of all the money on war and other meaningless matters and also the destruction of existing resources, starvation is not shown seriously by the world community, then whose interest is behind it? Concerns have been raised about providing nutritionally balanced meals to the deprivation-stricken population, but the reality is that many people are not getting even the minimum amount of food they need to survive.

Our world is full of contradictions and ironies. Hunger on the one hand, and the abundance of expensive feasts and luxuries of the rich class, abundance of junk in big feasts is a stigma on humanity. In this way, food wastage should be curbed, advertisement companies should also be given guidelines, food should not be wasted in hotels and educational institutions, offices, canteens, meetings,

weddings and other functions and other institutions. We can use this food to get rid of poverty, hunger and malnutrition in our society. Such an environment should be created not only by relying on governments, but through public awareness. Finally, we must ask ourselves whether we want or want to change a disturbed, unstable, violent and unhealthy society. Do we want to be citizens of a world of hunger and hungry people or citizens of a world of happy and resourceful citizens?

Is this problem stable over a long period of time because the victims of starvation belong to the very poor and vulnerable communities, which governments do not consider it necessary to care?

Why is it that between the inventions of science and the new dimensions of its progress, there is talk of settling the world of space and life on new planets and on the other hand arrangements are not being made to feed the population present on the earth itself! The reason for this is irregularities, corruption and neglect in these poverty alleviation policies, hunger eradication programmes, services and schemes which deal with the weaker sections of the society. A big demand is to curb this corruption. Secondly, at the policy level also, the world's rulers will have to think afresh. Hunger and poverty alleviation programs should not be carried out like distribution of philanthropy, but should be directed in such a way that people living below the poverty line can come above it permanently. This can happen only when these plans are combined with such economic and development plans which emphasize on involving more and more people in the development process.



- Lalit Garg

Writer, Journalist, Columnist

Column



Amarnath Yatra & Cloud Burst

The tragedy also brought out the best in the people of Kashmir: all along the route, local Muslims opened their houses to dazed pilgrims, giving them food and shelter. Heavy rainfall is one of the climate challenges that the pilgrimages of Amarnath had to face.

from a cloudburst is usually of the shower type with a fall rate equal to or greater than 100 mm (4.94 inches) per hour. Generally, cloudbursts are associated with thunderstorms and the air currents rushing upwards in a rainstorm hold up a large amount of water. Water flowing down steep slopes brings debris, boulders and uprooted trees with great velocity damaging any structure that comes in their way. A series of initiatives and changes in relevant regulations have already been implemented. The government also continues to work actively to improve the framework, wherever the need arises. Rain can be a blessing, but sometimes it can also be a curse, as in the case of cloudbursts. We need to be aware of the causes, effects, and safety precautions of cloudbursts to stay safe if they occur near us.

One of the many means of avoiding extensive damage caused by disasters is by being well prepared to face them. It is important to know the history of previous disastrous events and take a lesson from them and plan ahead. What we need is to add not only more weather monitoring stations but also to ensure their smooth functioning.



- Vinod C Dixit

Free-lance Journalist, Writer & Cartoonist

The Amarnath tragedy is done with. Nature believed it was time for irony. Cloudburst is the reason that has been attributed as a cause of death of at least 13 Amarnath Yatris. The increasing incidents of cloud bursts in Himalayan states have been proving significant disaster for lives and livelihoods of native people, rivers and environment of the states. The cold burst blood vessels and sent hundreds into shock. Without weather information, no one realise the danger from the cold front that swiftly moved in. The holy yatra of Amarnath is a symbol of compassion, spirituality, service and peace. The Amarnath shrine is in a cave 3,888 metres above sea level in the Lidder Valley, which has a large concentration of small and large glaciers such as Kolahai, Nehnar and Bodpathri.

The tragedy also brought out the best in the people of Kashmir: all along the route, local Muslims opened their houses to dazed pilgrims, giving them food and shelter. Heavy rainfall is one of the climate challenges that the pilgrimages of Amarnath had

to face. The unusually heavy cloudburst that struck is an example of how extreme weather events can have severe consequences for our infrastructure and homes. Cloudbursts usually last only for a few minutes but can lead to disastrous effects and flooding in that short period.

There is no doubt that the J&K Government has made continuous efforts for the annual yatra to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the Himalayas "comfortable, modern and safe". In 1969, when 40 pilgrims died after a cloudburst in Pahalgam. In 1996, unusually heavy snowfall along with severe blizzards along the yatra route led to 250 people being killed due to exhaustion, exposure and freezing. In 2015, three people were killed and 11 injured after a cloudburst triggered flash floods and landslides near the Baltal base camp of the Amarnath Yatra. Cloudburst is a natural and common phenomenon in the Himalayas, A cloudburst is short-term extreme precipitation that takes place over a small area; it is not, as is sometimes understood,



Heavy rainfall is one of the climate challenges that the pilgrimages of Amarnath had to face. The unusually heavy cloudburst that struck is an example of how extreme weather events can have severe consequences for our infrastructure and homes.

breaking open of a cloud, resulting in release of huge amounts of water. Cloudburst causes massive loss of life, property, infrastructure, agricultural lands and other facilities. The earlier disasters show that the growing outbreak of rains and its associated flash floods, debris flows and landslides are important reasons for damages and destructions. Meteorologists say the rain

Entertainment

Director Rohit Shetty drops unseen throwback picture

Bollywood ace director, Rohit Shetty, on Monday, took a stroll down memory lane and shared a 'then and now' throwback picture with a glimpse of him in action. Taking to Instagram, the 'Golmaal' director shared a collage image to which he captioned, "Somethings never change..."

The throwback image is a collage of two images, one from 2002 and the other one from 2022 and the only thing that looks unchanged is the director's love for action. In the left image, the 'Golmaal Returns' director can be seen doing a high jump in a red t-shirt at a shooting location, while in the second, he does the same jump on top of a car. Soon after the 'Dilwale' director shared the post, fans flooded the comment section with heart and fire emoticons and showered praises for the director for his fitness.

Meanwhile, on the work



front, the 49-year-old director is currently busy shooting for his adventure reality show 'Khatron ke Khiladi Season 12' in South Africa. His next directorial film 'Cirkus' starring Ranveer Singh, Jacqueline Fernandez and Pooja Hegde is slated to release on the occasion of Christmas 2022. The 'Golmaal 4' director

recently announced his big OTT directorial debut, 'Indian Police Force', starring Sidharth Malhotra, Vivek Oberoi and Shilpa Shetty in the lead roles. The series will exclusively stream on Amazon Prime Video.

- ANI

Mrunal styled the look with pair of Pearl studded earrings and ruby studded pearl choker that served as a perfect accessory for the Indian look. Her mane was styled in Low-tied bun with roses. Kohl-rimmed eyes and bold red lips added finishing touches to the look.



How Ranbir trained for six pack abs look in Shamshera

Ranbir Kapoor's muscular look from 'Shamshera' is being widely discussed among fans. Although the actor is not on Instagram or any other social media platform, his 'Shamshera' look has been doing the rounds online. On Monday, Yashraj Films took to their Instagram to share the actor's new pictures and the internet has ever since been on fire! In the film, Ranbir is playing a larger-than-life, quintessential Hindi film hero.

For the role, it looks like Ranbir trained hard at the gym! In the new pictures shared by YRF on Instagram, Ranbir is seen flaunting his six-pack abs.

Speaking about Ranbir's look, the film's director Karan Malhotra said, "Ranbir has worked very hard to own up to the roles of Shamshera and Balli. The idea behind him building a particular physique for the film came from the fact that I wanted the audience to feel his internal strength and resolve every time they saw him on screen. So, keeping that core idea in mind, I maneuvered Ranbir towards building up a body which added more strength to his character in the film."

- ANI

Tara and I have natural chemistry with each other: Arjun Kapoor



Ek Villain Returns' promotions are going on in full swing and the actors have managed to create a lot of buzz around the movie. The film's lead actor, Arjun Kapoor, has been in the spotlight for his incredible transformation in the movie. But what has the fans talking is his fresh pairing with Tara Sutaria, which is getting a lot of appreciation.

Arjun and Tara have been presented as a hot new pair in the movie and their steamy images

from the poster shoot and the trailer have everyone waiting for more! Speaking about his fresh pairing with Tara, Arjun said, "It's really nice to see how people have liked Tara and my pairing in Ek Villain 2's trailer. I'm glad they are appreciating our chemistry and how we are looking with each other. We have natural chemistry with each other and we feed off each other's energy."

Arjun concluded by saying "A film like this allows a pairing to shine through because audiences are constantly playing the guessing game and if they are invested in a pair, the game can be relished even more. Tara and I add a lot of spice to the film and I hope our pairing keeps you on your toes through the film."

- ANI

