

# Afternoon VOICE



IMD forecasts intense showers in many parts of ...

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# NATIONAL EMBLEM IS NOT REPLACED



## Opposition Making Unnecessary Controversy - BJP

Afternoon Voice Bureau

afternoon\_voice

Since the photos and videos of the sculpture of the National Emblem over the new Parliament were unveiled, the Opposition has been flaying Prime Minister Narendra Modi for replacing the majestic and graceful lions of the Ashoka pillar with grumbling and frightening ones. The national emblem is of a bronze structure, weighing around 9,500 kg and standing about 6.5 metres high. A supporting steel structure weighing 6,500 kg has been constructed to support the emblem.

The new national emblem has undergone eight different stages

of trials, from computer graphic/clay modelling to bronze polishing and casting. Further, over 100 artisans from all over the country worked on the design, and on crafting and casting the emblem for over six months.

**According to the government, the difference in size and perspective between the original and the new was the reason behind the alleged differences in expression. Barring the size, the government has said, the new structure is a replica of the original emblem. Artists Sunil Deore and Romiel Moses, who designed the emblem cast, have also claimed that there has been no deviation from the original design.**

The installation of the 9.5-tonne national emblem is a part of the government's Central Vista Project, which aims to "strengthen governance infrastructure by building new facilities for India's Parliament, an efficient and sustainable Central Secretariat to house all the ministries of the Government of India."

Aurangabad-based sculptor Sunil Deore, who created the national emblem, has said that the sculpture is a replica of the Sarnath sculpture. He said that they took the viral photo of the national emblem from a wide angle because of which the lion's face looks aggressive. "We've not changed anything," he said.

The **Rashtriya Janata Dal's** official handle tweeted in Hindi, saying the lions in the new sculpture had a "man-eater tendency" while the originals had a mild expression. **Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jawhar Sircar** said the new lions were "snarling, unnecessarily aggressive and disproportionate".

The national emblem, adopted by the Republic of India on 26 January 1950, is an adaptation of the Lion Capital that stood atop the Ashoka Pillar in Uttar Pradesh's Sarnath. The pillar, built by the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, stands at the site of Buddha's First Sermon where he is believed to have shared the Four Noble Truths (the dharma or

the law), and represents India's sovereignty and its birth as a republic.

Four lions are sitting back to back facing the four directions. The lion references the Buddha, who was known as the 'Lion of the Shakyas' (Shakyasimha) in reference to the clan of his birth, the Shakyas. The lions are seated atop a circular abacus with a frieze of sculptures of a bull, a horse, a lion and an elephant facing the four directions. The sculptures are in high relief, and a dharma chakra can be seen between the bull and the horse.

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## No credit card recovery agents can harass you or your distant relative

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

A 43-year-old woman has lodged a case with Chitalsar Manpada police in Thane, stating that she was being harassed by loan recovery agents for the loans taken by a distant relative of her husband. The accused morphed her photograph obscenely and threatened to make it viral if her relative did not pay the money. In most cases, the person who takes the loan lodges a police complaint, but this is the first time some third party took action.

According to the police, on July 08, the victim received a message from an unknown number, mentioning the name of a person (a distant relative of the victim's husband) and stating that he had taken

an online loan and asked the victim to inform the said person to repay the loan. The victim immediately called the said relative and the latter informed her that on June 25 he had totally taken Rs 40000 loan from eight different mobile loan apps and had even repaid Rs 1 lakh including interest, but still he was being harassed by recovery agents for more money along with the threats that if he would not pay more money, then his relatives and friends in his contact list would be harassed too.

After having known the entire episode, the victim had blocked the number from which she had received the message. Later, the victim

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# Editoritis

## NATIONAL EMBLEM IS NOT REPLACED

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Some Buddhist interpretations say the sculptures represent different stages of Buddha's life, while some contend they represent the reign of Emperor Ashoka (himself a Buddhist), while the wheels are interpreted to represent his enlightened rule. Below the abacus is a base shaped like a lotus, an important symbol of Buddhism. The Lion Capital was chosen by India in 1950 as a reaffirmation of independent and contemporary India's "ancient commitment to world peace and goodwill", values espoused by the Buddha and Emperor Ashoka through the Lion Capital.

Actor Anupam Kher said this is the lion of independent India which will also bite if need be. "If the lion has got teeth, it will, of course, show them," the actor tweeted amid the row over the National Emblem atop the new Parliament building.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the difference is because of the difference in the height and the scale of the two structures. "If an exact replica of the original were to be placed on the new building, it would barely be visible beyond the peripheral rail. The 'experts' should also know that the original place in Sarnath is at ground level while the new emblem is at a height of 33 mtrs from the ground," the minister tweeted.

The Aam Aadmi Party has also disapproved of the "aggressive" portrayal of the lions and said nobody has permission to tamper with any constitutional heritage in any manner.

# No credit card recovery agents can harass you or your distant relative

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received a similar message from another unknown number, but this time, in the message, the sender had used abusive language for the victim as well. Next day, the victim received a message from one more unknown number and the said message contained her morphed obscene photograph, along with a message that if the loan would not be paid, then they would make her photograph viral on the social media. The victim then informed her family about the harassment and then lodged a complaint with the police.

The police have registered an offence on charges of computer related offences and publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form as per the sections of the Information Technology Act. Foremost, no bank harassed anyone under any circumstances. If a borrower defaults the bank has a legal right and recourse to the borrower for demanding repayment. In such cases, the lengthy judicial procedure actually gives life to the loan or credit card seeker. Meanwhile, if creditors prove to the court his/her inability to pay the amount, they ask for a minimum amount to be paid for long years that can be hundred rupees per month. Banks cannot afford such deals, so they outsource such jobs to recovery agencies. The survival of the agency is a percentage out of the collected amount. That is the reason they built pressure tactics.

In this process the bank will call the borrower to the bank, visit the borrower at his home or office, issue letters of demand, issue legal notice, start court procedures, publish default news in newspapers, and even take possession of security offered (movable and immovable assets) - amongst many more steps if its personal loan. In case of a credit card, a bank can take legal action but cannot go beyond that.

But the recovery agents harass through continuous abusive phone calls, the agents also drag the debtors' family members, friends, and even their colleagues if they have to recover the debts. They can be very ruthless while handling the debtor, as these recovery agents are paid on the incentive model, they aim at maximum debt recovery so that they could be rewarded more. To sum it up, recovery agents can go to any extent for every

penny to be extracted from the debt holder, which includes continuous chasing through phone calls, heading to your doorstep, they make sure you realize that taking the loans was one of the worst mistakes of your life.

No Bank will ever even contact any other family member or friends. There's a lot you can do to stop them from harassing you. Recovery agents have every right to speak to you about the repayment of debt. However, they cannot threaten you or embarrass you in front of others or play with your reputation. They also cannot call you at odd hours. They can SIMPLY ask you to repay the loan and NOTHING else. Unless you have a court order, they can't remove anything from your house. If you think you are being harassed mentally by the recovery agents and they are also making threats to you, then please get in touch with a lawyer (not necessarily an expensive one) who deals with banks and financial institutions. The lawyer will send a notice to the bank, RBI and the police that you are being criminally harassed by the bank's recovery agents. The moment the lawyer's notice arrives at the bank's step, you will stop receiving calls from recovery agents! You don't even have to file a court case against them. But pay up if you have the means, otherwise it will hurt your credit score badly.

When the State Bank of India could not recover crores of money from the education loan borrowers, they sold it to Reliance for a discount. Before that notice was sent to all the borrowers. Nobody responded. This is the first time. After three months, people started coming and complaining about their loans being sold to Reliance. The reason was Reliance, with the help of private agents, found out all the borrowers. People, who told banks they were unemployed, now began closing the loans. Reliance could find out their employment addresses and regularly tracked them.

Big business owners took lakhs are crores of amount from banks and left India, no bank could really nab them. Forget their attitude towards people who have borrowed. Even senior citizens who have deposits with banks, they make them wait indefinitely for issuing a deposit receipt. Banks have gone most insensitive and just don't care for the customers. Similarly, recovery agencies are unleashed to harass people in the name of recovery by all means.

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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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# Voices

## Letter's to the Editor



### Our currency is our identity & RBI's decision to allow trade settlement in Rupees is an masterstroke!

Our currency is our identity & RBI's decision to allow trade settlement in Rupees is an masterstroke. Several birds have been killed with an single arrow & the decision would not only strengthen Indian rupees against most foreign currency including the dollar but the move will facilitate bilateral trade with sanctions-hit Russia & bypass all other global sanctions in future if we have good business relations against an particular nation whom others treat as a threat. Our forex reserves too will rise if we settle our trades in our own currency which will give us an advantage in terms of dollar related inflation on account of currency fluctuation.

US is heading towards recession & so are other countries around the globe. Population of most nations are on the decline while that of India is on the rise which means Indian consumption story will dominate global trades in future. We will dictate at what price we want to buy & using Rupee as an currency will weaken the dollar in the days to come. US will not like the development & may come out with their own restrictions but India undoubtedly has announced its presence globally when it comes to trade, good relations with other nations & on most parameters for us to sail through any obstacles which may arise in future!

- S. N. Kabra

### Common Civil Code

We need to enact the population control programme successfully to prevent population imbalance in the future. If the population of natives decreases and the population of a particular community increases, there is a danger of spreading chaos, said UP CM Yogi Adityanath. He was speaking at an event organised on World Population Day. CM Yogi Adityanath further said that it should not happen that the population growth rate of a community is high and the population of natives declines. Demographic imbalance is a matter of concern for the country. Where the religious population is affected, there is chaos and disorder after a while. The Central Government should enact legislation for population control and enforce the Common Civil Code as soon as possible. Hindus feel that CM Yogi Adityanath should persuade the Central Government for it.

- Dr Jyoti Kale

### 800 kids died in adoption agencies

More than 800 children's have died in state run specialist adoption agencies since 2018, According to official data. Of these, most are below two years old group and 108 children died during 2021- 2022 in the agency operated by the government.

In 2020 - 2021 the number was 169 and in 2019 - 20 . It was 281 children died in the agencies according to the data. The mane reason for death is that children are not taken care of properly. Many children were bitten by dogs and some were in such a bad condition that they could not be saved. The government should investigate this matter and also those people whose Negligence caused these accidents. The The government properly because there is no ane else in my this world for those children and we can not ever feel their pain.

- Muskan Prajapat

### India to overtake China

On World Population Day, the United Nations has released a report projecting India to surpass China as the world's most populous country next year. It further stated that the world population forecast to reach eight billion by mid-November 2022. Every year on July 11, World Population Day is made for the purpose of population control. The ever-increasing population has affected the development and the recent report related to this is not good news for India. India will overtake China next year. China is the most populous country right now, and next year India will be ahead of China.

According to the report of the United Nations World, population is to be around 8.5 billion in 2030. The ever-increasing unemployment, hunger, lack of education has increased the problem significantly. In such a situation, population control is a necessary step otherwise we will have to face many problems.

- Garima Shirpasvat

# Injustice with Masks



**H**ad to go to the city last year in connection with an illness. I had to pass an ordeal before I could get to the doctor. Meaning my temperature was first measured and then sanitized with the help of many devices. After that, he had to leave the temporary chamber located recently. In this, complete sanitization was done by the machine. I was thanking the doctor as well as these mechanical devices. After all, those who were saving us from Corona. The way the doctor saw the patient had also changed, there was a lead between the doctor and me. The exchange of voice was also being done through mic, but yesterday when I went to show, the scene was different. It seemed that they too had to do it. That moving chamber Poster against the old corona torn on it. Seeing the

masks lying here and there, it seemed as if Corona had left us now. Corona virus is transmitted through mouth and nose, in which case a mask is the most appropriate option. Until there was no corona vaccine, the mask was the only vaccine. Masks saved us from toxic air. Poisonous air contains harmful dust particles, which cause great harm to us. Masks protect us from corona as well as pollution. Mask saved us from Corona Now it is our turn to save this mask from falling ill. Now we are not using this mask, so we have thrown them wherever we want, they can be seen well on the roads, in drains, in open places etc. They all know very well how much they protected us at the time of Corona, yet they are doing injustice to them. Now that the cases of corona have reduced, so we have openly

slammed them as if they were never a part of our lifestyle. Masks helped us a lot, so we should also treat these masks properly. Looking at the bottles of sanitizers lying on the roads today, it seems as if they have never helped us. The posters of slogans made against Corona are now looking at us lying here and there in a torn old state as if we have done something different. Its biggest impact is on the environment. The environment has become badly polluted by these things. Not only humans depend on the environment, but animals, animals, birds and natural plants depend on it. That is why we should protect the environment in any condition. Do not give these tools to the environment. These tools which saved us from corona, now they are not being used, then we should not just throw them away but should conserve them and create awareness in the society for their protection.



**Khemu Parashar**

Writer and Columnist

# War of words led to real war

**Z**elensky is also to be blamed for this war that sparked. I think Zelensky barbaric sarcastic rude words before and during the war didn't help but escalate it to be worse. Biden also to be blamed for lighting fire to this war. He is too greedy to warlord gain over this war with under table agreements. If Ukraine win, it still has to pay back to USA and Europe trillions and Zelensky will even earn more from everything them pre-war. If Ukraine lost, Zelensky with his top officials and generals will lost everything. USA and Europe will also lose billions of aids and trillions of economies!

Oil and commodities were shooting up since Covid breakout in Jan 2020 and not Ukraine war which started this increase. Biden and Europe had jumped into opportunity of firing up the prices by participating their greediness and selfishness in warlord gains over the war. USA, UK and Nato countries had jeopardized the whole world!

Unfortunately, this seems to have been a standard strategy used by Ukrainian forces - to take up position within key civilian locations and attacking Russian forces, with the hope that Russia would not attack them back because of the PR issues (and war crime threats). This is rather shameful tactics to use their own fellow civilians - that too helpless ones - as human shields. There are strong indications that the same strategy was used in the early days of the war when they forced out Russians from Kiev. And this also explains why Russia has resorted to a scorched earth policy of destroying all civilian infrastructure - when faced with such tactics, there is no other way to protect their own forces. One thing is clear - Donbas will not be the end - all of Ukraine will be destroyed because of the inertia behind this conflict. And a big part of the blame falls on President Biden for not having the wisdom to use diplomacy to avoid this unnecessary war.

Neither President Obama nor President Trump would have allowed this war to happen. Despite being a really good man, this is the biggest failing of President Biden. Hope he can stop this from getting worse.

It is extremely sad to think of all those children who will never see their fathers again and that is a pathetic position. Old or new, one hardly needs a UN report or a King Solomon's decision to say this is War, which means any or both sides can be right or wrong. It's always the motives, not the damage, that matters.



**- Jayanthi Subramaniam**

Writer and Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

[afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com)

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own.)



**City**

**IMD forecasts intense showers in many parts of Maha over next 3 to 4 hrs**

The India Meteorological Department on Wednesday morning issued a nowcast warning for Maharashtra's Pune, Satara, Solapur, Sangli and Kolhapur districts, predicting moderate to intense rainfall at isolated places in next 3 to 4 hours.



A nowcast is a prediction made by analysis of data currently available.

The IMD has also issued a similar warning for Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Dhule, Nandurbar, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Beed and Nashik districts.

- PTI

**At 885mm, Mumbai has got more than avg July rain in just 12 days, lakes 50% full**



Following consistent and heavy showers in the first 12 days of July, the city received 885mm rainfall till Tuesday—more than the 855mm average for the entire month.

In the 24 hours ended 8.30am on Tuesday, the Indian Meteorological Department's Colaba observatory recorded 32.8mm rainfall and the one at Santacruz 62mm.

This led to waterlogging in several low-lying areas such as Andheri and the Milan subway, parts of SV Road and certain areas of Sion.

IMD has forecast more rain in the coming days of the week. An orange alert indicating heavy rain for Mumbai and Thane is in place till Thursday while for Palghar and Raigad, during the same period, a red alert has been issued.

**CNG to be dearer by Rs 4/kg in Mumbai Metropolitan Region, piped cooking gas Rs 3/unit from today**

The price of CNG in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) will once again be hiked by Rs 4 per kg from Wednesday morning, pushing it to an all-time high of Rs 80 per kg. The price of piped cooking gas will also rise by Rs 3 per unit—reaching another record of Rs 48.5 per unit which will impact more than 19 lakh households in the MMR.



**NCB charges Rhea Chakraborty with receiving, paying for ganja**



The NCB, in its charges filed Tuesday against actor Rhea Chakraborty, claimed that between March and December 2020, all 35 accused in the Sushant Singh Rajput drug case entered into a criminal conspiracy to finance drug trafficking, including procuring, sale, transport and distribution of drugs in high society and Bollywood, and for consumption of ganja, charas, LSD, cocaine and other drugs.

**Panel says OBCs backward, need quota; Maharashtra govt tells SC complied with 'triple test'**



Maharashtra's application filed in the Supreme Court on Saturday through advocates Rahul Chitnis and Sachin Patil said going by the Banthia Commission report,

the state has "fully complied with the triple test", including the 50% limit enunciated by the SC on reservations, and is thus "entitled to reserve seats in local bodies for OBCs".

**Presidential Election 2022 Voting materials for the Presidential election arrived in Mumbai**



Election Commission of India, New Delhi today distributed ballot boxes, ballot papers, special pens and other sealed election materials for the Presidential election. All these materials were received by plane from New Delhi at Mumbai Airport today. While transporting all these materials, the ticket was issued on the assumption that the ballot box was a special one.

All these have been brought

to Mumbai from New Delhi by Manohar Parkar, Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Ministry of Literature, Smt. Shubha Borkar, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Rituraj Kudtarkar, Assistant Returning Officer, Vidhan Bhavan and Subhash Nalawade, Under Secretary.

For the post of President. Dr. for the election to be held on the 18th. Ramaswamy N., Commissioner (CW) and Director, National Health Mission has been appointed as the Nodal Officer. The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly had requested the government to appoint a nodal officer to conduct the presidential election in the wake of the Covid epidemic in the state.

**Maharashtra National Mineral Development Award Incentive amount of Rs. 2 crore to the state**



Maharashtra was today conferred the National Mineral Award by Union Home and Co-operation Minister Amit Shah for his outstanding contribution in the field of minerals. In addition, an incentive amount of Rs. 2 crore 7 lakh 34 thousand 375 was provided to the state.

The awards and incentives were distributed on behalf of the Union Ministry of Coal and Mining at the 6th Mining and Minerals Conference held at the Dr. Ambedkar International Center here. Union Minister for

Coal and Mining Pralhad Joshi, Minister of State Raosaheb Danve and Secretary to the Department Alok Tandon were present on the occasion.

For the successful auction of mineral blocks during the year 2020-2021, Minister Shri. An incentive amount was provided by Shah today.

Maharashtra was also given an incentive amount of Rs. 2 crore 7 lakh 34 thousand and Rs. 375 for the best work in this field. The amount was accepted by Baldev Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, State Industries Department.

**858 public dispensaries are needed, but only 199 present in Mumbai**

Despite a near-200% jump in the civic health budget over a decade, a sizeable gap has remained in the city's primary health system. Mumbai is short of 659 public dispensaries and suffers from a 30% staff shortage in 187 existing

centres, states NGO Praja Foundation's white paper on the city's health status, released on Tuesday. The report said that as per the National Building Code and Urban Design Plan Formulation and Implementation, there should be one dispensary per 15,000 people.





# Nation

## J-K Cong leaders hold discussions on preparations for upcoming polls



Senior Congress leaders of Jammu and Kashmir met for two consecutive days in the national capital. This was the second round of meetings where all the Congress leaders from Jammu and Kashmir were present.

This meeting is important given the fact that Jammu and Kashmir elections may be held this year. According to the sources, senior leaders present in the meeting Ghulam Nabi Azad, KC Venugopal and Ambika Soni urged them to go for collective leadership for upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary KC Venugopal while exclusively speaking to ANI said, "The agenda is very much clear. We have to start the preparation for Jammu and Kashmir elections,

there is a rumour that elections are coming."

"That is why we called Jammu and Kashmir leaders here in Delhi. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ambika Soni who handled Jammu and Kashmir for the last 20 years and PCC president, and senior leaders CWC members discussed together. It was a cordial meeting. Jammu and Kashmir is very important for all of us. We have to strongly show the other country also that Jammu and Kashmir is very much intact in India," he said.

- ANI

## Militancy won't end till govt wins the hearts of the Kashmiri people, says Farooq Abdullah

The ruling NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday met with Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) lawmakers in Jaipur to muster the support of the party legislators for the presidential polls set to take place on July 18. Satish Poonia, President of Rajasthan BJP welcomed her at the Jaipur airport.

"Draupadi Murmu ji, the presidential candidate from NDA, was warmly greeted at the airport on her arrival in the pink city of Jaipur. #Rajasthan," Poonia tweeted. Murmu,



replying to his tweet, also tweeted, "Many thanks to you respected President (Bharatiya Janata Party, Rajasthan) @DrSatishPoonia."

On Tuesday, Murmu visited

Kolkata to pay tribute to Swami Vivekananda at his ancestral residence in the city. She also met with BJP MP Sukanta Majumdar, who is also West Bengal BJP chief, and others in Kolkata.

On July 8, Murmu had visited Assam and met Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and legislators of BJP, its allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) in Guwahati. Murmu also has the support of the YSR Congress Party, BJD and Akali Dal.

- ANI

## NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu meets Rajasthan BJP MPs, MLAs in Jaipur

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- ANI

## IndiGo in dialogue with employees to address issues: Airline on mass sick leave protest

Amid the mass sick leave protest by airline employees, IndiGo on Wednesday said it is in the process of addressing issues related to its employee remuneration.

IndiGo released a statement saying that they are in constant dialogue with its employees to take care of any issues or grievances.

The airline's statement comes after a sizeable number of the airline's aircraft maintenance technicians went on sick leave to protest against their low salaries and demand restoration of salaries that were slashed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As a responsible employer, IndiGo is in constant dialogue with its employees to take care of any issues or grievances. The aviation industry has undergone a difficult phase over the last 24+ months. As business recovers, we are in the process of addressing some of the issues related to employee remuneration. This is an ongoing activity and we will continue to take employee feedback in the process," IndiGo said in a statement.

IndiGo also said that the airline's operations will continue to be normal, with the addition of several new destinations to their network.

- ANI



**An 82-year-old retired teacher was mauled to death by her son's pet pitbull dog in the Kaiserbagh area of Lucknow on Tuesday morning. The deceased was identified as Sushila Tripathi. Her son, Amit, a gym trainer, owned two pet dogs - a pitbull and a labrador. The dog which attacked the woman, named Brownie, was brought home three years ago. The incident took place at around 6 am when the woman was alone in the house. Later, her son found her lying in a pool of blood. She was rushed to the Balrampur hospital where she succumbed due to excessive loss of blood.**

## At a temple Idols have been desecrated in J&K's Kathua

Several FIRs have been registered against unidentified people for allegedly desecrating idols at a temple in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, a police official said. "The incident is said to have taken place on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, which triggered protests by the local people demanding action against the perpetrators".

However, according to the police, the situation is under control now. "The SIT has been formed and FIRs have been registered. ASP, SHO and SDPO have reached the site. No arrests have been done so far, and the situation is under control now," said RC Kotwal, SSP Kathua on Tuesday. Further investigation into the matter is underway.

## Free COVID-19 booster dose for adults for 75 days from July 15

The government announced on Wednesday that citizens above 18 years of age will be given booster doses free of cost from July 15 for the next 75 days as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal.

The facility will be available at all government centres. "India is celebrating 75 years of independence. On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal, it has been

decided that from 15th July 2022 till the next 75 days, citizens above 18 years of age will be given booster doses free of cost," Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told the media here.

India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage has exceeded 199.12 crore as per provisional reports till 7 am on Wednesday. This has been achieved through 2,61,58,303 sessions.

- ANI

## Opinion

# Struggle, Steadfast Approach and Stifling Atmosphere All Put Paid Sri Lanka's Hopes

The single cause of this disaster in Sri Lanka is the most extreme form of corruption. They literally sold the country out to the highest bidder. This would have been India's fate if Rajiv Gandhi had survived. Indira Gandhi had a deep love for India and its people. In sharp contrast Rajiv Gandhi was arrogant, corrupt and most of all had only contempt for Indians. He and his cronies transformed the great INC into a cheap family enterprise. This will be India's fate if this family comes to power again. Whoever takes charge in Sri Lanka to solve the economic crisis should be dauntless to fight the religious bigots and ensure the safety of ethnic minorities.

Sri Lanka is a classic example of a failed State and it will not be the last in the region. The problem is that the Colonial powers have created several Independent countries that are not viable. Unfortunately, power hungry leaders have focused on geopolitics instead of economic stability and growth. Sri Lanka fancied itself as a key player and openly took sides between China and the West or China and India. So gullible was Sri Lanka that they signed up for a white elephant with China that has sacrificed its sovereignty and crippled its economy to such a degree that the country is bankrupt and unable to deal with basic necessities. Same will be the fate of Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives etc. All putting the cart before the horse and betraying its people

74 years of Sinhalese Buddhist racist policies by all governments since independence and the deliberate marginalization of the island's Tamils by the Sri Lankan state, has now led to this economic downfall, collapse and bankruptcy. Racism and intolerance of the island's Tamils was carefully cultivated, using myths and then used by all major



Sinhalese parties and politicians to win votes and then use it to swindle the country. This led to two major uprisings, one by the rural poor Sinhalese youth in 1971 and then in 1987 and the other by the Tamil youth/LTTE starting from 1983 to 2009. Both cost the Sri Lankan state dearly and were put down brutally. The reason is not willing to solve any problem but use race and religion opportunistically to deliberately divide and rule.

The British started this but the Sinhalese leaders took it to an art form and illegally used their majority to suppress and marginalize the Tamils and commit horrific crimes against them. Out of all these leaders the Rajapakses are the worst. The Sinhalese were also willing participants in this. They knew, what really happened in May 2009, the current oppressive conditions in the Tamil areas where there is no peace but life deliberately made impossible by an occupying Sinhalese army, he was a racist and a dictator with militaristic inclinations, closely allied to extremist Buddhist clergy and armed forces, that have been accused of war crimes against the Tamils. Despite all this they overwhelmingly voted for him, as he promised more of this against the Tamils, that will result in prosperity for the Sinhalese. Now protesting and wanting them go, as this promised prosperity on the back of marginalised Tamils has not arrived but only severe hardship.

Hope they have learnt their lessons and realise a divided nation, where a large section of the population is marginalized will never prosper. What is needed is all these corrupt racist politicians and leaders chased out never to come back and a complete restructuring and reprogramming of the constitution, with the executive presidency abolished, where everyone in the island is equal irrespective of ethnicity, language spoken or religion. All two languages, Sinhalese, Tamil made equal and implemented with English as the link language. The massive over bloated army 80% of which is in the Tamil areas. making life hell for them and a huge drain on the budget, heavily trimmed and confined to the barracks.

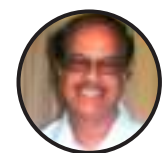
Very unfortunate. Neighborhood is in disarray. The rulers of the country are deaf and dumb. They never accepted or judged the mood of the people. Worthless govt. May God bestow his mighty and most helping hand to Shrilankan people. We are always with people of Sri Lanka.

This is what racism and Sinhalese Buddhist only Fascist ideology that has been the sole ideology practised by all Sinhalese led governments from the time of independence does for you. Every government from the time of independence used this to divide and rule to win votes, power and swindle. The Rajapakses took this to an extreme level both racism and

swindling the state. The curse of the island's Tamil people who have the same rights to the island and also had an ancient history and nation, has not gone in vain. State sponsored Sinhalese racism and Buddhist extremism, had killed around 300000 innocent Tamil civilians, around 145000 in May 2009 and chased 1.3 million of them out of the island, largely to the west, where they are now prospering. They stole 1/3 of the historic Tamil homeland by ethnically cleansing and settling outside Sinhalese on these lands to deliberately change the demography, especially in the Tamil east.

Denial of language, employment and higher education and periodic anti Tamil pogroms organised by the government in power, finally drove the Tamil youths to take up arms, when every other avenue to obtain their just rights were denied, creating the 30 year old war. The Rajapakses promised the world that if they aided them to defeat the LTTE, just Tamil rights would be granted, under a federal solution, but like all Sinhalese leaders before him reneged and became even more racist, also made the Sinhalese the same, drunk with victory. Even after 13 years of war a huge bloated military, exclusively made up of Sinhalese, is terrorising and making life hell for the Tamil population in the north and east. Forcibly taking over lands, destroying and converting ancient Hindu temples to Buddhist. Not to mention the one million Indian origin estate Tamils, who were deliberately made stateless, soon after independence and most forcibly deported to India, a strange land to them, just to reduce the Tamil representation in the parliament. Now they have started to target the South Indian origin Tamil speaking Muslims, who were their allies during the war. Now these Sinhalese people are protesting and bringing down this

government, not because they got enlightened that this form of racist harline Sinhalese Buddhist only ideology is bad but because they are starving and facing immense hardships. They were fully aware that this man was a racist and had fascist dictatorial tendencies and was hand in glove with the Buddhist clergy that is very unbuddhist and practices a form of Sinhalese only Buddhist theology, similar to Myanmar and a racist armed force. They also knew of what was really happening to the Tamil population in the north and east, at the hands of this huge immense racist occupying armed forces and the hardships they faced but did not care and were happy and elected this man and his government overwhelmingly, as he promised them paradise on the backs of the marginalised Tamils and now Tamil speaking Muslims. Instead of promised paradise only a living hell arrived. Therefore protesting. Now many of the younger generation of Sinhales are realizing for this country to improve this Sinhalese Buddhist only racist ideology should be removed, everyone should be equal and this dictatorial executive presidency and parliament should go and the armed forces trimmed. 300000 armed for a small country. Unless all this is done the country will never improve. There should be a change of heart. The Sinhalese struggle started just in the past few months but the Tamils have been struggling for the past 66 years for justice and equality.



- C K Subramaniam

Columnist and Writer



## Column

We live in an era where most businesses thrive on the online platform. There are several e-commerce platforms that do not work as the typical brick and mortar structures. Now, they don't have the same customer base as the traditional shops. So, all they have is the internet user base. So, they use all types of platforms like social networking sites, emails, google advertisements and so on to tell about their products. This gave rise to a new area of marketing that is digital marketing. Gradually this area is picking up the pace and is serving as one of the offbeat yet interesting career fields.

### Career Opportunities and Job Prospects in the Field of Digital Marketing.

**SEO Executives:** As an SEO executive, you will be primarily responsible for improving the traffic on your client's website. There are a number of techniques and apps available today for doing this. you can use the google analytics to track the number of visitors, number of visitors who turned customers and so on. With time, this role has gained much significance. If a company website receives fewer visits, it means that its product will also face lower purchase. So, this role involves mostly accelerating a company's familiarity with the internet user base. You actually need to have an experience greater than 5 years to reach this position. Salary depends upon a number of factors. Your track record, educational qualifications, SEO skills and obviously set of skills. As a fresher, you will get something around Rs.3 Lakh to Rs.4 Lakh per annum but experienced ones can get about 40LPA!

**Content Writer:** One of the most common and often the first step to digital marketing. A content writer is involved with creating niche-specific and target audience specific content for the client's website. You can begin working as a freelance content writer or can join some agency. There are many agencies that will allow you to interact directly with the client. This way, you will get a better glimpse of the market demands. Initially, content writers get paid on the basis of words per article. You will make better with time and experience.

**Search Engine Marketing Specialist:** The digital marketing is a new field. And, a search engine marketing specialist is newer. In this role, you will be required to plan, execute, analyze as well as guide a company's SEO strategy. Nowadays, many people claim to be an SEO expert but all they do is keyword stuffing. Your skills in this field completely depend on your ability to create genuine content. Also, you should not indulge in black SEO

# Digital Marketing

*An obvious question, how do you get into this field? If you are completely naive to online writing and advertisements, you can begin by taking the google's certification programme in digital marketing. This will give you a deep insight into the field and will also allow you to know your abilities. After that, you can opt for a various diploma or certificate courses in digital marketing.*

### What is Digital Marketing?

Many of you may be unknown to the term. We have generally heard the terms management in marketing or simply marketing jobs. The addition of the term 'digital' gives it a whole new perspective. Digital marketing is the use of digital platforms to reach out to the customers who spend considerable time being online. Several surveys point out that the number of internet users is increasing on a daily basis. So, the digital marketers ensure that their product or some idea reach to reach out to the maximum. You must have noticed that you get several pop-up ads. Most of the time you don't pay attention to them. But, some definitely catch your attention. You may buy that product. Imagine the extent of users that get the same product in the same way. Other than that, you will come across advertisements on your facebook account based on your likes. Even your google searches have small advertisements on the whole page. All these are the growing scope of digital marketing.

tactics. You also need to give those subordinate to you. Here, the knowledge of HTML, CSS, javascript and SEO writing will come in handy. If you have a good command over the analytical tools especially google analytics, it will be an added advantage. Your salary depends very much on your experience and also the company you work for. Usually, the salary ranges from Rs.15000 to Rs.35000 per month.

**Social Media Manager:** There is a strong presence of many companies on various social media. You must have seen that big brands like Coca-Cola or Samsung, all have a page on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. Someone needs to manage these pages. Keep them updated with the new informant. Ensuring that they are interesting enough for the visitors to increase traffic. You also have to foresee a trend and make sure that the company's social presence is not affected by it. Hosting different online campaigns, quizzes and advertisements on a regular schedule is a must. Now, this role is actually the mid-level one i.e Social Media Managers. Being a Social Media Manager you can earn something starting from Rs.30,000 per month depending on the company and also your experience.

**Inbound Marketing Manager:** This position is subject to the positional hierarchy in your office. Many workplaces have a single marketing manager to look at all matters. But, if you get the

role as an inbound marketing manager, you will be more into planning strategies. You will be responsible for creating plans for increasing traffic, optimizing leads and also conversion rates. You will be basically responsible for attracting more customers through the marketing tactics.

**Conversion Rate Optimizer:** In the world of digital marketing, CRO refers to the steps taken to convert the page visitors into customers. Most e-commerce platforms need this position. They have a website that is visited by millions. But it is not always sure if they will buy something. As a conversion rate optimizer, you will be responsible for increasing this proportion. You have to ensure that a large chunk of visitors buy something. For this, you will plan, analyze and execute different attractive offers. This is a very lucrative field. It is here to stay. With so many e-commerce growing up, this position will acquire more importance. You can expect Rs.4 Lakh to Rs.5 Lakh per annum from giant firms. Even the smaller ones pay pretty well.

**E-mail Marketing Expert:** You must have noticed that you get lots of promotional emails that mostly land in your spam folder. You may not notice them but they are also a marketing strategy. Many do end up in your primary inbox. You may get interested and buy the product. An e-mail marketing expert is responsible for overseeing all these matters. They have to create attractive email

content, analyze the target audience and then send them. You basically need to have a good knowledge of the analytical tools and a knack for predicting the time when your readers access their inbox.

**Automation Expert:** Digital marketing is all about being the lead in the game. With so many automation tools on the market, it is better to use them for efficiency. If you are from the technical background, you can get into this field. You will be handling the automation department of your marketing firm. From creating automated programmes for CRO to sending the promotional emails, you will be having a lot of work. With experience and updated skill set, you can expect to earn up to 11 Lakh per annum.

**Marketing Analyst:** A digital marketing firm needs the expertise of an analyst to review its strategies. If you are an analyst and have keen eyes for studying figures, this is your field. You will be studying the marketing trends, your firm's digital agenda and its comparison with the market competitors. You will also be responsible for suggesting ways to improve the market position depending upon the available data. With the talent gap of a whopping 37%, this field is in utter demand of trained personnel. Like all another analytics field, you will be handsomely paid. You can expect something around 10-15 LPA. If you choose to work with big firms, this will be definitely

higher.

### Mobile Marketing Expert:

When we talk about digital marketing, mobiles are an integral part. Most people access their social networking id from the mobile. They have their emails and also blogs on them. As a mobile marketing expert, you will be engaged in creating mobile friendly advertisements. You may find yourself managing the creation and distribution if promotional SMS. This field is also in talent crunch. So, if you have got skills for being a good mobile marketing expert, you can expect a high salary.

With the boundary between digital and traditional marketing diminishing, those who are more adept in the former field are at the edge. They have better job prospects and more opportunities to grow. This is the field of tomorrow. And, trust us, this tomorrow is just a few years away. So, if you are currently undergoing any digital marketing course, do it with all your efforts. If you are planning to do, be concentrated. You are on road to be one of the busiest and efficient marketers. Harness the digital world and be its flagship marketing expert.



- Vijay GarG

Retired Principal Malout Punjab

# Entertainment

## Wait for 'Four More Shots Please!' is nearing its end! Deets inside



**T**he third season of 'Four More Shots Please!' has been one of the most anticipated original series in the longest! With the show running high on anticipation from fans across the country, we have some more good news for followers of the show! Creator-Showrunner Rangita Pritish Nandy has wrapped the shoot of the last leg of the third season in Italy.

Speaking about this last leg of the shoot, Rangita said, "The fandom around Four More Shots Please has humbled and inspired us. Season 3 is by far, our most personal season of the show. You met the girls in season 1, you saw them struggle, falter and pick themselves and each other up in season 2, season 3 will bring you the closest you've ever been to them, to their core, to their sisterhood. This is a very, very special season for us. We shot through multiple lockdowns in the pandemic, braved a new way of working on set and off and it's just a pleasure to let every follower of the show know that we are at that last leg of bringing Anjana, Damini, Siddhi, and Umang right back into your lives and we couldn't be more excited to do so!"

- ANI

## Aamir Khan suffers knee injury during 'Laal Singh Chaddha' shoot

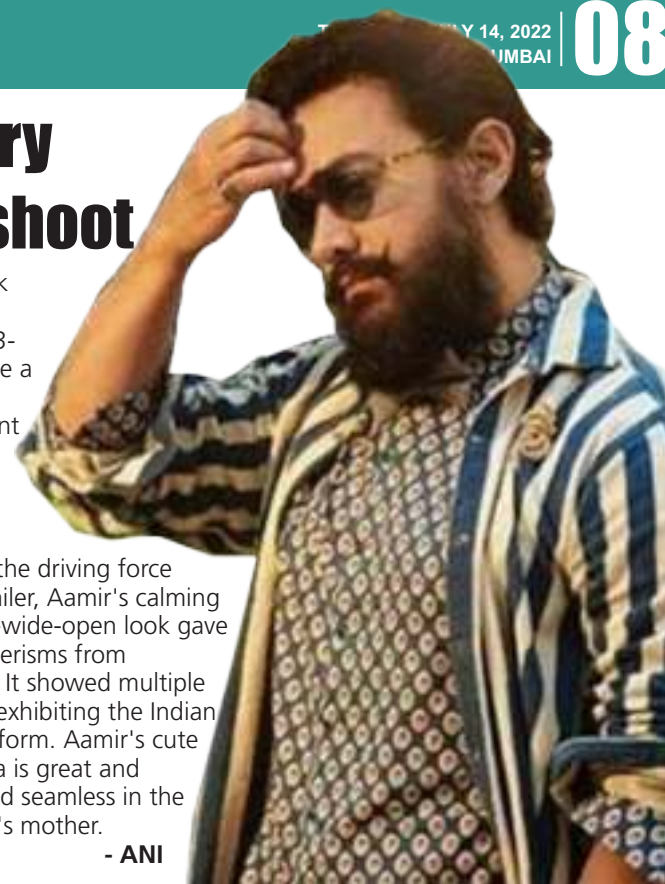
**A**amir Khan has given his everything to 'Laal Singh Chaddha'. Ahead of the release of the film, a source close to the actor shared that he suffered a knee injury while shooting a long-running sequence in the film. However, Aamir continued the shoot after taking a medical aid.

He underwent physiotherapy and took painkillers to avoid the pain that was caused while running. Aamir did not want to waste a single minute as the shooting of the film already got delayed due to the pandemic. Helmed by Advait Chandan, 'Laal Singh Chaddha' is an official Hindi adaptation of the Academy Award-winning 1994 film Forrest Gump, which had Tom Hanks in the lead role. It is scheduled to release on August 11 this year. Kareena Kapoor Khan and Mona Singh are also a part of the film.

A few weeks ago, Aamir unveiled the

film's trailer which took viewers on a joyride of emotions. The almost 3-minute-long trailer gave a glimpse into the fascinating and innocent world of Laal Singh Chaddha, the film's protagonist. His slow-witted approach and childlike optimism are the driving force of the movie. In the trailer, Aamir's calming voiceover and his eyes-wide-open look gave flashbacks to his mannerisms from Rajkumar Hirani's 'PK'. It showed multiple picturesque locations, exhibiting the Indian heritage in its tranquil form. Aamir's cute chemistry with Kareena is great and Mona Singh also looked seamless in the role of the protagonist's mother.

- ANI



## Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra remembers Milkha Singh on 9th anniversary of 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag'

**B**ollywood director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra on Tuesday took a stroll down memory lane and shared a string of throwback pictures which features the 'Flying Sikh' Milkha Singh. Taking to Instagram, the 'Delhi-6' director captioned the post, "I remember watching this film with Milkha ji. There were only the three of us Milkha Singh, Farhan and I. He sat in the centre. Once the film got over, it was very hard to say how he felt, as it must be surreal to see your life playing out before you. He had tears in his eyes, held my hands and spoke in a choked voice. This happened exactly 9 years ago, on this very same day. This will always be my fondest memory of



him.. And when it comes to Farhan, my words will never do justice to the hard work, unwavering focus and dedication he put into becoming Milkha. Thank you for being my Milkha!. Celebrating Milkha ji today and everyday!

In the first picture, the 'Rang

de Basanti' maker can be seen with actor Farhan Akhtar and Milkha Singh, as they hold a poster of their film 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag'. The second picture is from the sets of the film, in which Rakeysh Mehra can be seen explaining a scene to the 'Rock On' actor.

- ANI

## Ms Marvel finale episode out; check out what cast has to say



**M**s Marvel' finale is out! The show which grabbed a lot of limelight due to the Asian representation in the Marvel world has come to an end. But no need to be sad because the cast of the show has a special message for you! Well, right before the creators dropped the last episode of the show, the cast of the show recorded special messages for the fans.

Right before the finale, 'Ms Marvel' cast recorded special messages for their fans which were shared by Marvel Studios on Instagram. In the first video, Iman Vellani, who plays 'Ms Marvel' in the show said "It's finally time for the season finale. I don't really know how it feels. I feel weird to think that the last two years of my life came down to this moment on a random Wednesday in July is like truly very, very special."

- ANI

## Britney Spears flaunts curvaceous body in naked pool pictures

**A**merican singer and sensation Britney Spears, on Wednesday, dropped some steaming hot pictures from her naked pool day. Taking to Instagram, the 40-year-old singer captioned the post, "Keep swimming ... keep swimming" followed by a swimming and a surprised face emoticon. In the first picture, the 'Toxic' singer, struck a side nude bold pose inside her pool.

In the second picture, the



singer stunned everyone, as she can be seen posing her uncovered back.

Soon after the 'How I roll' singer dropped these jaw-dropping pictures, fans flooded the comment section with heart-eye and fire emotions and praised the American singer for her ultra-boldness.

The 'Baby one more time' singer recently got hitched to her long-time boyfriend Sam Asghari in a close intimate wedding ceremony. This is not the

first time that she shared her bold photos or videos on her socials, the singer recently dropped a topless video on her Instagram, from her honeymoon, in which she could be seen covering her private body parts with her hands. Meanwhile, on the work front, Spears released her last album 'Glory Back' in the year 2016, as per reports the Grammy winner is currently working on her new song after six years.

- ANI