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FORMER JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER



SHINZO

ABE SHOT



Afternoon Voice Bureau
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Shinzo Abe had been delivering a speech at an event ahead of Sunday's upper house elections when gunshots were heard, NHK and the Kyodo news agency said. Abe, 67, collapsed and was bleeding from the neck, a source from his ruling Liberal Democratic Party told the Jiji news agency. Neither the LDP nor local police were able to immediately confirm the reports. NHK and Kyodo both

reported Abe was taken to hospital and appeared to be in cardio-respiratory arrest -- a term used in Japan indicating no vital signs, and generally preceding a formal certification of death by a coroner.

"Former Prime Minister Abe was shot at around 11:30 am in Nara. A man in his 40s, believed to be the shooter, has been taken into custody. The condition of former Prime Minister Abe is currently unknown," chief cabinet secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

"He was giving a speech and a man came from behind," a young woman at the scene told NHK.



"The first shot sounded like a toy. He didn't fall and there was a large bang. The second shot was more visible, you could see the spark and smoke," she added. "After the second shot, people surrounded him and gave him a cardiac massage."

Several media outlets reported that he appeared to have been shot from behind, possibly with a shotgun. The government said a task force had been formed in the wake of

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ED is eventful in non-BJP ruled states?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Every central government used CBI and ED-like agencies to ride the opposition. Be it now BJP or then the UPA. Earlier only CBI was taking opposition on Radar, but since Anna Hazare agitated against corruption the term economic offence became too much accustomed and here entered ED. Opposition always has fear for the CBI, regardless of who's in power in Delhi. The Modi government is doing the same thing that Congress used to do: that is using a caged parrot to sing its tune. Now it seems to be more open and more ruthless in using it. However, this time the opposition is more fearful and the central government is more powerful. In the previous decade, we have seen state-level leaders being picked to target those who are making it difficult for BJP to retain and seize power.

There was a Supreme Court verdict in 2021, that the money laundering law can't be used as a weapon to jail people. Indiscriminate use of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) will affect the "value" of the legislation and it cannot be wielded as a weapon to put people behind bars," said the Supreme Court. The apex court's observation came during the hearing on an appeal of a Jharkhand-based company in a money laundering case. The bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli said If the government indiscriminately start using ED proceedings, then the Act will lose its relevance. The

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Editoritis

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shot

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the incident and the top government spokesman was expected to speak shortly. Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, held office in 2006 for one year and again from 2012 to 2020, when he was forced to step down due to the debilitating bowel condition ulcerative colitis.

Japan has some of the world's toughest gun-control laws, and annual deaths from firearms in the country of 125 million people are regularly in single figures. Getting a gun licence is a long and complicated process even for Japanese citizens, who must first get a recommendation from a shooting association and then undergo strict police checks.

Avery Morrow, Research Student in Religious Studies stated that "Abe has been the first test of centralized LDP power. But rather than solidifying the LDP's hold on Japanese politics, it seems to me at least that he has hollowed it out and made the future election into a referendum on neoliberalism vs. the highway."

John Browning, Government Relations Associate states "There had been some scandals brewing for some time beforehand and of course there were the stresses of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary reason for the resignation of the longest serving Prime Minister in Japanese history was due to health concerns. But no one expected such a thing could happen".

Shunichi Arai, Japan citizen quotes "Shinzo Abe is a controversial person and many people abhor him, but in his second term, his approval rate is quite good. Because he stopped talking about nationalistic ideas, rather he concentrated on economy. Also, he was the one who got things done, it's a really precious ability for Japanese politicians, because most of them can't do much."

ED is eventful in non-BJP ruled states?

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bench also said that the ED is "diluting the Act", "Not just this case. If ED starts using money laundering as a weapon against Rs 1,000 (money laundering) case, Rs 100 case, then what will happen? You can't put all people behind bars," it added. "Such indiscriminate use will affect the value of the Act," the bench said.

Unfortunately, the ED and other central investigating agency officials are now reduced to puppets of their political masters. Almost every career politician has done some kind of wrong activities to reach where he/she is today. All established national and regional political parties have criminal leaders in their party. So if the CBI was ever going to be independent, it would jail everyone starting from the PM to his entire cabinet, and most of all MPs. And once the conviction is reached, they won't even be able to contest elections for the next few years. In the 70 years of Independence, we can't even make these institutions independent which is a great failure. In INDIA criminal politicians always benefit from those who are not from a political background.

There are many Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders, especially Shiv Sena leaders who were not only raided and harassed with media trials. I am not supporting corrupt leaders; my point is about the misuse of machinery. The whole list for the era when Narendra Modi has been prime minister is longer, showing a clear trend that just before any election, agencies, including the CBI,

ED and Income Tax Department, swing into action — summonses are issued in old cases; raids and searches are conducted and arrests made, and new FIRs are registered based on inputs. But as time passes, nothing concrete comes of the investigations.

PM Modi blatantly attacks the Congress Government but BJP is doing the same as INC has done in past but this is a bad standard each party is set up instead of making the institution strong, they are following it from inside. And all authoritarian leaders do this kind of thing. In a democracy everyone is free from others' influence and the same is applied to institutions also. There are many examples of BJP leaders getting caught in a scam, rape cases, money laundering and instigating communal riots but they are shielded. BJP has so much muscle and money power today than other parties that even by mistake it loses power in 2024 it would somehow or other manage to come out of the problem.

A year and a half ago, in September 2019, a month before the assembly polls in Maharashtra, the Enforcement Directorate registered an alleged money laundering case against Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar and his nephew Ajit Pawar, in connection with the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam. Pawar the senior walked into the ED office and the storm settled. TMC leaders were raided just ahead of West Bengal elections and Aam Aadmi Party leaders were not only raided but humiliated by media trials ahead of Delhi elections, but the tables just

turned.

Now Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut is fresh on the list; the Enforcement Directorate has been harassing him and his family after he refused to help in toppling the Maharashtra government. In a warning to the Centre, he said that there's no need to go to court for this as it is an entirely political issue and he will soon strike the last blow in this tussle between probe agencies and the BJP's political rivals. What if Sanjay Raut proves his claims? Does one more investigative institution go through mortification just like NCB? Raut has posed a threat to the ruling BJP with his extensive political visits across India.

BJP in the centre has overreached in their confidence and communalism and crony capitalism have overtaken any real development objectives. At least all of the opposition seem to agree that Modi has set the country back by several years due to his disastrous policies and managed to alienate minorities and regional political parties. BJP should let the non-BJP states rule for the betterment of its people. Enough of politics and the general public started hating it now. Whoever is best will come to power in the next elections. Moreover, ED and independent agencies and constitutional institutions are losing their credibility under this government. It is a very dangerous trend for big countries like India. Instead of making media trials and diluting the matter in press conferences, agencies should be allowed to reach some fair conclusion.

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Voices



Letter's to the Editor

Eid-ul-Azha

As Eid-ul-Azha approaches, there is a high demand for sacrificial animals and temporary animal markets are being set up across the country. Given that people come in close contact with animals and each other at these markets, there is a risk of spreading disease if the animals are not healthy. Therefore, the government must take necessary steps to ensure that the animals being traded across the country, whether imported or local, are free of disease.

Special teams comprising of veterinary doctors and technicians should inspect the animal markets to ensure that this festive and blessed occasion does not become a source of spreading disease and illness. Also, the health ministries, federal and provincial, must ensure that the animals are slaughtered at designated places where a proper system is in place to remove the remains of the slaughtered animals. The lack of such a system not only leads to an unbearable stench of rotting remains but can also spread disease and contaminate water. We as individuals and as a society must also be mindful of our responsibility to take care in fulfilling our religious obligations. We must follow strict precautionary hygiene measures and refrain from slaughtering animals and disposing their remains out in the open.

- Jubel D'Cruz

When will Marathi signs be put up in shops ?

Although the state government has enacted a law to have shop signs in Marathi, it is not being implemented. So are such laws brought only to please the Marathi people ? This is the question. Will action be taken against shops that do not comply with this law ? What moment is the administration looking at for this ?

- Uday Waghvankar

"We urgently need to adopt renewable energy"

India is ambitious for renewable energy, but now steps will have to be taken in this direction with a strong commitments. There is a lot of pollution due to which people are suffering from many disease. We need to see more cycles on the road instead of motor vehicles which may not be seen day by day as compared to vehicles. According to official figures, the number of registered electric vehicles in Delhi as on March 21, 2022 is just 1,39,945. We need to ensure 100% renewable energy to tackle climate crisis. Renewable energy is the solution to the pollution caused by electricity generation from coal. If we use more and more renewable energy then it will help us to control many types of pollution. "We must protect our Environment, if we don't then who will?"

- Garima Shrivaspal, Ujjain

Guru-Shishya tradition!

These are the gurus who help the disciple in difficult times with the help of unconditional love. Gurupournima is the day to express gratitude to such a revered Guru. Gurupournima is celebrated everywhere on the day of Ashadh Pournima. The purpose behind celebrating Gurupournima is to express gratitude to the Guru with a Guru-Shishya tradition is a culture of Hindus for millions of years; Gurupoojan is performed on the occasion of Gurupournima, and the importance of Guru-Shishya tradition can be explained to the society. In short, Gurupournima is an opportunity to preserve the Guru-Shishya tradition! On this day, the disciples of each Guru worship their Guru and offer him Gurudakshina. It is customary to perform Vyaspuja on this day.

- Dr.Jyoti Kale

Enriched health by the expanse of greenery



In Indian culture, the revered place given to plant species like Mango, Peepal, Banyan, Amla etc. is a sign of this belief. Even today, the traditional practice of worshipping trees in many Manglik rituals shows the unbreakable relationship between nature and human beings. The degradation of natural forest wealth in the process of physical development is certainly ironic. Concrete civilization made wildlife homeless, many species reached the brink of extinction.

According to the Forest Status Report 2021, the country's total The forest-tree cover is 80.9 million hectares, which is about 24.62 of the total geographical area. Compared to 2019, 2261 sq. km. Comparative growth has been registered, but plantation and forest protection targets are yet to be achieved.

In technological access, mountains are cracking, vegetation is shrinking, glaciers are melting. On the one hand the cry of rain, on the other the orgy of excessive rain. June is hot in the month of March, after all, whose hand is there in this unexpected change of seasons? How did the proponents of science forget that there is life in plants too? they breathe too.

They are trembling, they are also angry at contempt. Rising temperatures, outbreaks of epidemics, uncontrolled flood-landslides in the Northeast; All anger is a clear sign of manifestation. Globally, biodiversity is facing the threat of climate change and global warming. To deal with the problems of carbon emissions and climate change, the Government of India has set a target to increase the forest area to 33 percent by 2030. But success is certain only when 'The State of the State' released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Spread awareness about the overall importance of plants and forest-based products as outlined in the 'World's Forests' report. According to the report, most of the people are unaware that the role of forest resources, including providing oxygen and clean environment, is also directly related to our economy. If the government wants, it can connect people to the plantation campaign by fixing the minimum support price for the products obtained from trees, fruits etc.

According to experts, shady, fruitful, economical, full of aroma, medicinal properties. The best species of the world are present in India. A greener environment can reduce the temperature

by up to 7 degrees. If the balanced environmental cycle is to be brought in a balanced state, then at least one-third of the land will have to be covered with tree wealth. It is a commendable initiative to encourage farmers to plant trees on the bunds of the fields under the 'Agroforestry Mission'.

To provide greenery to the area by selecting plants on the basis of local conditions, soil quality, specialty in North, Central and South regions according to Indian geography.

Must be the unavoidable goal of every citizen. Plants, like babies, require timely care. Plantation is a human responsibility. It is known that the dense trees planted in the coastal areas have preserved a large number of human habitats by absorbing the upcoming waves of the 2004 tsunami. The Kovid-impact was also comparatively less in greener areas.



- Vijay GarG

Retired Principal Malout

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No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

BMC cancels 10% water cut for Mumbai as water level improves after rainfall



The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Friday said it has decided to cancel the 10 per cent water cut imposed in the city, as the catchment areas have received enough rainfall and there was sufficient water

stock in lakes.

The civic body has, however, appealed to citizens to use water cautiously till the time there is sufficient increase in the water stock.

In view of the inadequate rainfall in the catchment areas

of lakes supplying water to Mumbai, the BMC had imposed a 10 per cent water cut in the city from June 27.

As per a release issued by the civic body, a total of 14,47,363 MLD water stock is required in seven lakes that supply water to Mumbai. The stock had dipped by 9.10 per cent on June 27.

The lakes have 25.94 per cent, which is 3,75,415 MLD, water stock on Friday, the release stated.

Seven reservoirs Bhatsa, Upper Vaitarna, Middle Vaitarna, Tansa, Modak Sagar, Vihar and Tulsi supply 385 crore litres of water to the megapolis.

- PTI

2 washed away in flood waters in Maharashtra house collapse

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday issued a red alert in Mumbai. IMD had also issued a red alert in parts of Maharashtra on Thursday, including Raigad, Ratnagiri, Pune and Kolhapur.

Two persons were washed away in flood waters and one person was injured after a portion of his house collapsed following heavy rains in Maharashtra's Palghar district,

officials told PTI on Thursday. At least 32 houses were also partially damaged in different talukas of Palghar due to the heavy showers, an official from the district administration said. The district received an average 89.27 mm downpour in the 24-hour period ending at 10 am on Thursday, with Wada taluka receiving the maximum 135 mm rainfall.

In Karnataka's Udupi and

Kodagu districts, where heavy showers are expected this week, schools and colleges have been shut. With heavy rains predicted in vast swathes of Karnataka, state authorities have taken all necessary precautions, said Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. "NDRF and SDRF deployed in Kodagu, Karwar, and Udupi," he told ANI.

- ANI

NIA court in Mumbai rejects bail to five accused

A special NIA court in Mumbai has rejected the default bail plea of Shoma Sen and four other accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case and held they made no effort for hearing of the application that was filed way back in 2018. They have not put forth any explanation for not moving the application for hearing for such a long time and cannot claim benefits of their own wrong, the court added.

Special National Investigation Agency (NIA) judge Rajesh Katariya had, on Tuesday, rejected the default bail plea of Professor Shoma Sen, Sudhir Dhawale, activist Rona Wilson, advocate Surendra Gadling and Mahesh Raut. The detailed order was made available on Friday

The accused had originally filed the application for default

bail in 2018 at a sessions court in Pune when the case was being probed by the local police.

The accused, in their plea, had claimed the 90-day extension granted by the sessions court to file the charge sheet in the case was "illegal", and hence, they were entitled for default bail under Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) provisions.

Thereafter, in 2019, the accused had filed application seeking the relief of default bail on the ground that the court was did not have the competence to take cognizance against them. This application was rejected by the Pune court and later the Bombay High Court too refused their claim for grant of default bail.

- PTI

Uddhav Thackeray Demands Mid-Term Elections In Maharashtra



In his first public address after the takeover by Eknath Shinde, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday demanded fresh elections in the state and said he would not let the rebels use the Shiv Sena's poll symbol.

Mumbai Man Lies On Waterlogged Road, Internet Says "Maldives In Malad"

Mumbai Man Lies On Waterlogged Road, Internet Says 'Maldives In Malad'. The man is seen lying peacefully on the waterlogged road.

The heavy rain in Mumbai since Monday has caused tremendous difficulty for the city's residents. The traffic in the metropolis has been crippled due to waterlogging and other rain-related incidents. Amidst this, a video of a man is going viral on social media where he is seen in an area that is fully submerged under water.

In the video, the man is seen lying peacefully on the waterlogged road while vehicles like buses and cars are passing by and splashing water on him.

The video has been originally posted on Facebook by Vikrant Joshi. "Thank you, BMC, for

making this man feel Maldives in Malad," reads the caption.

Since being shared, the video has managed to reach thousands of viewers and people have left funny remarks in the comment section. More than 10,000 Facebook users have shared the video.

One user tagged two of his friends and wrote, "Let's go to Maldives." Another user also echoed similar sentiments: "Maldives in Malad."

"Man, also seems to have helped himself a lot to feel Maldives," wrote a third user.

Mumbai is expected to receive more rain in the coming days. Since Monday, the city has been flooded, with India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing a red alert for Mumbai and nearby areas for Friday.

- Agency



Samrudhi Highway will witness the development of Maharashtra says Chief Minister Eknath Shinde

"I challenge them to hold assembly elections today. If we have done wrong, people will send us home. And if this is what you had to do, then you should have done it two and half years ago, and it would have been done respectfully. There would be no need for all this to happen," Mr Thackeray said.

"No one can take the bow and arrow symbol from the Shiv Sena. However, people don't look at only the symbol, they look at the person who has taken the symbol," he said.

Mr Thackeray hit out at the rebel Shiv Sena group for staying silent when the BJP targeted and "abused" him and his family in the last two-and-a-half years. "You keep in

touch with them and betray your own party like this," he said, without naming Mr Shinde.

"Some people say if they are called to Matoshree, they will come. They say they have respect for me. I am thankful. But if you had come and spoken to me, then you would not have needed to go on this tour. But now you are with people who have abused my family. They have made attacks on our reputation. So, you decide if your love and respect is real," he said about the rebels.

"I am proud of the 15-16 MLAs who are with me despite threats. This country thrives on Satyameva Jayate, not Asatyameva Jayate," he added.

- Agency

Nation

India to observe day of national mourning on July 9: PM Modi

India has announced one day of state mourning on July 9 as a mark of respect for former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who was shot on Friday while delivering a campaign speech in Nara city in western Japan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his shock over the tragic demise of Abe and in a tweet said: "As a mark of our deepest respect for former Prime Minister #ShinzoAbe, a one-day national mourning shall be observed on 9 July 2022," PM Modi wrote, "I am shocked and saddened beyond words at the tragic demise of one of my dearest friends, Shinzo Abe. 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."

After the attack on him, Abe was rushed to hospital and initial media reports citing authorities said that it appeared that the former Japanese PM was shot at in the chest. They described his condition as in "cardiopulmonary arrest" and said he showed no vital signs. Public broadcaster NHK later reported, citing ruling Liberal Democratic Party sources that Abe, had died.

Abe died at 5:03 pm (local



time) and had two gunshot wounds in his neck, according to officials from Nara Medical University Hospital. Japanese Police arrested a suspect for shooting Abe identified as Tetsuya Yamagami, a 41-year-old resident of Nara City, according to local media.

A gun that appeared to be handmade was retrieved from the site where Abe was campaigning for a candidate ahead of Sunday's elections for Japan's upper house of Parliament. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh too expressed grief over the unfortunate moment.

"Deeply saddened by the demise of former PM of Japan, Shinzo Abe. His role in strengthening the strategic relationship between India & Japan was commendable. He leaves behind a lasting legacy in the Indo-Pacific. My condolences to his family & to

the people of Japan," he wrote in a tweet. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wrote, "Deeply saddened by the demise of former PM of Japan, Shinzo Abe. His role in strengthening the strategic relationship between India & Japan was commendable. He leaves behind a lasting legacy in the Indo-Pacific. My condolences to his family & to the people of Japan."

Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, stepped down in 2020 citing health reasons. He was prime minister of Japan twice, from 2006-07 and again from 2012-20. He was succeeded by Yoshihide Suga and later by Fumio Kishida. Japanese prime minister Fumio Kishida earlier in his live address to the country today said "this is not a forgivable act," and that authorities would "take appropriate measures to handle the situation." Kishida further said that the motive behind Abe's shooting is not known. The media outlet citing government sources also reported that Abe's shooting suspect is an ex-member of Japan's Self-Defense Forces.

The Japanese PM also requested everyone to not speculate about any political ramifications at the time.

- ANI

Congress brought the country to a sorry state: CM Bommai



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said that the Congress leaders have "misused" Mahatma Gandhi's name and brought the country to a sorry state.

Speaking to media persons Bommai said, "A DIG was found involved in a PSI recruitment scam during the

Congress regime, but the Congress government failed to take action. They did not even bother to question him or suspend him. But we have taken legal action. We have arrested high-ranking officers. They should realise their mistakes. Congress is in the position of a convict. They bowed to lobbies and covered up the scams. They do not have the moral right to preach to others."

"There are more such scams which Congress has buried. They would be exposed in the coming days," he added. Bommai further said that they did not suspend even a single person in the KPSC scam related to the recruitment of Public Prosecutors.

- ANI

AAP's Vijay Singla gets bail in corruption case

Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday granted bail to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Punjab Minister Vijay Singla in a corruption case. On May 24, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann sacked Singla from his Cabinet following corruption charges against him.

Shortly after that, he was arrested by the Anti-Corruption

Branch. The Punjab Chief Minister said that the AAP has a zero-tolerance policy against corruption. He said that he has sacked Singla from the cabinet and directed Police to register a case against him.

According to Punjab CMO, Singla was demanding a 1 per cent commission from the officials for contracts and he also later confessed to them.

Income Tax Dept raids pharma firm in Haryana and Delhi NCR



The Income Tax Department has raided various premises of a group company engaged in the business of manufacturing and distribution of pharmaceutical medicines and real estate development, the Union Ministry of Finance said on Friday. The Income Tax Department carried out the search and seizure operations on 29th June 2022.

The search action covered 25 premises in Delhi-NCR and

Haryana. A large number of incriminating documents in the form of loose sheets and digital data have been found and seized. These documents reveal that the group was involved in huge unaccounted sales of pharmaceutical medicines in cash.

A large number of purchases, payments of wages and other expenses were also found to have been made in cash, the ministry said.

This modus-operandi of unaccounted cash sales of pharmaceutical medicines, including cash receipts through hawala for sale of medicines to Afghanistan, has been admitted by a key person involved in such transactions, it said.

- ANI

Home Minister initiates probe after college students fined for chanting Hanuman Chalisa

After a college in Bhopal penalised students for chanting religious hymns inside the campus, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Friday turned down the institution's fine pressed against the students and said that if the hymns are not chanted in one's own country then where else.

"No fine will be imposed, we've informed them (college). If Hanuman Chalisa is not chanted in Hindustan, there where?. We can make students understand," said Mishra.

Mishra also ordered the authorities to initiate a probe into the matter. "The issue is not what's being presented. Other students had complained due to

the noise after Hanuman Chalisa was chanted (by 7 students). I have ordered the Collector to probe it," he added.

His remarks came in wake of the imposition of a fine of Rs 5000 on seven students at Vellore Institute of Technology - VIT Bhopal for chanting Hanuman Chalisa in campus.

- ANI

Former Indian Ambassador expresses shock over Shinzo's shooting incident

Former Indian Ambassador to China Gautam Bambawale on July 08 expressed shock over the former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's shooting incident in the western Japan city of Nara and called it an abnormal incident. "Shocking



and sad news that we have got this morning. Japan is a very peaceful country. Guns are not easily available like in the United States. So, this shooting is very abnormal, it will shock the people of Japan," he added.

- ANI

Opinion

Deosharan Singh

The pioneer of social revolution

The holy land of Bharat Varsha is more precious and more virtuous than heaven. The credit of India's great pride goes to our revolutionary Mahatmas, Sants, poets, rulers, craftsmen, scholars of science-religion philosophy, workers, farmers and people of various professions, from whom we are inspired today. Among this great personality was Shri Deosharan Singh, former Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council.

Eminent freedom fighter Deosharan Singh was born on 17th August 1901 in the family of Shri Ramgoolam Mahto in Simra Bilgawan village located in Koilwar of erstwhile Shahabad district (presently Bhojpur district). He did his secondary education at Bihar National Collegiate School, Patna. He then graduated from Bihar National College and studied law from Patna Law College, Patna under Patna University. In his student life, he participated in the non-cooperation movement in 1920. In 1927, he started his practice in Barh Civil Court under Patna district.

In 1931, 1932 and 1942, Deosharan Babu participated in the freedom and Civil Disobedience Movements, during which he was jailed several times. In prison, he was subjected to severe torture by lying his bare body on the ice-blocks, which caused him pain for rest of his life. In Indian politics, such torture has been given to only two politicians, one was Deosharan Babu and the other was Banarasi Das Gupta, the former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, whose voice was changed to that of a woman. He took an active part in the peasant movement since 1936. He was a member of the All-India Congress Committee since 1937 and afterward a member of the Executive Committee of the Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee since 1948. From 1954 to 1957, he was the



chairman of the Patna District Congress Committee.

Deosharan Babu was elected a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1946. He was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and held this post from 24 April 1946 to 31 March 1952. In the election to the Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1951, he was elected on Indian National Congress ticket from the 5-Fatuha assembly constituency under Patna district. He got 8481 votes out of total 21698 valid votes and his nearest rival Shri Brijnandan Singh Yadav (Independent) got 7753 votes. In 1952, he was inducted into the state cabinet headed by Dr. Shrikrishna Singh as the Health Minister of the Government of Bihar.

He was elected a member of the Bihar Legislative Council on 14 September 1953. From 1963 to 1965, he was the chairman of the Bihar State Planning and Development Board. Thereafter, from 30 August 1965 to 6 May 1968, he served as the Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council. He again served as a member of the Bihar Legislative Council

from 7 May 1968 to 1974. In 1971, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi requested him to contest from Barh Lok Sabha constituency, but due to his determination to fight for the causes of the backward and oppressed classes in Bihar, he decided to remain active in the state politics. Then his MLA son Dharamvir Singh was provided Congress ticket by Smt. Gandhi from Barh Lok Sabha constituency, who won a landslide victory and became a minister at the Centre.

In the last years of his life, Deosharan Babu was also a victim of the caste and ill-fated politics of the Congress party and was denied ticket keeping him in the dark on the issue of re-candidature to the Legislative Council. Babu Deosharan Singh was well aware of the fact that the caste system is the root of the shackles of slavery in our society and only the democratic process could end it. Embracing his democratic values, beliefs and realizing the brunt of the caste system, he came to the conclusion that caste system and democracy could not stand side by side.

For Deosharan Babu, advocating democracy was part of an attempt to eradicate the caste system. In this context his attention was drawn to the hypocrisy existing in the social structure.

Deosharan Babu used to say, "We may say that untouchability is bad, caste system is bad, social discrimination is bad, but our beliefs have nothing to do with our life and conduct. Our brain is divided into different compartments. On one hand there is customary culture, on the other hand humanistic ideas. On one hand there is the ideal, on the other hand the animalistic tendency of plunder. There is no coherence, no affiliation in any of them. As individuals we are not perfect, but fragmented. Whatever is enshrined in our democratic constitution, neither our hearts nor our minds have a firm foundation for it. We believe in a socialist republic, but in casteism too. The result is that the caste comes first, the republic lags behind. We raise slogans of socialism and want to establish a socialist society. But no one wants to understand that those who have vested interests in the present social or economic system cannot lead a socialist revolution".

Shri Singh always worked for the service of the backward people of the society. As the president of Bihar State Backward Classes Federation, Deosharan Singh raised a strong voice for reservation in jobs for backward classes and led the struggle for it. But Congress did not take it seriously. He did not hesitate in making efforts and struggle even going beyond the party line to protect the rights of the backward and the oppressed masses. It was the result of his social awakening that many backward class leaders from the then Chhotanagpur region entered Bihar Legislative Assembly wearing garlands in the elections.

In Bihar politics, Karpoori

Thakur, former CM, has been treated as the icon for backward masses, but in reality it was Deosharan Babu and not Thakur, who launched backward class movement in Bihar and adjoining states. The path created by his oppressed classes social empowerment, has helped to strengthen the roots of socialist movement under backward leadership. Today backward class leaders in power politics are eating the fruits of the tree of social justice movement planted by Deosharan Babu. Mandal commission in its historical report has saluted Deosharan Babu and his struggle for the cause of backward people.

He had a special interest in the study of excellent books on social and political issues. He felt self-satisfaction in helping poor and meritorious students and had unwavering faith in the establishment of an exploitation-free and casteless society. When Laloo Prasad became the Chief Minister in 1991, he rechristened the Chhajju Bagh locality of Patna as "Deosharan Nagar" in his honour. But later on no government took pain to glorify his precious works.

Deosharan Babu left his mortal body on 9 July 1975 after a prolonged illness and set out on an eternal journey. The objectives, for which he struggled throughout his life, guide us even today. His life has been inspiring us to fight for our rights. He was a great patriot and a visionary with a strong will like steel. Even today, his ideals and hard work continue to give an exemplary message of successful life to the younger generation. (The author is a technocrat & academician)



- Er. Prabhat Kishore

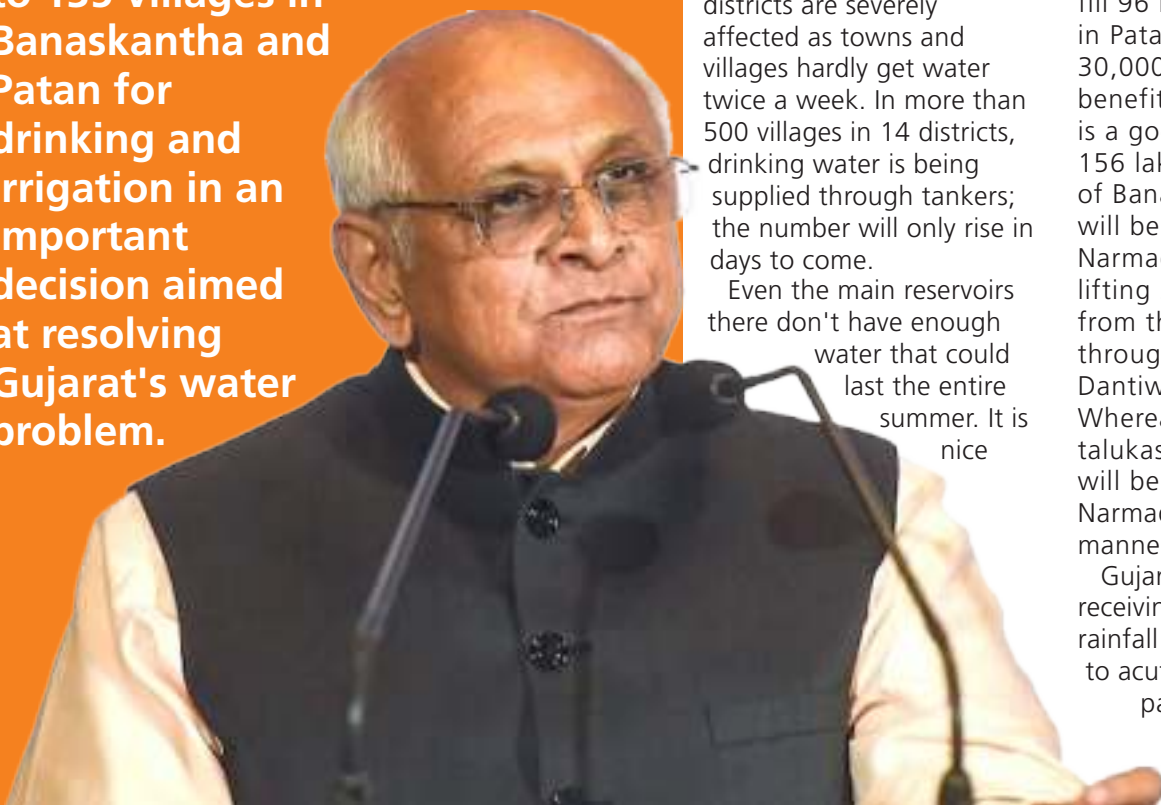
Technocrat & Academician

Column

'Sujalam Sufalam Yojana'

Gujarat - CM Patel approves multiple water projects

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has recently sanctioned works worth Rs 1,566 crore to fill up lakes in nearly 135 villages of Banaskantha and Patan districts with Narmada water through 'Sujalam Sufalam Yojana'. CM's decision will certainly address the water shortage issue of 135 villages in Vadgam, Palanpur, Patan and Shiddhpur areas. Chief minister Bhupendra Patel has approved multiple projects to give water to 135 villages in Banaskantha and Patan for drinking and irrigation in an important decision aimed at resolving Gujarat's water problem.



People of the area are facing severe water shortage for more than two decades as annual rainfall is less and underground water is depleting. With rising mercury levels and severe heatwave, Gujarat is facing a massive water crisis. The scarcity is particularly acute in the Saurashtra region, Kutch, North Gujarat and parts of tribal pockets in central and South Gujarat. More than 20 districts are severely affected as towns and villages hardly get water twice a week. In more than 500 villages in 14 districts, drinking water is being supplied through tankers; the number will only rise in days to come.

Even the main reservoirs there don't have enough water that could last the entire summer. It is nice that Banas dairy too has launched a programme to dig lakes in the region with people's participation. This will reduce dependency on Narmada waters, if there is good rain.

As per the reports a 77 kilometer long pipeline will be laid from Kasra - Danitwada which will lift 300 cusec meter water from Narmada main canal and fill 156 lakes of 73 villages of four talukas. The government also plans to fill 96 lakes of 33 villages in Patan district. Some 30,000 villagers will benefit from the project. It is a good decision that 156 lakes in four talukas of Banaskantha district will be filled with Narmada water while lifting 300 cusec water from the river's main canal through the Kasra-Dantiwada pipeline. Whereas, 96 lakes in two talukas of Patan district will be filled up with Narmada water in a similar manner.

Gujarat has been receiving very little or no rainfall since 2018, leading to acute water scarcity, particularly in the villages. More than about 500 villages of 14 districts in

Gujarat had to be provided water through tankers. The situation was worse in Saurashtra, Kutch and Northern Gujarat. State is staring at a massive water crisis, as rainfall during the monsoon so far has fallen short by over 50 percent. As per the report against an average inflow of 17000 cusecs, the dam is releasing 12000 cusecs for irrigation and drinking water needs.

The state government has certainly taken steps in order to resolve the issue but the scope of the steps have been largely unproductive and controversial. Gujarat Government has taken various tasks like increasing the depth of lakes and ponds, renovation of river banks and catchment areas, de-silting of water reservoirs, check dams and other water bodies will be taken up. Cleaning and repairing of the Narmada canal network and other reservoirs will also be taken up. If these water reservoirs are filled with Narmada water, it can recharge underground water, because of which groundwater level can increase.



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- Vinod C Dixit

Free-lance Journalist, Writer & Cartoonist

Entertainment

Like the old saying goes, never mess with a man's family and if you do, make sure that man is not Vidyut Jammwal, as he will tear your heart out without caring much about the consequences.

The sequel of 'Khuda Haafiz' picks up from where the first part ended. Sameer and Nargis are trying to put the Noman mishap behind them, but it is not easy. Nargis suffers from PTSD, depression and doesn't trust a soul, whereas Sameer is trying his level best to save the broken marriage.

As fate would have it, Nandini, an orphan, is introduced into their lives, Sameer opens his heart and soul for the little girl, but Nargis is a little irritated about her arrival. But with time, she opens up to her and Nandini puts life back into the couple's life.

Just when everything is going fine, tragedy strikes. Nandini and one more girl from the school are kidnapped by four boys, and one of them is the son of a local politician, Thakur Ji, played by the formidable Sheeba Chaddha.

Sameer and Nargis move heaven and earth to find their missing daughter, only to find her raped and killed by those

'Khuda Haafiz 2'

Raw, brutal and intense, but with a purpose



Rating:



Film:
Khuda Haafiz:
Chapter II - Agni Pariksha
(running in theatres)

Director:
Faruk Kabir

Cast:
Vidyut Jammwal, Shivaleeka Oberoi, Sheeba Chaddha, Dibyendu Bhattacharya and Rajesh Tailang.

vengeance for his daughter. He kills everyone coming in his way to find the real culprit.

Sameer was driven and focused in the first part, but in the second, he is angry, raw and brutal to a point where he rips open one of the accused

with his bare hands and that is what we love about Jammwal - his raw intensity and physical prowess as he beats baddies.

Apart from intensity

four boys; fortunately, one girl survives, and Sameer rushes her to hospital, saving her life.

Broken, beaten and angry, Sameer pummels the local cop, who refuses to write the FIR, which results in prison time and

that is where the film takes a turn. He makes friends with the rival gang and starts turning into a formidable gangster, and finally, secures bail.

Once out, there is nothing to stop Sameer from seeking

and brutality, the film also narrates a tale of emotion, love and redemption for a father and mother, a husband and wife. The emotional angle is pretty high and there are moments when you feel your

throat tightening up.

Shivaleeka Oberoi shines. She doesn't miss a beat or emotion, a woman who doesn't seem to catch a break. She has a tough role to play, but she does it with aplomb.

Sheeba Chaddha and Dibyendu Bhattacharya, both seasoned actors, perform magically and make you hate them from the bottom of your heart. Finally, the lead character, Vidyut. He's an inspiration, or rather a surprise when he cries bitter tears of pain, and makes you feel for the tough nut that he is.

'Khuda Hafiz: Chapter II - Agni Pariksha' is helmed by Faruk Kabir, who has done a stunning job with the movie. Though the film tends to weigh more towards violence but its narrative is in the right place. The music of the film is absolutely spot-on, the songs are situational, and they are well-written, composed and presented.

There is one spoiler as well, the way the second part ends, with Vidyut killing everyone, and becoming the leader of the gang, and Shivaleeka on the verge of becoming a mother, so there is a third part coming.

The psychological thriller series, 'The Gone Game', conceived and shot during the first year of the pandemic, has returned with its second season.

The first had a frugal set-up, with the actors shooting for their parts from the confines of their homes, thanks to the nationwide lockdown and the uncertainty around Covid-19, the second season cranks the game up a notch in terms of production design.

The upgraded production design doesn't really trickle down to the narrative as the plot keeps losing itself. The season opens in a classic 'fabula-syuzhet' style, presenting the end first. From then it harks back to the events that lead up to the end sequence.

The second season follows the events post the projected death of lead character Sahil Gujral (played by Arjun Mathur), who, in reality, has flown off to a place with the intention to cross over to the India-Nepal border after pulling off a Rs 300-crore scam.

As Sahil is on the run, the lives of the people who are

Unimaginative writing pulls down 'The Gone Game 2'



Series:
'The Gone Game' Season 2
(Streaming on Voot Select)

Director:
Abhishek Sengupta

Cast:
Sanjay Kapoor, Arjun Mathur, Shweta Tripathi Sharma, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Dibyendu Bhattacharya, Harleen Sethi, Rukhsar Rehman, Lubna Salim and Amit Jairath.

Rating:



connected with him goes into a messy downward spiral with the needle of doubt on his wife Suhani (played by Shriya Pilgaonkar), who eventually is gunned down.

The shocking murder amplifies the scrutiny of the Gujral family as they become

prime suspects in a national scandal. The investigation of the murder and Sahil's efforts to stay afloat form the crux of the story.

What bogs down the show is the storytellers' weak grip on the narrative, which even good performances from its talented cast of Arjun

Mathur, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Sanjay Kapoor, Dibyendu Bhattacharya and Shweta Tripathi Sharma cannot compensate for. The conflicts lining up the plotlines are resolved too soon, leaving no room for the viewer to connect, and empathise, with the characters.

Another factor that adds salt to the injury is the show's DI (digital intermediate), which is responsible for the colour grading being off in many sequences.

Though the direction and screenplay may appear inconsistent, the cinematography saves the show in many instances. It departs from textbook shots and explores new perspectives (and aspect ratios) on many occasions.

With more room to experiment and a bigger playground this time around, one would expect 'The Gone Game' Season 2 to take things to the next level, but the show barely manages to levitate beyond a certain level. In a way it is unjust to its cast who have done everything in their capacity to put up a good show.