

# MEDICAL EXAM SCAM

## Seats Sold For ₹20 Lakh

Afternoon Voice Bureau  
afternoon\_voice

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Delhi -- six of the eight solved NEET papers, sources said. The mastermind is one Sushil Ranjan from Safdarjung, who deputed "paper solvers" and accepted payments. Eleven people were named in the case and the hunt is on for the rest.

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role of coaching institutions in this will also come under the scanner, officials said. The cheating operation -- spread across Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Haryana -- worked in the way shown in Bollywood blockbuster "Munnabhai MBBS". Expert paper solvers impersonated students and wrote answer

sheets in exchange for enormous sums.

Each seat cost ₹ 20 lakh, of which 5 lakh was given to the person who impersonated the student and solved the NEET (the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) question paper, said sources in the agency. The middlemen and others share the rest.



Amitabh shares hilarious picture...

PG 08 »



Sharad Pawar breaking Shiv..

PG 04 »

## We are okay with corruption

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

We need to agree, we are all selfish in nature, and we want all the luxury and sophisticated luxuries but also want to wear a mask of modesty! We talk about being liberal and open in thoughts but, when it comes to anyone talking about religion, we suddenly shut those open thoughts and get our brains to stop working. Corruption has a bigger meaning in our lives. It has become our lifecycle and we are so much influenced by it that we have raised it and raised it to an extent that is beyond our control now.

If corruption never existed, you would need to forgo a lot of

your 'bad habits' for example, you would have to eradicate the way you teach your children, while getting admission in the college, the first thing you teach your child is 'donation'. The art of a sophisticated donation, why not straightaway call it bribery? Forgery of a good word is corruption, giving a new meaning to a very pious word. As a blood bank would say "The power of donation", much of it has been seen by the upcoming stars already. We have created violence and promoted it. Consider this, what if any man who strives to be your leader and

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also talks about democracy, teaches you to be away from a certain group of people or be strong as a group of people? I am not talking about being Hindu or Muslim, or point at any of their leaders. It is just a general statement, what if we 'actually' had the courage to live and proclaim as an individual and not as part of any group? It all begins right from the time we narrate our rituals, a major example is, marriage, we want our children to get married to the same caste/religion which we have been following and yet fancy calling ourselves as 'liberal'? Another word is 'secular', it actually sides with the word, liberal. Secular has got many urban variations like sickular, sectcular, etc. Secularism is being treated as a 'bad word' by 2 sides of the same coin. It only means, it has someone who indulges into activities which does not have religious, caste or spiritual base. For example, Modi created dams for Gujarat state and developed infrastructure which instructs people of which particular sect should get benefit from it. So that is a secular approach. Building hospitals is a secular approach, building roadways, Facebook, etc. Oh well, Facebook, we all love Facebook, it is secular in nature, it is not biased towards any religion or

cancels an account for anyone being of any particular religion. If you are a person who does not like being secular, in the context that I have just mentioned then, you fairly don't deserve to live anymore with the technology invented by Jew and promoted by a Christian. It would also be unfair for such people to have vada-pav, vada being widely made by Hindu and pav widely manufactured by Muslims, a good combination of both! Moving forward in today's lesson, yet another word is 'extremist', it means someone who holds extreme political bias towards a particular faith that can mould the norms set by people. For example, people who tend to speak for the welfare of the people in their own sector faith. Such people may or may not turn rebellions. However, they are still a hot edged sword. Going forward in the same direction comes the word 'fanatics'. Fanatics are not crusaders, big difference. Crusader is someone who wants to bring about change or reform in the society which gives a fair justice and tolerance to their sect of people, for example, Thich Quang Duc who committed self-immolation as a sign of protest against the government for prosecuting Buddhists during the Vietnam War. Crusaders do not intend to put down other faiths but just bring social reforms in the norms for treating a particular sect of people. So fanatics are not crusaders, fanatics are

harmful, they strive on ego and group thinking, they are cowards who come in herds and can do anything to be part of that herd. Fanatics are one of those people, who, if you see in your neighbourhood, you should call upon them and buy them some common sense. So over and over, we have covered most of the things which have changed the meaning of a few words in the due course of history.

The problem is, we are selfish by nature, if money comes flying from the sky, we gather to pick it up rather than asking whose money it is or thinking if you really deserve it. We want to be social and be our own herd of society. We want to talk about bringing social reforms and eradicate corruption but then also expect traffic police to leave you when you pay him 100 rs for breaking the traffic signal or expect a ticket checker to give you a reserved seat for a few hundred while others in the waiting list are still suffering their inconvenience. We want corruption, no, we 'need' corruption in our lives, from saving taxes via chartered accountants to getting admission in college, want the government to bring about change but hardly think about changing ourselves, and we want to be in the herd of community yet wish to be recognized as an individual. What is funnier, the way we speak and think or actually the way we live?

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Editor  
**Dr. Vaidehi**

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## Letter's to the Editor

### Meta Platform Facing Human Rights Risk

Recently, the research done in our nation by Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) agency on the Meta platform, which incorporates Facebook, Instagram, and Whatsapp discovered that these social medias are exposed to higher risks of human rights including limitations on the liberty of expression, information and risk of hatred that ignites malevolence due to the actions by third parties which largely appearing terrifying now. Also according to study these third parties intervention may also lead to hatred that instigate discrimination, violence, Indiscriminate rights; infringement of an individual's right to privacy as well as security of this platform. This unprecedented indepth research reports seems to be intimidating not only to Meta platform but also to other social media platforms. Furthermore this research report is exclusively of our nation. To overcome this HRIA has to develop recommendations regarding incorpoating, monitoring, content moderation, product interventions and many more so that Meta platform can study them and use them as a regard to identify and guide relevant actions which fixes the issues swiftly that are reported as of now.

- Vijaykumar H.K.

### PV Sindhu bags Singapore Open

PV Sindhu won the title by defeating China, Olympic medallist PV Sindhu lifted the Singapore Open Super 500 trophy after outwitting China's Wang Zhi Yi in an intense women's singles final here on Sunday. PV Sindhu beat Wang Zhi Yi by 21-9, 11-21, 21-15 to claim her maiden title in Singapore and third title in 2022 after wins in Korea Open and Swiss Open. It took her just 12 minutes to wrap up the opening game which included winning 13 consecutive points. Wang Zhi however fought back in superb fashion to draw level as he gained the second game. The decider started on a nail-biting note before she gained a five-point lead at the interval. Sindhu produced another fine display to grab her third world tour title of the season. PV Sindhu has given India a big win. This is a big deal for India.

- Garima Shrivaspatt

### Let's us not forget that the pandemic is still around even after taking the vaccine

Despite a rise in COVID-19 cases over 20,528 in a single day. The highest in five months. India has achieved a major milestone in it is COVID-19 vaccination programme with cumulative jobs administered surpassing the 200 crore mark. According to the health ministry data, 98 % of the adult population has received at least one dose while 90 % fully vaccination and the top five state where highest number of dose have been administered of doses have been administered are uttar pradesh ( 34,41 , 93,641), Maharashtra (17, 05,59,447), west Bengal (14, 40,33,794), Bihar (13, 98,52,042) and madhya Pradesh (12, 13,15,911).

COVID-19 vaccination provide protection against savere disease and death for all variants. Let's us not forget that the pandemic is still around even after taking the vaccine. So we should take our booster booster dose and encourage other peace also.

- Muskan Prajapat, Ujjain

### Keep up the action

The administration should think again about the plastic ban. Earlier also the ban on plastic use was brought. Action was taken against those who use plastic bags. But then this action was suddenly stopped. So the administration should make a policy in this regard. Such an action should not be left in the middle. Plastic is for human life. It is very dangerous. It does not decompose. So it is right to ban plastic. But while doing this, it is also necessary to think about the impact it will have on human life. Today, many small industries are running on one thing, plastic. Due to this plastic ban, some big industries are affected. Even if it does not sit, small industries may be directly affected by it. Therefore, the administration should consider this possibility.

- Uday Waghvankar

# The Postman got lost somewhere

There are a lot of means of instant messaging today. Whatsapp, Instagram, Facebook and what not. The more the transmission routes have increased, the more sensations have decreased. In the midst of all this our postman is lost somewhere.

As if it had been swallowed up by today's technology revolution. In fact, he was not just a mailman who brought letters, but a great messiah connecting heart to heart. He used to give a message of happiness and sometimes sorrow on the pretext of letters.

When he came home, it was as if someone A relative has come. How can it be forgotten to make him sit and have refreshments and to store the sensations from the things immersed in the syrup of intimacy. Today there is a mobile in every hand. Every mobile has hundreds of people's numbers. These are not just numbers, they are indicators of living relationships. It is very painful to remain silent on these indicators.

People appear 'online' but ignore you as 'offline'. At such a time, that red box of the village and the postman wearing khaki colored clothes is remembered very much. Even if he doesn't have a message for you, Nor would he stop for a moment and inquire about your well being whenever he passed through your door. He was such an angel of our time, who would call us for some auspicious work by giving an invitation letter with turmeric, as if that work was being done in his own house. He was the greatest example of human worth. There is no match for his friendly personality. Don't know how many jobs' appointment letters were distributed in his hands. The

image of that postman is indelible on the mind and mind of those who received him. So indelible that even the eraser of the era cannot erase it. postman's There were no letters in the bag, it was a store of feelings. Such feelings, due to whose lack today man is losing his humanity.

Keeping human values on hold, they are being trapped in the vortex of selfishness. In his bag, there was an invitation to someone's wedding, and someone's compulsion was a story.

The joy of the arrival of a newborn in someone's house, the sadness of the passing of grandmother in someone's house. There was love for the little ones and blessings for the elders.

The pain of separation from someone else the happiness of union. laugh for some Crying news for you. It was not a bag, but a wonderful treasure trove of Navarasas like enthusiasm, love, anger, surprise, disgust, humour, grief, fear, Nirved.

The more he spent, the closer people became to him. He was a living magnet, pulling everyone towards him by the gravity of the senses. There was a time, when someone of ours left us and went somewhere else, the memory of him used to shake us to the depths of our heart. We used to get restless. Then we would have no choice, no recourse.

Only waiting to drown in the whirlpool of memories. It was the message that we used to get. Sometimes sealed in an envelope, sometimes in an inland letter and sometimes in the registry. The post card used to wet only the lips like a drop of the ocean, even if it contained so much, it would have been empty on one side and half the address on

the other side. Although the letter inland was not too big, but the fragrance of the soil from which it came, though it would have been filled with hope that it was sent with the feelings of the mind on more than one page. Will happen. Sometimes envelopes, letters kiss She was also infatuated with the smelling fragrance, which used to create a pleasant atmosphere even before reading.

Everything that was said and what was not said was contained in them. Even then no postman opened or read them. Yes, once the glint of his eyes and the laughter showed that he knew which flower was blooming in these springs, which he had guessed from the fragrance-smelling envelope.

Now in this age when post cards, inland letters, envelopes can only be cursed and moaned, then there is no point in their absence.

Alas, the importance of the postman is today's generation Could understand Mobile phones, SMS, couriers and the Internet have made the exchange of messages easy, but have taken away the moment of waiting and excitement that people once eagerly waited for.

In a society that is becoming void, postmen no longer distribute letters, but are counted as a vanishing species.



C. K. Subramaniam

Writer and Columninst

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own.)



## Mumbai former CP Sanjay Pandey appear before ED for phone tapping case

**F**ormer Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Delhi for the second day on Tuesday for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged illegal phone tapping of NSE employees, officials said.

This is the second consecutive day that the retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer is being questioned by the federal probe agency in this case.

Like Monday, the officer will continue to reply to questions on the business and operations

of a firm floated by him for security audit of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and his statement will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, they said.

Pandey, a 1986-batch officer, retired from service on June 30. Before his four-month stint as Mumbai's commissioner of police, he served as the acting Maharashtra director general of police.

CBI had said on Monday that it questioned Pandey and another former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh in connection with the Rs 100

crore extortion allegations against former minister Anil Deshmukh.

Pandey is facing two ED and Central Bureau of Investigation FIRs — illegal interception of phones of NSE employees by iSec Services Private Ltd, a company founded by him, and violation of Securities and Exchange Board of India guidelines in conducting NSE's system audit.

He has been questioned early this month by the ED in the alleged co-location scam at the NSE.

- PTI

## In veiled attack, Sanjay Raut calls Shinde's faction as 'snakes'

**S**hiv Sena's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut in a veiled attack termed the Eknath Shinde's faction as "snakes". "Learn the skill of crushing the fun too.....Do not leave the forest because of the fear of snakes... Jai Maharashtra!!," tweeted MP Raut on Tuesday morning.

The tweet was made amidst indications from sources that the Uddhav-Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction seems to be in for another major setback as 12 of the party's 18 party MPs are in touch with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and are likely to switch sides to his camp.

Newly inducted Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde had on Monday arrived in the national capital and according

to sources is likely to make an announcement in a press conference on the matter.

Speaking to reporters after his arrival here yesterday, Shinde said he was confident that all 18 Shiv Sena Lok Sabha MPs will meet him on July 20.

The Supreme Court on July 20 will hear pleas filed by both factions of the Shiv Sena pertaining to the Maharashtra political crisis. "Shiv Sena MPs will meet us. We have 18 MPs, not just 12," Shinde said.

Talking about the purpose of his visit to the national capital, Shinde said, "I have come to Delhi to hold a discussion regarding OBC reservations as the Maharashtra government is committed to providing justice to OBCs."

- ANI



**Gurukul teacher makes painting.  
And give tribute to renowned ghazal  
singer Bhopinder singh ji**

## Restriction impose on Mumbai based Raigad Sahakari Bank by RBI

**T**he Reserve Bank of India has issued several directions to Raigad Sahakari Bank, Mumbai, including an upper limit on withdrawal by depositors.

A sum not exceeding Rs 15,000 of the total balance across all savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor, may be allowed to be withdrawn, the central bank said in a statement on Monday.

Reportedly, the Mumbai-based bank is going through financial stress.

Further, from the close of business on Monday, the bank shall not, without prior approval of the RBI, grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, incur any liability including borrowal of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits, disburse or agree to disburse any payment whether in the discharge of its liabilities and obligations or otherwise, enter into any compromise or arrangement and sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of its properties or assets.

However, it clarified that these directions by the RBI should not be construed as a cancellation of a banking license. "The bank will continue to undertake banking business with restrictions till its financial position improves. The Reserve Bank may consider modifications of these directions depending upon circumstances," it added.

- ANI

## Sharad Pawar breaking Shiv Sena, alleges ex-Maha minister Kadam



**F**ormer Maharashtra Minister Ramdas Kadam on Tuesday alleged that NCP chief Sharad Pawar was breaking the Shiv Sena and he had given a proof of this to Sena president Uddhav Thackeray.

The Sena was "systematically weakened" by Pawar. Some MLAs had expressed concern over it but Thackeray was not ready to part ways with Pawar, Kadam claimed while talking to a TV channel.

However, NCP's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase dismissed Kadam's remarks, claiming the BJP was behind the split in the Shiv Sena and that the rebel leaders were trying to divert the attention from it by targeting Pawar.

On Monday, Kadam in a letter to Thackeray tendered his resignation as "Shiv Sena leader".

Shiv Sena president and former state chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday evening announced that Kadam was sacked for

indulging in "anti-party" activities.

Kadam was later "reinstated" as leader by the rebel Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, comprising the Sena, NCP and Congress, collapsed last month after Shinde and 39 other Sena MLAs revolted against the party.

Kadam on Tuesday said, "I have given ample proof to Uddhavji about how NCP chief Sharad Pawar is breaking the Shiv Sena." He (Pawar) has given good posts to members of the Kunabi community (in Konkan) and also strengthened them with funds, Kadam claimed.

"The chief minister was ours, funds came from government coffers, but the party (Sena) was systematically weakened by Pawar. Many MLAs expressed similar concerns before you (Uddhav Thackeray), but you were not ready to leave Pawar," he further claimed.

Had (Sena founder) Balasaheb Thackeray been alive today, would he have allowed Uddhav Thackeray to become chief minister with the support of the NCP and Congress? Kadam wondered.

- ANI

## Maha CM Eknath Shine on a review of disqualification petition against 16 Mps

**A**mid an impending split in the Shiv Sena Parliamentary Party, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is in the national capital to review on Tuesday the legal strategy on the disqualification petition against 16 MLAs supporting him filed by the Uddhav Thackeray camp.

The plea will come up for hearing in the apex Court on Wednesday. Shinde is also likely to meet the breakaway faction of the Shiv Sena MPs here on Tuesday, a day after he was anointed as the 'chief leader' of the party at the national executive meeting.

I will definitely meet MPs. Why only 14, we have 18 members in the Lok Sabha, Shinde said when asked by reporters about his meeting with the breakaway group of Shiv Sena MPs in the national capital.

Asked about his visit to Delhi, the chief minister said he was here for discussions with the legal team on the disqualification petition against

16 MLAs supporting him filed by the Uddhav Thackeray camp.

He will also hold discussions with the legal team on the Other Backward Class (OBC) reservations issue as the matter is expected to come up for hearing in the Supreme Court.

The Maharashtra government is committed to providing justice to OBCs, Shinde told reporters here. The breakaway faction of the Shiv Sena members is also expected to meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday with a plea to recognize them as a separate group in the lowerhouse.

To questions on a clutch of petitions related to the Maharashtra political crisis scheduled for hearing in the Supreme Court on Wednesday, the chief minister said he has faith in the judiciary. We have unwavering faith and trust in our judiciary. In a democracy, the majority holds significance, Shinde said. We have unwavering faith and trust in our judiciary.

## Government does not maintain data of arrested journalists

Union Minister for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Tuesday informed in a written reply in Lok Sabha that the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain any specific data with respect to the arrest of journalists.

His remarks came after Trinamool Congress MP Mala Roy had asked about the total number of journalists arrested in the country since 2019 along with the details of all the individual charges against these journalists.

Roy had also asked for citations of the total number of journalists facing prosecution currently. Rai said, "Police" and "Public Order are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and State Governments are responsible for the prevention, detection and investigation of crimes and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies."

Earlier the second day of the Monsoon Session of the Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 2 pm amid protests and sloganeering by the opposition parties over inflation and GST rate hikes.



Meanwhile, the Lower House of the Parliament has been adjourned till 2 pm amid sloganeering by Opposition MPs on issues of price hikes and inflation.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla prior to adjourning the House proceedings till 2 pm said, "As per rules, it is not allowed to bring placards inside the House."

The Monsoon Session of Parliament will commence on Monday and will continue till August 12.

There will be 18 sittings during the Session. This session is important given the fact that the Presidential Election and the Vice Presidential Election will be held during this period.

The Presidential Election was held on Monday while the Vice Presidential election will be held on August 6.

- ANI

## SC has issued notice to NIA on seeking bail to P Varavara Rao

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the National Investigation Authority (NIA) on a plea filed by activist and poet Dr P Varavara Rao, an accused in the 2018 Bhima Koregaon violence case, seeking bail on medical grounds.

A bench of Justices UU Lalit, S Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia said that its order of extending the interim bail granted on medical grounds Rao will continue.

The apex court posted the matter for final hearing now on August 10. "Interim protection granted earlier on medical grounds extended till further orders," said the bench in its order. Earlier, the top court had extended Rao's interim bail till further orders.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appeared for NIA while senior advocate Anand Grover represented Rao. Rao has challenged an April 13 judgment of the Bombay High Court which had rejected his

plea for permanent bail.

The High Court, however, had extended the time for Rao to surrender before the Talaja prison authorities by three months, to enable him to undergo cataract surgery. It had also rejected Rao's application to stay in Hyderabad instead of Mumbai, while out on bail.

In his appeal, Rao has said that he has undergone over two years of incarceration as an under-trial, and is currently enlarged on bail on medical grounds by the Bombay High Court.

"Any further incarceration would ring the death knell for him as an advancing age and deteriorating health are a fatal combination," stated the plea.

Rao has challenged the High Court order as he was not granted an extension of bail, despite his advanced age and precarious and deteriorating health condition, and has been denied the prayer to shift to Hyderabad.



He was arrested on August 28, 2018, from his home in Hyderabad and is an under-trial in the Bhima Koregaon case for which FIR was lodged by the Pune Police at Vishrambagh Police Station on January 8, 2018, under various sections of IPC and several provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Rao, who was initially put under house arrest pursuant to the order of the top court, was ultimately taken into police custody on November 17, 2018 and later shifted to Talaja Jail.

Rao in his appeal said that in the totality of circumstances, the trial will take not less than ten years. In fact, one of the accused in the case, Father Stan Swamy, who was suffering from similar ailments as the Petitioner, passed away even before the trial could start, his appeal added. In February 2021, the Bombay High Court granted him interim bail on medical grounds and he was released from jail on March 6, 2021.

- ANI

## Bihar man stabbed several times for watching a video of BJP leader Nupur Sharma

A young man was stabbed by people of another community in Bihar for allegedly watching a video of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma, though police asserted that the incident had "no communal angle".

The incident took place in Nanpur police station area of Sitamarhi district on Sunday where Ankit Jha, 23, was stabbed

several times at a betel shop after which he was rushed to a hospital.

Jha, who has sustained grievous injuries, told reporters that he was going through his WhatsApp when some bystanders picked up a quarrel with him before attacking him.

A section of the press has quoted Jha's family members as having alleged that an FIR was registered "only after" they

deleted the reference to Sharma, in news for derogatory remarks against Prophet Muhammad in a TV debate, whose video the victim was watching on his phone.

However, Sitamarhi SP Har Kishor Rai asserted that there was "no communal angle" to the incident and that two of the four persons named in the FIR have been arrested.

- ANI

## Margaret Alva files her nomination for the Post of Vice President

Joint opposition candidate for the vice presidential election Margaret Alva on Tuesday filed her nomination papers for the post and was accompanied by a host of leaders.

The vice presidential poll will be held on August 6 to elect the successor to M Venkaiah Naidu, whose term ends on August 10.

Alva, 80, is pitted against NDA's Jagdeep Dhankhar, who resigned as West Bengal governor after being nominated on Saturday evening.

Several opposition leaders, including Congress' Rahul Gandhi, NCP's Sharad Pawar, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and leader of the Congress in

the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, were present during her nomination filing.

Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav, DMK's Tiruchi Siva, CPI-M's Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D Raja and MDMK's Vaiko were also present during the nomination filing.

- ANI

## AAP MP Raghav Chadha gave the suspension of business notice in RS on MSP

Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chadha on Tuesday gave the suspension of business notice in Rajya Sabha over problems in the MSP Committee that was constituted for the welfare of farmers and demands discussion on it.

In the notice to the Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, Chadha wrote, "I hereby give notice under Rule 267 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) of my intention to move the following motion for suspension of business listed for 19th July 2022: That this house suspends Zero Hour and other relevant rules relating to Question Hour and other businesses of the day to have a discussion on the Committee on MSP constituted by Government of India which is anti-farmer and

violates the principles of federalism through non-representation of States, especially Punjab."

"It is pertinent to note that most of the members of the above-mentioned committee had extended their support to the three draconian farm laws which were later withdrawn by the Government. Also, some of them are active members of the ruling political party. Therefore, one cannot expect them to do justice to the cause of farmers," Chadha wrote.

The government on Monday formed a committee on Minimum Support Price (MSP), eight months after it promised to set up such a panel while withdrawing the three contentious farm laws. Former agriculture secretary Sanjay Agrawal will be the chairman of the committee.

- ANI



## Opinion

Baidyanath  
Dham

## A Confluence of Shiva &amp; Shakti

**II Purvottare Prajawalika Nidhane,  
Sada Vasantam Girija Sametam II  
II Surasuraradhita Padyapadmam,  
Sri Baidyanatham Tamaham Namami II**

The world famous one-month long Shravani Mela of Baidyanath Dham starts with the drizzle of Pavas (Rainy) season. The influx of saffron-dressed Kanwariyas, pouring water into an embellished Kanwar from Sultanganj's north-vahini Ganga, walk barefoot on a 111 km long invincible path with the deafening sound of "Bol Bam" towards the Baba Baidyanath Mandir in Deoghar. The chant of "Bol-Bam Ka Nara Hai, Baba Ek Sahara Hai" all the way fills this rugged path with devotion to Shiva.

Baidyanath Dham is one of the great pilgrimage sites of Bharatvarsha. One of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Bhagwan Shiva, "Kamana Linga" is located here. This Thirthsthan is famous not only in India, but all over the world. That is why every year lakhs of devotees from other countries like Burma, Bhutan, Nepal, Mauritius, Tibet, Bangladesh, Fiji, Pakistan etc come here to bow before Shiva. Shiva devotees fill water from the holy Ganges at Sultanganj and travel to Baidyanath Dham on foot with a Kanwar on their shoulders and offer water to Baba Bholenath. As per mythological legends this Holy spiritual land has its own special importance since the Vedic times.

According to Shiva Puran, Sati sacrificed her life by jumping into the Yagyakund after her father Daksha Prajapati had humiliated her

husband Shiva. Enraged by the death of Sati, Bhagwan Shiva carried her body on his shoulder and started performing the Tandav Nritya. The yagya was destroyed and there was a catastrophe all around. Then on the advice of the Devtas, Bhagwan Vishnu sent his Sudarshan Chakra to cut off the body into parts so that Shiva's anger could be controlled. The limbs of Sati started falling off, which fell at total 52 places. The place, where the Hritpind i.e. heart part of Sati's body fell in Baidyanath Dham, was named "Hardyapeeth". It is also known as "Chittabhoomi" because of the cremation of the heart of Sati at the said place by Bhagwan Shiva.

Another legend about Baidyanath Dham is related to Mahapandit and Shastra-Shiromani Lankesh Ravan. Lankapati was such an ardent devotee of Bhagwan Shiva that many times he cut his head instead of a flower and offered it at the feet of his deity. Shiva cured him as Vaidya (Doctor); hence came to be known as Baidyanath (Vaidyanath).

According to another mythology, once a thought came to Ravan's mind that he has to travel from the remote

region of Lanka to Kailash, situated at the extreme end of Uttaranchal of Bharat, to see his adoration again and again. So why not convince Bhagwan Shiva and ask him to stay in Lanka so that he can always get the benefit of his darshan. For this purpose, once Ravana did relentless penance in Kailash. While Shiva could not agree, Ravan said that his "Kamna Ling" would be a good substitute. Shiva accepted the offer on the condition that Ravan must not put down the Ling in the way, otherwise it would not proceed from there and that would be the site of the Ling. Ravan accepted Shiva's condition. This decision of Shiva caused a stir among the other Devtas, as it was expected to strengthen the demonic power of the mighty Ravan even more. So they made a move. When Ravan was going to Lanka with the "Kamna Linga" through the sky route, he felt uncontrollable urination at this place called Deoghar. Coming down from the sky, he started having a piss by handing over the Shiva-Linga to Lord Vishnu dressed as Baidyanath shepherd. But this was the illusion of the Lord. Hours passed, but Ravan's piss did not last.

The Shepherd Baidyanath, unable to bear the heavy burden of Shivling, installed it on the Chittabhoomi of Mahasati. After the piss, Ravan tried hard to lift the Shivling; but as per condition, he was not able to do so. Enraged, he pressed the Shivling with his thumb. Later on, Mahadev was named after shepherd Baidyanath and was worshiped by the local devotees. Ravan constructed a well near the Shivling and poured water of all the pilgrimages in it. He constructed a Kund (pool), which is today situated in the form of Shivaganga.

After the return of Ravan to Lanka, Vishwakarma built 21 other grand temples in this huge courtyard apart from Baidyanath Mandir with big stones. These temples are- Annapurna Mandir, Jagjanani Mandir, Parvati Mandir, Kaal Bhairav Mandir, Ganesh Mandir, Brahma Mandir, Sandhya Mandir, Mansa Mandir, Ganga Mandir, Hanuman Mandir, Surya Mandir, Saraswati Mandir, Ram Mandir, Bagala Mandir, Anand Bhairav Mandir, Narmadeshwar Mandir, Gaurishankar Mandir, Kali Mandir, Tara Mandir, Neelkanth Mandir and Laxminarayan Mandir.

The importance of Baidyanath Dham has also mentioned in our scriptures. Glorifying its importance in the Padma Puran, it is said – "Baidyanath Mahalingam,

Bhavarog Hare Shivam". According to Anand Ramayan, once Bhagwan Ramchandraji himself came to Baidyanath Dham after filling water from the Ganges and worshiped Shiva. Since then lakhs of devotees come here every day and get the desired results by worshiping the Kamana Linga. The importance of this month-long Shravani Mela, which takes place in the entire Shravan month, is not only on the national map, but it is also called the longest fair in the world. In any sense, the Shravani Mela of thirty continuous days is no less than the Kumbh Mela at Prayag, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain, Ganga Sagar Mela, Vaishno Devi Yatra, and other fairs of South India.

With the deafening slogans of "Bol Bam - Bol Bam" by groups of Shiv Bhakt Kanwariyas constantly moving like the waves of ocean, the spiritual atmosphere is bound everywhere. The devotees walking hundreds of miles get blisters on the feet and suffer pain. But as soon as the Ganges water is offered to Baba, all the pain vanishes and the devotees become self-confessed.



- Er. Prabhat Kishore

Technocrat &amp; Academician



## Different Strokes

# Economic Milestone and Poignant Anniversary

**T**he nationalisation of banks in 1969 was a watershed moment in the history of Indian banking. From July 19 that year, 14 private banks were done with a future in mind and that was indeed a master stroke in Indian banking. Nationalised banks have helped India emerge as one of the largest developing economies, gain self-sufficiency in food grains production, and make significant strides in financial inclusion. This year marks the 53rd anniversary of bank nationalisation, arguably the biggest structural reform introduced in the financial sector during the post-Independence period.

It has become fashionable nowadays to deride the public sector banks and attribute all of their problems to government ownership. But bank nationalisation occurred not as a sudden, arbitrary policy decision by the government of the day but as a culmination of a long-standing popular demand emanating from the various stakeholders of the banking system — the bank employees and officers on the one hand and the ordinary depositors and small borrowers on the other.

It was in this backdrop that new laws of banking regulation, capital adequacy, licensing and inspection were enacted followed by a phase of liquidation and amalgamation, which brought down the number of scheduled banks to 71 and non-scheduled banks to 20, by 1967. Despite some growth in deposit mobilisation, several problems persisted. The private

owners of the banks were more interested in cornering the finance mobilised through deposits rather than running the banks on sound commercial principles.

In 1969, only the five cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Ahmedabad accounted for 44 per cent of all bank deposits and 60 per cent of total bank credit in the country. It had become clear by the end-1960s that without a structural break in the banking system, the goals of development planning would get undermined. Bank nationalisation aimed to attain three primary objectives. First was to break the nexus between the banks and the big businesses who were disproportionately cornering bank finance for their narrow, selfish ends and rapidly expand the banking network to the unbanked regions, especially rural areas and deliver institutional credit to the farmers, small businesses and other weaker sections of society, many of whom were caught in a vicious trap of usury.

Second, to ensure the balanced flow of credit to all

the productive sectors, across various regions and social groups of the country. And, third, to provide stability to the banking system by preventing bank failures and speculative activities. The efficacy of bank nationalisation could be seen in

the increase in bank branches brought about by the 22 public sector banks in just five years. The share of agriculture in total credit went up correspondingly thanks to the priority sector lending norms.

Despite later day concerns regarding operational efficiency, customer services, profitability and asset quality, it is commendable that not a single nationalised bank has failed or faced liquidation till date, unlike its pre-1969 predecessors in the private sector. The contributions made by the nationalised banks in India's emergence as one of the largest developing economies in the world, becoming self-sufficient in foodgrains production and making significant strides in financial inclusion, including the recent Jan Dhan Yojana, cannot be denied on reasonable grounds.

With state policies shifting towards liberalisation and privatisation in the last three decades and the entry of new private sector banks, the dominance of the public sector banks (PSBs) has been on a decline. In the immediate aftermath of the global financial crisis in 2007-08, which had exposed the dubious financial practices of the private multinational banks, both deposit mobilisation and credit flow of the public sector banks in India had witnessed a phase of higher growth compared to the private sector banks.

With declining corporate profitability after 2011-12, loan defaults became the norm with the private corporations offloading their losses onto the PSBs. This phenomenon was termed as 'riskless capitalism' by a former Governor of the RBI. This was precisely the reason why the private sector could not be trusted to run the banking system. The previous

government and the RBI were also responsible for encouraging reckless lending practices.

PSB mergers, disinvestment or the FRDI Bill are non-solutions, which will further weaken the PSBs.

What is required is a major course-correction. In a major reshuffle, United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce will be merged with Punjab National Bank;

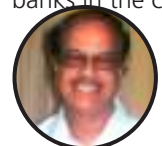
Syndicate Bank will be merged with Canara Bank. But as in the past, the change was not accepted. We must face reality in the best sense of the word and that too in a Centralised Banking System the correction course of merger took place smoothly despite early hiccups causing early jitters to the merger procedure.

The fact that much of the growth of agricultural credit since 2001 has been cornered by "big agri-business farms and corporate houses located in urban and metropolitan centres" goes against the basic credo of nationalisation. Other points in the article highlight the need to expand the rural banking network and instructional credit. That privatisation of nationalised banks is a panacea for all the ills of the banking sector would spell disaster for the rural economy. It would be far more prudent to correct systemic faults that have crept in the sector in the course of the last 50 years than reversing a policy measure that has made financial inclusion a reality. Even a merger to create a few leviathans may prove to be counter productive.

None can dispute the beneficial impact of bank

nationalisation on the Indian economy but let us not forget that everything is transient in its time and place. There are obvious unwanted consequences and developments that call for change now. The recommendations of the Narasimham Committees on banking sector reforms in the 1990s deserve a closer look. The point of non-performing assets, the inherent deficiency of public sector banking in many areas and new issues require a holistic look. Other issues include mergers of banks, the structure of non-banking financial companies and small- and medium-enterprises, holistic consolidation in banking and industrial structures. Change is of the essence.

Demonetisation exposed the infrastructural inadequacies in the banking system. Banks, to retain profits, started fleecing the customers with high service charges. Banks today are also increasingly facing trust issues with their customers. Today, banks do more non-banking business with hefty commissions. Overall, the infusion of additional capital by the government can temporarily help banks troubled by bad loans to extend loans more confidently without the fear of going bankrupt due to their precarious capital position. But most economic analysts believe that the merger does not really address the root structural causes behind the woes facing state-owned banks in the country.



- C K Subramaniam

Columnist and Writer

## Entertainment



## Amitabh Bachchan shares hilarious picture of himself from Kaun Banega Crorepati sets

**B**ollywood star Amitabh Bachchan, on Tuesday, dropped a hilarious picture of himself in pyjama on the sets of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. Taking to Instagram, the legendary actor gave a quirky caption. He wrote, "Pehanne ko de diya pyjama, laga sadi ko fada, aage choti jeb dedi, aur peeche laga hai nada."

In the picture, the 'Don' actor was seen wearing a white hooded sweatshirt that he paired with funky blue-white pyjamas. He was also seen carrying a blue scarf wrapped around his neck. The fashion sense of Big B resembles Ranveer Singh who is known for his quirky outfit choices and

style. The veteran actor was all geared up for the shot.

Recently, the 'Jhund' actor shared a throwback picture from the sets of his film 'Trishul'. And captioned it, "fashions repeat .. glares of the 70' .. perhaps at the Mahurat of Trishul or Man ji film .. and I see today's stars wearing similar" Popularly known as Big B, Amitabh was rightly called the 'Shahenshah' of Bollywood.

He built his on-screen image as an 'angry young man' by portraying aggressive roles in films like 'Zanjeer', 'Muqaddar Ka Sikandar', 'Deewar' and 'Kaala Patthar' to name a few.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Amitabh will be seen in Ayan Mukerji's Brahmastra,

which also stars Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor and Nagarjuna. The film will release on September 9, 2022. He is also a part of Vikas Bahl's 'Goodbye', in which he will play the role of Bhaskar Prajapati.

Apart from Amitabh, the film also stars Rashmika Mandanna and Neena Gupta. He is also reuniting with Deepika Padukone for 'The Intern' remake and 'Project K'.

Apart from that, Big B has also wrapped up his shoot for his upcoming project 'Uunchai' starring Parineeti Chopra, Anupam Kher and Boman Irani. The release date of the film is still awaited.

- ANI

**Rajesh Khanna death anniversary: 10 years, he's still here, in our hearts, says daughter Twinkle**



**A**ctor turned author, Twinkle Khanna shared an unseen picture on her social media account on the 10th death anniversary of her father and late actor Rajesh Khanna. On Monday, the 'Mela' actor took to her Instagram handle and wrote an emotional note along with an unseen picture of the father-daughter duo. Sharing the picture, she wrote, "10 years. He is still here. In all our hearts."

In the monochrome picture, 'Anand' actor was seen with her, who is giving a hug to him from behind. The veteran actor was seen donning a white shirt while young Twinkle wearing salwar kameez and kept her hair in a low bun. The 'Aradhana' actor was born in Punjab's Amritsar on December 29, 1942, Khanna made his debut in 1966 with 'Aakhri Khat', which was India's first official Oscar Entry in 1967.

- ANI

## B-Town mourns death of veteran singer Bhupinder Singh



**V**eteran Singer Bhupinder Singh passed away at the age of 82 on

Monday. The singer, known for his songs like 'Dil Dhoondta Hai' and 'Hothon Pe Aise Baat' among many others, breathed his last in a hospital in Mumbai.

Condolence messages have been pouring in on social media ever since the news reached everyone. Bollywood stars and singers have also expressed grief over the legendary singer's demise.

Actor Ajay Devgn took to his Instagram stories to remember the late singer. He posted a photo of him and wrote, "Deeply saddened about the demise of Bhupinder Singh ji.

His voice brought joy to millions and had a uniqueness. Condolences to his family. RIP Bhupinder Ji. (Om emoji) Shaanti."

- ANI

## Nick Jonas calls Priyanka Chopra 'Jewel of July' as he wishes her on birthday

**A**s Priyanka Chopra turned a year older, wishes poured over from across the globe. However, the most special one came from her husband Nick Jonas. Nick posted a bunch of pictures for Priyanka on her special day and attached a sweet note with it. He wrote, "Happiest birthday to my (heart emoji) the jewel of July. So honored to be on this crazy ride called life with you. I love you. @priyankachopra".

Earlier many Bollywood celebrities including the likes



of Kareena Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor and Malaika Arora extended birthday wishes to Priyanka through Instagram. Priyanka hasn't shared any

updates or photos from her birthday celebrations yet. It's her first birthday since she embraced parenthood. Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka will be seen in international projects such as 'It's All Coming Back To Me', and the series 'Citadel'.

Produced by Russo Brothers, 'Citadel' will hit the OTT on Prime Video. The upcoming sci-fi drama series is being directed by Patrick Morgan and stars Richard Madden alongside Priyanka.

- ANI



**Bollywood diva Kriti Sanon was clicked with her mother in Mumbai. Both the mother-daughter duo clad in comfy clothes. Kriti chose to go in pink mini dress while her mother donned a white salwar suit.**

## Tami Roman's 'Caught In The Act: Unfaithful' gets season 2 nod

**H**ollywood actor Tami Roman's reality show 'Caught in the Act: Unfaithful' has been renewed for a second season on VH1. Paramount Global's cable network has selected for the second run of 20 episodes ahead of its premiere on July 18. The six-part show was originally set to debut in May but was pushed back to July, as per Deadline. The 'Caught in the Act: Unfaithful' revolves around the subject of infidelity through the point of view of the person who learns they aren't the only one in their significant other's life.

In the series, Roman the host sets out on a mission to empower suspicious lovers to catch their cheating partners



in the act. She will uncover the shocking truths and get the receipts to expose the cheats with the help of a relationship expert and a private investigator. The 'Caught in the Act: Unfaithful' series is executive produced by Sitarah Pendelton-Eaglin, Jennifer Aguirre, John Varela, and Liz Kim who is an executive in charge of production for VH1.

Executive producers for New Group Productions are Lashan Browning and Kim McKoy. Tami Roman also act as consulting producer, according to Deadline.

Roman said in a statement, "The fact that Caught in the Act: Unfaithful was renewed without the public ever viewing the first episode is a testament to just how special and needed this show really is." "I want to thank VH1 for entrusting me with such an empowering and entertaining series. We all want love but it's always good to know the truth about who you're trying to love. This show, if nothing else, will provide us with the insight into what to look for."

- ANI