

“TRAITORS HAVE GONE BUT REAL SAINIKS ARE WITH US” SAYS AADITYA THACKERAY

Afternoon Voice Bureau

afternoon_voice

Reacting to the ongoing attacks on Shiv Sena and Thackeray family, Aaditya Thackeray said relentless critical comments coming out of the rebel camp in Maharashtra have only unmasked their hatred and jealousy against the party leadership and his family.

Speaking to the media, he said "traitors" have gone away and those who feel Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray is a good human being are still with the party, which lost power last month after a section of MLAs rebelled against the leadership.

Asked about reasons behind rebel Sena MLAs as well as other leaders making several allegations against Uddhav Thackeray, Aaditya said, "This rebellion has unmasked their hatred, jealousy and anger against us. The truth is thus coming out. It also means every one of them (rebels) used to lie when they claimed to have respect towards the Thackeray family."

While talking to Afternoon Voice the former minister said "it is not surprising but sad, they are exposing their loyalties. They were always opportunists, being with party and now out



of the party what they looked for is opportunity for their survival'. Hitting out at the rebels, Aaditya Thackeray, the son of Uddhav Thackeray, said "The traitors have gone away from us, but original Shiv Sena workers are still with the party." Uddhav Thackeray camp assured of support by north Indians in Mumbai at meeting

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray was assured of support by representatives of north Indian residents at a meeting held at Shiv Sena Bhavan here. The meeting is viewed as the Shiv Sena's attempt to secure its support base among north Indians, a significant vote bank that can swing the outcome of upcoming polls to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which has been under Sena's control for three decades. During their interaction with Thackeray, the north Indian representatives expressed their support to the Sena chief and his camp.

Ek Nath Shinde will always remain a rubber stamp CM

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Ek Nath Shinde stooped all lows to dismantle Maha Vikas Aghadi government and re-established his new alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party. Reason he gave was ideological differences and unfair treatment by the Congress Party and NCP. If you remember the earlier days of formation of Maha Vikas Aghadi, when Supriya Sule was seen welcoming all the leaders of Shiv Sena-NCP and Congress to a mega meet, that time these leaders were seen cheerful. Not only had that but Ek Nath Shinde and other rebels accepted ministry in Maha Vikas Aghadi cabinet. If at all that alliance was unholy or unnatural, why did these Shiv Sainiks accept ministerial posts? Why did they accept this

alliance in the first place, why were they not as aggressive as they are now? Why did they not stop Uddhav or threaten him to leave Shiv Sena then? Do you think alliance was an actual problem? NO! The problem was ED, IT and CBI haunting these corrupts.

They all wanted to save their soul and for that they mortgaged their integrity by joining hands with the atrocious BJP. They wanted to get rid of on-going searches against them. BJP's Kirit Somaiya told media that he will continue to pursue case against 'dirty dozen'; these dirty dozen are none-other than Yamini Jadhav and Pratap Sarnaik,

Editoritis

Ekknath Shinde will always remain a rubber stamp CM

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Yashwant Jadhav, Eknath Shinde (his CA was on ED radar), Bhavna Gavali , Anand Adsul , Hasan Mushriff , Pratap Sarnaik, Ravindra Waikar etc. most of these Harrys are with BJP. Former Chief Minister Devendra fadnavis, now shakes hands with these corrupt ministers and there is no hesitation from Somaiya or any other BJP leader. Looking at the present scenario we can see how ED, IT and CBI were used to demoralise these ministers until they joined the BJP and brought them back to power. For now ED is assigned to Sanjay Raut, if tomorrow Raut joins BJP he would come clean from all enquiries.

Eknath Shinde's fellow Shiv Sena members said that their complaints were ignored by Uddhav Thackeray and Uddhav favored Congress Party and NCP over his own Shiv Sena members. Why did none of the Shiv Sainik then objected or made it public as they are making it now? What must have drastically changed? Shinde gathered 2/3rd members from his party to support his request. What all Shinde has not done for BJP, he took all the rebels to Surat in BJP-governed Gujarat, throwing the coalition into a chaos. As a result of Shinde's revolt, Uddhav Thackeray resigned from the post of Chief Minister of Maharashtra and said that he will also resign from the Maharashtra Legislative Council. Shinde sworn in as the 20th Chief Minister with Bharatiya Janata Party's Devendra Fadnavis as the



Deputy Chief Minister but in this entire bargain, Eknath forgot the fact that he will always remain a rubber stamp, nothing more than that.

Shinde took to the highest position, rebels got their bounty but when it comes to the future, they all know nothing much can come their way. Most of the Shinde camp leaders are now joining BJP. They don't want to trust Shinde because they know Shinde in Shiv Sena and Shinde as migrant in BJP have vast differences. Some rebels silently wait for the miracle to happen, they believe in those media reports that one day Uddhav will surrender to BJP and all is going to be well. Most of the rebels portrayed Shird Pawar as a villain but they forgot the fact that they all are opportunists.

Let time come BJP will do the correct programme of Eknath Shinde, a leader who can trash the grand old political party of Maharashtra can do anything anywhere because their ambitions are bigger than their allegiance. BJP is a very brilliant political player, their leaders are survivors and they know

where to pull the string or when to hold the string. Eknath would be strangled in his own plot one day, as all his rebel supporters are leaving him one by one and approaching MNS and BJP. Moreover BJP would be extra alert of this leader, if Eknath goes out of control they know how to chuck him. Eknath has no other option than acting as a rubber stamp CM in BJP's hands.

In the meantime the Supreme Court is hearing the pleas relating to the Sena vs Sena legal battle over rebellion in the party. However, the court will decide on the matter during the next hearing, likely to be held on August 1. A bench headed by CJI NV Ramana asked both Thackeray and Shinde factions to frame issues they wanted to argue, make one compilation and submit it preferably by next Wednesday. It also directed the respondents to file a common affidavit if they want to deny any allegations. Disqualification proceedings, the election of Speaker, recognition of the whip and floor test among other issues are the subject matters of the dispute. A bench led by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli granted time to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led camp to file an affidavit on the pleas filed by Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray-led faction. Senior advocate Harish Salve for the Shinde camp sought time to file a reply on pleas filed by the Thackeray camp and asked the court to postpone the hearing next week.

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Voices



Letter's to the Editor

Rising cases of swine flu is matter of grave concern!

Covid has weakened the immunity system of most citizens & many affected by the virus did not even realized as they did not get tested due to mild symptoms. Rise in swine flu cases under the present circumstances cannot be taken lightly & people should be cautious & take extreme precautions to avoid getting affected by the flu.

Masks, social distancing, cleanlines can help in fighting the swine flu epidemic. People should visit the doctor at the slightest symptom of fever so that swine flu can be contained & eradicated. COVID is still in the air & people should all the more be alert in preventing both the virus which may look similar but need different medication!

- S. N. Kabra

'Heavy rainfall stalled Mumbai'(editoritis)

It sketches the city during heavy rainfall and its causes very nicely. The authorities of BMC need to work throughout the year for clearing the nallahs, gutters and all the rivers in the city, then only monsoon water will not create a problem. But that never happens the cleaning starts in April that too very slowly, the muck is kept open on the banks of nallahs and rivers and once the rain starts all thst gies again in nallahs which chokes them. Yes citizens are also not paying attention to 'no plastic' rule and the plastic wastage is another cause of stalling the city. Actually Mumbaikars have become so used to all these problems that they live with it as their fate which makes it more chronic. The life during monsoon in Mumbai is very pathetic and no one is taking it seriously.

- Maya Hemant Bhatkar

Monkeypox virus

Transmission of the monkeypox virus occurs when a person comes into contact with the virus from an animal, human, or materials contaminated with the virus. The virus enters the body through broken skin (even if not visible), respiratory tract, or the mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth).

Currently, there is no proven, safe treatment for the monkeypox virus infection.

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is caused by infection with monkeypox virus. Monkeypox virus belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family of Poxviridae. The Orthopoxvirus genus also includes variola virus (which causes smallpox), vaccinia virus (used in the smallpox vaccine), and cowpox virus.

Monkeypox was first discovered in the year 1958, when two outbreaks of a pox-like disease occurred in the colonies of monkeys kept for research, hence the name 'monkeypox'.

The first human case of monkeypox was recorded in the year 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during a period of intensified effort to eliminate smallpox. Since then, monkeypox has been reported in people in several countries. The majority of infections are in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The natural reservoir of monkeypox remains unknown. However, African rodents and non-human primates (like monkeys) may harbour the virus and infect people.

Monkeypox starts with a headache and fever, the usual things that you deal with when you get a viral infection.

- Jubel D'Cruz

India should learn a lesson

Other countries like India should learn a lesson from the great crisis that has happened to a country like Sri Lanka. Why has this situation happened to this country? This is a question common citizens are asking. The administration of Sri Lanka was riddled with corruption. In a developing country like India, cases of corruption are always coming out. That is why time has not yet passed. It can be improved.

- Uday Waghvankar

'Or else put them to sword !'

Now the Christian community too is no longer unaffected with Jihadist's onslaught. A moulvi (cleric) named Al Hikami living in Kondotty township of Malpooram district of Kerala has incited Christians through posting a message in contempt against Christ in social media. On complaint a report against the moulvi has been lodged by the Cyber-cell Police of Kochhi. Of course it is not an isolated case of its kind. As few days back the Bishop of a Church gained the limelight when he warned the nation calling 'Love-jihad' and 'Narcotic-Jihad' complementary to each other, which is being used as a weapon to push the non-Muslims to the path of illegal activities suiting to their greater plan.

Truly speaking the Muslim intellectuals are no less responsible for such kind of increasing intolerance among a section of Muslims. For, when it comes to condemn the Hindu-communalism Hindu intellectual-class are seen quick to be vocal for it. And that's too in a big way. Whereas same is found wanting regarding Muslim-bigotry, the personalities like Nassruddin Shah, Farhan Akhtar, ex-vice president Hamid Ansari and the likes could be taken as the case in the point. The truth of the matter is that what

ever be the way but the last aim of these superficially looking liberals is to serve the Islam like a true Islamist.

And, more notably, not since recent time, but since hundreds of years back. What the former editor of 'Times of India', Late Girilal Jain, says, just see- 'Usually people trap into illusion that whoever have been the Muslim Sufis or Fakirs they all should be held close to ourselves (Hindutva), considering them as liberals! This is the consequence of being ignorant of history. In my

view the Sufis and Fakirs are none but the institutions for the admission into Islam.'

The meaning of 'Ghazi' is - 'The one who kills Kafirs'. One such Ghazi had been Salar Masood, the son of sister of Mahmood Ghaznavi. It was he who incited Ghaznavi for the destruction of the Somnath temple. Holding all the land to be the land of Allah, Masood when sent his commanders with the army to invade India what he said then, see- 'I offer you all in the service of Allah! Show the mercy if Hindus adopt Islam, or else put them to sword.'

Fighting one after other battles Masood ultimately got killed on 15th June, 1033 in Bahraich of UP when shot by an arrow of the Great Hindu king Suhaldeev. Today in Bahraich lies the Dargah (shrine) of 'Gazi Sayyad Salar Masood', where ignorant Hindus in great numbers pay visit to get their 'wish' fulfilled!! (Page- 9,10; 'Sufiyon dwara Bharat ka Islamikaran': Purshottam)



E. Rajesh Pathak

Writer and Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

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

City

Shiv Sena VP Palande was attacked by unidentified people in Kalyan



Shiv Sena leader supporting Uddhav Thackeray attacked, blames ex-corporator favouring Eknath Shinde faction Uddhav Thackeray's supporter and Kalyan city's Shiv Sena vice-president Harshvardhan Palande was attacked by three

to four unidentified people. The incident took place around at 11pm on Santoshi Mata Road in Kalyan East on Tuesday. Palande has suffered injuries on his two fingers and leg, and currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kalyan.

Mumbai reports 290 coronavirus cases and 1 death; the recovery tally tops 11 lakh

Mumbai on Wednesday registered 290 new coronavirus cases and one more death linked to the infection, while the cumulative patient recovery count crossed the 11-lakh mark, said the city civic body.

With these additions, the overall tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 11,21,836 COVID-19, while the death toll increased to 19,635, said the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in a bulletin.

After a surge in May, Mumbai has been reporting daily cases in three digits (below 1,000) since June-end.

A day before, the financial capital had reported 284

coronavirus infections and two fatalities.

As per the bulletin, the new COVID-19 cases were detected after 10,853 tests, over 3,000 more than the previous day, were conducted in the last 24 hours. The number of coronavirus tests done so far surged to 1,77,23,576.

Mumbai's overall tally of recuperated patients crossed the 11-lakh mark and rose to 11,00,198 after 382 more patients recovered from respiratory illness in the last 24 hours, the BMC said.

The city, which has a coronavirus recovery rate of 98 per cent, is now left with 2,003 active COVID-19 cases, the



bulletin said.

Of the 290 new cases, only 17 patients were symptomatic, it said.

The growth rate of COVID-19 stood at 0.027 per cent between July 13 and July 19, while the case doubling rate was 2,621 days.

Mumbai has a positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, of 2.67 per cent.

NCST summons Maha chief secretary Manu Srivastava in the matter of Fake Caste Certificates

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued summons to Maharashtra Chief Secretary Manu Kumar Srivastava for not complying with its recommendation in a matter related to the issuance of fake caste certificates for jobs reserved for tribals.

Ralegaon MLA Ashok Wookie had earlier alleged that a number of people in the state got the jobs reserved for Scheduled Tribes by furnishing fake certificates.

He had also said that 11,435 posts reserved for tribals are lying vacant in the state. Taking cognizance of the matter, the NCST had issued a notice to Srivastava on April 25, asking him to submit facts and an action taken report within a week.

With Srivastava not replying to the notice, the commission exercised the power of a civil court conferred upon it under Section 8 of Article 338A of the Constitution and issued summons to the chief secretary, asking him to appeal before NCST member Ananta Nayak on June 1.

On behalf of the chief secretary, the secretary had appeared. The commission had asked the state authorities to provide a report on the number of the people in service holding fake caste certificates, people expelled from service and those who faced disciplinary action.

- ANI

Tetrapods to be back at Marine Drive's Coastal Road work site

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In response to complaints about tremors in two buildings on Marine Drive, the BMC has said it will conduct an assessment to find the cause of the problem.

To allay residents' fears, officials have directed contractors in charge of the Coastal Road project to reinstate the tetrapods that were removed to facilitate construction work.

The large, concrete tetrapods that lie along Marine Drive protect the coastline from tides and waves, and residents have blamed their removal for the

tremors.

The reinstatement of the tetrapods will be finished over two or three days, civic officials said.

Representatives of the project contractor and management consultants, along with civic officials, visited the site and met the affected residents on Monday.

Officials suggest that the tremors that were specifically felt on Friday by the residents could have been due to high tide, very high waves, and extreme wind speeds.

Instruments monitoring vibrations at the Coastal Road project site near the buildings had normal readings on Sunday and Monday, an official said.

HC seeks response of Mumbai civic body, Narayan Rane on maintainability of fresh application

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday asked the city civic body and a real estate company associated with Union minister Narayan Rane to convince the court that the second application for regularising illegal portions of his bungalow is "maintainable".

A bench led by Justice RD Dhanuka posed a set of oral queries to the counsels for Kalka Real Estates and the Brihanmumbai Municipal

Corporation (BMC) asking them to "come prepared with answers" on July 25, the next date of hearing in the case.

Notably, another bench led by Justice Dhanuka on June 22 dismissed a plea filed by Rane challenging the BMC's refusal to regularise portions of his eight-floor Juhu residence.

Rane had claimed the civic body, controlled by Shiv Sena, had rejected his regularisation application out of political vendetta.



Shiv Sena's petition case would require a larger bench on July 27



The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the petitions filed by the Shiv Sena and its rebel MLAs raise many constitutional questions which require consideration by a larger bench.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana directed the parties to formulate issues that require examination by a larger bench by July 27.

"After hearing the counsels it has been agreed that some issues may, if necessary, be referred to a larger bench also. Keeping in mind the same, to enable the parties to frame the issues, let them file the same preferably by next Wednesday," the bench also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli said.

The matter will now be heard on August 1. The bench also comprising justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli was hearing five pending pleas about the recent political crisis in Maharashtra that led to the fall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in the state.

- PTI

Bombay HC denies activist Gautam Navlakha to make phone calls in the prison

The Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court on Wednesday that it could not allow activist Gautam Navlakha to make phone calls from prison since he was facing charges of terrorism.

Navlakha is accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case. The state's counsel Sangeeta Shinde placed before a bench led by Justice Nitin Jamdar a resolution that the Maharashtra government had issued on March 25 this year imposing such prohibition.

As per the resolution signed by the state Inspector General of Police, a coin box facility for inmates to make phone calls is available in prisons, including

the Talaja prison in Navi Mumbai, where Navlakha and others accused in the case are lodged as undertrials.

However, the resolution lists 10 categories of undertrials and convicts that cannot be granted access to the coin box facility. The first of these 10 categories is of those undertrials who face charges of terrorism or conspiring against the nation-state and the government.

As per the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) charge sheet filed in the Elgar Parishad case, Navlakha and his co-accused were part of a banned terrorist organisation or such outfits that acted as a "front" for banned organisations.

News

ED issues fresh summons to Sanjay Raut

The Enforcement Directorate has issued fresh summons to Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut to appear before it for questioning on Wednesday in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the re-development of a Mumbai 'chawl' and related transactions involving his wife and 'associates', officials said.

The Rajya Sabha MP, who is in the Uddhav Thackeray camp, had denied any wrongdoing and alleged that he was being targeted due to political vendetta.

Raut has been asked to depose at the agency's regional office in Mumbai.

He has been questioned once in this case on July 1 and spent about 10 hours with the investigating officer during which his statement was recorded under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

"I gave full cooperation and answered all their questions. I will appear again if they call me," Raut had told reporters while exiting.

He said he was "fearless and undaunted" as he has "not done anything wrong in life".

The development comes amid a rebellion in the Shiv Sena with a tussle over party symbol and control of the organisation between former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on one side and



current chief minister Eknath Shinde on the other.

In April, the ED provisionally attached assets worth over Rs 11.15 crore of Raut's wife Varsha Raut and two of his associates as part of this investigation.

The attached properties are in the form of land held by Pravin M Raut, Sanjay Raut's aide and a former director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, at Palghar, Saphale (town in Palghar) and Padgha (in Thane district).

These properties also include a flat in Mumbai's suburb Dadar held by Varsha Raut and eight plots at Kihim beach in Alibaug jointly held by Varsha Raut and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar, a "close associate" of Sanjay Raut, the ED had said.

The agency wants to question Sanjay Raut to know about his "business and other links" with Pravin Raut and Patkar and also about the property deals involving his wife.

After arresting Pravin Raut in February, the ED had said he appears to be "acting as a front" or in collusion with some influential person.

- PTI

Aaditya Thackeray to visit Thane, Nashik, and Aurangabad to address rallies

Shiv Sena MLA and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray will visit Thane, Nashik, and Aurangabad districts over the next three days and address rallies at some places, a party leader said on Wednesday.

After a split in the Shiv Sena legislature party last month, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena on Tuesday suffered a fresh jolt with 12 of its 19 Lok Sabha members shifting allegiance to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Five out of the six Sena MLAs from the Aurangabad district



have joined the Shinde camp.

Aaditya Thackeray will be touring Bhiwandi, Shahapur (in Thane), Igatpuri, and Nashik on Thursday, Shiv Sena MLC and Aurangabad party unit president Ambadas Danve said

in a release.

The Mumbai-based Sena legislator will address a rally at Manmad in Nashik.

He will reach Aurangabad on Friday afternoon and address a rally at Sant Eknath Rang Mandir auditorium, Danve said. On Saturday, he will go to Paithan in Aurangabad and then to Newasa in Ahmednagar district where he will hold a rally, he said.

He will also visit Shirdi in Ahmednagar the same day and then head back to Mumbai, another party official said.

- PTI

Mumbai police arrested 4 people for cheating BJP MLA for Cabinet berth

The Mumbai police have arrested four persons for allegedly trying to cheat a BJP MLA from Maharashtra's Pune district by offering a cabinet berth to him in the newly-formed government in the state in exchange of Rs 90 crore, an official said on Wednesday.

The Anti-Extortion Cell (AEC) of the Mumbai crime branch made the arrests based on the complaint lodged by the legislator, Rahul Kul, who represents the Daund Assembly constituency, he said.

The arrested accused were identified as Riyaz Sheikh (41),

Yogesh Kulkarni (57), Sagar Sangwai (37) and Jaffar Ahmed Rashid Ahmed Usmani (53), the crime branch official said. "Sheikh had contacted the MLA last week, but he did not respond to his call.

The accused then reached out to his personal assistant (PA) saying that he had come to Mumbai from Delhi to meet the MLA. On his request, they arranged a meeting between Sheikh and Kul at Nariman Point.

There, Sheikh offered a ministerial berth in the government to Kul, but demanded Rs 100 crore in

exchange," he said. The legislator pretended that he was ready for the deal and the amount of Rs 90 crore was later finalised, he added.

"Sheikh demanded 20 per cent of the amount, Rs 18 crore, in advance. Accordingly, Kul called Sheikh at a prominent hotel to collect the amount and also alerted the top Mumbai police officials. When Sheikh came to the hotel on Monday afternoon to collect the advance amount, he was nabbed. Kul, his PA and another BJP MLA Jaykumar Gore were also present there," the official said.

Ex-Mumbai CP Sanjay Pande produce before Delhi court

AV Staff

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Former Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Delhi 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 a 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.

inspector Mahesh Patil of the AHTC said.

The police rescued two women, he said, adding that a case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act were registered against them.

- PTI

2 women rescued from flesh trade; agent held in Thane

Police have rescued two women, who were allegedly pushed into the flesh trade, and arrested a female agent who was part of the prostitution racket from Thane city of Maharashtra, an official said on Wednesday.

The Anti-Human Trafficking

Cell (AHTC) of the city police's crime branch near a mall took the action on Tuesday evening, he said.

"Acting on a tip-off that some women were being pushed into flesh trade, a police personnel acted as a decoy and later arrested the woman agent at Kapurbawdi locality," senior

"I carry my official work along, so don't have to be in Mantralaya all time": Maha CM



He said his work continues irrespective of whether he is in the Mantralaya, the state secretariat located in south Mumbai, or elsewhere. "Yesterday, somebody alleged that there is no work going on in Mantralaya...But I want say that wherever I go, it becomes my Mantralaya. I sign documents and other papers on the move. My work continues wherever I go, be it Thane, Mantralaya or any other place," he said.

"Even when I visit some function, my work does not stop. I do not have to sit at Mantralaya to read or sign papers. Once any document comes to me, I sign it immediately. One gets this kind of opportunity (to work as CM) rarely. I am not afraid of signing papers. Are we doing anything wrong?" Shinde asked.

- PTI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said that there was no need for him to sit at the Mantralaya all the time as wherever he goes, he carries his official work along and signs documents.

Shinde, who hails from Thane district, was speaking at a rally in Mumbai on Monday evening.

Nation

472 KG Ganja worth Rs 47 Lakh by Assam police near the state border

Assam police on Tuesday night seized 472 kg of cannabis (ganja) worth Rs 47 lakh from a truck in the state's Karimganj district along the Assam-Tripura border.

The police also arrested the truck driver and registered a case against him.

According to the police, the officers received secret information based on which a team of police officers of the Churaibari watch post intercepted a truck, after a search around 472 kg of ganja



was recovered.

Later the driver was booked under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS)

Act.

"The truck was coming from the Tripura side. During checking, our team recovered 472 kg of ganja from the truck. We apprehend the truck driver identified as Sajala Debbarman.

We have registered a case under NDPS Act," Niranjan Das, In-charge of the Churaibari police watch post said. The police officer also informed that the market value of the seized ganja is estimated at around Rs 47 lakh.

- ANI

Rajya Sabha adjourned due to a protest of the opposition party over inflation and GST



The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday was adjourned for the day as the Opposition continued to create a ruckus on increased GST on food items and rising inflation issues.

The Upper House will resume again at 11 am on Thursday. Earlier in the morning too, opposition parties disrupted the proceedings following which the Upper House was adjourned till 2 pm.

Shortly after Leader of Opposition in the Parliament Mallikarjun Kharge began addressing the issue amid chaos, Upper House Chairman Venkaiah Naidu adjourned the House till 2 pm.

The Upper House was adjourned without any business as the Opposition raised issues for an immediate discussion. The Lok Sabha also witnessed

ruckus and sloganeering by Opposition parties following which it was adjourned till 2 pm.

Both the Houses of Parliament are witnessing repeated adjournments following the ruckus by the Opposition leaders since the commencement of the Monsoon session on July 18.

On the repeated adjournments of both the Houses of the Parliament by the Opposition, Union Minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday took a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying that Wayanad MP who has been politically unproductive is now hell-bent on ensuring to bring down the productivity of Lok Sabha.

Irani specifically attacked Rahul Gandhi, saying, "A gentleman who has made his political collogue to ensure that productive debate does not take place in Parliament had a chequered Parliamentary history. As the Amethi MP, he never posed any questions in Parliament once he abandoned Amethi and went to Wayanad his attendance in the Winter

Session of Parliament in 2019 was merely 40 per cent."

The BJP MP remark came ahead of the third day's proceedings in the Monsoon Session, the BJP hit out at the Opposition, accusing it of "disrespecting Parliament, bringing down its productivity".

On Tuesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tabled a bill in the Rajya Sabha to amend the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act of 2005 to provide against the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems so as to fulfil India's international obligations.

Speaking on the bill amid interruptions by Opposition members who wanted to raise the issue of price rise, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the Act prohibits unlawful activities in respect of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. He said the bill will strengthen India's credentials and global image.

- ANI

Mohammed Zubair gets interim bail in all cases against him

The Supreme Court granted to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in all cases against him and ordered that he be released from custody immediately. "We find no reason and justification. We direct the petitioner be released on the bail immediately under article 32 in all cases," the bench led by Justice DY Chandrachud pronounced.

One case each has been filed

against Zubair in the districts of Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Muzaffarnagar and Ghaziabad and two in Hathras.

They are related to satirical comments about television news anchors, allegedly hurting religious sentiments of the Hindu community and posting alleged inflammatory content about deities.

The Alt News co-founder has already been granted bail in the seventh case filed in New Delhi.

Opposition leaders are protesting against rising prices

On the third day of the Monsoon Session, members of Opposition parties in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are holding a joint protest against inflation and GST rates hike near the Gandhi statue in Parliament on Wednesday.

Opposition leaders accused the government of disrupting the common man's budget due to revised GST rates. Leaders of opposition parties including the Congress, NCP, DMK, and Left raised slogans against the government demanding a roll back of the hike in GST rates on commodities like curd, bread, and paneer.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, and others were present during the protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue on Parliament premises. Congress and other parties have been seeking a discussion in Parliament on the issue of inflation and GST rates.

They even staged protests with banners, domestic cylinders, and food items. The protesting Opposition MPs also held banners and placards, saying "Gabbar Singh Tax Strikes again".

Earlier in the day, Congress



MP Kodikunnil Suresh moved an adjournment motion over the depreciation of the Rupee against the dollar. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh gave an adjournment motion notice under Rule 267, demanding a discussion on the increased GST on food items and rising inflation.

DMK Rajya Sabha MP Tiruchi Siva gave suspension of business notice under rule 267, over the "enormous hike in the price of petroleum products which has a spiraling effect on the essential commodities prices affecting poor and middle-class people."

On Tuesday, Parliament proceedings were disrupted after opposition parties protested in both Houses of Parliament to press for urgent discussions on issues like price rise, GST, and the Agnipath scheme.

- ANI

Floods in Doda district, J-K's due to heavy rainfall

Overnight heavy rain near the Kahara village of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Tuesday resulted in floods which have caused a lot of damage in the area.

"The village area is currently experiencing floods caused by very heavy rainfall which has destroyed many

houses and caused loss of property, including the Allama Iqbal Memorial Academy and the building and grounds of Tourism," said the local.

The people urged the District Administration and the Lieutenant Governor (LG) to deploy teams and take appropriate measures.

The India Meteorological Department on Monday had predicted scattered to fairly widespread light/moderate rainfall with isolated thunderstorms/lightning over Jammu and Kashmir for three days and a fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy falls over the region on Tuesday and

Wednesday (i.e., July 19 and July 20).

Earlier on July 14, heavy rains and flash floods had damaged a foot-over bridge in the hilly areas of Rajouri causing much inconvenience to the people, due to which people were forced to cross the rivulet in waist-deep water for commuting.

The heavy rains in Rajouri had also damaged the crops of the local farmers. Speaking about the situation, DDC Chairman Panchayati Raj, Naseem Liqat said that he requested Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to declare it a state disaster.

- ANI

World

The liberation warriors of Bangladesh will be visiting Assam

A group of 'Muktijoddhas' (liberation warriors) of Bangladesh is visiting Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recalled the contribution of the state to that war including the supreme sacrifice by soldiers.

He added that he is likely to visit the neighbouring country soon to further strengthen the age-old relations between India and Bangladesh.

A 25-member delegation of 'Muktijoddhas' is on a three-day visit to Guwahati and Shillong.

The visit is part of #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav and Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations organised by High Commission of India in Bangladesh & Act East Policy Affairs, GoA," Sarma tweeted after meeting the delegation on Monday evening.

India is celebrating its 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' while Swarnim Vijay Varsh' marks the 50th year of India's win against Pakistan in the 1971 war that



led to the birth of Bangladesh.

"The Bangladesh Liberation War was a landmark event where 9 valiant soldiers from Assam made the supreme sacrifice. Some Assam Police officers trained & equipped Mukti Bahini members," the chief minister said in a Twitter post.

The civil society of Assam also came forward to help the refugees who had come from East Bengal, he added.

The chief minister said that he has received an invitation from the Foreign minister of Bangladesh to visit the country.

I will make sincere efforts to honour the invitation to give a further push to civilisational ties between India and Bangladesh,

Sarma tweeted.

Meanwhile, a delegation of 19 editors and senior journalists from various organisations in Bangladesh also arrived in Guwahati on Monday.

The team led by Chief News Editor, Independent TV of Bangladesh, Ashish Ghosh Saikat, will be meeting various organisations during their stay, an official release said.

This exercise is undertaken as part of the Familiarisation Programme organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for Foreign Media, it said.

The team is accompanied by the Press Officer, High Commission of India in Dhaka, Vaibhav Sunil Gondane, and Publicity Officer, Ministry of External Affairs, Pawan Kumar.

During the two-day stay, the team will visit IIT Guwahati, Numaligarh Refinery Limited and the Centre for Development and Peace Studies, among others, the release added.

- ANI

New UN report highlights rights abuses in Afghanistan since Taliban takeover



de facto authorities and the international community. Despite an overall, significant reduction in armed violence, between mid-August 2021 and mid-June 2022, UNAMA recorded 2106 civilian casualties (700 killed, 1406 wounded).

The majority of civilian casualties were attributed to targeted attacks by the armed group self-identified "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant - Khorasan Province" against ethnic and religious minority communities in places where they go to school, worship and go about their daily lives.

"It is beyond time for all Afghans to be able to live in peace and rebuild their lives after 20 years of armed conflict. Our monitoring reveals that despite the improved security situation since 15 August, the people of Afghanistan, in particular women and girls, are deprived of the full enjoyment of their human rights," said Markus Potzel, Acting Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

- ANI

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on Wednesday released a report outlining the human rights situation in Afghanistan over the 10 months since the Taliban takeover.

The report summarises UNAMA's findings with regards to the protection of civilians, extrajudicial killings, torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, fundamental freedoms and the situation in places of detention.

The report also contains recommendations to both the

Pakistan reports 592 new COVID-19 cases, 7 more deaths

Pakistan reported 592 new COVID-19 cases and seven more deaths during the last 24 hours, the country's ministry of health said on Wednesday. "COVID-19 Statistics 20 July 2022 Total Tests in Last 24 Hours: 21,264 Positive Cases: 592 Positivity %: 2.78% Deaths: 07 Patients on Critical Care: 174," the National Institute of Health tweeted on

Wednesday.

The tally of infected people went up to 1,547,795 with the new cases, according to the data released by the ministry. With seven fresh deaths, the death toll due to the virus climbed to 30,452 in the country. A total of 21,264 tests for COVID-19 were conducted in Pakistan during the past 24 hours.

- ANI

Protesters gather outside Presidential Secretariat after Wickremesinghe gets elected as new President

Dozens of protesters gathered outside the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo on Wednesday after Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected as Sri Lanka's President.

Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was elected as Sri Lanka's new President said that he was "in a very difficult situation" and that he faces "big challenges ahead" to lead the country out of the dire economic crisis. "The

country is in a very difficult situation, we have big challenges ahead," Wickremesinghe said after defeating main rival Dullus Alahapperuma, with 134 votes to 82 in the parliamentary vote to become President of the island nation.

Sri Lanka MPs voted Ranil Wickremesinghe as the new President following a secret ballot in Parliament. He received 134 votes.

SLPP parliamentarian Dullus Alahapperuma received 82 votes while National People's Power (NPP) leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake received three votes.

"The Secretary-General of Parliament announces to the House that Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe has been elected as the Succeeding President by Parliament," the Sri Lankan Parliament tweeted.

- ANI

Sri Lankan lawmakers elect Ranil Wickremesinghe as new president

Veteran politician Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected as Sri Lanka's President by Parliament, in a rare move that could provide continuity for ongoing discussions with the IMF for a bailout for the cash-strapped nation but a development likely to anger anti-government protesters who have been demanding

his resignation from office for weeks.

The 73-year-old Acting President and six-time former prime minister won a parliamentary ballot after his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country amid escalating protests over an economic crisis marked by dire shortages of essential imports such as fuel, medicine and food.

Wickremesinghe secured 134 votes in the 225-member House while his nearest rival and dissident ruling party leader Dullus Alahapperuma got 82. Leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake secured just three votes during the voting held in Parliament amidst tight security.

- PTI

IMF chief hopes to complete Sri Lanka aid talks 'as quickly as possible'

The IMF hopes to complete the negotiations with Sri Lanka on a bailout package "as quickly as possible" and the "moment there is a government" in the country, its Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Wednesday, hours after the crisis-hit island nation elected a new president. Sri Lanka has been gripped by severe shortages of fuel, food and other essentials after its foreign reserves dried up.

Citizens have turned their

anger on the government and forced once-powerful President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign last week.

On Wednesday, the Sri Lankan Parliament elected Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe as his replacement.

"IMF hopes to complete negotiations with Sri Lanka "as quickly as possible, & the moment there is a govt we can continue our discussions & our team will be there," Georgieva said, Hiru News reported.

Business

RBI prepared to spend \$100 bn more for defending rupee, says report

India's central bank is prepared to sell a sixth of its foreign exchange reserves to defend the rupee against a rapid depreciation after it plumbed record lows in recent weeks, a senior source aware of the central bank's thinking told Reuters.

The rupee has lost over 7% of its value in 2022 and weakened past the psychological level of 80 per U.S. dollar on Tuesday, but the source said the fall would have been far bigger if the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had not stepped in to stem the decline.

The RBI's currency reserves have fallen by more than \$60 billion from its peak of \$642.450 billion in early September, in part due to valuation changes, but largely



on the back of dollar selling intervention.

Despite the drawdown, the RBI's reserves of \$580 billion remain the fifth largest in the world, giving the central bank confidence in its ability to prevent any sharp, jerky depreciation of the currency.

"They have shown that they will use reserves at will to prevent volatility in the rupee. They have the wherewithal and have demonstrated the willingness to use it," the

source said.

"The RBI can afford to spend even \$100 billion more if required to defend the rupee," the source added.

The source said the RBI, as per its stated stance, does not try to protect the rupee or hold it at a certain level but will act to avoid any runaway depreciation in the currency.

The RBI did not immediately respond to a query seeking comment.

The rupee's fall is in line with what is happening globally - a broad and persistent U.S. dollar rally driven by the Federal Reserve's aggressive monetary tightening and the resultant scramble by investors to dump riskier assets in favour of dollars.

- Reuters

Govt slashes windfall tax on petrol, diesel, ATF as crude oil prices drop

The move, which is effective from July 20, will give relief to top fuel exporters like Reliance Industries, and oil explorers like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

The Centre has scrapped a Rs 6 per litre tax on the export of petrol completely and reduced the same on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to Rs 4 a litre from Rs 6 per litre. Besides, the tax on diesel has been reduced to Rs 11 from Rs 13 per litre, according to a government notification. Further, tax on domestically-produced crude has been cut by 27 per cent to Rs 17,000 per tonne.

A windfall tax is a one-off tax levied on companies deemed to have made unreasonably high profits, normally due to unusually favourable market factors.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5A of the Central Excise Act... the Central

Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary for the public interest so to do... notification said added it will come into force from July 20..."

On July 1, the central government imposed windfall gain taxes on the export of petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), and on the domestic production of crude oil. It also mandated exporters to meet the requirements of the domestic market first.

Following this, the Indian oil companies were paying Rs 6 per litre (around \$2.2 per barrel) on exports of petrol and ATF, and Rs 13 per litre (around \$26.3 per barrel) on exports of diesel.

Crude has slumped since mid-June on fears of recession.

On Wednesday, Brent crude prices fell 39 cents or 0.5% to \$106.96 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 62 cents to \$103.60 per barrel.

- Agency

Reliance Shares Jump Over 4%; ONGC Surges 7% After Windfall Tax Cut

Shares of firms related to oil exploration and refineries were in heavy demand on Wednesday, with Reliance Industries and ONGC rallying after the government slashed windfall tax on petrol, diesel, jet fuel and crude oil.

Reliance Industries shares jumped 4.25 per cent to 2,545.05 on the BSE. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) rallied 7 per cent to 136.40.

Among others, Chennai Petroleum Corporation jumped 11.38 per cent, Oil India climbed 8.82 per cent and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals advanced 4.95 per cent.

"The relief announced by the government for the petroleum sector through reduction in windfall tax and cuts in duties on exports will be a major boost for the sector, particularly for RIL," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

- PTI

ITC will continue to deliver robust growth despite inflation concerns: Sanjiv Puri

Diversified conglomerate ITC Limited on Wednesday said that the company will continue to deliver robust growth despite key concerns such as inflation.

Speaking at the company's AGM virtually, CMD of ITC Sanjiv Puri said that in the FMCG space, the firm has nurtured 25 brands and the newer ones will garner an annual consumer spend of Rs 24,000 crore.

The company will also fortify and scale up new mega brands while investing in categories of the future, he said.

"Today, it is immensely encouraging that your company's newer FMCG Businesses have garnered an annual consumer spend of Rs 24,000 crore. The carefully selected portfolio, with substantial headroom to grow, is estimated to have a total addressable market potential of Rs 5,00,000 crore by 2030, which is amongst the highest in



the Indian FMCG space," he said.

It is also ITC's aspiration to take these FMCG brands to the overseas markets while the company continues to invest in future-ready capabilities to develop new markets with strategic partnerships, he added.

ITC launched 110 products during the year, Puri said adding that the company's future-ready and purpose-driven businesses and brands are well poised to seize the opportunities and make a meaningful contribution to the national priorities.

- PTI

Rupee depreciation against US dollar lower than other major currencies: CEA Anantha Nageswaran

Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran on Wednesday said that the depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar has been lower than other major global currencies such as the Euro, the British pound and the Japanese yen. He attributed depreciation in rupee and other currencies against the US dollar to the aggressive monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve.

As a result, outflow of foreign capital is taking place from various emerging economies including India, putting pressure on their domestic currencies. "Japanese yen, Euro, Swiss franc, British Pound have depreciated much more against dollar (than the rupee)," he said on the sidelines of an event here.

Both the government and RBI



have taken measures to check the outflow of dollars and encourage inflow of foreign funds so that the depreciation of the domestic currency can be contained, he said. Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced new liberalised rules to attract foreign inflows. Besides, the government has also raised import duty on gold imports.

- PTI

BSE Sensex
55397.53
(0.88%) ▲

Currency exchange

Nifty **NSE**
National Stock Exchange of India Ltd
16,520.85 (1.10%) ▲

1 USD 80.5275 (INR)
1 GBP 96.1600 (INR)
1 EUR 82.2850 (INR)

Top Gainers

Scrip Name	Price	%Gain
Tech Mahindra	1,045.50	3.75
ONGC	132.55	3.64
HCL Tech	917.40	3.11
TCS	3,164.80	2.95
Reliance	2,503.00	2.70

Top Losers

Scrip Name	Price	%Loss
HDFC Life	525.20	-2.00
M&M	1,165.65	-1.74
Eicher Motors	3,045.00	-1.06
Sun Pharma	867.50	-1.24
Adani Ports	743.55	-0.73



Parupalli Kashyap, Mithun Manjunath make winning start, Malvika Bansod crashes out

India's Parupalli Kashyap made a winning start to his campaign at Taipei Open 2022, defeating Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei in the first round of the men's singles category on Wednesday. Kashyap defeated his opposition by 24-22, 21-10. The first game was a closely contested one but the second one was extremely one-sided. Kashyap won them both to seal the match for himself. In the other men's singles match, Mithun Manjunath won against Kim Bruun of Denmark in the first round, advancing to the next.

He won the game within two straight games by 17-21, 15-21. Manjunath was extremely dominant on the court and easily eliminated his Danish opposition from the competition. On the other hand in women's singles category, India's Malvika Bansod crashed out of the competition in the first round itself, losing to Liang Ting Yu of Chinese Taipei.

- ANI



Julius Duker joins Chennaiyin FC as final foreign recruit

Indian Super League club Chennaiyin FC have roped in German midfielder Julius Duker to wrap up their foreign roster for the upcoming season.

The 26-year-old is Chennaiyin's second foreign midfielder after Rafael Crivellaro, who has been part of the team since 2019. Vafa Hakhamaneshi, Fallou Diagne, Petar Sliskovic and Kwame Karikari are the club's other international signings this summer.

"Our final foreign signing Julius will be a great fit in this youthful and fresh-looking team we have put together. His versatility will be a good asset for the team," said Chennaiyin FC co-owner Vita Dani in a statement.

The left-footed player has 35 goals and 23

assists to his name from 210 career appearances so far. Chennaiyin FC will be Duker's first club outside Germany.

Expressing excitement ahead of his maiden stint in India, Duker said, "I'm proud to be part of this big club. First of all, I would like to thank the fans for all the messages and the warm welcome."

"I'm just excited to finally be able to meet the team, the staff and our fans. Of course, I'm motivated to achieve the goals set by the club. I will work hard to create successful times for the club again. But first I want to get to know the team and get in shape," he added.

Duker will join a midfield that already consists of experienced players such as Crivellaro, Anirudh Thapa and Mohammed Rafique.

- ANI

Duker will join a midfield that already consists of experienced players such as Crivellaro, Anirudh Thapa and Mohammed Rafique

Strengthening its growing international footprint in cricket, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on Wednesday announced that it will acquire a franchise in Cricket South Africa's upcoming T20 league.

Based in Cape Town the new franchise will take forward the Mumbai Indians brand and comes close on the heels of acquiring the UAE-based International League T-20 team. Reliance Industries has played a crucial role in evolving the sports ecosystem through ownership of cricket



franchises, football league in India, sports sponsorship, consultancy, and athlete talent management, and bringing in industry best practices, Reliance Industries Limited said in a statement.

Further, Reliance Foundation Sports - the CSR wing of RIL has been leading India's Olympic Movement by providing opportunities to athletes across the country to become champions in multiple sports and also leading India's charge in hosting global sporting events.

- ANI

Four-city Durand Cup trophy tour flagged off from Kolkata



A four-city Trophy Tour to kickstart the celebrations for the 131st Durand Cup Football tournament, was flagged off from Kolkata on Tuesday.

The flagging-off ceremony was held at the Indian Army's Eastern Command Headquarters at Fort William in the presence of Aroop Biswas, Minister In Charge, Power, Youth services and Sports, Government of West Bengal, Lt. Gen. RP Kalita, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command and Lt. Gen. KK Repswal, SM, VSM, Chief of Staff, HQ Eastern Command and Chairman, Durand Organising Committee.

- ANI

PM Modi's love for sports is known, his interaction with CWG players will boost their morale, says Anurag Thakur

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his interaction with the Commonwealth Games 2022 contingent of India, saying the interaction will boost the morale of players, their families and officials.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's love for sports and sportsmen is known. He



increased the sports budget and this shows how interested he is in sports. Before every big event, he always interacts with players, motivates them and boosts their morale. I remember even after Paralympics, Boxing Championships or Thomas Cup, he called players to his residence and boosted their morale," said Thakur while talking to media.

- ANI

Opinion



Without plastic, the world is like a diamond that shines everywhere

Every year, we produce nearly 280 million tonnes of plastic of which much of those spoil the environment, harming marine life and other ecosystems. As the world's population migrates to cities, the bleak reality of climate change becomes increasingly evident, and the need to create sustainable communities becomes paramount. Destruction of forests is to be taken as the destruction of the state, and reforestation an act of rebuilding the state and advancing its welfare. Since children spend time on the internet and mobile phones, they are more aware, but we need to make them active participants. A tree would be ideal, but even a small shrub can help the environment. It is estimated that plants can hold a large mass of water in their roots. At the same time, a ban should be a gradual and long-term objective. The loss of tree cover to make furniture would have a more severe impact on the

environment than the use of plastics. More research needs to be done on using plastic waste for productive purposes. Plastic is widely used in our day to day life. Starting from a pen to a polythene bag in which we carry fruits and books are forms of plastic. Plastic bags are nothing but a product of laziness and poor planning. They find their origin in a variety of places. Non-grocery retail stores and restaurants are significant contributors, but there is no greater impact than the plastic bag waste that is generated by grocery stores.

The widespread use of plastic carry bags undoubtedly poses a serious problem. With global warming on the rise, we have to do every bit that we can to save the environment. The major chemicals that go into the making of plastic are highly toxic and pose a serious threat to living beings of all species on the earth. While there should be a strict ban on plastics, considering

If every individual resolves not to use plastic bags, our cities would be much better places to live in. Unless we honestly implement all ways to eliminate plastic, its ill-effects will continue to be with us. The little that we can do without much effort from our side is to say "NO" to plastic bags.

its ill-effects on the human beings and the environment, people should desist from accepting material in polythene bags. It is the moral duty of people to refrain from using plastic bags. While educating people on the need to shun plastic, we also need to make available cheaper, safer, durable alternatives for them. Cloth and jute bags need to

be attractively priced and easily available. Authorities alone cannot be blamed for the plastic pollution.

Our most of the lakes and urban drain systems are choking because of plastic bags. Due to government neglect across the country and her maritime boundaries or coastline, animals particularly cows and bulls, are ingesting plastic from garbage dumps and plastic bags littered across the landscape and oceans. Thin plastic tends to cause flooding by choking drains, and can easily travel by wind and water in flood planes, thus increasing the flooding of public places during rains.

One more reason for the ban is that cows, which are sacred in India, often asphyxiate from trying to eat the bags. The ingestion of plastic from plastic bags chokes the stomach of cows. Not only cows but some day polythene will kill us. Despite the enactment of rules for the disposal of municipal solid wastes and the management

and handling of plastic waste, the governments have failed and neglected to implement these rules.

There are many, who are against the ban on plastic bags, and there is a reason because they believe it is infringing on their rights, creating an inconvenience, and adding expense to their shopping. If every individual resolves not to use plastic bags, our cities would be much better places to live in. Unless we honestly implement all ways to eliminate plastic, its ill-effects will continue to be with us. The little that we can do without much effort from our side is to say "NO" to plastic bags.



- Vinod C Dixit

Free-lance Journalist,
Writer & Cartoonist

Different Strokes

How will food, water be arranged for the growing population?



The development of any country should be assessed on the basis of its poverty and poor. The world has created many records of development in about 200 years. On the other hand, if we look at the questions of stomach and water of large population of the world, then we cannot be more sure about the matter of development.

Are we able to provide clean drinking water to all? Leaving aside the essential facilities, are we able to provide food to everyone? Climate is a major cause of changing or deteriorating conditions. There are topics like change and global warming and the first big kick in their ill effects will be on the stomach.

This means that the food security itself is in great danger. Whatever population there will be by the year 2050, it will need 70 percent more food than it does today.

The world has created many records of development in about 200 years. On the other hand, if we look at the questions of stomach and water of large population of the world, then we cannot be more sure about the matter of development. Are we able to provide clean drinking water to all?

At the same time, many scientists believe that due to climate change, the agricultural production of the whole world can be reduced by 20 percent and in today's situation there are a large number of people in the world who do not even get enough food. Then this problem will surely come. It can become a big challenge. If around 81.10 million people around the world go to bed hungry, that's a big question on food security right now. According to the

UN report, the problem of hunger has increased after 2019. About 25,000 people die every day due to hunger-related reasons. In this the number of children is high, about 10,000 children die every day due to hunger-related causes.

In India, it is believed that 3,000 children die every day due to starvation. About 20 crores in our own country. People sleep without food at a time. This figure is not only for our country. The story of the world is that there are about 45 countries where 50 million people live due to

According to statistics, about 4.20 lakh people are losing their lives every year because of this. Now you see that vegetables like cabbage are being rapidly surrounded by E-coli bacteria and this is the bacteria that gives rise to many diseases.

It is also a fact that about 30 percent of the food grains in India are wasted every year, which is worth around Rs.92 thousand crores. In such a situation, our worries increase on many levels. In the coming times, what will be the strategies by 2050, on the basis of which we can reduce the large population? Will I be able to give less food? Similarly, about 70 percent more food will be needed for cattle in the year 2050.

lack of food in some way or the other. Ironically, 2.5 billion tons of food goes bad in the world. It is also a fact that about 30 percent of the food grains in India are wasted every year, which is worth around Rs.92 thousand crores.

In such a situation, our worries increase on many levels. In the coming times, what will be the strategies by 2050, on the basis of which we can reduce the large population? Will I be able to give less food?

Similarly, about 70 percent more food will be needed for cattle in the year 2050. Already, the production of fodder and timber has also been adversely affected by climate change. Not only this, now the effect of depleting forests has been especially on floods and droughts.

The strange thing is that because of these two, another problem is beset us, and that is that our life and

food have become poisonous now. Floods also bring diseases and water gets polluted due to drought and lack of water, which we use for agriculture and drinking. According to a report from York University, Canada, the introduction of chemicals, industrial wastes or pesticides into agriculture has proved fatal worldwide, and so has food poisoning in many other ways.

According to statistics, about 4.20 lakh people are losing their lives every year because of this. Now you see that vegetables like cabbage are being rapidly surrounded by E-coli bacteria and this is the bacteria that gives rise to many diseases. In this way we have put ourselves in many troubles. It is also true that if today all this Even if you give c, the challenges will probably remain like this for 50 years to come.

The reason for this is that the way we have denied the earth and nature, it is not going to forgive us soon in the coming times. What we need is a major change where we, on the one hand, rapidly control the growing population. On the other hand, limit the necessities of life and be serious about the crisis. We should start reform with agriculture or farming, we have less time.



- Vijay GarG

Retired Principal Malout Punjab

Entertainment

Tamannaah Bhatia's first look poster from 'Babli Bouncer' is out



Star Studios and Junglee Pictures dropped the first look of director Madhur Bhandarkar's upcoming flick 'Babli Bouncer' featuring Tamannaah Bhatia and announced the release date.

Taking to its Twitter handle, Star Studios shared the two posters of 'Bahubali: The Beginning' actor, to which they captioned, "Oye bawale, suna kya? Aa gaya hai Babli Bouncer ka time! Dilon ko yeh

jodegi, ya khub haddiyaan todegi? Pata chalega jald hi! Here's the first look of #BabliBouncer, starring the phenomenal @tamannaahspeaks. Streaming from Sept 23 only on @DisneyplusHS."

In the poster, Tamannaah is seen in and as babli bouncer! In the first poster, the 'Entertainment' actor donned a denim jacket that she paired with black jeggings. And struck the bodybuilder pose.

- ANI

Justin Beiber to perform in India in October; more deets inside



Rejoice all Justin Beiber fans! Justi is back on his 'Justice' world tour and will soon be performing in India.

Justin had earlier cancelled a lot of his shows in North America after being diagnosed with partial face paralysis, leaving millions of fans concerned. Now, as a part of the tour, Justin will be in India on October 18. He will be performing at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on the mentioned date. The tickets for the concert are now live and are priced from Rs 4,000 onwards.

On Monday, singer Usher told Page Six that the Canadian pop singer was "doing great". He added, "As an artist, I think we are all going to experience some things that people may not necessarily understand."

- ANI

Anupam Kher says about R Madhavan's Rocketry

R Madhavan is busy basking in the glory of his directorial debut 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' as the film continues to entertain audiences. 'Rocketry' continues to have



a decent run at the box office despite facing competition from two fresh releases.

The film that was released on July 1 has received positive feedback from critics and the latest person to review the film is actor Anupam Kher. On Tuesday, Anupam Kher took to Instagram to congratulate Madhavan for the film and wrote,

"Watched #RocketryTheFilm based on #NambiNarayana n's life. OUTSTANDI

NG! MOVING!!!INSPIRATIONAL! Cried my heart out.

Every Indian should watch it! And say sorry to #NambiNarayanan sir. That is how we can correct some wrongs done in the past. Bravo dear #Madhavan! Proud of you! #Courage #Nationalism #MagicOfMovies." In the video, he can be heard praising Madhavan.

He said, "Thank you Madhavan for making such a brilliant film. If the film can inspire me, it will surely inspire today's generation. Thank you Nambi Sahab for your life."

- ANI

Kartik Aaryan enjoys sunset in Haryana as he shoots for 'Shehzada'

Kartik Aaryan is currently busy shooting for the upcoming film 'Shehzada' and while the actor has been keeping his fans updated about the shoot, he also keeps giving a glimpse of the fun time he has on sets. The actor, who is currently shooting for the film in Haryana, recently shared a picture of himself enjoying the

beautiful sunset, surrounded by lush green grass, making us all reminisce about the last sunset we witnessed.

Kartik will also be seen in 'Freddy' opposite Alaya F. Produced by Ekta Kapoor, the film is touted to be a romantic thriller. He also has Hansal Mehta's 'Captain India' in his kitty. Bankrolled by

Ronnie Screwvala and Harman Baweja, the film revolves around India's most successful rescue operations from a war-torn country.

- ANI



Looks like Khloe Kardashian is having a blast with her daughter True! Khloe, on Wednesday, took to Instagram to share a bunch of photos with her four-year-old where the two could be seen having fun in the ocean waters. Khloe captioned the post, "Me and my best girl making the best memories. I will forever have your back, my angel girl".

Proud moment for India, Neelam Nanda wins Mrs Universe Delicate title at Mrs Universe South Korea 2022

Mrs Universe South Korea 2022 gets its winner in Neelam Nanda winning Mrs Universe Delicate Title. She edged out 110 contestants from around the world to bag the title.

It is indeed a moment of pride for any Indian to have made such a big impact on an



international platform. Mrs Universe South Korea was held on June 26. Neelam Nanda, an educationalist, has also won Mrs Universe North East Asia title. She has also won the title of Mrs Maharashtra Best smiling Beauty 2022. She was a finalist in Mrs Universe 2021 held in South Korea.

- ANI