

THE DAY OF TWO STRONGEST WOMEN LEADERS OF INDIA

**First tribal woman Murmu
won President Polls;
Congress President Sonia
faces ED for first time**



It's a part of democracy setup. We are happy that a tribe women taking the charge one of the greatest position in India. On another hand it's a judiciary process law has to do what is required but she is been accompanied by doctors also, although she is not healthy. She is doing what is best for her party. Both things are inevitable one struggle is played on roads and the other is happening between the 4 walls of parliament."

- Nilam Gorhe (ShivSena Leader)



We are happy that a tribe woman is becoming the president of India. ED intentionally summon Sonia Gandhi on Thursday only although her health is not well. Our current government intentionally doing this to distract us from current scenarios like poverty, inflation and unemployment."

- Husain Dalwai
(Congress Leader)

Afternoon Voice Bureau
afternoon_voice

India on Thursday chose Draupadi Murmu as 15th President; she will succeed incumbent Ram Nath Kovind. Ruling NDA's Droupadi Murmu and Opposition's Yashwant Sinha were pitted against each other in the contest, with votes clearly stacked in favour of Murmu. She will be the first tribal woman to occupy the top constitutional post in the

country. Kovind's tenure is ending on July 24 and the new President will take oath on July 25. PM Narendra Modi is hosting a farewell dinner for outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind tomorrow 5.30pm onwards at Hotel Ashoka in Delhi.

"Nation has created history, the daughter of a tribal family coming from a very ordinary house in Odisha, is elected as the President" Said Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

"Not only tribals, but everyone in the country is going to have a

sense of pride in having the 1st woman tribal President. I have learnt that all prominent tribal leaders will be coming to Delhi to greet the new likely to be President" said Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Droupadi Murmu

On the other hand, the Congress president has to spend all her day in the ED office. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) recorded her statement for two hours in the National Herald money laundering case and ended the session for the day on her request as she is recovering from

Covid, officials said. Upon reaching the ED's headquarters at around 12.10 p.m., Sonia was interrogated by a team of additional director Monika Sharma. During her interrogation, she was accompanied by her son Rahul Gandhi and daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. A few minutes later, Rahul left the ED's headquarters while Priyanka stayed backed with her mother's medicine box. Sources say that she was asked the same set of questions which were asked to Rahul during his five-day

questioning.

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Uma Bharti took to Twitter to warn Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi to stop Congress supporters from protesting over her summons by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the National Herald case, or else she said people will not forget that Sonia is of Italian origin and that she does not respect the Indian Constitution and laws.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Editoritis

It was the day of two Presidents,
Congress President Sonia and
India's President Murmu

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

All this started with Subramaniam Swamy's alleged accusations against Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi. Since 2013, Gandhi family has been on radar for alleged corruption charges, and so far nothing has been proven against them. Sonia Gandhi's questioning in the National Herald case today was led by Kuldeep Singh, an Assistant Director at the Enforcement Directorate, who had also questioned Rahul Gandhi. The Associated Journals Limited (AJL) closed printing National Herald in 2008. It was left with no money and owed a debt of ₹90 crore to the Congress. The debt was a sum of interest-free loans extended by the Congress to The Associated Journals Limited (AJL) from time to time so that the newspaper could pay its employees and continue its operations. The allegation here was that the Gandhis had no real interest in the newspaper, and they were actually eyeing AJL's real assets.

In November 2010, Gandhi family floated a company called Young Indian and bought the outstanding loan of ₹90 crore from AICC by merely paying ₹50 lakh. The debt that The Associated Journals Limited (AJL) owed to the Congress now stood transferred to Young Indian. A month later, in December 2010, The Associated Journals Limited (AJL) expanded its equity pool and allotted a large chunk of shares to Young Indian, making it a majority shareholder. Young Indian, too, had no funds. To acquire The Associated Journals Limited (AJL), it borrowed ₹1 crore from a Kolkata-based company called Dotex. Of this, ₹50 lakh was paid to the

Congress to purchase the ₹90 crore debts.

In this above mentioned issue Sonia Gandhi, 75, was questioned for nearly three hours and was allowed to leave during lunchtime. The Congress president, who had missed summons in the past citing Covid, had appeared before Enforcement Directorate. Perhaps the day was closed wrong; on the one hand India was celebrating its new woman President Murmu, the Congress President was called for scrutiny. Rahul Gandhi was questioned for over 40 hours across five days. But keeping the Congress president's health in mind, the Enforcement Directorate wrapped up her questioning far sooner. There is no new summons yet.

The Enforcement Directorate claims Rahul Gandhi's questioning took more time because his answers "did not match". After each round of questioning, when he was asked to sign off on the typed transcript, the Congress MP "improvised some answers", claimed sources. Rahul Gandhi and the Congress, however, accuse the agency of dragging out his questioning deliberately, to harass him.

The Enforcement Directorate says the Young Indian company also took over ₹ 800 crore in assets of AJL. According to the Income Tax department, this should be considered an asset of the shareholders of Young Indian - Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, for which they should pay tax. The Congress says the assets of AJL went to Young Indian, a non-profit, and so the shareholders could not make any money from the assets since that is not allowed under the law. To which, the Enforcement Directorate says the Young Indian claims to be a non-profit but has not done any charity work.

Sonia Gandhi's questioning revolved around personal details of her shareholding and taxes and the links of Associated Journal to Young Indian, say sources. She was also asked about the links of the Congress party with the companies. Sonia boldly faced ED; she calmly answered whatever was asked to her. Her conduct was graceful. On the other hand, Mrs Murmu was very much confident of winning presidential elections. It was the day of contrast; one woman is going to be India's president and on the other hand India's national party Congress's president was asked to appear for investigations.

Netflix documented the National Herald case; it would run to 12 seasons of 20 episodes each. The action-packed series would span almost a century, beginning in the era of India's freedom struggle and traversing through high courts and the Supreme Court, and various government offices including that of the Enforcement Directorate (ED). It would have a parallel track covering a media trial, and a social media trial, of the protagonists, the Gandhis. The Congress describes the ED probe as vendetta politics. The ruling BJP believes this is a crackdown on 'corruption' and accuses the Gandhis of trying to pressurise the investigating agencies and prevent them from doing their job.

In 1937, Nehru floated a company called Associated Journals Ltd (AJL) with 5,000 freedom fighters as its donors. Therefore, there was no particular owner to that company. AJL launched three newspapers — in English, Hindi and Urdu. Nehru was the international correspondent for National Herald, the English language newspaper that was a powerful mouthpiece of the Congress party. He continued to voice his opinions in the daily even after he became the Prime Minister.

His son-in-law Feroze Gandhi was the managing director of AJL between 1946 and 1950. Nehru would have little imagined that decades later his grandson's wife Sonia and her children Rahul and Priyanka would find themselves embroiled in criminal investigations following a case filed by their bete noire Subramanian Swamy and two others. Meanwhile, the enforcement agencies alleged that since 2008, AJL was not publishing any newspapers and was only collecting rent from its tenants, therefore it was a real estate company. This was denied by the Gandhis, who said the newspaper publication was only temporarily suspended and not closed. The lease agreements allow renting. They gave examples of how all other newspaper companies were involved in similar practices. The probe agencies were unwilling to believe that the Congress actually extended money to AJL. Rather, they said, AJL's takeover was based on fraudulent transactions; the ₹90 crore loan from AICC to AJL was "non-existent" and just a paper entry, they claimed.

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Volume No. 13 | Issue No. 285

Afternoon
VOICE

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332 VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

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Letter's to the Editor

No better batsman than Gavaskar to help Kohli iron out his batting weakness!

Gavaskar's defence was impeccable when it came to facing the best of fast bowlers across the world & his suggestion to help sort out struggling Kohli's off stump weakness must be grabbed with both hands by the out of form Virat. Gavaskar is the greatest batsman the world of cricket has ever produced & the likes of him should be hired by the BCCI as batting consultant for Team India. It is sad that former greats like Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Bedi & their tribe were never offered top positions in BCCI when they are the one's responsible for commercializing cricket & bringing not just money but pride for Indian cricket. Politicians should have no place in sports management & former greats of each sport should be heading their federation for India to produce world champions at regular intervals!

- S. N. Kabra

Anything for power?

The conspiracy used by a national party like BJP to gain power in the states of the country is deadly for democracy. Such a wrong message is being sent to the people. Such a huge conspiracy has never been played in politics till date. The BJP government's agenda is to bring about a change of power in the state by using the central investigative agencies. It has happened. So BJP will definitely get an answer to this in the coming elections.

- Uday Waghvankar

Anti-conversion law

Christian missionaries are converting Sikhs in large numbers in the rural areas of Punjab's Districts of Batala, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Chudia, Dera Baba Nanak, Majitha, Ajnala and Amritsar on the Pakistan border. Gyani Harpreet Singh, Jathedar (head) of Akal Takht, a religious body of Sikhs, alleged that Christian missionaries are forcefully converting Sikhs in these villages by luring them with money. This is an attack on Sikhism, and we will not tolerate this. Shiromani Gurdwara Management Committee has also received many complaints in this regard, and it has taken these incidents seriously. This committee has appointed another committee and has started creating awareness among the Sikhs by visiting the villages. To change one's religion is to change one's nationality. 'When will the Central Government make the anti-conversion law?'

- Dr. Jyoti Kale

Public money

As a speaker of the Rajyasabha this is my 14th and the last session in the last 5 years and I could learn a lot from it. Out of the scheduled 248 days Rajyasabha worked only for 141 days in the last 13 Sessions. That means 57% time had been wasted, Venkaiah Naidu, the speaker of the Rajyasabha and Vice-President expressed his regret. Lot of time is wasted in every session of the Parliament. Neither fine is collected, nor action is taken against those responsible for it, hence there is no change in the situation. What is the use of such sessions on which public money is spent in crores, and public representatives come to create chaos and rampage? If the Parliament is going to work like this by spending the taxpayers money, then people should ask them constitutionally to justify their action.

- Ramchandra Lugade

Proper Policing required

In an half a decade Naxal attack case e., in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh State, the innocent 120 tribals got acquitted by National Investigation Agency court on last week from all allegations is surely leading to a terrible commentary on policing. The poor investigation conducted by the Chhattisgarh Police resulted in pain for both the accused and for the 26 CRPF troopers who were killed by Naxals during 2017 (since justice is not being served till today). Imagine being imprisoned for 5 long years in a disgusting place for doing nothing; more than one hundred innocent tribal people had to endure that simply because some police officers didn't perform their duties properly. Proper Policing required in the nation.

- VijayKumar H.K.

Building Castles In The Air

It is good that we are taking efforts to build castles in the air. We are way ahead of those who don't even think about what kind of a life they want in the next five or ten years and admire yourself for little good things throughout your life. Let the fear of failure come to your minds and keep pace with changing trends.

Always dream about achieving the targets on a daily basis before sleep and achieve them the very next day and keep track of your achievements in a follow up diary form so as to keep track and achieve the targets of life. From the start of the morning you should have plans for the rest of the day. Try to follow that schedule the whole day. Push yourself to do that work immediately.

You have to keep yourself busy every minute and you must love what you are doing. That will slowly make you work harder. Focus on effort alone then you won't have the time to even build castles. Set small targets for your entrance exam and achieve them. Practice pranayama and meditation so that you can always focus on the present. It's all about practice to tame your mind.

Try to meditate. Close your eyes for sometime and just relax. Let the thoughts flow but don't indulge. Feel as if you are sitting on a shore and the boats are passing by. You are doing nothing but just watching. No attachment at all. Remember you had a motivation. You wanted to prove it to the people that you aren't a loser. You wanted to fulfill the dream which you've always seen. You wanted to meet the person who was your inspiration and so on.

This is a fantastic characteristic to be in

Try to meditate. Close your eyes for sometime and just relax. Let the thoughts flow but don't indulge. Feel as if you are sitting on a shore and the boats are passing by. You are doing nothing but just watching. No attachment at all.



worth your time to deal with rudeness or really any form of threatening behaviour. Do not take into consideration advice that comes from hostility/disregard/anger. I am specifically referring to your comment. In that case, you certainly do not want to be wasting precious cognitive resources on self-reflecting about this particular behaviour.

In conclusion, it will be a helpful proposition in the present circumstances. It seems like you are already on a great path to personal development and we need to be managing social situations with ease and elegance. The self-awareness you are already fostering is key and will serve you for the rest of your life in virtually every situation.

Congratulate yourself on

possession of and will serve you well throughout your life. There is no harm whatsoever to being thoughtful and careful with your words.. Keep in mind though, please, that behaving in such a noble and emotionally controlled manner is very impressive specifically for the reason that it is so difficult for people to do, making it all the more impressive that you are managing to do so. It will get easier to practice this fantastic outlook but remember that the most highly regarded individuals did not achieve their status without the difficulty that you speak of.

Ultimately, we all learn to cope with these and adjust our responses accordingly so as to avoid unnecessary friction. However, it is never

escaping the herd mentality: self-reflection is rare. Good luck in overcoming these challenges, you'll be better for facing them. Catch the right points with a positive frame of mind instead of just building castles in the air all the time and get disappointed if you fail to achieve your desires.



- Jayanthi Subramaniam

Writer and Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

Devendra Fadnavis asked the urban development ministry to start construction of the shed at Aarey milk colony

The urban development department has removed the stay on constructing a Mumbai Metro 3 car shed in Aarey on Thursday, said additional chief secretary Bhushan Gagrani who heads the department.

Soon after taking over, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis asked the urban development ministry to start process for construction of the shed at Aarey milk colony. "We have examined the entire



matter and there is no need to bring the matter before the cabinet. We asked the implementing agency Mumbai

Metro Rail Corporation to prepare the proposal and mobilise contractor."

Meanwhile, Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar has dissolved all departments and cells of the party with immediate effect, senior NCP leader Praful Patel said. Patel did not disclose the reason for the sudden move, which comes three weeks after the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra.

Two men dupe senior citizen of Rs 22 lakh using online payment app

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly duping a senior citizen of Rs 22 lakh through a fraudulent transfer from his bank account using an online payment app, a Mumbai police official said on Thursday.

According to a Dindoshi police station official, two persons befriended the 68-year-old victim and transferred Rs 22 lakh from his account through an online payment app on the pretext of playing a



game on his mobile phone.

"After a complaint was filed, we managed to arrest both accused. Further probe into the incident is underway," he added.

Best Bakery accused claims witnesses being tutored

An accused and undertrial in the 2002 Best Bakery case is going to approach the principal judge of the sessions court seeking to transfer his case to another judge.

Advocate Prakash Salsingekar, the lawyer representing accused Harshad Solanki, alleged that the trial court had not taken cognizance

of his apprehension that witnesses were being tutored, adding he is going to file an application in the sessions court regarding the same.

Solanki had earlier written to Gujarat police to investigate if activist Teesta Setalvad has played any role in tutoring witnesses. In February, 2019, the sessions court had framed charges against two persons – Harshad Solanki and Mafat Gohil.

The two are facing trial for charges including murder, attempt to murder, rioting and other sections of the Indian Penal Code for the communal violence in Vadodara in 2002. The duo had pleaded not guilty.

Duty of police to register FIR when cognizable offence is brought to its notice: Bombay HC

The Bombay High Court on Thursday said it was the duty of the police to register a First Information Report (FIR) if a cognizable offence was brought to its notice.

The remark was made by a division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Sharmila Deshmukh while hearing a



petition challenging the circular issued by the former Mumbai police commissioner that stipulated seeking approval of the deputy commissioner of police (DCP) before registering FIRs under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and in cases of outraging modesty of women.

- PTI

PIL on water, toilet facilities in cricket grounds: If parents can buy children gear, they can buy water as well, says HC

The Bombay High Court on Thursday said if parents can buy their children cricket gear then they can buy bottled water too.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice M S Karnik was hearing a public interest litigation lamenting the lack of basic facilities like drinking water and toilets at cricket grounds.

The bench further noted

cricket was not even a game that is originally from India.

The PIL, filed by one advocate Rahul Tiwari, claimed several cricket grounds in the state, including the one in south Mumbai managed by the Mumbai Cricket Association, do not have basic facilities of drinking water and toilets despite budding and professional cricketers playing on them.

- PTI

Maha CM lifted all curbs in upcoming festivals

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday announced that the restrictions imposed on festivals during the coronavirus pandemic have been lifted and there would be no curbs on the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi, Dahi Handi and other religious events.

There will also be no restrictions on the commemoration of Muharram when processions are taken out, he said.

After the pandemic broke out in March 2020, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, which was then led by Uddhav Thackeray, imposed several restrictions on festivals, including a ban on processions during the Ganeshotsav. There were also curbs on the height of the Lord Ganesh idols installed

by sarvajanik (community) mandals and as well the household level.

Due to these factors and the prevalence of infection, the Ganesh festival and other religious events had mostly remained low-key in the last two years.

Speaking to reporters, Shinde said, "All the restrictions on the religious festivals introduced during the pandemic have been lifted. People should be able to welcome such festivals with a positive attitude." He added that a single-window system would be set up to facilitate the Ganesh mandals across the state in obtaining permissions for pandals and other things. "There will be no registration fees for it," the chief minister said.

Mumbai Youth Congress opposes naming of new MU hostel after Savarkar

The Mumbai Youth Congress submitted a letter to the Vice Chancellor of Mumbai University, Dr Suhas Pednekar, objecting to the naming of the new international students' hostel facility after Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

The name was suggested by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, who inaugurated the new building earlier this month. "Savarkar is mythologised in



popular imagination as 'Veer Savarkar' – he refrained from participating in the freedom

struggle and the British released him from prison on account of his relentless plea for mercy. He pushed his communal ideology, which led to the communal divide as a time when a united front against colonial rule was needed," reads the letter by Hargun Singh, General Secretary of Mumbai Youth Congress, which suggests that the new facility should be named after Chhatrapati Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj.

News

Change mindset with times, create awareness about writings of social reformers: HC to Maha govt

The Bombay High Court on Thursday said the Maharashtra government has to change in its mindset with the times and make efforts to create public awareness about the writings of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and other social reformers.

A division bench of Justices Prasanna Varale and Kishore Sant noted that the Maharashtra government has published "wonderful" volumes of the handwritten literature of several social reformers, but unfortunately not many are aware of it.

The government should create awareness about this, the court said.

"Volumes (of writings) of so many social reformers are published by the Maharashtra government but how many people are aware of this? These volumes have been published



decades ago and some of them are the most wonderful ones. Care is not taken. Readers have to be brought to the bookshop," it said.

"You (state government) have to change your mindset according to the changing times. Earlier, people used to go to bookshops but now it is all available at a doorstep. Publishers have to bring people to the shops," Justice Varale said.

"You are not taking any steps for awareness. You will have to make concrete and positive

efforts," the court said, adding that many people do not even know where government bookshops are located.

The bench was hearing a petition taken up suo motu (on its own) in December 2021 after the media reported that the Maharashtra government had halted its project of publishing Ambedkar's literature.

The HC also expressed dissatisfaction over the affidavit submitted by the state government and said it did not have all the necessary details sought by the court.

The affidavit does not have details about the formation of the committee set up to address this issue, the names of members of the committee if any meeting has been held by it and details of their remuneration, the court pointed out.

The bench directed government pleader Purnima Kantharia to file an additional affidavit within two weeks.

"We are not satisfied with this approach (of the government). This is not the way we expect the state government to handle such matters," Justice Varale said.

Kantharia told the court that volumes of Ambedkar's writings were being distributed to colleges and other institutions.

But, the HC said it wants the committee to say this and not the government.

"Let the committee make a statement that these books are reaching the readers. We want to see if the government is taking appropriate steps to ensure that these volumes are published in reasonable time," it added.

- PTI

Nagpur Central Jail sends names of 14 inmates to Maha Governor for remission



Nagpur Central Jail authorities have sent names of 14 inmates to the Maharashtra governor's office for inclusion in the remission scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of 75th anniversary of Independence, officials said here on Thursday.

As part of the scheme, some prisoners above the age of 60 and who have completed over half of their prison sentence will be eligible for remission, they said. The move is to encourage good behavior and learning among prisoners, they added.

SC finally allows Maha to grant OBC quota in local body polls

After having failed multiple times in convincing the Supreme Court in the past one year to allow it to grant reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local body elections, the Maharashtra government can now do so as the court on Wednesday asked the Election Commission to take into account the report of the State Commission for Backward Classes which had recommended the reservation.

Armed with the final report of the Commission for Reservation of Backward Class of Citizens in Local Bodies, the state government pleaded before a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Abhay S Oka and J B Pardiwala that the reservation for backward classes be allowed as the commission has come to the conclusion that they are under-represented despite forming 37% of the state's population.

4 swine flu patients in city on life support; virus in the air, say doctors

At least four people infected with influenza H1N1 (swine flu) are on life support in the city.

Doctors caution that the viral infection is back in circulation in the city and people who test negative for Covid-19 must be tested for H1N1 by their physicians.

The civic body on Tuesday said 11 confirmed cases of influenza H1N1 have been reported in July, up from two in June.

These numbers are only the tip of the iceberg though, said doctors, adding most are

encountering a minimum of two to three cases in their outpatient departments daily. Like Covid-19, H1N1 is a respiratory disease, which started as a global pandemic in 2019 but became endemic soon after.

At Bandra's Lilavati Hospital, two patients below the age of 50 years are on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) therapy, considered the last resort and offered when even ventilatory support has failed.

The hospital has five other patients admitted in wards with H1N1.



Gurukul school of art makes painting and congratulating President of India Draupadi Murmu

2 arrested for attacking Shiv Sena workers of the Thackeray group

Police on Thursday arrested two persons in connection with the attack on a worker of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena here in Maharashtra, an official said.

Harshawardhan Palande, deputy chief of the Sena's Kalyan city unit, was on Wednesday injured in the attack and admitted to hospital, said an official.

The incident had taken place on Pune Link Road in Kalyan East. Four to five men had arrived in a car and attacked Palande with

sticks, iron rods and choppers, a police official said.

The Kolsewadi police on Thursday arrested two persons in this connection, the official said.

They registered a case under Indian Penal Code Sections 323, 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous means or weapons), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention), he said.

No height restrictions on Ganpati idols this year

In a good news for devotees, the Maharashtra government has lifted the height restrictions on Ganpati idols that was imposed for last two years due to Covid-19.

Meanwhile, Chief minister Eknath Shinde held a meeting with Ganapati mandals and also directed the administration to ensure that there are no strict criterion to issue then permissions.



Nation

The day of two strongest women leaders of India

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Senior Congress leaders including P Chidambaram, Ajay Maken, Manickam Tagore, KC Venugopal, Adhir Ranjan Chaudhry, Shashi Tharoor, Sachin Pilot, Harish Rawat, Ashok Gehlot, K Suresh and others were detained. As many as 75 Congress MPs including

leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and several workers were detained by the Delhi Police for holding demonstrations against the questioning of the party president Sonia Gandhi by the ED in the National Herald case.

NDA was celebrating Murmu's win, whereas congress was on the roads protesting against ED summons to Sonia Gandhi.

Man arrested for concealing gold worth Rs 49.27 lakh



Customs officials at the Amritsar International Airport have seized gold weighing 933.2 grams worth Rs 49.27 lakh from a passenger who travelled back from Dubai.

According to the information, the person who travelled back to India from Dubai was held at the Amritsar International Airport after officials found

around 933.2 grams of gold that he concealed inside his baggage on Wednesday.

The current value of the seized gold is worth Rs 49.27 lakh. Customs officials said, the person was arrested and a case was registered against him under Section 104 of the Customs Act, 1962.

- ANI

SC finally allows Maha to grant OBC quota in local body polls

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After having failed multiple times in convincing the Supreme Court in the past one year to allow it to grant reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local body elections, the Maharashtra government can now do so as the court on Wednesday asked the Election Commission to take into account the report of the State Commission for Backward Classes which had recommended the reservation.

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75 Cong MPs detained as ED quizzes Sonia Gandhi

As many as 75 Congress MPs including Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and several workers were detained by the Delhi Police on Thursday for holding demonstrations against the questioning of the party's interim president Sonia Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the National Herald case.

Senior Congress leaders including P Chidambaram, Ajay Maken, Manickam Tagore, KC Venugopal, Adhir Ranjan Chaudhry, Shashi Tharoor, Sachin Pilot, and Harish Rawat.

Ashok Gehlot, K Suresh and others are detained. When Congress MPs left from Parliament to Congress headquarters, around 75 MPs were taken by Delhi Police in buses.

Congress workers in Nagpur were also detained in the wake of the protest. Meanwhile, Sonia Gandhi is being quizzed by the ED officials in the national capital.

Congress interim president accompanied by her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra reached the ED office in the national capital.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also arrived at the ED office. "All Congress MPs and CWC Members have courted mass arrest outside our Party HQs in a show of collective solidarity with Congress President Sonia Gandhi, a target of Vishguru's political vendetta. We are being taken away to a police station in Old Delhi evidently," said party leader Jairam Ramesh.

Protesting Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge said that the ruling party (BJP) is showing its highhandedness by misusing the probe agencies by asking them to target opposition leaders.

"They (ruling party) want to show how powerful they are. We've raised the issue of inflation in Parliament but they're not ready for discussion. We are now raising the issue of misuse of central probe agencies," Kharge.

Congress MP Deepender S Hooda said that they are protesting peacefully. "We are protesting peacefully.

They cannot suppress our voice," said Hooda. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who is also in Delhi slammed the probe and said that since Sonia Gandhi is over 70 years old, ED should have gone to her house for investigation.

- ANI

In a act of kindness, UP cop helps underprivileged children get education

In a bid to provide a brighter future, a police officer in the temple city Ayodhya offers free education to children from the local areas who hail from downtrodden families.

The children, who are enjoying their classes and want to study further now, would have easily ended up begging if the cop wouldn't have come to their rescue.

"We want to study further and go to school. We feel pretty good while studying here, so now, we regularly come here," said a child.

With multiple young attendees in a class under a tree and open spaces, humanity echoes in the noble cause.

Police Sub-Inspector Ranjit Yadav began the classes several months ago and the decision came after seeing the parents of these children begging.

"I have started my own school and have been teaching these children for several months whenever I get a holiday. I often saw their parents begging, thereafter, I talked to them and many were willing to educate their

children," Police Sub-Inspector, Ranjit Yadav told ANI.

The children are seen attending his classes in numbers with over 50 students marking their presence. The children are also provided with stationery and books by Yadav.

In a time where everything took a toll during the Pandemic including the education of young innocent children, Police Sub Inspector Ranjit Yadav's noble thought and deed serve as the first milestone in proving that humanity has a face.

- ANI

NCP national level departments & cells are dissolved by Sharad Pawar

Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar has dissolved all departments and cells of the party with immediate effect, senior NCP leader Praful Patel said.

While informing about this on Wednesday, Patel did not disclose the reason for the sudden move, which comes

three weeks after the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra.

The NCP was a key constituent of the Shiv Sena-led coalition government which fell apart last month following a rebellion by a section of MLAs of the Uddhav Thackeray-led

saffron outfit.

"With the approval of the national president, Nationalist Congress Party, Sharad Pawar, all departments and cells stand dissolved with immediate effect," Patel, the NCP's national general secretary and former Union minister, tweeted on Wednesday.

World

Talibani Minister cautions Pakistan against acting aggressively across Durand Line

Taliban-appointed Defence Minister during his visit to the Durand Line in Paktia province said that the country will not allow any other country to act aggressively against Afghan soil.

The refusal to accept the status of the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Durand Line) by the Taliban regime has clearly shown the cracks in the relationship between the two countries.

Minister Mawalwi Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid visited Zazai Aryoub district in Paktia on Thursday, the Armed forces of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan-Mansoori Corps



said in a statement.

According to Afghanistan's Acting media outlet citing the Mansoori Corps statement, Minister Mawalwi Yaqoob Mujahid said that Afghanistan never acts aggressively toward other countries and will never let any country do so against Afghan soil.

Mujahid told the forces that

the Islamic Emirate wants good relations with neighbouring countries and expects the same from them, reported Tolo News.

Pakistan has committed a strategic blunder in thinking that the Taliban, which the country helped in fighting a US-backed Afghanistan for over two decades, will fulfil Islamabad's wishes.

Apparently, after Pakistan backed the Taliban for over two decades to gain Afghanistan's control back, it seemed like a legitimate expectation of Islamabad that the Taliban will show some gratitude and accede to Pakistan's wish list on a range of issues.

- ANI

Ranil Wickremesinghe: From PM to President in Sri Lanka's troubled times



Ranil Wickremesinghe, a seasoned politician who was appointed as the Prime Minister in May to deal with Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis in decades, faces new challenges to fix a collapsed economy, end political turmoil and unite the deeply divided country in his new role as President.

The 73-year-old lawyer-turned politician, who is believed to be close to India and its leaders, was appointed as the 26th prime minister of Sri Lanka in May by then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa amidst the worst economic crisis in the country. His appointment took place nearly two years after his United National Party (UNP) was routed and failed to win a single seat in the general election held in August 2020.

His appointment filled the void of leadership as Sri Lanka was without a government following the ouster of Gotabaya's elder brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa after violent protests

following an attack on the anti-government protesters by his supporters.

Widely accepted in political circles as a man who could manage the economy with far-sighted policies, Wickremesinghe, however, struggled to fix the economy which, he said, had collapsed at the time of his appointment in May.

He was appointed acting president on July 13 after President Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives and then to Singapore from where he resigned in the face of public revolt against his government's mishandling of the country's economy.

Wickremesinghe was later sworn in as the eighth President after he defeated former information minister Dulas Alahapperuma during a vote in parliament. Wickremesinghe, who was backed by members of the fragmented ruling coalition, remained unpopular among voters who view him as a holdover from the previous government that led the country into an economic crisis in decades.

Wickremesinghe, perceived as the Sri Lankan politician who could command international cooperation, has held many important posts during his political career spanning four and half decades.

- ANI

Protest planned against Pak Army during Baba Ghundi festival over forceful land grabbing

The locals in Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) are planning to hold a protest against the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) and Pak Army on the occasion of the Baba Ghundi festival, for forceful land grabbing near the Chiporsun valley. Baba Ghundi festival, slated to take place on July 21-23, is celebrated by the locals of Hunza and the Wakhi tribe of Afghanistan every year at the shrine of Baba Ghundi at the Wakhan Corridor along the Pak-Afghan border.

It is organized by the GB tourism department in collaboration with Chiporsun Local Support Organisation (CLSO) to pay homage to the local sufi saint. Besides the Hunza natives, a large number of people from Afghanistan's Wakhan region also attend the festival.

The Wakhan corridor is an ancient route used by the local tribes and natives for trade and business activities. Therefore, the festival holds huge economic importance for the local GB people. Wakhan Corridor is an ancient historical route for trade between Hunza valley and Afghanistan.

Due to its historical and strategic importance, Pak Army / FWO have reportedly started forceful acquisition of land from the local people. FWO has already seized control of one village near the Wakhan corridor and locals fear more such acquisitions.

- ANI

Sri Lankan Navy arrests six TN fishermen



Sri Lankan Navy has arrested six fishermen from the Palk Bay area and seized their boats and accused them of poaching in the country's territorial waters, said police on Thursday.

"When the six fishermen were fishing in the Palk Bay sea area, the Sri Lankan Navy came to the area and claimed that they were fishing across the border and arrested the six fishermen and took them with their boat to Thalaimannar for investigation," said Q Branch Police, Rameswaram.

On July 20, the fishermen went fishing from Rameswaram port after obtaining permission from the Department of Fisheries.

The fishermen who went for fishing have been identified as N Palamurugan (32) from Kariyur; D Anthony (38) and K Arjunan (23) from Thangachimadsm; J Maduku Pichai (45) from Rameswaram; K Thangapandi (55) and Raja (21) of Rameswaram Sivagami Nagar.

Earlier, 12 Indian fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly fishing illegally in the country's territorial waters.

Following which, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin requested External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar to take appropriate action for the immediate release of 12 Indian fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) leader O Panneerselvam also wrote a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar seeking his immediate intervention for the release of 12 Indian fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.

On March 25 this year, the fifth meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries was held through virtual mode.

The Joint Working Group discussed all relevant issues in detail including the concerns relating to fishermen and fishing boats which have been on the agenda of bilateral discussions between India and Sri Lanka for many years.

The Indian side expressed its readiness to work together with Sri Lanka for joint research to enhance the productivity of the Palk Bay fisheries.

- ANI

Nepal's Lalitpur city Police becomes country's 1st local body to use electric vehicles



The Lalitpur Metropolitan City Police has become the first local body to use electric vehicles for patrolling in an effort to reduce the consumption of petroleum products.

During a ceremony held at the office of the Metropolis, Chiri Babu Maharjan, the re-elected mayor of Lalitpur City announced that his office would from now on only buy electric vehicles. He also said that the newly set aim would help Nepal in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

"SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) 2030 has aimed to displace the petroleum vehicles by 2030, Nepal also is part of that treaty. However, the target of Nepal has been set for 2040 making some amendments on it.

Today, as we are in 2022, the deadline isn't far and we have a policy that we would not purchase any petroleum-consuming vehicle. All the required vehicles would only be electric," Mayor Maharjan said.

- ANI

Business

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022
AFTERNOON VOICE, MUMBAI

08

Asia's central banks forced to play catch-up in global rush to raise rates

Having bucked a global dash to tighten monetary policy for a year, Asian central banks find themselves scrambling to catch up in order to tackle rising inflation and defend weakening currencies.

Market analysts suspect Indonesia, the last remaining dove in emerging Asia, may be the next to move by pushing interest rates higher on Thursday, as policymakers rush to convince investors they are tackling rising prices.

Singapore and the Philippines surprised markets with unscheduled tightening announcements last week, underlining the growing urgency among policymakers to act.

Asia has lagged as the rest of the world, including emerging markets, began lifting rates as early as last June, after the U.S.



Federal Reserve kicked off an accelerated timeline for its policy tightening.

While relatively subdued inflation allowed central banks in Asia to remain dovish in a bid to support the post-pandemic economic recovery, that led to weakening currencies and capital outflows, even as the war in Ukraine exacerbated price pressures globally.

-Reuters

RBL Bank posts net profit of Rs 201 cr in Q1, asset quality improves

Private lender RBL Bank reported net profit of Rs 201 crore in the June quarter as against net loss of Rs 459 crore in the year-ago period.

The gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the bank declined to 4.08% of the gross advances as of June 30, 2022, from 4.4% registered in March quarter, it said in a stock

exchange filing on Thursday.

Net NPAs too eased to 1.16% from 1.34% witnessed in Q4FY22.

As a result, the bank's provisions and contingencies fell to Rs 253 crore as compared to Rs 1,384 crore in Q1FY22.

On Thursday, the bank's scrip on NSE closed trading nearly 4% higher at Rs 95.

- Agency

Hyundai sells 1.88 mn vehicles in first six months, Q2 profit jumps 56%

Hyundai Motor said on Thursday that its second-quarter net profit jumped 56 per cent from a year earlier on improved product mix and a weak won.

Net profit for the three months ended in June rose to 3.08 trillion won (US\$2.34 billion) from 1.98 trillion won during the same period of last year, the company said in a statement.

In the six-month period, Hyundai sold a total of 1.88 million vehicles, achieving 43

per cent of its sales target of 4.34 million units for the year.

The second-quarter bottom line was buoyed by increased sales of Hyundai's independent brand Genesis models, decreased incentives and the won's weakness against the dollar, reports Yonhap news agency.

The dollar rose to an average of 1,259.57 won in the second quarter from 1,121.23 won a year ago, according to the Bank of Korea.

- Agency

R Gandhi, Gopalakrishnan cease to be directors on Yes Bank board: RBI

Former RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi and professor Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan have ceased to be additional directors on the board of Yes Bank following a new board in place.

The move follows the RBI's directive to the bank dated July 20, 2022.

The RBI has communicated that "in view of the alternate board since constituted by the bank, it is now advised that R Gandhi and Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan shall cease to



be additional directors on the board of Yes Bank Limited with immediate effect, the bank said in a regulatory filing on

Wednesday.

Earlier on March 17, the RBI directed the bank regarding the extension of terms of appointment of Gandhi, former Deputy Governor, and Gopalakrishnan, Associate Professor, SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, as additional directors on the board of the Yes Bank for a further period of one year with effect from March 26, 2022, to March 25, 2023, or till further orders, whichever was earlier.

- PTI

Only decentralised renewable energy can help achieve 2030 targets: Experts

India may have taken great strides in utility scale deployment of renewable energy (RE), but the 2030 targets -- as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the climate summit last year -- can be achieved only by increased de-centralised installation of RE, experts have warned.

At the annual climate change negotiations platform

at Glasgow in November 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that India will have installed capacity of 500 GW of non-fossil energy and meet 50 per cent of its requirements through renewable energy. Modi also announced that India will achieve Net Zero in 2070.

As of date, according to the

Ministry of Renewable Energy (MNRE), India is now at 4th global position for overall installed renewable energy capacity. The solar capacity has increased in the last 7.5 years from around 2.6 GW to more than 46 GW. India currently has the largest RE expansion programme with 175 GW till 2022.

- IANS

China's 'Didi Global' fined \$1.2 billion for data violations since 2015



China's internet watchdog on Thursday fined ride-hailing firm Didi Global more than 8 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) following an investigation into the company's cybersecurity practices.

The probe found Didi violated China's network security law, data security law and a law protecting personal

information, the Cyberspace Administration of China said in a statement.

A separate statement explaining the fine said Didi's illegal operations had brought serious national security risks, affecting the country's information infrastructure and data security.

Didi's chairman Cheng Wei and president Jean Liu were fined 1 million yuan (\$148,000) each as they were held responsible for the company's violations, regulators said.

Didi's violations of laws and regulations are serious, and in light of the network security review, they should be severely punished, the statement read.

- Agency

Edtech startup Creative Galileo raises \$7.5 million in Series A funding

India's early learning ed-tech platform for kids between 3-10 years of age, Creative Galileo, raised \$7.5 million in a Series A funding round on Thursday.

"We want to enable bespoke learning for children across the globe through their favourite characters to strengthen their foundation during their early years, which will also help develop and strengthen critical thinking, confidence, cognitive skills, and emotional intelligence," Purna A Jhunjhunwala, Founder, Creative Galileo, said.

The money has been raised from Kalaari Capital, Affirma Capital, East Ventures, Valiant Employee Investment Fund, and angel investors.

- Agency

BSE Sensex

55681.95

(0.51%) ▲

Currency exchange

Nifty  NSE
National Stock Exchange of India Ltd

16,605.25 (0.51%) ▲

1 USD 80.6825 (INR)

1 GBP 95.5500 (INR)

1 EUR 82.2450 (INR)

Top Gainers

Scrip Name	Price	%Gain
IndusInd Bank	948.10	7.82
Bajaj Finance	6,266.90	3.17
TATA Cons. Prod	818.30	2.93
UPL	705.00	2.73
Bajaj Finserv	12,716.45	2.38

Top Losers

Scrip Name	Price	%Loss
Dr Reddys Labs	4,371.10	-1.97
Kotak Mahindra	1,800.55	-1.49
SBI Life Insura	1,168.55	-1.48
Cipla	968.50	-1.32
Tech Mahindra	1,032.75	-1.22

Sports

FIFA MA course for referees kicks off in Kochi



The FIFA MA Course 2022 for Referees, Assistant Referees, and Referee Assessors is being organised by the All India Football Federation kicked off in Kochi. The courses have been divided into two parts with 35 Referee

Assessors and 33 Women Referees undergoing a 5-day course starting on Wednesday till July 24, while the course for 32 Men Referees and 37 Assistant Referees will commence from July 25-July 29, 2022.

Rodzali Bin Yacob, FIFA RDO (Malaysia), Subkhiddin Mohd Salleh, FIFA Technical Instructor (Malaysia), and Ganesan Maniam FIFA Fitness Instructor (Singapore) are the instructors for the course.

The MA course began with Ravishankar, Director, Referees addressing the three FIFA instructors, and thanked them for coming to India to share their knowledge.

Sunando Dhar, Acting General Secretary, All India Football Federation, and Anil Kumar, GS, KFA were also present. Sunando Dhar said that it was "an immense opportunity" for the participants to gain knowledge from FIFA instructors who are also involved with the referees for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

- ANI

India U-20 goalkeepers look to make a mark in SAFF C'ship

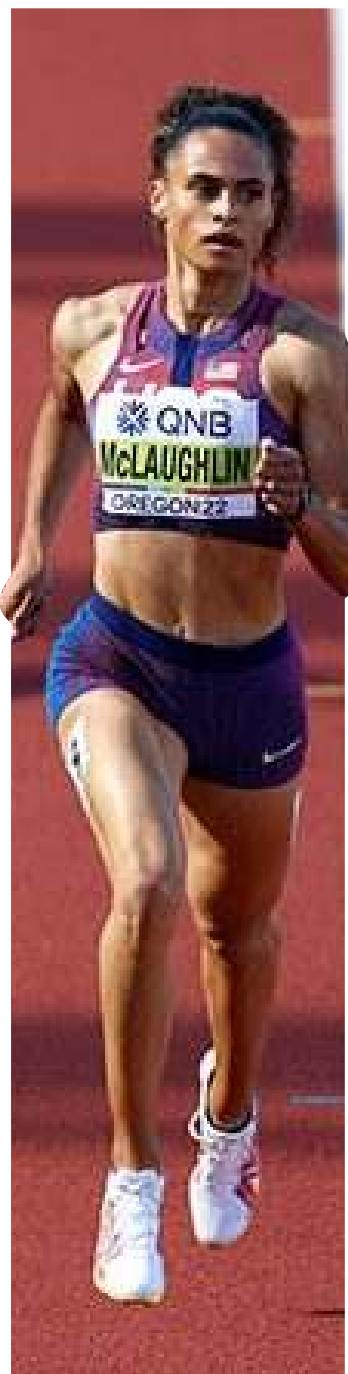
The next generation of Indian goalkeepers are going through rigorous tactical, physical, and mental development in the ongoing preparatory camp ahead of the SAFF U-20 Championship in Bhubaneswar which is scheduled to kick off next week.

The four goalkeepers -- Santosh Singh, Syed Zahid Hussain Bukhari, Mohit Singh Dhami, and Som Kumar are sweating it out to make it to the final squad for the tournament. Defending champions India will host the five-team tournament from July 25 to August 3, 2022. The tournament will take place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

While all of them have been in the junior national team system for around four years now, the likes of Santosh and Zahid are a part of the majority of players, who have continued with this team after spending the last two seasons with the same group of players at Indian Arrows.

"The Arrows project has made a huge difference to the goalkeepers, especially from a mental aspect," said goalkeeping coach Abhijit Mondal.

- ANI



McLaughlin cruises into 400m hurdles final at World Athletics C'ships

Olympic champion and world record holder Sydney McLaughlin qualified for Friday's final in 52.17 seconds at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon.

The 22-year-old Olympic champion looked in imperious form as she threw down the gauntlet to her challengers with a time of 52.17 in Wednesday's 400-meter semis. She will go into Friday's final full of confidence after setting the fastest qualifying time at Hayward Field on a hot evening in Eugene.

The Olympic bronze medallist Femke Bol surged home in 52.84 in the semi-final to take her place in Friday's final.

In the men's 400m semis, American Champion Allison delivered a fantastic comeback to advance to the final, while compatriot Michael Norman stormed to the fastest finish.

Meanwhile, in the other events, China's Feng Bin smashed her personal record by over three metres to become the world champion in the women's discus on day six at the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 on Wednesday.

- ANI



Current and former women's hockey players share their memorable experiences of CWG

As India gears up for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, the current and former hockey players shared their memorable moments from the past editions of the prestigious tournament.

With the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games just around the corner, the former and current players of the Indian women's hockey team took a moment to share their memorable moments from the past editions of the prestigious tournament.

Former India goalkeeper Helen Mary, who played an integral part in India's historic Gold medal victory at the Commonwealth Games 2002, stated, "The whole of 2002 Commonwealth Games campaign is my favourite moment actually."

"The way we fought back in the crossover match against South Africa boosted our morale. From 0-3 down in the first half to win the match 4-3 in the extra time, set the tone for us. We then beat New Zealand 2-1 in the Semi-Final

and went on to win against the hosts England 3-2 in the extra time. But it was an outcome of the hard work done in the past eight-nine months and the team unity was our biggest strength," she said. Former Indian women's hockey team captain Asunta Lakra recalled her favourite moment from the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, where India clinched Silver after losing 0-1 to the hosts Australia in the final.

"It was my first major tournament with the Senior team and I scored my first goal in the opening game itself against Australia, so it is my favourite memory of the Commonwealth Games. We missed the Gold medal with a very narrow margin, but it was a great experience overall. We finished second in the pool stage and then defeated New Zealand 1-0 in the semi-Final to ensure the Indian Women's Hockey Team's second consecutive medal at the Commonwealth Games," said Asunta.

- ANI

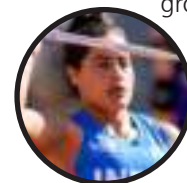
Javelin thrower Annu Rani qualifies for second consecutive World C'ships final

India's javelin thrower Annu Rani on Thursday became the first Indian to make it to back-to-back finals at the World Athletics Championships after finishing with a throw of 59.60 in her final attempt in Oregon on Thursday.

Rani began the qualification round in Group B on a bad note with a foul. But then she came up with a throw of 55.35 m later.

She saved the best for the last, making a throw of 59.60 m to make it to the final. In

the group B qualification round, she finished in the fifth position and made it to the final as eighth best across both groups.



"#Athletics Update @Annu_Javelin qualifies for her 2nd consecutive #Javelinthrow Final at the World

Championships Her best throw being 59.60m, which came on her 3rd attempt at @WCHoregon22 finishing 8th Great going!! All the best Annu Rani @g_rajaraman," tweeted SAI Media.

- ANI

Opinion

Open complaint to ECI to decide Shinde-Uddhav matter only after all India organizational elections & financial returns of Shiv Sena

As per media reports (<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/maharashtra-cm-eknath-shinde-stakes-claim-over-shiv-sena-sends-letter-to-ec-8041321/>) Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde late Tuesday night approached the Election Commission of India (ECI), staking claim over the Shiv Sena and the ECI is processing this letter for due details. But as per law, the ECI can decide this matter only after organizational elections of Shiv Sena by the Shiv Sainiks from all across India because that only will decide who represents Shiv Sena (whether Uddhav Thackeray or Eknath Shinde or anyone else) as explained below:-



residence of SS Member of Parliament (as I was demanding organizational elections in the SS by even giving notice to the ECI), which I informed to the ECI and petitioned the Delhi Court too, but no action under pressure of the SS.

[7]- Normally if any other constitutional authority indulges in dereliction of statutory duty then it is widely reported and discussed in the media that such authority (as in this case the ECI) takes bribes from the top office bearers of the party (in this case the Shiv Sena). But Indians (including its media) have been over indulgent towards the ECI which has not attracted such charges of

corruption by the ECI. But the ECI should be under no delusion because the ECI also some day will come under accountability & scrutiny of public gaze.

Therefore, it is legally expected that the ECI will first carry out organizational election in the Shiv Sena and will first ensure proper financial returns of the Shiv Sena (which the ECI has not ensured for decades after decades by dereliction of its statutory duty) before deciding the matter between Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray as to who represents Shiv Sena.

I am an Indian citizen presently in the USA and contested Loksabha election for Shiv Sena in 1998 from Kota Rajasthan hence submitting this petition to the ECI from other persons as desire to be heard as per section 15 of the "THE ELECTION SYMBOLS (RESERVATION AND ALLOTMENT) ORDER, 1968" (ESRAO) which reads as - "[15. Power of Commission in relation to splinter groups or rival sections of a recognized political party.—When the Commission is satisfied on information in its possession that there are rival sections or groups of a recognized political party each of whom claims to be that party the Commission may, after taking into account all the available facts and circumstances of the case and hearing such representatives of the sections or groups and other persons as desire to be heard decide that one such rival section or group or none of such rival sections or groups is that recognized political party and the decision of the Commission shall be binding on all such rival sections or groups]".

- Hemraj Jain



- Hemraj Jain

Author of 'Betrayal of Americanism'

[1]- It is in the knowledge of the ECI that Shiv Sena is not merely in Maharashtra but in other States and Union Territories of India too where even candidates are fielded by Shiv Sena in elections to Parliament, State Assemblies and Local Bodies by giving A & B forms to such Shiv Sena candidates.

[2]- These Shiv Sena candidates in the rest of India (other than Maharashtra) are also entitled (on preferential basis for the symbol of Shiv Sena) as per section 10 of the ESRAO which reads as -

"[10. Concessions to candidates set up by a State party at elections in other States or Union territories.—If a political party, which is recognized as a State party in some State or States, sets up a candidate at an election in a constituency in any other State in which it is not a recognized State party, then such candidate may, to the exclusion of all other candidates in the constituency, be allotted the symbol reserved for that party in the State or States in which it is a recognized State Party, notwithstanding that such symbol is not specified in the list of free symbols for such other State or Union territory]".

[3]- These Shiv Sena

candidates all over India are supported by Shiv Sainiks in respecting areas who become Shiv Sena members as per rules of Shiv Sena and after giving membership contributions to Shiv Sena hence are to be recognized by the ECI as per section 29 A (4) (e) of the THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951 (RPA) which reads as-

"[29A. Registration with the Election Commission of associations and bodies as political parties. — (1) Any association or body of individual citizens of India calling itself a political party and intending to avail itself of the provisions of this Part shall make an application to the Election Commission for its registration as a political party for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every such application shall contain the following particulars, namely:—

(e) the numerical strength of its members, and if there are categories of its members, the numerical strength in each category]"

[4]- These Shiv Sainiks from rest of India (than Maharashtra) not only give membership contribution to the Shiv Sena as per section 29B of the RPA but also bring donations etc from other persons for Shiv Sena and which is the mandatory duty of the ECI to

take cognizance of as per section 29 C (3) of the RPA which reads as -

"[29B. Political parties entitled to accept contribution.—Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, every political party may accept any amount of contribution voluntarily offered to it by any person or company other than a Government company:

29C. Declaration of donation received by the political parties.—(1) The treasurer of a political party or any other person authorized by the political party in this behalf shall, in each financial year, prepare a report in respect of the following, namely:—

(3) The report for a financial year under sub-section (1) shall be submitted by the treasurer of a political party or any other person authorized by the political party in this behalf before the due date for furnishing a return of its income of that financial year under section 139 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, to the Election Commission]"

[5]- In view of the above mentioned provisions of laws the ECI is under legal obligation to decide the claim between Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray (as to who represents the political party Shiv Sena) after first ensuring

organizational elections of Shiv Sena by the Shiv Sainiks of all over India (and not merely of Maharashtra) and after ensuring proper financial returns of Shiv Sena with the Income Tax Department and with the ECI. .

[6]- Here it is in context to add that I was associated with the Shiv Sena (SS) from 1986 to 2003 in Navi Mumbai, Kota, Bhopal and Delhi (where I worked for SS trade union in Navi Mumbai, was office bearer of the SS from City to State level and contested election for the SS for Loksabha in 1998 from

Kota, worked for SS in Bhopal and started trade union in Delhi for the SS in 2002-03). I had to stop working for the SS in 2003 because the SS started inflicting physical violence on me through its State office bearers in the government

Different Strokes

BURDEN ON PARENTS



As the crisis of the Corona epidemic is ending and the impact of the fourth wave has accumulated, many families have planned to travel after a long period of two years. Organizers and tourists will have to bear the loss for the gap in the value taken. Also, while sending money from abroad to non-resident Indian families in India, Indians living abroad will have to pay more money while sending money in rupees.

Due to the increase in the repo rate by the Reserve Bank and all types of debt that have increased accordingly, especially, the fees of students abroad for the higher education, due to the devaluation of the rupee, the biggest burden will be on the parents studying abroad student. Parents will have to pay extra. Also, the fees of foreign educational institutes have to be paid in dollars in foreign currency, which will have a direct impact on the parents. Economic experts are of the opinion that the dollar is coming around 80 rupees against the dollar. The depreciation of the rupee will affect the parents of students studying abroad and those taking Siksha or education loans and will also shatter the dreams of long-time tourism dreamers.

- Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Author

High Hopes of Success



The stage is set. The lights are getting ready. The camera is on its way. And action is about to be announced. It is now certain that 2022-23 is going to be a difficult year for Mumbai's real estate industry. Interest rates are on their way up, the state government has recklessly added a tax of 1 percent on house purchase, stock markets have fallen sharply hurting demand and sentiment, and upcoming supply is at outrageous levels in prime micro-markets.

Pent-up demand and future demand got crunched in a short period of time as the entire ecosystem threw its weight behind a recovery in the housing market. Now, it's clear that the assumption was not entirely correct. Many small and mid-level developers have managed to at least begin the race with multiple projects. Despite all setbacks and high inflation the builders are pinning hopes on eco-centric design for higher energy efficiency in a most profitable way.

With more and more skyscrapers coming up in the vicinity, it is needless to have an uninterrupted supply of water in a planned way. Reuse of treated water for

flushing and landscaping is the need of the hour. This will lessen the burden on Municipal water supply. It is time to encourage rain water harvesting throughout Maharashtra.

Providing a sewage treatment plant (STP) assumes greater importance. The main aim is to prevent the release of harmful waste matter into the environment. The onus on making provision of Vermi-composting pits for organic waste treatment on site. This is a right step in the right direction and the patronage

of residents is required for a positive shift towards the use of non-conventional energy.

The most important role of the housing societies is the task of segregation of dry and wet garbage at source. This requires smart, professional waste management that reduces the burden on landfills.

Moreover, adequate daylight and ventilations are a must in high rise buildings.

This will enable residents to reduce home lighting and air-conditions cost and thereby we can reduce the power tariff. There must be an elevation to control energy consumption in the best way possible. Smart and thoughtful architecture that helps in conserving energy. Hafiz Contractor gave his insight in building

The most important role of the housing societies is the task of segregation of dry and wet garbage at source. This requires smart, professional waste management that reduces the burden on landfills.

Millennium Towers in Sanpada and now a number of skyscrapers are coming up in the vicinity with more amenities.

Tree plantation drives in developing skyscrapers provide better ambiance to the building and extend a green

cover as well. Thus, it helps in achieving fresh air quality and provides better shade with thoughtfully planned green cover. Utmost care should be taken to water the plants periodically for proper maintenance.

Using grass pavers for the open parking area relates to a serene atmosphere within the housing society. It allows rain water to percolate in the ground, thereby increasing the water table.

The key to solving the water problem is rain water harvesting. There should be a concerted effort in paving the way for better living conditions.

Common electricity power tariff can be curtailed to the minimum if you have a solar system installed in your society. Solar water systems can be exclusively used for bathroom water heaters. Thus, it will reduce and lessen the dependence on conventional power for water heating. Energy thus saved in common area power bill will come down drastically if we reduce the use of electricity and optimize utility bills.

Energy efficient common lighting is the order of the day. The high performance windows make our dream of getting fresh air throughout all seasons. This improves thermal efficiency of buildings to reduce the heat ingress and facilitate comfortable living.

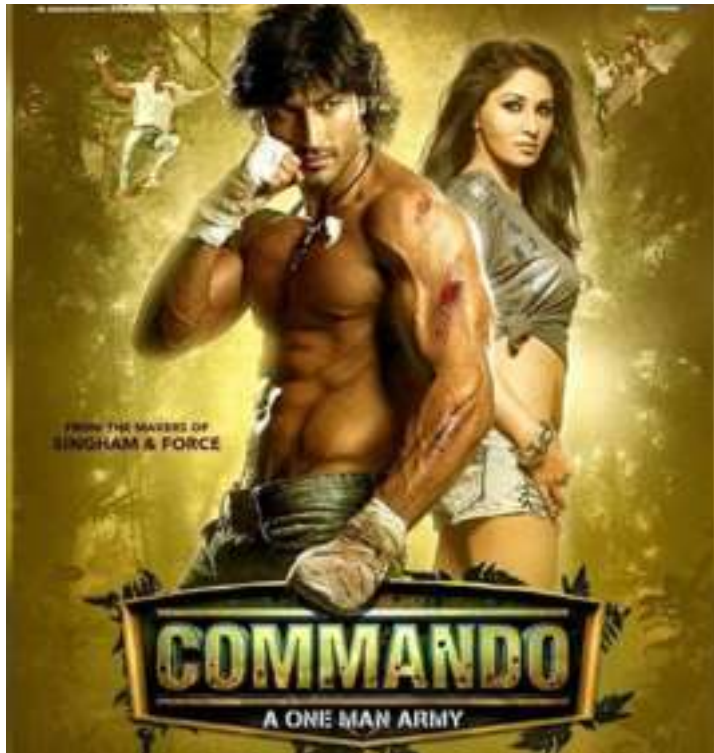


- C K Subramaniam

Columnist and Writer

Entertainment

Vipul Amrutlal Shah's 'Commando' movie franchise to be adapted into series



Filmmaker Vipul Amrutlal Shah is all set to adapt his Vidyut Jammwal starrer 'Commando' movie franchise into a series on Disney Plus Hotstar. It will retell the action saga in an all-new format.

The new show will feature Para SF Captain Karan Singh Dogra (originally played Jammwal) and delve into details, giving viewers a close look at his life and mission. Amrutlal is currently on the search for a fresh face to

portray the enigmatic character in the new show.

Speaking about this new project, Amrutlal said, "It's an absolute pleasure and joy to extend the action franchise like Commando into the OTT world. The franchise has been very special because we launched the supremely talented Vidyut Jammwal and it went on to become one of the most successful action franchises."

"It will be very exciting as this is going to be another experiment with the same franchise that has never happened in India. Commando as a film only has Vidyut Jammwal but OTT will launch a new Commando. Moreover, action is a genre that is pretty unexplored on OTT in India so in that sense, it will be a new thing for the OTT, so it will be fun to do that," he continued.

The first 'Commando' film, directed by Dilip Ghosh, was released theatrically on April 12, 2013. It was followed by two sequels, 'Commando 2: The Black Money Trail' in 2017 and 'Commando 3' in 2019.

- ANI

Kendall Jenner gets restraining order against alleged trespasser

American media personality and model Kendall Jenner has been granted a three-year restraining order against an alleged trespasser.

According to court documents obtained by E! News, on July 19, a Los Angeles County Commissioner granted Jenner a permanent restraining order against Arnold Oscar Babcock for alleged trespassing. The legal decision comes after Jenner filed a petition for non-violent civil harassment against the man in January.

Those present for the hearing included Jenner, Babcock, Jenner's attorney Kate Mangels and Babcock's attorney Edward Crawford Watkins, per the documents.

The legal decision comes after Jenner filed a petition for non-violent civil harassment against Babcock in January. While this decision may give Jenner some peace of mind, it is not the first time she has been faced with an alleged security scare. Back in April 2021, she was granted a five-year restraining order against Malik Bowker after he was



arrested in March for trespassing on her Los Angeles property.

According to TMZ, who cited law enforcement sources, Bowker knocked on Jenner's windows while yelling her name. He then proceeded to take his clothes off with a plan to swim in her pool. At the time, sources close to the Kardashians star confirmed to E! News that Jenner had increased her security measures after the incident occurred.

- ANI

Malaika Arora drops fun singing video with her friends



On Thursday, the 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' star took to her Instagram story and shared a fun singing video with her friends. In the video, Malaika was seen having fun while singing 'Oh Carol' song by Neil Sedaka with her girl gang in Cafe Panama Mumbai. The actor donned a black bralette top that she paired with blue denim shorts. She topped her outfit with a black-red printed jacket.

Vijay Deverakonda takes audiences on an emotional rollercoaster of action, romance and drama

The much-anticipated trailer for the Vijay Deverakonda starrer pan India film 'Liger' has finally been unveiled on Thursday and it takes audiences on a rollercoaster from action to romance to drama.

Vijay took to his Twitter handle and posted a trailer along with a



message that read, "India, We give you Mass. Action. Entertainment. The LIGER Trailer! #LIGER #LigerTrailer Aug 25th Worldwide release!"

The 2-minute-long trailer introduces audiences to Vijay's character, who's an MMA fighter in the film, and shows him acing the fight sequences

with ease though he has a stammering problem. Ramya Krishnan, who plays the role of Vijay's mother on-screen made an impact with her glimpses of being a badass mother. "My son is a crossbreed, born to a lion and a tiger," she can be heard saying in the trailer.

- ANI

Mahesh Bhatt reveals that Sushmita Sen fell in love with Vikram Bhatt in Seychelles

Sushmita Sen is currently in news after former BCCI member and businessman Lalit Modi announced his relationship with the actress. His announcement was followed by a series of memes and accusations directed towards the former beauty queen where she was trolled and called a 'gold digger'. While Vikram Bhatt came out in support of the actress, his brother Mahesh Bhatt spoke about his romance with the actress, when the filmmaker



was reportedly dating her during the shoot of Dastak.

Sushmita Sen and the Bhatt have a long professional



relationship. Speaking about being a witness to their romance Mahesh Bhatt recently revealed details about



Vikram Bhatt and Sushmita Sen adding that it kicked off in Seychelles. He was quoted in an ETimes report saying, "I gave her an idea of Dastak and she instantly said yes. And the rest was history. But during the making of Dastak, Vikram's romance with Sushmita started in Seychelles. Vikram was my right hand and used to be at the forefront, doing most of my work. So, he used to interact with her more vigorously. That's how the romance began."

- Agency