



Oppn write a letter to ED stating "it cannot turn around and abdicate its  
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# Afternoon VOICE

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## Disproportionate assets held by Uddhav Thackeray and his family "is bereft of any evidence Bombay high court

The Bombay High Court dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking a CBI probe claiming disproportionate properties of former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and his family. The court said that the petitioner was seeking a rambling inquiry with no evidence but just bare allegations and called it an abuse of the process or law. The court dismissed the petition with a cost of Rs 25,000 to be paid by the petitioner to the Advocate Welfare Fund.

Bombay high court said the public interest litigation seeking probe by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the alleged disproportionate assets held by Uddhav Thackeray and his family "is bereft of any evidence, much less evidence". The PIL questioned how the Thackeray family had accumulated enormous wealth without an official source of income. The Bhide family, like the Thackerays, had owned a printing press at Prabhadevi. It stated when Gouri noticed Aditya's assets in his election affidavit, she investigated and her findings were shocking. She concluded that Thackeray publications Marmik and Saamna are not

wealth earners for the family and that "their political outfit i.e. Shiv Sena and its corporators and particularly, chairmen of the standing and improvements committees of the BMC is their only and only medium of source to create wealth".

The judges noted after they reserved the matter for judgment, public prosecutor Aruna Pai had informed it that the economic offences wing (EOW) had initiated a preliminary enquiry. The Bhides, though, were unwilling to withdraw their petition and they had to decide the issues in it.

On December 8, 2022, Bhide had argued after her July 11, 2022, complaint to the police commissioner was forwarded to the EOW, no action was taken. Senior advocate Aspi Chinoy with advocate Joel Carlos for Uddhav and Aditya and senior advocate Ashok Mundargi for Rashmi and Tejas countered that Bhide's petition has no material facts to make out a case and was filed purely on "assumptions".

Chinoy had argued if at all police refused to act on her complaint, she could approach the magistrate to direct them.

"On a reading of the complaint and the petition, it appears petitioners were only speculating on the sudden rise and prosperity index of the private respondents from their humble beginning and, therefore, entertain that the lifestyle of the private respondent could only be attributed to the corrupt practices of BMC. In any case there is absolutely no evidence or live link between the alleged malpractices in the BMC and the private respondents herein," the judges said. "This is thus certainly not a case warranting the exercise of extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India," the judges added.



## Shiv Sena took all the burnt with the demolition of Maha Vikas Aaghadi government?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress broke bread together, said Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud while hearing the Sena symbol case. He went ahead and asked what happened overnight in the happy marriage of the Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress that lasted for three years. So naïve of this judge, is he really not aware of the dirty politics that has rippled Maharashtra? Right now Eknath Shinde group and BJP are also breaking bread together, there is no guarantee that the alliance will last long.

To this question, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said he

won't be able to comment on that as this is a political debate. The CJI then said the governor (then governor) should have asked himself the question of what they were doing for all these years. "Three years you cohabit and suddenly one fine day a group of 34 say there is discontent," the CJI said. "The Governor can't be oblivious to the fact that in a three-party coalition, the discontent has taken place in one party of the three. The other two are steadfast in the coalition. They are not by any means sidekicks," the CJI observed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

## Editoritis

# Shiv Sena took all the burnt with the demolition of Maha Vikas Aaghadi government?

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*Suppose there is a policy difference in a party on whatever aspects. Can the governor merely say that you must prove your trust vote? The governor must equally be conscious of the fact that his calling for a trust vote may itself be a circumstance which may lead to toppling of a government?*

*Hearing the Sena versus Sena case, the Supreme Court made strong observations on Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's role in the Maharashtra vote that unseated the Uddhav Thackeray-led government last year. We all know the governor was a BJP leader and he was always biased.*

*The factions led by Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde have since been fighting for recognition as the "real Shiv Sena". Last month, the Election Commission handed over the Shiv Sena name and poll symbol to the Eknath Shinde faction. Mr Thackeray, despite losing control of the party founded by his father Bal Thackeray, continues to fight the Shinde faction in the Supreme Court.*

"Suppose there is a policy difference in a party on whatever aspects. Can the governor merely say that you must prove your trust vote? The governor must equally be conscious of the fact that his calling for a trust vote may itself be a circumstance which may lead to toppling of a government?," the CJI said. The election commission has allotted the Shiv Sena name and the bow and the arrow symbol to the faction led by Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde whose rebellion toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray. The Shiv Sena (undivided), the Congress and the NCP came together to form the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance which formed the government in 2019. Uddhav Thackeray approached the Supreme Court challenging the EC order.

A Governor must exercise power cautiously and be aware that calling for a trust vote could bring down the government, the Supreme Court said today in sharp remarks while hearing a case on the Shiv Sena coup. Calling for a trust vote just on grounds of differences within a ruling party can topple an elected government, said the court. Hearing the Sena versus Sena case, the Supreme Court made strong observations on Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's role in the Maharashtra vote that unseated the Uddhav Thackeray-led government last year. We all know the governor was a BJP leader and he was always biased. The Governor should not enter any area which precipitates the fall of a government.

People will start ditching the ruling party and the Governor will end up toppling the ruling party. This will be a sad spectacle for democracy," said the judges, adding that governors must exercise their powers with the greatest circumspection. The three-year-old Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena-NCP-Congress coalition in Maharashtra lost power after a coup in the Shiv Sena by Eknath Shinde, who went on to form a new government with the BJP in June. Mr Koshyari had asked for a test of majority, but Mr Thackeray resigned, facing defeat, making way for Shinde to take power.

The factions led by Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde have since been fighting for recognition as the "real Shiv Sena".

Last month, the Election Commission handed over the Shiv Sena name and poll symbol to the Eknath Shinde faction. Mr Thackeray, despite losing control of the party founded by his father Bal Thackeray, continues to fight the Shinde faction in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is hearing petitions that question the foundation of the Shinde government, arguing that Shinde and 15 other rebels were disqualified at the time of the trust vote.

"Difference of opinion among MLAs within a party can be on any ground like payment of development fund or deviation from party ethos but can that be a sufficient ground for the governor to call for the floor test? Governor cannot lend his office to effectuate a particular result." When the Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued that the rebels had lost confidence in Uddhav Thackeray, Justice Chandrachud said: "Discontent in the party by itself will not justify the governor calling a trust vote." The Chief Justice said the Governor cannot be oblivious of the fact that in a three-party coalition, dissent took place only in one.

That is the present day status of the Uddhav faction of Shiv Sena. He has compromised on basic principles of his organisation and as a result he cannot learn towards BJP. Even within Shiv Sena, he has burnt his bridges with people at ground level and aligned with people of the description of Sanjay Raut who has no roots in realpolitik. The problem with NCP and Congress is that they cannot disown Shiv Sena (Uddhav) and there is no political gain in keeping this mill around their neck. Shiv Sena is losing support because it is not concentrating on its strength. Its strength is in Hindutva, Maharashtrian and Hindu culture, traditions, and way of life etc. However it is going away from its slated objective and falling into the trap of a secular pit created by Congress. In fact Congress itself is trying to come out of the same and Rahul is on temple run.

Vaidehi

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## Letters to the Editor

### And Oscar goes to... Natoo Natoo

The only good cage in the world is an empty cage. We are not complete until we give nature's living creatures their rightful place. The documentary "The Elephant Whisperers" made a name for itself at the 95th Oscars and made Indians proud. Shaunak Sen's documentary on change, "All That Breathes", was also in the running, but it did not receive the desired response.

After AR Rahman's song "Jai Ho" in 2009, "Natu Natu" has proudly spread the fame of Indians and Indian music around the world by winning an Oscar. And Oscar goes to. Asian countries used to have very little or no nominations in Oscar nominations, but Asian countries are now having a big impact on the Oscars. The increased influence of Indian and Asian countries on the prestigious Oscars is sure to give a positive boost to the upcoming Indian and Asian film and documentary industries.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

### History in the making at the Oscars!

It was history in the making at the Oscars this year as 'Naatu Naatu' from RRR & The Elephant Whispers won the honors at the world stage for being declared winners for the best original song & best documentary short film respectively. Film RRR was a global hit film & 'Naatu Naatu' had everyone on their toes & a podium finish was on the expected lines. Indian cinema has come a long way as such recognition of an Oscar award should inspire many more filmmakers to give their best in the future.

Talent is abundant in our country but encouragement was missing. However, laurels at the Oscars should change things for the future & our entertainment industry is heading for good times in the days to come. Kudos to the winners & hope our nation figures on the podium regularly in the future!

S.N.Kabra.

### 5G technology a boon to many

Exclusive 5G networks can be devoted to a specific enterprise or operation by using the advantages of LTE system. Perpetration of this type of network may transfigure the entire industry leading to the granulation of the telecommunications request. Integration of Artificial Intelligence with both the 5G network and the device will lead to more effective wireless dispatches, longer battery life, and enhanced stoner experience. Relinquishment of 5G in the fintech assiduity would revise the banking sector openings for both the banking organizations and guests; With technologies like pall and edge\ computing and IoT, 5G has come a super technology to play an integral part in Industry 4.0; Network and service conditions for 6G have been defined to enhance the perfection in network configuration, machine type communication, stoked intelligence, rich- media services and security & trust ability of the network; 5G technology along with IoT enabled services is largely recommended for health operations. pastoral frugality can clearly be bettered using 5G technology; Design of a largely insulated two- port MIMO operations antenna for 5G WI- FI- 5 has been proposed; 5G technology felicity for operations in Space and Defence fabrics has been proposed for perfecting the protection against natural and battleground pitfalls, weight reduction and for making the fabrics suitable for all climatic conditions; 5G technology can produce an impact in the medical field and ameliorate the critical factors of healthcare; With the advantages of

5G technology, it's possible to produce a dynamic and largely competitive business terrain; There will be a tremendous impact of 5G technology on logical instruments' design, development, deployment and remote conservation, which leads to advantages for SMEs and many.

Vijaykumar H K

# PAPER WITH A PASSION

When I get up early in the morning my mind goes to the memoirs, memories and moments in my life as a freelancer and it is 50 years and still mingles in my mind all the time. Staring at a blank sheet of paper, I scrape my mind for any kind of motivation. I think of anything that would guide me, and after about 20 minutes without luck I decide to take a trip down memory lane. What made me start writing? Who inspired me to venture into these deep lands where one can go from staring at a blank sheet to producing emotions that can make tears roll down your cheeks? Those tears could be out of joy or sadness; it all depends on the writer, holding a pen and waiting to bring about several emotions in one's heart. I still remember that particular day as it was yesterday, a slight breeze brushing through my hair, the leaves rustling and the birds chirping. It all started with writing in a postcard about my favorite cricketer of the 1970s and I gave a caption "Valiant Venkat" and that was published in the Delhi edition of the Times of India. I never looked back.

I was a 21-year-old youngster with hopes and dreams to one day achieve as much as a sports scribe, not just in the field of my favorite game cricket but even in writing other sports. I had a passion to write and that I have always loved writing. I took out a book, a book of poems written by my daughter-in-law, and took me out to my backyard where there was an old tree, its green leaves full of life, whispering as if it was making conversation with the evening breeze. The tree alone is still surviving in this world, still standing upright and firm, like a soldier ready to protect his country from any threat. But a poem on sparrows attracted me most.

On that particular day I decided that I would follow my passion and write what I feel. I decided that though I had planned to follow the path of an Engineer, I would not stop myself from taking my passion for writing forward. People say it's a forked road ahead and we get to pick only one route for our future, contrary to the statement, I believe we could always merge the two paths in front of us and follow both our career and our passion at the same time.

Today, I take a lot of interest in the field I have chosen, which is a

part of healthcare, but that does not stop me from my passion of writing. In the past years I have learnt a lot and improved my writing skills. I feel that today I can write an article well enough to bring a change in the reader's emotions. Every time ink touches paper, I think about that particular day and it motivates me every time. Steady stream of ideas should flow from the mind to express the views in an impressive way. Good language also plays a pivotal role. The subject preferred should be of current topic and that carries weight in the media in the recent past and people follow that particular event in a very big way.

Pen is mightier than sword is true and letter writing is an art. In the days of android phones, email, and text messages, letter writing can seem hopelessly outdated. But it is an art worth bringing back, and not because of some misplaced sense of nostalgia either. The writing and reception of letters will always offer an experience that modern technology cannot touch. Twitter is effective for broadcasting what you are eating for lunch, and email is fantastic for quick exchanges on the most pertinent pieces of information. But when it comes to sharing one's true thoughts, sincere sympathies, ardent love, and deepest gratitude, words traveling along an invisible super-highway will never suffice.

Because sending a letter is the next best thing to showing up personally at someone's door. Ink from your pen touches the stationary, your fingers touch the paper, your saliva seals the envelope. And something tangible from your world travels through machines and hands, and deposits itself in your friend's mailbox. Your letter is then carried inside as an invited guest. The paper that was sitting on your desk, now is passed on. The recipient handles the paper that you handled. Letters create a connection that modern, impersonal forms of communication will never approach.

Letter writing is definitely an art. Having experienced writing letters in all the news dailies of India and all the magazines I feel proud of my hobby and taste for letter writing. We really enjoyed the art of letter writing for nearly 70 years since our independence. Even though E-mail and electronic devices are there to communicate, the art of letter writing never diminished. By the click of the mouse it is possible to

send messages all over the world to friends and relatives. But still the joy of posting a handwritten letter to your friend, relative or parents is really enthralling.

Hand-written letters exuding warmth are giving way to electronic messages slowly. Anyway, the personal touch is lost when you send an email message to your father. The world has been brought closer, but the pleasure of writing letters with pen and paper and the eagerness to receive the letters and our expectation of their arrival are gradually diminishing. We now think of the digital world not only and robbing the excitement of letter writing and losing close friendship, love and community feeling are losing their intensity slowly and steadily.

Free flow of language adds to the repertoire of letter writing. Forceful thoughts should touch the heart and soul of the people and instead of criticizing the views expressed by the writer, the people should read in between the lines and observe the finer points in a simple way. Crisp writing will help the writer to sustain for a longer duration as a letter writer in this competitive world. The writer should play to the gallery while expressing his views on sensitive subjects. Freedom of press should not be violated in any way and make the points very clear without any ambiguity. Clear mind and clear thought will flow in the early morning hours and a tired mind may not help the writer to bring out his thoughts in an appropriate way.

The habit of writing regularly; the confidence to write like a master; tools and techniques; to help you write with impact; the ability to look at one's own writing critically and with the resolve to improve it; and an understanding of emerging market conditions and what it takes to succeed commercially as a writer. It appears that we have no choice but to juggle the right words into place and hope that they are not in the wrong order.

C.K. Subramaniam,

Columnist

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own.)



## Realtors want govt to rationalise GST on under-construction properties in a bid to encourage sales



**R**ealty experts and developers want the government to rationalise Goods and Services Tax (GST) on under-construction properties

to encourage their sales. The sale of under-construction properties has decreased as buyers have to pay the GST, in addition to stamp duty and registration fees.

Pankaj Kapoor, real estate expert and founder and managing director of Lias Foras, said sales of under-construction property dropping was worrying. "Under-construction property draws GST; therefore, many homebuyers prefer to buy ready-to-move-in properties. Besides, ready-to-move-in properties have fewer risk factors associated with them. Therefore, developers rush to complete the property to draw sales, for which they must borrow money. The increased input cost, besides the interest on borrowings, is added to the property value, which indirectly has to be paid by the customer. Therefore, the government should rationalise the GST."

## Rs 84 crore toll collected from Maharashtra's Samruddhi Mahamarg in 3 months

**T**he Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) has collected Rs 84 crore as the toll from the Samruddhi Mahamarg during the past three months from December 11, 2022, to March 12, 2023. Sanjay Yadav, MSRDC joint managing director-II (JMD), said that in the past three months over 12 lakh vehicles used the expressway.

Light vehicle users commuting through the Samruddhi Mahamarg or Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway



will have to pay a toll fee of Rs 1.73 per kilometer. This means a person travelling by car along the

partially opened six-lane expressway will have to pay Rs 899 for travelling from Nagpur to Shirdi.

## 5-year-old boy who fell into borewell in Ahmednagar district pulled out dead

**A** rescue operation of at least nine hours to save a five-year-old boy who fell into a borewell in a village in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district proved futile as he was pulled out dead in the wee hours of Tuesday, officials said. The deceased, Sagar Barela, was the son of a sugarcane worker who hailed from Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh.

The child fell into the borewell in Kopardi village under Karjat tehsil, around 125 km from Pune city, at around 5 PM on Monday, shortly after he got down from a bullock cart, a police official said.



Personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), along with local police and district administration personnel, launched an operation to rescue him. "The boy was pulled out dead from the borewell at around 2 AM on Tuesday," a police official said. Officials had said the boy was trapped at a depth of 15 feet in the defunct borewell.

Karjat-Jamkhed MLA Rohit

Pawar said farmers should take care to properly cover borewells in their fields. "The incident of the death of a labourer's child after falling into a borewell in my constituency is very unfortunate. He could not be saved despite best efforts. But to avoid such incidents, farmers should take care to properly cover the bore wells in their fields," Pawar tweeted. (PTI)

## Will start 'Kursi Chhodo' protest if farmers' demands not met: Congress' Nana Patole



**C**ongress leader Nana Patole said that the governments at the Centre and in Maharashtra are "anti-farmer".

"The state government is not helping farmers, we want the de-

mands of farmers to be fulfilled and old pension scheme to be implemented, else we will hold "Kursi Choro (leave the chair) Andolan" throughout the state," Patole said.

## Farmers resume long march; government cancels meeting with representatives

**M**umbai News Today Highlights: The marchers have a 17-point charter of demands, including remunerative prices for onions, cotton, soyabean, tur, green gram, milk, and hirda; government employees on strike for Old Pension Scheme. Maharashtra Farmers March, Mumbai News Highlights: Hundreds of farmers, led by the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS), resumed

their 200-km march from Nashik to Mumbai seeking remunerative prices for their farm produce, on Tuesday. The marchers have a 17-point charter of demands, including remunerative prices for onions, cotton, soyabean, tur, green gram, milk, and hirda. Meanwhile, the state government has cancelled the meeting with farmers' long march representatives that was scheduled to be held at 3 pm today.

## 23 booked for stealing electricity in Thane

**A** case has been registered against nearly two dozen persons for allegedly stealing electricity worth nearly Rs 3 lakh in Thane district, an official said on Wednesday. The alleged power theft was recently detected in the Titwala area

during an inspection by officials from the state-run distribution company Mahavitaran, the official said. Based on a complaint by Mahavitaran, the Murbad police booked 23 persons for allegedly stealing electricity, he said.

## Central probe agencies being used to target Oppn leaders: RS member Chaturvedi

**R**ajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi on Tuesday alleged that central investigation agencies are being used by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to target Opposition leaders.

The Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray) member said efforts are being made to silence leaders of anti-BJP parties by bringing false charges against them.

She claimed the BJP has been



acting brazenly against honest and upright representatives and members of the Shiv Sena (UBT) such as former Mumbai mayor Kishori Pednerkar and Anil Parab in order to build pressure on them. (PTI)



## Oppn write a letter to ED stating "it cannot turn around and abdicate its jurisdiction" over Adani issue



Leaders of several opposition parties on Wednesday urged the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to initiate an investigation into the Adani Group over allegations of corrupt practices, including money laundering through shell companies. In a letter emailed to the ED Director S K Mishra, the parties told the probe agency that "it cannot turn around and abdicate its jurisdiction".

The letter as signed by leaders of the Congress, CPI, CPI-M, JDU, SS (UBT), RJD, DMK, JMM, AAP, IUML, VCK, Kerala Congress and others. Leaders of several opposition parties were stopped by the police at Vijay Chowk here as they took out a protest march from Parliament

House to hand over a complaint to the Enforcement Directorate on the Adani issue. In their letter to the ED, the opposition leaders said, "We are acutely aware of how in the recent past, the ED has also zealously pursued cases of alleged political favouritism, including sharing concurrent jurisdiction with SEBI and CBI. We are also aware of the limited remit of the Supreme Court

Commission appointed on the subject. We point this out so as to remind the ED that it cannot turn around and abdicate its jurisdiction on these or other grounds". "In light of the above, we, the members of the Opposition, ask that you take immediate action on the above mentioned allegations,"

they told the ED director.

The letter further claimed that over the last three months, several crucial pieces of evidence have been made available against the Adani Group in the public domain. "Yet, the Enforcement Directorate, which claims to pursue such cases with vigour and fairness, is yet to launch even a preliminary enquiry into these very serious charges. "As a result, we are constrained to file this official complaint so that the ED is compelled to investigate a relationship that has serious implications not just for our economy but most importantly, our democracy," they said.

In the letter, the leaders alleged that the Adani Group companies are accused of having established a network of offshore shell companies and offshore funds controlled by parties related to the Adani Group for the purposes of "artificially inflating stock valuations and to give a distorted picture with regard to the group companies' financial health". The Adani Group has rubbished all the charges made out against its companies and denied any "wrongdoing" as earlier alleged by the US-based Hindenburg report.ANI

## Union Minister Nityanand Rai says, "four terrorist organizations are been notified under UAPA 2023

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Wednesday informed Rajya Sabha that four organizations have been notified as terrorist organizations under the UAPA in the year 2023 so far and their names have been added in the First Schedule of the Act.

Nityanand Rai in a written reply to the question of BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi said, "Four organizations have been notified as terrorist organizations under the UAPA in the year 2023 so far and their names have been added in the First Schedule of the Act. These organizations have been involved in terrorism and have committed and participated in various acts of terrorism in India."

These four organizations are -The Resistance Front (TRF), Peoples Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF) and Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF). MoS Home Nityanand Rai further said, "The Resistance Front (TRF)- It is a proxy outfit of the terrorist organization Lashkar-E-Taiba and came into existence

in 2019. "It has been involved in the planning of killings of security force personnel and innocent civilians of Jammu and Kashmir, co-ordinating and transporting weapons to support proscribed terrorist organisations, recruitment of terrorists, infiltration of terrorists and smuggling of weapons and narcotics from across the border in major cities in India," Rai stated.

The union MoS further said in the written reply, "Terrorist organization Peoples Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF) is a proxy outfit of terrorist organization Jaish-E-Mohammed and came into existence in 2019. It has been involved in the radicalization of youth for the purpose of recruitment and training in handling guns, ammunition and explosives, issuing threats to Indian security forces, political leaders and civilians working in Jammu and Kashmir from other parts of the country, conspiring proactively physically and in social media to undertake violent terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir and other Major cities in India." ANI

## SC refuses interim relief, however, it agreed to hear her plea of K Kavitha on March 24



The Supreme Court on Wednesday did not grant any interim relief to Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) MLC K Kavitha, however, it agreed to hear her plea challenging the summons of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 24. The ED has asked BRS MLC K Kavitha to appear again before it on March 16.

The court has agreed to hear her petition on March 24 in connection with a money laundering case related to Delhi excise policy irregularities matter. Kavitha,

who is the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, has approached the Supreme court saying as per norms a woman cannot be summoned for questioning before ED in office and her questioning should take place at her residence. The advocate for Kavitha said that a woman is now being summoned by ED for questioning and that it is "completely against the law".

In a petition filed through advocate Vandana Sehgal, Kavitha has urged the top court to quash the ED summons dated March 7 and 11 stating that asking her to appear before the agency office instead of her residence is contrary to the settled tenets of criminal jurisprudence and thus, wholly unsustainable in law being violative of the Proviso to Section 160 of Cr.P.C. ANI

## MP: Eight-year-old-boy who fell into a 60-feet deep borewell dies

An eight-year-old-boy who fell into a 60-feet deep borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha died after he was rescued by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Wednesday, district collector said. "We tried our best but it is regrettable that we were not able to save the child. The chief minister has also expressed his grief and announced financial help of Rs 4 lakh for the family of the child," Uma Shankar Bhargav, District Collector of Vidisha told ANI.

The collector also said that action will be taken against those who are responsible for the situation. The boy Lokesh Ahirwar was rescued after stringent efforts by the NDRF team. However he died soon after.

According to the officials, the boy fell into the borewell



on March 14 and got stuck at a depth of 43 feet. Previously Vidisha ASP Sameer Yadav speaking with ANI said that three teams of the SDRF and one team of

the NDRF were are on the spot conducting rescue operations. The child was monitored using a camera that was lowered into the A borewell.

The boy was aslo supplied with oxygen "We cannot talk to him and food has not been delivered yet," Yadav had said. The resuce plan involved using earthmovers to dig parallelly to the borewell in order to make a tunnel between them and pull out the child. A platform was also prepared to keep the child safe, according to the official. Resucers said they planned to dig a 49 feet hole and had managed to dig successfully to around 34 feet. The incident took place when the boy while playing slipped into the narrow hole around 11 am on March 14 at Kherkhedi Pathar village under Lateri tehsil in the district. (ANI)



## World

# 190 dead after Tropical Cyclone Freddy rips through Africa's Malawi



At least 190 people have died after Tropical Cyclone Freddy ripped through southern Malawi, local authorities said on Tuesday, CNN reported.

This comes as survivors continue to look for loved ones in badly hit areas.

At least 584 have been injured and 37 people have been reported missing in the country. Malawi is a country in East Africa. Malawi Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change

on Tuesday said the cyclone is "weakening but will continue to cause torrential rains associated with windy conditions in most parts of Southern Malawi districts."

"The threat of heavy flooding and damaging winds remains very high," the report added.

Commissioner for the Department of Disaster Management Affairs agency, Charles Kalemba told CNN that the situation had worsened in southern Malawi.

"It's worse today. A number

of places are flooding and a number of roads and bridges are cut. Visibility is almost zero. Electricity is off and also the network is a problem. It's becoming more and more dire," Kalemba said, adding that rescue operations have also been affected by poor weather, CNN reported.

"It's tough. We need to use machinery (for rescue operations) but machines cannot go to places where they were supposed to excavate because of the rains," Kalemba added.

Malawi's Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services on Monday warned that "the threat of damaging winds and heavy flooding remains very high."

Kalemba added that an improvement in weather is expected from Wednesday. "Possibly by tomorrow, the cyclone may have passed. We are hoping to see improvement from tomorrow but today is worse. There are heavy rains and lots of water."

# Russian jet collides with US drone in international airspace over Black Sea

A Russian Su-27 jet collided with a US MQ-9 Reaper drone over the Black Sea Tuesday, a US defence official told Fox News.

It was one of two Su-27s flying. This happened in international airspace over international waters. The propeller to the drone was damaged and the drone landed in the Black Sea,

west of Crimea, the US defence official says, Fox News reported.

The Russian Su-27 was headed toward Crimea and landed there after this incident, the official says. It is unknown if there was any damage to the Su-27.

The US State Department summoned Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov to convey

"our strong objections", department spokesman Ned Price said after a Russian Su-27 fighter jet downed an American military drone over the Black Sea, reported CNN.

Price also stated that US Ambassador to Russia, Lynne Tracy "has conveyed a strong message to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

# China denies UN experts' claim of forcibly separating Tibetan children from parents

China has denied UN Special Rapporteurs' claim that it has separated one million Tibetan children from their families and has forcibly placed them in boarding schools as part of its attempt to assimilate them religiously, culturally, and linguistically into the dominant Han Chinese culture, Voices Against Autocracy (VAA) reported.

The Han Chinese or Han people are an East Asian ethnic group native to China.

China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning during a regular press briefing last week said: "This is certainly not true and apparently just another allegation meant to mislead the public about China and smear China's image. As is commonly seen around the world, there are boarding schools across Chinese provinces and regions to meet the needs of the local students."

"These schools provide accommodation, catering, and

other boarding services. They are not closed facilities and still less run in military style," he said.

China has come under huge attack from UN experts for its alleged move to forcibly assimilate the Tibetan identity into the Han culture. This has come even as China faces a tough time in denying the truth on human rights violations of Uyghurs, Muslim ethnic groups living in the north-western region of Xinjiang, according to VAA.

# Intent was to "abduct, assassinate" me, says Imran Khan



Former Pakistan Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan on Wednesday alleged that the "real intent" of Pakistan Police was to "abduct and assassinate" him.

"Clearly 'arrest' claim was mere drama because real intent is to abduct & assassinate. From tear gas & water cannons, they have now resorted to live firing. I signed a surety bond last evening, but the DIG refused to even entertain it. There is no doubt of their mala fide intent," Khan posted on Twitter today.

The former Pakistan prime minister claimed that his house has been under heavy attack since yesterday afternoon. "Latest attack by Rangers, pitting

the largest pol party against the army. This is what PDM and the enemies of Pakistan want. No lessons learnt from the East Pakistan tragedy," Khan said.

In an online address to the country Khan stated that "hope lies with the courts and establishment" in ending this "farce" as law enforcement agencies made another push to enter the former prime minister's Zaman Park residence in Lahore, Pakistan-based Dawn newspaper reported.

"It will [soon] be out of our hands... the kinds of actions that are taking place... the boys (workers) outside are not listening to me. I have no control over them now," the PTI chief said in an address to workers via video link.

# Lahore High Court suspends police operations to arrest Imran Khan till 10 am tomorrow

The Lahore High Court on Wednesday stopped police operation to arrest former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan till 10 am tomorrow at Zaman Park, reported Dawn.

This development comes after a day-long escalation continued between PTI supporters and law enforcement agencies outside former prime minister Imran residence.

Contingents of police that were closing in on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's residence in Zaman Park to arrest him for the last two days have started retreating.

PTI workers celebrated outside Zaman Park as law enforcement agencies pulled back. As per police, the court-ordered op-

eration halted to accommodate Pakistan Super League matches, reported Dawn.

"Police will not advance on Khan's residence until the ongoing Pakistan Super League (PSL) 8 cricket match is over," sources quoted police officials as saying.

After the withdrawal of the police, PTI chief Imran Khan came out of his residence, in a mask, and met the workers. The video was shared on PTI's Twitter account. LHC's Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh, while hearing a petition filed by PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry seeking to stop the "atrocities" outside Zaman Park, passed these orders.

Earlier, the court had instructed the Punjab inspector general, chief secretary and Islamabad police (operations) head to appear in court by 3 pm, reported Dawn.

# India-Egyptian relations are now Strategic: Indian Envoy

**A**mbassador Ajit Gupte a senior diplomat from Indian Foreign Service (IFS) is currently serving as the Indian Ambassador to Egypt. We are presently witnessing a deepening of Indo-Egyptian ties as was evident from the recent visit of Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to New Delhi as the Chief Guest of 74th Republic Day of India. In an exclusive interview with Manish Rai, Editor, ViewsAround (VA) at the Indian Embassy in the Egyptian capital Cairo, Ambassador Gupte spoke on various aspects of Indo-Egyptian trade, security, military and strategic relations.



**If you could please throw some light on the historical and civilizational links between India and Egypt?**

India and Egypt are among the oldest civilizations in the world and have had maritime contacts for over 4,000 years. It has been said that some of the essential oils used in the process of mummification were imported from India by the ancient Egyptians several thousand years ago. During the recent visit of President Sisi to India in Jan 2023, Prime Minister Modi said that the excavations at the ancient port of Lothal (which is located in the Indian state of Gujarat) showed evidence of trade relations between India and Egypt, which are at least 4,000 years old.

In the 20th century, the leaders of our freedom struggle Mahatma Gandhi and Saad Zaghloul inspired each other. Egypt was one of the first countries with whom India established diplomatic relations after gaining independence. Our diplomatic relations were established within just three days of India getting independence in 1947. There was a special personal friendship between President Gamal Abdel Nasser and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, which is fondly remembered in Egypt even today. India, Egypt and Yugoslavia worked closely together to establish Non Aligned Movement in 1961. NAM inspired many newly-independent developing countries in Asia and Africa

to adopt an independent stand during the Cold War.

**Recently on India's Republic Day parade President Sisi was invited as the Chief Guest. How did this visit contribute to India-Egypt bilateral relations?**

The recent visit of President Sisi to India was particularly important since it was the first time in history when an Egyptian President was invited as the Chief Guest for our Republic Day parade. President Sisi was indeed extremely satisfied with the warmth and hospitality he received during his visit. Both leaders agreed to expand cooperation in many areas such as defence, security, trade, commerce & investments, pharmaceuticals & health, agriculture, education and IT. Most importantly, it was decided to upgrade the Indo-Egyptian ties to a 'Strategic Partnership'; keeping in mind the multifaceted cooperation India and Egypt enjoy.

**Recently in New Delhi the third session of the Egypt-India joint working group on counter-terrorism took place. First of all, I will like to ask why India and Egypt are cooperating on counter-terrorism. Are there any common areas of concern? Secondly, how India and Egypt are cooperating?**

As we are aware, India has been

deeply affected by cross-border terrorism for almost four decades now. Egypt has also suffered from the problem of terrorism for nearly three decades. Successive Egyptian leaders have tried their best to control terrorism to varying degrees of success. However, the current regime under President Sisi has been extremely successful in combating and reducing terrorism. India and Egypt have witnessed the same root causes of terrorism in their respective countries like- radical ideology, propaganda, and misinformation. Hence, there is a great need to augment our cooperation. The Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism provides a suitable platform for this engagement and it met recently for the 3rd time in Feb 2023. We have agreed that terrorism in all forms should be stopped, action should be taken against the UN-designated state sponsors of terrorism and the perpetrators of terror attacks should be brought to justice. Both countries are working on strategies to combat the spread of misinformation by terror outfits to promote their cause.

**India is one of the largest investors in Egypt. In which areas Indian companies are investing or planning to invest?**

Yes, India has been among the most important investors in Egypt. To

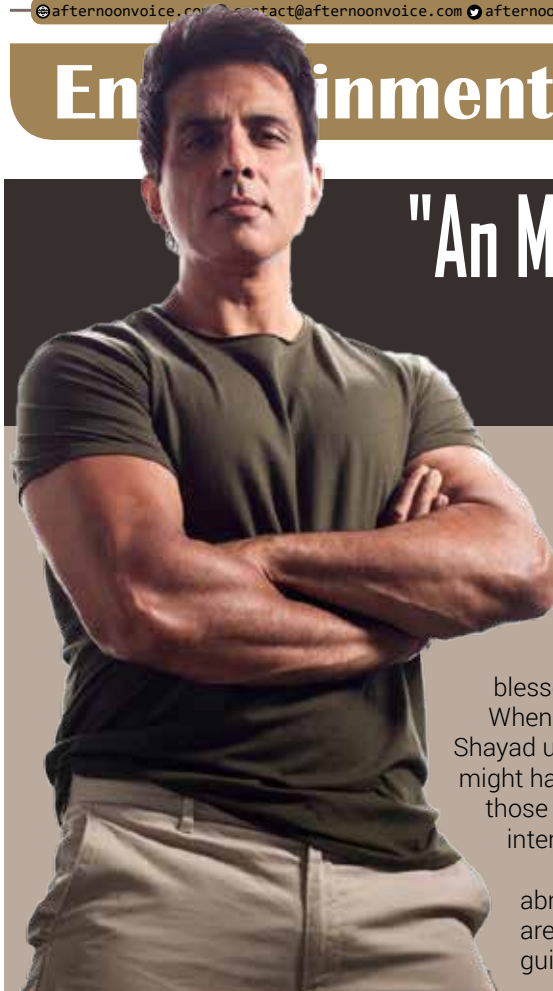
put that in numbers, approximately 50 Indian companies have invested around US\$ 3.20 billion in the last 15 to 20 years in Egypt. The main areas of investments include chemicals, petro-chemicals, garments/textiles, pharma and automobiles. Further US\$ 800 million of investment is in pipeline in various sectors. Recently, three leading Indian renewable energy companies have signed MoUs worth US\$ 18 billion to develop green hydrogen in Egypt. This could add a new dimension to our economic relations with Egypt.

**Indian Foreign Secretary recently mentioned that India and Egypt are looking for deepening military cooperation can you please elucidate on this?**

Both countries have a long history of defense cooperation. Back in the 1960's we jointly tried to develop a fighter aircraft. This program progressed to the extent that we were able to develop a prototype. In the last two years, joint exercises have taken place between the fighter aircrafts of our Air Forces in Oct 2021 and June-July 2022. In addition to this, nine Indian naval warships have visited Egypt since June 2021. We are looking into the possibility of co-production of defense equipment. It's also a very positive sign that Egypt is now looking at India as a long-term defense partner.



## Entertainment



# "An MP asked for my help when his kids were stranded abroad" says Actor Sonu Sood during Pandemic

The Covid pandemic has changed everyone's lives in some way or the other. People have lost near and dear ones. Some became homeless, and some jobless. However, this pandemic has brought a humanitarian out of a star to the forefront. And that new entity has overpowered the aura of a star.

Sonu Sood has found a new identity in a post-pandemic world as he dedicated himself to the service of common people during Covid. Sending people home, arranging transports for them, making oxygen cylinders available at hospitals. Sonu left no stone unturned to serve the needy people. What drove Sonu to take up such huge responsibilities? "Life me awakening ki samay aata hai. Agar ata hai, toh aap khud ko khush kismat samajh te ho. (In life, there come certain moments, which make you awake to greater causes. When it comes, you feel blessed).

When I was distributing fruits on the streets, I found those people very helpless. They were walking with their kids. Shayad un logo ko jhoot bhi bola hoga, ke hum 2-3 ghanta mein pouch jayenge, jaha 10-12 din unko chalna hoga. (They might have told the kids lies, While they have to walk for days, they have said it will take 2-3 hours.) I felt that I need to help those people. My story started with 350 people, whom I have sent to Karnataka by 10 buses", said Sonu in his exclusive interview with Agency.

Not only, common people, one MP from Madhya Pradesh asked for Sonu's help as his children were stranded abroad. "I told him, Sir, aap toh MP ho. Mujhe aap se madat magni chahiye. He said, aap ki awaz suni ja rahi hai. (You are an MP. How am I to help you? He said, your voice is being heard. We brought those kids back. I feel God was guiding me in some way," said Sonu with all humility. ANI

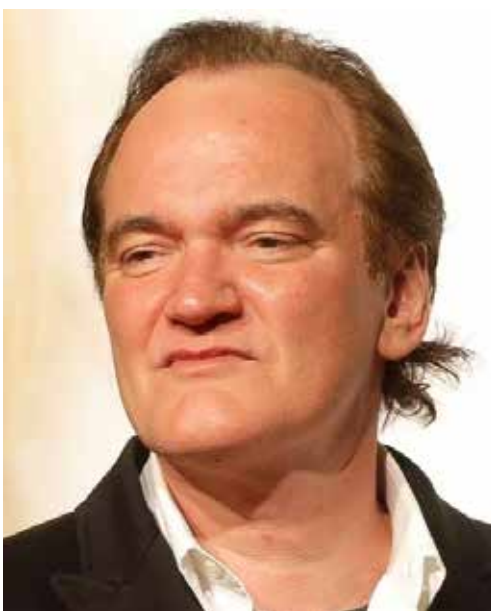
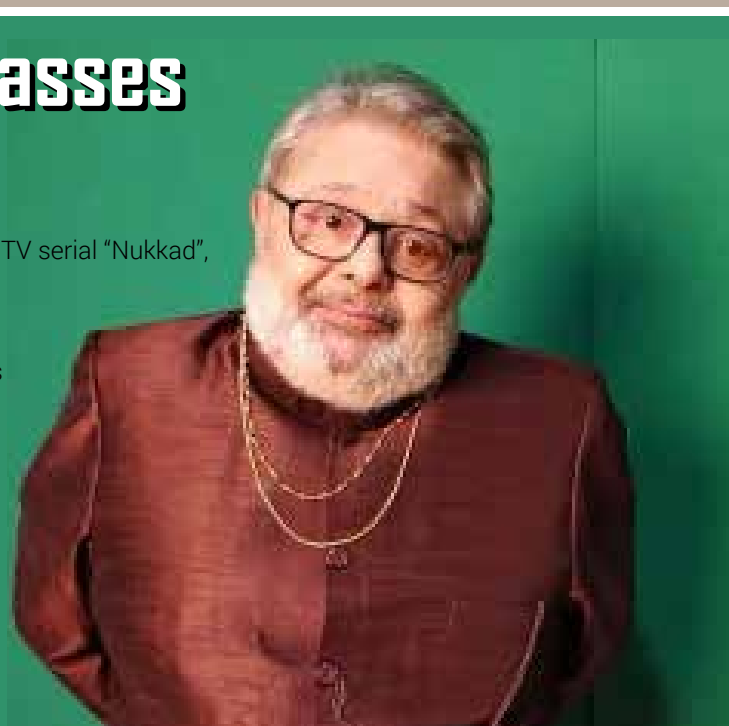
## Veteran actor Sameer Khakhar passes away at 71 due to organ failure

Actor Sameer Khakhar, best known for playing the lovable drunk Khopdi in the classic 1980s TV serial "Nukkad", died at a hospital here in the early hours of Wednesday due to multiple organ failure.

The actor, who was most recently seen in the series "Farzi" and moved to the US in the 1990s for a few years to become a software developer, was 71. Sameer Khakhar was admitted to MM Hospital in Borivali in suburban Mumbai on Tuesday morning following respiratory issues, his younger brother Ganesh Khakhar told Agency.

"He had respiratory problems since yesterday and later became unconscious. We called the doctor at home and were asked to hospitalise him. He was admitted to the intensive care unit of MM Hospital," he said. "Slowly and gradually, he suffered multiple organ failure. He was unconscious and then he collapsed.

He passed away at 4.30 am today," Ganesh Khakhar added. The last rites were conducted at a Borivali crematorium in the presence of his family and some friends from Sameer Khakhar days in Gujarati theatre. He is survived by his wife. Sameer Khakhar's notable works include TV show "Circus", "Shrimaan Shrimati" and films such as "Parinda", Salman Khan-starrer "Jai Ho", Sidharth Malhotra and Parineeti Chopra's "Hasee Toh Phasee", Sudhir Mishra-directed "Serious Men", and Vikas Bahl's web series "Sunflower". PTI



## Filmmaker Quentin Tarantino is working on his last film

If reports are to be believed, filmmaker Quentin Tarantino is working on his last film. The Movie Critic is the name of the script that Tarantino wrote and is prepping to direct this fall, The Hollywood Reporter reported. As per the outlet's sources, the story is set in late 1970s Los Angeles with a female lead at its center.

Apparently, the story focuses on Pauline Kael, one of the most influential movie critics of all time. Kael, who died in 2001, was not just a critic but also an essayist and novelist. She was known for her pugnacious fights with editors as well as filmmakers.

In the late 1970s, Kael had a very brief tenure working as a consultant for Paramount, a position she accepted at the behest of actor Warren Beatty. The timing of that Paramount job seems to coincide with the setting of the script -- and the filmmaker is known to have a deep respect for Kael, making the odds of her being the subject of the film more likely.

Tarantino has for two decades commanded the ability to attract the most coveted actors, working with Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt two times each. He directed Christoph Waltz to two Oscar wins. Samuel L. Jackson is a frequent collaborator. If this truly is his final film, he will have no shortage of thespians dropping everything to line up for roles.

The filmmaker has long maintained he had a finite number of movies in him, saying he wanted to direct 10 films or retire by the time he was 60. The writer-director has made nine (if you count the two Kill Bill movies as one) and turns 60 later this month. (ANI)