



# Afternoon VOICE

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## From April 1, electricity will get **COSTLIER** in Maharashtra

**Brena Soni**

The Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) has allowed power distribution companies like BEST, TATA Power, MSEDCL and Adani to hike the power tariff. The hike was allowed following an increase in fuel cost, a shortfall in revenue due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, an increase in transmission system costs etc. Here's what is in store for consumers:  
**MSEDCL: A 2.9% hike for 2023-24, 5.6% for 2024-25**

The Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co Ltd (MSEDCL), a distribution licensee catering to a large consumer base across Maharashtra, including some areas in Mumbai, has revised the overall average tariff by 2.9 per cent for the financial year (FY) 2023-24 and by 5.6 per cent for FY 2024-25. While the MSEDCL has estimated a total revenue gap of Rs 67,643 crore, the MERC has determined a revenue gap of Rs 39,567 crore, which needs to be recovered through the revision in tariff over FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25. The MERC has advised the Maharashtra government to consider the formation of a new company for agricultural consumers. This will help in monitoring energy consumption accountability and quality of power,

the MERC said, directing MSEDCL to work on modalities the implement the same soon.

**BEST: 5.07% increase in 2023-24, 6.35% in 2024-25**

The MERC has approved an average tariff increase of around 5.07 per cent in FY 2023-24 and 6.35 per cent in FY 2024-25 for Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport undertaking (BEST), a licensee for electricity distribution in the island city area of Mumbai.

**Tata Power: 11.9% increase in 2023-24, 12.2% in 2024-25**

For Tata Power Company Limited, a licensee for electricity distribution in Mumbai city and suburbs and Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC), the MERC has approved an average tariff increase of around 11.9 per cent in FY 2023-24 and 12.2% in FY 2024-25.

**Adani: 2.2% in 2023-24, 2.1% in 2024-25**

The MERC has approved an average tariff increase of around 2.2 per cent in FY 2023-24 and 2.1 per cent in FY 2024-25 for Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited, a licensee for electricity distribution in Mumbai suburbs and MBMC.

We also spoke to some local residents who expressed their views about the recent hike of electricity.

Rajesh Kumar Yadav told Afternoon Voice, "The government is only one who

is earning funds but we as common people are not able to earn anything inspite of working for hours".

Mohammad I Shaikh said, "The government has brought the situation of common person to commit suicide , It has not only increased the price but also instigated more crimes and also created an impact on everyone's relationship of a family because for the survival of our family person will do anything and it would also lead upto robbery and other crimes. Government is only doing this to gain political benefits for their upcoming elections and they are only trying to fulfill their own needs not thinking of common people".

We are living on rents in Mumbai for many years and amount of money which I am earning goes into the cost of survival which has become difficult for us. As electricity is the basic necessity for us government should reduce the cost of it", said Bhalendra Kumar Pandey.

Naina said, "The prices of electricity has directly hammered our budget but even if we are saving the electricity using them carefully still we get a heavy amount of bill and whenever we ask the electricity authorities of the sudden change in the bill they would only blame the citizens".

"I am working as a domestic help in Mumbai residing at a rented space and I

have four kids who are studying in the rural area as I am not able to afford the cost of living for them in Mumbai so the amount which I am earning are mostly spend in the house. The amount of ration, prices of gas cylinder and now price of electricity has directly impacted on us now we have to somehow survive by eating less food or have meal only one time but we expect government should listen to poor people and take down the price of electricity", said Ranjana Bhosle.

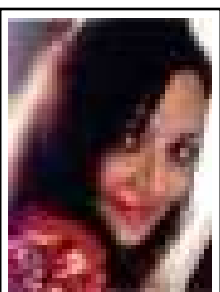
Swajeet Shukla said, "Government does not think of increasing the wages of poor people and it only comes up with new plans of creating inflation. They don't understand the survival of poor people. They are completely bias as they only think of people who are rich but they have forgotten the poor".

Neither there is any employment left nor any savings. I am working as a driver, work for hours so that I can eat a good amount of one-time meal but after increased prices of so many things and electricity as well now will somehow manage my day eating Vada-Pav (Indian burger)" said, Mustafa Ansari.

Purshottam Saigal said, "Prices of electricity should be reduced as there are many incidents of electricity getting stolen, this is due to most of the people are struggling with their cost of living".

## Most of the people in India vote for money meat and alcohol

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

During election days my maid servant used to take frequent leaves, when asked she said today so and so the party leader visited our area and gave us packets. In this season several leaders give us gifts and money, this is the only time we earn without slogging. Though I was not at all surprised, across Mumbai suburban and slums money is distributed on a large scale. The one who pays handsome votes goes to him. A poor person knows only the needs but not the importance of voting or choosing wisely. For them, voting is a seasonal earning tool.

People have started to accept and even in certain cases demand money or other favors. But it is also to be noted that voters accept

money from all the parties contesting the elections and vote for the party of their liking. People started accepting money because they believe that corrupt politicians are pocketing money that is supposed to have been spent on welfare projects increasing their quality of life. And politicians who win elections by distributing money or other favors believe that they have the right to loot funds meant for schemes and people have lost their right to question them since they have accepted money. This essentially leads to a vicious circle which is now taking a toll on our political system.

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# Editoritis

*In our nation even politicians are traded. Their ability to perform is zero but their political price is in cores.*

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# Most of the people in India vote for money meat and alcohol

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

In our nation even politicians are traded. Their ability to perform is zero but their political price is in cores. Countries where politicians are sold, ideologies are mocked, votes are manipulated, anything is possible. The only aim is to get the power. The politicians act like they are suffering from retrograde amnesia once the election results are declared. Turning their faces away from those voters who were initially called the golden buddies and the rulers of democracy during the campaign days. It is now a regular and common phenomenon all across the nation.

Politicians do nothing as the voters expect them to do. Not even those sublime promises enlisted in the election manifesto. After the end of 5 years of reigning, a couple of roads and bus stops decorated with huge flexes with the name of the respective MLA or MP are probably the only leftovers. Even though the government frames new plans and schemes, it won't reach the citizens as expected since we have politicians engaged only in filling their own pockets. People also know election is the only time where one can get what they want.

A day before Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao launched his national party, a video of a leader distributing whiskey and chicken went viral. In the video, shared by news agency ANI, Telangana Rashtra Samithi leader Rajanala Srihari was seen handing out liquor bottles and live chicken to locals in Warangal. With a big cut- out of KCR on the transport vehicle stacked with the freebies, the leader can be seen personally handing it out to people who had gathered in a long queue. He also posed for pictures. With an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, KCR is set to announce his national party on Dussehra. He is said to have discussed



the roadmap for the launch of the national party.

There are many states like Gujarat, Manipur and Nagaland alcohol is prohibited and banned but during elections alcohol plays a vital role. The politicians break the rules while distributing liquor. Alcohol prohibition has been a major promise by most participating political parties. But the implementation is always forbidden by the law makers during elections to woo the voters.

A large portion of politicians completely depend on the money earned through politics as they don't have any other source of income and therefore till the time they become an MP or MLA and start receiving salary, they tend to adopt unfair means to acquire wealth. Since we have democracy, people are the ones who should be blamed for this as democracy is by the people.

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Vaidehi has received several Awards like I Congo-karmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Global Happiness

Due to the global recession due to Corona virus, the economic cycle has slowed down. In such a situation, at this critical time in history, the 63-year-old Ajay Banga, an American businessman of Indian origin and the former head of Master's Card, who is currently a vice president in Atlantic, has been recommended by American President Joe Biden as the head of the World Bank.

Ajay Banga's formal election is yet to be announced as no one has filed an election application in opposition to Banga and only Banga has received an application. He will officially take office in May and for the first time in the world, Ajay Banga of Indian origin who holds the two highest positions as the head of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank is yet to be announced. The first Sikh of an Indian origin. In 2016, the Government of India honored Ajay Banga with the "Padma Shri" award. The selection of the World Bank will not fail to raise the pride of Indians. This is good news for India and the people of India.

**Dattaprasad Shirodkar**

### Why do we need politics from great men?

The current career of politicians is ending in attacking the ideas of great men. Because they themselves do not have the ability to give new ideas to the country. Therefore, the industry of making their own political nests in the name of great men is going on. Rahul Gandhi was once considered as a contender for the post of Prime Minister. But it seems that he has gone astray except to grow his own party. His Bharat Jodo Yatra got a spontaneous response from all over the country. NCP chief Sharad Pawar taking a stand in this matter can give some relief to Rahul Gandhi. Because there is a large mass of people who believe in Sharad Pawar. But Rahul Gandhi does not want to talk about everything in politics. He should learn from Sharad Pawar what to say when and where. The current condition of the Congress party is not that good today. So they should pay more attention to it.

**Uday Waghvankar**

### Money earned out of IPL should be utilized to promote other sports in the country!

IPL is a hen that lays a golden egg for the BCCI & no wonder our cricket Board earns billions of dollars from hosting this tournament each year. Media rights has already been sold for record sums even before the tournament & BCCI would cash in more money as the tournament progresses. Companies which bought the media rights too would earn handsomely but as a gesture to promote sports in the country, they should spend some portion of their profits to promote other games where there is dearth of funds but ample talent in the country.

BCCI today has become a money minting body like any other corporate sector & their income should no longer be considered tax free. Taxes collected from BCCI should be deposited in a special fund for developing other sports by the government of India. A nation with one sixth of worlds population earns only a handful of medals at the Olympics & World Championships inspite of so much talent available in the country. Govt should create top sporting infrastructure in the country & talent should be groomed from a very young age!

**S.N.Kabra**

# Diabetic Foot Care

Most people with diabetes can prevent serious foot complications. Regular care at home and going to all doctor's appointments are your best bet for preventing foot problems. This will help in stopping small problems from becoming serious ones. Wash your feet every day in warm (not hot) water. Don't soak your feet. Dry your feet completely and apply lotion to the top and bottom—but not between your toes, which could lead to infection. Never go barefoot.

Nerve damage, along with poor blood flow—another diabetes complication—puts you at risk for developing a foot ulcer that could get infected and not heal well. If an infection doesn't get better with treatment, your toe, foot, or part of your leg may need to be amputated to prevent the infection from spreading and to save your life. Diabetic foot care is essential as diabetes can be dangerous to your feet—even a small cut can produce serious consequences. Diabetes may cause nerve damage that takes away the feeling in your feet. Diabetes may also reduce blood flow to the feet, making it harder to heal an injury or resist infection. Because of these problems, you may not notice a foreign object in your shoe. As a result, you could develop a blister or a sore.

When you check your feet every day, you can catch problems early and get them treated right away. Early treatment greatly reduces your risk of amputation. Check your feet every day for cuts, redness, swelling, sores, blisters, corns, calluses, or any other change to the skin or nails. Use a mirror if you can't see the bottom of your feet, or ask a family member to help.

Wear cotton socks that fit well, and be sure to change your socks every day. Select shoes that are snug but not tight, with



a wide toe box, and break new shoes in gradually to prevent any blisters. It may be helpful to rotate several different pairs of comfortable, well-fitting shoes to avoid consistent pressure on one part of your foot. If you have foot deformities or ulcers, ask your foot care provider about customized shoes; this can reduce your chances of developing foot ulcers in the future. Shoe inserts may also help cushion your step and decrease pressure on the soles of your feet. Take care of varicose veins in your foot, which may lead to a number of complications as the blood flow to the foot is in a reduced phase.

Following the tips above can help you to avoid foot problems. As stated above, high blood sugar levels over time can cause nerve damage and circulation problems. These problems can cause or contribute to foot problems. Left unnoticed or untreated, sores, ingrown toenails, and other problems can lead to infection. Poor circulation makes healing an infection difficult. So it's best to avoid them if possible. Infections that do not heal can cause skin and tissue to die and turn black. This is called gangrene. Treatment can involve surgery to amputate

a toe, foot, or part of a leg.

A doctor should examine your feet at every visit and do a thorough foot exam once a year. If you have a history of foot problems, you should be checked more often. Your health care provider should also give you information on foot care and answer all your questions. Report any corns, calluses, sores, cuts, bruises, infections, or foot pain. If necessary, your doctor can recommend a podiatrist who specializes in diabetic foot care or give you information about special shoes that may help. Remember: Diabetes-related foot problems can worsen very quickly and are difficult to treat, so it's important to seek prompt medical attention. Hot water treatment will increase the blood flow and keep your leg at a higher place to increase blood flow. T-bact is a good ointment for all injuries related to varicose veins.

**- C.K Subramaniam**

Columnist

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**No postal letters will be entertained**

(The views expressed are authors' own.)

## Fresh Clashes in Jalgaon District After Statue Vandalised by Miscreants



Fresh clashes reportedly broke out between two groups in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district on Saturday after a statue was vandalised by unidentified miscreants, officials said. According to ANI, At least 12 people were detained after clashes broke out between two groups in Atarwal village of Jalgaon district, Jalgaon SPM Rajkumar said. At least 12 people were arrested in connection with the communal violence in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar city, formerly Aurangabad, in Maharashtra, a police officer said on Saturday.

On Thursday, in the Aurangabad city of Maharashtra, at least 12 people, including 10 policemen, were injured after a mob of around 500 people went berserk and hurled stones and petrol-filled bottles when the personnel tried to control the situation following a clash between two groups near a Ram temple.

The incident, in which 13 vehicles were torched by the miscreants, occurred during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday in the city's Kiradpura locality that houses the famous Ram temple, they said.

The police used tear gas and fired some plastic bullets as well as live rounds to control the mob, the officials said, adding that eight teams have been formed to identify and arrest the perpetrators.

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## The managing director of a multiservice private limited company was booked by the Parksite police

The police said the MD's company had taken a loan of Rs 8.49 crore from a private bank. Later, the company wished to transfer the loan to the national bank where Malpani was the branch manager. The managing director of a multiservice private limited company was booked by the Parksite police on Friday in a case of abetment to suicide after a 44-year-old branch manager of an Indian multinational bank allegedly ended his life by jumping off the balcony of his ninth floor residence in Vikhroli on March 12.

The police said the FIR was registered after a purported suicide note, naming the managing director and three others, were found inside deceased Sandesh Malpani's bedroom. Malpani used to stay with his wife Vibha and two children at a housing society in Vikhroli. The complainant in the case, Vibha, told the police in her statement, "Since my daughter's board (Class X) examinations are going on, I went to sleep with her at 10.30 pm on March 11. Sandesh went to sleep in our bedroom."

## Court discharges Rane in 'Objectionable' remarks against Uddhav



BJP leader and Union Minister Narayan Rane was discharged by a court in Raigad on Saturday in connection with a case filed against him last year for allegedly making objectionable remarks against then Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray.

A case was registered against him under sections 189 (threatening to cause harm to public servant), 504 (intentional

insult to provoke breach of the peace) and 505 (statement relating to mischief in public) of the Indian Penal Code. Rane was arrested on August 24, 2021, and later granted bail by the Mahad magistrate court. He had stoked a controversy after his August 23, 2021 statement in Raigad that he would have slapped Thackeray for "not knowing how many years it has been since India gained Independence".

## CM Eknath Shinde inaugurates Veer Savarkar Gavrav Yatra in Thane

Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday led the 'Savarkar Gaurav Yatra' in Thane city in which hundreds of people took part to honour late Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar. The Bharatiya Janata Party and

Shinde-led Shiv Sena had last month announced that Savarkar Gaurav Yatras would be taken out in each district of Maharashtra to honour Savarkar's contribution to the country and to counter Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticism against him.

## Mumbai's island city and its suburbs have a labyrinth network of 3,500 km of underground water channels

The BMC plans to desilt and remove solid waste and floating materials from nearly 98 km of underground drain network in the island city, which were laid during the British era, in a measure to tackle water-logging during the monsoon.

Mumbai's island city and its suburbs have a labyrinth network of 3,500 km of underground water channels, most of which are more than 100 years old and date back to the British era. The desilting will be carried out in a 98-km stretch between Churchgate and Colaba, from the southernmost end of the city till Dadar and Parel in Central Mumbai. Officials said the work will be

divided into five sections under which 24 km of drains will be desilted in Dadar and Worli areas, 20 km in Parel and Sion, 15 km in Byculla, about 19 km in Nepean Sea Road, Malabar Hill and 18.5 km around Colaba, Cuffe Parade, Churchgate and Dongri.

Civic officials said these drains and water channels play a key role throughout the year and, therefore, desilting them round the year is very important.

"During the cleaning of storm water drains, it has been noticed that at least 60 to 80 per cent of them is covered with floating materials, which mainly comprise solid waste, reducing their water-carrying capacity to 50 per cent,

which obstructs the free flow of water and leads to water-logging during the monsoon. Therefore, systematic and regular maintenance of these drains need to be carried out to improve water flow," an official said. However, cleaning the underground drain network is not easy. "An area up to one-metre below the manholes is easy to desilt. But each manhole is at least 30 metres deep and the civic body doesn't have the manpower and machinery to go beyond one metre. Also, these inaccessible areas below the ground cannot be cleaned manually due to the presence of hazardous gases and thin oxygen level," an official said.

## MVA rally against Maharashtra govt, BJP Savarkar Yatra in violence-hit Aurangabad today

Days after newly renamed Aurangabad was hit by clashes during Ram Navami, the Maha Vikas Aghadi will be holding its first joint show of strength after the toppling of its government last year. At its rally, the MVA is set to target the Maharashtra government over the law and order situation,



with other parts of the state such as Malvani in Mumbai and Jalgaon also hit by violence, that began on Ram Navami.

Meanwhile, the BJP and Shiv Sena will hold joint rallies called 'Savarkar Gaurav Yatra' across six Lok Sabha constituencies in Mumbai beginning today, in protest against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remark against Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

# Arvind Kejriwal's Tour of Delhi, Tea Offer After Himanta Sarma's Warning

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in his first political rally in Assam, today hit out at Himanta Biswa Sarma for his warning on a remark inside the Delhi Assembly, saying open threats don't befit a Chief Minister. He also questioned Mr Sarma's leadership and said he has only done "dirty politics" in the last seven years. The Assam Chief Minister had challenged Mr Kejriwal to repeat his charge that there are cases against him in other states.

"I heard what Himanta Biswa Sarma has said. He was threatening me, saying if he comes we will put him in jail. The people of Assam are not like that, they are hospitable. They don't give threats. Himanta Biswa Sarma

should learn about Assam's culture and tradition," the Aam Aadmi Party Convenor said.

Ahead of Mr Kejriwal's Assam visit for his party's mega conclave, Mr Sarma had called him a coward "who is hiding behind the veil of immunity in Delhi assembly and uttering white lies."

"Let him say there's a corruption case pending against me outside the assembly premises and I will sue him in the same manner I did with his colleague Manish Sisodia," the Assam Chief Minister told reporters in Guwahati.

Mr Sarma had filed a defamation case in July after Manish Sisodia in a press conference alleged that the Assam government had given contracts to his wife's



firms and son's business partner to supply Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits above market rates during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

"I invite him to Delhi, let him be my guest. I will serve him tea, and take him around Delhi. Such open threats do not befit a Chief Minister," Mr Kejriwal said today in Assam, where his party is

hoping to make inroads.

Mr Kejriwal also repeated his question on the educational qualification of the Prime Minister, saying today's youth are aspirational, and an uneducated person can't lead them.

"I want to ask you all, do you think people wanted an educated Prime Minister or not? Today, our youth is an aspirational youth

force. A less educated or uneducated person cannot lead an aspirational generation," he said.

Mr Kejriwal then compared his 'Delhi model' of development to the BJP's governance and claimed all parties that came to power in the northeastern state only 'cheated' and 'looted' people.

"You have given Congress 52 years, 10 years to Asom Gana Parishad, and a BJP government has been here for the past seven years. You have given them your votes, but what did you get back from them? These parties only cheated you. Today we have come since the people of Assam told us that they want us," he said, adding that Delhi has progressed better when compared to Assam.

## Rahul Gandhi to challenge conviction in defamation case tomorrow: Sources



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, recently disqualified from the Parliament after being sentenced to two years in prison over a 2019 defamation case, will challenge his conviction and sentencing in the Surat sessions court tomorrow, sources said. The former Congress president has, in his plea, asked the sessions court to set aside the Magistrate order convicting him in the defamation case. He also asked for an interim stay on the conviction till the matter is disposed of.

Rahul Gandhi was granted bail and his sentence was suspended for 30 days to let him appeal the decision. The next day, his suspension was formalised by the Lok Sabha secretariat -- a speed irate opposition leaders

have compared to a "bullet train".

Unless Mr Gandhi's conviction is put on hold by a higher court, the Election Commission will announce a special election for the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat. He will also not be allowed to contest elections for the next eight years.

The defamation case was filed against Mr Gandhi by BJP MLA and former Gujarat minister Purnesh Modi for saying "How come all thieves have the common surname Modi?"

The former Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad made the remarks while addressing a rally in Karnataka ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, targeting PM Modi over his last name, which he shares with fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi.

Mr Gandhi's lawyer has argued the court proceedings were "flawed" from the beginning and also said that PM Modi, and not MLA Purnesh Modi, should have been the complainant in the case because the PM was the main target of Rahul Gandhi's speech.

Days after disqualification, Mr Gandhi was served a notice to vacate his official Delhi bungalow, as he was no longer entitled to it. Congress called the move a 'conspiracy' to 'silence' Rahul Gandhi as he was asking tough questions in the Parliament on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's alleged closeness with industrialist Gautam Adani, whose conglomerate has been accused of financial fraud and stocks manipulation by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research. The Adani Group has strongly refuted the allegations, calling Hindenburg's report a "calculated attack" on India.

The BJP has called the move lawful, and questioned if Mr Gandhi considered himself above the law. The ruling party has also slammed Mr Gandhi for his remark, terming it an intentional insult to the entire OBC community. It has launched a mega campaign, led by its OBC ministers, on Mr Gandhi's remark.

## The court gave life sentences to Atiq Ahmed, Dinesh Pasi and Khan Saulat Hanif

A Special Task Force (STF) on Sunday arrested mafia-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed's brother-in-law Akhlaq from Meerut, informed police sources. Besides, one of Atiq's servants — Shahrukh — was also arrested by the STF. Some illegal weapons were also recovered from him. According to police, Akhlaq is a resident of the Nauchandi area in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut. After murdering Umesh Pal, the shooter and Atiq Ahmed's son, Asad, absconded with the help of Akhlaq.

Atiq Ahmed was convicted by an MP-MLA court on March 28, and sentenced to rigorous life imprisonment in the abduction case of now-deceased Umesh Pal. It marked the first time that Atiq Ahmed, who has over 100 cases against him over the last 43 years, has been convicted in a case.

Apart from Atiq Ahmed, the court gave life sentences to Dinesh Pasi and Khan Saulat Hanif and also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on each of the three convicts. Seven other accused in the case, including Ashraf, brother of Atiq Ahmed, were acquitted.



Ahmed's conviction came after Umesh Pal, an advocate and a prime witness in the 2005 murder case of BSP MLA Raju Pal, was shot dead in Prayagraj on February 24 this year.

Apart from Umesh Pal, his two security personnel were also shot dead. Atiq, the former MP and MLA, was brought by Uttar Pradesh Police from Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Jail to Prayagraj's Naini jail on Monday after an over 24-hour-long drive.

An FIR (first information report) in the kidnapping case was registered on July 5, 2007, against Ahmed, his brother Ashraf and others. The police had submitted a chargesheet in the special court against 11 people, one of whom later died. Ahmad and Ashraf are also accused of being a part of a conspiracy, while they were in prison, to kill Umesh Pal. (With ANI Inputs)

World

# Former Pak general Bajwa pressured me to develop friendly ties with India, charges Imran Khan



**T**Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan has claimed that the then Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa had put pressure on him to develop friendly ties with India. Relations between India and Pakistan have often been strained over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. However, their ties nose-dived after India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019. "General Bajwa wanted me to develop friendly ties with India. He put pressure on me for

this and it was one of the reasons our relationship deteriorated," Khan claimed during an interaction with social media journalists at his Lahore's Zaman Park residence on Saturday evening. He, however, reiterated his stance that Pakistan should only hold peace talks with India provided New Delhi restores the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. The 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman further said what Bajwa did to Pakistan even an enemy couldn't do. "Bajwa

should be held accountable by the army," he said. Khan in the past accused Bajwa of not only toppling his country that laid a foundation of economic disaster but also committing atrocities against him, his party members and journalists. "Bajwa wanted me killed," Khan alleged. Khan has been at loggerheads with Bajwa ever since his ouster from power in April last year by a no-confidence motion. Bajwa retired on November 29 last year after two consecutive three-year terms.

Regarding the PML-N-led federal government's assertion that it would not accept the verdict of a three-member bench of Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial in polls in two provinces, Khan said, "I know what kind of benefits this cabal of corrupts would get by delaying the elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. They are just delaying elections hoping to crush the PTI or finish Imran Khan." Khan asked the ruling alliance to explain the reasons for postponing polls till October this year. "If elections are not held within 90 days in two provinces Pakistan will be without a constitution," he said. PTI

## At least 21 killed in horrific US South, Midwest tornadoes



**A**t least 21 people have been killed after devastating storms and tornadoes scraped the South and Midwest parts of the United States Friday into early Saturday and dozens were reported injured, according to CNN. New four deaths were reported in Illinois during Friday's severe weather outbreak, increasing the total number to 21.

According to the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center, on Friday and Satur-

day, more than 60 tornadoes have been reported across the state, as per the report in the Washington Post. US State officials said that a "large and destructive tornado" struck Little Rock and elsewhere in Arkansas on Friday afternoon, ripping through homes. LaTresha Woodruff, a spokeswoman for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, said that four people had been killed northeast of Little Rock, in Cross County. In Wynne, pictures showed that

neighbourhoods and the town's high school had sustained extensive damage. Wynne awoke Saturday morning to rescue crews looking through flattened homes and businesses, sifting the debris strewn through town. It was unlike anything longtime residents in this place that calls itself "The City with a Smile" could recall, according to The Washington Post.

"We were in utter disbelief," he said. "I've lived in this community since 1985. I know the whole county pretty well. Not being able to recognize landmarks just has me in shock. You can't even tell where you are in some places. ... I saw a storage building laying three miles down the road from where it was supposed to be," as per the report in The Washington Post. ANI

# Israeli strikes in Syria's Homs province wound 5 soldiers



**I**sraeli airstrikes hit several sites in Syria's Homs province since early Sunday, wounding five soldiers, Syrian state media reported. In Iran, state media reported that an Iranian adviser who was wounded in an Israeli strike on Friday died of his wounds. Since the start of Syria's conflict in March 2011, Iran has been a main supporter of President Bashar Assad's government and has sent advisers since the early days of the war. Sunday's strike marked the ninth time Israel has struck targets in Syria since the beginning of the year, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition-linked war monitor.

State news agency SANA, citing military sources, said the strikes targeted sites in the city of Homs and surrounding countryside. Syrian air defenses intercepted the missiles and shot down some of them, it said. The observatory reported that the missiles targeted Syrian military sites and those of Iran-linked militias, including a research center. There

was no immediate statement from Israel on the strikes. Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of Syria in recent years, including attacks on the Damascus and Aleppo airports, but it rarely acknowledges specific operations. Israel says it targets bases of Iran-allied militant groups, such as Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has sent thousands of fighters to support Assad's forces.

On Friday, Israeli airstrikes hit the suburbs of Syria's capital city, Damascus, killing an Iranian adviser, the state media of Syria and Iran reported. Iran's state television reported Friday that Milad Heidari, an Iranian military adviser, was killed during what it called a criminal strike by Israel. Iranian state media reported Sunday that another Revolutionary Guard adviser who was wounded in Friday's strike succumbed to his wounds. Iran's state TV identified the adviser as Meghdad Mahghani, adding that his funeral would be held Sunday in Damascus. PTI

## EU's population projected to drop by 6 pc by 2100: Eurostat

**T**he European Union's population will decrease by 6 per cent between 1 January 2022 and 1 January 2100, equivalent to 27.3 million fewer people, according to the latest population projections issued by Eurostat. After a decrease in 2020 and 2021 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the population of the EU started recovering during the course of 2022.

As a consequence of the mass influx of refugees from Ukraine into the EU as a result of the crisis in Ukraine, the population is estimated to have reached 451 million persons on 1 January 2023.

Furthermore, the EU's population is projected to peak at 453 million people in 2026, before decreasing to a projected level of 420 million in 2100.

The proportion of children and young people (aged 0 to 19 years) in the total population is projected to decrease from 20 per cent at the beginning of 2022 to 18 per cent by 2100. Similarly, the share of working-age people (aged 20-64 years) in the EU's total population is projected to decrease from 59 per cent in 2022 to 50 per cent in 2100. In contrast, the share of older age groups (65 years or more) in the EU's total population is projected to increase. ANI

# Importance of an Aptitude Test in Education (Contd.)



Vijay Garg

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## How to Prepare for an Aptitude Test?

If you are appearing for an aptitude test which is competitive or for placement purpose, here are some tips which could be helpful to you.

**Learn Basics:** There is no particular syllabus for aptitude test. Anything could be asked of you in the test. So, it becomes necessary that all your basic subjects, especially mathematics, is clear to you. You should know all the basics you learned in the school.

**Everything is Important:** In a competitive exam, even a single mark become very important. So, you should not leave any topic while preparing. Even if you find a topic difficult, do not leave it. Read that topic again and again or take help from your teachers. You do not know what will come in the exam, so you should prepare all the topics very well.

**Practice:** As it is said, practice makes a man perfect. You should go for mock aptitude tests. There are many books available for aptitude. The internet is flooded with aptitude tests which are free of cost. Go for them. The more you will practice, your speed will increase. You will also come across many different types of questions, which might increase your knowledge. It is also possible that you may get the same question you practised in the test.

**Know your Weak Points:** You should know in which topics you lag behind. You should prepare those topics first because you do not need much time to prepare those topics which you are good at.

**Do not Waste Time:** Time is very precious. If you get stuck on a question and you do not find any way out, leave it for that particular time and come back to it later.

**Be Careful while Attempting:** Most of the tests have negative marking. So just do not attempt the question if you



are not sure about the answer. Do not assume your answer to be right. A zero is always better than a minus one.

**Avoid Gaps:** Avoid gaps in your practising routine as it can decrease your speed. Large gaps can make you forgetful. If you have a busy schedule on a particular day, try to take out at least 30 minutes for practising questions. Do not waste any day without practising.

**Have a Fresh Mind:** Aptitude needs a lot of concentration which can be devoted only to a fresh and peaceful mind. If you had a fight with someone or you are feeling low or you have diverted mind, do not practice aptitude. If you will practice aptitude at this instance, you will get all your questions wrong because you will not be able to devote full concentration.

**Take Care of Yourself:** Body and mind are interlinked. For a healthy mind, the body should also be healthy and vice versa. Sleep well and eat well. Take at least 6 hours of sleep.

**Disadvantages of an Aptitude Test**

With all these advantages of aptitude tests, there also come disadvantages attached to them. The disadvantages of aptitude tests are:

**Costly:** It is quite costly to make an aptitude test or to administer it. To meet this cost, the institutes or organizations which hold these tests charge a huge sum of money from the students appearing for it. The companies which use aptitude test for recruitment have to spend a lot of money on these tests as the number of people appearing is quite a lot. For every different type of the job, the company has to modify the test which adds to the cost.

**Stressful:** Aptitude tests are quite stressful. A person appearing for the test devotes his entire mind to it before and during the test. If the person appeared for the test for placement or some other fruitful purpose, he would be tensed for the result. This increases the stress level.

**Cannot tell Everything:** Aptitude tests can only tell your weak and strong areas, but it cannot tell how well you can learn new things. It only

tells about your natural abilities and intelligence, not about your interests. Moreover, it only tells about your mind, not about your personality. For example, your aptitude test results say that you would be good in the field of sales and marketing but you lack those speaking skills and confidence required for conversing with the customers, you will not be able to find success in these fields. Also, the tests cannot predict your artistic capabilities.

## Conclusion

Considering both the advantages and disadvantages, it is concluded that do not stick to what your aptitude test result says. For choosing a career, there is no harm in taking the test but doing exactly what the result says is not right. Have a deep thought and connect the test result with your interest and your personality and then make a decision for choosing a career. If you are appearing for the test for other purposes, that is, placement or something else, prepare for it. The test will not be easy.

# Entertainment



## Kapil Dev will be seen in a new show 'Driving with the legends'

Cricket legend Kapil Dev along with industrialist Pawan Kumar Patodia, Kaushik Ghosh, actor Zaid Sheikh, Uma Vishal Agarwal and Varun Goenka are all set to bring to viewers an interesting show named 'Driving with The Legends'. The first season will be shot extensively in Switzerland. The show will be produced under the banner of The Legend Studios LLC.

Kaushik Ghosh said, "The idea is to have a legend and a few other celebrities with whom about 10 fans globally would join for a 7-day driving trip in Switzerland. We will select these fans through a global online audition campaign. The first chapter will be all about Kapil Dev."

The show will be directed by the popular director Haider Khan, who has already intrigued everyone by the teaser that was played during the launch event with his unique vision and portrayal of Kapil Dev. Haider Khan is considered to be amongst the world's best photographers, winning the gold at the prestigious PX3 2021 Prix de la Photographie de Paris. His movies have previously premiered in Halifax, the black film festival in Canada, Durban film festival and others.

Paul Nuber, the former CXO at Nestle has also come on board as the company's first foreign investor, demonstrating the strong potential of the concept and the confidence of the foreign investors in the Indian sports-entertainment industry.

The entire journey on the show will be hosted by Archana Vijaya, with surprise elements planned and announced with the signing of Krushna Abhishek, Jaan Kumar Sanu and Esha Gupta. Talking about the show, Kapil Dev said, "I was super excited about this project right from the moment I heard about it! I want to send a strong message through the medium of this show, and I am looking forward to interacting with the fans who get chosen to accompany us on the trip to Switzerland. I felt most confident about the expertise of the management, which is when I decided to come on-board as a partner in the company in addition to my on screen role in the first season."



Alia Bhatt and Rashmika Mandanna raise 'Naatu Naatu' fever high at NMACC event

## 'It was planned': Varun Dhawan on being trolled after video of him lifting Gigi Hadid goes viral

Clapping back at "woke" social media users who accused him of picking up Gigi Hadid in his arms without her "consent" at the inaugural function of the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Hindi film star Varun Dhawan on Sunday said the gesture was "planned".

In videos going viral on the Internet, Dhawan can be seen performing when he helps American supermodel Hadid walk on the stage and then lifts her in his arms. The model appeared to be surprised but then did a few steps as the actor was spinning her around and later even pecked her on the cheek. Before the controversy could grow, Dhawan quickly responded to one of the tweets calling him out for the act, clearing the air that it was a planned move. "I guess today you woke up and decided to be woke. So lemme burst ur bubble and tell u it was planned for her to be on stage so find a new Twitter cause to vent about rather than going out and doing something about things. Good morning (sic)" the Bhediya star replied on one of the tweets. The said tweet was later deleted by the user.PTI



Alia Bhatt and Rashmika Mandanna, the two beauties of the tinsel town, put up an electrifying performance on the Oscar-winning song 'Nacho Nacho' (hindi version of "Naatu Naatu") at the second day of the Nita Mukesh Amtbani Cultural Centre (NMACC) opening extravaganza in Mumbai. The fan pages of the actors and the paps have shared the video online. In the video, Alia is seen sporting a short dress while Rashmika shook legs wearing a saree.

Fans loved the video. "They are a giant slay", wrote one. 'Naatu Naatu' fever reigns supreme since the beginning of the year as the song drew global attention even before it bagged the Oscar. Rashmika performed on 'Naatu Naatu' at the opening ceremony of the Indian Premier League 2023 on Friday in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This is not Alia's first stage performance of the song. Dressed in a white saree, Alia literally nailed the hook steps of 'Naatu Naatu' at an award function a few months back. She was joined on stage by brothers and co-hosts Ayushman Khurana and Aparshakti Khurana as they jointly did the 'Naatu Naatu' dance, which was filmed on Jr NTR and Ram Charan. The cross-cultural hit 'Naatu Naatu' bagged the prestigious Oscar for India beating "This Is A Life" from "Everything Everywhere All at Once," "Applause" from "Tell It Like a Woman," and "Lift Me Up" from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever".ANI