



PM Modi Hails Commencement of 18th Lok Sabha, Emphasizes

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## Setback to Kejriwal: Delhi HC Stays Bail Says, "Trial Court Didn't Apply Its Mind"

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday stayed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's bail order passed by the trial court, saying that the trial court should have at least recorded its satisfaction with the fulfilment of twin conditions of section 45 of Prevention of the Money Laundering Act (PMLA) before passing the impugned order.

The High Court argued that the lower court - Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court - "didn't apply its mind" when granting bail and pointed to what it said were lapses in judgement. These included not giving the prosecution enough time to argue the application and failing to properly discuss conditions for release in the Prevention of

Money Laundering Act, under which Mr Kejriwal was charged.

"Averments and allegations made in the main petition (in which the prosecution challenged Mr Kejriwal's bail order) require due consideration..." the High Court said, declaring the lower court had also failed to "discuss the vicarious liability of Arvind Kejriwal under Section 70 of the PMLA".

"This court has (therefore) decided that the vacation judge (in the Rouse Avenue Court, Niyay Bindu) did not appropriately appreciate material on record and the averments of ED," the High Court said.

"Accordingly, the application is allowed and operation of the impugned

order is stayed."

The focus now shifts to the Supreme Court and a hearing scheduled for Wednesday.

The High Court had been approached last week by the Enforcement Directorate - the federal agency that arrested the AAP leader in March in connection with the liquor policy case. The ED filed a last-gasp petition challenging a city court's regular bail order, which it called "perverse" and "flawed".

The High Court heard both sides and then directed an interim stay on Mr Kejriwal's release pending its full verdict today. On Monday Mr Kejriwal moved the Supreme Court against that interim stay.

The Supreme Court refused immediate relief to the Delhi Chief Minister, noting it would be improper for it to intervene when the High Court had reserved its judgement.

It did, however, admit the High Court's actions were "unusual"; Justice Manoj Misra said, "In stay matters, orders are not reserved but passed on the spot. What has happened here is unusual."

Reacting to the court's decision, Delhi cabinet minister Saurabh Bharadwaj disclosed that AAP's legal team would bring the matter before the Supreme Court. Bharadwaj expressed skepticism regarding the High Court's impartiality and reiterated the party's commitment to seeking justice.

## 18th Lok Sabha opens up with lot of opposition voices

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

This Lok Sabha is going to be interesting because there are a huge number of opposition party candidates in the house. So far BJP had its strength because the opposition count was meager. The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha began on Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, taking oath as a member in the newly constituted lower House. On the first day, as many as 262 members took their oaths. As the leader of the House, Modi was the first to take oath, in Hindi, amid chants of "Jai Shri Ram" from the Treasury benches.

Whereas Opposition members greeted Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan with slogans of "NEET", referring to the recent paper leak and irregularities with the NEET exam. The first day of the Parliament

session began on a stormy note amid a war of words between PM Modi and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge over the imposition of Emergency in 1975. The Opposition staged a protest march inside Parliament complex, with MPs of the INDIA bloc raising slogans on "saving democracy" and displaying copies of the Constitution.

The proceedings were chaired by pro tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab, who invited the panel of chairpersons to take oath. Opposition leaders K. Suresh (Congress), T.R. Baalu (DMK) and Sudip Bandyopadhyay (Trinamool Congress), did not turn up when their names were called out.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

## Editoritis

# 18th Lok Sabha opens up with lot of opposition voices

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*The opening session of the 18th Lok Sabha saw a total of 262 newly-elected MPs, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, taking oath as a member in the newly constituted lower House. The remaining 281 MPs took oath on Tuesday.*

*The Opposition INDIA bloc is unlikely to contest the Lok Sabha Speaker's post and the NDA nominee is likely to be elected unopposed, sources said on June 25 ahead of filing of nomination for the key post.*

They joined the house later. Mahtab was administered his oath as a member of the new Lok Sabha and pro tem Speaker at the Rashtrapati Bhavan by President Droupadi Murmu. The Congress and the INDIA bloc had objected to Mahtab's appointment, contending that the claim of eight-term member Suresh, a Dalit leader, has been overlooked. Suresh took his oath later when members from Kerala took their oaths. The opening session of the 18th Lok Sabha saw a total of 262 newly-elected MPs, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, taking oath as a member in the newly constituted lower House. The remaining 281 MPs took oath on Tuesday.

With the deadline for the nomination to the post of Lok Sabha Speaker approaching, senior Cabinet Minister Rajnath Singh has been reaching out to Opposition leaders on behalf of the government in a bid to build consensus for the post of Speaker and deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament. The Opposition INDIA bloc is unlikely to contest the Lok Sabha Speaker's post and the NDA nominee is likely to be elected unopposed, sources said on June 25 ahead of filing of nomination for the key post. However, the Opposition has demanded that they be given the choice to pick the deputy speaker.

With the deadline for the nomination to the post of Lok Sabha Speaker approaching, senior Cabinet Minister Rajnath Singh has been reaching out to Opposition leaders on behalf of the government in a bid to build consensus for the post of Speaker and deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

On the second day, The BJP launched a sharp attack on the Congress on the 49th anniversary of the Emergency, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah saying it is the biggest example of the Opposition party's long history of killing democracy and harming it repeatedly.

The BJP is tight-lipped about its choice for the key post, but there is a buzz that Om Birla, who served as Speaker in the 17th Lok Sabha, may be repeated. Mr Birla also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi this morning. Another post under the spotlight is that of the Deputy Speaker. This position is traditionally given to the Opposition. However, the BJP had appointed its ally AIADMK's M Thambi Durai as Deputy Speaker in 2014. Since 2019, the post is vacant.

In both the 16th and the 17th Lok Sabha, there was no Leader of the Opposition, as the Congress did not have enough numbers. But this time, the Opposition has posted a good show in the general election, with the Congress winning 99 seats. So, the party, backed by its allies in the INDIA Opposition bloc, will be pushing for the Deputy Speaker's post. Kharge has already made it clear to Singh that the Deputy Speaker should be from the Opposition benches.

In 2019, Birla was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha, becoming the first MP from Rajasthan to hold the position. His selection was seen as a surprise by many, but he has been praised for his ability to take everyone along. Om Birla has been associated with the BJP since his early days as a student leader. He currently serves as an MP from the Kota-Bundi constituency in Rajasthan and was reelected for a second consecutive term in the recently held Lok Sabha elections. Previously, he served three terms as a legislator in the Rajasthan Assembly.

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VISIONS & VISION OF CITY

Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road,  
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

**Dr. Vaidehi**

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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Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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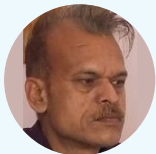


# Voices

Diary



## Paying price for ignoring Plastic Ban



-- Er. Rajesh Pathak

‘So many trees have been made ‘planted’ in social media that the simmering heat of the summer lastly surrendered to have eased out its demonizing posture!’ As this year witnessed record breaking summer spell that those spending most of the time in social media found the cause of it in the felling of the trees vis-à-vis the lack of their plantation. Then what, every other of them pounded upon forwarding the message emphasizing the urgency of plantation drive. And in a reaction of which somebody countered with his post that appeared in the opening line of this piece of an article. Reacting over the result in place of thinking over the lifestyle itself might lead to half-cure of the ailment, with bringing no permanent relief either.

Of late a news flashed regarding the Electricity Department to have issued an advisory guiding how to reduce the electricity consumption, as well as putting control on increasing temperature in the atmosphere around there of, just by taking few precautions using AC (air condition). According to the advisory, the setting the temperature of compressor of AC below 27 degrees forces it applying more effort to function, requiring more power comparatively. Air filters should also be kept cleaned from time to time. Dust clogging its pores leads to insufficient cooling effect, and AC is required to be run for a longer period of time obviously. Windows-doors of the room to be closed with firm hands, moreover.

Be it noted, where running AC keeps the room surrounded

by the walls cool inside, beyond the walls it increases the temperature far more than normal causing the residents without AC to bear the brunt of other’s luxury! Know that electricity saving also cuts down on felling of the trees. According to the environmentalists one unit of electric- power requires 875 gm. of coal!

‘In the hall where we are sitting has five AC. We had four of them switched off. Even then we are comfortable.’ In his meeting this Chetan Singh, a professor in IIT Bombay, says. For his mission of ‘Solar Swaraj’, Chetan started a yatra on November 2020 with the three formulas of AMG- Avoid, Minimize and Generate. Means, try to avoid using energy, or in other words, comfort without pain or labor if possible; and if not, then minimize its consumption through self-restraint. As also go for self-generation of power through installation of ‘Roof top solar panels’.

What Chetan says, our scriptures had said long back in their ways: ‘Oum ishavasyam idam sarv yatkinch jagatyam jagat . Tayen tyakten bhunjita gruddh kasysivddhanam.’ Means, ‘The domain of God prevails in every part of the universe. Thus all the wealth, in whatever form, belongs to Him. And, therefore, the consumption of wealth be made with the spirit of renunciation.’ - Ishavasyopnishad

Gandhiji explains the same thing in his words that earth can though fulfill one’s requirement, but not greed. Therefore, Acharya Chankaya had said that the economics is that which could nurse the earth, along with all that are sustained by it.

## Letters to the Editor

### The History Witnesses Hard Work

Afghanistan Cricket Team pulled off first historic victory against Australia in 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup today, marking one of the sport's most significant upsets. The match saw that Afghanistan delivered a formidable performance with both bat and ball. Key players like Gulbadin Naib, Naveen-ul-Haq, and Rahmanullah Gurbaz were instrumental. Australia's typically dominant batting lineup faltered under Afghan's disciplined bowling attack and strategic field placements. This loss is a major blow to Australia's campaign, raising questions about their preparation and adaptability. For Afghanistan, the win is a testament to their growing experiences in international cricket.

This victory will undoubtedly boost the Afghan team's morale and inspire a new generation of cricketers in the country.

Md Salman

### Cruel and unbearable gait

Shocking observations have been revealed in a survey conducted by the network organization World Weather Attribution (WWA). The temperature

has increased by 35 times, the current year is the highest. In the Northern Hemisphere region of the Earth, it has been observed that there is a severe heat wave before the monsoon season. The current year or season is the season with the highest heat stress. There has been a huge increase in greenhouse gases all over the world. Similarly, the increasing use of fossil fuels is generating huge amounts of heat.

However, the risk of heat stroke caused by such heat is predicted to increase. In this, the body's cooling system completely collapses and if not treated in time, there is a possibility of human death.

These shocking observations have been recorded in the survey conducted in the countries of South West America, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador. All in all, people's life on this next earth is going to be difficult and unbearable due to heat.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

### An ideal Hindu Nation

Due to the failure of democracy in almost all fields, India is suffering a great loss and for this it has become necessary to establish an ideal Hindu Rashtra. While trying to get information on social media, I came across 'All India Hindu Rashtra Convention', and the purpose of this convention. The con-

cept of 'All India Hindu Rashtra Convention' came up in 2012. Hindu conventions of hundreds of pro-Hindu organizations are being held in Goa every year. From the point of view of Hindu Rashtra, this is the only convention that unites Hindu devotees from home and abroad. This convention will include not only pro-Hindu leaders, but also Dharmacharyas, saints, mahants, lawyers, retired judges, journalists, doctors. The main objective of the convention will be to unite Hindus in every field, including pro-Hindu organizations for the establishment of Hindu Rashtra.

Aparna Jagtap

### India can become a superpower

Creating an ideal state system by removing the corrupt system is the establishment of 'Hindu Rashtra'. Corruption is rampant in education, police, defense, justice, medical and all other fields. The person experiences this every day. Thoughts like 'What can I do alone?' do not curb corruption but it only increases. I read articles in some newspapers about the All India Hindu Rashtra Convention, which contained information on Dharmashikshan, Adhyatma, Sanskar, and the need for a Hindu Rashtra. India can become a superpower or a world leader only when India becomes a 'Hindu Rashtra'. So the convention seems promising in terms of

resolving the above issues.

Dr. Jyoti Kale

### Fight for existence

Qutub Minar is the original 'Vishnu Stambha' and Taj Mahal is the 'Tejomalaya'. Despite there being concrete evidence, these monuments are still being hailed as foreign artefacts and even though Kashi Vishweshwar's Shiva Linga is visible to all, a Court battle has to be fought for its custody. Our superior culture has been overshadowed by the blind imitation of foreigners. Vedic Scriptures and religious practices such as Sanskrit, Ayurveda and Yoga practices, various Sanatan forms of worship, etc. are glorified by the West. Before they start teaching us these practices, it will be better to adopt them ourselves in all walks of life. The identity of Dharma, culture and history of valour inspires the future generations to fight for existence and increases their enthusiasm. Exactly the same concept had discussed in the last 'All India Hindu Rashtra Convention'.

Sagar Shirodkar

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

[afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com)

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

# Quota Activist Manoj Jarange Alleges Incitement by Maharashtra Minister; Calls for Maratha Vigilance

Quota activist Manoj Jarange on Monday accused Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal of using provocative language intended to incite a rift between Marathas and OBCs, potentially triggering riots.

"If he wants riots to happen in the state, the Maratha community should also remain alert," Jarange said while addressing a press conference from a private hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar.

Jarange announced that the next steps for the Maratha quota agitation will be determined after



July 13.

"The Maratha community is now in trouble while I am left alone. But I will fight back and ensure that the Maratha community gets reservation under the Other Backward Classes category," he said.

This remark comes amid escalating tensions over the quota issue following a hunger strike by OBC leaders that galvanised various backward classes and prompted government intervention.

Maharashtra is experienc-

ing polarisation as the Maratha community demands inclusion under the OBC grouping for reservations in government jobs and education.

Jarange has been leading protests, demanding that all Marathas and their blood relatives be issued Kunbi certificates, enabling them to claim OBC quotas.

Meanwhile, OBCs are rallying around Bhujbal to safeguard the existing quota.

"Chhagan Bhujbal has made provocative statements in Pune. Bhujbal said figuratively 'Keep your rusted swords ready,' but his

statement implies he wants riots to happen in Maharashtra and divide communities. I appeal to the Maratha community to remain alert," Jarange said.

He noted that state minister Shambhuraj Desai has requested Maratha protesters to wait until July 13.

"We will decide about the next strategy after July 13," he added.

Jarange also urged members of the Maratha community to participate in rallies organised next month to raise awareness about their right to claim reservation under the OBC grouping.

## Bombay High Court Grants Bail in Assault Case Due to Lack of Sexual Intent



The Bombay High Court has granted bail to Kapil Taak, a 33-year-old accused of assaulting three minor boys, on the grounds that there was no sexual intent involved in the case. The decision was delivered by Justice Anil Kilor on June 21, with the order made available on Monday.

Taak, arrested in 2021, faced charges including un-

natural offence, assault, and criminal intimidation under the Indian Penal Code, along with sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The court's review of the First Information Report (FIR) concluded that the accusations pertained to physical and mental torture rather than sexual crimes.

Defense lawyer Sana Khan argued that the POCSOA provisions were inapplicable due to the absence of sexual intent, emphasizing that Taak had been in jail since 2021 and that a chargesheet had already been filed. The initial complaint arose in April 202 after one victim's mother discovered a video of the boys being assaulted.

## Yellow Alert Issued In Thane, Mumbai; Orange Alert In Raigad, Ratnagiri

The Regional Meteorological Department of Mumbai has issued a yellow warning alert in the areas of Thane and Mumbai for the next five days. As per the forecast by the department, thunderstorms and heavy rainfall can be expected with gusty winds blowing at the rate of 40 to 50 kilometres per hour in both Thane and Mumbai.

Further, the department has also issued an orange alert in the areas of Raigad and Ratnagiri for the next five days. Heavy to very heavy rainfall (64.65 to 115.55 mm) is likely expected in both areas. Additionally, the Regional Forecast Department has also warned of an orange alert in the areas of Sindhudurg, Kolhapur,



and Satara. The areas are likely to receive heavy to very rainfall in a few places of these areas.

Other areas like Nasik, Jalgaon, Amravati, Bhandara and others have been issued a yellow alert. Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds blowing at a speed of 30 to 40 kilometres per hour are likely to be expected in these areas.

Earlier, due to heavy rains in several parts of Thane, the Fire Brigade Department responded to a high number of rescue calls. These calls were made in concern with tree falls, hoarding wall collapses and fire calls.

On Friday, six children were found injured due to the collapse of a shed at a football ground in Thane.

## Swimming Coach Arrested in Thane for Assault on Minor

A 42-year-old swimming coach has been apprehended in Thane for allegedly inappropriately touching a 10-year-old girl. The accused, Mangesh Desle, was reportedly coaching the girl when the incident took place on Saturday afternoon.

According to the complaint lodged by the victim's mother, Desle touched her daughter's private parts during the swimming

session. Following the complaint, police took swift action and arrested Desle under sections 354 and 354-A of the Indian Penal Code, along with relevant sections under the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The police are continuing their investigation to gather further evidence and ensure justice for the young victim.

## NCB Busts Major Drug Syndicate in Maharashtra

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has successfully dismantled an interstate drug syndicate, seizing 111 kg of ganja valued at Rs 2 crore in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. Four individuals have been apprehended in connection with the bust, an official disclosed on Monday.

According to an NCB official from the Mumbai zonal unit,

the Pune-based syndicate was deeply involved in illicit trafficking of ganja and other narcotics, importing them from Odisha for distribution across Mumbai and Pune. Through relentless surveillance and other strategic methods, the network was identified and prosecuted.

The official highlighted the difficulties in apprehending the traffickers, who consistently

changed their hideouts, routes, and mobile numbers to remain elusive. "Due to their sophisticated modus operandi, exhaustive and discreet surveillance was employed to gather actionable intelligence," he noted. The drugs were found near Pathardi in Ahmednagar district, and the NCB also confiscated two vehicles used for their transportation. The investigation continues.



Nation

# PM Modi Hails Commencement of 18th Lok Sabha, Emphasizes Commitment to Democracy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday addressed the media before the commencement of the 1st session of the 18th Lok Sabha, marking a significant day in India's parliamentary democracy. For the first time since independence, the oath ceremony will take place in the new Parliament. "On this important day, I heartily welcome all the newly elected MPs and congratulate everyone," the Prime Minister stated.

Highlighting the formation of the new Parliament as a means to fulfill the resolutions of the common man, PM Modi underscored the opportunity to achieve new heights with renewed zeal. He emphasized that the 18th Lok Sabha is beginning its journey to realize the goal of building a developed India by 2047. The Prime Minister took pride in the conduct of the world's largest



election, with over 65 crore voters participating, noting that it is only the second time since independence that a government has been elected for a third consecutive term, a milestone reached after 60 years.

Expressing gratitude to the citizens, PM Modi said the election of the government for a third term is a validation of its intentions, policies, and dedication. He reiterated the importance of consensus in running a country,

emphasizing the government's constant effort to serve Maa Bharati by fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of 140 crore citizens.

The Prime Minister celebrated the induction of numerous young MPs in the 18th Lok Sabha. He elaborated on the significance of the number 18 in Indian traditions, referencing the 18 chapters of the Gita, 18 Puranas, and the legal voting age of 18. He proclaimed, "The 18th

Lok Sabha is the Amrit Kaal of India. The formation of this Lok Sabha is also an auspicious sign."

PM Modi reminded the nation of the dark days of the emergency rule that began on June 25, fifty years ago, when democracy was suppressed. He urged the citizens to resolve to protect India's democracy and ensure that such an event never recurs. "We will take the resolution of a vibrant democracy and fulfill the dreams of the common people according to the Constitution of India," he asserted.

Acknowledging the increased responsibility of the government, PM Modi assured the citizens that the government would work three times harder to meet their expectations. He encouraged all MPs to seize this opportunity for public welfare and service, urging them to act in the public interest.

The Prime Minister called on

the opposition to play their role fully and uphold the dignity of democracy. "People want substance instead of slogans," he remarked, expressing confidence that MPs will meet the expectations of the citizens.

PM Modi concluded by stressing the collective responsibility of all Members of Parliament to realize a developed India and strengthen public trust. He highlighted the progress of 25 crore citizens rising out of poverty, inspiring belief in India's potential to eradicate poverty soon. "The people of our country, 140 crore citizens, do not hold back in working hard. We should provide them with maximum opportunities," he emphasized. The Prime Minister ended his address by congratulating the MPs and urging them to fulfill their responsibilities with utmost dedication.

## CBI Probes Massive NEET-UG Exam Scam in Gujarat



To date, Gujarat police have apprehended five individuals linked to the alleged NEET-UG exam misconduct, including a school's principal and teacher in Godhra. The district collector had received a tip-off about malpractice at the NEET-UG center on May 5, leading to the arrests.

The apprehended include Tushar Bhatt, school principal Parshottam Sharma, education consultant Parsuram Roy from Vadodara, his aide Vibhor Anand, and middleman Arif Vohra, as detailed by SP Solanki.

The FIR from Godhra taluka police station, based on the district education officer's complaint, indicates that Rs 7 lakh in cash was seized from Bhatt, who was a teacher at Jay Jalaram School and acting deputy center superintendent for NEET in the city.

Of the 27 students allegedly involved, only three succeeded in passing the exam, as indicated by sources. According to the FIR, the accused instructed candidates to fill in the questions they knew and leave the rest blank, which would be completed post-exam when papers were collected.

An investigative team from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) reached Godhra, Gujarat, on Monday to probe supposed irregularities in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam on May 5, officials announced.

On May 8, Godhra police logged a case under several Indian Penal Code sections, including criminal conspiracy, cheating, and criminal breach of trust, alleging attempts to help 27 candidates pass the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) for a bribe of Rs 10 lakh per candidate.

Superintendent of Police, Panchmahal, Himanshu Solanki confirmed that a CBI team met with local officers. "We will provide any support needed for the

investigation," he stated.

On Sunday, the CBI filed a new FIR against unidentified suspects, citing IPC sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating), amid widespread student protests and legal actions demanding an inquiry into the paper leak claims.

The Gujarat Home Department issued a directive on Sunday mandating the transfer of NEET-UG paper leak cases from state police to the CBI, facilitating the central agency's takeover of the investigation.

The NEET-UG exam, organized by the National Testing Agency (NTA), serves as a gateway for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH, and other related programs in public and private institutions nationwide.

## ED files written submissions before Delhi HC opposing any relief to Kejriwal in Excise case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday filed written submissions before the Delhi High Court opposing any relief to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the Excise Policy money laundering case. ED opposed the trial court order granting bail to Kejriwal and called the order illegal and perverse.

ED submitted that the impugned order passed by trial court deserves to be stayed and set aside as a vacation judge has returned perverse findings in almost every paragraph of its order on both the facts and the law after admittedly not examining the material placed on record by the prosecution, ED told Delhi High Court. ED further stated that new material collected against Arvind Kejriwal post 2023 was not considered by vacation judge. Enforcement Directorate lists statements of 13 Angariyas, Goa AAP



workers, and AAP office bearers as new statements.

Denial of ample opportunity to the Enforcement Directorate is a violation of one of the conditions of Section 45, says ED to Delhi High Court. The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned for June 26 the plea of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging the order of the Delhi High Court granting interim stay on bail to him in the Delhi excise policy case probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

# The Rise of Digital Media

Today amidst the immense popularity and prevalence of electronic and digital media we find it difficult to imagine that there must have been a time when print media was invented. The earliest civilizations relied on oral communication. If there was news to be told they ran to spread the word to others who did the same finally spreading the news to everyone. After that people began to write the news in picture form and in crude languages where symbols stood for words and letters. And then with the invention of paper and printing press print media came into existence. And after that, there was no turning back.

Print media is the printed version of telling news primarily through newspapers and magazines. Before, the coming of the printing press, printed materials had to be written by hand. It was quite a long process which made mass distribution impossible.

Until a few years ago, print media (newspapers, magazines) was the main source of news and entertainment. But now digital media (websites, apps, social media) is giving a tough competition to print media resulting in debates on the importance of both of them.

## ADVANTAGES OF PRINT MEDIA

1. Print media is more trustworthy because once the news is published, it cannot be modified and deleted. But in digital media, we can modify or delete the content. Newspapers and magazine publishers are extra careful when publishing news or articles. So print media is more trustworthy than digital media.
2. Reading print media can save a lot of time because all the content is compiled in a newspaper or magazine.
3. These days all the study and work involve screen time for many. In this situation, print media is like a break and relief. Now more and more people want some Digital Detox time. And then print media is super useful for them.
4. When we read newspapers there will be no distractions and we can totally focus on it. It is an advantage of print media over digital media.
5. In some remote areas in India internet access is still very limited. And then print media is a blessing for them to stay updated with the latest happenings around the world.

## DISADVANTAGES OF PRINT MEDIA

1. It is just a one-way communication. It gives information to the public but consumers cannot share their opinions. It's in a way not user-friendly.
2. To search for an old article in a

newspaper or magazine archive is a very difficult task.

3. Print media cannot target a specific audience but digital media can show different ads to a different type of audience and thus generate more revenue.
4. Print media is not helpful for people with disabilities. For eg, digital media helps people with visual impairment by giving audio versions of the content.

## ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL MEDIA

1. Digital media gives fast updates and keeps us aware and abreast with the latest happenings, while print media is a slower version than digital one. It makes digital media a more proper option to get news instantly, in a more hassle-free manner.
2. Digital media is two-way communication. Consumers can share their opinions, thoughts, and feedback in an instant. It gives readers a sense of community.
3. It is eco-friendly while print media needs paper got from trees resulting in their destruction on a large-scale level.
4. The famous newspapers are also establishing their own online news portals. It is because of the growing importance of digital media.
5. Small companies can advertise easily on digital media platforms because it is less expensive than advertising on print media.
6. Digital media platforms can generate revenue from old content too. So they will get more revenue and can invest more to update the quality of content.
7. Digital media is democratic unlike print media which is privatized and often run by big businesses.
8. Smartphone users are increasing rapidly and so many digital media platforms are offering content for free due to advertisements.

## DISADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL MEDIA

1. As anyone can generate content easily for digital media, fake news is on the rise. So unless they are famous and have a good name digital media platforms are not trustworthy by the public.
2. Print media publishes only important news. But digital media platforms publish everything small to big so they contain a lot of unnecessary news.
3. Staring at the screen for a long time results in health problems too.
4. Many digital media publish content throughout the day. So people can check for new content always and so



people are getting addicted to news and entertainment content a lot too much. It is causing 'Headline Stress Disorder' for most of them.

## DIGITAL VS PRINT MEDIA

Today consumers are exposed to a lot of digital media as much as print. There is a growing prevalence of smartphones and tablets and the wireless networks that connect them mean that more and more people view digital devices. It also means more and more consumers view ads on digital devices. For marketing and advertising digital media has many benefits. It can be less expensive than print media depending on the details of each campaign. Digital campaigns can also be produced, launched and updated faster than print. Digital media is interactive in multiple ways. Promotion on social media allows marketers to communicate directly with consumers using messaging, commenting, tweeting, wall posting etc to answer questions and offer incentives. Users are able to search for a digital document. Digital ads allow for more control over who sees than print ads so marketers can target them more easily towards specific demographics. Many digital ads can generate consumer information as well offering insight over who exactly is viewing the ads. For e.g, Google AdWords and Facebook Ads offer analysis on user trends and successful referrals generated by the advertisements.

But yes there is a particular charm in print media which can never die out. It offers a more physical, tangible medium to consumers. It engages them on a

more personal level and provides old-school charm which cannot be done by digital media. Print ads have a localized presence that's much harder to achieve by digital media. Signs and banners create attention and help consumers to physically find you. Posters, flyers and other print media can be distributed in a community to help generate exposure and direct consumers to you.

Now if we pop up a question which of the media is better, print or digital we can have a balanced and justified answer---- it's both.

## CONCLUSION

Each medium has unique advantages so a good campaign should incorporate both digital and print media. The best ad campaigns use the right combination of media, depending on market size and scope, demographic targets, products or services on offer, budgetary considerations and other factors. Certain consumers are best reached on digital media but others still prefer print. The right combination of media channels allows best communication with the entire consumer audience and also maximizes the campaign's return on investment.

Both print and digital media have their own advantages and disadvantages and have a solid user base. So if we consider the present trends the consumers of digital media are increasing at a rapid rate and the share of print media is going down. But it is not exactly dying. With the increasing literacy rates print too is having a stronghold. So we can say that print and digital media are co-existing quite happily.



# Journalism- A Thrilling Career

Journalism is an exciting occupation that allows the person to meet different kinds of people, communities and also gives in a chance to travel to new and exciting places. Journalism can be defined as the activity or product of journalists or other professional engaged in the preparation of written, visual, or audio material intended for telecasted to be viewed by general public through public media like newspaper, magazine, news channel or online news etc. with reference to factual, ongoing events of public concern. These events may be some events of political concern or some sports tournaments etc. Journalism is intended to inform society about itself and to make public, things that would otherwise be private or things that would not come to the knowledge of the people. Journalism or media helps to explain the events that impact the lives of the common man and is developed in a number of forms and styles. Each journalistic form and style uses different techniques of investigation and publishing and writes for different purposes and audiences keeping in mind the relevance and language to be used.

For a journalist to do justice to his work he needs to possess some basic qualities of discovering, collecting the information, assembling, analyzing and presenting information in an attractive way. To do this effectively, journalists require highly developed skills in language, a good understanding of the media and local languages, an interest in current affairs and a broad general knowledge. A journalist can only perform well if he is able to communicate clearly, concisely, accurately and quickly, and have an inquiring nature and well-developed people skills. A lot of media houses is entering into the market every day and hence competition is rising day by day. To stand out from the crowd, successful journalists need to enhance their all-round competence skills with personal enterprise, innovation, imagination and creativity. Only those who have skills and passion towards the job and are willing to take a calculative amount of risks can perform well in this field.

## Modern Society and Journalism

A journalist is a professional who collects, writes, and distributes news and other information to be processed and finally telecast through one medium or the other. A journalist's work towards



collecting information and adding some relevant views and facts is referred to as journalism. Journalism is directed at the consumers of media products, who may comprise nonspecific general audiences or narrower market segments. In modern society, news media have become the chief purveyor of information and opinion about public affairs and important events from the fields of sports, politics, entertainment and world, but the role and status of journalism, along with other forms of mass media, are undergoing some rapid changes resulting from the Internet.

Internet these days is playing a major role in giving a tough competition to media and information sector. There was already a tough ongoing competition among print media and electronic media, but with the internet becoming so popular these days, the competition has even increased. As a result of rapid technological growth, the technology these days has become really affordable and this has resulted in a shift toward reading on I-pads, e-journals, e-readers, smartphones, and other electronic devices rather than print media and has faced news organizations with the ongoing problem of monetizing digital news. These days there are a lot of internet-based applications available for media which is giving a new dimension to reporting and publishing. Within seconds of some major events, we can have full information about the event. This has made the process of journalism even more challenging.

## Role of a Journalist

In this modernized and sophisticated age of information, every individual

wants to be aware of what is happening around them in the world. Everyone wants to have information related to every genre of human life. It is the media that is the source of all that information. Dimensions of media these days are spreading day by day, be it print media like the newspapers and magazines; electronic media like the Internet or Audio/Visual Media like TV, Radio everyone is working hard day and night out to keep us updated with every single event of importance around us. And it is the 'journalists' who are the ones actually responsible for all that information. Journalists hold the power to influence the crowds with the first-hand information that they possess. However, there can be some just sitting in their office and collecting some random stuff for the internet and publishing out in their columns, which is something that a real journalist would never do.

Journalism is a highly responsible job, and highly thrilling at the same time. There are times when one needs to be fearless and present the truth in front of the public, no matter how harsh the truth is. Sometimes it becomes difficult due to the involvement of some prominent people in some scandal or a crime, a true journalist is one who without any fear carries on his investigation and brings out the truth in front of the public. If someone is looking for a career in journalism, they should have a presentable and confident personality, along with the ability to write and present information accurately and concisely without any fear or external pressure.

Other essential requirements that highlight a good journalist are: an

inquisitive bent of mind, good writing and communication skills in the local as well as national language, strong ability to differentiate effectively between fact and fiction, tact to collect information and take some calculative risks, high intelligence level, awareness towards the general issues and facts, interest in current affairs and happenings around the world. One of the most important qualities needed is the capability of handling the unforeseen situations efficiently. Journalists may expose themselves to danger to cover in all aspects of information about a particular event, particularly when reporting in areas of armed conflict or in states that do not respect the freedom of the press. There can be some cases of corruption or bribery where some high-rank officials are involved, hence in these situations, journalists do risk in themselves to get the truth out. Organizations such as the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters without Borders publish reports on press freedom and advocate for journalistic freedom.

Different fields of life including politics, art, economics, business, history, sports, entertainment and many other areas are covered by journalists and provide you with news about the latest happenings in these fields. If you are talented and hard-working, a bright career in journalism is awaiting you, which can take you to a good salary package and perhaps even fame and recognition. With the growing importance of media today, the opportunities in the field are numerous and the job is also demanding and exhilarating at the same time.

## Column

# Career opportunities in Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied Service



**Vijay Garg**

Retired Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout Punjab

Agriculture has always been the backbone of our economy as it contributed nearly 29.4% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). More than 64% population works in the agriculture and allied sector and provides food to over a hundred million Indian and raw materials for our industries. India also has enormous potential as an exporter of agricultural commodities which makes it one of the leading agricultural countries in the world. The varying climatic and demographic conditions offer a conducive environment for the cultivation of a large variety of agricultural products throughout the year.

In recent years, the state of agriculture has improved a lot because of the use of state-of-the-art technology along with genetically modified seeds and cross-breed varieties for high yield. Unlike the pre-independence era or to be precise pre-green revolution era of 1964 agriculture has no longer been practised in an unprofessional or classical manner, instead, it has become highly scientific, sophisticated and mechanized and consequently, very profitable too. The impact of agriculture is not only in the production of food grains, vegetables, and fruits but on so many agriculture dependents and allied industries which get their raw material from the agriculture sector.

A good monsoon would drive the Sensex raging like a bull, while floods, droughts or other such calamities would bring it to a grinding halt or even worse downfall. Horticulture, dairying and poultry farming are allied agricultural activities that have become economically viable opportunities today. Aspirants can opt for a career option from any of the following areas in the field of agriculture and allied practices.

- **Agricultural Research**
  - **Agri-Business**
  - **Agro-Industry**
  - **Agricultural Education**
  - **Agricultural Journalism**
  - **Services in Agriculture**
  - **Farming**
  - **Agricultural Engineering**
  - **Agricultural Management**
- Besides these areas in the



agricultural field, the young Indian generation can also make a career in allied activities like Horticulture, floriculture etc owing to the fact that India is among the largest producers of vegetables and fruits in the world and has an equally strong floriculture base. Today India's agriculture has become globalized and the idea of integrating Indian agriculture with the world economy is getting government support. India has enormous potential as an exporter of agricultural commodities ranging from mushrooms to flowers, spices, cereals, oilseeds, and vegetables to name a few of them. With the commercialization of agriculture and horticulture, there are varied opportunities for salaried jobs as well as entrepreneurship.

While salaried jobs with various government and private concerns provide a regular income, entrepreneurship can generate handsome profits. Landscapers and horticulturists are hired by hotels, health farms, and holiday resorts to beautify their surroundings. Florists and nurseries are doing lucrative business, especially in metropolitan cities. Suburban farmhouses have become important suppliers for the domestic market. Horticulture with its offshoot floriculture has become a focus of export activity. India's exports of roses, carnations, gladioli, chrysanthemums, jasmine and other tropical plants and flowers are scaling new heights. Careers in horticulture are interesting and inspirational as there is continuous development in the growing techniques of plants. With new varieties of plants being nurtured the progress of horticultural science is unprecedented. From decorative plants, medicinal plants, fruit yielding trees to flower-bearing plants, a horticulturist studies all plant types. In addition to studies of plant types, students in horticulture also need to study weather and soil

conditions, plant diseases and their treatments, and the economic viability of each of these plants.

Opportunities in research are also increasing as research institutions are gearing up to accept the challenge of the ever-increasing export market with the combined support of the state and Central governments and the corporate sector.

Agricultural Research Service/ National Eligibility Test Examination is conducted by the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board or ASRB for filling up vacancies of Scientists of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes.

Considering all these opportunities candidates with the ability to work on one's own as well as part of a team, good health, a strong back for frequent bending, indifference to unpleasant weather conditions, sometimes to dirty work, practical ability, good powers of observation to detect early signs of disease in plants, animals and poultry, ability to deal with the unexpected calamity and interest in scientific developments can make fortunes in this career. Whereas Researchers should have the ability to work for long periods with intense concentration, a keen analytical mind, and a strong scientific bent.

Candidates with all or some of the above-given traits and Basic training in agriculture offered as a Bachelor's degree course of three to four years duration at all the agricultural universities in the country can do well in agriculture and allied fields. The minimum eligibility required for admission to B.Sc (Agriculture) course is a pass in the plus two or equivalent examination with science or agriculture. Many universities fix a minimum aggregate of 50% marks to be obtained in the qualifying examination.

Admission to different universities may be based on merit or performance

in an entrance examination. Notifications of the courses at various places appear from January onwards, while the sessions usually start off between July and September. More than 40 colleges offer the B.Sc (Agriculture) course, as also the M.Sc (Agriculture) course.

### Some of the Designations and their Work area in the Field of Agriculture are:

**Agriculturists:** Agriculturists are scientists who have specialized in a specific field of agriculture. Their main objective is to produce food and fibre. Some of the specialization fields are Entomology, Agricultural Economics, Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, Animal Science, Food Science and Wildlife Management. The minimum requirement to become an agriculturist is a B.Sc degree or a B.Sc (Agri) degree.

**Agricultural Engineers:** Agricultural Engineers usually specialize in a specific field such as agricultural mechanization, soil conservation and the processing of food. Agricultural engineers often work in the field and are away from home for several days. The minimum requirement for agricultural engineers is a B.Sc degree in Engineering or Agricultural Engineering.

**Agricultural Technicians:** Agricultural Technicians lay emphasis on the practical aspects of agriculture. Specialisation fields for agricultural technicians are, for example, mechanical agricultural technology (the design of farming implements), agricultural extension services and research. Agricultural technicians can follow various diploma courses at a technikon such as the N.Dip. Agricultural: Animal Production, N.Dip. Agriculture: Resource Utilisation, N.Dip. Agricultural Plant Production, N.Dip. Agricultural Management and the N.Dip. Agricultural Research: Botany.

**Farmer and Farm Foreman:** Farmers and farm foremen supervise, plan and organize all activities on the farm. Most of the farmers and farm foremen have no formal training, while others have certificates, diplomas and university degrees.

**Farmworkers:** The duties of farm workers differ according to the type of farming. Most of the farm workers receive in-service training, but the training centres of Kromme Rhee and Boskop offer various short training courses for male and female farm workers. People with disabilities can also follow the courses at Boskop Training Centre.



## Interview

# Roots of India with Ankur Pathan

The trend of elaborate dance shows has been ruling for a while now. Hundreds of dancers on stage, in colour coordinated vibrant cloths, with extravagant props, accessories and styling. Well, putting all this together is a Hercules task and there is one maverick who does it all with ease. I am talking about the very creative Mr. Ankur Pathan, who is a folk dancer, choreographer and today a renowned show director, who with his show expertise of stage craft, light design and set design has been presenting the most memorable shows by the Government on India.

Ankur's name is a part of Asia book of records, India book of records and Guinness books of records. He was awarded with the National Award in 2011, Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Kalakar Puraskar, Event Management Federation Award in 2014, 2015 for the use of technology in folk. We all are aware that Garba is going to be soon announced as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage, as an Awardee in folk, Pathan will soon lead the dance performance at the announcement. I met with the distinguished artist, excerpts from the interview:

### Tell me about your dance training and your early days of dance?

I started my career as a dancer with Aavishkar Academy of Performing Arts in Ahmedabad. I attended umpteen workshops with authentic Folk and Tribal Performers at their homes, schools and institutes. I am happy to share that I visited 34 countries through ICCR and also several parts of India through Zonal Centres. My folk dance took me to every corner of India and most beautiful places in the world. My initial days of dancing, performing at various stages are something that molded my mind to what it is told.

### Why did you choose folk dance as your career?

Oh! I can go on and on about my love for the folk dance art of India. But the most important thing I feel what attracted me and made me choose folk dance as my career is the power it brings. Folk dances are filled with energy not just normal energy but high voltage energy, it has varieties of colors, the instruments are popular as well as some very rare ones, the music is soul touching and the purity that it holds can never be matched with any other art form.

### They say the world of dance is more for the ladies, how do you feel being a man in the world dominated by women?

Well not going to lie, indeed it is! Every moment is challenging, you need to be excellent in your merits and perfection but to be precise in my field there is space for both, it is welcoming to both males and



females. For example, Garbo is for only females and Garbi is for only males and then there is Raas where both males and females come together and perform for lord Krishna and Radha. So we can find a good balance if and only if the art is pure and kept unpolluted.

### You are one of the favorite dance show directors for stage shows and events organized by the Government, which has been most memorable and why?

I literally have a long list, a never ending list of memorable events and shows that I have choreographed, well picking up a few is going to be a task. But nevertheless I will be mentioning a few of them that I found to be extremely satisfying. 'Statue of Unity Launch', with 800 musicians and dancers from various parts of India, maintaining a common rhythm and variations in other instruments, I can still hear the sounds of it. 'Vibrant Navratri' in 2014, a multimedia spectacle in multilevel stage with all types of special effects on stage, with 400 local dancers which included their Ariel fight, Ariel Raas in sky above 200 ft from the ground which was the highlight of the event. 'Swarnim Gujarat', a Government of Gujarat's celebration at Sardar Patel Stadium in 2010, co-ordinated and choreographed the mega event with bollywood choreographer Chinni Prakash ji and Rekhaji, plus managed 6000 dancers for 1 month with rehearsals and then the show itself was the first of Indian events, before I did the commonwealth games opening ceremony. Then there was 'Namaste Trump', the 8 km long road show of the US President with 2000 Dancers and cultural folk performance in the stadium in front of over two lakh crowd, was unbelievable moments for me. Oh Sandip! I better stop now, I can go on and on. This even makes me emotional, it is almost like planning a baby and seeing it being born, totally an unbelievable feeling.



### Tell me more about your recent show of Gujarat Day and what is next in your pocket?

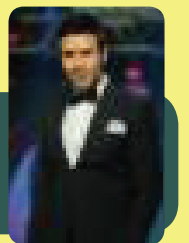
My most recent one is again for the Gujarat government, where I designed, choreographed and managed Gujarat Government State Level celebration of Gujarat day, I took place at the beautiful city of Jamnagar, here I worked with 90 percent of local dancers and drama artists, on 12 different level stages. Next for me is The G20 summit at Gandhinagar and in Diu which I am currently focusing on.

### How do you feel when folk dance and dancers are treated differently to the classical ones?

There are a lot of differences, it is painful not only for me but also for my late Guru Bansi Kaul ji. One dance type (Folk) is ground rooted and the second one (classical) is sophisticated and the treatment given to both are also the same, which does hurt, pierces like an arrow right into the heart. The beauty of folk dances is its purity, colorful costumes, rhythm, music, and energy of performance. Which should not be taken as a difference in treatment.

**Sandip Soparrkar**

Ace Dance Choreographer



## BUSINESS

# Seven years of GST has lowered taxes and improved lives of 140 crore Indians: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the seven-year journey of Goods and Services Tax (GST). Quoting a newspaper report, PM tweeted on the social media platform "X" that GST has improved the lives of 140 crore Indians. "For us, reforms are a means to improve the lives of 140 crore Indians. After the introduction of GST, goods

for household use have become much cheaper."

The PM also highlighted that after the implementation of GST, the savings of the poor and the common man have increased as the GST has reduced taxes on various household items like flour, curd, detergent, etc. He said, "This has resulted in significant savings for the poor and common man. We

are committed to continuing this journey of reforms to transform people's lives".

The Goods and Services Tax will complete its seven years on July 1, it was implemented in 2017. After its implementation, the tax has reduced on several products and services used by the common man. As per the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs, post GST various daily household items have become cheaper. It includes items like flour, television, detergent, hair oil, soap etc. The GST has amalgamated a large number of central and state taxes into a single tax. It also mitigated the ill effects of cascading or double taxation in a major way and paved the way for a common national market.

From the consumers' point of view, the biggest advantage is in terms of reduction in the overall tax burden on goods. The Introduction of GST has also made Indian products more competitive in the domestic and international markets owing to the full neutralisation of input taxes across the value chain of production.

## Government Enforces Wheat Stockholding Limits to Curb Hoarding



The Indian government has implemented stockholding limits on wheat for various market stakeholders starting Monday, to curb hoarding and ensure price stability, according to a senior official on Monday.

Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra announced that single retailers, big-chain retailers, processors, and wholesalers will now have to disclose their wheat stocks every Friday, to dispel rumors of a wheat shortage.

Chopra clarified that there is currently no ban on wheat ex-

ports, nor any plans to review the current stance on sugar exports. The stock limit for wholesalers is set at 3,000 tonnes, while processors are limited to 70 percent of their processing capacity.

Big chain retailers face a limit of 10 tonnes per outlet, with an overall cap of 3,000 tonnes, and single retailers are limited to 10 tonnes. This measure responds to media reports of rising essential commodity prices, including wheat.

The opening stock of wheat was 82 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) as of April 1, 2023, compared to 75 LMT in 2024. The government procured 262 LMT last year, and procurement is ongoing with a minor shortage in the opening stock.

## India's Record Current Account Surplus: A Significant Economic Turnaround

India achieved a noteworthy milestone by recording a current account surplus of USD 5.7 billion, accounting for 0.6% of its GDP in the March quarter, as announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday.

This performance marks a

significant recovery from a deficit of USD 1.3 billion, or 0.2% of GDP, in the same period last year. The previous quarter ending December 2023 also saw a larger deficit of USD 8.7 billion.

For the fiscal year 2024 (FY24), the current account defi-

cit narrowed to USD 23.2 billion (0.7% of GDP), significantly down from USD 67 billion (2% of GDP) in the prior fiscal year. The improvement was driven by higher net services receipts and strong remittances by Indians employed overseas.

## India Imposes Strict Stock Limits to Curb Wheat Price Surge and Hoarding

In a decisive measure to curb rising wheat prices and hoarding, the Indian government imposed immediate stock holding limits on traders, wholesalers, retailers, and processors. These restrictions will be effective until March 31, 2025, across all states and Union Territories.

Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra, in a press briefing, announced that single retailers,

large retail chains, processors, and wholesalers must disclose their wheat inventories every Friday. Retail outlets can stock up to 10 tonnes, while big chain retailers and traders face a cap of 3,000 tonnes each. For processors, the limit is set at 70% of their Monthly Installed Capacity (MIC) multiplied by the remaining months in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

The new rules necessitate regular updates of stock positions on the Department of Food and Public Distribution's portal. Those exceeding the prescribed limits have a 30-day window to comply. This decision follows a high-level meeting led by Home Affairs and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, aimed at ensuring price stability for consumers amid rising wheat prices.

## RBI's New Monetary Focus: Growth and Disinflation Ahead

With retail inflation nearing the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target of 4 percent, a shift in monetary policy to promote growth is imperative, according to Jayanth R Varma, a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

Varma indicated that CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected to hover just 0.5 percentage points above the target and described core inflation as 'extremely benign.'

'The protracted period of intolerably high inflation is coming to an end,' Varma told PTI. 'Over the next few quarters, we will see further disinflation and inflation will reach the 4 percent target on a sustained basis.'

Highlighting the trade-offs, Varma noted that the fight against inflation has dampened growth prospects. While the economic growth rate for 2024-25 is poised to be 0.75-1 percentage points lower than the 8.2 percent growth in 2023-24, India's potential growth hovers around 8 percent.

Earlier this month, the RBI

projected a GDP growth rate of 7.2 percent for FY25. 'Against this backdrop, monetary policy must transition from a single-minded focus on inflation to balancing it against growth,' the MPC member emphasized. 'We need a less restrictive monetary policy that maintains a steady pace of disinflation while supporting growth.'

Varma warned that growth forecasts for 2025-26 are similar to those for 2024-25, resulting in a prolonged growth sacrifice of 0.75-1 percentage points over two years.

He praised governmental policy measures such as digitalization, tax reforms, and increased infrastructure investment for boosting potential economic growth to 8 percent.

In its most recent meeting, the RBI left the key interest rate unchanged at 6.5 percent for the eighth consecutive time. The central bank forecast CPI-based retail inflation to settle at 4.5 percent for FY25, with quarterly projections varying between 3.8 percent and 4.9 percent.



## Expression

# Sharp increase in tainted leaders - a matter of concern



Lalit Garg

Writer, Journalist,  
Columnist

The 18th Lok Sabha has been elected in the country. The world's largest democracy and record number of voters are to be proud of, but there are also disturbing trends in this democracy. The news is that out of the 543 members of Lok Sabha elected recently, no less than 46 percent have criminal records, which is three percent more than the last time. In Indian politics, people with criminal image or facing criminal charges are the potential threat to the government and the nation both, in every conceivable way, which is a matter of worry for every citizen. Will the democratic purity and sanctity of the country be protected in this situation? Will these tainted people not criminalize our system over time? The latest report by the Association of Democratic Reforms, an advisory body that analyses issues related to the criminals in Indian politics, shows that while 233 (43%) of the MPs elected in 2019 had accepted criminal cases registered against them, 251 MPs elected for the 18th Lok Sabha have accepted criminal cases registered against them, which is 46% of the total number.

Today, a big question is how to make Indian politics crime-free. It is not without reason that the increasing interference by criminals in Indian politics has created such a problem that instead of appearing in court, an MP who is accused of kidnapping reaches Rashtrapati Bhawan to take oath as a minister. Leaders like Arvind Kejriwal say in the general elections that the people should vote for Aam Aadmi Party in large numbers, so that he can be saved from going to jail. Here the most important question is how will we establish a good governance and honest system by giving responsible positions to such characterless and criminal elements? How will he live up to the

trust of the general public? How will the doors be closed for the tainted persons to reach the Parliament? In fact, on the alert initiative by the Supreme Court, all political parties have started publishing the criminal records of Lok Sabha and Assembly candidates since the year 2020. Certainly, the purpose of this order was to free the country's politics from the crooks tainted with criminal image. But in reality this did not happen, because the priority of all political parties was to gamble on the winning candidates, even if they had a criminal record.

The big question is who will present the ideal in politics then? What happened to those people who always presented the ideal picture by making every sacrifice possible? They became exemplary for millions, became ideals-- whether it was the freedom struggle, security of the country, security of religion, protection of their word or the question of protection of their culture and identity, they sacrificed everything to fulfil their duty and promise. Heroes like Maharana Pratap, Bhagat Singh, Durgadas, Chhatrasal, Shivaji made big sacrifices by abandoning all comforts of life. Guru Govind Singh got both his sons bricked into the wall and Panna Dhay sacrificed her son for her devotion to her master. Temples should be built for such people. If their temples are not built, people bow their heads in reverence, as soon as their names are mentioned. But the way our national life and thinking have been distorted today, our politics has become selfish and narrow-minded, our behaviour has become false, we have worn more masks than faces, it has destroyed all our values. With the rise of criminals in politics, citizens of the nation are worried and confused about the future of the country. The time has come when some top people will have to make Herculean efforts to protect the country's culture, glorious heritage. A new standard will have to be set before the directionless leadership class. If a person is accused in any murder, kidnapping, murder or any other serious crime, then the attempt

to protect him by calling him a political person, or the evil attempt to take political advantage will have to be stopped. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always given priority to corruption and crime free politics, but in the battle to win elections, he has also been seen giving shelter to criminal politicians.

All political parties have given tickets to tainted candidates. This highlights the huge difference between the words and actions of political parties. The question is-- what will be our future if such tainted people who formulate policies for the country continue to be the makers of our destiny? Will people with criminal backgrounds not affect our law and order after being elected as public representatives? What will be the future of our society and system? Why don't the leaders who talk about all the ideals and question the actions of the leaders of other parties take honest initiative to free politics from the dominance of criminals? Why don't all political parties agree for purity and sanctity in Indian democracy? Certainly, if no serious initiative is taken in this direction in time, then this percentage of tainted people will continue to increase in the coming years. Along with this, the big crisis is that the dominance of leaders who have become millionaires by hook or crook is increasing in the lower house of the country. This time, there are 504 millionaires among the MPs elected to the Parliament. In such a situation, can it be expected that a common man who lives off his hard-earned money can ever think of becoming an MP? Tainted and criminal politicians are becoming a big irony and anomaly of democracy. It is not just about the Lok Sabha, there is such a contradiction and anomaly in the governments of various states that a leader with a criminal image becomes the Law Minister, an illiterate or less educated representative is made the Education Minister. The same happens with other important ministries. What kind of helplessness is this of political parties? Often the reality

of the claim of making politics crime-free comes to the fore when the opportunity comes to form a coalition government in a state or at the Centre. It is a matter of happiness that such helplessness has been controlled to a great extent in the cabinet of the coalition government formed at the Centre. Only one demand is heard from those who protect the nation on the borders that after death our dead body should be sent to our home. When we read such things, our head salutes those soldiers; it seems that the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice has not died yet. But when will such an ideal be present in politics? The light of the lamp of character and morality in politics has become dim; oil will have to be poured. Whether it is the CBI raids and prison bars on the houses of ministers in the Delhi government or the coronation of criminal elements in the formation of the Bihar Council of Ministers, these are serious issues on which there should be an intense debate in politics, there should be a meaningful effort to purify politics, this should be the priorities of new India - strong India.

Everyone is running and shouting for their identity and self-interest. Some try to establish their independent identity with money, some with their beauty, some with their scholarship, some with their behaviour. The condition of politics is even worse that here leaders resort to crime, corruption and immorality to rule the hearts of the people. There are attempts to divide the people on the basis of caste, regional, and communalism. But how much illusion do we nurture? Identity is not built without character. Everything else is temporary. Character is a sadhana, austerity. Just as the belly of ego is big, it needs something or the other every day. Similarly, political character needs daily protection and all this can be achieved only with strong morale, clean image, honesty and freedom from crime. In politics, only a leader with character and morality is respectable and acceptable.



# Entertainment

Actress and producer Margot Robbie recently shared insights into her new endeavour and compared it to the complexities of the film industry. The 'Barbie' star has ventured into the business world with the launch of her own gin brand, Papa Salt, according to Deadline.

The Australian star, along with her husband and business partner Tom Ackerley and three close friends, has introduced Papa Salt into the market. Robbie described the process of creating and marketing her gin as "refreshing," noting the stark contrast with the unpredictable nature of the film business, Deadline reported.

"Movies are a crazy business where you are selling something that isn't tangible, it's an idea," Robbie explained. "You have no idea how much it's going to make, who's going to see it, if they'll see it or how it will be received. This feels a lot more straightforward, it's easier to predict things," she said.

According to Deadline, Margot Robbie's production company, LuckyChap Entertainment, has achieved significant success since its founding in 2014. The company's diverse slate of films, including acclaimed titles like 'I, Tonya,' 'Promising Young Woman,' and 'Barbie,' has garnered numerous accolades, including 25 Academy Award nominations and billions in box-office earnings. Meanwhile, she is slated to produce an upcoming project by Warner Bros, which is reportedly the comic book package for 'Avengelyne'.

The project, which surfaced the previous month, has caught the attention of the studio, marking the potential landing spot for the adaptation, as per The Hollywood Reporter. The movie will reportedly be helmed by Olivia Wilde, known for her work on 'Don't Worry Darling,' with Margot Robbie, Tom Ackerley, and Josey McNamara of LuckyChap Productions onboard as producers.

Margot Robbie is also set to bring another beloved classic to the silver screen with a live-action adaptation of 'Monopoly,' as per People magazine. Along with her LuckyChap partners Josey McNamara and husband Tom Ackerley, she is spearheading the project under their production banner.

In addition to 'Monopoly,' LuckyChap is also venturing into the world of video game adaptations with an upcoming film based on 'The Sims.'



## Margot Robbie Finds Selling Gin Brand "Easier Than Movies"

Kim Kardashian opened up about the impact of Botox on her acting aspirations during the latest episode of 'The Kardashians,' shedding light on the challenges she faces in portraying emotions on screen. Kardashian humorously discussed the difficulties of emoting while having Botox injections.

"You need less Botox for more emotions, and I don't have it," she quipped to her friends during a candid conversation about her acting career on the June 20 episode of 'The Kardashians,' as per E! News. The reality TV star acknowledged the complexities of taking on emotionally demanding roles, citing her appearance in 'American Horror Story: Delicate' as a noteworthy experience.

Despite her reservations, Kardashian expressed a tentative interest in pursuing acting further but emphasised her reluctance to undergo extreme physical transformations for roles. "I'm not going to be gaining 500 pounds for a role and losing a million. That's just not where I need to be," she remarked, according to People magazine.



## Kim Kardashian shares challenges in portraying emotions on screen due to botox



## Kritika Kamra lands lead role opposite Vijay Varma in crime drama 'Matka King'

Actor Kritika Kamra is all set to headline the highly anticipated crime drama series 'Matka King,' where she will star alongside Vijay Varma. Directed by renowned filmmaker Nagaraj Manjule, who is famed for his acclaimed works like 'Sairat' and 'Fandry,' the series delves into the intriguing world of Matka gambling that swept through India from the 1960s to the 1990s.

Following her impactful portrayal of a lady gangster in 'Bambai Meri Jaan,' Kritika Kamra expressed her enthusiasm about stepping into another challenging role in 'Matka King.' "I am thrilled to be a part of 'Matka King' and to work alongside such an incredibly talented team," she said.

The actor said, "Joining forces with Vijay Varma, whose work I deeply admire, is an exciting opportunity." Kritika Kamra emphasized the cultural significance of the series, noting, "The story of 'Matka King' is not only intriguing but also rich in cultural history. It's an honour to be part of a project that draws inspiration from such a significant aspect of India's past."

Director Nagaraj Manjule also expressed his confidence in Kritika Kamra's ability to bring depth to her character. With Vijay Varma and Kritika Kamra set to share the screen, 'Matka King' promises to deliver a narrative filled with suspense, drama, and historical context.