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**OCCASION TO BE WATCHED**

## SHARAD PAWAR TO HONOUR PM MODI WITH TILAK AWARD

Many allies feel it was Modi who had compared INDIA with Indian Mujahideen.

MANISH AWASTHI  
MUMBAI

Amid all the political chemistry going on in the country with full focus on the Parliamentary polls of 2024, especially after the formation of Opposition INDIA alliance, Sharad Pawar is all set to share the dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi today in Pune on Tuesday in the run up to the Opposition's meeting here on August 25-26.

On the other hand, many INDIA alliance leaders are opposed to Sharad Pawar sharing the dais with PM Modi. They are of the opinion that attending a function jointly will harm Opposition's unity and credibility. MPs of Sharad faction are of the opinion that it was Prime Minister Modi who was in-



strumental in splitting the NCP.

Shiv Sena Uddhav faction leader Sanjay Raut feels that bestowing honour on Modi would be inappropriate at this time when the alliance is against NDA whose leader is Modi.

Interestingly, twenty six parties have joined hands to

take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in 2024.

Many allies feel that it was Modi who had compared INDIA alliance with terror outfit Indian Mujahideen (IM).

Sharad Pawar's dilemma seems not to be ending as he has made a commitment to Rohit Tilak, grandson of great

freedom fighter Lokmanya Gangadhar Tilak.

Set up in 1983, the Lokmanya Tilak Award is handed over by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust annually on August 1--the freedom fighter's death anniversary--which says it picks out people who have worked for the nation's progress and development.

PM Modi will become the 41st recipient of the award, which has previously gone to former Presidents Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma and Pranab Mukherjee, former PMs Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh, businessmen N R Narayana Murthy and Cyrus Poonawala and engineer E. Sreedharan among others.

More than the previous editions, this year's event will be keenly observed in the light of the upcoming battle of ballots between the ruling NDA and the fledgling Opposition INDIA.

Function will be held at SP college ground in Pune and Pawar camp claims this confirmation of attending the function was given much prior to the Ajit Pawar-led rebellion.

**VIOLENT PROTEST**

## Two home guards killed as mobs pelt stones at VHP procession in Haryana's Nuh

TDG NETWORK  
NUH

Two Home Guard jawans were killed and more than 10 policemen injured on Monday as a mob in Haryana's Nuh district tried to stop a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession, pelting stones and setting cars on fire, police said.

The district administration has put Gurugram on high alert after a dozen cops were shot, including inspectors and a DSP. As per police, all the injured are undergoing treatment at Medanta.

Further, to bring the situation under control, thousands of cops have been brought from other districts. Residents of Gurugram and Faridabad are requested not to go out of their homes.

From the Mewat region, reports of many women,

trapped in a temple, are also coming.

Section 144 has been imposed in Gurugram and many schools have been closed following the deteriorating law and order situation in the area.

On the other hand, the Haryana Home Department wrote to the Union Home Ministry for immediate despatching of 20 companies of Rapid Action Force (RAF) for maintaining law and order in Nuh district.

After issuing warning for days against the yatra a mob torched over 80 vehicles, a police chowki and virtually took around 2,000 people "hostage" in a temple. As per reports, all have been rescued.

The state government imposed Section 144 in the district sealed its borders and suspended internet services till August 2.

Additional forces from

Gurugram, Palwal and Rewari were called in. ADGP Law Mamta Singh led the forces trying to rein in the chaos. Earlier, there were reports of several people being stuck in Nalhar Mahadev temple. Home Minister Anil Vij said central forces were airdropped to rescue them.

"Additional forces have been sent to Nuh and three companies from the Centre are being airdropped to rescue those stranded. Internet services are suspended and we are trying to restore peace and law and order," said Vij.

According to police, the clashes broke out when VHP's Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra was stopped by a group of young men near Khedla Mod in Nuh.

The procession was pelted with stones and at least four cars, part of the procession, were set on fire.

**POLITICAL LOGIC**

## CONGRESS APPOINTS OBSERVERS FOR 5 POLL-BOUND STATES

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Congress on Monday appointed election observers in poll-bound states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram, news agency PTI reported. Madhusudan Mistry, a prominent party leader, has been named senior observer for Rajasthan, with Sasikanth Senthil as an observer, and Randeep Surjewala, the party's general secretary, has been named senior observer for Madhya Pradesh, with Chandrakant Handore as an observer.

Former Uttarakhand PCC president Pritam Singh has been appointed as senior observer for Chhattisgarh, while Meenakshi Natarajan has been appointed as state observer.

Deepa Dasmunshi has been appointed as senior observer for Telangana, with Sivivella Prasad as observer, and Sachin Rao as observer for Mizoram.

**TOP OF THE DAY**

## DHAMI MEETS PM MODI

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on Monday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and expressed his gratitude for his guidance and cooperation in the development of Uttarakhand. During the meeting, the Chief Minister presented a shawl made of local hemp fiber Bedu and a replica of Nanda Devi Rajjat's traditional musical instruments as tokens of appreciation.

## IF GYANVAPI IS CALLED MOSQUE, DISPUTE WILL ESCALATE: CM YOGI ADITYANATH

ASHISH SINHA  
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that if Gyanvapi is called a Masjid (Mosque), then it will create dispute. This statement of Yogi has once again become the hot cake of the political arena. In an interview, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said,

"The Muslim side should make a proposal accepting that a historical mistake has been made and we believe that this mistake should be solved". In response to a question, CM Yogi retorted and said, "What is the Hindu symbol Trishul doing inside the Gyanvapi mosque. Haven't we put it there? There is a Jyotirlinga there. There are symbols of deities inside the premises. The walls are screaming. And I believe that this resolution must come from the Muslim community acknowledging that a historical blunder has been committed, and believing that this blunder must be solved.

Earlier, on May 19, 2022, the commission reported to the district court that symbols of lotus, damru and trishul were found on the walls of the mosque. The same symbols of Sanatan Dharma were also found on the basement wall of Gyanvapi Masjid. Significantly, the 12-page report of the court commission was submitted to the court but this report was not made public yet.

According to the leaked report, the court commission

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**COURT ORDER**

## Calcutta HC bins TMC plan to gherao BJP leaders' homes

TDG NETWORK  
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Monday restrained the ruling Trinamool Congress' August 5 programme to gherao homes of BJP leaders in West Bengal. It refused to permit any rally or action as publicly announced by Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and affirmed by party chief and West Bengal Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee. It said: "Such a protest or action as commanded by the seventh respondent (Abhishek Banerjee) and affirmed by the sixth respondent (Mamata Banerjee) would undoubtedly be against public interest. Therefore, the respondents are restrained from holding any protest or rally or gherao in any manner inconveniencing the general public," said

**COUNTER ATTACK**

## RAHUL GANDHI ARROGANT, DID NOT APOLOGISE, SAYS PURNESH'S AFFIDAVIT IN SC

ASHISH SINHA  
NEW DELHI

Purnesh Modi, who filed a defamation case against Rahul Gandhi, has filed his affidavit in the Supreme Court on Monday in which he said that Rahul Gandhi is of arrogant nature. He intentionally insulted the Modi surname. He also said that the court gave an opportunity to him to express regret on his statement but he did not do so and

maintained his obstinate attitude in front of the court.

Earlier, Rahul Gandhi had filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Gujarat High Court order. Even before this petition, Purnesh Modi had filed a caveat. On July 21, during the hearing on Rahul Gandhi's petition, the Supreme Court had given notice to Purnesh Modi and asked him to file a reply, on which Purnesh had filed this

**FATAL ACCIDENT**

## RPF constable shoots dead 4 on Jaipur-Mumbai fast train

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Four persons in a moving train from Jaipur to Mumbai were shot dead by a Railway Protection Force (RPF) jawan in Maharashtra on Monday morning, officials said.

According to Western Railways, the constable identified as CT Chetan, opened fire and shot at four passengers, including an RPF assistant sub-inspector (ASI) inside the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Express Train after it crossed Palghar Station in Maharashtra.

As per information from Western Railways, the accused constable has been detained along with his weapon.

RPF officials said that the incident took place in the B5 coach of the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express (Train number 12956).

**UNTIMELY INCIDENT**

## KERALA MINOR RAPE-CUM-MURDER INCIDENT DASHES INDIA'S UNITY BID

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Kerala has once again exposed the crack existing within the Opposition INDIA, with regionals politics clashing with their mission to trounce the ruling alliance in the 2024 Parliamentary battle of ballots.

The heart-wrenching crime, in which both the victim and the accused are migrants, has prompted the state Congress to

launch a scathing attack on the CPM-led Left Democratic Front government.

The state Congress' Twitter handle alleged that the Kerala Home department was corrupt and demanded Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's resignation. The Chief Minister, it said, cannot ensure safety even for children. State Health Minister Veena George visited the victim's family and said that strict action will be taken in the case.

Kerala Con-

BARBS

# TMC WANTS TO MAKE COUNTRY LIKE WEST BENGAL: YOGI ADITYANATH ON PANCHAYAT POLL VIOLENCE

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Launching a scathing attack on the Mamata Banerjee government over "large-scale violence" in West Bengal panchayat polls, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said that the civic polls were held peacefully in Uttar Pradesh and asked if Trinamool Congress "wants to make the country West Bengal". In an interview Chief Minister Adityanath targeted several Opposition parties, saying they had been "quiet" over violence in West Bengal. The Uttar Pradesh CM also slammed his critics, saying there had been "no riots, no curfews" in Uttar Pradesh for the past six years and all festivals were celebrated in peace.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Referring to allegations that many Opposition party candidates had been prevented from filing nominations in panchayat polls, CM Adityanath said that every individual has the right to fight elections and the way the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) behaved in these elections "is an eye-opener". "People who

he said, adding that there is a "difference" between the Bengal and UP governments.

"We did not resort to pretence or hypocrisy. Everybody has the right to fight elections and the person should get it. They can contest the election and if they are capable, they will win. If we are not, we will lose and it should be like that. If the person is an opponent and capable of winning, he should win. This is a democratic right. We cannot deprive him of this," he added. The Chief Minister, who did not directly name TMC, said there are people "who after coming to power want to control the entire system". "Opposition party workers were killed in West Bengal. What we saw in West Bengal, how could have op-

position functioned? Workers of opposition parties were beaten. These things are eye-openers. No one speaks on this or comments on it. Everyone is quiet."

Opposition parties said that 42 people were killed in violence related to West Bengal panchayat polls. Repolling was held on 696 booths. The fact-finding team of BJP, which looked into the incidents of violence during the recent three-tier panchayat polls in the state, suggested a court-monitored probe and said that "bomb blast" cases should be referred to NIA. Answering a query about his opponents trying to paint him as Chief Minister of a certain section of the population, CM Adityanath said there had been no riot in the state since he took office, adding

that said riots hurt people of all communities and if there are anti-social elements, they are a threat to women of all communities.

He said the image of the state had been impacted due to the law and order situation in the state earlier. "I am the Chief Minister of the state for more than six years, my party gave me the responsibility in March 2017 and not a single riot has taken place. You tell me when riots occur only Hindus die? Only Hindu's property gets burned? When riots occur then people die in both communities, the properties of both communities get burnt and daughters of both communities are unsafe from rogue elements in society, when the curfew is imposed then whole markets get affected," he said.

OPPOSITION'S CRITICISM

## Neither rules nor precedence mandatory to prove majority: BJP

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

The BJP on Monday rejected the Opposition's criticism of the government for pushing forth its legislative agenda in Parliament and not taking up the no-confidence motion, saying neither rules nor precedence make it mandatory for the ruling party to prove its majority first.

Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha and Union Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters that everyone knows the government enjoys a two-third majority in Lok Sabha and the numbers strongly favour it. Several Opposition members have said their no-confidence motion against the government should be taken up in the Lok Sabha first and claimed that it is wrong for the treasury benches to push through bills before this.

"There are no such rules," Goyal said, adding that precedence also does not support such an argument. It is the Speaker's prerogative to decide when to take up the no-confidence motion, and the government is ready whenever it is taken up, he said.

Congress MP Manish Tewari has claimed that all bills passed after the no-confidence motion was admitted in the Lok Sabha are "constitutionally suspect" and asserted that any substantive legislative business must succeed the outcome of the motion, not precede it. The former Union minister also said the 10-day period for scheduling a discussion on the no-confidence motion tabled in the Lok Sabha cannot be used to "steamroll" bills. Some other Opposition members have echoed his view.

Goyal also hit back at the Opposition bloc INDIA after its delegation of MPs highlighted people's suffering in Manipur after visiting the state and demanded a discussion in Parliament, saying it is these parties that are running away from a debate. "The government has been ready for a debate right from day one of the Monsoon Session," he said.

The Opposition has been demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi make a statement in Parliament before any discussion on the Manipur situation. The government has made clear its disagreement with the demand while asserting that Home Minister Amit Shah will reply to the discussion.

"It is clear that the Opposition is in fear that it will be exposed during the discussion," Goyal said, adding that a debate will highlight the bad state of affairs when the Congress was in power in the state and at the Centre and how things changed after the BJP took over.

*The Opposition has been demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi make a statement in Parliament before any discussion on the Manipur situation. The government has made clear its disagreement with the demand while asserting that Home Minister Amit Shah will reply to the discussion.*

BRAINSTORMING

## Politics in UP heats up as Akhilesh calls for meeting to respond to CM's Gyanvapi statement

CHANDRAMANI SHUKLA  
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's recent remarks on the Gyanvapi issue have caused a stir in political circles. In an interview on Monday, CM Yogi stated that issues would arise if disputed the site is called a mosque. While the impact of this statement on the up-

coming Lok Sabha elections remains to be seen, it has already created ripples among the main Opposition in the state, the Samajwadi Party (SP). In response to this, SP leader Akhilesh Yadav has called for a meeting on Tuesday to respond to CM Yogi's statements.

Although the Gyanvapi issue is being heard in court, it is also emerging as a po-

litical matter, as indicated by the Chief Minister's remarks. Political analysts have been drawing various interpretations from it, and some have also connected it to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Akhilesh Yadav, who is the SP's national president, understands very well that the Opposition's reactions could cause communal polarisation in the state. He will not

want the BJP to benefit in any way, since it has been observed that the party has benefitted whenever Opposition leaders have made comments on the Hindu faith. However, in some cases where the opposition has shown vigilance on these issues, the BJP has also suffered losses, as seen recently in the Karnataka Assembly elections.

'NAHI SAHEGA RAJASTHAN'

## BJP to hold protest against Rajasthan govt

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The BJP announced a "gherao" of the Rajasthan government secretariat on Tuesday to protest against the alleged corruption, atrocities against women, crumbling law and order, and unemployment under the Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot-led administration.

The protest is part of the BJP's "Nahi sahega Rajasthan" (Rajasthan will not tolerate) campaign in the run-up to the Assembly polls expected to be held in November and December in the state where the Congress is in power. Rajasthan BJP MPs Kirodi Lal Meena, Sukhbir Singh Jaunpuria, and Bhagirath Choudhary joined the party's national general secretary Arun Singh at a press conference on Monday to lash out at the state government.

Singh, the Rajasthan in-charge of the party's affairs, alleged that serious crimes like murder and rape have become rampant. Twenty-one such incidents happened within 24 hours on 28 July in the state, he said, alleging that 17-18 cases of rape are being reported daily. Congress

leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra make so much noise about women's issues but have not met victims of atrocities in the state, which is number one in the country in crimes against women, the BJP leaders alleged.

Meena alleged that the allocation of Rs 30,000 crore by the Centre to the state for the "Jal Jeevan Mission" has been hit by corruption, with many tenders and orders involving "fake" firms cancelled after his party highlighted the issue.

The family members of soldiers who laid down their lives in the Pulwama terror attack have not been given the promised compensation, they alleged.

Rahul Gandhi had promised loan waivers to farmers within 10 days of the Congress coming to power in the state, but nothing happened, and now notices have been sent to over 20,000 farmers for attaching their properties due to their unpaid debt, Meena claimed. Meena, Choudhary, and Jaunpuria also hit out at the state government over cases of paper leaks related to recruitment exams.

PANCHAYAT POLLS

# There is nothing like law and order in Bengal says BJP MP

TDG NETWORK  
KOLKATA

West Bengal BJP MP Locket Chatterjee on Sunday slammed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, alleging that the state police had acted in connivance with the Trinamool Congress (TMC). Chatterjee said, "There were many incidents of violence during the panchayat elections. Women were attacked. The whole world has seen this. Fifty-five people have been killed. There is nothing like law and order in West Bengal." The MP also added that while panchayat elections had been held peacefully in other states,

## NCW PROBE TEAM HEADS TO HOWRAH, WILL LATER GO TO MALDA

KOLKATA: A team of the National Commission for Women (NCW) with chairperson Rekha Sharma headed to Howrah on Monday to investigate cases of brutality against a woman, said the group said on Monday. NCW said in a Tweet that the team would then go to Malda where two tribal women were allegedly stripped naked, tortured and beaten mercilessly a few days ago. On 21 July, a BJP worker from South Panchala claimed that she had been dragged out of a polling booth during the recent panchayat polls and her clothes were ripped off. The next day, the BJP accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of failing to provide security to women in the state.

violence occurred only in West Bengal.

MP Chatterjee said, "If you assess the panchayat poll elections in the state then

you will see that in places like Malda, Murshidabad, South 24 Parganas, Basirhat, Cooch Behar there was violence against women and ruckus

was created regarding ballot boxes by hooligans as they entered the counting rooms with armed weapons." The BJP leader further alleged that the West Bengal police had "acted as party cadres of the TMC." Earlier in July, while speaking on the viral video that originated from Manipur that purportedly showed two women being paraded in the nude, Chatterjee said, "We are also women. We also want our daughters to be saved... We are also India's daughters. West Bengal is also part of this country. Yesterday Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke on incidents of assault against women in Manipur.

MANIPUR

## Opposition running away from debate: Anurag Thakur

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday accused the Opposition of running away from a debate in Parliament on the ethnic violence in Manipur and wondered what the use of getting elected was if they wanted to raise issues on the streets.

Thakur's remarks come against the backdrop of an impasse in Parliament since the Monsoon session began on 20 July over discussion on the Manipur situation, with the Opposition insisting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi make a statement in the



Union Minister Anurag Thakur

House. "If you have to raise issues on the streets, then what is the use of getting elected to the House?"

Thakur said, speaking to reporters outside Parliament, asserting that the government was ready for a debate on the situation in Manipur. Home Minister Amit Shah had earlier said that he was ready for a debate in Parliament on the Manipur situation.

He claimed that the Opposition only looked for reasons to "run away" from the House. "They only believe in running away and not participating in debate. They want to remain in the news but not take part in the discussion. It is clear that they are resorting to politics in an election year," Thakur said.

## WOMEN STAGE PROTEST, DEMAND REMOVAL OF SECURITY FORCES

TDG NETWORK  
IMPHAL

Over 1,000 women staged a protest on Monday in Manipur's Churachandpur, demanding the immediate removal of state police forces from Moreh town. They have threatened to launch a massive agitation in all the hill districts if their demand is not met. On 28 July, thousands of Kuki-Zo women in the Tengenoual district blocked the road to Moreh, bordering Myanmar, to stop police forces from entering the town.

A convoy of ten vehicles of security forces, including the Indian Reserve Battalion, Manipur Rifles, and commandoes, were heading towards Moreh town when the womenfolk obstructed them at Tengenoual.

The protest by the women of Churachandpur comes a day after the opposition bloc INDIA said on Sunday that if the conflict in Manipur is not resolved soon, it may create security problems for the whole nation. A delegation of the non-BJP coalition, which visited Manipur state for two days starting Saturday, slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "silence" and showing "brazen indifference" to the ongoing ethnic strife in the northeastern state.

In a memorandum to Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uijke, the 21 Opposition MPs who signed the document have demanded the urgent rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected people to bring peace and harmony to the state.

## MANIPUR RESUMES BIOMETRIC CAPTURE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

TDG NETWORK  
IMPHAL

The Manipur government has resumed the process of collecting biometric details of identified illegal immigrants in the state, an official said on Monday. "We have identified around 2,500 illegal immigrants in the state, the majority of whom are currently in the Tengenoual and Chandel districts, which share a border with Myanmar," joint secretary (home) Peter Salam said on Monday. "The state government had started the identification process earlier, but it came to a halt after violence broke out in May," Salam said, adding that



Manipur has the collection of biometric details of identified illegal immigrants

"illegal immigrants arrested in Churachandpur district have been kept in the Foreigners Detention Centre and Saijwa jail in Imphal East district and Imphal jail in Imphal West district. In all, 104 inmates are in the Foreigners Detention Centre, 60 in Saijwa jail, and 70 in Imphal jail."

Salam stated that out of the 104 illegal Myanmar inmates, 74 are male, 24 are women, and six are minors—as of Monday. He mentioned that the process of collecting biometric details is time-consuming due to the language and security-related challenges they encounter.









MANIPUR SHADOW

# No point in moving a no-trust motion with a sealed fate

The fate of the second no-confidence motion against the Narendra Modi government, like the first in 2018, is obvious, given the overwhelming majority of the treasury benches. However, it is an opportunity for the government to highlight its good works.

OPINION

DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL



notice of a motion outright if it is not properly worded without reading it to the House. But if in the opinion of the Speaker the notice of motion is in order—as the Speaker found it in the present case—he is duty bound to read it to the House and if not less than 50 members rise in their places in favour of the leave being granted, the Speaker declares that the leave is granted. The motion for discussion is taken up on such day as may be decided in the Business Advisory Committee or in the meeting of the leaders of political parties chaired by the Speaker himself. However, the Rule provides that the discussion must take place within 10 days from the day the leave was granted. Normally, the discussion on the motion takes place within a few days once the motion is admitted.

The admission of the motion of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers by the Speaker would hopefully bring normalcy in Parliament. It may also, in all probability, take the wind out of the sails of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha as well. The notice of the motion has been given by Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress reportedly enjoying the support of 26 parties in alliance. A motion of no-confidence in the Council of Ministers can be brought only in the Lok Sabha. Article 75 of the Constitution provides that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People. Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha contains the procedure regarding no-confidence in the Council of Ministers. Notably, for admission of Questions, Motions or Resolutions, there are elaborate rules governing their admissibility or otherwise. But in the case of a notice of no-confidence motion, “the Speaker shall read the motion to the House” if he finds it in order. The Speaker may reject the

Contextually, in the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition has been persistently demanding a discussion on the Manipur situation under Rule 267 instead of under Rule 176 for which the government was willing to have a short duration discussion of two hours and half. The hunch of the Opposition was that by accepting a short duration discussion, it will give an escape route to the government and that the Opposition would not get adequate time to articulate their concerns. Further, the Opposition wanted the Prime Minister to make a statement in Parliament instead of the Home Minister, though there is no rule as such requiring the Prime Minister to make the statement. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Parliament and any minister can make a statement on behalf of the government, though by convention it is the Minister in-charge of the subject who replies in Parliament, which in this case is the Home Minister.



Opposition MPs protest over the Manipur issue in Rajya Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Now that a motion of no-confidence has been accepted by the Speaker, the discussions on the motion will provide ample opportunities to the Opposition to corner the government on all fronts, including the situation in Manipur. Equally, it would give a great opportunity to the treasury benches to train their guns at the Opposition and the (alleged murky) state of affairs in the provinces ruled by them. The discussions on the motion is free for all, subject to the general rules of the debate. All sections of the House—political parties and groups—get time propor-

tionate to their numerical strength in the House within the time allocated. The mover of the motion would be speaking first in support of his motion followed by the treasury benches and other political parties and groups in turn. The leader of the House—the Prime Minister being a member of the House, replies to the charges levelled against the government. The mover of the motion has the right to reply. This is followed by voting in order to determine the decision of the House on the motion. The Prime Minister invariably replies to the charges levelled, being the keystone of the cabinet arch. However, on 8 May 1998, in the absence of the Prime Minister who was on a State visit abroad, the charges levelled by the Opposition were replied by the Finance Minister.

From First Lok Sabha to the Seventeenth Lok Sabha till date, there have been 28 (the instant one including) motions of no confidence. In addition, a peculiar case is of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha when many members of the ruling party tabled notices of no-confidence motions which were not taken up by the Speaker (Meira Kumar), on the ground that the House was not in order. Besides, there have been 12 motions of confidence in the Council of Ministers which were brought before the House by the ruling party. Three prime ministers—V.P. Singh (1990), Deve Gowda (1997) and Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1999)—lost the no-confidence motions. A no confidence motion against Morarji Desai in 1979 triggered his resignation before the motion could be put to vote. Indira Gandhi faced 15 such motions and lost none in her 16-year tenure. The fate of the second no-confidence against the Modi government, like the first in 2018, is obvious, given the overwhelming majority of the treasury benches. The naive question asked is what is the point of bringing such a no-confidence motion with a sealed fate. The

mover of the motion and those in support of it, know it so well. The real intent and objective of the mover of the motion invariably is to make an all-out attack on the government for its alleged acts of omission and commission and present a picture of failures and misdeeds of the government to the people. But there is more than equal opportunity to the government to highlight its good works. It's an occasion for fine and florid debate which may soar to subliminal heights occasionally. In fact, some of the finest debates took in Parliament on such motions, including the motion the Vajpayee government lost. Let the nation watch the debate and let “we, the people”—the eventual jury—distinguish between the chaff and the grain, between the hollow and spurious and solid and substantive arguments.

The author is a former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha, and a Member, Delhi Bar Council.

PERSPECTIVE  
WAR ON CHINA'S MIND

## CHINA DOES NOT WANT PEACE WITH INDIA

There is some positive news on the India-China economic front—that of a reduction in the trade deficit between the two countries. China's exports to India fell by 0.9% in the first half of the year, amounting to \$56.53 billion, when it was \$57.51 billion last year. The trade deficit decreased from \$67.08 billion to \$47.04 billion, which is a substantial drop of around \$20 billion. Let's hope that this trend picks up pace and hastens the process of India's decoupling from China. Interestingly, the latest words doing the rounds of western capitals are “derisking” and “diversifying”, and not “decoupling”, proving that for at least some western countries the worry is about the loss of money, and not the existential threat that China poses to them. But then more than the West, it is India, particularly since the Galwan Valley clash of 2020, which has been more serious about standing up to China. In fact, the latest case in point is the Indian refusal of Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD's \$1 billion investment over fears of security. This has had the Chinese rattled, with the communist mouthpiece, *Global Times* complaining that cutting out China from the automobile sector would be a loss for India. “The country would now “lag behind in global automotive manufacturing” and that “BYD's halting investment decision also reflects the rising disappointment of Chinese companies toward the investment environment in India”, claims the Communist newspaper. In the same vein it asserts that India wanting Indians on the boards of Chinese companies manufacturing mobiles on Indian territory amounts to “suppression of Chinese companies... which will only further damage India's image and reputation, and deter foreign investors”.

This is an explicit threat—asking India to fall in line or else face exile from the world's industrial landscape. This also exposes a fundamental lack of understanding of how democracies think. It seems that communist autocracies believe in resorting to juvenile muscle-flexing, forgetting that what may work with a bankrupt Russia or a failing Pakistan, will not work with a rising India. The problem is that the Chinese Communists want India-China relations in silos, where it will be business as usual in bilateral ties, even though soldiers from the two sides stand eyeball to eyeball along the Line of Actual Control. The fundamental problem is the PRC's refusal to acknowledge the nature of the beast—the aggression and totalitarianism that is at the heart of its system, wanting to rewrite the world in Chinese Communist characteristics.

In the regular doublespeak that the Chinese indulge in, we were told post the meeting between NSA Ajit Doval and China's Wang Yi on the sidelines of the BRICS NSAs' meeting in South Africa that India had promised to work with China to settle the border question in the spirit of “mutual understanding and mutual cooperation”. There was no mention of the fact that Mr Doval had stated, according to the Ministry of External Affairs, that the situation along the LAC since 2020 “had eroded strategic trust and the public and political basis of the relationship”. The Chinese readout also mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping, in November 2022, when they met in Bali, had spoken of the need to normalise relations. The fact is, there was no official bilateral meeting between the two leaders. At the most there would have been a handshake or two. Even if there was talk of peace, the Chinese undermined it by issuing stapled visas to Indian athletes from Arunachal Pradesh, as a result of which the entire Indian wushu team pulled out of the World University Games in China. When Arunachal is a sticking point, when the whole of LAC is a sticking point, with the Chinese refusing to yield even an inch to India, where is the scope for peace between the two countries? Peace between India and China is imperative, but where is peace when China continues to build dual-use infrastructure along the LAC at a frenetic pace? China's new normal along the LAC is anything but normal as far as India is concerned. How can there be peace with a neighbour who always has war on its mind?

Additionally, the problems between India and Communist China are too deep rooted in history, shaped by too many adversarial actions on the part of China, for the relations to settle into a state of even uneasy peace. Absence of war is not peace, and that is what India-China relations have come to signify.

Amidst this, a strange narrative is being sought to be built by a section of some Western think-tanks and the media—that it is not the India and the US, but India and China that are natural partners, and what happens if India and China join hands against the US. In other words, India cannot be trusted to side with the US or stand up to China. This is strange, given that it is only India that is standing up to China, literally, 24x7, 365 days a year, all along the 3,000-plus kilometres of the LAC. This scaremongering could have been inspired by the Chinese themselves, given the influence operations that they have been conducting among western academics and journalists. Even if it is not “inspired”, the objective is the same—to ensure that India and US partnership fails, all the more reason why this partnership must succeed. There is no peace with China until it reforms itself from within. But a system that is ruthless and opaque enough to disappear some of its own—Jack Ma and Qin Gang—in this day and age, is not reforming anytime soon.

JOYEETA BASU

CULTURE OF RESEARCH

# For a developed India, the NRF Bill is certainly a step in the right direction

The National Research Foundation will focus on creating a policy framework and putting in place regulatory processes that can encourage collaboration and increased spending by the industry on R&D.

OPINION

SMRITI PANJWANI



2023 by the Union Cabinet, which is presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The approved Bill will pave the way for the establishment of the National Research Foundation, which will launch, grow, and support research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutes, and R&D

laboratories.

After the approval by the Parliament, the Bill will establish the National Research Foundation, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country in accordance with recommendations made by the National Education Policy (NEP), at an estimated total cost of US\$ 6.1 billion (Rs 50,000 crore) over a five-year period (2023-28).

The administrative department of the NRF will be the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which will be governed by a Governing Board consisting of eminent researchers and professionals from various disciplines. The Prime Minister will serve as the ex-

officio President of the Board and the Union Ministers of Science & Technology and Education will serve as the ex-officio Vice-Presidents due to the NRF's extensive reach, which affects all ministries. An Executive Council, chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, will govern the National Research Foundation's operations.

The National Research Foundation will forge collaborations between business, academia, government departments, and research institutions, and will create an interaction mechanism for the participations and contribution of industries and state governments. It will concentrate on developing a regulatory framework

and setting up policies that can promote cooperation and greater industry R&D spending.

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), which was founded by an Act of Parliament in 2008, would also be abolished by the Bill and absorbed into NRF, which has a broader scope and encompasses operations beyond those of SERB. It will create an interface mechanism for the participation and contribution of industries and state governments, in addition to the scientific and line ministries.

It will focus on creating a policy framework and putting in place regulatory processes that can encourage collaboration and increased spending by the industry

on R&D. The National Research Foundation will emphasize the funding of projects in peripheral, rural and semi-urban areas, which are neglected and never receive funding for science projects. It would promote research not just in the natural sciences and engineering, but also in social sciences, arts and humanities.

The National Research Foundation provides an efficient and integrated management system for the implementation of the missions such as the supercomputer mission or the quantum mission.

Smriti Panjwani is Assistant Professor, Jagran Lakecity University, Bhopal.

## IN COURT

# DELHI HIGH COURT DIRECTED DELHI GOVERNMENT: CONDUCT SURVEY OF ALL PENDING RATION CARD APPLICATION FOR DECISION ON FOOD SECURITY ALLOWANCE UNDER NFSA

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case *Shabnam v. Government of NCT Delhi And Others Connected matter* observed and has directed the Delhi Government to conduct a survey of all the pending applications for ration cards and also to decide as to whether the person will be entitled to receive the food security allowance.

The bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad in the case observed and has directed the Delhi Government to complete the exercise as expeditiously as possible and also to seek the status report on the same.

The court in the case stated that the State Government is directed



to conduct the survey of all pending applications to see as to whether they would be entitled to receive the allowance as stated under Section 8 of

the Food Security Act. The court stated that section 8 of the National Food Security Act states that if in the case of non-supply of foodgrains or

meals to entitled persons, they shall be entitled in order to receive the food security allowance from the State Government within the time and man-

ner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

In the present case, the court was hearing the plea moved by two wom-

en seeking directions on the Delhi Government to approve their applications for issuance of ration cards. Therefore, wherein it is also prayed for the food security allowance.

The bench of Justice Prasad in the case observed and has stated that the State Government cannot wait till a person gets a ration card. Further, the State Government is directed to assess as to whether the Petitioners would be entitled to receive the allowances as prescribed as stated under Section 8 of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

The counsel appearing for the Delhi Government submitted before the court that for a person to be entitled to the benefit of Section 8, the

State Government has to first assess rights of the applicant in order to receive food grains at subsidized prices.

The said court was also appraised apprised that about three lakh persons are presently in the waiting list with the Delhi Government.

Further, the court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated it being needless to say that it is well settled that if a person comes to a Court and gets a declaration of law in his favour; thus, it is expected that the State shall extend the benefit to all similarly placed persons without them having to approach the Court.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on October 13, 2023.

## TOP OF THE DAY

**DELHI SERVICES BILL CIRCULATED AMONG MPS, TO BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT**



The Delhi ordinance was promulgated by the Central government a week after the Supreme Court handed over the control of Services in Delhi excluding Police, Public order, and the Land to the elected government, headed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

**GOVT-APPOINTED PANE; LIKELY TO LOOK AT REGULATORY REGIME ASPECTS FOR STARTUPS**

The Govt-Appointed panel is likely to discuss whether there being the need for the Stricker regulatory regime for startups against the backdrop of instances of corporate governance concerns at some of the entities, according to the officials.

**SEBI SAYS, NO PROPOSAL TO CURB RETAIL PARTICIPATION IN DERIVATIVE MARKET**

The Market Regulator, SEBI has clarified that there being no proposal to retail participation in derivative markets.

**SUPREME COURT SETS ASIDE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT ORDER SUSPENDING DOC'S LICENSE IN CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS**

The Supreme Court in the case observed and has stated that the power to punish the medical practitioner for misconduct rests exclusively with the National Medical Commission.



## IN COURT

## Delhi High Court To Consider Issuing Guidelines For Delhi Police To Follow In Cases Of Missing Children

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case *Lamboder Jha v. Govt NCT Of Delhi And Ors* observed and has set aside to consider issuing various directions and guidelines which needs to be followed by the Delhi Police in cases of the missing children.

The bench headed by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma was hearing the plea moved by the father who was being aggrieved by the lapses in the process followed by the Delhi Police in tracing his minor daughter. Thus, his daughter aged about 16 years, had gone missing on July 10, 2023 and the complaint was lodged by the father the next day at Kailindi Kunj police station.

Therefore, the FIR was also registered under section 363, Kidnapping of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

The Father informed the court that despite number of visits to the police station by him between July 12 to July 16, he could not find any information about his daughter, therefore, the father was aggrieved that the police had not taken steps in accordance with a 2016 Standard Operating Procedure, SOP which is being issued by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development for cases of missing children.

The court observed that the minor child was produced before the court on July 28, 2023 by the police. The said court was also informed that in her statement recorded



under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 she did not levelled any allegations against any person and had said that she left her house out of her own free will

due to some misunderstanding between her and her parents.

The bench of Justice Sharma in the case observed and has also interacted with the minor

and noted that she had expressed her apprehension that her parents will discontinue her studies and may treat her badly. It has been informed by the minor to the court that she

wanted to continue her studies and was keen on attending her school regularly.

Further, the court in the case observed and has stated that the minor daughter was being counselled and she has expressed her willingness to accompany her father.

The bench of Justice Sharma in the case observed and has directed the principal of the concerned school to accept the leave application to be moved by the father of the minor and also to accept as leave the period when she had not attended school.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on August 01, 2023 in order to consider the aspect of issuance of guidelines to Delhi Police for tracing missing children.

## IN COURT

## KARNATAKA AAR: HOSTELS ARE NOT RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS NO GST EXEMPTION

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Karnataka Authority of Advance Ruling, AAR in the case observed and has held that the PG or the Hostel Rent paid by inhabitants does not qualify for GST exemption as the services are not akin to renting a residential dwelling for use as a residence.

The bench comprising of M.P. Ravi Prasad and Kiran Reddy T. in the case observed and has stated that GST on reverse charge will be applicable on the rental to be paid to the landowners.

Therefore, the applicant is an LLP and is in the business of providing guest accommodation or hostel services and are akin to guest house and lodging services.

The applicant in the case seek an advance ruling on the issue of whether PG or



Hostel Rent paid by inhabitants qualifies for GST exemption since they are used as residential dwellings.

However, another issue is being raised by as to whether the charges which are collected towards allied additional services provided by the LLP would be considered a bundled service along with the service of providing a Hostel or Pay-

ing guests.

It has also been held by the AAR that the residential dwelling is a residential accommodation meant for a permanent stay and does not include a guest house, lodge, or similar places.

The AAR in the case observed and has stated that the accommodation services which are being offered by hotels, clubs, campsites,

etc., with charges up to Rs 1,000 per day, were eligible for GST exemption until 17.07.2022.

Further, the AAR held that the allied additional services provided by the LLP are not naturally bundled with the hostel of the applicant's or paying guest accommodation service.

Srisai Luxurious Stay LLP: the name of the Applicant.

## IN COURT

## Gauhati High Court Directed Centre To Forthwith Release Its Shares For Completion Of Greater Diphu Water Scheme Project

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Gauhati High Court in the case *Kamalsing Bey v. The Union of India And 7 Ors* observed and has directed the Union Government for releasing its remaining share of Rs 1636.05 lakhs for the successful implementation of scheme named, Augmentation of Greater Diphu Water Scheme in Karbi Anglong District as stated under the Non-Lapse Central Pool of Resource, NLCPR.

The Division bench comprising of Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta and Justice Suman Shyam in the case observed and has noted the our of the Central Government share for an amount of Rs 2490.69 lakh, an amount of Rs 854.11 lakh has been released so far.



In the present case, the court was hearing the PIK moved on the issue of non-implementation of the scheme relating to supply of clean drinking water in Karbi Anglong District, Assam.

However, the affidavit was filed before the court on behalf of the Chief Engineer, PHE, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council stated

that the total project cost in the year 2008 was fixed for an amount of Rs. 2767.44 lakhs and the share of the Central Government towards this project was 90 percent and the remaining 10 percent was to be borne by the State Government.

Further, it has also been stated that the Central Government released a sum for an amount of Rs. 854.64

lakhs and the works were got executed through different contractors.

Therefore, it was also submitted before the court that the State Government share was released to the tune for an amount of Rs. 110.12 lakhs on 15.12.2-16 and no Central Government share of funds towards the project has been released thereafter.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has directed the concerned authority of the Government of India shall forthwith proceed in the direction of releasing the share of Central Government's for completion of the project in question.

Further, the court directed the counsel appearing for the Central Government to file an affidavit of the officer concerned by August 24, 2023.



IN COURT

# CALCUTTA HIGH COURT DISMISSED PIL TO RESTRAIN CM MAMTA BANERJEE FROM MAKING ALLEGEDLY PROVOCATIVE SPEECHES AT EID GATHERING

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Calcutta High Court in the case Nazia Elahi Khan vs State of West Bengal and Ors observed and has dismissed the PIL moved against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who being the private respondent in order to restrain her from using provocative speeches on

the occasion of Eid-u-Fitr, next year.

The Division bench comprising of Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhat-tacharya in the case observed and has remarked that the similar matter came earlier before this court and we did not entertain the same and this is already over. Thus, this court issues an injunction against the private

respondent? Who is the petitioner? How did she come to know of the speeches? Through a news paper report? The foundation of the PIL moved is only a newspaper report.

The petitioner in the plea claimed to be the chairperson of the Muslim Women Resistance Committee and the Legal Solicitor firm.

The petitioner in the

plea submitted that the private respondent enters religious congregation during Eid-u-Fitr every year since 2011 and her recent provocative speech, which in the case allegedly led to Ram Navami violence cast an apprehension that a similar situation may again take place if the private respondent is not restrained.

It has also been submit-

ted by the petitioner in the plea that the alleged provocative speeches which are made by the private respondent had gone against the letter and spirit of Islam. Therefore, the petitioner seeks to file certain verses from the Holy Quran, through a supplementary affidavit, in order to seek her sustainable arguments.

Accordingly, the court dismissed the PIL.

IN COURT

# Allahabad High Court: Goods In Transit Cannot Be Treated As Traceable In Presence Of Tax Invoice, E-Way Bill And Bilty

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court in the case M/S Bhawani Traders Versus State of U.P. observed and has quashed the penalty order passed in Form MOU-09 as stated under Section 129(1)(b) of the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 on the grounds that the goods in transit were duly accompanied by the tax invoice, e-way bill, and bilty.

The bench comprising of Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker and Justice Ashutosh Srivastava in the case observed and has relied upon the decision of the Allahabad High Court in the case of M/s Sahil Traders vs. State of U.P., wherein the court held that in face of the tax invoice and the E-way bill produced by the petitioner, the goods may not have been treated as not traceable to the registered dealer.

The petitioner in the plea challenged the penalty order which is being passed by the Assistant Commissioner in Form MOU-09 as stated under Section 129(1)(b) of the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. Thus, the order passed imposed a penalty for an



amount of Rs. 48,53,940 by not treating the petitioner as the owner of goods.

It has also been argued by the petitioner in the plea that the goods were duly accompanied by the tax invoice, e-way bill, and bilty issued in the name of the petitioner as the consignor, and the goods were in transit through the State of U.P. during the movement of them from Kolkata to New Delhi. Thus, there being no intention to evade tax.

It has also been submitted by the petitioner before the court that he was the owner of the goods and was ready and willing to deposit a penalty under protest under Section 129(1)(a) to get the goods released, wherein the court considered the perishable

nature of the goods and the substantial diminishing of their value with the onset of monsoons.

It has also been contended by the department before the court that the petitioner has rightly been held not to be the owner of the goods and that the penalty has rightly been imposed upon the petitioner as stated under section 129(1)(b) of the Act.

The court in the case observed and has set aside the penalty order and has directed the department to pass a fresh order treating the petitioner as eligible for the benefit of Section 129(1)(a) of the GST Act.

The counsel, Shubham Agrawal appeared for the petitioner.

The counsel, C.S.C. represented the respondent.



IN COURT

# Bombay High Court Asks District Judges Across Maharashtra To Monitor Grim Situation In Government Schools

ANALYSIS

SANJEEV SIROHI

While ruling on a most significant issue directly affecting the future generation of our country who are studying in government schools, the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court in a most learned, laudable, landmark, logical and latest judgment titled Registrar Judicial, Aurangabad Bench v. State of Maharashtra & Ors. in Civil Application No.8987 of 2023 in SMPIL/1/2018 with Civil Application No.14913 of 2018 in SMPIL/1/2018 that was pronounced as recently as on July 21, 2023 has very commendably ordered the formation of a district-level committee with district judges at the helm to monitor the 'grim situation' in government-run schools of Maharashtra. It must be mentioned here that a Division Bench comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice Ravindra V Ghuge and YG Khobragade passed the order after being informed of a government-run school in Aurangabad that did not have electric supply for over 18 months! It must be noted here that the Aurangabad Bench of the

Bombay High Court was dealing with a 2018 public interest litigation that was regarding the bad and deplorable conditions of schools being operated by the local civic authorities in Maharashtra.

At the very outset, this brief, brilliant, bold and balanced judgment authored by a Division Bench comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice Ravindra V Ghuge and YG Khobragade of Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court sets the ball in motion by first and foremost putting forth in para 1 that, "The Civil Applications are filed in Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation No.1/2018. The PIL is with regard to the bad conditions of the schools, being operated by the local authorities like Zilla Parishad, Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation, etc."

As we see, the Division Bench discloses in para 2 that, "Today, the learned Amicus has placed on record the copy of the city edition 'DB Star' of daily Divya Marathi newspaper dated 20.07.2023. The same is taken on record and marked as 'X-1'

for identification."

To put things in perspective, the Division Bench while elaborating on the facts of the case envisages in para 3 that, "From this news report, we understand that the particular school was included in the list of smart schools. This is situated at a place identified as Ajab Nagar, Nutan Colony, Aurangabad. Electricity supply has been disconnected for more than eighteen (18) months. About 40 students in kindergarten to the 4th standard, are studying in the said school. A photograph indicates that the students are sitting on the floor and in the surrounding, empty bottles of liquor (Deshi Daru) are found."

As anticipated, the Division Bench mentions in para 4 that, "The learned Amicus, therefore, suggests that it is high time that the Court should take a serious note of this aspect and constitute a Committee at each district place to inspect such schools and submit their reports along with recommendations. It is suggested that the learned Principal District Judge of each district in the State of Maharashtra be made the Chairman of such Committee."

As it turned out, the Division Bench mentions in para 5 that, "The learned AGP submits that the Suo Moto PIL is not an adversarial litigation. The Government is doing its best to ensure that the schools are

operated in the most appropriate manner. In the event of any deficiency or shortcomings, the State would be bound to render fullest assistance in order to ensure that the students are not affected. The local authorities should also ensure that the schools are maintained as per the required standards and the education of the students should not be hampered."

It would be quite germane to note that the Division Bench observes in para 6 that, "Considering the grim situation and taking into account several orders passed by the High Court in various matters, we find that the submissions of the learned Amicus are justified. Things have come to such a stage that it is imminent and necessary to form such Committees, if future of these young children is to be safeguarded and given highest priority. If they are to be imparted proper education in proper surroundings, necessary steps will have to be taken, if the concerned authorities are failing in their duties. If the structural conditions of the schools are dilapidated, it would not only involve physical risk to these students, but a congenial atmosphere for imparting education would be missing."

As a corollary, the Division Bench mandates in para 7 that, "In view of the above, we direct the constitution of the Committee in each district in

the State of Maharashtra as under-

(a) The learned Principal District Judge of each district, or his/her nominee who shall not be below the rank of District Judge-1, shall be the Chairperson of such committee. He/She would be at liberty to take assistance of the Registrar of the said Court.

(b) The District Collector of the concerned District shall nominate a person to represent the District Administration, not below the rank of the Deputy Collector posted at such district.

(c) The Education Officer (Secondary) in the Zilla Parishad shall be the member Secretary of the Committee.

(d) The Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department in the said district, shall be a member of the Committee since he would have the expertise for evaluation of the structural stability of such schools.

(e) The District Superintendent of Police of the concerned district or the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, shall nominate a person, not below the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police/Assistant Commissioner of Police, as a member of the said Committee."

On a pragmatic note, the Division Bench then discloses in para 8 stating that, "The reason for including the representative of the Police Administration is to ensure that

if there is any issue of law and order and if it is noticed that the premises of the schools are being utilized for unethical, impermissible or offensive activities, the Police Authorities would initiate appropriate action against the wrong doers."

Most significantly, most remarkably and most forthrightly, the Division Bench then enjoins upon in para 9 stipulating most commendably that, "We expect the learned Principal District Judge/Nominee to immediately commence the activity of this Committee, as per the following directions -"

a] issue appropriate letters to the members of the Committee.

b] the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police/ the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, shall nominate their representatives as directed above, by conveying the same to the learned Judge.

c] We expect the Committee to commence inspection of all such schools, which are operated by the local authorities such as the Zilla Parishad, Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, Panchayat Samiti, etc.

d] The learned Judge is at liberty to resort to video recording of such schools and the expenditure of such activity would be borne by the District Administration. All expenses incurred by the committee during the course

of its functioning or activity, shall be borne by the District Administration.

e] Let such committee submit a report of its inspection along with suggestions/recommendations to this Court, after 60 (sixty) days from today, within a period of 15 days."

For sake of clarity, the Division Bench clarifies in para 10 maintaining that, "In the event of any clarification being required, either by the Committee or any further orders being sought by the learned Amicus, liberty to circulate this matter."

Further, the Division Bench specifies in para 11 stating that, "With the above directions, both the Civil Applications stand disposed off."

What's more, the Division Bench then directs in para 12 directing that, "We direct the learned Registrar (Judicial) of this Court to bring this order to the notice of each learned Principal District Judge in the State of Maharashtra."

Finally, the Division Bench concludes by directing in para 13 that, "List the Suo Moto PIL No.1/2018 on 05th October, 2023."

All said and done, we thus see quite ostensibly that the Aurangabad Division Bench of the Bombay High Court comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice Ravindra V Ghuge and YG Khobragade has most prudently taken the most courageous stand of asking the District Judges all across

Maharashtra to closely monitor the 'grim situation' in government schools. This most courageous stand was taken by the Court after being informed of a government-run school in Aurangabad that did not have electricity for over 18 months. It deserves mentioning here that Advocate Rashmi S Kulkarni who was appointed as amicus curiae had urged the Court to take a very serious note of the issue and constitute a committee in each district to inspect such school and give recommendations.

No doubt, we must always acknowledge and applaud that the Court had very rightly remarked that if the structural conditions of the schools are dilapidated, it would lead to physical risks for the students. It was under such dire circumstances that the Aurangabad Division Bench of the Bombay High Court very rightly took note of the "grim situation" and so also very commendably opined that things were at a stage where it was imminent and necessary to form Committees to safeguard children's future. To say the least, what is most imperative now is to ensure strictly that what all has been so very rightly, robustly and rationally recommended by the Division Bench is implemented in totality to ensure that children's future is safe and life of children is secure. It definitely brooks no delay anymore! No denying it!



## MEMORIAL TRIBUTE



Shoes of victims are gathered after Sunday's suicide bomber attack, in the Bajur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, Monday, July 31, 2023. Pakistan held funerals on Monday for victims. AP/PTI

## SOARING TEMPERATURE

## July blistering as Phoenix hits another 110 degrees & wildfires spread in California

TDG NETWORK  
PHOENIX

Phoenix was blazing through its 31st consecutive day of at least 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) and other parts of the country endured record temperatures after a week that saw many portions of the US population subject to extremely warm weather.

According to the National Weather Service, Phoenix was expected to hit the record temperature of 112 F (44.4 Celsius) before the day was through.

This year July has been so sizzling hot thus far that the scientists are evaluating that it will be the hottest month ever recorded and likely the warmest the human civilisation has seen to date. On Thursday, the World Meteorological Organisation and the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service announced July to be beyond record-smashing. The historic heat began hitting the lower Southwest United States in late June. The temperatures were soaring from Texas across Arizona, New Mexico and into California's desert.

On 30 July 2023, a massive wildfire broke out in California's Mojave National Preserve. The fire was burning out of control and soon spread rapidly due to strong winds. The



July recorded as the hottest month of the year

firefighters, however, reported progress against another major flame to the south that led to evacuations.

The York Fire that broke out on 28 July 2023, Friday, near the remote Caruthers Canyon region of the preserve brought up a huge cloud of smoke that was visible for nearly 100 miles (160 kilometres) away across the state line in Nevada. Flames rose to 20 feet (6 metres) high in some areas and have charred more than 110 square miles (284 square kilometres) of juniper, desert scrub, and Joshua tree woodland.

According to the fire authorities, "The dry fuel acts as a ready ignition source, and when paired with those weather conditions it resulted in

long-distance fire run and high flames, leading to extreme fire behaviour."

The Bonny Fire was holding steady, towards the southwest at about 3.4 square miles (8.8 square kilometres) in the rugged hills of Riverside County. Around 1,300 people were advised to evacuate their homes surrounding the remote community of Aguanga, California.

According to the National Weather Service, triple-digit heat was anticipated in some parts of the central San Joaquin Valley through 31 July 2023. Responding to a report of a bear sighting in a residential neighbourhood, Police said that in Burbank, California, about 10 miles (16 kilometres) north of Los Angeles, the summer heat may have been responsible

for some unusual behaviour in the animal kingdom. A sight of an animal sitting in a Jacuzzi behind one of the homes was also unusual.

As climate change continues to bring hotter and longer heat waves, record temperatures across the United States have killed dozens of people, and the poorest Americans are suffering the most. Air conditioning, which was once a luxury, is now become a matter of survival. A University of Washington professor who researches heat and health, Kristie Ebi said, "To explain it fairly simply: Heat kills. Once the heat wave starts, mortality starts in about 24 hours."

As per the Boston University analysis of 115 US metro areas, it's the poorest and people of colour, from Kansas City to Detroit to New York City and beyond, who are far more likely to face unbearable sizzling heat without air conditioning.

Meanwhile, in Phoenix, a slight relief may be just around the corner as expected seasonal thunderstorms could drop temperatures in the coming days. Meteorologist Tom Frieders said, "It should be around 108 degrees, so we break that 110 streak... Increasing cloud cover will put temperatures in a downward trend."

## PAK POLITICS

## NAWAZ SHARIF TO BE PAKISTAN PM IF PML-N RETURNS TO POWER: SHEHBAZ SHARIF

TDG NETWORK  
LAHORE

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif will be the next leader of the nation if the party wins the next general election.

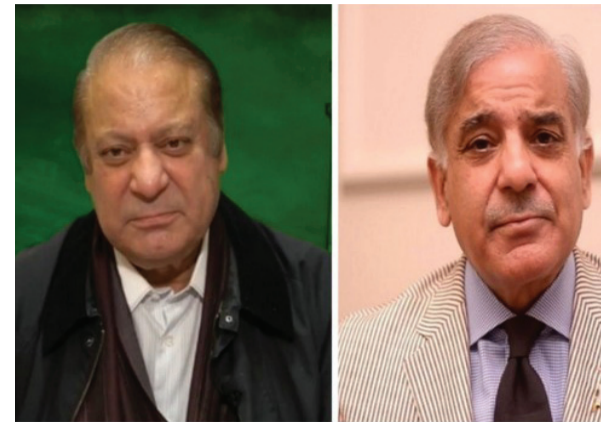
According to PM Shehbaz Sharif, the three-time former prime minister who has been living in self-inflicted exile in London since 2019, is planning to return to the country in the next few weeks.

PM Shehbaz, also the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party president, said his elder brother Nawaz Sharif will face the law upon his arrival in Pakistan. He also added that Nawaz

Sharif was sent to London on medical grounds on the basis of a health report prepared on the instructions of former prime minister Imran Khan.

Nawaz Sharif was debarred in 2017 by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. In 2018, after a Supreme Court verdict in the Panama Papers case, he was ruled out to hold public office for a lifetime. Before he departed to London on a four-week bail by the Lahore High Court on a medical basis, Nawaz Sharif was serving a seven-year jail sentence in the Al-Azizia Mills corruption case.

A notification of the dissolution of the National Assembly will be presented to President Arif Alvi a few days before the completion of the seven-year jail tenure



Nawaz Sharif (left), Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (right)

at midnight on 12 August 2023, according to Shehbaz Sharif.

Shehbaz Sharif alleged that the PML-N will try to make seat arrangements with allied parties in the upcoming general elections. He further said that the party would field its candidates

in the constituencies where they were not able to reach a consensus. He said the caretaker arrangement would be approved only after consultation with allied parties, the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly Raja Riaz, and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif.

## ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

## China factory activity shrinks below the 50-point level in July

TDG NETWORK  
BEIJING

Chinese factory activity contracted in July 2023 as export orders got smaller, adding to stress on the ruling Communist Party to reverse an economic slowdown.

A purchasing manager's index issued by the national statistics agency and an industry group improved to 49.3 from June's 49 on a 100-point scale but remained below the 50-point level that shows activity deflating.

Erin Xin of HSBC said, "China's manufacturing PMI remained in contraction, albeit a softer pace, as the drag from the external sector deepened...puts more pressure on Beijing to support growth through both fiscal and monetary measures."

Chinese leaders are trying to restore economic activity by promising to back entrepreneurs who generate jobs and wealth for the youth. But they are yet to provide



Factory workers working at a manufacturing unit in China

further details on possible tax cuts or spending and have avoided announcing a large-scale stimulus.

Demand for Chinese exports shrank after US and European interest rates were raised to cool off record-breaking inflation. At home, people are uneasy about possible job losses and are trying to put off

big purchases. Real estate sales and economic engines have gotten weak after the government tightened control on the industry's use of loans.

An index of export orders fell to 46.3 in July 2023 from 46.4 in June 2023, well below the 50-point contraction level, as per the statistics bureau and the China

Federation of Logistics & Purchasing.

Economic growth slid to 0.8 per cent over the previous quarter in the three months ending in June 2023 from 2.2 per cent in the January-March 2023 duration. That is equal to annual growth of 3.2 per cent, which would be among China's weakest in decades.

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

## Ukraine alleges Russian missiles hit another apartment building

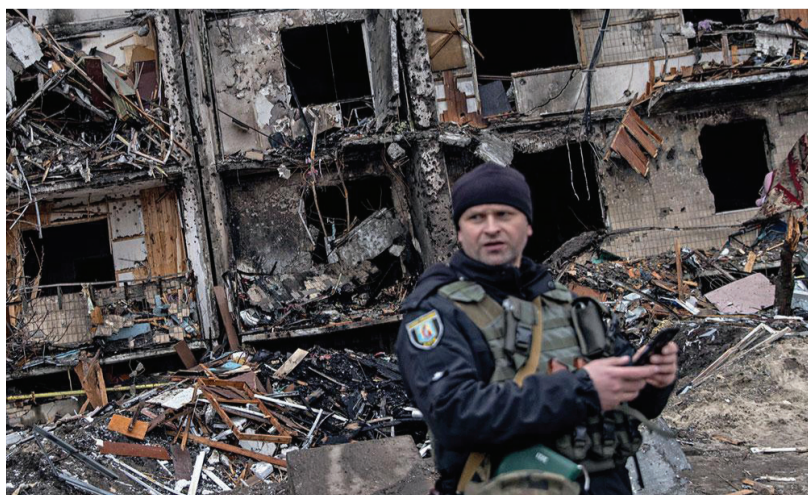
TDG NETWORK  
KYIV

On 31 July 2023, a Ukrainian official stated that Russian missiles knocked into the central Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih, killing at least one person and likely trapping others beneath the rubble.

According to the Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko, the two missiles struck an apartment building, destroying a section of it between the fourth and ninth floors, and a university building. He added that ten people were wounded.

Kryvyi Rih, the hometown of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region and has occasionally been targeted by the Kremlin's forces since the beginning of the war in February 2022.

The bombardment with missiles, drones and artillery has been a hallmark of Moscow's tactics since the full-scale invasion, with some aerial attacks targeting civilian areas. Meanwhile, Russian officials insist they only aim at legitimate military targets. This ap-



Ukrainian soldier patrols the area after an attack

proach has continued during Kyiv's recently launched counteroffensive attack that is trying to drive Russian forces out of occupied areas.

Commenting on the attack, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that "in recent days, the enemy has been stubbornly attacking cities, city centres, shelling civilian objects and housing."

In a statement, Zelenskyy said, "But this terror will not frighten us or break us."

Ukraine, meanwhile, has sought to take the war deep into Russia, allegedly using military drones to hit targets as far away as Moscow. The latest strike, on 30 July 2023, Sunday, damaged two office buildings a few miles (kilometres) from the Kremlin.

## REFORM AGENDA

## POPE HEADS TO PORTUGAL, LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR CHURCH'S FUTURE

TDG NETWORK  
PORTUGAL

When Pope Francis made the first foreign trip of his papacy, to Rio de Janeiro for World Youth Day in 2013, he asked young people to make a "mess" in their local churches, to shake things up even if it offended their bishops.

As he embarks this week on another edition of World Youth Day, in Lisbon and Portugal, Francis has taken his advice to heart. After 10 years as pope, Francis is taking forward his reform agenda and making revolutionary changes in personnel and policy that disrupted things up.

Despite recovering from a second intestinal surgery in as many years, the 86-year-old Francis is opening a frenetic second half of the year with his Portugal visit. He seems aware that he has a limited sweet spot of time to solidify the changes he believes are necessary for the 21st-century church, and is looking to the next generation of faithful leaders to carry



Pope Francis gestures as he leaves St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on the day he is due to undergo abdominal surgery, June 7, 2023.

them forward.

Papal biographer Austen Ivereigh said, "The sense I get is that this is the consolidation phase of the pontificate...He's laying the basis now, laying the ground, for the future."

The international rally, which St. John Paul II launched in 1986 to encourage young Catholics in their faith, is anticipated to draw up to 1 million people for the first post-pandemic event of its kind. Francis' perennial social justice concerns

about climate change, social inequality and fraternity, as well as, Russia's war in Ukraine, are expected to be major themes.

Sister Nathalie Becquart, who is one of the key synod organisers, said, "I really think that for Pope Francis, he felt that OK, now it's mature" and it would be good really to involve all the members, all the people in the synod as members" with the right to vote.

At age 49, Francis will become the second-youngest

member of the College of Cardinals when he is installed on 30 September 2023. He is just six months older than the current youngest cardinal, whom Francis elevated this time last year: Cardinal Giorgio Marengo, head of the church in Mongolia where Francis will travel at the end of August 2023.

Portuguese Cardinal-elect Americo Aguiar, who is in charge of World Youth Day, is a young churchman who also understands his appointment as part of a generational turning point for the Catholic hierarchy.

In an interview, Aguiar said, "My reading of it is that this has to do with young people, it has to do with youth, it has to do with all of that." He further added, "I think that his objective and his underlining was exactly to send a signal to the young people, to every young person who is preparing the day, whether in Portugal or in the world, to feel identified with this decision."

# Take 5



## 5 SPICEST CHILLI PEPPERS IN THE WORLD

Do you love spices? If so, this information will surprise you because it lists the eight chilli peppers with the greatest spicy levels in the world. These peppers are frequently used to make spicily flavoured curries, sauces, and pickles. If you didn't know, the Scoville Scale is used to determine how hot a pepper is. Wilbur Scoville created the scale more than a century ago.

### 1 CAROLINA REAPER

Carolina Reaper is the spiciest pepper in the world. According to sources, it was first discovered in South Carolina, which is how it received its name. It has a distinctive appearance and even a scorpion story. The Carolina Reaper is surprisingly tasty and sweet considering the intensely scorching heat it produces.

### 2 MORUGA SCORPION

Moruga Scorpion, In Trinidad, it ranks as the second-hottest pepper. It has a fruity taste that lies beneath the strong spice flavour. The Trinidad Moruga Scorpion is a non-hybrid, stable variety, which is one of the most significant claims being made by chili pepper experts. As a result, compared to the Butch T, it produces more and grows easily.

### 3 NAGA MORICH

Moruga Scorpion, In Trinidad, it ranks as the second-hottest pepper. It has a fruity taste that lies beneath the strong spice flavour. The Trinidad Moruga Scorpion is a non-hybrid, stable variety, which is one of the most significant claims being made by chili pepper experts. As a result, compared to the Butch T, it produces more and grows easily.

### 4 CHOCOLATE TRINIDAD SCORPION

It ranks among the hottest peppers on the earth with a scorching 1.2 million Scoville heat index, making it one of the hottest chilli peppers in the world. It stays for long period of time. When handling a chocolate scorpion pepper, wear gloves, and avoid eating it raw.

### 5 JOLOKIA BHUTTO

It originates from India and is also called the Holy Pepper. Bhut Jolokia has a 4- to 7-cm elongated form and wrinkled skin. The Defence Research Laboratory estimates that Bhut Jolokia has 855,000 SHU of heat, which is significantly higher than cayenne pepper. But in the race to produce the hottest pepper, Carolina Reaper and Trinidad Scorpion Butch T overtook Ghost Pepper in 2011 and 2013, respectively.

— JYOTI B

## ? QUIZOHOLIC



### 1. What does WWW stands for?

- World Wide Web    ■ Wide World Web
- Web World Wide    ■ We Will Wait

### 2. Where was the World Wide Web invented?

- India    ■ Switzerland
- America    ■ Pakistan

### 3. An interconnection of computers and enables data and resource sharing, as well as communication is called

- Internet    ■ Network
- LAN    ■ Arpanet

### 4. Which of them is not web browser?

- Google Chrome    ■ Mozilla Firefox
- Internet Explorer    ■ File Explore

### 5. A collection of web pages is called a...

- Web server    ■ Web browser
- Website    ■ Wi-Fi

1. World Wide Web, 2. Switzerland, 3. LAN, 4. File explore, 5. Website

### DEVOTION

An aerial view of the Girmal Waterfall after heavy rainfall, in Dang.  
ANI



### POSTER UNVEILED

# ANANYA'S LOOK FROM 'DREAM GIRL 2' UNVEILED

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Makers of the upcoming comedy film 'Dream Girl 2' unveiled a new poster of their film. Taking to Instagram, actor Ayushmann Khurrana shared the poster and wrote, "Yeh hai Pari, meri Dream Girl! #DreamGirl2Trailer out Tomorrow! #25AugustHogaMast #DreamGirl2inCinemas on 25th August." The poster depicts Ayushmann in a peculiar persona. Only his face is visible to the audience as he emerges from behind a bright curtain while Ananya could be seen looking at Ayushmann's character. The 'Liger' actor looked beautiful in traditional attire. She kept her hair open and accessorized her look with silver earrings and pink bangles.



Makers introduced Ananya's character as Pari. Soon after the makers unveiled the new poster, fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons. Actor Shanaya Kapoor commented, "Love it." Another user commented, "Finally!! Can't wait to see you Pooja." The film will be out on August 25. Earlier it was supposed to be released in July. The de-

lay is due to the extensive VFX work required for the film. Speaking about the decision, producer Ekta R Kapoor said, "We want Ayushmann Khurrana's character to look perfect as Pooja in Dream Girl 2, and that's why we are taking extra time to perfect the VFX work for the face. We want to ensure that our viewers get the best possible experience when they watch the movie. The VFX work for 'Dream Girl 2' is an integral part of the movie, and we want to ensure that we deliver a high-quality product to our audiences." 'Dream Girl 2' is the sequel to the highly successful film, 'Dream Girl', which was released in 2019. Besides Ayushmann and Ananya, the film stars Annu Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Asrani, Manojot Singh and Vijay Raaz among others.

### DIMENSIONS MUMBAI

# Jio MAMI appoints Bhumi Pednekar as brand ambassador

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Actor Bhumi Pednekar has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Dimensions Mumbai, a short film competition based on the theme of Mumbai city, by Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival. The category was introduced in 2009 by Jaya Bachchan. The competition is applicable for young filmmakers within the age group of 18-25 years across India and the submissions are now open.

Pednekar said she is thrilled to be a part of Dimensions Mumbai this year. "It's an incredible platform for young filmmakers. It gives them an opportunity to showcase their film to



Bhumi Pednekar

a larger audience on a big screen. For decades, Mumbai has inspired filmmakers from around the world. This city has cinema in its DNA." The opportunities that Mumbai can offer with an excellent platform like Dimensions Mumbai to promote filmmakers of extraordinary calibre to their full potential is special. "As a proud Mumbaiite who is always amazed and excited by the city, I can't wait to interact with some of these filmmakers, watch their films," the actor said in a statement.

Anupama Chopra, festival director, Jio MAMI, said it is thrilling to have Pednekar as the ambassador for Di-

mensions Mumbai. "Bhumi is an actor with talent and taste. Her films, starting with her debut, 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha' have helped to expand the boundaries of Hindi cinema. So, it's thrilling to have her as the ambassador for Dimensions Mumbai.

"Our ambition with Dimensions Mumbai is to create a culture, a movement of sorts, amongst the young filmmakers across India to tell authentic stories. It's an exciting time for the category, and we are very happy to collaborate with one of our finest actors on this one," Chopra said. The call for entries for Dimensions Mumbai started last week and will be open until August 31, 2023.

### SURVIVAL

# MADONNA THANKED LOVED ONES FOR BEING BY HER SIDE

TDG NETWORK  
LOS ANGELES

Music icon Madonna has thanked her family and friends for being by her side after she was hospitalized with a "serious bacterial infection" last month. The 64-year-old singer postponed her career-spanning 'Celebration' tour due to the health scare in June following which she was admitted to the intensive care unit



Madonna

(ICU).

Madonna, who is on the road to recovery following her ICU stay, shared a health update on Instagram on Sunday night. "I realized how lucky I am to be alive. And how fortunate I am to have known these people and so many others who are also gone..." she wrote alongside a series of photos with her children and friends. Love from family and friends is the "best medicine", said

the Queen of Pop.

"One month out of the hospital and I can reflect. As a Mother you can really get caught up in the needs of your children and the seemingly endless giving. "But when the chips were down my children really showed up for me. I saw a side to them I had never seen before. It made all the difference. So did the love and support from my friends," Madonna wrote in the post.

### BRAIN PICKING

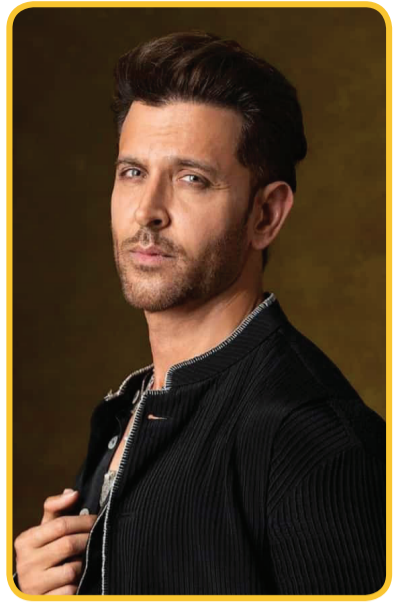
“

Do not pay attention that how you look, it will make you look more attractive.

”

— HRITHIK ROSHAN

Indian Actor



### FLAG HOSTING

# SHABANA AZMI TO HOIST INDIAN FLAG AT IIFM

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) announced that veteran actor Shabana Azmi will be hoisting the Indian national flag as part of the movie gala's Independence Day celebrations. The festival is set to take place in Melbourne, Australia, from August 11 to 20. The multiple National Award winner said she feels honored to get the opportunity to hoist the national flag at IFFM.

"I am happy to be a part of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne and deeply honored to have been chosen to hoist the Indian national flag on this momentous occasion. IFFM has consistently showcased the incredible diversity and creativity of Indian cinema," Azmi said in a statement. The actor, known for critically-acclaimed performance in films such as "Sparshe", "Arth", "Masoom", "City of Joy", and "Midnight's Children", said she is excited about the upcoming edition of the film gala as it will host the world premiere of her upcoming film "Ghoomer".

"This platform is even more special given our film R Balki's, Ghoomer, is making its world premiere at the festival. To be given an opportunity to hoist our national tricolor in presence of the amazing Indian community who live in Australia, is truly an experience I am excited to be part of." Director of the festival, Mitu Bhowmick Lange, said they are thrilled to have Azmi.

"We are thrilled to have the privilege of welcoming the legendary actor Shabana Azmi to hoist the Indian national flag at our Independence Day Celebrations. Shabana Azmi's remarkable contributions to Indian cinema and her unwavering commitment to storytelling have left an indelible mark on the film fraternity.

Her presence at IFFM 2023 embodies the essence of our festival, which aims to showcase the rich tapestry of Indian cinema to global audiences," she said.

### NEW RELEASE

# 'GHOOMER' READY TO RELEASE ON 18 AUGUST

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Filmmaker R Balki's "Ghoomer", starring Saiyami Kher and Abhishek Bachchan, is set to hit screens on August 18. According to the makers, the film narrates "a triumphant story of a paraplegic sports person (Kher), who excels as a cricketer under the guidance of her coach (Bachchan)."

Kher, who plays the role of a paraplegic bowler in the movie, took to twitter to share the poster of her holding a cricket ball in her left hand with Bachchan by her side. "Life, logic ka khel nahi...magic ka khel hai.



#GhoomerInCinemas on 18th August!" the actor captioned the tweet.

The story is co-written by Balki, known for "Cheeni Kum" and "Ki and Ka", with Rahul Sengupta and Rishi Virmani. "Ghoomer", which will open the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne on August 12, also stars Shabana Azmi and Anand Bedi in prominent roles.

An old man was at the checkout counter of a grocery store when his credit card wouldn't work. So the teller said, "Either you have to pay by cash or I'll have to wait to check why the credit card isn't working. You have to stand aside till I finish tending other customers." The old man stood there for quite a while and nobody accommodated him because every person passing was in a "Rush hour life" that they couldn't be bothered about these old people who actually have been the pillars of our existence and made numerous sacrifices.

- By Bhavani Sundaram

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST

"What makes old age so sad is not that our joys but our hopes cease"  
JEAN PAUL

# BARIATRIC SURGERY FOR REMISSION OF DIABETES - WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?



DR VINAY KUMAR SHAW

Obesity is a major contributor to preventable deaths worldwide, and addressing this issue requires a significant effort. The prevalence of obesity and its associated metabolic conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension, and fatty liver, has reached endemic levels. This is just the beginning of a much larger problem, and raising public awareness is crucial in order to overcome this growing burden.

Did you know that 90% of Type 2 diabetes patients are either obese or overweight? This indicates a strong connection between obesity and diabetes, which scientists refer to as 'Diabesity'. Unfortunately, this modern epidemic has affected 25% of the industrialized world. However, the good news is that it is preventable, and the metabolic syndrome and its side effects can be reversed with the right measures.

## HAZARDS OF

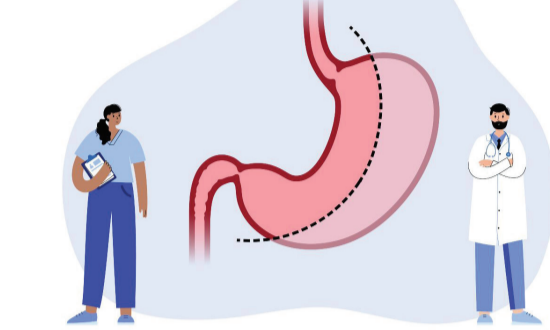
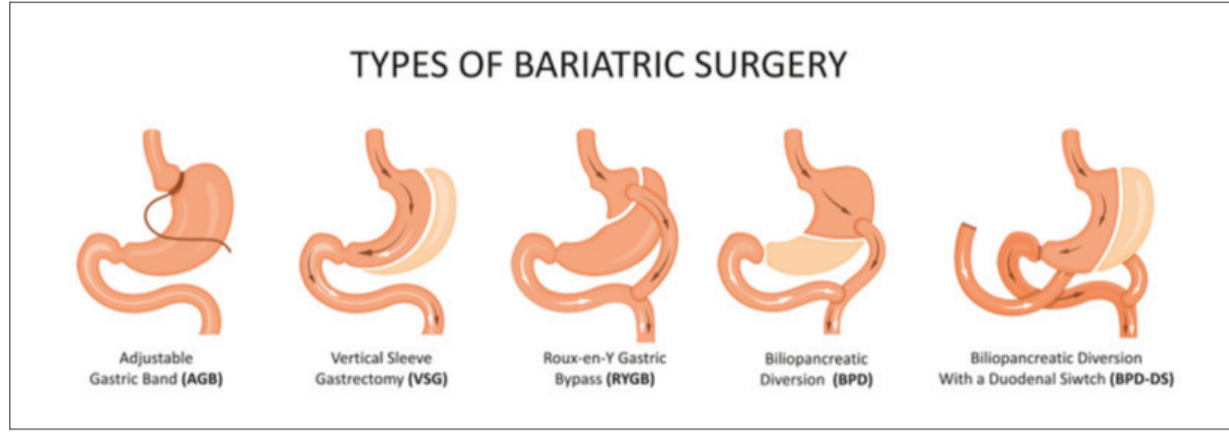
### OBEISITY:

- Obesity is the condition where the body accumulates excessive amounts of fat, which can lead to various diseases such as high cholesterol (dyslipidaemia), Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease with risks of stroke, and cancer.
- Obese individuals are more likely to experience breathing disorders, such as sleep apnea, a serious sleep disorder that causes breathing to repeatedly stop and start.
- Health conditions such as gallbladder disease, fatty liver disease, gynaecological issues like infertility and irregular periods, as well as sexual health problems such as erectile dysfunction, can significantly impact one's quality of life.
- Osteoarthritis is also a common condition that often affects the knees, making it difficult to perform even simple tasks.

### FIGHT AGAINST OBEISITY:

India is considered to be the diabetic capital of the world, and it is crucial for us as a nation to take action to reverse this. The keys to achieving this are maintaining a healthy lifestyle, following a balanced diet, and exercising regularly. By making lifestyle modifications early on in the course of obesity, medication may not be necessary. It's easier to reverse the harmful effects of obesity without medical supervision when we're just starting to gain weight, making it the best time to implement lifestyle changes and exercise.

When our BMI exceeds 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, we are considered obese and may need medical help to achieve optimal results. However, with proper supervision, we can reverse the effects of obesity at this stage. If morbid obesity sets in, with a BMI over 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, there is a high chance that medical and conventional therapies will fail. In this case, Bariatric Surgery becomes necessary and is the most beneficial option for our health. Therefore, it is better to prevent obesity



than to cure it.

### WHAT IS BARIATRIC SURGERY?

Bariatric Surgery is a weight loss procedure that involves restricting the amount of food the stomach can hold, causing malabsorption of nutrients, or a combination of both. It also leads to posi-

tive hormonal changes that bring about various health benefits.

Nowadays, weight loss surgeries are typically done through minimally invasive laparoscopic techniques. Patients can often walk shortly after the surgery and typically stay in the hospital for 2-3 days. Popular procedures

include Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy and Gastric Bypass Surgery, both of which can be done with minimally invasive keyhole surgery.

### CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BARIATRIC SURGERY INDIAN GUIDELINES

- BMI ≥ 37.5
- BMI ≥ 32.5 and at least one or more obesity-related co-morbidities such as type 2 diabetes (T2DM), hypertension, sleep apnea and other respiratory disorders, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, osteoarthritis, lipid abnormalities. Gas-

trointestinal disorders, or heart disease.

- Inability to achieve a healthy weight loss for a sustained period of time with prior weight loss efforts.

### BENEFITS OF BARIATRIC SURGERY:

Bariatric Surgery can result in significant and sustained weight loss of 40 kg or more, rather than just 10-15 kg. This weight loss can last for years and can also improve or resolve associated diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and osteoarthritis. Due to its metabolic benefits, it is sometimes referred to as metabolic surgery. The surgery not only improves quality of life, but also helps to increase longevity for high-risk obese patients. Additionally, the surgery can have positive effects on mental health by resolving issues such as depression, anxiety, lack of self-esteem, and singlehood, which are commonly experienced by severely obese patients.

Dr. Vinay Kumar Shaw is the HOD and Senior Consultant, GI, Minimal Access & Bariatric Surgery, Sanar International Hospitals

*Bariatric Surgery is a surgical solution to a weighty problem. Obesity is one of the leading causes of preventable lifestyle-related deaths in the world. A healthy lifestyle, balanced diet and exercise is the key to preventing obesity and let's fight it together.*

## RIISING HYPERTENSION: DIMINISHING WORK-LIFE BALANCE TO BE BLAMED?

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A recent study has noticed that there has been an alarming increase in hypertension cases among the working population as people have gone back to a sedentary lifestyle and stressful working hours. The study by Jindal Naturecure Institute, reveals how this transition, especially after the new normal, has resulted in individuals having limited time for crucial activities such as yoga, exercise and a healthy diet, exacerbating the prevalence of hypertension.

Hypertension or high blood pressure is when the pressure in your blood vessels is too high (140/90 mmHg or higher). It is common but can be serious if not timely treated. High blood pressure often has no symptoms. Over time, if untreated, it can cause serious health conditions, such as heart disease and stroke.

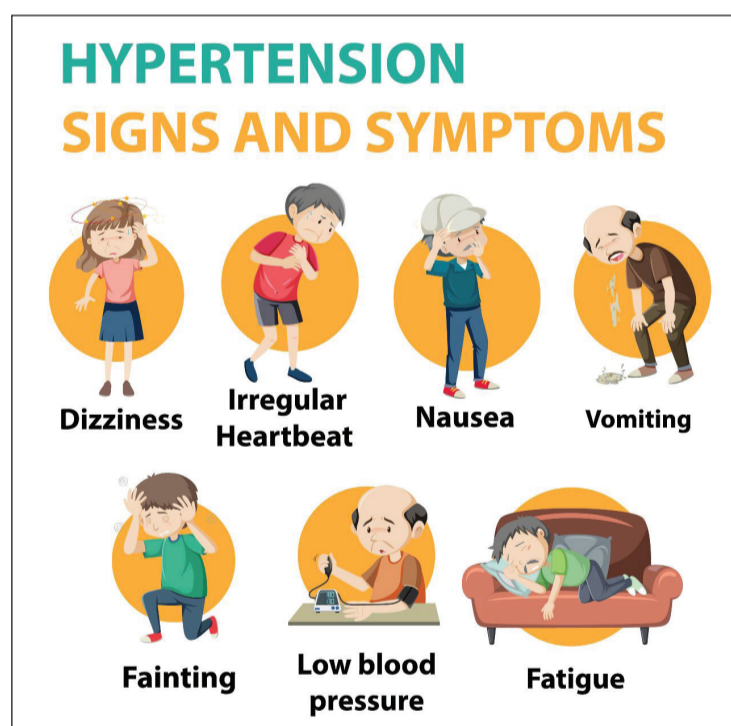
"The return to a sedentary lifestyle in the new normal has reduced physical activity and increased reliance on unhealthy dietary choices. During COVID or even after the lockdown ended, people were con-

cerned about their immunity and were actively following a healthy diet and exercise. But now people are back to their normal routine of unhealthy eating with no physical exercise. People are bound to their desks without any breaks. This has contributed to a rise in hypertension cases among the working population, placing them at higher risk of cardiovascular diseases", says Dr. Babina, Chief Medical Officer at the Institute

Data compiled by JINI for the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 highlights a significant rise in the number of people admitted to their institute with complaints of hypertension. While comparing the data collected during the said duration, there has been a noticeable rise of 153.42% in hypertension patients.

Further analysis of the age-wise breakdown reveals a concerning trend. In the age group of 19-35 years, there was a 200% increase in male patients (from 24 to 72) and a 425% increase in female patients (from 4 to 21) from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023.

Similarly, in the 36-50 years age bracket, there was a 171% increase in



male patients (from 196 to 532) and a 152% increase in female patients (from 116 to 293) from the previous year.

The most worrisome surge was observed in the 51-70 years age group, where there was a 132% increase in

male patients (from 429 to 994) and a 153% increase in female patients (from 338 to 854).

Even in the older population (>70 years), hypertension cases rose significantly, with a 300% increase in male patients (from 30 to 120) and

a 154% increase in female patients (from 24 to 61).

In India, the percentage of individuals effectively managing their hypertension is approximately 12%. This statistic highlights the concerning reality of uncontrolled blood pressure, which serves as a prominent contributor to cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) like heart attacks and strokes. Alarming, CVDs account for a significant portion, specifically one-third, of the overall mortality rate in India.

Adopting a sedentary lifestyle can harm cardiovascular health, including the hardening of arteries and the accumulation of plaque within them. When arteries become stiff and narrow, it places additional strain on the heart's pumping action, leading to an increase in blood pressure.

Engaging in the regular practice of Yoga, irrespective of its specific form, offers the potential to relax muscles and counteract the effects of elevated blood pressure. Beyond its direct impact on reducing blood pressure, consistent Yoga practice can also mitigate the risk factors associated with hypertension.

## BEATING THE BLUES WITH FOOD: THE SCIENCE BEHIND NUTRIENTS AND DEPRESSION



DR ANISH DESAI



Depression is a chronic yet treatable health condition that affects millions of people worldwide and the numbers are increasing at an alarming rate. In India, depression is becoming an epidemic, with more and more children, young adults, and adults being diagnosed with the condition every year.

Factors contributing to the rise of depression in India, including high levels of stress due to peer pressure among children, social isolation (Covid-19), and a lack of access to mental health care leading to a lack of appetite, insomnia, obesity, no motivation, and lethargy. However, there are also many things that can be done to combat this epidemic, including incorporating specific foods into your diet.

**1. ASHWAGANDHA**, an herb used in Ayurvedic medicine for centuries, is known for its anti-inflammatory and anti-anxiety properties. It is also effective in lowering cortisol levels.

**2. MORINGA** is known for its numerous health benefits. It is rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, and has been shown to help reduce symptoms of depression.

**3. BRAHMI**, also known as Bacopa, is known for its cognition enhancing properties and has been shown to help reduce symptoms of depression.

**4. SAFFRON** is a spice

that is commonly used in Indian cuisine and is known for its mood-enhancing properties. It has been shown to help reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety

**5. TULSI**, also known as Holy Basil, is an herb used in Ayurvedic medicine for centuries. It is known for its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and anti-anxiety properties.

**6. OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS** are essential fatty acids that have numerous health benefits, including anti-inflammatory effects that reduce the symptoms of depression.

**7. CURCUMIN** is the active ingredient in turmeric, a spice commonly used in Indian cooking. It has been shown to have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties.

Therefore, incorporating these foods into your diet may help manage symptoms of depression. However, it's important to note that a healthy diet is just one part of a comprehensive treatment plan for depression. If you are experiencing symptoms of depression, it's essential to seek help from a mental health professional.

Dr. Anish Desai is MD, Clinical Pharmacologist and Nutritional Physician, Founder and CEO, IntelliMed Healthcare Solutions.

## 4 Reasons you should Include Fruits in Your Diet this Rainy Season

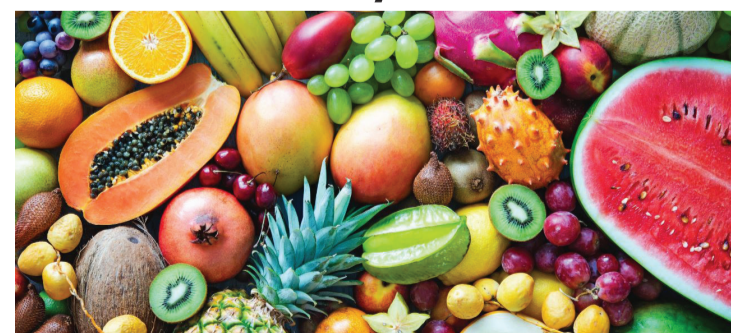
MS SUSHMA PS

While the monsoon season brings relief from the scorching heat and humid weather, it also brings the risk of various monsoon diseases, including typhoid, malaria, and viral fever, among others. To safeguard yourself from falling prey to these illnesses, it is crucial to prioritize hygiene and pay careful attention to your eating habits. Maintaining a healthy and fit lifestyle during this season can be achieved by incorporating nutritious foods into your diet, with a special emphasis on fruits. Fruits not only provide essential nutrients but also offer numerous reasons why they should be an integral part of your rainy season diet. Let's explore four compelling reasons why you

should include fruits in your diet this rainy season.

**1. Fortifies Defences:** The immune-boosting properties of fruits are particularly valuable during the monsoon season. By including a variety of fruits in your diet, you provide your body with a range of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that strengthen your immune system. This fortification acts as a shield against the common monsoon diseases that thrive in this season, enhancing your resistance and overall well-being.

**2. Keeps Hydrated and Refreshed:** Adequate hydration is the key to combat the damp and humid conditions during the rainy season. Fruits, with their high water con-



tent, serve as natural hydrators, replenishing your body's fluids and electrolytes. Their juicy and refreshing nature not only quenches your thirst but also helps in maintaining optimal hydration levels throughout the day.

**3. Provides Nourishment of Essential Nutrients:** Fruits are not only delicious but also packed with essential nutrients necessary for a healthy body. They provide a rich source of vitamins, minerals,

and dietary fibre, contributing to overall nutrition. Incorporating a wide variety of fruits in your diet ensures that you receive a diverse range of these vital nutrients, supporting your body's functions and promoting vitality.

**4. Aids in Digestion and Detoxification:** The monsoon season often leads to digestive discomfort due to the increased risk of waterborne diseases and dietary indiscretions. Fruits, known for their

high fibre content, aid in digestion by promoting regular bowel movements and preventing constipation. Furthermore, certain fruits possess detoxifying properties that help eliminate toxins from the body, keeping your digestive system healthy and functioning optimally.

### CONCLUSION

By including fruits in your rainy season diet, you not only enhance your overall health but also mitigate the risks associated with the season. Embrace the goodness of fruits to strengthen your immunity, stay hydrated, nourish your body, and support proper digestion. Make them an integral part of your diet this monsoon season for a vibrant and thriving well-being.

The author is a chief dietitian at Jindal Naturecure institute, Bangalore

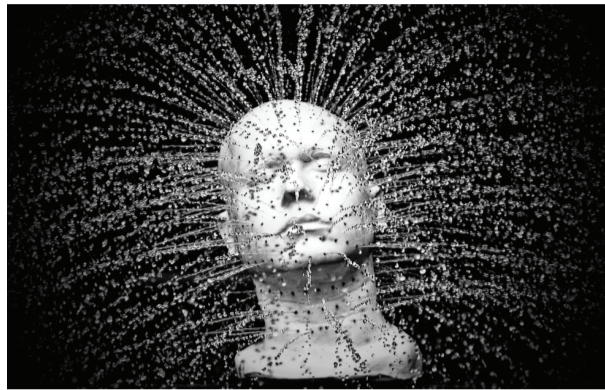
## NAVIGATING THE PITFALLS OF SPIRITUAL EGO: UNMASKING SPIRITUAL MATERIALISM

SAKSHI SHREE

Our ancient texts are filled with stories about sages who developed harmful egos and how their egos were eventually destroyed. Even today, we witness instances of spiritual leaders getting angry if their seating arrangements on stage don't match their

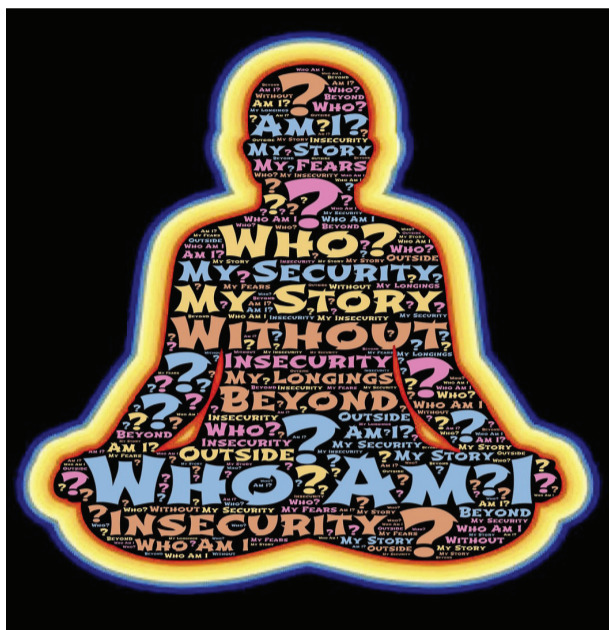
perceived status. This is referred to as spiritual ego or spiritual narcissism. When you embark on spir-

itual training under an enlightened teacher, the first lesson you learn is to be cautious of your ego. This is because the ego can obstruct your spiritual progress and influence your motives. You are taught how to transcend your ego, accept things and people without being judgmental. constantly seeks ways to reinforce a sense of superiority and make you feel special. When you are in the early stages of a spiritual awakening, you are particularly vulnerable to its influence. You are filled with excitement and thrill from new discoveries and experiences. That's when the ego strikes and convinces you that you are unique and that not everyone can achieve what you have. This is where spiritual ego or spiritual narcissism starts to develop. The birth of spiritual ego occurs when spiritual paths, practices, and concepts become enslaved to the ego. While the initial stages are more susceptible, spiritual ego can manifest at any point in your spiritual journey. However, you can protect yourself from spiritual ego if your quest is focused on truth. Unfortunately, nowadays, spirituality has become an easily accessible remedy. People start meditating to alleviate insomnia, stress, or simply to attain peace, focus, and mindfulness. In such cases, their goals are limited, primarily focused on personal well-being. Individuals of this kind are



more prone to developing a spiritual ego. They frequently discuss auras, chakras, energy, and past-life regression, using terminology that may intimidate others. Their spiritual quest revolves around boosting their own image rather than seeking truth. Instead of deepening humility, their journey becomes about control and prestige. This phenomenon is known as spiritual materialism. When spiritual practices are pursued solely for personal well-being, they can create an illusion of spiritual growth and development while actually strengthening one's self-centeredness. Spirituality becomes a tool to serve the ego. Today, mindfulness is experiencing a similar trend. It has become

a fashionable statement, another form of ego that people proudly display. Walking the spiritual path is a delicate process. Your ego can easily deceive you. This is why Gurus are considered equal to gods. An enlightened teacher can easily detect the presence of spiritual materialism in you and take corrective measures to keep you on the right track. Unfortunately, enlightened Gurus have become a rare breed. Imagine how a practitioner of spiritual materialism can enlighten you. As Kabir Das aptly says, "Andha-andha thelia, dono koop padant," meaning two blind men pushing each other, both fall into the pit of ignorance and perish. Saksbi Shree is a life coach and founder of Science Divine



perceived status. This is referred to as spiritual ego or spiritual narcissism. When you embark on spir-

This forms the foundation of basic training because our wise sages understood that the ego is cunning. It

## Vegetarianism and Spirituality



SANT RAJINDER SINGH  
JI MAHARAJ

For those concerned with improving their health, vegetarianism is now being promoted by many medical practitioners who claim that this diet provides optimum nutrition and guards against many diseases caused by non-vegetarian foods. When considering the vegetarian diet, most people focus on the health benefits.

However, other aspects of the vegetarian diet are equally important. Along with improving our physical well-being, there exists a vital connection between our spiritual essence and the foods we eat.

**CONNECTING WITH YOUR INNER ESSENCE**  
Spirituality is not only concerned with discovering our own inner side but is an extension of having love and concern for all life in creation. Spirituality involves bringing us closer to our true nature, our inner self, which is one with God.

As God created this universe, the earth, and its creatures, it is natural for us to respect all life rather than destroy what God has created. Those who are truly connected with God feel a love for all creatures, great and small. They perceive the Light of God in human beings and living creatures.

When we look at life through the eyes of the soul, we witness God in even the humblest and most grotesque of creatures. With that angle of vision, we develop love for all that exists.

When we look at life through the consciousness of the soul, we begin to live in a gentler manner and

start respecting all forms of life. This is one of the reasons that many people who are in touch with their soul turn to a vegetarian diet. They feel God has provided enough food in the form of plants to sustain them, and it is not necessary to take the life of any of God's creatures for food.

**A DIET THAT COMPLEMENTS MEDITATION**  
Vegetarianism complements meditation. Vegetarianism is the most compassionate diet because it involves eating food containing the least amount of destruction of life. For those who wish to make rapid progress in meditation, a vegetarian diet is important.

Many great philosophers, artists, poets, writers, and many enlightened people have been vegetarians as well. Sir Isaac Newton, Mahatma Gandhi, and Albert Schweitzer are just a few examples of great philosophers, scientists, humanitarians, and world leaders who inspired others to adopt a path of non-violence towards all creation.

**WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR ACTIONS**  
Enlightened beings have taught that animals too have consciousness or a soul, which makes them also a part of God. Thus, the spiritual basis of vegetarianism is not to take the life of any other creature, not to harm any living creature. If

we wish to find God, then we need to be loving and caring to all God's creatures. That is why a vegetarian diet forms a part of a spiritual life.

**A VEGETARIAN DIET HELPS YOU TO IMPROVE IN MEDITATION**



For those who are seeking to improve in meditation, including for spiritual growth, vegetarianism offers another benefit. Those involved in developing spiritually who want to experience

which is enhanced by a vegetarian diet. Meditation requires stillness. Our attention is usually focused on the outer sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and sensations of this world, which keeps us from tuning ourselves to the spiritual

gifts within. This requires concentration.

To concentrate in meditation, we need to be calm and collected. What benefit do we gain from avoiding foods from dead animals? One benefit is that avoiding such foods can raise our consciousness.

We know the effect that our own hormones have on

our body. Just imagine how many stress hormones we are adding that were circulating in the animals, birds, or fish when they were being killed or slaughtered to be used as meat! That is all that forms a part of us when we partake of it. The food we eat has an effect not only on our physical, emotional, and mental makeup but also on our spiritual consciousness. If we are trying to lead a life of nonviolence and compassion, if we are trying to become more serene and peaceful, if we are trying to still our mind to concentrate within to find our spiritual treasures, then we will naturally want to follow a diet that helps us achieve our goal.

When the Roman poet, Seneca, on learning of the teachings of Pythagoras, became a vegetarian, he found the change a happy one and discovered to his surprise that his "mind had grown more alert and more enlightened."

Albert Einstein, the great physicist, said, "Nothing will benefit human health and increase chances for survival of life on earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet."

For those who wish to achieve spiritual growth and lead a life of nonviolence and love for all creation, then a vegetarian diet can help. In doing so, we will not only have compassion on the younger members of God's creation and on other human beings, but we will also have compassion on our own selves.

The author is the head of the international non-profit organisation Science of Spirituality.



THE WISE OWL

### HUMAN LIBRARY INSTEAD OF BOOKS, YOU CAN BORROW PEOPLE

This beautiful concept of "Human Library" originated in Denmark. Here instead of borrowing books, you can borrow people, with unique life stories for a certain amount of time, you can ask them questions and listen to their stories which are both fascinating and impressive which you may never find in books.

Borrow a person with Autism.

Borrow someone who has changed their appearance.

Borrow a refugee and hear their story.

Borrow a transgender

Borrow a homeless person

Borrow a deaf or blind person

Borrow someone who is obese

The list is never-ending, and in our quick to judge situation it is no wonder that these events are growing in size. It is time to face our fears and control our stereotypes and embrace the diversity of this world which will make us feel more secure.

But give it a thought, we don't have to go too far to search for human libraries. We have so many people among us, we just need to open our mind to the differences we might have with them. How about borrowing and listening to a person who doesn't have the same beliefs as yours??

If we start listening and opening our hearts and minds to humans and their differences, we will have to privilege to enter these unique Human Libraries and enrich ourselves.

### HOW CAN TRUTH EVER ENTER?



MYSTIC MUSING

RAJESH M. IYER

Once there lived a professor—a scholar renowned for his immense knowledge. He had an answer ready for every question posed to him. However, a certain void haunted him. What made it worse was that he wasn't sure what it was, a restlessness without an identity. The man with all the answers now stood without one, and that too, to his own question.

Realising his predicament, a colleague suggested meeting a Zen monk in a nearby monastery. The professor was in two minds. If he didn't have an answer, wonder how the monk would? Yet the unexplained vacuum continued to torment him.

After mulling over it for a few days, the professor finally decided to meet the monk. "There's no harm in meeting him even if he has no answer", the professor reasoned.

When the professor reached the monastery, the monk was busy tending to the flowers in the garden. Upon hearing merely a conversation-opener from the monk, the professor went into a diatribe on various topics he was proficient in. The monk was amused and asked more questions, as he found the professor ready with answers. The look on the monk's face puffed the professor's chest with pride. It was a common sight for him. He found it similar to his listeners'

awestruck response whenever he spoke, though this time he had read it wrong. In all this, what the professor found odd was that the monk hardly said anything other than posing questions.

Later, the monk offered the professor tea. However, much to the professor's shock, the monk kept pouring the tea into the visitor's cup even after the cup was full, spilling the tea on to the table.

"Mind if I interrupt you?" the professor asked, getting perturbed as the monk continued to pour. "The cup is already full. You can't add more".

"Thanks for bringing it to my attention", the monk smiled. "That's exactly what I was wondering. Since you're full of opinions and theories, I was wondering how I could put even a drop of truth into it".

The professor smiled. He knew what was troubling him all along. This happened centuries ago, but it's something that resonates with how most of us approach everything, even our spiritual pursuits. Like the professor, our minds are full of preconceived notions, theories and opinions. We need to clear them to let truth enter.

Rajesh M. Iyer is a storyteller who explores human relationships through meaningful anecdotes, parables, and stories; he shares his work on [www.](http://www.)



We need to clear our minds of preconceived notions, theories and opinions to let truth enter.



ODI

# SERIES SHOWDOWN: INDIA HOPE THEIR EXPERIMENT WORK

TDG NETWORK  
TAROUBA

India will be hoping the experiment of trying out Sanju Samson and Suryakumar Yadav in the middle-order works when they take on the West Indies in the ODI series decider here on Tuesday. India, who have not lost an ODI series to West Indies since 2006, face a rare series defeat after their move to rest skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli backfired in the second game in Barbados. As head coach Rahul Dravid pointed after the six-wicket loss on Saturday, India are looking at the bigger picture ahead of next month's Asia Cup and the upcoming World Cup will have another game to see the kind of impact the younger players can make in a must-win match. "We will always look at the bigger picture. At this stage in the cycle, the Asia Cup and World Cup coming up we have to look at the big-



Indian cricket team

ger picture because of some of the injuries we have. We can't get worried about every single game, every single series, if we do that it will be a mistake," Dravid asserted on Saturday. Suryakumar, who is struggling to make his all-round game work in the 50-over format, will be looking to bat long and make

a match-winning contribution. For someone like Samson, who has made umpteen comebacks but has not been able to make it count, the series decider presents a golden opportunity. He is likely to bat at number three like he did in the second ODI. Opener Ishan Kishan has been impressive with

the bat since the Test series but Shubman Gill is due for a big one after a quiet tour of West Indies thus far. Hardik Pandya, who opened the bowling in the first two games, is gradually building up his workload. With the bat, he has been far from his best and would be looking to get some runs under his belt

before the five-match T20 series against the West Indies. In the bowling department, tearaway fast bowler Umran Malik has a point to prove after going wicketless so far in the series. His pace surely provides India the X factor but he needs to improve on the skill and accuracy front. Chinaman Kuldeep Yadav has been India's stand out bowler, leaving no room in the side for his good friend Yuzvendra Chahal, who is likely to be seen in action only in the following T20 series.

West Indies have little to lose and a series win over India will be a much-needed shot in the arm after their failure to qualify for the ODI World Cup later this year. Their bowlers have given Indian batters a hard time. Left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie has got the ball to turn sharply and pacer Romario Shepherd has used the short ball to good effect.

ASHES

## Broad has fairytale end to career as England beat Australia

TDG NETWORK  
LONDON

England managed to level the contest with a dramatic victory over Australia at The Oval. The fifth and final Test match saw a fairytale ending for cricketing legend Stuart Broad, who bid farewell to his illustrious career with a memorable performance. Resuming the day at 135/0, Australia needed 249 runs to win with the target set at 384. However, the pressure mounted as Chris Woakes removed Australian openers David Warner and Usman Khawaja, reigniting England's hopes of a series-levelling win. Despite the game being affected by rain, the action-packed afternoon session witnessed twists and turns as Australia's Steve Smith and Travis Head seemed to be steering the tourists towards victory. However, Moeen Ali's crucial wicket of Head, followed by Woakes' dismissal of Smith, shifted the tide in England's favor.



Stuart Broad celebrates the wicket of Todd Murphy.

Australia fought valiantly, but Woakes continued his impressive bowling display, claiming a five-wicket haul. England's efforts paid off as they managed to bowl Australia out for 334, falling 49 runs short of the target.

The match and the series finale was the emotional moment when Stuart Broad claimed the final two wickets to seal the victory for England. The renowned fast bowler walked off the cricket ground for the last time as a player, leaving a lasting impact on the cricketing world. Australia had been

leading the series 2-1 before the final Test and had a golden opportunity to secure a third match victory. However, England's spirited performance denied the visitors that chance and ensured the series ended in a draw.

The thrilling Test match saw players from both teams giving their all, and the stadium was filled with high emotions as Broad ended his career on a high note.

The cricketing world paid tribute to the legendary cricketer for his remarkable contributions to the sport over the years.

ACKNOWLEDGES

## Shepherd acknowledges India's Strong Batting Line-Up

TDG NETWORK  
PORT OF SPAIN

West Indies bowler Romario Shepherd opined that it does not matter what team they put out on paper, India always have many quality batters in their squad. In the second ODI of the three-match series, bowling eight overs, Shepherd bagged three wickets and conceded 37 runs in his spell. He scalped the wickets of India's star batters Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel, and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja to dismantle Men in Blue's plans of clinching the series.

"It's a big job from me. Basically, against a big team like India... it doesn't matter whatever team they put out on paper, India always have some great batsmen in their line-up. So, to get my best figures against India was a great feeling for me," Romario Shepherd said. Additionally, he discussed his spell and how important it was to him to do one of



Romario Shepherd: West Indies cricketer

his best spells ever against a squad of India's calibre. "I think our bowling is the side we need to work on a bit more, especially because it's going to be a batting wicket there in Trinidad, so whoever bowls well is going to get the victory. In Trinidad, the wicket is flat and there is nothing in it for the bowlers and we're expecting a great game," Shepherd said. Shepherd emphasised that his spell was about pushing back when the Indian team started pushing, and that it boiled down to intent. "It was just more intent. I just tried to

run in hard and hit the pitch because when you hit the wicket, you get something out of it. So, that was in my bowling plan and especially to some of the Indian batsmen. I don't want to get too full to them. When I came in, I got a wicket and set the tone. Basically, the guys started to push a bit and then we get another wicket that put pressure back on them," Shepherd said. The deciding contest of the three-match ODI series between India and West Indies will be played in Trinidad on Tuesday.

EXPERTS VIEWS

## Aakash Chopra Puzzled Over Rohit and Virat's Rest

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

West Indies won the second ODI at Bridgetown against India by six wickets to level the series 1-1. Batting first, India bowled out in the 41st over with just 181 on board. West Indies chased down the total comfortably with 80 balls to spare and a match-winning half-century by their captain, Shai Hope. Both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were rested for the second ODI and Hardik Pandya was leading the team.

Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra is not pleased with the experimentation and felt the senior duo did not require rest for this match. "I don't know why Rohit and Virat were rested; they haven't played a lot of cricket because if you see, after WTC final there was a break of three weeks and there was only seven days of play in the India-WI tests. After that you play one



Aakash Chopra: Cricket commentator

ODI and leave the next. If you want to leave the T20s aside, leave it. I mean even if you don't play T20s this year, how it is going to affect anyone because we don't have the T20 WC this year. Rohit and Kohli anyway, do not feature in T20Is. So, you are relaxing just with the purpose of relaxing," said Aakash Chopra. Another former India cricketer Abhishek Nayar also believes that the strongest team should play. "I believe since the time you are six to eight months away from a big tournament, you should play with your strongest eleven, unless there is an injury."

COUNTY CRICKET

## YOUNG PRITHVI SHAW READY TO MAKE COUNTY CRICKET DEBUT

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Indian opener Prithvi Shaw is all set to embark on his maiden county cricket stint in the United Kingdom. The Mumbai batsman has arrived in the UK just in time for the Northamptonshire County Cricket Club's (NCCC) one-day cup game scheduled for Friday, August 4. The Chief Executive of NCCC, Ray Payne, expressed his delight at Shaw's arrival, confirming that the young talent will feature in the upcoming one-day cup game. The initial uncertainty surrounding his participation arose due to apparent hassles over travel documents, which caused some delays. However, with the necessary arrangements now sorted out, Shaw is eagerly looking forward to representing the Steelbacks in the England and Wales Cricket Board's domestic one-day competition. Shaw had secured a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which allowed him



Prithvi Shaw: Indian cricketer.

to skip the ongoing Deodhar Trophy inter-zonal one-day championship in Puducherry. However, his absence from NCCC fixtures initially led to confusion about his county assignment. The club had refrained from making any official announcement until now, leaving doubts about his participation. Nonetheless, NCCC CEO Ray Payne's

confirmation has put an end to the speculation, confirming Shaw's readiness for the county challenge. The One-Day Cup, a prestigious 50-over competition in England, commences on Tuesday. However, Northamptonshire Steelbacks' first match against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham College, Cheltenham, is scheduled for Friday.

T20

## POORAN'S BLISTERING HUNDRED GUIDES MI NEW YORK TO MLC VICTORY

TDG NETWORK  
DALLAS

Nicholas Pooran put up a superlative effort with the bat to help MI New York clinch the first-ever Major League Cricket title. The wicketkeeper-batter scored 137 runs off 55 balls as MI New York took down Seattle Orcas by seven wickets at Grand Prairie Stadium, Dallas. MI New York restricted Seattle Orcas to 183/9 before chasing down their target in just 16 overs. MI New York didn't get off to the best of starts as Imad Wasim dismissed Steven Taylor in their third delivery of the opening over. However, Pooran made his intentions quite clear for the night when he struck consecutive sixes off Wasim's bowling in the same over. The West Indian showcased tremendous form as he hit Dwaine Pretorius for three



Nicholas Pooran: Trinidadian cricketer

sixes and two boundaries in the third over. Opening batter Shayan Jahangir fell to Wayne Parnell in the fifth over, but Pooran continued to find maximums at the other end. He struck three sixes

off Andrew Tye's bowling to take MI New York's score to 80/2 in just 6 overs. Pooran kept finding the middle of his bat and smashed a total of 10 fours and 13 sixes during his innings. The Captain

remained unbeaten on 137 runs off 55 balls and single-handedly took MI New York over the line with 4 overs to spare. Earlier in the day, MI New York won the toss and put Seattle Orcas into bat.

Quinton de Kock looked in prime touch as he struck Jessy Singh for consecutive boundaries in the second over. However, Rashid Khan sent De Kock's opening partner Nauman Anwar packing for 9 runs off 13 balls in the fifth over. Thereafter, Shehan Jayasuriya provided excellent support to De Kock as he hit David Wiese for a four and six in the seventh over. But Steven Taylor bowled him out for 16 runs off 15 balls in the tenth over. Following Heinrich Klaassen's early departure, De Kock and Shubham Ranjane put up a fantastic partnership of 51 runs from 24 balls to take Orcas' score to 142/4 in 16.1 overs. Thereafter, the Orcas kept losing wickets at regular intervals, but Dwaine Pretorius' cameo of 21 runs from 7 balls helped his team post a formidable total on the board.

RETURN

## Jasprit Bumrah returns to action to lead Team

TDG NETWORK  
MAHARASHTRA

Jasprit Bumrah makes his return to competitive cricket as he will lead India during the T20I series against Ireland, starting in August, announced Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday. The pacer underwent a successful back surgery in March and has not played competitive cricket since a T20I match at home against Australia in last September. He had also missed a lot of action in the Asia Cup when his back injury surfaced. Following this, he made a brief return to action during the Australia T20I series at home in September, but his injury resurfaced. Bumrah was chosen for the ODI series against Sri Lanka in January this year after he had started his rehab in November last year and started to bowl in December. But during his fit-



Jasprit Bumrah: Indian cricketer

ness drills in January, which increased in intensity, he started to face discomfort once again. He also missed ICC T20 World Cup 2022 and Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023. The squad also witness new faces like Rinku Singh, who had a breakthrough in Indian Premier League (IPL) season with Kolkata Knight Riders, scoring 474 runs in 14 matches at an average of over 59 with four half-centuries. Pacer Prasidh Krishna, last played for Team India in Au-

gust 2022 against Zimbabwe. Due to a lumbar stress fracture, he missed the IPL 2023, where he was to play for Rajasthan Royals. All-rounder Shivam Dube, who last played for India in February 2020, also makes his return to the side after a hard-hitting 2023 IPL season with Chennai Super Kings, for which he hit 418 runs in 16 matches with three fifties and impressed with his power-hitting in a title-winning campaign.