



**Editorial**

**Graft dominates election discourse**

**Turncoats**

The pervasive trend of politicians of all hues switching parties, for better career prospects or in pursuit of election tickets especially ahead of Assembly or Lok Sabha polls, is nothing new. This phenomenon, commonly known as party-hopping, has now been flagged by former Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu as particularly damaging to our democracy. It also raises questions about the efficiency of the anti-defection law in curbing such practices. The law, enshrined in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, was introduced to deter elected representatives from switching allegiance to other political parties after being elected. The law aims to maintain stability and integrity within the political system by penalising defections and preserving the sanctity of electoral mandates. However, despite its existence, party-hopping remains a disturbing trend in Indian politics. Politicians often defect from their original party to join another for a ticket, ministerial position or personal ambitions. Additionally, the anti-defection law is limited in its scope and does not address the broader issues of political morality and ethics. Politicians often exploit legal loopholes and engage in prolonged legal battles to circumvent disqualification, thereby escaping accountability for their actions. This not only undermines the democratic process but also erodes public trust in the political system. However, the toothlessness of the anti-defection law and the failure to effectively address this issue reflect deeper systemic challenges within the political system. So, why is the anti-defection law still toothless in addressing this issue? One of the primary reasons is the loophole in the law that allows for defection without disqualification under certain circumstances. The law permits defection if one-third or more of the members of a legislative party together decide to join another party, effectively legitimising mass defections. This provision has been exploited by political parties to engineer defections and destabilise rival Governments. Moreover, the anti-defection law lacks stringent enforcement mechanisms and timely interventions. While the law penalises individual defections, it does little to address the systemic factors that incentivise party-hopping, such as the allure of power, patronage politics and lack of internal democracy within parties. Furthermore, the anti-defection law is subject to political manipulation and selective application by ruling parties. To strengthen the anti-defection law and address the scourge of party-hopping, comprehensive reforms are necessary. This includes closing loopholes, imposing stricter penalties for defections, enhancing oversight mechanisms and promoting internal democracy within parties. There needs to be a concerted effort to foster a political culture based on principles of integrity, accountability and ethical conduct. Urgent reforms are needed to strengthen the law, uphold democratic principles and restore public trust in the integrity of the political process.

Innocuous developments are unfolding amidst the growing fervour of the impending elections. Despite concerns of the RBI regarding inflation, escalating toll rates, and transportation costs, the nation finds itself amidst a politically charged atmosphere. Nonetheless, certain court rulings are adding intrigue to the evolving scenario. In addition to the impact of electoral bonds, which have added colour to the political landscape and influenced prices, three other judgments are exerting significant influence. These include the Supreme Court's hearings on the Voters Verifiable Print Audit Trail (VVPAT), commonly known as the voting slip; a judgment regarding the denial of payment to Reliance Infra for the Delhi Airport Metro EPL; and the severe criticism of Patanjali's owners, who are contemnors of court orders regarding their advertising. These developments are intensifying the dynamics of the electoral contest. Not less interesting is the ED mounting fresh money laundering probe into the Chhattisgarh liquor scam and the ED linking Kerala CPM leaders to bank fraud. Could there be more arrests even after Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Kavita of BRS? Will prices take a backseat to politics and court rulings, or will they remain pressing con-

cerns alongside these factors? Voters, though reticent, are far from oblivious.



Whether attending rallies of prominent leaders or not, they are keenly aware of every development that influences their lifestyle. Conversations range from questioning why individuals with questionable backgrounds align themselves with the BJP to analysing defections from BJP to Congress factions. Both voters and party members evaluate the potential implications of each unfolding event, particularly returning officers of Chandigarh municipal polls and Himachal defections. Corruption is not a non-issue. Arrests of select opposition State leaders on corruption charges by central investigative agencies such as CBI, ED, and income-tax

department are unlikely to change the general public perception that corruption

Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel, allegedly implicated in an Rs 25,000-

pervades all political parties. Many view the pre-election arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as a strategic move aimed at thwarting the popular politician's participation in the election campaign, rather than a genuine effort to address corruption. It leads them to think that possibly price surges of many medicines and commodities or galloping rises in tolls have electoral bond connections. Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu's recent remark on corruption involving all parties has given it a new dimension for the voters to rethink the extent of the impact of corruption. Amidst the dropping of corruption charges against former Union

crore aircraft purchase scandal, questions arise as to why Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal faces arrest for his alleged involvement in a Rs 100 crore State liquor policy issue. People ponder whether the Air India sell-off was conducted transparently or mired in controversy. The action against Kejriwal has spurred opposition unity, evident from the overflowing rally at Delhi's Ramlila Ground. The recent Supreme Court decision concerning Reliance Infra's Delhi Airport Metro's EPL has prompted questions about corporate exploitation of public sector Delhi Metro. The Court overturned its own 2021 order directing

Delhi Metro to pay Reliance Infra Rs 2782 crore, which had ballooned to Rs 7686 crore with accrued interest. Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, along with Justices R Gavai and Surya Kant, justified this drastic action, citing a 'miscarriage of justice' resulting in an 'undeserved windfall' for Reliance Infra. This ruling, following closely after the electoral bond controversy, has heightened voter scepticism. Had Delhi Metro been forced to pay, it could have burdened commuters with significantly higher fares. Likewise, the court's rejection of Patanjali's apology in a contempt case, stemming from misleading advertisements contravening its order, serves as a stark example of how the rule of law can rectify corrupt practices, unveil false brand images, and maintain price stability. The court's warning to be prepared for consequences, along with its criticism of the Uttarakhand Government, underscores the power of legal intervention. Erratic power bills and arbitrary demands in UP and many States are also potential issues. Each of these cases, people realise, are instances of political linkages affecting price rises and profiteering. The glaring lapses on the part of the executive and administration add to the

woes of the people and the breakdown of the law-and-order machinery. The judiciary is uncovering corrupt practices that impact economic and administrative systems, consequently rising cost of living. Dainik Bhaskar has done a study on prices in Rajasthan. It finds that compared to 2019, prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas increased by 42 per cent; food items cost 34 per cent more; medicine prices for diabetes and heart diseases rose by 54 per cent and people's dining outside has been reduced by 40 per cent. Pulses have become costlier by 20 per cent, vegetables by 233 per cent; taxi fares by 67 per cent, edible oil 100 per cent, and FMCG rose by 60 per cent. Salaries during the period for different classes have risen by 11 per cent to 26 per cent. Price concerns persist, with numerous unnecessary infra, road airport and metro projects shocking even political workers. However, this doesn't diminish the significance of religious fervour surrounding the Ram temple and Modi's assurances, which remain potent issues in certain regions, albeit overshadowed by economic factors and caste considerations. Amethi and Raebareli, however, remain in focus, more than Varanasi.

**THE DEMOCRATIC STATUS OF INDIA UNDER SCANNER**

The Gothenburg-based V-Dem Institute's report on Democracy Report 2024 claims that India has been reduced to the status of an "electoral autocracy" in 2018 and has further downgraded to "one of the worst autocracies". The report categorically found that almost all elements of democracy have worsened in more countries than improved and the report also singled out freedom of expression, fair elections and freedom of association/civil society as the three most affected elements of autocracy. There is ostensibly a clarion call for India to take on this global index based on arbitrary methods. The time has come to decolonise the democracy index and frame a domestic democracy index in the global area. Suffice it to say, that this report based on faulty methods has shaken India's sentiment. The dichotomy is quite apparent that India has been measured in a biased manner in the scale. The flawed methodology and nonchalant attitude of people who helm the global index have put India on a declining

global index. The global criticism has allegedly hurt India's sovereign ratings. The Indian Government publicly rejected this global democracy index, arguing that Delhi did not need the sermons. India has accused the rank and file of hypocrisy, calling them self-appointed guardians of the world who find it very difficult to stomach the fact that no one in India seeks their approval. Democracy Index of the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) gives an overview of the State of democracy in 165 independent countries and two territories. This includes almost the entire world population and most of the world's States (micro States are not counted). Rated on a scale of 0-10, the democracy index is based on five categories: electoral process and pluralism, Government activity, political participation, political culture and civil liberties. Based on the results of various indicators in these categories, each country is classified into one of four regime types- "full democracy", "flawed democracy", "hybrid regime" or "authoritarian re-

gime". Note that since 2015, the EIU has observed a decline in democratic standards in India. While democracy can be subjective, the EIU Democracy Index is based on five key indicators - the electoral process and pluralism, the functioning of Government, political participation, political culture and civil liberties. It is criticised that this democracy index sent out faulty information to the entire world. According to the EIU Democracy Index, India's civil liberties score was lower than in 2014. Civil liberties are assessed by freedom of expression, freedom of speech, restrictions on the Internet, the independence of the judiciary of the State and the ability of citizens to address their complaints to citizens. The perceptions of human rights, perceptions of religious discrimination and whether the Government uses new risks and threats as an excuse to limit civil liberties. Since 2017, civil liberties scores have been in free fall. It was 7.35 in 2017 and 2018, then dropped to 6.76 in 2019 and bottomed out in 2020 at 5.59. In

2021 and 2022, India's civil liberties score was 6.18 and by 2023 it had fallen again to 5.88, the score of Ghana, Thailand, Ecuador and Guatemala, all of which have lower Democracy index scores than India. While the civil liberties scores of developed countries have not improved over this period, India's deterioration has meant that India no longer ranks above them in this parameter. Precisely, according to the report declining civil liberties have affected India's democracy scores. As a result, the Indian Government decided to create its framework for democracy ratings after it was downgraded by international groups and indices. It contacted the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), one of India's largest think tanks, which has partnered with the Government on several projects and initiatives. According to the EIU Democracy Index, national elections will be held in 2024 in eight of the world's ten most populous countries - Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Rus-

sia and the United States. There are no choices in half of them for free and there is no lack of justice and many other prerequisites of democracy, such as freedom of speech and association. Not surprisingly, elections in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Russia - where opposition forces are subject to State repression — do not lead to regime change or democracy. Elections in the United States, Brazil, India and Indonesia - all classified as "flawed democracies" — at least offer the possibility of change, although they are also likely to see incumbents or anointed followers win. The EIU Democracy Index's position on India's elections is problematic in terms of the methodology used in the study. The World Happiness Report is a publication that contains articles based on respondents' ratings of their own lives and national happiness ratings, which the report also correlates with various life (quality of) factors. In March 2024, Finland was declared the happiest country in the world seven times in a

row. However, India is currently ranked 126 out of 146 countries with a happiness score of 4,054. India is lower in the happiness index than its neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and China. The decline in happiness levels is closely linked to India's deepening mental health crisis, exacerbated by the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, one can understand the situation in China. Then China can be ahead of India in terms of the happiness index. In the report, experts from fields such as economics, psychology, survey analysis and national statistics discuss how well-being measures can effectively measure national progress and address other related topics. Each report is structured into chapters that address the issue, delving deeper into topics related to happiness such as mental health, the tangible benefits of happiness, the role of ethics, political implications and links to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) approach to measuring subjective well-being and other international and national initiatives.

# हीट स्ट्रोक...उल्टी-डायरिया के मरीजों में इजाफा, डॉक्टर ने बताया नौनिहालों के लिए बचाव के तरीके



मुरादाबाद । शदीद गर्मी, गर्म तेज हवाएं और बढ़ता तापमान बच्चों के साथ-साथ हर उम्र के लोगों के लिए खतरनाक है। गर्मी के मौसम में हीट स्ट्रोक का खतरा बढ़ गया है। खासतौर पर बच्चों के लिए सावधानी बरतनी बहुत जरूरी है। बेवजह घर से बाहर निकलने से छोटे बच्चों के साथ ही बुजुर्ग भी परहेज करें। अगर बच्चे या बूढ़े बीमार पड़ते हैं तो उनके स्वस्थ होने में ज्यादा समय लग सकता है। क्योंकि, उनकी रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता नौजवान के मुकाबले कम होती है। जिला अस्पताल के बाल रोग विशेषज्ञ डॉक्टर अर्जुन टंडन के मुताबिक, बदलते मौसम में बच्चे ज्यादा तादाद में बीमार हो रहे हैं। काफी संख्या में जिला अस्पताल में हीट स्ट्रोक

और उल्टी, दस्त के बच्चे अधिक आ रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा, ज्यादातर बच्चों को एडमिट करने की नौबत नहीं आ रही। हालांकि, कुछ बच्चों को एडमिट कर उनका इलाज किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने हिदायत दी है की बाहर के खाने से बिल्कुल परहेज करें। बाहर टेले पर बिकने वाला जूस हरगिज न पिएं। कोशिश करें ज्यादा से ज्यादा ताजा फलों का सेवन करें। उन्होंने बताया कि हीट स्ट्रोक से बचने के लिए पानी का ज्यादा से ज्यादा सेवन करें। घर की बनी हुई दही की लस्सी और शकंजी दे सकते हैं। कोल्ड ड्रिंक बिल्कुल न पिएं। इसके अलावा घर का बना हुआ सादा भोजन खाएं। बाहर के बने हुए खाने और जूस का बिल्कुल भी सेवन न करें। कम मिर्च मसालों से बने खाने का ही सेवन करें।

## मोहब्बत के लिए तोड़ी मजहब की दीवार, परवीन बनी निशा सैनी



मुरादाबाद। अगवानपुर की एक मुस्लिम युवती ने मोहब्बत के लिए मजहब की दीवार तोड़ दी। उसने आर्य समाज मंदिर में हिंदू युवक से शादी कर ली। निशा परवीन आर्य समाज मंदिर में सात फेरे लेने के बाद निशा सैनी बन गईं। अगवानपुर निवासी राजवीर सैनी मझोला सब्जी मंडी में सब्जी के आढ़ती हैं। पुलिस ने संवेदनशील मामले को देखते हुए दोनों पक्षों के बयान दर्ज किए हैं।

## मच्छरों से बचने को बांटी मच्छरदानी, सफाई रखने के लिए किया प्रेरित



मुरादाबाद, । रोटरी क्लब मुरादाबाद मिडटाउन ने गुरुवार को विश्व मलेरिया दिवस पर रोटरी कम्यूनिटी कोर के अंतर्गत रोटरी ग्रामीण सेवा केंद्र लालपुर गंगवारी में मच्छरदानी वितरित किया। गांव की गलियों की सभी नालियों में एंटीलार्वा का छिड़काव किया गया। गांव में सेवा कार्य करने वालों को सम्मानित किया। डॉ. सुमनेश रस्तोगी ने कहा कि रोटरी सदैव से ही निस्वार्थ भाव से सेवा कार्य करती है। जरूरतमंद लोगों की मदद करना रोटरी का प्रमुख उद्देश्य रहा है। स्कूल न जाने वाले बच्चों के माता-पिता की काउंसलिंग कर बच्चों को स्कूल भेजने के लिए भी प्रेरित किया जाएगा। रोटरी क्लब मुरादाबाद मिड टाउन के अध्यक्ष रनवीर

कुमार अग्रवाल ने कहा कि अक्सर परिवार में बुजुर्ग उपेक्षा का शिकार हो जाते हैं ऐसे परिवारों के बुजुर्ग महिला और पुरुषों को आज मच्छरदानी का वितरण कर किया गया है। जिससे वह मलेरिया, डेंगू जैसी घातक बीमारियों से अपना बचाव कर सकें। रोटरियन कर्नल अतुल भटनागर ने गांव वालों से कहा कि साफ सफाई स्वच्छता का मंत्र है। नालियों में पानी इकट्ठा न होने दें और सदैव घर के आसपास की साफ सफाई रखें, ऐसी परिस्थितियों में मच्छर नहीं पनप पाएंगे और मच्छर न पनपने से ही मलेरिया पर नियंत्रण संभव हो सकेगा। मच्छरदानी पाने वालों में अब्दुल रजाक, रीना, भूरी खातून, रामकली, अतरकली, महिपाल सिंह, बीना, जसोदा, राजेश्वरी, राममूर्ति, प्रेमवती, राजा सिंह शामिल रहे। इस अवसर पर रोटरी ग्रामीण सेवा केंद्र के संयोजक डॉ. मोहम्मद जावेद, मोहम्मद इमरान, उदय सिंह और महिपाल सिंह को ग्रामीण सेवा के लिए सम्मानित किया गया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन रवि शंकर सिंह ने किया।

## शिक्षा विभाग की अनदेखी स्कूली बच्चों पर न पड़ जाए भारी, अभिभावक भी बेपरवाह

मुरादाबाद, । शिक्षा विभाग की अनदेखी स्कूली बच्चों पर भारी पड़ सकती है। महानगर में आपको रोज बच्चे स्कूल से घर और घर से स्कूल ई-रिक्शा और ऑटो में बेतरतीब ढंग से आते-जाते मिल जायेंगे। 18 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चे स्कूली और बाइक से स्कूल आ रहे हैं। स्कूल वाहन भी नियमों का पूरा पालन नहीं कर रहे हैं। लेकिन, जिम्मेदारी अधिकारी मौन है। महानगर में नियमों को ताक पर रखकर स्कूली वाहन फराटें भर रहे हैं। अधिकांश स्कूली वाहन या तो पुराने हैं या अनफिट हैं। इक्का-दुक्का स्कूलों को छोड़ दें तो अधिकतर पब्लिक स्कूल के बच्चे निजी वाहनों से पहुंचते हैं। यह स्कूली वाहन ट्रैफिक नियमों को पूरा नहीं करते। ट्रैफिक पुलिस की नाक के नीचे नियमों की धज्जियां उड़ाती स्कूल बसें रोजाना विद्यार्थियों की जान जोखिम में डाल रही हैं। यहां स्कूली वाहन को लेकर समय-समय पर जिला प्रशासन भी सख्ती दिखाता है। बावजूद उसके स्कूल प्रबंधन की मनमानी जारी है। स्कूली बसों में क्षमता से ज्यादा बच्चों को बैठाया जा रहा है। आपको रोज बच्चे ई-रिक्शा और ऑटो से स्कूल आते-जाते मिल जायेंगे। **स्कूलों के बाहर खड़ी होती हैं बाइक-स्कूटी** कहने को तो स्कूल में बिना डीएल के स्कूल में विद्यार्थी बाइक या स्कूटी नहीं ला सकते हैं। लेकिन, स्कूल के बाहर आराम से खड़ी कर सकते हैं। जी हां इस समय कांठ रोड, पंचायत भवन, रामगंगा विहार के निजी स्कूलों के बाहर आपको देखने मिलेगा कि बड़ी संख्या में बच्चे रोक के बावजूद स्कूल व बाइक से आ रहे हैं। इनमें अधिकांश की आयु 18 वर्ष से कम होती है और वह स्कूल के बाहर वाहन खड़ा करके आराम से स्कूल आते हैं। इस पर स्कूल प्रबंधनों का कहना होता है कि स्कूल में किसी भी बच्चे का प्रवेश स्कूटी या बाइक के साथ नहीं है। बाहर की जिम्मेदारी जिला प्रशासन, पुलिस और शिक्षा विभाग की है। अभिभावक भी इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दे रहे।

डीआईओएस डॉ. अरुण दुबे ने बताया कि सभी स्कूलों को यातायात नियमों के पालन के निर्देश दिए हैं। अगर किसी स्कूल में नियमों का उल्लंघन होगा तो उसके खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाएगी। स्कूल वाहनों के लिए जारी गाइडलाइन स्कूली वाहनों का रंग पीला हो एवं बस पर गहरे नीले रंग की 254 मिलीमीटर की चौड़ी पट्टी पर स्कूल का नाम लिखा होना चाहिए। स्कूली वाहन के आगे की तरफ 50 मिलीमीटर सफेद रंग की रिफ्लेक्टिव टेप पर स्कूल का नाम लिखा हो और बाकी जगह लाल रंग की रिफ्लेक्टिव टेप लगी होनी चाहिए। स्कूली वाहनों में ट्रांसपोर्ट डिपार्टमेंट से स्पीड गवर्नर लगा होना चाहिए। वाहन स्कूल का अपना है तो उस पर स्कूल बस लिखा होना चाहिए। यदि वाहन अनुबंध के आधार पर है, तो उस पर "ऑन स्कूल ड्यूटी" लिखा होना चाहिए। स्कूल वाहन पूरी तरह से मंटेन होना चाहिए। फिटनेस और इंश्योरेंस सर्टिफिकेट होना चाहिए। स्कूली बच्चों के लिए चाहे बस हो, वैन या कोई भी वाहन उसकी अनुमति होनी चाहिए। स्कूली वाहनों पर कार्यरत चालक कम से कम 5 साल का अनुभवी होना चाहिए। चालक का ट्रैफिक नियमों संबंधी तीन बार से ज्यादा चालान नहीं कटा होना चाहिए। स्कूली वाहनों में चालक के अलावा कंडक्टर या अटेंडेंट होना अनिवार्य है। स्कूली वाहन की स्पीड शहर में 50 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा से अधिक नहीं होना चाहिए। स्कूलों की चहारदीवारी में ही वाहनों की पार्किंग होनी चाहिए एवं स्कूल परिसर में बच्चों को वाहनों से उतारा-चढ़ाना चाहिए। फर्स्ट एड बॉक्स और अग्निशमन यंत्र रखना अनिवार्य है। स्कूली वाहन में स्कूल का नाम, रूट, टाइमिंग आदि लिखा

## स्पान्सरशिप योजना के लाभ को दादी संग चक्कर काट रही 10 साल की अवनी

मुरादाबाद, । सरकार जहां बेटियों की शिक्षा के लिए कई योजनाएं चलाकर "बेटी पढ़ाओ-बेटी बचाओ" का नारा दे रही है। वहीं छठी कक्षा की 10 साल की अवनी अपनी पढ़ाई जारी रखने के लिए संघर्ष कर रही है। पिता की खोने के बाद वह बूढ़ी दादी के साथ स्पान्सरशिप योजना का लाभ लेने के लिए विभाग के चक्कर काट रही है। बुधवार को सुबह 10:00 बजे पहुंची अवनी विभागीय अधिकारी से मिलने के लिए दोपहर तक विकास भवन की सीढ़ियों पर ही बैठी रही। इंतजार में उन्हें भूख के आगे बेबस होना पड़ा और विकास भवन की सीढ़ियों पर बैठ कर ही लंच करना पड़ा। दोपहर बाद तक इंतजार कर दादी पीती को मायूस होकर लौटना पड़ा। बुधवार की दोपहर 12 बजे विकास भवन की सीढ़ियों पर बैठी एक बूढ़ी महिला एक छोटी बच्ची के साथ बैठी खाना खा रही थी। यह बच्ची कोई और नहीं मेथोडिस्ट गर्ल्स इंटर कॉलेज में पढ़ने वाली छठी कक्षा की छात्रा अवनी है। वह चिड़ियाटोला में रेलवे के क्वार्टर में दादी और मां के साथ रहती है। अवनी के पिता का देहांत कई

**क्यों न लिखूँ सच**

स्वामी, मुद्रक, प्रकाशक नरेश राज शर्मा द्वारा ए०एच०प्रिंटर्स, ए-11, असालतपुरा, लंगड़े की पुलिया, मुरादाबाद-244001(उत्तर प्रदेश) से छपवाकर कार्यालय म.नं. 210 खा सीतापुरी,डबलफाटक जनपद-मुरादाबाद (उत्तर प्रदेश) से प्रकाशित एवं वितरित किया।

**संपादक - नरेश राज शर्मा**  
मो. 9027776991  
**RNI NO- UPBIL/2021/83001**

इस अंक में प्रकाशित समस्त समाचारों के चयन एवं सम्पादक हेतु पीआरबी एक्ट के अंतर्गत उत्तरदायी होंगे तथा समस्त विवाद मुरादाबाद न्यायालय के अधीन होंगे।

**क्यों न लिखूँ सच समाचार पत्र में सभी पद अवैतनिक हैं**









Actor feels that he could have done better in his previous films

# Finding his own identity



**A**ctor Aayush Sharma, who marked his acting debut with *Loveyatri* is all set to be seen doing high octane action in *Ruslaan*. In an exclusive interview with *The Free Press Journal*, actor gives a befitting reply to those, who pulled him down, attach his name with Salman Khan time and again and more. Excerpts:

**You are just three film old. Do you feel an equity as an actor yet?**  
For me, it still feels my first film. The way I take gaps in my each film seems like a new launch with each passing film.

**How did you deal with your failures so far?**

When I look back to *Loveyatri*, it was more of an emotional experience. I see my flaws and I don't blame anyone but myself. I could have done better, worked and presented myself better. My first film taught me a lot but *Antim* didn't. My fear went away. No family name can change your career. I have nothing to lose now. People anyway call me a bad actor so might as well I work hard.

**Elaborate further...**

I read every feedback that comes my way but if I keep ranting about audiences rejecting me then it won't solve the problem. I request people to criticise me wherever they feel I am bad. I don't want to call myself an actor until I spend 20-25 years in the film industry, as of now I am just a student of acting.

I did *Loveyatri* and took three years to come out with *Antim* and almost two and half years for *Ruslaan*. After *Loveyatri*, I had fear to miss out but then came *Antim* and some sort of disinterest started. There was a shift and I wanted to be known for work.

**Go on...**

Though I have a public relations team but I hibernate a lot. I am not saying this in a negative context but that's when I know what to do next. I work on myself and what I need to do and change in me. I do get passionate about my films. It's not about any peer pressure but I do get involved in the post production of my films. I do enjoy making films, what I don't enjoy is unnecessary conversations.

**How do you react when you are being scrutinised by the media time and again?**  
Each time when I try to make my own name, I was attached to the Khan family. Unfortunately, its not the family that holds me back. I want people to talk about my family, my upbringing, why I have to be a spokesperson what happens in Galaxy apartment. Looking at my work, when people ask how was Salman Khan's reaction, I want to ask that why they don't ask my father's reaction?

**Share the experience of shooting *Ruslaan*.**  
I hope I have done good and have evolved as an actor. I am waiting for the validation from the audience. There's some great action in the film. I am ready to make my own graph. It feels like a dream come true to be a part of a film where I play the titular role.



A still from *Ruslaan*

Actor shares his experience of fatherhood, which comes in handy when he has to shoot with a child on the show



A still from *Main Hoon Sath Tere*

## Fatherhood on screen

**K**aran Vohra, last seen in Star Plus' show *Imlie*, is all set to make a comeback with Zee TV's upcoming show *Main Hoon Sath Tere*. The actor, who embraced fatherhood last year and is all set to play a father onscreen with the show, got in an exclusive conversation with *The Free Press Journal* about his experience of fatherhood coming in handy when he has to shoot with a child on the show. Excerpts:

**Give us a little insight into your character and the show and what drew you to the character?**

The name of my character is Aryamaan Bundela. The story of our show is based out of Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh. The primary story of our show is based on three characters; Janhvi, Kiaan and Aryamaan. Janvi is a single mother to Kiaan. She is both a mother and father to Kiaan. Kiaan however feels bad for Jaanvi and he is basically looking for a husband for Janvi and a father for himself. Aryamaan too has had similar issues. His father sends him off to America. He too longs for his father's love. The way Aryamaan's longing meets with Kiaan's longing and how does the universe conspire to bring the two of them together is the story of the show.

**Since we are talking about fatherhood here, you too have recently embraced fatherhood. How has it been treating you?**  
I think there is nothing greater than this feeling. Only the people who are lucky enough get to embrace the joy of being parents.

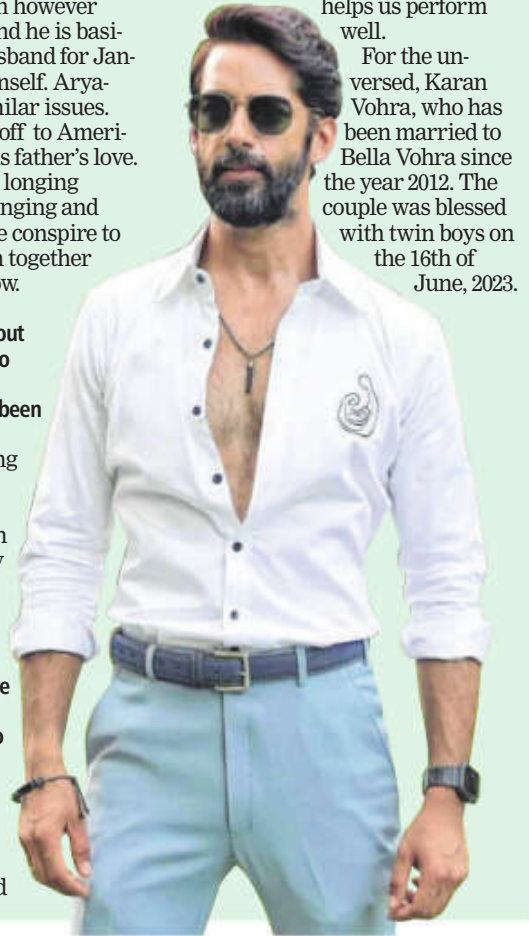
**The story is somewhat similar to that small chunk of *Jawan* where Shah Rukh convinces Nayantara's daughter to let him marry her. Your comments on the same?**  
It is just one movie you know. I have a lot of movies in my mind

now that you speak about this topic. But at the end of the day, a movie goes on for nearly 2 or 2 and a half hours. Whereas, with a television show, the story develops further; it is a whole experience you know. With our show, we are showing the journey of how Aryamaan impresses not just Jaanvi, but her son Kiaan and how he approves of Aryamaan for her. I think this is what makes the story beautiful.

**You're now a father to two boys, is that experience coming in handy to shoot with a child on the show?**

Yes, absolutely. It is coming in very handy. *Bahut patient ho gaya hoon main*. I've become quieter and more relaxed as a person now. I tend to become a kid myself when I am with my boys. So when I am shooting with Kiaan on the show, I tend to do similar things. I become a kid around him, I play with him. So that has been helping me develop a bond with him and that in turn helps us perform well.

For the unversed, Karan Vohra, who has been married to Bella Vohra since the year 2012. The couple was blessed with twin boys on the 16th of June, 2023.



## CAUGHT ON CAM

Several television stars attended the *sangeet* ceremony of Arti Singh and Dipak Chauhan in Mumbai on Tuesday night



Kishwer Merchant

Arti's sister-in-law Kashmera Shah with kids

Shefali Jariwala and husband Parag Tyagi

Devoleena Bhattacharjee