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Mumbai Police constables to get a permanent home; CM announced a house at 15 lakhs



While speaking in a monsoon session on Thursday, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde informed that a comprehensive policy will be prepared soon for the redevelopment of dangerous police colonies in Mumbai and its suburbs. CM Shinde said he earlier visited the police colony in front of the Tehsildar's office in Borivali West and inspected the horrible condition of this building.

He said, "The condition of many police colonies in Mum-

bai is very pathetic and the families of the policemen living in them are living in their hands".

The CM said he visited the police colony and interacted with the police families to know their problems.

CM Shinde informed that the issue of police colonies has been pending for a long time and he has also discussed with Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis about finding a solution to it. In the past, an attempt was made to define a policy in this regard,

but it could not be implemented. So now after taking the post of Chief Minister, a comprehensive policy will be prepared to solve this problem once again. For this, CM Shinde informed that a meeting will soon be held with all the major officials of the Home Department on this issue.

The CM also interacted with the police families living there. At this time, he clarified that the problem of your houses will be solved as soon as possible and also efforts will be

made to increase the number of police houses.

CM said by pitching private builders and developers, the

government can propose extra FSI and give affordable houses to Mumbai police.

INDIAN JOURNALIST TURNED POLITICIANS--SOME LOST IN TIME, SOME LEFT WITH NOTHING, FEW MADE IT TO PEAK

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Politicians and Media are known for friends with benefits. There are two extreme sides of journalism and media houses these days, they are totally anti of some political party or pro to some but barely any neutral journalists. Political ambitions of media house owners and editors are not new to Indian politics. The relationship between some media owners and the Rajya Sabha has stretched over longer time spans. Hindustan Times proprietor KK Birla was a Rajya Sabha MP for 18 years while his daughter Shobhana Bhartia was also an MP more recently. Narendra Mohan Gupta and Mahendra Mohan Gupta of Jagran Prakashan, which publishes Dainik Jagran, managed nominations from the BJP and the Samajwadi Party.

Sanjay Raut to Sanjay Nirupam, both the editors of Samna, ShivSena Mouthpiece are active in state politics. Sanjay Nirupam is with Samna

and ShivSena, whereas Nirupam is with Congress and he quit Dopahar Ka Samna long back. Somewhere being in politics, their journalism makes them bonded.

Vijay Darda was chairman and editor-in-chief of Lokmat while serving three terms in the Rajya Sabha. Subhash Chandra of Zee also played his innings and given how entrenched his media house is with the ruling BJP, it could be a long one. Media houses think their empires can benefit from closeness to those in power. Political parties think a friendly media realm is useful for their kingdom. It's all barter, give and take at the end of the day.

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Editoritis

INDIAN JOURNALIST TURNED POLITICIANS--SOME LOST IN TIME, SOME LEFT WITH NOTHING, FEW MADE IT TO PEAK

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

Pramod Navalkar began his career as a journalist and commentator while he was still a college student. In 1955, he began writing a weekly column titled Bhatkyaachee Bhramanti ("Man About Town") in the Marathi language daily Navshakti.

Businessman and media owner and Member of Parliament Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the former was offered a nomination from Maharashtra by the Congress.

There is an endless list, thousands of journalists pursuing their career in Politics but very few made it to peak, and most of them got lost in time.

Pramod Navalkar began his career as a journalist and commentator while he was still a college student. In 1955, he began writing a weekly column titled Bhatkyaachee Bhramanti ("Man About Town") in the Marathi language daily Navshakti. The column, which dealt with political, social and cultural issues, ran continuously for 52 years without a break, and ended only with his death. This consistency earned him a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest-running op-ed column in the world. Navalkar, came into politics and became a prominent face of Shiv Sena and his writing too changed its direction.

Every time a journalist or a media owner is nominated to the Rajya Sabha, it evokes a passing stretch of hand-wringing over journalistic independence. But look closer and you find that it is more a case of confirming an ideological or political affiliation that was already there or of a professional journalist who for her/his own reasons is ready to move into politics for their higher aspirations.

Loksatta editor Kumar Ketkar, had to serve Congress for 15 years with his editorials. His journalism was mortgaged for his political craving, and finally he became MP but today neither he remained a notable politician or journalist. Businessman and media owner and Member of Parliament Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the former was offered a nomination from Maharashtra by the Congress.

Swapan Dasgupta, now a BJP member of the Rajya Sabha, journalists like him have long had identifiable political leanings, so a party nomination does not change that much. Harivansh, was the editor-in-chief of Prabhat Khabar when the Janata Dal (United) in Bihar surprised him with an offer in 2014. He was working in Jharkhand at the time but was nominated for a seat in Bihar. He decided he was ready to make the switch to politics. It took the paper's owners close to two years to hire a replacement, so there was a period when Harivansh was both editor and MP. But his name was removed as chief editor from the print line of the paper two months after he took oath as MP.

Whatever great journalism you do, the system does not change. Arun Shourie, editor of the Indian Express and The Times of India joined BJP and became Minister of Communications and Information Technology in the Vajpayee Ministry. Later on he lost credibility and relevance in politics.

The exchange between journalists and politics has a long and vibrant history. Pritish Nandy was given a Rajya Sabha nomination by Thackarey's Shiv Sena, Rajiv Gandhi persuaded MJ Akbar to fight a Lok Sabha election on a Congress ticket, recently he joined BJP and he had to resign on humiliating note. Cho Ramaswamy was a Rajya Sabha MP nominated by the BJP, as was Ranchi Express owner-editor Ajay Maroo.

Rajeev Shukla, The Congress leader had been a veteran Hindi journalist and a TV anchor. Shukla was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2000 and joined the Congress later. He worked for Jansatta, the

Hindi daily of the Express group, and Raviwar Magazine. Shukla hosted the popular TV interview show Rubaru from mid 90s to early 2000s. Clips of his interview with Narendra Modi in 2001 went viral in 2016 when Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal filed an RTI query seeking information about the PM's educational qualification. Chandan Mitra, started as an assistant editor of The Statesman in Kolkata. He later moved to the Times of India in Delhi and then The Sunday Observer, which he left as its editor. He then joined the Hindustan Times as executive editor. He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2003 and got another term as a BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh in June 2010.

Shazia Ilmi, a television journalist and anchor with Star News, Ilmi spent 15 years in the field of television news and documentary production joined the Aam Aadmi Party. However, she lost the assembly as well as Lok Sabha election she fought on the AAP ticket. She resigned from the AAP after a tussle with the party's leadership in 2014. She joined the BJP on January 16, 2015. Now she has become irrelevant to politics and journalism both.

Ashutosh, TV news anchor first on Aaj Tak and later on IBN7, joined the AAP in 2014, contested the Lok Sabha polls but lost. And gradually he left politics and switched to journalism with his own news portal. Manish Sisodia, now Delhi's deputy chief minister started his career as a journalist from Pilkhuwa near Delhi after completing a diploma in journalism from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. He worked as a documentary film maker and a TV newsreader from 1997 to 2005.

Ashish Khetan, is known for his investigative journalism as a Tehelka journalist. In 2007, he published his report on 2002 Gujarat riots The Truth: Gujarat 2002, based on sting operations. Khetan later established his own investigative journalism portal called Gulail. In 2014, he joined the Aam Aadmi Party and left.

There is an endless list, thousands of journalists pursuing their career in Politics but very few made it to peak, and most of them got lost in time. Some of them saw a very humiliating phase in politics, perhaps they must have realised, politics is good for news subjects or editorial but when you become part of the game you become toothless.

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Dr. Vaidehi

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

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Voices



Communal Violence

As per report in the media India have registered nearly 4000 cases of communal violence between 2016 and 2020 and between 2018 and 2020, a total of 8,565 arrests were made in these cases. Lok Sabha data shows 4,097 arrests in 2018; 2,405 arrests in 2019; and 2,063 arrests in 2020. The conviction rate, however, is below 9 per cent, lending credence to accusations of random arrests in cases of communal violence. With this the scenario in the country is very serious and if it is not control it may leads to disaster in the form of division of the country on the basis of caste and religion. It is high time the Centre must think very seriously in this matter and do some to end communal violence and bring peace to country.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Joyeux Anniversaire

Anniversaries come and go but my love for 'Afternoon Voice' will remain forever. I am happy to know that AV has completed fourteen years of publication on August 8, 2022 and has now entered it's fifteenth year. It seems just like yesterday that you started the newspaper and today it has completed so many years of publication. Your main aim, Vaidehi, fourteen years back was to make this newspaper as successful as the other newspapers available in the country and today it stands popular among the people of Mumbai and its suburbs.

Congratulations to you Vaidehi and the entire editorial team, especially Akshay Redij for making this newspaper a grand success and may it reach great heights in the years to come (For your kind information dear readers, Akshay Redij has been putting in a lot of effort in bringing out the online edition in time and been working till late hours just to give us the latest news on what's happening in Mumbai and elsewhere in the country).

The one thing I also like about 'Afternoon Voice' is that it has given a place to new writers, which is a very good thing unlike other newspapers in the country. AV also does not contain yellow journalism. You Vaidehi and the entire editorial team have even managed to bring out the newspaper daily (even though now it has become an online edition) during the pandemic and lockdown periods unlike other newspapers/publications in the country.

Lastly, I would like to thank Vaidehi Taman for giving me a trophy at the end of the function on May 1, 2022 at the Yashwantrao Chavan Auditorium for all the articles I contributed to the newspaper during the last fourteen years.

Jubel D'Cruz

Stringent action is essential

Although India has shown its strength through 2 Surgical strikes, looking at the increasing terrorist infiltration day-by-day in Kashmir and the murders of common people, stringent action is essential. It may be Hafiz Saeed or Dawood (the masterminds of 26/11 terrorist attack on Mumbai in 2008) who are still moving around freely. On 1st August 2022, the US took revenge for the 11th September 2001 attacks which claimed the lives of over 3,000 Americans. Ayman al-Zawahiri, who was the right hand man of the Chief of al-Qaeda – Osama bin Laden and deeply involved in the planning of 9/11, one of the most responsible for the attacks on American soil, was killed in a drone strike. India too should take a strong step to crush the roots of organisations that are the real source of terrorism.

Sagar Shirodkar

RIGHT WAY TO TREAT THE RAPISTS

The most heinous crime is rape. The cruelest form of torture. The punishment should be such that the culprit bears the consequence throughout his life. Castration alongside a proclamation tattooed on forehead that he is a rapist may be thought of. If the culprit is convicted of rape and murder nothing short of death should be his punishment. Under no circumstances the sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment. Incidence of rape should not be a matter of deriving political mileage. Political parties should sink their differences and strive to bring about a change in people's sense of human rights and dignity of women. Law alone cannot eradicate crime like rape.

But the problem lies not in rapes but in politicising them. The punishment of castration appears to be the best as the death sentence would never deter these barbaric criminals. Apart from castration, branding them as cruel rapists and imprisonment till death is the best way to deter rapists but unfortunately castration and branding our laws won't permit. Can we amend our laws the way middle East countries have done and successfully implemented and executed.

It is difficult not to succumb to the intuitive appeal of chemical castration as a response to rape. But it is an intuitive appeal that fades away on intense scrutiny. Intuition can be a great asset in politics of all sorts, but it is best avoided while contemplating a law requiring huge public investment, whose potential for abuse is immense and the benefits of which are, at best, uncertain. Clarity on the meaning of some of the terms might be useful at this juncture. Surgical castration does not mean removal of the penis, but is instead the irreversible surgical removal of the testosterone producing testes. Chemical castration involves injecting anti-androgen drugs



that suppress the production of testosterone as long as the drugs are administered.

Any meaningful attempt to protect women against rape must engage with gendered notions of power entrenched in our families, our marriages, our workplaces, our educational institutions, our religions, our laws, our political parties and, perhaps, worst of all, in our minds. There are many violent manifestations of these entrenched patterns of power in our society and while rape is certainly one of them, it would be a great disservice to empowerment of women in this country to not attach the same kind of urgency and significance to gender violence beyond rape.

Any sort of violence against women must criminalise all forms of sexual and gender-based violence against all people and minimise the potential for re-traumatisation of the victim. The two-finger test of victims of sexual assault during medical examination should be banned. Amnesty's other suggestions to the Commission include: explicitly recognising rape by an official as torture, and removing immunity from prosecution for sexual and gender-based crimes, including for members of the police or the armed forces.

Rape is about power, violence, intimidation and humiliation. Attempts to reduce the incidence of rape by controlling the sexual urge of men are bound to be

ineffective because they invoke a very shallow and inadequate understanding of rape. There is no doubt that rape is a most heinous crime.

Rape cases are on the increase and the States and the Central Government is not able to castigation law to teach the rapists a lesson. But on the other hand, they wish to name the law against rape in the name of Nirbhaya. What is the use of this Government which cannot assure safety and security of citizens especially women, who are continuously exploited in all the front of their lives. There is an all-out cry to change the laws for heinous crimes like rape. Only changing them will be of no use. Instead of just wasting time it is time for strict implementation without exception, like having different yardsticks and the special people are given free hand. The main aim and motto of the Government is somehow or the other, by various enticements, concessions and appeasement ensuring the vote bank to enable it to remain in power and continue its misgoverning, which we have been tolerating so far. It is indeed time to act.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Writer

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Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

Interview

Dancer who wins hearts

Meet the eminent odissi dancer Rahul Acharya

Dance is a deep ocean and a dancer is a merely a tiny drop in that sea. It is said boodh boodh se ghat bharta hai (each drop adds to the pot) a dancer is surly aware that each drop counts. **Rahul Acharya** is a Bhubaneshwar based excelling, celebrated Odissi dancer and a renowned scholar who has not only won many awards and rewards but most importantly has won many hearts with his dedication to art and his optimistic outlook toward life to add to that his chiselled and super flexible physique at forty can give the younger generation of dancers a run for their money. I chatted with this supremely talented dancer who discussed everything with me about right from his devotion towards Odissi dance to his life surrendered to the rich Indian art, culture and tradition.

How did your dance training start and what motivated you to take up dancing?

I started training at a very young age. I was still a toddler. This was when I was three years old. My sister and my cousins would go to learn from Guruji (my Guru, Sri Durga Charan Ranbir) and since I had no one to spend time with as all of them would be gone for classes, I started accompanying them. That is how my Guru handpicked and moulded me. Coming from a family of Rajgurus, I imbibed the traditional family values and was exposed to the modern world by a bureaucratic father and an engineer mother, dance happened very naturally I guess, as I was blessed to see the temple dancers of Puri (the Maharis) from very close quarters, the way they rendered their service, their surrender, it had tremendous amount of impact on me.

Tell me more about your gurus and what you learnt from them?

My Guru, Sri Durga Charan Ranbir is one of the foremost surviving Gurus of Odissi. I was an extremely notorious kid and hyper energetic. The only people who had the capacity to tackle me, were my mother and my Guru. These were the only two people I was petrified of. His patience in dealing with a difficult person like me, is indeed commendable. It's been over three decades that the Guru Shishya relationship is still intact. Guruji has a major role to play in my personal life. A true Guru in every sense, he has inculcated in me, the concept of Samarpana to dance. That is probably why I have not been able to visualize a mundane life for myself. Dance for me is Sadhana, my process of self realization.

How difficult is it for a male Dancer to survive in a world dominated by female dancers?

Classical dancing in India was always considered a taboo. Most of the male dancers did not come with a strong support system. In India, where patriarchy is a social norm and women were expected to be house makers, usually depended on the male members and the male members of the family had to play the role of bread winners (times have changed for good). It was much easier for females to think of an alternative career which was not so well paying. Besides dance in India resurfaced with the Devadasis, with the Anti-Devadasi act, when the temple dancers lost their jobs in temples, they were not given employment anywhere and had to carry out menial jobs to sustain themselves. The Devadasis became Manushya Dasis. How unfortunate! Post Independent India went through a deep cultural turmoil as the colonizers had created much havoc.

We have forgotten that all our Acharyas have been men. They were the ones who taught the dances and

trained the performers.

But as is the social taboo (things are slowly changing for good) it is still difficult to survive just as a performer as there aren't too many stage shows and not too many takers for classical dance and not too many takers for male dancers. Unless one is exceptionally striking and has something more to offer, it is very difficult to survive as a male soloist.

Fortunately for me, I did not face such a discrimination owing to a strong academic background. I have always fared well as an academician and had a different career choice as a scientist. Dance probably had other plans for me as I had not chosen to take dance as a career. Dance engulfed me and sucked me in completely. It possessed my entire being. I have received tremendous amount of support from the dance fraternity. So I didn't face much of this discrimination rather I was always looked upto and loved by my seniors.

Who do you credit your success to and who have been your biggest support in this dance journey?

Guru Ratikant Mohapatra has always been the big brother, being instrumental in shaping up my career and giving it an academic angle. My Sanskrit Guru, Pandit Nityananda Mishra has taken the pains of educating me in the theoretical aspects. My Guru, Sri Durga Charan Ranbir was the one who offered me my career, serving it on a golden platter. I just had to grab it. My pillar of strength was always my mother, Binapani Sahoo, who not only verbally supported my career but provided the finances to keep it going. Besides I was always in my own league and I never competed with anyone. I only grabbed the best and kept working on myself.

You are one of the rare male dancers who has a super fit and chiselled body, from where does that inspiration come?

The urge to get better and serve dance. My body is my temple and for every dancer that is the case. The body needs to be taken care of and constantly honed. As the Kathopanishad states, the body is the chariot and the Atma is the passenger. I need to keep my chariot in top shape for smoothening the journey of my Atma.

Tell me about your recent unpleasant encounter at the Konark festival, what happened?

It was a very unfortunate incident, where a young dancer sitting beside me was asked to vacate the chair while the programme was going on to accommodate a seat for some family member of some bureaucrat who had not even come. I raised my voice and left place and complained to the top officials of the government. How can we promote tourism in our state when we lack basic ethics of



Photo Courtesy : Debajyoti Dhar

respecting our own people? Like charity, samskara begins at home. How can I claim an Atithi to be Devata if I lack the basic manners towards my own people? Are security people paid a salary to serve the family members of bureaucrats? Should the PM's wife be treated also as a PM? This was the issue I raised.

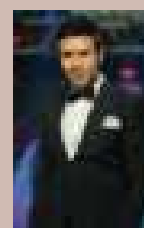
How has the covid times enriched you?

No rest in the kingdom. There are miles to go before I sleep and miles to go before I sleep. Though Covid hasn't affected me much as classes at the University, where I teach, have been going on irrespective of the lockdown. The only paradigm shift being from the real to the virtual. Working hours haven't reduced at all and responsibilities have increased for sure.

What are your future plans to take Odissi dance to more people?

To die dancing. I am only a very ordinary dancer and certainly not indispensable. There are millions like me who come and go every day. Odissi hasn't ceased. great Gurus and dancers have come and gone, yet Odissi lives on. All I can plan is to learn to surrender to Odissi and be grateful that I am one of the chosen few to be able to surrender myself to Odissi.

Rahul Acharya is an artist who is evolved not only in his art of dance but also as a human being, his love for Odissi is absolutely infectious and when he steps on the floor, the audience can very clearly witness the hard work, the devotion and the commitment he has made to Odissi.



Interview by
Sandeep Soparkar

World

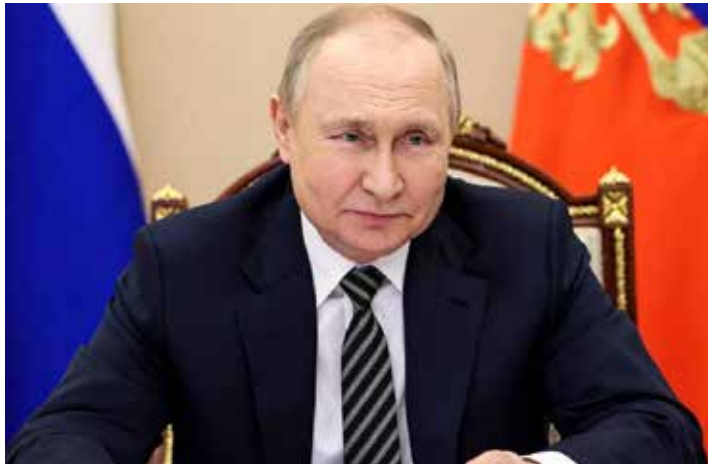
Russian President Vladimir Putin calls an economic “blitzkrieg” by the West

Russia’s record employment signals a surprisingly smooth decoupling from the West. Its rapid replacement of McDonald’s and Starbucks says business as usual. Yet pressures are building inside its economic machine.

Six months into the Ukraine conflict, the strategies and struggles of Russia’s biggest automaker offer an insight into the contrasting fortunes of a country striving to withstand what Vladimir Putin calls an economic “blitzkrieg” by the West.

Avtovaz restarted production of its Lada brand this summer after it was halted in March in the face of Western sanctions, supply shortages and the loss of its French partner Renault. It has not formally laid off any of its 42,000 workers.

Nonetheless, the company’s feeling the heat, and it’s shrinking. The bulk of the 3,200 workers at its factory in



the industrial city of Izhevsk – where car production has not resumed – have been furloughed since March, with the company paying two-thirds of their wages, although some staff have been given temporary work around the factory on reduced hours.

This month, the automaker offered all Izhevsk workers one-off payments to quit as it looks to focus more production on its primary plant

in Togliatti, 600 km away.

“It’s a choice between bad and terrible,” said Alexander Knyazev, referring to the dilemma over whether to take a 200,000 rouble (\$3,400) severance payment or stay in his job in the Izhevsk’s stamped body parts workshop.

Last week he chose to walk away from the factory, which had paid him over 45,000 roubles per month.

“They don’t need so many technicians anymore.” Asked how

many workers had chosen to accept the severance, Avtovaz told Agencies it would disclose the final number after this month, adding that those workers on reduced hours would go back to a five-day week at the plant from Aug. 29.

The company did not elaborate on its plans for Izhevsk, though it said earlier this month it remained committed to the plant, which it said would be retooled to make the first Russian-made electric car, the Lada e-Largus, and would retain service and support functions.

“In the current situation of sanctions pressure and a growing number of variables, we are taking comprehensive measures to maintain employment,” Avtovaz President Maxim Sokolov said at the time.

Ruben Enikolopov, a professor of economics at Moscow’s New Economic School, said the auto sector’s struggles were being masked by “hidden unemployment”,

where workers were not laid off but instead placed on indefinite furlough.

He said he expected unemployment to rise towards the end of the year, when he said it would likely become clear that sanctions were unlikely to be lifted in the near future.

“In Russia, economic crises don’t tend to produce mass unemployment because of the specifics of the Russian labour market like the furlough practice,” Enikolopov said. The Russian economy ministry declined to comment for this article.

This month, Economy Minister Maxim Reshetnikov dismissed any talk of a dramatic rise in joblessness, which official data pegged at a record low of 3.9% in June.

“I think that in autumn, we will move away from these record low numbers but let’s not over dramatize, the situation is under control,” he told a conference in Yekaterinburg.

3 American troops injured in rocket attacks in Syria



Three American troops were injured in two rocket attacks in Syria earlier in the day and the United States responded with strikes from attack helicopters, US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a statement.

“One US service member in Mission Support Site Conoco was treated for a minor injury and has been returned to duty. Two others are under evaluation for minor injuries,” Sputnik reported quoting the CENTCOM as saying. CENTCOM said on Wednesday that suspected Iran-backed militants launched several rockets at two US

facilities housing American troops in both Conoco and Green Village in northeast Syria on Wednesday evening.

However, the US forces responded using attack helicopters and destroyed three vehicles and equipment used to launch several rockets, the statement said.

Initial assessments indicated that the US forces killed two or three of the suspected militants that conducted one of the attacks, Sputnik reported citing sources.

An investigation of the attack is underway.

US looks to ‘manage differences’ with China amid Taiwan tensions

The United States on Wednesday said China has shut down some key communication channels and cooperation across several vital issues that affect the entire world.

Speaking at a press briefing, State Department spokesperson Vedant Patel said that Washington continues to seek an open and constructive line of communication to manage our differences.

“We have and will continue to keep the lines of communication open with the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Beijing has shut down some key communication channels and cooperation across several vital issues that affect the entire world, but the United States continues to seek an open and constructive line of communication to manage our differences,” said Patel, who is Principal deputy spokesperson, Bureau of Global Public Affairs.

These remarks come following the meeting between US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and the Chinese ambassador to the United States Qin Gang on August 23.



Patel declined to elaborate on the topics or duration of Tuesday’s meeting between the two senior diplomats but said the US continue to take calm and resolute steps to uphold peace and stability in the region as well as support Taiwan in line with the country’s longstanding “one China” policy.

Last week, China has expressed its outrage after Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb’s visit to Taiwan. This was the second such visit by the

US delegation after the short trip of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that angered China and set off military tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

“I landed in Taipei to kick off an economic development trip in Taiwan & South Korea. Indiana’s home to 10 Taiwanese and 12 South Korean businesses. This week marks my 2nd trip to South Korea as Governor and I’m proud to be the first governor to visit Taiwan since before the pandemic,” Holcomb tweeted.

Nation

Pakistani intruder shot at along IB in Jammu's Samba

Border Security Force (BSF) on Thursday shot a Pakistani intruder who attempted to smuggle narcotics across the International Border (IB) in the Samba area of Jammu.

According to the BSF spokesperson, in the early hours of the day, an intruder who tried to cross the border was shot by BSF personnel after they noticed a suspicious movement from Pakistan's side.

The BSF troops immediately fired up on the intruder but the injured intruder managed to escape as the troops recovered blood stains from the spot.



However, he left behind a huge amount of drugs which he was attempting to smuggle.

The official said that they recovered as many as eight Packets of dugs (Heroin) equalling

around 8 kgs.

More details are awaited. Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at nine locations in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan in connection with a case pertaining to the seizure of heroin that was smuggled into India through the Integrated Check Post (ICP), Attari in April end.

The nine places raided by the NIA included the premises of the accused and suspects in New Delhi, Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh, Tehri district of Uttarakhand and Jaipur district of

Rajasthan. Searches conducted at these locations led to the recovery of incriminating materials, including documents and digital devices, said the NIA.

The case has links to the seizure of heroin that was smuggled into India through ICP, Attari on April 24 this year. The heroin consignment was concealed in a consignment of licorice roots (Mulethi), sent by overseas suppliers based in Afghanistan.

This case was initially registered by the officials of the Customs Department at ICP Attari, Amritsar and the NIA registered the case on July 30 this year.

Priyanka Gandhi says "give justice to Bilkis Bano"

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday demanded justice for Gujarat riots survivor Bilkis Bano and said the government has made its stand clear with its silence on the release of 11 people convicted in the 2002 case of her gangrape and murder of her seven family members.

The 11 convicts were released on August 15 under the Gujarat government's remission policy after serving 15 years in jail.

"The government has made its stand clear ('sarkar ne lakeer kheench li hai') by keeping silent on the release of 11 people convicted of rape, comments expressing welcome-support for them on camera," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

"But the women of the country have hope from the Constitution. The Constitution gives courage even to the woman standing in the last row to fight for justice.



Give justice to Bilkis Bano," the Congress general secretary said.

Her remarks came ahead of the Supreme Court hearing over a plea against the release of 11 convicts in the case. Bilkis Bano was gangraped in Gujarat's Randhikpur village and seven members of her family, including her three-year-old daughter, killed on March 3, 2002 in the Gujarat riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning. she was 21 years old and five months pregnant at the time.

9 killed in jeep-car collision near Bengaluru

Nine persons were killed and 11 sustained injuries after a cruiser jeep collided with a truck on the National Highway near Bengaluru on Thursday. The accident happened near the city of Tumakuru located 70 kilometres Northwest of Bengaluru.

Superintended Police (SP)

Rahul Shahpurwad visited the spot of the accident and informed,

"The cruiser jeep was carrying daily wage workers who were moving towards Bengaluru city in search of work".

Reportedly, all injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, where their condition is currently stable.

Delhi court reserves order on bail plea of ex-NSE MD Chitra Ramkrishna

The Rouse Avenue Court in the national capital on Thursday reserved the order on the bail plea of Chitra Ramkrishna, former MD and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

Ramkrishna was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on July 14 under the money laundering act in connection with the alleged illegal phone tapping and snooping of employees of the NSE.

Following the orders of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) registered the case in an alleged National Stock Exchange (NSE) co-location scam that involved the phone tapping of NSE employees

The FIR mentioned the names of former NSE chief Chitra Ramkrishna, Ravi Narain and former Mumbai Commissioner Sanjay Pandey for allegedly tapping the phones of NSE officials and other irregularities. Pandey is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer who retired from service on June 30.

During the investigation, it

was found that Pandey is closely related to the functioning and activities of a company called iSec Securities Pvt. Ltd.

The company had conducted a security audit of NSE around the time the alleged colocation irregularities have taken place. The company was incorporated by Pandey in March 2001 and he quit as its director in May 2006. His son and mother took over the charge of the company.

It has been alleged that illegal phone tapping of NSE employees was done between 2009-17.

3 out of 62 AAP MLAs attended Kejriwal's meeting: Saurabh Bharadwaj

Amid the ongoing speculations around Aam Aadmi Party MLAs being untraceable, party leader Saurabh Bharadwaj confirmed that the Bharatiya Janata Party targeted 40 of its party MLAs and was offering Rs 20 crores each but the conspiracy of the Opposition took a back foot as 53 out of 62 MLAs were present in the meeting held by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today.

The meeting was held in the national capital at 11 am today. "BJP's operation lotus failed in Delhi. 53 out of 62 MLAs were present in the meeting today. Speaker is outside the country and Manish Sisodia is in Himachal.

CM spoke to other MLAs over the phone and everyone said that they are with CM Kejriwal till their last breath," said Saurabh Bharadwaj. He further alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party tried to lure over 12 AAP MLAs to break the party. "BJP contacted our 12 MLAs and told them to break the party. They wanted to break away 40 MLAs and were offering Rs 20 crores each... Now we are go-



ing to Mahatma Gandhi Smriti," he added.

His remarks came in wake of the reports of AAP MLAs being unreachable made rounds ahead of the crucial upcoming meeting of the Aam Aadmi Party's MLAs at the Chief Minister's residence.

Earlier in the day, Delhi's Aam Aadmi Party MLA Atishi dismissed the rumours of several party MLAs being unreachable and exuded confidence that the meeting at the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence will have a full house today.

Bombay HC seeks to know whether AAI has relaxed building height restrictions near Navi Mumbai airport

The Bombay High Court on Thursday sought to know from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) if the height restriction for buildings in the vicinity of the proposed Navi Mumbai International Airport has been relaxed.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice M S Karnik was hearing a public interest litigation filed by advocate Yashwant Shenoy raising concerns over dangers posed by high rises near the Mumbai airport.

On Thursday, Shenoy said while the situation in the Mumbai airport's vicinity was be-



yond repair, the authorities have now decided to lift the height restrictions for buildings near the proposed Navi Mumbai International Airport from 55.1 metres up to 160 metres.

Shenoy submitted a press note dated July 30, 2022 by the City & Industrial Development Corporation's (CIDCO) vice chairman and managing director, commending the Union Min-

istry of Civil Aviation, AAI and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for having agreed to grant No Objection Certificate (NOC) for construction of buildings within 20 km radius of the Navi Mumbai airport above the permissible height restriction of 55.1 metres.

The bench directed Shenoy to place the said note on affidavit and directed the AAI to respond to the same by August 29, when the matter would be heard again.

"The AAI shall inform if any clearance or NOC was given till now to any application filed by a developer for construction of

a building above the permissible height limit of 55.1 metres. It shall also submit how many more such applications are pending for clearance," the bench said.

Mumbai district suburban collector also informed the HC that parts of eight structures near the Mumbai airport that violated the permissible height restriction would be demolished within a month.

The bench accepted the statement and directed the collector to file an affidavit on September 27 indicating the progress of work done with regard to the eight structures.

Shiv Sena factions targeted Aaditya Thackeray in Maha Vidhan Bhavan premises



path) on the steps of the Vidhan Bhavan where the state legislature session is currently underway.

MLA Bharat Gogawale told reporters that if legislators of the Shinde group are targeted repeatedly, they would not sit with folded hands. "We will respond," he said.

On the other side, Aaditya Thackeray and some legislators of the Congress and NCP shouted slogans demanding that a "wet drought" be declared in Maharashtra to provide relief to farmers who lost their standing crops in the recent heavy rains and floods.

Aaditya Thackeray was also seen shouting the slogan "50 khok chidle boke" (50 boxes... angry cats), implying that 50 MLAs got money to revolt against the party led by his father Uddhav Thackeray.

He was also apparently referring to the scuffle which took place between the ruling and opposition legislators in the Vidhan Bhavan premises on Wednesday.

Aaditya Thackeray has been touring the state to garner support of the party cadre, following the rebellion by a group of MLAs.

He had targeted legislators of the Shinde faction by calling them "traitors".

Legislators of the Shiv Sena faction of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde targeted former minister Aaditya Thackeray by displaying a banner against him on the steps of the Vidhan Bhavan here on Thursday.

Aaditya Thackeray countered them by shouting a slogan implying that MLAs of the Shinde faction got money to switch loyalty, which had resulted in the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government comprising the Sena, NCP and Congress.

Legislators from the Shinde faction carried banners with the message: "Yuvrajanchi disha chukli" (the prince missed his

MP Shewale urges MoS Home Ajay Kumar to take action over Mona Ambegaonkar's tweet on Savarkar

Shiv Sena MP Rahul Shewale has sent a letter to MoS Home Ajay Kumar Mishra to take action against the actor Mona Ambegaonkar for her tweet against Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Shewale has requested MoS Home to order the concerned agencies to remove the controversial tweet.

"I would like to draw your kind attention to the Tweet made by Mona Ambegaonkar at 6.47 p.m. on August 22, 2022, against Swatantraya Veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. This tweet is of a very controversial nature and has no authenticity," Shewale stated in the letter.

"In my view, it has no his-



torical fact and malice the figure of a great Freedom Fighter, who fought against the English Empire for the independence of India," he further stated.

"I strongly condemn the Tweet. I request you kindly take

strong cognizance of the Tweet and order the concerned agency to immediately remove the tweet from social media. I also request you to order to take against Mona Ambegaonkar for making such a fake Tweet against a reputed Freedom Fighter," he added.

Earlier Ambegaonkar tweeted, "Savarkar's first conviction, was for the attempted rape of Margaret Lawrence, in 1908. He confessed to the crime and was sentenced to four months in jail. This 'sanskari' low criminal, is the Sangh Parivar's role model today. No wonder most of them are rapists."

The tweet by the actress has now been deleted.

Disquiet between BJP, Shinde camp in Maharashtra

A day after the party's state unit president, Chandrashekhar Bawankule claimed that the state's next chief minister would be Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP announced that it would be fielding a candidate from Buldhana.

Is the growing and visible unease between the Bhartiya Janata Party and the Shinde faction the outcome of the usual rough edges of any new partnerships that get smoothed over time, or signs

of fissures that will only deepen as the days go by?

This is the million-dollar question that hangs over current Maharashtra politics.

Certainly, indications coming from the BJP suggest that though the chief minister may be Eknath Shinde, it's they, who are playing on the front foot. A day after the party's state unit president, Chandrashekhar Bawankule claimed that the state's next chief minister would be Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP announced that it would be

fielding a candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Buldhana. At present, the seat is held by Pratap Jadhav, one of the 12 Shiv Sena MPs who defected to the Shinde camp, and that union labour minister and BJP's national general secretary Bhupendra Yadav will be touring the constituency shortly, Buldhana is one of the 16 constituencies that the BJP has identified in the state which needs to be won as part of its aim to win 45 seats in Lok Sabha in 2024.

Entertainment

John Abraham ready for 'mission of a lifetime' in 'Pathaan' first look

After the success of "Ek Villain Returns", Bollywood star John Abraham is once again armed and dangerous as the antagonist of the upcoming action film "Pathaan".

The movie is headlined by superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who returns to the big screen after a gap of five years. Directed by Siddharth Anand of "War" fame, "Pathaan" also stars Deepika Padukone.

Abraham shared his first look from the film in a Twitter post on Thursday.

"The mission of a lifetime is about to start. Celebrate #Pathaan with #YRF50 only at a big screen near you on 25th January, 2023. Releasing in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu," he wrote.

The hero is only as good as the villain, said Anand.

"John Abraham is the antagonist, the villain of 'Pathaan'. And I have always believed in the fact that the villain's projection should be as big, if not bigger than that of the hero's.

"Only when the villain is massive, can the tussle between them be spectacular. And we have an extraordinary battle when SRK takes on John! We wanted to present John in a super slick avatar," the director said in a statement.

The release of Abraham's first glimpse as the villain comes



a month after the makers unveiled Padukone's look.

Anand, also known for "Bang Bang!", "Bachna Ae Haseeno", and "Salaam Namaste", said the audience has only seen the tip of the iceberg with the posters of the "Pathaan" star cast.

"Every announcement of 'Pathaan' is like revealing a piece of an epic puzzle, in front of the curious eyes of the fans and audiences, leading right up to our release day. "We aspire for every asset of 'Pathaan' to be a big talking point mainly because, we fortunately, have the content to create that buzz... I can assure you that nothing can prepare you for the action spectacle that is coming your way," he added.



Bad Bunny to Perform Live From Yankee Stadium

Bad Bunny will perform on the 2022 MTV Video Music Awards live from his tour stop at Yankee Stadium on Sunday, Aug. 28, at 8 p.m. ET/PT. This tour stop is part of "Bad Bunny: World's Hottest Tour."

The 2022 MTV Video Music Awards are set to air from Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

This marks the Puerto Rican phenom's second VMAs appearance. His first, three years ago, was a joint performance of "Que Pretendes" with J Balvin.

Bad Bunny is nominated for seven VMAs this year, including artist of the year and album of the year. He would be the first non-English-language artist to win in either of those marquee categories.

Bad Bunny's Un Verano Sin Ti has topped the Billboard 200 for eight non-consecutive weeks. This year's other nominees for album of the year are Adele's 30, Billie Eilish's Happier Than Ever, Drake's Certified Lover Boy and Harry Styles' Harry's House.

Michelle Branch Domestic Assault Case Dismissed

Nearly two weeks after Michelle Branch was arrested for domestic assault, the case has been dismissed at the request of the state on Wednesday (Aug. 24), Billboard can confirm.

The "Everywhere" singer was arrested by Nashville police on August 11 after officers were called to the house she shares with her husband, Black Keys drummer Patrick Carney, to investigate a possible domestic disturbance. According to a copy of the arrest report obtained by Billboard, Branch was arrested for misdemeanor domestic assault and released on \$1,000 bond.



Vanessa Bryant Awarded \$16M in Trial Over Kobe Bryant Crash Photos

A federal jury found Wednesday that Los Angeles County must pay Kobe Bryant's widow \$16 million for emotional distress caused by deputies and firefighters sharing photos of the bodies of the NBA star and his daughter taken at the site of the 2020 helicopter crash that killed them.

The nine jurors who returned the unanimous verdict agreed with Vanessa Bryant and her attorneys that the photos of the remains of Kobe Bryant and their 13-year-old daughter Gianna invaded her privacy and brought her emotional distress.

The jury deliberated for 4 1/2 hours before reaching the verdict. Vanessa Bryant cried quietly as it was read.

An attorney for the county declined comment on the verdict outside the courtroom.

The pictures were shared mostly between employees of the LA County sheriff's and fire departments including by some who were playing video games and attending an awards banquet. They were also seen by some of their spouses and in one case by a bartender at a bar where a deputy was drinking.