



Strong socioeconomic change in J-K ushering qualitative change in sports

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After a big shocker in Bihar, BJP could not take the humiliation of getting shunted out of power. Five of six MLAs of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) in Manipur joined the ruling BJP on Friday, a statement from the state assembly said, weeks after he broke off an alliance with the party for the second time in nine years.

The statement signed by Manipur Assembly Secretary K Meghajit Singh said that the Speaker was pleased to accept the merger of five JDU MLAs with the BJP. Since the number of MLAs who switched sides was greater than two thirds of the total, their switch will be considered valid. This is the second time the BJP targeted Nitish Kumar party's legislators in the northeast. In 2020, six of seven JDU legislators had joined the BJP in Arunachal Pradesh and last week the lone MLA also merged in BJP.

The JDU had won six of the 38 constituencies it had contested in the assembly elections held in March this year. The MLAs who joined the BJP are Kh Joykishan, N Sanate, Md Achab Uddin, former DGP L M Khaute and Thangjam Arunkumar. Khaute and Arunkumar had previously sought to contest the assembly polls for the BJP, but joined the JDU after being turned down by the party. The move by the MLAs comes weeks after Nitish Kumar dumped the BJP and joined forces with Tejashwi Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Congress and other parties, displacing the BJP from the co-pilot's seat in Bihar.

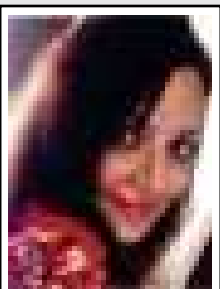
Veteran BJP leader told Afternoon Voice "Who will vote for Nitish for PM, when Bihar is still the most backward state in India. Nitish has only been concerned for his seat in the past many years as CM, never really elevating the community, created employment or provided investment opportunities. This party hopping journey will continue."

JDU to become Shiv Sena?

5 of 6 MLAs From Nitish Kumar's JDU In Manipur Merge With BJP

Both Thackeray parties are set to annihilate whenever elections take place

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) started the membership enrolment drive on Sunday where the citizens are given an option to do the process even online. This process has been initiated in view of the 2022 Mumbai civic polls. Similarly, Shiv Sena has also started its membership drive. The MNS, which is currently in low phase, has turned towards Hindutva and is trying to fill the vacuum left by its rival Shiv Sena. Thackeray has been holding meetings with his party leaders and workers in view of the local civic elections to be held across the state. On the other hand, Aditya Thackeray is going places to places and holding public rallies. Both are talking on similar lines and this time Hindutva is above all on political agenda.

Both the political stalwarts are born in radical families that used Hindutva agenda as a tool to politics. Power is only one religion they believed very strongly. To get in depth, Hinduism is secular, Shiv Sena does not reject a constitution which is secular. Hinduism recognizes all religions as different paths to God. Hinduism gives freedom of faith to Hindus. Right from the inception Shiv Sena has been a secular party. Hindutva or secularism are only matters to woo the people with the main principle being to grab power. Power is the main and only aim of all the politicians. Principles are only the faces to be shown to people.

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Editoritis

Both Thackrey parties are set to annihilate whenever elections take place

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The NIA, which is probing both Elgar Parishad as well as the Gadchiroli blast cases, relied on statements of certain protected witnesses offering proof and significance to make the connection between the two cases.

Police have blamed the blast on Maoist because they are common in the area. The attack took place after Maoist set 25 vehicles on fire.

India is a very large, diverse country. All places cannot have the same generalized description. But in places like Delhi and other metro cities such brutal incidents happen.

The Bombay of the 1960s was part of a state that had just been born after a deadly linguistic reorganization of borders. Then the newly restructured state, however, was caught in a curious economic condition. While industrial growth and employment opportunities rose in the state in significant ways, there was a parallel increase in the number of job seekers. It was Bombay, particularly, that was caught in this battle, with the city witnessing a phenomenal increase in the number of university graduates, with not as many jobs for them to cash on.

In these circumstances of pressure on the part of the educated Maharashtrian youth, there arose a weekly cartoon, the Marmik or "straight from the heart", that put across in the most pungent and cynical way, the woes of the "Marathi Manoos". Bal Thackeray embraced Hindutva as a strategy because the politics on the issues of Marathi-speakers was not paying off.

In 1985, Bal Thackeray understood that Marathi is a good cause for popularity, but it does not have elective merits. On the plank of Marathi, you cannot win elections across nations. Then he came up with Hindutva. So, it was a well-calculated move and he embraced Hindutva...and won the successive elections. Since then, Bala Saheb's outfits became saffron, he started sporting tilak, he was wearing Rudraksh around neck and hand. This complete saffron makeover became overnight popular among Hindutva zealots.

Eventually Shiv Sena never had a core Hindutva agenda and that is the reason there was no point in attacking Uddhav for abandoning the ideology. On the other hand, Raj had a gift on a Platter, what is left in Hindutva for other parties to cash in; he has molded it to his advantage by changing the symbol of his political party Maharashtra Navnirman Sena. BJP has already got the credit of being the savior of Hindutva and hence no other parties will get credit on the basis of Hindutva any more.

Bal Thakre, the founder of Shiv Sena started his political career with Marathi agenda and later on took up Hindutva agenda. Marathi agenda and Hindutva agenda are not contradictory. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj established Hindu Rashtra by fighting the Mughal during the Mughal period. Lokmanya Tilak who gave the slogan of "freedom is my birth right" and who

was a Maharashtrian, was an advocate of Hindutva ideology. Bal Thakre was called Hindu Hridaya Samrat or King of Hindu Hearts. So, loyalty of Raj Thakre to Hindutva ideology remains unquestionable.

Shiv Sena's alliance with the Secular Parties was an experiment motivated by the need to teach BJP a lesson. The two cousins have completely lost their credibility and nothing will help them, no matter how much they try. They should understand Maharashtra politics has changed making two of them irrelevant. Uddhav Thackrey joined hands with congress and NCP and miserably shunted out of power. Raj Thackrey campaigned for congress during the 2019 elections. Raj Thackrey's politics of dadagiri was having tacit support from congress. It helped Congress to divide the votes of Shiv Sena and thereby Rule Maharashtra for 15 years from 1999 to 2014. After the BJP Government came to power the clout of Raj Thackrey declined.

The core vote bank of Shiv Sena is Marathi Manoos and Hindutva supporters. The Raj party also eyed for this vote Bank concentrating more on Marathi Manoos. Since Shiv Sena is allying with Congress it's Hindutva votes will fade away. That is what MNS is eyeing for. But since BJP has a firm grip on Hindutva reliability, MNS will get nothing. Lot of Marathi Manoos are also Hindutva sensitive and thus that will also go with BJP. Only a small fraction of regional Marathi interest votes will be divided among SS, MNS and NCP. Here NCP will have a better chance to fare as it will also get Muslim votes. Thus, the scope of the both Thackrey parties are set to decimate whenever elections

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Letters to the Editor

Gautam Adani is the new Pied Piper of Dalal Street

Gautam Adani is the new pied piper of Dalal Street and companies promoted by his group has had a phenomenal run this year. He is now ranked as the 3rd richest in terms of M-cap in the world which is a noteworthy achievement as he was nowhere some years back. He is the man with the midas touch & whatever he touches turns into gold. Power seems to be his favourite sector & his contribution in this sector should illuminate the entire country in the days to come.

Ambani and Adani has had a fierce healthy competition which in a way is good for the nation. Mukesh Ambani has dropped to 9th on the list but his mammoth investments will bear fruits in the years to come. Both these groups act as the double engine to fire the economy to new heights which is good news for our country's development & progress. The philanthropic activities of both groups too are laudable & 'ache din are not far away' as far as our country is concerned!

- S N Kabra

Spiritual benefit from all festivals

We get spiritual benefit from all festivals performed in Hindu Dharma. However, only when we maintain sanctity while celebrating these festivals do, we get this spiritual benefit. Raising funds through extortion, Idol in an unscientific form, Idol made from Plaster of Paris, Idol in a weird form, Idol huge in size should be excluded from the festival. Extravagant expenditure on decoration of the Idol, illumination and illumination linked to music (dancing lights), Gambling and consumption of alcohol in the pandal these things should be excluded from the festival. Noise pollution caused due to film songs; illumination linked to music etc. should be avoided. Programme on social upliftment, protection of the Nation and awakening of Dharma discourses on spiritual topics like Dharma, sadhana, Guru, disciple etc. should be included in the festival to get the spiritual benefit.

- Dr Jyoti Kale

Monti Fest celebrations

Monti Fest is a major Mangalorean Catholic festival which is celebrated on September 8 every year. This festival celebrates the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and in the Mangalorean Catholic community, it involves the blessing of 'Novem' (i.e., new crops).

The festival derives its name from the Monte Mariano at Farangipet in South Canara (Dakshin Karnataka), and was initiated by Joachim Miranda, a Goan Catholic priest at Farangipet in 1763. Though Tipu Sultan destroyed the churches of Canara, he spared the Monte Mariano church in deference to the friendship of his father Hyder Ali with Fr. Miranda.

- Jubel D'Cruz

Statue of Unity is a Symbol of Unity in Diversity

It was a holistic approach to have such a symbolic statue near the Narmada River side. Remembering our leaders who made countless sacrifices for the sake of the country is not a crime. Every nation gives respect to its leaders in different ways and this is not unique to India. I am sure that many will flock to India to see the tallest statue in the world. The statue is supposed to attract thousands of tourists daily. But foreigners are afraid to come to India as they hear it is unsafe and dangerous, especially for women. Reports say that the statue is situated in a remote corner. The government should address basic problems such as how to get there easily and how to make public spaces safer. Statue of Unity as a symbol of the country's engineering and technical capabilities. The imposing monument is twice the height of the Statue of Liberty in the US and is built on an islet, Sadhu Bet, near the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat's Narmada district. By throwing this open to the public, the present generation will come to know about the great leader for generations. It is a welcome move and there is no need of simply criticising as the statue of unity is a striking example of our freedom struggle and repose our faith on unity in diversity.

Sardar Vallabhai Patel 'Statue of Unity' was inaugurated with much fanfare. The Iron Man of Indian freedom struggle got much needed acknowledgement for his aggressive approach after 71 years of Independence. It is 182 metres tall and is said to be the tallest statue in the world. The statue is made up of 1,700 tonnes of bronze, 1,850 tonnes of bronze cladding, 70,000



metric tonnes of cement and 24,500 metric tonnes of steel. It took 33 months to complete and was built at a cost of ₹3,000 crore. Elevators will take tourists up to the statue's chest, from where they can view the Narmada River and Sardar Sarovar Dam and a bird eye's view of the city. It was planned out effort by the sculpture and the government supported him in his endeavours. No doubt it is a tourist attraction and help to build tourism in the state of Gujarat. It is indeed a wonder of wonders and may figure out as one of the World's wonders soon.

The statue is made up of 1,700 tonnes of bronze, 1,850 tonnes of bronze cladding, 70,000 metric tonnes of cement and 24,500 metric tonnes of steel. It took 33 months to complete and was built at a cost of approximately ₹3,000 crore. Elevators will take tourists up to the statue's chest, from where they can view the

Narmada River and Sardar Sarovar Dam.

By common endeavor we can raise the country to a new greatness, while a lack of unity will expose us to fresh calamities. These pragmatics but profound views defined the vision and the sterling character of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the principal unifier of modern India. He made his choice out of two courses that come before a man, namely would he live for his country or for himself? Sardar chose his country. Patel was a multifaceted personality. He was a dynamic political leader, an organiser par excellence, a competent administrator and a skillful negotiator.

Another aspect of the Sardar that needs to be highlighted is his graciousness and magnanimity in readily abiding by Mahatma Gandhi's advice to withdraw his candidacy for the post of Congress President in favour of Pandit Nehru in 1946, although a majority of State Congress committees supported his candidature. It was apparent that the Congress President would become the first Prime Minister of India. It once again proved his noble intention of placing the country's interests above self. Statue of unity is a symbol of unity and diversity and Sardar Vallabhai Patel stood by his motive and brought the country to a peace-loving country. Iron man made India one and lived a spirited life.

- CK Subramaniam

Writer

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

Demolition of British-era Carnac bridge begins; work likely to take 3 months, says CR



The demolition of the British-era Carnac Bridge located between CSMT and Masjid stations in south Mumbai has begun, with Central Railway officials on Saturday stating that work of completely razing it could take around three months.

The bridge was built in 1866-67 and was declared unsafe by an expert team of the Indian Institute

of Technology Bombay (IITB) in 2018, though the movement of heavy vehicles on it was stopped in 2014 itself, officials said.

"The work of removing the top cement concrete layer began on Friday. The dismantling of the parapet, vertical columns and concrete of the corroded trough will follow," the CR official said.

"Since the bridge runs over the tracks that see heavy subur-

ban train traffic, we will carry out the demolition-dismantling work during night. We will also carry out the work during mega blocks (period when train movement is halted) operated on Sunday for routine maintenance," he added.

He said a mega block of 30 hours is planned to remove the girder of the bridge, complete the demolition and then cart away the entire steel structure using cranes.

The demolition of the entire bridge, which is a vital east-west link in south Mumbai, is likely to take three months, the CR official said.

The bridge was closed for all kinds of traffic last month following a meeting of railway, traffic police and civic officials, who took into consideration widespread cracks and corrosion on the structure.

1.3 kgs cocaine worth Rs 13 crore seized by Mumbai Airport Customs



The Mumbai Airport Customs seized 1.3 kgs of cocaine valued at Rs 13 crore at the Mumbai International Airport. The police arrested one passenger from Ghana who was intercepted on August 28.

According to the information received from the police, the accused had concealed cocaine drugs inside his stomach. The accused was taken to the hospital and 87 capsules were recovered from his stomach.

The Mumbai Police have reg-

istered the case against the accused and have started further investigation. In another case, the Mumbai Customs busted a drug syndicate smuggling drugs from the United States and operating in Mumbai. The three arrested people were involved in the trade of drugs from the US.

Appreciating the efforts of the Customs official, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman tweeted, "Being alert to prevent the drug menace! Well, done."

Man hangs himself; mother ends life on seeing his body

A 26-year-old man allegedly hanged himself in Maharashtra's Palghar district which prompted his mother to end her own life soon after, police said on Saturday.

The tragic incidents took place at Kandre Bhure village on Thursday afternoon, said an official of Kelva police station.

Shailesh Patil was found hanging from a tree near his house. The

reason for the alleged suicide was not known yet, the official said.

On seeing the son's dead body, his mother Kalpana Patil (40) jumped into a nearby well and ended her life, he said.

The family conducted the last rites of the two without informing police who learnt about the deaths from local sources, the official said. Police are now conducting further probe, he added.

NSA Doval meets Maha CM, Governor

Ajit Doval on Saturday met Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and state Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at their official residences here.

Doval met Koshiyari at Raj Bhavan. It was a courtesy call, a statement from the governor's office said.

He met Shinde at 'Varsha', the official residence of the chief minister.

Doval was welcomed by Shinde with a bouquet and shawl after he offered prayers at Lord Ganesh's idol at the chief minister's



residence, Shinde's office said in a statement.

The idol has been installed as part of the ongoing Ganesh festival.

Man suspected of killing his two children in Chandrapur found dead in Wardha

The body of a man suspected of having killed his two children in Warora tehsil in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district was found in a village in nearby Wardha district on Saturday, a police official said.

Asmit Kamble (8) and Mishti (3) were found dead in their house in Warora on Friday evening by their mother Pranita, and police had placed Sanjay Kamble (42) as a suspect as he was absconding, the official said.

"Kamble's body was found by the road in Sakara village, which is his hometown, in Wardha dis-



trict on Saturday. A suicide note was found at the spot. In it, he has confessed to poisoning his children and has apologised to Pranita for taking this step," Warora Sub Divi-

sional Police Officer Ayush Nopani said.

Nopani said a probe is underway to find out if Kamble was under treatment for any mental illness.



This year Mumbai's famous GSB Seva Mandal Lord Ganesh idol is adorned with 66 kg of gold and 295 kg of silver. Located in King's Circle, the GSB Seva Mandal idol is known as the richest Ganpati in Mumbai.

Strong socioeconomic change in J-K ushering qualitative change in sports sector: LG



Jammu and Kashmir's strong socioeconomic growth is ushering in a qualitative change in the sports sector, enabling sportspersons to achieve and demonstrate excellence, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Saturday.

He said two "biggest challenges" that beset J&K in the were the "piecemeal approach" to sports activities prior to 2019, and the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic.

"Today, J-K UT has regained confidence and we are creating an

equitable and inclusive sports and recreation culture with modern infrastructure and training comparable to the best in the country," he said.

Highlighting the sporting events organised under the 'My Youth My Pride' in 22 disciplines in the Kashmir Division and 18 in the Jammu Division, the Lt governor said the programme is turning out to be a solid forum for sportspersons to bring glory to themselves as well as the community.

"My Youth My Pride is dedicated to advancing sports by empowering young men and women. It has inculcated a winner's instinct among youth and kindled hopes of an ascent in sporting performance in national and international games," he said.

The J-K Sports Council has

successfully completed many key infrastructure projects which are playing an essential role in training the youth in different sports, Sinha said.

"Our strong socio economic growth is succeeding in bringing a qualitative change in the sports sector and enabling our sportspersons to demonstrate their excellence," he said.

Lauding the efforts of Sports Associations and Sports Council for regular engagement of athletes and reviving the culture of night football matches in various districts, the Lt governor said it was a matter of pride that thousands of athletes, coaches and sports officials around the UT are making valuable contributions and ensuring path-breaking achievements.

"Gymnastic Academy, Football

Academy, Cricket Academy and Water Sports Centre have a plan to engage around five lakh youth and children. This gives us the hope and confidence that by creating the right environment for the young generation, we can produce the best talents and win prestigious sporting honors. Today our athletes can dream big and fulfill their dreams and ambitions," the Lt Governor said. "We should all make concerted efforts to motivate youth to put their best efforts in games so that the J-K UT benefits through a vigorous and dynamic sporting talent pool and sports persons can become crucial partners in the development journey," he said.

During Phase-I of the 'My Youth My Pride' more than 8.5 Lakh youth from across the UT had participated, while 13.74 Lakh youth were aimed to be engaged in Phase-II.

Opposition will unite for 2024 elections, affirms Bihar CM Nitish Kumar



A day after five Janata Dal (United) MLAs from Manipur merged with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday wondered if it was "constitutional" and affirmed that the opposition will unite for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"When we parted ways from NDA, all our six Manipur MLAs came and met us. They assured us that they were with JDU. We need to think about what is going on. They are breaking away the MLAs from the parties, is it constitutional?," said CM Nitish Kumar.

"Opposition will unify for 2024 elections," Kumar further added. On Friday, five Janata Dal (United) MLAs merged with BJP giving a big jolt to Bihar Chief

Minister Nitish Kumar and his party.

As per a statement issued by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly was pleased to accept the merger of five JD(U) MLAs with the BJP under the tenth schedule of the Constitution.

These names included Kh. Joykishan Singh, Ngursanglur Sanate, Md. Achab Uddin, Thangjam Arunkumar and L.M. Khaute. The Bharatiya Janata Party secured a majority of 32 seats in the 60-member state Assembly in the recently held Assembly elections, results of which were declared on March 10. Earlier, a bulk of the JDU MLAs joined the BJP in Arunachal Pradesh giving a nightmare to Nitish Kumar's party.

ED raids six locations in Bengaluru in Chinese Loan App case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday carried out search operations at six premises in Bengaluru in respect to an investigation relating to the Chinese Loan App case.

The federal agency conducted the raids under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the agency said on Saturday.

The premises of Razorpay Pvt Ltd, Cashfree Payments, Paytm Payment Services Ltd and entities controlled and operated by

Chinese Persons were covered in the search operation, said the ED.

During the search operation, ED said, it is noticed that the entities raided were generating proceeds of crime through various merchant IDs and accounts held with payment gateways and banks and they are also not operating from the addresses given on the MCA website or registered addresses and having fake addresses

"An amount of Rs 17 crore have been seized in merchant IDs and bank accounts of these Chi-

nese persons-controlled entities," said the agency.

The case is based on 18 FIRs registered by Cyber Crime Police Station, Bengaluru City against numerous entities and persons in connection with their involvement in extortion and harassment of the public who had availed small amounts of loans through the mobile apps being run by those entities and persons.

During enquiries, ED said, it has emerged that these entities are controlled or operated by Chinese persons.

NIA conducts multiple searches in ULFA recruitment case in Assam

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday led multiple searches at 16 different locations in 7 districts of Assam in connection

with the ULFA recruitment case, informed an NIA official.

According to the information, digital devices, live ammunition and incriminating documents and

literature related to ULFA (an illegal terrorist organisation) were seized during the searches. Meanwhile, NIA conducted multiple searches including at Kamrup, Nalbari, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sadiya, Charaideo and Sivasagar.

NIA initiated the probe pertaining to the activities of ULFA including recruitment of youth in ULFA, extortion of money for strengthening ULFA and radicalization of youth for unlawful activities and their training at camps based across the Indo-Myanmar border in Myanmar.

The case was registered suo-motu by the NIA on May 18, 2022.

3 killed in head-on collision between motorcycle, truck in UP

Three people, including a woman, were killed here on Saturday after the motorcycle they were traveling on collided head-on with a speeding truck, police said.

The accident occurred near Chaupania village under the Chopan police station area, they said. Station House Officer Lak-

shman Parvat said, "Majmuddin Ansari (25), Ishtiyak Ansari (27) and their relative Gulabi (30) were going to their village on a motorcycle when a speeding truck collided head-on with the two-wheeler." The trio died on the spot, while the truck driver fled after the accident, the police said.

World

Iran briefly seizes two US sail drones in Red Sea

Iran on Friday once again seized two US sea drones in the Red Sea. The American vessels were released after some time. It is the second such incident in a week when Iran seized US naval vessels for a brief period.

Cmdr Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for the Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet, confirmed the development to the Associated Press. Iranian state TV also aired the footage of the seized US vessels. It appears to be two Saildrone Explorers.

The South Asian country's state TV said that the Iranian navy found several unmanned spying vessels in the international maritime routes on Thursday. The US vessels were reportedly seized by the Iranian navy's Jamaran destroyer.

As per state TV, the vessels were seized after two warnings to an American destroyer. "After securing the international shipping



waterway, the Naval Squadron No. 84 released the vessels in a safe area," said the state TV as quoted a news agency.

Earlier this week, An Iranian ship seized a military unmanned research vessel of the United States, Saildrone Explorer, in the Persian Gulf. The research vessel was released after a US Navy patrol boat and helicopter were deployed to the location.

The detained vessel belonged to US Central Command's 5th Fleet. It was seized by A support ship from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN), the Shahid Baziar.

These incidents came at a time amid increasing tensions between the US and Iran. Notably, negotiations between both the countries over the 2015 nuclear deal have remained inconclusive so far.

US to speed up arms sales to its allies to counter China

With an aim to outcompete China, the US will speed up its arms sales to allies and partners. The US will expedite arms sales to allies and partners by removing several bureaucratic road bumps that could cause delays in order to better compete with countries such as China, reported Wall Street Journal.

The report said on Friday that the Defence Department launched an initiative to streamline US arms sales to foreign countries, especially to allies and partners that have provided military equipment to Ukraine.]

The US promised European allies who have provided military equipment to Ukraine that it would be able to replenish their stocks, but the US defence industry is facing a backlog,



reported Wall Street Journal.

The US could speed up arms sales by having US defence officials help countries draft initial requests for military equipment that would help avoid delays caused by requests that trigger security concerns, the report said.

The Defence Department only approves contracts once a year for certain military equipment, which means countries that fail to submit their orders by the Defence Department's deadline must wait until the following year, the report added.

Pakistan records highest ever weekly inflation in decades amid calamitous floods

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Friday stated that the inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Index (SPI) rose steeply in the previous week climbing to a record 45.5 per cent year-on-year in September, the highest level in a decade.

PBS stated that the SPI-based inflation rate jumped to 1.31 per cent during the previous week compared to last week, due to a surge in prices of vegetables, as the country faces the brunt of the catastrophic floods which have affected over 33 million lives, reported Geo news.

It was also the third consecutive week that the inflation rate constantly increased, largely due to supply chain disruption amid floods that have sent the price of essential goods skyrocketing.

The latest data showed that the average prices of 31 items essential items, onions, tomatoes, eggs and other items rose during the outgoing week. Prices of three items, including vegetable ghee, have declined. Meanwhile, the rates for 17 essential goods remained unchanged, reported Geo news.

The report said that the increase was observed in the prices of food items including onions 42.17 per cent, tomatoes 13.25 per cent, pulse moong (Washed) 7.94 per cent, potatoes 6.97 per cent, Eggs 3.84 per cent, Chicken 3.25 per cent, Wheat flour 1.49 per cent.

The non-food items that witnessed an increase in prices included LPG 4.45 percent, diesel 1.19 percent and petrol 0.88 percent. The combined income group index went up from 219.97 points during the week that ended on September 1 to 222.85 points in the week under review. The SPI for the lowest income group increased by 1.63 per cent compared to the previous week. The index for the group stood at 229.15 points against 225.48 points in the previous week, reported Geo news.

Pakistan is grappling with a worse economic crisis, and the soaring prices of vegetables and food products in the country facing devastating floods have put huge pressure on the masses as they are deprived of basic necessities amid the disruption of agricultural produce and supply chains.

Taiwan calls for Dalai Lama's visit to Taipei during celebrations of Tibet Democracy Day



Taiwan Parliament Group along with other rights groups has called for the Dalai Lama's visit to Taipei over the human rights situation in Tibet. Celebrating the 62nd anniversary of Tibetan Democracy Day on Friday, the Taiwan Parliament Group for Tibet held a commemorative event along with other groups concerned with the development of human rights.

"We should make more Tibetan friends and contacts with other Tibetan associations and organisations," Lin Changzuo, Chairman of the Taiwan

Parliament Group for Tibet said addressing the gathering.

"I believe that Taiwan and Tibet are two friendly societies with common values and hope that the international community will continue to pay attention to the human rights situation in Tibet and the democracy of the Tibetans in exile," he added.

The participating groups reminded people from all walks of life to pay attention to the human rights situation of Tibetans and hope for the Dalai Lama's visit to Taiwan. The right groups also mentioned about the United Nations report pointing

out China's serious human rights violations in Xinjiang.

The United Nations report published on August 31 says the Chinese government has committed abuses that may amount to crimes against humanity targeting Uyghurs and other Turkic communities in the Xinjiang region. The report by the outgoing UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet contains victim accounts that substantiate mass arbitrary detention, torture, and other serious human rights violations and recommends world to take action to end the abuses.

Column

INCREASING HANDS, DECREASING WORK

— Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

When the market stops generating employment, then the economy has become a victim of policy disease, which is difficult to cure. Something similar seems to happen with the Indian economy. Worryingly, skilled hands are useless, yet the labor market is shrinking. Of course, the countries of the world are facing more or less difficulty due to geo-political circumstances, but India's difficulty is of different kind. Despite having a huge consumer market and production capacity, there is a demand-supply crisis. Unemployment There is a possibility of an additional fall in demand amid the protracted situation in the country. Demand depends on expenditure and expenditure on earnings. What is the status of earnings, not the figures, look at your pockets. A new window of demand had opened up with a rise in exports, and with that came hopes of the job market getting back on track. But due to geopolitical circumstances, this window also seems to be closing with the sound of recession in the world. If exports fall, obviously the engine of manufacturing will slow down. Employment generation will stop. if this is the essence Had the investment entered the market, employment opportunities would certainly have been created. But when the prospects of demand have faded away, then in such a situation, who would want to throw their capital into the pit? When the world markets opened after the pace of the epidemic stopped, then the demand also increased. India exported a record 421.89 billion dollars in 2022 so far. But the Russo-Ukraine war has turned the situation around. Demand has started declining due to the signs of slowdown in advanced economies. This has



had an impact on India's exports. of India in July 2022 Exports fell to \$35.24 billion from \$35.51 in June. Credit rating agency, India Ratings and Research has said in a study report that India's manufacturing sector, which grew in 2022 due to increase in exports, is not going to last in 2023 due to decline in exports. According to the agency, concerns about slowdown in advanced economies due to the Russo-Ukraine war and stringent COVID control measures in China have affected production in various regions of India. stated in the report India's annual average exports during FY 2016 to FY 2020 were \$297.02 billion, which increased to \$330.08 billion in FY19. And in 2021-22 this record reached \$ 421.89 billion. This increase in exports was mainly due to exports of manufactured goods. That is, due to increased exports of manufactured products, industrial units produced at their full capacity, and due to this, the expectation of jobs in 2022 also returned. But the impending crisis of recession dashed this hopes. Exports to the US and Europe, the two

biggest customers of Indian goods and services, have slowed down. Data from the Directorate General of Commercial Information and Statistics (DGCIS) shows that the growth rate of Indian exports to Europe decelerated to forty nine per cent in June 2022 from sixty one per cent in April 2022 and 40 per cent in May 2022. Similarly, the growth rate of Indian exports to the US declined to twenty-nine per cent in June, from thirty-two in May and thirty-one per cent in April. In the first quarter of the financial year 2022-23 India exported goods and services worth USD 19.3 billion to Europe, and USD 21.7 billion to the US. Exports to China, the fourth largest customer of Indian goods, declined by thirty-one per cent to \$4.7 billion in the June quarter. The combined share of America and Europe in India's total exports was thirty-three percent in 2022, while the share of China was five percent. That is, thirty-eight percent of Indian exports are in crisis. How much impact will domestic production be affected by the loss of such a large part of exports, and what will be its effect on employment

It will happen, it can be guessed. Wheat production decreased by ten to thirty percent this year. Now due to uneven rains, the production of paddy is also estimated to be reduced by eight percent. That is, the agricultural sector, which supported both the job market and the economy during the pandemic, is not expected to help domestic demand. Had there been demand in such a large domestic market, the manufacturing sector would not have been affected even if exports had declined, and the employment situation would not have been so complicated. But due to wrong economic policies, the common population She no longer has the power to demand. The brunt of this is the job market, and ultimately the economy. Data from the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that the Indian job market is currently in a strange state. It has become a settlement of the old and less educated labor force. There is no work for educated youth of working age. Even after reaching the working age (15-24 years), the young population is forced to lead a student life. In the

financial year 2016-17, where the working age is approx. Fifteen percent of the people were students, while in 2019-20 the number of students of this age increased to eighteen percent. Twenty-one percent in 2020-21 and twenty-three percent in 2021-22. Between the financial years 2016-17 and 2021-22, the working population in the country increased by 1210 million, while the labor force decreased by 10 million during the same period. In the financial year 2016-17, one-fourth of the total labor force engaged in employment in the country was of people up to the age of 30 years. Which came down to twenty one percent in 2019-20 and eighteen percent in 2021-22. It's a threat to the economy A signal. The working youth population of a country is considered to be the major capital of that country. When the country is not able to use its available capital, then it is difficult to say what the loss will be. There is no place left even for the educated people in the Indian labor market. While the share of graduate and post graduate workers was 13.4 per cent in the financial year 2018-19, it came down to 12.2 per cent in 2021-22. The bulk of the Indian labor force is made up of people who have passed 6th to 12th. In the financial year 2016-17, the share of tenth, twelfth pass workers was twenty eight percent, which In 2021-22, it increased to thirty-eight percent. In the financial year 2016-17, the share of such workers in the labor force was eighteen percent, which increased to twenty nine percent in 2021-22. No market demand, no labor market jobs, and private investors unprepared. The hands of the government are tied due to the rising fiscal deficit. Then the future is only of unemployment and misery.

Entertainment

'Gratitude is my new attitude,' says Simbu



Looking to answer detractors who often chose to fault him for his attitude, actor Silambarasan, better known as Simbu, has said that gratitude is his new attitude.

The actor, while participating in the audio launch event of his eagerly-awaited film, 'Vendhu Thanindhadu Kaadu', said: "Today, just before arriving here, there were some who were asking me what I was going to speak on stage. They suggested that I turn emotional again like how I did at the 'Maanaadu' event as it could prove lucky. I will not do so. It is only now that they (the people) have wiped away my tears. My heartfelt thanks to the people of Tamil Nadu, who braved heavy rains to watch 'Maanaadu' and make it a hit. I will never forget it."

"They always say that Simbu has a lot of attitude. Let me tell you that after 'Maanaadu' and now, 'Vendhu Thanindhadu Kaadu', my attitude is gratitude. Gratitude is my new attitude."

The actor also suggested to youngsters present at the venue to be grateful to all those who had helped them at any point in time.



Kate Moss in 'not very high maintenance' when it comes to make-up

Supermodel Kate Moss insists her make-up routine is "not very high maintenance."

The 48-year-old supermodel keeps her day-to-day make-up natural and "basic" unless she's getting dolled up for a night out, reports an entertainment website.

"I'd have to say I'm not very high maintenance when it comes to doing my own makeup. If I go out on a night ... I'll put more on obviously, do an eye. During the day, I keep it pretty basic," she said.

The catwalk beauty also said that she has been doing yoga and meditation to keep her "grounded and balanced."

She told Vogue in a Beauty Secrets video, "I've been meditating, doing yoga, just being much healthier a all of this stuff that can make you feel more grounded and balanced."

Timothee Chalamet blasts social media negativity



Hollywood star Timothee Chalamet was a snarky critic of the world of social media at the Venice press event for Luca Guadagnino's 'Bones and All' in which he and co-star Taylor Russell play cannibal lovers traveling across America.

In a nod to the fact that the tale was set in the 1980s, when social media didn't exist, Chalamet went on an anti-social media rant, according to Variety.

"To be young today and being young at any time I speak about my generation, and is to be a target for scrutiny," said Chalamet.

"I am not sure what it's like to grow older with the flurry of social media. It was refreshing to play characters struggling with an internal issue without the ability to log on to Reddit or Twitter, Instagram or TikTok and figure out how they are in."

"I'm not casting judgment," he added.

"You will locate your tribe here. But I think it's difficult to live in the present. I believe that societal collapse is in the air. This is why I hope this film will be important."

Hrithik Roshan as Vedha to be seen in three different looks in 'Vikram Vedha'

Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan-starrer 'Vikram Vedha' is all set to release worldwide on September 30, 2022. The teaser of the film gave viewers a glimpse of the characters of Vikram and Vedha while introducing the audience to the intriguing story.

'Vikram Vedha's' teaser received a thunderous positive response from the audience and stands to be the 'Most Liked Teaser' for a Hindi film.

While the teaser gave a sneak peek into Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan's looks and onscreen characters, the trailer of the film is touted to be an action-packed thrill ride, notches above the teaser.

News is that Hrithik will be seen in three different looks as Vedha.

'Vikram Vedha' also marks to be a career milestone for Hrithik Roshan as it stands to be his 25th film.

Sources share, "As an actor, Hrithik has always dared to adapt to his onscreen characters. From looking at the part to imbibing the mannerisms, right from his debut film 'Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai' to his last releases 'Super 30' and 'War', whenever Hrithik does a film, he makes it a point to transform and surprise."

