



Rahul Gandhi slammed center, says "BJP, RSS are dividing country"

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Cyrus Mistry died in road accident near Mumbai



Cyrus Mistry, who succeeded Ratan Tata as chairman of the conglomerate but was later ousted in India's most high-profile boardroom coup, was killed in a car accident in Maharashtra's Palghar on Sunday, said police. Mr Mistry was travelling from Ahmedabad to Mumbai

in a Mercedes car, it added.

Pictures from the accident site showed the mangled remains of the silver Mercedes car. The accident happened when the car hit the road divider at Charoti area of Palghar, 135 km from Mumbai. Mistry, who was the sixth chairman of Tata Sons, was ousted

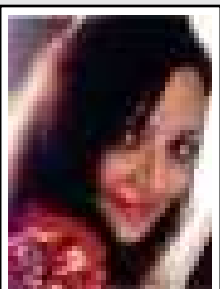
from the position in October 2016. He had taken over as the chairman in December 2012 after Ratan Tata announced his retirement.

"The accident took place around 3.15 pm, when Mistry was travelling to Mumbai from Ahmedabad. The accident took place on a bridge over

the Surya river. It seems an accident," said Palghar district superintendent of police, Balasaheb Patil. Two other persons travelling with him, including the car driver, were injured. They have shifted all the injured persons to a hospital in Gujarat.

RIP Former chairman of Tata Sons Cyrus Mistry

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

It was very shocking to know that the former chairman of Tata Sons Cyrus Mistry has died in a road accident while en route from Ahmedabad to Mumbai. Mistry's car hit a divider in Palghar district neighbouring Mumbai. The car was speeding and the driver lost his control. Mistry was travelling from Ahmedabad to Mumbai in a Mercedes car. He was travelling to Mumbai when the accident took place. The accident took place on a bridge over the Surya River. The accident occurred near the Gujarat-Maharashtra border. The other two people travelling with him, including the car driver, were injured. Others injured

have been shifted to a hospital in Gujarat.

Cyrus Pallonji Mistry was an Indian-born Irish businessman. He was the chairman of Tata Group, an Indian business corporation, from 2012 to 2016. He was the sixth chairman of the group, and only the second (after Nowroji Saklatwala) to not bear the surname Tata. In mid-2012, he was chosen by a selection panel to head the Tata Group and took charge in December that year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RIP Former Chairman of Tata Sons Cyrus Mistry

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In October 2016, the board of Tata Group's holding company, Tata Sons, voted to remove Mistry from the post of chairman after offering him an opportunity to resign voluntarily.

Mistry was born to a Parsi family in Bombay, the younger son of Indian billionaire and construction magnate Pallonji Mistry by his wife Patsy Perin Dubash.

Mistry has been managing director of Shapoorji Pallonji & Company, which is part of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, and also chairman of Tata Sons and of the Tata Group.

In October 2016, the board of Tata Group's holding company, Tata Sons, voted to remove Mistry from the post of chairman after offering him an opportunity to resign voluntarily. Former chairman Ratan Tata then returned as interim chairman, and Natarajan Chandrasekaran was named as the new chairman a few months later.

However, in December 2019, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) declared the appointment of Chandrasekaran as executive chairman illegal, and restored Mistry. However, the Supreme Court stayed NCLAT's order on 10 January 2020. Mistry has filed a cross appeal in the court, seeking explanations for anomalies in the NCLAT. However, the Supreme Court upheld his dismissal.

He owned an 18.4% stake in Tata Sons, through his company, Cyrus Investments Pvt. Ltd. In 2018, his net worth was approximately \$10 billion. He was a member of the National Integration Council. Mistry was born to a Parsi family in Bombay, the younger son of Indian billionaire and construction magnate Pallonji Mistry by his wife Patsy Perin Dubash. Both his parents belong to the Zoroastrian faith and have roots in India. However, Mistry's mother was born in Ireland, and his father chose to take up Irish citizenship. Mistry has an elder brother, Shapoor Mistry, who is also an Irish citizen, and is married to Behroze Sethna, the daughter of Parsi lawyer Rusi Sethna. Mistry also has two sisters, Laila and Aloo. Laila is married to Rustom Jehangir, a London-based portfolio fund manager. Aloo is married to Noel Tata, the half-Indian-Parsi, half-French-Catholic half-brother of Ratan Tata.

The Pallonji family have been active in business for over a century, and it was in the 1930s that Mistry's grandfather, Shapoorji Mistry, first gained a stake in Tata Sons. The stake, which now stands at 18.5%, was held by Mistry's father, and comprises the largest block of shares held by a single party; charitable trusts set up by the family controlled some 66% stake in Tata Sons. Mistry grew up in affluent circumstances.

He studied at the prestigious Cathedral & John Connon School in South Mumbai.

Mistry was married to Rohiqa Chagla, the daughter of lawyer Iqbal Chagla and granddaughter of jurist M.C. Chagla. Iqbal Chagla has strategized the course of action for Cyrus Mistry in the legal battle against Tata Sons. The couple have two sons, Firoz Mistry and Zahan Mistry. Mistry was an Irish citizen and a permanent resident of India (having acquired Overseas Citizenship of India). According to a news report in an Irish newspaper, The Independent, Mistry views himself as a global citizen.

Mistry joined the family construction company, Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Ltd as a director in 1991. Mistry has been managing director of Shapoorji Pallonji & Company, which is part of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, and also chairman of Tata Sons and of the Tata Group. In a 2013 article, The Economist categorized him as "the most important industrialist in both India and Britain.

Mistry joined the board of Tata Sons on 1 September 2006, a year after his father retired from it. He served as a Director of Tata Elxsi Limited, from 24 September 1990 to 26 October 2009 and was a Director of Tata Power Co. Ltd until 18 September 2006.

In 2013, Mistry was appointed the chairman of Tata Sons. In addition, he was also chairman of all major Tata companies including Tata Industries, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Power, Tata Teleservices, Indian Hotels, Tata Global Beverages and Tata Chemicals.[citation needed] The Tata Sons Board voted to remove Mistry from the Chairmanship of Tata Sons on 24 October 2016.

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Portugal Health minister quits after pregnant Indian woman dies

It felt so good to read this news report of the Portugal Health minister resigning after the death of an Indian pregnant woman, owning moral responsibility. Even the secretaries of the department are leaving the health ministry. This is what we call Morality, Ethics, Accountability in politics, in the western countries.

Compare this to the incidents in our own country. Is anybody owning responsibility for the large number of deaths that occur due to negligence of the administration? Patients in hospitals have lost their lives on account of fires & other mishaps in hospitals and nobody is held responsible. Look at the number of bikers getting killed on the potholed roads in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, due to the negligence of the civic authorities. Here, we play the blame game while the culprits go scot free. Can we learn something good from the western world. But, at the end of the day, it seems human life in our country has no value after all!

- Melville D'Souza

India is really great!

As they say World is a playground we Indian's are playing around the world meaning propelled in all domains and wide spread across the world.

We are thrilled to be experiencing something very special that only happens once in a lifetime. on the occasion of the nation's 75th anniversary of independence. India is widely acknowledged to be both densely populated and impoverished.

However, we have a unique chance to benefit from the demographic dividend of having the largest proportion of citizens who are under 30. Our greatest accomplishment is that, despite criticism, we emerged and advanced just 75 years after the British fled from us.

Contrary to popular belief, we have not divided into a hundred tiny nations. This is India's beauty; despite our differences in language, caste, religion, and many other areas, we are nonetheless bound together by our shared identity. The greatest contribution that India and Indians have made to the world is a multitude of wonderful things. Indians are widely dispersed throughout the world and aid in the development of other nations. The Indian community has achieved success in every field. There are currently eight presidents and prime ministers in office that were born in India. And to top it all off, it takes just 75 years for someone of Indian heritage to become the leader of a conquered nation. It is a stunning example of how India has grown to become the world's greatest single power.

- Vijaykumar H K

BJP will not win more than 50 seats, if opposition unites

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar made statement that the BJP will not win more than 50 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, if all the opposition parties unite against it irrespective of their different ideologies. His party JD(U) passed the resolution which alleged there is an "undeclared emergency" in the country under the BJP government which is "trying to silence" opposition voices by "misusing" probe agencies. The resolution said the struggling people of country is looking for an alternative to the BJP and asked all opposition parties to sink their differences and unite. JD(U) also accused the BJP of stoking "communal frenzy" in the country. "Minorities are being targeted. Intolerance and extremism have increased in society. Dalits and tribals are being harassed." With this the coming months will see uglier tussle between ruling and opposition parties.

- Bhagwan Thadani

Relevance of Teacher's Day

Teacher's Day in India is celebrated on September 5 to pay respect and tribute to the teachers of the nation who have contributed a lot towards the betterment of the society and by imparting education on us. Teachers are reckoned as the backbone of the society who put all their efforts to shape the career of the students and help them become successful citizen of the country.

For the students, Teacher's Day is the most auspicious occasion where they get the opportunity to pay tribute, gratitude and reverence to their teachers for the extraordinary support and unselfish effort in shaping the career of the students and for enhancing the education system of the country with their unique learning processes.

Teachers treat all students equally and take proper care of them and love them dearly as their own child. In real life, we usually owe our teachers more than our parents as they play a crucial role in arousing the heart of all students and light it up with education and knowledge and help them in eliminating regret and ignorance.

Since children spend a lot of time in school in their formative and impressionable years, teachers wield a great influence on them.

In India, Teachers' Day is celebrated on September 5 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who was the second President of India. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was a thinker, philosopher, academician, diplomat and above all, a great teacher.

Teachers' Day celebra-

tions are meant to convey the message that we care for our teachers, just as they care for us. On this day, students often dress up like their teachers and teach their juniors in classrooms. Sometimes, teachers also sit in classrooms and act like students, reliving the time when they were students themselves. This creates a bond of understanding between teachers and students.

When I was in school, my favourite teacher was Miss Abigail who taught us geography. She not only taught us geography but also taught us the meaning of life and values. I really enjoyed her classes because she was friendly and open to all the students. She also helped the students who were weak in studies and who did not have confidence. The reason why I liked this teacher the most was because she always encouraged us students to pursue our dreams. Even though I didn't like geography that much, she still encouraged me to learn the subject. Miss Abigail would always tell us amazing stories which inspired us. Not only me, but all my classmates liked her a lot. She was the most beloved teacher of all the students in the class. She always made boring topics interesting and always cracked jokes in the class. If the students scored lesser marks in the tests, she would always encourage them to do better next time. She was really happy when we students gave her a surprise on her birthday by gifting her a box of chocolates and a rose.

It is not just on September 5 that we should remember our teachers but we should remember them all through the year for the role they play in moulding our future.

Here are some quotations on teachers and education:

- "Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, calibre, and future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honour for me." --- **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**
- "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." --- **Albert Einstein**
- "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man." --- **Swami Vivekananda**
- "Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world." --- **Malala Yousafzai**
- "The true teacher defends his pupils against his own personal influence. He inspires self-trust. He guides their eyes from himself to the spirit that quickens him. He will have no disciples." --- **Amos Bronson Alcott**
- "Teachers, I believe, are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the Earth." --- **Helen Caldwell, Physician and Author Jubel D'Cruz**

- CK Subramaniam

Writer

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

City

A critically injured 10-foot-long python has been rescued in Mumbai and would undergo through a plastic surgery



A 10-foot-long python fighting for its life due to multiple fractures and wounds will undergo plastic surgery soon which could be a breakthrough in treating the critically injured endangered wildlife, officials said. The Indian rock python was rescued by the Resqink Association for Wildlife Welfare (RAWW) and the Forest Department in Au-

gust. The reptile has been under observation and treatment by a team of veterinarians and animal rescuers for more than three weeks, a Forest department official said over the weekend. The python has been in critical condition due to multiple fractures and open wounds from day one of its rescue. However, with tremendous efforts and care it has

been responding to the treatment, he said. To save the life of the python and to improve its medical and physical condition, reconstructive plastic surgery is on the cards.

“The python has been critical and our teams are trying their best to treat it. Dr Rina Dev would be performing plastic surgery to reconstruct the damaged face of the python. This surgery would be a breakthrough in treating critically-injured endangered wildlife,” said Pawan Sharma, founder, RAWW, and Honorary Wildlife Warden with the Maharashtra Forest department. Recently, a peacock with a fractured leg was rescued from Raj Bhavan and has successfully undergone major surgery and is responding well to treatment.

Sharma appealed to people to inform the Forest department and animal rescuers if they notice any injured or distressed wildlife.

Mumbai’s western suburbs has witnesses rains after three weeks of gap



Localised thundershowers on Sunday lashed western suburbs of Mumbai, as the city witnessed rains after a gap of nearly three weeks. According to officials of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), such localised rain due to intense heat is a common phenomenon during this time. After the first week of August, Mumbai did not receive showers. There were occasional drizzles, but too less to be recorded, an IMD official said. “On Sunday morning, rains lashed only the western suburbs, that too north of Bandra till Borivali. The showers were intense in some pockets.

Colaba in south Mumbai and the eastern suburbs hardly received any showers compared to the western suburbs. Such type of localised showers are not part of the southwest monsoon rains,” the official said. Between 8.30 am on Saturday and 5.30 am on Sunday, the Santacruz observatory, which is representative of the western suburbs, recorded only 13.8 mm rainfall. Powered By PauseUnmute Loaded: 0% Fullscreen “When the southwest monsoon is weak, intense heat could lead to such a situation and some pockets receive short spells of showers,” the official said

After 2 years, housing societies’ residents offer aarti together

Many housing societies across the city resumed the Ganeshotsav celebrations with gusto this time, after a pause of two years because of the Covid-induced restrictions. Mangesh Patil, the secretary of a housing society in Erandwane, said, “This year, residents are excited to celebrate together again. Members of different housing units are performing the aarti in the morning and in the evening at the common area, where the idol has been installed. Everyone is invited to attend it. Residents have loosened their purse strings to contribute to the grand celebrations.”

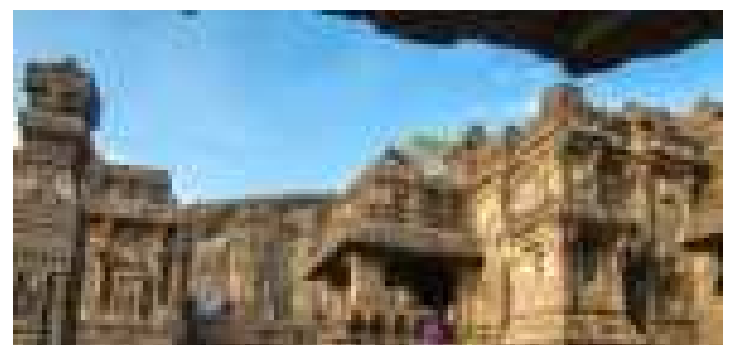


Andhericha Raja, Azad Nagar, Andheri

Known as the “wish-fulfiller”, Andhericha Raja is set up by the Azad Nagar Sarvajanic Utsav Samiti. The pandal is so popular that in 2019, the samiti applied for a copyright for its idol, which has remained the same over the years.

Ancient carvings of Ellora Caves trace evolution of Lord Ganesha

One of the most worshipped gods in the country, Lord Ganesha is well represented in various forms in the UNESCO world heritage site of Ellora Caves in Maharashtra’s Aurangabad district. Ellora, which is home to artworks dating back to the 5th to 10th centuries, showcases the one of most important gods in Hinduism either dancing among yakshas (nature spirits) or imitating his father Shiva’s dancing form Nataraja. Located 30 km from Aurangabad city, Ellora is a complex of 34



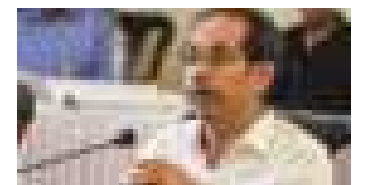
caves comprising artworks from Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. Ganesha cannot be seen as an inde-

pendent deity in the early carvings in the caves and is represented as a part of a group of deities. (PTI)

Shiv Sena mouthpiece credits Uddhav Thackeray for Ganesh festival celebration without curbs

The Shiv Sena on Sunday claimed the credit for the restriction-free celebra-

tion of the ongoing Ganesh festival goes to party chief Uddhav Thackeray. Thackeray fought the



BMC encourages people to use artificial immersion sites

However, BMC said that they are trying to encourage most people to use the artificial immersion sites, near their homes or community pandals in order to ease the traffic rush caused by reaching up to the natural im-

mersion sites and also to ensure that the immersion is environment friendly. Most of the artificial immersion sites by BMC have been set up in maidans like August Kranti Maidan, Muktanand Park at Khar, Kamgar Maidan, Parel.

Covid-19 pandemic for two years with strict restrictions when he had served as the CM of Maharashtra) and created awareness among people about the safety protocols, an article in the Sena mouthpiece ‘Saamana’ said.

Rahul Gandhi slammed center, says "BJP, RSS are dividing country"

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday came down heavily on the Narendra Modi-led Central government and said that the Bharatiya Janata Party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are dividing the country and a sense of fear has engulfed the minds of people about "their future, inflation and unemployment and that's turning them towards hate."

"Hatred is rising in India. Fear of inflation and unemployment is increasing in India, and due to this hatred is rising. BJP and RSS dividing the country and creating fear in the country. Who gets the benefit of this fear? Is it poor, farmer, or small traders who are getting any benefit from the Narendra Modi government? Only two industrialists in the country benefitting from

this fear and hatred," said Congress MP.

He further said that the Modi government's policies are benefitting only two big industrialists. "BJP giving all the benefits to two people. Now see Narendra Modi did demonetization. Did it help the poor? The three farm laws that were withdrawn later by the govt were not for farmers but it was for those two industrialists only. But the farmers came on the road and showed their power to Narendra Modi and when PM Modi saw this, he had to take back the three farm laws," he said.

The Congress leader further said that the Modi government broke the backbone of small and medium enterprises.

"In one way, you are being affected by unemployment and

secondly, you are hit by the price rise. Narendra Modi asks what has Congress done in seventy years. I will say this, that in seventy years, Congress has not shown such price rise to the country and when the Opposition wants to raise the issue in Parliament then Narendra Modi's government doesn't allow it. Whether it is farmers' issue or China," he added.

Speaking on the misuse of Central probe agencies, Rahul Gandhi said that he is not afraid of Enforcement Directorate (ED) and their questioning.

"The ED asked me to sit for 55 hours but I am not afraid of your ED. Whether it is 55 hours or five months or five years," he said.

Rahul Gandhi said that the Congress' ideology can bring the



country on the path of progress. "I want to ask you whether price rise and hatred strengthen the country. Narendra Modi and BJP are weakening the country. Congress party unites the country. We erase hatred and when hatred is erased, the country moves faster. Congress

ideology can bring the country on the path of progress," he said.

Congress is holding a mega rally 'Mehangai Par Halla Bol' today against inflation in the country, unemployment and Goods and Services Tax hike at Ramlila Maidan in the national capital.

J&K: captured Pakistani terrorist died after cardiac arrest



Fidayeen suicide attacker from Pakistan, Tabarak Hussain, who was captured by the Indian Army on August 21 at LOC in Naushera, died of a cardiac arrest on Saturday.

According to Army officials, Hussain was captured by the Indian Army while trying to infiltrate into the Indian territory in Naushera, Rajouri.

The captured terrorist, Tabarak Hussain, resident of Sabzkot village, district Kotli of Pakistan occupied Kashmir, is presently undergoing treatment at an Army medical facility.

Hussain was in an extremely critical condition before Army doctors saved his life. "He was being treated at Army Hospital in Rajouri and had bullet injuries in his leg and shoulder," stated the army officials.

Hussain, while undergoing

treatment in Army Hospital, told to the agencies that he had been sent along with three to four other terrorists were paid money by a Pakistani Colonel Yunus Choudhary to carry out a 'fidayeen' attack on Indian soldiers after crossing the LoC.

"We were four-five people. We had come to die. We were sent by Pak Army's Colonel Choudhary Yunus. He gave us money to attack Indian posts," said Hussain responding to questions. He said that the group had four to five guns with them.

The "enemy agent" identified as Abdul Wahid of Chergi Dool was arrested after a joint input was generated by the Kishtwar Police, 11 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), and Military Intelligence (MI).

Former Kerala Health Minister K K Shailaja rejects Magsaysay award

Former Kerala Health Minister K K Shailaja has rejected Ramon Magsaysay award for her contributions to preventing COVID-19 and Nipah virus.

KK Shailaja stated that she will not be accepting the Ramon Magsaysay award as it is always given to an individual and not any politician.



"We discussed this together as a party and decided not to accept this. The Kerala government's intervention in the health

sector were discussed. Also, they said they considered intervention to prevent covid and Nipah," further said.

"With all the respect to the award I wrote saying that I cannot accept this award due to some political reasons and also because it is a collective work. As an individual I am not accepting this award," she added.

Azad spells out agenda of his new party; restoration of J-K's statehood top priority



In his first rally since quitting the Congress, Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday spelled out the agenda of his yet-to-be-named party -- the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, protection of land and job rights of its residents, and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

Addressing the rally at Sainik Colony on the outskirts of Jammu, the veteran leader said he would announce the name of his new party after consulting people and leaders of Jammu and Kashmir.

Azad, a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, was accorded a warm welcome by his

supporters who turned up in large numbers at the Jammu airport and later took him in a procession to the rally venue.

Several prominent leaders, including former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, several former ministers and legislators who resigned from the Congress in his support, former PDP legislator Syed Bashir and former MLA Shoaib Nabi Lone from the Apni Party shared the dias with Azad.

The new party will focus on the restoration Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, protection of land and jobs for its residents and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, he said.

World

Over 47,000 pregnant women in shelter camps across Sindh province

More than 47,000 pregnant women affected by the floods in Pakistan are in shelter camps across Sindh province, local media citing the provincial health minister reported on Sunday.

Sindh Health Minister Azra Pechuho has shared statistics of women affected by the flood. She said hundreds of thousands of people have contracted various diseases after the floods.

"More than 134,000 cases of diarrhoea and 44,000 cases of malaria have been reported in the province," she added, as reported local media.

On August 30, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a sexual and reproductive health agency, said that at least 650,000 pregnant women, of whom 73,000 were expected to deliver this month across the country, in the flood-



affected areas were in dire need of maternal health service.

Pechuho further said over 100,000 skin-related, 101 snake bites and 500 dog bites have been reported so far among flood affected, reported by local media.

The UN agency had also warned that many women and girls were at an increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV) as almost one million houses were damaged in the floods that spelled suffering

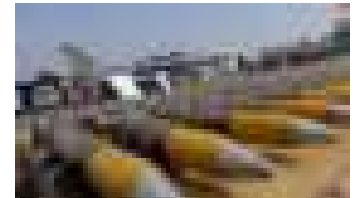
for millions across Pakistan.

"Up to 73,000 women expected to deliver in September will need skilled birth attendants, newborn care, and support," the agency had said as reported by local media.

It added that pregnancies and childbirth cannot wait for emergencies or natural disasters to be over as this is when a woman and baby are vulnerable and need the most care.

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.



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.

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,

Children killed after blast took place in Afghanistan's Helmand province



Three children were killed and three others were injured after a blast took place in Afghanistan's Helmand province, as per media reports.

The provincial police spokesman Ahmad Jan as quoted by Xinhua News Agency said that the incident took place in Hiwad Bazaar area on Saturday afternoon. As per reports, all the victims were students.

On Friday, a deadly blast killed 20 people including a renowned cleric in western Herat province. Guzargah mosque in the city of Herat was bombed at around 12:40 pm (local time), Khamaa Press reported, citing authorities run by the Taliban.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said Mawlawi Mujib Rahman Ansari, the cleric who led the prayers, was killed in what he described as a cowardly attack carried out by the "enemies

of religion."

Last month, a number of blasts were reported in the capital city of Kabul, claiming dozens of innocent lives. This series of blasts comes on the heels of one year of Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

Rights groups said the Taliban have broken multiple pledges to respect human rights and women's rights.

After capturing Kabul in August last year, the Islamic authorities have imposed severe restrictions on women's and girls' rights, suppressed the media, and arbitrarily detained, tortured, and summarily executed critics and perceived opponents, among other abuses.

Rights groups say that the Taliban's human rights abuses have brought widespread condemnation and imperilled international efforts to address the country's dire humanitarian situation

Amid Taiwan tensions china has created "Debt Diplomacy" in Africa to gain votes of United Nations General Assembly

China's "debt diplomacy" in Africa is a deliberately created situation so that Beijing can force these poor states to vote with it in the UN General Assembly, support its positions on Taiwan or acquire valuable real estate in Africa that can be converted into military bases. According to Asia Times, in mid-August, China's Foreign Affairs Minister Wang Yi promised numerous debt-relief measures for the poorest countries. The announcement was made at the ministerial meeting of the Forum for China Africa Cooperation. During the meeting, Yi announced the cancellation of loan balances that were unlikely to be serviced in full, anyway. This move was rather politically motivated which apparently comes to Beijing at a very low cost. With this tactic, China is seeking to reinforce ties with the African sovereigns amid pressure from the international community in connection to its infamous "debt-diplomacy."

Though, the US has been less direct in its allegations of Chinese debt trap diplomacy however US President Joe



Biden too has put Beijing on the defensive by accusing it of holding African states over a barrel through its creditor power. But fundamentally, Beijing's debt-diplomacy does little to alter Africa's growing indebtedness. Amid geopolitical posturing by China and the US, there is still little sign that global powers or the international financial institutions will finally tackle the systemic drivers of the resurgence in African debt.

In that sense, China's recent announcement is, unfortunately, business as usual, said the media portal. Another case in point is China's double standards. On one hand, China's Foreign Minister Wang condemned the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for a "zero-sum Cold War mentality" in his comments, while on the other hand, the country itself is pushing the African nations on the brink of insolvency.

Chitchat

Shovana Narayan's Swatantrata aur Swabhiman

A maestro of Kathak dance, she is a well known name that appears on the top in the list of eminent classical dancers of India. Her wonderful performances have left the people awestruck. Her teacher was none other than the famous Late Pandit Birju Maharaj. Well, I am talking about the great Indian Kathak dancer Shovana Narayan.

Shovana Narayan has given an entirely new dimension to dancing. She is an accomplished dancer, whose facial expressions complements her dance and makes her

performance simply outstanding. Her choreographic works have not only been well acclaimed in India, but are also highly praised overseas.

Recently in the capital she organised 'Lalit Arpan' a festival with a wonderful theme and message, evoking people to think the true meaning of freedom, independence, liberation and sovereignty. Post the show I spoke to the creative dancer and choreographer and this is what she said, excerpts from the interview:



How did the concept of Lalit Arpan festival come about?

When we were discussing the theme of this year's Festival, I mentioned that the term 'swatantrata' had several dimensions. Besides political freedom it also includes freedom of expression, of thought, word, action, choice. But in the exercise of freedom, there is an associated cautionary note namely of knowing one's boundaries, of accountability, of keeping values intact, of self-dignity, etc. The idea was approved by all our Committee members and thus "Swatantrata aur Swabhiman" came about.

Lalit Arpan had a brilliant mix of poetry, storytelling along with you dance, please tell me more about this amalgamation?

The genre of dance enactment first came about in 1990 when late philosopher, Prof Ramchandra Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi wrote and himself narrated the script. This

was "Mohan and Rambha" based on an autobiographical incident recorded by Mahatma Gandhi in his autobiography. Thus choosing the same format, 'Roop Vidroop' was enacted. In such dance enactments, the clarity of a story line or inner thoughts as well as the abhinaya and pure dance and classical music elements get equal treatment, each complimenting the other. The common thread is dance abhinaya. Thus the text is enacted through dance gestures with bhavas and rasas, and where needed, certain pieces are elaborated with pure dance patterns, 'Roop Vidroop' was heart wrenching performance on the trauma of an acid attack survivor.

Why you chose this theme particular for your performance

Too many such instances were happening all round. How many of us realize that face or a body, in a way, is a window to the identity of a being. And if that is suddenly disfigured, there is the victim's inner trauma as to who she is; for she is not what she used to be or was she was born with. The perpetrator had wanted either her death or to make life a living hell. The latter is true in case she survives for she now becomes a social outcaste by all – her family, her children – her neighbours- by society at large. Shunned by all, she is forced into social isolation. She faces social discrimination because of her disfigured face and body. Life becomes a living hell. Traumatized, pained, and anguished, in a state of depression she questions herself as to whether death was better than the living tortuous hell that she has been forced into.

In other words, are we, as society allowing her to live with self-respect and dignity and not pushing her further curtailing her freedom of expression, movement, living, etc? It is not political freedom but it is freedom from prejudices and biases and freedom to



live with head held high that such victims are asking for.

You had other artists like Prabal Gupta and Ratnav Theatre Artists to dance for the festival too, what made you include them in the show?

Some of us had seen this most evocatively powerful production of Prabal's at Bangalore and therefore we also wanted to introduce audiences of Delhi to it. He performed 'Kshaatra Baalaa', a tribute to those great women of our country who had lost their husbands during protecting our nation and its borders. Similarly, keeping the spirit of the Festival, dance drama 'Lallan Miss' by Ratnav Theatre Artists was selected, story of a transgender fighting to live a life in dignity and with social acceptance, inclusion and understanding. This play brought out several features and rituals in the lives of transgenders that the so-called normal society are not even aware of. Some of these rituals makes one realise their own inner turmoil and dilemma as such a body had been foisted on them by birth (and not by choice). And for no fault of theirs, they were punished first by their own families

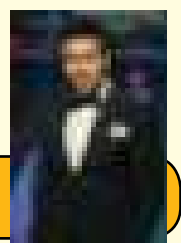
and then by society. Why are they denied the 'freedom' to live like anyone else?

You always come up with interesting concepts, what next after Lalit Arpan?

Well, I usually do not plan things in advance, I trust and follow my heart all the time, let us see what the heart says and where does it lead me! For now, I am thrilled that our show Lalit Arpan was received beautifully and the message Swatantrata aur Swabhiman reached out as expected.

At a very young age of four, Shovana Narayan who has been dancing since she was four years old, is also known as the Kathak queen, she is so involved in her art of dance that she cannot imagine her life without it. It is not just a hobby for her, but the motive of her life itself, looking forward to more exceptional shows from the ever so elegant dance maestro.

Interview by
Sandeep Soparkar



Entertainment

Ed Sheeran hints at early retirement, says he plans to 'match' career of Coldplay

Chart topping star Ed Sheeran has enjoyed huge success since first exploding onto the music scene back in 2011 but fans need to brace themselves as his retirement is just a few years away.

The 31-year-old chart topping star might still be as fresh faced as he was when he burst onto the music scene over a decade ago, reports entertainment website.

Sheeran, who has secured five number one albums and 10 number one singles in his career so far, says he wants to emulate the success of Coldplay and bow out at the top of his game after a 20-year career.

The Sun reports him saying at a recent conference: "My next milestone is . . . Coldplay have done 20 years, so I would love to get to 20 years in my career. I feel like that's an achievable milestone."



Huge responsibility to shoulder a film: Rakul on headlining 'Chhatriwali'

Actor Rakul Preet Singh says the faith filmmakers and writers have in her talent acts a major confidence booster when headlining a project.

The Delhi-born actor, known for starring in Hindi movies "De De Pyaar De", "Attack", "Runway 34" and titles from the south such as "Sarrainodu", "Dhruva" and "Spyder", is playing the central character in the upcoming social comedy "Chhatriwali".

In the film, directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar, she plays the quality control head of a condom factory. The movie is backed by Ronnie Screwvala's banner RSVP.

"I feel it is a huge responsibility when a film is shouldered upon you. It is the trust of the team that lies upon you, that in itself, is a big booster," Rakul told a news agency in an interview.

She believes female-centric movies are a result of evolution in writing as well as the audience's openness to diverse stories.

Tamannaah Bhatia all set to show what it takes to be a female bouncer



Actress Tamannaah Bhatia is set to star in the upcoming comic-drama 'Babli Bouncer', the motion poster was unveiled on Sunday.

The comedy-drama draws its strength from an unusual storyline and the actress is thrilled to bring the film to the audience where she has played the most varied character of her career.

The comedy-drama follows the story of the titular young female bouncer as it portrays various layers of the profession usually taken up by men.

Expressing her excitement on the poster release, the actress commented: "I'm absolutely thrilled to give the audience such an unusual character play. The film's shoot has been a hilarious experience and 'Babli Bouncer' is a character I have never played before."

She added: "I was really excited to see the first look of the film. Now that Madhur Sir has announced that he is releasing it, I really can't wait to see the reactions of the audience."

The film, directed by Madhur Bhandarkar, also stars Abhishek Bajaj Sahil Vaid, Saurabh Shukla and Supriya Shukla in key roles. It will be premiered on Disney+ Hotstar on September 23.

Adele scoops up five awards at Creative Arts Emmy 2022

Rolling in the Deep' hitmaker Adele will need to expand the size of her award cabinet as she has scooped a sting of gongs at the 2022 Creative Arts Emmy.

The 34-year-old chart topping star can add Emmy awards to her endlessly growing list of accolades - to sit nicely alongside her Oscar and multiple Grammy Awards, reports Mirror.co.uk.

On Saturday evening (London time), she was honoured in the USA for her special TV show 'Adele: One Night Only' which aired via CBS last year as she prepared to unleash her chart topper, '30'. Her show was up for five awards - and won all of them.

According to an entertainment website, the on-off special -- which saw the singer interact with fans and celebrities while singing a number of her songs -- scooped the Variety Special (Pre-Recorded) award; beating Dave Chappelle for his Netflix show 'The Closer'.

She also defeated 'One Last Time: An Evening with Tony Bennett', Norm Macdonald's Netflix special, and the Harry Potter 20th anniversary special 'Return to Hogwarts'.

