



Bharat Jodo Yatra: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi spend the night at a school

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Afternoon

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Prakash Javadekar

appointed in-charge of Kerala

Vinod Tawde

to be in-charge in Bihar



Mumbai Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) national general secretary Vinod Tawde's appointment as in-charge of party affairs in Bihar is seen as an elevation of the leader who was once sidelined in state politics. His Maharashtra colleague and party's OBC face Pankaja Munde however failed to get any key responsibility in the internal reshuffle the party initiated this week. While Tawde has been shifted to Bihar from Haryana, Munde, who is national secretary, has been retained as co-in-charge of Madhya Pradesh. Another party leader Prakash Javadekar has been appointed in-charge of Kerala, a year after his ouster from the

union cabinet in July last year. Kerala has a new minister in the form of former union minister Prakash Javadekar.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president JP Nadda was appointed in charge of various states and union territories on Friday, including poll-bound states like Tripura and Telangana. Vinod Tawde has been appointed as General Secretary in Bihar, while Harish Dwivedi continues to be the co-in-charge. Om Mathur who had been recently appointed to the Parliamentary board has been made in charge of Chhattisgarh. Former Tripura Chief

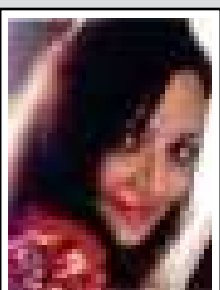
Minister Biplab Deb has been given an organisational responsibility and made in-charge of Haryana. Vinod Sonkar who was in charge of Tripura, which goes into election next year, has been replaced by former union minister and Noida MP Dr Mahesh Sharma.

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has also been given organisational responsibilities in Punjab and Chandigarh. National General Secretary Tarun Chugh continues to be in charge of Telangana. Bengal has found a new in-charge in the form of Bihar MLC Mangal Pandey whereas

Amit Malviya continues to be the co-in-charge. General secretary Arun Singh also continues to be in charge of Rajasthan. National general secretary Dilip Saikia has been replaced by Laxmi Kant Bajpai in Jharkhand. Recently Bajpai was brought to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh and has also been made the chief whip of the party in the Rajya Sabha. The year 2023 will be full of electoral battles in which states like Tripura, Meghalaya, and Nagaland are going to the polls in the first part of the year. The mid-year will be the Karnataka assembly elections.

Sharad Pawar re-elected as the President of the National Congress Party

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) working committee re-elected Sharad Pawar as the party president for the next four years. All dialogues and political commentary these days are focused on the 2024 national elections. The talk is about Narendra Modi, Sharad Pawar, Yogi Adityanath, Prashant Kishor and Mamata Banerjee's coalition calculators. But forget 2024, the real year to focus on is 2025.

Pawar is playing his card very calculative since MVA government collapsed in Maharashtra. In his speech, Pawar attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the remission granted to 11 convicts who were sentenced to life imprisonment in 2008 for the gang-rape of Bilkis Bano and the killings of seven of her family members during the 2002 Guja-

rat riots. Pawar referred to how Modi had spoken about gender equality and respect for women in his Independence Day speech.

30 months ago, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar was the toast of Maharashtra and nation's non-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) politics. His effort, at resuscitating his own party and then stitching an unlikely coalition with the Shiv Sena and ally Congress, to keep the BJP out of power was hailed. A new template for the country's opposition was discovered. So was a new, old leader who could stitch a similar combination and succeed where others had failed—in taking on the BJP.

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Sharad Pawar re-elected as the President of the National Congress Party

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Addressing the extended working committee of the NCP in Delhi, Pawar alleged that the Modi government was "anti-farmer" and had also "failed" to tackle the issue of unemployment.

Last week, Sharad Pawar had announced in Maharashtra that he would work to unite non-BJP parties, but he also made it very clear that he would not take any responsibility due to his age.

Shivsena cannot help his party if something happens to Ajit Pawar or any of his party leaders so its better for him to stay away from Shivsena.

He pointed to how leaders across the political spectrum like chief ministers and regional satraps like Nitish Kumar (Bihar), K Chandrashekar Rao (Telangana), Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav consulted Pawar. In a series of tweets, the veteran politician from Maharashtra juxtaposed the convicts' release with the Prime Minister's August 15 speech. He had pointed this out while speaking to reporters in Thane last month.

Addressing the extended working committee of the NCP in Delhi, Pawar alleged that the Modi government was "anti-farmer" and had also "failed" to tackle the issue of unemployment. The veteran leader said that farmers were looking forward to getting a good price for their paddy crop, but the government has imposed a 20 per cent export duty on rice and banned the export of broken rice.

A draft political resolution moved during the meeting called for the unity of like-minded parties to fight against the BJP and its allies. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Wednesday to evolve a consensus among non-BJP parties to forge a political front keeping the 2024 elections in sight. Though the efforts are still in the preliminary stage, the message that came across is that Pawar is playing the role of a catalyst to bring individuals across parties and states to the talking table.

Last week, Sharad Pawar had announced in Maharashtra that he would work to unite non-BJP parties, but he also made it very clear that he would not take any responsibility due to his age. Pawar's refrain was that the BJP, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, failed to usher in the promised "achhe din" in the country. Most of the promises made in 2014 have remained on paper, he lamented. Sharad Pawar sees no benefit in forming Govt With Shivsena as one day it will fall because MLAs of Shivsena will find it hard to work with NCP/Congress guys.

Sharad Pawar has friends in all parties and being in opposition doesn't make any difference for him and Shivsena today is run by buffoons like Sanjay Raut who have no knowledge about winning elections. He knows people will get angry if he supports Sena as they have mandated him to sit in opposition. He is a shrewd

politician and why would he support a sinking party like Sena which won on Modi wave. He is just watching the show and will let BJP form the govt and will ask his MLAs to abstain during the time of trust vote in the Assembly. He wants smooth relations with Modi so that ED/CBI don't land at his doors.

Shivsena cannot help his party if something happens to Ajit Pawar or any of his party leaders so its better for him to stay away from Shivsena. NCP is a rural party and its votebank is intact so by making a government with Sena won't help him much which is the Mumbai/Konkan party. He knows the repercussions of supporting a lame duck govt like in Karnataka where HDK had to resign due to infighting among MLAs for Minister posts.

He has been in politics for over 50 years and knows pros and cons better than anyone else. Congress will never support Shivsena as it would be the biggest Loser nationally. Shivsena runs on emotions and doesn't have any roadmap for economic growth or jobs. All they know is hitting the streets for any issue as they have completely failed in running BMC for decades.

Sharad Pawar is the past master of realpolitik. He has survived catastrophic challenges and has prospered. People say that he is the richest politician in the country and has real estate assets of untold value. In the recent past, he could persuade Uddhav Thackeray to ditch the BJP, the permanent long term ideological partner having a pre-poll alliance to form a government with his party and the Congress. He was not only the architect of the MVA coalition but also its remote control. Uddhav was the front, Pawar was the shadow behind. The going was good and it was not his objective to sabotage this arrangement. But the indirect fall out of this unholy arrangement is erosion of Hindutva ideology of Shiv Sena, that ideology being its identity.

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VISIONS & VISION OF CITY

Flat no. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, SV Road,
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

Vaidehi has received several Awards like Icongokarmavir 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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Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

ATS problems

In the country, while driving people do not concentrate on ATC which stands for Air Traffic Control. This causes many problems in our atmosphere such as breathing, heart related problems and so on. All around us politicians keep roaming but they do not do anything. In country every state has an individual leader and, in each city, has an individual leader in every area. Steps must be taken place with bringing much advancement.

- Anushka Panwar

Pushing Today's crisis tomorrow?

On the one hand, while there is increasing unemployment, the Employees' Provident Fund Association has proposed to the government that the retirement age should be increased. At present, the retirement age in the country is from 58 to 65 years. Retirement age is different in various institutions such as government and private. The increase in the life expectancy of the citizens makes it difficult for the provident funds to provide various benefits from the pension to the pensioners. According to the data provided by the National Statistics Office, the number of senior citizens is likely to increase by 41% due to the increase in life expectancy. In other words, the increase of senior citizens in 2021 has increased by 3.40 crores as compared to 2011 census. Even if this increase is expected, the provident fund has to pay all the pension dues of senior citizens. Is the problem going to be solved by increasing Retirement age? Or are the Provident Funds looking for a loophole so that they have to pay the debts to the pensioners?

Isn't the provident fund pushing today's crisis to tomorrow by increasing the retirement age

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Covid will continue to haunt Covid survivors

People who were experiencing psychological distress before getting covid were more likely to have long lasting symptoms than those who were not, according to new research. People who felt stressed, anxious, lonely, depressed or worried about covid before getting infected are at higher risk of developing long term symptoms from their illness a new study found. As per the research published in journal JAMA psychiatry, a team at Harvard looked at survey responses from nearly 55,000 people in the United States and Canada from April 2020 to November 2021, of that group, more than 3,000 participants said they'd had covid, and around 1,400 said they had long covid, defined as covid-related symptoms four weeks or longer. The results showed that people who reported psychological distress before they got infected had a 32% to 46% increased risk of long covid, compared to people who did not report such distress, and those who reported high levels of two or more types of psychological distress, such as both depression and anxiety, had a 50% increased risk. Millions of people may have overcome Covid due its effects will continue to haunt Covid survivors.

Ashima Sisodiya

Taking Tolerance to The Next Level

Tolerance is an attribute of unconditional love. Smiling inwardly when people do things that used to upset you, sending them a warm blessing or thought of love, frees you from being affected by their behavior. The quality of tolerance is the ability to stay calm and unruffled no matter what happens, to allow people to be themselves and to make their own mistakes. It allows you to provide that warm, safe harbor for them where they can bask in the steadfast light of your acceptance. Trampling upon the freedom and dignity of an individual in the name of the collective good is not the way to live.

Moral discussions have been part of our drawing room discussions. These thought-provoking exercises have always been filled with discussions on normative issues from the virtues of truth, honesty, integrity, humility to compassion, non-partisanship and fraternity. Religious neutrality has become an accepted behavioural script for the state, but not for society and certainly not for individuals even when they are state actors. The framers of our Constitution were well aware of the need for politics that could transform a society rooted in caste and religious tradition. The nationalist struggle was not only a struggle to overthrow the British Raj, but was a moment of manoeuvre to rework a society that had a dismal record and understanding in the long run.

The practice of tolerance, however, is more about your relationship with yourself instead of with other people.



Tolerance can be thought of as emotional or mental perseverance: How long are you able to deal with the disturbances that others cause you? Are you able to do it with a spirit of grace and confidence? Do you prefer to be indifferent, ignoring the person or situation? If the behavior is unlikely to change, how do you deal with them?

These are questions that take time to consider. When you feel yourself intolerant of someone else, remember the following insights. They can help you deal with yourself and others in order to cultivate the benefits of a life filled with tolerance and stillness. Most people have trouble being tolerant with others. As a living, breathing society, everyone is constantly learning and adapting to each other—it comes with the territory. But cultivating a spirit of tolerance can bring healing and meaning to your life in unimaginable ways.

This proves humans are still animals. A civilized person strives to live alone. India evolved from human civilization of the stone age evolved around many different faiths. Before it was proud to call ourselves an Indian where love and toler-

ance was our language. Now we are so digitized that we have become machines of no senses. We should not restrict the scope of word Hatred to communal problems only. It would make people in the same community to show hatred to each other for some reason or other. There would not be the need to use this word if we follow in letter and spirit. This message not only saves the violence among people but also results in other gains like peace and happiness. Tolerance is your ability to deal with the disagreeable. It's your capacity to withstand the "yuck" in your life and other people. Sometimes, someone's disagreeable nature can simply be an annoyance, while other times, it may be much more intrusive. It is time to take tolerance to the next level.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Writer

Readers are requested to mail
Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

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(The views expressed are authors' own.)

Mumbai Maritime Board (MMB) constructing the water terminal at Mandva

The inland water transport project on the east coast of Mumbai, connecting Ferry Wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka) with Mandva in Raigad district and Nerul, will soon be started. The Mumbai Maritime Board (MMB), which will be constructing the water terminal at Mandva, has sent the proposal of construction of the same to the state cabinet subcommittee of infrastructure.

The MbPT, which will be constructing a jetty at Ferry Wharf, has also received clearance for the construction of a jetty from its board. CIDCO, which will be constructing the jetty at Nerul, is preparing



the proposal for construction of a jetty. MMB has been made the nodal agency for implementing the water transport project on the east and west coasts of Mumbai. The water transport project along

the east coast of Mumbai was earlier with the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), but a few months back, the project was handed over to the Mumbai Maritime Board, by Chief

Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

As per the plans, the job of developing a terminal for the water transport project was given to individual agencies. The job of developing the terminal at Nerul

has been assigned to CIDCO and MbPT will develop the terminal at Ferry Wharf. After the construction of the ferry terminals, the private contractors will be invited through a bidding process to look after the operation and maintenance of the services that would start. It will be the job of the contractor to get the catamarans and Ro-Ro services which will be used to ferry passengers.

Once completed, the water transport project on East coast of Mumbai will connect Ferry Wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka) to Belapur, Nerul, Vashi and Mandva, thus reducing the pressure of crowd on the Harbour line trains.

PMLA court orders to move ailing Wadhawan to hospital immediately



A special PMLA court last week ordered a bedridden 69-year-old HDIL promoter Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan, in jail since 2019 in a money laundering case, to be immediately moved to JJ hospital and to be continuously attended to by a ward boy. Rakesh Kumar has multiple ailments, leaving him unable to take care of himself and wheelchair-bound. Special judge MG Deshpande said no prejudice will be caused to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) if the plea of the accused to move to hospital is allowed. "On the contrary if

the application is rejected, certainly it will leave the applicant at the mercy of the God without acknowledging his rights being an undertrial prisoner. The court cannot become mute spectator and ignore the precarious health of the applicant. Therefore, I am of the opinion that immediate hospitalization of the applicant is necessary from the point of paramount consideration of his health issues, which will be the proper answer for his condition," the special judge said. The court said two cops should be deputed. All expenses are to be borne by the accused.

The Mount Mary Fair begins today

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is all set for the Mount Mary Fair, which is also known as the Bandra Fair. The festival will be celebrated from today till September 18. This year, citizens can watch the festival live on their mobile phones, YouTube, and Twitter as well. BMC has also erected three LED screens so citizens can watch the religious programmes being conducted within the church. People from all faiths throng the festival, which has a tradition of over 100 years. Every year, BMC makes arrangements for smooth management. However, for the last two years, the celebrations were

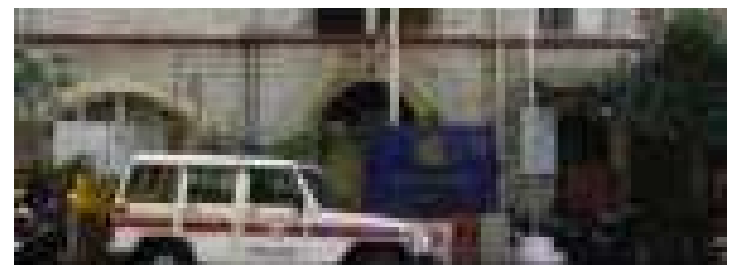


mutated due to COVID-19 restrictions. Since the state government has lifted the restrictions this

year, the BMC has predicted that more than one lakh people may visit the fair.

Fake invoice racket of Rs 132 crores busted in Bhiwandi

The anti evasion unit of CGST probing fake firms issuing invoices to claim input tax credits raided the residential premises of an accused wanted in 8 ongoing investigation cases of GST frauds and seized bogus invoices of Rs 132 crores. The accused had floated a total of 36 fake GST firms and established a network to pass-on fake Input Tax Credit to shell companies. Fake invoice racket of Rs 132 crores to avail input tax credit of Rs 23 crores was busted by the CGST Commissionerate, Bhiwandi and a trader arrested for operating fictitious compa-



nies. Acting on specific intelligence, the anti-evasion wing of CGST Bhiwandi Commissionerate was investigating various fake firms identified as Mectech Steel Trading Private Limited, UGSK Trader, M/s World Enterprises, Rolex Enterprises, HHT Enterprises and Yesh Enterprises

with direct between the companies and the accused mastermind. Based on material evidence gathered during the investigation, the aforesaid accused mastermind was arrested on 09.09.22 under section 69 of the CGST Act, 2017 for contravention of section 132 of the CGST Act, 2017.

Nation

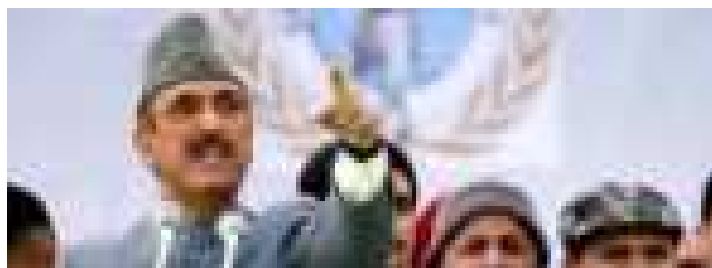
Ghulam Nabi Azad to announce new party in ten days

Former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday said that he will announce a new party in ten days.

Addressing a meeting in Baramulla, Azad said, "We will announce a new party in ten days".

Earlier, Azad, in his first public meeting in Jammu after quitting Congress, had announced to launch of his own political outfit that will focus on the restoration of full statehood.

"I've not decided upon a name for my party yet. The people of J-K will decide the name and the flag for the party. I'll give a Hindustani



name to my party that everyone can understand," he said at the rally after breaking away from his five-decade-long association with the grand old party.

"My party will focus on the restoration of full statehood, right to land, and employment to native

domicile," he added then.

Azad said that the first unit of his political outfit would be formed in Jammu and Kashmir in view of impending assembly polls.

"My party will focus on the restoration of full statehood, right to land, and employment to native

domicile," he added.

He lashed out at Congress and said that people are trying to defame us (me and my supporters who left the party) but their reach is limited to computer tweets.

Criticizing the party, Azad said, "Congress was made by us by our blood, not by computers, not by Twitter. People are trying to defame us but their reach is limited to computers and tweets. That is the reason Congress is nowhere to be seen on the ground."

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister held his first public meeting at Sainik Colony

in Jammu.

"I thank everyone who supported me through their resignations, WhatsApp messages and other mediums from across the country since I resigned from the party. I have served the Congress party holding every position for last 53 years, but never received this much of love even when I am not on any position," Azad said.

Taking a jibe at Congress, Azad said that people from Congress now go to jail in buses, call DGP or Commissioners, get their names written, and leave within an hour.

India reports 5,076 new COVID cases in last 24 hours

India recorded 5,076 new COVID cases in the last 24 hours, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs on Sunday.

India's active caseload currently stands at 47,945 which accounts for 0.11 per cent of the total cases.

The recovery rate currently is at 98.71 per cent. As many as 5,970 recoveries were made in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 4,39,19,264. The country has been seeing a daily positivity rate of 1.58 per cent with a weekly positivity rate of 1.72 per cent.

A total of 88.94 crores tests have been conducted so far, out of which 3,20,784 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

As part of the nationwide vaccination drive, the Government of India has been supporting the States and UTs by providing them with COVID vaccines free of cost.

In the new phase of the universalization of the COVID-19 vaccination drive, the Union Government will procure and supply (free of cost) 75 per cent of the vaccines being produced by the vaccine manufacturers in the country to States and UTs.

So far, under the Nationwide Vaccination Drive, 214.95 crore total vaccine doses (94.48 crores Second Dose and 17.92 crores Precaution Dose) have been administered, of which 17,81,723 doses were jabbed in the last 24 hours alone.

Enforcement Directorate Raids Kolkata based gaming app operators in Kolkata and seizes Rs 17.32 crore cash

The Enforcement Directorate on Sunday said the main accused in the fraud gaming app case is untraceable in which it has seized Rs 17.32 crore after raiding the promoters of a Kolkata-based mobile gaming company as part of a money laundering investigation. The agency, official sources said, is looking at some "political links" of the app promoters and wants to ascertain the actual beneficiaries of this cash, even as it is investigating the possible routing of the funds spent by gullible gamers here through some "Chinese-controlled" entities.

A photograph released by the federal agency showed multiple

bundles of Rs 500 currency notes along with a few in the denomination of Rs 2,000, Rs 200 and Rs 100 stacked on a bed depicting the ED abbreviation.

The sources said the cash was recovered from a premise which has an address mentioned as 'F 7. N A Khan' and is located in the Garden Reach area of Kolkata.

The ED said in a statement that "Aamir Khan, the main accused was not found and is not traceable".

"During the search, various incriminating documents have been recovered and seized. Cash amounting to Rs 17.32 crore has been found and seized from the premises during the search," the statement said.

Bharat Jodo Yatra: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi spend the night at a school along with party leaders and workers

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra, will spend the night on Sunday at a school in Thiruvananthapuram along with party leaders and workers.

According to Congress, a camp of containers was to be set up in an agricultural university in Thiruvananthapuram for which permission was also granted.

But at the last minute, the student wing of the Kerala CPM and the student wing of the university called a sit-in protest against it the Bharat Jodo Yatra camp. Sources told to agencies, Congress wants to keep the Yatra away from controversies, so instead of containers, party leaders including Rahul Gandhi will stay in a school for all Yatris tonight.

With Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra-led by party MP Rahul Gandhi entering its fifth day, the march arrived in its Kerala leg on Sunday.

The Congress leaders reached



Parassala, a small town located near the border of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The 3,500-km march from Kanyakumari in Kashmir will be completed in 150 days and cover as many as 12 states.

From Kerala, the Yatra will traverse through the state for the next 18 days, reaching Karnataka on September 30.

It will be in Karnataka for 21 days before moving north. The Padyatra (march) will cover a dis-

stance of 25 km every day.

According to Congress, the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' is being held to combat the divisive politics of the BJP-led Centre and to awaken the people of the country to the dangers of economic inequalities, social polarisation and political centralisation.

The Yatra includes Padayatras, rallies, and public meetings which will be attended by the senior Congress leaders including Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Four trekkers from West Bengal went missing in the Kullu district

Four trekkers from a group of seven from West Bengal, went missing at Ali Ratni Tibba in the Kullu district. Avinash Negi, the Director of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABVIMAS) Manali told ANI that all four mountaineers have been contacted and all are safe. "ABVIMAS rescue team led by its Director have successfully contacted the mountaineers stuck in Ali Ratni

peak. A member of the team got in touch with them. All are in good health. ABVIMAS team is making an effort to bring them to the base camp. Hopefully, by tomorrow the rescued mountaineers will finally reach the base camp. Any more information will be suitably conveyed," Negi said.

Earlier on Friday, Gurudev Sharma, the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Kullu informed that two trekkers from West

Bengal have informed the Kullu administration that four of their counterparts did not return to the base camp. "Two trekkers from West Bengal informed the administration that four trekkers, who went trekking to Ali Ratni Tibba in the Kullu district did not return to base camp. Four trackers have gone missing on the way, after which a search operation has been started to find them" the Kullu SP said.

World

United Nation report states “Flood in Pakistan has put education of 3.5 million children in jeopardy”

Following the visit of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to Pakistan to extend support to flood victims, the United Nations released a report on Friday and said that the natural disaster had interrupted the education of nearly 3.5 million children in the country. The UN report further stated that floods have also added to the miseries of refugees as nearly 800,000 refugees live in districts officially notified as 'calamity hit' in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, turkey-based media Anadolu agency reported citing the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In Sindh alone, According to the

report, over 1.2 million hectares of agricultural land have been damaged in Sindh whereas over 1.5 million houses have been destroyed by flood waters, the report said. The report also added that 1,460 health facilities were affected by the heavy rains and floods, reported Anadolu agency. As per the country's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the devastating floods in Pakistan killed 1,391 people since June 14. "Standing water continues to cover vast swaths of the country," the report said, citing satellite-detected water extents mapped by the United Nations Satellite Centre. The mapping indicated preliminarily that

at least 75,000 square kilometres (28,957 square miles) of land in Pakistan, the report added

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres who was on a two-day visit to Pakistan said, "I have seen many humanitarian disasters in the world, but I have never seen climate carnage on the scale of the floods here in Pakistan," at a press conference in the port city of Karachi after witnessing the worst of the damage in southern Pakistan.

UN chief on Saturday visited several areas of Pakistan ravaged by floods, calling for increased global financial support at the end of a two-day trip aimed at raising awareness of the disaster.

India after banning on the rice export has affected on china's food crisis



India banning the export of broken rice with immediate effect, the supply chain for the food grain in China seems to be exacerbated as Beijing is considered to be the top buyer of it. Under the restraining order, India imposed a 20 per cent duty on exports of white and brown rice. The affected rice accounts for about 60 per cent of India's total rice exports. India has also banned the export of broken rice, but parboiled rice and basmati rice are not included in the restriction order.

India is the world's largest rice exporter, accounting for 40 per cent of the global rice trade. India exports rice to more than 150 countries, and any reduction in its shipments would increase upward pressure on food prices, which are already rising because

of drought, heat waves and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. At present, many countries around the world are suffering from a worsening food crisis or inflation, and this move by India will bring further pressure on these countries, as per reports.

India is the world's largest rice exporter, accounting for 40 per cent of the global rice trade. India exports rice to more than 150 countries, and any reduction in its shipments would increase upward pressure on food prices, which are already rising because of drought, heat waves and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. At present, many countries around the world are suffering from a worsening food crisis or inflation, and this move by India will bring further pressure on these countries, as per reports.

WHO report states “Suicide rate in Pakistan has crossed more than eight percent”

In a recent report released by the World Health Organization (WHO), the suicide rate in Pakistan has crossed eight per cent raising concerns among the mental health experts in the country. According to the report, a mental health institution organised a seminar in Karachi on Saturday as one out of 200 people attempting suicide died in the South-Asian country, the Express Tribune reported citing the report



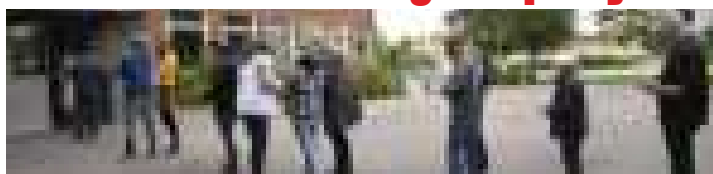
World Health Organization

Several experts expressed their concern over the upsurge in the suicide rate in Pakistan during the event as they said that treating suicide as a crime is a tragedy and it is unfortunate that

many incidents of suicide go unreported

"The suicide rate in Pakistan has crossed the eight per cent mark and it is alarming," the experts added quoting the WHO report.

Sweden holds election expected to boost anti-immigrant party



Sweden is holding an election on Sunday that is expected to boost a populist anti-immigration party that is vowing to crack down on gang violence that has shaken many people's sense of security.

The Sweden Democrats won seats in parliament for the first time in 2010 and have steadily gained more votes in parliament with each election. The party's fortunes have risen following massive migration in recent years, particularly in Europe's crisis year of 2015, and as crime has grown in segregated

neighbourhoods.

The populist party was founded by far-right extremists decades ago, but in recent years has worked hard to change its image. For many years, voters viewed it as unacceptable and other parties shunned it. That is changing. Polls ahead of the vote projected that the Sweden Democrats, which won 13% in 2018, would take about 20% of the vote this time and become the second-largest party in the parliament. That would put it only behind the center-left Social Democrats of Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson.

Iran calls European statement on nuclear talks 'unconstructive'

The latest statement by Britain, France and Germany saying they had "serious doubts" about Iran's intentions to revive a 2015 nuclear deal is "unconstructive" and "in breach of goodwill," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement posted on its official website.

"It is surprising and regrettable that under the current circumstances when diplomatic interactions and exchange of messages continue between the negotiating sides and the coordinator of the Vienna talks to finalise the negotiations, the EU troika issues such a statement in a move that deviates from the path of the fruitful approach during the talks," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani was quoted as saying on Saturday.



Referring to the "goodwill and serious resolve" of Iran to finalise talks on the revival of the Iranian 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he warned the European sides "against being influenced by propaganda waged by third parties that were against the negotiations from the very beginning and are now making their utmost to cause the talks to fail".

The spokesman also cautioned the European countries against resorting to threats, Xinhua news agency reported.

"All those who ignorantly think they, through threats and sanctions, can dissuade the Iranian people from fully pursuing their rights and achieving their interests must draw a lesson from the US's maximum defeat in its maximum pressure campaign," Kanaani stressed.



Dance that Transforms

Mandakini Trivedi announces three-year free scholarship in Mohini Attam

She is extremely soft spoken, graceful, elegant and dignified which comes across as a solicitation to know this sophisticated Mohini Attam dance guru Ms. Mandakini Trivedi. To popularise and to take the art of Mohini Attam to dancers and dance enthusiasts all over the world, she recently announced a totally free, three years intensive training scholarship program in Mohini Attam, a step that very few dance gurus take to popularise their art. I spoke at length with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee and she openly spoke about why she is doing such a noble deed:

What made you start this scholarship program?

Ms. Beena Sharma, of The Vertical Development Academy (VeDA) had this brilliant idea. She experienced that training at my institute Natashvari is at 3 levels. Skill Building (acquiring dance skills through rigorous training in dance along with nutrition & fitness), Understanding Building (through a study of principles of Indian aesthetics, alongside an in-depth understanding of the symbols & philosophy hidden in the content of Classical Indian Dance) and Awareness Building (through a first-hand experience of the Yoga embedded in Classical Indian Dance). VeDA also found the Natashvari choreographies edgy, moving and enjoyable. Replete with the 'dance' element and creatively sculpting space and exploring space and time, it felt these choreographies need to be transmitted to young and able bodies in order to be preserved.

VeDA was impressed with Natashvari's integrated, holistic and in-depth approach to classical Indian dance training that created good performers who look inward and also make it a way of Life. VeDA felt that this approach to Dance education & performing needs to be preserved so that classical Indian Dance truly becomes a sadhana. It has committed to 3 years free training to a few deserving candidates in order to create a Natashvari Parampara (lineage). **In today's times when money and art go**

hand in hand you are offering totally free training, Why so?

Natashvari is financially supported by VeDA so that the burden of training does not fall on the student. That would be an incentive for students to train seriously, imbibe the values and be committed to the sadhana of performing.

As a guru what do you expect from your student who wish to apply for this scholarship?

Dedication and commitment to the values of the practice of a Transcendental Art like classical Indian Dance. There is a misconception, even fear, that if 'values' are stressed, performance will take a back seat and the very back-bone of a performing art will be lost. This fear is baseless. Values are embedded in the form and that understanding will only make performing more significant & less decorative. We underestimate the sensitivity of a young dance student if rightly guided.

Due to many kinds of political & cultural fragmentation that have happened in the past, we have compartmentalized our performing arts into theory & practice and divorced performing from its deeper meanings and layers. We need to change this and bring in a more integrated approach. I expect the student to understand The Whole of this art.

Please tell me more about the scholarship program and what all will it contain?

I believe that principles of Indian

aesthetics, yoga, religion, philosophy, literature and music have to be an integral part of training and should be shared with the student on the dance floor, while dance training is happening, and not as separate theory course, leaving the student to join the dots and make the connections and conclusions. The programme will, through the teaching of my solo choreographies in Mohini Attam, share all of the above. The programme is also meant to usher in a dialogue on Mohini Attam choreographies and focus on challenging dance pieces and not 'Styles' in Mohini Attam as is current in the field of Mohini Attam. I believe that 'Style' is a medium to say 'something' profound, sensitive and insightful in an interesting, watchable, absorbing way. Obsession with 'Style' cannot carry an art form. The emphasis of this programme is therefore on engaging choreographies **What is going to be your selection process?**

Besides good dancing skills and some training in the form, there will be an emphasis on sensitivity to understand this vision of a Transcendental Art and the values of Indian Aesthetics. Paradoxically, these days one finds superbly trained performers that are insensitive to the depth, subtlety and devotion in Indian Dance. It is rare to find a sensitive student. I am looking for such students. It is easy to give technique and

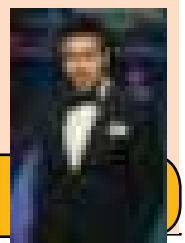
performing skills to such a student but not so easy to give depth and sensitivity to a merely efficient performer.

You dance always evokes Rasa, how did it become different from other dancers?

Initially I was a Bharatnatyam artist and completed my post graduate in and gave many performances too. But then somewhere down the road, I moved towards Mohini Attam, I began my training under the expert guidance of Padma Bhushan Dr. Kanak Rele, but my journey was very demanding and strenuous, not in the learning side but in the performance side. So I decided and took a new path and modified my dance a little without losing its soul and purity and that is what makes my Mohini Attam audience friendly and easy for the newer generation to comprehend.

Mandakini Trivedi is not only a brilliant performer but, is also a dance Guru, scholar, researcher, writer and yogi, who believes towards dance that transforms. So, if you wish to transform your dancing life and find a new dimension to it, I suggest you make use of this unique, one of its kind offer that Ms. Mandakini Trivedi has made to all the dancer across all Indian classical dance forms.

Interview by
Sandip Soparrkar



Entertainment

'Brahmastra': This visual grandeur is a terrible misfire

Director: Ayan Mukerji

Rating: ★★

Cast: Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjuna, Shahrukh Khan, and Mouni Roy



Bollywood has taken a leaf from Marvel-DC franchises by using a storyline of saving a sacrament from being obtained by evil forces.

Brahmastra, however, comes at a time when this storyline is losing its sheen. The movie takes off with a prologue about how Brahmansh (fragments of the Brahmastra) were safeguarded by families endowed with spiritual powers. The scene then fast-forwards to the modern day where knowledge of the mythological weapon is obscured and the descendants of the holy families are mere mortals unaware of their hidden gifts.

As far as the narration of this technically grand movie is concerned, it isn't as tight as desired but stars like Ranbir, Nagarjuna and Shah Rukh

Khan light up the screen and keep the audience invested.

Expectations remained intact as the scenes showing the discovery of the subliminal purpose are up to the mark.

The film took a nosedive in the second half with convoluted scenes and a meandering screenplay. Amitabh Bachchan's screen presence didn't help Brahmastra much. The background score is jarring and the songs add to the woes. Ayan Mukerji's lackadaisical writing does not match up to technical grandiosity. Alia Bhatt type casted as the love interest, hasn't been utilised well.

Apart from Shah Rukh Khan's cameo and the VFX, Brahmastra, unfortunately, won't be remembered for anything more.

Kylie Jenner accused of 'photoshop fail' over Kris Jenner's 'floating head'



Reality TV star Kylie Jenner has been accused of poorly editing a photo for a new beauty campaign.

Kylie has been slammed by fans for a "Photoshop fail" picture in which she posed with her mum Kris Jenner, reports an entertainment website.

The reality star was promoting a new addition to her Kylie Cosmetics skincare collection when she posted a photo to the brand's Instagram of herself in a black strapless top.

Her momager Kris was seen posing in a pair of black out sunglasses and a black turtleneck top which made her head look as though it was floating.

The pair's outfits were barely visible as they posed with their impossibly smooth legs crossed as they blended into the solid black background.

Their legs poked out from their invisible torsos and they both accessorised with stilettos. The post was captioned: "I have one word for tonight a vodka."

"Kris Collection drops 09.14 on KylieCosmetics.com"

The snap has garnered over 145,000 likes but not everyone is impressed with the image.

Model Bella Hadid says she wept "every day" and was stricken with eating disorders and chronic anxiety as a teen before she shot to fame as a model.

In an interview with an i-D magazine, the 25-year-old opened up about her youth as she said that she was smoking heavily from the age of 14 and suffered body dysmorphia after she found success, reports an entertainment website.

"Growing up, I thought it was normal that I had this chronic anxiety and this disassociation, crying every day and not knowing who I was," she recalled.

"Whether it was eating disorders or smoking a pack of Marlboros since the age of 14, I'm like, 'Oh, this is what all of the kids are doing. I realized that maybe that was me trying to figure out why I felt that way. And in reality, all I needed was therapy."

Hadid went on to talk about struggling with body dysmorphia in her early days as a model. "During that part of my life, I was so out of the body, disassociating so much... I was so confused by what people saw of me," the younger sister of model Gigi Hadid added.

She is now getting ready to make her acting debut in the series 'Ramy', which tells of a first-generation American-Muslim is torn between his family's traditional and modern American culture.

Bella said about reveling in her Palestinian heritage during the shooting.

Bella Hadid talks about having eating disorders before becoming famous

