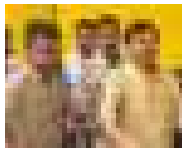




Sanjay Raut's judicial custody has been extended for 14 days

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# Afternoon

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## Girl students at Mohali's Chandigarh University are scared

## to use the washroom after a video leak

Sparked huge protests on campus over the past couple of days, while the protests have died down and the university has announced closure for two days, many students from nearby cities have left for home. Students have alleged that a girl student shot as many as 60 private videos of her hostel mates and forwarded them to her boyfriend in Shimla. They also alleged that some videos were uploaded on social media and porn websites.

Police have, however, denied this. They have said that the girl had shot videos of her and shared them with her

boyfriend. Police have found no other video of any other girl, and said rumour-mongering had led to panic and protests by the students. The girl, her boyfriend and another boy said to be her former boyfriend have been arrested.

Another student said there is no consistency in the police statements, "If she forwarded only her video, why is she in the lock-up? Their statements don't make sense. We want classes to resume, we want everything to be normal, but at the same time, we don't want confusion." Another student protester slammed the hostel warden, who has now been sus-

pending for allegedly misbehaving with the girl students. "Where is that accused warden who said the problem is in your clothes and not in the videos? She said it is because of your clothes that boys make lewd videos. It is because of that warden that girl students are not comfortable sharing anything with the university authorities."

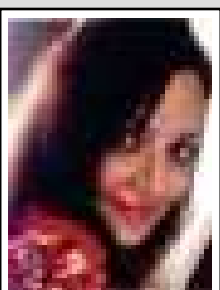
Senior police officer Navneet Singh Virk said police found only four videos in the girl's phone of herself. "She sent them to her boyfriend, nothing else. Her phone has been sent for forensic examination. Also, there was no

attempt to suicide." Yesterday, several social media posts claimed that several girls attempted to die by suicide after their videos were leaked. Police, however, said some girls fainted during the protests.

Arvinder Singh Kang, director for students' welfare at the university, said, "We registered an FIR so that students are satisfied. Have you found any MMS on social media? It is not there because it does not exist. There has been no death, no suicide attempt. It is a matter of investigation how such rumours spread."

## Aam Aadmi party will have more challenges and raids ahead of Gujarat elections

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Today CBI raided Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's house. CBI continued its raids on 20 other locations in Delhi-NCR in connection with the excise policy case. There was unrest on social media, all those supporters of Aam Aadmi Party called it a vendetta. The Modi government is unleashing agencies against all those leaders and political parties whom they see as a threat. AAP has earned a huge fan following in Gujarat, BJP can never tolerate AAP to

flourish in their home turf. BJP is also unable digest the defeat of Punjab elections

Instead of focusing on the good work done over the years, BJP is making a mockery of themselves and all the central agencies who have built a good name for themselves over the past few decades. Manish Sisodia, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, is number one on a list of 15 accused in the CBI's FIR on liquor policy violations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Editoritis

*A liquor trader paid Rs 1 crore to a company managed by an associate of Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, the CBI has claimed in its FIR on alleged corruption in the framing and implementation of the excise policy 2021-22.*

*The CBI alleges that liquor companies and middlemen were "actively involved in irregularities in the framing and implementation" of the excise policy.*

*Unfortunately, ED, CBI Aur Judiciary have become frivolous to the common man. They are used to settle scores with non-BJP Party leaders by and large.*

# Aam Aadmi party will have more challenges and raids ahead of Gujarat elections

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

A liquor trader paid Rs 1 crore to a company managed by an associate of Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, the CBI has claimed in its FIR on alleged corruption in the framing and implementation of the excise policy 2021-22. The agency, which carried out raids at Sisodia's official residence in central Delhi and 30 other locations in seven states and Union territories, named 13 people and two companies in its FIR registered on August 17 under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. In addition to Sisodia, who also holds the excise portfolio, the CBI has named as accused then excise commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna, then deputy excise commissioner Anand Kumar Tiwari, assistant excise commissioner Pankaj Bhatnagar and nine businessmen.

Several AAP supporters were detained for protesting against the CBI raid at the residence of Manish Sisodia. Meanwhile Sisodia, who is Excise Minister, has strongly denied any wrongdoing. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the chief of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has also firmly backed his deputy. The CBI alleges that liquor companies and middlemen were "actively involved in irregularities in the framing and implementation" of the excise policy.

Unfortunately, ED, CBI Aur Judiciary have become frivolous to the common man. They are used to settle scores with non-BJP Party leaders by and large. Corruption in liquor sales in Delhi has been happening for the last 20 years from the days private players were allowed to open retail shops to sell liquor in Delhi in 2002-03. All the private vends used to get huge credit notes against discounts

and commissions running in hundreds of crores of rupees from distributors and wholesalers for pushing their brands on retail outlets.

All these discounts and commissions the retailers get are part of corruption as it is not passed on the customers in form of discounts but goes in pocket of retailers as their profits on which they don't even pay excise taxes as they don't show these discounts as sales but use to get credit notes and other ways like cash kickbacks. CBI should investigate all private players who ran private vends from 2003 onwards.

People remember how CM Sri Kejriwal gave financial support to various people who served the nation. The AAP party in New Delhi gave 1 crore to gold medal winners and other winners in Olympics, Asiad or other events. AAP has extended financial support to families of martyrs in war or fight against terrorists, Covid warriors who lost lives on duty etc. Why the hell CBI is making raids for 1 crore graft charges on Deputy CM?

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# Afternoon

VOICE

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## Letters to the Editor

### China shields Pak terrorist again

Here, we are not discussing about any tom, dick and harry, we are talking about Sajid Mir, who was the key handler of the ten LET terrorists who wreaked havoc in Mumbai on November 26, 2008, in which over 166 Indian and foreigners including US nationals were gunned down. The 26/11 operation was a joint venture between Pakistani ISI and LeT and was controlled from Karachi. China, is today blatantly supporting its all-weather ally Pakistan by blocking a joint proposal moved by US and India to designate Muridke based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)'s chief architect of 2008 Mumbai attacks, Sajid Mir as specially designated global terrorist by the 1267 Al Qaida Sanctions committee of the UN Security Council. This is the third proposal that has been put on hold by China after LeT's top leader Abdul Rehman Makki, brother-in-law of designated terrorist Hafiz Saeed, and Jaish-e-Mohammed's operational terror commander Mufti Rauf Azhar, younger brother of Masood Azhar. India must look for other mediums from where we can enforce justice upon them, like getting Pakistan black-listed by FATF.

Akshita Dhurve

### "Roger" the King of Court

Between 2003 and 2009, Roger Federer, the only tennis player to reach the finals of 21 out of 28 Grand Slams, including the American and Australian hard courts, the French Open's red clay and the greens of Wimbledon, retired from tennis and a quiet and calm storm. All types of tennis courts are cleared. Even if the storm calms down, his stormy marks will remain on the tennis court. Be it the American and Australian hard courts or the red clay of the French Open or the greens of Wimbledon. Even though Federer has been the uncrowned emperor of tennis for 24 years, Roger's demeanor has never seen that. No. The greedy and polite Roger made everyone like him. Only Roger Federer could play a backhand-like risk with the confidence and confidence to approach the net, even on match point. The straight figure and flowing hair, though retired from the tennis court,

In the hearts of tennis lovers, "Roger" will forever remain the "King" of Court.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

### Global economical slowdown is worst since 1970

This is reference to the statement of World Bank that "Global economy in its steepest slowdown since 1970". Warning from world bank came ahead of key monetary policy meeting of the US federal reserve and Bank of England. Around world could interest rate hikes by central banks a global recession in 2023. This raises the risk of stagflation, with potentially harmful consequences alike. Global growth is expected to slump from 5.7 percent in 2021 to 2.9 percent in 2022 - significantly lower than 4.1 percent that was anticipated in January. It is expected to hover around that pace over 2023-24 as the war in Ukraine disrupts activity, investment and trade in the near term, pent up demand face, and fiscal and monetary policy accommodation is withdrawn. The June global economic prospects report offers the first systematic assessment of how current global economic condition compare with the stagflation of the 1970s. The current juncture resembles the 1970s in three key aspects.

Ashima Sisodiya

# REAL DEVOTION



People stand in long queues for darshan, have come under people's feet, keep vows hard, walk long distances on foot, anoint milk, loudspeakers for bhajans. By doing this, people do devotion to God and always try to serve God. As much as one can do for God, he does it completely 100%. There is no compromise in this matter. People of Hindu religion worship Lord Shri Krishna, Ram, Bholebaba etc., Muslim community express their reverence towards Allah, Muhammad etc. Similarly Christians, Sikhs, Christians also worship their God of religion. This is called Bhakti. Which all people do with great fervor and are happy that God will be pleased and bless them. People of all religions, all castes do it. Even if there is no food in the house, but for GOD first of all, the enjoyment is done. Different festivals are celebrated for different Gods. The festival of Janmashtami is celebrated with great pomp on the Ashtami of Krishna Paksha

of Bhadrapada on the birth of Lord Shri Krishna. The festival of Diwali is celebrated in the memory of Lord Rama who returned to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile. Lord Shri Hari Vishnu sleeps in Kshirsagar and then after about four months he is raised when the Sun goes into Libra. That day is called Devotthani Ekadashi. The festival of Holi is celebrated because of the devotee Prahlad. On the same lines, the people of the Muslim community Islamic New Year - Muharram, Ashura, Milad-un-Nabi, Shab-e-Meraj, Ramzan, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha are celebrated. People of Sikh community celebrate festivals like Lohri, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, Vaishakhi, Guru Nanak Jayanti etc. Sugandha Dashami, Rot Teej, Ratnatraya, Shalakhshana Parva, Paryushan Parva, Sixteen Reasons, Rishabh Jayanti, Mahavir Jayanti, Ashtharika, Padwa Dhok etc. are celebrated by the Jain community. People of Christianity celebrate Christmas and Easter festival. The Parsi community

worships Ahura Mazda. By celebrating these festivals, does the above one get completely satisfied and does it give you the desired result. Is this what is called Bhakti, can any human being do it? Briefly speaking, its description will be such that true bhakti means only talking honestly with oneself. Ignore the issue of talking to yourself. Until and unless you talk honestly with yourself, I don't think your efforts will be successful. If your qualities are bad then you feel embarrassed to talk to you and a feeling awakens in you why not get rid of these things when you have such concern with yourself then only resides inside you truth And honesty and keeping these qualities with you means you are on the right path of devotion to God.

- Khemu Parashar

Writer

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own.)

## Sena MP Sanjay Raut's judicial custody in land scam case has been extended for 14 days

A Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court on Monday extended the judicial custody of Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut by 14 days in connection with the Patra Chawl land scam case.

Raut, whose judicial custody was extended on September 5 by 14 days ended today, following which he was produced before the court. He was first sent to judicial custody on August 8. The court will hear the bail plea of the



Shiv Sena leader on Wednesday. Meanwhile, ED officers

handed the chargesheet copy to Sanjay Raut following Court's

directive.

Raut was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on August 1 in connection with alleged financial irregularities in the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl in suburban Goregaon.

After being in the ED's custody initially, the Shiv Sena leader was sent to judicial custody for 14 days on August 8.

On 22 August, a special PMLA court extended Raut's custody till September 5 which

has now been further extended till September 19. ED officials raided the Shiv Sena leader's home on July 31, and after detaining and questioning him for several hours, arrested him on August 1.

On June 28 this year, Sanjay Raut was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the prevention of the money laundering case pertaining to the Rs 1,034 crore Patra Chawl land scam. - ANI

### Bombay High Court has denied bail of DU Prof Babu says enough grounds to show his "Maoist links"

The Bombay High Court on Monday rejected the bail plea filed by Delhi University's associate professor Hany Babu, an accused in the 2017 Elgar Parishad case, noting prima facie allegations against him were true and that he was an active and prominent member of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist). A division bench of Justices N M Jamdar and N R Borkar said the appeal filed by 54-year-old Babu, arrested in July 2020 in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, against the special court order refusing him bail was dismissed. "...we find that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusations against the Appellant are prima facie true," the judgment said. "The documents submitted by the NIA and the facts unearthed during the investigation, based on which we

must proceed at this stage, show that the Appellant (Babu) is an active and prominent member of the CPI (Maoist) Party," the court said. The bench noted Babu was not just a passive, but an active member of this outfit.

"We find that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusations of the NIA against the Appellant having conspired, attempted, advocated and abetted the commission of a terrorist act/s and the act/s of preparatory to the commission of a terrorist act, are prima facie true," the court said.

It added the CPI (Maoist) party was designated as a terrorist organisation and was working to establish a people's government through violent means in an armed struggle. It wants to undermine and seize power from the State, the court said.

## Maharashtra Congress appointed Rahul Gandhi as party's national president

Congress president polls just days away, the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) on Monday passed a resolution for appointing Rahul Gandhi as the national president of the party. The resolution was passed in a meeting of 553 delegates of the MPCC held at the YB Chavan centre in South Mumbai. The Congress units in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the only two states where the party is in government on its own, have passed resolutions that Rahul Gandhi be made the party's president. Also, the Gujarat Congress on Sunday demanded that Rahul Gandhi be made the party chief. The resolution was moved by former Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan and seconded by senior leaders including Naseem



Khan and Chandrakant Handore, which was unanimously passed, a Congress statement said. Notably, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole moved a resolution authorising the Congress president to appoint a state unit chief, office-bearers and AICC delegates.

This resolution was seconded by Congress Legislature Party leader Balasaheb Thorat and was

unanimously passed. The meeting took place in the presence of the state returning officer for the organizational polls Pallam Raju, state in-charge HK Patil, former CMs Ashok Chavan, Prithviraj Chavan, and Patole. The nomination process for the Congress president's election will begin on September 24. The election will be held on October 17, if necessary. - PTI

### Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray says "It is easier to get nod for Dussehra rally" at Shivaji Park

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena on Monday said it will be easier for them to get permission for the Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park after Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's camp got the nod for a rally in the BKC Complex on the "first-come-first-served" principle. Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Arvind Sawant, a Thackeray loyalist, told PTI that the 'first-come-first-served' principle was applied while granting permission to the Shinde group to organise a rally in the MMRDA ground in the Bandra Kurla Complex, which is stone's throw away from Thackeray's private residence 'Matoshree'.

Talking to reporters later, Sawant also asserted that there can

be no other option for the Thackeray faction than holding the annual rally at 'Shivtirth, the term Shiv Sena uses for the Shivaji Park.

When asked about the party's strategy in the event it denied permission for Shivaji Park, Sawant said Sena will see what can be done after that. He said the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is yet to deny them permission to hold the rally at Shivaji Park. Both the factions of Shiv Sena had staked a claim to hold their rallies at the iconic Shivaji Park, which is synonymous with the Shiv Sena. Both sides had alternately applied for permission to hold their rallies in the MMRDA ground in BKC on Dussehra next month.

## NCP Chief Sharad Pawar has acknowledged "Usefulness" of Bharat Jodo Yatra

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Monday acknowledged the "usefulness" of the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi for the Congress leader and his party. He also hinted that he was not against the inclusion of Congress if the Opposition unity takes shape for the 2024 elections.

Speaking to reporters in Solapur district of Maharashtra, Pawar said big padyatras or foot marches like 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' have a political impact and people welcome such programs with sincere intent. Replying to a question on whether the Bharat Jodo Yatra will have an impact on politics in the coming days, Pawar said when such big yatras are taken out, they turn out

to be useful. "When Chandrashekar (former Prime Minister) had taken out a similar padayatra it had received a tremendous response. I had also taken out a march from Jalgaon to Nagpur (in 1980) for farmers," the former chief minister recalled. He said about 5,000 people had joined his yatra when it started from Jalgaon in north Maharashtra and the number swelled to 50,000 in Buldhana and more than one lakh when it reached Akola and Amaravati in east Maharashtra.

"The march proved useful to change politics of the entire state," Pawar said. Speaking on the Bharat Jodo Yatra, launched on September 7 from Kanyakumar

for Kashmir, Pawar said, "One cannot deny the usefulness of this padayatra, undertaken by (Congress) from the perspective of the party and the person (Rahul Gandhi)".

"Everyone wishes that something should be done. But we have not come to any conclusion. Discussions are happening. Recently, Nitish Kumar (JD-U chief) came to me. The same topic was discussed. The other day (TMC supremo) Mamata Banerjee met me and she also put forth the same stand. Similar thoughts were echoed by leaders from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. These are opinions but that have not yet come to any conclusion," said Pawar. - PTI

## Nation

# Bharat Jodo Yatra: Rahul Gandhi discuss rising fuel price and reduced subside with fishermen in Kerala

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday interacted with fishermen at Vadackal beach in Kerala's Alappuzha and discussed the challenges faced by them ahead of starting the 12th day of his party's Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The Wayanad MP held discussions about the rising fuel costs, reduced subsidies, dwindling fish stock, inadequate educational opportunities and environmental destruction among other issues.

"At 6 am, Rahul Gandhi interacted with fisherfolk at Vadackal beach in Alappuzha on



their challenges—rising fuel costs, reduced subsidies, dwindling fish stock, lack of social welfare & pensions, inadequate educational opportunities, and environmental destruction," Congress leader

Jairam Ramesh informed in a tweet.

The Yatra is in its Kerala leg and would traverse through the state for the next 12 days.

The 3,500-km march from

Kanyakumari to 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 distance of 25 km every day.

Meanwhile, the Yatra was mired in controversy after a video surfaced of local Congress leaders allegedly extorting donations from a vegetable vendor in Kollam, Kerala. A vegetable shopkeeper was allegedly threatened

by Congress workers in Kollam for not contributing Rs 2,000 towards the collection of funds for the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Rahul Gandhi said that the spirit of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is to bring Indians together irrespective of religion, community and remind them that this is one country and it will be successful if we stand together and are respectful towards each other.

The Congress suffered a debacle in the assembly polls held earlier this year and the Yatra is seen as an attempt to rally the party rank and file for the upcoming electoral battles. — ANI

## Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi reviewed law and orders of state



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday held a meeting with officials regarding the law and order situation in the state via video conferencing.

The CM reviewed the work of the officers who were negligent regarding the incidents related to the murders of women in Lakhimpur, Pilibhit, Lucknow, Gonda, Badaun and Amroha.

Notably, two Dalit minor sisters were found hanging from a tree in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district on Wednesday leading to outrage over law and order in the state. The post-mortem reports confirmed that both girls were raped and strangled.

The Uttar Pradesh Police on Thursday arrested six people in connection with the case.

"Junaid, Suhail and Hafeezur Rehman were reportedly arrested during an encounter

with the local Nighasan police and SWAT team in the Nighasan police station area on Thursday morning. Following their interrogation, the other accused Karimuddin, and Chhotu Gautam were also arrested," Additional Director General (ADG) Law and Order Prashant Kumar said.

District Magistrates (DM), Superintendent of Police (SP), Inspector-General of Police (IG) and Additional Director General of Police (ADG) of all districts were present in the meeting.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with DGP DS Chauhan, Principal Secretary Home Sanjay Prasad, ADG Law and Order Prashant Kumar, ADG Crime MK Bashal, IG Law and Order Sanjeev Gupta attended the video conferencing.

"Be it the transparent process of police recruitment, or training them to make them professionally efficient, all effective steps have been taken to ensure law and order in the state," he added.

In another major administrative rejig, the state government led by Yogi Adityanath on Saturday reshuffled 14 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers including the District Magistrates of 10 districts. — ANI

## Chandigarh University to remain closed till 24th September

Amid a stir after the alleged leak of objectionable videos from the girls' hostel of Chandigarh University in Punjab's Mohali, the varsity has been shut for students till September 24, the university sources said on Monday. The decision came in the wake of the massive protests by students who were demanding action against the allegations that objectionable videos of several girls were recorded by a fellow hosteller and shared on social media. Two accused have been arrested and one detained in connection with the incident.

Several students carrying their luggage as they left the premises. Protests that began on Saturday night continued till late on Sunday.

Protesting students alleged

that a student made videos of girl students while taking a bath in the hostel. The video was later made viral on social media.

The protesting students also claimed that after the videos went viral, girl students living in the hostel attempted suicide. However, police refuted all claims of suicide.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) GS Bhullar spoke to the protesting students late on Sunday night and tried to pacify them by saying "implicit faith is necessary" and "law is being followed". "We will keep coming to you, implicit faith is necessary," said DIG GS Bhullar.

"The issue has been of communication gap. We have been clarifying again and again. We are assuring students that law is being followed and all legal procedures

are being undertaken," DIG Bhullar said. "No information about suicide has come out. It is a rumour that has been spread. We have not been brought forward any information that a suicide has taken place," Talwar said. On Sunday, one accused identified as Sunny Mehta was arrested.

"Punjab Police has arrested and has left with the accused from Rohru in case FIR no 194/22 dt 18/9/22 u/s 354C IPC, 66E IT act PS Sadar Kharad Punjab. The 23-year accused, resident of Rohru has been handed over to them," read a statement of Shimla Police. The girl student of Chandigarh University in Mohali has also been arrested by police. She had reportedly said that she had made videos of some girls and sent them to a youth in Shimla. — PTI

## ED attaches assets worth Rs 46.33 crore by ex-minister Partha Chatterjee: Bengal teacher hiring scam

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has attached assets worth Rs 46.22 crore "beneficially owned" by former minister Partha Chatterjee and his alleged associate Arpita Mukherjee as part of a money laundering probe in the West Bengal teachers' recruitment 'scam'.

The attached properties include 40 immovable assets such as a farmhouse, flats and "prime

land" located in Kolkata worth a total Rs 40.33 crore, apart from Rs 7.89 crore worth deposits kept in 35 bank accounts, the federal agency said in a statement.

"The attached properties are found to be beneficially owned by Partha Chatterjee and Arpita Mukherjee," it said.

According to the agency, several of the attached properties were registered in the name of

shell companies and persons acting as proxies for Chatterjee.

The former minister in the TMC-led government in West Bengal and his "close associate" were arrested by the ED in July.

The agency had seized Rs 49.80 crore cash, gold and other jewellery worth more than Rs 55 crore after it conducted raids in this case in Kolkata and other parts of West Bengal. — PTI

# Bangladesh: Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel seeks international recognition of 1971 genocide

**B**angladesh Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque on Sunday called upon all who believe in Liberation War spirit to be united in realising the international recognition of genocide carried out in 1971 Liberation War on unarmed Bangalees.

While addressing a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka, Haque said international recognition of genocide of 1971 could not be realised in 51 years after independence, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Bangladesh News agency reported. However, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government declared March 25 as National Genocide Day.

The minister sought interna-



tional recognition for March 25 as "International Genocide Day" side by side with the existing December 9.

Bangladesh Support Group, an organisation of the Netherlands expatriate Bangladeshis, Projonmo 71, an organization of children of martyrs and Amra

Ekattor jointly organised the press conference with a view to attaining United Nations recognition for the genocide launched in Bangladesh.

Amra Ekattor chief coordinator Hilal Fayezi read out the keynote at the press conference, according to BSS.

Genocide expert and martyr's offspring Pradip Kumar Dutta and Projonmo 71 President Asif Munir also spoke.

Haque said Pakistani occupation forces with the cooperation of their local collaborators killed 30 lakh people, during the nine-month Liberation War, they violated 2 lakh women, set houses on fire and carried out massive looting all over the country, according to the Bangladesh News Agency.

Meanwhile, two internationally acclaimed organisations working on the prevention of genocide worldwide, namely Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Genocide Watch, till now, have recognised the 1971 genocide and issued statements to the effect, reported the Bangladeshi publica-

tion, The Sun.

In their statements, they have emphatically recognised the mass killings, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by Pakistan and called upon the international community including the United Nations to come forward and recognise the genocide.

On March 26, 1971, Bangladesh was proclaimed an independent nation by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This led to the Bangladesh Liberation War when a guerrilla war ensued between Pakistan and Bangladeshi liberation forces with Indian support.

Muktijuddho Manch is a platform for descendants of freedom fighters mostly Chhatra League members. ANI

## US President Biden says, "American forces would defend Taiwan from Chinese invasion"

**U**S President Joe Biden said that American forces would defend Taiwan from a Chinese invasion, the most explicit statement by him so far on the issue concerning cross-strait relations.

Responding to a query over defending Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion, Biden said the US would defend Taiwan "if in fact there was an unprecedented attack," according to The Washington Post citing CBS's "60 Minutes" programme.

Since Russia started its special military operation in Ukraine, Biden had said that US military forces would not get involved in the fight. Scott Pelley, the interviewer in 60-minute programme pressed Biden on whether the situation would be different in the event of an attack on Taiwan.

"So unlike Ukraine, to be clear, sir, U.S. forces -- U.S. men and women -- would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion?" Pelley asked.

"Yes," Biden replied. The interview is the latest of several occasions in which Biden has said that the United States would come to Taiwan's defence militarily if China were to attack.

Each time, White House officials emphasized that his remarks did not represent any change in US policy.

Recently, a Biden administration official pointed out the remarks made by President Biden in May, when he told reporters that the practice of strategic ambiguity toward Taiwan remained.

At that time, Biden did not say that he would send US troops to Taiwan in defending the country, reported The Washington Post. "He also made clear then that our Taiwan policy hasn't changed," the official said. "That remains true."

Under the United States' "one-China policy," the American government under various administrations has for decades acknowledged Beijing's view without taking a position on the status of Taiwan's sovereignty.

Under the Taiwan Relations Act, which was signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, the United States agreed to provide Taiwan with arms to defend itself, and "to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan."

## Uncontrollable floods have resulted outbreak of infections in Pakistan

**U**nprecedented floods across Pakistan have resulted in a widespread outbreak of infectious diseases in the country, posing a severe threat to the health of the citizens. The infectious diseases in the flood-hit areas of Sindh have reached a dangerous level, according to Geo News and have claimed more than 1,500 lives with an estimated loss of over USD 30 billion to the economy. During the last 24 hours, 12,000 cases of asthma, respiratory and chest-related infections were reported in Sindh, Geo News reported citing the health ministry, adding that approximately 20,000

people were found affected by skin disease, while almost 18,000 cases of diarrhoea were reported.

According to the health department data, more than 2.5 million people have been affected by infectious diseases in flood-hit areas. In a recent statement, the World Health Organization expressed deep concerns about the potential for a "second disaster in Pakistan: a wave of diseases and deaths" following the catastrophic floods caused by climate change that has submerged one-third of Pakistan. Explaining the impacts on health, the WHO chief suggested acting quickly to protect health and

deliver essential health services. Moreover, the "Super floods" in Pakistan have left 3.4 million children in need of immediate, lifesaving support, according to UNICEF.

This comes as the Monsoon rains claimed more than a thousand lives since June and unleashed powerful floods that have washed away swathes of vital crops and damaged or destroyed more than a million homes. Record monsoons and heavy floods in Pakistan have given rise to hunger and various illnesses which have affected 33 million people and are estimated to have caused USD 30 billion of damage. - ANI

## United Kingdom: 15 people have been arrested in Leicester violence

**T**he count of people arrested in East Leicester violence has reached 15 after a clash broke out among groups of young men on Sunday, the Leicestershire Police said in a statement. The cycle of violence was triggered on August 28 after India won the Asia Cup T20 match against Pakistan.

This comes after various videos and reports have been circulating on social media about Pakistani organized gangs seen vandalising and terrorising Hindus in the UK's Leicester City. The incident follows a spate of

violence and disorder in the eastern part of the city.

The violence first started on August 28 after India won the match against Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2022, following which a fight broke out in Melton Road, Belgrave, leading to 27 arrests so far, according to a UK-based media publication Leicester Mercury. Following the incident, the Leicestershire Police assured to continue to call for dialogue and calm with support from local community leaders. The police while calling for calm told everyone to return home and asked to share the in-

formation that has been checked and is true. After the reports of the clash on Saturday night, the Leicestershire Police Temporary Chief Constable Rob Nixon, in a video message shared on the Twitter handle, said, "We have had numerous reports of a disorder on the streets of Leicester tonight, Saturday, September 17. We have got officers there, we are taking control of the situation, there are additional officers en route and dispersal powers, stop search powers, have been authorised. Please do not get involved. We are calling for calm." - ANI

## Column

# Gandhi's Swaraj is crying now, Panchayats dissolved, and all the work stopped

- Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

**D**espite achievements like the empowerment of women and other backward and marginalized societies, the process of decentralization is very slow, sluggish, and unsatisfactory. While granting constitutional status to these institutions was an important step in the direction of mainstreaming the marginalized society in this diverse country for many years, now in this regard, there has been a concerted effort by the political rulers of the Center and the state. Transformative and concrete steps need to be taken. It can be expected that in the coming time, Panchayats will emerge as a small republic of the country. Panchayati Raj institutions should be given some broad powers to levy taxes.

We see how the vast and grand democracy of India has given strength to the Panchayats and has done the work of decentralization of power. It is the beauty of our democracy that today out of more than two and a half lakh panchayats in the country, almost half of the panchayats are headed by women. The country's panchayats are getting stronger. The person standing in the last row is also ensuring his participation in power today. He can speak his mind firmly, taking decisions. And in all this, women are working shoulder to shoulder to take the country forward. Work is being done to make Panchayats strong, self-reliant, and equipped with modern technologies. In the year 2004, Panchayati Raj was given the status of a separate ministry to make the flow of development in the Panchayati Raj system from the lower level to the upper level. The concept of the formation and strengthening of the Panchayati Raj in India is based on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. In the words of Gandhiji- "True democracy does not sit at the center and run the state, but it runs with the cooperation of every person in the village."

On 24 April 1993, India took an important step towards strengthening its democracy to make it more inclusive and participatory. The government's notification of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act or the Panchayati Raj Act (later the 74th Act for urban local bodies), introduced a third category in the federal system of the country, thus ushering in a new era of decentralized governance. Remarkably, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment provided constitutional and legal rights for decentralized governance in the country or for local self-governing institutions.

It was not easy to pass such a revolutionary bill as many senior policymakers were considering it a threat to their very existence. Therefore, it was not surprising when the entire opposition in the Rajya Sabha opposed the 64th Constitutional Amendment Bill brought by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1989. The bill

provided for three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions and those opposing it were members of the opposition as well as members of the ruling Congress who saw it as a threat to their strength and political base. Narasimha Rao, who became Prime Minister after Rajiv Gandhi three years later, had to work hard and hard to get the 73rd Amendment Bill passed in 1992, even creating the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme fund. Although this act was significantly diluted in many respects from the original bill, still it contained many such basic provisions, due to which it was termed as a picture-changing law that establishes a truly participatory democracy in the country.

The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution, which gave constitutional status to Panchayats and recognized them as self-governing institutions, has now made deep inroads into the democratic psyche of the country. One of its hallmarks is their number. Today, the number of elected representatives i.e. MPs and MLAs in the country is only around five thousand, whereas under the Panchayati Raj Act, there are more than three million representatives at various levels (Gram Sabha, Panchayat Samiti, and Zilla Parishad) across the country, which is the world's largest number of representatives. It is the largest democratic system. The 73rd Amendment has strengthened the roots of democracy and political inclusivity and increased the participation of the most backward and disadvantaged sections of society. More than one million new representatives of these societies have got a place in the democratic process due to the binding reservation applicable for women, scheduled castes and tribes, and other backward classes under the 73rd amendment. It is undeniably the process that brings about the most positive change for women in the field of politics in the country. While the participation of women in Parliament and State Assemblies is only 8 percent, in this area a very large number i.e. about 49 percent of the elected representatives are women. Today the

number of women representatives in the country is about 14 lakhs. Of these, 86 thousand are representatives of local bodies.

Apart from the issues of rights and competence, there are many other serious issues for Panchayats, especially in the case of inadequate financial powers, due to which these self-governing institutions have to be at the mercy of the State and Central Governments. While on the one hand the Panchayats have been given the responsibility for many works, on the other hand, their right to levy taxes has been kept very limited. No Panchayat can levy tax on any property. Even the judiciary did not get much help in this matter. In this case, it is necessary to mention a very famous incident of Dabhol where a Gram Sabha tried to impose a tax on Enron company but it was defeated in court. In this way, the major task of increasing the jurisdiction of Panchayats and clarifying their justification seems to be a daydream.

Panchayats do not have a strong financial base, they have to depend on the state governments for finance. It is to be known that the finance provided by the state governments is only for spending on a particular item. In many states, Panchayat elections are not held on time. In many panchayats where there are women heads, the work is done on the orders of one of their male relatives, women are only nominal heads. This negatively affects the objective of women's reservation in Panchayats. Regional political organizations interfere in the affairs of the Panchayats, thereby influencing their actions and decisions. In this system, it is sometimes difficult to make harmony between the elected members of the Panchayats and the officials appointed by the State, which affects the development of the Panchayats.

Last but the most important thing is that so far very little effort has been made to bring Panchayats under the ambit of e-governance. There is no doubt that accountability, transparency, and efficiency can be

increased by leveraging new-age technology (ICT). Despite this, even half of the 2.5 lakh panchayats in the country are not under the purview of the e-panchayat project. It should be noted here that the ICT campaign for Panchayats was started in 2004.

In the end, it would be right to say that despite achievements like the empowerment of women and other backward and marginalized societies, the process of decentralization is very slow, sluggish, and unsatisfactory. While granting constitutional status to these institutions was an important step in the direction of mainstreaming the marginalized society in this diverse country for many years, now in this regard, there has been a concerted effort by the political rulers of the Center and the state. Transformative and concrete steps need to be taken. It can be expected that in the coming time, Panchayats will emerge as a small republic of the country. Panchayati Raj institutions should be given some broad powers to levy taxes. Panchayati Raj institutions themselves should increase their financial resources. Apart from this, the 14th Finance Commission has increased the finance allocation of Panchayats. More steps are needed in this direction.

More executive powers should be given to Panchayati Raj Institutions and along with budget allocation, a reliable audit should also be done from time to time. The launch of the e-Gram Swaraj Portal by the government is a commendable effort in this direction. Women should be empowered more and more mentally and socially so that they can become self-reliant in decision-making matters. The elections to the Panchayats should be held at the appointed time on the norms of the State Election Commission without interference from the regional organizations. Rankings should be allotted to the panchayats based on their performance and the top-ranked panchayat in this ranking should be rewarded.



# Entertainment



## Star Actress Kate Winslet has been hospitalised after slipping in the film set "Lee"

Hollywood star Kate Winslet was admitted to the hospital after she suffered an accident while filming the historical drama "Lee" in Croatia. A representative for the Oscar winner said she is doing well and plans to resume filming this week. "Kate slipped and was taken to hospital as a precautionary measure required by the production. She is fine and will be filming, as planned, this week," read the statement shared to entertainment website 'Deadline'. In the upcoming feature film, Winslet plays Lee Miller, the Vogue cover model-turned-photographer who was a leading figure in chronicling World War II for the iconic magazine. Miller brought the world's attention to the atrocities committed in the Nazi concentration camps through her photographs. Ellen Kuras, who served as the cinematographer on "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" also starring Winslet, is directing the film. "Lee" also stars Marion Cotillard, Jude Law, Andrea Riseborough and Josh O'Conner. —PTI

All speculations have been put to rest! Gauri Khan is indeed coming to 'Koffee With Karan' and the news has been confirmed by the man himself! In the past few weeks, rumours of Gauri coming to the next episode of 'Koffee With Karan' were abuzz. Now Karan Johar has confirmed the news with a sneak peek of the upcoming episode featuring Gauri and her "BFFs" Bhavana Panday and Maheep Kapoor. In the promo, Karan asks Gauri what dating advice she would pass on to her daughter Suhana, and she responds by saying "never date two boys at the same time", after which Karan burst out laughing.

Karan further asks Gauri which film's title would be apt to describe her and SRK's love story and she responds saying, "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge"! Maheep Kapoor was also in her element. In another glimpse, Karan asks Maheep about an actor she thinks she would look good with, and she responds by saying, "Hrithik Roshan", leaving everyone in splits.

Gauri, Maheep, and Bhavana have been friends for years. They last appeared together in Netflix's 'Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives' alongside Seema Sajdeh and Neelam Kothari. Their kids Suhana Khan, Shanaya Kapoor, and Ananya Panday are also childhood best friends. They often share photos with each other. Gauri made her Koffee With Karan debut in 2005. Meanwhile, Gauri is all set to come up with her decor show titled 'Dream Homes With Gauri Khan'. — ANI



**Gauri Khan gives dating advice to her daughter Suhana is hilarious but apt**



## Director Woody Allen has announced retirement after release of his next film "Wasp 22"

Embattled director Woody Allen has announced that he will hang his boots after the release of his next film, "Wasp 22". The 86-year-old filmmaker told Spanish newspaper La Vanguardia that he is set to begin production on his swan song later this year in Paris with an all-French cast. "My idea, in principle, is not to make more movies and focus on writing," Allen said as quoted by entertainment outlet Variety. His next project will be a novel, he added. Previously, Allen described "Wasp 22" as "a sort of poisonous romantic thriller" and compared it to his 2005 film "Match Point".

In an interview with Alec Baldwin live-streamed on Instagram in June, the multiple Oscar winner had hinted at retirement, saying he plans to direct "one or two more" films. Allen, who has faced backlash after his adopted daughter, Dylan Farrow, alleged he sexually abused her as a child, had made headlines following the release of HBO's 2021 docuseries "Allen v. Farrow", which explored the allegations against him. The director has repeatedly denied the claims. His most recent film was "Rifkin's Festival", which had a limited release in the US and grossed just USD 2.3 million. — PTI



## Kangana Ranaut shared a childhood picture stating family called her 'Indira Gandhi'

Kangana Ranaut shared throwback pictures from her childhood that show her uncanny resemblance with late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Taking to her Instagram stories, Kangana treated fans with new pictures.

In the picture, the 'Queen' actor was seen wearing a school dress but the spotlight was on her short curly hair.

Sharing the first picture, she wrote, "It's uncanny growing up many of my relatives called me Indira Gandhi probably because of my hair style #emergency". In the second image, cute young Kangana struck a pose by looking at the camera with big eyes and curly hair resembling former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

'Emergency' marks Kangana Ranaut's first solo directorial project. It revolves around the life of Indira Gandhi and features Kangana in the titular role of the late leader. Talking about donning the directorial hat for the second time, Kangana said, "My last directorial was

Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi and I got an encouraging response from the audience as it was a blockbuster. I was tempted to direct another film but I had many acting assignments to complete. I do believe that I know the pulse of the audience from my interviews, my quotes and the terms that I have coined are now part of pop culture (she laughs). I do believe that the audience is looking for something which will stimulate their intellectual side and not just their sensual side."

Apart from Kangana, the film also casts Anupam Kher, Mahima Chaudhry, Vishak Nair and Shreyas Talpade in prominent roles. — ANI

