



SC refers petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage to PG 05 >>



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1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy: SC will deliver its verdict on Tuesday over Centre's curative plea for compensation to victims



The Supreme Court will deliver the verdict on the Centre's curative plea for enhanced compensation for the victims of the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy from US-based firm Union Carbide Corporation, now owned by Dow Chemical on Tuesday. On January 12, the Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on the Centre's curative plea for enhanced compensation for the victims of the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy from US-based firm Union Carbide Corporation, now owned by Dow Chemicals.

The judgement will be pronounced by a five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul. The bench also comprises Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Abhay S Oka, Vikram Nath and JK Maheshwari. The Centre's curative plea for

enhanced compensation for the victims sought a direction to Union Carbide and other firms for over Rs 7,400 crore additional amount over and above the earlier settlement amount of USD 470 million (Rs 715 crore at the time of settlement in 1989) for paying compensation to the gas tragedy victims. The government sought a re-examination of the apex court's February 14, 1989 judgment which had fixed compensation at USD 470 million, contending that the 1989 settlement was seriously impaired.

The contention of the Central government was that the compensation, determined in 1989, was arrived on the basis of assumptions of truth unrelated to realities. During the hearing, successor firms of the Union Carbide Corporation told the apex

court that the depreciation of the rupee since 1989, when a settlement was arrived at between the company and the Centre, cannot be a ground to now seek a top-up of compensation for the victims.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for one of the firms, had told the top court that the government of India never suggested at the time of the settlement that it was inadequate. The Bhopal gas tragedy, touted as the world's worst industrial disaster, had claimed the lives of several thousand people after deadly gas leaked from the Union Carbide India Limited pesticide plant on the intervening night of December 2 and 3, 1984. The tragedy unfolded in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, when the highly dangerous and toxic gas, methyl isocyanate (MIC), escaped from the Union Car-

bide India Limited (UCIL) and resulted in the death of 5,295 human beings, injuries to almost 5,68,292 persons besides loss of livestock.

The apex court had already dismissed a curative petition filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2010 for enhancement of punishment. The agency had approached the Supreme Court, facing public outcry over a Bhopal court order that sentenced Union Carbide executives to two years imprisonment. Those convicted included former Union Carbide India chairman Keshub Mahindra.

Dismissing the CBI's curative plea in 2011, the top court had held that "no satisfactory explanation has been given to file such curative petitions after about 14 years from the 1996 judgment". (ANI)

Beggars are unconditional givers too

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

If we see and think from a broader perspective, we all—privileged and underprivileged—are beggars in our own way. Politicians beg for votes; we beg God for riches, well-being, and whatnot. People visit spiritual leaders to beg for solace and prosperity; beggars on the street beg for their basic needs. Remember, as you think, that God can fulfill your entire wish if you demand it. Similarly, beggars on the street see you as God because they know that when they ask, you have the capacity to give them something. Most of the time, we disregard our abilities and compassion by insulting and humiliating those who seek assistance. Mumbai has a history of having the richest beggars; they might have what you never thought of, but still they beg because they chose to do so. Mumbai appears to be the dream city for beggars, be-

cause here they somehow manage to meet their basic needs.

The majority of beggars in India are leading a pathetic life. Many are suffering from various diseases. Their outward appearance itself creates nausea in one's mind. Their tattered clothes, emaciated bodies, and unclean body frames, followed by equally unclean mangy dogs, are an eyesore. There was one beggar at Krishna Nagar, Borivali. He was my morning walk partner. He used to stay alone on the footpath of a bungalow. Later on, the landlords asked him to evict the pavement and shift to another side. The area was not fully developed, so he could hardly ask for some help.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Beggars are unconditional givers too

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One day, I saw him sitting on the other side of the pavement. It was raining badly, and the man was so fragile that he could hardly call us. He just raised his hand to ask for assistance.

By now I could understand him completely. During COVID, many NGOs in Mumbai made special efforts to reach beggars on the street. Mumbai might be a concrete jungle, but it has a lot of humanity and love for deprived people. Each one of them does something or other in their capacities.

In the whole of India, one may find a dozen rich beggars. Rich people may possess lakhs of rupees. Some may lend money to small traders at a reasonable monthly rate of interest. Even if they possess so much money, they cannot lead a decent life by buying or renting a house in a decent locality

One day, I saw him sitting on the other side of the pavement. It was raining badly, and the man was so fragile that he could hardly call us. He just raised his hand to ask for assistance.

I had both an umbrella and a raincoat, so I gave him an umbrella. He wanted something else, but I failed to understand his sign language. I returned home, but while going to the office, I saw someone give him food, but he did not eat it. The footpath was full of water, and he somehow adjusted himself in the corner with that umbrella. The very next day, I approached some BMC staff and asked them to help this old man. But they were not ready to encourage beggars by providing them a safe place to stay. I called my home help; she brought meters of poly sheets and created a small tent out of it. That tent became the home of that old man until his death.

From that day on, he became my street buddy. Every morning I used to give him some money for food and tea; gradually, people in the locality also started giving him food, water, and leftovers. Monsoon season approaches; every year, my organization distributes blankets to the people on the street. That year, I got two blankets for this old man too. His happiness knew no bounds. Looking at his happy face, I felt scared. In sign language, we conversed for ten minutes. Can you imagine him looking like the king of his small tent with new clothes and blankets? Some people gave him some bed sheets and a mattress too. His asset was a dirty bag that he always used to keep under his head.

By now I could understand him completely. During COVID, many NGOs in Mumbai made special efforts to reach beggars on the street. Mumbai might be a concrete jungle, but it has a lot of humanity and love for deprived people. Each one of them does something or other in their capacities. But an old beggar in a remote corner gets neglected. During those days, there was one young boy who started his catering start-up. I gave him his first job, providing two full meals to such beggars who were not part of the mainstream street population. Throughout his time in COVID, he served these people wholeheartedly. His start-up needed funds, but getting a bank loan was not possible for him, and meanwhile COVID had also financially broken everyone, so no one was ready to give him financial assistance. Still, he continued doing his job.

Let me cut the story short. In those days, the old beggar met me as I walked past that night; he was trying to say something by showing his bag. I was very busy with my own priorities; I just ignored him and, as usual, asked for his well-being before moving ahead. Next

morning I came to know that he had passed away. I rushed to his hut; his body was taken away by BMC personnel. His stuff was also taken into custody; to our surprise, when that bag was opened, there was a big amount in it. Well, the cops did charity work for other beggars with that money and made sure the small streetside eatery of that caterer got some funds for its makeover. Well, this was one of the rarest of the rare stories to tell, but we need government policies to make our country beggar-free.

In the whole of India, one may find a dozen rich beggars. Rich people may possess lakhs of rupees. Some may lend money to small traders at a reasonable monthly rate of interest. Even if they possess so much money, they cannot lead a decent life by buying or renting a house in a decent locality because the whole town would know them as beggars, and there is a fear of losing their clients. Despite having so much money, they are unable to abandon their begging profession because it pays well.

Most of the beggars are working for a gang that collects money from them every evening; worse still, they dress them to look like beggars. These normal people, fully capable of doing manual labor, are dressed and, yes, touched up to look poor. In this case, charity does not help; there are a number of children who are stolen from hospitals, homes, and streets. Worse, their poor parents sell them to these gangs to be used as beggars. Their limbs are operated upon, and they are made physically handicapped so that they can get alms. It is an endless chain, which is a vitiating circle; you give more money, the gangs want more, and they steal more children to create more beggars for society.

In order to improve their condition, successive governments have to formulate schemes in their favor. Beggars Rehabilitation Centers should be established in all states where beggars can be assigned a task and given food, shelter, and income-generating skills so that, once released, they can easily make a living in the outside world. However, the majority of those released continue to engage in the same illegal activity, are apprehended by Rehabilitation Center employees, and are returned to the center to repeat the process.

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

We Indians respect women on paper. But it is not the case in real life. Good judgment brings good post

It was not unprecedented and surprising when President appointed Recently retired Supreme Court Judge Justice S Abdul Nazeer as a governor of Andhra Pradesh. As he has an ample good CV for his post-retirement job. He was the only Muslim judge on the 5-judge bench in the Controversial Ayodhya land dispute case and gave a unanimous verdict. He was also part of other landmark judgments from Triple talaq and demonetisation in which he upheld the center's decision to Right to Privacy, Maratha reservation Freedom of speech, and expression of high public functionaries. As former Finance minister and eminent lawyer Arun Jaitley once said, "Pre-retirement judgments are influenced by post-retirement jobs."

Muzakkir Khan

Earthquake is due to Climate change!

Earthquakes are one of the many dangerous and destructive natural disasters that can occur anywhere in the world, and as the recent quakes in Turkey and Syria demonstrate, they are definitely causing for concern. To begin with, there is no link between weather and earthquakes. This makes sense because earthquakes occur underground, where surface temperature and conditions have no bearing. However, climate change has the potential to affect earthquakes. This is due to the fact that the only true variable in earthquakes is the amount of stress on a fault line. According to NASA, the most likely scenario is that climate change causes surface water to add to the stress on a fault. There are also droughts. Droughts, according to NASA researchers, can change the size of mountains due to water loss. In theory, this could result in a change in stress on faults. Other studies have found that groundwater extraction during droughts can affect stress by essentially changing the weight of the planet's crust, which can cause changes between both sides of a fault line and causes an earthquake. Then there are glaciers, which move as well. Glacial earthquakes can occur as glaciers shift due to climate change. Therefore, to reduce earthquakes lowering stress loads is very much essential. In other words, climate change could play a role in earthquakes.

VijayKumar H K

We are small before nature

Looking at the dire situation in Turkey and Syria, the earthquake has overtaken even the nuclear explosion. The first earthquake was as big as 5 million tons of TNT and the second earthquake was 3 million tons of TNT. In Turkey alone, more than 7000 buildings have collapsed. Also, more than 16000 people have lost their lives and the number of injured is more than 60000. In Syria, more than 3000 people have lost more than 5000 people. have been injured. Also, there is a delay in saving the lives of many people due to severe colds. This is actually a heavenly crisis. The biggest problem is children and many hospitals have been destroyed and many injured refugee children have entered the city of Adana in Turkey for treatment. Many small children are unable to speak their names without their parents. Doctors treating them are treating them with the name "Anonymous". It was terrible. Nature has proved that we are very small in front of nature.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

PAPER WITH A PASSION

When I get up early in the morning my mind goes to the memoirs, memories and moments in my life as a freelancer and it is 50 years and still mingles in my mind all the time. Staring at a blank sheet of paper, I scrape my mind for any kind of motivation. I think of anything that would guide me, and after about 20 minutes without luck I decide to take a trip down memory lane. What made me start writing? Who inspired me to venture into these deep lands where one can go from staring at a blank sheet to producing emotions that can make tears roll down your cheeks? Those tears could be out of joy or sadness; it all depends on the writer, holding a pen and waiting to bring about several emotions in one's heart. I still remember that particular day as it was yesterday, a slight breeze brushing through my hair, the leaves rustling and the birds chirping. It all started with writing in a postcard about my favorite cricketer of the 1970s and I gave a caption "Valiant Venkat" and that was published in the Delhi edition of the Times of India. I never looked back.

I was a 21-year-old youngster with hopes and dreams to one day achieve as much as a sports scribe, not just in the field of my favorite game cricket but even in writing other sports. I had a passion to write and that I have always loved writing. I took out a book, a book of poems written by my daughter-in-law, and took me out to my backyard where there was an old tree, its green leaves full of life, whispering as if it was making conversation with the evening breeze. The tree alone is still surviving in this world, still standing upright and firm, like a soldier ready to protect his country from any threat. But a poem on sparrows attracted me most.

On that particular day I decided that I would follow my passion and write what I feel. I decided that though I had planned to follow the path of an Engineer, I would not stop myself from taking my passion for writing forward. People say it's a forked road ahead and we get to pick only one route for our future, contrary to the statement, I believe we could always merge the two paths in front of us and follow both our career and our passion at the same time.

Today, I take a lot of interest in the field I have chosen, which is a

part of healthcare, but that does not stop me from my passion of writing. In the past years I have learnt a lot and improved my writing skills. I feel that today I can write an article well enough to bring a change in the reader's emotions. Every time ink touches paper, I think about that particular day and it motivates me every time. Steady stream of ideas should flow from the mind to express the views in an impressive way. Good language also plays a pivotal role. The subject preferred should be of current topic and that carries weight in the media in the recent past and people follow that particular event in a very big way.

Pen is mightier than sword is true and letter writing is an art. In the days of android phones, email, and text messages, letter writing can seem hopelessly outdated. But it is an art worth bringing back, and not because of some misplaced sense of nostalgia either. The writing and reception of letters will always offer an experience that modern technology cannot touch. Twitter is effective for broadcasting what you are eating for lunch, and email is fantastic for quick exchanges on the most pertinent pieces of information. But when it comes to sharing one's true thoughts, sincere sympathies, ardent love, and deepest gratitude, words traveling along an invisible super-highway will never suffice.

Because sending a letter is the next best thing to showing up personally at someone's door. Ink from your pen touches the stationary, your fingers touch the paper, your saliva seals the envelope. And something tangible from your world travels through machines and hands, and deposits itself in your friend's mailbox. Your letter is then carried inside as an invited guest. The paper that was sitting on your desk, now is passed on. The recipient handles the paper that you handled. Letters create a connection that modern, impersonal forms of communication will never approach.

Letter writing is definitely an art. Having experienced writing letters in all the news dailies of India and all the magazines I feel proud of my hobby and taste for letter writing. We really enjoyed the art of letter writing for nearly 70 years since our independence. Even though E-mail and electronic devices are there to communicate, the art of letter writing never diminished. By the click of the mouse it is possible to

send messages all over the world to friends and relatives. But still the joy of posting a handwritten letter to your friend, relative or parents is really enthralling.

Hand-written letters exuding warmth are giving way to electronic messages slowly. Anyway, the personal touch is lost when you send an email message to your father. The world has been brought closer, but the pleasure of writing letters with pen and paper and the eagerness to receive the letters and our expectation of their arrival are gradually diminishing. We now think of the digital world not only as robbing the excitement of letter writing and losing close friendship, love and community feeling are losing their intensity slowly and steadily.

Free flow of language adds to the repertoire of letter writing. Forceful thoughts should touch the heart and soul of the people and instead of criticizing the views expressed by the writer, the people should read in between the lines and observe the finer points in a simple way. Crisp writing will help the writer to sustain for a longer duration as a letter writer in this competitive world. The writer should play to the gallery while expressing his views on sensitive subjects. Freedom of press should not be violated in any way and make the points very clear without any ambiguity. Clear mind and clear thought will flow in the early morning hours and a tired mind may not help the writer to bring out his thoughts in an appropriate way.

The habit of writing regularly; the confidence to write like a master; tools and techniques; to help you write with impact; the ability to look at one's own writing critically and with the resolve to improve it; and an understanding of emerging market conditions and what it takes to succeed commercially as a writer. It appears that we have no choice but to juggle the right words into place and hope that they are not in the wrong order.

Er. Rajesh Pathak

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com
No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

Two arrested for circulating morphed video of Shiv Sena Shinde faction leader

Two persons were arrested for allegedly circulating a morphed video of Shiv Sena MLA Prakash Surve and a woman party leader, the police informed on Sunday.

The accused have been identified as Manas Kuwar (26) and Ashok Mishra (45).

Based on the complaint of the woman leader, the police registered against unknown accused under sections 354, 509, 500, 34 and 67 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and started investigation into the matter.

The matter pertains to Saturday evening, when a rally was organized in Mumbai's Dahisar area, which was also attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. During the event, Shiv Sena MLA Prakash Surve and the woman leader welcomed the chief minister on stage.

As per allegations, during the rally some miscreants made a

video of the MLA Surve and the woman leader. They allegedly edited the video, put obscene songs into it and made it viral on internet, the police said. After the video went viral on Saturday night, leaders and workers of the Shinde faction reached the Dahisar police station and demanded an investigation against the accused.

The woman leader, whose alleged morphed video has been made viral, told ANI that she has been on the receiving side of hate for a long time.

Talking to media, she said, "The attacks on me started when my friends and I started working with CM Eknath Shinde. We have been subjected to abusive messages and derogatory comments on social media."

The leader said that she always chose to ignore the hate, but the situation escalated, when the morphed video was made viral.

She added, "During a rally, our local MLA Prakash Surve, CM Eknath Shinde and several BJP leaders were present. At that time, someone made a video, morphed it and made it viral on social media."

She also claimed that no woman will enter politics if such things happen. "They are trying to assassinate the character of woman who are working in politics. There are women working as a journalist, woman going to office, if this is how the character of women is assassinated, no woman will come in politics," she said.

She also alleged that the two accused who have been arrested are "office bearers of Thackeray faction".

"I complained to the police about the matter, after which two people were arrested who are office bearers of Thackeray group, so there is nothing to say," she alleged.

Mumbai sizzles at 39.4 degrees Celsius, logs highest temperature in India for 2nd time in Mar

For the second time in the current month, Mumbai recorded the highest maximum temperature in the country at 39.4 degrees Celsius on Sunday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, attributing the rise in mercury to the absent or delayed sea breeze.

The IMD had warned of a heatwave on Sunday and Monday. The Santacruz observatory (located in suburbs) and the Colaba observatory (located on southern tip of island city) around 19km apart recorded temperatures of 39.4 degrees Celsius and 35.8 degrees Celsius, respectively, on Sunday.

"This is for the second time this month that Mumbai has recorded the highest maximum temperature in the country. On March 6, Santacruz (observatory) recorded 39.1 degrees Celsius, also the highest in the country (that day). On Sunday, the city recorded 39.4 degrees Celsius," said IMD scientist Rajendra Je-

namani. According to the IMD, the highest Mumbai temperature in March was 41.3 degrees Celsius recorded at the Santacruz observatory on March 17, 2011.

Seven years later, the metropolis (Santacruz observatory) had recorded 41 degrees Celsius on March 26, 2018.

The IMD scientist said the temperature recorded in the coastal Konkan region, which encompasses Mumbai, was 4 to 6 degrees Celsius above normal on March 12.

This was also observed between March 5-7 when the temperature was 5 to 7 degrees above normal, Jenamani added.

"Normally, Konkan witnesses low temperatures during this time because of the sea breeze between 11.30 am and 1 pm. However, in the last seven to ten days the sea breeze is absent or delayed because of the dominant easterly winds which have resulted in high temperatures," he said.

Nashik-Mumbai farmers-workers march: Delegation to meet Maha CM

Leaders of a farmers-workers march that started from Dindori in Nashik will meet Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in Mumbai on Tuesday, one of the organisers said.

The march, organised by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), started on Sunday and more than 10,000 participants reached Sarul here during the day.

"We will meet Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in Mantra-



laya tomorrow. Former MLA JP Gavit who is leading the march, All India Kisan Sabha state general secretary Ajit Nawale will be part of the delegation," Centre of

Indian Trade Unions (CITU) national vice president DL Karad told media.

The protesters had met district guardian minister Dada Bhuse as well.

The demands include minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 2,000 per quintal for onions for 2023, Rs 600 per quintal grant for onions, export of onions on large scale, 12-hour supply of electricity for agriculture, reintroduction of Old Pension Scheme.

A protest march was taken out by Congress against the alleged Adani Scam in Mumbai

A march was taken out from Girgaon Chowpatty to Raj Bhavan by the Congress Party under the leadership of Congress Maharashtra State President Nana Patole against the alleged scam in Adani Group.

The Congress delegation gave a statement to Governor Ramesh Bais.

In this march, Legislature Congress Party Leader Balasaheb Thorat, Former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, Prithviraj Chavan, Legislative Council Group Leader

Satej Bunty Patil, Mumbai Congress President MLA Bhai Jagtap and other Congress leaders were presented.

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee President Nana Patole has said that, "The Congress party has marched to the Raj Bhavan to demand an inquiry into the Adani scam. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi raised the question in Parliament, but the government removed that part from the proceedings."

He further said, "Democracy



in the country will end if the Modi government stays in power. Therefore, we are demanding that the Modi government should be dismissed."

Major fire in slums in Malad and furniture godown in Jogeshwari; no casualty



A major fire broke out in slums in suburban Malad on Monday afternoon, but no casualty was reported, a Fire Brigade official said.

The level 3 (major) fire engulfed slums located in the Appa Pada locality and efforts were on to douse the flames, he said. Smoke billowing out of the area could be seen from several kilometres away.

According to the official, fire tenders, jumbo water tankers and other equipment were engaged in controlling the blaze. An ambulance has been also stationed at the site. No details were immediately available on the cause of the fire.

In another case, A major fire broke out in a furniture godown located in suburban Jogeshwari in Mumbai on Monday morning, officials said.

No casualty is reported. The blaze erupted after 11 AM in the Ghas Compound located on the Relief road in Jogeshwari, Fire Brigade officials said, adding it was classified as a level three fire (major emergency call).

At least 12 fire engines, six jumbo tankers, ambulances, and senior Fire Brigade officials rushed to the spot.

"The fire is confined to the furniture market," an official said, adding the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Nation

SC refers petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage to Constitution Bench

The Supreme Court on Monday referred various petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage to the Constitution Bench.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud listed the petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage to a five-judge bench constitution bench and said that the hearing will take place on April 18.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre, says the right to love, expression and freedom of choice is already upheld and no one is interfering with that right but doesn't mean conferring the right of marriage.

SG Mehta argued that the moment marriage as a recognized institution comes between the same sex, the question will come on



adoption and therefore parliament will have to see on the issue of the psychology of the child, which has to be examined whether it can be raised in such a way.

He further said that the parliament will have to debate and take a call on whether in view of ethos.

However, the court remarked adopted child of a gay or lesbian couple does not have to be gay or a lesbian. SG Mehta said that this

is a matter having grave ramifications.

When the bench was apprised that the Centre has filed an affidavit, CJI DY Chandrachud remarked Centre is saying it is in the legislative domain Senior Advocate NK Kaul said that controversy is narrowed down and they can show that either the statute can be harmoniously construed or in light of Navtej Singh, it has

to be recognised Senior Advocate KV Vishwanathan apprised the SC that the transgender protection act exists even though the centre stated that it doesn't recognise such a union.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions pertaining to the issue of same-sex marriage, which had challenged the denial of access to the institution of marriage to the members of the LGBTQ+ community as being in contravention of Part III of the Constitution, including Articles 14,15,19 and 21.

The Senior counsel appearing for the Petitioners submitted that the petitions pertained to issues of fundamental rights. Centre has opposed the prayers in the petition on the ground that such questions ought to be left to the legislature which is representative of

the will of the people.

The Bench was pleased to fix a schedule for hearing for this batch of petitions and directed that the matter be placed before a Hon'ble Constitution Bench pursuant to Article 145(3) of the Constitution.

One of the petitions was represented by Senior Advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Saurabh Kirpal briefed by a team of advocates from Karanjawala and Co.

Earlier, Centre, in its affidavit, had opposed the plea seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage, saying that living together as partners by same-sex individuals, which is decriminalised now, is not comparable with the Indian family unit and they are clearly distinct classes which cannot be treated identically.

Oppn protest against "misuse of central investigative agencies", demand probe into Hindenburg-Adani issue



Opposition leaders on Monday protested against the Central government in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Parliament before the second part of the Budget session began on Monday.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and Aam Aadmi Party MPs protested in Parliament against alleged misuse of Central investigation agencies and demanding joint parliament" parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the Hindenburg-Adani issue.

Earlier on Monday, 16 parties participated in the Opposition party leaders' meeting chaired by Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge in Parliament.

The 16 parties comprised In-

dian National Congress; Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(DMK), Janata Dal (United); Aam Admi Party; Communist Party of India (Marxist); Kerala Congress, Rashtriya Lok Dal; Nationalist Congress Party; Communist Party of India; Indian Union Muslim League; Shiv Sena (Udhav Thackeray); Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Revolutionary Socialist Party; Rashtriya Janata Dal; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the NC.

The second-half of the Budget session resumed from Monday after a month-long recess. The first half of the Budget session also faced repeated disruptions and adjournments due to protest by Opposition and demand for JPC probe into the Adani issue.

Both Houses of Parliament adjourned till Tuesday amid ruckus over Rahul Gandhi's London speech

Both Houses of Parliament were on Monday adjourned till 11 am on Tuesday amid uproar with the government demanding an apology by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in a speech in London followed by protests by Opposition members.

The second leg of the Budget session kicked off this morning amid chaos with treasury and opposition benches trading charges.

While the BJP has hit out at Rahul Gandhi demanding an apology for his speech in London, the Opposition protested with LoP Mallikarjun Kharge stating that the BJP was not following rules.

With moments of the Session

starting the Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 2 pm and when the House resumed, Union Minister Piyush Goyal demanded an apology from Congress MP Rahul Gandhi over his speech in London.

In response, Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that BJP is not following rules and demanded Goyal's words be expunged.

Earlier in the day, both the houses of Parliament were adjourned till 2 pm after the protesting Opposition leaders rushed to the Well of the House leading to a ruckus.

While addressing the lower house, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi started speaking on Con-

gress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent speech in London.

The Opposition leaders rushed to the well of the house in protest leading to a ruckus in the Parliament. Following this, Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla adjourned the Lok Sabha till 2 pm.

The Rajya Sabha was also adjourned by the speaker Jagdeep Dhankar as a ruckus was created by protesting Opposition MPs.

The second-half of the Budget session has resumed from Monday after a month long recess.

The first half of the Budget session also faced repeated disruptions and adjournments due to protest by Opposition and demand for JPC probe in the Adani issue.

Def ministry inks Rs 934 Cr contract for Normal Refit of Sindhukirti Submarine at Hindustan Shipyard

In another boost to achieve 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the Ministry of Defence on Monday signed a contract for Normal Refit of Sindhukirti Submarine at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam at an overall cost of Rs 934 crore.

After completion of the refit, Sindhukirti will be combat-worthy



and will join the active submarine fleet of the Indian Navy.

The project involves more than 20 Micro Small and Medium En-

terprises (MSMEs) and would lead to employment generation of 1,000 man-days per day for the project duration.

World

Nepal Telecom reaches maintenance agreement with Chinese company billing issues



Nepal Telecom has reached a maintenance agreement with Asian Info, a Chinese company that has repeatedly caused problems in the billing system, EPardafas reported. According to EPardafas, Nepal Telecom has entrusted the company with maintenance at a cost of 3 billion rupees for four years, with a provision that the agreement can be extended for one year.

Asian Info had connected the current billing system with Telecom. The company has continuously been getting responsibility for the maintenance of the system. However, a recent investi-

gation report by Nepal's Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, showed that the company has installed a decade-old 'outdated billing system', due to which the telecom network has been going down several times.

According to Nepal Telecom sources, it has been found that more than three billion rupees are not reflected in the billing every year due to problems in the billing system. Because of this, the income has been affected and the telecom itself has reached a state of collapse. As 1 to 1.5 per cent 'variation' is considered normal in the billing system, currently, up

to 10 per cent variation occurs in telecom and sources say that high officials of the Nepal Telecom are involved in this. Telecom has been billing more than 32 billion rupees annually. According to 10 per cent of which, more than 3 billion 20 million rupees are missing, according to EPardafas.

There was a problem in Nepal Telecom's postpaid SIM account management system, a few weeks ago. Due to this problem, the postpaid user's amount was deducted. Even before that, due to problems in the billing system itself, the telecom network was disrupted across the country. After the problem came to light, the Ministry of Communications formed an inquiry committee. The committee, drawing the conclusion that the billing system is not only old but also non-standard, suggested that the billing system in Nepal Telecom should be changed. Managing Director of Telecom, Sunil Paudel has, however, signed a maintenance contract with the same Asian Info Company for five years. (ANI)

Russian wives called on Putin "Stop forcing husbands and sons to join assault groups"



A group of Russian wives and mothers have called on President Vladimir Putin to stop sending their husbands and sons "to the slaughter" by forcing them to join assault groups without adequate training or supplies, CNN reported.

Independent Russian Telegram channel SOTA shared a video in which women said their loved ones had been "forced to join assault groups" at the beginning of March despite having just four days training since their mobilization in September.

The video shows the women holding a sign in Russian that reads, "580 Separate Howitzer Artillery Division," dated March 11, 2023. One woman in the recording said: "My husband... is located on the line of contact with the enemy."

"Our mobilized [men] are being sent like lambs to the slaughter to storm fortified areas, five at a time, against 100 heavily armed enemy men," she continued. "They are prepared to serve their homeland but according to the specialization they've trained for,

not as storm troopers. We ask that you pull back our guys from the line of contact and provide the artillerymen with artillery and ammunition," she said as quoted by CNN. CNN could not independently verify the claims made by the group of women in the video.

According to CNN, Russia's move to send hundreds of thousands to fight on the battlefields of Ukraine has generated dissent and protest and prompted many Russians, young men in particular, to flee the country. "We ran away from Russia because we want to live. We are afraid that we can be sent to Ukraine," said one man who asked not to be identified.

Families of drafted Russian men have criticized the mobilization, saying it is beset by problems such as discipline issues and lack of leadership from mid-ranking officers, non-existent training as well as logistical difficulties like insufficient uniforms, poor food and a lack of medical supplies. (ANI)

Hindu community of Pakistan to protest against forced conversions, abductions and marriages of minors



Members of Pakistan's minority Hindu community will organise a rally and converge at the Sindh Assembly building here later this month to protest the rising incidents of forced conversions, abductions and marriages of minors.

The rally, which is being organised by several Hindu community leaders in Sindh province, will be held on March 30, under the banner of Pakistan Darawer Ittehad, an organisation working for minority rights in the country.

Posters released by the organisation on social media said the rally is being held to protest the abduction, forced conversion and marriages of minor girls and forced possession of land belonging to the Hindu community in the Sindh province. "We are expecting

thousands from the Hindu community to participate in the rally as the government has turned a blind eye to the abductions, forced conversions and fake marriages of our women and girls," Chairman of Pakistan Darawer Ittehad Faqir Shiva Kuchi said.

He said the outfit has already begun mobilising protest rallies across the province to raise awareness. "When this protest rally will be held on March 30, we want everyone to see the issues faced by Hindus and members from other minority communities in the country," he explained.

Kuchi added that their demand was that a stalled bill against forced conversion and marriages be passed in the Sindh Assembly. PTI

US Treasury, Federal Reserve Board, says depositors of SVB will access to their money

The US Treasury, Federal Reserve Board, and the Financial Deposit Insurance Corporation on Sunday (local time) announced that depositors of the failed Silicon Valley Bank will have access to all of their money starting from March 13. In a joint statement released by Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen, Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome H Powell, and FDIC Chairman Martin J Gruenberg announced they would "fully protect" all depositors who had funds in Silicon Valley Bank, just days after regulators took control of the institution.

"Depositors will have access to all of their money starting Monday, March 13. No losses associated with the resolution of Silicon Valley Bank will be borne by the taxpayer," read the statement. After receiving a recommendation from the boards of the FDIC and the Federal Reserve, and consulting with the President, Secretary Yel-

len approved actions enabling the FDIC to complete its resolution of Silicon Valley Bank, Santa Clara, California, in a manner that fully protects all depositors.

In addition, Signature Bank, a New York bank, was also closed by regulators over the weekend. Signature depositors will also be made whole. "We are also announcing a similar systemic risk exception for Signature Bank, New York, New York, which was closed today by its state chartering authority. All depositors of this institution will be made whole. As with the resolution of Silicon Valley Bank, no losses will be borne by the taxpayer," added the statement. Shareholders and certain unsecured debtholders will not be protected. Senior management has also been removed. Any losses to the Deposit Insurance Fund to support uninsured depositors will be recovered by a special assessment on banks, as required by law. ANI

In Today's Environment, There is a Need to Protect Childhood from the Market.



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational
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Marginalized elements of life, in today's environment there is a need to protect childhood from the market. Cultures are made of rituals, passing on them from generation to generation and build their palaces on memories. What future are we trying to give to our children by depriving them of the chemical from which our memories were made? There is no wonder if the children who do not even have any local taste, their memories also have objectivity. It should be a pity that their dearest people will be responsible for all this! About two decades ago joint families were commonly found in villages. Families would have many children of our age. In many households, there was no concept of food, especially breakfast, but eating three meals a day was more like a rule. No matter where one went, whatever the time, he always used to go after having food. Possibilities like 'will eat outside' were not considered there. The children go to school at seven in the morning in the summer, till then Khan Due to not being ready, he used to eat the remaining food of the night as a snack. Breakfast was eaten during half the holiday, then lunch was eaten in the afternoon. In winter, when the school time started at 10:30 in the morning and at 4:30 when they came home after the whole vacation, the children would be very tired. Bread replaced grandma's bread. However, in spite of that fatigue, his liveliness would remain intact. Then his grandmother would prepare tea and red chili chutney for everyone. As soon as they

arrived, they would bake the morning roti on the embers in the chulha and serve it with tea. She would give food and without asking any question, the children would gobble it up. Actually, the name of bread or double roti was not that popular in the villages during that period. Children would have only imagined if they heard about it from someone's mouth, because then generally such things hardly entered the rural farmer's family. Nowadays, seeing children eat everything with bottled chutney brought from the market, these memories seem far away and somewhat imaginary. The discipline

called eating has ended. Now in the name of food the discipline that was there is over. There was no concept of ready-made breakfast in the village. Milk, buttermilk, curd, rabri, gram, moong dal, gram flour-onion curry, roti with raw onion or dry jaggery in summer, all this was in the fixed rules of eating. The taste was linked to the land, the food and vegetables grown indigenously in the fields had their own taste. The goods of the market were brought to meet the needs, and not for hobby, show or entertainment. But then things changed not slowly, but aggressively. based on existing internet. In the era, the market spread

everywhere. In such a situation, what was to be saved even for the food plate! Now the villages have left the cities behind in terms of food and drink for the children. Nowadays it is difficult to find such children even in the village, whose mind is not satisfied with eating curd or who is fond of milk. It is surprising that parents have started taking this aspect of parenting so seriously keeping aside all other responsibilities as a way of modernity. Whether they give good ideas to their children or not, the slavery of the market and their show off. These are going on giving. Parents feel proud to say that our child does not even touch bread or the children of today do not eat anything at all. He is also heard saying about these children that even if they are fed canned food for a hundred rupees a day, they will eat it. The question is, do any parents ever think about why children do not eat. Second, the important question of whether children really don't eat or we don't want to feed them has been completely ignored. Is. In fact, in the frenzy of providing all kinds of facilities to the children, we are not only cutting them off from their roots, but are also playing with their health. We have created a wrong definition of modernity and facilities. We have our memories in our values and we only care about those shortcomings, which remained in our childhood. That's why we are trying to satisfy our memories by fulfilling them in our children. But this is probably the wrong way. Every time and generation has its own kind of needs. What was a dream for us yesterday, is today. It is a strange reality for children. We need to protect their childhood from the market. There is a need to retain them as children rather than consumers as long as possible. They need to be given ideas, discretion and clear vision, not objects.



Entertainment

Kangana Ranaut lauds Deepika's Oscar appearance, says "testimony to fact that Indian women are best"

Actor Kangana Ranaut on Monday, showered appreciation on actor Deepika Padukone for her appearance at the Oscars 2023. The 'Pathaan' actor made it to the Academy Awards stage as a presenter to give a special shoutout to RRR's power-packed song 'Naatu Naatu' which went on to win the Academy Award for the 'Best Original Song' category.

The performance received a standing ovation.

Taking to Twitter, Kangana Ranaut praised Deepika and wrote, "How beautiful Deepika Padukone looks, not easy to stand there holding entire nation together, carrying its image, reputation on those delicate shoulders and speaking so graciously and confidently. Deepika stands tall as a testimony to the fact that Indian women are the best."

This post by Kangana took everyone by surprise as she had previously slammed Deepika on social media. Kangana lost her temper during a promotional event for her reality show 'Lock Upp' when a journalist asked her a question regarding 'Gehraiyaan' actor. (ANI)



Michelle Yeoh created history at Oscars by becoming the first Asian woman to win the 'Best Actress' award. Yeoh won her first Academy Award for best actress for her performance in "Everything, Everywhere, All at Once." The award followed a long career in martial arts and action films such as "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Yes, Madam."

"For all the little boys and girls who look like me watching tonight, this is a beacon of hope and possibilities," Yeoh said from the stage, as per Variety. "This is proof that dreams do come true. And ladies, don't let anybody tell you that you are ever past your prime. Never give up." Yeoh dedicated the award to her mom and all the mothers in the world - "They are real the superheroes, and without them, none of us will be here tonight".

According to Variety, Yeoh is only the third Asian woman to win an Oscar for acting, following Yuh-Jung Youn for "Minari" and Miyoshi Umeki for "Sayonara," and the first in the lead category. Yeoh defeated Cate Blanchett for "Tar," Michelle Williams for "The Fabelmans," Andrea Riseborough for "To Leslie," and Ana de Armas for "Blonde" to win the award. Before exiting the stage, she shouted, "Thank you to the Academy -- this is history in the making!" ANI

Michelle Yeoh becomes first Asian woman to win the 'Best Actress' award

RRR' song 'Naatu Naatu' and 'The Elephant Whisperers' both won Oscars

It was truly a memorable day for India as it celebrated two big wins at the Oscars. Team 'RRR' and 'The Elephant Whisperers' both won at the 95th Annual Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California, making it a historic day for Indian filmmakers and the audience.

A victory that feels very personal to every Indian is that of 'Naatu Naatu'! The song that made millions groove to its beats was also performed on the Oscar stage by a power-packed singer duo Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava. Later, the team lifted the trophy as the hall lit up with loud cheers and claps. The moment lyricist Chandrabose and composer MM Keeravani accepted the trophy will always be remembered as a revolutionary moment for Indian cinema. During their acceptance speech, 'Naatu Naatu' composer M.M Keeravani said, "I grew up listening to the Carpenters and now here I am with the Oscars," he began, and then began singing the melody of the '70s pop smash "Top of the World": "There was only one wish on my mind. ... 'RRR' has to win, pride of every Indian, and must put me on the top of the world."

Post the win, Jr NTR and Ram Charan expressed their gratitude to all those who believed in them. Jr NTR said, "I cannot find the words to express my elation right now. This is not just a win for RRR but for India as a country. I believe this is just the beginning. Showing us how far Indian cinema can go. Congratulations to Keeravaani garu and Chandrabose garu. Of course none of this would have been



possible without a master storyteller called Rajamouli and the audiences who showered us with all the love. I would also like to congratulate the team of 'The Elephant Whisperers' on their win today bringing another Oscar to India."

'Naatu Naatu' competed against 'Applause' from the film 'Tell It Like A Woman,' 'Hold My Hand' from the movie 'Top Gun: Maverick,' 'Lift me Up' from 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,' and 'This Is Life,' from 'Everything, Everywhere All At Once'.

The Elephant Whisperers Guneet Monga's 'The Elephant Whisperers', a documentary directed by Kartiki Gonsalves paved way for many to believe that India truly can take the centre stage globally. It won the Oscar in the 'Best Documentary Short Film' category against 'Haul Out,' 'How Do You Measure

A Year?' 'The Martha Mitchell Effect,' and 'Stranger At The Gate'.

In her winning speech, Gonsalves said, "I stand here today to speak on the sacred bond between us and our natural world. For the respect of indigenous communities. For entity towards other living beings, we share our space with. And finally for co-existence. Thank you to the academy for recognizing our film highlighting indigenous people and animals. To Netflix for believing in the power of this film. To Guneet my Producer and my entire team and finally, to my mother father and sister who are up there somewhere, you're the centre of my universe. To my motherland India." ANI