



Aaditya Thackeray hits out at BJP for poll campaigning amid violence in Manipur

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Manipur violence: Army rescues 23,000 civilians



Indian Army and Assam Rifles which were called in to curb violence in Manipur have successfully rescued nearly 23,000 civilians so far and moved them to the operating bases, a statement from the Indian Army said on Sunday.

As per the statement, no major incidents of violence have been reported since the rescue operation began resulting in the relaxation in the curfew hours which are now from 7 am to 10 am today in Churachandpur.

"Ray of hope due to efforts of 120- 125 Army and Assam Rifles columns who are working tirelessly for past 96 hours to rescue civilians across all communities, curb violence and restore normalcy has emerged with no major violence being reported and curfew, therefore being relaxed from 7-10 am today in Churachandpur followed by flag march by Security Forces immediately thereafter," the Army statement said.

"Total 23000 civilians have been rescued till now and were moved to own operating bases/military Garrisons," it added.

Earlier on May 3, owing to tension over the move to protect forests in the face of resistance from illegal immigrants and also the High Court's direction to include Meitei in scheduled tribes, the district administration imposed a complete curfew in violence-hit Churachandpur in Manipur.

Majority of Indian Sikhs don't want Khalistan – Part 3

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Another issue that is agonizing Sikhs is the prolonged detention of Sikh political prisoners. This issue has grabbed global attention in recent times when a Sikh farmer from Haryana, Gurbaksh Singh Khalsa, vowed to fast until his death or the release of named prisoners who were not being released by the Indian State despite serving the minimum mandatory terms of their sentences. But the Indian media was again mute or misleading. This issue was discussed on various global media platforms. We are a small newspaper, but our morality is way too big. Keeping calm on such crucial issues was a burden on my soul. I don't know how much I will be able to reach people, but I am sure that I have made some efforts. Maybe the nonviolent,

peaceful struggle of Gurbaksh Singh Khalsa was not dramatic enough to gain TRP. Maybe this topic is not commercially viable for them; maybe there is no personal gain in this news broadcast.

After all, media standards have unbeatable competition for advertisements. This is the reason Indian citizens remained unaware of the developments taking place in Punjab. They just know there was a threat to the PM's life due to a security breach. They just know how political scheming failed in the tug of war. They just know some female calling herself Sidhu's sister is washing the family's dirty linen in public. They know all that creates the sensation but not the sense.

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Majority of Indian Sikhs don't want Khalistan – Part 3

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Sikhs are not only political victims; they are sufferers in the entertainment industry too. Sikh jokes are another thing that Sikhs have to deal with every day.

Later on, Lal Bahadur Shastri took some good decisions and helped the Punjab. In the Meanwhile, one of the top Congress leaders promised to give perks to Punjab if it gets divided.

Meanwhile, the government started promoting Deras. Congress helped Deras open various new branches. This was done to weaken Sikh agitations. Later on, Badals also supported Dera under the table to make Sikhs insecure.

Sikhs are not only political victims; they are sufferers in the entertainment industry too. Sikh jokes are another thing that Sikhs have to deal with every day. Many of us have made merry with the jokes, ignoring and realizing that it's just a mere joke. But why do we make a point of humor, and that too not on genuine humor stints but on appearance, communication skills, and not-so-intelligent people? On the contrary, many Sikh personalities have been at the top of their respective fields.

When the whole country was divided into states on the basis of language. Punjab was an exception. Sikhs started supporting the Akalis because they felt their culture and language were in danger. Mass protest irked Nehru; he made every possible effort to tame it. Partap Singh Kairon, CM (Congress 1960), worked hard for undivided Punjab and made it the most prosperous state. After Kairon's assassination and Nehru's death, Akali leaders once again pushed their agenda for the division of Punjab on a linguistic basis.

Later on, Lal Bahadur Shastri took some good decisions and helped the Punjab. In the Meanwhile, one of the top Congress leaders promised to give perks to Punjab if it gets divided. This came true under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, who flipped all the decisions of Shastri. Punjab was misused by the center to gain votes. Hatred against them was rising in the country. In the early 1980s, there was a conference in Amritsar, top Sikh leaders were called, but they felt discriminated against. The media was under the control of politicians, and no news was made to bring out the truth about all that was burning in Punjab.

Meanwhile, the government started promoting Deras. Congress helped Deras open various new branches. This was done to weaken Sikh agitations. Later on, Badals also supported Dera under the table to make Sikhs insecure. Time and again they got deceived, but every time the opponents were different. Sikhism has often been criticized by non-Sikhs regarding its texts, practices, and social customs, but Sikhs and other scholars argue that these criticisms are flawed and are based on a biased and poor understanding of the texts, particularly the multiple languages used in the Sikh scriptures. They also argue that most western scholars who attempted to interpret eastern religious texts were missionaries and could not overcome the bias they carried with them,



irrespective of whether they were translating the Quran, Vedas, or Puranas of the Guru Granth Sahib. Guru Nanak rejected ceremonial worship and encouraged belief in one true God, Waheguru.

The worship and bowing to the Guru Granth Sahib have often been interpreted by western scholars as parallel to idolization, as observed by the Hindu faith, which defeats the ideology of Guru Nanak. A few Sikh groups have put pressure on universities to clutter academic criticism of popular Sikh literature and theories of Sikh history, but even today, the outlook towards Sikhism has not changed much. From political linkage to protecting Sikh cultural values, they have various challenges to deal with.

Vaidehi Taran

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Positive step by finance ministry

CAs and CSs who are concerned about how it will benefit their customers and reconcile numbers or exercise to save tax have now been brought under the purview of PMLA under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. CAs and CSs will now have to provide all details of their clients to the Ministry of Finance through KYC for five important transactions. is the Sale or purchase of immovable property, KYC is going to be mandatory while managing client's wealth, securities or other assets. Also, setting up and planning of companies, limited liability companies or partnerships, construction and management of trusts and operations will now have to be openly reported to the government. Due to the decision taken by the government, now Objection to the expectation that all information will be collected and the true figures of wealth and corresponding tax liabilities will be revealed. Shouldn't be?

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Saving birds from danger

Birds, the beautiful creatures of God, are facing a constant decline in their population due to various factors such as exposed electrical wires, mobile towers and poor management by authorities.

One of the primary reasons for the death of birds is the presence of exposed electrical wires. High voltage wires that are not covered or have joints without protective measures can cause fatal injuries to the birds.

Similarly, mobile towers can also pose a significant threat to the birds flying at high altitudes, as they can collide with the high voltage machinery near these towers.

Developed countries such as Germany and the Netherlands have implemented underground electrical systems, significantly reducing the risk of harm to any living creature.

We Indians must also take strict action against exposed wires, internet towers and poor management by the authorities to protect the bird population.

Let us therefore collectively work towards safeguarding the beauty of nature and preserving the existence of these magnificent creatures.

Jubel D'Cruz

Needs logical conclusions

No doubt the proposed mega textile hub at Kalaburagi will be a boon for employment in the region and the Government has to pursue the design in charge mode so as to commission it at the earliest. There's a lot of concern about jobs for youth in interior and pastoral corridor of Karnataka like Kalaburagi at the present juncture. With this advertisement, the youth are looking up to the textile hub for economic employment. Keeping in mind the once experience, it'll be a litmus test for the Government to prove that it can follow up on its pledges of furnishing state- of- art draw and play manufacturing installations, common amenities including e-fluent treatment shops, accommodation for workers, skill training centers and warehouses. A lot of anticipation is riding on the mega hub. Kalaburagi's strategic position and the prospects of an estimated one lakh people getting jobs from the hub has given it a lot of heft. We've seen in history numerous adverts not being taken to the logical conclusion or devilish detainments dealing a death blow to the pledges by governments. Many are hoping that the Central government won't allow similar effects to be in this case.

Dr.Vijaykumar H K

Causes and Preventions for Healthy Teeth and a Happy Smile

"A smile is the curve that sets everything straight, but healthy teeth are what keep it shining bright."

Tooth pain can be a debilitating experience, and unfortunately, I have been suffering from it for the past week. Despite taking prescribed medication, the pain still persists, and it has been difficult to enjoy social events and activities with family and friends. This has prompted me to write this article on tooth pain causes and preventions, in the hopes that others can avoid the same pain and discomfort I am currently experiencing.

Tooth pain can be a nagging problem that affects not only our physical health but also our mental well-being. It can disrupt our sleep, make it difficult to eat, and even affect our mood. While tooth pain can be caused by a range of factors, it is important to understand that it is preventable. By following some simple guidelines and making a few lifestyle changes, we can avoid the discomfort of tooth pain.

Regular dental check-ups are essential for maintaining healthy teeth and gums. Dentists can identify early signs of tooth decay or gum disease and provide appropriate treatment to prevent further damage. They can also offer advice on proper brushing and flossing techniques, as well as recommend mouthwashes or other oral care products.

A healthy diet is crucial for preventing tooth pain. Foods that are high in sugar and acid can erode the enamel of our teeth, making them more susceptible to decay and sensitivity. Eating a balanced diet that includes plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains can help keep our teeth healthy and strong.

We should also avoid the consumption of alcohol and tobacco to maintain good oral and overall health. Smoking and alcohol consumption can lead to a range of health issues, including gum disease, tooth decay, and oral cancer. Smoking can stain teeth and cause bad breath, and it can also reduce the effectiveness of certain dental treatments. By avoiding these sub-



stances, we can reduce the risk of these problems and promote better oral health.

If you participate in sports or other physical activities, it is important to wear a mouthguard to protect your teeth from injury. Mouthguards can also help prevent bruxism, a condition in which we grind or clench our teeth, which can lead to tooth pain and other dental problems.

Stress can also contribute to tooth pain, as it can lead to clenching or grinding of teeth. Finding healthy ways to manage stress, such as exercise or meditation, can help reduce the risk of tooth pain.

In addition to the measures discussed above, there are other steps we can take to manage tooth pain if it does occur. Over-the-counter pain relievers can provide temporary relief. However, it is important to follow the instructions carefully and not exceed the recommended dose.

Applying a cold compress to the affected area can also help reduce pain and inflammation. It is important to avoid placing ice directly on the tooth, as this can cause further damage.

If the tooth pain persists or is accompanied by other symptoms such as swelling or fever, it is important to seek prompt dental attention. These could be signs of a more serious problem that requires

immediate treatment.

Bottom Line: A healthy smile starts with healthy teeth, and healthy teeth start with a commitment to preventive care. Invest in your dental health today, to prevent the pain of tomorrow

Tooth pain can be a serious problem that affects our daily lives. By following these simple guidelines and making a few lifestyle changes, we can prevent tooth pain and maintain healthy teeth and gums. Regular dental check-ups, a healthy diet, avoiding alcohol and tobacco use, wearing a mouthguard during physical activities, and managing stress can all help prevent tooth pain and keep our smiles healthy and pain-free. Remember good dental hygiene isn't just about preventing cavities, it's about preserving your smile and your self-confidence as prevention is always better than cure.

"Taking care of your teeth is not just about maintaining your oral health, it's about preserving your quality of life."

- Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

Educational Columnist

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

Aaditya Thackeray hits out at BJP for poll campaigning amid violence in Manipur



Former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray on Sunday expressed "serious concern" over the prevailing violence in Manipur.

Hitting out at the BJP, which is in power at the Centre, he said that the Central government should be focusing to bring the situation under control in the northeastern state instead of campaigning for elections. The final leg of campaigning for the May

10 Assembly elections has intensified in Karnataka. Top leaders of BJP and Congress are campaigning for the assembly elections in the southern state.

Speaking to reporters in Mumbai, Aaditya Thackeray said, "The situation in Manipur is very worrisome. The violence should stop. The Central government should focus to contain violence in the state".

Thackeray said that the situa-

tion in Manipur should not have spiralled out of control in the first place. "But the whole administration, be it Central or state government, is busy in election campaigning".

He also appealed to the state government that the Marathi students stuck in Manipur should be taken out safely and brought back to Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, Indian Army and Assam Rifles which were called in to curb violence in Manipur have successfully rescued nearly 23,000 civilians so far and moved them to the operating bases, a statement from the Indian Army said on Sunday.

As per the statement, no major incidents of violence have been reported since the rescue operation began resulting in the relaxation in the curfew hours which are now from 7 am to 10 am today in Churachandpur.

Maha Vikas Aghadi will always remain united: Ajit Pawar



Days after Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar took back his resignation as the party chief, his nephew and Maharashtra Leader of Opposition (LoP) Ajit Pawar said that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance will always stay united.

MVA is the coalition between Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) that came into existence after the 2019 Assembly elections in Maharashtra.

Speaking to the reporters here in Pune, Ajit Pawar said, "NCP chief Sharad Pawar is our top leader. His resignation issue is

over now. He himself addressed a press conference and said what he wanted to. There is no point in discussing that again and again. "Our stand is the same as Pawar Saheb's stand. MVA will remain united always," he added.

Speaking on the Manipur violence, Ajit Pawar urged the centre to bring the violence under control.

"Being the Leader of the Opposition, I have written to the Chief Minister and Deputy CM to make sure that we are able to bring back the students stranded in Manipur. As soon as possible, the central government should intervene and try to bring the violence under control," he said.

Special aircraft to evacuate 22 Maha students stranded in Manipur: CM Shinde



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday said that a special aircraft has been arranged to rescue 22 students of the state stranded in violence-hit Manipur.

"A special aircraft has been arranged to rescue 22 stranded students back to Maharashtra and soon this aircraft will enter Maharashtra with these students," the CM said in a statement.

Shinde on Sunday also spoke with the students stuck in Manipur over the phone and assured them of all the possible help, as per the official statement from the Maharashtra Chief Minister's office.

"Many students from Maha-

raashtra are studying in Manipur's NITs, IITs and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde contacted Tushar Awadh and Vikas Sharma on the phone and assured them of all possible help. In this regard, the Chief Minister has also directed the Chief Secretary of the state to contact the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Manipur and request them to take care of the safety of the students," the statement said.

The Chief Minister further said that these stranded students will be brought to Maharashtra soon by air and the Maharashtra government is monitoring the situation in Manipur.

'Sanjay Raut a "snake", will ditch Uddhav, join NCP': Nitesh Rane

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Nitesh Rane on Sunday described Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut as a "snake" and claimed that he will ditch Thackeray and join Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on June 10.

Speaking to the media at his residence, Nitesh Rane said, "This is going to create waves in Maharashtra politics in the coming days. Sanjay Raut will join the NCP on June 10."

Rane further claimed that Sanjay Raut is opposed to Ajit Pawar and he will join NCP if the latter leaves the party. "Ac-



ording to the information I received, Sanjay Raut is following Sharad Pawar because he is about to join NCP soon and hence is doing so in a hurry. Sanjay Raut has always opposed Ajit Pawar. So he has just one condition, if Ajit

Pawar leaves the party, he will join NCP", Rane added.

The BJP leader alleged that Sanjay Raut has been trying to "eliminate" Uddhav Thackeray politically. "Sanjay Raut will be seen on the stage of NCP in the near future. When Sharad Pawar resigned, all the leaders of the opposition called on Sharad Pawar asking not to resign. But I did not read or see anywhere that Uddhav Thackeray called or asked him not to resign. So Sanjay Raut is trying to eliminate Uddhav Thackeray in a political way. I just want to tell Uddhav Thackeray that Sanjay Raut is a snake", Rane said.

Minor detained for "derogatory" remarks against Shivaji Maharaj; case registered

Bhiwandi police in Maharashtra have registered a case against a minor for allegedly posting "derogatory" comments on social media against Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, police said on Sunday.

The accused youth has been

detained, police said.

"A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code was registered by the police and the minor was taken into custody," a police officer of the Thane police said.

In November last year, former Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari courted controver-

sy by calling Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj an "old icon" while addressing a function at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Aurangabad.

An outrage sparked following his remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, a revered figure in Maharashtra.

Nation

BJP alleges "sex for job" scandal, demands sacking of Punjab minister



BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala said at a press conference in the national capital on Sunday. "The victim came on camera saying that he was subjected to sexual misconduct by the minister, who lured him with the promise of a job. This minister, exploiting his position, power, and influence, abused and exploited this young boy. The entire testimony is on video," Poonawala added.

The BJP leader said the Punjab governor also took cognisance of the matter and asked the government if the minister can continue in his post in light of these grave allegations. "The victim filed a complaint with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, based on which notice was issued to the Punjab government, DGP, and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on the action taken. The governor also took cognisance of the matter. The forensic report on the video established the veracity of the clip. The governor has asked the Punjab government to clarify if such a person could remain in the cabinet," he said.

Describing the alleged incident as the Aam Aadmi Party's "sex-for-job model", Poonawala alleged that the party's top brass gives "protection" to such leaders. "This is their 'sex-for-job' model. Once a Delhi Minister was caught on camera indulging in misconduct with a woman. The AAP defended him at a press conference. The 'sex-for-job' model is growing popular (in the AAP) with protection at the highest level," the BJP spokesperson alleged.

The BJP on Sunday alleged that the National Commission for Scheduled Castes issued a notice to the Punjab government in connection with a complaint of alleged "sexual misconduct" of a boy by a state minister, and demanded his sacking from the cabinet.

"The story of how the AAP is against the Scheduled Caste is being exposed through 'The AAP Story'. A story of terrifying exploitation, sexually predatory behaviour, and moral degradation to the lowest levels. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes has taken cognisance

and issued a notice to the Punjab government over its minister Lal Chand Kataruchak," BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala said at a press conference in the national capital on Sunday.

"The victim came on camera saying that he was subjected to sexual misconduct by the minister, who lured him with the promise of a job. This minister, exploiting his position, power, and influence, abused and exploited this young boy. The entire testimony is on video," Poonawala added.

The BJP leader said the Punjab governor also took cog-

UCC, NRC have potential to divide society, K;taka people will reject BJP proposals: Chidambaram



Amid the raging "Bajrang Dal" row, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Sunday said his party's Karnataka polls manifesto did not state that the outfit will be banned but promised "decisive action" under law as a warning to all organisations that indulge in hate-mongering.

Hitting out at the BJP over its criticism, he also questioned the equating of Bajrang Dal with 'Bajrangbali', asking how can this "magical transformation" be explained.

In an interview with PTI

ahead of the May 10 Karnataka assembly polls, Chidambaram expressed confidence that the people of the state will choose wisely, asserting that the choice is stark as Karnataka could either become a model of a liberal, democratic, plural, tolerant and progressive state or an inward-looking, majoritarian, intolerant and regressive state.

"For the sake of democracy and the future of Karnataka, we must stop the BJP from winning in Karnataka and using the victory to launch forays into the neighbouring states," he said.

Corruption, unemployment are real 'terrorism' in Karnataka: Priyanka Gandhi



Corruption, looting, price rise and unemployment are the real "terrorism" in Karnataka today and the ruling BJP had failed to address the actual issues of people while the party was in power, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said on Sunday.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Moodbidri in Dakshina Kannada district here, she

said BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi are always talking about extremism and national security when elections are round the corner.

"They are not talking about your (people's) real issues. I want to tell the BJP leaders that price rise, unemployment and the 40 per cent corruption of the BJP government are the real extremism," she said.

K'taka Assembly Polls: PM Modi holds massive road show in Bengaluru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, a day before the final day of campaigning for May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka, held a massive road show in the city, waving at a large number of enthusiastic crowd lined up on both sides of the route, despite overcast sky.

The 8-km roadshow from Kemppegowda statue at New Thippasandra Road to Trinity circle was covered in about one-and-half hours. The roadshow that began with Modi paying floral tributes to the statue of Kemppegowda (founder of Bengaluru) passed through



parts of east and central Bengaluru, touching about half-a-dozen Assembly segments, they said.

The PM was accompanied in the specially-designed vehicle by

Union Minister of State Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who is a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, and Bengaluru Central MP, P C Mohan.

Wrestlers Protest: Delhi Police tightens security as farmers head to Jantar Mantar

Delhi Police stepped up security arrangements at Jantar Mantar, where wrestlers are staging a sit-in, and in border areas of the city as hundreds of farmers are expected to visit the protest site on Sunday to extend support to the grapplers.



Vehicles entering Delhi were being checked and pickets were increased at Delhi-Ghaziपुर, Tikri and Singhu borders.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Saturday announced a nationwide agitation in support of the wrestlers who have been protesting at Jantar Mantar against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

World

Ukraine conflict: Air raid alerts in Kyiv as multiple blasts rock Crimea



As air raid sirens wailed across most of Ukraine overnight for several hours, numerous explosions were reported in Crimea on Sunday, according to Al Jazeera.

The alleged drone attacks occurred on Sunday as the head of the Wagner paramilitary force urged Moscow to allow Chechen fighters to relieve his forces at the front-line city of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine and the UN nuclear chief warned of "dangerous" conditions surrounding the Russian-

controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant.

After the blasts, at least three uncrewed vehicles were downed over the port city of Sevastopol in Russia-annexed Crimea. Damage from the assaults elsewhere on the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, was not immediately known.

According to Al Jazeera, Mikhail Razvozhayev, the Sevastopol governor appointed by Moscow, posted on the Telegram messaging service, "No objects

[in Sevastopol] were damaged."

Recently, on May 3, as many as 16 people were killed by Russian air strikes in Ukraine's southern Kherson region on Wednesday, local prosecutors said. "The death toll has risen to 16," the prosecutor's office said on Telegram, adding that "about 22" other people were "injured to varying degrees."

According to the regional prosecutor's office, the authorities announced a curfew from Friday evening. "Under the procedural control of the Kherson District Prosecutor's Office, a pre-trial investigation has been initiated into the violation of the laws and customs of war combined with premeditated murder (Part 2 of Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine)," it said.

The attack came amid Russia's claims that Ukraine attempted to assassinate President Vladimir Putin when it flew two drones toward the Kremlin overnight. Russia said Putin was not in the building at the time of the attack.

Canada's Alberta declares state of emergency over wildfires

Canadian province of Alberta on Saturday declared a provincial state of emergency after tens of thousands of Albertans have been forced to evacuate their homes as "unprecedented" wildfires rage on in Alberta, Premier Danielle Smith, head of the ruling United Conservative Party (UCP) said at a press conference.

By Saturday at 5 pm Mountain Time (7 p.m. ET), more than 24,000 Albertans had been evacuated from their homes, with 110 active wildfires across the province, and 36 out of control.

"Much of Alberta has been experiencing a hot, dry spring and with so much kindling, all it takes is a few sparks to ignite some truly frightening wildfires," said Smith at a press conference earlier in the day. "These conditions have resulted in the unprecedented situation our province is facing today," said Smith.

Among the communities evacuated was Brazeau County,



including all 7,000 people living in Drayton Valley, 140 km (87 miles) west of the province's capital Edmonton.

The entire community of 3,600 people in Fox Lake was also among the evacuees, where the 1,458-hectare (3609-acre) Fox Lake fire consumed 20 homes and the police station. "I don't know that I ever recall seeing multiple communities evacuated all at once in fire season," said Smith.

She said C\$1.5 billion (USD

1.12 billion) is put aside as a contingency because they know a significant amount could need to be spent on emergency management. Whitecap Resources (WCP.TO), an oil producer operating in northwestern and central Alberta, said it has been busy ensuring staff are safe through the evacuation process and assets are unaffected. "(We are) monitoring closely and praying for rain," Grant Fagerheim, Whitecap CEO, said on Saturday.

Torrential rains claim more than 175 lives in Congo

Claiming over 175 lives, torrential rains in Congo have resulted in widespread damage and devastated numerous villages across the country, Al Jazeera reported citing regional officials.

According to a statement from the provincial office of South Kivu, torrential rain on Thursday forced a river to overflow in the province, causing considerable damage and fatalities in the villages of Bushushu and Nyamukubi.

Photos circulating on social media indicated that the weather had cleared, exposing flattened homes and roofs with thick layers of mud. Widespread destruction

occurred as heavy rains lashed most parts of the Central-African country. Landslides and floods happen are frequent occurrences in South Kivu. Theo Ngwabidje Kasi, the governor of South Kivu, reported 176 fatalities and added that more individuals were still missing, according to Al Jazeera.

The recent flooding has worsened the current humanitarian situation in Congo brought on by decades of conflict between various armed groups.

According to a recent UN census, there have been at least 122 rebel factions fighting in the area for more than 25 years. Another million Congolese have also left the nation, reported Al Jazeera.

Benjamin Netanyahu to terrorists, 'We will find you'

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday visited the ISA Special Operations Headquarters from which a counter-terrorist operation in which two terrorists who murdered Leah Dee and her two daughters on the Passover holiday in April was overseen.

"This morning, the IDF, the ISA and the National Counter-Terrorism Unit took action in the Old City of Nablus, in daylight," said Netanyahu.

"They settled accounts with the murderers of Leah, Maya and Rina Dee, may their memories be a blessing. They confronted these murderers and eliminated them."

"There is a message here that needs to be understood: In recent

months, we have eliminated, or captured, 110 terrorists, most of them were eliminated. Our message to the murderers, to whoever attacks us, or tries to attack us is - We will find you. You can hide, you can try to hide, but it will not help. The long arm of the State of Israel will find you."

The two terrorists were killed on Thursday morning in the Kasbah in Nablus (Shechem) during a joint operation conducted by the Shin Bet, the Border Police, the IDF, and Police Special Forces. The two are identified as Hassan Katnani and Ma'ad Masri. In addition, Ebrahim Hora, who was described as a senior aide to the two terrorists, was also killed.

Texas mall shooting: 9 people, including gunman, dead

A gunman opened fire at a crowded mall in the US state of Texas, killing at least eight people before being shot dead by a police officer, officials have said, in the latest in a relentless series of gun violence across the country.

The gunfire erupted around 3:30 pm on Saturday at the Allen Premium Outlets as throngs of shoppers filled the outdoor mall, which is about 25 miles north of Dallas and has more than 120 stores. Police said they shot the

gunman dead and believe he acted alone.

Police are yet to identify the victims and the gunman. A Dallas-area medical group says it was treating victims as young as 5 years old. At least seven people are being treated in hospital, three of whom are critically ill.

Allen Fire Chief Jonathan Boyd said seven people - including the gunman - were pronounced dead at the scene and two died later in hospital.

Expression

Omission of Development Issues in Karnataka Elections



Lalit Gang

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The assembly elections in Karnataka are going to be very interesting; the results of these elections will have an impact on the future state of the Congress as well as the assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. With these elections, the directions for deciding the role of Congress in the process of opposition unity will also emerge. In this sense, the Karnataka elections are important and will change the directions of future Indian politics. The Congress has pinned a lot of hopes on these elections, while on behalf of the BJP, like every time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is campaigning vigorously. By talking about banning Bajrang bali in its manifesto, the Congress has stopped its march towards victory. Because the BJP is associating it with the honour and respect of Hindu sentiments, its negative effects will definitely be seen in the era of Hindutva wave sweeping the country.

In spite of all the hustle and bustle, this election also seems to be deviating from the issues. As the polling date in Karnataka draws closer, the assembly elections seem to be drifting away from issues and focusing on religious sentiments. Election promises of free revelries are an old tradition in the south, but now snakes around Shiva's neck and Bajrangbali have also become election issues. Karnataka, which has become the gateway of BJP in South India, is counted among the socio-economically better states, but the bitter truth is that the politics there has not been free from caste barriers. The state has three major communities - Lingayats, Vokkaligas and Kurubas. Political parties have been looking for the way to power only by sitting the

correct maths of their vote-politics among them.

This time also the electoral scenario seems to be starting from this multiplication. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa; the BJP has big faces from the largest Lingayat community in the form of Yeddyurappa, but it has also suffered a setback with former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi rebelling and joining the Congress. The Congress has a Kuruba community in the form of former chief minister Siddaramaiah and state president D.K. The Vokkaliga community already has big faces in the form of Siva Kumar. In such a situation, it can be assumed that the change of sides of Shettar and Savadi has only benefited him. It will not be surprising if the effect of religious sentiments also shows its magic amidst these caste equations.

Despite the strong position of the Congress, even if the BJP pulls a miracle, it cannot be ruled out. The Congress may make the functioning of the BJP governments headed by Yeddyurappa and Bommai an issue or the former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik and the wrestlers' dharna at JantarMantar are additional issues for it. In response to the BJP's manifesto with populist promises, Congress promises in the same way or going further are also politically understandable, but the promise of ban on Bajrang Dal along with PFI has provided BJP the desired issue. First, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge created an unwanted and unseemly controversy by calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a poisonous snake, then by keeping Bajrang Dal and PFI in the same category, Congress has diverted the election from the real issues and got swayed by emotions. You have given yourself a chance to go.

The issue of Bajrang Dal is going to be effective, because the people

of Karnataka have an emotional and religious connection with Hanumanji, the pride of being the birthplace of Bajrangbali goes to this state. The BJP wanted this election to take a religious turn, Congress has facilitated the BJP by raising the issue of Bajrangbali. The question is, why has the Congress once again agreed to play on the election pitch prepared by the BJP? The Congress, which dreams of banning Bajrang Dal, is actually calling for its complete downfall. Bajrang Dal is a nationalist organization of patriotic youth, who does not see caste, religion etc. in times of calamity and cooperates with body, mind and money in solving the crisis of the country. Where it is condemnable to compare it with terrorist organizations like PFI due to political bias, the same politics is a sign of immaturity.

Congress is also losing its remaining respect due to such prejudiced thoughts. It is ironic that instead of doing the evil of terrorism, the Congress is keen to target nationalist organisations. She is probably forgetting the history of Bajrang Dal. Who doesn't know the remarkable role of this nationalist organization in making the Raj work successful in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement? When the Congress released the manifesto, this one promise along with the freebies attracted everyone's attention. It seems, the sooner Congress gets out of this daydreaming, and the better it will be for its advanced political future.

Another aspect of these elections is that both the hotly contested parties have given adequate attention to national issues as well. The BJP may not have directly talked about Ram Mandir, but it has definitely promised to implement Uniform Civil Code and NRC. It is worth noting that the Congress is also looking very aggressive on these alleged national issues. In its manifesto, it has spoken of taking a tough stand against hate speech. Although the central government has already banned

PFI for five years. Not only this, in response to the BJP's announcement of ending the four per cent Muslim reservation, it has also talked about restoring it. This is an interesting change from the soft approach of the Congress on issues that have been allegedly divisive for some time now. Amidst all these promises, the question is not only whose promise is so tempting, it will also be a matter to be seen how reliable the voters consider whose promises and which party leads them to victory.

Following in the footsteps of the Aam Aadmi Party, which emphasized the culture of freebies in Delhi, both the Congress and the BJP have tried to woo different sections of voters in their manifestos, which, though natural, raises a big question on the political state and direction. Is. But no one has shown any hesitation in offering freebies in this sequence. While the Congress has promised 200 units of free electricity, Rs 2,000 per month to every female head of the family, Rs 3,000 to unemployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to diploma holders, the BJP has given half a kilo per day to every BPL family. Nandini has given assurances like giving milk, providing cheap food grains to the people and giving three gas cylinders free of cost on Ugadi, Ganesh Chaturthi and Diwali.

Remembering the debate that broke out in the past about distribution of free women during elections, this part of the manifesto of both the parties seems to violate it, but both of them link these promises with their resolve to empower the weaker sections. Whatever it may be, every time in the elections, every party does not hesitate even a bit to sideline the principles and values, it is being violated in these elections also. It is also true that despite the promises and claims of development, a large section of voters are still in a position that allegedly free or cheap things influence their vote decision.

Entertainment

'Stranger Things' final season shoot delayed due to Writers Guild of America strike



The shoot of the final season of Netflix original 'Stranger Things' has halted due to the ongoing Writers Guild of America strike. The series co-creators and co-showrunners Matt Duffer and Ross Duffer, known as the Duffer brothers, shared a statement to announce it.

The Duffers issued a statement from the Stranger Writers Twitter account, which has offered "Stranger Things" fans a glimpse into the series' writers' room over the years, reported Variety. Writing on the fifth and final season commenced in August 2022, shortly after the fourth season premiered.

The post read, "Duffers here. Writing does not stop when filming begins. While we're excited to start production with our amazing cast and crew, it is not possible during this strike."

"We hope a fair deal is reached soon so we can all get back to work. Until then -- over and out. #wgastrong"

'Mammoth' led by Henry Cavill, Jake Gyllenhaal to open at Cannes

WGA strike has definitely impacted a lot of projects in Hollywood but still adding up to the spice of the Cannes Film Festival scheduled for May, a big action movie featuring Henry Cavill and Jake Gyllenhaal is expected to be announced.

According to Deadline, a US-based media house, the untitled movie will be directed by 'Sherlock Holmes' fame director Guy Ritchie. The film will also feature actress Eiza Gonzalez in pivotal role.

The plot of the story is still under the curtains as makers plan for a big Cannes release. Still, the major leaks suggest to People Magazine that the story will be about two extraction specialists who must plan an escape path for a high-level female negotiator.

The movie's cast has already experienced the working style of Ritchie in their past projects. As Jake was part of the critically acclaimed movie 'Covenant' and Henry, Eiza featuring 'The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare' were directed by Ritchie.



Matty Healy at Taylor Swift's concerts fuels dating rumours

Amid dating rumours, the guitarist of the 1975 Matty Healy has been spotted at Taylor Swift's show in Tennessee.

The two were rumoured to have dated in 2014, though Healy has previously denied that was the case. Swift and Healy have been friends for years and share a collaborator, Grammy-winning producer Jack Antonoff, reported People.

The dating rumours come weeks after Swift's breakup with actor Joe Alwyn after six years of dating. Reportedly, Swift and Alwyn broke up due to their difference in personalities.

