



Manipur violence: Fresh firing reported at Kangvai in Bishnupur

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EKNATH SHINDE TO REMAIN CM EVEN IN 2024

Answering to the claims made by Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray that Eknath Shinde's chief ministerial post may be in jeopardy and he is asked to resign from CM post, Shinde's Shiv Sena veteran leader said, Shinde would be CM in 2024 too.

Aaditya is making all baseless claims and trying to gain media headlines his predictions are childish said the Shiv Sena veteran.

His guesses on 'changes in the government' comes as reports emerged of trouble brewing in the Shinde camp over fears of being sidelined by the BJP and Pawar's elevation. Ajit Pawar currently shares the deputy chief minister post with BJP's Devendra Fadnavis.

Ajit split the NCP as he joined the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance and took oath as the state's deputy chief minister for the fifth

time. Later, Shiv Sena (UBT) faction's Sanjay Raut announced that around 20 MLAs from Shinde's faction were in contact with his party since Ajit's rebellion.

Aaditya even stepped up his attack against Shinde by saying that Mumbai was facing water-logging from the first monsoon rains as nine municipal wards are without Assistant Commissioners (Ward Officers).

Adding that Mumbai's infrastructure had "completely collapsed", he accused the Shinde government of playing favourites, Aaditya wrote, "Gaddars have chosen their favourite junior officials not from the AO cadre to run their corrupt will in the ward, under obligations. Mumbai is facing dual robbery under the khoke regime, loot of its money and reputation."

Yogasutra is the practice of settling the mind into ultimate divinity

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Patanjali Yoga Sutras have been interpreted and stated by many people over the period of time. In ancient times, Patanjali wrote the sutras on palm leaves but there is a story that the goat ate half of them before he took the rest of the literature to the Himalayas. Most of his teaching was done verbally and students learned by way of sutras. The word sutra comes from the same root as the medical term suture, meaning to join or embrace together. When a teacher illustrated a piece of knowledge, the student would be given a short axiom that would later remind him/her of the greater body of material. This was somewhat the same as modern-day cue cards.

Mythologically, Vishnu the maintainer of the Universe, sleeps between conceptions, resting on the multi-headed serpent Anantha, floating on the Ocean of attentiveness. When Shiva, the Nataraj woke Vishnu with his dance of creation, Anantha asked for a wish to be born as a great teacher. Shiva granted his wish and he was born as Patanjali in the palm of the great Yogini, Gonika. In the early 11th century, the Persian scholar Al Biruni visited India, lived among Hindus for 16 years, and with their help interpreted several significant Sanskrit works into Arabic and Persian. One was Patanjali's Yogasutras.

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Editoritis

Yogasutra is the practice of settling the mind into ultimate divinity

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Some of the Hindu yoga elements were adopted by Sufi sect of Muslims in India. If we look at Buddhism the yoga scholar Stephen Cope identifies many similarities between Raja yoga and Buddhism.

The first group is Bhakti yoga, Mantra yoga, Laya yoga, and Carcha yoga; the second is Hatha yoga, Raja yoga, Laksha yoga, and Ashtanga yoga; the third is Samkhya yoga, Jñana yoga, Brahma yoga, and Advaita yoga.

The word 'Yoga' comes from a Sanskrit word 'Yuj' which means 'union' or 'to join'. Sutras are concise aphorisms; compressed knowledge that is easy for remembrance. Purify yourself through steady restraints, such as non-violence, and observances, such as moderation.

There are also many arguments and texts on Yoga sutra such as Al Biruni's text has noteworthy variances from Yoga-sutra manuscripts discovered in India during the 19th century. Al Biruni's record has helped modern scholars establish that Patanjali's Yoga Sutras manuscript existed in India in many versions, each with multiple explanations by Hindu scholars. Some of these versions and commentaries are either vanished or undiscovered. Let us not get into these discussions, but the fact is that we Hindus believe that the Yoga was preserved by sadhus (ascetics, sannyasis) of India. Some of the Hindu yoga elements were adopted by Sufi sect of Muslims in India. If we look at Buddhism the yoga scholar Stephen Cope identifies many similarities between Raja yoga and Buddhism. He notes that the two philosophies are not the same, but are strikingly similar, having shared a long period of interchange up to about 500 CE.

Some medieval Indian texts on Yoga incline Raja Yoga as one of many types of yoga. For example, the 17th-century Sarvangayoga pradipikā, a Braj-bhashya commentary by Sundardas, teaches three tetrads of Yogas. The first group is Bhakti yoga, Mantra yoga, Laya yoga, and Carcha yoga; the second is Hatha yoga, Raja yoga, Laksha yoga, and Ashtanga yoga; the third is Samkhya yoga, Jñana yoga, Brahma yoga, and Advaita yoga. Of the twelve, Sundardas states that Rajayoga is the best yoga.

One meaning of Raja yoga is as a modern retronym introduced by Swami Vivekananda, when he equated raja yoga with the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali. After its circulation in the first half of the 1st millennium CE, many Indian scholars reviewed it, then published their notes and commentary on it. Together, they form a norm called the Pātañjalayogaśāstra.

Patanjali's Yoga Sutras may be a synthesis of three traditions. From the Samkhya school of Hinduism, Yoga Sutras adopt the "reflective discernment" (adhyavasaya) of prakriti and purusha (dualism), its intangible rationalism, and its three epistemic methods to gaining reliable knowledge. The yoga sutras are adages. They are 196 in numbers. The interesting thing about them is that they are mostly two liners. These short Sanskrit aphorisms have deep meanings. If you have a Guru or teacher to guide you on yoga sutra, then the ultimate attainment is possible. One needs to consider each sutra for a long time to under-

stand their underlying meaning. The sutra contemplation helps to purify the mind. You'll be amazed to know what yoga really is from these sutras.

The word 'Yoga' comes from a Sanskrit word 'Yuj' which means 'union' or 'to join'. Sutras are concise aphorisms; compressed knowledge that is easy for remembrance. Purify yourself through steady restraints, such as non-violence, and observances, such as moderation. This is how to live in a way conducive to Self-Realization. It's not a pre-meditation thing, but rather a lifestyle you activate to think better, among other reasons. After pranayama, ultimately a breathing technique comes to focus on the breath, the mind, the body, chakras, or any number of internal objects. When single-pointed focus is achieved, this is called Dharana. Once this focus is achieved, this is called Dhyana. After a certain amount of 'time' spent in this absorption, cosmic consciousness dawns. This is samadhi. It's higher-energy. This is the union of matter and spirit, union between the personal and the divine consciousness. This state of mind and body is bliss, ecstasy, tingling, sudden insight, siddhis, and other God-consciousness-type effects. Repeated exposure to this state results in liberation, freedom from suffering, spiritual enlightenment and Self-realization.

The studies suggest that a normal human being will have 6000+ thoughts per day and that's about six and a half-thought fluctuation each minute. All these thoughts which keep coming in our mind can be positive or negative or neutral. And these various thoughts in our mind drive the mood and emotions and that is what will show in our acts or expressions. If each one of us practices Sutras one can attain peace and stability in life. Ishwara (God, or supreme power that controls every cosmic action and nature cycle) is the ultimate! It is nature! It is life! It is the spirit! Something, which is very difficult to describe, but possible to feel...

Vaidehi Tamam

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Letters to the Editor

Bengal violence concerning

Bengal is continuously suffering from poll violence, political parties are busy in blaming and fighting each other. public are losing their lives but it is not a matter for political parties, their main objective is only getting votes. Nothing seems to have changed. Violence still continues and people are still dying. They don't understand that a life is more precious than one vote. they understand that vote is vital not voters. it's their miscommunication that without voters, a vote is impossible. Central Govt is also silent, it must break its silence on the Bengal Poll violence and resolve the situation soon rather politicise.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Don't promote dirty film culture

Pakistani actress Mahnoor Baloch said that Shahrukh Khan doesn't know acting and isn't handsome. she is brutally trolled by Shahrukh Khan's fans. as everyone knows quite well that he is a towering actor more handsome than Pakistani actors. In fact, she doesn't know about his personality, she compares him with Pakistani actors that's why she is in misconception. Before criticizing, It should be born in the mind that Shah Rukh Khan is a celebrity who rules the hearts of people not only in India but also across the globe including Pakistan, whose Pathan movie was played on Burj Khalifa and an Emirates Flight was delayed for 2.5 Hours For Their Meeting: "That's The Power Of SRK".

G.Champa

Twitter Against Treats

Twitter has sent a letter to Meta, threatening to sue the company over its copycat Threads apps. Threads is a standalone app that allows users to share photos and videos with a select group of friends. It is similar to Twitter's Fleets feature, which was discontinued last year. In the letter, Twitter accuses Meta of "unfair competition" and "copying" its intellectual property. The company also alleges that Meta has been using Twitter's data to develop Threads.

Meta has denied the allegations, saying that Threads is a "completely independent product" that was developed without using Twitter's data. The company has also said that it is "committed to competing fairly" and that it will "defend itself vigorously" against any legal action.

Elon Musk, who is in the process of buying Twitter, has also weighed in on the dispute. In a tweet, Musk said that "competition is fine, cheating is not." He also said that he would "review the situation" once he takes control of Twitter. The dispute between Twitter and Meta is the latest in a series of legal battles between the two companies. In 2020, Twitter sued Meta for copying its "single sign-on" feature. The case was eventually settled out of court. It remains to be seen whether Twitter will follow through on its threat to sue Meta over Threads. However, the dispute is a sign of the growing competition between the two tech giants.

Mohd Zain

Skyrocketing Unemployment

Efforts to ensure price stability The latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India's manufacturing sector and the Services Business Activity Index for the economy's broader services sector from S&P Global, posit a softening in momentum in economic activity.

Its survey of about 400 manufacturers shows that production growth at major private sector factories eased marginally last month, with the June PMI reading dipping to 57.8, from 58.7 in May. On the face of it, S&P Global's survey findings ought to reassure policymakers that the Reserve Bank of India's inflation-battling interest rate increases till the end of the last fiscal has still not sapped domestic demand for manufactured goods and services.

The unemployment rate has spiked to 8.5%, from 7.7% in May. Policymakers will also need to keep a watch on the upward trend in output prices at manufacturers and service providers, given that the resurgence in food inflation threatens to undermine the RBI's efforts to anchor inflation expectations and ensure growth-supportive price stability.

Md. Tauqueer Alam

Yoga routine keeps the doctor away



Yoga is a great lifelong practice that changes us as we age, adapt, and grow as it provides a valuable framework for overall wellness with various adjustments available. Yoga keeps you mentally, physically, and spiritually connected which can greatly enhance your ability to live a long life. Many of us have felt the rejuvenating and empowering effects of yoga, but how do we maintain our practice in a safe and healthy way as we get older?

With age comes the inevitable reality of a lifetime of chronic injury, general wear and tear on joints and muscles, and the decreased levels of elasticity and tone in the skin. Although the often unpleasant side effects associated with getting older, also include stiffness, decreased mobility, reduced strength, they are not necessarily given. Regular yoga practice in older populations can improve physical function, mental health, pain, flexibility and balance.

Yoga, one of the world's oldest health systems, is receiving new attention for claims that it can contribute to healthy aging. Until recently, scientific evidence for its efficacy has relied heavily on

small and poorly-designed research, but this is changing. Multiple, well-designed studies provide data showing that yoga practice has positive effects on cellular aging, mobility, balance, mental health, and prevention of cognitive decline all areas of concern for older adults.

Since the cost of implementing yoga-based community and home-based interventions is low policymakers are also eyeing yoga practice as a cost-effective way to reduce medical costs and improve outcomes among a growing aging population. This commentary reviews the evidence for both physical and mental health benefits from yoga, as well as concerns about injuries that have been associated with certain types of yoga practice. It reveals a surprising range of yoga programs and difficulty levels that provide opportunities for almost anyone to participate and gain health benefits with practice.

Yoga can provide benefits for just about anyone. As for older adults, the benefits that come with yoga can improve how you feel, how well your muscles and joints work, and your overall health and well-being. If you're an older adult

considering yoga, start slow and find a program that suits your fitness level. In today's busy society, yoga provides an escape from the chaos and allows you to reconnect with yourself. Yoga is a great way to exercise and stay healthy and is available for anyone whatever your capability and mobility.

Yoga is especially important as our bodies age, helping maintain flexibility and muscle strength, as well as keeping our minds focused and sharp. If you're interested in yoga for those aged over 50 and are wondering about the health benefits of yoga, we've put together a guide to the 10 health benefits of yoga for the over 50s. Let us not bask in the past glory but continue to work hard on basics and do good in the world of aging. And that is the best way to relieve tension. keep fit, help to get good sleep and hunger, and lead a peaceful life.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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

Raj Thackeray meets CM Eknath Shinde



Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray met Maharashtra Chief Minister

Eknath Shinde here on Friday.

The meeting took place at "Varsha", the official residence of the chief minister. In a tweet,

Shinde said the two leaders discussed farm loans in Nashik district, the issues of local residents in the redevelopment of BDD chawls in Mumbai, and reduction of house prices by state agency CIDCO.

Satisfactory solutions would be found to all these issues at the earliest, he added. The meeting came at a time when there is a buzz that the MNS and the Shiv Sena led by Raj's estranged cousin Uddhav Thackeray may join hands in the wake of NCP leader Ajit Pawar joining the Maharashtra government.

Shrinking Sharad Pawar, splitting NCP, holds seeds for BJP's 2024 plan



Those who initially thought that the split in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was another "googly" by the hard-to-fathom Maratha leader Sharad Pawar are not so sure any more. The first googly was thrown by Pawar when he endorsed the midnight swearing-in of Ajit Pawar in 2019 as Deputy CM, who returned to his uncle's side 80 hours later. Today, the spat between the senior Pawar and his nephew Ajit has become too

ugly to have been pre-scripted.

The NCP split is less about Ajit Pawar, who has once again joined hands with the BJP and become the Deputy CM of Maharashtra, or even about CM Eknath Shinde whose break-away Shiv Sena group has become highly insecure about its future. Or about Devendra Fadnavis, the one-time CM who supposedly facilitated the latest power shift but who is, ironically, reduced to being one of the two Deputy CMs.

Ex-NCP MLA Ramesh Kadam gets bail in 5 cases

A special court on Friday granted bail to former NCP MLA Ramesh Kadam in five cases filed in connection with alleged misappropriation of funds when he was the chairman of the Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe Magasvargiya Vikas Mahamandal. Kadam has been in jail since 2015, booked under Sections related to cheating and forgery of the Indian Penal Code, besides including the Prevention of Corruption Act. Kadam, however, will continue

to remain in judicial custody as he has to secure bail in one other pending case in Bhandara.

Last year, the special court in Mumbai had rejected Kadam's bail stating that merely long incarceration in custody is not sufficient ground to grant him bail. In March, the Bombay High Court granted bail to Kadam in one of the cases following which he applied to the special court again. On Friday, he was granted bail in the cases filed in Beed, Hingoli, Parbhani, Jalna, Buldhana.

Neelam Gorhe appointed as Shiv Sena 'Neta'



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has appointed recently defected MLC Neelam Gorhe as 'Neta' in Shiva Sena. The post is said to be given to senior-most leaders after the party president.

Party leader and Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Neelam Gorhe joined the Eknath Shinde's faction on Friday after switching from the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT).

Woman passenger, conductor injured as MSRTC bus rams into container in Thane

The conductor of a Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus and a woman passenger were injured after their vehicle rammed into a container in Thane city of the state on Saturday morning, officials said.

The bus was going to Borivali in Mumbai from Thane when it met with the accident

opposite a mall on the Mumbai-Nashik highway, they said. "The MSRTC bus hit the container around 6 am. A 41-year-old woman passenger and the bus conductor, 38, suffered fractures in their legs in the accident and they were admitted to Kalwa civil hospital, where they are being treated," a police official said. PTI

Maha taking all efforts to make Gadchiroli free of Naxalite violence, focus is on employment, empowerment, says CM

The Maharashtra government is taking all efforts to make Gadchiroli free of Naxalite violence, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Saturday during a 'shaasan aplya dari' (government at your doorstep) programme.

He said 6.70 lakh of the 11 lakh population of the district were registered beneficiaries of the programme and asserted his

government would reach out to every single person to bring about welfare. "Beneficiaries have received tractors, harvesters, cycles, godowns, caste certificates under the 'shaasan aplya dari' scheme. There is focus on women's empowerment," the CM said at the event where he and Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar launched various projects. PTI

Monsoon session of Maharashtra legislature from July 17 to August

The Monsoon session of the Maharashtra legislature will be held in Mumbai from July 17 to August 4, the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) decided during its meeting on Friday. The BAC meeting was held by Legislative Assembly

Speaker Rahul Narvekar and Legislative Council Deputy Speaker Neelam Gorhe. "During the 19-day period from July 17 to August 4, the actual working days of the session will be 15 and four days will be public holidays (Saturday, Sunday)," an official said.

ED cases not a concern... party workers want work to be done: Praful Patel

When asked how much the ED (Directorate of Enforcement) and Anti-Corruption Bureau cases against key leaders including Ajit Pawar, Hasan Mushrif, Chhagan Bhujbal and Sunil Tatkare weigh in his and Ajit Pawar's mind, Praful Patel said, "Agencies have found nothing against me... ED is the last reason... these ED cases do not concern the party workers... they only expect their work



to be done, and that can happen when you are in power."

Uddhav Thackeray to embark on statewide tour

In the backdrop of political turmoil in Maharashtra after the split in NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray would be embarking on a statewide tour.

- Starting point: Vidarbha region
- July 9: From Amaravati, first visit to Yavatmal and Washim. He will also visit the famous Pohradevi shrine in Yavatmal before the meetings.

Nation

Youth assaulted in running car, forced to lick feet in MP's Gwalior; case registered, 2 held



After Sidhi urination incident, another disturbing video has surfaced on social media in which a group of youths were seen assaulting a youth and forcing him to lick the feet in a running car in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district. The incident occurred in the Dabra area of the district last month on June 23 but the video of the incident went viral on social media on Friday (July 7).

In the viral video, it could

be seen that the accused were beating the victim fiercely in the moving car and abusing him. The victim was also forced to lick the accused's feet. Besides, it could also be heard that the accused asked the victim to say Golu Gurjar is his father. Both the accused and the victim are said to be residents of Dabra. When the police came to know about the matter, they swung into action, registered a case and arrested two accused in the matter so far.

Gwalior SSP (Senior Superintendent of Police), Rajesh Singh Chandel said, "A video of assaulting youth in an inhuman manner had come to the fore on Friday evening. After which we collected complete information about the matter. The complainant, Karan Goswami lodged a complaint in the matter." On June 23, four accused took the victim Karan Goshwani and Mohsin Khan in a car and assaulted them. Acting on the complaint, a case was registered against the four accused at Dabra police station under IPC section 365 and assault into the matter. The police also arrested two accused and they were being interrogated, SSP added. Meanwhile, reacting to the incident, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said, "A case was registered on the complaint of the victim, two persons have also been arrested in the matter." ANI

Manipur violence: Fresh firing reported at Kangvai in Bishnupur



The situation in Manipur remains volatile as intermittent firing continued at the general area of Kangvai-Awang Lekhai area in Bishnupur district on Friday night. According to the sources, Additional Border Security Forces (BSF) were inducted to bring the situation under control as columns of the Indian Army and Assam Rifles moved to the general area of Songdo.

The sources further said that one police personnel was injured during a retaliatory firing incident. An exchange of fire was also reported in the Laikot area of YKPI with the situation being monitored by the security forces.

A mob of nearly 200 people built up at Mahabali road and set two vehicles on fire near the historic Kangla Fort in Imphal, Manipur. According to sources, the mob also tried to snatch weapons from the police. "The police had to resort to firing to disperse the mob and bring the situation under control, although no casualties were reported in the incident," the sources said. No casualty has been reported. The sources further said that another mob of nearly 200 people had gathered at Palace Compound in Imphal West but Army and Rapid Action Force personnel were able to disperse by 12.30 am Saturday. ANI

"Death toll is mounting": TMC slams opposition parties amid violence in WB Panchayat polls



The Trinamool Congress has hit out at the opposition parties in the state who were clamouring for the deployment of central forces in West Bengal amid the violence, questioning where were the central forces at the time of violence which claimed several lives. Taking a jibe, TMC said that the death toll due to the election-related incidents is mounting under the "close supervision of Central Forces".

"Under the close supervision

of Central Forces, the death toll keeps mounting! A devastating bomb attack claimed the life of our party worker in Manikchak, Malda. In Narayanpur-I Gram Panchayat of Nadia," the party said in a tweet. In another tweet, it claimed that the workers of the CPI (M) opened fire at the TMC candidate's husband.

CPIM hooligans opened fire on our candidate, Hasina Sultana's husband. They hurled crude, country-made bombs at our workers moments before the

start of the elections. Despite the deployment of Central Forces, our worker from Salbari-II Gram Panchayat of Jalpaiguri was critically wounded by BJP4Bengal goons," it said. The ruling party in the state further said that the recent incidents of violence not only raise serious doubts about the competence and preparedness of the central forces but also expose the hollowness of the claims made by BJP, CPI(M) and Congress about their role in ensuring peaceful elections.

"Prior to the elections, the Central Forces have proven to be woefully inadequate in fulfilling their duty to protect citizens. Why are they faltering and letting down the people they were supposed to safeguard?" the party asked. Sharing a purported video of an on-duty BSF personnel, the party claimed that he was threatening the voters at Gitaldaha-II in Cooch Behar causing a hindrance in the polling process. ANI

Amarnath pilgrims stranded at Baltal, Pahalgam urge authorities to evacuate them

Amarnath pilgrims stranded at the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam following the suspension of the Yatra due to inclement weather have urged authorities to evacuate them. The yatra was suspended on Friday following widespread rain and landslides, particularly along

the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-kilometre Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district. Nearly 50,000 pilgrims are put up at various base camps in Kashmir valley with almost 19,000 at Baltal base camp in the Ganderbal district. PTI

Gujarat: BSF employee 'honey-trapped' by Pak woman agent; arrested

A contractual employee working for the Border Security Force (BSF) at Bhuj in Gujarat has been arrested for allegedly sharing sensitive information with a woman Pakistani intelligence agent, officials said on Saturday. Nilesh Balia, the accused, has passed Std 12th and was working as a

peon in the electrical department office of the Central Public Works Department at the BSF headquarters at Bhuj for the last five years, they said. The state Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) which arrested him on Friday would be producing him before a court and seek his custody, said a senior official. PTI

World

Security threats, debt repayments hinder Pakistan-China BRI projects: Report



The growing terrorist risk to Chinese citizens residing in Pakistan and differences over debt repayments have hindered the progress in the Belt and Road Initiative's projects of Islamabad and Beijing, Voice of America (VOA) reported citing officials and critics. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a multi-billion dollar project was introduced in 2013 and quickly dubbed the flagship extension of the Belt and Road

Initiative. Pakistanis hoped that this new development program will bring change and turn the country into a regional hub.

The investment has helped Islamabad improve debilitating national transportation and power sectors and build trade routes connecting landlocked western China to the strategically located Pakistani deep-water Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea. Pakistan has extracted many benefits from the projects they have created

nearly 200,000 direct local jobs, built more than 1,400 kilometres of highways and roads, and added 8,000 megawatts of electricity to the national grid, ending years of blackouts caused by power outages in the country of 230 million people. Prolonged daily power cuts crippled economic activity and undermined industrial production, reported VOA.

Officials in both countries say that CPEC has attracted more than USD 25 billion in direct Chinese investment, which is expected to increase to USD 62 billion by 2030, when all CPEC projects, including several industrial zones, are scheduled to be completed. But recently, Chinese interests in Pakistan have come under militant attacks. On Wednesday's ceremony, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the CPEC, the Detractors said highlighted strains over security and other issues stemming from the economic undertaking. ANI

IMF to meet major political parties including PTI to seek support for USD 3 billion Standby Agreement

The IMF is "in the process" of meeting representatives from Pakistan's major political parties, including Imran Khan's party, to "seek assurances of their support for key objectives and policies" under the new USD 3 billion bailout deal, its top official in the country said on Friday.

Pakistan secured a badly needed USD 3 billion Standby Arrangement (SBA) from the IMF last Friday, giving the cash-strapped South Asian economy a much-awaited respite as it teeters on the brink of default.

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will meet on July 12 to review the USD 3 billion SBA for Pakistan, the staff-level pact for which was finalised last week.

"The IMF staff are in the process of meeting with representatives of the major political parties in Pakistan, including PML-N (Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz), PPP (Pakistan Peoples' Party), and PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) to seek as-

surances of their support for the key objectives and policies under a new IMF-supported programme ahead of the approaching national elections," Esther Perez Ruiz told Dawn newspaper.

"An IMF team will call on (PTI) Party Chairman Imran Khan at Zaman Park this afternoon. Both PTI's economic team and the IMF team will join, in person and virtually, to take part in the discussions," PTI's Secretary General Central Punjab Hammad Azhar tweeted.

The economic crisis-hit country was absent from an earlier schedule released in June, igniting speculation that the global lender was not going to release funds from an earlier programme that expired on June 30.

On June 29, the IMF and Pakistan reached a standby Arrangement (SBA) to ease the country's financial crisis. The nine-month SBA, if approved, will bring USD 3 billion or 111 per cent of the cash-strapped country's IMF quota.

US, India conduct 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop international shipments of illegal and dangerous drugs

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) in collaboration with Indian Government's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) carried out 'Operation Broader Sword', a special bilateral multi-agency enforcement operation targeting illicit pharmaceuticals, devices, or precursor chemicals shipped using the international mail system. Conducted in June 2023, Operation Broader Sword stopped more than 500 shipments of illicit, and potentially dangerous, unapproved prescription drugs, combination medical devices, and synthetic drug precursors from reaching American consumers, the US Embassy in India said in a press release. The operation targeted packages entering the

US from India through the New York's John F Kennedy International Airport and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport International Mail Facilities (IMFs) from June 12-23.

During the operation, investigators examined over 1500 shipments originating in India and took action on approximately 500 products, including illicit and illegal medications intended to treat or mitigate serious diseases, according to the press release. Many shipments were determined to have included opioid and other controlled substance drug products.

The US Embassy in India in the press release said, "In anticipation of the Operation, HSI special agents conducted a controlled delivery of a shipment of suspected products resulting in the arrest of an Indian national for the illegal importation of illicit pharmaceuticals including opioids and other controlled substances." ANI

Afghanistan: Women makeup artists protest against ban on beauty salons by Taliban

Days after the Taliban issued a decree and banned women's beauty salons across the country, several women makeup artists protested against the move and urged for rescinding of the order, Tolo News reported. More than 60,000 women in Afghanistan are at risk of losing their jobs after the Taliban ordered the closure of all women's beauty parlours and hairdressing salons across the country, as per Khaama Press.

The protesters gathered at the Union of Women's Beauty Salons and said that the closure of beauty salons will lead to severe economic challenges for them. "More than 12,000 women's beauty salons are active all over Afghanistan and all of them are women," Tolo News quoted Nadia Sultani, a makeup artist. "Women's beauty salons are the women's area. The head of every beauty salon is a woman. When a woman is working in a women's beauty salon, that is due to hardship and poverty," Raha Hassani, another makeup artist stated. The



Taliban in a new decree, banned women's beauty salons in Kabul and other provinces across the country on July 4. The Taliban Ministry of Vice and Virtue also ordered the Kabul municipality to bring the new decree of the Taliban leader into effect and cancel the licenses of women's beauty salons.

The Islamic Emirate has banned girls and women from going to schools, universities and working at NGOs as well as going to public areas such as parks, cinemas, and other recreation areas. The UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Irene Khan, said at the 53rd regular session of the Hu-

man Rights Council, last month that women's public presence has been totally erased by the 'Taliban', Tolo News reported. Previously, the UN special rapporteur for Afghanistan Richard Bennett, said that between September 2021 and May 2023, more than 50 edicts were issued regarding women and girls by the Islamic Emirate, which has "deprived Afghan women of the right to education, work, and participation in social and political life", Tolo News reported. According to the UN, fifty anti-women decrees have been implemented since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, Khaama Press reported. ANI

Women in Local government Leadership and Political Participation



Jaganthi Subramaniam

Columnist

Women's equal participation and leadership in political and public life are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. However, data show that women are underrepresented at all levels of decision-making worldwide and that achieving gender parity in political life is far off. Data from 136 countries shows that women constitute nearly 3 million (34 per cent) of elected members in local deliberative bodies.

Only two countries have reached 50 per cent, and an additional 20 countries have more than 40 per cent women in local government. Regional variations are also noted for women's representation in local deliberative bodies, as of January 2022: Central and Southern Asia, 41 per cent; Europe and Northern America, 36 per cent; Oceania, 32 per cent; Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, 28 per cent; Latin America and the Caribbean, 25 per cent; Sub-Saharan Africa, 25 per cent; Western Asia and

Northern Africa, 18 per cent. Thus, the inequality needs to be balanced before the next century.

From the local to the global level, women's leadership and political participation are restricted. Women are underrepresented as voters, as well as in leading positions, whether in elected office, the civil service, the private sector or academia. This occurs despite their proven abilities as leaders and agents of change, and their right to participate equally in democratic governance.

Women face several obstacles to participating in political life. Structural barriers through discriminatory laws and institutions still limit women's options to run for office. Capacity gaps mean women are less likely than men to have the education, contacts and resources needed to become effective leaders. Individual women have overcome these obstacles with great acclaim, and often to the benefit of society at large. But for women as a whole, the playing field needs to be level, opening opportunities for all.

To overcome issues of discrimination and violence, women's organizations have focused on the empowerment of Indian women. Empowerment is tied to the support of family



and improved status within the household, which is undermined by the threat of domestic and sexual violence. Socio-economic conditions, such as poverty and illiteracy, prevent the entrance of women into running for public office, and even voting. Inability to understand the rules of

Panchayat Raj undermines the self-confidence to participate in public office. As a matter of fact, women participation brings out the best in getting the work done as men work in equal measures to match up with their women counterparts. Thus we find unity in diversity as well.

Entertainment

Prateik Patil Babbar & Sayani Gupta to be seen in a quirky rom-com - Deets Inside

Prateik Patil Babbar never fails to captivate audiences with his exceptional acting skills and varied roles in a variety of film and web productions. His devotion and commitment to his profession has won him praise from the critics and a devoted following. Of all the roles he has done, his most recent one 'Jeh' from Four More Shots Please had women worshipping him, claiming to see more of Jeh's side of the story. His onscreen pairing with Sayani Gupta was loved so much that now the duo has bagged their own film.

Yes you read it right! Prateik Patil Babbar and Sayani Gupta are gearing up for their upcoming project together 'Khwabon Ka Jhamela'. Written by Danish Aslam and Arpita Chatterjee, directed by Danish Aslam. The rom-com is all set to enthrall the viewers.



Speaking of the same Prateik shared "I am excited for the next 2 years there will be a few releases & a few new ventures waiting to begin. I am grateful for all the opportunities & looking forward to it all & more"

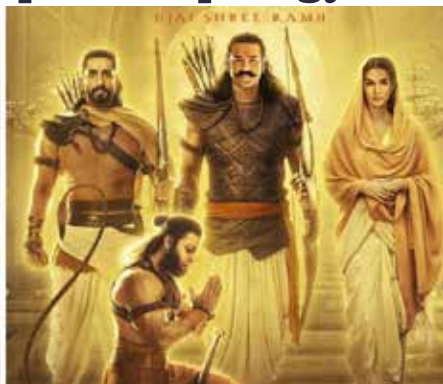
On working with Sayani again he further added, "Sayani & I have been scene partners for the longest time on Four More Shots Please!. Having our own film now feels like an extension of our characters & stories, almost like

we're in a multiverse. we've gotten a lot of love over the years for our pair & chemistry. I am hoping that love extends toward our film."

On the professional front, the actor is gearing up for his new role in the international film 'Lioness' alongside Aditi Rao Hydari and British Actress Paige Sandhu. Lioness, certified by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and the British Film Institute (BFI), is the first ever official UK-India co-production being made under the bi-lateral treaty signed by both countries in 2008, the film was launched at the recently concluded Cannes film festival and is written and will be directed by award-winning filmmaker Kajri Babbar.

The star will also be seen alongside Shabana Azmi in Imaginary Rain, directed by 'Michelin Star' chef and filmmaker Vikas Khanna.

"I accept...": 'Adipurush' writer Manoj Muntashir issues public apology



'Adipurush' writer Manoj Muntashir, on Saturday, apologised to people for hurting their religious sentiments with his controversial dialogues of the much-talked-about film. Taking to Twitter, Manoj wrote, "I accept people's emotions have been hurt by Adipurush. With folded hands, I extend my unconditional apologies. May Prabhu Bajrang Bali keep us united and grant us strength to serve our sacred Sanatan and our great nation."

His post evoked mixed reactions from netizens as many feel that it is now too late to seek an apology. "You are too late to apologise," a social media user commented. "Badi jaldi Maafi maang liye sahab But thik hai, Der aaye durust aaye," another one wrote. Directed by Om Raut, 'Adipurush', which is an adaptation of the epic Ramayana, has drawn heavy criticism post-release. The film stars Prabhas as Lord Ram, Kriti as Goddess Sita, Sunny Singh as Laxman, and Saif Ali Khan as Ravana.

From critics to reviewers, many expressed disappointment over certain dialogues in the film. Among the dialogues over which the makers have drawn flak are 'Marega Bete', 'Bua Ka Bagicha Hain Kya' and 'Jalegi Tere Baap Ki'. In the wake of such flak, the makers of 'Adipurush' revamped the dialogues. Amid the row, Manoj had requested protection, citing a threat to his life.

Mumbai Police has provided him security and said that they are investigating the matter. All India Cine Workers Association also wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Mumbai Police, demanding the registration of a case against the producer, director, and writer of the film. In fact, the criticism and controversy surrounding Adipurush brought the 1987 Ramayan back to the small screen as disappointed audiences compared the film to the hit show. ANI



Actor Yvette Nicole Brown and Television Academy Chair Frank Scherma have been tapped to announce the nominees for the 75th Primetime Emmy Awards. The Emmy nominees will be revealed in a live virtual ceremony set for 8:30 a.m. PT/11:30 a.m. ET on July 12. It will stream live on Emmys.com/nominations, Deadline reported.

Excited about the upcoming edition, Scherma said, "It's been another transformational year in this platinum age of television that has delivered a diverse range of extraordinary programming.

We are delighted to have Yvette help us celebrate our 75th anniversary as we honor the exceptional shows, innovators, storytellers and talent whose work has entertained and connected us this season."

Brown earned an Emmy nomination for her work on The Black Lady Sketch Show in 2021, and is currently starring in Act Your Age on Bounce TV. She is best known for her roles on TV shows including Community, Drake & Josh and The Odd Couple. Brown also has voiced characters on sh Pound Puppies, Central Park, Elena of Avalor and most recently Pupstruction. ANI

Emmy Awards: Yvette Nicole Brown to announce nominees