



Disqualification proceedings against 54 MLAs yet to be answered

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THE HOME DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN A NOD FOR 3000 CONTRACTUAL RECRUITMENTS

To tackle the shortage of police personnel and overburdening the department, the Maharashtra government has decided to recruit 3,000 employees on a contractual basis from the Maharashtra State Security Corporation. This decision has faced disagreement from opposition parties. Meanwhile, former home minister Anil Deshmukh emphasized the issue of missing girls and women in the state, with 19,553 cases reported in the first five months of 2023.

According to the home department, the Mumbai police force has a sanctioned strength of 40,623, of which around 10,000 posts of constables and drivers are vacant. While the ongoing recruitment drive will fill 7,076 posts of constables and 994 drivers, there will be a shortage of around 3,000 constables.

Meanwhile, Opposition parties have conflicted with contract recruitment in the police force. Leader of the opposi-

tion in state legislative council Ambadas Danve said, "Youth of the state have been facing unemployment. Instead of giving government jobs to youths in the police department, why does the government want to recruit personnel on a contract basis? It is a totally wrong decision and the police recruited directly as government servants and should be recruited in due process."

"The 7,076 constables to be recruited will take at least two years to join the force as they will have to undergo training. Until then, the Mumbai police commissioner has been empowered to recruit 3,000 constables from the MSSC on contract for 11 months," the order said.

Home department official said. "This will help us to fulfil the shortage of the constables in the wake of the heavy chunk of diverted for VVIP bandobast. We are recruiting the personnel from the MSSC following the due process. The process has to

be undertaken by Mumbai CP and director general of the MSSC,"

Additional chief secretary Sujata Saunik said, "The decision was taken as per the demand of the Mumbai police commissioner." This has been the third such decision of the Ekanth Shinde government to recruit employees on a contract basis. Last year, the government appointed six agencies to recruit technical experts and temporary staff from the open market. Last month, the school education department allowed the recruitment of retired teachers in district council schools until 13,000 newly-recruited teachers joined the service.

19,553 girls, women go missing in 5 months of this year: Anil Deshmukh. Former home minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Anil Deshmukh, through a point of information raised in the legislative Assembly, alleged that 19,553 girls and women have gone missing in the first five months of 2023.

He said that earlier information was of 5,610 women that had gone missing from January to May 2023, but as per the revised information the figure is 19,553.

Responding to it, Assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar directed the state government to look into the matter. Earlier, deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had said on July 16, "95% of these women have come back home and the percentage is highest in the country."

According to Pravin Dixit, the former DGP of Maharashtra, the new hires "will not be joining the police force permanently; rather, they will be working for Maharashtra State Security Corporation (MSSC) under an 11-month contract until the actual recruited candidates for the police force return from their training. As required, these contractual candidates will be assigned to banks, metro stations, and other locations."



Extra marital affairs with enemy country men are a new trend?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

We have seen many celebrity women marrying Pakistani men, like tennis star Sania Mirza and Pakistan cricketer husband Shoaib Malik. Reena Roy with her husband Pakistani cricketer Mohsin Khan, none of these marriages last long, though. Rayaana, a Gujarati from Mumbai and Habiba, from Karachi, married in Dubai. Sonya Jehan (grand-daughter of famous Pakistani singer, Noor Jehan who was also known as Malkai Taranum). Sonya did creative roles in Bollywood and Lollywood as well. She is currently living in Mumbai, India and got married to an Indian banker Vivek Narain. There are so many such couples who went across the border to marry their love. But those cases remained as one day news and people did not mind much because all such people

have some social and national stand. But in the recent past, Pakistan men are luring Indian women and Indian men are getting in relation with Pakistani women. Social media makes it easy for these people. Such relationships really have no life but still some of them made headlines for months.

Seema Haider, a 27-year-old married mother of four from Sindh, Pakistan, connected with Indian man Sachin Meena, a 22-year-old unmarried shopkeeping assistant from India while playing the online shooting game PUBG during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. Seema Haider's unnoticed entry into India and her unconventional love affair have sparked fascination among many.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Extra marital affairs with enemy country men are a new trend?

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Social media and game apps have a common platform for these lovers to get connected. Indian men fall for Pakistani women especially girls from Punjab and Peshawar.

They are very sweet, beautiful, delicate looking, kind, gentle and with beautiful eyes. They like their style of speaking in refined Urdu and how they are talented in speaking multiple languages with different writing styles.

Pakistani Men like Indian women because they find them more bold, extravagant and outgoing. Much more frank than Pakistan's conservative females.

Here, we bring you all the details about the 'love story' of the couple from arch-rival countries. The news is yet to settle and there is another story, that a 34-year-old married Indian woman named Anju from Bhiwadi in the Alwar district of Rajasthan had gone to Pakistan to meet her lover.

Social media and game apps have a common platform for these lovers to get connected. Indian men fall for Pakistani women especially girls from Punjab and Peshawar. They are very sweet, beautiful, delicate looking, kind, gentle and with beautiful eyes. They like their style of speaking in refined Urdu and how they are talented in speaking multiple languages with different writing styles. Pakistani Men like Indian women because they find them more bold, extravagant and outgoing. Much more frank than Pakistan's conservative females. There are many such reasons but love knows nothing, it knows the way to the heart and it finds the way to reach each other.

Anju, who was born in UP's small town kailor was a resident of Rajasthan's Bhiwadi where she used to work as a data entry operator in a private company. Her family consisted of her husband Arvind and two children with whom she used to live in a rented home. Anju's first marriage was not very exciting and she was married at a very young age and her husband was also not so well to do. Anju was finally independent and because of that little dominance too. On social media she was approached by a medical professional man called Nasrullah. They both had common interest and profession, initially they were not so much into each other but during COVID both were out of work and had sufficient time, their love story began in lockdown period.

They used to talk to each other for hours, Anju and her lover met several times by some or other means. This time Anju has entered Pakistan on a month-long medium-term visa by carrying all required legal documents with her. She reached Pakistan and informed her husband that she is in Lahore. Looking at husband's interviews we can guess that this is some plot or mutual story to counter Seema Hyder's

story. Her Pakistani lover with the help of Pakistani agencies might have given the family some huge perks to do all this drama. She might be in love with her Pakistani man but her going to Pakistan cannot be just coincidence to match with Seema Hyder. Anju's husband Arvind revealed that, unlike Seema Haider, Anju had all the necessary documents with her and had legally entered Pakistan.

Anju was in touch with this Pakistani guy Nasrullah with whom she used to chat on a daily basis over social media apps. Anju entered Pakistan through Atari border on or around 21 July. Anju married to her 29-year-old lover Nasrullah and informed that the marriage was solemnised after Anju accepted Islam and willingly signed the Nikahnama at a district court. Interestingly, Anju previously dropped a video soon after reaching Pakistan in which she said that she is just there for explorations purpose and will return soon. In the two-minute-long video, the data entry operator said that she has legally visited Pakistan and will be coming back to India in 2 to 3 days. By the end of her video, she also requests the media and authorities not to cause any inconvenience to her children and relatives. However, after her recent marriage with her Pakistani lover, the chances of Anju coming back to her husband appear extremely slim.

Whereas Seema Hyder is trying her level best to seek refuge in India with her children, she is requesting the government not to send her back, her shop assistant lover is pleading through media to let her love blossom in India and he is willing to take care of children and his newly found wife. Both the stories look funny and hard to believe but the over hype by media has made these issues larger than what it seems to be. Respective Medias might be running hundreds of hate mongering shows against India and Pakistan, but the lovers find only love.

Vaidehi Tapan

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

What Gyanvapi dispute shows

The Supreme Court had last week said that it is better to dispose of cases related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi dispute at the earliest, and it would lay down the rules. But given the sensitivity and political implications of the cases, such principles may serve a very limited purpose unless applied more universally.

What makes Gyanvapi such a good test case? This is because it appears to have found a way around the 1991 Places of Worship Act, which was designed to prevent this type of legislation outright. Drafted at the height of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, the law, which locked down the religious character of the shrines as they existed at the time of independence, was meant to protect the social fabric and prevent future conflicts. It remains on the statute books, but appears as powerless as one mushroom after another. Proceedings on the question are pending before the Supreme Court, and the central government has not yet told the court whether it will review, strike down or defend the law. Until the Center clarifies its stand, or the Supreme Court decides on its validity, many similar complaints are expected to be brought before lower courts, affecting communal harmony. Currently, a law meant to protect India from such a future hangs in an awkward limbo that is current but effective.

TKR. Noori

Wacky Tacky Day

The logjam in parliament is continued for four days, to discuss on Manipur issue but Central government is not ready to discuss and continuously suspending the member of lok Sabha who is raising the Manipur issue in Parliament. and the Opposition are demanding a statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on situation of the violence hit the state. With the government not agreeing to the opposition's demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi make a statement on Manipur, the Opposition believe a no-confidence motion will force the Prime Minister to speak.

AAP MP Raghav Chadha, says "The only demand of the opposition parties is that we want a discussion on the Manipur issue. It is sad that this issue is being discussed internationally but not in India...Manipur CM N Biren Singh should be removed and President's rule should be imposed in the state... AAP is going to raise the issue of Manipur across the country.

MT.Farooqi

Welcome development

With the Bioethics Unit of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) putting out a consensus policy statement on controlled human infection studies (CHIS) for comments, India has taken the first step in clearing the deck for such studies here.

There are several ethical challenges associated with human challenge studies, which require a well-trained and robust system. While collaboration with institutions and scientists who specialize in conducting such studies is essential, navigating the ethical minefield is a challenge. Several clinical trials, including those conducted by or involving the ICMR, have been mired in ethical violations. The ethical challenges in conducting CHIS are many, the scope for abuse is high, and the implications are severe. Given the financial dimension involving volunteers, there is potential for exploitation. If this becomes a reality, India should only use CHIS to study diseases with safe and effective treatments. The use of CHIS to study novel microbes/diseases with limited clinical intervention must wait until Indian scientists have expertise, and strong institutional structures and mechanisms are in place.

G. Champa

Why Do We Need To Learn New Skills? - 2

Above are the importance of learning new skills at work. Learning never stops in human life, so why should it in your professional life?

Keep learning new skills as it will help in your work-life. Adapting new skills in professional life gives you a sense of accomplishment. Along with you, know your worth and the works you can do.

How does learning benefit you?

For many of us, our works offer us a great way of learning and improvement. Your learning process gives you motivation and encouragement. When you look back before gaining the knowledge, you will realize the fact that how much you have learned.

But for those of us who feel as though our works aren't guiding us to anything, the lack of progress can make us feel demotivated and sad.

Following are the benefits of learning new skills at work:

i) Securing your job:

Losing your job will never be an issue for you. Your administration or boss will be impressed by you because of bringing newness to the company or workplace.

Henceforth, there will be no chance of losing your job, and you can invest in it peacefully.

ii) Providing a good workplace:

When you are master in adapting new skills, there will be so many proposals for work. Then you can choose which work is best for you.

iii) Increase of knowledge:

The increase in knowledge is a great benefit of learning new skills at work. It gives you a new sense through which you can judge. This is the activity or process of gaining skills by studying, practicing, being taught, or experiencing.

iv) Grouping benefit:

Whether it is selecting a new project or grouping, your co-workers will want you in their team. They will give you the utmost importance. It will never happen that you won't be any group of forming an assignment

or project. It may also happen that people will select you as a leader or an inspiration.

v) Increasing self-confidence:

Definitely learning new skills will give newness in yourself. In addition to that, it will increase your self-confidence. You will feel your worth, and with this, you will try out many other things which may bring success.

These are the benefits of learning new skills at work. In addition to that, professional life's success also depends on learning new skills. People will hear your ideas with more concern, and with that, you will be able to expand your connections.

What is the importance of skills?

Gaining skills is one of the most important things you can do to develop your work. It is the ability to do something well. A well-developed skill can make you master in a particular field, and it can be learned too.

Learning new skills helps in your professional life a lot. It helps you to achieve your goals, gives confidence, and gives you motivation for working too. Practicing your existing skills and makes you professional in your work-place. Not only learning new skills is necessary, but also practicing your existing skill is.

Learning new skills is like bringing up a baby; it is connected to growth. Along with this it is very important if you want to grow in business as it is prosperous and fruitful.

Importance of skills are given below:

1. Achieving your goals:

People tend to have big or small dreams or goals in their life. Getting skilled in related work helps them to achieve it. Example: If you want to grow your career as a marketer, you need to have strong communication skills so that you can influence customers, analytical skills to analyze the market and make decisions about what will be your next step.

Perhaps you can't do it all alone and need more people to

your team to make it happen. Then you need team-building skills. You can hire people for it and motivate them to work for achieving the same goal. In that case, it will add people with new skills to your pole, and you need to know which skills are important for achieving your goal.

After creating the team, you make them realize that they are related and build the team spirit among them. That will also need managing and motivating skills.

2. Self-confident successful in career:

When you have more work and opportunities for the skills that you have, you will become confident, cheerful, and successful. You will acquire a large amount of money, and also you will earn respect, praise and that all makes you happy and prosperous.

Having technical or nontechnical proficiency in any work such as logo designing, web development, social media marketing will always have market demand. Along with that, you will also have to face competition. But overall, your skills helps you to take over all the problems nicely.

But for that instead of thinking it is inaccessible, you have to think about how you can make it possible. And your thinking develops when you learn new skills, knowledge, facts.

Nowadays, it's easy to learn new skills online, like YouTube videos, documentaries, or educational websites. Books and magazines are always there as media of offline learning. These things make learning new skills easy.

- Vijay Garg

Educational 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.)

Disqualification proceedings against 54 MLAs yet to be answered



Shiv Sena (UBT) led by Uddhav Thackeray then approached the SC saying the constitutional requirement of fairness mandated the speaker to promptly address the issue, but he had taken no action. During a hearing on July 14, the apex court issued a notice to Narwekar seeking his response within two weeks, by July 29. Meanwhile, the speaker is expected to give two more weeks to 40 Shiv Sena MLAs, including chief minister Eknath Shinde, to reply to the notices issued to them by the legislature after the Thackeray faction filed disqualification petitions against them, officials said. The deadline to file the

response ended on July 24.

“They had claimed that since the monsoon session was underway, they needed another four weeks’ time. However, we might give them two weeks, till the first week of August,” Narwekar said.

Assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar may choose not to submit his reply to the Supreme Court on the progress of the disqualification proceedings against 54 MLAs from both Shiv Sena camps, officials at the legislature said. The state legislature has not replied to notices served by the apex court in the past and is consulting legal experts on whether the speaker’s

decision can be subjected to legal scrutiny. The speaker is expected to give two more weeks to 40 Shiv Sena MLAs to reply to the notices issued to them by the legislature. The state legislature is yet to begin the process on the disqualification petitions filed by the NCP against Ajit Pawar and eight ministers. The constitution says the legislature is not answerable to any court. In the past too, the state legislature has not replied to the notices served by the apex, and other courts. We have not taken a final decision on it, but we are consulting legal experts to determine if the decision taken by the speaker can be subjected to legal scrutiny,” an official, who refused to be named, said.

Giving examples, another official said, the state legislature recently did not pay heed to the notices issued by the top court in breach of privilege cases filed against Shobha De and Arnab Goswami. On May 11, a five-judge bench headed by chief justice Dhananjay Chandrachud ruled that the speaker must take a call on the disqualification of MLAs within a reasonable period.

Lakhs of commuters were affected after digital booking severe hit



Lakhs of commuters were affected after digital booking of the Indian Railways took a severe hit on Tuesday. The IRCTC server crashed for around 10 and a half hours that crippled booking of local and long-distance trains. IRCTC officials, remained quite over the issue and simply stated that due to technical reasons the ticketing service was not available.

The UTS mobile app and nearly 1,200 ATVMs used to book suburban train tickets in Mumbai division were also affected, forcing commuters to make serpentine queues to get tickets. According to railway officials, the IRCTC server crashed at 2.56am.

The Central and Western

railways put together have 1,199 ATVMs which were not functioning properly. Of them, 353 ATVMs are in WR and 846 in CR. The people complained that even after selecting the stations and proceeding to make payments, the payment gateway did not complete the transaction. ATVMs comprise 15-20% of total ticket sales in the suburban system.

According to rail officials, the smart cards were working, but payment through QR code was unavailable. Likewise, mobile ticketing, which is around 8-10% of the total booking, the UTS app too was not of much help. The payment gateway was accepting only the R-wallet. The UTS app displayed a message saying, ‘Payment other than R-Wallet has been disabled’.

Heavy rain in Mumbai; orange alert for city and neighbouring districts on July 27

Incessant heavy rain lashed Mumbai on Wednesday, slowing down road traffic but services of suburban trains remained normal with slight delays. The weather bureau has issued an orange alert for Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, and Palghar districts for Thursday predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places, civic

officials said.

“The weather bureau has predicted heavy rain in Mumbai and suburbs with the possibility of very heavy rain at isolated places, and the possibility of occasional strong winds reaching 45-55 kmph in the next 24 hours,” as per the daily weather forecast issued on Wednesday morning. Amid the orange alert

on Wednesday for Mumbai, the island city and suburbs have been receiving heavy downpours since morning. Mumbai city received 61.19 mm of rainfall between 8 am and 4 pm, while eastern suburbs and western suburbs recorded 34.53 mm and 40.68 mm of rainfall, respectively, in the same period. PTI

Maharashtra: Two days holiday declared for schools, colleges amid 'red alert' for Raigad district

Authorities have declared holiday for all schools and colleges in Raigad district till Thursday amid the 'red alert' issued by the weather department. The Meteorological Department has issued a 'red' alert for the district.

On Monday also, the weather department has predicted heavy

to very heavy rainfall and issued an orange alert for six districts of Maharashtra till July 27. The weather department noted that Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudrug, Pune, Kolhapur and Satara districts will receive heavy to heavy rainfall till July 27.

Last week, following incessant

rainfall, a landslide struck the tribal village situated on a hill slope in Khalapur tehsil, Raigad district, approximately 80 km away from Mumbai. At least 26 people have died by being trapped in the debris caused by the landslide, as per the National Disaster Response Force. ANI

The tribunal directs compensation of Rs 1.49 cr to wife and children of the road accident victim

The Thane Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has ordered that a compensation of Rs 1.49 crore be paid to a 39-year-old woman and her two children after her husband was killed in an accident involving his car and a private bus on Pune-Mumbai Expressway in May 2018.

MACT member Wali Mohammed directed Neeta Tours and Travels and insurer The New India Assurance Co. Ltd. to make the payment to the claimants along with an interest of 7 per cent per annum from the date of filing of the petition within two months.

The order was passed on June 6 and its copy was made available on Wednesday. The tribunal also directed the insurer to first make the payment of the compensation

and then it is at liberty to recover the amount from the owner of the vehicle. The claimants- Shubhra Shrivastava and her children- are residents of Hinjewadi in Pune. RC Yadav, the counsel for the claimants, informed the tribunal that the deceased Saurabh Shrivastava (then aged 35) was working as Deputy Manager, Integrated Access Lead (IANI) with Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd. On May 21, 2018, a private bus rammmed into his car from behind on the Pune-Mumbai Expressway. Shrivastava, who was at the wheel, suffered serious injuries and was rushed to a hospital at Kamothe in Navi Mumbai where doctors declared him brought dead. As the owner of the bus was not present, the tribunal passed the order exparte. PTI

Nation

Uttarakhand: Gangotri-Yamunotri Highway blocked due to falling debris



Administration added.

Traffic and pilgrimage stopped on Monday as boulders continued to fall at many places on the Yamunotri Highway as torrential rains continued in Uttarkashi district, officials said. District disaster management official of Uttarkashi, Devendra Patwal, said that due to the boulders falling continuously for the last three days, the traffic on both sides of the road has come to a complete standstill. "Significantly, due to this, there has been a break on the Yamunotri pilgrimage, leaving many commuters including pilgrims and locals passenger stranded," the official said. "Big boulders fell from mountains on Monday morning further exacerbating the woes of commuters," the official said. ANI

Traffic has been suspended with debris continuing to fall at many places on the Gangotri-Yamunotri National Highway, as persistent rains continue to wreak havoc in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, officials said on Wednesday. According to the Uttarkashi District Administration, the Gangotri-Yamunotri National Highway

was closed to traffic as boulders continue to fall at many places following persistent downpours in the region.

"The Gangotri Highway has reached a standstill for movement at four places including Bandarkot. Yamunotri Highway is blocked at Silkyara and other areas. JCB machines on the routes are trying to open the highway," the Uttarkashi District

Delhi NCR witnesses surge in Conjunctivitis, AIIMS reports 100 cases per day

Amid the incessant rainfall that lashed the national capital and other areas for past few weeks, there have been multiple cases of Conjunctivitis reported in Delhi NCR. The cases of Conjunctivitis are on the rise in Delhi NCR, and according to Dr JS Titiyal, Chief RP Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, the national capital is reporting 100 cases per day.

"We are getting at least 100 cases of conjunctivitis per day. There is usually a seasonal increase in conjunctivitis cases, which coincides with the flu season. The conjunctivitis cases are mostly caused by virus," Dr Titiyal said. The conjunctivitis cases are reported each year during monsoon season, "Red

eye returns with monsoon, itching, redness, watering and sometimes discharge," Dr Harsh Kumar, Ophthalmologist, Centre for Sight said.

One of the private eye care hospital has from Delhi had reported 1032 cases of Conjunctivitis in Delhi NCR and 1521 cases pan India. "These figures represent a significant increase compared to the same period in the previous year (July 2022), with 646 cases in Delhi NCR and 1202 cases nationwide. The surge in numbers necessitates heightened awareness and swift action to control the spread of this eye condition effectively," Dr. Samir Sud Director and Co-founder, Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals said. ANI

Heavy rain likely in Odisha, IMD asks fishermen not to venture into sea till July 27



Heavy rain is likely over Odisha and fishermen have been instructed not to venture into the sea until Thursday, according to the India Meteorological Department. "Heavy rain is likely over Odisha on July 26, with heavy to very heavy rain likely over many parts of South and Coastal Odisha. Fishermen have been instructed not to venture into the sea till July 27", said Umashankar Das, senior scientist, IMD on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, in the neighbour-

ing state Andhra Pradesh, the Indian Meteorological Department has issued an alert for heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places over NCAP (North Coastal Andhra Pradesh) and Yanam for the next five days, starting from June 22 to 26, today. Also, in Karnataka, monsoon rains continued to wreak havoc. Water from the Kaveri River reached sections of low-lying areas of Kodagu district and caused alarm among the residents, officials said on Tuesday. ANI

India developing its own 400 km class Long-Range, Surface-to-Air Missile air defence system

In what could be a major boost for self-reliance in the defence sector, India is indigenously developing a three-layered long-range surface-to-air missile (LRSAM) defence system which would be able to strike down enemy aircraft and missiles at around 400 Km ranges. The proposal for developing a three-layered long-range surface-to-air missile system is at an advanced stage in the Defence Ministry and is expected to be taken up for clearance soon, defence sources told ANI.

The over USD 2.5 billion project will help India to be part of an elite group of militaries with indigenous capabilities to



shoot down enemy assets in the air from such ranges, they said. The missile system will have three layers of surface-to-air missiles, which would allow it to hit targets at different ranges. The surface-to-air missile system development work has been taking place as India worked with Israel to develop the medium-

range surface-to-air missile system MRSAM which can hit aerial targets at 70 plus kms.

The Indian system, sources said, would be very capable and would certainly be in the class of the S-400 air defence system already acquired from Russia and deployed along the China and Pakistan border. ANI

Karnataka: Two FIRs filed in Udupi Medical College video incident; NCW to launch probe

Days after an alleged incident where three girls of a medical college in Karnataka's Udupi district filmed fellow students in the washroom was reported, the Udupi Police have registered two separate FIRs in the case. A statement released by the police details that police took suo motu cognizance and two separate cases have



been registered in connection with the incident adding that an investigation has been initiated.

The second case is linked to the uploading of an edited

video on YouTube channels and posted by one person on his Twitter account, which the police have alleged was used to spread fake news and offensive and communal hatred on social media. A case has been filed at the Malpe Police Station for attempting to cause harm to harmony and police said a probe will be carried out. ANI

World

Unreliable munitions, weary soldiers: The challenges Ukraine faces



As the Russia-Ukraine war reaches its 17th month, attacks and counterattacks between Russia and Ukraine are escalating and becoming more deadly. Russian artillery is no longer clearly in the lead, and Ukrainian forces are battling strong Russian defences while continuing their southern push, being bogged down by extensive minefields, reported The New York Times (NYT). Small territorial gains come at an outside size. Volunteers reported that field hospitals that were shut down following the war for the eastern city of Bakhmut have been reopened, and Ukrainian

soldiers described a persistent adversary, as per NYT.

"We're trading our people for their people, and they have more people and equipment," a Ukrainian commander whose platoon has sustained significant losses ever since Russia began its full-scale invasion last year claimed.

The Ukrainian military is now facing a litany of new and enduring challenges that have contributed to its slow progress. By connecting Starlink satellite internet, open-source software, and commercial drones to command centres, Ukraine has successfully adapted

to a defensive war. However, offensive operations differ from these: Between its troops closest to Russian forces on the so-called zero line and those advancing, Ukraine has only slightly improved its ability to cooperate, according to The New York Times.

With tens of thousands of deaths since the war's beginning, Ukrainian infantry are concentrating more and more on trench assaults, but these ranks are frequently staffed with older and less-trained soldiers. Additionally, Russian forces have improved their artillery target accuracy when they are forced from a site, assuring Ukrainian soldiers cannot occupy it for an extended period of time. There is a lack of ammunition and a variety of ammunition sent from other nations. Because the accuracy of the different shells varies greatly, this has prompted Ukrainian artillery units to spend more ammunition to hit their objectives, according to Ukrainian soldiers. Additionally, some of the older shells and rockets brought from abroad are hurting the soldiers and ruining the equipment. Alex, the commander of a Ukrainian unit, said, "It's a very big problem now." ANI

China agrees to reschedule USD 2 billion debt recovery



Pakistan's all-weather friend China has agreed to reschedule the debt of USD 2 billion of Islamabad for a period of two years, providing a major relief to the government, ARY News reported citing sources. According to sources, China Eximbank has officially written to Pakistan about the delay in the recovery of debt. Pakistan is also exempted from paying additional interest on the loan, sources added.

This is a major relief to Pakistan government which is in the process of rebuilding foreign exchange reserves through fresh loans and rolling over maturing debt. Notably, the

deadline for Pakistan to repay the debt amount of all 31 loan agreements was increased from July 21, 2023, to June 30, 2025, sources added. Earlier, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that China has rolled over a USD 600 million loan to Pakistan, helping shore up the country's foreign exchange reserves.

"Exim Bank of China rolled over USD 600 million to Pakistan, which increased our foreign currency reserves," the premier said, adding that the assistance from friendly countries is improving economic indicators, according to ARY News. ANI

One killed, thousands evacuated as Typhoon Doksuri lashes Philippines

A strong Typhoon 'Doksuri' caused widespread floods and landslides on Wednesday, killing at least one person in Philippines, CNN reported citing the authorities. Two people were injured as well. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Typhoon Doksuri, also known as Egay in the Philippines, has caused flooding in five different

provinces and more than a dozen landslides brought on by rain.

The deceased and the injured were located in the northern and central regions of Calabarzon and Western Visayas, according to the authorities.

According to Pagasa, the Philippine weather service, the storm made ashore around 3:10 a.m. local time (3:10 p.m. ET) close to remote northern Fuga Island. Doksuri landed with winds

of roughly 220 kilometres per hour (140 mph), which is equivalent to a category 4 Atlantic hurricane, although having lost some of its super typhoon intensity, as per the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre. The largest and most populous island in the Philippines, Luzon, was predicted to experience violent and life-threatening circumstances as torrential rains ravaged the nation, reported CNN. ANI

Israel battles quiet internal upheaval after passage of controversial bill on weakening Supreme Court

Angry protests following the passage of a controversial bill by Israel's Parliament this week on a controversial bill that could limit the Supreme Court's powers has given way to a quiet upheaval in the country with threats of

mass emigration, resignations in critical positions, army desertions, strikes and flight of capital. Israeli Parliament approved the contentious law that prevents judicial checks on political power and forms a key part of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's

plan to reshape the country's justice system, after weeks of unprecedented protests that have crippled the Jewish state. The bill passed on Monday with 64 votes in favour and zero against it, with the opposition boycotting the final vote on the bill in protest. PTI

Russian fighter jets damage US drone over Syria



A Russian aircraft fired flares at the US drone over Syria and damaged its propeller, America's military said on Tuesday. Lieutenant General Alex Grynkeiwich, the head of US Air Forces Central, in a statement, revealed that on Sunday, the Russian fighter aircraft flew dangerously close to a US MQ-9 drone on a defeat-ISIS mission, harassing it and deploying flares from a position directly overhead, with only a few metres of separation between aircraft.

"One of the Russian flares

struck the US MQ-9, severely damaging its propeller. Fortunately, the MQ-9 crew was able to maintain flight and safely recover the aircraft to its home base," the head of US Air Forces Central said.

"The Russian fighter's blatant disregard for flight safety detracts from our mission to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS. We call upon the Russian forces in Syria to put an immediate end to this reckless, unprovoked, and unprofessional behaviour," he added. ANI

EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNAL PRAYERS-

Praying together generates empathy



Jayanthi Subramaniam

Columnist

Prayers have assumed greater importance after Covid 19 struck people in large numbers and all of a sudden we opt for prayers to save humanity from further sufferings. It all started in good earnest and continued for the welfare of the community in the best way possible. After all, we live for the benefit of others in a detrimental way.

Praying together for the cause of the society is a noble gesture, which needs no publicity or a great amount of effort. Praying for each other helps you start to pay attention to how the other person is feeling. We begin to see each other through God's eyes as we hear the needs that are weighing heaviest on each other's hearts. We see each other differently before God's throne of grace. Most people's prayers seek the best fix for a situation. We typically pray whatever we are told to pray for a situation, with no real thought of "What does God want to do here?" Something happens to that dynamic, however, when people pray together. They start to let go of their desires to see their purposes fulfilled and start to open themselves up to what God wants.



Generally, we pray for the well being of your known relative or friend who is facing a health issue. At times we sit in prayers invoking rain God to shower sufficient monsoon rains so that our society or state may not run out of water. Thus far, these prayers need to be for universal peace and harmony and not for any vested interests. Thus our prayers provide solace and well being of an injured person to recover sufficiently early. We are blessed enough to sit as a group on a Sunday and make our mind to be involved in the service to God in the

most religious and a dynamic way to pass on the cosmic rays to the suffering person and thereby giving him a second lease of mind through our prayers.

When you hear many voices singing prayer, you find your voice in the voice of others. That has the capacity to make you feel part of a body of worshipers. When you hear many voices singing prayer, you find your voice in the voice of others. That has the capacity to make you feel part of a body of worshipers but now group praying is not possible. What religion offers

to the solitary individual is that he or she is part of something greater than themselves. What could more demonstrate that than being with a group of other people? As we failed to get momentum and were forced to pray indoors it is time we have to look for the family people to join you in a silent prayer. With communal worship of God like Virtual Vishnu, Sahasranamam assumes a greater importance and devotees look for better options. Google meetings app is a blessing in disguise.

Entertainment



Popular Punjabi singer Surinder Shinda dies

Popular Punjabi singer Surinder Shinda, known for hit songs "Putt Jattan De", "Jatt Deona Morh" and "Truck Balliya", died on Wednesday after a prolonged illness at a private hospital here. Shinda, who was in his 60s, breathed his last at the Dayanand Medical College and Hospital. During his singing career, he sung many famous songs and also appeared in several Punjabi films such as "Putt Jattan De", "Ucha Dar Babe Nanak Da" and "Badla Jatti Da".

Many people, including singers and politicians, expressed grief over Shinda's demise. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann tweeted, "Very sad to hear the news of the death of famous singer Surinder Shinda ji... The voice of Punjab has gone silent forever." Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal said the singer's contribution to Punjabi music was priceless. "Deep condolences to the fans and the family of legendary Punjabi singer Surinder Shinda. His contribution to Punjabi music is priceless. He had an incredibly powerful voice. Shinda ji will be missed by millions of his fans around the world. May his soul rest in peace," Badal said in a tweet. Singer-actor Harbhajan Mann also expressed grief over the death of Shinda, saying Punjabi music has suffered a loss that could never be fulfilled. "The end of the golden era of Punjabi folk singing," said Mann in a tweet. PTI

Ayushmann shares how Kamal Haasan's role in 'Chachi 420' helped him to portray his character in 'Dream Girl 2'



Actor Ayushmann Khurrana will be seen pretending to be a woman named Pooja in the film 'Dream Girl 2'. Portraying the role of a woman is no easy feat. To get into the skin of the character, Ayushmann took inspiration from the roles of Kamal Haasan in 'Chachi 420', Govinda in 'Aunty No 1' and Aamir Khan in 'Baazi'.

Talking about it, Ayushmann said, "True disruptors of cinema are my cinematic inspirations and what Kamal Haasan sir did in Chachi 420, Aamir Khan sir did in Baazi and Govinda sir did in Aunty No 1 are truly defining moments for an actor. I was mesmerised and blown away, looking at how brilliant they are to pull off playing a woman on screen. It was mind-boggling, to say the least. So, for Dream Girl and now Dream Girl 2, I would say that they have inspired me to even attempt to pull off a character who dresses up as a woman when stuck in a situation that leads to comedy of errors. My character of Pooja in Dream Girl 2 is an ode to these brilliant actors and the magic and entertainment they have provided to people in theatres." "I hope people love my performance in Dream Girl 2. I have worked very hard to bring Pooja to audiences. I love to watch people smile when they come to watch a film, and I hope Dream Girl 2 delivers this to the maximum," he added. ANI



Actor Kiara Advani made a bold appearance in a Barbie-inspired outfit from designer duo Falguni and Shane Peacock on the first day of the India Couture Week (ICW). The designers on Tuesday unveiled their collection "Renaissance Reverie", featuring bridal wear for men and women, inspired by their love for art and the treasures they encounter during their travels, as per the collection note. Advani, who is no stranger to the ICW ramp, looked every bit resplendent as she walked the stage in a bold pink ensemble outfit with bead and sequin work.

The dress featured a top with plunging neckline and a skirt with a high slit and long train at the back, which many dubbed an outfit perfect for 'desi Barbie', a reference to Robbie's new Hollywood movie "Barbie", currently running in theatres worldwide. "As a showstopper, it was the perfect outfit. It was such a versatile outfit. We styled it in a western way and that's the beauty of all the creations. They are all versatile and you can wear them as per your taste," the "Satyaprem Ki Katha" star told reporters after the event. Turning showstopper for Falguni and Shane Peacock was a no-brainer, Advani said. "I feel absolutely stunning in this outfit and I always feel that whenever I am dressed by them. Two days ago, my manager asked if I wanted to see the clothes and I said, 'It's Falguni and Shane, they will give me something stunning.' They always supersede my expectations," the actor said. She praised the designer duo for blending "detail with a lot of glamour" in their creations. "Every piece just stands out. Every single outfit looked like a showstopper outfit today. And that is something I believe is their USP. They really bring that magic," she added. PTI

Kiara Advani shines in Barbie-inspired outfit at India Couture Week 2023