



Rajya Sabha passes Bill to curb film piracy, revamp age-based certification



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C-VOTER RAJASTHAN

Election Opinion Poll

Mandate for Congress



Assembly elections are going to be held in Rajasthan in a few months. The opinion poll survey gives mandate to Congress. The Congress also asserted it can win the Rajasthan assembly elections provided there is unity and warned of strict action against those not maintaining discipline and speaking outside the party forum. The party, however, indicated it is unlikely that it will declare a chief ministerial face for the polls due later this year. The Congress claimed that it has resolved all issues while seeking to end talks of differences between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, who have often gone against each other in public. Pilot expressed happiness that the AICC has taken cognisance of the issues raised by him about welfare of youth and corruption under the previous Vasundhara Raje government, and asserted the party will contest assembly polls unitedly to secure a massive victory.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will form the government in Rajasthan with a record margin in the upcoming assembly elections. He also predicted that Narendra Modi will become Prime Minister for the third time in 2024. Shah criticized the current Congress government, accusing it of being the most corrupt in the country. He highlighted issues such as corruption, illegal mining, and unemployment in Rajasthan. In response, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot called Shah's statements irresponsible.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lashed out at Congress in an address in Rajasthan's Sikar where he had gone to inaugurate a host of projects on Thursday. He invoked the infamous 'red diary' and said that the grand old party's "dark deeds" are recorded in it. Modi said that if the red diary is opened, many issues will be solved.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot responded to the accusations and said that there is no such diary and all that is a fabricated tale. The 'red diary' was produced by former minister and Congress MLA Rajendra Gudha on Sunday. Gudha claimed that he had saved Gehlot but was removed without being given an opportunity to explain himself. Gudha had said that he had secured a 'red diary' on the directions of Gehlot during a raid by the Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax department against Congress leader Dharmendra Rathore.

Will the BJP win the 2023 Rajasthan assembly polls with a strong mandate?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Rajasthan has a history of repeats every five years - Five years Congress then next five years BJP. But this time there are chances of Congress getting a second term, Bharat jodo Abhiyan has played a crucial role in twisting the mandate. For Congress, Sachin Pilot is creating a problem because Ashok Gehlot doesn't find fit for the profile of CM as he is too young. Recently Gehlot said to Sachin (Inki Ragdai nahi hui hain) this means Sachin is immature for such a prominent profile. For BJP, Vasundhara Raje is creating a problem - Her relation with Modi and Shah is not well. During the 2018 assembly election, we heard a slogan from locals that "Modi se bair nahi Vasundhara teri Khair nahi". This means people also want some fresh face in Rajasthan, but it is not easy to ignore Vasundhara Raje - BJP should have some

plans to shift her to the Central portfolios or declare her as governor of some state. Vasundhara also wants to retire from politics after this 2024 tenure.

She may not aim for any central portfolios or any other perks, her sole wish is to rule Rajasthan for one last time. From BJP's end, Rajya Vardhan Singh Rathore can play some role here - According to some surveys; people want him as a CM face.

Rajasthan is facing several issues such as less power to Municipal Parties, Cold response of MLA regarding development work, corruption is rising like there is no tomorrow, also some of the policies are not being helpful for middle and small class business person, unemployment is on rise,

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Editoritis

Will the BJP win the 2023 Rajasthan assembly polls with a strong mandate?

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Rajasthan has had a tradition of voting out the incumbent Govt since 1998. Congress was the beneficiary of this trend in 2018 but by 2023 Congress would be at the receiving end of this trend.

When it comes to BJP in Rajasthan, Modi and Shah are not in favor of Vasundhara. Whereas Vasundhara knows the nerves of people in the state. In such circumstances BJP in Rajasthan has the issue of leadership.

As the polls draw closer, the focus within the BJP will be on ticket distribution. How that process goes might decide which chief minister hopeful gets how many supporters in the fracas.

Paper leak is big curse, exams for government jobs are not held on time etc. The biggest advantage for the BJP is the infighting in the Congress and anti-incumbency. And one key issue it has been handed on a platter is the series of exam paper leaks in the state. There have been eight such instances, and even Pilot has hit out at the government on this issue.

Rajasthan has had a tradition of voting out the incumbent Govt since 1998. Congress was the beneficiary of this trend in 2018 but by 2023 Congress would be at the receiving end of this trend. And Ashok Gehlot's government is not very popular to break this jinx. Most of his time and energy have been wasted in firefighting disagreement led by Pilot thereby letting governance go for a toss. But soon after Bharat Jodo Yatra, things got sorted. Congress collectively tried to win, forgetting their personal issues.

When it comes to BJP in Rajasthan, Modi and Shah are not in favor of Vasundhara. Whereas Vasundhara knows the nerves of people in the state. In such circumstances BJP in Rajasthan has the issue of leadership. The BJP top brass wants to do away with Vasundhara Raje and bring new leadership. With the weakening of Vasundhara Raje, parallel power centers such as Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Bhupender Yadav, Sunil Bansal, Satish Poonia have emerged in Rajasthan. There are chances that the BJP may contest the elections without declaring a chief ministerial candidate. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will, as usual, be the prominent face. As the elections are being held along with those in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, a few months ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the results will be really crucial for Rajasthan too.

The biggest mistake of Vasundhara these days is her frequent visits to RSS offices. Gone are the days where the RSS chief can take any decisions for the BJP or its leaders, now he is also a puppet in the hands of powerful people. Somehow BJP wants to change their choice of CM in the upcoming election else Congress would be ruling in Rajasthan again. Right now, the main contenders for CM post would be Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, state BJP president Satish Poonia and Raje, among others. Despite backbiting within the BJP, it can pose a challenge if the party charts out a clear strategy that does not confuse the

voters. This state is important for the BJP, particularly for Modi's campaign, as it gave the NDA all 25 seats in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Modi has made four trips to the state in the past four months to shore up the party's chances among various communities. Notably, he picked Dausa—part of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra and Sachin Pilot's stronghold—to launch the first stretch of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway. He also went to Bhilwara to participate in the 1,111th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Devnarayan, revered by the Gurjars, who make up more than 10 percent of the state's population. They had voted for the Congress in the last election hoping that Pilot would become chief minister.

The two recent appointees to the top constitutional posts in the country—President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar—would also help the BJP in the state. Dhankhar, as a Jat leader from Rajasthan, might get support from the community, who account for more than 12 per cent of the state's population. The tribals, who constitute nearly 14 per cent of the population, are likely to be wooed in Murmu's name. Rajputs make up 8 percent of the population. Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda, too, have made multiple trips to the state. Nadda, who has been insisting that the party units be more agile and engage with the people, has a special bond with Rajasthan—both his daughters-in-law belong to the state.

As the polls draw closer, the focus within the BJP will be on ticket distribution. How that process goes might decide which chief minister hopeful gets how many supporters in the fracas. These supporters would be crucial when a chief minister is picked, if the BJP gets a majority. And so, before the BJP goes to polls, it has to set its own house in order and craft a clear message for the voters.



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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Vaccinating strays are important but neutering them should be a priority to check their numbers!

Difficult to keep a count of dogs in the city but their population has increased by multifold & this is a serious problem faced by the city. Our housing society has 3 times more cats than dogs & I presume there are more cats than dogs in the city. Vaccinating strays is important but neutering them should be a priority so that their population can be controlled which is a serious problem in the city.

Dog & cat lovers have increased in the city after lockdown to beat loneliness. Govt in association with PETA should come up with an adoption program for pets where stray dogs/cats are examined in veterinary hospitals & then handed over to pet lovers which would help keep a watch on their count as well as wellbeing!

S.N.Kabra

Hepatitis Awareness

World Hepatitis Day, observed on July 28, aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis, a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Hepatitis affects millions of people worldwide, causing acute and chronic disease and killing close to 1.34 million people every year. Hepatitis causes liver diseases and can also kill a person. In some countries of the world, hepatitis B is a commonest cause of cirrhosis and may also causes liver cancer. The viruses are transmitted through different routes Hepatitis A and E through contaminated food and water; Hepatitis B – through unsafe blood and other bodily fluids and Hepatitis C – mostly through infectious blood. The objective of dedicating a day for Hepatitis Awareness is to provide an opportunity to focus on strengthening prevention, screening and control of viral hepatitis and the diseases that it causes.

Jubel D'Cruz

Sensitive chord

It is disturbing to read of women being molested, beaten, raped in full public view. Yes, I think man has lost his sensibilities. I mean, how different are we human beings, from barbarians & cannibals who don't seem to have human feelings? Does this strike a sensitive chord?

However, what is equally disturbing is that no one wants to help the victim, understandably, because they care for their own life or perhaps, a "why should I?" attitude. They would rather shoot videos of the incident. But then the question strikes back, what if that victim was our own daughter or a sister or a relative?

I think we have seen enough of crimes against women, young girls and children.

All such crimes must be viewed seriously, and the severest of punishment, equal to the crimes committed, must be meted out to the criminals. Only then perhaps, we would see some semblance of sanity in human beings.

Melville X. D'Souza

Respect Women

When the whole country bowed their heads feeling ashamed on the incident took place in Manipur, Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, who has been convicted of rape and murder, secured parole for 30 days and on the same day BJP leader Brij Bhushan Singh, who is accused of sexually assaulting wrestlers, got bail. These all incidents show that there is no respect for women in the eyes of powers. The rapists and criminals are being felicitated instead of being punished. The slogan 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' is nothing except illusion. The governments must take appropriate actions against perpetrators instead of felicitating them.

Hassan Khan

Why Do We Need To Learn New Skills? - 3

3. To become a leader:

Leaders must be skilled in various ways, such as communication and appointment skills. It means that you are capable of adapting new skills that are necessary for achieving your goals.

People follow talented and skilled people because they think that person can help them to grow in career and business. Here the skilled person can be an entrepreneur, writer, student, and political leader. They share their knowledge so that it contributes to your workplace but not to create more followers.

And when you think enormous and behold the plan for then, it will attract people to follow you. Thereupon you can impact their lives positively.

4. Invent and create new things:

Many people have written many creative business ideas in planners. But all could not succeed in executing and test those ideas. And that's because of a lack of skills. They did not learn how to convert ideas into products and services that are in real life. They want their plans to come true, but because of poor knowledge and sincerity, they can't.

But what if someone spends an exact amount of one hour on a particular topic then he will be able to get professional in that work. Along with it, it will grow creativity and originality in their work. With this, you can invent new ways to do any work.

Along with that, if someone thinks that every

skill is known to him, then it will impact their life and business negatively. Everything is growing around us, and that too customer expectation.

The administration's expectations and goals are growing. Expansion is growing, and interest is growing, business is growing, etc. Henceforth, it means this is a time where everyone wants to grow and expand. Thus, if we don't maintain the pace of time and developing world, then we can face problems to supply as per the want of time.

Consequently, that's why for growth, newness, and to create new things. And we need to learn what's essential to achieve specific goals and dreams.

5. Job and promotion:

It means advancing in one's job with their hard work and productivity. If you want to get a new job or even a promotion, then new skills will help you a lot.

Skilled people get better jobs who think and work practically, morally. Along with that if you want promotion, you need to learn and perform better than others at various levels

6. You will be able to grow your income:

It is so obvious that when you grow new skills, you will be able to improve your income and earnings too. It can be a part-time business, online business, or offline business.

Skills complete your professional life. It works for your betterment.

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.

Learning new skills means you can do more work or can invest in many works. Henceforth this benefits you in earning more than you would. This helps with your income in your workplace.

It has become necessary to learn new skills because every other day, this world is expanding and making progress. Henceforth, to live, compete, innovate, you need to learn new skills also. As sometimes, your ancient skills won't help, and at that moment, you need to grab some advanced skills.

What are the benefits of skill acquisition?

As a small-organization holder, you can hire many professional people to take on that are outside of your accomplishment set. However, you must continually aim to acquire the skills that will make you an active master and an effective businessperson.

You may have started your business because of your particular accomplishments and knowledge related to a product or service. Still, you have to bolster your skills to be a successful administrator and have staying power.

- 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.)

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES IN MUMBAI, THANE, NAVI MUMBAI SHUT TODAY

Red alert sounded by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Mumbai will continue till 8.30 am Friday as heavy rainfall persists in the city and suburbs. Schools and colleges in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai remain shut today in view of the 'red' alert issued by the IMD. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) issued the order yesterday as the city recorded the wettest July this year since 1991 surpassing the 1,500 mm mark. 'Red' alert was sounded in parts of Maharashtra including Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sangli and Gadchiroli districts, according to the IMD.

The Mumbai-bound lane of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway will be closed for two hours between 12 noon and 2 pm today, according to the Maharashtra highway traffic police. The closure has been ordered for the clearing of the debris after



the landslide that took place on the Expressway late Sunday. Officials also said vehicles going towards Mumbai from Pune can use the old Pune-Mumbai highway.

As Mumbai continues to receive heavy rainfall, two lakes in the city—Vehar and Tansa—overflowed early Wednesday after reaching their full capacity. As of now, three out of the seven lakes that supply water to

Mumbai have overflowed, but the BMC said that 10 per cent water cut imposed from July 1 will continue "unless the overall stock in all the seven lakes touches the 70% mark".

Lake levels rise to 61.58%

The water stock in the seven lakes which supply water to the city rose to 61.58 percent on Thursday morning, marking a rise of three percent from Wednesday morning. In 2022, on

the same day, lake levels touched 88 percent whereas in 2021, the water stock stood at 68 percent. A 10 percent water cut is in effect in the city, which had been imposed on July 1.

Amid heavy rains, BMC issues precautionary measures, road and home safety tips

Precautionary Measures

- Avoid unnecessary travel.
- Keep emergency numbers handy

- Stay away from flooded areas
- Park vehicles in safe spots to prevent water damage.

Road Safety during Heavy Rains

- Avoid driving through waterlogged areas to prevent vehicle breakdowns.
- Be cautious of slippery roads, drive slowly and maintain distance from other vehicles.
- Follow traffic diversions and guidelines for smooth traffic flow.

Home Safety Tips during Heavy Rain

- Ensure proper drainage systems at home are clear and functional.
- Close windows and doors securely to prevent water seepage.
- Keep important documents and valuables in waterproof containers.
- Charge your mobiles and keep a torch handy in case of power outages.

Ambulance donation by Atharva Foundation for ex-servicemen and families of martyrs of North Eastern states

Atharva Foundation, an organization working for the welfare of the soldiers who have sacrificed their best in the defense of the country, donated an ambulance for the health welfare of the soldiers and their families from the North Eastern states. Sunil Rane, MLA from Borivali and President of Atharva Foundation presented an ambulance to the State Sainik Welfare Boards of the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in a program organized at Raj Bhavan on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas has also been



completed this year.

The aim of the ambulance donation is to improve emergency

medical services to the brave soldiers serving in the armed forces and their families.

NIA makes fifth arrest in Maharashtra ISIS module case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested another accused for allegedly promoting violent activities of the proscribed global terrorist outfit ISIS in Maharashtra, an official said.

Adnan Ali Sarkar, 43, was the fifth accused arrested in the case, which was registered on June 28, a spokesperson of the anti-terror federal agency said.

Termining the arrest of Sarkar from his house in Kondhwa area

of Pune as a "major breakthrough" in the ISIS Maharashtra module case, the official said several incriminating materials such as electronic gadgets and documents related to the ISIS, also known as Islamic State, were seized during the raid. "The material exposed the accused's allegiance with the ISIS and his role in promoting the outfit's violent agenda by motivating and recruiting vulnerable youth," the spokesperson said. PTI

Discussion scheduled today on sue tto heavy rain situation in the state

At the state business advisory council meet today, the ruling and opposition are expected to hold discussions to curtail the Monsoon session due to rains and floods in Maharashtra. The state Monsoon session started on July 17. As per schedule, it was to conclude on August 4. However, rain, and floods in several districts across Vidarbha, Konkan, and parts of Western and North Maharashtra have seen MLAs requesting the government to curtail the session.

Mumbai receives heavy to very heavy downpour, recording over 200 mm of rain in the last 24 hours

In the last 24 hours, Mumbai received heavy to very heavy downpour, recording over 200 mm of rain. According to IMD Mumbai, the coastal Colaba observatory recorded 223 mm of rain whereas the Santacruz weather station registered 145 mm of downpour between Wednesday

and Thursday until 8.30 am.

Several pockets of Mumbai registered very heavy rainfall. While Ram Mandir received 161 mm of rain, CSMT recorded 153 mm of showers. Byculla, Sion and Bandra received 119 mm, 112 mm and 106 mm of rainfall respectively.

Announcement of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana only 5 lakhs, Govt GR is not yet issued

Although the announcement of health coverage up to 5 lakh under Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana was made on 28th June 2023, citizens cannot get any benefit as the government decision has not yet been issued.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, RTI activist Anil Galgali mentioned that due to this, the patient is deprived of treatment and the announcement is causing friction among citizens and government officials. Even without the release of government decisions,

government advertisements are coming every day. Interestingly, the late Balasaheb Thackeray Road Accident Insurance Scheme was included in the Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana. This too has only been announced but no official decision has actually been issued. Common Man approach Helath Activist Rajendra Dhage reg same.

Anil Galgali has pointed out that such announcements actually come into effect if a government decision is issued on the same day when such announcements are made.

Nation

Rajya Sabha passes Bill to curb film piracy, revamp age-based certification



children below the age of 12 and "S" for special category audiences such as doctors and scientists. The Bill seeks amendment to the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The amendments will address the issue of unauthorized recording and exhibition of films.

The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on July 20. The draft Act constitutes the Board of Film Certification for certifying films for exhibition. Such certifications may be subject to modifications and deletions. The Board may also refuse the exhibition of films. The Bill adds certain additional certificate categories based on age. Under the Act, the film may be certified for exhibition without restriction ('U'); without restriction, but subject to the guidance of parents or guardians for children below 12 years of age ('UA'); only to adults ('A'); or only to members of any profession or class of persons ('S'). ANI

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to curb the menace of film piracy, revamp age-based certification given by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) as well as uniformity in the categorisation of films and content across platforms. Speaking on the Bill, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said the Bill has been brought to get relief from the loss of Rs 20,000 crore to piracy.

"Piracy is like cancer and we are trying to uproot it through this

Bill," Thakur said in support of the Bill, which has provisions to curb transmission of pirated film content on the internet as well as to classify films on the basis of age group, instead of the current practice of 'U', 'A', and 'UA'. The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023 was passed in the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote in the absence of opposition parties who had earlier staged a walkout. "U" is for unrestricted public exhibition and "A" is restricted to adult audiences, while "UA" is for unrestricted public exhibition subject to parental guidance for

BSF apprehends Pakistani national near Punjab along International Border; handed over to Pak rangers



Border Security Forces on Thursday apprehended a Pakistani national while "inadvertently" crossing the International Border and entering into Indian territory in Khanpur village in Punjab's Fazilka district, a BSF statement informed. Following the incident, the BSF approached Pakistan Rangers and lodged a strong protest on the matter.

During questioning, it came to the fore that the apprehended Pakistani national

had crossed over to Indian territory inadvertently on July 26. "Nothing objectionable was recovered from him", the statement informed.

Later the apprehended national was handed over to Pakistan Rangers on humanitarian grounds, it added. As per the BSF statement, on July 26, BSF troops deployed at forwarded positions apprehended a Pakistan national ahead of the border fence while crossing the International Border. ANI

Delhi: Yamuna's water level breaches danger mark again

The water level of River Yamuna surges again, as it was recorded at 205.83 at 10:00 am on Thursday. Notably, the danger mark of the Yamuna is 205.33 meters. After days of receding, the Yamuna water level in the national capital once again crossed the danger mark amid incessant rains in Delhi and adjoining areas.

In the NCR, the Hindon River also witnessed a rise in the water level. Visuals showed that the area near Ecotech 3 got submerged following the surged water level due to which many vehicles got stuck in the water. Earlier, Yamuna's water level in Delhi dropped below the danger mark on Tuesday, the level was recorded at 205.32 metres at 7 pm. ANI

Telangana: 80 tourists stuck at Muthyala Dhara waterfalls in Mulugu rescued

A team of National Disaster Response Force rescued 80 tourists on early Thursday who were stuck in the Muthyala Dhara waterfalls in Mulugu district after the water flow increased a day earlier, police said. According to police, all the tourists are in good health and the rescue operation that was started overnight has been completed.

"Rescue work has been completed. A total of 80 stranded tourists have been rescued from the Muthyala Dhara waterfall. We verified with every group and no one is left behind now. They have been given water and medical services. One boy got a minor scorpion bite and he has been treated. 90 per cent of tourists' health is fine," said, Gaush

Alam, Superintendent of Police, Mulugu.

Mulugu SP, PRO shared a video showing tourists being provided medical services and other food essentials. Earlier, SP said that they spoke with the tourists over mobile and suggested they stay away from the water stream and save battery life. ANI

Team of INDIA alliance MPs to visit Manipur on July 29, 30

A team of opposition MPs belonging to I.N.D.I.A is slated to visit Manipur on July 29 and 30 amid their demand for a detailed discussion in Parliament on the situation in the state, which has seen ethnic violence. The visit comes even as the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has accepted the notice given by the opposition parties for no-confidence motion against the government.

The opposition leaders have

said that they decided to go for no-confidence motion to seek reply from the government and the Prime Minister on various issues including the situation in Manipur.

Opposition parties have been protesting in Rajya Sabha over their demand for a detailed discussion on Manipur violence and a statement from the Prime Minister. "A team of INDIA alliance MPs will visit Manipur on July 29, 30," an opposition leader said. ANI

"You will be surprised why PM Modi...": Rahul Gandhi's video message on Manipur

Amid the unrest in Manipur, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi is aware that BJP's ideology has set the northeastern state on fire. According to the Congress leader, PM Modi has got nothing to do with the violence-hit state because he is the Prime Minister of only a few selected people.

In a video message shared by Indian National Congress on Twitter, Rahul Gandhi said, "What is Prime Minister Narendra Modi doing for Manipur? Why is he not saying anything about Manipur?"

It is because Narendra Modi has nothing to do with Manipur. He knows that his own ideology has burned Manipur."

Hitting out at PM Modi for not visiting the northeastern state, Rahul Gandhi said, "Have you seen what happened in Manipur? And what is happening? You will be surprised that the Prime Minister has not said a word about Manipur. You would have thought that when a state of the country is burning, the Prime Minister of the country would say something. Many of you would have thought that the Prime Minister of the country would go to Imphal to at least talk to the people.

"If it had been any previous Prime Minister, especially one from the Congress party, they would have been present there. But you will be surprised why Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not going to Manipur. Why is he not speaking about Manipur? Because Narendra Modi Ji is the Prime Minister of selected people, he is also the Prime Minister of the RSS. He has nothing to do with Manipur. He knows that his ideology has burnt Manipur. But the sorrow in Manipur, the pain, the injury to women—Narendra Modi Ji does not care about it," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi added. ANI

World

US ties with Niger will depend on democratic governance, rule of law: US State Secy Antony Blinken



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday spoke to Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum and stressed that Washington's further cooperation with Niamey will depend on further democratic governance, rule of law and human rights. "Secretary Blinken underscored that the strong US economic and

security partnership with Niger depends on the continuation of democratic governance and respect for the rule of law and human rights," read the US State Department press release.

Blinken conveyed the unwavering support of the United States for President Mohamed Bazoum and Niger's democracy. He emphasized that

the United States condemns the efforts to "seize power by force and overturn the constitutional order." "He emphasized that the United States stands with the Nigerien people and regional and international partners in condemning this effort to seize power by force and overturn the constitutional order," the press release said. Blinken also conveyed the unwavering support of the United States for President Mohamed Bazoum and Niger's democracy.

Meanwhile, soldiers in Niger claimed to have removed President Mohamed Bazoum from power late on Wednesday, hours after members of the presidential guard detained the politician at his official residence, reported Al Jazeera. ANI

117 Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims die in Saudi Arabia till July 27



The number of Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims who died in Saudi Arabia this year has reached 117 till July 27, according to the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Bangladesh. Among the deceased, 91 were men and 26 were women. The latest deceased were identified as Anuara Begum, 66, Md Aminul Islam, 72 and Abul Kashem, 89, reported Dhaka Tribune.

This year the temperatures

soared to 48°C during the annual rites. According to Saudi authorities, over 2000 people suffered heat stress this year. However, the actual figure for heat stress is probably far higher since many people were not admitted to hospitals or clinics. Moreover, ninety-five Hajis died in Mecca, nine in Mina, eight in Madina, two each in Arafah and Jeddah and one in Muzdalifa. ANI

Japan's population fell by more than 8,00,000 last year: Report



Japan's population fell by more than 8,00,000 last one year. The country's population crisis is accelerating, echoing similar trends seen in other East Asian countries, CNN reported. Japan's total population as of January 1, stood at 125.4 million, including both Japanese and foreign residents, according to data released on Wednesday by Japan's internal affairs ministry. The number of foreign residents rose by nearly 2,89,500 compared to the previous year – a significant increase of more than 10 per cent.

But the number of Japanese residents shrank by 8,00,523, marking the 14th consecutive year of contraction since a peak in 2009, said the ministry. And for the first time, all prefectures across the country saw a decrease in the

number of Japanese nationals, a ministry spokesperson told CNN. However, Tokyo, due to the rise in foreign residents, saw a slight increase in the overall population of all residents regardless of nationality.

The number of deaths last year also hit another record high, with 1.56 million recorded – compared to less than half the number of births recorded, just 771,801 newborns, according to the ministry. As per CNN, deaths have outpaced births in Japan for more than a decade, posing a growing problem for leaders of the world's third-largest economy. They now face a ballooning elderly population, along with a shrinking workforce to fund pensions and health care as demand from the ageing population surges. ANI

Pakistan: Sindh Home Department bans drone cameras in Muharram procession

The Sindh Home Department issued a notification imposing the ban on the use of drone cameras in Muharram processions and other religious events citing security reasons, reported ARY News. The notification said that a complete ban has been imposed on the use of drone cameras and permission will not be granted for any kind of coverage and recordings of the Muharram processions due to security

reasons. Moreover, according to ARY News, the authorities will take legal action against the violators.

Earlier, the Punjab government on Wednesday asked for the deployment of the Pakistan Army and Rangers in the province to maintain law and order during Muharram. Additionally, the Federal Ministry of Interior decided to deploy the Pakistan Army Troops during the holy month

of Muharram, ARY News reported.

Moreover, the Interior Ministry sent a circular to the provinces stating, "Army troops being deployed countrywide under Article 245." The circular was shared with Gilgit Baltistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) government. "The military troops being deployed on the request of the provinces for maintenance of law and order," the ministry stated. ANI

Taliban needs to take appropriate actions in Afghanistan for international recognition: US

US Department of State deputy spokesman Vedant Patel has said if the Taliban intends to seek international recognition, they need to "start directly with the actions and the policies they choose to undertake in Afghanistan", TOLO News reported. TOLO News is an Afghan news channel broadcasting from Kabul.

Patel while speaking at a press conference in Washington



DC, said that the US is "going to be watching very closely and will continue to take appropriate actions as needed." Patel while

speaking at a press conference in Washington DC, said that the US is "going to be watching very closely and will continue to take appropriate actions as needed."

"As it relates to the United States and Taliban, we have been incredibly clear, quite regularly condemning the clear backsliding that we are seeing in Afghanistan, the egregious human rights abuses, the marginalization of women and girls," he said, as per TOLO News. ANI

Expression

Dance is an art forum



C.K. Subramaniam

The modern period saw further growth and propagation of classical dances which moved from the temple to the proscenium theatre. With the invasions and plundering of temples, Natya gradually ceased to be an important feature of temple worship. Dancers, however, gathered lessons from the erstwhile temple dancers and brought in innovations to suit changing tastes.

A dancer enters the stage, invoking the grace of higher deities. The geometry in the dance consecrates the space on the stage, enlivened by the music ensemble. The portrayal of emotions representing the changing world drama connects the dancer to the spectators as and when the latter discover these inherent predominant moods within themselves. The hand gestures employed in the dances, having evolved from temple ritualistic gestures, certainly possess high spiritual value. The tapping of the feet continuously, to set rhythmic permutations and combinations, highlight the histrionic depiction of legendary content.

As the curtains open up, one mostly hears hymns to propitiate the elephant-faced remover of obstacles, Ganesa. The obstacles are those connected to the earth that may prevent us from rising above into the elevating spheres. The large face denotes the wise head which was planted by the supreme consciousness, Siva over the form created by the supreme energy, Sakti.

Indian culture saw different forms of dance and it is considered as an art form and worshipped and practised to perfection to enact on stage with rhythmic footsteps and natural actions. Here are the various forms of dances which add to the Indian classical dance forms.

Bharatanatyam- Traditional and stylized, it is one of the oldest of the Indian classical dance forms. Originating from Tamil Nadu, all the dance forms are structured around the nine rasas or emotions well depicted in the form of a dance drama or through a vernam to exhibit the feelings of the performer in the most typical way of dance form.

Kathak - The origin of Kathak is traditionally attributed to the travelling bards of ancient northern India known as Kathakars or story tellers. Katha means story in Sanskrit. Kathak evolved during the Bhakti movement in



India. It is found in three distinct forms, called gharanas of Jaipur, Banaras and Lucknow.

Odissi - Odissi originates from Odia. Its technique is built around a basic motif in which the human body takes the thrice deflected position of Indian sculpture. The dances are performed to poetry ranging from invocations of Lord Ganesha to the verses of the Gita Govinda.

Bhangra - Bhangra is a folk dance of Punjab. It is associated with the spring harvest festival- Baisakhi. A very energetic and lively performance, it is a part of joyous celebrations. Bhangra is danced to the rhythm of a drum, known as the dhol.

Manipuri - Manipuri dance originated in Manipur. It is well known for its themes of Vaishnavism, Shaivism, Shaktism and regional deities such as Umang Lai. The Manipur dance is a team performance, with its own unique costumes and aesthetics.

Kathakali - Kathakali is a dance form that originated in Kerala. It is famous for the elaborately colourful make up, costumes and face masks worn by the dancers. The traditional themes are folk mythologies, religious legends and spiritual ideas from Hindu epics and puranas.

Kuchipudi- Kuchipudi originated in a village named Kuchipudi in Andhra Pradesh. It is a dance

drama performance with vocal and instrumental Carnatic music in Telugu. A Kuchipudi performance includes a Sutradhara, who is the conductor of the entire performance. He recites the musical syllables and uses cymbals to produce rhythmic beats.

Raas Lila - Raas Lila dance is a part of the traditional story of Lord Krishna, described in Hindu scriptures such as the Bhagavata Purana and literature such as Jayadeva's Gita Govinda, where Lord Krishna dances with Radharani and Gopis. Broadly speaking, this is the dance of divine love of Bhakti between God and his devotees. This is very popular in Uttar Pradesh.

Mohiniyattam- Mohiniyattam is a dance form that originated in Kerala. It derives its name from Mohini, a female avatar of Lord Vishnu. The present day dance form evolved under the patronage of the Maharaja of the Kingdom of Travancore- Swathi Thrunal Rama Varma, a poet and brilliant music composer himself.

Garba - Garba is a dance form of dance which originated in Gujarat. The traditional dance is performed around a lamp or a picture or statue of Goddess Durga. It is celebrated on a grand scale during Navratri festival. The dancers wear bright coloured costumes and heavy jewellery.

Kalaripayattu- Kalaripayattu, with its origin in Kerala is a form of martial art.

Legend traces the art form to Sage Parashurama, the master of all martial art forms. Kalaripayattu was the form of combat of dynasties like Cholas, Cheras and the Pandyas. Today it has regained popularity in many forms.

Yakshagana - Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make up and stage techniques with a unique style and form. It is found in Karnataka. A Yakshagana performance is traditionally presented from dusk to dawn. Its stories are drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and other epics from Hindu and Jain traditions.

The Sun and Moon shaped ornaments relate to the solar and lunar energy and the central channel adorns the crown while even the fingers and toes are painted symbolising the five elements. Solo dancing becomes a powerful medium with the dancer wearing a uniform costume but enacting multiple roles, harnessing the flow of the stories through the different expressive modes. The poetry sung as melodious composition becomes a visual spectacle as the original thought and word of the poet gets into the firmament of imagination of the dancer. There lies the real success in promoting the art of dance in a very big way.

Entertainment



“It will happen”, says Rapper Travis Scott after cancellation of Egypt concert

American rapper and singer Travis Scott's concert at the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt has been cancelled. Live Nation Middle East announced the news on social media Wednesday, citing "production issues" as the cause for cancellation, reported People. "We regret to inform you that the UTOPIA show, originally scheduled for July 28th at the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt is cancelled," the concert promoter wrote on Twitter. "Unfortunately, despite highest efforts, complex production issues meant that the show could not be constructed in the desert. We understand that this news is disappointing and not the outcome any of us desired."

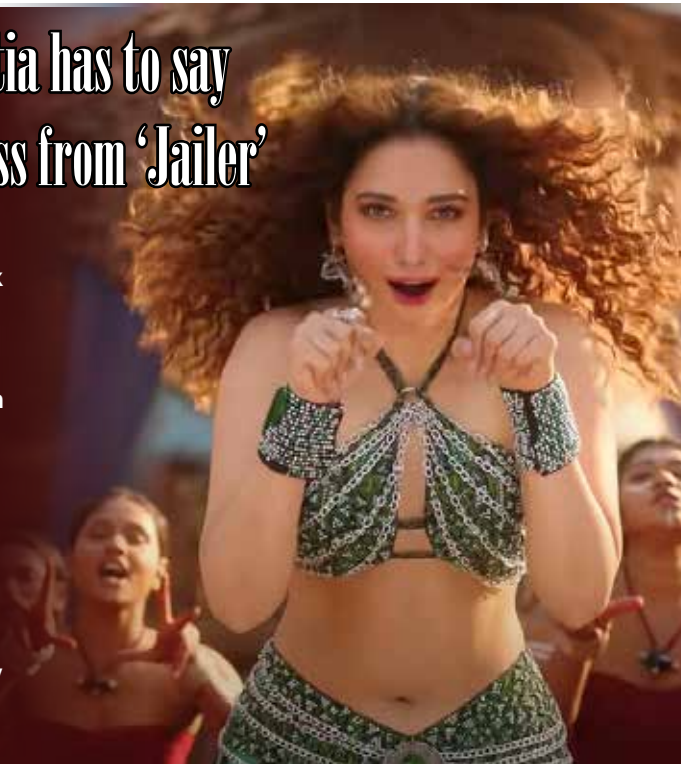
"Egypt at the pyramids will happen. But due to demand and detail logistics they just need a bit a time to set lay on lands. I will keep u posted on a date which will be soon love you all!!!," he wrote on Twitter.

In a follow-up tweet, he wrote, "But in good news I had 4 more of these type of experiences in other places. COORDINATES SOON REACH."ANI

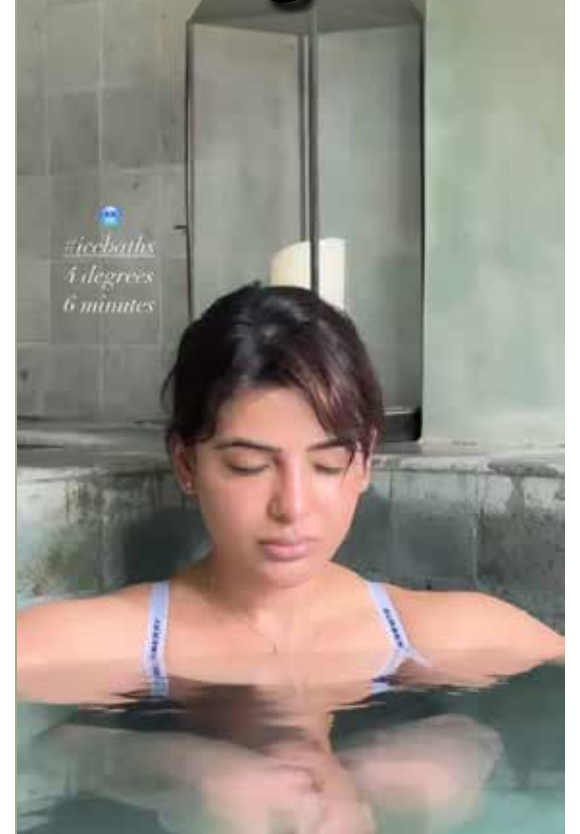
This what Tamannaah Bhatia has to say about 'Kaavaalaa' song success from 'Jailer'

Tamannaah Bhatia left everyone grooving after the Tamil version of 'Kaavaalaa' track from 'Jailer' was released but now the makers have launched the Hindi version titled 'Tu Aa Dilbara'. Speaking to ANI, Tamannaah shared expressed the gratitude for the love from the audience on 'Kaavaalaa' song success.

She said, "People have given so much love. The song is trending so much that normally we promote films but now this song has promoted us so much that we literally have to come out and talk about the love that people has given us and made it trend. Jailer of course is a film which has been dubbed in Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu. So, it will; definitely reach out to. It's rooted Tamil film which hopefully will reach out to all the audience." ANI



Samantha Ruth Prabhu takes ice bath in "4 degrees"



Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who has taken a break from acting and focusing on her physical and mental health is currently spending some peaceful moments in Bali. She keeps sharing pictures from her and updating her fans about the vacations. Recently, she took to her Instagram stories to share a photo of her in which she can be seen taking an ice bath in water.

Along with the picture, she wrote in the caption, "#IceBaths 4 degrees 6 minutes." She also posted a picture with a monkey and wrote in the caption, "Spot the monkey" ANI



India Couture Week 2023: Aditi Rao Hydari reveals her fashion mantra

Actor Aditi Rao Hydari left everyone awe-struck with her magical regal look at India Couture Week 2023. She slayed in ace designer Ritu Kumar's designed outfit on Wednesday night. Aditi has been making waves in the fashion world with her stunning style statement for a while now. Her fashion undoubtedly reflects her poised and graceful personality.

She walked the ramp wearing an ivory ensemble that featured the esque handcrafted details over the skirt and the blouse. She wore a full-sleeved blouse adorned with intricate embroidery and mirrorwork. For the glam, she kept minimal makeup and opted for a 'mangtika' to accessorize her entire beautiful look. ANI