



"He has to learn lot of things...": UP Deputy CM on Rahul Gandhi's remarks in LS



PG 05 >>

# Afternoon

VOIC E

TM

NEWSMAKERS

VIEW S & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 16, Issue: 03

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023 MUMBAI

08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com



AV TEAM

**M**aharashtra government revoques its announcement on height restriction for idols of sarvajanik mandals, but the civic body highlighted that public Ganeshotsav organisers can't install statues of more than a certain height. The mismatch between the stances of BMC and government threw the organisers in a panic, resulting in low turnout of applicants seeking permission for mass celebration of the festival.

There are 12,000 Ganesh mandals in Mumbai. Every year, they have to take permission from BMC, traffic cops, and local police stations to erect pandals. This year, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde directed the civic body to start a one-window system for granting all the permissions in one go.

Deputy Municipal Commissioner Ramakant Biradar told Afternoon Voice "We had official discussions on the height of Ganesh idol and the condition of limit in the height will be removed in a day or two. Till August 9, around 350 mandals have applied for the permissions while permission has been given to 260 mandals to erect pandals,".

To clear the confusion among public Ganeshotsav organisers regarding the height of Lord Ganesh's idol, the BMC has decided to do away with the condition of installing four-feet-tall busts, which are eco-friendly as well.

**I CONTINUED ON PAGE 04**

## There would be no height limit for Ganpati Idols during Ganeshotsav -BMC

### Even demons can have their great spiritual side

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

**T**here used to be a teacher across from my house, he was a writer and also a scholar but no one used to like him because he was very arrogant and cruel. At the same time, he was a staunch worshiper of God, every morning without fail he used to visit temples, there used to be soothing mantra chanting music in his house. Once a stray cat entered his house, he brutally trolled her and threw her out of his balcony without bothering for its life. I asked my granny how a God-fearing man can do so? She then told me the story of one very spiritual demon called Vritrasura. In Kaliyuga God and goddesses are very much in people around us, those who have wisdom, kindness, inclination to charity and serving mankind are God like people and the Monks around

us like Rishis (sages). And teachers like people are demons and there are various types of demons that we see day to day. The idea of mythological epics is to teach you a way of life.

Well, I asked my granny If a person has been doing sin all his life and suddenly one day starts doing some good deeds, then will God not punish him for his sin? If he is being punished for his sin, then what about the good deeds he did? My granny said " One has to pay for all the good and bad karma they do, for example for whatever sin this man has committed, God may make him Dog in the next birth but since he has done some deeds, the Dog would be a pet by a rich family." Karma needs no address, it reaches, wherever it has to give you the outcomes.

**I CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**

# Editoritis

# Even demons can have their great spiritual side

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

*The Delhi Services Bill, formally called Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023, is being tabled in the Indian Parliament and is set to replace a current ordinance which overrides a directive of the Supreme Court that had given command to the government of Delhi over most services.*

*The ordinance has been a major reason for contention between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party and the central government.*

*Opposition believes that the passing of this bill is a subversion of the constitutional separation of powers" is happening through the bill. He added that the country is now seeing "coercive federalism".*

Despite being a demon, Vritrasura was a preeminent bhakti-yogi. He was created in a sacrificial fire to fight Indra, the king of heaven. Vritrasura was so powerful that he collided with terror and was able to fight an army of demigods by himself. What makes Vritrasura so magnificent, however, is not his enormous strength as a fighter, but rather his level of spiritual elevation. Vritrasura was an illustrious bhakti-yogi able to propound deep mystical knowledge even in the midst of a fight for his life. Sometimes a person born in an underprivileged family may be spiritually progressive, and someone born in a reputable family may be spiritually unsighted. Spirituality is an individual's virtue. Spiritual progress carries on from life to life. Vritrasura was King Chitraketu in his previous life but when born as demon Vritrasura in his next life, he carried his spiritual advancement with him. Krishna states in the Gita (2.40) that our progress on the path of bhakti-yoga is never lost or diminished and even a little progress can save us from the greatest danger, securing for us a greater opportunity for spiritual progression in our next life.

Sage Vishwarupa, who was serving as a poojari (priest) to gods, had three heads. Both the gods and the Asuras were his relatives. While offering clarified butter in the sacrificial fire of yajna in names of gods, he also offered oblations to demons secretly. When Indra came to know about this, he got furious and cut the three heads of Vishwarupa. Knowing this, Vishwarupa's father, Tvasta, vowed to kill Indra to avenge the murder of his son.

Tvasta performed a yajna. He offered oblations in the sacrificial fire, saying, "O enemy of Indra, flourish to kill your enemy without delay." Thereafter, from the southern side of the sacrificial fire, known as Anvāhārya, came a fearful personality who looked like the destroyer of the entire creation at the end of the epoch. The body of the demon grew day by day. Soon he covered all terrestrial systems. Therefore, he was named Vritra, one who covers everything.

So Vritrasura was born with a purpose, he strokes Indra with an iron mace and disarms him, and Indra loses the courage to fight. All the gods under the leadership of Indra attacked him with their weapons, but Vritrasura swallowed all their weapons. The fearful gods then ran away and went to the refuge of Lord Vishnu. They praised him. Lord Vishnu, pleased with their acclamations, advised Indra to approach Sage Dadhichi. Because of the austerity and the Narayana Kavacha, his body was very strong. Therefore, only a weapon made from his bones was useful to kill Vritrasura.

In Spite of all gathered forces, Indra was losing his strength to



fight, Vritrasura then begins a logical discourse with Indra and encourages him to keep fighting. During their discussion, Vritrasura reveals his status as an advanced bhakti-yogi. The slaying of Vritrasura is considered the biggest achievement of Indra. Vritra, knowing that he was going to die soon, called out with immense devotion to Sri Hari and said, "O Lord, I am waiting for you like a baby sparrow would wait for her mother, like a calf would wait for the cow, like the wife would wait for the husband!" He then addressed Indra and said, "O Indra! Strike me down so I can be reunited with my Lord." And when Indra struck Vritrasura down, a bright light came from his body and merged with Sri Hari.

Thus, in this beautiful story, Sri Hari shows us how much he loves his devotees, no matter who they are. We have many such Vritrasura, resourceful Indra and supreme authority Vishnu like entities, we all have our role to play and one day leave this body. The human conduct is what remains forever, rest everything is perishable. So just judging someone by his/her outer looks one cannot predominately predict anything.

*Vaidehi Tamam*

Volume No. 16 | Issue No. 03

**Afternoon**  
VOICE  
RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332  
VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road,  
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

**Dr. Vaidehi**

Vaidehi has received several Awards like Icongokarmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

[www.afternoonvoice.com](http://www.afternoonvoice.com)  
[www.beyondthenews.biz](http://www.beyondthenews.biz)  
[www.mumbaimanoos.com](http://www.mumbaimanoos.com)

[www.newsmakers.co.in](http://www.newsmakers.co.in)  
[www.nbcaward.com](http://www.nbcaward.com)  
[www.hackers5.com](http://www.hackers5.com)

Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

Disclaimer : The views expressed in the edit are solely of the editor. The publication do not necessarily share the opinions expressed. Any litigation against the content or publication will be entertained under the Jurisdiction of Mumbai only.



## Letters to the Editor

### The import of normal monsoon is changing

The monsoon arrived with a long lag this season, but quickly made up time with an unusual trajectory across north and central India. June rain was deficient. July rain was in excess. Even as the northern states were marooned by torrential downpours, the food bowl regions of states such as Bihar and West Bengal received less-than-sufficient rainfall. These conditions will have ramifications not just for the kharif crop, but also for the winter crop.

All this will have a bearing on inflation, especially in the food basket where the impact of the recent wave of extreme weather in Haryana, Punjab and the hill states is yet to be deduced fully. While inflation should broadly remain manageable, the vagaries of the monsoon hold takeaways for how we classify rainfall and build policies for the future. Even if it doesn't have an immediate impact on inflation management, policymakers should factor in the wild variations that the headline numbers of a normal monsoon hide.

**Tauqueer Rahmani**

### Student stabbed to death by 13-yr-old friend

Recently there was a very disturbing news report relating to school children. One cannot imagine a 13-year-old school kid carrying a knife to school and stabbing to death a fellow student in the school premises, at a school in Kanpur? This is indeed a very sad and shocking incident. According to the news report, it seemed it was all over a Love affair. Love is indeed a very sensitive issue and needs to be handled carefully. These children who apparently were good friends, could not handle their emotions. Now, this particular child, the convict, will carry the trauma through his entire life. More than anything he is definitely in need of counselling, which perhaps may help in the long run.

**Melville X. D'Souza**

### Regulate Screen Time

In the 1980-90s, technological advancements were unlocked in India following the increasing steps of digitization. First the telephone, computer, Internet, TV, and then most significantly the mobile hit the Indian market. During the period 1990-95, mobiles were initially a luxury item for the elite and wealthier class. But today's rapid globalization has made this flow of technology so affordable that it has become accessible to all classes. Of course, it is a convenience but today it has also become a source of difficulties. People forget to socialize while using it, children spend many hours on mobile, due to which they may face eye problems sooner or later. It is important to regulate 'screen time' i.e. the time spent on mobile and people should be disciplined to avoid spending the whole day on mobile.

**N.Mateeni**

### Imran Khan's arrest

At last, the inevitable has happened; ex-Pakistan's PM Imran Khan is behind bars. It was after a long court battle where his legal team tried to hide behind technicalities. Imran's political journey has been interesting. Though he reached the peak of power riding on the shoulders of the powers that be, he was soon blinded by his popularity. Without realizing where the power lies, he drove himself in a dark alley after an unexpected head-on collision with the most powerful pillars of this country.

The events of May 9 proved to be the final nail in the coffin, making him more vulnerable and ultimately resulting in his arrest. He is now in jail where he has ample time to think about where it all went wrong and what he must do differently if he gets another opportunity.

**Jubel D'Cruz**

# India growing to be an attractive investment destination



**L**ike steel, energy and minerals, now semi-conductor also has gained the status of the primary industry, without which many sectors would not be able to function. After Micron Technology of America, Japan will also invest 5 trillion Yen in the manufacturing units of semi-conductor chips in India. Semiconductor design- their manufacturing- equipment research- talent development – bringing resilience to semiconductor supply chain: on this five level the work-plan will move forward in the process.

Likewise, Germany is also going to join those who are looking India as an attractive investment destination. Ukraine-Russia war taught a lesson particularly to European countries that to be depended upon any one country for the needs of petrol or for anything else is no wise move. Therefore, Germany is beginning to think to come closer to India, without decoupling from China of course. And so was expressed

by Vice-Chancellor of Germany, Robert Habeck, who came to join the meeting of G-20 with his labour minister, Hubertus Hell. This business-bonhomie would go to yield employment opportunities to India, either. Latest to come in the trail is the Indian nurses is reported to be provided job in Germany soon. One more reason is there that served as a catalyst behind the deal. And that is, the worldwide speculation of India to be 4th economic power in the future, leaving Germany behind, thus bringing plenty of opportunities in economic field subsequently. Today Germany is facing acute shortage of skilled work-force. So much so that 1.74 million posts are lying vacant there. India enjoys the advantage of having biggest young population in the world, Germany also knows that. However, last month only a defence deal has been signed between Germany-India under which 6 submarines will be built.

This is the story of today. Last year in 2022 India got as

high as 49 billion dollars, which is 8th biggest investment in the world. Increasing proficiency in the technical-skill and hike in purchasing power; more than 100 unicorns, with thousands of start-ups; the allocation of 1.97 lakh crores to 14 industrial sectors; abolition of 1500 out-dated rules, and 40,000 so-called regulations so far prevailed to serve more the pockets of bureaucracy; reformation in GST and bankruptcy code; many provisions of laws being kept out of the category of criminal offences- all this business friendly steps taken by the Modi government consists in highly responsive FDI that flowed into our economy.

**-Er. Rajesh Pathak**

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

[afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com)

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

# You can reach Goa in 6 hours by road



Public Works Department (PWD) minister Ravindra Chavan announced that the Mumbai-Goa highway (NH-66) to four lanes are expected to be finished before Ganeshotsav next month.

Minister Chawan said "The PWD is trying to finish this project within a month. We want Mumbai-Goa National Highway

to be functional before Ganpati festival. The detailed project report work for the Mumbai-Sindhudurg route is in its final stage."

Very nest moment, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde tweeted that "The 18-hour journey through the Samruddhi Highway has come down to 8 to 10 hours. This is proving useful in terms of expanding industry opportu-

nities for farmers and travelers. The government has prioritized the expansion of various such communication facilities, and the communication facilities will be expanded in this manner in Konkan too,".

Even though construction is still going on, fissures have appeared in a number of places along the Panvel to Pen Taluka section of the Mumbai-Goa highway and have been patched with concrete by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). Since the highway portion is also used by loaded heavy vehicles, activists and residents claim that the six-inch concrete layer of highway work will not hold up. The 471-kilometer, four-lane Goa Mumbai Highway in western India is anticipated to reduce the distance between the two cities' travel times by about six hours once it is finished. It is also projected to promote tourism in the Konkan region's unexplored regions.

# Water supply was stopped for repair work of line leakage



The 12 hours water cut for maintenance of the main pipeline of the Morbe dam that supplies water to the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) area has turned into a 2 days nightmare as the pipeline developed leakage at Ajivali village and water supply could not be resumed on Wednesday.

Official from NMMC said "Water supply was stopped for repair work of line leakage. Dewatering work has been started for repairs. So, there will be no water supply on Wednesday evening. The water supply will resume but

with less pressure and less time'.

The water supply department of NMMC took a 12-hour shutdown at the Bhokarpada water treatment plant from 10am to 10pm on August 8. So, there was no water supply on the evening of August 8 in the Belapur, Nerul, Vashi, Turbhe, Sanpada, Koparkhairane, Ghansoli and Airoli wards of NMMC. The water supply was supposed to resume on Wednesday morning with low pressure. However, after leakage developed in the pipeline, the supply was stopped from the treatment plant.

# IIM-Mum will open doors for admission with 2024-26 batch



The Indian Institute of Management-Mumbai will open its doors for fresh admissions in 2024-26 and will offer the MBA programme, apart from other postgraduate courses like MBA (sustainability) and MBA (operations and

supply chain management). That is when NITIE, a management institute for engineers, will transform into an MBA awarding IIM open for all, which is likely to improve diversity and the gender ratio too.

# There would be no height limit for Ganpati Idols during Ganeshotsav -BMC

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

From August 1, the municipality started a one-window system for expeditiously granting permissions to Ganesh mandals. The application process requires mandals to submit an affidavit, stating that they will not set up idols taller than four feet. However, the clause has discouraged many mandals from coming forward to seek permissions.

RJI activist, Gaurang Vora said, "Government should put height restrictions because it causes lot of inconvenience to people as most the people are stuck in traffic when idols are taken and If the Idols are tall

enough then branches of the tree are chopped off to take idol from that street".

"If the idols are tall then there is huge cost involved and lot of extortions are also done during this occasion. Most of idols are not eco-friendly as to make idols look beautiful they are made of plaster of paris which is harm to the environment when idols are immersed into the sea during its 'Visarjan'. So height restriction should be there for idol to protect humanity and the environment" Vora further added.

Environment Activist, Subhajit Mukherjee said,

"Religious matters are emotional matters where it is difficult to make rules but government is trying to help people. There are definitely certain rules which needs to be followed which is height of the idols, environment, traffic and other issues and other government is still somethings due to social pressure".

"People are of certain age are not willing to understand that these are important issue which may be harmful to the environment but people have some faith and believe which will be changed over a period of time" Mukherjee further added.

## Nation

### Excise Policy case: Delhi HC issues notice to ED on Vijay Nair's default bail plea



The Delhi High Court on Thursday issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate on a default bail petition moved by the Aam Aadmi Party's former communication head, Vijay Nair, in a money laundering case related to alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Excise Policy case. Earlier, the High Court had denied him regular

bail in the matter. The bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma on Thursday sought response of ED in the matter. Nair is the former Media and Communication In-charge of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the former CEO of the entertainment and event management firm Only Much Louder.

The right to default bail is available to accused persons in

cases when the investigating agency fails to complete its investigation within the stipulated time. Recently, a Supreme Court judgment regarding default bail has sparked a debate. Senior Advocate Rebecca John appeared in the court for Vijay Nair

and stated that the supplementary prosecution complaint has been filed by the ED within the prescribed period of 60 days, but the same has been filed without actual completion of investigation qua him and hence, the said supplementary complaint can only be termed as a piecemeal and incomplete complaint or charge sheet, which has been filed by the investigating agency just to defeat the right of applicant to be released on default bail in terms of provisions contained under section 167(2) Criminal Procedure Code. ANI

### "He has to learn lot of things...": UP Deputy CM on Rahul Gandhi's remarks in LS

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Thursday said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has to learn a lot of things in life after the 'Bharat Mata ki Hatya' remarks he made in Lok Sabha yesterday. While speaking to reporters, Keshav Prasad Maurya said, "When a child is born, he learns to walk, write, read everything at the age of two-three-four years, but respected Rahul Gandhi has yet to learn many things even after so many years of his life. Sometimes he gives flying kiss, sometimes he winks and sometimes he starts hugging. Now talking about Bharat Mata ki Hatya."

"Rahul Gandhi still needs to learn a lot and should come out



of his ruling family mindset," he added. Meanwhile, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury defended Rahul Gandhi over his remarks and said that he did not use any unparliamentary words. "If a word is unparliamentary there is a provision to remove it. I don't think so Rahul Gandhi has used any unparliamentary words. Rahul Gandhi said that Bharat Mata is being humiliated. So he raised this matter. I have taken up this issue with the Lok Sabha Speaker, and he has assured me that he will look into it," he said. ANI

### Uttarakhand rain: Several houses submerged in flood waters in Rudrapur, rescue operation underway

Uttarakhand State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) on Thursday rescued several people trapped in their houses at Kashipur area in Rudrapur, which have been submerged in waters due to the heavy rain. "Today, SDRF team was informed by District Disaster Management, Rudrapur that due to excessive waterlogging in Kashipur area many houses have been flooded in which many people are trapped for whose rescue SDRF is

needed," said officials said.

"As soon as the information was received, the SDRF team immediately reached the spot with rescue equipment," the officials added.

According to the officials, about 80 people trapped in the submerged houses were safely evacuated with the help of rafts and taken to a safe place by the SDRF team after reaching the spot and carrying out the rescue operation. ANI

### AAP's Raghav Chadha gives suspension of business notice in Rajya Sabha seeking discussion on Manipur

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Raghav Chadha on Thursday gave a suspension of business notice in the Rajya Sabha to discuss the situation in Manipur. "I hereby give notice under Rule 267 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) of my intention to move the following motion of suspension of business listed for today," Raghav Chadha said in a letter.

"That this House do suspend Zero Hour and relevant rules re-



lating to Question Hour and other business of the day to discuss the violence in Manipur which has resulted loss of precious lives in Manipur due to failure and incompetence of Central and State Government," he added. ANI

### "Government cannot see plight of Manipur people...": Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi on Thursday reacted to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remark on Manipur ethnic violence in the Lok Sabha a day earlier. Gogoi said that the government cannot see the plight of the Manipur people.

The Congress MP, while speaking to ANI, said, "The government, in its arrogance, cannot see the plight of the people of Manipur". "Entire country knows that Manipur has been bifurcated by the Chief Minister. It is because of the failure of the CM that



there have been atrocities against women in the state. Children are forced to reside in relief camps. Even after this, Home Minister Amit Shah gave a clean chit to

the CM", Gogoi added.

Notably, Union Home Minister Shah on Wednesday replied during the no-confidence motion debate, which was moved by the MPs of the I.N.D.I.A. delegation against the government. In his over two-hour reply, Shah ruled out a change of guard in Manipur saying that the chief minister was cooperating with the Centre in the efforts to restore peace. "A state CM needs to be changed when he is not cooperating. This CM is cooperating with the Centre," he said. ANI

### Assam: Two elephants collide with freight trains

In two unfortunate incidents that occurred on Thursday, two elephants collided with freight-carrying trains in two separate locations in Assam. Sabyasachi De, CPRO of North-east Frontier Railway (NFR) said that, the first incident happened in between Chalsa - Nagrakata section (KM 68/3-2) in the Dooars area of the Alipurduar division on NF Railway at about 02-40 am Thursday.

"The second incident happened at 07-10 am in the Digaru - Panbari section (Km 41/1-2) under Lumding division of NFR



Railway," Sabyasachi De said. He further said that, Railways have taken a serious note of these incidents and have alerted all the elephant corridors within NFR Railway area. "However these two sections were beyond the notified elephant corridors. These sections were also not covered by the Intrusion Detection sys-

tem. However due to the success of this system, Ministry of Railways has sanctioned Rs 77 crore for covering most of the elephant corridors within NFR Railway. Railway is committed & is always ready to take measures towards protection of wild elephants," Sabyasachi De, CPRO of NFR Railway said. ANI

World

## IMF seeks explanation from Pakistan govt for not imposing tax on big shops



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sought an explanation from the Pakistan government for not imposing a tax on big shops measuring 1,000 square feet, ARY News reported. ARY News is a Pakistani news channel.

Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman confirmed that the IMF sought an

explanation for not imposing a tax on big shops. A session of the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance was held under the chair of Senator Salim Mandviwalla on Thursday. During the session, it was learnt that the national exchequer suffered USD 847 million loss due to imports of 31,542 banned items. The Senate body sought a report from the FBR

in a month. The FBR officials, however, rejected the imports of banned items which caused a massive financial loss to the exchequer.

The FBR officials in a briefing said that 28,321 items were not banned and their imports were carried out through open accounts. They added that an investigation is underway into the imports of 3,351 banned items which caused a USD 6 million loss. They detailed that the banned items included auto spare parts, imported shoes and other commodities. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) told the Senate's standing committee that LCs are not being stopped as per the commitment with the IMF. The central bank's officials said that all kinds of LCs are being opened after June 2023, as per ARY News. ANI

## North Korea's Kim Jong Un dismisses top general, calls for more arms production



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un has replaced a senior general in the North Korean military, and has further asked for intensified military training, weapon manufacture, and war preparations, Al Jazeera reported citing the country's state media KCNA on Thursday. KCNA said on Thursday that Kim made the remarks during a Central Military Commission meeting when plans for measures to fend off North Korea's foes were addressed. The Chief of the General Staff of North Korea, Gen. Pak Su Il has been "dismissed". About seven months had passed since he began in his position. General Ri Yong Gil, who had previously been the nation's defence min-

ister and supreme commander of its conventional forces, took over for Pak. Ri had previously held the position of army chief of staff, according to Al Jazeera.

When Ri was sacked in 2016, his dismissal and subsequent absence from official North Korean events led to South Korean rumours that he had been executed, however, a few months later, Ri made a comeback when he was appointed to another top position. According to KCNA, "the issue of making full war preparations" including "securing more powerful strike means" to guarantee "perfect military readiness for a war" was on the agenda of Wednesday's meeting between Kim and the Central Military Commission. ANI

## Indonesia delays launch of China-backed high-speed railway citing 'final safety tests'

Indonesia has delayed the launch of its China-backed high-speed railways by several weeks so that some final safety tests can be conducted, The Diplomat reported. The launch of Indonesia's China-backed high-speed railway has been delayed by several weeks so that the consortium that is building the project can run some final

safety tests, it announced yesterday. Citing a report by BenarNews, it stated that the limited trial launch of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed train service was set for August 18. But this has now been pushed back until early September because more time was needed for the safe operation of the trains, which are capable of running at up to 385 kilometres

per hour. "As the first high-speed rail link in ASEAN, operating the train requires very careful preparation. All aspects will be prepared properly to prioritize customer safety," The Diplomat quoted Eva Chairunisa — the spokesperson for the Indonesian-Chinese consortium PT Kereta Cepat Indonesia China (KCIC) — citing the Jakarta Post. ANI

## Army chief Gen Manoj Pande receives ceremonial welcome in UK

Army chief General Manoj Pande received a ceremonial welcome with a Guard of Honour at Horse Guards Parade in London at the start of his UK visit on Thursday. Gen. Pande was received by the UK's Chief of the General Staff, Gen. Sir Patrick Sanders, before he inspected a Guard of Honour by the Number 7 Company Coldstream Guards, one of the oldest regiments in the British Army dressed in their iconic scarlet tunics and black bearskin caps. The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the Band of the Grenadier Guards, conducted by Director of Music Captain Robert Smith,



performed a bespoke programme of music in support of the occa-

sion to illustrate the harmony between the two nations. PTI

## Pak's outgoing Interior Minister calls for probe into authenticity of source document of US media report on controversial diplomatic cable



Pakistan's outgoing Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Thursday called for a probe to determine the authenticity of the source document used in a news report by an American publication claiming to contain the evidence of a US conspiracy to topple Imran Khan's government last year. In a series of tweets, Sanaullah said, "Potentially, it is a very sinister, treacherous, and seditious act."

"Though there is nothing new in this story, the investigation needs to be held to establish the authenticity of the information or source document," he said. Sanaullah was referring to a report published in The Intercept, an online US-based news organisation, which claimed to have obtained the "secret" document that, according to former prime minister Khan, led to the fall of his government in April last year. PTI

# Setback for AAP as Delhi Bill Passes in Rajya Sabha



Satish Singh

Senior Columnist

Finally, the Delhi Service Bill, which limits the authority of the Kejriwal government, was passed in the Rajya Sabha as well. In the Rajya Sabha on Monday, 131 votes were cast in support of the bill and 102 votes against it. However, now after being passed by both the Houses of Parliament, the bill will take the form of law after the signature of the President. The central government has successfully passed this bill to control the arbitrariness, corruption and irregularities of the Kejriwal government, due to which the opposition and especially the Congress has also been defeated.

The stubbornness, arrogance and political ambition of the Aam Aadmi Party got defeated in front of the Constitution in the 'Parliament', the temple of democracy. Because the constitution does not only give rights, it also expects pure conduct. Undoubtedly, this is a historic victory of the BJP government because earlier it was being speculated that despite getting the votes of all the allies of the NDA, the central government would not be able to get the bill passed in the Rajya Sabha. That too when all the constituents of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance 'India', including the AAP and the Congress, which were constant attackers on each other, had united against the bill. In fact, due to the majority in the Lok Sabha, the NDA government had easily passed the bill, but the lack of majority in the Rajya Sabha increased its concern. At such a time, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal and Jagan Mohan Reddy's party YSRCP crossed the NDA's boat. Definitely a major failure of the 'India' alliance. Due to corruption and violation of other democratic values, this kind of defeat is also necessary for the new India, despite Delhi being the national capital; the Aam Aadmi Party and its leader Arvind Kejriwal have continuously shown insensitivity towards the people of Delhi for their political ambitions.

Remember that the Aam Aadmi Party tried its level best to stop the passage of this bill. AAP's surveyor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal even went on a 'India tour' to garner support for the bill from chief ministers of all non-BJP governments and anti-BJP political parties. Even after the opposition of Delhi Congress, the national leadership of Congress was forced to support the Aam Aadmi Party against this bill in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Even after this, when nothing came in the hands of AAP, its leaders tried to adopt other unethical and undemocratic ways as well. In Rajya Sabha, AAP MP Raghav Chadha proposed to send this bill to the Select Committee. Expressing strong objection, five members of the ruling party said that their names were included in the resolution without their consent, which considering its high degree of arbitrariness, forgery and crime, demanded that the matter be sent to the Privileges Committee, Deputy Chairman Harivansh. There is talk of investigation. It is possible that your MP Raghav Chadha may be punished for this.

Tales of various kinds of corruption and forgery had become a common thing in the Delhi government; the irony is that the AAP government, which specializes in mobilizing the sympathy of the innocent people of the country by terming these corruptions as BJP's ploy, did not even spare the Parliament. The AAP party, caught in the allegations of forgery inside the Parliament, instead of showing regret, has started making noise that the BJP is now after its MP Raghav Chadha, fearing action. It is the same thing that 'one is theft and on top of that, pilferage'. If Raghav Chadha is right, he has not committed any forgery, then why should he and his party leaders need to fear?

The politics and thinking of the AAP party and its leader Kejriwal is distorted, their behaviour is false, they have covered more masks than faces, they have destroyed all democratic and political values. Due to such worthless politics, crores of people are worried and confused about the future of the country. The time has come to be cautious and careful to preserve the glorious heritage of the country's political culture. New standards will have to be set in front of the directionless leadership. Those



political parties who consider forgery and corruption as normal, they will have to be shown a mirror. Say anything, do anything to throw dust in the eyes of the public everywhere and go ahead by apologizing when exposed that perverted thinking, cleverness and opportunistic politics have to be controlled. Perhaps the successful passing of the Delhi Service Bill in the Parliament is a worthwhile initiative in this direction, a lesson, a message that beware those who mislead the country.

AAP's leaders, who understand political dissension as politics, should understand that a platform like Parliament is not meant for such petty, narrow and selfish activities. Anything should be placed on any table of the Parliament only after serious investigation. But those who have made the assembly of Delhi as their political fiefdom and have made it an arena to vent their anger and commit arbitrariness, how fair would it be to expect the dignity of Parliament from them? Even if Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called this bill enslaving the people of Delhi or other opposition parties including Congress have said that the central government does not have the moral authority to bring this bill, it is an attack on the federal structure, etcetera. Amit Shah answered the questions and allegations of the AAP party and its allied parties in a very logical and factual manner while keeping the government's stand on this bill. Shah said that it was necessary to bring the bill in view of the manner in which the

Kejriwal government of Delhi had started transfers of officers after the Supreme Court's decision and made the investigation files disappear overnight. The AAP government was desperate to keep the vigilance probing several cases against the Delhi government under its wing so that corruption would not be exposed.

Certainly, the AAP government's unnecessary confrontation with the central government has resulted in the fact that Delhi will hardly get full statehood now. The people of Delhi suffered a lot due to the passing of this bill. The Central Government gave full details of the historical background of Delhi, the capital of the country, the status of the state in 1993, with the discussion about the rights and functions of Delhi in the Constituent Assembly, with the Legislative Assembly with limited powers. Obviously Delhi is not a full state and the Central Government has the right to make laws on any subject of Delhi as per the constitutional provisions. Skilled, experienced and mature Chief Minister runs his administration in the light of these things by constructive cooperation with the Centre. During the time of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dixit, there was never any confrontation with the centre and she always got the cooperation and support of the Central Government. Kejriwal, who considers himself the Chanakya of politics, could not understand this in his short political career.

## Entertainment



### Billy Porter says he has to sell his house amid strike

Actor Billy Porter has been facing financial constraints due to the ongoing SAG-AFTRA strike in Hollywood. Thousands of actors and entertainers are striking in Hollywood and around the country with the Writers Guild of America (WGA) as they demand a rise in pay and residuals in the streaming era. The strike has impacted Porter financially.

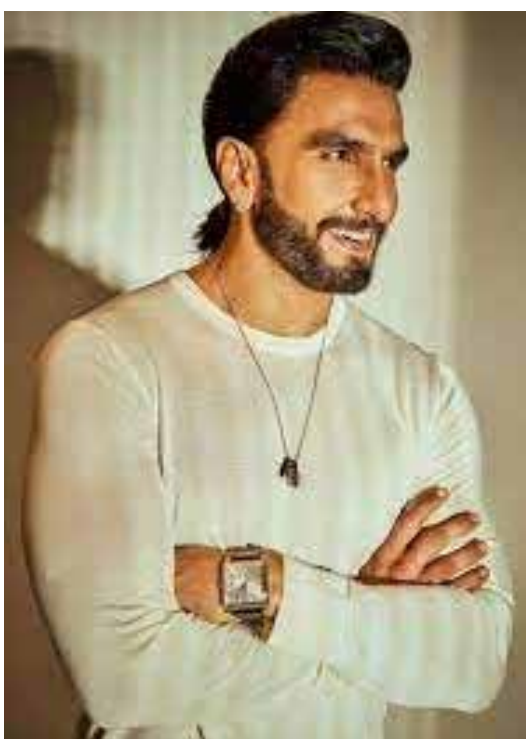
Speaking to Evening Standard, he admitted that he has had to make some cutbacks after some of his upcoming projects were put on pause when writers and actors took to the picket lines, The Hollywood Reporter reported. "I have to sell my house," he told the outlet. "Because we're on strike. And I don't know when we're gonna go back [to work]. The life of an artist, until you make fuck-you money — which I haven't made yet — is still check-to-check. I was supposed to be in a new movie, and on a new television show starting in September. None of that is happening." The actor also referenced a report from Deadline last month that quoted an anonymous studio executive, who said studios won't return to the table with the Writers Guild until "union members start losing their apartments and losing their houses." His response to that Hollywood executive: "To the person who said, 'We're going to starve them out until they have to sell their apartments,' you've already starved me out." **ANI**

### Saba Azad shares adorable picture with boyfriend Hrithik Roshan, Sussanne Khan reacts

Actor Saba Azad on Thursday early morning shared an adorable picture with her boyfriend Hrithik Roshan from their Argentinian vacation. Taking to Instagram, Saba dropped a selfie and captioned it, "Que Bueno Buenos Aires."

In the picture, the duo could be seen standing close to each other at a restaurant. The 'Krrish' actor was seen donning a black jacket while Saba wore a cream furry jacket. Soon after she shared the picture, their friends and fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons.

Hrithik's ex-wife Sussanne Khan commented, "Beautiful pic." "Saba and Hrithik, you are so beautiful and happy," a fan commented. Another fan wrote, "So happy for you guys, stay blessed!" Rumours about Hrithik and Saba's relationship started swirling after they were spotted on a dinner date in February last year. **ANI**



### 'Don 3': Ranveer calls Amitabh, SRK "G.O.A.Ts of Hindi cinema," says "hope I can make you proud"

After the legendary actors Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan, actor Ranveer Singh is all set to portray the role of Don in the third instalment of the hit franchise. Director Farhan Akhtar, on Wednesday, officially announced Ranveer as the new 'Don' with a special announcement video which received massive responses from the fans.

On Thursday, the 'Ram-Leela' actor took to his Instagram and penned down a heartfelt note for the previous Don's Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan. He shared a string of throwback pictures from his childhood days seen going all guns and glory as he sported glares and holds a gun showcasing some attitude and swag. He wrote, "Gosh! I've been dreaming about doing this for a very, very long time! As a child I fell in love with the movies, and like the rest of us, watching and worshipping Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan - the two G.O.A.Ts of Hindi Cinema. I dreamed of growing up to be like them. They are the very reason I wanted to become an actor and a 'hindi film hero'. Their impact and influence on my life cannot be overstated. They've shaped the person and actor that I am. Taking their legacy forward is a manifestation of my childhood dream."

In the teaser, Ranveer can be seen seated in a building with his back to the camera. He lights up a cigarette, introduces himself as Don, and then turns to face the camera. He donned a leather jacket and matching pants for the dapper look and accessorizes it with leather boots and matching sunglasses. "I understand what a great responsibility it is to be a part of the 'Don' dynasty. I hope the audience gives me a chance and showers me with love, the way they have for numerous characters over the past so many years. Thank you Farhan and Ritesh for entrusting me with this honourable mantle and believing in me. I hope I can deliver on your faith and conviction," the caption further reads. **ANI**