



Security forces put on high alert in J-K ahead of Independence Day

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## Flood situation persists at large in Assam's Dhemaji district, 46,000 people remain affected



The flood situation persists in Assam's Dhemaji district after flood waters inundated new areas, affecting nearly 46,000 people in the district, officials said. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 114 villages under 4 revenue circles—Gogamukh, Dhemaji, Sissiborgaon, and Jonai—have been affected by the deluge. While talking to ANI Atul Pegu, a Zila Parishad Member of Dhemaji district requested that the administration provide relief materials to villagers affected by the flood-like situation that persists in

several parts of the state.

"The flood waters have submerged many areas in Jonai Sub-Division following torrential rainfall. The flood waters have damaged parts of a PWD road in the Galighat area. We have contacted the concerned department to repair it. 10-12 villages in the Nahar Banjana area and several villages in the Gali area have flooded. We request that the administration provide relief materials to the flood-affected villagers," Atul Pegu said. The flood waters have also submerged nearly

2100 hectares of crop area in the district.

Nearly 33,000 people have been affected in the Jonai revenue circle area, and over 10,500 people have been affected in the Sissoborgaon revenue circle area.

Many flood-affected people have taken shelter on roads and highlands after the flood waters entered their homes. On the other hand, more than 70,000 people from five districts—Dhemaji, Sivasagar, Darrang, Dibrugarh, and Golaghat—have been af-

ected by the current wave of floods.

Following incessant rainfall in parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the water levels of the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries are rising. The water level of the Brahmaputra river is flowing above the danger level mark at Neamatighat in Jorhat district and Dhubri, while the water level of the Disang and Dikhou rivers has crossed the danger level in Sivasagar district. Over 21,400 domestic animals have also been affected by the flood. ANI

## Cybercrime is on rise in India and cops have edges in detection

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Need, joblessness, frustration, stress and greed opens the doors to cybercrime. Social media is playing an emergent role in cybercrime this year. Not only does cybercrime leave a mark financially, but it also has a significant impact on an organization's services, reliability, and reputation in the eyes of the public, shareholders, and even your own employees. Phishing is the act of sending an e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft. Same has recently happened with a Mumbai resident Ayan Khan, he was sent a link by an agency claiming to give him job. He provided them all the personal and bank details, with in no time his account was emptied. He is running pins to polls but dictation of cybercrime takes lot of time. In such crime, hacker's e-mail directs the user to visit a web site where they are asked to update personal information, such as passwords and credit card, social security,

and bank account numbers that the legitimate organization already has. The Web site, however, is bogus and set up only to steal the user's information. By spamming large groups of people, the phisher counted on the e-mail being read by a percentage of people who actually had listed credit card numbers with legitimately. Cybercrimes in India almost doubled in 2017, according to statistics released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The data comes in the backdrop of India aspiring to become a trillion-dollar digital economy. Interestingly, cybercrimes accounted for less than a percentage (0.43%) or 21,796 cases of a total of 50, 07,044 cognizable crimes in 2017. In 2019 these crimes have gone up by 20 percent. When a crime happens, we all want cops to act swiftly but there are limitations. Cyber-crimes against children and women account for about 30 per cent and are growing at 100 per cent every year.

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# Editoritis

# Cybercrime is on rise in India and cops have edges in detection

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*Phishing has also on raise, little negligence and you get looted. Of late people have started reporting such crimes; in most case, the accused is known to the victim.*

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Phishing has also on raise, little negligence and you get looted. Of late people have started reporting such crimes; in most case, the accused is known to the victim. Cases of cybercrimes have increased in the last five years. Significantly, the Centre has been focusing, during this period, on improving internet penetration in the country. Offenders are now using technology to get close to targets. From job traps to rapes to child trafficking to selling contraband (drugs) near schools and colleges, these predators befriend their targets mostly on social media. Most cases go undetected as multinational internet giants and social media companies refuse to share information with the police. In most cases, it takes a lot of time just to get the information as the police and cyber cell officials need to trace the IP addresses and get hold of the devices (laptops, computers, mobile phones etc), involved in the crime. In most cases, the IPs are located in some other country. Technology evolution and innovation make it more challenging to detect cyber-crimes. Information sharing between countries and within the country needs to be strengthened. The low detection of cybercrimes is also due to lack of technical knowledge among the police staff and that there should be more training centres and courses so that they can upgrade themselves.

With the Centre scrambling to fortify India's cyber operations amid growing warnings of malware attacks on personal and organizational devices, intelligence and cyber law experts have said much like crimes against women, India suffers from dismal under-reporting of cybercrimes. India recorded 9,622, 11,592 and 12,317 cases of cybercrime in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. The data for 2017 comes after a two-year delay, with the Centre blaming states for the delay in providing statistics for compilation. With the Centre setting up the NIC-CERT--National Informatics Centre-Computer Emergency Response Team--to combat cybercrimes and the home ministry proposing to set up the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), the government is hoping to beef up India's cyber security network. By 2020 the crime has gone up with much of sophistication, but nothing much has changed. The advancement of technology has made man dependent on the Internet for all his needs. The Internet has given man easy access to everything while sitting in one place. Social networking, online shopping, storing data, gaming, online studying, online jobs, every possible thing that man can think of can be done through the medium of internet. The Internet is used in almost every sphere. With the development of the internet and its related benefits also developed the concept of cyber crimes. Cyber crimes are committed in different forms. A few years back, there was lack of awareness about the crimes that could be committed through the internet. In the matters of cyber crimes, India is also not far behind the other countries where the rate of incidence of cyber crimes is also increasing day by day. There are millions of websites; all hosted on servers abroad, that offer online gambling. In fact, it is believed that many of these websites are actually fronts for money laundering. Cases of hawala transactions and money laundering over the Internet have been reported. Whether these sites have any relationship with drug trafficking is yet to be explored.

Recent Indian case about cyber lotto was very interesting. A man called Kola Mohan invented the story of winning the Euro Lottery. He himself created a website and an email address on the Internet with the address 'eurolottery@usa.net.' Whenever accessed, the site would name him as the beneficiary of the 12.5 million pound. After confirmation a Telugu newspaper published this as a news. He collected huge sums from the public as well as from some banks for mobilization of the deposits in foreign currency. However, the fraud came to light when a cheque discounted by him with the Andhra Bank for Rs 1.73 million bounced. Mohan had pledged with Andhra Bank the copy of a bond certificate purportedly issued by Midland Bank, Sheffield, London stating that a term deposit of 12.5 million was held in his name. This connotes the usage by an unauthorized person of the Internet hours paid for by another person. In May 2000, the economic offences wing, IPR section crime branch of Delhi police registered its first case involving theft of Internet hours. In this case, the accused, Mukesh Gupta an engineer with Nicom System (p) Ltd. was sent to the residence of the complainant to activate his Internet connection. However, the accused used Col. Bajwa's login name and password from various places causing wrongful loss of 100 hours to Col. Bajwa. Delhi police arrested the accused for theft of Internet time. On further inquiry in the case, it was found that Krishan Kumar, son of an ex army officer, working as senior executive in M/s Highpoint Tours & Travels had used Col Bajwa's login and passwords as many as 207 times from his residence and twice from his office. He confessed that Shashi Nagpal, from whom he had purchased a computer, gave the login and password to him. The police could not believe that time could be stolen. They were not aware of the concept of time-theft at all. The Commissioner of Police, Delhi then took the case into his own hands and the police under his directions raided and arrested Krishan Kumar under sections 379, 411, 34 of IPC and section 25 of the Indian Telegraph Act. In another case, the Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police arrested a computer engineer who got hold of the password of an Internet user, accessed the computer and stole 107 hours of Internet time from the other person's account. He was booked for the crime by a Delhi court during May 2000. Cops are solving the cases which are local and have some clues but from unknown attacks, one needs patience and cops need a lot of time and leg work. Only thing that can prevent you is being smart while sharing your details online.



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## Letters to the Editor

### Hockey may be a dying sport in our country but a franchise model like 'IPL' can revive the sport big time!

Kudos to our Hokey Team for thrashing arch-rivals Pakistan 4-0 to enter the Semi-finals of the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai. Hockey may be a dying sport in our country due to lack of money but such brilliant performances does keeps hopes alive of the revival of the game in our country. India has ample talent but the encouragement & infrastructure for the game to expand across the country is missing due to financial constraints.

The sports ministry should work on a franchise model like BCCI promoting 'IPL' tournament to promote the game of hockey in the country where players from across the world come together to play competitive hockey so that the quality of the sport improves in the country. Sponsorship will bring money which will act as an incentive apart from viewership which will promote the game big time!

S.N.KABRA

### No govt can flout due process guarantees

It is not every day that a constitutional court in India uses the word "ethnic cleansing" in an order. Hence, when the Punjab and Haryana high court asked if the decision of the Haryana government to demolish buildings in strife-torn Nuh and Gurugram districts was an exercise in ethnic cleansing, it needs to be heeded with sincerity and seriousness. Of course, this is not the first time that a local administration has used the cover of violent disturbances to effect what is essentially an extra-judicial action.

Embarrassed by its failure in safeguarding the lives and property of ordinary people in Nuh, due to intelligence gaps and administrative laxity, the Haryana government may be trying to project a stern, muscular image, but such actions cannot be condoned in a constitutional democracy. The high court is correct in noting that the Constitution protects the citizens of this country and no demolitions as such can be done without following the procedure prescribed in law. All governments should take note.

Tauqueer Rahmani

### Oversight On Drug Trade

Every house in Punjab is worried that my son will get addicted to drugs. The drug trade is on the rise in terror-stricken Punjab. According to a news report, 900,000 people are registered in de-addiction centers. This is a matter of concern. According to the NCRB, 544 lives were lost due to drugs in the state in the last seven years. 272 deaths are recorded in the past 19 months. From 2016 to 2021, the Police Department seized 1,239.49 kilograms of heroin and 1,044.31 kilograms of opium from drug dealers. But the smuggling is running by now. Border fortification is needed to save Punjab. The government could not stay clueless. It must take appropriate action as soon as possible. In any case, the government must first of all crack down on drug dealers and put them behind bars, because there is no more important work for the government than this. If the government does not become strict, drug addiction will increase among young people and the elderly.

Aitbar Ahmad

### Forest Quality

Green India Mission (GIM) is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The campaign targets ten million hectares of forest and non-forest land to increase forest tree cover and improve the quality of existing forests. Based on the perspective plans submitted by the states and as per the availability of funds, so far seventeen states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and one Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have been taken under GIM. States will be considered for funding under GIM after evaluation of their perspective plan and annual plan of operations prepared as per the guidelines of GIM. Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, Government of India has appraised the National Mission for Green India in 2020-21 on aspects such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact and equity within the scheme and issued a Retention Plan as recommended.

N.Ashraf

# Advantages and Challenges of the Miyawaki Plantation Method-1

The Miyawaki method mimics the way a forest would recolonize itself if humans stepped away. Only native species that would occur naturally in that area without humans, given the specific climate condition, are planted.

The dense green cover of indigenous trees plays a key role in absorbing the dust particles of the area where the garden has been set up. The plants also help in regulating surface temperature. Some of the common indigenous plants that are used for these forests include Anjan, Amala, Bel, Arjun and Gunj.

In the Paris Agreement in 2015, various types of problems were talked about. Under this, afforestation was also taken into consideration. It will prove to be very helpful in reducing carbon emissions, so it becomes very important. The Miyawaki projects will help meet the promises made by India under the Paris Agreement to improve its green cover by 25 to 33 per cent. According to a report, there are more than a hundred Miyawaki forests in India, but no one has haven't tracked them. In the absence of a comprehensive database of such projects, understanding of the long-term consequences and impacts of urban forestry in the country has been limited.

### What is Miyawaki Plantation method?

The continuous decline of forests on earth remains a lesson of concern. To prevent this, various methods are being adopted in the world and one of them is the Miyawaki tree plantation method. It is a method of afforestation which was invented by a Japanese botanist named Miyawaki. small spaces in small plants are planted on them, which grow ten times faster than ordinary plants.

The process by which



forests grow, form multiple canopy layers and become self-sustaining takes time. The Miyawaki method accelerates forest development by building soil, using a diversity of native plants, growing healthy seedlings, and planting them close together. The Miyawaki Method gives a step-by-step process for restoring native forests. The care given during the initial years of planting ensures that the planted most plants survive and a forest ecosystem is established in a fraction of the time it would take for forests to grow naturally.

### Where is the Miyawaki plantation method being used?

In 2014, Miyawaki used the same method to build a wall of trees along the coast of Hiroshima, which not only saved the city from tsunami damage but also set an example to the world. How can we overcome the great dangers through these special techniques? What can?

In the last few years, Miyawaki forest projects are becoming famous all over the country due to the activism of municipalities and the tireless efforts of environmentalists. Telangana state government is using the 'Yadadri' method of dense plantation, due to which Warangal is seeing positive results. have been found. In this sequence, in Tamil Nadu, Green Warriors are also trying

to develop this type of forest model, which will not only improve the local ecology, but also provide a new alternative to farmers' income. will also open.

The cost-effective Miyawaki plantation method has gained popularity as a solution to restoring greenery in highly decorated cities such as Mumbai. The Municipal Corporation of Mumbai (BMC) has implemented Miyawaki forests in various vacant areas of the city to combat climate change, reduce pollution levels and increase greenery. Till date, 64 Miyawaki Forests have been successfully planted in Mumbai.

This method is popular worldwide and has revolutionized the concept of urban afforestation. in other words, have converted the backyards of houses and campuses into parks. This method has also been adopted in Chennai. In this, it is ensured that the growth of plants is 10 times faster and as a result the plantation is 30 times more dense than normal. It involves planting dozens of native species in the same area, and becomes maintenance-free after the first three years.

**-Nripendra Abhishek Nrip**

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.)

## Raut downplays meeting of Pawars, says NCP founder may have invited Dy CM to INDIA meet in Mumbai on Aug 31-Sep 1



Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday downplayed the "secret" meeting between Nationalist Congress Party founder Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in Pune a day earlier and said the octogenarian stalwart may have asked his nephew to join the meeting of the opposition bloc INDIA here on August 31 and September 1.

The NCP president and the

deputy CM are believed to have met at the residence of a businessman in Pune on Saturday.

Visuals aired by regional news channels showed Sharad Pawar arriving at the residence of the businessman in Koregaon Park area at around 1 pm. He left by around 5 pm. After nearly two hours, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar was seen leaving the premises in a car at 6:45 pm while apparently trying to avoid

cameras. Ajit Pawar and eight MLAs had joined the Eknath Shinde government, which also has the Bharatiya Janata Party, on July 2, in the process causing a vertical split in the NCP. "No one is happy in the Shinde government. People are disappointed with the government and even deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar are unhappy," Raut told reporters.

"If (former Pakistan prime minister) Nawaz Sharif and Narendra Modi can meet, why can't the Pawars? Jokes apart, Sharad Pawar is expected to clear his stand in a few days. Sharad Pawar might have told Ajit Pawar to come back (to Maha Vikas Aghadi) like he did after the early morning swearing in (2019 with Fadnavis as CM). Anything can happen in politics," Raut asserted. **PTI**

## Maharashtra: 18 deaths reported in 24 hours in Thane hospital; probe panel constituted, says civic chief



Eighteen patients have died in the last 24 hours at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalwa in Thane, civic commissioner Abhijit Bangar said on Sunday. These comprise 10 women and eight men, of which six are from Thane city, four from Kalyan, three from

Sahapur, one each from Bhiwandi, Ulhasnagar and Govandi (in Mumbai), one patient is from some other place and one is unidentified, he said. Twelve of the deceased were above the age of 50, Bangar added. Earlier, state health minister Tanaji Sawant and local Deputy Com-

missioner of Police Ganesh Gawde had put the number of deaths at 17.

Addressing a news conference, Bangar said Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had taken feedback about the situation and had ordered the setting up of an independent probe committee that will be headed by the commissioner of health services and will include collector, civic chief, director of health services, interventionist at state-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai and civic surgeon. It will carry out probe into the clinical aspect of the deaths, he added. These patients had complications of kidney stone, chronic paralysis, ulcer, pneumonia, kerosene poisoning, septicemia etc, he said. "The line of treatment will be probed and statements of kin of the deceased etc will be recorded. Allegations of negligence levelled by some kin is a serious matter, which the probe committee will look into," Bangar said. **PTI**

## Not aware of what transpired between Pawars: Maharashtra NCP chief Jayant Patil



Maharashtra NCP president Jayant Patil on Sunday said he was not aware of what transpired between Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar, amid a buzz in political circles of a 'secret' meeting in Pune between the NCP founder and his nephew, who is the state's deputy chief minister. Patil also said it was "not a secret meeting".

State Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said he has no information about such a meeting. "I can't add to your knowledge," the BJP leader told reporters. Sharad Pawar and state Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who heads the group of rebel MLAs of

the NCP, are believed to have met at the residence of a businessman in Pune on Saturday. Visuals aired by regional news channels showed Sharad Pawar arriving at the residence of the businessman in Koregaon Park area at around 1 pm on Saturday. He left by around 5 pm. Later, Ajit Pawar was seen leaving the premises in a car at 6:45 pm while apparently trying to avoid cameras.

Talking to reporters on Sunday, Jayant Patil said it was "not a secret meeting". "I went with Pawar saheb to a common acquaintance and left early. I am not aware of what transpired later," he said.

## Mumbai: Clips of SRK's 'Jawan' stolen, leaked online; FIR registered



The Mumbai police have registered an offence against unidentified persons for allegedly stealing and leaking clips of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film "Jawan" on Twitter, an official said on Sunday. The case was registered on an order issued by the Delhi High Court after Shah Rukh and his wife Gauri Khan's production house, Red Chillies Entertainment approached it with a complaint, the official from Santacruz police station said. The company has since managed to get the court's directions to Twitter to take down the leaked vid-

eos, he said. In the police complaint, Pradeep Nimani, the chief financial officer for Red Chillies Entertainment, alleged that the movie clips were circulated through some Twitter handles, and shared details about the users, the official said.

The CFO also claimed that people were not allowed to use mobile phones on the sets when the movie was being shot. However, despite this, the videos were leaked, he said. A case has been registered under section 379 (theft) of the Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act, the official added. **PTI**

## Nation

### After FIR on Priyanka Gandhi, Congress leader Arun Yadav says Madhya Pradesh has turned into "home ground of corruption"



Deouskar on Sunday. "Madhya Pradesh has turned into a home ground for corruption, and a 50 percent commission government is working in the state. We raised our voice against it, and two days ago we and our contractor friends brought issue to the notice of the High Court judge through a letter," said Arun Yadav.

"They have registered an FIR against me, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and former CM Kamal Nath. We will continue to fight against this corrupt government in Madhya Pradesh," added Yadav. Meanwhile, reacting to the FIR against Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Congress leader Shobha Ojha said, "Everyone knows about the corruption going on in the state... They (BJP) are pointing out those leaders of that party, who fought for the freedom of the nation. Let them do FIRs we will fight against this and the public of the state will throw out the corrupt people from the state." ANI

After an FIR was registered against Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress leader from Madhya Pradesh Arun Yadav on Sunday alleged that the state has turned into a home ground for corruption and a 50 per cent commission government is working here. An FIR has been registered against Priyanka Gandhi, former CM Kamal Nath, and former Union Minister Arun Yadav over a post accusing the

state government in Madhya Pradesh of 'corruption'.

"A complaint against a person, namely Gyanendra Awasthi, was filed stating that a fake letter has been made viral, mentioning the 50% commission. Some social media handles have made this letter viral. Gyanendra Awasthi, along with Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi, Kamal Nath, and Arun Yadav, have been lodged in this," said Indore Police Commissioner Makrand

### "They're original owners of country": Rahul Gandhi pitches for tribal rights in Wayanad



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday pitched for tribal rights, and called that tribal brothers and sisters are the "original owners of the country". He also emphasized the rights of tribals and said that they should be given their rights on the land and forest.

"I have been travelling around the country and have met tribal brothers and sisters across India. There is the word called 'Adivasis', which means original owners of land. This means a particular wisdom, a particular understanding of the environment of the earth we live on... a particular relation with the planet we live on, and that also implies that they (tribals) are "original owners of this country," Rahul Gandhi said while addressing a gathering after inaugurating a power facility at a hospital in Wayanad. "They should be given rights on land, on forest and should be allowed and imagination to do whatever they want," he added.

Calling tribals the original

owners, Rahul Gandhi further said that they should allow their children to study engineering, become doctors, and lawyers or start businesses. "You should also give the rights in the forest, of lands, and to forest produce. The entire planet should be open to you. You (Tribals) should not be restricted and categorized," he added.

He further emphasized his second idea that uses the term 'Vanvasi' and said that there is a perverted logic behind the word 'Vanvasi'. "This is one idea and there is another idea that uses the term 'Vanvasi'. We say Adivasi and the other side says 'Vanvasi'. And there is a perverted logic behind the word 'Vanvasi'. The word 'Vanvasi' denies that you are the original owners of India and it also restricts you to the jungle. The idea behind the word 'Vanvasi' is that you belong in the jungle and you should never leave the jungle. And this is simply not acceptable to us. We do not accept this word," he said. ANI

### Security forces put on high alert in J-K ahead of Independence Day

Ahead of Independence Day celebrations, security forces have been put on high alert in the Union Territory to ensure the safety and security of the people. The heightened security measures are also being implemented as a precautionary step to prevent any untoward incidents or threats during this significant national event.

While talking to ANI, Inspector General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Srinagar Sector, Ajay Kumar Yadav stated, "Security arrangements have been put in place. All preparations are complete. Force is alert on the field and we are ready to tackle any situation."

Meanwhile, Special Operation Unit of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the CRPF have intensified their surveillance and patrolling activities. Checkpoints and barricades have been set up at strategic



locations to monitor the movement of people and vehicles.

Moreover, all security agencies are also closely monitoring the situation and taking all necessary steps to maintain law and order. Intelligence agencies are working in coordination with the local administration to

gather and analyse intelligence inputs to thwart any potential security threats. Additional precautionary measures, such as the deployment of additional security personnel and enhanced coordination among security agencies, have also been put into place. ANI

### PM Modi urges people to put tricolour as social media DP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to change the display picture of their social media accounts to the tricolour in the spirit of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

Modi also changed the display picture of his social media accounts to the national flag.

The prime minister on Friday called on people to take part in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement between August 13 to 15. "In the spirit of the #HarGharTiranga movement, let us change the DP of our so-



cial media accounts and extend support to this unique effort which will deepen the bond between our beloved country and us," Modi said on X. PTI

World

## Experts raise concern over volatile performance of China-backed projects in Bangladesh



A number of Chinese-backed projects in Bangladesh have been performing below par, and have raised concerns among experts, in wake of the situation in Sri Lanka and Pakistan, whose economies have crippled under the burden on Beijing's debt, Bangladesh-based Daily Asian Age reported. The China-Bangladesh bilateral ties have been in heated discussions for last several years for reasons of China's augment-

ing interest in engaging Bangladesh more profoundly in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China is also working with Bangladesh in a number of development projects.

Notably, the reactions to China's involvement in Bangladesh's development program have remain mixed. From a global perspective, it has been observed that Chinese financial deals have jeopardized the economy of many countries including Sri Lanka,

Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Angola, Nigeria, Sudan, Serbia etcetera, Daily Asian Age reported. Chinese investments in Bangladesh are also facing grim challenges. The Payra Power Plant, which was constructed through joint initiatives of China and Bangladesh, has met a stumbling block in repayment of Chinese loans. The situation has become even more aggravated with dollar crisis and shortage of raw materials.

As per the Bangladesh-based daily, if these drawbacks are not overcome immediately, the Payra Power Plant may come to a closure within a few months. According to the annual report of the Bangladesh Bank, China invested 465.17 million USD (13.5 per cent of total foreign direct investment in Bangladesh) and Hong Kong invested 179.22 million USD (5.2 per cent) in the July-June period of FY22, taking the total Chinese investment to 644.30 million USD.

## 3 killed in Turkish drone attack on Kurdistan Workers' Party members



A Turkish drone strike killed three persons from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Turkey's Ministry of Defence said. On a social media account X (formerly known as Twitter), Turkey's Ministry of Defence, on Saturday, said that three members from PKK have been identified in the Operation Claw-Lock region in northern Iraq and have been neutralized.

"Our heroic Turkish Armed Forces continues to strike down

the iron fist on terrorists! Three PKK terrorists identified in the Operation Claw-Lock Operation region in northern Iraq were neutralized. Our operations will continue with determination until there is not a single terrorist left in the region!" the ministry said in a tweet. There has been a long-running Turkish campaign in Iraq and Syria against militants of the PKK and the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, which are both regarded as terrorist groups by Ankara. ANI

## China crippled with economic woes may become more aggressive: Experts



The economic woes that China is currently facing, prompted fears that Beijing could in turn become more aggressive, and compensate by escalating the risk of a war with the US over Taiwan, Voice of America (VOA) reported citing experts who closely follow the US-China rivalry. Also, China's economic slowdown — which is evident with slowing growth, plunging exports and the increasing municipal debt, unemployment and deflation — is further expected to worsen if other nations follow the US lead in restricting investments in China.

"China may act more aggressively in the near term — as its military capabilities mature —

to lock in gains while it still has the chance," said Hal Brands, who served as special assistant to the secretary of defence for strategic planning in 2015-16 in the Obama administration. He is now the Henry A. Kissinger distinguished professor of global affairs at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. "This is why the danger of a war over Taiwan, for instance, is highest in this decade — because China will have more military capability than ever before, just as it peaks and starts to decline economically, relative to the United States," VOA quoted Brands, author of Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China. ANI

## Report sounds alarm over increase in suicides among elderly in US

A new report has sounded an alarm over an increase in suicide cases, especially among the older population in the US, as nearly 50,000 Americans died by suicide in 2022. According to the report published by US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is an 8.1 per cent rise in suicide deaths among adults aged 65 and older in just one year.

In 2022, 10,433 people, above the age of 65, died by suicide and in 2021, the number was 9,652. The provisional estimates released today indicate that suicide deaths further increased in 2022, rising from 48,183 deaths in 2021 to an estimated 49,449 deaths in 2022, an increase of approximately 2.6 per cent, as per the report. However, two groups did see a decline in numbers, Ameri-



can Indian and Alaska Native people (down 6.1 per cent) and people 10-24 years old (down 8.4 per cent).

"Nine in ten Americans believe America is facing a mental health crisis. The new suicide death data reported by CDC illustrates why. One life lost to suicide is one too many. Yet, too many people still believe asking for help is a sign of weakness,"

said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.

"The Biden-Harris Administration is making unprecedented investments to transform how mental health is understood, accessed and treated as part of President Biden's Unity Agenda. We must continue to eliminate the stigmatization of mental health and make care available to all Americans," he added. ANI

## Expression

# The laws of the British era will change



*Dr. Satyawan Saurabh*

Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, All India Radio & TV panelist, Haryana

The criminal justice system is a replica of British colonial jurisprudence, which was designed to rule the nation, not serve the citizens. The criminal justice system aimed to protect the rights of the innocent and punish the guilty, but nowadays the system has become an instrument of oppression of the common people. According to the Economic Survey, about 3.5 crore cases are pending in the judicial system, especially in the district and subordinate courts, giving credence to the adage that "justice delayed is justice denied". India has the largest number of undertrial prisoners in the world. Corruption, heavy workload, and accountability of the police are major hindrances in the delivery of speedy and transparent justice.

On 11 August 2023, three new bills were introduced in Parliament to replace the 164-year-old laws of the British era. The three laws to be replaced are the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act. The three new bills being introduced are the Indian Judicial Code Bill, the Indian Civil Defense Code Bill, and the Indian Evidence Bill. "The laws that will be repealed... The focus of those laws was to protect and strengthen the British administration, the idea being to punish and not to dispense justice. By replacing them, the new three laws would bring in a sense of protecting the rights of the people "

Its purpose is to dispense justice rather than to punish. These will address issues such as "terrorism, mob-lynching and crimes against women". The country's criminal justice system, which followed British-made laws from 1860 to 2023, is set for significant changes as three laws are set to be changed. This change will bring significant changes in the criminal justice system of the country. Section 150 of the Indian Code Security Bill contemplates the recommendation of the Law Commission of India to increase the alternative punishment for sedition from 3 to 7 years.



The commission has suggested retaining the 153-year-old sedition law to avoid harming the country's security and unity. The commission also proposes to change the sedition law by amending IPC section 124A (sedition law), which currently allows for life imprisonment or up to 3 years, alternatively up to 7 years. This will enable the courts to decide punishment based on severity. by a new provision on mob lynching, providing for imprisonment of seven years or imprisonment for life or death; enabling speedy justice through video trials, e-filing of FIRs; expansion of the definition of sedition; bringing corruption, terrorism, and organized crime under penal laws; introducing community service and solitary confinement as new forms of punishment; to hold hearings in the absence of the accused; and expanding the scope of offenses against women relating to sexual relations using "deceptive means" - the new Bills provide significant changes to criminal jurisprudence.

Section 44 of the Indian Judicial Code Bill allows self-defense against deadly attacks such as mob attacks. Section 31 says that it is not an offense to cause unintentional harm using communication with good intentions. Under the Indian Civil Defense Code, if the accused has served half of the maximum sentence during the trial, he gets bail. Some crimes aim to be gender-neutral. The Indian Judicial Code also includes offenses relating to terrorism and organized crime. With the introduction

of these bills, there will be a lot of improvement in the judicial system of the country.

The criminal justice system is a replica of British colonial jurisprudence, which was designed to rule the nation, not serve the citizens. The criminal justice system aimed to protect the rights of the innocent and punish the guilty, but nowadays the system has become an instrument of oppression of the common people. According to the Economic Survey, about 3.5 crore cases are pending in the judicial system, especially in the district and subordinate courts, giving credence to the adage that "justice delayed is justice denied". India has the largest number of undertrial prisoners in the world.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)-Prison Statistics India, 67.2% of our total prison population is undertrial prisoners. Corruption, heavy workload, and accountability of the police are major hindrances in the delivery of speedy and transparent justice. The Madhava Menon Committee submitted its report in 2007, suggesting various recommendations for reforms in the Criminal Justice System of India (CJSI). The Malimath Committee Report submitted its report to the CJSI in 2003. The committee thought that the existing system "is heavily in favor of the accused and does not focus adequately on providing justice to the victims of crime". It provided various recommendations to be made in the CJSI, which were not implemented.

What should be the framework of reform? The causes of victimization should be given prime consideration while reforming laws to recognize the rights of crime victims. For example the introduction of the victim and witness protection schemes, use of victim impact statements, increased victim participation in criminal trials, and increased access of victims to compensation and restitution. The current classification of crimes should be guided by the principles of criminal jurisprudence, which have changed significantly in the last four decades. For example, criminal liability can be better classified to specify the degree of punishment.

New forms of punishment such as community service orders, restitution orders, and other aspects of restorative and reformatory justice may also be brought under its purview. The classification of crimes should be done in a manner conducive to the management of crimes in the future. Many chapters of IPC are overloaded in many places. The chapters on offenses against public servants, contempt of authority, trespass to public peace, and trespass may be redefined and narrowed. Guiding principles need to be evolved after adequate debate before declaring an act as an offense.

Unprincipled criminalization not only leads to the creation of new crimes on unscientific grounds but also leads to arbitrariness in the criminal justice system.

# Entertainment



## Abhishek Bachchan, Saiyami Kher starrer 'Ghoomer' receives standing ovation at IFFM 2023

Actors Abhishek Bachchan and Saiyami Kher starrer sports drama film 'Ghoomer' received a standing ovation at the opening night of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2023. 'Ghoomer' promises to be a cinematic masterpiece that intertwines emotion, drama, and sheer entertainment and is a befitting inspiring human triumphant tale against all odds. As the curtains rose and the film was showcased for the very first time, the audience was enthralled by the magic that unfolded on screen and the film received a thunderous applause and standing ovation. Abhishek said at the opening night, "I'm grateful for this platform for the world premiere of our film. Ghoomer is a labour of love. This has been Balki's dream for a long time. I don't think there's any better way of giving back to a game you love so passionately, by making a film dedicated to it".

## Anil Kapoor remembers Sridevi on her birth anniversary, says "your legacy lives on"

Actor Anil Kapoor on Sunday remembered late actor Sridevi on the occasion of her 60th birth anniversary. Taking to Instagram, Anil shared a throwback picture with the late actor on his stories which he captioned, "Happy birthday, Sri...Your legacy lives on, and your impact on the world of cinema is everlasting. You are deeply missed and forever cherished!" Anil and Sridevi have worked together in several hit films like 'Mr India', 'Judaai', 'Laadla', 'Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja', 'Heer Ranhja', 'Lamhe', and 'Mr Bechara' among others. Sridevi was married to Anil's brother Boney Kapoor and is survived by two daughters Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor.

ANI



## Nick Jonas reveals 'difficult moment' from his wedding to Priyanka

American singer and actor Nick Jonas revealed a memorable and difficult moment from his wedding day. The 'Jealous' singer and actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas wed five months after engaged in July 2018. The ceremony took place in India over several days.

While speaking with PEOPLE about teaming up with The Children's Place for their 2023 Back-to-School campaign, Jonas recalled his happy wedding weekend, expressing that he has so many favourite memories from the special occasion. For the musician, one particular memory was from the traditional Indian ceremony that took place at the Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur.

Jonas told People, "There's this one moment in Indian weddings where the bride and groom are lifted on the shoulders of their family members and there's sort of a game that's played where this garland is put on each other." "They try to be the first to put the garland on the other. And it's surprisingly difficult, especially when you have someone as competitive as me and Pri," he continued. "But whoever is the one to put it on first, that side of the family is the more dominant." "So it's really for the family members to feel pride and that's just a funny game," he added. "But it's really heartwarming and a great way for the families to all connect."