



Lok Sabha briefly disrupted as Oppn protests tickers on Sansad TV highlighting

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DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE CONVENED ON AUGUST 16; FIRST SESSION AFTER SERVICES BILL PASSED IN PARLIAMENT

The Delhi Legislative Assembly has been convened next week on August 16 to resume the third part of the fourth session. The Delhi Assembly will assemble for the first time since the bill to replace the ordinance on control of services in the national capital has been passed in both houses of Parliament.

"I have the honour to inform you that under Rule-17(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Hon'ble

Speaker has directed to re-convene the Fourth Session of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi. Accordingly, the Third Part of the Fourth Session will commence from Wednesday, August 16," the summon issued by Assembly Secretary said.

The National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which was passed by the Lok Sabha last week, replaces an ordinance promulgated by the Centre for handling the transfers and postings of officials in the Delhi government. The Upper

House on Monday passed the Bill that empowers Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to control Group A services in Delhi including on matters relating to appointments, transfers and postings. The bill was passed after a division in which 131 MPs voted in favour of the legislation and 102 against it.

As soon as the Bill received a nod in Parliament, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched an attack on the Centre on Monday saying that the legislation is an attempt "to reign Delhi from the back door." "These

people (BJP) have seen that it is very difficult to defeat AAP in Delhi. In last four elections-- 2013, 2015, 2020 and recent MCD polls-- BJP lost to AAP. It has been more than 25 years in Delhi, the BJP government has not been formed. The people of Delhi have given them exile for 25 years, so these people felt that it is difficult to defeat AAP, so these people have tried to reign Delhi from the back door," Kejriwal said in video message, soon after the contentious bill was passed in Rajya Sabha. ANI

Religious scriptures and believes have many ambiguities, leave them aside

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

There are many debateable arguments on Prophet Muhammad and his marriages. Some traditional hadith sources state that Aisha was betrothed to Muhammad at 6 or 7; other sources say she was 9 when she had a small marriage ceremony; but both the date and her age at marriage and later consummation with Muhammad in Medina are sources of controversy. Sunni Hadith books documented that the age of Aisha's age 6 when she married Prophet Muhammad. But the Shia Muslims believe the actual age of Hadrat Ayesha the wife of the Prophet Muhammad (the lady in discussion of Nupur Sharma) was between 15-18 yrs at the time of her marriage. The Muslims themselves are divided on facts and figures.

Muslims revere Muhammad as the perfect example in all conducts. We are aware that many Muslims have rejected the Islamic sources, specifically the commentaries of al-Tabari and al-Qurtubi, which is obviously due to how severely embarrassing and humiliating they are to Muhammad's integrity and prophetic claims. Many early former Muslims such as Ibn al-Rawandi, Al-Ma'arri, and Abu Isa al-Warraq were famous religious sceptics, polymaths, and philosophers that criticized Islam. Muhammad ibn Abdullah was the founder of the world religion of Islam. According to Islamic doctrine, he was a prophet, divinely inspired to preach and confirm the monotheistic teachings of Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and other prophets.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Religious scriptures and believes have many ambiguities, leave them aside

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Each religion had contradictions; Hindu deities also got married numerous times. Some had more than 100 wives some had hundred children, some women had multiple children from more than one man.

Many have arguments on religious books and beliefs, but evoking religious sentiments makes no sense.

In response to the contempt and scorn poured over Hindu Gods and Goddesses, which was evident even during the Times Now debate where some of the fellow panellists referred to the Shivling as a fountain

Then there are arguments that he had many wives that normal men ever believe, many people jump to the wrong conclusion on this topic. Out of 11 marriages, two got divorced before even the couple met each other. Therefore Islam considers the effective marriages were only 9 and not 11. Many do not know that out of 9 wives, 8 were widows. On the contrary Prophet Mohamed had married all those women who had no men in their life, adding Prophet Mohamed's name they were secured. The widows he had married were of different ages, the highest in age being a 60 years old lady at the time of her marriage to the prophet.

Each religion had contradictions; Hindu deities also got married numerous times. Some had more than 100 wives some had hundred children, some women had multiple children from more than one man. Era that they lived in was different from the era that we are in. God is human sentiments and personal belief. Muslims believe what Prophet Mohamed had reason and I strongly believe what Krishna did was the need of that time. When men of the kingdom died fighting demons, most of the women were widows and they needed protection. It is a matter of trust in religious scripture.

Many have arguments on religious books and beliefs, but evoking religious sentiments makes no sense. Why should it make any difference to Hindu on how many times the Prophet married and whom and when he married? Similarly no one should have any arguments on Hindu god and goddess; it is none of their business. What one believes is their personal belief. About all your religion should never be the reason for riots. No God loves killing innocents. Responsible citizens of our nation should leave each other's religions to their own belief.

During the wars, there were also some widows captured who were daughters of tribal chiefs. In those days if someone marries outside his tribe (like inter-caste marriage these days), there used to be enmity turning into friendship between them. Thus by marrying widow daughters of tribal chiefs who were fighting war against particular communities, the war would come to an end and result in peace and friendship. Marriage was a social event and a way to create a bond between two kings, two entities, two kingdoms and two different sects.

The problem of support to widows was also faced by western world after WWII, when millions of men & soldiers got killed in war, leaving behind women widows in millions. The west solved this problem by bringing women into workforce, as telephone operators, receptionist's accountants etc. and at the same time freedom of sexual inter-mingling without marriage was promoted, whereas in religious

scriptures they gave a status of wife to widows. Going a few centuries back, we know how widows were ill-treated. In Buddhism, widows had to shave off their heads, in India widows under religious practice were encouraged to jump into the pyre of her husband, widows not being allowed to wear colours except white, widows not being allowed in auspicious functions etc.

I don't want to get into much argument because I know this will not go well with those communal minds of both sides. For them religion and religious beliefs are nothing but a political tool. I am a staunch Hindu my belief needs to be custodian, and at the same time I don't fine anyone a hindrance in my beliefs. Responsible citizens and especially public representatives should refrain from hurting religious sentiments by making all unwanted remarks. Nupur Sharma was a part of a debate panel on Times Now, discussing the finding of Shivling in the Gyanvapi complex and the subsequent mockery of the Hindu Gods and Goddesses that followed in the wake of the discovery.

Islamists have claimed that the Shivling discovered inside the wuzukhana of the Gyanvapi disputed structure was not a Shivling but a fountain. Across social media platforms, detractors have been repeating ad nauseam that the Shivling found inside the Gyanvapi premises is a fountain and not an idol of a Hindu God. In response to the contempt and scorn poured over Hindu Gods and Goddesses, which was evident even during the Times Now debate where some of the fellow panellists referred to the Shivling as a fountain, BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma asked them to refrain from insulting Hindu Gods and cited Islamic scriptures and Holy Quran for substantiating her remarks on Prophet Muhammad and Islam.

First of all, calling religious debates and mocking God is not civilised conduct. Gyanvapi is a matter of investigation and the court is doing the needful. What we all need is patience to see what unfolds. Over reactions by both sides are colluding the peaceful atmosphere of our nation. We need to believe in our PM and his slogan Sabka Saath Sabkaa Vikas and think of the development of this nation.



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Letters to the Editor

Tomato prices are at all-time high

I am concerned about the soaring prices of tomatoes in India which have reached to over Rs 250 per kilo, surpassing the price of petrol. Tomatoes are an important dietary source of lycopene, a powerful antioxidant that has been linked to several health benefits, such as reduced risk of heart disease and cancer. Moreover, they are rich in vitamin C, potassium, folate, and vitamin K. Potatoes, tomatoes, and onions are vital ingredients in Indian cooking, and any significant price increase in these items can disrupt the monthly budget of households across the country.

The current tomato shortage being experienced in India can be attributed to the erratic weather patterns that have adversely affected the growth and production of tomatoes. Specifically, heavy and unexpected rains have disrupted the growing season, while a destructive fungal infection has further diminished the harvest. As a result, the cost of tomatoes has skyrocketed, with some vendors charging up to five times more than usual. To alleviate the burden on the public, it is imperative that the government intervenes and implements measures to control inflation and reduce the cost of essential kitchen staples.

Jubel D'Cruz

Citizens along with govt machinery are responsible for a clean surrounding!

Mosquitoes breed in polluted waters & unclean environment. It is not just the duty of govt to keep public places clean but also the responsibility of citizen's to keep their surroundings free of pollution. We at Ganga Jyoti CHSL do regular fumigation of our society every alternate day which keeps the mosquitoes at bay & this can easily be adopted by others as well.

Mosquitoes are responsible for various diseases & we should be particularly concerned about cleaning the drainage system, see to it that water logging & polluted water is taken care of, which are hotspots for mosquitoes to multiply. A stitch in time saves nine & merely keeping our surroundings clean can go a long way to keep mosquitoes & diseases away!

S.N.Kabra

Right To Equality

Dalit families entered and worshipped at the Mariamman temple in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday amid tight police security. However, the Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1947 is in force in the state, which gives people of all castes and classes the right to enter and worship in Hindu temples. But it is melancholia that even today the entry of Dalits especially in Hindu temples is prohibited illegally. The constitution gives the right to equality to every citizen of the country. If India is to be united, casteism, untouchability and religious prejudice must be abandoned.

Ashraf Nawaz

Supreme Court Stay for Rahul is hailed

Stay given for Rahul is hailed by one and all. I would like to bring to the notice of the Supreme court, the Press, and the Public that most of the Members of the parliament are involved in crimes as mentioned in their Affidavits. In case any action is to be taken against Rahul, all of them should be punished first. As someone said already more than half of the Parliament has to be emptied. To be Frank, Rahul is a Gentleman and well-behaved. He is a Role Model to all the Politicians. Members of different parties are in fact rivals only. But those belonging to the ruling party take the opposition party members as enemies, which is not fair at all.

The hatred spread in the country will lead to disaster. Rahul is young and he involves himself in Jodo Bharat and Better Bharat.

Kantamsetti LakshmanRao

Caste-based survey

The Patna High Court dismissed all petitions filed against the decision of Bihar government to conduct the caste-based survey and permitted the Nitish government to resume it in the state. This is a good decision taken by the court. For the development of a backward state like Bihar, it is important to know the correct scientific statistics of caste. If there has been economic, social backwardness and inequality in some sections because of caste, the reasons of these problems can be assembled, researched and evaluated only on the basis of scientific statistics of caste.

H.K. Isha'ati

More Logistic Thinking can reduce Food Wastage- Bring in Social Awareness on Food Wastage



The problem of food wastage is not there in dabbas and street vendors but is more prevalent in star hotels across the country. The issue needs to be discussed with associations of hotels and restaurants as they agreed to take up this issue voluntarily to initiate steps to check food wastage. Thus an awareness has been created and the issue has to be taken up in a more organised way to prevent wastage. Live and let others also live should be our motto.

After beef bans and bar closures, the government might decide how much food you are served, next. But are restaurants the only source of food wastage and will fixing portions solve the problem? If you want to get rid of a weed, burn the whole farm down. That seems to be the logic behind recent decisions taken by the government. Hot on the heels of the alcohol ban around highways, comes another masterstroke, albeit still in the making.

The consumer affairs minister, recently announced that a meeting would be called to decide the maximum amount of a dish a person can eat, in order to fix portions at restaurants, and thereby address the wastage of food. But according to chefs, restaurateurs and people who eat out regularly, this might be a case of barking up the wrong

tree. But it is time to have a logistic view to make way for more meaningful discussion to concerned people and arrive at a feasible decision to curb wastage of food in the best way possible. The best option is to display the quantity in the menu card and pave the way for a proper way of rationed order before the food is served. A wishful thinking by the hotel management and regular hotel goers can clear air for bringing an amicable solution to this problem and avoid wastage to the minimum.

Avoid throwing away good food and help preserve the environment and save money in the process. It is time to keep track our last restaurant visit and compare that with overall statistics of food wastage in India alone, you would want to go back and lick your plate clean – and maybe even the utensils, the food was served in. But, the lack of awareness around the issue and interrelated issues, such as malnutrition, poverty and food shortage, is minimal and hence a small contributor to the larger picture of food waste and the aforesaid issues. But, food waste alone incurs huge monetary losses to industries and mankind, in general.

Food waste primarily revolves around any form of food, raw or cooked, used or unused – discarded or intended so. Professional bodies and

governments alike, further diversify the definitions to various categories and implications such as the kind of food waste, the form it is produced/generated by and materials and source of waste. The dramatic impact that food waste can have on a particular nation, in terms of economic and social perspectives, is enormous especially in larger countries like India depending on the population and food consumption.

When we scrap off our dishes after a large meal, too full to finish the remaining scraps on our plate, we rarely pause and think about the significance of our action. It seems routine to us: if we have leftover food scraps that are unfit for eating, shouldn't they be thrown in the garbage? Our routine practices, unfortunately, make it difficult for us to conceptualize the magnitude of global food waste. The problem is bigger than we think. It is time to have a rational thinking and it is a matter of personal interest to take up the issue and it must be a thought for the day among the rich people in this country.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com
No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

The advocate accused Nitin Rane of using the word 'Dalit'



A case has been registered against a politician, an editor, and an anchor for using the term 'Dalit' and broadcasting a statement deemed legally banned. Investigations are ongoing. Navi Mumbai: Amit Katarnaware has also registered a case against MLA Nitesh Rane along with the editor and anchor of ABP Majha at the New Panel police station. The advocate accused Rane of using the word

'Dalit' to refer to MLA Sanjay Shirsat and the channel for broadcasting a word that has been "legally banned".

During an interview with a Marathi channel, Sanjay Raut of the Shiv Sena (UBT) allegedly spat when asked a question about Shirsat. Talking about the incident at a press conference, Rane accused Raut of insulting the scheduled tribe that Shirsat belongs to, but used the "uncon-

stitutional" term 'Dalit' himself while referring to it, claimed Katarnaware. "The channel broadcast it so I have registered a case against them as well," said Katarnaware.

Five years ago, the I&B ministry had advised the media to use the term 'scheduled caste/tribe' instead of 'Dalit', a move opposed by Dalit groups themselves. The advocate also alleged that Rane had tried to create hatred between the Hindu and Muslim community while talking about the Trimbakeshwar temple issue. "He is a sitting MLA and he is supposed to follow the law but he breaks it instead," he said. "The Trimbakeshwar issue is in court, and yet Rane made a hate-triggering statement that the Muslim community had first usurped the forts and was now targeting the Trimbakeshwar temple. Again, the channel broadcast this when it shouldn't have."

Virar police bust major fake document racket in construction



Police officials said they had arrested five persons—four of them in the construction business—and recovered a huge stock of fake rubber stamps and letterheads of revenue officials from Thane and Palghar districts, MMRDA, CIDCO and the Vasai-Virar City municipal corporation (VVCMC). A police officer said that at least 55 buildings were probably constructed with the help of the fake documents and the scam was likely to run into hundreds of crores.

The arrested accused are landowner Dilip Benvanshi (31), Machhindra Vhanmane (37), owner of Mayur Enterprises, Dilip Adkhale (40) of Phoenix Corporation, Prashant Patil (33), a

partner in Rudransh Realtors, and stamp-maker Rajesh Naik, 54.

According to Rajendra Kamble, senior police inspector at Virar police station, the FIR was registered following a complaint lodged by Ganesh Patil, the in-charge assistant commissioner of Ward C, Chandansar, about two buildings, Rudransh A and Rudransh B, constructed in the area. The owners/partners of Rudransh Realtors already have an FIR registered against them—in February this year, the Virar police registered the FIR under several sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, the Maharashtra Ownership of Flats Act, and the Registration Act.

Govt to update employees' database for assessing department-wise strength

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday issued an order to update the master database of state employees to understand the actual strength of every department and office under it. The Government Resolution (GR), issued by the Planning Department, has sought information regarding the gender, caste, religion, physical disabili-

ties, if any, joining and retirement date, birth date, and bank account details of employees.

[08/08, 6:20 pm] Vaidehi Tamen: A man allegedly abducted his three-year-old son from his estranged wife's custody in broad daylight in Maharashtra's Nagpur city, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place in Tulsinagar area of Nagpur city

on Monday morning, an official said. The woman was riding a two-wheeler with her son when a car intercepted the vehicle and her husband and his accomplice got down and snatched the boy and sped away, he said. The woman immediately approached Shanti Nagar police station and lodged a complaint of kidnapping, the official said. (PTI)

Maharashtra: Man abducts three-year-old son from estranged wife's custody in Nagpur



A man allegedly abducted his three-year-old son from his estranged wife's custody in broad daylight in Maharashtra's Nagpur city, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place in Tulsinagar area of Nagpur city on Monday morning, an official said. The woman was riding a

two-wheeler with her son when a car intercepted the vehicle and her husband and his accomplice got down and snatched the boy and sped away, he said. The woman immediately approached Shanti Nagar police station and lodged a complaint of kidnapping, the official said. (PTI)

Mumbai jeweller's wife booked for poisoning him, stealing gold

RAK Marg police senior inspector confirmed that an FIR for attempt to murder and using black magic was registered against a jeweller's wife, her mother and a tantrik on August 5 under the Criminal Procedure Code Section 156 (3) under directions of the metropolitan magistrate court.

The jeweller had got married in 1989 and the couple has three children. He alleged that the couple was engaged in a dispute for quite a few years.

Tribal man verbally abused, beaten up by local BJP leader, three others in Palghar



A 57-year-old tribal man was allegedly beaten up and verbally abused by a local leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and three others in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Tuesday. The police on Monday registered an FIR against Bharat Rajput, the newly appointed president of the BJP's Palghar district unit, and three others under sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506(2) (criminal intimidation) and other

relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, an official said.

Rajput's brother Jagdish, one Vishal Nandalskar and Rajesh Thakur are the other accused named in the FIR, he said.

According to the police, the complainant is a resident of Navapada village and belonged to the Adivasi-Warli community.

Nation

Woman approaches SC seeking release of her Rohingya sister from detention centre



A woman has approached the Supreme Court seeking the release of her sister, a Rohingya refugee, from the Detention Centre at Shahzada Bagh to take care of her baby son. A bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and also comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on Monday issued notice on the plea filed by the woman.

"Issue notice, returnable on 11 August 2023," the court said.

The petitioner was represented by advocates Ujjaini Chatterji, Vanya Gupta and T. Mayura Priyan. According to the petition, the petitioner's younger sister is a Rohingya refugee who holds a UNHCR refugee identity card and has been indefinitely detained and kept at the detention centre called "Sewa Kendra in the northwest Delhi suburb of Shahzada Bagh. The petitioner claimed that she has no criminal

antecedents or complaints against her and was picked up around April 2021 through a clandestine and arbitrary "pick and choose" process, without being informed of the grounds of such detention and without the opportunity to present her case, show cause and defend herself.

"No official order authorising such detention was ever shared with the Petitioner or her sister. At that time her infant son was only a few months old and the Petitioner's sister was a nursing mother," the petitioner said.

"Presently, the Petitioner's sister is in the detention centre, separated from her 3-year-old son, without access to her prescribed medicines, medical attention, warm and cold water, proper fans with poor ventilation and very limited exposure to sunlight," read the petition. ANI

Want to break PM's 'maun vrat' on Manipur: Congress MP Gogoi on no-confidence vote



A discussion on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government began in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday with Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi initiating the debate. Gogoi said that the opposition I.N.D.I.A. alliance has brought the no-trust motion for Manipur as the state wants justice. "We are compelled to bring the no-confidence motion. This was never about numbers but about justice for Manipur. I have moved the motion that this House expresses no confidence in the Gov-

ernment. I.N.D.I.A. has brought this motion for Manipur. Manipur wants justice," Gogoi said.

Stating that the PM had taken a 'maun vrat' (vow of silence) to not speak in the Parliament so the opposition was compelled to introduce the motion to "break his silence." "Why did he not visit Manipur to date? Why did it take almost 80 days to finally speak on Manipur and when he did speak it was just for 30 seconds? Why has the Chief Minister not been sacked the Manipur CM so far?," Gogoi asked. ANI

Rajasthan ministers meet family of minor girl gang-raped, killed in Bhilwara



Rajasthan ministers Ramlal Jat and Rajendra Yadav on Tuesday visited the home of a minor girl who was allegedly gang-raped, murdered and her body burnt in a coal furnace in Bhilwara district last week. The ministers met the family members of the girl and consoled them. Talking to reporters, Yadav, who is a minister of state for home, said the government has taken quick action in rape cases.

"Rajasthan is the state where quick action is taken (in rape cases) and we are handling the cases with strictness," he said. About BJP's allegation that crime against women has in-

creased in the state, Yadav said no "politics" should be done in such cases. "The BJP has nothing to say other than making allegations. They won't say that they are unable to handle the situation in Manipur," he charged. The 14-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped, killed and her body burnt in a coal furnace on August 2. Police have arrested Kalu (25), his brother Kanha Kalbelia (21), Kalu's wife Laad alias Jiji (25), Pappu (35), Sanjay (20), Kamlesh (30), Prabhu (40) in the case. Besides, a minor married woman and a teenager have been taken into custody. Ramlal Jat is the revenue minister in the Rajasthan government. PTI

Lok Sabha briefly disrupted as Oppn protests tickers on Sansad TV highlighting govt works

Lok Sabha was briefly disrupted on Tuesday during a discussion on the no-confidence motion following opposition members' loud protest against tickers running on Sansad TV that highlighted development works of the government during the live broadcast of the debate in the House. Soon after BJP member Nishikant Dubey began speaking against the motion, several opposition members, including the Congress, TMC and the DMK, protested over the issue. Some members of the treasury benches, including ministers, were seen taking a swipe at the Opposition for its inability to come to terms with the development ushered in by the govern-



ment.

Speaker Om Birla sought to calm down opposition members, noting that a different system was in place to run the Sansad TV after it was created following the merger of the Lok Sabha TV and the Rajya Sabha TV. He later said he has given instructions, a suggestion that the tickers will stop

running, and that happened in a couple of minutes. Opposition members were seen saying that tickers should only refer to the current proceedings in the House. A debate on the no-trust motion moved by the Opposition against the government is on and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to reply on August 10. PTI

BJP slams INDIA's no-confidence motion; calls it against 'son of a poor'

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Tuesday slammed the opposition parties for bringing a no-confidence motion against the government, saying this is a no-trust vote against a "poor man's son" who worked for the welfare of the people. Starting the debate from the government's side, Dubey said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that this is not a no-confidence motion against the govern-

ment but it has been brought by the opposition to test the confidence of its own alliance members in each other. Dubey took a swipe at the opposition parties, saying they were fighting among themselves and call themselves INDIA. He claimed that if one asks the full form of the acronym INDIA to opposition leaders, very few will be able to elaborate. In his remarks, Dubey also raised the issue of the Supreme Court staying

Rahul Gandhi's conviction in the 'Modi surname' remark case following which his Lok Sabha membership was restored. "There was such a brouhaha over Rahul Gandhi's return to Parliament but where had he gone...he was here in the Budget session. The Supreme Court has not acquitted him. He has also said he will not say sorry.....He says I am not (VD) Savarkar, you can never be Savarkar," Dubey said. PTI

World

Bhutan: Panel discussion on AI highlights need for balancing culture, technologies



A panel discussion titled "AI in Bhutan: Balancing traditional and Technological Advancement" was held during the Bhutan Echoes to highlight the pros and the cons of Artificial Intelligence (AI), reported The Bhutan Live on Tuesday. The Bhutan Live cov-

ers Bhutan news, politics, Bhutan culture and Bhutanese Buddhism. The event was attended by Professor Toby Walsh, a chief Artificial intelligence scientist at the University of New South Wales in Australia who advocates that AI should be used to improve lives. He added that for Bhutan,

education and healthcare can reap the benefits of AI.

He also cited examples of ChatGPT, an AI tool which is used for education, performing several tasks. At the event former chief executive officer of Thimphu TechPark, Dr Tshering Cigay Dorji talked about the opportunities of AI for country like Bhutan. "Unknowingly, we are benefiting a lot from AI. And besides that, AI can be used for education, AI can be used for environmental conservation, and AI can be used for improving efficiency and productivity at work. So, all we need is to leverage the data that we have. And through machine learning, we can implement all these different AI technologies at the workplace," he was cited as saying in The Bhutan Live. ANI

Another typhoon projected to hit Japan's mainland, Honshu



The seventh typhoon of the season has formed, according to Japan's weather agency, and could make landfall next week near Honshu, the main island of the nation, Kyodo News reported. Typhoon Lan, which had a centre atmospheric pressure of 998 hectopascals and gusts of up to 90 kilometres per hour, came close to Minamitori Island around noon, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Last week, Typhoon Kha-

nun struck Okinawa, the nation's southernmost island prefecture, inflicting dozens of injuries as well as a significant power outage, according to Kyodo News. Parts of Kyushu's southwesterly main island were expected to see severe gusts and torrential rain beginning on Tuesday evening. Over Okinawa, bands of active rain clouds have developed. Through Monday morning, they might also appear in Amami and the southern regions of Kyushu, NHK World reported.

Kyiv takes down Soviet-era signs, replaces hammer-and-sickle symbol with trident coat of arms



Ukraine has taken down Soviet-era signs from a hilltop monument in Kyiv and replaced the hammer-and-sickle symbol with a trident coat of arms, CNN reported. Kyiv this week changed the Soviet hammer and sickle sign to a trident, the Ukrainian coat of arms,

on the shield of the Motherland Monument, which dominates the skyline of the capital.

"We believe that this change will be the beginning of a new stage in the revival of our culture and identity, the final rejection of Soviet and Russian symbols and narratives," the Ukrainian culture

ministry said. The week-long operation to dismantle the Russian insignia was finished on August 6, according to the ministry. This comes in the midst of a conflict when the country has struggled to define its cultural identity in the face of Russian aggression, CNN reported.

The monument, a 102-meter-tall monolith that dominates its surroundings, is made of steel. The woman clutching the sword and the shield bearing the Soviet hammer and sickle was shown in the 1979-built monument. It was emphasised on Sunday by the Russian Foreign Ministry that "mother cannot be renamed," as per CNN. ANI

US school teacher accused of having 4-year sexual relationship with student: Report

A former Las Vegas private school athletics and student leadership director has been charged with having a four-year sexual connection with a former student, Fox News reported citing reports. Kaitlin Glover, 34, a former employee of Mountain View Christian School, faces felony lewdness with a juvenile and

charges of holding a school employee position in authority while engaging in sex with a student over the age of 16, according to FOX 5 in Las Vegas. According to a complaint from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, a student claimed in June 2022 to have had sexual contact with Glover, her teacher.

The student allegedly informed police that the two had a sexual relationship between December 2017 and September 2021, after the two began exchanging messages on the social media platform Snapchat. The station said that according to the report, "Glover began sending her nude photos through Snapchat." ANI

UKPNP delegation briefs European Economic and Social Committee member on human rights in PoK



A high-level delegation of the United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) held a significant meeting with members of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) at Brussels, aiming to shed light on the deteriorating human rights situation in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). During the meeting, the UKPNP delegation passionately conveyed their concerns regarding the ongoing human rights violations in PoK as well as across the nation. The UKPNP delegation presented a comprehensive overview of the current political, social, economic, cultural, land-grabbing, and environmental issues faced by the people of

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The delegation emphasised the urgent need for international attention and action to address the human rights abuses being perpetrated in the region. The situation has caused immense suffering to the local population and has raised serious questions about the preservation of fundamental rights and freedoms. Jamil Maqsood, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of UKPNP, representative of NGO at UNHRC led the delegation, and Sajid Hussain, Secretary of Information, UKPNP Europe Zone and representative of NGO at UNHRC shed light on the deteriorating human rights situation in Pakistan. ANI

Vaccines: Keeping Children Safe from Preventable Diseases



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Immunization is an extraordinary achievement in healthcare that has saved countless lives by preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases. The Immunization Agenda 2030 is a global strategy that seeks to ensure universal access to vaccines for everyone, regardless of age, to promote good health and well-being worldwide.

Children, in particular, are vulnerable to diseases because their immune systems are still developing. Vaccines play a crucial role in safeguarding them from severe illnesses, hospitalization, long-term complications, and even death. For instance, diseases like whooping cough (pertussis) or measles can have devastating consequences, especially for young children.

Vaccines work by training the body's immune system to recognize and fight off specific pathogens. When a child receives a vaccine, it contains a weakened or inactive form of the disease-causing agent. This prompts the immune system to produce antibodies that can defend against the actual disease if the child is exposed to it later. By providing this immune "memory," vaccines help prevent serious infections from taking hold and spreading.

The importance of vaccines



extends beyond protecting the individual child. By immunizing children, we also reduce the risk of disease transmission to other vulnerable members of the community, such as infants, elderly individuals, and those with weakened immune systems. This concept is known as herd immunity, which provides indirect protection to those who cannot receive vaccines themselves.

Despite the significant benefits of immunization, some children still miss out on routine vaccinations. From 2019 to 2021, approximately 67 million children worldwide did not receive some or all of their recommended vaccines. In Europe and Central Asia alone, around 931,000 children were affected.

Factors contributing to this issue include limited access to healthcare facilities, insufficient healthcare personnel, and vaccine hesitancy among parents or caregivers.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of vaccination on a global scale. Vaccines played a crucial role in curbing the spread of the virus and preventing severe cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. However, the pandemic also had adverse effects on routine immunization efforts, diverting resources and attention away from existing vaccination programs.

To ensure every child is protected, political will is essential at all levels of governance. Governments, policymakers, and

healthcare authorities must prioritize immunization as a fundamental aspect of public health. Adequate funding, resource allocation, and awareness campaigns are crucial to strengthening immunization programs and reaching underserved communities.

Pediatricians and healthcare providers play a pivotal role in promoting and administering vaccinations. Parents should consult with their child's pediatrician to ensure their vaccination schedule is up-to-date. Most mandatory vaccines for school are typically given during the first two years of a child's life, but some children may need to catch up on missed doses. It is recommended to schedule vaccinations at least two weeks before the start of school to allow the body to build immunity effectively.

It's crucial to know that vaccines undergo rigorous testing for safety before approval. Any potential side effects are usually mild and temporary compared to the risks of getting the actual disease.

Thus, Immunization is essential for public health, safeguarding children and communities from serious diseases. Achieving the Immunization Agenda 2030 requires teamwork, political support, and continued investment in healthcare and vaccination programs. By ensuring all children have access to vaccines, we can build a healthier and more resilient future for generations to come.

Entertainment

"My cycle was broken by senior boys...": Hrithik Roshan recalls being bullied in school, shares "heartbroken" moment

Actor Hrithik Roshan has stood out to be one of the most versatile actors in Bollywood. He made his acting debut 23 years ago with the romantic drama 'Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai' and ever since then there has been no looking back for him. Over the years, he has delivered various impeccable performances that have established him as one of the most talented stars in the Hindi film industry. With every film, he has tried his best to leave a mark. Remember 'Koi... Mil Gaya'?

As the film clocked 20 years on Tuesday, the 49-year-old star opened up about how he resonated with the character of Rohit. He took a stroll down memory lane and shared that he had faced a lot of bullying as a child like his character in the film. "I related with Rohit's character completely. Growing up, I was bullied due to my stutter. On days I wouldn't want to go to school and I would cry to my mother. In fact, the scene where Rohit's scooty is broken by Raj and his friends actually happened to me in real life. I had a BMX cycle that was my most treasured possession as a child. My cycle was broken by some senior boys, and I was heartbroken. The vulnerability that was required for Rohit's character, life had already given me through my personal experiences," Hrithik told ANI. **ANI**



Have Natalie Portman, Benjamin Millepied parted ways after 11 years of marriage?

Following rumours that Benjamin Millepied had an affair, Natalie Portman and her husband are reportedly no longer together, as per Page Six. The couple, who have two children together, called it quits after 11 years of marriage, a source told Us Weekly on Monday.

"After news of his affair came out, they've been trying to work on their marriage but are currently on the outs," the insider claimed. Despite it being their wedding anniversary, Portman, 42, and Millepied, 46, were spotted separately in Sydney last week. Just weeks after she was pictured looking upset while out with the dancer, the "Black Swan" star's 4-carat, Jamie Wolf-designed ring was conspicuously missing from her finger. It happens two months after rumours about Camille Étienne, a climate activist, and Millepied started to circulate.

Photographs of Millepied and Étienne meeting in his office were published in the French magazine Voici. Nearly two hours later, they were seen leaving the building separately after coming in separately. According to the article that went along with it, Portman was informed of her husband's alleged infidelity months earlier, Page Six reported. **ANI**

The entire country has been anticipating part 3 of the super hit franchise 'Don' which had been known to be underway and now producer-director Farhan Akhtar has confirmed a 'new interpretation' of the popular villain. Taking to his Instagram handle, Farhan shared a note hinting at a new era of Don.

The note read, "It was 1978 when the nation witnessed the rage of Don for the first time with superstar Mr Amitabh Bachchan playing the lead. While the first film continues to hold its charm, Excel Entertainment is delighted to announce the directorial homecoming of Farhan Akhtar's Don. With a legacy firmly established through his iconic two-film action franchise with Shah Rukh Khan in 2006 and 2011, the director is set to redefine the boundaries of storytelling once again in Don 3."

He added, "The time has now come to take the legacy of Don forward and joining us in this new interpretation will be an actor whose talent and versatility I have long admired. We hope that you will show him the love you have so graciously and generously shown to Mr Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan. A new era of Don begins in 2025. Watch this space." **ANI**



Farhan Akhtar set to begin a new era of 'Don 3', expresses gratitude to Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan