



"Judega Bharat, Jeetega INDIA,"
says INDIA alliance

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INDIA alliance meet in Mumbai: People should not spread rumours over the issue next candidate from INDIA alliance for the post PM, says UBT Shiv Sena leader

Gautam Korde

The alliance of INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) meeting held in Mumbai on August 31, 2023 and September 1, 2023. Ahead of this meeting UBT Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi's statement went viral when asked, who would be the next face for PM candidate over which she mentioned that "There are many faces as candidate for the post PM but if asked my opinion then according to me it is Uddhav Thackeray and he should be the candidate for the post of PM from alliance of INDIA".

Over this statement some leaders of NCP leaders expressed their wish to see NCP chief Sharad Pawar as next candidature for the post of PM while many other Congress leaders are expecting Rahul Gandhi to be next PM.

While this ongoing meeting of INDIA alliance in Mumbai we also tried to speak to several leaders to get a clarity on who would be next face as candidate for the post of PM over which some leaders mentioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi while other said that after the completion of this meeting they would come to a conclusion.

Former CM Prithviraj Chavan told Af-

ternoon Voice, "This meeting happening in Mumbai will focus on how they can win over BJP and this is why top leaders of parties of this alliance has come for this national conference. It might possibility that UBT shiv sena workers might considered Uddhav Thackeray as PM but it is not that easy as it will be number of MP's getting elected and will be finally decided of Lok Sabha polls".

Shinde faction Shiv sena MLA Sada Sarvankar said, "First of all there are lot of differences seen in the INDIA alliance and if candidate of Maharashtra with Marathi language get files nomination for the post of PM then we will be supporting this candidate"

BJP MLA Ram Kadam said, "This is another drama statement coming out from INDIA alliance because nominating a candidate for the post of PM and actually getting appointed as a PM are two different things which is not possible and this is why they are giving such diverting statements".

UBT shiv sena faction leader Sushma Andhare said, "These are all rumors as of now there is nothing going on over PM's candidate face from our party. So, we will come with other details after this meet of INDIA alliance".

MNS Amey Khopkar said, "Uddhav



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Former CM Prithviraj Chavan



These are all rumors as of now there is nothing going on over PM's candidate face from our party. So, we will come with other details after this meet of INDIA alliance.

UBT Shiv Sena - leader Sushma Andhare



This is another drama statement coming out from INDIA alliance because nominating a candidate for the post of PM and actually getting appointed as a PM are two different things which is not possible.

BJP MLA Ram Kadam



There are many faces for the PM's candidate though there are talks of Uddhav Thackeray as candidate for the post PM's post but when we consider a leader national or mass level according to me Rahul Gandhi should be considered as candidate for the post of PM

VBA Vijay Landge

Thackeray is not capable of becoming a PM as there is lot of internal differences in their party and they need elected number of MP's s that can elect him as PM. Thackeray should first make sure his party's MLA's and MPs are not leaving the party before thinking about such responsible post".

NCP Sharad Pawar faction National spokesperson Mahesh Chavan said, "We definitely have lot of faces in the alliance of INDIA and this alliance meeting will allow lot of people to put forward their opinion as we believe in democracy where we listen everyone's suggestions and opinions after which we will come to

the conclusion".

VBA Vijay Landge said, "There are many faces for the PM's candidate though there are talks of Uddhav Thackeray as candidate for the post PM's post but when we consider a leader national or mass level according to me Rahul Gandhi should be considered as candidate for the post of PM"

President Swabhimani Paksha Raju Shetti said, "INDIA alliance has many faces as candidate for the post of PM but that decision will be only after their final meeting and official declaration given by them as the agenda of their alliance is to win over BJP".

Irrigation scam involving NCP's Ajit faction resurfaces amidst political alliances and allegations

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

During 1999-2009, UPA was ruling in Maharashtra and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar was the irrigation minister. On 25 April 2008, then the Deputy Secretary TN Munde issued a circular stating that the Irrigation Department was making inflated payments for the various raw materials and apparatuses, instead of following the scheduled rates fixed by the department. On 14 May 2008, Pawar's office issued a letter asking Munde to repeal the circular, and cautioned him against issuing any circular without the minister's sanction. During 14-19 December 2009, the Marathi-language newspaper Loksatta carried a series of articles, accusing Pawar of awarding two projects worth ₹1,385 crore to the builder-cum-contractor named Avinash Bhonsle, at a magnified cost. In November 2010, Pawar handed

over the Irrigation Department to the fellow NCP leader Sunil Tatkar. He also appointed two inquiry committees, which found several financial irregularities. In August 2012, a non-profit organization called Jan Manch petitioned the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court to order an inquiry into the irregularities. The Court then sent a notice to the Government. The petition stated that the cost of 38 irrigation projects under the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC) had escalated from ₹6,672.27 crores to ₹26,722.33 crores within a span of 7 months in 2009. In 2013, the present Deputy CM of Maharashtra used this issue for his election campaign pledging that he will send Ajit Pawar behind bars.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

The real-Estate market involves high risk and high prices with a lack of security. Lacking security makes it a vulnerable and easy target for scammers.

Not doing enough research also causes the scam; investing without inspecting may increase the chances of getting scammed. Scammers use fake Advertisements, phishing emails, and calls to spoof investors.

Apartments are listed on websites like booking.com with not many photos of the accommodation. As it is new there is no review information whatsoever, furthermore it is unsearchable on Tripadvisor or even Google.

Irrigation scam involving NCP's Ajit faction resurfaces amidst political alliances and allegations

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On November 26, 2018, the then ACB chief and current Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Barve had filed an affidavit in the same court that the alleged multi-crore irrigation scam had revealed major lapses on Pawar's part and by other government officials. The ACB DG claimed that the latest affidavits were based on "a painstaking investigation conducted by two special investigation teams and after questioning Pawar." Based on evidence and a reply filed by Pawar, the ACB concluded that apart from cost updates and mobilization advance to contractors, no fault could be found with Pawar.

The ACB DG also claimed that his predecessor had overlooked the reply filed by the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC) in March 2018. This reply, he said, had rejected the involvement of Ajit Pawar. Barve's affidavit had pointed the needle of suspicion at Pawar by mentioning that norms were tweaked and tenders were manipulated. Procedures were bypassed, pecuniary benefits were passed on, sub-standard work allowed leading to a drain upon the public exchequer. This irrigation scam made headlines but Ajit Pawar once who was target of BJP is now in alliance with them. Addressing booth workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Bhopal last month, Modi had said there were allegations of scams of nearly Rs 70,000 crore against NCP, including the Maharashtra Cooperative Bank scam, irrigation scam and illegal mining scam.

(UBT) Shiv Sena Uddhav Thackeray targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his comments on a "Rs 70,000 crore scam" by NCP. Uddhav asked "What happened to the Rs 70,000 crore scam? Who all will be there on the stage? NCP president Sharad Pawar also asked PM Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah to probe the Rs 70,000 crore irrigation scam and multi-crore state cooperative bank scam in which Ajit Pawar's name had cropped up. Pawar said that at a rally in Bhopal, Modi had alleged Congress and NCP were the most corrupt parties and a Rs 70,000 crore scam in the irrigation department and a scam in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank had rocked the state.

If Modi has specific information that there was abuse of power in the state, then as PM, he must initiate a probe and submit the report. It will be wrong to make baseless allegations. You have power, you conduct the probe. Farmers and activists in

Maharashtra fear that the new alliance between the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction led by Ajit Pawar and the BJP may end up burying the alleged Rs 70,000-crore irrigation scam involving top NCP leaders, including Pawar.

The scam was unearthed after Maharashtra's Economic Survey in 2012 reported that the irrigation potential of the state had increased by only 0.1 per cent despite Rs 70,000 crore spent on various projects over a decade. Later, the Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) informed the Bombay High Court about major lapses on the part of Pawar and other government officials. Pawar, along with other NCP ministers, was in charge of the irrigation department between 1999 and 2014 under the Congress-NCP regime in Maharashtra.

During the 2014 and 2019 state elections, the BJP had made the irrigation scam its main election plank, targeting Pawar directly. The irrigation scam relates to alleged corruption, cost escalation, irregularities in the approval and execution of projects, inflation of tenders, and allocation of work to specific contractors.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis recently spoke to BJP MLAs and other leaders in Mumbai to address the concern. BJP cadre in the state is unhappy with the NCP faction joining hands with the party. Fadnavis reportedly said that the party has followed orders from the high command and that everyone must work to ensure that the BJP gets the maximum number of Lok Sabha seats in the upcoming elections. In Maharashtra, about 20 per cent of arable land is under irrigation while the rest is dependent on monsoon showers, with even a few days' delay in rains disrupting the agriculture cycle. Raju Hinge, who owns agricultural land in Pune, says farmers in the state have suffered heavily due to incomplete and delayed irrigation projects. Maharashtra tops in farmer suicides, as the lack of irrigation facility and dependence on monsoon push many farmers into distress.

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Vaidehi has received several Awards like I Congo-karmavir 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.

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Crossing the White Lines - drivers & riders beware!

I like the advisory put out by the Delhi Police, to drivers & riders which says, "Be like #NeerajChopra. Win hearts, not Challans." And the other one: "To drivers & riders, You are not Neeraj's javelin, and crossing the white lines will not get you points out medals."

One only hopes drivers & riders would adhere and take heed. They need to understand that it is not just their lives at risk but others as well. And, it is not just crossing the white lines, wrong side driving is proving to be a dangerous trend in Mumbai. We need to draw the line somewhere.

Melville X. D'Souza

Best advice!

Sharad Pawar has aged. Serum Institute director Cyrus Poonawalla has expressed the opinion that Pawar should retire from politics. Poonawalla has also clearly expressed his view that, Pawar had a chance to become the Prime Minister of the country, but he lost that chance. From this point it becomes clear that, losing opportunity is an inborn virtue of Marathi man. That is why the Marathi man has remained confined to only Maharashtra. Its expansion at country level is very little visible. Marathi man should give up habit of lagging behind in every field. The implication of Poonawala's advice is excellent.

Sudhir Kangukar

Valid concern by Aaditya but his Party ruled BMC for majority of years!

Aaditya's concern is valid when he targets BMC run civic hospitals as they are in a pitiable condition with shortage of doctors & medicines but it is also a fact that his Party ruled BMC for a majority of years. Politics needs to be avoided when the health of citizens is concerned & it should be the joint responsibility of the govt in power as well as the opposition be it at the Centre or State level to work in unity for welfare of people.

The management of civic hospitals should be handed over to corporate groups for better efficiency & accountability. It could be on a percentage sharing with wards for both the rich as well as poor where treatment of those below certain income group are given free or treatment at subsidized rates!

S.N. Kabra

Protect the young from polarisation

Whether it is a teacher in Uttar Pradesh's W Muzaffarnagar district who is accused of asking students to beat a classmate because he was Muslim, a Jammu and Kashmir teacher who allegedly thrashed a student for writing Jai Shri Ram on the classroom blackboard. However, teachers are meant to be the vehicles for actualising the dreams of young minds. If some of them are instead becoming peddlers of the discord, they are not only failing at their job, but also undermining the toil of millions of unsung educators. To target young people by their religious identities is reprehensible, and there should be no tolerance for such behaviour.

What can be done? Administrative will is needed, oodles of it, to ensure that however politically inconvenient, the right thing is done, and the strongest possible action is taken against teachers who have tarnished the name. The State and society will have to regain the trust of the violated young people and assure them that what happened to them was an aberration, and belied the promises the country's Constitution make to its citizens. And political actors will need to recognise that the hate they spew, or encourage, has a very real cost, one that our youngest minds are being forced to pay.

Mohammad Taukir

Creativity Is a Process, Not an Event



Creativity, often hailed as the driving force behind innovation and progress, is a multifaceted process that goes beyond a single moment of inspiration. It is a journey of exploration, iteration, and refinement that transforms novel ideas into tangible realities. This article delves into the concept that creativity is a process, not an event, highlighting the stages involved and the importance of nurturing this process for meaningful and sustainable innovation.

The Stages of Creativity

Preparation: Creativity doesn't occur in a vacuum. It begins with immersing oneself in a subject, problem, or field of interest. This stage involves research, gathering information, and developing a solid foundation of knowledge. The more you know, the more connections you can make to spark innovative ideas.

Incubation: After the initial immersion, the mind needs time to process the information. This is the incubation stage, where ideas simmer beneath the surface. Taking a step back and allowing your mind to wander can lead to unexpected connections and insights.

Illumination: The "aha" moment, commonly associated with creativity, is just one part of the process. It's the result of the incubation period, where your mind makes unexpected connections and brings forth a new perspective or idea.

Evaluation: Once an idea surfaces, it's important to evaluate its feasibility, relevance, and potential impact. This involves critical thinking and a willingness to refine or discard ideas that might not hold up under scrutiny.

Elaboration: This is where the real work begins. Transforming an idea into a tangible form requires experimentation, iteration, and refining. It's a stage of trial and error, where setbacks are embraced as learning opportunities. Verification: Finally, the creative idea is put to the test. Whether it's a product, a piece of art, or a solution to a problem, the verification stage involves assessing how well the idea meets its intended goals and how it resonates with its intended audience.

Nurturing the Creative Process

Embrace Curiosity: Curiosity is the foundation of creativity. Cultivate a curious mindset by asking questions, exploring diverse topics, and seeking out new experiences. Provide Space: Creativity needs breathing room. Allow yourself time for reflection, brainstorming, and moments of relaxation to let your mind wander.

Seek Inspiration:

Surround yourself with diverse influences – books, art, nature, conversations – to expose yourself to different perspectives and spark new ideas.

Embrace Failure: Failure is an inevitable part of the creative process. Instead of seeing it as a setback, view it as a stepping stone toward improvement.

Collaboration: Collaborating with others brings fresh viewpoints and skills to the table, enriching the creative process and enhancing the quality of the final product.

Celebrate Small Wins: Acknowledge the incremental achievements along the way. Each step, no matter how small, contributes to the overall creative journey.

Conclusion

Creativity is a dynamic and ongoing process that requires patience, dedication, and an open mind. By understanding that it's not just a fleeting moment of brilliance, but a series of deliberate steps, we can foster a culture of innovation that values each stage of creativity. Whether you're an artist, entrepreneur, scientist, or simply someone seeking to bring new ideas to life, embracing the process of creativity will lead to richer, more meaningful outcomes that stand the test of time.

- Jaswinder Pal Sharma

Columnist

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

"Judega Bharat, Jeetega INDIA," says INDIA alliance

Almost 28 political parties and all top leaders arrived Mumbai to attend the two-day Opposition-led INDIA alliance meeting in Mumbai. The meet aims to establish the anti-BJP alliance. The agenda includes unveiling a logo, appointment of coordinators and finalising the formal structure and architecture of the grouping. The two-day meeting includes get-together of Opposition leaders followed by the formal sitting on Friday to take important decisions including one on seat-sharing.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra called it "selfish alliance" with the agenda of "maximum profit from corruption". He also drew a parallel with ISRO's recent Moon mission, comparing the ruling government with 'Chandrayaan-3', whose rover "is already working on development". "Whereas the Congress



party's missile will not take off as it does not have fuel."

A day before the INDIA alliance's third meeting in Mumbai, Maha Vikas Aghadi parties held a press conference where Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said that though parties in the combine have different ideologies, they are driven by the common goal of saving the country and Constitution. NCP chief

Sharad Pawar said the alliance will be an alternative forum that will bring change in the country.

"I am happy that the INDIA alliance is holding meetings consistently. People have faith that our alliance will succeed in defeating the BJP," says Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on INDIA alliance meeting.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi speaks ahead

of INDIA alliance meeting in Mumbai. "Those taking potshots at the INDIA alliance brought unemployment, inflation, and insulted women in the country," she said addressing media persons.

"This selfish alliance already has six contenders for the PM post so far. I believe people know that the country has achieved many milestones under PM Mo-

di's leadership, and their trust continues to be with him," says UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya on INDIA alliance in Mumbai.

CPI General Secretary D Raja said "The country is in great trouble and is facing multiple crises, and the country has to be liberated from the clutches of the BJP-RSS." Adding further, he said that the INDIA alliance is confident that the BJP government will be removed from power in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha election.

"We all want Rahul Gandhi to become PM" said Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam.

"People love Rahul Gandhi, they want to work under his leadership. But all of us will sit together and discuss on putting an end to the differences between some of the parties," says Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut.

The court noted Rahul's harassment made Pratyusha think about suicide



Rejecting the discharge plea of Rahul Raj Singh (33), who was booked for abetting the suicide of his 24-year-old girlfriend and actor Pratyusha Banerjee, the sessions court at Dindoshi recently noted that the statements of wit-

nesses in the case prima facie showed that the accused had made the life of the deceased a "living hell". The court noted that it was the harassment by the accused that made Pratyusha think about suicide.

Banerjee, known for the lead-

ing role in television serial Balika Vadhu, died by suicide in her rented flat in Goregaon (West) on April 1, 2016. Singh, who was booked for abetting her suicide was granted anticipatory bail by the Bombay High Court in July, 2016. In April 2018, the Bangur Nagar police filed a chargesheet in the case, prompting Singh to file a plea seeking discharge in the matter.

Singh claimed that while the couple was planning to get married in December, 2016, Banerjee was deeply disturbed due to constant interference by her mother in her affairs.

"We reiterate that formation of JPC is inevitable to know the truth in Adani matter."- Jayram Ramesh



The Congress today renewed their push for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to probe the fresh allegations against the Adani group published in a report by Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP). Senior Congress leader Jayram Ramesh, who is in Mumbai the third meeting of INDIA bloc, said, "We reiterate that formation of JPC is inevitable to know the truth in Adani matter." He added that party MP Rahul Gandhi will speak in detail about the exposé on Adani at a presser later in the evening.

After the ice-breaking session in Patna and a more business-like meeting in Bengaluru, the Oppo-

sition grouping INDIA is back at the discussion table, this time in Mumbai, with heads of 28 parties in attendance. The two-day meeting includes an informal get-together of Opposition leaders followed by the formal sitting on Friday to take important decisions including one on the seat-sharing.

Ahead of the meet Maha Vikas Aghadi parties held a press conference where Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said that though parties in the combine have different ideologies, they are driven by the common goal of saving the country and Constitution. NCP chief Sharad Pawar said the alliance will be an alternative forum that will bring change in the country.

"INDIA bloc has to take a 'collective decision'" - Sharad Pawar

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar said INDIA bloc has to take a "collective decision" on the inclusion of new members, and added that parties, like the Congress and Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, need to be consulted over this.

Pawar also did not seem enthusiastic about the prospect of the Akali Dal joining the grouping. Asked about the possibility of the Punjab-based party mak-

ing an entry into the alliance, he said there was no such proposal but it could be thought about in case the Akalis were inclined.

However, he said, "We can think about it but it is not easy because we have (Arvind) Kejriwal whose party (Aam Aadmi Party) is ruling Punjab. The Congress party has a different policy there. That is why we will not do anything that enhances our differences." Asked why Muslim parties, such as

Badruddin Ajmal's AIUDF, were not part of the opposition alliance and any possibility of their joining the front in the future, Pawar said, "They have spoken with me and are inclined to go with us. But I can't take a decision on this alone, we will have to speak with the Congress and Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena on this." "There will be a collective decision on that and till then accepting their overtures is difficult," he said.

Nation

Hyderabad based firm Money laundering case: ED attaches movable property worth Rs 90 lakh



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached movable property in the form of a fixed deposit worth Rs 90 lakh of Hyderabad-based Sree Venkateshwara Industries in a money laundering case, the agency said on Thursday. The property was attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002.

The federal agency initiated an investigation on the basis of a complaint filed by the Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Cyberabad at Medchal, Telangana.

As per the complaint, Sree Venkateshwara Industries was disposing of hazardous waste material without proper treatment in

violation of the prescribed rules and regulations which were stipulated by the TSPCB under various sections of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. ED investigation revealed that Sree Venkateshwara Industries and its partners did not comply with the statutory requirement of treatment of hazardous waste generated on their premises and did not send the same to the treatment, storage and disposal facility of the Hyderabad Waste Management Project. Instead, the ED said, the firm disposed of the hazardous waste by giving it to brick manufacturers. ANI

Chandrayaan-3: ISRO said, "RAMBHA-LP, a payload attached to the lander module Vikram, which is on the lunar surface"



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Thursday said that the RAMBHA-LP, a payload attached to the lander module Vikram, which is on the lunar surface, of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, has made the first-ever measurements of the near-

surface Lunar plasma environment over the south polar region. Taking to social media platform X, ISRO said, "Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere - Langmuir Probe (RAMBHA-LP) payload onboard Chandrayaan-3 Lander has made first-ever mea-

surements of the near-surface Lunar plasma environment over the south polar region."

"The initial assessment indicates that the plasma near the lunar surface is relatively sparse," ISRO wrote on X. Langmuir (after Irving Langmuir) probe is a device used for characterising a plasma. It features a 5 cm metallic spherical probe mounted on a 1-meter boom attached to the Chandrayaan-3 Lander's upper deck. The probe is deployed using a hold-release mechanism after the lander's lunar touchdown. The extended boom length ensures that the spherical probe operates within the undisturbed lunar plasma environment, isolated from the lander's body. ANI

Abrogation of Article 370 case: Centre says, "Central government is ready for elections any time now" to SC

The Central government on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it is ready for elections in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir any time now and the decision depends on the Election Commission of India and State Election Commission.

The court is hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for Centre, told a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud that the process of updation of the voters'

list in Jammu and Kashmir is underway and it will take a month or so to complete.

"Central government is ready for elections any time now," the Solicitor General told the Constitution bench hearing pleas against abrogation of Article 370. ANI

Airport postpones launch of international operations at T2



In a last minute decision, the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) announced on Wednesday evening that it has postponed the commencement of international operations at Terminal 2, which was originally scheduled for August 31.

Meanwhile, the Shivamogga airport is began its operations from today, with IndiGo airlines being the first flight to land at 11:05 am. Infrastructure development minister MB Patil, former Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa, Shivamogga MP BY Raghavendra, Shikaripura MLA BY Vijayendra and, BJP leader KS Eshwarappa among other public representatives from the Malnad

region took the inaugural flight from Bengaluru to Shivamogga.

In other news, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge launched the state government's Gruha Lakshmi Scheme in Mysuru on Wednesday. Speaking at the event, Gandhi said that his party's thinking is that the government should work for the welfare of poor people. The scheme, which was one of Congress's main poll promises during the Karnataka elections, proposes to give a monthly aid of Rs 2,000 each to about 1.1 crore female heads of families.

PM Modi slashed LPG prices succumbing to pressure from Karnataka model: D K Shivakumar

After the Central government slashed LPG prices in the country by Rs 200 per cylinder, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was adopting the Karnataka model after succumbing to pressure from the Congress.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday, Shivakumar recalled the remarks made by PM Modi that Karnataka would go bank-

rupt if guarantee schemes announced by the Congress were implemented. "If so, why are they providing Rs 1,500 in Madhya Pradesh? Why was the gas cylinder price reduced by Rs 200?" he said. "The surveys conducted by the BJP leadership revealed to them that the people are favouring Congress due to the schemes introduced by us. The Karnataka model is being adopted by the PM."

UP: A man gives 'triple talaq' to his wife a school teacher in front of students

A man landed at a private school here and pronounced "triple talaq" on his wife in front of her students while she was taking a class, police said on Thursday. They said a case has been registered against the woman's husband. The woman, in her complaint to the police, alleged that she was given "triple talaq" by her husband after he arrived at her school. The man, identified as Mohammad Sha-keel, had returned from Saudi Arabia. PTI

World

Pakistan: The Bar Council of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's condemn price hike of essential commodities



The Bar Council of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa condemned the hike in prices of all the essential commodities and staged a province-wide strike of lawyers on Thursday, reported Dawn. Earlier on Wednesday, the Pakhtunkhwa's Bar Council issued a joint statement where vice chairman of the council Zabadshah Khan and its executive committee chairman Syed Mubashir Shah demanded that the government forthwith abolish the free provision of electricity, natural gas petrol and free

air tickets provided to bureaucrats, judges, army officers, etc.

They stated that continuous price hikes especially of essential commodities had badly affected the general public and made their lives miserable. They stated that the legal fraternity would observe a complete boycott of all the courts on Thursday.

They directed all the district and tehsil bar associations to hold protest meetings in their respective barrooms. They also announced that the bar council would provide free legal as-

sistance to people in cases in the consumer's courts, according to Dawn. The cash-strapped nation's economic situation is getting worse day by day. On Wednesday, the State Bank of Pakistan reported that the dollar appreciated by Pakistani Rupee (PKR) 1.40 to reach PKR 304.45 in the inter-bank.

The devaluation of the Pakistani rupee has caused inflation and also compelled the central bank to raise the interest rates, Dawn reported. The Central bank is raising the interest rates to mitigate the repercussions of uncontrolled depreciation of the local currency. "The market is not in control of anyone. The steep devaluation will continue and even cross the limit given by the International Monetary Fund," a senior banker said, adding that nobody knows what is next for the exchange rate, reported Dawn. ANI

Afghanistan: US Ambassador said, "Ban on girl's education is one of the most unconscionable acts of Taliban"



Following the ban on women's education in Afghanistan, Beth Van Schaack, US ambassador-at-large for global criminal justice, said that the ban on girl's education is one of the most unconscionable acts of the current Afghan government, reported TOLO News. After having meetings with the Taliban, Van Schaack said that they are pushing to relax some of the restrictions.

"When it comes to girls' education, indeed this is one of the most unconscionable acts of

the Taliban, to deny young girls the ability to plan their own life paths, to operate in public, to have to contribute to the growth and vibrancy of that particular society. And so in all of our engagements there, we are constantly pushing to have some of those restrictions be relaxed," Van Schaack said.

She further said that the International Criminal Court has an open investigation and has mentioned that it is prioritizing crimes committed by the Taliban, according to TOLO News. ANI

China's new map controversy: Philippines rejects 'standard map' claiming entire South China Sea



The Philippines rejected China's 2023 edition of its "standard map," which includes the nine-dashed line (now a ten-dashed line) in their territory. China, on August 28, released the 2023 edition of its "standard map", incorporating the country's claims over the nine-dash line, thereby laying claim to a large part of the South China Sea. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei have all claims over the South China Sea areas.

An official release quoted the Philippines Foreign Ministry as saying, "This latest attempt to legitimize China's purported sovereignty and jurisdiction over Philippine features and maritime zones has no basis

under international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)." The 2016 Arbitral Award invalidated the nine-dashed line, the statement read, adding that "maritime areas of the South China Sea encompassed by the relevant part of the 'nine-dash line' are contrary to the Convention and without lawful effect to the extent that they exceed the geographic and substantive limits of China's maritime entitlements under the Convention".

The Philippines called on China to act responsibly and abide by its obligations under UNCLOS and the final and binding 2016 Arbitral Award.

UK gets new defence secretary as Grant Shapps replaces Ben Wallace

Conservative MP and former Energy Secretary Grant Shapps has been appointed as the new Defence Secretary of United Kingdom on Thursday. This comes after Ben Wallace resigned from his position earlier on Thursday.

"The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP @GrantShapps has been appointed Secretary of State for Defence @DefenceHQ," PM Rishi Sunak's office said on X (formerly Twitter). After being appointed at the position, Grant Shapps said that he is looking forward to work with the armed forces who protect the nation. "I'm honoured to be appointed

as Defence Secretary by @RishiSunak I'd like to pay tribute to the enormous contribution Ben Wallace has made to UK defence & global security over the last 7 years," he said on X.

Shapps added, "As I get to work at @DefenceHQI am looking forward to working with the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who defend our nation's security. And continuing the UK's support for Ukraine in their fight against Putin's barbaric invasion". After Shapps' appointment, MP Claire Coutinho was given the position of Energy Secretary and Net Zero. "Claire Coutinho MP @ClaireCoutinho has been

appointed Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero @energygovuk," Rishi Sunak's office informed on X. In his letter of resignation, on Wednesday, Wallace said that he stood with the army during thick and thin times. He recalled the incidents from the Wannacry ransomware attack, the 2017 terrorist attacks, the Salisbury Poisonings, Afghanistan, Sudan and Ukraine.

He further said that his support for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his government will continue. The resignation of Ben Wallace is the second resignation from Sunak cabinet in quick succession. ANI

WHO says, "Polio virus still remains Public Health Emergency of International Concern" as per report

The World Health Organization in a report said that the risk of the international spread of poliovirus still remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). There are no travel restrictions on Pakistan as of now. The risk of the international spread of Wild Poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in Pakistan,

Afghanistan and Africa is based on many factors.

"The ongoing transmission in eastern Afghanistan with cross border spread into Pakistan" marks one of the reasons for polio spread in Pakistan, according to the report.

Adding to this, the committee noted the large pool of unvaccinated 'zero dose' children in southern

Afghanistan constitutes an ongoing risk of WPV1 re-introduction into the southern region. "Sub-optimal immunization coverage was achieved during campaigns in southeastern Africa, in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, meaning there may be insufficient population immunity to halt transmission," the report added. ANI

Expression

Sharp Rise in Rape Cases



Farheen Wani

Columnist

The girl kid is a forerunner of today's happiness and success, but she is also delicate and prone to injury like a flower. They need to be properly fostered while being protected from malice and abuse. They are mothers who will raise the future generation, as well as a vital component in the development of tomorrow.

The entire scenario again raises some important issues. Do we not impart societal awareness of good and wrong to our citizens? Do our boys develop into young princes who don't learn to respect women and treat them as equal human beings deserving of respect and consideration rather than as chattel and sex objects?

People need to have a completely new perspective on female children. A girl who experiences sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of a physical or mental kind throughout infancy grows up in terror and eventually develops permanent scars. She endures terrible suffering not just at the hands of the offenders but also as a result of society's uncaring attitude. Until we grasp this and pass it on to the following generation.

Female children's human rights are infringed in practice, even when they are protected on paper. We must put a stop to the damage and offenses linked with immoral trafficking, which has evolved into an organized criminal. Rape cases in India are increasing year after year, and it has recently been determined that rape against children is also on the rise.

During the previous few months, there has been a troubling trend in criminality cases involving children and women. Offenses are being reported on social media, which is increasing public worry. Surprisingly, many child abusers are family members, teachers, or neighbors.

The humbleness that survived back then had a divine glare within that diverged every spirit and originated the elegance. How come we overlook that it is likewise hailed 'Pir Vaer'-a valley of Pirs (or saints)? The vision of Sufism that is currently amused globally retained its heritage in our valley.

If we look at our current strategy, all we find is drug addiction, scams, corruption, rebellion, robbery, molestations, humility, vulgarity, and so on. We have lost sight of the essence of Kashmiriyat, which is to be natural, sensitive, and compassionate. Marriages no longer endure forever, divorce is widespread, and extravagant weddings are the norm. Drug addiction and molestation, as well as rape, are at the top of the list.

There are many causes to all of this,

including unemployment, failures, and abuses, but one can never justify dealing with the harsh side of life with lethal methods. Life isn't supposed to be a comfortable bed, therefore when we hit rock bottom, we should pick ourselves up with practical measures. We are more preoccupied with gathering than with.

Although the literacy rate is improving, significant scams and degeneration are already prevalent. The more familiar the public is, the more likely they are to commit misconduct. Well, I'm not generalizing the fortes, but in many situations, we see damage caused by people in awning positions.

We overlook incorrectly used equipment as a result of technology. What was created to make people's life easier is now used to justify why they are trapped in harsh conditions. The mobile phone is an asset, but the overuse of mobile phones by children and teens is having an uncontrollable effect.

More appropriately, the right use of mobile phones at the right time in the right proportion is what it was meant to be. Meanwhile, the non-finishing queue of social media is so extensive that children hardly find focus when left without it.

Molestations and rapes have also become more common, and that is a worrisome indicator for where we are heading. Many times, I realize I'm watching a TV serial crime patrol, and I receive a sensation that we are about catching another episode where cases of rape are leading to a new plot.

Crimes that include rape of juveniles, participation by youngsters in stabbings as well as additional crimes, violence against women, harassment, eve teasing, and even murders

Kathua Rape Case', that involves an eight-year-old girl was brutally gang-raped by eight different adults at a Kathua temple. She was allegedly assaulted and held hostage in the temple for days.

Rape is a heinous crime, and its effect of ravishment not only physically but also psychologically damages the victim. Ravishment may be committed for an array of intentions, including lust, enmity, anger, revenge, and more.

But what is the psychology of the individual committing rape extremely when he commits rape on minors?

A 46-year-old man for allegedly raping his 15-year-old relative in Srinagar. A man raped a minor girl in Srinagar. The accused has been identified as a 22-year-old. "The accused is a close relative of the victim.

An Imaan has been arrested for committing unnatural sex offenses with a nine-year-old child.

Rapists commit rape on minor girls, preferably those they know, because they have convenient access to such girls, such minor girls have trust in such people they know, and such family members would not doubt and leave the minor girl alone with such person known to them, minor girls would not resist or would not resist as strongly as a

major would, minor girls would not be aware she had been raped, it is easy to threaten or manipulate such minor girls and sometimes the family members would also not prefer filing a complaint of rape of a minor girl by a known person or by a relative due to the fear of losing their social status in the society. The psychology of the criminal in raping a minor girl is that he can show power to her with fewer efforts and the chances of his exposure would be less.

In case of the preventative measures approach, preventive measures such as educating minors about good and bad touch; encouraging minors' confidence to inform them if any incident of sexual assault occurs to them; increasing public awareness about rape on minors and the severity of the punishment for such crimes to create a deterrent effect among people;

The survey should be made as to in which areas, whether rural or urban, the crime of rape on minors is more prominent and to target the awareness programs appropriately towards those areas; to avoid the minors wandering alone in the streets, especially at night and to always accompany the minor girls when they go out; the parents of the minors should always keep a check on the behavior of their neighbors or the relatives towards their child and if they have any suspicion then they should talk directly to that person regarding it and should also warn their child and such other measures should be taken to prevent the crime of rape on minors.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines child abuse as the involvement of a child in sexual activity that they do not fully comprehend, are unable to give informed consent to, are not developmentally prepared for and cannot consent to, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society CSA is demonstrated by such activity between a child and an adult or another child who, due to age or development, is in a position of responsibility, trust, or control over the child. The conduct is intended to gratify or satisfy the perpetrator's wants.

Child sexual abuse is classified into two types: (a) physical contact and (b) non-physical contact. Touching, grabbing, compelled sexual activity, attempted coercion, and rape are all examples of physical contact. Showing adolescents pornography, encouraging them to pose naked, sharing nude images, online abuse, and making nasty remarks are all examples of non-physical interaction.

Warning Signs

"If a youngster is abused, you will observe changes in emotion and behavior." "The child may appear terrified, anxious, or depressed." They may become quieter or more distant, cry for no apparent reason, or wet the bed despite being previously toilet trained."

Irritability, nightmares, losing interest in playing, and avoiding specific places or individuals are further warning signals. There could be an abrupt weight loss or gain, or a drop in academic performance."

Nude photographs, online abuse, and

making crude remarks are all examples of inappropriate behavior.

Good & bad touch

"Among the many ways to inform a child against sexual abuse and bad touch, the initial phase is to help them get acquainted with their body parts and biological names." They would have acquired greater skills in communicating their experiences with their parents or trusted guardians if they had done so. We need to teach kids that they own their bodies and that no one is authorized to touch them. This permits them to keep their body parts private. This would teach kids that certain areas of their body should not be seen, handled, or photographed by others.

When you start talking to children about their bodies from an early age, helping them learn the names of their private and non-private parts, they find it easier to have an open and candid conversation regarding anything or anyone that may be trying to cross their physical boundaries. Discussing body anatomies or processes during bath time may be a good way to help children learn.

As a parent or guardian, we must make sure that your child is not keeping any secrets from you. Try and be your child's best friend as a parent, and let them know that you will protect them at any cost and that they can have total confidence in you while discussing their issues. In most cases, children fear that their parents might not believe them in incidents of sexual abuse, which is why they fail to express their problems and become silent victims of years of abuse.

For example, getting treated by a doctor, or being examined by a parent in terms of their health. Teach a child how to react and what to say when a stranger or even a close relative suggests or performs sexually or abusively towards them. They should be taught to scream 'NO' or run away to a safe person immediately in such cases. Children should be able to ask for help and should be listened to in such cases.

Lastly, to save your child and yourself from the pain and woes of child sexual abuse, please observe them around other people or adults. The danger posed by strangers isn't the only thing your child should be alert against. Sometimes, the worst predators can be the ones you trust the most and are in close relation to you and your child. If a child does not want to meet or hug a certain person, don't force them. Let them take control of their personal space and let them trust you in their difficult times.

These are some ways to get you and your child on the right track regarding sexual and physical safety and create a healthier environment for your child to grow up in.

Entertainment



Film-maker Bejoy Nambiar said, "He he grew up watching Mani Ratnam's films and got influenced from it"

Filmmaker Bejoy Nambiar on Thursday said he grew up watching Mani Ratnam's films and the director has had a significant influence on him. Best known for "Shaitan" and "David", Nambiar said he has assisted Ratnam on multiple projects, including "Ponniyin Selvan". "I'm definitely influenced by his style and storytelling. I try not to get too influenced and incorporate his things (in my films). But that's my school and I've learnt from him, so somehow subconsciously it finds its way, it's great. It's my homage to him," the Kochi-born filmmaker told reporters here at the press conference of OTT series, "Kaala". PTI

'Bad Religion' controversy: BTS star RM says, "I am not going to apologise"

Korean singer RM of K-pop band BTS has ruled out an apology after a section of social media users accused him of perpetuating Islamophobia when he shared American musician Frank Ocean's controversial song "Bad Religion" on Instagram. RM, whose real name is Kim Nam-joon, had kicked up a storm when he shared the video of Ocean's 2012 song on his Instagram Stories. The singer responded to the accusations during a livestream session on fan community platform Weverse. PTI



Tollywood star Actress Nayanthara makes official debut on social media platform ahead of film 'Jawan' release

Actor Nayanthara on Thursday official made her debut on social media platform Instagram, ahead of the release of her pan-India movie "Jawan". In her first post on Instagram, Nayanthara shared a video of her with her two children, grooving to the "Alappara Theme" song from superstar Rajinikanth's recently-released film "Jailer". The actor gave a caption to the video in Tamil, "Naan vandhutaen nu sollu... (Say that I have come)." Nayanthara's first post amassed over 4 lakh likes in three hours. In her bio, she has written, "Love Strength Peace." In the follow-up post, the actor shared the official Hindi trailer of "Jawan", in which she stars alongside superstar Shah Rukh Khan. PTI