



Larsen & Toubro bags contractor for corridor to connect Coastal



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SUDHIR CHAUDHARY BOOKED FOR PROMOTING ENMITY BETWEEN RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Sudhir Chaudhary is accused in the case for spreading communal disharmony. After the show was aired on the channel on September 11, the Karnataka government had threatened legal action against the anchor for purposely spreading fabrication on government schemes. The schemes offered subsidies for members of the minority community to buy commercial vehicles. An advertisement published in a newspaper about the scheme had also

triggered a row as BJP MPs alleged that the scheme highlighted 'minority appeasement' under Congress rule. The Karnataka police have registered an FIR against anchor Sudhir Chaudhary for "conspiring to disrupt communal harmony" in a show hosted by him on the Aaj Tak news channel during which he talked about the state government's commercial vehicle subsidy scheme.

On its part, the government maintained the scheme has been in existence for sev-

eral years under different development corporations meant for the welfare of various communities. Similar schemes existed for other groups too, the government said, adding that the subsidy scheme for minorities existed even under the Bharatiya Janata Party rule.

In the show, Chaudhary had allegedly claimed subsidies were being provided only for minorities in Karnataka and not for Hindus, the FIR said. "The show

claimed that the scheme meted injustice to poor Hindus in the state" and "conspired to disturb communal harmony in the state," according to the FIR.

Chaudhary was booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for promoting enmity between groups by the Sheshadripuram police in Bengaluru, based on a complaint filed by an official of the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation.

Permanency in one relationship is always at stake

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

A married woman filed for divorce and was staying separate from her husband for quite a long time. The divorce was not settled and meanwhile she fell in love with another man. However, after starting to reside separately from her husband, the woman had a physical relationship with another man and gave birth to a baby boy on July 10, 2020, before her divorce was finalised. However, at the time of her delivery, it was her husband who took her to a private hospital in CBD Belapur in Navi Mumbai and while recording their details gave his own name as the father of the woman's child.

The hospital record resulted in the issuance of a birth certificate

of the child with the name of her husband as his biological father. After receipt of the birth certificate, the woman in December 2021 approached the NMMC and sought correction in the birth certificate of her son and sought her husband's name replaced by the name of the child's biological father.

The woman moved the judicial magistrate court in CBD Belapur after the civic body informed her that there was no legal provision for changing or correcting a birth certificate. She moved to the high court after the magistrate court rejected her plea on April 23 this year. She also filed an affidavit from the biological father of the child, supporting her.

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Editoritis

Permanency in one relationship is always at stake

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a single parent or an unwed mother applies for a birth certificate the only requirement should be that he or she should furnish an affidavit

There are many couples living independently these days after the separation, because divorce is a long process. There are many marriages broken because the couple got a fall back option or lost interest in the spouse

Our society is not as rigid as it was, now people are less judgemental and more liberal. Breaking marriages and making another relationship is very common in India.

Before the high court, her counsel, Dr Uday Warunjikar pointed out the Supreme Court ruling of 2015 holding that whenever a single parent or an unwed mother applies for a birth certificate the only requirement should be that he or she should furnish an affidavit to that effect and the corrected birth certificate must then be issued.

The division bench of justice Gautam Patel and justice Kamal Khata said the civic body could not deny issuing a corrected birth certificate, as the apex court judgement was binding on all and directed it to replace the name of the woman's ex-husband by the name of the biological father of her son. The court has asked the civic body to replace the name of the woman's ex-husband with that of the woman's lover. The woman had approached the court after the civic body refused to make the change. In her petition, the woman stated that she had married a man in March 2017 and happily lived with her husband till June 2018, when cracks appeared in their relationship and soon the spouses started residing separately. They eventually decided to go for divorce by mutual consent and got a divorce decree on February 8, 2021.

There are many couples living independently these days after the separation, because divorce is a long process. There are many marriages broken because the couple got a fall back option or lost interest in the spouse. Our society is not as rigid as it was, now people are less judgemental and more liberal. Breaking marriages and making another relationship is very common in India. This change has its merits and side effects too.

Women are financially independent and they are going out of their way to choose their lifestyle. They are no more stuck to the norms. In the above case the woman had all the liberties to conceive and deliver a child out of wedlock and the husband was also kind enough to escort his wife to hospital and help her deliver the baby, not only that he did not object to the name change of the child. In most of the divorce cases, once a couple makes their mind to separate, they are getting into another relationship. It is no longer a time taking process.

On the other hand, many suffer withdrawal symptoms, go into depression and losses. The divorce brings uncertainty to their life. Married people are on average happier than



single people and much happier than divorced people. When you choose a life partner, you're choosing a lot of things, including your parenting partner and someone who will deeply influence your children, your habits, your lifestyle and your travel companion. Most marriages break on compatibility issues. In other words, people end up picking from whatever pool of options they have, no matter how poorly matched they might be to those candidates. The obvious conclusion to draw here is that outside of serious socialites, everyone looking for a life partner should be doing a lot of online dating, speed dating, and other systems created to broaden the candidate pool in an intelligent way. So, making choices becomes easy and when choices are available relation is always at stake.

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Bandra fair is a week-long celebration

- Jubel D'Cruz
Columnist

Every year in September, the feast of 'Our Lady of the Mount' is celebrated on a large scale on the Sunday following September 8, the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is the Mother of Jesus Christ. It is a week-long celebration that attracts over eight lakhs people from all over Mumbai and its suburbs. The Bandra Fair is estimated to be around 500 years old. The fair started when a statue of Mother Mary was found floating in the Arabian Sea between 1700 A.D. and 1760 A.D., which according to a legend, a fisherman had dreamt about it a few years earlier. Although the current church edifice is just 150 years old, the history behind the current statue of Our Lady of Mount goes back to the 16th century A.D. when Jesuit priests from Portugal brought the statue to Bandra and constructed the Mount Mary's church Basilica there.

In 1700 A.D., Arab pirates disfigured the statue by cutting off her right hand. In 1760 A.D., the Mount Mary's church Basilica was rebuilt and the statue was substituted with a statue of Our Lady of Navigators from the nearby St. Andrew's church in Bandra. The original statue of Our Lady of Mount was renovated with a child in her arms and is venerated at the fair ever since. The shrine attracts people of all faiths and communities all throughout the year.



During the entire Bandra fair week, all roads and houses in Bandra (West) are decorated with colourful bunting. Many residents even put up stalls selling religious items, black roasted grams and various kinds of Goan, East-Indian and Mangalorean sweets. The term, Bandra fair refers to the celebrations that are connected

with the annual feast of 'Our Lady of the Mount' on September 8, known as the 'Feast of the Nativity (birth) of the Blessed Virgin Mary'.

It becomes an important historical event, because with the birth of Mary, comes 'the dawn of our salvation', since Mary's son, Jesus Christ, would be the Saviour of the world. This had already been predicated by many prophets of the Old Testament. If Mary had not consented to the Heavenly Father to be the Mother of Jesus Christ to bear Him in her womb, then there would have been no redemption and no salvation for mankind. Mary's answer of saying 'yes' to the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation ensured mankind's deliverance from sin. We do not know the exact date when Mother Mary was born and so September 8th has been fixed by tradition to be her birthday. This year, the fair will be celebrated from Sunday September 10 till Sunday September 17.

Letters to the Editor

BMC gives nod to construct Bhandup east-west connecting corridor

That sounds like some great news for motorists, with the BMC approving the proposal for the construction of a bridge connecting Bhandup East & West. One only hopes however, that they have a time frame for completing this project, taking into consideration several issues like obstructions along the way, or else there's bound to be delay and cost escalation. While we are at it, the concerned authorities must explore the possibility of operating more metro routes connecting the eastern & western suburbs on the lines of the Ghatkopar-Andheri route which is perhaps the best thing to have happened. This route has come as a big blessing to the public. They need to get their planning right.

Melville X. D'Souza

BJP's single minded attitude!

The central government has convened a special session of Parlia-

ment from September 18. There will be a change in the uniform of the parliamentary staff from this special session. The new uniform consists of a lotus print shirt and khaki pant. It is natural for the opponents to smell that this is a trick of propaganda by both BJP and RSS. For this reason, the objection has been taken by senior leaders of the Congress party Manikkam Tagore and Rashid Alvi pertaining the uniforms. Both leaders are correct in raising the objection. BJP's move is likely to create a new controversy. It is a different part that the BJP's majority and the single-minded attitude of its senior leaders will win over the opposition. However, the fact remains that the BJP has been habitual for party propaganda even in parliamentary affairs!

Sudhir Kangutkar

24 Grand Slam tiltes & counting is what makes Djokovic the greatest tennis player of all time in the history of the game!

24 Grand Slam tiltes & still counting is great going for Novak Djokovic who is the greatest tennis player of all time in the history of tennis. The 36-Year-Old Serbian is the first man to win three Grand Slam events in the same season four times which is no mean achievement as he regains World No.1 in style by beating Medvedev in straight sets

to win his 4th US Open Title. He is perhaps the undisputed leader in world tennis & the greatest sportsmen the world has ever witnessed. Novak Djokovic may be at the fag end of his career but looks extremely fit to add a few more Grand Slams to his illustrious career. A Champion sportsmen & a great human being is what makes the world admire him for not just his tennis exploits but also his humility. Well done Novak Djokovic!

S.N.Kabra

Nuh violence, real culprit arrested

Finally, cow vigilante Monu Manesar, regional leader in the Bajrang Dal, which is the VHP's youth wing was arrested on September 12, by special investigation officers of the Haryana Police probing the communal violence in Nuh. He is the one who had put an instigating video on July 28, ahead of the yatra which caused the violence, in which many persons died and many others injured badly, innocent people became homeless, even bulldozer was used to raze the houses too, while his role in instigating the violence is acknowledged. Apex court should trangle him to die and leave a lesson for others so that others could not dare to commit analogous crimes and security and peace could be restored.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Indian Railway Is in Bad Condition

Despite efforts and rigor, there is no improvement in railway system. Especially the audacity shown by the people who travel daily in the reserved bogies of passenger trains is quite painful. The government will have to ponder about this. Entry of daily commuters in long distance trains will have to be stopped. When passengers want to travel comfortably after spending huge amounts of money, these people spoil their peace. It is claimed that there has been a lot of improvement in the Railways during Modi's rule, but such claims fall flat in the trains passing through Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. After all, why doesn't the government appoint security forces and railway employees to the trains, so that people who travel this way can be controlled. Those who travel with family have to face more difficulties.

N Mateeni

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(The views expressed are authors' own)

Larsen & Toubro bags contractor for corridor to connect Coastal Road with Eastern Freeway

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has given a go-ahead to the construction of a 9.23-km-long corridor connecting Coastal Road with Eastern Freeway. An underground tunnel measuring 6.51 km will be part of the corridor. Larsen & Toubro has been finalised as the contractor to complete the project at a cost of ₹77,65,09,66,000. The decision was taken at a meeting of MMRDA's executive committee headed by chief secretary Manoj Saunik on September 12. The corridor will significantly cut down the travel time between Orange Gate on the Freeway and Marine Drive and in turn will connect the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link to Coastal Road and the Freeway, officials said.



Sanjay Mukherjee, metropolitan commissioner, MMRDA, said, "In the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, MMRDA is spearheading a range of ambitious projects aimed at enhancing the region's transportation infrastructure and fostering overall development. These projects are meticulously planned to complement one another, effectively ad-

ressing traffic congestion. This strategic approach ensures that citizens have multiple transportation options within the region."

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has approved the construction of a 9.23-km-long corridor connecting Coastal Road with Eastern Freeway. Larsen & Toubro has been chosen as the

contractor for the project, which is estimated to cost ₹77.65 billion (\$1.05 billion). The corridor will reduce travel time between Orange Gate and Marine Drive and connect the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link to Coastal Road and the Freeway. The project includes a 6.51-km underground tunnel and other supplementary works.

MMRDA has constructed the

Freeway, connecting Mankhurd to Chembur junction. a MMRDA official said "This route facilitates faster transportation to south Mumbai. However, there is frequent traffic congestion at Orange Gate, which impacts the vehicular movement to Mumbai Port Trust. As a result, it becomes a challenge to manage the traffic at the Main Post Office square on P'Dimello Marg near Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation is constructing Coastal Road on the west coast. But Mumbai still lacks an effective road-based transit system connecting the east and west coasts. To overcome this, MMRDA has planned to construct a 9.23-km-long corridor linking Orange Gate to Coastal Road at Marine Drive."

Maratha reservation should not compromise OBC reservation – Bhujbal



Stating that reservation to Marathas should be given without compromising the OBC reservation, state Food and Civil Supply Minister and senior OBC leader Chhagan Bhujbal Wednesday said that the BJP-led central government can solve the issue by increasing the reservation limit.

Speaking at Loksatta's Lok

Samvad programme, the minister also said that he remains firm on his demand for a caste-based census on the lines of Bihar. "No one is against the reservation for Marathas. But it should be given without compromising OBC reservation. The Act giving reservation to Marathas was not upheld in the Supreme Court. Should we walk that path again? In that case

how should reservation be given to Marathas?" asked the minister, who belongs to the Ajit Pawar-led NCP.

"The Bombay High court had approved the Maratha reservation which means it is possible to give reservation to Marathas. If the apex court did not uphold it, that means there are certain lacunae. Those should be studied and can be solved," he said. Bhujbal added that the second option could be that since the central government has already increased the 50 per cent quota limit by giving 10 per cent reservation to economically backward classes, it can further increase it by 10-12 per cent which can be given to Marathas. The OBC leader clarified that he opposes giving share within OBC reservation to Marathas.

"Even if OBCs have 30% reservation, it has share of many other castes and original OBCs get barely 17% reservation. Including Marathas in it would mean that neither the smallest castes within the OBCs nor the Marathas will get reservation benefits," he said.

Maratha Kranti Morcha have called a bandh and Manoj Jarange Patil ends hunger strike

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde reached Jalna protest site and offered orange juice to Maratha activist Manoj Jarange Patil, ending the hunger strike which started on August 29.

Meanwhile, in Pune, leaders of the Maratha Kranti Morcha have called a bandh in selected areas of Aundh, Baner, Pashan, Bopodi, Sutarwadik, Mhalunge, Someshwar Wadi and Sus today. They have planned a protest at Rajmata Chowk in Aundh and a token hunger strike at Belewadi Phata. While the state government promised to meet Patil's demands, the

leaders urge that the notification being drafted by the government should stand the scrutiny of courts.

In other news, all 54 Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the Shiv Sena, from both factions led by Uddhav Thackeray and Shinde, will gather at the central hall of the Maharashtra Vidhan Bhavan today for the hearing of disqualification petitions filed against them. Opposition parties, including Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and NCP, have been raising suspicion that the decision will be delayed by Narwekar in order to safeguard Shinde-led Sena MLAs.

Popular eatery 'Bademiya' outlets does not have valid food licence: FDA

Three outlets of popular eatery 'Bademiya', including the one in Colaba in south Mumbai, were checked by the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which found these did not have a valid food licence, an official said on Thursday. An FDA release said the checks were carried out on Wednesday. "During the check, officials found the establishment does not have a valid food licence, which is required as per The Food Safety and Standards Act," the release said. The FDA has collected 10 samples of prepared food and raw material used in the preparations and these have been sent for quality tests, it added. "Further action will be taken based on the finding in the laboratory examination. As the eatery was operational without a proper food licence and errors were found, the FDA has directed the establishment to shut operations till they get a valid food licence and rectify the errors," the FDA release informed. PTI

Nation

Nipah Virus: Kerala gets 'Antiviral' against the new virus, says 'state govt'



needs to be exercised by people as they go about their daily activities. "There is no need for any apprehension. We can all together deal with the issue with caution," she said in a statement in the Assembly. The brain-damaging virus has killed two people and infected three others in Kozhikode district. On Wednesday, a 24-year old health worker became Kerala's fifth confirmed Nipah case since its recent outbreak.

Of the three infected persons under treatment, the condition of a nine-year-old boy continues to remain critical. Following the outbreak, all educational institutions in Kozhikode district were closed on Thursday and Friday. Kozhikode District Collector A Geetha announced this in a Facebook post and said educational institutions can arrange online classes on the two days for students. However, there will be no change in university exams schedule, she added. **PTI**

The Kerala government on Thursday said the monoclonal antibody required for treatment of those infected by the Nipah virus has arrived in the state. State Health Minister Veena George said a meeting was held between the Principal Secretary of the Health Department and the Union Health Ministry earlier in the day and now the monoclonal antibody has arrived. She told reporters that stability of

the medicine, which is not clinically proven yet but is the only available antiviral treatment for Nipah virus infection, was discussed with a central expert committee. "Further steps or course of action would be decided by the expert committee," she said.

Earlier in the day, in the state Assembly, the Minister said there was no need to be apprehensive about the Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode district, but caution

Dengue cases take a surge in Bihar, health dept takes precautionary steps



Amid dengue outbreak in Bihar's capital Patna, the health department has set up separate wards for the patients in hospitals. The cases of viral fever along with dengue are increasing day by day in the city.

District Program Manager of the district health committee, Dr Vivek Singh said, "In monsoon season dengue cases usually increase. A special ward has been set up in all medical universities and local hospitals for dengue patients in Patna. There is no need to panic. Usually, patients recover in 2-3 days after beginning the treatment." "A total of 366 people are suffering from dengue in Patna, 70 new cases of dengue have come yesterday. Cases of dengue usually occur in

September, October and November. Complete preparations have been made by the department in view of the surge in dengue cases. 10 beds have been kept for the patients infected with dengue in Sadar Hospital", he added.

According to Dr Sanjay Kumar, Nodal Officer of Dengue Ward in Nalanda Medical College and Hospital (NMCH), 20 beds have been made available in the hospital for patients infected by dengue. There are 10 beds for men and 10 for women patients. About 20-25 people have recovered and currently, 7 people are undergoing treatment. Dengue (break-bone fever) is a viral infection that spreads from mosquitoes to people. **ANI**

Assam Child Marriages: 15 'kazis' held for conducting marriages by preparing fake documents

Continuing its efforts to eradicate Child marriages in Assam, police has arrested 15 "fake Kazis" from Hailakandi district for allegedly conducting child marriages by preparing fake documents, a senior official said on Thursday. According to the police, an operation was launched led by the Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime), following which 15 fake Kazis were arrested from various parts of the district on Wednesday.

A senior police official said, six persons have been arrested under Lala police station, two

each from Hailakandi, Ramnathpur, Algapur police station areas, and one each from Katlichera, Panchgram and Bilaipur police station areas.

Samir Baruah, Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) of Hailakandi district, told ANI over the phone that police have seized several marriage registers from the accused. "The arrested persons are fake Kazis, and they illegally conducted marriages, including minors. In one register, we found that one of the arrested persons had illegally conducted 150-200 marriages in the district. They also conducted child

marriages. Our investigation is on," Baruah said. The arrested persons were identified as Azir Uddin Laskar, Mufti Abul Husain, Asadullah Laskar, Kausar Ahmed, Abdul Jalil Laskar, Sorif Uddin Barbuya, Nurul Hoque Laskar, Abdus Asalam Mazumdar, Ubeidulla Choudhary, Abu Bakhar Barbhuiya, Aftab Uddin Laskar, Moin Uddin Chowdhury, Mujakir Hussain Mazumdar, Sahidul Haque, and Foiz Uddin Laskar. The police official further said that a case has been registered and various documents have also been seized during the operation. **ANI**

Assam CM says, "Willing to accept any punishment if there is evidence of wife receiving money from Centre" over allegations of money taken from centre

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said he was willing to accept any punishment, including retirement from public life, if there is any evidence that his wife has received or claimed any amount from the government of India and threatened to move court

against Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi. "I want to emphasise again that neither my wife, nor the company she is associated with, has received or claimed any amount from the government of India. If anyone can provide evidence, I am willing to accept any punishment including retirement from public

life," the chief minister wrote on 'X' in reply to a post by the Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi. Gogoi and Sarma have been locked in a war of words on 'X' since Wednesday on the issue of the chief minister's wife's company allegedly being given a credit subsidy of Rs 10 crore. **PTI**

'Hindi unites' remark: TN minister Udhayanidhi Stalin slams Union HM Amit Shah, says "absurd" claim

Slamming Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his remark that "Hindi unites", Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Thursday said it is "absurd" to claim that Hindi, spoken in just four to five states, unites the entire Indian union. Udhayanidhi said the union minister has as usual shown his love for Hindi by commenting that only "Hindi unites people and empowers regional languages." "This view is only an alternative form of a clamour for Hindi; that if it is learnt, a person can develop," the

Minister said in Tamil on social media platform X. "In Tamil Nadu it is Tamil, and Malayalam is the language in neighbouring Kerala. How is Hindi uniting these two states? How it is empowering?" he asked. Further, he said: "It is absurd to say that Hindi, spoken in four to five states, is uniting the whole of the Indian Union." Amit Shah should stop relegating non-Hindi languages to the status of provincial languages and insulting them, Udhayanidhi said in Tamil on X and added the hashtag #StopHindiImposition. **PTI**

World

Afghanistan: China appoints new ambassador to the Taliban led govt



The newly appointed Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan, Zhao Xing, has presented his credentials to the Taliban-appointed acting PM Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund in Kabul, TOLONews reported. The Taliban-appointed acting Foreign Minister of Af-

ghanistan, Amir Khan Muttaqi, called the nomination of Zhao Xing "a significant step with a significant message,"

According to the Al Jazeera, Afghan officials said the new envoy's arrival is a sign for other nations to come forward and establish relations with the

Taliban-led government. "This is the normal rotation of China's ambassador to Afghanistan, and is intended to continue advancing dialogue and cooperation between China and Afghanistan," China's foreign ministry said in a statement. "China's policy towards Afghanistan is clear and consistent," as reported by Al Jazeera. No foreign government has formally acknowledged the Taliban, and Beijing made no mention of Wednesday's appointment as a possible first step towards such recognition.

The Afghanistan's seat at the UN is still held by the former Western-backed administration of former President Ashraf Ghani, and certain Taliban commanders are still subject to sanctions. ANI

Indian student death case: US govt assures prompt investigation and action after the outrage



The Biden administration has assured the Indian government of a quick investigation into the death of Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula in Seattle after being struck by a speeding police patrol car and bringing to justice the police officers who were responsible for it. The US government swung into action after India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, strongly raised the issue

at the highest level in Washington and sought prompt action on the killing of Kandula, and the highly insensitive behaviour of the police officer in Seattle in Washington state. Kandula was killed in January after she was struck by a police vehicle driven by Officer Kevin Dave. He was driving 74 mph (more than 119 kmph) on the way to a report of an overdose, the Seattle Times newspaper reported on Monday. PTI

IMF conducts first review of its USD 2.9 billion package for Sri Lanka



The IMF on Thursday started conducting the first review of its USD 2.9 billion bailout package for crisis-hit Sri Lanka during which it will have to convince the global lender that it has fulfilled conditions set by it under the programme to revive the island nation's economy. Sri Lanka was hit by its worst economic crisis in history when the country's foreign exchange reserves fell to a critical low and the public came out on the streets to protest the shortage of fuel, fertilisers and essential commodities. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) review team, which arrived here on Wednesday, would remain in the country till September 27, officials said. The

first review of the IMF's bailout package has got underway, State Minister of Finance Shehan Semasinghe said.

"We are collaborating closely with the IMF team throughout this process to overcome the challenges ahead of us," Semasinghe posted on platform X. In March, the IMF extended its first tranche of the USD 2.9 billion bailout. Semasinghe said the second tranche should be made available at the end of the review. Sri Lanka approached the IMF for its 16th facility, having declared bankruptcy in April 2022. The island nation announced its first-ever sovereign default since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. PTI

US: American entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy says, "He would remove 75 percent of federal workforce if elected as President"

Indian American-Republican presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy has said he would fire more than 75 per cent of the federal workforce and shutter several major agencies like the FBI if he wins the 2024 elections, as he continued to put forward strident proposals that have helped him stand out in the crowded primary field. In an interview with American news website Axios, Ramaswamy said that his targets would be the Department of Education, the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the (Internal Revenue Ser-



vice) IRS, and the Commerce Department. "We would start on day one, and we want a 50 per

cent reduction by the end of year one," he was quoted as saying. PTI

US: Court declares DACA illegal in terms of its federal policy, gives other notification

A federal judge in Houston has declared illegal a federal policy that prevents the deportation of hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants, including hundreds of Indians, brought to the US as children, but noted that the government can continue to process



renewals of its current recipients. The major setback to the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programme

or DACA came from a ruling from US District Court Judge Andrew Hanen on Wednesday. "The Court, as it did before, hereby stays the effective date of the vacatur as to all DACA recipients who received their initial DACA status prior to July 16, 2021," the judge wrote. PTI

Expression

Paryushan Parv: A Spiritual Path of Peace and non-violence



Lalit Garg

Columnist

Everyone wants to live a life which is full of peace and happiness, but they can't live this type of life. That is why in the Jain tradition, the spiritual festival Paryushan is celebrated, which will be held this year from September 11 to 18, 2023. In these eight days of Paryushan Mahaparv, all Jain devotees will make efforts to make the body and mind spiritual. Paryushan Parva has a great importance in the lives of Jains. It's a period in which every Jain tries to purify and elevate his soul. For this purpose, a shravak must perform the following five duties: Amari Pravartan (Total non-violence), Sadharmic Bhakti (helping people of same faith), Kshamapan (asking for forgiveness), Atham Tap (fasting for three days) and Chaitya Pari Paati (Visiting local Jain temples). In eight days; a positive environment will be created, which will purify our life. From this point of view, this festival is a festival of spirituality as well as upliftment of life.

Paryushan Mahaparva is a medium to worship the inner soul - it is the festival of self-purification, self-enlightenment. In fact, the Paryushan Mahaparva is such a dawn which takes us from sleep to wakefulness. This festival leads us from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge. While doing penance, chanting, and self-study, we can find our inner strength and will get to know that real happiness lies in forgiving.

The literal meaning of Paryushan Mahaparva is to be residing in the soul. One of the meanings of Paryushana is the destruction of karma. The bad Karmas will be destroyed and only then the soul will be purified in its natural form, hence Paryushan Mahaparva gives inspiration to the soul; to become selfless and pure. This Mahaparva mainly focuses on the connection between humans and humans and motivates them; it is the festival of opening the windows, skylights and doors of the mind.

Paryushan Mahaparva is not just a festival of Jains, it is a universal festival. It is a great and excellent festival for the

whole world, because the soul is worshiped in it. This is the only festival in the whole world in which a person becomes self-realized by being self-absorbed and tries to attain salvation by ascending to the peak of supernatural, spiritual bliss. The Paryushan Mahaparva has its own unique and special spiritual significance in the renunciation-oriented culture of Jainism. This is the only inspiring festival of self-purification. It is the most recognized festival of Jain people. Paryushan Mahaparva is an occasion for many types of rituals like chanting, austerity, sadhna, worship, meditation, food restraints etc.

Paryushan Mahaparva is a spiritual festival, the central element of it is the soul. Paryushan Mahaparva continues to play an important role in revealing the pure, luminous form of the soul. Adhyatma means closeness to the soul. Paryushan Mahaparva is the symbol of Jain unity. Jain people give utmost importance to it. The entire Jain society becomes awake and engaged in spiritual practice on the occasion of this festival. In the Digambara tradition, it is recognized as "Daslakshana Parva". Among them, its opening day is Bhadrav Shukla Panchami and the day of prosperity is Chaturdashi. On the other hand, in the Shwetambar Jain tradition, the day of Bhadrav Shukla Panchami is the day of Samadhi which is celebrated as Samvatsari with complete renunciation, fasting, self-study and abstinence. Even people who are unable to take time out during the year also wake up on this day. Even those who never fast are seen performing rituals on this day.

The theme of Paryushan Mahaparva is to destruct all the evil thoughts of mind and soul. The 10 gates of religion have been mentioned, in which the first door is forgiveness. Forgiveness means equality. Forgiveness is very important for life, unless there is no forgiveness in life, and then a person cannot progress on the path of spirituality. Lord Mahavir lived a life of forgiveness i.e. equality. No matter what the situation may have come, he remained equal in all circumstances. "Forgiveness is the jewel of the hero" - Only great people can take and give forgiveness. Paryushan Mahaparva is the celebration of the exchange of forgiveness. On this day everyone unravels the entangled glands of their mind, opens the



knots of anger and hatred within them, they hug each other. Eliminate the mistakes made in the past through forgiveness and make life pure.

The end of Paryushan Mahaparva is celebrated as Forgiveness Day. In this way, Paryushan Mahaparva and Forgiveness Day - it is a festival to bring each other closer. It is a festival to consider each other as our own. It is also said in the Gita - "Atmoupamyen sarvatrah, same pashyati yorjuna" - "Shri Krishna said to Arjuna - O Arjuna! Treat the human as your equal. Lord Mahavira said - "Mitti mai Savva bhuesu, veranmjihana kenai" I have friendship with all beings; I have no enmity with anyone.

Human unity, peaceful co-existence, friendship, socialism without exploitation, establishment of international moral values, non-violent life, support of the worship style of soul etc. are the main basis of Paryushan Mahaparva. From this point of view, efforts are expected to make this great festival a festival of the people. Whether a man is called religious or not, whether he believes in self-Parmatma or not, whether he believes in past birth and reincarnation, whether he should resort to non-violence as far as possible in solving any of his problems - this is the heart of the sadhna of Payushan. Violence cannot be a permanent solution to any problem. Those seeking a solution through violence have only exacerbated the problem. Keeping this fact in front, not only the Jain society, but also the common people should become faithful in the power of non-

violence and use it with deep faith.

Paryushan is a festival of pleasure in the soul, a festival of self-purification and self-enhancement. This Mahaparva makes us become ego free. This Mahaparva is a celebration of worship of non-violence. Today the whole world needs the non-violence and friendship. Paryushan Parv is a festival of destruction of all negative aspects of the soul and by this one can find the real meaning of life. Each day of the Paryushan festival focuses on eliminating various impurities like anger, pride, deceit and greed and building good virtues

Today, the main problems like violence, terror, mutual hatred, Naxalism, corruption, corona epidemic have become a big cause of concern not only for the country but for the world and everyone wants a solution to these problems. For those people, the festival of Paryushan is an inspiration, a path, guidance and a practice of non-violent lifestyle. Today, in the glare of materiality, it is more important to maintain the relevance of this festival in the blind race of running life. For this, Jain society should become sensitive, especially the younger generation should be aware of the value of Paryushan festival and they themselves should be benefited from these rare moments of awakening self-consciousness through sharing, silence, chanting, meditation, self-study, dietary restraint, sense control, life-day etc. and explore the pure essence of this auspicious festival in front of the people.

Entertainment



Shah Rukh Khan's love and respect for women is well-known. Be it a little girl or an elderly woman, he has always been seen rooting for females. In fact, his latest film 'Jawan' also celebrates the strength of female characters. From fighting the goons to ruling the screen with emotional scenes, the women of Shah Rukh's 'Jawan' undoubtedly acted as catalysts in making the film a blockbuster.

The audience is quite impressed to see the terrific portrayal of women characters in 'Jawan'. Recently, a fan took to X (formerly Twitter) to share a heartfelt painting created by their daughter, using pink to symbolise girl power in the movie.

"After coming from our second Jawan show, my 11 year old daughter went straight to her room and started painting. After couple of hours, she came up with this. She says she loved Vikram Rathore. What about pink? She says Jawan is about girl power. anything to say senior @iamsrk," the fan wrote.

SRK, father to 23-year-old daughter Suhana, took notice of the tweet and lauded the efforts of the fan's daughter. In response, he wrote, "She has got it right... #Jawan is indeed about girl power. Vikram Rathore agrees too. Our daughters are our future... give my love to her with a big hug!!!" ANI

Actor SRK talks about 'Girl Power' while replying to a fan on social media

Popular television host Ellen DeGeneres is all set to return with new project



Renowned television host Ellen DeGeneres will soon grace television screen. More than a year after her daytime show went off the air, DeGeneres is coming back on television and that too for Discovery Channel, as per US-based news portal Variety.

She will be seen in a two-hour documentary special, 'Saving the Gorillas: Ellen's Next Adventure'.

The special will air on September 23 on Discovery Channel, and then again on World Gorilla Day, September 24 at 10 p.m. on Animal Planet. The documentary showcases DeGeneres's passion for animals and her respect for the primatologist Dian Fossey as she works to build The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund in Rwanda. Since opening in 2022, the campus has helped with gorilla conservation and biodiversity in the area; it also hosts visitors, including local school children.

Talking about it, DeGeneres said, "Every single thing has led me to just have a big enough platform to say, 'Look at work Dian Fossey did. There's nothing that keeps you more present, more in the moment, than sitting with gorillas.'" 'Saving the Gorillas' also marks a new genre for the talk show host, as she is primarily associated with comedy. The project is directed by Abigail Harper. ANI

Actor Arjun Kapoor reacts over Alia Bhatt's day off schedule, says "Need this in my life"

Alia Bhatt has been vacationing in New York with her husband and actor Ranbir Kapoor. Photos of the couple posing with their fans in the city continue to circulate. While they enjoy the city's charm, Alia gave her fans a glimpse of her relaxing day off with a refreshing pool video.

Alia took to Instagram to share a glimpse of her schedule that captured the essence of relaxation. She captioned the video, "DND." The clip starts with Alia relaxing by the pool. 'My schedule on my day off,' read the text on the video. The video ended with, the 'Raazi' actor floating in the water, and wrote on the video, 'That's it. That's my schedule. In the video, Alia wore a bright pink swimsuit and tied her hair. While fans celebrated her me time, Arjun Kapoor expressed his desire for the same in his life. Arjun wrote, "Need this schedule & this hotel in my life." Fans wrote, "So good and so superb!!! Love it!!!!!" "Water baby," another fan commented. ANI



"Dil Chahta Hai" Veteran actor Rio Kapadia passed away at 66



Veteran actor Rio Kapadia, best known for films such as "Dil Chahta Hai", "Chak De! India", and "Happy New Year", passed away after a battle with cancer on thursday, his friend Faisal Malik said. He was 66. "He passed away in the afternoon at around 12:30 pm. He was suffering from cancer," Malik told PTI. Kapadia largely played supporting roles in films and TV shows such as "Khuda Haafiz", "The Big Bull", "Agent Vinod", "Kutumb" and "Sapne Suhane Ladakpan Ke", among others. He was most recently seen in season two of "Made in Heaven", in which he played the father of Mrunal Thakur's character in the second episode. PTI