



Manipur: Meitei group seeks withdrawal of Assam Rifles, talks in

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'Kambal Baba' controversy: Activist slams BJP leader for promoting such act



AV Team

A fame personality who is into spirituality known as 'Kambal wale Baba' from Rajasthan who is also known as resident of Gujarat claims to cure many diseases like Polio, paralysis and cancer through the magic of Kambal.

Baba comes to Mumbai where he is treating many people with disability through blankets and this treatment is called as 'Magical treatment' which does not include any medication.

A video has also gone viral on social media where it was also seen that 'Kambal Baba' was doing treatment while touching some of the joints of the body parts of the patient who visited their place for the treatment.

After this incident it was seen that Politician was also promoting the 'Baba' after which we spoke to some politician and ac-

tivist over which they shared their opinion.



BJP MLA **Ram Kadam** told Afternoon Voice, "My parents and friends have already undergone through successful treatment which was done by 'Baba'. People are coming for the treatment from their own will and if 'Baba' is touching someone's joints of the body to cure the person then it does not seem incorrect according to me".



After this incident some people also raised serious allegations against 'Baba' stating he is a fraud person and touching women's body parts in the name of treatment. Over which Activist **Mukta Dabholkar** said, "According to the Anti-black magic act people who are performing this act may be punished

upto 7 years. In Maharashtra if 'Baba' is doing some act then action should be taken against it and not only that this case becomes more worst when 'Baba' touches women's body parts in an inappropriate manner in the name of treatment. These fraud 'Baba's' have always taken advantage of harassing women in the name of some treatment".



Vaishali Patil Social activist said, "It is absolutely incorrect that politicians are promoting this kind of act to the society and investigation should be done into the matter. People who are getting into all the activities of black magic through a 'kambal' seems to be quite 'Hippocratic' because these people have been exposed many a times by social activist and media".

Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti President **Shyam Manav** said, "This act is legal



offence and doctors who do not have a qualified degree from recognized institute of India only they can legally diagnose the patient without any medical certificate any random person cannot perform the treatment. According to "The drugs and magic remedies act" 1954 person doing such act is considered as cognizable offence".



A member working against witchcraft activities **Hamid Dhabolkar** said, "According to me there is an anti-black magic act in which it is considered as crime in Maharashtra and we have also demanded that FIR should be registered for this act as it is misleading and most shame what I feel is that a politician from the ruling government is supporting this kind of act which shouldn't be done".

Dhan Kubers of India- Corruption destroying the country

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

We read and hear about numerous scams by politicians. They never remain poor but make more wealth than what a common man can imagine. It is solely due to human greed where the works, especially the budgets sent to them by the Centre are misused by them and this process is not transparent to the public. Every politician is collecting money for horse trading. BJP'S coffers are overflowing, thanks to big corporation's quid pro quo. Opposition parties indulge in scamming to collect enormous wealth. Money is the main powerbroker at present because there is no ideology or ethics in the picture. Irrespective of who is ruling it is the 60:40 formulas which runs the country.

Politicians make money by launching new schemes. Tenders are sold to those who give them more money. For example the Amravati, green fields are converted into residential places, do politicians need to have a lavish lifestyle at the parliament they are building one with people's money and simply what they do is entertain us on TV, by making this so lavish it gives the builder some buffer to write down extra stuff in accounts and that money goes to politicians. This is an outdated way, now they earn more by buying lands in demanding areas and selling them to the government at a higher rate that way they earn a lot of money.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Dhan Kubers of India- Corruption destroying the country

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

In our country corrupt politicians don't face any serious consequences for their corrupt behaviour.

Take the examples of most corrupt leaders of Maharashtra's Shiv Sena, they all now joined BJP and the ED and IT turned mute on them.

There are many politicians who got caught with cash and scams but hardly anyone is severely punished. Maximum they get one o

In spite of knowing the corrupt leaders we repeatedly elect them. Be it Sharad Pawar, Shahs and Thackeray or Banerjees. All are corrupted and possess a lot of money that India can survive for many years without paying taxes. If such Politicians are in the Govt. We will remain a developed country for another century. The demand for reservation will remain, the reservation will remain reserved. It is rightly said, "In a democratic country, you get the government you deserve" So we elect such Politicians repeatedly to rule us. In our country corrupt politicians don't face any serious consequences for their corrupt behaviour. Take the examples of most corrupt leaders of Maharashtra's Shiv Sena, they all now joined BJP and the ED and IT turned mute on them.

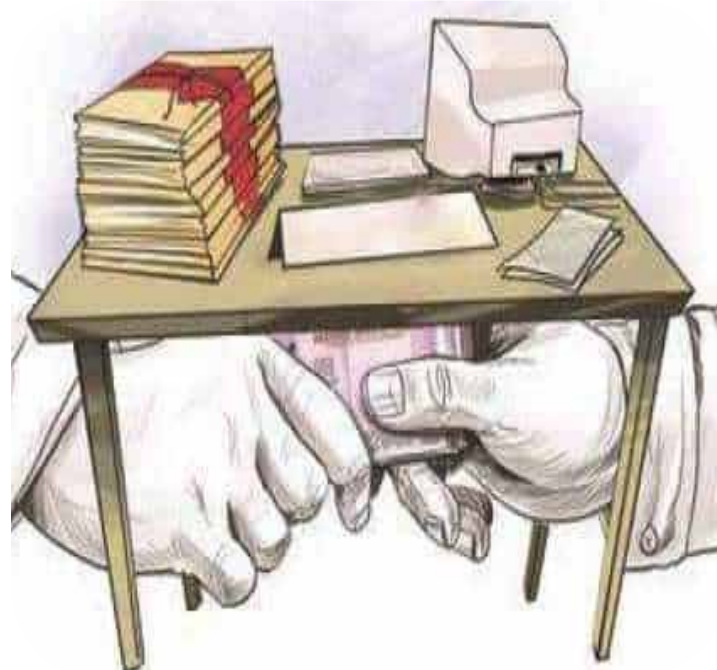
Remember when IT officials raided 36 locations, including Jadhav's house in Mazgaon's Bilakhadi Chambers, the home of Bimal Agarwal, and the homes of five private BMC contractors. They discovered information on at least 36 properties worth more than Rs 130 crore and recovered Rs 2 crore in undeclared cash and Rs 1.5 crore worth of jewellery. The raids also unearthed receipts indicating cash payments totalling more than Rs 120 crore in the last year, primarily to BMC corporators, prompting the department to investigate the specifics of all 26 civic standing committee members.

Former Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) standing committee head Yashwant Jadhav of then the Shiv Sena (now with Eknath Shinde) had obtained tenancy rights to 31 flats in Mazgaon's Bilakhadi Chambers for 10 crores, according to an Income Tax Department probe. He was able to do this with the support of his assistant Bimal Agarwal's firm Newshawk Multimedia Pvt Ltd. When questioned, he stated that the first diary entry was about him giving away watches on his mother's birthday, and the second was about giving out presents to the poor on Gudi Padwa in honour of his mother.

The Income Tax Department is also investigating a Rs 15-crore payback of an unsecured loan to a Kolkata-based shell company that was subsequently channelled back to Jadhav aide Bimal Agarwal's firm. According to I-T sources, Jadhav used the money to buy a hotel and a property with renters who exploited a Pagdi system. But now all this is forgotten and pardoned.

In 2017, fake currency in the denominations of Rs 500, Rs 2,000, Rs 100 and Rs 50 worth Rs 1.37 lakh were seized from the house of BJP leaders Eracheri Rajesh and his brother Rakesh, both hailing from Mathilakam in Thrissur district. But they know nothing can go wrong because central agencies are under control of BJP in the centre.

West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, who was arrested



on Saturday by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an alleged scam related to the recruitment of teachers in West Bengal. His arrest came after the ED conducted raids on the premises of Arpita Mukherjee, a close associate of West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, and seized Rs 20 crore in cash. The said amount is suspected to be proceeds of crime of said SSC scam. The Enforcement Directorate investigating the teacher recruitment scam raided the premises of Arpita Mukherjee, believed to be an associate of Partha Chatterjee. During the raids, the officials found heaps of cash piled up in a corner — later amounting to Rs 20 crore. There are many politicians who got caught with cash and scams but hardly anyone is severely punished. Maximum they get one

Vaidehi Jaman

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Voices



Human Needs

- C.K. Subramaniam
Columnist

While fulfilling our basic needs for food, sleep, sex, and safety is essential for our survival and well-being, a meaningful life goes beyond these physiological and instinctual requirements. Meaning in life is subjective and can vary from person to person. It often involves personal growth, connection with others, a sense of purpose, and the pursuit of values and goals. Human needs are the basic requirements and desires that motivate human behavior. There are different opinions on what constitutes human needs.

Simply satisfying our basic needs does not guarantee a meaningful life. Many individuals who have all their physiological needs fulfilled still struggle with feelings of emptiness or a lack of purpose. True meaning and fulfillment often come from engaging in activities that bring joy, contributing to the well-being of others, establishing meaningful relationships, and striving towards personal growth and self-actualization.

The pursuit of meaning is a journey that requires introspection, self-discovery, and the exploration of one's passions and values. It may involve finding and serving a cause greater than oneself or making a positive impact on the



world. Ultimately, a meaningful life is a deeply personal and subjective experience that goes beyond fulfilling basic needs.

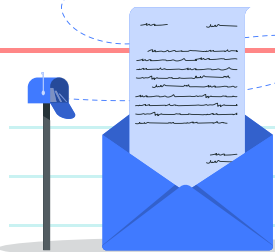
We think there are a number of benefits to understanding needs better, including as a way to better understand yourself and the other people in your life.

Sociologists who accept the universal approach believe that

needs are absolute — that there are objective needs shared by everyone in society. These are often based on what is necessary for survival, such things as food, clothing, shelter, water, and sanitation that are necessary to prevent ill-health, undernourishment and the like.

Meeting this need is essential for survival, yet it should be balanced with satisfying the other four needs in order to reach self-actualization. An employee may select a job based on its ability to provide them with financial security and career security while also recognizing the importance of selecting a job that provides adequate compensation, meaningful opportunities, and career advancement. Furthermore, items such as transitional housing programs provide safety, support, and stability to those in need, consequently meeting safety needs.

Letters to the Editor



'Corruption Ka Haiwan'

Posters featuring former CM of MP and state's Congress chief Kamal Nath as 'Corruption Ka Haiwan' (monster of corruption), were put up across Bhopal. The posters used Kamal Nath's face on the look of Shah Rukh Khan's film 'Jawan' in which the actor's face is covered with bandage. Congress workers were seen removing the posters put up in city. Notably, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Congress have been engaging in a war of words for the past couple of days over the issue of corruption. It should be cleared that corruptions, inflations, communal riots etc. were never seen more as they can seen in recent rulling govt. 'Jawan' movie reflects current conditions of the country.

Therefore, they all should do something for public welfare instead of word-ing dialogue.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Selection on the basis of Ability

Last year, in the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, players were selected 48 hours before the match against Afghanistan in Kolkata on the advice of an astrologer, and two key players were dropped at the last minute due to bad weather and not a good day. There has been a tradition of reaching at truth through logic and debate for thousands of years in Indian society. In recent, resorting to astrology to test a player's ability has become a question mark for civilized society. The purpose of the match is to compare and honor the physical abilities and skills of the competing teams. The Football Federation also paid Rs 10 to 12 lakh to this astrologer for two months.

Official said that if a professional astrologer is hired to improve the team, what is wrong with that. The question is whether or not belief in an astrologer, religion or God is a personal choice. But if players start being identified on the basis of planets and zodiac signs as an institution and that too in the sports field, you will find the youth of the country engaged in correcting their planetary positions instead of sweating it out on the field in the evening. The sooner this frustrated thinking is ended, it will be better for the country.

N Ashraf

Amrit Brikshya Andolan

Assam Government is all set to plant over 1 crore saplings on September 17 under the initiative of Amrit Brikshya and is also eyeing to create and break some Guinness World Records on the same day. The saplings planted will be of commercial utility which will bring in an estimated revenue of over 5000 crore within 8-10 years, as reported. Assam is fast losing its green cover, It had over 30% of its area under forests in the early 2000s but in these two decades, it has lost more than half of its green cover which has also made the summers of Assam more warmer. These 1 crore trees in the next 2-3 years will have a positive impact on the climate of Assam. The government must ensure that these saplings are well cared for as it is seen that such missions in the past have not been very fruitful due to the lackadaisical attitude of the administration. It is seen that very few saplings planted every year on World Environment Day survive to see the green foliage on them. So, let us not hope that these 1 crore saplings also have the same fate.

Noopur Baruah

A new water resource for Mumbai

The BMC seems all set to initiate a new water resource for Mumbai, i.e. the desali-

nation plant su Manori-Gorai.

Are we so desperate that we need to resort to desalination? We are already destroying our wetlands, mangroves and forests thereby destroying the Ecosystem. Have they thought of the toxic waste that would be generated during the desalination process, resulting in pollution of the Ecosystem? And by the way, the Manori-Culvem-Gorai is the only Green belt left within Mumbai city limits which they seem hell bent on destroying not just by this desalination pant but with the ill-conceived proposed bridge across the sea. Clearly we're heading on the road to disaster!

By the way, whatever happened to the much talked about 'Rain Water Harvesting' project? All seems to have been forgotten and they are taking the easy way out. It would make better sense to revisit this project immediately and scrap the desalination project.

Melville X. D'Souza

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Social activists met the BMC officials opposed the adoption of the plots

The current & proposed 'adoption' or 'care taker' policies should be scrapped

Social activists opposing the proposed adoption policy under open plots in Mumbai met senior BMC officials on Friday and submitted written objections. The current and proposed 'adoption' or 'care taker' policies should be scrapped.

Former Central Information Commissioner Shailesh Gandhi, Right to Information Activist Anil Galgali, Bhaskar Prabhu, Sharad Wagle and Ashok Doshi met Deputy Commissioner Kishore Gandhi and Garden Superintendent Jitendra Pardeshi on Friday. In the written statement given on this occasion, it is mentioned that our objections were earlier sent to the Municipal Commissioner in May 2023 on



the concept of giving open seats to private parties. In the current proposal, the municipality, which is eager to give open plots to private parties, does not give any

reason for the purpose.

The delegation pointed out that Devendra Fadnavis, during his tenure as Chief Minister, had ordered the withdrawal of all va-

cant plots given on caretaker or adoptive basis about eight years ago. Despite this, the municipality is unable to take back vacant plots from many.

The statement states the fact that once legal rights are established, the Corporation or the State Government cannot normally recover the land. The state government is able to take the land of citizens, but unable to take back its own land. Even now there are some large illegal encroachers of public spaces who were 'adopted' or 'caretaker'. Those plots have been hijacked and the state government cannot get them back.

The delegation alleged that it now appears to be reviving the earlier conditions by modifying

them. Some officials have given reasons for visiting our open spaces. A municipality with a budget of more than 50 thousand crores will not spend more than about 400 crores for maintenance and upkeep.

A simpler solution, according to the delegation, is to outsource maintenance. Auditing of these can be entrusted to organizations interested in 'adopting' these spaces. In that case no legal rights are created or vested in the private party. If an organization really wants to serve and maintain these grounds, it will gladly do so if its intentions are not ulterior. This can also be done by many NGOs. Please do not create a situation in which the poorest people lose their valuable assets.

Marathwada cabinet meet: Congress slams state govt for using public money for the meet, calls its 'Insensitive'

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole on Friday accused the state government of spending several crore rupees on cabinet meetings and rubbing salt on the wounds of people affected by drought-like conditions in Marathwada.

Talking to reporters about the cabinet meeting scheduled to be held in Aurangabad on September 16, Patole alleged the chief minister, ministers and officials were being put up at a five-star hotel on taxpayers' money.

"Even as farmers are dying, the state government indulges in

five-star luxury on public money. It will just make some false promises and walk away," the Congress leader said. In Marathwada, farmer suicides are on the rise and the demand for the Maratha reservation has also intensified, he said.

Despite the grim situation in the state, especially in Marathwada, the chief minister, ministers, and officials are being put up in a lavish five-star hotel using taxpayers' money, he alleged. "Spending millions on a cabinet meeting while people struggle with rising costs is like rubbing salt on the wounds of people in Marathwada," Patole said while

accusing the government of being insensitive and thick-skinned.

"If the cabinet meeting in Aurangabad is being held to address the concerns of people in Marathwada, then it is a welcome move. But why the extravagant display of wealth for it? During previous cabinet meetings in Aurangabad, all chief ministers stayed in the government guesthouse," he said. However, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will be staying in the most luxurious and star-rated hotel and reservations have also been made for the deputy chief ministers, state ministers and officials, he said. **PTI**

EOW files case against UBT Sena MLA Ravindra Waikar and five others for constructing luxury hotel

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai police has registered a case against Shiv Sena (UBT) legislator Ravindra Waikar and five others in connection with the construction of a luxury hotel in a western suburb, an official said on Friday.

According to the official, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had given land to the Supremo Club at Jogeshwari to run a sports facility but Waikar allegedly used his clout to obtain permission to facilitate the construction of a five-star ho-

tel there causing loss to the civic body.

This amounted to a violation of the agreement with the BMC about the use of the land, he said. The case was registered on Thursday on the complaint of a BMC official at the Azad Maidan police station, the official said.

The FIR (first information report) has been registered for cheating, criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy and dishonestly including delivery of property, the official said. Waikar's wife has also been named in the FIR, he said. **PTI**

Private Jet Accident: Co-pilot shifted to another hospital due to back injury, others stable

Neil Diwan, the co-pilot of a private jet that skidded off the runway at Mumbai airport suffered a spinal injury and has been moved to another hospital for surgery, Dr Deepak Namjoshi, the director of Criticare Asia hospital said on Friday.

He said seven others admitted to Criticare Asia's Andheri

East hospital are stable and being monitored. A private jet veered off the runway while landing at the Mumbai airport on Thursday amid heavy rains and all the eight people on-board have been hospitalised with injuries. The Learjet 45 aircraft VT-DBL belonging to VSR Ventures, had flown from Visakhapatnam. **PTI**

Police registers case against drug dealer for cheating businessman of Rs 2 cr over gold

The Mumbai police have registered an offence against Shashikala alias Baby Patankar, a drug dealer, and her aide for allegedly cheating a businessman of Rs 2 crore by promising him gold at cheaper rates, an official said on Friday.

The police, on Thursday, registered an FIR under section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code against Patankar and

her aide Parshuram Munde (45) based on a complaint lodged by a 60-year-old businessman earlier this week, the official said.

The businessman met Munde through an acquaintance, and the latter claimed that he owned a gold trading company in Pune, he said. The accused claimed that his company also purchased gold seized by the customs department in auctions, and later sold it

at rates cheaper than the market prices, the official said.

When the complainant showed interest in buying gold, Munde took him to Patankar's house in the Worli area of central Mumbai, where she showed him 7 kg of gold, he said. Initially, the complainant gave the duo Rs 1.30 crore, and paid the remaining Rs 70 lakh later as the deal was fixed, the official said. **PTI**

Nation

Delhi Excise Policy Case: SC adjourns hearing on BRS Kavitha plea against ED summons till September 26



money laundering case related to Delhi excise policy irregularities. Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K Kavitha, who is the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, in her plea challenging the summons issued by ED against her, said that as per norms, a woman cannot be summoned for questioning before ED in office and her questioning should take place at her residence.

Her lawyer had argued earlier that whether she needs to be interrogated at home or in Delhi, and the court is seized of and has issued notice in similar petitions of Nalini Chidambaram and Abhishek Banerjee ED had said that Section 160 CRPC will not apply in PMLA cases as per the Supreme Court judgement in the Vijay Madanlal Choudhary matter. ANI

The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned the hearing on Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K Kavitha's plea against ED summons till September 26 as the probe agency assured not to assist her appearance before it until the next date of hearing. A bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu

Dhulia adjourned the matter till September 26. The probe agency has informed the apex court that it would not insist Kavitha to appear before it till September 26, the next date of hearing.

The court was hearing Kavitha's plea against the ED summons. Kavitha is being quizzed by the ED in connection with a

Boycott Journalist row: BJP slams congress says, boycott Rahul Gandhi not journalists

The BJP on Friday took a swipe at the Congress over the opposition INDIA bloc's decision to boycott 14 broadcast media anchors, saying shunning media or any other institution will do it no good and the party can only benefit by boycotting Rahul Gandhi as he has no strength. There is no institution in India that this opposition alliance has not attacked, be it the Election Commission or courts, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra



told reporters. All of them are doing their work well, he said before targeting Gandhi. PTI

Jammu and Kashmir's terror module revealed as 2 LeT militant associates arrested



A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror module has been unearthed in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, with the arrest of two militant associates and recovery of arms and ammunition from them, police said on Friday. The two ter-

rorist associates of LeT outfit have been arrested in Uri area of Baramulla, in north Kashmir, a police official said. He said incriminating material, including two pistols and five hand grenades, have been recovered from their possession. PTI

Manipur: Meitei group seeks withdrawal of Assam Rifles, talks in meet of Rajnath Singh



pur Integrity (COCOMI), which represents Meitei groups, said in a statement that their representatives met Singh on Thursday at his residence in Delhi and submitted a memorandum. In the memorandum, they claimed that the Kuki groups caused embarrassment to the government by approaching the United Nations for a resolution to the Manipur crisis. PTI

Representatives of COCOMI, an umbrella body of Imphal valley-based civil society organisations, met Defense Minister Rajnath

Singh and demanded the withdrawal of Assam Rifles from the state, alleging that the force was acting in a biased way. The Coordinating Committee on Mani-

Jammu and Kashmir terror: Drones, quadcopters being used to help forces locate terrorists after encounter incident

The ongoing gunfight between a combined team of security personnel from the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police and terrorists in the Kokernag area of the Anantnag district entered the third straight day, with drones and quadcopters being pressed into service on Friday to locate and neutralise the gunmen.

According to officials, the se-

curity personnel involved in the operation, which broke out on Wednesday, were being assisted by quadcopters and drones in the ongoing efforts to locate the terrorists.

An Army Colonel commanding a Quick Response Team (QRT) of the Rashtriya Rifles, lost his life in the ongoing gunfight in the Anantnag district. An Army Major and

a Deputy Superintendent with the Jammu and Kashmir Police also fell to enemy fire in the Kokernag area. The slain senior Army officers and the DSP were identified as Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish Dhonak, and Humayun Bhat. The mortal remains of Major Aashish Dhonchak were brought to his residence in Panipat earlier on Friday. ANI



Teacher pays a tribute to the brave soldiers through paintings in Mumbai, who lost their lives in gunfight with terrorist at Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. | Pic Credits: Sagar Kambli

World

Kashmiri diaspora were protesting for Gilgit Baltistan and PoK in Birmingham



A sizable gathering of Kashmiri diaspora, hailing from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Gilgit Baltistan, gathered outside the Pakistan Consulate in Birmingham, United Kingdom to vehemently voice their disapproval of the ongoing atrocities in their ancestral regions. With placards in hand and voices raised, the protesters vociferously condemned Pakistan's actions in PoK and Gilgit Baltistan, declaring that the resources of these regions belonged to the people who have long suffered under Islamabad's rule.

This demonstration came in line with a wave of protests currently sweeping PoK and Gilgit Baltistan, stemming from a variety of grievances, including the arbitrary imposition of taxes, soaring electricity prices, and rampant inflation.

riety of grievances, including the arbitrary imposition of taxes, soaring electricity prices, and rampant inflation.

Mirza Aslam, a protester who was leading the demonstration said "We are protesting against the atrocities being committed against the people of Gilgit Baltistan. The diaspora is not going to accept the atrocities being committed on people in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. We, the members of the diaspora will expose and oppose all forms of atrocities that are committed against our people. The demography of Gilgit Baltistan has been altered. They have exploited all the resources of the region. People in Gilgit Baltistan are deprived of even fundamental rights." ANI

Gilgit Baltistan: Internet banned amid rising tensions between Shias and Sunnis in Pok

Amid sectarian tensions between Shias and Sunnis in Pakistan-occupied Gilgit Baltistan, the local administration continues to suspend all internet services in the region causing inconvenience to the residents. It has been over a fortnight since the sectarian tensions between the Shia majority in Gilgit Baltistan and the Sunni community boiled into massive protests against Islamabad and its new amendment in blasphemy laws.

Gilgit Baltistan — a largely impoverished region — had in-

ternet services in only a few pockets. The people there had just started exploring the possibilities of online businesses and education opportunities, and the Pakistan-backed administration in the illegally occupied territory imposed a ban on internet services leaving a number of students in Gilgit city deprived of their routine online classes. "Due to the unavailability of internet services for the last 15 days, our studies have been disrupted. We request the administration to restore the internet services" said a student from Gilgit city. ANI

European regulators slapped TikTok with a USD 368 million fine for breach of privacy

European regulators slapped TikTok with a USD 368 million fine on Friday for failing to protect children's privacy, the first time that the popular short video-sharing app has been punished for breaching Europe's strict data privacy rules.

Ireland's Data Protection Commission, the lead privacy regulator for Big Tech companies whose European headquarters are largely in Dublin, said it was fining TikTok 345 million euros and reprimanding the platform for the violations dating to the second half of 2020.

The investigation found that the sign-up process for teen users resulted in settings that made their accounts public by default, allowing anyone to view and comment on their videos. Those default settings also posed a risk to children under 13 who gained access to the platform even though they're not allowed. Also, a "family pairing" feature designed for parents to manage

settings wasn't strict enough, allowing adults to turn on direct messaging for users aged 16 and 17 without their consent. And it nudged teen users into more "privacy intrusive" options when signing up and posting videos, the watchdog said.

TikTok said in a statement that it disagrees with the decision, "particularly the level of the fine imposed." The company pointed out that the regulator's criticisms focused on features and settings dating back three years. TikTok said it had made changes well before the investigation began in September 2021, including making all accounts for teens under 16 private by default and disabling direct messaging for 13- to 15-year-olds. "Most of the decision's criticisms are no longer relevant as a result of measures we introduced at the start of 2021 — several months before the investigation began," TikTok's head of privacy for Europe, Elaine Fox, wrote in a blog post. PTI

Libya Floods: City sealed to search 10,000 missing after death toll passes 11,000

Libyan authorities sealed off an inundated city on Friday to allow search teams to dig through the mud and hollowed-out buildings for 10,000 people missing and feared dead after the official toll from flooding soared past 11,000. Authorities warned that disease and explosives shifted by the waters could take yet more lives.

Two dams collapsed in exceptionally heavy rains from Mediterranean storm Daniel early Monday, sending a wall of water several metres high gushing down a valley that cuts through the city of Derna.

The unusual flooding and Libya's political chaos contributed to the enormous toll. The oil-rich state has been split since 2014 between rival gov-

ernments in the east and west backed by various militia forces and international patrons. The disaster has brought rare unity, as government agencies across Libya's divide rushed to help the affected areas. But relief efforts have been slowed by the destruction after several bridges that connect the city were destroyed. Heaps of twisted metal and flooded cars littered Derna's streets, which are caked in a tan mud. Teams have buried bodies in mass graves outside the city and in nearby towns, Eastern Libya's health minister, Othman Abduljaleel, said. But officials worried that thousands of bodies were still hidden in the muck — or floating in the sea, where divers were sent to search. Adel Ayad, a survivor

of the flood, recalled watching as the waters rose to the fourth floor of his building.

"The waves swept people away from the tops of buildings, and we could see people carried by floodwater," among them his neighbours, he said. Health officials warned that standing water opened the door to disease — but said there was no need to rush burials or put the dead in mass graves, as bodies usually do not pose a risk in such cases.

"You've got a lot of standing water. It doesn't mean the dead bodies pose a risk, but it does mean that the water itself is contaminated by everything," Dr Margaret Harris, spokeswoman for the World Health Organisation, told reporters in Geneva. PTI

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European regulators slapped TikTok with a USD 368 million fine on Friday for failing to protect children's privacy, the first time that the popular short video-sharing app has been punished for breaching Europe's strict data privacy rules.

Ireland's Data Protection Commission, the lead privacy

regulator for Big Tech companies whose European headquarters are largely in Dublin, said it was fining TikTok 345 million euros and reprimanding the platform for the violations dating to the second half of 2020.

The investigation found that the sign-up process for teen users resulted in settings that made their accounts pub-

lic by default, allowing anyone to view and comment on their videos. Those default settings also posed a risk to children under 13 who gained access to the platform even though they're not allowed. And it nudged teen users into more "privacy intrusive" options when signing up and posting videos, the watchdog said. PTI

Expression

Focus on Learning native Languages will enhance the Linguistic capabilities of students



Vijay Garg

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Teachers, publication houses, and Ed Techs have hailed the inclusion of native Indian languages mandated by National Curriculum Framework (NCF) in school education as it strengthens students' cultural moorings and promotes national integration. However, they say that the government must address challenges such as the lack of resources and provide enough trained teachers for the effective implementation of the regulation.

The recently released NCF mandates the instruction in three languages for students in classes IX-X, including two Indian languages, and two languages during classes XI-XII, with one being an Indian language. India is a multilingual and multicultural country, but many a time our students do not have a nuanced understanding of other cultures and languages within the country. The NCF regulation will pave the way for a deeper understanding of various linguistic identities and myriad subcultures in India.

"We have 22 Indian languages listed in the Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution; according to the People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI) there are more than 700 languages in India. By teaching a language, we also teach students about a people's literature, culture, and value system. It will mean pressure on the students, but if the students learn the languages of different states in India, it will address the insecurities and insular attitudes regarding linguistic identities and it will help the next generation to work together,"



Effective implementation

Learning native languages encourages feelings of belonging and a sense of unity. "It also provides students new career avenues in the new languages they learn as translators, teachers, and research scholars. The move will also help students in developing new skills and in implementing them. However, there are a few aspects that need to be addressed for effective implementation of the NCF regulation. Currently, students are learning six subjects and it results in a jam-packed schedule, accommodating a seventh subject will put pressure on students leaving no time for curricular activities. The authorities will have to ensure that there are teachers available in all the native Indian languages that the students might take up under the new regulation. Also, adequate resources including textbooks are required for teaching new languages to students,"

Besides textbooks and resources, it is also important that the social mindset towards learning native languages should change for only then the objectives of making Indian languages

mandatory for Indian school students will be fulfilled. "When it comes to language subjects, often students do not give importance to them and study them only a few days before the exam,"

Learning in a native language promotes uninterrupted intellectual development as the learners decipher and understand concepts faster and better. "NCF places a strong emphasis on embracing multilingualism and fostering the learning of native Indian languages. It underscores the significance of safeguarding India's diverse linguistic heritage: an approach that will enhance cultural consciousness, anchoring students to their linguistic and cultural roots," says Sumanta Datta, managing director,

Richer cultural experience

Besides reinforcing the country's rich linguistic heritage, the NCF recommendation on native languages holds immense benefits for students in various learning domains. "Numerous studies have shown that multilingualism enhances cognitive abilities. Learning multiple languages can improve problem-solving skills, creativity, and multitasking ability. It

also delays the onset of diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia. Knowledge of regional languages can promote social cohesion. As students interact with peers from different linguistic backgrounds, the ability to communicate in multiple languages fosters understanding and respect. This, in turn, builds a society where diversity is celebrated," Exposure to these languages will allow students to appreciate literature, art, and performances in their original form, leading to a richer cultural experience. There is an increasing demand for professionals who can communicate in multiple languages

"Knowledge of a native language, in addition to English and another foreign language, provides a competitive edge in several fields including diplomacy, business, and academia," elaborating that while the benefits are manifold, the implementation must be accompanied by appropriate resources – qualified teachers, comprehensive study materials, and interactive learning platforms.

Entertainment



Celebrity couple Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt returns Mumbai from vacation

Celebrity couple Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt on Friday returned to Mumbai from their short vacation to the USA. The duo was spotted at the Mumbai airport in casual attires and were seen posing in front of the shutterbugs. Ranbir donned a blue sweatshirt with matching trousers. He accessorized his look with a cap and black shades.

Alia, on the other hand, wore a white T-shirt paired with black cargo pants. The couple also clicked pictures with their fans at the airport. Ranbir and Alia returned back to Mumbai on the occasion of Riddhima Kapoor's birthday. Several pictures and videos of the 'Brahmastra' couple went viral on social media. **ANI**

Singer Ali Campbell open's up about people inspiring him to pursue career



Popular singer-songwriter Ali Campbell says he grew up listening to iconic playback singers Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle as Hindi music would often be played in cafes in the British city of Birmingham, which has a thriving immigrant population.

"It was the kind of cultural mix that I grew up with," the former frontman of popular British reggae-pop band UB40 told PTI in an interview over phone. The 64-year-old musician is set to hold concerts in Delhi on October 25, Mumbai on October 27 and Bengaluru on October 27 as part of his 'The Goldies' tour with UB40 featuring Ali Campbell, the band that he formed after leaving the original group in 2008. "I grew up in an immigrant's area like Birmingham where predominantly Jamaicans, West Indians, Indians and Pakistanis lived. As a child, I remember watching old Indian movies such as 'Mother India' and 'Pyaasa'. We were accustomed to listening to Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Mohd Rafi and other beautiful Indian singers as these songs would play on the jukebox in cafes where we spent our youth," he said. **PTI**

Netflix, YRF collaborate: Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan's debut film 'Maharaj' will be released

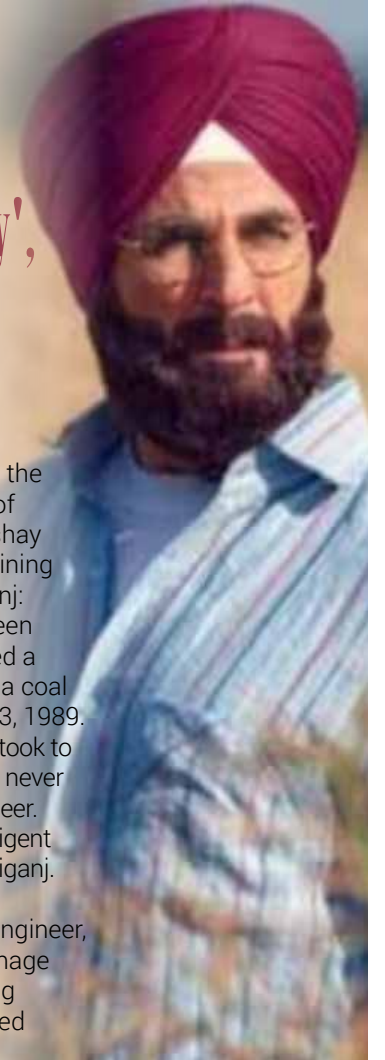


Netflix and Yash Raj Films (YRF) have collaborated to form a multi-year creative partnership. According to an official statement, the two entities have partnered to create films and series to bring defining stories to audiences in India and across the world.

Interestingly, Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan's debut film 'Maharaj' will be released under Netflix-YRF's partnership. 'Maharaj' also stars Jaideep Ahlawat, Sharvari and Shalini Pandey. The film has been directed by Siddharth P. Malhotra, whose last film Hichki. Inspired by true events, Maharaj, is an incredible David vs Goliath story set in the 1800s, about how a regular man, journalist by profession, takes on a powerful role-model of society, hailed by many as a messiah for the masses. The fearless reporter uncovers a series of incidents that shake the very foundation of society.

Another project to come out of this partnership is the character-driver thriller, 'The Railway Men', a four-part series starring R. Madhavan, Kay Kay Menon, Divyendu Sharma and Babil Khan, which is directed by debutant director Shiv Rawail. **ANI**

Actor Akshay Kumar expresses gratitude on the occasion of 'Engineer's Day', talks about his character from the upcoming biopic



As the country observes Engineer's Day on the birth anniversary of M Viveswaraya, one of India's foremost civil engineers, actor Akshay Kumar on Friday paid a special tribute to late mining engineer Jaswant Singh Gill. In 'Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue' film, Akshay will be seen portraying the role of Jaswant Singh Gill, who led a rescue operation to save 64 trapped workers in a coal mine in West Bengal's Raniganj on November 13, 1989.

Remembering him on Engineers' Day, Akshay took to Instagram to post, "Happy #EngineersDay. I could never even imagine myself studying hard to be an engineer. But then I got an opportunity to play a brave, intelligent engineer like Jaswant Singh Gill ji in #MissionRaniganj. Maa baap ki ichcha puri ho gayi. #RealHero."

He also shared a picture of the late mining engineer, whom he is portraying on the big screen. The image shows a young Jaswant Gill from 1961, standing proudly outside his ISM college where he pursued mining engineering. **ANI**