



HAPPY Ganesh Chaturthi™

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## SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT: OPPN SLAMS RULING GOVT, SAYS "WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY IF IMPORTANT ISSUES NOT DISCUSSED"



### AV Team

**O**n Monday special session in the parliament had begun which discussed about '75 years of parliamentary journey calling it as 'Samvidhan Sabha' which includes achievements, experiences, memories and learnings'.

This special session was initially called to discuss about the important issues and other bills which are yet to decide and passed by the parliament. While after discussing about the parliamentary journey and other issues raised by opposition leaders house of the proceedings were adjourned for the day and it will be beginning its next session on Tuesday at new parliament building.

The special session of the parliament is from September 18-22, 2023 and next meeting might get continued from the new parliament building.

Some important issues which were demanded by both the houses of parliament

are "Women's reservation' bill and other bills which is yet to be passed by the parliament.

While the session of the parliament has begun but still there are some leaders who have opposed this session calling it as wastage of public money and time. On the other hand, some leaders hailed the efforts of PM Modi's government and special session of the parliament which is recently called for the discussions of important issues.



**MP Gajanan Kirtikar** told Afternoon Voice, "It is not at all waste of money and

those who are calling it as waste they have already done this in their tenure. It is a ceremony of 75 years of the house as we are shifting to the new parliament as we are celebrating the legacy of the house and some important bills will also be discussed in this session as they are yet to be passed".

Former MP Congress, **Tukaram Renge**



**Patil** told Afternoon Voice, "Most of the leader believe that calling special house is waste of time and nothing else as does not seem necessary. Most importantly parliament session was about to come in the month of January then why special house was called because if there is any special house as such every MP's expense comes upto approximately more than Rs 50,000 per day which is quite huge".



Ex-MP **HariBhau Rathod** said, "If the special house has been called in the parliament for important issues then it should happen but if it just to show some drama and showcase some good things then it is not correct. MP's coming to attend the parliament session are given many allowances like travelling, per day attendance if check on these things then huge amount is spent as expense for the special house".



Ex- Finance Minister, Shiv Sena **Anandrao Adsul** said, "Special house is called to discuss the important issues if women's reservation bill and one nation one election bill is the important issue if that gets passed in the parliament then it is a good thing for the country".

"When it comes to opposition they always want target ruling government by talking about expenditure but to pass an important bill discussion has become quite important" Adsul further added.



Chairman of NCBC Commission **Hansraj Ahir** said, "If opposition leaders are opposing against special house then that is their opinion but if the government wants to take any important decision then or discuss on some issue then special house can be called in the parliament and this has also happened in the past".

## Festivals are the tools to bring exuberance and enthusiasm to life

### Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

**I**n contemporary society religious festivals are becoming worthless with most people only wanting to enjoy themselves. But some people are still celebrating their religious festivals with full enthusiasm and enjoyment. There are rare families that are really celebrating each festival. In the modern era God's idol to traditions are shrunk to size. All traditional festivals teach and celebrate the good values of life such as morality and ethics.

For example, people used to celebrate Diwali in a grand manner by wearing new clothes, giving and receiving presents, bursting crackers and preparing traditional foods which give them more enjoyment. In addition, by decorating their homes with earthen lamps they are also sending out the message that we should dispel darkness from the

world and our lives. But in the modern era people are using China made wax lamps and some crackers for formality. Health-conscious people avoid eating and making those traditional dishes.

When I was kid, there used to be hustle and bustle in my home before and after festivals. Days-long preparations, new clothes, house cleaning and the most favorite part of all this was shopping. And then greeting relatives, going to friend's house for greetings, and getting together was fun. Things have changed now. Our hectic lifestyle is majorly to be blamed; also, since most of the families are nuclear it becomes very difficult to follow all those rituals of celebration.

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# Editoritis

# Festivals are the tools to bring exuberance and enthusiasm to life

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*In the Indian culture, there was a time when there used to be a Holi Gulal Hindu Festival every day of the year – 365 festivals in a year – because a festival is a tool to bring life to a state of exuberance and enthusiasm*

*Festivals bring happiness, cheer, hope, optimism, celebrations, lights, joy, cooperation and many more pleasant things in our life. During Diwali, Christmas, Holi, Eid, Gurupurb, Passover, or any other festival the world appears to be a heaven.*

*With a much more demanding work life than earlier and with the amalgamation of cultures happening globally, we are losing our cultural identity.*

However, I know of a few families who still get together and celebrate festivals the same old way. It's really good because in doing so they are preserving our customs and traditions. Moreover, smartphone addictions have distanced people from meeting and talking. Everyone is in some or the other kind of stress, one is running from the other. In the Indian culture, there was a time when there used to be a Holi Gulal Hindu Festival every day of the year – 365 festivals in a year – because a festival is a tool to bring life to a state of exuberance and enthusiasm.

That was the significance and importance of festivals. The whole culture was in a state of celebration. If today was plugging day, it was a kind of celebration. Tomorrow was planting day, another kind of celebration. Day after tomorrow was the wedding, that was a celebration. Festivals bring happiness, cheer, hope, optimism, celebrations, lights, joy, cooperation and many more pleasant things in our life. During Diwali, Christmas, Holi, Eid, Gurupurb, Passover, or any other festival the world appears to be a heaven. It appears as if the entire world is attending a wedding celebration. Children, adults, teenagers, elders, and middle-aged people all of them look cheerful and vibrant. The ambience looks bright and poised.

Now life is mostly restricted to urbanites, we are losing our culture. The cause behind it is the new moderately well to do middle class parents of youngsters. They fail to educate the kids about Indian culture but get thrilled when the kids dance to a Bollywood tune or a MJ song. These days these kids would not be able to say which is Bharatanatyam and which is Odyssey or kathak.

They would identify any western singer but not Pt. Jasraj or any other Indian classical musician. They would have seen 2012 or Startrek but not Shakuntala or Ramayana, their parents who are in the age group of 30 to 50 years as of now. These people had no time to teach the young about anything Indian. Further if you take a look at the schools today you may notice that all their school day functions vibrate with even five year olds dancing to Sheila ki javani .

I remember having acted as Krishna or Rama in school functions and girls performing Bharatanatyam or singing classical. With a much more demanding work life than earlier and with the amalgamation of cultures happening globally, we are losing our cultural identity. I wouldn't know if it's a good thing or not. All I know is we are no longer following age old practices which reflect our true culture. One reason which comes to mind is, maybe we have a more demanding working lifestyle than ever.

There's too much at hand to be doing things the traditional way. I'd like to believe that this is not the case. Many will disagree, I'm sure.

Secondly, we, in today's world, have enough distractions to be able to reflect on our past way of life. I'm sure many of us have childhood memories when grandpa used to do the traditional "pooja"(prayers) which seemed to go on for eternity. I also remember my grandparents were very particular about how things were done. There was no reasoning with them as to why things were done the way they were.

Finally, time is of utmost importance according to today's generation. We do celebrate festivals, but more often than not, it's more of a family get-together rather than following tradition itself. All of our festivals have become more of coming together for a day or two, and then going back to your separate individual existence. We aren't patient enough to go through all procedures for lack of time and more than that, a lack of interest. The rich and vibrant festivals of India are a testimony to our diverse tradition and culture.

Festivals in India revolve around Lord's birthdays, traditional myths, seasonal changes, relationships, and much more. Festivals are celebrated irrespective of religion or caste in the country, bringing people closer and creating a strong bond of humanity. Right from childhood, infants in India are part of every festival celebration in the house. This helps them understand the rituals of each festival and they develop a liking for the festivals and celebrations. But in the modern era everything is shortened to formality.

As they grow older, they get fonder of these festivals and they want to celebrate it in its full potential to enjoy it thoroughly. You will notice a lot of youngsters participating in festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, Durga Puja and Christmas. These festivals bring them closer to each other as well as the country, and instill a feeling of patriotism as well.

For students, it is a great way to understand the rich heritage of India and learn about the importance of various festivals. These festivals also help students from across the world to know about India and its history. This creates an excellent reputation for our country in the world and we spread our country's rich heritage. Many schools organize cultural exchange for students that foster intercultural learning experiences. Cultural exchange programs promote mutual understanding between nations and students learn the culture of other countries.

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## CELEBRATE GO GREEN GANPATI



- C.K. Subramaniam  
Columnist

With environmental concerns gaining too much ground, many of the well-wishers of Lord Ganesha in the city have started to conduct environmentally friendly Ganesh Utsav celebrations this year. So it is our earnest desire to avoid pollution and safeguarding the interest of the people in general and God loving people of Mumbai in particular. We look at three aspects concerning pollution of the satellite City in general and overall health hazards of people living here in particular.

Ill effects of POP and Chemical Paints have been known to people very well and they are ready to celebrate Ganpati Festival in an Eco-friendly way. Paint from Ganesh Idols could form a deadly cocktail with oil spill on the sea may cause a major environmental problem after Ganpati immersion after Anant Chaturthi day. The oil paint contains carcinogenic heavy metals such as lead, mercury and chromium which have an adverse effect on marine life as well.

The Plaster of Paris used in the idols also takes a long time to dissolve as per the analysis of environmentalists. Despite all the guidance given for opting clay made idols, people still prefer cheaper POP Ganpati as per the market report. Water so polluted through immersions makes the life of living things like fish and other living creatures inside water most challenging. The water cannot be used for domestic purposes anyway. It is time to have a broader outlook on this subject.

This Ganpati festival in the past saw the noise levels reaching a new high and the people in the Metro will have to bear the noise level reaching peak on visarjan day. Another major urban pollutant in

cities during festivities is use of loudspeakers, which may be defined as displeasing human sound that disrupts the activity or happiness of other humans in a city. In growing cities, the noise levels need to be curtailed to the permissible limit to avoid disturbances to hospitals and senior citizens. This responsibility rests with each and every one of us.

When you litter your surroundings, the wind will blow the same back to you. Stagnant water is the breeding ground for mosquitoes and keeps your surroundings dry. If we have a pollution free environment, we will lead a peaceful life. The civic body should have proper planning and the pick and choose method to make sure the festivity achieves a religious objective rather than making it a politicised one with an increased and high pollution level.

As a senior citizen and an environmentally concerned person I brought an eco-friendly Ganpati, which can be dissolved in a bucket full of water. Thus the norms of Go Green Ganpati are well and truly adhered to. It is time for people to realise and implement eco-friendly idols for this year's Ganpati Festival. Moreover, it is our foremost duty to avoid POP material and prevent using flex banners in the Ganpati Pandals. Use of colours for puja is harmful and the use of loud speakers with high decibel creates noise pollution. Littering the place meant for celebrations pollutes the atmosphere. Moreover, we are all equally responsible for food wastage during the festivities. Last but not the least make it a point to use common immersion sites and remove non-biodegradables before the immersion on Anand Chaturdashi day. Let us celebrate a Go green Ganpati.

## Letters to the Editor

### The festival of Ganesh Chaturthi

The festival of Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated on a large scale in several parts of India. The history of the Sarvanik Ganesh Chaturthi in Maharashtra is centuries old. It was started by the late Lokmanya Tilak.

According to Hindus, Ganesha is the remover of obstacles and all the problems in one's life as well as the creator of happiness in the life of people. People in India worship Lord Ganesha before starting any new work. Ganesha is the eldest son of Shiva and Parvati and one of the five major Hindu deities. With his pot belly and elephant head, he is the god who removes all obstacles in the paths of those struggling to achieve both spiritual and worldly success. Almost every Hindu home has an image of Lord Ganesha over the doorway, and he is worshipped at the beginning of every important undertaking, whether it is the building of a new house, the beginning of a marriage, or the opening of a new

account book.

Jubel D'Cruz

### God-religion should be aloof from politics!

The Kerala High Court has told a local organization that temples should not be used for petty politics. Politicians of the country are expected to take note of the verdict of the Kerala High Court. God, temples and religions are convenient talking points for political leaders. Even the rustic leader in the countryside talks a lot about these topics. Leaders do not feel the need to study much for that. There are many serious problems before the country. Violence against women is increasing, unemployment and inflation. Civil problems in rural areas are never considered. Farmers' crop is not getting reasonable price. But, the value of the party changers is on the rise. God-religion and temples are religious matters that should be kept aloof from politics. Such a law should be made. So that, the inflammatory speech of the politicians will be ceased and the country will experience a calm lifestyle!

Sudhir Kangutkar

### Dengue & malaria can prove fatal if not treated early!

The city is flooded with cases of ma-

laria & dengue. Merely collecting fines for docking mosquito-breeding makes no sense when no concrete proposals have been initiated by the govt to stop the mosquito menace. Dengue, malaria can prove fatal if not treated early & prevention is the best cure against any disease.

Educate the masses to follow pest control norms & avoid water filled potholes that breed mosquitoes. Public places like parks & gardens should be sprayed with chemicals that kill mosquitoes. Stringent punishment of fines & imprisonment is the need of the hour to check mosquito breeding sites in the city!

S.N.Kabra

### The Dignity of Election Commission

Elections are the foundation on which the edifice of democracy stands. The Constitution has created the Election Commission under Article 324 for free and fair elections. In order for the Commission to be independent, the process of removal of the Chief Election Commissioner was kept equivalent to that of a Supreme Court judge so that he can take decisions fearlessly. It has been the practice for the last 70 years that this institution communicates directly with the Prime Minister and the Minister. He has been kept equal to a judge because he also hears alle-

gations of electoral irregularities against the Prime Minister, Chief Minister or ministers. The government also had to make the process of appointment of its members such that it looks clean. But now by changing the system, the selection committee will consist of the PM, a cabinet minister and the leader of the opposition (i.e. the majority government), by bringing a law in this regard, the status of the members of the commission is being made equal to that of the cabinet secretary. That means the Election Commission will no longer be able to call any minister or give him orders. Making the Cabinet Secretary equivalent will lower the dignity of the Election Commission. While on one hand the government is angry about the collegium formed for the appointment of judges, on the other hand this new law will be considered contrary to the government's claim of good governance and minimum government and maximum governance.

N Ashraf

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

## CBI registers case against Mumbai company's chairman for defrauding SBI and other lenders of Rs 3,800 crore



The CBI has registered an FIR against Mumbai-based Unity Infraprojects Ltd, its chairman managing director (CMD) Kishore Avarsekar, three directors and unknown public servants for allegedly defrauding State Bank of India and a consortium of 15 banks to the tune of Rs 3,847.58 crore.

The FIR (First Information Report) was registered on Thursday based on a complaint filed by the Deputy General Manager, SBI, Stressed Assets Management Branch I, Mumbai.

The FIR names UIL, its

Chairman Managing Director Kishore Avarsekar, vice chairman and promoter guarantor Abhijit Avarsekar, executive director Ashish Avarsekar, whole-time director promoter Pushpa Avarsekar, unknown public servants, and private persons. According to the complaint, credit/loan facilities, fund-based as well as non-fund based, of approximately Rs 3,800 crore were sanctioned to Unity Infraprojects Limited by SBI and other consortium member banks.

The complaint alleged that the fraud took place at its commercial branch in Mumbai where

the accused persons siphoned the "Bank's funds by doing fictitious transactions, manipulated and fudged books of accounts with an objective to defraud and cheat the bank and to gain unlawfully at the cost of the Banks' funds". "The said company by way of fictitious transactions undertaken by it through fraudulent LC trade model, improper adjustment entries by fudging data, diversion of funds through non-consortium accounts, diversion of funds through related parties and unexplained excess payouts, siphoned off the funds of SBI and other consortium banks and thereby cheated these banks," the FIR stated.

Prima facie, the complaint discloses the commission of offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal misconduct under sections 120 B and 420 of the Indian Penal Code, and sections 13 (2), 13 (1) (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, it added. PTI

## CM Shinde slams opposition leaders over defeating PM Modi, says "Sheep, goats cannot fight lion"

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday said opposition parties only think about defeating Prime Minister Narendra Modi but "sheep and goats" cannot put up a fight against a lion in a jungle.

Speaking to a Hindi news channel from Shrinagar, Shinde said, "I will not call opposition vultures but sheep and goats cannot come together to put up a fight against a lion in a jungle. A lion is always a lion and he would rule the jungle." When asked about the opposition parties coming together to challenge the BJP-led NDA alliance, the Shiv Sena leader said, "The opposition only thinks about defeating Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I do not see anywhere the opposition is putting up a fight." Maharashtra sends 48 members to Lok Sabha, the second highest in the country after Uttar Pradesh which elects 80 parliamentarians.

Commenting on the status of the National Democratic Alliance in Maharashtra, Shinde said,



"After Ajit Pawar decided to join us, my government (BJP-Shiv Sena-Ajit Pawar faction of NCP) enjoys the support of 215 plus MLAs. There is no threat to the government." Without naming his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray, Shinde said, "We are doing work for the people. People will decide whether they want someone who works for them or the one who merely sits at home." Queried on the allegation that the Enforcement Directorate is being used to target leaders from the opposition camp, Shinde said, "The ED takes action against those who are suspected to have indulged in corrupt practices. It does not harass anyone just like that." PTI

## Mumbai-Ahmedabad train traffic resumed after water level of river dropped in Gujarat



Train traffic on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route resumed slowly around Monday noon nearly 12 hours after it was halted when the Narmada river was flowing above the danger mark between Bharuch and Ankleshwar stations in Gujarat, Western Railway said.

Sharing an update on the situation, Western Railway's Chief PRO Sumit Thakur told PTI that the operation of trains on the route from bridge no 502 resumed slowly at around 11:30 am

on Monday as the water level of Narmada river receded below the danger mark.

The operation of trains on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route between Bharuch and Ankleshwar stations under the Vadodara division stopped after Narmada river waters surged above the danger mark at brigade no. 502 at around 11:50 pm on Sunday. "The railway traffic over the Narmada River bridge has resumed and trains are being operated slowly with caution," Thakur said. PTI

## RPF constable saves life of a passenger through CPR at Kurla

A timely Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) given by an RPF constable saved the life of a male passenger at Kurla station in Mumbai, a Central Railway official said on Monday.

The passenger was found lying unconscious on platform number 7-8 of the station on September 14 at around 11 am.

"On duty, RPF (Railway Protection Force) constable Mukesh Yadav rushed to the spot and performed CPR on the passenger which helped save his life. Subsequently, the RPF shifted the passenger to civic-run Bhabha Hospital with the help of the station master and GRP personnel," a CR spokesperson said. CPR is a medical procedure involving repeated cycles of compression of the chest and artificial respira-



tion, performed to maintain blood circulation and oxygenation in a person who has suffered cardiac arrest.

Doctors at the hospital appreciated the timely CPR given by the RPF staffer which helped the passenger regain breathing and

his life was saved, he said. "RPF staff Mukesh Yadav has done an excellent work of humanity in saving a precious life," the spokesperson said, adding that the condition of the passenger was stable. PTI

# Nation

## Met Dept forecasts heavy rain, thunderstorms, lightning at Himachal



The Ministry of Earth Sciences, Meteorological Centre in Shimla has predicted heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places over plains, low and mid hills of the state. "Heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning likely at isolated places on 18. 09. 2023 over plains, low and mid hills of the state. Damage may occur to standing crops,

fruit plants, new plantings and poor visibility. Traffic congestion and disruption in electric supply," said the Met Department.

The Met Department Shimla further gave directions to avert damage during spells of heavy rainfall. "Make proper drainage channels on account of heavy rain, To avoid the direct impact of heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning on new saplings, make

adequate arrangements, farmers are advised to reschedule the spraying of insecticide," it stated.

The Weather Department also said to keep the bee colonies disease-free, neat and clean, arrange for a drainage facility and avoid irrigation during heavy rainfall.

Earlier in the day, the met department in Bhopal predicted light to moderate rainfall in some parts of western Madhya Pradesh in the next 24 hours. Speaking to ANI, IMD Bhopal Meteorologist, Prakash Dhole said, "The low-pressure area which was formed on Sunday in western Madhya Pradesh is now slowly moving towards Rajasthan. Right now it is heading from East Rajasthan to Western Rajasthan. The monsoon trough is also moving towards the Bay of Bengal." ANI

## PM Modi's degree case: CM Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh moved to Gujarat HC on issue of summons



Am Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh have moved the Gujarat High Court against the sessions court's order refusing to quash the summons issued against them in a criminal defamation case over their comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualification. Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal and Rajya Sabha member Singh filed a plea challenging the September 14 order of the

sessions court dismissing their revision applications against the trial court's summons, their lawyer Percy Kavina said. The matter was mentioned before the court of Justice Samir Dave for urgent listing primarily on the grounds that the trial court is due to take up the matter on September 23. The court declined the request and said that the office has been instructed to list it expeditiously, Kavina said. PTI

## TET scam: Calcutta HC asks CBI "Why are they not interrogating TMC MLA" in this case



The Calcutta High Court on Monday asked the CBI why it was not interrogating former West Bengal Primary Board chief Manik Bhattacharya in connection with the alleged destruction of OMR sheets of 2014 Teacher Eligibility Test. Bhattacharya, who is a TMC MLA, is currently lodged in Presidency Correctional Home here. The CBI probe into the TET scam is being monitored by Calcutta High Court. Justice Abhijit Ganguly made the observation while hearing the case in the presence of CBI and defence counsels.

Bhattacharya, who is a TMC MLA, is currently lodged in Presidency Correctional Home here. The CBI probe into the TET scam is being monitored

by Calcutta High Court. Justice Abhijit Ganguly made the observation while hearing the case in the presence of CBI and defence counsels. "Why Bhattacharya cannot be interrogated in the correctional home in connection with destroying of OMR sheets," Justice Ganguly asked. When told that the Supreme Court had barred the investigating agency from subjecting Bhattacharya to any strict steps, the judge said, "But the SC did not prevent you from interrogating him." The judge asked the CBI to submit a report listing the probe progress in the OMR sheet destruction case. His wife and son had also been arrested in the case, but his wife was released on bail recently. PTI

## TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said, "All like-minded parties welcome to join hand in fight against BJP"

Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Monday described next year's general election as a fight against the BJP and welcomed all like-minded parties to join hands for the purpose. Banerjee emphasised the importance of "solidarity and safeguarding democratic values" in the

fight against BJP. He, however, declined to comment on the CPI(M)'s decision not to participate in the coordination committee of the newly formed Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) coalition.

"I am not aware of CPI(M)'s political position and would prefer not to comment on that.

In this fight against the BJP, we have welcomed every other opposition party to be a part of the committee. CPI(M) or any other political party's final call is solely their decision," the TMC Diamond Harbour MP told reporters at the airport while leaving for New Delhi to take part in the ongoing special session of Parliament. PTI

## Kerala: RTI activist found dead at his residence in Ernakulam district

Right to Information (RTI) activist Girish Babu was on Monday found dead at his residence in Kalamassery in Kerala's Ernakulam district, police said. According to the police, the deceased was living with his family and was found dead in his bedroom this morning.

The primary investigation of the police suggests Girish Babu died of a heart attack. The Kalamassery police has filed an FIR with Cr no 2075/23 under section 174 CrPC in the matter. Further



investigation into the matter is underway, the officials said. Babu had filed several public interest litigations, including the plea seeking a vigilance probe against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan in connection with an alleged

bribery case.

After a vigilance court recently rejected his petition, Girish approached the Kerala High Court challenging the petition. He has also filed a plea seeking a vigilance probe into the Palarivattom flyover scam. ANI

World

## American entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy said, "As US president I would enforce civil rights laws"



Indian American entrepreneur and Republican candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has said that one of the things that he needs to do as US President is to enforce the civil rights law as they exist on the books. In his address at the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition Town Hall, Ramaswamy said, "There are two sides to the job. One is there are policies the US president should

stand for and where I begin is not what I need to ask Congress to do, most of those promises are never fulfilled, repeal and replace Obama Care you might remember that it didn't happen it's not anyone's fault just Congress is designed to act slowly if at all. One of the things I need to do is as US president enforce the civil rights laws as they exist on the books."

He said that modern woke-ness showcases as a sort of religion in the US which indicates that you can't speak certain words or wear certain clothes. He stated that he will instruct the US Department of Justice to enforce all civil rights laws "even-handedly rather than in a one-sided way."

"I wrote a book about this I think that modern wokeness reflects a sort of religion in this country, actually certain words you can't say clothes you can't wear, apologies you must recite, excommunication procedures that must be initiated. Well one of the things is the Supreme Court's been clear that even secular humanism meets the test for what counts as a religion, if that does woekism does too turns out to be a religion ... you can't force an employee to bow down to your religion," he said. ANI

## Pakistan: Surge in Inflation forces families move into debt cycle

As Pakistan grapples with a severe economic crisis and soaring inflation, this financial safety net of the people of Pakistan appears eroding, Dawn reported. Children who were given lessons about "saving for a rainy day" from a young age. These savings, whether in cash or assets like gold, were traditionally reserved for significant expenses such as weddings, unexpected illnesses, or business losses but families are finding themselves compelled to dip into their savings to cover daily necessities, including electricity bills, school fees, rent, and other essential expenses, Dawn reported.

For instance, Zubaida Bibi, a widow living in Taxila's Bilal Colony, had to pawn her three-decade-old engagement ring to pay her August electricity bill, hoping to retrieve it once her pen-

sion funds became available.

Ahmed Zaman, a resident of Karachi and the sole provider for his family of six, revealed that his Pakistan Rupee (PKR)150,000 monthly salary, which once covered household expenses, is now insufficient. He shared the struggle of managing his PKR 35,000 rent and a monthly electricity bill exceeding PKR 40,000, with these two expenses devouring half his income. Even families with multiple earners face financial hardship. Hussain Shabbir, residing in Pakistan's largest city, Karachi, explained how three of his family's seven members contribute to the household income. Despite their combined earnings of around PKR 130,000, they've resorted to borrowing money from friends as they grapple with a mounting "debt cycle," according to Dawn. ANI

## Secret Pakistani arms sales to the United States helped facilitate a controversial bailout from IMF: Report

A secret Pakistani arms sales to the United States helped facilitate a controversial bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) earlier this year, as per two sources aware of the arrangement, with confirmation from internal Pakistani and American government documents, The Intercept reported. The Intercept is an online American non-profit news organization.

The arms sales were made for the purpose of supplying the Ukrainian military. This signals Pakistani involvement in a conflict it had faced US pressure to take sides on.

As per The Intercept, the revelation is a window into the kind of behind-the-scenes manoeuvring between financial and political elites that rarely is exposed to the public, even as the public pays the price. Pakistan

faced major protests in face of harsh structural policy reforms demanded by the IMF as terms for its recent bailout. There were several strikes in the country in response to the measures. The protests are the latest chapter in a year-and-a-half-long political crisis roiling the country.

With the encouragement of the US, the Pakistani military in April 2022, helped organize a no-confidence vote to remove Prime Minister Imran Khan. Ahead of Khan's ouster, US State Department diplomats privately expressed anger to their Pakistani counterparts over what they called Pakistan's "aggressively neutral" stance on the Ukraine war under Khan.

They warned of dire consequences if Khan remained in power and promised "all would be forgiven" if he were removed. ANI

## China lodged a protest with Germany over its foreign minister, calls president as dictator

China on Monday lodged a diplomatic protest with Germany over its Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock labelling President Xi Jinping as a dictator. "If (President Vladimir) Putin were to win this war, what sign would that be for other dictators in the world, like Xi, like the Chinese president? Therefore, Ukraine has to win this war," Baerbock said in an interview on Friday during her trip to the US. The Chinese Foreign Ministry took exception to Baerbock's remarks, saying that the comments were an "open political provocation." "We deplore and reject the remarks by the German side which are preposterous and extremely irresponsible," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said while responding to a question at a media briefing on the German Minister's comments.

The remarks are contrary to



facts and a breach of diplomatic protocol and China lodged a diplomatic protest to Germany, Mao said.

Earlier this year, US President Joe Biden also called Xi a dictator. Xi, 70, heads the ruling Communist Party, the military besides the Presidency, earning him the tag of the most powerful Chinese leader after Mao

Zedong. Baerbock's comments came in the backdrop of steady deterioration in once flourishing relations between China and the European Union as well as Germany. Recently, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU executive would launch an investigation into Chinese electric vehicle subsidies. PTI

## Expression

# How should a working woman bear the burden of double work?



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational  
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In today's modern age, every girl strives to get high educational qualification. Her parents also want our girl to study well so that her future is bright and she leads a confident and self-reliant life. As long as you can Today, most of the girls are getting good position and status according to their merit with the support of their families. With the help of her parents, the life of the girl is going on as before, but after marriage, she faces many problems in the in-laws' family. Apart from outside work, she also has to think about the happiness and well-being of every member of the house along with the responsibility of taking care of the children.

Thus, today most of the women are suffering from stress due to this double workload. In this way, their mental and physical health is not only bad, but also their work efficiency, home life and children are also affected. Therefore, it is important that despite their busy lives, they think about themselves and take time for themselves so that they can work in them. Stay fresh and happy The first point to get rid of this stress is to accept your tasks happily and do everything with interest. By adopting a positive mindset, it will never become a burden. Along with this, use the time properly by planning the tasks to be done at home and outside the home. On the basis of priority, the work that is necessary should be done first.



It is good if the household chores are settled in the evening and the children's school work is taken care of on time. Children should be aware of the difficulties and address them because the child will not open up to anyone more than the mother.

It is better to come home and forget about office work. This will not destroy physical and mental strength. In the evening, the whole family should sit and share light and fluffy talks and find some means of entertainment. Keep a friend with a newspaper or a book to refresh your mind The most important thing is to make time for walking and exercise. Then why not play with the children in the yard of the house. In this way, the dullness of life can be avoided. A woman is always worried about taking care of small children and being alone at home. Therefore, it

is better to keep an elderly member of your family or a reliable person from among your relatives a program should also be made to go out somewhere during the children's vacations.

The entire family can play an important role in reducing the burden of any working woman. If she gets full support, love, due respect, appreciation and compassionate treatment, then all her fatigue will disappear. The husband has the most responsibility. If the husband and wife help each other every moment and solve every problem with patience and perseverance, every way is found. A woman who brings home equal income by working outside, then why the entire burden of the house is from her? A man should also be able to do all the housework. Doing household chores is not difficult anymore as all

homes have electrical appliances today, all that is required is time. The situation seems to have changed since a few decades ago. A life with every comfort in today's age the desire to enjoy life is greater. In order to increase the income of the house, it is considered necessary for a woman to do a job.

Therefore, the family, especially the husband, is supporting her, which is a good thing. The house can run on the right lines only under the understanding, tolerance and guidance of the woman. So overcome all challenges by maintaining determination from your will power and move forward in every field of life. Free yourself from double workload. In this way, you will be able to be more active for the family and the organization

# Entertainment



## Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar said, "Chance to proudly represent India" over debut at London Fashion Week

Former Miss World and Bollywood actress Manushi Chhillar is all set to make her debut at London Fashion Week 2023. She will be walking the runway in creations by renowned designer Rocky Star.

Excited about her debut at the London Fashion Week, Chhillar said, "I am thrilled about my debut at London Fashion Week 2023. It's a chance to proudly represent India and its remarkable fashion heritage on a global platform." After making her Bollywood debut with 'Prithviraj', Manushi Chhillar, who was crowned Miss World in 2017 is now busy working on her new film titled 'Tehran', which also stars John Abraham. She will also be seen in 'The Great Indian Family'. **ANI**

## Nayanthara shares pictures of her new vacation spot



Actor Nayanthara, who made her Bollywood debut with Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Jawan', took a break for a vacation with her husband Vignesh Shivan. Nayanthara took to X (formerly Twitter) on Monday to post an image of the couple from her vacation. She wrote, "Bliss," alongside the picture.

In the picture, Nayanthara gave Vignesh a hug by the poolside. They had their back towards the camera. Nayanthara wore a blue shirt, while her husband wore a black shirt. As soon as she uploaded the picture, fans chimed in the comment section. A fan wrote, "So beautiful." **ANI**

## Actor Dharmendra shares memories of Pran, calls him, "...industry's most loving person" on social media



Veteran actor Pran, who created a benchmark on screen with his exemplary performances, especially as a villain, has worked with Dharmendra in several movies including 'Dharam Veer', 'Pyar Hi Pyar', 'Jugnu', and many more. Now, Dharmendra has shared a memory with him. Dharmendra took to X (formerly Twitter) to post a throwback picture with the late actor and wrote in the caption, "Some naughty question to ailing Pran Sahab ..... industry's most loving person"

In the picture, both veteran actors can be seen sharing some fun-filled moments. Pran started as a hero but later became popular for his negative roles. He didn't need any props to convey his evil nature onscreen - just a look from his amazing eyes, a steely voice, and a smirk were plenty. In the later years of his career, he also played character roles where he proved his acting skills. **ANI**

## 'Fukrey 3' team recalls their school memories, says 'jugaad'

Amidst the vibrant street and the mouthwatering golgappas of Delhi, the 'Fukrey 3' team soaked in the city's infectious energy. The cast including Pulkit Samrat, Varun Sharma, Manjot Singh and Richa Chadha spoke candidly about their film, their roles and their expectations from the third instalment of the movie. They also recalled their school days and the 'jugaad' they did during that time to get out of tough situations.



While talking about reprising Choocha in 'Fukrey 3' and how the character has evolved in the third part, Varun told ANI, "His situation has changed, mentally he is the same. The madness is more now and from 'Fukrey' and 'Fukrey Returns', there is more craziness in the film. There is a lot of fun." He added that if 'Fukrey 4' is made, it will be "from the craziest of Fukrey 3"

Pulkit, who looked excited about his film, opened up on how he felt after Salman Khan applauded his dance steps on the track 'Ve Fukrey'. He said, "He has a big heart. He doesn't hold back compliments and his point of view. If he likes something, he shares it with the world and even if he doesn't like anything he will not hesitate to say it. I am fortunate that he is showing me affection, and I only hope that he will feel the same way about the movie once it has been released. He loved the 'Fukrey' franchise and the earlier parts of the movie. He is presumably overjoyed that the third is on the way." **ANI**