



Cauvery water dispute: Protests erupted in Karnataka after SC

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With effect from 21 September 2023, Indian visa services have been suspended for Canada

AV Team

As per BLS International, interested visa applicants have been advised to keep checking the BLS website for further updates on the issue. "Important notice from Indian Mission: Due to operational reasons, with effect from 21 September 2023, Indian visa services have been suspended till further notice. Please keep checking BLS website for further updates," the BLS website said.

This comes amid strain in India-Canada relations after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday alleged that the Indian government was behind the fa-

tal shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Nijjar, who was a designated terrorist in India, was gunned down outside a Gurdwara, in a parking area in Canada's Surrey, British Columbia on June 18. Soon after that angster Sukhdool Singh, who had fled to Canada from Punjab in 2017, shot by unknown men in Canada's Winnipeg. According to sources in Punjab Police, Singh had joined pro-Khalistan forces. These killings are done by the rival gangs and they are shot in Canada.

According intelligence input Sukhdool Singh alias Sukha Duneke, gangster of Davinder Bambiha gang, was from Punjab's Moga. He is said to have been killed in Canada's Winnipeg in an inter-gang ri-

valry, sources said. Lawrence Bishnoi gang later claimed responsibility for the killing of Sukha Duneke. In a social media post, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang said Duneke played a major role in the killings of gangsters Gurlal Brar and Vicky Middkhera, adding that the murders were planned by Duneke even when he was staying abroad. Top Intelligence sources said these killings are due to inter gang rivalry between these groups. These groups want to own the Khalistani movement for the sake of money.

Trudeau during a debate in the Canadian Parliament, claimed his country's national security officials had reasons to believe that "agents of the Indian government" car-

ried out the killing of the Canadian citizen, who also served as the president of Surrey's Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara. The allegations made by the Canadian Prime Minister and foreign minister were rejected by the Ministry of External Affairs in India which dubbed the statements as absurd.

On Wednesday, Indian nationals, students in Canada and those planning on travelling to the country were advised to exercise caution. Indian nationals and Indian students in Canada were advised to avoid travelling to regions and potential venues in Canada that have seen growing anti-India activities, according to a release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Journey of a media rebel, crossing all the odds to pursue her career

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

I started my journalism career at the age of 17 as a translator in one trade magazine in the diamond market of Mumbai. Soon I joined an English tabloid and worked there for a year as a trainee reporter. After that I joined a local cable news channel which was very popular those days, where I worked as a local news correspondent. The cable news got shut due to their own issues and again I was in search of a job but fortunately by now my media training from print to visuals was almost completed. I joined Astha channel and made a children's series called "Chotisi Baat Nanhonke Saath". One newly launched health channel called Care TV saw my work and assigned me health-based documentary making for their channel. The journalist in me was not happy with what I was doing but these opportunities gave me a lot of experience and exposure.

Without much struggle I got a break in Free Press journal, an English daily of Mumbai to work as court correspondent, and I was very keen to do it because those days I was studying law. My college used to be in the morning and newspapers reporting was after that. My studies and my work were in a lot of balance. My major coverage was Maharashtra Navnirman Sena's attack on North Indian students appearing for railway recruitment examinations; they were brutally assaulted by his party men. While I was working with a free press journal, I received a call from Late Mr A R Kanangi the then associate editor of Afternoon Despatch and Courier.

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Editoritis

Journey of a media rebel, crossing all the odds to pursue her career

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The old staff of ADC could never digest the fact that I joined their publication and soon became its city editor.

There were many people waiting for their elevations but I became a hindrance.

I wanted to quit the job but when I received that letter, I was in unknown pain. I was troubled to get my experience letter from them, my dues and full final settlements were kept pending.

I know what I wanted to do but I was clueless of how to do it. I wanted to reach that sky but also wanted to find the stairs to climb towards my aims.

I was assigned political coverage, one long year I ruled the front-page with my reports and by-lines, which bothered many old guards of ADC but the owner Mr Morarka was impressed with my work and one fine day he promoted me as City editor.

This promotion became hell for me, I had to face worst of politics in that publication house. Some colleagues used to write anonymous letters to Mr Morarka, there were series of letters written against me. They didn't stop there a frustrated soul also wrote a obnoxious blog on me. The old staff of ADC could never digest the fact that I joined their publication and soon became its city editor. There were many people waiting for their elevations but I became a hindrance. I used to work for 15 to 16 long hours a day. My body and mind reached to a saturation. Many people left their jobs due to undue pressure and cheap politics. I also wanted to get out of that filth. My experience and wisdom did not allow me to take any kind of burden. I was threatened, warned of not getting a job anywhere. But at that moment I decided to quit. I came out of the newspaper office; my heart was calm but my head was heavy.

Next Few days I was breathing the freedom of staying at home, one day I received a letter from them asking me to resign. It was emotional turbulence, I wanted to quit the job but when I received that letter, I was in unknown pain. I was troubled to get my experience letter from them, my dues and full final settlements were kept pending. They delayed it for their own reasons, I had to chase them for quite a long time. There is a saying" when going gets tough the tough get going". While I was in town, I met Advocate Rohini Salian, she was my mentor, well-wisher and guide. I told her that I quit the job and now don't want to work under any banner but wish to start my own publication. She encouraged me to follow my intuitions and fulfill the dreams. She said do what you believe in, start your own newspaper but plan for it.

Planning for it means finance was an inevitable part. I was heart-broken and hopeless, one evening my kid friend, partner in crime and my confidant Aditi and I went to the terrace of my building to have chill evening chats but I was silently watching the moon, I was in deep pain or maybe in deep silence. I know what I wanted to do but I was clueless of how to do it. I wanted to reach that sky but also wanted to find the stairs to climb towards my aims. Adi shook me and asked "are you lost?". I told her that I lost my job and now I don't want to join any media house for survival but aiming to do something and not finding ways. She gave me a heavy dose of motivation; she made me believe that I can do it. The Next day I approached my friend Sachin and told him about my newspaper venture, he agreed to help me with a couple of lakhs. But

that was not enough, and finally I mortgaged my house knowing that I would have no shelter if I lost it. I got a good fund after mortgaging my house. Some small amount I fixed for the emergency of life. And with the remaining funds I made a blueprint of required expenses to start a newspaper. It took me time to draw conclusions and go ahead with the plan. It was 2009 January I was called to Esplanade court for title registration formalities. There was one senior gentleman who helped me register a newspaper title that I wanted, "Afternoon Voice". When I was in ADC people used to say you are the news face and voice of Afternoon. The term Afternoon and its Voice was very close to my heart that is why I decided to name my newspaper as "Afternoon Voice".

There was also another reason to have this name, those days many employees were sacked, some left abruptly, but none of them were allowed to put their point or given a chance to voice their opinion. I created this platform for all those voices who were deprived. Meanwhile, in the living room of my house I made my office. We purchased two second-hand computers from one, who about to shut the vernacular newspaper. That person gave me knowledge about printing newspapers, circulating and all other aspects of the business which were remotely not thought of by me. I mean, I was really naïve on that front. Looking at my pocket and sitting in the office of a failed businessman made me temporarily miserable but still I was determined to do what I wanted to do.

I approached a circulation agency, but that agency owner did not take me seriously in the first place, he thought I was just venting out of frustration. But still he gave me valuable suggestions and keeping that in mind, my search began for a printing press. I visited several people, they all were asking for the volume that I wanted to print and size of the newspaper, number of black and white pages, and number of colour pages, or all colour or all black and white. Here I realized that my homework is incomplete, just managing funds and office is not enough. Now coming back to my team, they were all school dropouts and there one page designer who was professional but never worked for a newspaper. I gave him a copy of some tabloid and told him to design exactly. He roughly designed the pages, I decided to keep 16 pages firstly, 8 black and white and 8 colour pages. All news pages were in black and front page, entertainment pages, supplements, letter diary in colour. At least this time I had some rough idea of how my newspaper will look.

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Vaidehi has received several Awards like I Congo-karmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

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Voices



Elderly people have the right to live a dignified life



- Vijay Garg

Individualistic and opportunistic thinking has made the structure of society rude and insensitive in the present era. Now the essence of relationships remains only that people are maintaining relationships as per their need. As soon as the need ends, even the elders in the house start being considered a burden.

Today, it is the same story in every household that the elders of the house are forced to live a life of loneliness, contempt, neglect and fear by the family members. In this era of modernity, consumerist culture and metropolitan. Due to modern understanding, there has been a change in the thinking of the new generation in the changing environment of social values. The integrated lifestyle has created many problems for the elderly. Article 21 of the Constitution gives every human being the right to live a dignified life, but what can one do when one's own right becomes an obstacle? Well, it is a great irony of our society that we have become so blind in our desire for sons that we are unable to give the love to our daughters that they actually deserve.

Even today in our society is filled with male chauvinist mentality. Even today we consider sons as Kuldeepak, while daughters are considered as someone else's wealth, but often these same Kuldeepak leave their own father



in an old age home. We are the people of the country having the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. Then how are they becoming so blind in the race of modernity that they are bent upon abandoning their own traditions. Is this modernity, in which we forget to respect our loved ones? Why do we forget that mother brought us into this world by bearing the greatest pain of her life? Has given birth, the father has taught us to walk

holding the finger, has made us capable of knowing the difference between right and wrong. Then when they need our support. So how can we turn back? We have to understand what our elders are trying to tell us.

Today instead of listening to them, we have started telling our stories. This is the reason why criminal tendencies are increasing in the society in the present times. Today we want to preserve the old buildings, but leave the elders at home helpless and in tears. Are only if we give our elderly parents the right to live a respectful life, our present and future will be secure. Otherwise, the way we are making our parents homeless. Tomorrow we will also grow old and our children will also see and learn the same things that we do with our parents today have been.

Letters to the Editor

Have faith in Almighty God!

Seers from Ayodhya have threaten to march to Tamil Nadu. Controversy arose after Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's controversial comment on Sanatan Dharma. He said a few days ago that Sanatan Dharma should be eradicated. This issue is not yet subsided. For this, seers should seek action against Stalin from the government. Humble minded sadhus, saints and seers should have faith in the government as well as in Almighty God. It is Lord who gives the fruits of good and bad deeds. So, it is wrong for seers to take the march.

Sudhir Kangutkar

Impartial Journalism

In the era of information revolution, the credibility of electronic media is diminishing. In the race to increase TRP, electronic channels highlight the same news again and again. TV anchors should follow their journalistic dharma and question politicians impartially. In today's era of information revolution, small news goes viral all over the world within a few minutes, hence dependence on any single media outlet is over. The level of morality in the society is declining, the effect of which is evident on both politics and journalism. Unbiased journalism is essential for the strength of democracy.

N Ashraf

Privacy Concern

Digital transactions have been increased in the country but the scope of cybercrime has also increased. According to a government reportage,

2.1 lakh bank accounts data have been stolen in the country since January to March 2023. And it is possible through insecure storage and collusion by employees of banks and insurance companies. People also must be vigilant while performing online transactions as well as it is the duty of banks and insurance companies to protect customer data. The government should implement it legally otherwise the digital revolution in the country may suffer a setback.

Jahangir Ali

All Weather Ally

A government official in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly has been removed from his post after a video of him allegedly being 'punished' inside his office went viral. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Udit Pawar of Mirganj town in Bareilly district has been accused of allegedly making a man 'crouch

like a chicken' after meeting the officer for the third time with a request for a crematorium. Mr. Pawar has denied the allegation, saying that the man was already in that position when he entered his office, and that he had in fact asked him why he was doing so and instructed others present that they should help him. Trustees and administrators, behaviour should not be with awful manner because it's their duty. Their behaviour must be an apostle of love and peace that obliges people to say that they are leading their lives happily. In nutshell, there needs to be a peace-loving administrator.

Mohammad Taukir

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Police held two people for raping a minor girl in a moving taxi



Mumbai Police have registered a case against two people who kidnapped and raped a 14-year-old girl in a moving taxi. According to the police, the victim girl had a fight with her family members and decided to go to Malvani in Malad to meet her relative. Seeing her alone, a taxi driver asked to drop her off to Malwani, after which the victim girl started going with him towards Malwani. The accused taxi driver took a

taxi to Dadar where he made accused Salman Shaikh sit with him and started moving ahead.

Meanwhile, after getting information about the girl's disappearance, the family members of the victim girl contacted the Malabar Hill Police Station and informed them about the kidnapping. A case was registered as she was underage. Police started a technical investigation and found that the girl had gone to a relative's place in the Malad area. A

team was sent there to bring back the girl and we started investigating as soon as we got the news of her missing. However, the situation became serious when the girl revealed what had happened to her while on her way to Malad, police said.

A police officer further said that there were two men inside the taxi, one of whom was the driver and the other was the person who raped the girl in the back seat. Different teams were formed to investigate the taxi through various methods including CCTV footage. According to the police, the incident allegedly took place between Dadar and Malad. Police confirmed that the two accused have been identified as Shriprakash Pandey, a taxi driver, and Salman Shaikh, both aged between 25 and 27 years. ANI

Speaker Rahul Narwekar says, "Neither rush nor delay in disqualification pleas of Shiv Sena MLA's"

Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar on Thursday said he will not delay the decision on the disqualification pleas of some Shiv Sena MLAs but wouldn't rush into it either as it may result in "miscarriage of justice". Speaking to reporters on board the luxury Deccan Odyssey train, Narwekar emphasised the decision he will take will be constitutional. "Regarding the disqualification pleas, I can only say I won't delay it nor will there be any kind of hurry that could result in miscarriage of justice," he said. The Shiv Sena split in June last year after a rebellion led by Eknath Shinde, who went on to become chief minister with the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party. However, the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction filed pleas seeking the disqualification of several MLAs, including Shinde, under anti-defection laws. The Supreme Court had, on May 11,

directed the Assembly speaker to decide on the disqualification pleas within a reasonable time. The Shiv Sena (UBT) has been claiming Narwekar was deliberately delaying in arriving at a decision on the disqualification pleas. Speaking to reporters, Narwekar also said his visit to Delhi was pre-planned in order to take part in some meetings. Narwekar and state minister Girish Mahajan inspected Deccan Odyssey, which is being relaunched after a gap of four years, and flagged it off for its inaugural run from CSMT to Panvel. Mahajan said the train, which was launched by then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2004, has served scores of tourists from several nations. According to Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) officials, the train will embark for its first commercial journey from Mumbai to Delhi on September 23, with more than 20 seats being booked already. PTI

Vijay Wadettiwar said, "Threat of drought looms large over state is govt aware of severity of situation" over issue of farming



Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra assembly Vijay Wadettiwar on Thursday said the threat of drought looms large over the state and wondered if the Eknath Shinde government was aware of the severity of the situation. He said 13 districts have received below-average rainfall in the last one and a half months. The Congress leader claimed that several reports have stated that farmer suicides in the state are on the rise because of the drought-like conditions and government apathy. "How are we concerned? We just need to give

assurances and walk away. This is the agenda of this government," he said. Wadettiwar shared what he claimed rainfall data of districts that have received scanty showers so far this monsoon. He said Sangli has got 45 per cent less rainfall than average. He claimed it is 19 per cent less in Nanded, 35 per cent less in Solapur, 40 per cent less in Satara, 27 per cent less in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (earlier Aurangabad), Jalna (43), Beed (43), Dharashiv, earlier Osmanabad (32), Parbhani (31), Amravati (30), Washim (22) and Akola (29). PTI

Elgar Parishad case: Bombay HC grants bail to activist Mahesh Raut

The Bombay High Court on Thursday granted bail to activist Mahesh Raut, arrested in the Elgar Parishad Maoist links case. A division bench of Justices A S Gadkari and Sharmila Deshmukh allowed Raut's plea seeking bail on merits. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) sought the court to stay its order for two weeks so that it could file an appeal in the Supreme Court. The bench then stayed operation of its order for a week.

Raut was arrested in June 2018 and is presently in judicial custody. He had moved HC in 2022 seeking bail and chal-

lenging the order passed by the special NIA court refusing him bail. Raut in his plea had said his custody was unwarranted and that it was against Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. The NIA had opposed the plea saying it was not justifiable to grant an accused, booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) to seek bail on constitutional grounds.

As many as 16 activists have been arrested in the case of which five are currently out on bail. Scholar-activist Anand Teltumbde, lawyer Sudha Bhargava, Vernon Gonsalves and Arun

Ferreira have been granted regular bail, while poet Varavara Rao is currently out on bail on health grounds. Another accused, activist Gautam Navlakha, is under house arrest as per the direction of the Supreme Court. The case pertains to the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017, which according to the Pune police was funded by Maoists. The inflammatory speeches made there led to violence at the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial in Pune the next day, the police had alleged. The case was later probed by the NIA. PTI

A man jumps from Bandra-Worli Sea Link, search underway

A 33-year-old man jumped into the Arabian Sea from Mumbai's Bandra-Worli Sea Link in the early hours of Thursday, triggering a search, an official said. The operation to trace him is being carried out by the Mumbai police and fire brigade with the help of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard, the offi-

cial said. The incident took place around 4 am when Vinay Yadav, a resident of Jogeshwari in the western suburbs, jumped into the sea from the cable-stayed bridge. Yadav, a driver by profession, came in an Innova car, parked it on the bridge and jumped into the sea, he said. The local police and fire brigade began a search.

As they faced difficulties, the Indian Coast Guard and Navy were roped in, the official said. The reason behind Yadav's decision to plunge into the sea is not yet known, he added. On July 31, a 57-year-old man jumped from the sea link, triggering a search by the Navy and Coast Guard. His body was recovered the next day. PTI

Nation

NIA releases pictures of wanted accused in case of attack and vandalism at the Indian Consulate in US, seeks information



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has released the pictures of 10 wanted accused in the March 2023 case of attack and vandalism at the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, USA, and has sought information about them from the general public, the agency said in a statement.

The agency has issued three

separate "Request for Identification & Information" notices against the wanted accused, "seeking any information of importance that could lead to their arrest or apprehension".

While two of the notices carry photographs of two accused each, the third notice shows pictures of the other six accused allegedly involved in the case, read

the agency statement. The NIA has also released telephone numbers and email ids for sharing of any information on these 10 accused and promised not to reveal the identity of anyone sharing information on the accused, it said.

The attack on the Indian Consulate in San Francisco had taken place in the intervening night March 18 and 19, 2023 when some pro-khalistani entities trespassed into the consulate and tried to burn down the Consulate, the NIA statement added. "On the same day, slogan-shouting Khalistani supporters had broken through the makeshift security barriers raised by the city police and put up two so-called Khalistani flags in the Consulate premises, damaged the consulate building, assaulted and caused injuries to the consulate officials". ANI

Delhi: Private school receives bomb threat on mail, police calls it 'hoax'



A private school in Delhi's RK Puram received a bomb threat on their official email, that later turned out to be a hoax, police said on Thursday. According to officials, the email was received on the official e-mail account of Lal Bahadur Shastri School (LBS) late on Wednesday evening.

The police were informed about the threat mail and a thorough investigation into the matter was conducted on Thursday morning. The mail was declared a hoax upon investigation by

police and further search for the person who sent the e-mail is being carried on, said police.

As per the reports, after the e-mail was declared a hoax, the school functioned on its routine schedule and an exam that was supposed to be conducted on Thursday was eventually conducted by the school authorities.

Earlier in May this year, a private school in Delhi's Push Vihar area had received an email with a warning of explosives on the premises. ANI

Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was seen interacting with porters at Anand Vihar railway station



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday interacted with porters at the Anand Vihar railway station here and sought to know their problems. Gandhi was also seen wearing the porters' trademark red shirt and lifting luggage over his head. He then sat down with the porters and sought to know their problems. "People's hero Rahul Gandhiji met his porter friends at the Anand Vihar railway station in Delhi today. Recently, a video had gone viral in which the porter friends of the railway station had expressed

their desire to meet him," the Congress said in a post on X, with a picture of Gandhi interacting with the porters.

"Today, Rahul reached among them and listened to them ... Bharat Jodo journey continues," the party said. Gandhi has been interacting with various sections of society, from mechanics to students, asserting that his Bharat Jodo Yatra, which he undertook from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, continues with these interactions. Gandhi recently visited Ladakh and held interactions with various social groups. PTI

Cauvery water dispute: Protests erupted in Karnataka after SC decision for not interfering into the matter

Protests erupted in various parts of Cauvery river basin districts of Karnataka after the Supreme Court refused to interfere with orders of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, directing the state to release 5,000 cusecs of water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Farmers organisations and pro-Kannada organisations staged protests in Mysuru, Mandya, Bengaluru and other parts expressing their anger and urging the state government not to release water to Tamil Nadu.

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene (farmers organisation) staged a protest at Basaveshwara circle in Mysuru, and raised slogans: "Where is water to release? And we demand justice." They have also planned to lay siege to the Command Area Development Authority office in Mysuru, as a mark of



protest. Pointing out that Cauvery and Kabini basin taluks have already been declared as drought hit, a farmer leader alleged, CWMA orders are in favour of Tamil Nadu as it is without taking into account the water level at reservoirs, standing crops and drinking water needs of Karnataka. Karnataka Rakshana Vedike staged a protest at Gandhinagar, urging the state government not to release water to Tamil Nadu at any cost. Vedike chief T A Narayana Gowda, terming it as a "black day" for Karnataka, said, "the Supreme Court has shut its door

on us, by upholding the orders of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) order." "We have to defy the orders of the Supreme Court and the CWMA, when the orders have come without understanding the ground situation. We (Karnataka) have said that we are not in a position to release water as there is no water in our four dams even for drinking and have asked them to send a team to assess the situation, despite that CWMA sitting in Delhi has issued an order, which has been upheld by SC, it cannot be tolerated," he said. ANI

World

Indian student death case: Seattle Police Commission recommended suspension of chief cop



The Seattle Community Police Commission has recommended the city police chief to relieve from duty and withhold pay for an officer under investigation for joking about and downplaying the death of a 23-year-old Indian student when an overspeeding police car driven by another officer struck her. Jaahnavi Kandula was hit by a police vehicle driven by Officer Kevin Dave when she was crossing a street on January 23 this year. He was driving at 74 mph

(more than 119 kmh) on the way to a report of a drug overdose call. The 21-member commission and its three appointed co-chairs on Wednesday also asked Seattle police Chief Adrian Diaz to immediately engage in a workgroup made up of the Community Police Commission (CPC), the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) and the Office of Inspector General to address repeated concerns with the culture of policing and police practices at Seattle Police Department, the Seattle

Times reported.

Wednesday's letter calls on Diaz to suspend without pay Officer Daniel Auderer, the vice president of the Seattle Police Officers Guild (SPOG), who came under investigation earlier this month after department officials listened to audio from Auderer's body camera during an investigation into the death of Kandula, a student who was struck and killed by a speeding police vehicle in January. In bodycam footage released last week by the Seattle Police Department, Officer Auderer laughed about the deadly crash and dismissed any implication Dave might be at fault or that a criminal investigation was necessary. Auderer, who was involved in the investigation, can be heard laughing, calling Kandula a regular person and suggesting that the department write a check. Eleven thousand dollars. She was 26 anyway, Auderer said, misstating Kandula's age. She had limited value. PTI

Indian Mission in Canada suspends visa services till further notice: BLS International



The Indian Mission in Canada on Thursday suspended visa services till further notice citing operational reasons, according to BLS International. BLS International Services Limited is an Indian outsourcing service provider for government and diplomatic missions worldwide. The company manages visa, passport, consular, attestation and citizen services.

As per BLS International, interested visa applicants have been advised to keep checking the BLS website for further updates on the issue. "Important notice from Indian Mission: Due to

operational reasons, with effect from 21 September 2023, Indian visa services have been suspended till further notice. Please keep checking BLS website for further updates," the BLS website said.

This comes amid strain in India-Canada relations after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday alleged that the Indian government was behind the fatal shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Nijjar, who was a designated terrorist in India, was gunned down outside a Gurdwara, in a parking area in Canada's Surrey, British Columbia on June 18.

UN Secretary General António Guterres said, "Humanity has opened gates to hell" over climate crisis



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has said "Humanity has opened the gates to hell." He made the remarks at a high-level summit on the climate crisis, CNN reported. "Horrendous heat is having horrendous effects. Distraught farmers watching crops carried away by floods. Sweltering temperatures spawning disease," he said in a speech to open the Climate Ambition Summit, happening alongside the UN General Assembly in New York.

"Climate action is dwarfed by the scale of the challenge,"

he added, warning that if nothing changes we are heading "towards a dangerous and unstable world."

The one-day conference – which comes as the world grapples with devastating floods and fires – is intended to build global momentum toward slashing planet-heating pollution ahead of the UN's COP28 climate summit in Dubai in December. Wednesday's summit was unusual due to Guterres' decision to restrict the speaker list to countries he deemed to have clear and effective climate plans, and those prepared to send a high-level leader to speak. ANI

Russia launches missiles across Ukraine, starting fires and killing two people

Russian missiles pounded cities across Ukraine early Thursday morning, according to Ukrainian authorities, starting fires, killing at least two people and trapping others under rubble.

The early morning missile attack was Russia's largest in over a month, and came a day after reports of sabotage at a Russian military airfield in Chkalovsk near Moscow.

It also coincided with the United Nations General Assembly summit in New York, where Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a speech and presented a Ukrainian "peace formula," and came on the International Day of Peace. The same day, Poland said it would stop transferring its own weapons to Ukraine as it works to modernise its own military. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz

Morawiecki said the decision was not related to a temporary ban on Ukrainian grain imports, nor would it affect weapons transfers through Poland. A dispute about whether Ukrainian grain should be allowed to enter the domestic markets of Poland and other European Union countries has pushed the tight relationship between Kyiv and Warsaw to its lowest point since Russia invaded Ukraine last year. PTI

American entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy to unveil his plan to declare "independence from China"

Indian American entrepreneur and Republican Presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy on Thursday will unveil his plan on how the US will "declare independence from China." The details regarding the event mentioned on Ramaswamy's official website read, "Political outsider and presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy will offer unprecedented detail on how the United States will declare independence

from Communist China in a speech on Thursday, September 21."

In an address that he will deliver in Ohio's Columbus on Thursday, Ramaswamy said he will "delineate the heretofore-unexamined connection between the rise of 'stakeholder capitalism' in the West and China's use of that trend to achieve economic parity with the US by failing to adopt the constraints that multi-

national institutions apply to the US", Fox News reported citing a preview of his speech. Further, the preview of his policy speech also includes the use of forced data and technology transfers and even "pro-CCP US lobbying as a condition" to acquire licenses to do business in China, including but not limited to applying constraints in the US while not being able to apply such caps in Beijing. ANI

Expression

Everyone needs to worry about the mountains



Nripendra Abhishek

Columnist

Imagine what you will do when you have no roof over your head and no ground under your feet? In the event of a landslide, people's life becomes a victim of tragedy and they are forced to stumble door to door. In India too, this problem has taken a gigantic form. In the Himalayan region, there is increasing concern about the cracking mountains. Cloud burst or landslide. The date changes, the year changes, but the incidents of rock slides and landslides do not change in the monsoon. Due to this, there is a huge loss of life and property. Roads and houses are often destroyed. Excessive rainfall, large-scale deforestation and illegal construction have added to the problem.

Landslides, which have always been a major threat to India, have once again come into the limelight due to the landslides happening in Joshimath. For some time, the speed of sliding of Joshimath has suddenly increased. The entire Joshimath is sinking due to the subsidence of the land. Hundreds of buildings are no longer habitable. In many places, wide cracks have also started emerging on the ground. In some places, water is coming out due to the bursting of the ground.

Joshimath is located in Chamoli district. In this Joshimath itself is the center of religiosity and Badrinath Dham, one of the Char Dhams. Every year there is an influx of devotees and lakhs of devotees throng here. Today this monastery is sinking into the pit of the earth and this is not happening all of a sudden, but it was predicted long back. But this was not taken care of.

According to the 1976 Misra Committee report, Joshimath is not situated on the main rock but on sand and stone deposits. It is situated on an ancient landslide area. The report states that erosion by river streams of Alaknanda and Dhauliganga also come under the factors of landslides. The committee had recommended a ban on heavy construction work, removal of boulders for blasting or road repair and other construction, felling of trees, keeping the construction work on hold. These include construction works, hydroelectric projects and widening of national highways, and these works have increased the slope over the past few decades. made it extremely unstable. Apart from this, the streams flowing from Vishnuprayag and the rock slides along with the natural streams are other reasons for landslides in the city. The problem of Joshimath has brought the



landslide problem back into the limelight.

Joshimath is not the only one which is on the verge of collapse. There are dozens of towns all over the Himalayas, especially in Uttarakhand, which are sitting on time bombs. The case of Uttarakhand is also special because according to geologists, Uttarakhand is the region in the entire Himalayas where earthquakes above scale eight are most likely to occur. For this reason, geologists call this area as the Central Seismic Gap and the itching in the leprosy is that even simple standards have not been followed in the construction of buildings in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand. Dehradun, Haldwani Similar is the situation in other areas as well.

Landslides are triggered by natural causes like earthquakes or heavy rains as well as some man-made constructions and occur every year, especially during the monsoon. Unpredictable weather, climate crisis, heavy and intense rainfall are increasing the incidence of landslides in the country. Climate change is increasing the risk, especially in the Himalayas and the Western Ghats, but one thing to note is that landslides in India occur more in the Himalayan region than in the Western Ghats. Sheffield of America A study by university researchers found that India was one of the worst affected countries in terms of human-caused fatal landslides in the period 2004-16. The study analyzed 5,031 fatal landslides from around the world. In which 829 incidents of India were included. In India, 28 per cent of the incidents of stone falls occur due to construction work.

First of all the government should Strengthen the system of early warning system and monitoring system so that there is no loss of life and property of people. Along with this, it is very necessary to ban construction in risk areas. But where it is

necessary to do construction work, there is a need to be careful. There should also be a system that in case of landslides, response teams can be sent for immediate action.

Due to Joshimath, many questions are in front, it is necessary that an independent scientific review should be arranged to study the long-term effects of tunnel-based projects and new conditions should be implemented on the basis of that. Whatever projects are under construction, or ongoing, should be independently investigated and along with social, environmental audit, it should also be seen whether safety standards are followed there or not.

There are many measures in geotechnical engineering to prevent landslides are recommended. Different methods are adopted in different places through different experiments. If we talk about the road section, there are many engineering structures like retaining wall, gabion wall, breast wall, wire mesh, shortcrotting, slope nailing to prevent landslides on the upper and lower slopes.

Secondly, if we talk about the mountains of our Uttarakhand and Himachal, then we also need to keep in mind that when we make any structure, such as road, building, dam and tunnel, then a comprehensive survey of the geological situation there is done. It is very important to understand the real situation. For example, most of the settlements in our mountains are on top of the debris deposited by large landslides on the mountain slopes in the past. Humans have modified these slopes to make them suitable for farming to increase their livelihood. It is very difficult to understand such places. Needed. Because when these shields were made, the environment at that time was different from today's environment. It rained very little then. The atmospheric temperature was low, due to which this

debris stuck on the mountain slopes was stagnant. Today the same debris is sliding down in the form of landslides due to rising temperature in the atmosphere and due to heavy rains.

Today we are seeing that villages are collapsing. There are many examples in our mountains, where villages and towns are facing disaster due to this process. For example, Joshimath, Mussoorie, Nainital and Pauri. There are many such cities which are situated on the hill slopes, today they are on the verge of sliding slowly and in this we have to pay great attention that the structures, building or any planning here, should be done according to the land and soil there. be made. Construction in at-risk areas should be banned.

The country should identify the sensitive areas and action should be taken in this regard on priority basis. In this, hazard mapping can be done to identify areas prone to landslides. Along with this, more attention needs to be paid to the plantation program to prevent this. Apart from all this, it is the duty of the government that if the landslides are not stopped, then their People should be given the facility of insurance to deal with the loss. So that people can be rehabilitated through it and people can come back to their personal life.

Thus we see that the problem of landslide has become a headache for India. The way Joshimath, which is famous as a cultural heritage, is getting absorbed in the cheek of time, in the same way, don't know how many areas will get absorbed in the earth. The government will have to take concrete steps while there is time, otherwise the lives of lakhs of people will be disturbed and they will be forced to stumble door to door.

Entertainment

Actress Hansika Motwani visits Andheri cha Raja, recalls childhood memories



Actress Hansika Motwani on Thursday offered prayers and sought the blessings of Lord Ganapati at the Andheri cha Raja. As the celebrations for the 10-day long festival of Ganesh Chaturthi are underway, Hansika visited the famous life-size Ganpati idol to seek bappa's blessings.

Talking to ANI, Hansika said, "I am very excited, I came here in my childhood and now I am here after years. I think I should come here every year and make it a ritual." She wore a red and white kurta set, kept her hair tied in a sleek bun and wrapped a gajra over it. **ANI**



Actress Karisma Kapoor pens a sweet birthday wish for her sibling, drops adorable pictures

Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan aka Bebo turned 43 today. She received a special wish from her sister Karisma Kapoor, who gave a glimpse of a fun-filled birthday bash. On Thursday, Lolo aka Karisma Kapoor took to her Instagram story and shared pictures of her and the birthday celebration of Kareena. Karisma shared a picture of Kareena cutting her birthday cake.

She also gave a close-up of the birthday cake, which read, "Our Jaane Jaan Happy Birthday." In the next pictures, Kareena and Karisma were seen posing in their beautiful outfits. Birthday girl Kareena dressed in a stunning mustard yellow embroidered kaftan that she teamed up with matching trousers. For glam, she kept her hair in a ponytail and opted for dewy make-up with statement earrings to complete her look. Karisma, on the other hand, wore a white cotton co-ord set. **ANI**



Popular talk show host Jimmy Kimmel diagnosed with COVID-19



Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Taking to X (formerly called Twitter), Kimmel shared his health update and also informed fans about the cancellation of his "Strike Force Three" live show.

"Well, Las Vegas, I got Covid, and sadly, we need to cancel this weekend's Strike Force Three show," Kimmel posted "I could never live with myself if I got my hometown friends sick. Thanks to all who purchased tickets, everyone will get full refunds and we will try to reschedule if possible," he added.

After learning about Kimmel's ill-health, fans chimed in the comment section and wished for his speedy recovery. "Take care Kimmel," a social media user commented. "Wish you a speedy recovery," another one wrote. **ANI**

Actor Anupam Kher posts adorable pictures on social media, recalls his childhood days



Childhood days are never forgotten. It seems veteran actor Anupam Kher also misses the memories from his early years of life that he spent with his siblings. Kher shared a throwback picture of his childhood days. In the picture, his brother Raju Kher was also seen along with him.

While sharing this adorable picture he gave a sweet caption and mentioned, "When we are children, we seldom think of the future! :) #Bittu #Titli #Raju"

After his post, Jackie Shroff dropped a heart emoji. Many of his fans also reacted to it. One of them wrote, "So ur Aura Shine is since from your childhood Anupam!" **ANI**

Sushmita Sen shares a bold style statement post on social media

Actress Sushmita Sen is known for playing unconventional and distinct roles. She is the one who keeps treating her fans with her amazing pictures, be it with her daughters, or from her shoots or vacations. The actor now motivated her fans with an inspiring message. Sushmita took to her Instagram handle to share a picture in which she can be seen making a bold style statement.

Along with her stunning photo, she wrote a motivating caption. Sen mentioned, "Some make statements, others take a stand." She added, "I love you guys!!! #duggadugga #yourstruly"

The fans were left in awe with her look and statement. Many of them dropped heart emojis while some commented, "Fabulous", "Classy stylish", and "Beautiful" One of her fans mentioned, "There is only one.. Sushmita" **ANI**