



**Maharashtra CM says committed to Maratha reservation; govt urges**

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## Bypoll Election Results 2023

The BJP hailed its victory in the bypolls to the Dhanpur and Boxanagar Assembly seats in Tripura on Friday and said it is the end of the road for the communists in the northeastern state, which was once known as a Left bastion. According to the Election Commission (EC), Tafajjal Hossain of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the Boxanagar seat, which has around 66 per cent minority voters, by a margin of 30,237 votes. Hossain got 34,146 votes while Mizan Hossain of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) bagged 3,909 votes. BJP's Bindu Debnath won the Dhanpur seat, which has a significant tribal population, by a margin of 18,871 votes. Debnath got 30,017 votes while Kaushik Chanda of the CPI(M) got 11,146 votes. Both the seats in Sepahijala district witnessed a one-on-one contest between the ruling BJP and the CPI(M) as the two other opposition parties- Tipra Motha and Congress- had not fielded candidates.

SP candidate Sudhakar Singh takes massive lead of 22,132 votes in Ghosi constituency. Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate Sudhakar Singh takes massive lead of 22,132 votes in Uttar Pradesh's Ghosi constituency against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Dara Singh Chauhan. After 16 rounds of counting, Sudhakar received 63,050 votes against Chauhan's 40,918 votes. Trinamool Congress (TMC) candidate Nirmal Chandra Roy leads in West Bengal's Dhupguri constituency against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Tapasi Roy by 3,866 votes. After eight rounds of counting, Nirmal Chandra Roy received 83,545 votes against Tapasi Roy's 79,679 votes.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's (JMM) Bebi Devi now leads in Jharkhand's Dumri constituency against All

Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) candidate Yashoda Devi by 2,447 votes. After 16 rounds of counting, Bebi Devi received 61,572 votes against Yashoda Devi's 59,125 votes. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) candidate Abdul Mobin Rizvi is at third spot with 2,834 votes.

Position Congress-UDF on Friday retained the Puthuppally Assembly constituency in Kerala as its candidate Chandy Oommen won by a margin of over 36,000 votes in the bypoll, Election Commission sources said. The outcome of the election was a victory against LDF misrule and 100 per cent political victory for Congress, the party said in its response to Oommen's win. While Oommen, son of late Congress stalwart Oommen Chandy, gained a clear edge since the initial round, his nearest rival and ruling LDF candidate Jaick C Thomas could never gain a lead in any rounds. The CPI(M)-led LDF lost ground even in its stronghold areas, and BJP candidate Lijin Lal was nowhere in the picture when the counting was over. Chandy Oommen (37), currently chairman of the Youth Congress's national outreach cell, could well surpass his father's record of margin of 33,255 votes in the constituency, which the late Congress leader represented Puthuppally in the state assembly for over five decades. The bypoll result, which came a few months ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is seen as a huge setback for the ruling CPI(M), which has been facing allegations of corruption and nepotism from the opposition Congress-led UDF and the BJP. The bypoll was held following the death of Oommen Chandy. The election was conducted on September 5.



### I would love see Akhand Bharat, "India without partition"

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Akhand Bharat means India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh as one nation. It's been more than 77 years since the partition of India. You can undo the land partition but you cannot change the behavior of people. At this moment India might be wanting Akhand Bharat but the two sovereign nations Pakistan and Bangladesh should also think on the same lines, which is just not possible. So, the Akhand Bharat remains as only an emotional idea. World politics always moves towards the split of countries not for union-reunion of countries. People find it very hard to live together especially when they already split up in History.

Even if India acquires Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh these countries will come with people. Additional geography comes with people in it. We are not able to manage anti-nationals within India. Crackers are

bursting when Pakistan wins against India and whatnot. There are clear Pak Supporters in every city in today's India coming from some Muslim sections. Akhand Bharat will have double Muslim population with many Muslim majority states. Can you imagine the result of the elections? In a House of 750 members, you need 376 seats to win, Without much change in Hindu seats. Even Modi would find it impossible to form a government. Can you imagine the level of appeasement in politics? How secular will the politics be then?

If you are to be ambitious, why limit yourself to South Asian geography. Why not think of the world? There are a lot easier chances out there if you open yourself up. Do not cling to a single idea. This is the world of democracies.

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# Editoritis

# I would love see Akhand Bharat, "India without partition"

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*Historically, Indian empires occasionally conquered a few portions of Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. I don't remember any period when Tibet was a part of any Indian empire.*

*Indian Hindu and Buddhist culture did spread to these regions but that doesn't make them a part of India.*

*Akhand Bharat is a concept which says India is united. As long as there is casteism in India, as long as there are political differences,*

If you are more in number then many countries can be yours. And there are countries full of natural resources but lacking population growth. We just need to migrate there, within 20 years that country will be ours. I am not naming any countries but it's easy to find. In countries with a low population where Indians are already around 5% to 15 percent. If you double the migration rate to these countries, we can be more than 30% in 40-50 years. We are never expansionists or exploits. The countries will still be vibrant democracies. This will just be a spiritual and more balanced world. There are easy opportunities lying out there in the entire world, why Akhand Bharat. Understand changing dynamics of the world and use those in our favor.

Historically, Indian empires occasionally conquered a few portions of Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. I don't remember any period when Tibet was a part of any Indian empire. Yes, during the ancient and medieval ages, Indian Hindu and Buddhist culture did spread to these regions but that doesn't make them a part of India.

If you talk about forming an EU or ASEAN like intergovernmental organization, then yes, that can work. It will be beneficial for all the nations in the Indian subcontinent and beyond. But India-Pakistan rivalry is a big hurdle. That is why SAARC couldn't succeed. And in such organizations, India can and should not play a big brother. In the EU and ASEAN, all countries are equal partners. We also cannot agree on open borders due to security issues and demographic threats.

Even the BJP Core members know Akhand Bharat is a wishful thinking. There are naive people, who don't live beyond their daily routine of struggling to put 2 square meals on table. It is these people who think that annexation is a cake walk. Akhand Bharat refers to the Idea that India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, and other nations have been a part of India. But, we were separated from India because of invaders from Muslims and the WEST. Afghanistan was called Gandhara, parent's place of Gandhari of Mahabharat. This entire area had the same culture, same life style, same dress style (dhoti, shawl, saree etc) in those days. Still politically there were many kingdoms, ruled by different kings. Even these kings were fighting wars against each other. War between the Pandavas and the Kauravas. War between Ram and Ravan. The Kalinga wars. And many more.

Politically let there be Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Srilanka, India etc. No problem. But the way of living should be the same everywhere.. All these States should acknowledge our ancestors as well as our values. All the present-day political States should be emotionally one and that is the root of Akand Bharat.



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said that 'Akhand Bharat' or undivided India will be a reality before today's young generation gets old. Since then, the Opposition has been alleging that the Modi government is planning to drop India and stay with just Bharat as the country's name. Congress claimed that the alliance of like-minded opposition parties named INDIA has worried the BJP which is now trying to drop India and keep only Bharat as the country's name. Mohan Bhagwat had made a strong pitch for the use of the word 'Bharat' instead of India. Bhagwat emphasized that the name of our country has been Bharat for ages. Whatever may be the language, the name remains the same.

Akhand Bharat is a concept which says India is united. As long as there is casteism in India, as long as there are political differences, as long as there is "Hindu/Muslim" and not "Indians", as long as people cannot accept the ideas which contradicts their beliefs, there will never be an Akhand Bharat.

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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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## Letters to the Editor

### Where is Democracy?

The Manipur government has filed a case against the fact finding team of the Editors Guild under serious sections related to spreading enmity, resorting to lies and disturbing peace. The C.M said that these members are 'anti-national'. In the investigation report, the team has cited the government's support to a community as a major reason behind the disturbances that have been going on for months. According to the Guild, the Commander of the 3rd Corps of the Army there wrote a letter to him saying that the local media is doing one-sided reporting, which is inciting unrest. The allegation was found true in the investigation. Not only the Army but the country's top court also has the same doubts which the Guild team has found in its investigation. In such a situation, the Chief Minister calling senior journalists anti-national shows a special kind of mentality of the people in power. This mentality is to consider the government, ruling party, country and patriotism as one. This is a situation in which any criticism of the government or party will automatically be considered anti-national. Otherwise, how would a Chief Minister have the power to prosecute media professionals for deliberately inciting society by exposing false facts instead of responding to allegations?

N Ashraf

### Why not One Education?

Let the people decide whether "One Nation, One Election" is necessary for them or One Nation, One Education. There is no dearth of private schools and colleges around us. But to get admission in these schools and colleges one has to spend a lot of money for donation and annual fee. No one is going to torture them. The government schools are in bad shape, there is a shortage of teachers, drinking water facility is not available, the toilets are also dilapidated. But poor people are forced and send their children to study in these schools. When education is compulsory for children up to 14 years, why is there no provision for it? The Delhi government has shouldered this responsibility to some extent and tried to improve the government schools there. There is a need to improve educational institutions in other states too and for this we should implement One Name One Education.

N Mateeni

### India-Bharat are two sides of the same coin & controversy triggered by opposition is unwarranted!

India-Bharat are two sides of the same coin & means the same. The hue & cry created by the opposition leaders at G-20 dinner invitation referring to President Droupadi Murmur as 'President of Bharat' is unwarranted. When Rahul Gandhi names his country-wide political campaign as 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', it is acceptable to his alliance partners. Than why the gimmick & cry when the First Lady of the country is referred to as The President of Bharat?.

Every citizen feels proud when he says 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' at every joyous occasion like Independence or Republic Day & every other occasion of celebration & pride. If names of States & Cities can be changed & renamed, Why not the name of the country if & when it will be done? Opposition leaders are in a disarray & wants to be in the news for all the wrong reasons since they do not have any other achievements to portray otherwise to come to power!

S.N.Kabra

# Beacon with Bharat



As the nation is going through hate politics for no reason the battle lines are drawn for peace and tranquility in the election year 2024. When people do not know the value of Sanatan Dharma and the value of the national language Hindi, how can we expect them to know the value of Bharat and the history of a Hindu nation? The timing for putting forth Bharat as the symbol of a Hindu nation is felt after a very long time as the Hindus were isolated and none could see the majoritarian people relegated to secondary citizens. For this dismal picture the Hindus will have to be blamed for their marked faith in other religions expecting a landfall by way of huge funds. Under no circumstances will voters choose people, who have nothing but utter disdain for the Hindus and Bharat civilisation. Or the alliance in question banking on the anti-Hindu sentiment prevailing in certain pockets of the country. It is a stern warning to beacon with Bharat and value its rich and age-old traditions.

Sanatana Dharma, in Hinduism, is a term used to denote the "eternal" or absolute set of duties or religiously ordained practices incumbent upon all Hindus, The concept of Sanatan Dharma: its roots and the historical. Sanatan Dharma is a Sanskrit term that can be translated variously as "eternal

religion" or "eternal law", "unshakeable, venerable order of faith and tranquility.

Repetition of mistakes in a political field costs so much in party politics at the national level. Having formed a coalition speaking ill of sanatan dharma in a public platform just to become popular is not in good taste and not within the ground rules for an upcoming politician. Once talked ill about a religion, repeating the same mistake for the second time is in bad taste. You need not seek an apology but going overboard and showing signs of resentment enough instead of stressing his own viewpoint appears rather childish. In Maharashtra Fadnavis apologizes for lathi-charge on Maratha quota protesters in a peaceful way to be with the protestors.

However, Stalin's son Udhayanidhi Stalin counted chickens before being hatched and thinks that talking ill about sanatan dharma is his winning formula. It is time to prevent his intimidation and stop talking on a very sensitive subject. Instead of talking in an agitating way he should show maturity and try to win the confidence of the public. Instead of plain speaking he should come out with valid points instead of poking nose for gaining some brownie points. We all respect the people of Tamil Nadu but that does not mean to disrespect a religion

openly as every religion has its own sentiments. Anyone making derogatory comments is ignorant of what it stands for. Anyway it was not a sporty way.

On Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's 'Sanatana Dharma should be eradicated' remark, Sanatana Dharma' cannot be eradicated at any cost. 'Sanatana Dharma' has existed for centuries and will remain so. Udhayanidhi Stalin's immature talk exposed the weakness of the DMK faction and does not understand the real meaning of 'Sanatana Dharma' and whatever he is saying is absolutely wrong. Heavens are collapsing in people's minds, so promises of "I will take you to heaven" are not going to work. This is the right time for Sanatana Dharma. Sanatana Dharma is not of the past. It is not our tradition. It is our future. Covid 19 showed where we are and how we people believed in God just for our survival.

There is strong sentiment on Sanatana Dharma and it is not a sporting way. The country will back Sanatana Dharma and beacon with Bharat.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Columnist

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

City

## Maharashtra CM says committed to Maratha reservation; govt urges activist to call off fast



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde commitment to provide reservation to Marathas as the state government renewed its appeal to quota activist Manoj Jarange to end his 10-day-old fast launched over the issue in Jalna district.

Sumant Bhange, secretary (services), General Administration Department (GAD), sent a copy of a Government Resolution, dated September 7, on reservation to Jarange, who is on an indefinite fast since August 29 in a village in Jalna seeking quota benefits in education and jobs for

Marathas. On behalf of the government, the senior bureaucrat, in a letter, appealed to him to call off his fast.

The GR is on the state cabinet's decision to issue Kunbi caste certificates to Marathas from the Marathwada region who possess revenue or education documents from the Nizam era that recognise them as Kunbis, a move that will allow them to avail quota benefits under the OBC category.

Meanwhile, Jarange said his agitation will continue till the state government relaxes the condition of genealogy while giving Kunbi caste certificate to Maratha community members from Marathwada.

## Fadnavis responsible for police action on Jalna Maratha quota agitators: Supriya Sule



Nationalist Congress Party working president Supriya Sule on Thursday said Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was responsible for the police action on Maratha quota agitators in Jalna on September 1. The Baramati Lok Sabha MP further alleged that the state and Union governments

were not serious about reservations for various communities.

Notably, several persons, including 40 police personnel, were injured and 15 state transport buses were set ablaze in violence that started after police sought to shift a person on hunger strike in Antarwali Sarathi in Ambad tehsil in Jalna to hospital. PTI

## Vikram Atwal had been accused of murdering Rupal Ogrey dies by suicide

Vikram Atwal, 40, is suspected to have killed himself on Thursday night. He was to be produced before a court on Friday by the Powai police to seek extension of his police custody. His family has been informed about the incident. The housekeeping staffer who was accused of killing air hostess Rupal Ogrey at her flat in Mumbai's Marol on Sunday allegedly died by suicide in police lock-up in Andheri.

Atwal was a resident of Powai Tunga village and lived with his wife and two daughters. Originally from Punjab, he had come

to Mumbai 12 years ago and was working as a cleaning staff in the housekeeping department of Marol-based NG Cooperative Housing Society over the last seven months. His wife also worked as cleaning staff. The police will now record the statement of the other accused who were with Atwal in the lock-up in Andheri to ascertain his mental status on Thursday night. The police will also record his wife's statement to see if he told her anything prior to taking the extreme step. According to officers, on Sunday at 11 am, Atwal gained entry to Rupal's flat on the pretext of clean-

ing the toilet. He then tried to take advantage of her as she was alone and allegedly forced himself on Rupal by threatening her with a knife. However, she put up strong resistance. Atwal himself sustained cuts on his hands, but he managed to slash her neck, causing her to fall in the bathroom. He then allegedly cleaned up the blood on the floor and fled the scene. Later, he washed his clothes and reportedly lied to his wife when she asked him how he had sustained injuries. He also visited a doctor to get his injuries treated. The matter came to light late in the evening.

## HC quashes two phone tapping cases filed against IPS officer Rashmi Shukla

In a relief to senior IPS officer and Maharashtra's former intelligence chief Rashmi Shukla, the Bombay High Court on Friday quashed two FIRs registered against her for alleged illegal phone tapping.

Two first information reports (FIRs) were filed against Shukla – one in Pune and another at Colaba in south Mumbai – for allegedly illegally tapping the phones of opposition leaders when Devendra Fadnavis was the chief minister of the state.

The FIRs were registered when the Uddhav Thackeray-led



Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government was in power. On Friday, Shukla's counsel Mahesh Jethmalani informed the high court that in the Pune FIR, the police had submitted a C-Summary report (case is neither false nor true) and had sought to close the

case and in the Mumbai case, the government had refused to grant sanction to prosecute Shukla. A division bench of Justices A S Gadkari and Sharmila Deshmukh accepted this and quashed the two FIRs. The Pune case was registered for allegedly recording phone calls of Congress leader Nana Patole, while the Mumbai case was for recording phone calls of Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Eknath Khadse, who was earlier with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). PTI

## Five huts gutted in fire at Mumbai's Kurla; another blaze erupts in building in same area, nobody injured

Five huts were gutted in a fire that broke out in suburban Kurla here early on Friday, but nobody was injured, officials said.

The same suburb witnessed another incident of fire in a residential building and there was no report of any casualty, they said. "A fire broke out at Indira Nagar in Kurla east in the early hours, in which five huts were reduced to ashes," an official said. After being alerted about it, the

local fire brigade staff rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. There was no casualty in the incident, he said.

In the second incident, the blaze erupted at 5.20 am in the meter box of Galaxy building located in Qureshi Nagar area of Kurla east due to a short-circuit, he said. Local police and fire brigade personnel rushed to the site after being informed, and the fire was doused by around 7.15 am, the official said. PTI

## Remains of tram tracks found under BEST depot in south Mumbai

Remains of tram tracks have been found underneath the Electric House depot of the civic-run Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) in south Mumbai.

Besides corroded iron tracks, a cement concrete structure, possibly a repairing bay, also resurfaced when pits were being dug for setting up charging stations for e-buses earlier this week. The concrete structure consists of a wall on one side and two lines of pillars on the other, resembling a

repairing bay for trams or buses.

In 2016, two parallel tram tracks were found when the road was dug up for concretisation near Hutatma Chowk-Flora Fountain.

Tram service was introduced in the island city of Mumbai in 1874, during the British era. Initially the trams were pulled by horses, which were replaced by electric engines in 1907. The tram service finally shut down in 1964 while the local trains became the hallmark of Mumbai's transport system. PTI

Nation

## Kerala: Opposition Congress-UDF's Chandy Oommen wins Puthuppally bypoll



Opposition Congress-UDF on Friday retained the Puthuppally Assembly constituency in Kerala as its candidate Chandy Oommen won by a margin of over 36,000 votes in the bypoll, Election Commission sources said. The outcome of the election was a victory against LDF misrule and 100 per cent

political victory for Congress, the party said in its response to Oommen's win. While Oommen, son of late Congress stalwart Oommen Chandy, gained a clear edge since the initial round, his nearest rival and ruling LDF candidate Jaick C Thomas could never gain a lead in any rounds.

The CPI(M)-led LDF lost

ground even in its stronghold areas, and BJP candidate Lijin Lal was nowhere in the picture when the counting was over. Chandy Oommen (37), currently chairman of the Youth Congress's national outreach cell, could well surpass his father's record of margin of 33,255 votes in the constituency, which the late Congress leader represented Puthuppally in the state assembly for over five decades. The bypoll result, which came a few months ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is seen as a huge setback for the ruling CPI(M), which has been facing allegations of corruption and nepotism from the opposition Congress-led UDF and the BJP. PTI

## Central govt notifies mandatory hallmarking of Gold jewellery



The Centre on Friday said the third phase of the mandatory hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts (Amendment) Order, 2022 will come into force from today. As per the official statement from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the third

phase of the mandatory hallmarking will cover an additional 55 new districts under the mandatory hallmarking system, wherein a hallmarking centre has been set post post-implementation of the second phase of the mandatory hallmarking order thereby making the total number of districts

covered under mandatory hallmarking as 343.

The state-wise list of newly added 55 districts under the mandatory hallmarking is available on the website of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the hallmarking section. It is notable that BIS has been successful in the implementation of Mandatory Hallmarking in 256 districts of the country with effect from 23 June 2021, in the first phase and in the additional 32 districts with effect from 4 April 2022, in the second phase wherein more than 4 lakh gold articles are being hallmarked with HUID every day. ANI

## India-Bharat remark controversy: Omar Abdullah slams centre says, "Change Constitution if you have guts, will see who support you"

As controversy has erupted on the 'Bharat-India' name, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Friday challenged the Centre to 'change' the Constitution first if they have 'guts'. Talking to the reporters here, the NC leader said nobody will support the union government if it will change the Constitution to rename the country.

"Nobody can change it... It is not so easy to change the name of the country. To do this, you will have to change the Constitution of the country. If you have the guts, then do it, we will also see who supports you...", Omar Abdullah said. Speculations have gained ground that the Centre might change the name of the country to Bharat from India

after Rashtrapati Bhawan sent out invitations for a G20 dinner on September 9 on behalf of the 'President of Bharat'.

The opposition alleged that the government was resorting to "drama" just because they got together and called their bloc INDIA. BJP leaders have strongly supported the move by the government. ANI

## G20 Summit: DMRC notifies of route change to commuters to reach Airport

Ahead of the G20 Summit, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Friday requested the commuters to use Magenta Line for reaching to Terminal 1 of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) Airport. DMRC in its notification also said that feeder buses between Delhi Aerocity Station of Airport Line and Terminal 1 will be unavailable from September 8 to 10.

"To reach Terminal 1 of IGI Airport, commuters are request-

ed to use Magenta Line and get down at Terminal 1-IGI Airport Metro Station. Feeder Buses between Delhi Aerocity Station of Airport Line and Terminal 1 will be unavailable from 8th to 10th September," DMRC said in a statement.

India is all set to host the G20 Summit in New Delhi from September 9-10. The Delhi Metro has decided to start its services from 4 am from terminal stations on all lines of the network on September 8, 9 and 10. PTI

## G20 Summit: Tibetan community have staged a protest against policies of chinese govt



The Tibetan community in New Delhi staged a protest near Majnu Ka Tilla against the Chinese Government over its oppressive policies in Tibet on Friday- a day before the G20 Summit.

The demonstrators were seen protesting with posters and playcards that read--'Free Tibet'. The protest was organized by the Tibetan Youth Congress. As per the Tibetan Youth Congress, the protest campaign was held seeking to draw attention to and condemn China's hardlines oppressive policies in Tibet, as well as

the broader geopolitical concerns related to China's expansionist activities that threaten, not only India but also the surrounding countries.

In view of the protest, heavy security was deployed near Majnu Ka Tilla. "We had received a request for a protest called by the Tibetan Youth Congress. We denied their request, however, to have a peaceful situation in the area in terms of law and order and traffic we have made elaborate security arrangements..." DCP North Delhi Sagar Singh Kalsi told ANI. ANI

## Online services of Aadhaar, e-Sanjeevani, Bhashini displayed at the venue of summit

From UPI to national tele-medicine service e-Sanjeevani, some of India's key digital public infrastructure projects have been showcased in a thematic zone at the venue of the G20 summit that begins here on Saturday. Delegates and other guests visiting the Digital India

Experience Zone, set up at the Bharat Mandapam, will also be able to experience the journey of Digital India initiatives via virtual reality. The zone, which the government said is a "key attraction" at the summit venue, has been set up in halls number 4 and 14. PTI

# World

## US: National Security advisor Jake Sullivan said, "I can't characterize another leader's perspective, and I'm not here to issue scorecards" over about fundamental freedoms in India

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has said that President Joe Biden will speak on critical, fundamental values that the United States stands for apart from discussing other issues of global import in his engagements on the sidelines of G20 Summit. Interacting with the media on board Air Force One, Sullivan said he would not issue any scorecards in relation to fundamental freedoms.

"I can't characterize another leader's perspective, and I'm not here to issue scorecards. What President Biden said when he was standing at the State visit earlier this year and what he will say in every significant leader en-



gagement is what he believes and what the United States believes and what an American president stands for," he said.

"That's our responsibility. That's what we do on behalf of our national values, who we are as a people, who we are as Americans. That's what we'll keep doing, and I'll leave the score-

keeping to others," he added. He was answering a query related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States in June this year and his assessment of fundamental values question in India following the joint media interaction of President Biden and PM Modi during the visit. Sullivan said that the bilateral

meeting will be an opportunity to follow up on Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States". "And we will see meaningful progress on a number of issues, including the GE jet engine issue, the MQ-9 Reapers, on 5G/6G, on collaboration on critical and emerging technologies, and progress also in the civil nuclear area as well," he said.

Sullivan said the G20 meeting will be an opportunity to engage on significant issues facing major economies. "As we head into the G20, we're looking forward to an opportunity to engage on a range of what we think are really significant issues facing all of the major economies of the

world," he said. "And that goes from climate, to energy security, to food security, to global macro-economic stability, to being able to deliver public goods to people everywhere through ambitious initiatives like the World Bank reform initiative that President Biden has been working on. And so, we think this will be an important milestone moment for global cooperation at a critical time," he added. The US National Security Advisor said Chinese President Xi Jinping is not coming for the G20 Summit and "whether they would play spoiler and so forth, I'm not going to handicap what will happen at this summit in that regard". ANI

## US: New security announcement of worth USD 600 million for Ukraine



The United States announced a new security assistance package, including 105mm artillery rounds and electronic warfare, worth USD 600 million to support Ukraine's battlefield needs, the Department of Defence (DoD) said in a release. In the release, the DoD said that this new package will be provided through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) and includes equipment to augment Ukraine's air defences, artillery munitions, and other capabilities.

This USAI package highlights the continued US commitment to meeting Ukraine's pressing requirements by committing critical near-term capabilities, while also building the enduring capacity of Ukraine's Armed Forces to defend its territory and deter Russian aggression over the mid and long-term. Unlike Presidential Drawdown authority, which DoD has continued to leverage to deliver equipment to Ukraine from DoD stocks at a historic pace, USAI is an authority under which the United States procures capa-

bilities from industry or partners. This announcement represents the beginning of a contracting process to provide additional priority capabilities to Ukraine.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the US has condemned all acts by Moscow and has shown firm support to Ukraine, and its people and also given military assistance to Kyiv. Earlier on Wednesday, the US announced additional security assistance including artillery munitions and anti-tank weapons, a package worth USD 175 million for Ukraine. In this new package, the US includes the following equipment: additional air defence equipment; artillery munitions; anti-tank weapons, including depleted uranium rounds for previously committed Abrams tanks; and other equipment to help Ukraine counter Russia's ongoing war of aggression. Similar was seen in July, the US sent USD 400 million in additional military aid to Ukraine, including a variety of munitions for advanced air defence systems, artillery rounds and armoured vehicles. ANI

## G20 Summit: UK PM Rishi Sunak said, "Heading to G20 with clear focus"

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Friday said that he is heading to the G20 Summit set to be held under India's Presidency with a clear focus, which includes stabilising the global economy, building international ties and supporting the most vulnerable. Sharing a post on X, Sunak stated, "I'm heading to the #G20 Summit with a clear focus. Stabilising the global economy. Building international relationships. Supporting the most vulnerable. This action is part of that - Putin again has failed to show up for the G20, but we will show up with support for Ukraine."

Rishi Sunak's remarks come ahead of his arrival in New Delhi for the G20 Summit which is due to be held in Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on



September 9-10. Sunak shared the post in response to a statement made by UK Prime Minister's Office on X which reads, "The war in Ukraine continues to affect us all. We're making sure food exports get out of Ukraine to countries that need it: Establishing surveillance in the Black Sea Providing £3m funding for the World Food Programme Convening an international food security

summit." UK Prime Minister's Office in a press release said that during the G20 summit Rishi Sunak would emphasise that global leaders must make it clear that Russian President Vladimir Putin's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative has increased Russia's global isolation, and pledge to protect those whose lives have been devastated by the ongoing conflict. ANI

## Hongkong streets and southern China areas flooded due to rains

Rain pouring onto Hong Kong and southern China overnight flooded city streets and some subway stations, halting transportation and forcing schools to close Friday. Videos circulating on social media show flooded streets in Hong Kong and nearby Guangdong province, with vehicles driving through the water and rescue teams using rafts to navigate the

streets. Water rushed down the stairs and escalators of a flooded underground subway station in Hong Kong, and cars were caught in muddy water on flooded streets, including in the cross-harbor tunnel that connects Hong Kong Island with Kowloon. The heavy downpours led Hong Kong and the mainland city of Shenzhen to close schools, and non-essential workers in Hong

Kong were urged to not head to their workplaces Friday. Most bus services in Hong Kong were halted. The Hong Kong Observatory said it recorded 158.1 millimeters (6.2 inches) of rain in the hour between 11 pm Thursday and midnight, the highest recording since records began in 1884. More than 200 millimeters (7.8 inches) fell in Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. PTI

## Expression

# Rising Trend of Suicide among Students



Lalit Garg

Columnist

There has been a lot of empty talk of making a new India—a strong, vibrant India, and what not! The New Education Policy-2020 is being implemented effectively; while developing positive thinking towards education, the maximum attention is being given to it. However, despite all these efforts, the number of students committing suicide has been increasing all the way all over the country. During 2020, more than 1, 2500 students committed suicide, then again during 2021, 13,000 chose to commit suicide out of despair. These figures are from the National Crime Records Bureau.

Two more students committed suicide this Sunday in Kota of Rajasthan. With these additional gory suicides, the number of suicides in Kota itself has gone up to 23 this year, which is a very serious issue. In this education city of Rajasthan, nine students have committed suicide during past two months. Students are continuously committing suicide here, is it the negligence by the government, administration or coaching institute or something else? Regarding this dark side of Kota, which is becoming a suicide hub, now a solution has to be found for this disaster. It is not that we do know anything about the reasons prevalent behind this horrible malaise created by a highly corrupt state government set-up and the educational mafia hand-in-hand. As young students from all over India are rushing into this so-called educational hub in Kota, this bloody city is increasingly becoming the veritable Slaughter House of our young national talents!

The most important role of education is being accepted in making the golden age of freedom meaningful, it is also being said that education is also such a weapon by which a person can transform not only himself, but also the society, the nation and the world. Then, what are the anomalies and ironies around the education that the tendency of suicide among the students is increasing day-by-day. Everyone knows that due to the education becoming a business, many bad practices are entering it, students are being pressured to give good exam results, more competition; and the rat-race of competition has created unbearable pressures on students.

Besides, the parents also want to fulfil their own unfulfilled dreams through the unrealistic success of their wards—impose additional pressures on already harassed students. The parents see a golden future for their children in IIT, NIT or PMT, for which many parents also take loans to realise their dreams. When a student who is suppressed and harassed by the unrealistic dreams of his parents reaches the coaching institutes, the pressure of preparation and tests is put on him, and he is also intimidated by the educational mafia saying that JEE or NEET are the toughest exams in the world!

The success of any country's education system lies in the fact that instead of fierce competition, complexity and rat-race, there should be ease in the matter of getting education from elementary to higher level. If due to any reason a student is facing difficulties in studying or achieving success in it, then measures should be taken to remove those undue pressures. However, for the past several decades, this question has been persistent that a large number of students drop out of schools and colleges midway, only to commit suicide out to the fear of the prospect of not being able to face their parents. This concern has been underlined many times in various study reports of the organizations working on this issue from the government to various educational institutions; however, so far no meaningful solution has been found out. From the administration to the director of the coaching institutes, no one is able

to answer properly as to why the suicide cases are rising continuously. To stop the prevalent tendency of committing suicide by the students, why no initiative for effective counselling of the parents and the students both is not being taken up? Why is no effective initiative being taken by the coaching institutes and administration both in this regard? And last, but not the least, why are no deterrent measures being taken up to punish the educational mafia through sending them to jail?

Meanwhile, only one question arises again and again: who is putting pressure on the children? There is pressure of scoring high in tests and exams from the coaching institutes or due to family pressures; or in case the students do not get the desired exam results, they become prone to come under such pressure as to commit suicide. Some students come under so much pressure and anxiety even before the result comes, they rush to take harsh, tragic and dreadful steps like committing suicide. A Pune-based consultancy firm Infinium Global Research estimates that the coaching industry will be worth over Rs 58,000 crore by the end of this year; that means the coaching institutes industry is so rich and powerful that if they want they can take initiative to improve the mental health of the children. They may also mentor students who have low test scores, and who often miss the classes. It is not that such initiatives have not been taken by the coaching institutes of Kota, but it is clear that they are proving to be insufficient.

The irony is that the increasing incidence of suicide are not only happening in coaching institutes, but students of higher educational institutions like IITs, NITs and IISERs, IIMs, PMT and Central Universities are also committing suicide. The big question is that instead of making high citizens, these institutes are forcing students to commit suicide, so along with a black stain on them, a big question also arises about the level of education and the environment in such institutes that is not proper. The government and the educationists of the country will also have to worry about the fact as to why 92 students who took admission in these higher educational institutes during past five years committed suicide in the middle of their studies. Similarly, Darshan Solanki, a first year student of IIT Bombay, committed suicide recently. After this, the students have been officially asked not to ask each other about G (advance) rank or GATE score; nor ask any other question that exposes the student's caste, richness-poverty and other aspects related to it. Such guidelines are needed not only by the IIT Bombay, but also by all higher education institutes, and coaching institutes in Kota and elsewhere. Although the Kota administration had issued a guideline about a year ago to get the children out of psychological pressure, yet this guideline has not been followed completely by any coaching institute in Rajasthan. However, the question is, what steps did the administration take against these erring institutes? The question is whether such symbolic steps by the state government can solve such a serious problem of rising number of suicides by the young students?

To control the growing tendency of committing suicide among the student suicide, first of all parents are needed to realise the true potential of their children, and to help them to move forward accordingly. Parents, coaching institutes and the government machinery—all of them have to work together to stop what is happening in Kota today. It is well known that on one hand, the standards set in the educational system in school-college are not easily acceptable to many students, on the other hand, due to non-conformity in studies, from the form of teaching to competition, poverty, family, social and other factors. It is related to many factors and its solution will need to be seen only by putting all the points in one formula.



# Entertainment

## Singer Asha Bhosle on her 90th birthday reveals about difficulties while singing on stage



**M**usic, like an ever flowing river, never ends, says Asha Bhosle. And as she turns 90 on Friday with a live concert in Dubai, India's singer for all times and ages could well be describing her own career that started an incredible eight decades ago.

"At the age of 90, I have to stand for three hours on stage and sing songs, I'm happy I can do this at this age," Bhosle told PTI in an interview ahead of the show.

"Humari saans nahin hoti hai toh aadmi mar jata hai. Mere liye music meri saans hai (For me, music is my breath). I have spent my life with this thought. I have given a lot to music. I feel good I've come out of difficult times. Many times I felt I would not be able to survive, but I did," Bhosle said.

"Music kabhi khatam nahin hota. Ye dariya hai (Music never ends, it's like a river). If anyone says, 'I feel complete', then this is wrong to say, because no one is complete. It is always about how you can change or evolve with time," she said. "I've sung songs for the main artist and for the dancers as well. I believe I could fit in well with anyone. But I wish I had sung more songs in different languages. I wish I could have done more classical singing," Bhosle added.

Looking back at her vast body of work, the singer said navigating the ups and downs in the highly competitive music industry hasn't been easy but she feels glad to have overcome the difficult times. "In every field, there's politics. In films too there's politics, so it is not easy. I believe a lot in destiny and I believe whatever is meant for me will come to me and what is not meant for me, I'll never get that. I faced difficulties but today when I look back, it all looks mazedar (fun) as I came out of it," she said.

ANI

## Want to talk to SRK on a walkie-talkie? Type 'Jawan' on Google and you will get a sweet surprise



**W**ith 'Jawan', Shah Rukh Khan has once again proved why he is called the Badshah of Bollywood. The film, which is directed by Atlee, has stormed the box office, underscoring that SRK's magic remained as appealing as ever. From his opening line to "Kaun Hu Main" to his seeti-mar climax dialogue "Bete ko haath lagane se pehle baap se baat kar", SRK unleashed his massy avatar in the most unimaginable way. His magnetic presence and acting prowess have been drawing audiences to theatres like a magnet. Not only fans but Google India also celebrated Jawan's release.

If you type 'Jawan' on Google search engine, you will be greeted with a small walkie-talkie icon on the screen and the moment that is clicked, the screen gets covered by bandages. It is accompanied by Shah Rukh Khan's voice saying "Ready."

This gesture by Google India has won SRK's heart. Reacting to it, he tweeted, "Jawan ko Google par bhi dhoondh lo aur theatres mein bhi! it's so much fun....to see the bandages when I don't have to tie them on my face!!! #JawanOnGoogle." Jawan fever has literally taken on everything. ANI

**A**ctor Varun Dhawan, who is working hard for his upcoming projects, rewarded himself on Friday with a pizza as a cheat meal. Taking to Instagram, Varun shared a video featuring his himself and wife Natasha Dalal.

In the video, the actor revealed how important it is to reward oneself by having pizza. And ends up goofing up while eating a slice of pizza, which left his wife and other members at the table burst into laughter. Sharing the video, he wrote, "For all the pizza lovers out there.... #cheatmeal."

Recently, Varun shared that he sustained a leg injury on director Atlee's upcoming film, VD18's sets. Taking to Instagram story, he posted a video of him taking ice therapy. In the video, Varun said, "I hurt my leg, I think, while shooting, and I have no idea how I hurt my leg, but this is what I am doing at the moment." ANI



## Actor Varun Dhawan drops pictures of cheat meal on social media



**A**merican TV host Jimmy Fallon has apologised to the staff of The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon after there were allegations of "toxic" work environment on the show's set. The Rolling Stone magazine on Thursday came out with a report in which many staffers alleged that The Tonight Show has been a toxic workplace for years due to Fallon's erratic behaviour. Fallon, who took over as the host of the late night programme from Jay Leno in 2014, held a brief Zoom meeting on Thursday evening and tendered an apology to the staff, reported American outlet Variety.

"It's embarrassing and I feel so bad. Sorry if I embarrassed you and your family and friends. I feel so bad I can't even tell you," the 48-year-old TV personality said. "I want this show to be fun, it should be inclusive for everybody, it should be funny, it should be the best show, the best people," he added.

The Rolling Stone spoke to two current and 14 former employees who claimed the show's working environment has been "far outside the boundaries of what's considered normal in the high-pressure world of late-night TV". "It's a bummer because it was my dream job. Writing for late night is a lot of people's dream jobs, and they're coming into this, and it becomes a nightmare very quickly. It's sad that it's like that, especially knowing that it doesn't have to be that way," one employee said. PTI

## 'The Tonight Show': Popular TV host Jimmy Fallon apologised over toxic work environment allegations