



Did Sharad Pawar hold talks with BJP in 2017-2019 out of ED fear?

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AAP MP SANJAY SINGH PRODUCED BEFORE ROUSE AVENUE COURT IN EXCISE POLICY CASE



The Aam Aadmi Party leaders and workers have taken to the streets today to protest against the arrest of the party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh. Singh was produced before the Rouse Avenue court in the afternoon by the Enforcement Directorate.

The Delhi Police Thursday opposed the

applications demanding a copy of the FIR by NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and human resources department head Amit Chakravarty, arrested in a Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case following allegations that the news portal was given money to spread pro-China propaganda. While a Delhi court had allowed

the remand papers to be given to the accused, it was hearing arguments on granting the FIR copy.

On Wednesday, the Special Cell of Delhi Police obtained the custody of Purkayastha and Chakravarty for 7 days in connection with its probe into alleged routing of funds to the portal and Pur-

kayastha's "friendship since 1991" with rights activist Gautam Navlakha who is under house arrest in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case. Invoking the UAPA, the Special Cell Tuesday arrested the two after day-long searches at over 50 locations linked to the news portal, its employees and contributors.

Shikhar Dhawan and Ayesha Mukherjee's marriage ended of nasty notes

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Shikhar Dhawan and Ayesha Mukherjee were the heart throbs of social media. Cricket fans were much more interested in cricketers' private life and reels than cricket. It was a display of a fairy tale love story. They both were introduced by Harbhajan Singh. Both of them started chatting on Facebook, after which their friendship turned into love. Although Dhawan's wife Ayesha Mukherjee was born in India, she later moved to Australia. Ayesha is a kickboxer. Her father is Bengali and mother is from Britain.

Ayesha is 10 years older than Shikhar Dhawan, but love knows no age limit. Ayesha was already married to an Australian businessman before marrying Shikhar Dhawan. Shikhar Dhawan and Ayesha met through

Facebook. Shikhar Dhawan and Ayesha Mukherjee got engaged in the year 2009 and both got married in the year 2012. This was Ayesha Mukherjee's second marriage. He has two daughters from her first marriage. Shikhar Dhawan through plea stated that he discovered post-marriage that the primary reason for the respondent to induce the petitioner into marrying her was merely to extort crores of rupees from him. Shortly after the marriage, the respondent threatened to fabricate defamatory and false material against the petitioner and circulate the same to destroy the reputation and cricketing career of the petitioner if he did not comply with her demands for money.

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Editoritis

Shikhar Dhawan and Ayesha Mukherjee's marriage ended of nasty notes

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I spoke to some of the Muslims and tried to understand what is exactly bothering them. In India, Islamic clerics use various kinds of bullying tactics to intimidate those who renounce religion or criticise its tenets.

Eviction, ex-communication of families, family ex-communicating a member, forcing the spouse of an apostate to seek divorce, not allowing an apostate to contact their children, no share in inheritance, obstructing marriages etc. are some of the usual tactics.

Again through the internet and increased access to news and world events, Muslims are seeing the brutality of Islam and are repulsed by it.

Shikhar Dhawan's family members were against his marriage with Ayesha. They did not want him to marry a divorced woman who was 10 years older than him and had two daughters. However later the family approved this relationship. Married in Sikh tradition in 2012. Many cricketers including Virat Kohli participated in Shikhar's procession. Although Ayesha had claimed that she had sent such messages to only three people, the court refused to accept it. The court also found Shikhar Dhawan's allegation to be true that Ayesha had fought a lot when he wanted to stay with his father during Covid. Shikhar Dhawan through plea stated that he discovered post-marriage that the primary reason for the respondent to induce the petitioner into marrying her was merely to extort crores of rupees from him. Shortly after the marriage, the respondent threatened to fabricate defamatory and false material against the petitioner and circulate the same to destroy the reputation and cricketing career of the petitioner if he did not comply with her demands for money.

In 2014, Ayesha gave birth to Dhawan's son Zorawar. Dhawan and Ayesha parted ways after being together for nine years. Now both of them are legally divorced. Before the marriage of Shikhar Dhawan and Ayesha Mukherjee broke up, there were reports of rift between them. Through an Instagram post, both of them had talked about separation. The reason for their divorce was Ayesha's first marriage. She had promised her first husband that she would take care of her daughters and would not leave Australia. At the same time, she told Dhawan that she would stay with him. After marriage, she lived in Australia with her son Zorawar and both daughters. Because of this there was a rift between the two.

The Shikhar's is an Australian citizen and is in Australia. Any order or judgement can be implemented in foreign territory effectively only if the State machinery of that foreign country is willing to implement the same either voluntarily or under international obligations. Shikhar Dhawan through plea stated that he discovered post-marriage that the primary reason for the respondent to induce the petitioner into marrying her was

merely to extort crores of rupees from him. Shortly after the marriage, the respondent threatened to fabricate defamatory and false material against the petitioner and circulate the same to destroy the reputation and cricketing career of the petitioner if he did not comply with her demands for money.

Ayesha told the court that she really wanted to live with him in India, however due to her commitment to her daughters from previous marriage and stay in Australia, she could not come to live in India. The Court noted that Petitioner has also prayed for the grant of permanent custody of his minor son submitting that it was morally, psychologically and mentally disastrous for the minor son to be with respondent who consistently acted detrimentally to his welfare right from his birth. Harish Kumar's family court judge while dissolving their 11 years old wedlock said, "There is no dispute that both parties had agreed to take divorce by mutual consent and that their marriage is otherwise dead long ago and have not been living as husband and wife since August 8, 2020."

The allegation against Ayesha was also found to be true that when she came to live in India with her son, she forced Dhawan to send monthly expenses to his two daughters. Even their school fees had to be paid by Dhawan himself. In such a situation, for a long time, Dhawan sent them about Rs 10 lakh every month.

The court also found that Ayesha acquired 99% ownership rights in Dhawan's three properties in Australia through forceful pressure. She also became joint owner of two other properties. Shikhar Dhawan is the star cricketer of the Indian cricket team. This time he will also be seen captaining Punjab Kings in the IPL starting from March 31.

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Voices



The Power of Faith: Nurturing Belief in an Uncertain World



- Jaswinder Pal Sharma

Faith is a concept that has played a profound role in shaping the beliefs, values, and actions of individuals and communities throughout history. It transcends cultural, religious, and philosophical boundaries, and its impact can be felt in every aspect of human life.

In this article, we will explore the essence of faith, its significance, and its role in the lives of individuals and society as a whole.

Defining Faith: Faith is a deeply personal and often intangible belief in something greater than oneself. It can take many forms, including religious faith, faith in oneself, or faith in a cause or idea. At its core, faith involves trust, confidence, and a willingness to embrace the unknown or unproven. It is a force that empowers individuals to overcome adversity, seek purpose, and find meaning in their lives.

The Role of Faith in Religion: Religious faith is perhaps the most recognized form of faith. It is the cornerstone of many of the world's major religions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and countless others. Religious faith provides a framework for understanding the divine, the afterlife, and the moral principles that guide human behavior.

For believers, faith offers solace, hope, and a sense of belonging to a larger, transcendent community. It provides answers to existential questions and helps individuals navigate the complexities of life. Through rituals, prayer, and acts of worship, religious faith fosters a deep connection between individuals and the divine.

Faith in Oneself: Self-belief, or faith in oneself, is equally crucial in navigating the challenges of life. It is the belief that one has the capability, resilience, and determination to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals. People with strong self-faith tend to persevere in the face of adversity and maintain a positive outlook even in challenging circumstances.

Self-faith can be nurtured through self-care, self-reflection, and a growth mindset. It involves acknowledging one's strengths, setting

achievable goals, and cultivating the resilience to bounce back from setbacks.

Faith in a Cause or Idea: Beyond religious and self-faith, there exists a broader form of faith in society—a faith in causes, ideas, and collective endeavors. This type of faith is what drives social change, innovation, and progress. It's the belief that working together, humanity can address complex global challenges, such as climate change, poverty, and inequality.

Individuals who have faith in a cause or idea often become agents of change, working tirelessly to make a positive impact on the world. It's through their unwavering belief in the possibility of a better future that societies can evolve and improve.

The Power of Faith: Faith is a powerful force that can inspire individuals to achieve remarkable feats, overcome adversity, and find purpose and meaning in their lives. It provides a sense of hope when faced with despair and gives strength during moments of weakness. It fosters a sense of community and connection with others who share similar beliefs.

However, it's essential to recognize that faith is not a panacea. Blind faith, when unquestioning and dogmatic, can lead to closed-mindedness and intolerance. Balancing faith with critical thinking and empathy is essential to ensure that it serves as a force for good.

Conclusion

In a world often filled with uncertainty, faith remains a guiding light for many. Whether it's religious faith, faith in oneself, or faith in a greater cause, this belief in something beyond the immediate and the known can provide comfort, motivation, and direction. It is a testament to the human spirit's capacity for resilience, hope, and the pursuit of something greater than ourselves. Faith, in all its forms, continues to be a source of inspiration and a driving force behind personal and societal transformation.

Letters to the Editor

Pay heed to the needs of public!

In many rural areas of Maharashtra, there is no simple road to go to the government hospital, so there are cases of patients dying halfway. The Ministers get themselves freed only by setting up a committee of inquiry. But the further action is zero. Instead of reveling only in the power, attention to the needs of common people should be paid. People's representatives should never forget that, voters have elected you for service of the society, not only to revel in the power.

Sudhir Kangukar

WORLD CUP TO OUR DOORSTEPS

Cricket is a language that is spoken and understood by almost every Indian. And the country is all set to cheer for

a cricket extravaganza as it prepares to host the ICC Cricket World Cup after a decade-long wait. India's love for the sport is already reaching fever pitch, with fans eagerly anticipating the chance to witness history in the making. As the tournament draws near our pulse rate increases as we all feel that Cricket is a religion in India. From sold-out ticket sales within minutes to skyrocketing prices on the black market, the cricket fever is spreading like wildfire.

The D/L method will come into force time and again and better luck to the participating sides. This cricket extravaganza couldn't have come at a better time but for the intermittent rain interruptions. As the World Cup coincides with the festive season, it is expected to drive growth in the sector. While we are all expecting that history is going to be repeated like in 1983 and in 2011 during the ICC Cricket World Cup. We all feel and live that the World cup has reached our doorsteps. As a cricket enthusiast for the last 60 years, I wish the tournament all success and bring glory to our sports loving country.

C.K. Subramaniam

Nobel Prize for Messiahs who saved the world

The Nobel Prize 2023 in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman for their discoveries that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against Covid-19. They deserve the Nobel and the complete acknowledgement of the whole world as these two became true messiahs of mankind. At a time when the whole world shockingly froze to the onslaught of a deadly virus killing millions of people around the globe it was the great work of these two scientists that finally led to the developing of a vaccine that could control the virus and the rest is unforgettable history. Even though the virus that caused the deadly pandemic has not been completely eradicated the discovery made by the scientists is a kind of panacea that gives hope to mankind and an initiative to more discoveries that can completely put an end to such deadly viruses.

M Pradyu

Burning Stubble is Harmful

Every year, pollution increases in Delhi in the months of September and October. The main reason for this is stubble burning in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. Although every state government takes the issue of stubble burning seriously but farmers violate the law in the greed of growing another crop quickly. Due to paddy harvesting, cases of stubble burning have once again started appearing in many districts. According to the latest data, so far 322 incidents of stubble burning have been reported in some states. However, it would not be correct to say that Delhi's environment is so polluted just by burning stubble. Therefore, a comprehensive study of the factors of pollution is necessary, only then it can be controlled.

N Ashraf

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)

Bombay HC seeks details on functioning of anti-human trafficking units, women help desks in Maharashtra



The Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed the Maharashtra Home Department to file a comprehensive affidavit as to whether Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) have been set up in districts along with Women Help Desks at police stations and whether they are functioning and discharging duties as per law.

The court also asked the cen-

tral government to file a fresh affidavit giving details of steps taken by it to ensure the appointment of special police officers under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The court noted that offences under the 1956 Act have "social and cultural ramifications".

A division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Arif S Doctor on October 4 passed the direc-

tions while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) by Rescue Foundation, an NGO working for the rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking rackets. The PIL, filed in 2017, sought directives to the state government to implement the amended anti-human trafficking law in letter and spirit.

The NGO, through advocate Chetan Mali, had claimed in the PIL that the Maharashtra government has enabled the setting up of such units in only 12 out of 36 districts and that it was insufficient. Therefore, the petitioner sought directions to the authorities to form an Anti-Human Trafficking Unit in each district and further direct that the investigation of all cases of human trafficking for sexual exploitation will be conducted by AHTU.

A businessman was duped of Rs 1.65 lakh by four people posing as IT official

A 28-year-old garment businessman from Maharashtra's Thane district was allegedly duped of cash and foreign currency worth Rs 1.65 lakh by four persons posing as Income Tax officials while he was on way to the Mumbai airport for a trip to Dubai, police said on Thursday. The incident took place at around 2 am on Wednesday after the victim left from Ulhasnagar area in Thane by a cab to reach the airport for a sight-seeing visit to Dubai, an official from Kalwa police station said. As his cab reached near Kharigaon toll naka in Kalwa

area, two motorcycle-borne persons came from behind and intercepted the cab.

They claimed to be I-T officials and told the man they had received a tip-off that he was illegally carrying US dollars, the official said. When the victim got down from the cab to talk to the two persons, they allegedly snatched away 7,000 Dirhams and other cash worth Rs 1.65 lakh from his pocket while pretending to question him, he said.

In the meantime, two other persons, posing as associates of the accused, arrived there in a car and the cash and the foreign cur-

rency were handed over to them. The four persons then fled in the car and on the motorbike, the official said. The businessman had to call off his trip. He filed a police complaint against the four persons, including one whom he identified as a resident of Ulhasnagar, the official said. Based on the complaint, a case was registered against four persons, including the one identified, under Indian Penal Code sections 170 (personating a public servant), 420 (cheating) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), he said. A probe was on into the case, the police added. PTI

CR suspends train services due to delay in maintenance work, passengers stranded

The Central Railway suspended local train operations on the Trans-harbour line between Belapur and Panvel stations near Mumbai on Thursday morning, after failing to complete works in the scheduled time during night block, officials said. Trains not to run between Belapur (Navi Mumbai) and Panvel (Raigad) till 11 am on Thursday (on the Trans-harbour line) to avoid bunching of trains, the

Central Railway (CR) said.

Some commuters and office-goers claimed they were forced to take the Harbour Line trains between Belapur and Panvel stations, which are also running late by about 15 minutes. CR's chief public relations officer Dr Shivraj Manaspure confirmed that suburban services on the Trans-harbour line were suspended between Belapur-Panvel due to

a "block burst" (non-completion of scheduled work during block period). "Trans-harbour locals will not run between Belapur and Panvel till 11 am today to avoid bunching at Panvel in view of some ongoing speed restrictions at Panvel due to yard remodelling work," he said. "Thane-Panvel Trans-harbour locals are not running from Thane to Belapur till 11 am," the official said. PTI

Hindu Research Foundation locked its award ceremony date, check out the list of nominees



HINDU RESEARCH FOUNDATION
वसुधैवकुटुम्बकम्

This year on 29th Oct 2023, Hindu Research Foundation is celebrating following scientists, doctor, literary figure with respective awards in Saptarshi Puraskar Shrunkhala at Nagpur... Invitation follows...

1. Padma Vibhushan Dr Kasturirangan former ISRO Chairman - Bhardwaj Award
2. Padma Bhushan Dr Vijay Bhatkar, Father of Super Computer - Aryabhata Award
3. Padma Vibhushan Shri Sreed-

4. haran -Metro man - Vishwakarma Award
4. Padma Vibhushan Dr Anil Kakodkar - Acharya Kanad Award
5. Padma Shri Dr GD Yadav, Wizard of Chemical Sciences - Nagarjuna Award
6. Dr Anmol Sonawane - authority on TAVER /TAVI heart surgery with Shushrut Award
7. Shri Sudhakar Gaidhane, author of Devdoot - Maha Vakya with Maharshi Walmiki Award...

Did Sharad Pawar hold talks with BJP in 2017-2019 out of ED fear?



Dismissing allegations that the NCP faction led by Ajit Pawar had joined the BJP to escape action by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Thursday asked if the Sharad Pawar-led party had in previous years held talks with the BJP only out of such fear.

"The NCP-led by Sharad Pawar had declared support to the BJP in 2014. In 2017, the NCP held talks with the BJP for government formation. Again in 2019, the NCP under Sharad Pawar's leadership engaged in a

dialogue with the BJP. Were these talks held out of fear of inviting central agencies action? If not, why is a senior leader like Sharad Pawar making allegations against the Ajit Pawar-led faction, which is part of the government," Fadnavis asked.

"Such allegations are baseless. Ajit Pawar himself explained why they wanted to associate with the BJP," he added. In July, Ajit had explained that the group under him wanted to be part of the developmental politics pursued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nation

Sikkim Floods: Indian Army continues search operations of its 22 missing soldiers



The search and rescue operation by the Indian Army for the 22 missing soldiers continues. Meanwhile, Troops of Trishakti Corps are extending medical aid and telephone connectivity to civilians and tourists stranded in the areas of Chungthang, Lachung and Lachen in North Sikkim. As per reports, Continued efforts are on to dig out the vehicles submerged under the slush at Burdang near Singtam. The search for the missing people is now focussing in

the areas downstream of Teesta River. Out of the initial 23 missing persons, one person was recovered alive on the evening of October 4.

The family members of the missing persons have been contacted and informed about the situation. All other Indian Army personnel posted in Sikkim and North Bengal are safe and they are unable to contact their family members due to disruptions of mobile communication.

The disaster operations are be-

ing carried out in the state by the Indian Airforce. Wing Commander Irfan Jairal Commanding officer of Helicopter unit in Jammu said that people of Sikkim should have faith in the airforce and people will be saved. The Air Force said different equipment were being used during the disaster operations and that the great challenge was that there was no place to Land. Equipment like special ladders, oxygen, water boats, cradle to lift people and also sling is used in the operations are being transported to Sikkim.

The MI-17 1 V Helicopters are specially modified for the disaster operations with stretchers being used inside the helicopter. The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), under Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba, met on Wednesday and reviewed the situation in Sikkim. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has already deployed three teams and additional teams are on standby in Guwahati and Patna. ANI

Delhi BJP prays for Delhi to rid of its current 'corrupt government'



Meanwhile, the BJP MPs and MLAs have gathered for a prayer meet at Delhi's Rajghat. They are praying for Delhi to rid of its current "corrupt government", says Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

"We have gathered today at the Samadhi of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, to tell people that Delhi is always to break free from the corrupt rule of the Arvind Kejriwal government. Arvind Kejriwal, while

starting out with his Aam Aadmi Party began all his nautanki (drama) from Rajghat...Mahatma Gandhi used to say that alcohol destroys the body and soul. But Arvind Kejriwal allowed it to destroy not only his soul but also the character of the AAP. The people of Delhi know that Arvind Kejriwal is the main protagonist of the excise scam. The people of Delhi will continue their struggle to rid themselves of his corrupt rule," he added."

L-G transfers Sukesh Chandrashekhar's complaint alleging 'threat calls from CM's aides' to MHA



The Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) has transferred alleged con-man Sukesh Chandrashekhar's complaint on "threat calls from associates of the Delhi CM" to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for further necessary action, officials said on Wednesday.

In his complaint, Chandrashekhar has claimed that certain persons, who claimed to be speaking on behalf of CM Arvind Kejriwal

and former Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain, had threatened him with consequences if he did not retract his statements against the two AAP leaders.

On July 8, through his advocate Anant Malik, Chandrashekhar also requested L-G VK Saxena to get him and his wife Leena Paulose transferred out of Delhi to any jail, which is "not under the control of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)". The duo is presently lodged in Mandoli jail.

BJP dominance since 2003, and Congress slowly chipping away

BJP's win in 2013 was big, with the party returning to power with more seats, vote share. In 2018, it saw a slide, but the fact that only 0.1% votes separated it from Congress, after 15 yrs in power, showed its hold on the state. The Election Commission is in the final stages of assessing preparations in the five poll-bound states, with the poll schedule expected to be announced any time now.

In Madhya Pradesh, recent elections have seen a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress. The ruling BJP, in an attempt to steal a march on its rivals, has already announced candidates in the seats it lost in the 2018 elections, and where it expects a tough fight – including bringing in central leaders into the state contest to shake up the political scene. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stepped up



his visits to the state, including on Thursday, to announce and inaugurate development projects.

The Congress, which is yet to announce candidates, will be hoping to better its good 2018 performance, when it had emerged as the single largest party and formed the government with support from the Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party

and Independents to end 15 years of BJP rule. However, just over a year later, Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia had switched to the BJP along with 22 Congress MLAs, bringing the Kamal Nath government down, and returning the BJP's Shivraj Singh Chouhan as Chief Minister for a fourth time – making him the longest-serving CM of the state.

World

A man has been arrested at London over suspicious of "violent disorder" related to Indian mission attack



Scotland Yard has arrested a man on suspicion of "violent disorder" in connection with an attack on the Indian High Commission in London in March this year.

The Metropolitan Police said the man, who was arrested during a protest outside India House on Monday, was held in connection with a protest on March 19 and has been released on bail pending further enquiries.

A British Sikh man was seen being led away by police officers on patrol during Monday's protest, called to demand UK

government intervention over Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's claims of alleged Indian involvement in the killing of wanted terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, an allegation strongly rejected by India as "absurd and motivated". "On Monday, October 2, a man was arrested outside the Indian High Commission on suspicion of violent disorder in relation to a protest at the same venue on 19 March," the Met Police statement said.

"The man was taken into custody and has been bailed pending further enquiries," the statement

noted. The man can be named only after he is charged but is believed to be one of over a dozen individuals identified by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to have been responsible for the attack on the High Commission of India on March 19, when pro-Khalistan extremists scaled the building and attempted to pull down the Indian national flag. At least one official was injured as objects were hurled at the building and windows were shattered.

At the time, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned the senior-most UK diplomat in New Delhi to convey India's "strong protest" at the actions of separatist and extremist elements against the High Commission of India in London. In June, the NIA released photographs of suspects they believe were involved in the violent protest as the central agency took over the probe after Home Ministry officials met UK representatives in the wake of the attack. PTI

UK: Rishi Sunak's government is all set to ban cigarettes for younger people

The UK government is set to introduce a new law to stop children who turn 14 this year or younger from ever legally being sold cigarettes in England. This comes in a bid to create the first 'smoke-free generation', as per the UK government's official website.

The new law will make it an offence for anyone born on or after January 1, 2009, to be sold tobacco products - effectively raising the smoking age by a year each year until it applies to the whole population. This has the potential to phase out smoking in young people almost completely as early as 2040. Meanwhile, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said: "No parent ever wants their child to start smoking. It is a deadly habit - killing tens of thousands of people and costing our NHS billions each year, while also being hugely detrimental to our productivity as a country."

"I want to build a better and brighter future for our children, so that's why I want to stamp out

smoking for good. These changes will mean our kids will never be able to buy a cigarette, preventing them from getting hooked and protecting their health both now and in the future," he added. Smoking is the UK's biggest preventable killer - causing around 1 in 4 cancer deaths and leading to 64,000 deaths per year in England. It puts huge pressure on the NHS, with almost one hospital admission every minute attributable to smoking and up to 75,000 GP appointments each month taken up by smoking-related illness. It is also one of the biggest drivers of health inequalities across the country. Smoking rates in pregnancy also vary hugely, with as many as 20 per cent of pregnant women smoking in some parts of the country - increasing the chance of stillbirth by almost 50 per cent, as per the UK government website. Smoking also costs the economy pound 17 billion a year, through smoking-related lost earnings, unemployment, early deaths and costs to the NHS. ANI

US will transfer seized Iranian weapons to Ukraine: Report

The US will transfer thousands of seized Iranian weapons and rounds of ammunition to Ukraine, CNN reported. US officials said the move aims to help alleviate some of the critical shortages facing the Ukrainian military as it awaits more money and equipment from the US and its allies.

US Central Command has already transferred over one million rounds of seized Iranian ammunition to the Ukrainian armed forces, it announced on Wednesday. The transfer was conducted on Monday, CENTCOM said in a press release. The statement said: "The government obtained ownership of these munitions on July 20, 2023, through the Department of Justice's civil forfeiture claims against Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)." The US Justice Department announced



in March that it was seeking the forfeiture of one million rounds of Iranian ammunition, thousands of proximity fuses for rocket-propelled grenades, and thousands of pounds of propellant for rocket-propelled grenades that the Navy seized from Iran as it was in transit to Yemen.

The department said: "These munitions were originally seized by US Central Command naval forces from the transiting stateless dhow MARWAN 1, December 9, 2022. The munitions were being transferred from the IRGC to the Houthis in Yemen in violation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216." ANI

UNGA 78th meeting: Around 88 countries expressed their concerns over the violation of women and girls' rights in Afghanistan

Around 80 countries condemned the diktats issued by the Taliban on Afghan women putting restrictions on them since the group returned to power in 2021 and urged them to reverse the orders passed by them. Amid the deteriorating conditions of Afghan women, eighty countries in a joint statement delivered to the UNGA 78th meeting expressed their concerns over the violation of women and girls' rights in Afghanistan, reported TOLO News.

Taliban authorities closed most girls' high schools, barred women from university and stopped many female Afghan aid staff from working. Countries including, UAE, Australia, Japan, Spain, Chile, along with 75 other member states and observers have asked the Taliban to respect women's and girls' rights based on the Taliban values

and international human rights. The countries in the joint statement called the Taliban's women-related edicts 'systematic discrimination', oppression and violence, according to TOLO News.

They further urged the Taliban to ensure full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in public and political life of Afghanistan. Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations said, "We call on the de facto authorities to allow women and girls to exercise their rights and contribute to the social and economic development of the Afghan society in accordance with international human rights laws and teachings of Islam." Moreover, according to the joint statement, the Taliban's edicts against women and girls contradict Islamic values

as well as, universal human rights. However, the Taliban have claimed women's rights in Afghanistan are protected based on the Sharia Law.

Spokesperson of the Taliban Zabiullah Mujahid said, "Those rights of women and girls which have been given to them by Islam, have never been violated and will never be violated either. The Islamic Emirate considers it its obligation to correct women's rights in the country." According to a political analyst, the Taliban should come to a decision whether they want to live with the world or not. "We have seen tens of statements and declarations which have had no result. The Islamic Emirate should make a decision whether they want to live with the rest of the world or not," said Muhammad Sangar Amirzada, a political analyst. ANI

Expression

Srinagar's Sunday Markets: Tradition, Traffic, and Transformation



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Columnist

In the heart of the smart city of Srinagar, cradled by the majestic mountains, a cherished tradition flourishes. This tradition not only intricately threads the vibrant fabric of the city's culture but also breathes life into the livelihoods of many – the captivating Sunday markets. These bustling markets, stretching from TRC ground ground, Poloview to Lal Chowk, offer a vibrant display of goods ranging from clothing to everyday essentials. While they serve as a haven for shoppers seeking variety at affordable prices, the ensuing traffic chaos and pollution have raised concerns about the well-being of the city and its residents.

The concept of Sunday markets is not unique to Srinagar; it thrives in many parts of the world, providing people with an array of choices and bargains. In this age of convenience, these markets maintain their relevance by offering not only clothes and garments but also a wide range of everyday products. It's a testament to their enduring popularity and the economic significance they hold for countless families.

However, the charm of these markets is increasingly marred by the worsening traffic conditions. On Sundays, as eager shoppers flock to these markets, the streets transform into chaotic arteries, clogged with vehicles and honking horns. This traffic congestion not only disrupts the flow of daily life but also contributes to noise and air pollution, taking a toll on the well-being of the residents of this otherwise smart city.

Solutions for Efficient Traffic Management:

To preserve the essence of these markets while ensuring a healthier urban environment, the onus falls upon the traffic department to devise innovative solutions. Here are some key approaches that could be considered:

Alternate Routes: Implementation of alternate routes that bypass the core market areas on Sundays. By



doing so, the traffic department can alleviate congestion on the main thoroughfares and significantly reduce noise and air pollution.

Restrict Vehicular Access: Consider restricting vehicular access within the Sunday market premises during market hours. This would not only ease the traffic burden but also create a pedestrian-friendly shopping experience, allowing people to enjoy their shopping without the stress of navigating through congested roads.

Promotion of Public

Transportation: Encourage the use of public transportation, such as buses or trams, to reduce the number of private vehicles on the road during Sundays.

Pedestrian Zones: Create designated pedestrian zones within the market areas to enhance the shopping experience and promote a safer and more enjoyable environment for shoppers.

Parking Facilities: Develop convenient and secure parking facilities in the vicinity of the Sunday markets, connected to the market areas through shuttle services.

Information and Communication: Implement advanced traffic management systems that provide real-time updates on traffic conditions and parking availability.

Environmental Initiatives:

Introduce electric or hybrid public transportation options and encourage the use of eco-friendly vehicles to reduce air pollution in the city.

Community Engagement: Involve the local community, including vendors and residents, in discussions and decision-making regarding traffic management to find effective and sustainable solutions that benefit everyone.

Gender-Segregated Sunday Markets for Safety and Respect:

Creating separate Sunday markets for males and females could indeed be considered as a potential solution to address the issues of harassment and overcrowding in Srinagar's Sunday markets.

In recent times, it has become evident that some individuals visit these markets not for shopping but for inappropriate behavior, causing discomfort and distress, particularly to women. The overcrowding during these events sometimes enables such behavior to go unchecked. By establishing gender-segregated markets, authorities can provide a safer and more comfortable shopping environment for all attendees.

These separate markets could be organized in close proximity to each other, maintaining the tradition of the Sunday markets

while ensuring a more respectful and secure atmosphere. Moreover, this initiative would empower individuals, especially women, to enjoy their shopping experience without fear of harassment and contribute to fostering a culture of respect and decency in these cherished marketplaces.

Implementing this idea would require careful planning and coordination between the authorities, vendors, and the community. By taking such proactive steps, Srinagar can preserve the essence of its Sunday markets, making them inclusive and enjoyable for everyone while addressing the concerning issues of harassment and overcrowding.

Bottom line:

Efforts to enhance traffic management in Srinagar's Sunday markets should be part of a broader urban planning strategy aimed at improving the overall quality of life in the city while preserving its cultural heritage and economic vitality. By prioritizing efficient traffic management, Srinagar can maintain the vitality of its beloved markets while ensuring the well-being of its residents, thus fostering a more prosperous and harmonious city.

Entertainment

After sharing a cute picture of her pet dog, veteran actress Zeenat Aman penned a note revealing the interesting story behind the name of her pet and also revealed what names 'Dev Saab' (Dev Anand) used to call her. Zeenat on Wednesday took to Instagram and shared a picture of herself in an all-white outfit along with a long note.

The note read, "Childhood pet names can be sticky things. As a little girl, I was the apple of my father's eye, and he used to lovingly call me Babusha. A name that emerged as a go-between Babushka and Babugosha. He had quite the sense of humour because Babushka, which refers to an old Russian lady, and Babugosha, which refers to a pear, are hardly apt monikers for one's daughter!"

"My childhood friends, many of whose parents would socialise with my own, were quick to pick up on this nickname. In their mouths, Babusha evolved into Babs, which is how my earliest friends still know me," the actor continued.

She also revealed what late actor Dev Anand used to call her, Zeenat added, "Later of course, Dev Saab started to refer to me as 'Zeenie', and then the media concocted 'Zeenie baby'. Both of which stuck. Now that I'm too old for younger people on set to refer to me as either of those, I'm also called ZA or Zee. "Home names" are such a wonderful sign of love and intimacy. I took a leaf out of my father's book, and both my boys received pet names soon after their birth. The older is Azaanchu, and the younger Zanuski. If you have an odd or funny or unique pet name, I'd love to hear the story behind it in the comments!" ANI



Veteran actress Zeenat Aman shares adorable pictures, recalls pet names



Actor Amit Sadh opens up about working with 'Ghuspaith: Between Borders'

Actor Amit Sadh will be seen in a completely different avatar in 'Ghuspaith: Between Borders'. Directed by Mihir Kalpana Lath, the film pays tribute to Danish Siddiqui, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, by narrating the journey of Danish and his companions as they attempt to cross borders, encountering bandits and a shocking massacre.

Sharing how he prepared for the film, Amit said, "There were no challenges, we were just in a tough terrain and there were lots of mosquitoes but you know we are grown up and we shouldn't complain. Life is not easy and movie-making is not easy, so we just had to go and do our job. The day you go when you don't have food in your tummy is challenging. To go and shoot with so many people taking care of you, there is no challenge. As actors, we are very pampered, so we just go and do our job, there is no drama." 'Ghuspaith: Between Borders' will be out on JioCinema on October 6.

ANI

Eli Roth's horror film 'Bloody Thanksgiving' unveils its new teaser

A new teaser-trailer of filmmaker Eli Roth's horror film 'Bloody Thanksgiving' has been unveiled. 'Bloody Thanksgiving' follows a mysterious killer who terrorizes Plymouth, Massachusetts, after a Black Friday riot ends in tragedy.

The cast includes TikTok star Rae, Dempsey, Milo Manheim, Nell Verlaque, Jalen Thomas Brooks, Dempsey, Rick Hoffman, Gina Gershon, Chris Sandiford, Tim Dillon and Tomaso Sanelli round out the cast of the slasher. Rae's feature in 'Thanksgiving' comes after she recently debuted her "2 Die 4" single which features pop artist Charli XCX. The makers on Wednesday dropped the teaser-trailer of the film which has definitely left fans excited.

Sharing the link, Sony Pictures wrote, "Will you survive the holidays? Watch the new trailer for #BloodyThanksgivingMovie and see it exclusively in cinemas on November 17." ANI



Checkout what did Actor Bobby Deol has to say about his nephew Rajveer Deol's first film

Actor Bobby Deol on Thursday penned a sweet note for his nephew Rajveer Deol, whose debut film 'Dono' arrived in cinemas today. Taking to Instagram, Bobby shared a picture with Rajveer along with a note.

The note read, "I can't wait for tonight! You have worked so hard for this day beta and finally the moment has arrived when we all will see you living your dream on the big screen." He revealed it was the same day when Bobby's first film was released. "28 years back this day was a very special day in my life when my first film released and today it's become even more special because my Rajveer's first film is releasing. We all are very proud of you! God Bless you!!#DonoTheFilm #Dono." Proud father Sunny Deol also wished his son good luck for the release. Sharing the selfie with Rajveer, Sunny wrote, "All the best my son" ANI