



Dy CM Fadnavis says, "Strict action will be taken against 'mathadis'"

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## Increase of Suicide cases in Men as "They are not allowed to talk a rule set by the society" says activist



AV Team

Suicide rates are increasing in men which has reached up to three times more as compared earlier data. According to the NCRB report suicide are increasing in men as compared to women as they are not able to talk anyone about their about their issues or the situation which they are going though due to which most of the men face the issues of depression, anxiety and mental health issues which leads them to take such extreme steps of suicide.

A total number of suicide cases were 1,64,033 in the year 2021 according to the NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) Data. But many activists mentioned that Suicide cases of men are increasing day-by-day due to patriarchal mindset of the society as they are raised in the society with the mindset of men should not cry or showcase any of his feeling and this is why even if they are going through any issues of domestic violence they are not able to speak about it as there is no law for them to report this matter.

There are some instances which was reported where a man slapped his wife this case from Mumbai after which he committed suicide. Many of them are not able to discuss this issue with anyone because people do not take these issues seriously or laugh on them.

MLA Dipika Chavan told Afternoon Voice, "Men should also file against it and proper investigation should be done into

the matter".

Actress Sayali Pawaskar said, "There



is patriarchal system followed by people where it taught men that they should not cry or talk about emotional trauma. Men should

also take initiative of talking to people, create awareness like how it is there for women. As we also expect that all the voices should be heard and everyone should be treated on equality. Apart from that there are other reasons as well where men take such harsh steps is due to unemployment, financial issues, other responsibilities pressure"



President of Men Welfare Trust NGO Amit Lakhani said, "According to the data earlier the case of men taking a step of suicide

was 87,000 but now it has gone up to 1,18,000 which is quite saddening. People have created a mindset in society that men can't talk about any issues due to which they are force to take such extreme steps. There was a recent case where a husband committed a suicide due to domestic violence and he was not heard by anyone he also mentioned in the suicide note that he is taking this extreme step as there no law for him against domestic violence".

This increasing suicide cases has nothing to do with education because many well educated people are committing suicide. There is no law to protect men if there any domestic or any violence against them. Constitutional law says every person is protected but it differs in reality because no cases are filed" Lakhani further continued.

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## Being parallel or neutral is a curse because nobody likes you

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

2011-2012, two long years I suffered chronic health issues and my survival was at stake. My body got fragile, and at a young age I was battling with many health issues. Most of the time I was bed ridden, I was not very active. My main focus was to give good edit and sleep. Afternoon Voice had a good desk team and also the designers. They were managing the show, but it was not that creditable as it used to be in my presence. The team got divided in groups, many left us by then and joined other new ventures. Some joined PR agencies. Well! I had no other option than resuming the office back. This year we came up with the idea that we should have a website for our digital readers.

Digital terms were not popular by then. We were so occupied in Print

that we forgot to create our social media accounts, this is the year we made our Facebook and Twitter accounts because Anna Hazare's movement and Modji both stormed social media. People preferred reading online content rather than the news print. Twitter became new age lingo; things were drastically changing. 2013, Anna Hazare hit the headlines, passionately I supported his agitation. I was under the impression that corruption would be completely wiped out from India. With Baba Ramdev's agitation I thought Petrol will become 45 rupees a liter. I believed Shree Shree Ravi Shankar's promise of Dollars becoming cheaper.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

# Being parallel or neutral is a curse because nobody likes you

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

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

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

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

Modi ji's promise of 15 lakhs in each citizen's account. I was very much impressed with whatever was happening around. Small business groups like us need resources to survive. I was Modi's big fan, his speeches used to melt my heart. I was dreaming about Ram Rajya and ignoring business aside supported all these people in the hope of some positive change.

Before this we never followed any philosophy, we never hated or loved any political entity, we never had complaints about anyone, we are still not the slaves or supporters of any political groups or ideology, we never envied anyone. But 2013 blinded us a bit with all the magical things were happening in India. Perhaps this is what must have happened with you too. But even then, we never did worship journalism. We were still grounded with our morals. Our sole agenda was always authentic writing. We love to speak about the fact. We have many questions in mind and we try to find the answers too. We want to speak because the common people whom we represent can't speak for themselves. We have to speak for them to reach their voices to the power corridors. Now in this struggle, if we love or envy someone, we won't be able to make our voices strong.

Being parallel or neutral is a curse these days because nobody likes you. If you criticize Congress you are labeled as a BJP supporter. If you ask questions to BJP, you are perceived as anti-BJP. If you ask questions to AAP, they think you're the pawns of national parties. If you praise Arvind Kejriwal then it is translated as you are an AAPTARD. If you speak of Raj Thackrey, they will say you are anti Uddhav, and if you question Uddhav they will say you favor Pawar. In these times, when the media is labeled as Prostitutes, sold outs, and much more, we hold ourselves without falling into any of those adjectives. Because we are against all wrongs and praise all good, irrespective of who they are. We pride ourselves on being what we are, no one dared to bargain us or bristle at us.

A small newspaper, a small team, thousands of readers and a manifold reader, hundreds of calls every day, some praises, some complaints, some calls go missing, some get attended, but we try to listen to everyone and do justice to what they say. There are many decisions taken every moment because the newspaper runs on deadlines. Sometimes our decisions go wrong, sometimes we make mistakes but trust me no mistake of ours is ever that big that can't be pardoned.

Everyone wants honest journalism but most of them don't know the narrative of honest journalism. You want to listen to the truth but if your leader or party is questioned you don't like that. You want to listen to the truth that is convenient for you to accept. And if the journalism is kept on those parameters, then reporting gets mortgaged. These days all are critics of the media, but when reality is served, they don't want to digest it because their facts are different from truth. We can't be the voice for everyone but the common people. We can't walk with someone because we have to walk parallel. Now some may ask us "who are you?" My answer would be "Someone who lives with journalism".

We are a small part of the big media community. You are free to make your choices. We're small and we can't reach everywhere but wherever we reach our voice is heard. We know that we're going to contribute towards the new India. We know we follow our prime minister, be it digital India, and be it Beti Bachao. But we don't project him falsely, we exactly let readers know what his agendas could be. We tell our leaders about the happenings without adding our narrations or gossip. We don't believe in sensationalizing the news and gaining publicity. We want plane reporting, that may not amuse you but that will hold its grounds.

I know my responsibility as well as independence, over all this experience was unique and I am really thankful to Mr Morarka for giving me the understanding and learning of a newspaper business. If I was not put through tough time, I would have not realized the psychology of people working on desk and in reporting field. Just because I have gone through that process, now I treat my staff as colleagues and family. Its team work, I don't sit on their head or never dictate them to do something can compromise their morality. Life itself is lesson, you receive everything if you learn. I struggled a lot in all these years to reach where I am today.

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## Well Calculated Victory



- C.K. Subramaniam

India earned a well-deserved victory against the Australians in the first match of tri series in spite of resting 4 star players. The victory was commendable and in fact we were holding the upper grip throughout the match. The bowlers did bowl well except Shardul Thakur and it was heartening to see Mohd Shami and Ashwin bowling so beautifully. The victory came much easier than expected as Gill and Gaekwad not only batted with authority but at a very fast pace. KL Rahul also batted with responsibility and determination. He has proven that his knocks in the Asia Cup was no fluke. SKY also justified his talent in the extended opportunity.

It seems our preparation for the forthcoming world cup matches is going in the right direction. We need not worry about the batting line up as most of the batsmen are in good form and basically we have plenty of choice for every position. The pace battery is also good as even a class bowler like Shami was cooling his heels in the dressing room most of the time. We have three very good allrounders Pandeya, Jadeja and Ashwin in the team whereas the spin department is also very compact. The spinners are going to play a big role in this World Cup specially by Kuldeep Yadav who

is in terrific form. I failed to understand why he has been rested quite frequently inspite of his excellent performances. The fourth choice should be Axar Patel as a backup bowler. India should play with two pace bowlers, three spinners and Hardik Pandeya as sa batting allrounder.

The Indian team is in terrific form, well balanced but there are certain weak links which are matter of concern. KL Rahul is a good batsman but not a good wicket keeper. His keeping may falter in the tense situation and in close matches. He should play as a batsman and keeping responsibility should be given to Ishan Kishen. There should not be any place for Shardul Thakur in the squad as he is a ordinary allrounder. In all respects Ashwin is miles ahead in comparison to Shardul.

The composition and form of Indian team is very high and one can wish that we should be the eventual winners but cricket is the game of glorious uncertainties.

## Letters to the Editor

### Firefighting measures are often compromised to save costs!

Fires at Malls has become a common phenomenon in the city & the latest one at Oshiwara doesn't come as surprise. Fire-fighting measures are often compromised to save costs which proves fatal during major mishaps. Corruption rules roost & fire audits have no meaning if compliance certificates are issued without proper investigations. Sad & unfortunate that fires are responsible for several innocent lives being lost each year in some mishaps or the other.

Govt should have stringent rules & regulations for fire compliant norms with steep penalization for those responsible for not following them. Authorities too needs to be taken to task for issuing fire compliant certificates without proper checks & balances!

S.N.Kabra

### The Street child cricket world Cup 2023

Street children from 15 countries including hosts India, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Hungary, Mexico, South Africa, Srilanka and Rwanda will participate in the

Street child cricket tournament which precedes ICC World Cup Cricket in India.

Street world cup cricket, exclusively for Street Children will be held in Chennai for the first time. The first edition was held in 2019 in England. Organised by Street Child United in partnership with Shree Dayaa Foundation and other NGOs the tournament will see street children showcase their sporting talent and also to advocate for their rights worldwide. According to organisers 168 street children from 15 countries will participate.

A special tournament like this undoubtedly gives street children across the world an opportunity to represent their nations, showcase their untapped talents and also to engage discussions and initiatives to address their concerns. Consideration, Protection and uplifting of the street children is the need of the hour and tournaments and programmes such as these are sure to achieve its goal in a great way.

M Pradyu

### Ignore the rank after graduation

The State of Working India report shows that unemployment is ready to welcome even after graduation. At present, the rate of graduate unemployment in the country is 42.3%, and the rate of undergraduate or undereducated is 8%. But, as the rate of under-educated is low, it cannot be ruled out that the graduates

feel depressed by pursuing higher education. Even though the unemployment rate reached 8.8% in 2019-20, 7.5% in 2021, and 6.6% in 2022. However, there is a huge number of young highly educated graduates who are unemployed. Similarly, because they do not get jobs after graduating or leaving college, such unemployed youth are getting jobs after the age of 35-40 years. The report mentions the possibility of negative and pessimistic thoughts of getting employment with education or short education cannot be ruled out. What is the benefit of this education if the graduates will end up neglecting unemployment at the end of their graduation?

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

### Internet restored in Manipur

Over 140 days after mobile internet was suspended in ethnic violence hit Manipur, the service was restored on Saturday. An order by the State government said the number of violent incidents had gone down from the initial days, and law and order has improved in the State. This is good news came from Manipur after a long wait. But it should be kept in mind that the restoration of mobile internet does not mean that situation had turned to normal. The government and the people of Manipur still will have to be vigilant and geared up for unexpected circumstances.

HK Isha'ati

### Indo-Canadian ties

The world is currently experiencing severe tension due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and China's contentious policies. This has instilled fear of an impending economic recession. In this delicate situation, the Trudeau government of Canada has exacerbated tensions by levying unjustified accusations against the Indian government. Canada, known for being a hub of Khalistani activities, not only supports these organizations for political gain but also justifies their reprehensible actions as a form of freedom of expression. In light of these developments, it is advisable for India to reconsider its political and commercial ties with Canada. Just two months ago, Khalistani supporters demonstrated their autocratic tendencies by displaying the assassination of former PM Indira Gandhi in Canada, an act that was shockingly labeled as an expression of freedom. Consequently, India should adopt a firm stance in its dealings with Canada.

Jahangir Shaik

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

## Dy CM Fadnavis says, "Strict action will be taken against 'mathadis' involved in blackmail, extortion"



**M**aharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday called for a joint and collective effort to identify 'mathadis' (porters) who are involved in blackmail and extortion and warned of stringent action against them. Speaking at a rally organised to mark the birth anniversary of Mathadi leader Late

Annadsaheb Patil at Vashi, Fadnavis said the state government did not want to thrust any act on 'mathadis' and it was just making amendments in the existing act, which is more than 50 years old to ensure action against violators.

Several industries have gone out of the state because of the problems posed by fake and "extortionist" mathadis, he said.

Fadnavis directed the Navi Mumbai police to take action against fake 'mathadis' who take a 25 per cent cut in agreements.

"While amending the Mathadi, Hamal and Other Manual Workers Act we will ensure that the soul of the act as envisaged by Annasaheb Patil remains intact," he said. Fadnavis further said that the Maratha community needs to be brought to the forefront and their development needs to be ensured. More than 70,000 industrialists have been created from the Maratha community through Annasaheb Patil Arthik Mahamandal and they have been given Rs 5,000 crore in cost-free loans and the government has footed Rs 507 crore per year for this, he said. **PTI**

## Ganesh idol immersion: Bombay HC directs SGNP to decide if one artificial pond is enough at Aarey colony or not



**T**he Bombay High Court on Monday directed the monitoring committee of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) to decide whether one artificial pond at Aarey Colony would be enough for immersion of Ganapati idols and said the endeavour is to not hurt anybody's religious feelings.

A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Arif Doctor said that if the committee feels that more artificial ponds would be required,

then the necessary arrangements will be made.

"All these are matters to be considered by experts. What would suffice...whether it is one artificial pond or six or a truck-mounted tank or 10 is up to the monitoring committee," the court said. "The endeavour is to not hurt anybody's religious feelings... We will ask the committee to consider and take an appropriate decision. If one pond is adequate, then fine, if not, then we are only saying that arrangements

can be made," CJ Upadhyaya said.

The bench was hearing an application filed by a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader seeking permission for immersion at lakes in Aarey Colony. The CEO of Aarey Colony had this year denied permission for immersion at lakes. On Monday, the bench was informed by petitioner's counsel Anil Singh that the monitoring committee had a meeting and decided to set up an artificial pond inside Aarey where immersions have been done since Wednesday last. The BMC has also provided six truck-mounted tanks for immersion, senior counsel Milind Sathe, appearing for the civic body, informed the court.

"However, one pond is not enough considering the number of idols being brought for immersion. Last year, apart from permission to immerse in lakes, seven artificial ponds were set up. We are not seeking permission to immerse in lakes now, but are only seeking additional artificial ponds," Singh said. **PTI**

## Bombay HC says "separate recovery from two person should be considered as separate seizures"

**D**rugs recovered from two persons separately when they are apprehended together, should be considered as separate seizures, the Bombay High Court said while granting bail to a man arrested for possession of ganja (cannabis) last year.

The accused Sagar Borkar had sought bail on the ground that the police had allegedly recovered only 10 kg of the contraband from him, which was of intermediate quantity.

The police, however, claimed that Borkar and the co-accused in the case were found with contraband weighing 22 kg, which is a commercial quantity. It further claimed that since the duo was travelling together, the charge of conspiracy was also invoked in

the case.

A single bench of Justice S G Dige, in its order dated September 15, refused to accept the police's contention. The bench noted that the police had recovered 10.319 kg of ganja from Borkar and 11.24 kg from the co-accused. "It is alleged that both the applicant and the co-accused were travelling together, and the contraband recovered from their possession was commercial quantity. In my view, though the applicant and co-accused were found together, they were carrying the contraband individually. The recovery of the contraband from the possession of the applicant (Borkar) and the co-accused should be considered separately," the court said. **PTI**

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## Increase of Suicide cases in Men as...



National Secretary of BJP **Vijaya Rahatkar** said, "Women are going

through domestic violence from a very long time as it is also considered male dominating society but now-a-days even men are facing the issues of violence but we should now take initiative of asking questions or raising issues of the misbalance which is seen in the families to curb the suicide issue".



Advocate **Harshal Mirashi** said, "The incident of men taking a step of

suicide is increasing is correct but they are not able to raise their voice. Just because they are raising their voice against domestic violence due to which more injustice is happening and we have seen many cases where women are taking advantage and misusing the law of 498 A which was there to protect them. There are certain laws which are protecting women government should also come

with a law which will protect men".



President of Purush Aayog NGO **Barkha Trehan** said, "A men's com-

mission should be formed by the government as there is no law to protect them nor police file their complaint. Due to which suicide cases amongst men have increased which is three times more as compared to the cases in the past. Today politicians, top workers, reporters only talk about domestic violence faced by women which is completely bias as they do not talk about any violence which is faced by men".

"There is lot of discrimination seen between men and women even when giving while giving any kind of a compensation or job opportunities which is incorrect so it is the government's job to come up with a law so that even men's issues are addressed and any offender who is committing crime against law should be punished as we only want to bring equality in the society" Trehan further added.

# Nation

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formally inducted first C-295 medium aircraft into the IAF



September 13 received the first of the 56 C-295 transport aircraft two years after India sealed a Rs 21,935-crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space to procure the jets to replace its ageing Avro-748 fleet.

The aircraft had landed in Vadodara on September 20, days after it was handed over to the IAF in the southern Spanish city of Seville. Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft in fly-away condition from its final assembly line in Seville by 2025 and the subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.

The production of components of these aircraft has already started in the 'Main Constituent Assembly' facility in Hyderabad. These parts will be shipped to the Final Assembly Line in Vadodara which is expected to be operational by November 2024.

The first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft was inducted into the Indian Air Force on Monday, boosting its logistics capabilities. The induction ceremony took place at the Hindan Air Force Station here in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. He later took part in a 'Sarva Dharma Pooja' that was performed in the hangar to mark the occasion. IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari along with senior officials of the IAF as well as of Airbus attended the induction ceremony.

The first C-295 aircraft was inducted into Squadron No 11 of the IAF. It is one of the oldest squadrons of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and is currently based at Vadodara Air Force Station. The aircraft was unveiled at the hangar after two sliding screens, bearing '11 SQN: Pioneers of C-295 MW', 'Rhinos: The Trailblazers of C-295 MW', and image of the newly-inducted aircraft, moved sideways. One-horned rhino is the emblem of Sqn. No 11.

The IAF chief had on Sep-

## PM Modi slams congress party says, "It was busy glorifying one family, nourishing corrupt system"



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday made a scathing attack on Congress in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, saying the party "has been busy glorifying only one family," nourishing "corrupt system" and if gets a chance to come into power, it will be a huge loss for the state. Addressing Karyakarta Mahakumbh in Bhopal, the Prime Minister slammed Congress on a range of issues and said the opposition party "neither has the ability to see nor understand the national interest".

He said Congress does not want to change and does not want the country to change. "Congress cannot digest the development

work in India...They don't want the country to develop. They are never proud of the country's achievements because neither they want to change and neither want the country to change or de-

velop. Congress will make Madhya Pradesh a 'Bimaru Rajya' if it gets a chance (to come into power here). They opposed digital payment but the world is impressed by UPI mode," he said. "Congress has been busy glorifying only one family. Congress has been busy nourishing the corrupt system in India. Congress is like rusty iron, which gets corroded if kept in the rain. Now Congress neither has the ability to see nor understand the national interest," he added. ANI

## Kerala: ED conducts raids at several locations of banned PFI members

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday conducted raids at several locations linked to former members of the banned Islamist outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) across the state. Searches are underway at various places in Ernakulam, Thrissur, Malappuram and Wayanad districts of the state, police said. The houses of former PFI

leaders Abdul Samad and Latheef were also searched in Wayanad and Thrissur districts, they said. According to sources, the raids were launched to ascertain the alleged source of funding for the banned outfit. The central government had on September 28, 2022, declared the PFI as an 'unlawful association' under UAPA and imposed a ban on it for five years.

## Cauvery water dispute: Farmers protest with human skeletons, demands sharing of water in Tamil Nadu

The National South Indian River Interlinking Farmers Association under the leadership of Ayyakannu held a protest on Monday in Tamil Nadu's Trichy by holding parts of the skeleton" human skeleton and demanded the sharing of Cauvery water. The protestors demanded the sharing of Cauvery water to save the standing 'kuruvai' crop cultivation in TN.

The visuals from Trichy showed the protestors raising slogans demanding the release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu and saving farmers. Earlier, on Sunday, a group of farmers in Trichy staged a protest by standing in the Cauvery River water over the ongoing dispute with Karnataka. Both states have been witness to protests after Karnataka hardened its stance on sharing Cauvery water citing severe drought in parts of the state. The Cauvery water management authority then ordered the Karnataka government to release 5,000 cusecs of Cauvery river water to neighboring Tamil Nadu. The court however, declined to entertain an application filed by the Tamil Nadu government to increase its current share of Cauvery water from 5,000 to 7,200

cusecs per day.

In Bengaluru pro-Kannada organizations have given a call for a 'Bengaluru Bandh' on 26 September. The call comes after Mandya city observed a total bandh on Saturday, protesting against a Supreme Court order. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah said the farmers have the right to protest but political parties were fanning the people's anger. "In a democracy there is an opportunity to protest. We are not going to disrupt the protest. But the BJP-JDS party is playing politics in this. There is a hearing before the Supreme Court tomorrow regarding the Cauvery issue. Our lawyers will present a competent argument" said Siddaramaiah.

The opposition BJP and JDS have alleged that CM Siddaramaiah has failed in Cauvery river water protection. In his response the Karnataka CM said he was bound by the order of the Apex Court. "There is a Supreme Court order. Our petition was dismissed in the Supreme Court, we argued that we cannot release water. We had filed an application in the court questioning the Cauvery authority's order. The court rejected both our application and Tamil Nadu's application" he said. ANI

## Skill Development Scam: SC asks Chandrababu Naidu's lawyer to mention "seeking to quash FIR in his plea"

The Supreme Court on Monday asked counsel of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to mention on September 26 his plea seeking to quash the FIR registered against him in the skill development scam case. As senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Naidu, tried to mention for urgent hearing the plea, which was not listed in mentioning list, the bench asked

him to mention it tomorrow.

Luthra told the bench that the case is related to the State of Andhra Pradesh where the opposition is being curbed.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said, "Come tomorrow in the mentioning list." Naidu approached the Supreme Court against High Court order which declined to quash the FIR on Friday. ANI

World

## Chinese cab driver is under investigation for abusing a woman passenger, assuming she is Indian, video goes viral



A Singapore Chinese cab driver is under investigation for abusing a woman and her daughter during their ride over misinformation on the destination and assuming she was of Indian origin. He said, 'You are Indian, you are stupid', 46-year-old Eurasian origin Janelle Hoeden said of the cab driver abuse on Saturday. The woman was with her nine-year-old daughter on the ride, The Straits Times reported on Sunday. Hoeden recorded on her phone the interaction which got progressively more heated. She had booked a ride on the ride-hailing platform, TADA, at around 2 pm on Saturday.

Hoeden said the ride started

uneventfully and she was talking to her child when suddenly the driver got upset that part of the road was blocked due to construction of an upcoming metro, MRT line, along the ride in Pasir Ris housing estate. He started shouting at me, saying that I gave him the wrong address and wrong directions, she said. In the video -- uploaded on her Facebook page and an account by a TikTok user, and later shared by alternative news site Wake Up Singapore -- the driver, a Chinese man, is seen accusing Hoeden's daughter of being less than 1.35 metres tall. He repeatedly said her daughter was under 1.35 metres, and Hoeden could

be heard replying that the child was 1.37 metres. He then called the girl very illegal. It is believed the height is for the safety of passengers requiring child seats.

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) states on its website that for safety reasons, all vehicles in Singapore must have booster seats or child restraints for passengers under 1.35 metres in height. The driver shouted at the woman while driving, 'You are India(n), I'm Chinese... You are the very worst kind... Hoeden corrected the driver, saying: I am Singapore Eurasian, not Indian.

Eurasians are usually tanned and at times appear to be Indian in appearance. As he was verbally abusive, I was afraid that he would start getting physical with me, so I told her to record, the Singapore broadsheet quoted Hoeden as saying. Whether I was tanned skin, or Indian, or otherwise, it's unacceptable what he said it was totally uncalled for, that he pulled out the race card, she said. Her child was also shaken after the incident. In comments on Wake Up Singapore's Instagram post that highlighted the incident, Tada Singapore said it was investigating the incident. PTI

## Pakistan: 85 new cases of 'Pink eye infection' in Lahore



As many as 85 new cases of conjunctivitis, commonly known as Pink Eye, have been reported in Pakistan's Lahore within the past 24 hours, ARY News reported on Monday. Pink eye is an inflammation of the transparent membrane that lines the eyelid and eyeball. This membrane is called the conjunctiva.

ARY News is a Pakistani news channel. Those affected are finding it difficult to venture outdoors due to the adverse effects of sunlight and dust on their eyes. Eye Surgeon, Dr Intzar Hussain Butt, shared his recommendations, urging the affected individuals to use prescribed eye drops, cold water, and tissues for

eye cleansing, as per ARY News.

Dr Butt explained that conjunctivitis is an inflammation or infection of the transparent membrane, known as the conjunctiva, which lines the eyelid and covers the eyeball. He emphasized the importance of avoiding physical contact with infected individuals and refraining from sharing personal items such as handkerchiefs, pillows, and makeup.

The doctor also advised those affected to wear sunglasses and take a temporary leave from their official or private duties for a few days. Self-medication was discouraged, and joining gatherings was to be avoided. Frequent handwashing with soap was recommended. ANI

## Canada PM Justin Trudeau allegations: Indian community says, "Resolve issue through dialogue"

The Indian Community in Canada is concerned over the recent strain in relations between the two countries following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations regarding the Indian government's involvement in the fatal shooting of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. Senior Canadian Journalist Harleem Sadia said that the Indian community has concerns which are very genuine.

Canadian citizen of Indian origin Gurjant Singh said that being a Sikh, both India and Canada are extremely important to him and the recent tensions deeply concern him. Gurjant Singh feels the issue should be resolved through dialogue.

"I am very concerned about the matter and I think everything should be resolved through dialogue. Anything, any issue can be discussed, solved at the table. Both the Indian and Canadian governments should put up their point of views while remaining within their lines, boundaries," he said.

Last week, Justin Trudeau claimed that his country's national security officials had reasons to believe that "agents of the Indian government were behind the fatal shooting of Hardeep Nijjar. "Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar," Trudeau had said. ANI

## President Emmanuel Macron said, "France will end its military presence in Niger and pull its ambassador out of the country"

President Emmanuel Macron announced Sunday that France will end its military presence in Niger and pull its ambassador out of the country after its democratically elected president was deposed in a coup. The announcement is a significant, if predicted, blow to France's policy in Africa, after French troops pulled out of neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso in recent years after coups there.

France had stationed thousands of troops in the region at the request of African leaders to fight jihadist groups. France has maintained some 1,500 troops in

Niger since the July coup, and had repeatedly refused an order by the new junta for its ambassador to leave, saying that France didn't recognize the coup leaders as legitimate.

Tensions between France and Niger, a former French colony, have mounted in recent weeks, and Macron said recently that diplomats were surviving on military rations as they holed up in the embassy.

In an interview with France-2 television, Macron said that he spoke Sunday to ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, and told him that France has decided to bring back its ambassador,

and in the coming hours our ambassador and several diplomats will return to France." He added, "And we will put an end to our military cooperation with the Niger authorities. He said the troops would be gradually pulled out, likely by the end of the year. He noted that France's military presence in Niger was in response to a request from Niger's government at the time. The military cooperation between France and Niger had been suspended since the coup. The junta leaders claimed that Bazoum's government wasn't doing enough to protect the country from the insurgency."

# Expression

## In Mumbai's BEST bus system Fight for equal pay for equal work!



Lata Parab

Columnist

**B**EST has such a history of its own. 'Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport' (BEST) is the public transport system of Mumbai. Even if you look at the construction of the BEST administration building in Mumbai, you can see that a lot of effort was taken to build a permanent building so that the people can benefit from these welfare schemes for many years to come. In Mumbai, the financial capital of India, BEST Bus was a tour of Mumbai. Our 'BEST' bus services are studied to start bus services in other states of India. No Mumbaikar can forget the service provided by BEST Bus when Mumbai was flooded due to rainwater. Working women in Mumbai can travel at night and early morning without any problem. The government of Maharashtra and the BEST administration itself are involved in the conspiracy to privatize such an important public transport. Government intends to end public transport service 'BEST'. It has started by reducing BEST's own fleet and allowing private contractors to run the buses. These contractors are making profit by exploiting the workers for their own gain.

Mumbai has a large working class population and the passengers traveling in BEST buses are the common needy people. This cheap and affordable public transport helps them a lot to reach the workplace. The BEST bus is an intimate topic in the daily life of the people of Mumbai. It is part of their needs. The BEST Bus administration is taking advantage of the same and trying to privatize this public transport service by fooling the public.

The money collected from the general public by providing BEST Bus private transport will be able to earn them as profit. They have started playing with the lives of workers and passengers by providing cheap buses to make profit. By reducing the expenditure on the training of the workers, the lives of the passengers and the workers themselves have been put at risk. These forced labourers are working for low wages. They are seen being harassed at work. According to the labour concept of the law, this wet lease (rented buses) worker does not fit under the labour law as a worker. Therefore, all the labour laws are violated and the contractors exploit the workers. As a result, these contract workers are living in very poor conditions. Desperate and indebted due to meagre salaries, some of

them committed suicide.

In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court observed that denying equal pay for equal work in this welfare state would be exploitative, oppressive and oppressive. With the help of this important observation, 'Sangarsha Karmkar Kamgar Union' has been continuously raising its voice against the injustice of these workers for the last two-three years and agitating on their issues. Struggle for the implementation of the Supreme Court order, the Sangharsh Karmakar Lagmar Union has started an agitation for the just demands of the wet lease workers of Best Buses in Mumbai and the main demand is equal pay for equal work. Around 9000 workers of Wet Lease (rented buses) joined the strike.

On 31st July, the family of wet lease (rented buses) worker Raghunath Khajurkar started the agitation by personally starting a fast. Seeing the increasing support and participation in the hunger strike, the government has announced that the hunger strikers will visit the Chief Minister of the state on August 2. Here the movement was given a different turn. While there was no discussion on Chief Minister's barrow, it was pretended to be, an attempt was made to mislead the workers. The woman who was sympathizing with the hunger strike was not giving information about what the Chief Minister was saying. The workers involved in the agitation were informing that she was hiding the information.

On August 3, 2023 the executive meeting of the Sangharsh Samgar Karmkary Union decided that in support of the hunger strike, we should protest under the banner of our union and present our demand letter and statement at Wadala Best Depot. The workers were so appealed to and the very next day all the workers working on wet-lease buses from Magathane, Gorai, Malvani, Dindoshi, Marol, Oshiwara, Santacruz, Dharavi, Worli, Mumbai Central, Backbay, Pratihka Nagar, Colaba, etc., Deonar, Shivaji Nagar, A demand letter statement was made to the parent owner of BEST, BEST Enterprises, following a successful Wet-Lease employee march from Ghatkopar, Mulund Depot to Wadala BEST Depot. And its copy was given to Chief Minister, private bus companies like Daga, Hansa, Mateshwari and Labor Commissioner. At Azad Maidan, the march supported the hunger strike by carrying Union flags and banners.

On August 5, a meeting of 700 to 800 workers was held in a hall near the CITU office near Azad Maidan. In this gathering, Uday Bhat of BEST Labour Organization, Ranganath Satwase of Sangharsh Union, Harish Gaikwad, Bashir Ahmed, Lata Parab,



J. M. Kahar and Manoj Yadav, guided the workers. All Wet-Lease employees participated in this protest and decided to visit the depot on 06.08.2023 to call for a bandh. As planned on 6th August, the Union met all wet-lease depots and emphasized the importance of holding a march from Kotwal Garden to Wadala Depot on 7th BEST anniversary, along with a civic forum named "Aamchi Mumbai Aamchi Best". On August 7, the march was refused by the government, the police locked the Kotwal Garden, so the march was moved to Dadar TT, where the rally decided to go to Wadala Depot, but as the police stopped again, four to four people gradually gathered in front of Wadala Depot.

800 employees of trade unions, public organizations, BEST retired workers, youth and students, women's organizations as well as CPI(M), CPI, Shekap, Samajwadi Party, Red Nishan Party, Congress Party and Wet-lease participated in this program. Our Mumbai Our Best forum convener Shri. Vidyadhar Date, Mrs. Sandhya Gokhale, Shri. The delegation of Ujjwala Mhatre presented a statement on behalf of all the employees, passengers and citizens after discussing about wet-lease employees, development of the initiative. CITU President Comrade Vartak, Janwadi Mahila Sangathan Comrade Sugandhi Francis, Comrade Anju Divekar, Comrade Prakash Reddy (CPI), Comrade Sadanand Yadav (Retired BEST Workers Union), Arvind Kanginkar (BWU) Mr. Nitin Patil (BEU), Comrade Jagannarayan (Sangharsh Ka.K.Union), Vidyadhar Date, Ujjwala Mhatre addressed the workers.

On August 8, the Chief Minister verbally agreed to the hunger striker Pragya Khajurkar's general demands and asked him to call off the eight-day-long strike and Pragya Khajurkar immediately called off her hunger strike. Meanwhile, the electronic and print media created confusion among the workers by reporting that the complete strike had been called off. Confused workers, around 500 agitating workers contacted the union and gathered at the office of CITU

Labour Union and unanimously decided to continue the agitation. The workers decided not to withdraw until the Chief Minister agreed to the demands in writing.

Due to the Chief Minister's verbal assurance and media campaign and Pragya Khajurkar's appeal to call off the strike, nearly 85 percent of the buses started running smoothly the next day on August 9. In this protest, court notices were issued to 126 workers by private companies, two workers from Back Bay depot were arrested and union workers from different depots were arrested. On behalf of the union, the workers were immediately helped and secured with the help of Adv.Chandrakant Bhojgar, Adv.Raju Korde. two employees of Backbay Depot. Were arrested for which Adv. Kishore Samant made an immediate effort to complete the court process and freed both the employees.

The union held an executive meeting immediately and decided that the employees should join the work. Three companies filed a complaint against about 56 workers under various laws in the Industrial Court for the employees who were sent notices, court notices, on 11 August 2023, the Industrial Court on 11 August 2023, on behalf of the workers, the Sangharsh Workers Union stood up and showed evidence in the court that the management was not hiring these workers and practicing favouritism and discrimination in hiring workers connected to Union. After this matter was noticed by the management counsel, the next day on 12th August, 123 members of the union were joined by undertaking. Comrades Harish Gaikwad, Lata Parab, Bashir Ahmed, Ranganath Satwase and Jagannarayan Kahar played important roles in this movement. Public buses are an ongoing struggle of workers against privatization-contracting of transport services and equal pay for equal work.

# Entertainment



## Raghav-Parineeti's wedding: Priyanka Chopra's mother opens the reason for not being present

**A**P MP Raghav Chadha and actor Parineeti Chopra tied the knot on September 24 at the Leela Palace Hotel in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The duo got married in the presence of their family members and close family friends.

Post the wedding ceremony, the newly married couple hosted a wedding reception for their guests. However, Parineeti's cousin sister and global icon Priyanka Chopra couldn't attend the wedding ceremony. On Monday morning, PeeCee's mother Madhu Chopra was snapped at the Udaipur airport where she indulged in a conversation with paparazzi and revealed why Priyanka could not attend the marriage ceremony.

The paps asked her how the wedding was, to which she replied, "Bohot badhiya (very good)." The paps further asked her why Priyanka couldn't attend Parineeti and Raghav's wedding. Madhu said that she had work commitments, which is why she had to give the wedding a miss. "Woh kaam kar rahe hai (She is working)," said Madhu Chopra. The paparazzi's also questioned Madhu about what she gifted Parineeti and Raghav, to which she said, "Unhone sab mana kardiya. No lena dena."

When asked how Parineeti looked on her wedding day, Madhu said, "Arey waise hi khubsoorat hai. Aur achhi lag rahi thi. (She is very beautiful. She looked even more beautiful on her wedding)." **ANI**

## Hollywood strike: After five months, tentative deal has been struck to end between writers and studios



**N**early five months after Hollywood screenwriters went on a strike, a tentative deal has been struck to end the impasse between writers and studios that has impacted the television and movie industry. The Writers Guild of America (WGA) on Sunday signed a tentative deal with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), a labour group representing studios and streaming services, Deadline reported.

The writers' strike began on May 2 this year after 11,500 WGA members stopped working when their contract expired. Among the issues they were protesting included increased pay, the use of Artificial Intelligence in the creation of scripts, and the size of diminished writing staffs linked to streaming show performance. "The WGA and AMPTP have reached a tentative agreement," the two groups said in a joint statement on Sunday evening. "We have reached a tentative agreement on a new 2023 MBA, which is to say an agreement in principle on all deal points, subject to drafting final contract language," the WGA told its members in a release, which the US-based media outlet Deadline said came after five days of long negotiations. The deal was agreed on after five days of negotiations after a meeting with union officials and four top media CEOs that began on September 20 and stretched into the weekend.

Details of the WGA's tentative agreement have not been released but will be revealed by the guild ahead of membership ratification votes.



## Actor Dulquer Salmaan starrer 'King of Kotha' to arrive at Disney hotstar

**P**eriod action-drama "King of Kotha", headlined by Dulquer Salmaan, will have its digital premiere on Disney+ Hotstar. The streaming platform shared the announcement on its official X page. It is yet to reveal the date of release of the big-budget Malayalam movie. "The King makes his screen comeback soon. King of Kotha on Disney Plus Hotstar! @dulquer @ritika\_offl @Anikhaofficial\_ @nylausha @Prasanna\_actor," the Malayalam arm of Disney+ Hotstar said in a post on Sunday. **PTI**



## Rumoured couple Aditya Roy Kapur and Ananya Panday spotted at Aman Gill's wedding

**B**ollywood producer Aman Gill on Sunday night hoisted a grand wedding bash in Mumbai where several B-town celebs marked their presence. Rumoured couple Aditya Roy Kapur and Ananya Panday also attended the bash in their party outfits.

Ananya Panday looked gorgeous as she wore a white tube dress. The 'Dream Girl 2' actor accessorized her look with a blingy bag along with her and wore evil-eye earrings. She left her hair open. Talking about Aditya, he looked handsome as he donned an all-black outfit. He wore a black shirt and black trousers and paired them with black and white sneakers.

However, the rumoured couple didn't arrive at the party together. Apart from them, celebs like Karan Johar, Shahid Kapoor, Mira Kapoor, Harnaz Kaur, Sidharth Malhotra, and Varun Dhawan also attended the bash. Aditya and Ananya have been keeping their relationship under wraps. **ANI**