



Maratha Reservation: Shinde government appeals for calm,

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Afternoon

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MP Mahua Moitra gave her statement to the parliament ethics committee



The allegations against the Trinamool Congress MP gained momentum with an explosive affidavit filed by Mr Hiranandani. Mahua Moitra is being questioned on basis of reports received by the ethics committee from three Union ministries along with other documents and evidences, said the internal sources. Ms Moitra – who has been accused of conspiracy along with "serious breach of privilege" and "contempt of the house" - yesterday said the ethics committee may not be the "appropriate forum to examine allegations of alleged criminal-

ity", because it lacks the power to examine such allegations.

Advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai whom Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra called 'her jilted ex' said he is not scared of anybody and won't get bullied by anyone. If somebody is trying to alter the narrative by trying to play the victim, the whole country is watching, Jai Anant said as Mahua Moitra reached Parliament to record her statement before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee which is probing the allegations of 'cash for question'

against the Lok Sabha MP -- brought by Jai Anant Dehadrai and BJP MP Nishikant Dubey.

Apart from the 'cash for questions' case, Mahua Moitra and Jai Anant are fighting another battle -- over the custody of Henry, a rottweiler. Both of them claimed Henry -- the dog the duo bought when they were in a relationship -- had been kidnapped by the other party after their break up. In the last few days, Mahua Moitra appeared in some television interviews where she came clean about giving her Parliament login to Darshan

Hiranandani so that the industrialist's office staff could help Mahua in typing the questions. Mahua Moitra claimed it is no threat to security as the Parliament login credentials are not secret -- the team members of every MP have access to it. Mahua claimed she herself accessed it from abroad countering the allegation of login from Dubai. There was no exchange of cash, Mahua Moitra claimed adding that only a scarf, a few make-up items were given to her by Darshan whom she knew for a long time -- even before becoming an MP.

Ladakh has become 'pure Aryan sperms' factory

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

India is known for Bollywood tourism, nature tourism, business tourism, entertainment tourism, health tourism and now it is also known for the sex and pregnancy tourism. The brown men are famous for the quality of sperms. In the high mountains of Ladakh Close to the bank of the Indus River, near the Line of Control in Kashmir, there are some small Himalayan villages. These villages are populated with a tribe called Brokpa, who are believed to be the only pure Aryan race. And women from different countries come to these villages just to get permeated by pure Aryans and go back to their country with sperm of pure Aryan race.

The Aryan men are regarded as the most handsome men. They

are tall, blue-eyes, blonde hair and superior intelligence and live with high values. Dah, Hano, Darchik and Garkon are the four famous villages for pregnancy tourism. The Brokpa also have blue eyes, lighter skin, and they stand taller than residents of adjacent people. They are believed to be the pure bloodline of the Aryans and there is a myth that they have their genetic linkage to the members of Alexander's army which stayed back. Unlike the majority of the Ladakhis with Tibeto-Mongol looks, the Brokpas have Indo-Aryan features.

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

There is no legitimacy of their claim of being a pure Aryan race. Neither any DNA/ genetic testing nor any scientific measures were taken to authenticate their claims.

In the documentary, that woman tells her story of traveling so far to give birth to an Aryan child. A babymoon is an excellent time for expecting parents to reconnect and relax before a new baby arrives.

Foreign women believe in these men for pure sex and receiving sperm until she conceives. Once the lady becomes pregnant, she returns to her country. These days many single mothers from India are also visiting Ladakh in search of pure seeds.

Ladakh has become 'pure Aryan sperms' factory

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During the invasion of India by Alexander the Great in the seventh century, many of Alexander's men are believed to have remained in the Indus Valley after he left. Unfortunately, there is no legitimacy of their claim of being a pure Aryan race. Neither any DNA/ genetic testing nor any scientific measures were taken to authenticate their claims. They claim to be pure Aryans just on the basis of their physical appearance and some inherited stories, folklore, and myths, about their being pure Aryans.

The 1800 strong Brokpa community has preserved their way of life and genetic uniqueness using strong social authorizations and rulebooks. They take pride in their ancestors and genetic exclusivity. There are online agents who arrange this tour for women who want to get pregnant. The interested woman is provided with the pictures and credentials of eligible men. There are price differences depending on the looks and appearance of the man, most of the women also take hospital help for sperm donation. Foreign women arrive in a particular city, she indulges with local men in hotel rooms and gets pregnant. Earlier there was no such craze for these men but the advancement of internet Brokpa community men came into the limelight. There was a documentary of German women coming to the villages of Ladakh that grabbed all attention. German women went to the Brokpa villages for 'pure Aryan seeds'; she paid the men to receive sperm.

In 2007, filmmaker Sanjeev Sivan's 30-minute documentary "Achtung Baby: In Search of Purity" was another attention seeking sensation. A German woman confesses on camera in the documentary that she has come to Ladakh in search of 'pure Aryan sperm. Then foreigners were not allowed to enter the village easily. In the documentary, that woman tells her story of traveling so far to give birth to an Aryan child. A babymoon is an excellent time for expecting parents to reconnect and relax before a new baby arrives. So, whether you're able to get away for a few days or longer, check your budget to see what kind of pre-baby vacation happens before your due date.

Ladakh's village where European women come to India, choose the man of their choice they stay with until they get

pregnant after conception. Local women take it as business, because their men are paid heavily for making that foreign woman pregnant. In a way this has become their source of earning. Foreign women believe in these men for pure sex and receiving sperm until she conceives. Once the lady becomes pregnant, she returns to her country. These days many single mothers from India are also visiting Ladakh in search of pure seeds. In India if surrogacy is on rise, on the other hand sperm donation is also a big market but Ladakh has its own uniqueness for pregnancy tourism.

Initially, the Brokpas men used to impregnate the ladies coming from foreign countries. Later they started charging a hefty amount from them for their services which kick-started a small size tourism industry. Women started coming to Leh to get impregnated by the Brokpas men. The population of the Brokpas tribe is just 4000 around the world while the Leh region alone has 1900 population. One pregnancy costs lakhs of rupees for women, the men charge somewhere around 4 lakhs to 6 lakhs depending about the duration of conceive. The tourism agents exploit these men by taking handsome commissions. This business is flourishing in Ladakh and now there is advance booking for the same.

Ladakh was established as a union territory of India on 31 October 2019, following the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act. Prior to that, it was part of the Jammu and Kashmir state. Ladakh is both the largest and the second least populous union territory of India. On 8 February 2019, Ladakh became a separate Revenue and Administrative Division within Jammu and Kashmir, having previously been part of the Kashmir Division. As a division, Ladakh was granted its own Divisional Commissioner and Inspector General of Police.

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Voices



Animal Trainer - How to become an Animal Trainer



- Vijay Garg

Internet-driven e-commerce companies are gradually trying to capture our traditional markets by offering cheap and attractive lures. They have captured more than half the market. E-commerce companies have left such an impression on Indian consumers in buying and selling of goods and services that customers are getting attracted towards them, but now customers have started understanding the mathematics of cheap prices. The current season of festivals in India is therefore these companies are very active. to customersIt has spread its net everywhere to trap you.

Flipkart and Amazon, the two top online companies in the e-commerce sector, have given popular and greedy offers to the customers. These offers are on almost all the items available in the market, which are much cheaper than the market items, but behind this there is hidden cunningness and fraud of the companies which the customers are not able to understand while making the purchase. Companies cheat customers in two ways. One is that they give away junk goods by giving cheap offers, while the other is taking money from customers through digital means. Takes it, i.e. online? Due to which companies also secretly attack their privacy. Due to this, customer data is easily stolen.

The issue of data theft is also hot at the moment. Many times it seems that there is a nexus between e-commerce companies and cyber thugs regarding data theft. However, e-commerce companies have now expanded further. Was not limited to just buying and selling. E-commerce companies have also captured areas like e-banking, e-shopping and e-business etc. However, this will affect producers and Goods and Global markets for services have certainly been found, but there has also been a huge reduction in the exchange and quality of business information. The sad part is that with the gradual growth in the ecommerce sector, the risk of fraud in ecommerce companies has increased rapidly. The need of the hour is to curb these companies.

The Central Government and State Governments should crack down on the fraudsters of online organizations without any delay. There is a need to make strong solutions and strategies to stop their malicious activities. PhilhaThe Central Government has issued a guideline for e-commerce companies adopting dark pattern. Due to which control will be tightened on them. Dark pattern means

'unfair trade practice' i.e. influencing customers in wrong ways by using digital mediums on the internet and there is a provision of a fine of Rs 10 lakh for doing so? The government is going to make a rule by which companies will not be able to fool customers.

When e-commerce companies arrived in India, it seemed that they had reduced the problems. full of hustle and bustleGot rid of the hassles of shopping, but later it came to light that in the beginning these companies were just establishing their footing, The ground was being prepared, but now their true form has started to appear. It was only a few days ago when a customer living in Burari area of Delhi bought a phone from Amazon thinking it was cheap, when the delivery reached home, instead of the phone, a piece of brick was found in it. The victim also complained to the local police station, but no solution was found? Same thing happened in Bathinda, Punjab last week. He ordered something through Flipkart, made the payment online, but the next day his entire bank account was wiped out by thieves.

At present, two e-commerce companies are most active in India. Firstly, if we measure Flipkart and secondly Amazon, then Flipkart is at the top in India. Whereas Amazon country has been occupying the second position for a long time. In the past years, some other companies had also become active, but these two did not allow anyone to survive in the market. Amazon later acquired many e-commerce companies. Amazon and Flipkart is also filling the government's treasury a lot.

From GST to other types of taxes, she pays without asking. This could also be one reason for the government not cracking down on them. Both Flipkart and Amazon companies once started with online bookstores. Within no time, Amazon became America's largest e-commerce company and Flipkart became India's largest e-commerce company. Both have an investor company, Tiger Global in common. Before Walmart, Amazon was also in the race to buy Flipkart. He tried to buy Flipkart three times, but could not succeed. However, customers need to be cautious about these.

You will have to check for yourself. Otherwise, due to cheap greed, you may have to give and take. No matter how much e-commerce companies expand, they will not be able to weaken the credibility of traditional markets. A large section of people still prefer shopping from markets.

Letters to the Editor

Onions brings tears to our eyes

The price of onions has increased considerably. As a matter of fact, the existing rate has brought tears in the eyes of consumers all over the country.

Onions are an important food item and people have been hard hit due to the present inflationary prices. The State government has to consider the difficulties of citizens and initiate appropriate favourable steps in order to provide onions at a subsidised rate through its outlets.

The onion is widely seen as the poor man's vegetable. It is the staple food of the common man and has seen a steep rise in the country in the last few weeks. This is because of hoard-

ing and the sale in black. The price-rise has resulted in kitchen grievances for majority of the households, as the price is too high for them to afford.

Onions are needed by us daily not only for cooking, but also for making salads, poha, bhajiyas and burji. It is also needed for garnishing raita.

This inflation has made the life of the common man very difficult. The worst hit are the fixed income groups like the salaried people, labour class and the pensioners. For them, even the commodities of basic necessities like rice, wheat, sugar, pulses and vegetables are getting out of reach. Every increase in price disturbs their budget.

The government must control inflation and must do something to bring down the price of onions so as to provide relief to the common man.

Jubel D'Cruz

America is Responsible of Gaza's People Genocide

Right now America is helping Israel with both hands. In the future, he will not be accused of turning a blind eye to the worst violations of human rights. That is why, he has given some brotherly advice to Israel, but it is of no value. Because, there is a world of difference between teaching path and giving money. Washington has showered Tel Aviv with everything from moral support to financial aid.

One of the reasons for this is that, the American president, regardless of which party he belongs to, does not offend Israel, but rather considers sitting in his lap as the first condition of office requirement and protection of power, but the current American president, Joe Biden, is two steps ahead. They are increasingly supporting Israel. Therefore, it will not be an exaggeration to say that, America is responsible for the murder of innocent people and children in Gaza.

Afazuddin Kazi Qasmi

Stubble burning and Air quality

Stubble burning incident is arising repeatedly in many places which is polluting a pleasant environment that causes severe damage not only to the human life but also animals and birds that coming to death. Govt is looking wholly failure to stop it wisely. Moreover, Paddy straw burning in Punjab and Haryana is considered one of the major reasons behind the alarming spike in air pollution levels in the national capital in October and November. Therefore, govt should strive to take it to the halt solving it with the farmers so that a genial and health-giving ambience to be restored.

Tauqueer Rahmani

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)

Uddhav Thackeray & Ajit Pawar Absent from meeting



Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray was conspicuous by his absence but his party leaders in the legislature, such as Anil Parab and Ambadas Danve, were present. In any case, Thackeray is averse to attending any meeting where Shinde is present. Ajit Pawar also did not attend, as he was in hospital with dengue. "All parties have agreed to the government's stand that the Maratha community should be given quo-

ta without doing injustice to other communities.

The all-party meeting also expressed deep displeasure about violent incidents during the agitation over the past couple of days and have asked the government to take tough steps to curb them. This government is taking legal way to reinstate the reservation given by the previous government. This will take some more time. Hence all parties have appealed Manoj Jarange-Patil to

help the government and withdraw his fast and appealed to the Maratha community to exercise restraint," said Eknath Shinde, who chaired the meeting at the Sahyadri state guest house. T

he resolution stated that, while the reservation needs to be implemented as early as possible, the activists should understand that the government needs more time. "Some incidents of violence have taken place and are taking place and we express deep displeasure about it. No one should take the law in their hand," the resolution said.

On the one hand, the government is putting the government's side before the Supreme Court through a curative petition and has set up an advisory committee under Justice (Retd) Dileep Bhosale; on the other, it has directed the backward commission to collect empirical data once again, it said.

Maratha Reservation: Shinde government appeals for calm, solution to be given within legal framework



The Eknath Shinde government won a reprieve, albeit temporary, by getting the unanimous resolution on Maratha reservation passed at the all-party meeting on Wednesday. The resolution appealed for calm and said a solution to the reservation issue should be found within the legal framework.

Jarange-Patil, however, rejected the resolution and ac-

cused the government of doing precious little. In Sangli, Maratha protestors burnt a copy of the resolution. NCP leader Sharad Pawar, who has been pressing for the resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, was one of the signatories to the resolution. In fact, his name appeared in the list of signatories before that of Fadnavis.

Police registered a case of theft after some animals missing from Dadar



The Shivaji Park police on Tuesday registered a case of theft after six pythons and exotic breeds of monitor lizards and common house geckos allegedly went missing from Dadar's privately run Marine aqua zoo. The police officials said that the incident took place between Monday evening and Tuesday morning because it came to light after the trustee went to the zoo at around 7.30am.

An officer said, "As per the complaint, the trustee was to take those exotic species for an ani-

mal show due to which he went to the zoo early." However, when he entered, the complainant saw that some of the exotic breeds of lizards and pythons were missing. Earlier the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had lodged a complaint against the private zoo, after a baby crocodile was rescued from the adjacent civic run Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Olympic Swimming Pool in Dadar. The BMC also razed unauthorised structures at the zoo after the zoo's non-compliance.

Bombay HC directs municipal corporations to file affidavits explaining action taken in the last six months against people for putting illegal banners

The Bombay High Court has directed municipal corporations and municipal councils in the state to file affidavits explaining action taken in the last six months, including criminal action, against those who put up illegal banners and hoardings and whose photos are displayed on them. A division bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Arif Doctor said it was surprised when the government pleader expressed helplessness and voiced his inability to keep a tab on every illegal banner and hoarding, saying that it should be tackled at local level.

Defacement Act

The submission came when the court was hearing a batch of public interest litigations on the issue of illegal banners, hoardings and posters put up by political parties across the state in



public places. The court had on January 30, 2017, directed the state government and all municipal corporations to ensure that illegal hoardings are not put up in public places. The Maharashtra government had even enacted the Defacement Act and the Aurangabad bench had directed authorities to initiate action against those whose names and photos are displayed on the illegal banners and hoardings, Uday

Warunjkar, advocate for the petitioners, informed the court.

A government resolution was issued on November 14, 2022, asking civic bodies to identify places where hoardings can be put up; permission should be granted for those places only, state advocate BG Samant said. However, the main problem involves hoarding put up on birthdays and festivals, Samant said.

Nation

Delhi money laundering case: CM Arvind Kejriwal skips summon by ED, attends a poll campaign

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday skipped a summon by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam and held a roadshow in Waidhan. The Delhi chief minister urged the people of Madhya Pradesh to vote for his party in the coming assembly polls and said that he was not sure whether he would be in jail or out when the results are declared but expected the people to show faith in AAP like they did in Delhi and Punjab.

"Just like the people of Delhi and Punjab voted for the AAP, the people of Madhya Pradesh



will also do the same in the coming days. I don't know whether I will be in jail or somewhere else on the day of counting, but everyone should say that Arvind Kejriwal came to Singrauli and we gave him a historic victory," AAP national convener said while addressing a roadshow in Waidhan.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhag-

want Mann also accompanied Arvind Kejriwal in the roadshow held at Waidhan in MP's Singrauli district. Earlier today, the Delhi CM demanded that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) withdraw its notice summoning him for questioning, claiming that it was "illegal and politically motivated".

The ED had summoned the

Delhi chief minister for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. "The said summons is not clear as to the capacity in which I am being summoned i.e. as a witness or a suspect in the above-mentioned case. Please recall the said summons, which is to say the least is vague and mo-

tivated and I am advised, unsustainable in law," Kejriwal stated in his letter to the ED.

He further alleged that the said summons appears to be politically motivated and issued for extraneous considerations. "Simultaneous to the summons, in the afternoon of 30.10.2023, BJP leaders started making statements that soon I would be summoned and arrested. By the evening of that day, I received your summons. It is thus apparent that the said summons was leaked to select BJP leaders to malign my image and reputation and has been issued at the behest of the ruling party at the Centre," his letter read. ANI

Amit Shah describes congress party as 'cut, commission, corruption' and slams INDIA alliance



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday targeted the Congress by describing it as a party of "cut,

commission and corruption" and also slammed the INDIA alliance, saying the opposition parties have joined hands to serve their

own interests. The BJP, on the other hand, works for the welfare of the people, he said. Addressing the "Antyodaya Sammelan" programme organized by the Haryana government here, Shah also congratulated the Manohar Lal Khattar dispensation for carrying out overall development of the state and said it ended corruption and improved the law and order situation in the last nine years. With Lok Sabha and Haryana Assembly polls due next year, Shah also appealed to people to make the BJP victorious on all the seats in the state. He accused the Congress of indulging in appeasement and caste-based politics. PTI

SC directs ECI to submit data showcasing funds received by all parties through electoral bonds

The Supreme Court, on Thursday, directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to furnish updated data on the funds received by all political parties through electoral bonds within two weeks. A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, along with Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra, directed the ECI to submit the data in

a sealed packet within two weeks. It also reserved its verdict after three days of hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the central government's electoral bond scheme, which allows for anonymous funding to political parties. "We would like the Election Commission of India (ECI) to get the data up to September 30, 2023. We have heard arguments. judgment reserved.

In April 2019, there was an interim direction to ECI... and as per that a sealed cover document was produced and the order of the court was not restricted to that date and clarification could have been sought. Now, ECI is to submit updated data till September 30, 2023, in a sealed packet to the Registrar General of this court within two weeks," said the bench in its order. ANI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai says, "Next 15 days are going to be crucial" over air pollution



Amid the rising pollution and deteriorating air quality, the next 15 days are going to be crucial said Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday. Speaking to ANI, Rai said, "When compared to the earlier times, the situation has definitely gone better. However, according to the experts, the next 15 days will be crucial. The government is working on how to cut the sources that cause pollution".

Rai also called for cooperation between the Central government and the state government. "We need to work unitedly in order to curb the situation. Everyone needs to be aware of it", he said. Meanwhile, the air quality of the national capital continued to remain in the 'very poor' category on Thursday for the fifth day in a row with an Air Quality Index of 346, according to SAFAR-India.

As per the SAFAR-India, the city's AQI has been in the 'very poor' category since Sunday (309). Since then, the air quality has continued to go to rack and ruin in Delhi. The AQI was recorded at 322 on Monday and 327 on Tuesday against 336 on Wednesday, as per the data provided by the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR)-India. Meanwhile, the commuters are facing health issues while there is no sign of amelioration. "There is so much pollution here in Delhi. We are finding it difficult to breathe. We are facing irritation in the eyes too. People are flocking to doctors with respiratory problems or eye issues including many others. The Delhi government should extend its effort to curb the pollution", said Sanjay Verma, a commuter, while speaking to ANI. ANI

World

China's top spy agency cracks down on 'illegal' weather stations



China's top spy agency said it cleaned up hundreds of "illegal meteorological" stations that sent real-time data outside China as it steps up efforts to stop critical data leaving the country amid increasingly tense geopolitical competition, CNN reported on Thursday.

The country's civilian spy agency, the Ministry of State Security, said on Tuesday that the facilities were found across more than 20 provinces, and some of them were "directly funded by foreign governments," the ministry said in a statement on social media. The spy agency reported that some sta-

tions were set up around sensitive sites, such as military bases and defence companies, to locate altitude and GPS data.

In addition, they placed stations in major grain-producing regions to analyse crop growth and grain yield, according to the ministry. The ministry pointed out that some of these devices were small, easy to install, and hard to detect. They were capable of automatically collecting and transmitting data over a network in real-time.

The statement also revealed that some of these stations transmitted real-time information to

official meteorological agencies overseas at a high frequency and at multiple points for an extended period. They served the "homeland security" and meteorological monitoring of foreign countries.

The ministry did not disclose the specific foreign countries involved in these activities. Authorities made this discovery after investigating over 10 overseas meteorological equipment agents and inspecting more than 3,000 foreign-linked meteorological stations nationwide, as reported by CNN.

The spy agency noted that the involved foreign parties did not obtain administrative licences for their activities and had not submitted the data to Chinese meteorological authorities or obtained approval for transmitting the data overseas. These actions were in violation of China's data security law enacted in 2021 and a separate set of regulations governing how foreign organisations can collect, use, and share Chinese weather readings, as reported by CNN on Thursday. ANI

Pakistan: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa education department bans men's entry in female schools across province



The education department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has banned the entry of men in female schools across the province, ARY News reported. ARY News is a Pakistani news channel.

The development comes as several complaints were filed at the Citizen's Portal against allowing males to enter female schools. As per the notification issued by the KP director of education, men's entry has been banned in female schools while the schools' authorities have been asked not to invite any male as chief guest to the female education facilities. Only

female chief guests are allowed to attend programs or events at the female schools in KP, the education department said, as per ARY News.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government earlier this year, approved a proposal recommending the appointment of only female teachers at government-run primary education institutes across the province.

The approval came after the months when the provincial cabinet acted on the suggestions made by the KP Elementary and Secondary Education Department this year in January, as per ARY News. ANI

Australia: A woman was charged with murdering three guests with poisonous mushrooms

The host of a weekend family lunch at her Australian country home was charged with murdering three guests with poisonous mushrooms and attempting to murder a fourth who was left fighting for life, police said on Thursday. Police arrested Erin Patterson, 49, earlier on Thursday at her home in Leongatha in Victoria state where her former husband's parents Gail and Don Patterson, both aged 70, Gail Patterson's sister Heather Wilkinson, 66, and her husband Ian Wilkinson, 68, were invited for lunch on July 29. All four guests were hospitalized the next day and only Ian Wilkinson survived.

Erin Patterson was also charged with three counts of attempting to murder her former husband Simon Patterson, 48, who became ill after eating three

meals in 2021 and 2022, a police statement said. He did not attend the July lunch with his parents, who both died. Erin Patterson will remain in police custody until she appears in a local court on Friday, when she can potentially apply to be released on bail.

Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported that Erin Patterson had written in a statement that she cooked a beef Wellington steak dish for the lunch using mushrooms bought from a major supermarket chain and dried mushrooms from an Asian grocery store. She wrote that she also ate the meal and later suffered stomach pains and diarrhea. Ian Wilkinson, a Baptist pastor, was released from a hospital in late September and police say he continues to recover. Murder in Victoria carries a potential maximum sentence of 25 years in prison. PTI

Russia attacks over 100 settlements in 24 hours, alleges Ukraine

More than 100 settlements have come under attack marking the heaviest day of Russian shelling this year, Al Jazeera reported citing Ukraine's Interior Minister. In a statement on social media, Ukrainian Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said that Russia had unleashed a barrage of shells on cities across the eastern regions of the country.

"Over the last 24 hours, the enemy shelled 118 settlements in 10 regions," Klymenko said on Wednesday. "This is the highest number of cities and villages that have come under attack since the start of the year," he said. Russia's wave of strikes turned some towns and villages to rubble. Local authorities said that overnight shelling in the city of Kharkiv, near the border with Russia killed one per-



son, while another person was also killed in southeastern Kherson, Al Jazeera reported. A Russian drone strike on the southern city of Nikopol also killed a 59-year-old woman and injured four people.

Kyiv reported that a Russian strike on an oil refinery in Kremenchuk had caused a fire that took hours to extinguish but resulted in no casualties. Ukraine and its Western allies, such as the United States, worry that Russia could squeeze Ukraine by targeting energy infrastructure as winter approaches, Al Jazeera reported. Ear-

lier on Tuesday, a family of nine, including two young children, were found dead in their home in the eastern Ukrainian town of Volnovakha, CNN reported.

The Ukrainian Donetsk Region Prosecutor's Office shared distressing images of the gruesome crime scene, depicting multiple family members fatally shot while they were in their beds, still holding each other, with bloodstains splattered on the walls. Kyiv asserts that the family was murdered by Russian occupying forces following a dispute, while Russian authorities have reported the arrest of two Russian soldiers in connection with the killings. Volnovakha has been under Russian control since March 2022, following Moscow's aggressive invasion of its neighbour the previous month, according to CNN. ANI

Expression

How long will we have to face air-pollution?

For how long will you be forced to draw poison in the form of air?



Lalit Garg

Columnist

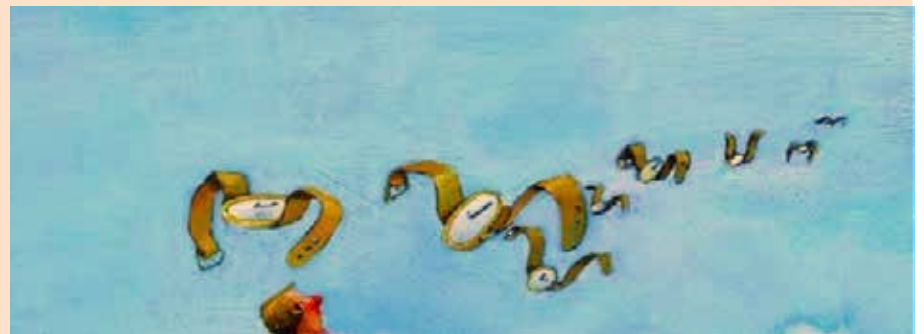
This year again the menace of a suffocating environment caused by burning of stubble in agricultural fields, and other forms of air-pollution are threatening life in some areas of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The air quality in Delhi-NCR is deteriorating. Winter season hasn't even started yet; still this is the second time in this season, when we are made to face this menace. Although we may get relief occasionally due to some immediate measures being taken up, yet it is becoming a permanent problem and life threatening crisis for the people living not only in Delhi-NCR, but in large areas of North India, which is affecting adversely the health of children, elderly and all other age-groups equally. It is proving to be fatal for people suffering from lungs diseases. Even though the governments seem to be serious about this issue, and a complete action plan is ready to solve this increasingly complex problem, its effective results are not visible. It reflects the failure of the measures adopted by the government somewhere. Delhi and Punjab governments gave many tempting arguments and facts, but whatever arguments the governments give, the reality is that people continue to be suffocating all the same. Had the governments been really serious about overcoming this problem, it should have been visible on the practical level.

Degradation of air quality and ever increasing pollution is such a huge web in which all living beings, including humans are trapped and struggling with the threat of life and breath. Long queues have already started being visible outside hospitals. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, people do not expect any reduction in bad air for the next few days. According to the Meteorological Department, if the air quality is between zero and 50, then it is considered 'good'. If AQI is between 51 to 100 then it is consid-

ered 'satisfactory' and AQI between 101 to 200 is considered 'moderate'. If AQI goes above 201 and remains up to 300, then it is considered 'bad', if it is between 301 to 400, then it is considered 'very bad', and if it reaches above 400 then it is considered 'severe'. On October 22, AQI in Delhi-NCR reached 313 i.e. very poor level. Since then, the air quality has remained in the 'very poor' category due to slowing down of wind speed and drop in temperature. This problem is becoming more serious year after year.

To overcome this serious problem, the Delhi government has tried many measures, and issued instructions to control pollution, but they are not proving effective. Government vehicles are also seen sprinkling water at various places in Delhi-NCR, which reduces the quantity of dust in the air. But the nature of these steps itself shows that the government is trying to reduce the symptoms of the problem, but till now no significant success has been achieved in solving the problem or reducing its severity. The practice of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and a few other surrounding states has been identified many years ago as one of the major reasons for this. But due to political reasons there are no signs of significant progress on that front. Pollution level has come up from being dangerous to life-threatening levels. The question is why Delhi-NCR, which has been continuously struggling with this menace for the last few years, does not get the light of any permanent solution? Why are the governments and politicians not ready for a solution, instead of blaming each other? To get rid of this burning problem, every political party and government will have to become sensitive and insightful. Will we have to wait for a Chanakya to be born, who can put butter in the roots? No, now every political mind will have to become Chanakya. Only then will we get relief from the growing problem of air pollution.

If we talk about the last week itself, 398 incidents of stubble-burning were recorded in Punjab on Wednesday, 589 on Thursday and 766 on Friday. However, governments are trying to reduce this pollution in their own way. Teams of fire-fighters have been deployed in many areas of Punjab, including Moga,



who reach the spot as soon as information about stubble burning is received and work to stop it. It has been said in UP that farmers found burning stubble will not be given the benefits of schemes like Kisan Samman Nidhi. But here also the matter is to strictly stop the farmers from burning stubble, whereas the need is to provide them some better options, so that they themselves start turning away from it. Many suggestions have been discussed, such as making fertilizer from stubble and using it in agriculture or increasing the use of stubble as fuel in thermal power plants and other industries through other measures, but it is clear that those options have not yet been made available to the farmers.

It is not only the responsibility of the governments to improve the air quality and reduce pollution and to make Delhi and other metropolitan cities of the country liveable, but it is the responsibility of all of us. Although people just have to play the role of responsible citizens, anti-dust campaigns should also be carried out continuously. People themselves will have to be completely cautious. People should not throw garbage in open spaces, or burn it. Pollution level of vehicles should also be checked. Try to minimize the use of private vehicles and use public vehicles. It is also necessary to stop the materialistic mentality of bursting crackers which is playing with the lives of the common people. Because burning firecrackers has the potential to have dangerous effects on the lives of not only the elderly, but also of children, and thereby causing various diseases. To materialize the global concept of a pollution-free environment, meaningful initiatives will have to be taken up for celebrating eco-friendly Diwali and a positive environment will have to be created. Like stubble, the pollution caused by firecrackers is

dangerous. Today, stubble-firecrackers have become a political pollution. This pollution has to be fought in the same way as a small lamp fights intense darkness. Small position, but does not let darkness come near, gives a trial by fire every moment. But yes! No one can pass the ordeal of fire with straw wrapped around his body. There are only one party governments in Delhi and Punjab, instead of blaming others, why doesn't Aam Aadmi Party government provide a solution.

Instead of blurring the glorious cultural existence and identity of 'Diwali' due to stubble-pollution, a permanent solution should be found. The attempt to cover up stubble-pollution in the name of firecracker pollution should be avoided. 'Diwali' is our culture, civilization, mutual love, history, heritage and the wonder of the rows of lamps. Calling the pollution caused by stubble-burning around Diwali as pollution from firecrackers is an excessive irony and an escapist mentality to shy away from the problem. In fact, it is the irresponsible behaviour of politicians, which has forced everyone to live in a poisonous atmosphere. During the winter season, there are deadly metals in the air, which cause difficulty in breathing. Increase in the amount of cadmium and arsenic in the air increases the risk of cancer, kidney problems and high blood-pressure, diabetes and heart diseases. In this season, the lethality increases manifold due to pollution of stubble. Pollution from firecrackers is even more dangerous. The number of cities with AQI more than 300 is increasing. The reasons why the residents of the National Capital Region are forced to inhale poison have been discussed so many times that they need not be repeated.

Entertainment

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson takes legal action against AI app for featuring her name in the advertisement without permission



Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson has taken legal action against an AI app after its advertisement allegedly featured her name and likeness without her permission. The 22-second advertisement was posted on X by Lisa AI: 90's Yearbook & Avatar, an image generating app, according to American news outlet Variety.

A spokesperson of the Marriage Story star confirmed to Variety that she is not a spokesperson for the company and that appropriate legal actions were taken since it was spotted on October 28. "We do not take these things lightly. Per our usual course of action in these circumstances, we will deal with it with all legal remedies that we will have," her lawyer, Kevin Yorn, told the outlet.

The ad, which has been taken down, uses the behind the scenes footage of Johansson from the set of her 2021 Marvel film Black Widow, in which she played the titular superhero. "What's up guys? It's Scarlett and I want you to come with me..." she says, before the screen transitions into AI-generated photos that resemble her.

A voice, impersonating the actor, continues to speak to promote the app. It's not limited to avatars only. You can also create images with texts and even your AI videos. I think you shouldn't miss it, the narration says.

The advertisement also featured a fine print that read, "Images produced by Lisa AI. It has nothing to do with this person." Johansson's legal action against the AI app comes just a month after Hollywood veteran Tom Hanks warned his fans about a dental plan advertisement that he claimed was using an "AI version" of him. "Beware!! There's a video out there promoting some dental plan with an AI version of me. I have nothing to do with it, the 67-year-old had posted on Instagram alongside a screenshot of his computer-generated image from the clip. PTI

SRK drops lovely post for his fans on his birthday, says "It's unbelievable that so many of u come..."



I am but a mere actor, said Shah Rukh Khan, bowled over by the enduring love of fans who waited for hours to catch a glimpse of the superstar as he turned 58 on Thursday.

In what has become an annual affair, hundreds of fans from different corners of the country gathered outside Mannat, Shah Rukh's Bandra home, to celebrate his birthday, according to videos on social media. And Shah Rukh didn't disappoint them.

The actor, dressed in a black T-shirt and cargo pants, appeared on the elevated ramp constructed at his residence. He greeted the fans with folded hands, flying kisses and struck his signature arms wide open pose.

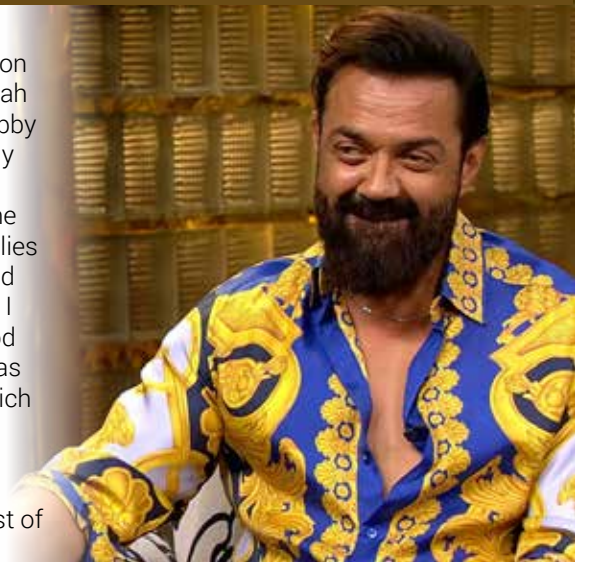
Shah Rukh, who made a spectacular comeback to movies with blockbusters Pathaan and Jawan, later posted a heartfelt message for his fans on X. "It's unbelievable that so many of u come & wish me late at night. I am but a mere actor. Nothing makes me happier, than, the fact that I can entertain u a bit. I live in a dream of your love. Thank u for allowing me to entertain you all. C u in the morning on the screen & off it," he wrote. PTI

Actor Bobby Deol likely to be seen in Aryan Khan's debut directorial show

Actor Bobby Deol in the second episode of Karan Johar's popular chat show 'Koffee with Karan Season 8' confirmed that he will be starring in superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan's debut directorial show. Bobby graced the 'Koffee' couch with his brother and actor Sunny Deol.

During a conversation with KJo, Bobby revealed that he has a "relationship" with SRK's production house Red Chillies Productions. He said, "I think I have a relationship with Red Chillies first I did Class of 83', now Aryan's show and then I also did 'Love Hostel'. I think they've always given me good stuff." Earlier in December 2022, Aryan revealed that he has wrapped up the writing of his debut directorial project which he will also be directing.

Details about Aryan's directorial debut show are still awaited. Reportedly, the show has been titled 'Stardom'. However, an official announcement regarding the star cast of the show from the makers is still awaited. ANI



"looking like a wow" trend draws Nick Jonas attention



After Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh and KL Rahul, actor and singer Nick Jonas has also joined the "looking like a wow" trend on social media. If you are an avid social media user, you must have stumbled upon videos of people creating reels on "just looking like a wow" catchphrase amusingly used by a woman on Instagram to appeal to the audience to buy the clothing material that she had been selling.

On Thursday, Nick took to his Instagram account and shared a picture of his wife Priyanka Chopra on his stories which he captioned, "So beautiful So elegant...just looking like a wow." ANI