



Maratha Reservation: Shinde government appeals for calm,

PG 04 >>



Afternoon

VOICE

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MP Supriya Sule seeks disqualification against Sunil Tatkare



Four months ago, NCP MP Supriya Sule filed petition seeking the disqualification of Sunil Tatkare, who represents Maharashtra's Raigad in the Lower House. But there was no action taken so far, Sule wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla reminding him about her petition, now Tatkare has joined hands with rebel NCP leader Ajit Pawar and is now the state unit chief of that faction.

Sule wrote on X "I had filed a Disqualification Petition on 4 July 2023 seeking the disqualification of Sunil Tatkare under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India. It's been 4 months with no action taken. The delinquent MP's actions are

a blatant attack on the Tenth Schedule & the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed timely resolution of such petitions to uphold the Constitution & democratic principles in true spirit. I request no further delay in adjudicating the petition please."

She has written a new letter dated November 3, seeking no further delay from Birla. "As your records would reveal, I have filed a Disqualification Petition on 05.07.2023 under Rule 6 of the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on ground of Defection) Rules, 1985, seeking disqualification of Sunil Tatkare under Para 2 (1)(a) of Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India," she wrote in the letter. The Baramati MP said, "It has been 4 months

since the said filing but no action has been taken by your office either to issue notice on the delinquent MP or to call for an oral hearing in the matter".

"In the Disqualification Petition, detailed grounds have been taken regarding the disqualification incurred by the delinquent MP under para 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule. No evidence is required as the delinquent MP has ex-facie incurred disqualification," she said. She wrote the actions of the delinquent MP in joining hands with the BJP government constitute a brazen attack on the Tenth Schedule. "The Tenth Schedule has placed in you great trust to ensure that the sanctity of the Tenth Schedule is maintained and any

violation thereof is dealt with by an iron hand," she added.

The letter also referred to the Supreme Court's direction to the Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly to decide on the disqualification petitions filed on behalf of the NCP "against the delinquent MLAs who had indulged in anti-party activities along with the aforementioned MP, on or before 31 January 2024". "It also observed that the procedural wranglings should not be permitted to delay the conclusion of the disqualification petitions under the Tenth Schedule. In view of the above, we earnestly demand that there be no further delay in adjudication of the petition filed against Sunil Tatkare," she concluded.

Kangana Ranaut should retrospect, why her films are big flop at box office

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Kangana Ranaut who is always boasting about her national awards and early success is facing backlashes these days. She was not only arrogant but also manipulative, her approach was very arrogant and bogus. She grabbed all the limelight when Maharashtra state was going through Covid crises. She may call herself "The greatest artist of all time in Hindi films" but that doesn't seem to translate into the box office as her latest release Tejas is turning out to be her 11th flop in a row. People are getting amused with her social media posts and appearances but they refuse to see her movies which are either agenda driven or shows content bankruptcy.

Kangana undergoes an "identity crisis" and that's clearly reflected as flops in her career. Every actor undergoes this phase where they shift

gears from their "comfort zone" and experiment with new genres. A few moves away from romance and venture action, and some move from character roles towards masala flicks. But Kangana has indulged in political propaganda and most of the recent movies are to suit the interest of BJP. Her upcoming movie on Indira Gandhi is also going to be a super-duper flop because the subject is hammered again and again by PM Modi in many of his electoral speeches, BJP IT cell has encashed the issue of emergency several times. There won't be something new to watch in the movie. Earlier also there were several movies on this subject but hardly any buyers.

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Editoritis

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Moreover, if she makes a movie to influence voters in that case she is again mistaken because those voters who are against Gandhi are not going to vote congress in any case

If you watch her interviews in the initial days, there was so much clarity and confidence in her answers, but these days short of words, she keeps wandering away from the topic

Her sister Rangoli is equally horrible. She attacked Sonam Kapoor viciously, calling her a terrible actress, just because Sonam said that everything Kangana says cannot be trusted, but she had also supported Kangana.

Moreover, if she makes a movie to influence voters in that case she is again mistaken because those voters who are against Gandhi are not going to vote congress in any case, and those who are congress loyalists, they will definitely not get impressed with this movie stunt. God only knows why she is running her career.

No doubt, that she is a great actor, a talented show stealer during her initial days. She can pull out complex roles in a convincing manner - as in "Gangster" and 'Fashion". She had her share of struggle in the industry but it was not as harsh as she romanticises. She is living a "double life" - the one she wants to be and the one she is. If you watch her interviews in the initial days, there was so much clarity and confidence in her answers, but these days short of words, she keeps wandering away from the topic and isn't able to focus on the answer. She struggles to answer simple questions. Or she creates some controversy by spitting venom. People are tired of her using this very tactic. She looks opportunist, she was using Sushant Singh case all along to settle scores with Karan Johar and Khan's of the industry. She thinks she's the only good actor in the industry, and openly criticizes other actors. She's very obnoxious. I don't think I need to remind about the Hrithik episode, she tried so hard to harass that poor guy. And at the end, she exposed her own lies, now everyone knows the truth. She makes silly statements like if you don't give me a national award for my film, then your credibility is in question, like seriously that is so desperate.

Her sister Rangoli is equally horrible. She attacked Sonam Kapoor viciously, calling her a terrible actress, just because Sonam said that everything Kangana says cannot be trusted, but she had also supported Kangana. She attacked Alia Bhatt for not attending the screening of Manikarnika, but when Alia apologized, she attacked her again. She called her Karan Johar's puppet, and a lot more, even after Alia said she didn't hate Kangana and it was just a misunderstanding. After this, Alia acted maturely. Alia refused to give any comment and said she will talk to Kangana personally; she doesn't want the whole world to know. If anybody says the slightest thing to Kangana, she reacts to it. The first rule of being a celebrity is not reacting to negative comments, because hate is inevitable. But Kangana cannot ignore anything. Shabana Asmi, who is a veteran actress was accused by Kangana to be 'anti-national'. Her career is not even half of what Shabana's is.

Those viewers who once loved this Queen of screen now ignore her, they don't take her and the movies acted and produced by her

seriously. She has lost her sheen after joining propaganda politics. Her recent film Tejas failed to witness growth in its opening weekend with numbers even decreasing compared to released day. She has forgotten that she is an actress and not a propaganda shop, if she keeps beating around the bush then in that case politics would be the only option left and she will not have much to gain there. She is a good actress; she should stay balanced and engaged in her work. There is nothing wrong in taking a political stand. The class she wants to please with her political stand is not the audience of her films. A good actor became a victim of her own social ignorance. A good actor who always keeps a low profile but his work speaks loud, Vikrant Massey's '12th Fail' is leading at box office. Kangana Ranaut has not been able to find success with her films. Her film Tejas has become the actress' 11th consecutive flop in the last 8 years. Her last hit film was Tanu Weds Manu which was released in 2015. Since then, she had a series of flops like I Love NY, Katti Batti, Rangoon, Simran, Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi, Judgementall Hai Kiya, Panga, Thalaivii, Dhaakad and Chandramukhi 2.

Kangana Ranaut went overboard with the craft, which made her screen presence unpleasant. In fact, the director was so focused on Kangana, he underutilised talented actors like Ashish Vidyarthi, Anshul Chauhan and others. The film's plot of Tejas was far from reality and it looked like the makers opted for an unrealistic approach. There was no relevance and resonance to the current scenario of the Indian Air Force officers. The scenes were not connected properly, which made the narrative a bumpy ride for the cafe-goers. One of the biggest letdowns of the film was the poor VFX. If the makers had done a decent job in this department, it would have made a huge difference. The scene of battle between fighter planes, which was a crucial part, looks very amateurish and bad. Kangana still has time to retrospect and reason how she can remain as one of the loved actors of Bollywood. Or else she will end up establishing her identity as propaganda queen.

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Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

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

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Voices



Sports Commentator - How to become a Sports Commentator

Sports Commentators (Sportscasters) describe the events of a sporting game or event. They may broadcast the event on radio, giving enough of a description for the listener to understand what is going on. Sports Commentators also work in television, giving a commentary as a companion to a game. In periods of little action, a commentator may talk about current events in the sport or different aspects of the sport's history.

In today's time, there are many career scopes for them in Sports fields along with many other areas. They must have knowledge of different languages depending from country to country along with good knowledge of the English language.

Sports Commentator Eligibility Educational Qualification

The minimum educational qualification for becoming eligible to Sports Commentator courses is 10th or 12th class with journalism subjects.

Sports Commentator Required Skills

Sports Commentators should have speaking, writing, listening and interpersonal skills, research abilities and media production skills.

They should possess good knowledge of media production, communication and dissemination techniques and methods.

They should also be good in telecommunications such as knowledge of transmission, broadcasting, switching, control and operation of telecommunications systems.

They must possess quick thinking skills as during commentary they have a sudden turn in momentum from one team to the other, an injury to a player, sudden weather changes. The ability to think quickly and stay calm and professional when the unexpected or even traumatic happens is a valuable skill for sportscasters.

How to become a Sports Commentator?

One has to follow the steps given below for becoming a Sports Commentator.

Step 1

To become a Sports Commentator, one needs to have an excellent speaking manner and the ability to think on your feet as well. They need a great knowledge of sports, as well as some skills in journalism.

Step 2

Sports Commentator should have a good educational background; should complete a four-year Bachelors' degree in Journalism, Broadcast Journalism, or Communications. Some of the courses are given below. For Diploma/ Degree courses, students should be 10th or 12th class pass with journalism or communication as one of the subjects. Degree/Diploma courses are:

- B.A. (English with Journalism)
- Diploma in Broadcast Journalism

- B.A. (Journalism and Mass Communication)

Step 3

Students willing for having post graduation courses can go for them. There are many institutes offering courses in journalism and communication. Some of Masters' Degree courses are given below of which candidates can take up. For Master Degree courses, they must have been passed their graduation in the concerned subjects like journalism and communication with at least 50% marks. Postgraduate Courses are:

- M.A. (Broadcast Communication)
- M.A. (Advertising and Communication Management)
- M.A. (Broadcast Journalism)
- Institutes offering Courses for Sports Commentator
- Shaheed Bhagat Singh College of Management and Technology, Faridabad
- MIT Jansanwad College, Latur
- MIT International School of Broadcasting and Journalism, Pune
- Apeejay Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi.

Sports Commentator Job Description

Some of the Sports Commentators perform other roles in the broadcast media industry. They may write a column, or work as a broadcast reporter. Some are employed in the sporting industry and work as a commentator on the side. Some of them are often employed by sports facilities, such as arenas or race clubs. They are also known as Announcers.

Sports Commentator Career Prospects

Sports Commentators have jobs option in radio stations can be considered as the entry point to a career as a commentator. Later they can move on to TV or other private channels/ media.

They are also employed by newspapers, radios or by TV stations to comment on the match.

They also have jobs on sports channel such as Star Sports, ESPN Ten Sports, Zee Sports and DD Sports employ sports commentators.

They are also employed by sports organizations and networks to cover live action i.e play-by-play of sporting events.

Commentators can write commentaries or columns for newspapers, magazines, or other publications. In majority cases, former sportsmen after retirement take up commentating as a profession.

Sports Commentator Salary

The pay scale for Sports Commentators varies greatly, mainly depending on the place of employment and their own quality and presentation. In an average, Commentators earn anywhere between Rs.5000 to Rs. 10,000 a day. But well-known ones command a better sum from Rs. 25,000 onwards for a day. Their annual income depends on the number of days in a year you get work for.



- Vijay Garg

Letters to the Editor

can achieve the challenging task of defeating the BJP in its stronghold or not.

MT Farooqi

Maratha Reservation

Nine days after Maratha activist Manoj Jarange Patil began his fast-unto-death demanding reservation to the community under Kunbi (OBC) category, he withdrew his hunger strike, after agreeing to give time till January 2 to the government to complete the procedural requirements and meet his demands. Before breaking his fast, the activist issued a warning that he would "choke Mumbai" if the government fails to provide reservation to all Marathas in two months.

The agitation had turned violent over the past week in various parts of the state with protesters resorting to torching of houses of

MLAs and vandalising government properties. On Thursday, it was also decided that cases during the violence in Jalna district will be withdrawn in 15 days and those in the rest of the state will be withdrawn in a month. All the political parties should unite and find the solution of Maratha Reservation as quickly as possible. Every conflict can be resolved with dialogue.

Jahangir Ali

Second Highest GST Collection

GST collections in October stood at Rs 1.72 lakh crore, the second highest-ever, the finance ministry said on Wednesday. The highest-ever revenue from Goods and Services Tax (GST) was recorded in April 2023 at Rs 1.87 lakh crore. The average gross monthly GST

collection in the FY 2023-24 now stands at Rs 1.66 lakh crore, 11 per cent higher than the year-ago period. Worth considering is that railways and airlines are gradually being privated. A question acrosses the mind that what is the uses of GST collection where people are compelled to shelter over the footpath and even dying of hunger too, while using it public walfare they could have been free from all.

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)

Brahmin Vote, Crucial For Congress

The Brahmin vote will be crucial for the Congress in Uttar Pradesh, where they can influence outcomes in dozens of seats. However, regaining their trust will not be easy. The Congress will have to walk a fine line between wooing the OBCs through the caste census while also reassuring the Brahmins that their interests will be protected. The coming months will reveal whether the Congress under Mallikarjun Kharge

Air pollution: BMC serves notice to more than 100 contractors to follow dust norms or face action

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has served notices to more than 100 contractors and real estate firms engaged in executing private and government projects, asking them to adhere to dust mitigation norms or face action, civic officials said as the metropolis battles poor air quality.

The BMC communication covers contractors and real estate firms in the P North civic ward in western Mumbai, mainly suburb of Malad, as the civic body seek to improve Mumbai's Air Quality Index (AQI). Kiran Dighavkar, assistant municipal commissioner (P-North ward), told PTI on Friday that there are 97 under-construction private sites and 27



under-construction government projects such as roads, storm-water drains and bridges in the Malad area (total 124). "We have issued (identically worded) letters to all of them to follow (dust mitigation and other anti-pollution) guidelines failing which necessary actions will be initiated," Dighavkar said.

Last week, the civic body issued a new set of guidelines for mitigation of air pollution in Mumbai, and gave builders and contractors one month to acquire sprinklers and fogging machines at construction sites. Clarifying the civic administration has not

issued stop-work notices to entities engaged in construction as of now, Dighavkar insisted letters have been sent to ensure builders and contractors follow basic preventive measures against air pollution until they acquire sprinklers and fogging machines.

BMC's P-north ward has also

issued a notice to the contractor of the ambitious Goregaon Mulund Link Road (GMLR) project in the western suburbs, asking them to follow air pollution mitigation guidelines. "All the work of constructing roads, drains, bridges to be carried out by taking proper permission of construction and demolition. All the sites should have CCTV cameras to monitor vehicle movements," reads the BMC notice to GMLR.

The notice emphasised the municipal commissioner has given instructions to follow the said rules in a bid to improve Mumbai's AQI. If these instructions aren't followed then strict action would be taken against violators, it warned. PTI

HC refuses to give information to activist on structural audit of court's heritage building



The Bombay High Court's public information officer has refused to provide information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act about the structural audits of the court's heritage building in south Mumbai, claiming that revealing such details would endanger the lives of judges and other officials. Environmental activist Zoru Bathena had last month filed an RTI application seeking copies of the last three structural audits conducted for the main and annexe buildings of the Bombay High Court.

Bathena said he had sought the information to use in another matter about the reconstruction of the 135-year-old reservoir at Malabar Hill in south Mumbai. "The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation claimed that the reservoir was beyond repair and needed to be reconstructed. We wanted to give examples of

the high court building and the BMC's headquarters building, which are also over a century old but are being repaired and not reconstructed," Bathena said.

The activist claimed that he had sought the structural audit reports of the BMC building and had received the information, but the high court refused to provide the same. The high court's public information officer, in the response dated November 1, rejected Bathena's application, noting that the information sought cannot be furnished as it has no relation with larger public activity or interest. "The information sought is exempted from disclosure for security purposes. The information sought is also exempted as disclosure of the same would endanger the life or physical safety of the Hon'ble judges and officials of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court," the reply said. PTI

Transport authority failed to convene a single meeting in a year, issues unresolved

The state transport authority (STA) in Maharashtra has not convened a single meeting in the last one year due to which several important issues concerning public transport have been left unresolved, officials said on Friday. According to officials, the transport authority, chaired by state transport secretary Parag Jain Nainutiya, has failed to organise a single gathering despite the rule requiring at least two STA meetings in a year. The STA is responsible for coor-

dination among regional transport authorities (RTA), revising fares of state transport buses, granting interstate permits, and making decisions about other transport-related issues.

As per section 60 of the Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Rule 1989, it is mandatory to convene at least two meetings of the STA within a year. Some transporters have expressed disappointment about the functioning of the department, led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. "The STA has not issued interstate

permits for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and no reciprocal agreements have been countersigned since long," Mahendra Lulle of Maharashtra Rajya Truck Tempo Tankers Bus Vahatuk Mahasangh said.

The last meeting of the STA took place on July 25, 2022, following which two resolutions were passed when IAS officer Ashish Kumar, former transport secretary of the state, was its chairman, RTO officials said. PTI

Disqualification Row: Both sides of Sena agreed to submit evidence by November 16

The next hearing will be held on November 21 and hearings will continue during the winter session of the state legislature. The Shiv Sena led by chief minister Eknath Shinde claimed they did not receive the whip issued by the party last year, sparking a debate between rival faction lawyers. After the hearing on Thursday afternoon at Vidhan Bhavan, Narwekar announced that the next hearing would be held on November 21 and the examination of evidence

would begin on that day. He also declared that hearings would be held during the winter session of the state legislature at Nagpur. "I will take a decision by December 31, provided both sides cooperate with me and don't file a series of applications which will delay the process," he said.

Rahul Narwekar, Maharashtra assembly speaker declares that he will abide by the Supreme Court's December 31 deadline to decide on the disqualification of Shiv Sena

MLAs, if both factions cooperate. After the Supreme Court's recent deadline of December 31 to Rahul Narwekar to decide on the disqualification of Shiv Sena MLAs, the Maharashtra assembly speaker on Thursday declared that he would abide by the deadline, provided both factions of the Sena cooperated. During the hearing, the Shiv Sena led by chief minister Eknath Shinde claimed that it had not got the whip issued by the undivided party last year.

Nation

Delhi Pollution: Government implements GRAP III, Air quality moves into severe category

Invoking stage III of pollution control plan, deploying anti-smog guns and re-launching the 'Red light on, Gaadi off' campaign are among the measures taken by the Delhi government and other agencies with the city's air quality entering the 'severe' category, officials said. According to a Delhi government official, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) stage 3 has been implemented in the national capital with a complete ban on construction or demolition activities.

The Centre's pollution control panel invoked the GRAP III on Thursday, directing a halt on non-essential construction work, stone crushing and mining in Delhi-NCR. Under this stage, restrictions are also imposed on the operation of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Budh Nagar.

The Delhi administration,



which has stepped up measures to tackle the pollution menace, has deployed anti-smog guns in several places such as Anand Vihar, Kashmiri Gate ISBT, ITO, Pusa Road, Jahangirpuri, Narela Industrial area, and Burari Crossing, officials said. An official of the Public Works Department (PWD) said, "The process of sprinkling of water is underway in the national

capital in view of the pollution in the city. Anti-smog guns keep a constant check on road dust and we also use them where construction work is being carried out." The Delhi government launched the 'Red light on, Gaadi off' campaign on October 28 to make commuters and motorists aware about the growing pollution and encourage them to switch off their

vehicles while waiting for the traffic light to turn green. It was re-launched a year after Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena put it on hold, questioning its effectiveness.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai had earlier said 2,500 civil defence volunteers will be deployed for the campaign to monitor its implementation at 100 key traffic intersections. The air quality of

Delhi remained in the 'very poor' category till Thursday morning with an AQI of 315 and it deteriorated to 418 in the evening.

Friday morning was worse as the AQI reached up to 450. GRAP categorises actions into four stages: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV - 'Severe Plus' (AQI above 450). The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has allocated Rs 20 lakh per zone for taking measures to combat air pollution in the city, officials said. As part of its efforts, the MCD is focussing on the deployment of machinery and manpower for clearing garbage along railway tracks, they added. An MCD official said that the agency will purchase dust suppressants that will be sprayed using anti-smog guns and water sprinklers at least every alternate day during non-peak hours. PTI

Coimbatore blast case: NIA arrested 15th accused



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday said it has arrested the 15th accused in the ISIS-inspired car bomb blast case in Coimbatore, in which a suicide bomber was killed when his vehicle laden with Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded. This case was initially registered by the Ukkadam Police Station in Coimbatore city and subsequently handed over to the NIA, which officially re-registered it on October 27 last year.

The arrested suspect has been identified as Tahanaseer, a resident of Coimbatore. NIA said that Tahanaseer conspired with other accused persons Jamesha Mubeen, the suicide bomber, and Mohammed Thoufeek to commit the terror attack, which took place in front of the ancient Arulmigu Kottai Sangameshwarar Thirukovil temple at Eswaran Kovil street, Ukkadam in Coimbatore on October 23 last year.

The vehicle carrying the IED was being driven by the deceased

accused, Jamesha Mubeen, with whom both Tahanaseer and Mohammed Thoufeeq were closely associated, said the NIA. "Investigations revealed that Tahanaseer and Thoufeeq had visited the residence of Jamesha Mubeen, exactly one week prior to the attack, during which they conspired to carry out the act of terror.

"Scrutiny of Tahanaseer's digital device also revealed that he was in possession of ISIS-inspired literature and had deliberately attempted to cover his tracks by deleting the incriminating material, by employing specific mobile-based application software and apps following the terror incident, in an apparent bid to evade the attention of law enforcement agencies," said the anti-terror agency. Investigations uncovered that the deceased accused, Jamesha Mubeen, was deeply inspired and motivated by the radical ISIS ideology, the agency said. ANI

SC asked suspended MP Raghav Chadha to meet Rajya Sabha Chairperson to tender unconditional apology

The Supreme Court on Friday asked suspended Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha to meet Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar and tender an unconditional apology in view of his suspension from the House. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra hoped that the Chairperson would take a "sympathetic" view of the matter.

The bench recorded the statements of Chadha's lawyer that the MP has no intention to affect the dignity of the House of which he is a member and he will seek an appointment with the Rajya Sabha Chairperson so that he may place an unconditional apology. Chadha was suspended for not obtaining the consent of five Rajya Sabha members before proposing their names for a Select Committee. The bench asked the Attorney



General for India R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to apprise it of the developments in the matter after the Diwali vacation.

Chadha's counsel told the bench that he is the youngest member of the House and he had no problem in tendering the apology. "It has been submitted that Raghav Chadha is the youngest member of the august House. Bearing in mind that he had no intention to attack the dignity of the House, it is assured that Raghav Chadha shall meet the Chairperson and tender an unconditional apology which shall be considered sympathetically in the background of facts and circumstances of the House," said the bench in its order. ANI

World

Amid ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, Blinken assures of humanitarian aid to besieged Gaza



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Israel on Friday to press for more humanitarian aid to be allowed into besieged Gaza, while Israeli troops tightened their encirclement of Gaza City, the focus of Israel's campaign to crush the enclave's ruling Hamas group. On the northern border with Lebanon, tensions continued to escalate ahead of a speech planned later Friday by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nas-

rallah, his first public comments since Hamas attacked Israel last month, stoking fears the conflict could become a regional one.

On Thursday, Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, attacked Israeli positions in the north with drones, mortar fire and suicide drones. The Israeli military said it retaliated with warplanes and helicopter gunships. Since the Gaza war began October 7, Hezbollah has been taking calculated steps to keep Israel's military busy on

its border with Lebanon, but so far nothing of the extent to ignite an all-out war.

More than 9,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza so far, and another 1,400 people have died in Israel, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack. Blinken is making his third trip to Israel since the Hamas attack. This trip takes him to Tel Aviv and Amman, Jordan, and follows President Joe Biden's suggestion for a humanitarian pause in the fighting.

The aim would be to let in aid for Palestinians and let out more foreign nationals and wounded. Around 800 people left over the past two days. Israel did not immediately respond to Biden's suggestion. But Netanyahu, who has previously ruled out a ceasefire, said Thursday: "We are advancing. Nothing will stop us." He vowed to destroy Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip. PTI

Russia-Ukraine war: Security Council Deputy Chairman, Dmitry Medvedev believes Poland could fulfil "the role of 'the hyena of Europe' that unleashed World War III"

Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman, Dmitry Medvedev, has warned that Poland's actions may lead to a direct confrontation with Russia and Belarus, potentially leading to a third World War. Medvedev believes Poland could fulfil "the role of 'the hyena of Europe' that unleashed World War III", TASS reports.

The Russian delegate made this claim, condemning Poland's "reckless actions". He believed that "World War III" would occur if Poland were to seek support from NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) allies. NATO, formed in 1949, currently includes 31 member states including Canada, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the United States and Turkiye (formerly Turkey). The

build-up of the Polish military, along with Poland's increasing presence in Ukraine has led Medvedev to pose a threat to Poland. Medvedev said, "Poland's own military build-up and Polish military presence in Ukraine may trigger a direct confrontation between Warsaw and Belarus and Russia", a TASS report has said.

Writing in the Russian newspaper, Rossiyskaya Gazeta, Medvedev stated that Russia's allied groups are prepared to give "an appropriate response to prevent threats that stem from the evil ambitions of the Polish establishment". Medvedev has issued the warning that there will be, "far-reaching dangerous consequences for the entire world", TASS has reported. ANI

Pakistan: Bomb explosion leaves 5 killed, 24 others injured



A bomb blast near a police convoy killed at least five people and injured 24 others in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday in the latest attack on security personnel in the country. The bomb exploded close to the police patrol in Dera Ismail Khan city. District Police Officer Abdur Rauf Qaisrani said five people were killed and 24 others, including two policemen, suffered injuries. The police cannot be deterred through such cowardice act and we will continue to fight against terrorism, Qaisrani said. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government condemned the blast and termed it an act of

cowardice and jingoism.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in recent months, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan after the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November last year. On October 31, a policeman was killed after unknown militants opened fire on a police camp in Dera Ismail Khan. The same day, two soldiers were killed in an IED blast in the South Waziristan district. In July, as many as 12 soldiers of the Pakistan Army were killed in separate military operations in the Zhob and Sui areas of Balochistan. PTI

Afghanistan: Taliban considers treatment of Afghan refugees as "cruel"

Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed acting Defense Minister Mawlawi Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid has criticized the Pakistan caretaker government's treatment of Afghan refugees. He said the decision to expel Afghans was taken unilaterally and Pakistan should consider the consequences of such actions, TOLO News reported.

TOLO News is an Afghan news channel broadcasting from Kabul. Mujahid in an audio clip, called on the Pakistan government to not "be cruel to the Afghans, not seize their personal property and assets." "They cannot do it by any law or rule. Such actions will be questioned," he said, adding, "We will attempt with all our capacity to prevent it and will not allow anyone to seize and steal the personal property of our Afghan brothers." He also urged the international community, UN and other organizations to press Pakistan to end "the current situation to-



wards refugees." "Even though it sends the refugees to their country, they [refugees] should be sent to the country with dignity and return to their homeland," he said, as per TOLO News.

The Taliban-appointed Acting Defense Minister said the ongoing situation is severely damaging the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. "So, the Pakistani regime should think of the consequences of whatever it is doing. It should plant as much as it will be able to reap," he added, according to Tolo News.

He also called the decision by

Pakistan's caretaker government to deport Afghan refugees unilateral, saying that "we do not accept at all." Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid recently called on countries hosting Afghan refugees to not forcefully deport them as migrants, as they were not prepared to take them back. Mujahid also called for tolerance based on Islamic and neighbourly manners, TOLO News reported. The Taliban spokesperson said Afghans have been forced to migrate to various countries due to the wars over the past 45 years in Afghanistan. ANI

Expression

Happiness is not something readymade; It comes from our own actions



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Free-lance Journalist, Writer & cartoonist

Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 is being observed from 30th October, 2023 to 5th November, 2023, with the theme "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation" Vigilance awareness Week is observed as an outreach measure to create greater awareness about the importance of integrity and ethics in public life. Bringing transparency and accountability in governance remains one of the primary means to achieve all round development of the country.

In a world grappling with the perennial menace of corruption, there are few clarion calls as compelling and urgent as "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation." Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, observed from October 30th to November 5th, underscores the paramount importance of this theme. Saying no to corruption is not just a moral obligation; it is an essential step towards building a just, prosperous, and equitable society.

On this occasion of Vigilance awareness week celebration, Bank of India & Union Bank of India jointly conducted a series of activities to commemorate 148th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The activity involves Walkathon, Bike rally, Gram sabha, Customer meet etc. starting from 30th October 2023 till 1st November 2023. The flag off ceremony of the program was done by BOI & UBI's CVO Vishnu Kumar Gupta.



The 148 Kms Rally will have started from Nadiad – the birth place of Sardar Patel to the Statue of Unity which included Walkathon & Bike rally spreading vigilance awareness amongst the citizens. The programme was organized by BOI & UBI under the guidance of Chief Vigilance Officer, Vishnu Kumar Gupta who addressed the Gramsabha where the participants discussed various practices, ideas and innovative measures, aimed at strengthening vigilance administration as stressed upon by the Central Vigilance Commission. On this occasion, to commemorate 148th birthday of Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, BOI & UBI launched 148 kms rally from Nadiad to Statue of Unity. The rally was flagged off by Top Management of both the Banks through VC. Along with that a Cartoon Book on PIDPI, Book on The Art of Fraud Prevention, banking with Integrity and Vigilance Vanguard were also unveiled by the Executive

Directors along with Senior Executives of the Bank. Movies and Jingles with specific focus on Fight against Corruption were released during the ceremony.

The Integrity Pledge was administered in English & Hindi to all employees in Bank of India & Union Bank of India. The message of President, Vice-President, & Central Vigilance Commissioner on Vigilance Awareness Week-2023 was conversed to all the attendees PAN India. A short skit was performed at Rajpipla arranged by Union Bank of India to sensitize the public and employees on the importance of transparency and integrity in our life. The event was attended by Suwendu Kumar Behera – General Manager of Bank of India (NBG-Gujarat) and other Executives from Bank of India and Union Bank of India & Police Representatives

In his address CVO Vishnu Kumar Gupta stated that the theme for this year's Vigilance Awareness Week,

"Say no to corruption: commit to the Nation," reflects our guiding principle, and we are committed to make relentless efforts in that direction.

There is no doubt that the fight against corruption can only be successful when public awareness is coupled with anti-corruption efforts. The primary objective of creating public awareness is to sensitize the public about the consequences of corruption and to educate the people about the improvements needed to create a corruption free society.

Dalai Lama – a spiritual leader that rightly quoted that "Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from our own actions." One must remember that vigilance begins with you, let us all together create a united India. Anti-corruption also starts from you, so let us create Vigilant India, Prosperous India.

Entertainment



SRK birthday bash: Alia Bhatt hugs hubby Ranbir Kapoor in fam-jam pic

Shah Rukh Khan's 58th birthday bash was a star-studded affair. Who's who of Bollywood and sports fraternity marked their presence at the party. B-town's heartthrob Ranbir Kapoor also attended the bash and undoubtedly his presence caught everyone's attention. His cousin and actor Karisma Kapoor dropped a fam-jam picture from SRK's party.

In the image, cousins Ranbir, Kareena Kapoor and Karisma are seen sharing smiles with Alia Bhatt, Shaheen Bhatt and Navya Nanda. However, it was Alia and Ranbir's PDA that became the highlight of the particular snap.

Ranbir is seen in the picture posing candidly as his wife Alia gives him a hug. Ranbir looks handsome in a white shirt and black trousers. Flaunting his back, Ranbir is seen sporting tinted glasses. On the other hand, Alia could be seen donning a stylish black dress. Sisters Kareena and Karisma were also dressed to the nines. Kareena opted for a white satin, off-shoulder dress. Karisma glimmered in a green dress covered with sequins. Kareena Kapoor also shared multiple pictures from the bash. Sharing a group picture, Kareena wrote, "Celebrating cinema... The Badshah himself and my dear Pooja". She shared another picture with Karisma and Amrita Arora and wrote, "And Badshah we are ready for you." **ANI**

Actor Manoj Bajpayee recalls his childhood memories after "Joram"



Actor Manoj Bajpayee says he tapped into his experience of coming from a small village to essay the role of a displaced man on the run in "Joram". The hard-hitting survival drama is directed by Devashish Makhija of "Aji" (2017) and "Bhonsle" (2018) fame. It was screened last night at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, where the film received a standing ovation. "I come from a village so my journey has been very long. I've interacted with lakhs of people, such has been the journey that I don't need to go to 'jhoadpatti' (slum) to play a 'jhoadpatti' guy. **PTI**

Matthew Perry Foundation assists people for treatment of addiction

The Matthew Perry Foundation has been established in the "Friends" star name to help individuals dealing with addiction. The actor died at the age of 54 on October 28 at his Los Angeles home, law enforcement sources told the Los Angeles Times at the time. The L.A. coroner's office has not established the cause of death yet. "In the spirit of Matthew Perry's enduring commitment to helping others struggling with the disease of addiction, we embark on a journey to honor his legacy by establishing the Matthew Perry Foundation, guided by his own words and experiences, and driven by his passion for making a difference in as many lives as possible," the foundation said in a statement to news portal The Hollywood Reporter. **PTI**

Tahira Kashyap's directorial debut 'Sharmajee ki Beti' unveils at jio Mami Film Festival

Proud husband and actor Ayushmann Khurrana has shared his excitement about his wife Tahira Kashyap's directorial debut 'Sharmajee Ki Beti'. Tahira Kashyap's directorial debut, 'Sharmajee ki Beti,' was unveiled at the Jio Mami Film Festival.

'Sharmajee ki Beti' is a heartwarming story that beautifully weaves together the complexities of family, identity, and relationships with women at the centre stage. The film received a standing ovation at the festival. Speaking about the movie Ayushmann said, "I have been a part of this journey from the beginning. I have read the script of the film and even watched the edits. I'm really excited about this one; it is a cute gem of a film. I have seen her work really hard, and we are finally seeing it on the big screen, so we are very excited about it."

Talking about the film and her association with Applause Entertainment the director Tahira Kashyap said, "It's the first time I am going to see the film on the big screen. I always had this story in my mind, and my vision was always to have a comedy and quirky touch to it. It's a happy comedy film, and I hope people love it. Our team at Applause is all men, and to be backed by them for a women-oriented movie is great because that means they believe in it too." **ANI**

