



Manipur High Court asked state
govt to operationalise mobile

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Afternoon

VOICE

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 16, Issue: 75

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 08, 2023 MUMBAI 08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com

Air Pollution: SC directed Rajasthan and other states, says "It is duty of everyone to manage pollution"

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed Rajasthan and other states to follow its earlier order relating to firecrackers during the festive season and stated that it was the duty of everyone to manage pollution. A bench of Justice AS Bopanna and MM Sundresh directed Rajasthan to take steps to minimise air pollution, especially during the festival season.

The court was hearing an application relating to the issue of firecrackers in Rajasthan. One of the advocates urged the court to issue directions to comply with earlier orders. The lawyer told the

court that the court's earlier order was applicable to Delhi National Capital Region. The lawyer sought a pan India ban on firecrackers. The court said there is a wrong perception that it is the court's responsibility on the issue of the environment. The court remarked that it is everyone's duty to manage pollution.

The court remarked that every citizen has to see that Diwali is celebrated environment-friendly with fewer crackers. The court also shared his observation that these days elders burst more firecrackers as compared to schoolchildren. The court

also directed the state of Rajasthan to take immediate steps to control pollution in Udaipur.

Meanwhile, another lawyer apprised the court about the other application that relates to stubble burning. The court has asked the Meteorology Department to file its reply in two weeks. The court also remarked that they see that there is a blame game relating to the issue.

Earlier the top court on September 22 rejected the plea seeking the manufacture, sale and use of firecrackers containing barium chemicals. Meanwhile, it also

refused to interfere with the Delhi Government's decision to put a complete ban on the use of firecrackers in the national capital.

The top court was dealing with the issue relating to firecrackers. One of the pleas was filed by BJP leader Manoj Tiwari in 2022, challenging the blanket ban on firecrackers during Diwali celebrations in Delhi. In 2021, the Supreme Court clarified there is no blanket ban on the use of firecrackers and only those fireworks which contain barium salts are prohibited. ANI

Cast atrocities in the past - larger the breasts, higher the tax

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Hindu religion has many casts, and sub casts and here started the discrimination too. Castes primarily were not a symbol for status or a justification for discrimination. Ancient Hinduism had its own way of distributing human resources and labour to various sections of the society. They gave each section of the society a specific task to do. Like Kshatriyas were the warrior class. Their job was to fight for the kingdom. But, as time passed, the actual meaning of a caste tainted. Some egoistic and misguided people of the society treated some jobs as filthy or "untouchable". The reason behind this was to prove supremacy by one section over another under the excuse that God has created some sections to do the mucky works.

Upper cast men used to summon these women of lower cast to

satisfy their lust. Even today, this practice continues in rural areas. Recently a senior police official in Bihar (supposedly upper-caste) was suspended after a viral video showed him receiving a massage inside a police station from a woman who had gone there, reportedly to file a complaint of atrocities. During the 19th century, the King of Travancore announced the payment of breast tax and it was to be paid by the only so called lower caste women within that community. The breast tax was also known as "Mulakkaram". This was to harass a lower caste woman. In those days, women were treated like objects.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Cast atrocities in the past - larger the breasts, higher the tax

▶▶ PAGE 1

Caste system was extremely oppressive, and these women could not wear upper garments. A refusal to do so meant that it would charge them to pay for their disobedience.

Sadly, while the lower caste struggled, the upper class Brahmins and Nairs continued to enjoy prosperity and decency. The era of atrocities always ends with agitation and for that, someone has to stand against the odds.

The local rulers and traditionalists didn't initially agree to the women's objections because they wanted them to keep moving about bare-chested as a sign of respect and to reflect the caste system

Once the lower caste women attained puberty, the tax would start. It is believed that this practice was put in place to suppress them, particularly people from Ezhava and Nadar. The high caste men were the ones who collected this tax. Caste system was extremely oppressive, and these women could not wear upper garments. A refusal to do so meant that it would charge them to pay for their disobedience. In those days the amount of tax to be paid was determined based on the breast size of each woman. Two primary reasons were largely attributed to the imposition of payment of the breast tax: to insult the lower caste people and burden them with debts that kept them in poverty. Sadly, while the lower caste struggled, the upper class Brahmins and Nairs continued to enjoy prosperity and decency. The era of atrocities always ends with agitation and for that, someone has to stand against the odds.

Nangeli, a lower caste woman from Cherthala, played a vital role in putting the breast tax to an end. First, she could not afford to pay the breast tax because she was from a poor family. She obviously refused to expose her breasts in public places. After hearing of Nangeli's rebellious acts and that she had refused to pay tax, a tax inspector went to challenge her to stop breaking the law. Although several authorities have reported it contrarily, it is said that when the inspector arrived at Nangeli's house, she had cut off her breasts as protest against the unjust and hateful caste-based breast tax. Once the officer sighted Nangeli's severed breasts, which had been put on a leaf, he ran away. Sadly, this incident led to Nangeli's death as she died from excessive bleeding.

This step, taken by her, led to the succeeding abolition of the breast tax. During Nangeli's burial, her husband, Chirkundan jumped into the burning pyre of his late wife and ended his life. It remains unclear whether he did this as a form of protest against the breast tax or because he was heartbroken. In their honour, we currently know

the place where Nangeli and Chirkundan both died as "Mulachiparambu", otherwise called "the land of the women's breast."

Nangeli's rebelliousness against oppression is known as a gigantic form of confrontation. Although she is well known as a local legend, history has no record of Nangeli's act of bravery and the academic has remained largely conflicted about the correct order of events. The revolution continued after Nangeli's death.

The local rulers and traditionalists didn't initially agree to the women's objections because they wanted them to keep moving about bare-chested as a sign of respect and to reflect the caste system. However, this introduced more people to Christianity, more modest standards arose which differed from the initially accepted customs. This influenced many women's decision to cover their chests. The lower caste communities continued fighting against the unjust tax system till they forced the king to abolish it. To date, it was popularly known women from the Nadar communities to have fought for the right to cover their breasts during the Channar revolt between 1839 to 1859. The breast tax was eventually scrapped in 1924.

Even today, in this 21st century, female get raped, burned killed for the lust of upper cast men. There are hundreds of incidences of protest and agitation, but things have not changed in rural areas. The Caste system has blotted Hindu religion at large.



Volume No. 16 | Issue No. 75

Afternoon VOICE
RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332
VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

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South Indians Celebrating Star Birthday



- C.K. Subramaniam

South Indians choose star birthday instead of their birth date. Some of them celebrating their birthday in star of their birth. May be some of them conduct a pooja for the wellbeing and long life in that day and serve food and cloth to the poor persons. Hindu birthday celebration is exactly opposite to the western way. We light lamps, but in the West, candles are blown out. We also think it is inauspicious to hand a knife or anything sharp to the other person on the auspicious star birthday. So, lighting a lamp reminding the child of the true path to follow, prayers for enlightenment and the importance of shining like a lamp to the others.

Your birth star, or Janma Nakshatra, is just one component of the calendar. If you draw a line from where you were born, at the time you were born, to the moon, the Janma Nakshatra is the star constellation that the line would pass through. Each month has 27 Nakshatras, which means some Nakshatras will occur twice in a month. As with most aspects of Hinduism, there is no rule as to what significance a star birthday has.

We Brahmins from South follow the lunar month in the south, and the star, and take the opportunity to remember and thank the star which is the guiding light for the person. Elaborate vegetarian banquet is arranged, feeding the poor and relatives, and serve food to the child with a leaf kept

perpendicular to the child, with the samkalpa that this is for Ganapathi. While the child eats, all the elders in the house come and bless the child with Akshatha and flowers. Sweet gheer is prepared and everyone prays to the light for the health and long life of the child. I just mentioned child, but this is done as long as parent live to bless their children.

As per my experience, being as Hindu, Brahmin, I was taught to go to temple on the star birthday morning and take the blessings of God and elders by touching their feet. I was also taught to start the day at home by offering sweets to God and lit the earthen lamp and touch parents and elders feet. Distributes sweets to the poor people and celebrate the birthday feast with family friends and relatives and stay blessed. In Hindu culture blowing a candle off believes to be inauspicious and we start our day with lighting a earthen lamp not blowing it off is the Hindu culture for centuries.

I once had a birthday celebration in my native place with just Vishnu Sahasranamam being recited along with Lalita Sahasranamam. The general way to celebrate birthdays is to actually distribute food to others and in certain cases even clothes and this is the Hindu way of celebrating birthdays. Star birthday celebrations is the South Indian way of celebrating a birthday.

Letters to the Editor

Pollution is a major challenge

At present, about 9.8 percent of the toxins in Delhi's air are due to stubble smoke. 5,245 stubble burning incidents are reported in Punjab this year, while 1,094 in Haryana. Due to this Stubble smoke, Delhi's air is constantly getting worse. Apart from Stubble, 'biomass burning' also contributes 10 percent to Delhi's pollution. The smoke that comes out from vehicles running on petrol and diesel. This is called "biomass burning". Earlier there were six climatic seasons in our country, but now another season has been added to it, which is the pollution season. Now every year in our country, like monsoon and other seasons, the pollution season comes. The only difference is that in monsoon people take out their umbrellas, in the cold season they take warm clothes, and in the pollution season they use their masks.

Ashraf Nawaz

Hamas Conflict

Mounting casualties among Palestinian civilians, along with acute shortages of food, water, medicine and fuel, have intensified calls by global leaders for a pause in fighting or a ceasefire. Israel is crossing all the limits of human-

ity and it has even rebelled against calls by global leaders and set to genocide. By now more than 20,000 Hamas people including innocent children and women have been annihilated. Israel has dismissed those calls, only saying it targets Hamas fighters whom it accuses of intentionally hiding among the population and civilian buildings while main target is indigenous people. That is so disgraceful and shameful in human history. However, at least, all adjoining Arab countries should boycott Israeli products, and halt exports and do all efforts to stop the war whatsoever that can.

TKR. Noori

Who is Responsible of 1000 Murders in Palestine

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

Commencement of the Five-State Electoral Battle

As the first phase of elections kick-starts today across five states, the pulse of democracy resonates among the citizens. This electoral season marks a pivotal moment in our nation's journey, inviting us to participate actively in shaping our collective future. The power vested in the hands of the people is the cornerstone of a vibrant democracy. As voters head to the polls, it's imperative to recognize the significance of informed decision-making. Each vote cast is a testament to the responsibility we carry toward the betterment of our society and the progress of our nation.

This multi-state electoral battle is not merely about political parties but about the aspirations, concerns, and dreams of the populace. It's about selecting leaders who will champion the voices of the people, address the pressing issues, and work tirelessly towards the advancement of our states and country. It's crucial for candidates to engage in healthy, issue-based dialogues, and for the electorate to

evaluate and choose wisely, focusing on agendas, policies, and the long-term welfare of our communities.

Maimul Safui

Elvish Yadav detained by Kota Police in rave party case; investigation ongoing

Elvish Yadav, the winner of Bigg Boss OTT, was apprehended by the Rajasthan Police in connection with a rave party incident today, where snake venom was also discovered. He stands accused of allegedly providing snakes and snake venom at a rave party in Noida. Following the registration of the case, Elvish had been on the run, but the police had already arrested five other suspects. They were actively searching for Elvish Yadav, and he was eventually detained during a police blockade in Kota, Rajasthan. During a recent raid, the police recovered nine snakes, including five cobras, and snake venom from the location. However, in the latest update, the Kota Police released Elvish Yadav after questioning.

Manzur Hasan

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)

Court has quashed an injunction order on demolition of the Sai Resort at Dapoli owned by Sadanand Kadam, linked to UBT Sena leader

A court in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri has quashed an injunction order on demolition of the Sai Resort at Dapoli in the district, owned by Sadanand Kadam, a close associate of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Anil Parab. This is not just the case of flouting construction laws, but the plaintiff (Kadam) has violated the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules and regulations, the district court at Khed in Ratnagiri said in the order passed on November 4.

If construction of such a structure is protected, then it would amount to illegality by the court, it added. Kadam had purchased the plot from Parab and constructed the resort. In June 2021, a notice of demolition was issued by the Ratnagiri collector as it did not have requisite permissions. Kadam later filed a suit



against the notice before a civil court at Khed in Ratnagiri which in March 2023 granted an injunction against demolition.

The Maharashtra government, through the collector, then filed an appeal against the injunction order. P S Chandgude, ad-hoc district judge, Khed, in the November 4 order while quashing the injunc-

tion order said if construction of such a structure is protected, then it would amount to illegality by the court. The court said Kadam had constructed the property "at his own peril". "He (Kadam) was aware at the time of construction about the terms that there is no permission to carry out construction within the no development zone,"

the court said.

Referring to an earlier Supreme Court order, the district court said the law of the land has to be obeyed and enforced. "Construction in violation of the coastal regulation zone, regulations are not to be viewed lightly and he who breaches its terms does so at his on peril," the court

said relying on the apex court order. "This is not the case of flouting construction laws only, but the plaintiff (Kadam) has violated the provisions of CRZ rules and regulations," the court said.

Kadam has carried out the construction without taking permission of the authorities concerned and beyond the limits of sanctioned plan, it further said. The court said Kadam will not suffer an irreparable loss as he has a legal efficacious remedy to approach to the National Green Tribunal. "The balance of convenience is in favour of the Maharashtra government. If the construction is protected at the hand of Court, it will be protection of illegality at the hand of Court," the order said. The government claimed the Sai Resort was illegal as it did not have the requisite permissions and there were CRZ norm violations. **PTI**

Maratha Reservation: Issues in the alliance, Cabinet minister Sambhuraj Desai slams the NCP leader, says "Bhujbal's statement regarding reservations is 100 percent wrong"



Day after Maharashtra Cabinet Minister and NCP leader (Ajit Pawar faction) Chhagan Bhujbal opposed Maratha reservation under the OBC category, Maharashtra Minister Sambhuraj Desai (Shinde faction) condemned the statement of Minister Chhagan Bhujbal and further said that Bhujbal Saheb has done the work of creating a rumour. "Bhujbal Saheb has done the work of creating a rumour. Bhujbal's statement regarding reservations is 100 percent wrong," said Sambhuraj Desai.

Speaking on the statement of Chhagan Bhujbal, Sambhuraj

Desai said, "Chhagan Bhujbal should not make such statements. Chhagan Bhujbal's statement has created confusion in the minds of people in the state." "Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has already clearly said that reservations will not be taken away from anyone and given to any other class," Sambhuraj Desai said.

"It is an old habit of Bhujbal to attract media attention by making provocative statements. If Bhujbal feels that OBC leaders will be targeted and attacked, then he should meet the Home Minister and give detailed information; he is a senior leader of the state," said Desai. After Chhagan Bhujbal's statement, Minister Sambhuraj Desai said, "We will meet NCP leader Ajit Pawar regarding Chhagan Bhujbal's statement and will tell him that Ajit Pawar should explain to his ministers not to make any such statement, which may create confusion in the state." **ANI**

Former employee booked in extorting case of Rs 1.97 cr from managing director of the ship management company

A former engineer of a ship management company here allegedly extorted Rs 1.97 crore from the managing director of the firm by threatening to send a video of one of his vessels discharging untreated sewage in the territory of the United States to the country's Coast Guard, police said on Tuesday. Based on a complaint lodged by the firm's managing director, a first information report (FIR) under section 384 (extortion) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against the alleged accused, an official said.

The ship management company has an office at Churchgate in south Mumbai and offices in Delhi and Singapore, he said. The complainant has alleged that he received a call from an unidentified number in June 2022, in which the caller had threatened to send a video to the US Coast Guard of a vessel discharging untreated sewage in the sea while heading towards the US from Mexico, the official said.

The caller, who identified himself as a resident of Jharkhand, claimed that the ship had violated international laws by releasing untreated sewage

and demanded \$2.5 lakh (Rs 1.97 crore) from the complainant to keep the video under wraps, he said. It was later established that the caller had worked as an engineer with the firm, the official said.

The complainant, out of fear, transferred the money from the bank account of the company's Singapore office to the accused's account in Jharkhand, he said. A few days later, he again received a call from the accused, who demanded \$3 lakh this time. Following this, the managing director approached the police with a complaint, the official said. **PTI**

Two unidentified persons broke into a temple at Navi Mumbai, stole cash of Rs 40,000 cash

Two unidentified persons broke into a Ganesh temple in Navi Mumbai township and allegedly stole cash worth around Rs 40,000 from there, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place in the early hours of Monday in the temple located at Shirvane in Nerul area. The two persons broke

the 'hundi' (offerings box) kept in the premises and decamped with cash worth Rs 35,000-40,000, an official from Nerul police station said quoting a complaint. As per the temple's CCTV footage, the accused are believed to be in the age group of 25 to 30 years. One of them had covered his face with a handkerchief and the other one

wore a black mask.

Based on a complaint by a trustee of the temple, the police have registered a case under Indian Penal Code sections 380 (theft), 457 (lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night in order to commit offence) and 34 (common intention). A probe was on into the case, the police added. **PTI**

Nation

Manipur High Court asked state govt to operationalise mobile towers, on trial basis

The Manipur High Court has directed the state government to operationalise mobile towers, on a trial basis, in all those district headquarters which have not been affected by ethnic strife. The direction comes after the Manipur government extended the mobile internet ban in the state till November 8. An order issued by the division bench comprising Chief Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Golmei Gaiphulshillu Kabui asked the state "to extend the services to areas" which were unaffected by violence. The court also asked the state to upload on its official website copies of all the orders issued in relation to the suspension or curbing of mobile internet data services.



The next hearing for compliance of the matter has been scheduled on November 9. Barring a few days in September, mobile internet has remained banned in Manipur since May 3 when ethnic clashes broke out. The latest move comes after a mob had, last week, attacked a camp of 1 Manipur Rifles here

to loot its armoury, prompting security personnel to fire several rounds in the air.

The internet ban was extended following apprehensions that "anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speeches and hate video mes-

sages, inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions for the law and order situation in the state".

The ethnic strife in the north-eastern state has affected ten districts. Broadband services, which were also banned from May 4 for around two months, were

made partially available since mid-July. Manipur has remained gripped by recurring bouts of violence since ethnic clashes first erupted in May.

More than 180 people have been killed since then. The clashes have occurred over a number of grievances that both sides have against the other, however, the flashpoint of the crisis has been a move to give Meiteis Scheduled Tribe status, which has since been rolled back and an attempt to turf out tribals living in protected forest areas. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley, while tribals, which include Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mainly in the hill districts. PTI

SC said, "There should be guidelines in place to govern the search and seizure of phones or other digital devices of media professionals" to the Centre



The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that there should be guidelines in place to govern the search and seizure of phones or other digital devices belonging to individuals, particularly media professionals. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia said that media professionals could have confidential information or details about their sources on their devices.

"It's a serious matter. These are media professionals who will have their own sources and other things. There must be some guidelines. If you take everything away, there is a problem. You must ensure that there

are some guidelines," the bench told the Centre. The apex court was hearing a PIL filed by the Foundation for Media Professionals which urged the court to establish safeguards against unreasonable interference by law enforcement agencies and create comprehensive guidelines for the search and seizure of digital devices. Appearing for the Central government, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju told the apex court that the authorities cannot be shut out from examining such devices.

He said, "But there are anti-nationals who may... We cannot be shut out completely. Media cannot be above the law." Justice

Kaul said that guidelines were required to ensure that the powers of the agency were not misused in this respect. "Mr Raju, I am finding it very difficult to accept some kind of all-within power that the agencies have... This is very dangerous. You must have better guidelines. If you want us to do it, we will do it. But my view is that you ought to do it yourself. It's time that you ensure that this is not misused. It can't be a State that is run only through its agencies. We will give you time, no difficulty. But you must analyse what kind of guidelines are necessary to protect them. To some extent, this is not adversarial in that sense," the bench said.

Posting the matter for hearing on December 6, the top court in its order stated, "We have put to the ASG that there has to be a balancing of interests and proper guidelines need to be in place to protect the interest of media professionals. We would like the ASG to work on this and come back on this issue. This is more so in view of the aspect that privacy is held to be a fundamental right." ANI

Tamil Nadu: Heavy rainfall in several areas caused waterlogging



Waterlogging was witnessed in several districts of Tamil Nadu, including Tiruvannamalai and Erode, which recorded moderate to heavy rainfall on Tuesday. With the onset of northeast monsoon, the state witnessed heavy downpours across several districts.

Persistent heavy rainfall on Monday night inundated houses in low-lying areas of Malli Nagar Nesavallar Colony at Periya Semur village of Erode District. State Minister of Housing and Urban Development S Muthusamy along with district administration officials inspected and took stock of the situation in low lying areas. He also assured action to be taken to build strong banks on the ponds. The India Meteorological Department has issued isolated heavy rainfall alert for Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry

and Karaikal, Coastal and South Interior Karnataka, Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Waterlogging was reported in Erode because of the continuous heavy rainfall. In low-lying areas rain-water mixed with drain water inundating houses.

Residents demanded a permanent solution to the problem of waterlogging in the area. Parts of the Madurai district were also left inundated due to the incessant rainfall in the state. The Indian Meteorological Department issued an 'orange alert' in several districts in Tamil Nadu due to the heavy rains">rains and predicted heavy rains">rains till November 8. Schools have been shut in several districts due to the bad weather conditions prevailing in the state. Northeast Monsoon onset intensified in Tamil Nadu with South Districts receiving heavy to very heavy rainfall. ANI

World

Israel Defence Forces said, "They have taken control of a Hamas military outpost at Gaza"

Israel Defence Forces said that Israeli forces have taken control of a Hamas military outpost in Gaza City and found anti-tank launchers and missiles, weapons, and intelligence materials on the site, The Times of Israel reported. According to the Israeli forces, Israeli warplanes hit a cell of about 10 Hamas members, directed by ground troops from the Nahal Brigade, who identified the cell and directed the aerial attack on the outpost. Later, the soldiers identified an anti-tank squad operating nearby and directed an additional airstrike, according to the statement.

Taking to X, Israel Air Force stated, "An Air Force fighter jet attacked a squad of about 10 terrorists in cooperation with the fighters of the Nahal Brigade who identified the squad and directed the attack. Later, the fight-



ers identified an anti-tank squad that was operating near them and directed another Air Force aircraft that attacked the squad." During the night, the Israeli military targeted dozens of positions for mortar launches into Israel. According to IDF, Israel's naval forces targeted a number of Hamas targets overnight, according to The Times of Israel report.

The Israeli military said that the soldiers also identified Hamas terrorists who had barricaded themselves in a building near the Al-Quds Hospital in the Shejaiya area of Gaza City. According to the Israeli military, these terrorists were planning an attack on Israeli ground forces.

According to the Israeli military, an aerial attack targeted the

site, which resulted in "significant secondary explosions" that indicate the presence of a weapons depot, The Times of Israel reported. Earlier in the day, IDF noted that it has been a month since Hamas launched an attack on Israel on October 7. Taking to X, IDF stated, "It's been a month since the October 7 Massacre. While the world might have

moved on, we don't have that privilege. Hamas started this war--yet it's a war we must fight. A war we must win." Meanwhile, the Israel Defence Forces said it has killed Hamas' Deir al-Balah battalion commander Wael Asefa.

Taking to X, the IDF stated, "The IDF eliminated Wael Asefa, Commander of Hamas' Deir al-Balah Battalion. Asefa aided in the dispatch of thousands of terrorists to assault, abduct and murder Israeli civilians on October 7th." On Monday, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said it has been conducting extensive operations in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours and that they targeted approximately 450 Hamas targets, which included tunnels, terrorist positions, military facilities, observation posts, and anti-tank missile launch sites, CNN reported. ANI

Amid ongoing war of Russia and Ukraine, It launches a missile and drone attack at port city of Odesa



Russia launched a missile and drone attack on Ukraine's port city of Odesa, causing destruction and injuring several people, Al Jazeera reported. The attack targeted critical infrastructure, including the historic Odesa Fine Arts Museum, and raised concerns about escalating tensions in the region.

Russian forces have carried out a missile and drone attack on Odesa, a vital Ukrainian port city situated along the Black Sea. Ukraine's air force reported that the assault, which took place late on Sunday, involved four missiles and 22 attack drones launched from the occupied Crimea region of Ukraine, ac-

cording to Al Jazeera. The attacks resulted in the injury of at least eight people and inflicted damage on the city, including the destruction of grain and significant harm to the 124-year-old Odesa Fine Arts Museum.

Ukraine's air force reported that several of the attack drones were successfully intercepted and neutralised. The Ukrainian Air Force mentioned the interception of "Fifteen Shaheds and one Kh-59 air-guided missile," referring to the Iranian-designed kamikaze unmanned aerial vehicle.

Ukrainian Presidential Chief of Staff Andriy Yermak responded to the attack by posting images on social media, expressing determination to seek retribution for the assault. "This is their despicable answer to the reality - the Ukrainian Crimea will be demilitarised, without the Black Sea fleet and military bases of the Russians," he said, according to Al Jazeera. ANI

UK: London Metropolitan Police has urged the agitators to postpone any demonstrations in Armistice during weekend

The London Metropolitan Police has urged the pro-Palestine protestors to postpone any demonstrations in London during the Armistice Weekend, citing fear of "fuelling disorder" and rising "anti-Semitic" activities after the October 7 attacks in Israel. "We ask organisers to consider postponing any demonstrations in #London this #ArmisticeWeekend," the UK Met Police posted on X (formerly Twitter).

The police said that the senior officers are concerned at "criminal

acts" by breakaway groups intent on fuelling disorder who are attracted by these regular events. It added that this is despite the positive work of organisers who have supported tens of thousands of people to protest peacefully and lawfully since October 7. "We are constantly examining the intelligence ahead of the weekend to understand the issues in order to respond appropriately," the police said. Earlier on Monday, senior Met officers met with organisers from a range of groups to discuss

our concerns. However, they declined to postpone any demonstrations.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ade Adekan said, "The risk of violence and disorder linked to breakaway groups is growing". "This is of concern ahead of a significant and busy weekend in the capital," Adekan said. He added, "Our message to organisers is clear: Please, we ask you to urgently reconsider. It is not appropriate to hold any protests in London this weekend". ANI

Amid ongoing conflict between Israel-Hamas, Lebanese woman and her 3 granddaughters were killed at air strike

A Lebanese woman and her three granddaughters were laid to rest in their hometown in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, two days after they were killed in an Israeli drone strike that hit the car they were travelling in near the Lebanon-Israel border.

Hundreds of men and women marched before the four coffins,



which were draped in black and white banners as they were carried through the streets of the village of Ainata. The coffins were later taken for burial in a cemetery in

the nearby village of Blida.

Israeli troops and militants from Lebanon's Hezbollah group and their allies have been clashing for a month along the border following the start of the Israel-Hamas war. The clashes have intensified since Israel launched a ground incursion into Gaza against Hamas, an ally of Hezbollah. ANI

Expression

Pre and post-handicraft sector in J&K LG's Contribution to Industry Growth



Farheen Wani

Columnist

Jammu and Kashmir is famous throughout the world for its scenic beauty, bracing climate, and craftsmanship skills. It was during the reign of Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin, popularly known as Budshah or the great king who ruled Kashmir from 1420-70 AD that handicrafts were introduced in Kashmir. The king Zain-ul-Abidin hired skilled craftsmen from Central Asia to train local inhabitants in a number of handicrafts which were till then altogether unknown to the people of the state. Since then craft legacies continued and got encouragement and patronage from different rulers, princes, and visitors to the valley, thus skills passing on from generation to generation. Jammu & Kashmir has a comparative advantage in producing high quality and world-famous fabrics of Pashmina and Kani shawls, silken, woolen, and cotton fabrics and crafts like paper-mache, woodwork, Tila work, Sozni, Crewel, etc. These products are famous the world over because of their unique craftsmanship. Handicrafts in Jammu and Kashmir present a fascinating spectrum of creative imagination and design that is intimately woven into the life patterns of its people. The agility of local artisans coupled with their artistic imagination reflected through a wide range of products has delighted people the world over for centuries. The J&K Handicrafts Department plays a vital role in promoting handicrafts products in rural as well as urban areas by providing financial and technical assistance to unemployed youth and artisans of the state for setting up micro and small units in industrial sectors under various schemes.

The handicraft sector occupies an important position in the economic structure of J&K state. Being eco-friendly, this sector suits the state as it is more labour-intensive and less capital-intensive in nature, therefore, having scope for employment generation at a large scale. J&K handicraft products are worldwide famous for their attractive designs, functional utility, and high-quality craftsmanship. In the absence of large-scale industries in the UT, handicrafts remained a key economic activity from times immemorial. Crafts like shawls, crewels, namdha, chain stitch,

wood carving, costume jewelry, kani shawls, paper machines, and carpets hold a significant share in the overall production and export of the state. Silken carpets in particular constitute a specialty having no parallel in quality and design at the national level and therefore, it occupies an important position in the international market.

Handicrafts refer to remarkable, skill-based creations that are made primarily by hand, reflecting the artistic traditions, cultural heritage, and craftsmanship of a particular region or community. These creations can include textiles, pottery, jewelry, woodwork, metalwork, and various other art forms.

The reasons why the handicraft industry faced challenges leading up to the G20:

Industrialization and mass production: With the rise of industrialization, the economy shifted towards mass production, which affected the demand for handicrafts. Factories and machines were capable of producing goods on a larger scale, often leading to lower costs and increased convenience for consumers. This shift, in turn, affected the market for handmade crafts.

Globalization and changing consumer preferences: The advent of globalization led to increased exposure to different cultures and products from around the world. As a result, consumer preferences started to favor mass-produced, machine-made items, rather than unique handicrafts. The shift in consumer behaviour played a significant role in the decline of the handicraft industry.

Lack of infrastructure and resources: Many artisans and craftsmen lacked access to modern infrastructure, including reliable supply chains, efficient transportation, and proper marketing channels. Without these essential resources, it became challenging for handicraft producers to compete in a rapidly changing marketplace.

Economic challenges and poverty: Handicrafts are often produced in developing countries or regions with economic challenges. As poverty rates increased, people prioritized basic needs over purchasing luxury or non-essential items such as handicrafts. This resulted in decreased demand and sales for artisans.

Inadequate financial support and limited access to credit: Artisans, especially in less developed areas, often faced difficulties in accessing financial support or credit to expand their businesses or invest in equipment and materials. The lack of funds hindered their ability to improve the quality of their

crafts or reach out to broader markets.

Limited exposure and marketing opportunities: Artisans and craftsmen often struggled to reach potential buyers due to limited exposure and marketing opportunities. Without proper platforms, it became challenging to showcase their unique products to a larger audience, further contributing to the decline of the industry.

Lack of government support: In certain cases, the handicraft sector suffered from inadequate government support. Insufficient policies, lack of training programs, limited investment, and a lack of protection against cheap imitations or plagiarism negatively impacted artisans' livelihoods and the overall growth of the handicraft industry.

It is worth noting that these challenges vary in their magnitude and significance across different regions and countries. Additionally, some regions have successfully revived and revitalized their handicraft industries through proactive measures such as skill development programs, improved marketing strategies, and increased collaboration with designers and the tourism sector.

The decline of the handicraft industry before the G20 can be attributed to various factors including industrialization, globalization, changing consumer preferences, lack of infrastructure and resources, economic challenges, limited financial support, inadequate exposure and marketing, and insufficient government support. Understanding these challenges is crucial for formulating effective strategies to uplift and sustain the handicraft sector in the future.

As the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha has been actively involved in promoting and supporting the handicraft sector in the region. He recognizes the significance of handicrafts as a major cultural and economic asset for Jammu and Kashmir.

1. Skill Development Initiatives: Manoj Sinha has implemented various skill development programs to empower artisans and craftsmen. These initiatives aim to enhance their skills, provide them with technical knowledge, and promote innovation in traditional crafts. This helps in preserving the rich heritage of Jammu and Kashmir's handicrafts while also equipping artisans with modern techniques.

2. Financial Assistance: The LG has facilitated financial assistance schemes, loans, and subsidies for handicraft artisans. These provisions enable them to set up their workshops, purchase raw materials, and upgrade their tools

and infrastructure. Financial support plays a crucial role in sustaining the handicraft sector and improving the livelihoods of artisans.

3. Marketing and Promotion: Manoj Sinha emphasizes the need to market and promote Jammu and Kashmir handicrafts globally. Under his leadership, initiatives have been taken to participate in national and international trade fairs, exhibitions, and buyer-seller meets. These platforms provide exposure to artisans, allowing them to showcase their craftsmanship and connect with potential buyers and markets.

4. Infrastructure Development: The LG understands the importance of a robust infrastructure for the growth of the handicraft sector. He has focused on improving transportation facilities, establishing craft clusters, and upgrading existing infrastructure like artisan workshops and production units. Such developments facilitate smoother operations and enhance the overall productivity of the sector.

5. Revival and Revitalization: To revive and revitalize traditional handicrafts in Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha has initiated measures to document and preserve traditional techniques. This involves conducting research, organizing training programs, and creating awareness about endangered crafts. By undertaking these efforts, the LG ensures that traditional crafts are not lost and can be passed on to future generations.

Overall, Manoj Sinha's efforts have significantly contributed to the growth and development of the handicraft sector in Jammu and Kashmir. By focusing on skill development, financial support, marketing, infrastructure, and revival of traditional crafts, he has contributed to empowering artisans, preserving cultural heritage, and creating sustainable livelihoods for the handicraft community.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the Handicraft and Handloom Exhibition at Kashmir Haat. He inspected the stalls put up by the Artisans and women entrepreneurs of Self-Help Groups showcasing a variety of their creative products. The Lt Governor appreciated the creativity and ingenuity of all the craftspeople and their dedicated service to preserve and promote the artistic heritage of Jammu Kashmir. Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and senior officers were also present.

Entertainment

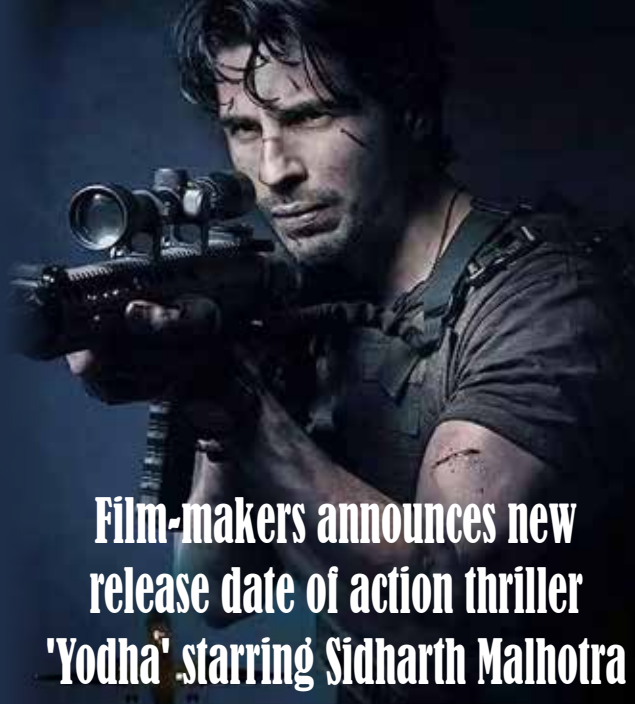
Actor Shruti Haasan pens a sweet wish for her father Kamal Haasan on his birthday, "Love you so much pa"



Actor Kamal Haasan is celebrating his birthday today and on this special day her daughter and actor Shruti Haasan took to Instagram to share a heartfelt birthday wish for him. Calling him "OG rock star", she wrote, "My dearest Appa @ ikamalhaasan HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!! You are a rare heart and mind full of love and ideas that you share so generously with the world. You are the best singing, dancing poetry writing and joking and laughing like crazy friend and father any girl could ask for. You fill my life with inspiration and I wish for you to have the best year ever and many many many more years of you Sharing your rare breed of brilliant magic with all of us. Love you so much pa, you really are the OG rock star of all the things only you do so so well!!!" **ANI**

Makers of the upcoming action thriller 'Yodha' starring Sidharth Malhotra on Tuesday announced the new release date of the film with new posters. Taking to Instagram, filmmaker-producer Karan Johar shared the announcement posters and wrote, "We are all geared up, ready to take over the skies with full power and force!!!! #Yodha is arriving in cinemas on 15th March 2024! Buckle up We are all geared up, ready to take over the skies with full power and force!!!! #Yodha is arriving in cinemas on 15th March 2024! Buckle up."

Sidharth also took to Instagram to share the update and wrote, "Gear up for a touchdown full of action & thrill! (fist emoji) Fasten your seatbelts, #Yodha will be landing on 15th March 2024." In the poster, Sidharth exudes confidence and intensity. The first poster depicts him in uniform, clutching a gun against a backdrop of an aeroplane. The other poster depicts him in the middle of a fight, wearing a plain white T-shirt with some dust on it and wielding a broken glass bottle, ready to strike his opponent. **ANI**



Film-makers announces new release date of action thriller 'Yodha' starring Sidharth Malhotra

Star Margot Robbie and producer Tom Ackerley were seen spending day out



'Barbie' star Margot Robbie and producer Tom Ackerley were spotted together at a restaurant in sunny Perth, Australia, reported People. Wearing dark, fashionable shades and a white button-down shirt, Robbie was seen smiling as she left the restaurant and noticed several well-wishers with cameras. As she made her way to a waiting car, she stopped to take selfies with the ecstatic supporters. Ackerley, 33, a British film producer, was dressed in a blue-green button-down shirt with short sleeves.

Papa Salt isn't the only professional collaboration between Robbie and Ackerley, who have been together since 2014. Along with McNamara and Sophia Kerr, they've produced hit films including I, Tonya, Birds of Prey, Promising Young Woman and Barbie under LA-based production company LuckyChap Entertainment, reported People.

Both producer and star of the box office record-breaker 'Barbie', Robbie is expected to earn \$50 million as part of a deal that combines her salary and back-end bonuses, according to Variety. Directed and co-written by Greta Gerwig, the live-action Mattel doll adaptation is 2023's highest-grossing film and the highest-ever earner for distributor Warner Bros. The duo met on the set of the World War II drama Suite Francaise, where he was an assistant director, in 2013. They tied the knot in 2016 in a private ceremony on Australia's Gold Coast, with Robbie revealing the wedding news on Instagram. **ANI**

Actor Jennifer Aniston's friends are concerned about her in the wake of Matthew Perry's death, according to Page Six. According to an industry insider, the 'Friends' star has taken his death at the age of 54 quite hard.

She and the other four remaining cast members of 'Friends' attended his burial on Friday. "Out of the remaining five, Jen and Courteney are reeling the most, and Jen is probably the one who is struggling most acutely," said the source. "It's a second massive loss in less than a year, with the one-year anniversary of her dad's death just around the corner. She still hasn't fully regained her footing from that, and now this has just completely knocked her off her feet."

Aniston's father, John Aniston, appeared on 'Days of Our Lives,' and when the actor announced his death at the age of 89 in November 2022, she called him "one of the most beautiful humans I ever knew." "She is trying to regroup and recover but it's been a completely devastating blow," the source added. The 54-year-old actress attended Perry's burial with remaining cast members Cox, Lisa Kudrow, David Schwimmer, and Matt LeBlanc on Friday in Los Angeles, just minutes away from the Warner Bros. studios where the NBC comedy was shot for a decade. **ANI**



Actor Jennifer Aniston is going through 'struggles' after Matthew Perry's death, claimed sources