



Uttarakhand tunnel collapsed: Govt continues for its rescue operation

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Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency:

Battle would be between Kirtikar father and son



Vaidehi Taman

Two senior leaders Ramdas Kadam and Gajanan Kirtikar, of the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, locked horns over the candidature of Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency which Kirtikar represents in the Lower House. While Kirtikar has made a claim on the Mumbai North West Lok Sabha seat since he is the sitting MP, Ramdas Kadam is trying hard for a candidature for his son Siddhesh from the same constituency.

Speculation is widespread in the political circle that to counter Gajanan Kirtikar during the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Sena (UBT) is likely to field his son

Amol against him and the battle would be between the father and son. Gajanan Kirtikar's son Amol is still with rival Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and Father switched his loyalties to Eknath Shinde Sena. Kadam has asked if Kirtikar is going to contest elections to win the seat or help his Amol who is also likely to contest polls on the ticket of Uddhav Thackeray's Sena.

Meanwhile, the open tiff between the two senior Shinde-led Sena leaders over the Mumbai North West Lok Sabha seat candidature has come as a major awkwardness for CM Eknath Shinde who is trying to keep his flock together and show a united front against his

rival Uddhav Thackeray. The dispute started a couple of weeks ago after Kirtikar, 80, said he was tired and would not contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Ramdas Kadam said, "If Kirtikar is not contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, my other son Siddhesh Kadam is willing to contest the election from this constituency". However, Kirtikar replied to Kadam's remarks asserting that he is mentally and physically fit and will contest the upcoming elections. Kadam alleged, "Kirtikar's son Amol is in the Sena (UBT) but even though the father and son are in different parties they are working from the same of-

rice". Kadam also alleged that Kirtikar was betraying the Shinde Sena and was making all efforts to get his son Amol elected.

Kirtikar in a letter replied Kadam's allegations and wrote, "Kadam has expressed his doubt that I am betraying the party, but Kadam's history of betrayal is old and there is a long list of the betrayal by him". "He had previously made many attempts to defeat me in the 1990 polls. Kadam had rallied workers for the defeat of his brother. All Shiv Sainiks are aware of the journey he took with Sharad Pawar from Khed village to Pune to join the NCP. Hence, Kadam should not talk about betrayal".

Telangana Assembly Election 2023: BJP is getting stronger but cannot come to power

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

When it comes to Telangana BJP has only one issue to lure typical saffron inclined voters and that is Hindutva. Other than Hindutva BJP has no merits to mention. Another factor would be Modi and the craze for him. Some sections of Hindus who are staunch followers of Modi will vote for BJP but if you look at the larger picture, coming to power is not possible for BJP. This year's Assembly election is seeing a brutal battle between ruling BRS (TRS) v/s Congress. There are many speculations that Congress can gain some seats here. BJP's vote share in Telangana might increase in 2023 compared to previous years but still they will not be able to form a government. People prefer KCR because he was instrumen-

tal in bringing Telangana a statehood. Unfortunately, TDP and BJP joined hands in Andhra Pradesh in the 2014 elections. MIM and BJP are bitter enemies but silent mutual strategists. MIM helps BJP to cut votes.

KCR, Daughter Kavitha, son KTR, Nephew Harish are the main players and they have their grassroots homework, they know what Telangana wants. Since the formation of Telangana State in 2014, people of Telangana have elected TRS in both Assembly and Lok Sabha election. Telangana have witnessed KCR rule as CM and his son KTR as Minister (locally he called as shadow CM).

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Editoritis

Telangana Assembly Election 2023: BJP is getting stronger but cannot come to power

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TDP which had won 15 seats in 2014 Assembly Election has lost its ground in Telangana by conceding party leaders to either TRS or Congress.

BJP failed to build a party in rural areas. BJP local leadership lacking active participation in poll campaigning and depending heavily on central leadership.

Moreover, Prakash Javadekar, the election in-charge, is a low profile leader and not capable of changing the fate of BJP in state.

Telangana Congress is full of powerful Reddy leaders, but it lacks representation from Muslim leaders and backward classes.

Many leaders from BRS have expressed displeasure over one man show. At once BRS took all the Opposition MLAs and leaders into the party fold and now there is a rift between outsiders and original party leaders. TDP which had won 15 seats in 2014 Assembly Election has lost its ground in Telangana by conceding party leaders to either TRS or Congress.

Erstwhile Khammam district had strong presence of TDP, now it looks like Congress is gaining in this region due to influx of other party leaders and KCR gave careless statement on arrest of Chandrababu Naidu Ex CM of Andhra Pradesh, which is widely seen as political dictum. KCR ambition to enter into National Politics, leaving Telangana CM Chair to his son KTR is finding no takers. BJP failed to build a party in rural areas. BJP local leadership lacking active participation in poll campaigning and depending heavily on central leadership. Moreover, Prakash Javadekar, the election in-charge, is a low profile leader and not capable of changing the fate of BJP in state.

BJP has failed to set an election narrative on which people of Telangana can trust them, many BJP leaders on verge of changing ship to Congress to see the defeat of BRS in the Assembly Election. The BJP party does not have a good cadre in all the regions of Telangana. They have limited party workers in few areas only that too there is no famous representation who has more face value or brand value in public where other parties have various people like Revanth Reddy and KCR. No prominent leader in opposition to match KCR. (Even though there are leaders like Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy, Revanth Reddy, Jana Reddy. They are not able to show impact throughout the state).

Congress has a good presence in rural areas but it is very weak in the old Hyderabad region where BRS and AIMIM has its hold. Congress lacks leadership who can give tough fight to BRS and AIMIM in Old Hyderabad region on nearly 20 seats. Telangana Congress is full of powerful Reddy leaders, but it lacks representation from Muslim leaders and backward classes. If Congress manages to attract Backward class, SC, ST and Muslim voters at least 40 to 50% it'll win over BRS in the Assembly election in the present scenario.



In previous elections TRS escaped anti-incumbency due to Congress' illogical alliance with TDP and going for early polls. BRS still has a good presence all over the State, which is positive in terms of being in contest in the majority of the Constituencies. AIMIM's internal support will help in getting Muslim votes to BRS, unless Congress campaigns effectively in projecting BRS as "B Team" of BJP. Lack of unity among the opposition and split in anti-incumbency votes will help BRS.

BRS may come back to power for a straight third term with a simple majority, congress may get some good seats, BJP may stay in limited seats, AIMIM as usual get 7-8 seats in Hyderabad. If Congress gets a majority, then BRS may be restricted to less than 45 seats. In The Hung Assembly scenario where both BRS and Congress may get around 50 seats and fall short of majority, AIMIM may become king maker with 7-8 seats. KCR's dream of getting 100+ seats may not be fulfilled but TRS will form government again.

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Children's Day Celebrations



- C.K. Subramaniam

As a tribute to Late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his love for the children, his birthday is celebrated all over India as Children's day. Most schools have cultural programmes for the day, with the students managing it all. All over the country, various cultural, social, and even corporates and institutions conduct competitions for children. Children's Day is a day for children to engage in fun and frolic. Schools celebrate this day by organizing cultural programmes. Teachers of the school perform songs and dances for their students. Therefore, Children's Day is special. It is a day set aside to remember Pandit Nehru and his love for children.

Chacha Nehru as the children fondly referred to him, was fond of both children and roses. In fact, he often compared the two, saying that children were like the buds in a garden. They should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they were the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow. He felt that children are the real strength of a country and the very foundation of society. He was the beloved of all the children who gave him the endearing name of Chacha Nehru.

Children's day, in Hindi known as "Bal Diwas", in India falls on November 14th every year and for good reason. Children's day in India is celebrated on Pandit Nehru's birthday in a meaningful way and the celebrations depict Nehruji's love for them. Bal Diwas in India is celebrated every year to increase the awareness of people towards the rights, care and education of children. Children are the key of success and development of the country as they would lead their country in different and new technological way. They are adorable and shine same like the precious pearls. Children are the God gifts to their parents by the Almighty. They

are innocent, admirable, pure and loved by everyone.

14th of November (birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru) has been set to celebrate as children's day all over the India. 14th of November is the birth date of the first Indian prime minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He became the prime minister of India just after the independence of India. The Children's Day is celebrated every year to let the people specially parents aware about the importance of celebrating this day.

The day long events carried on this day include: -

- Children are distributed gifts and chocolates.
- Varieties of competitions are organized like fancy dress, debates, speech related to the freedom fighters, country, storytelling and quizzes.
- Cultural and social programs like singing, dancing and entertaining with other musical instruments.
- Orphan children can be entertained by distributing the clothes, toys, musical instruments, stationery, books, and etc.
- Organizing some programs related to the freedom fighters.
- Organizing some game activities including puzzle, sweet and sugar treasure hunt and etc.
- Underprivileged children are entertained by organizing musical programs by famous musician and speech on health, care and progress.

In the year 2016, Google India is celebrated Children's Day, with the rest of India and what better than a beautiful doodle to put the sentiments across! What makes the doodle more special is that it was a drawing by an 11-year-old from Pune, Anvita Prashant Telang, who won the 'Doodle 4 Google' contest that year. Children are the future of this country and we make the Children's day celebrations most memorable one.

Letters to the Editor

Properly nurture children

November 14 is celebrated as Children's Day in India and on this day I would like to emphasise the importance of welfare, education and a safe and happy childhood for children globally. Children have a right to education, to enjoy their childhood playing, studying and eating and not working as child labourers. We should abstain from hiring children as labourers of any kind. Parents also should try to be friendly with their children to understand their needs and respond to them in the best way possible.

Having said that, I would also like to say that even children hold the responsibility to learn moral values from their parents, learn sincerely from their schools and to develop communicative, social and other personality skills by involving in various social, humanitarian and environmental events and campaigns. After all, the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. The future of our nation is in our hands. Teaching starts in the home and we, as parents must realise that the onus is on us to provide

the right environment and instil the right teaching right from the very start.

Jubel D'Cruz

Concerns about children's death

According to reports, 1,200 Israeli civilians have been killed in Hamas attacks on Israel. In retaliation, 11,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks. However, it is of particular concern that the number of children involved in these attacks is high, according to the current government in Hamas. The significant loss of children in this war has become a concern for the whole world. The Israeli army has besieged Shifa, the largest such hospital in Gaza, because Shifa has been made a terrorist center by Hamas. They are being used by Hamas terrorists. Five infants have recently died in Shifa hospital due to the loss of vital supplies and electricity. The southern gate is opened for a few hours every day for Israeli citizens to leave. Yet the death toll of children in this war is alarming and inflammatory.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Regular fires in multistorey buildings is cause for concern

Panvel high-rise fire exposes flaws in modern homes but is it not silly that the firemen waited for an hour for the house owner to return when they should have

broken the doors which is the norm in firefighting measures & preventing fire from spreading to other areas. Regular fires in multistorey buildings is due to poor quality of wirings & inferior electronic gadgets.

Developers use substandard quality of products to save on costs but this can prove fatal as each year many people become victims at times of fire as well as during 'elevator' breakdowns. All buildings should be issued 'Occupation Certificate' only after stringent tests on safety & on vital other parameters!

S.N. Kabra

Vendors should not be permitted in local trains!

It was read from the newspaper that the railway administration is thinking of giving official permission to vendors in the local trains of Mumbai. Local trains in Mumbai are always so overcrowded that there is no place to keep the foot. Due to the crowd, the quarrel occurs among the passengers. In that, why this more trouble of the vendors to the passengers? Since the sellers are authorized, they are sure to bully. All the goods which the vendors are going to sell in the local train, can be easily bought in the market. It is sure that; passengers will face problems due to ven-

dors. Therefore, it is inappropriate to allow vendors in local train.

Sudhir Kangukar

Strength of Team India

Rohit Sharma has consistently captained excellently. Under his leadership, the entire team reached the pinnacle of success. Rohit scored 442 runs in eight matches. It is still difficult to defeat India. The morale of all Indian cricketers is high. Thanks to the hard work of the coach, the team achieved wonders by performing better in every match. With the best team performance, the Indian cricket team reached the semi-finals. Indian bowling was excellent. All the Sri Lankan players were stunned by the Shami-Siraj duo. India's bowling was aggressive. India played a strong innings and India are now a strong contender to win the Cricket World Cup 2023. India's victory at home is a certainty. Virat Kohli equaled Sachin Tendulkar's record by scoring a stunning 49th century against Africa.

N Ashraf

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)

City

NCB seized 2kg cocaine from a Zambian national, 2 held



The Narcotics Control Bureau has busted an international drug syndicate and seized two kg of cocaine from a Zambian national in a hotel in Mumbai, an NCB official said on Monday.

A Tanzanian woman, who was to receive the consignment, has also been arrested from Delhi, the official said, adding the seized contraband is worth about Rs 15 crore.

Based on a specific informa-

tion, the NCB Mumbai team conducted a raid in a hotel here and on Thursday apprehended Zambian national LA Gilmore, who was the drug carrier, he said. The man had visited Addis Ababa (Ethiopia's capital) from Lusaka in Zambia for the drug consignment.

After reaching Mumbai by a flight, he checked into a hotel. The NCB team, which was monitoring his movements, conducted a search in his hotel room. They found a bag and after cutting it

recovered two packets of cocaine weighing two kg, the official said. During questioning, the man informed the NCB sleuths about some intermediaries in the region linked with drug trafficking. It was also observed that he was being directed by a handler, the official said.

The NCB team then tactfully monitored the communication of Gilmore's handler, who told him to go to Delhi to deliver the drug. The anti-drug agency's team from Mumbai then rushed to the national capital, where they maintained surveillance in the designated area for delivery.

A Tanzanian woman, named MR Augustino, who was to receive the consignment from Gilmore was intercepted and later arrested in from there on Saturday, the official said. During the probe, the international network of the syndicate was found spread across multiple cities including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Goa, he said. **PTI**

A man was allegedly duped of Rs 90,000 at Navi Mumbai for instant loan



A 56-year-old man from Navi Mumbai was allegedly duped of Rs 90,000 by online fraudsters on the pretext of providing an instant loan, police said on Monday. An offence under section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act was registered against unidentified persons at Kalamboli police station on Saturday, an official said.

The complainant, who works with a logistics company, claimed that he was seeking a loan for his daughter's education when he came across a post on Facebook about loans that

were made available within two hours, he said. The complainant applied for a loan online with the finance company on November 8, and within minutes, he got a call in which the caller offered him a loan and asked him to pay insurance charges, GST, NOC charges, RBI charges and two advance instalments, totalling Rs 90,000, the official said.

When the complaint did not receive the loan amount and was asked to make additional payments, he realised he had been cheated, he said, adding that a probe is underway. **PTI**

"Firecrackers were burst beyond the 10pm deadline set by the courts", claims NGO



Noise levels during Diwali celebrations in several parts of Mumbai exceeded readings of last year, and firecrackers were burst beyond the 10pm deadline set by the courts, an NGO specialising in noise pollution awareness said on Monday.

Diwali was celebrated with traditional pomp and fervour, marked with lights and firecrackers, across the nation on Sunday. The maximum noise level recorded in Mumbai during celebrations this year was 117 decibels, up from the top reading of 109.1 decibels last year, Awaaz Foundation said. The decibel levels peaked between 82 and 117 at Marine Drive in south Mumbai

at 9:55pm, with the promenade seeing a huge crowd of revelers bursting "serial" and "aerial" bombs, the NGO's founder Sumaira Abdulali said in a release. The police began stopping the bursting of firecrackers only after 10:10pm, and also detained some people for not heeding directives in this connection, the NGO's release said.

On Friday, the Bombay High Court directed that firecrackers could be burst only between 8pm and 10pm in the state in the view of the deteriorating air quality in the metropolis and several other major cities. The bursting of firecrackers increased after 9pm at Marine Drive, the Awaaz Foundation's release added. **PTI**

Fire broke out at Bandra, one injured

A 42-year-old man suffered minor injuries in a fire that erupted in a row of shops in the western suburb of Bandra here, a civic official said on Monday.

The blaze broke out in a small shop and spread to adjoining establishments in the Kherwadi area of

Bandra (east) around 11.20 pm on Sunday, the official said.

The victim, Shivaji Thombare, sustained minor injuries and was rushed to nearby V N Desai Hospital, where he was administered first aid and discharged, he said. The fire destroyed tarpaulin sheets, wooden furniture, electri-

cal wiring and installations and a stock of vegetables in three to four shops, the official said. Locals extinguished the blaze with buckets of water and two extinguishers before the fire brigade reached the scene, the official said, adding that the cause is yet to be ascertained. **PTI**

Adani Electricity reveals of sources which supplied power for 4 hours

Power utility company Adani Electricity on Monday said it relied completely on renewable sources for supply of power to Mumbai for four hours on Diwali day. Adani Electricity supplied 1,200 MW of power from renewable sources to its 3 million subscribers between 10 AM and 2 PM, which meant that over 40 per cent of the financial capital's power needs were derived from renewable energy.

The peak demand of the financial capital on Sunday morning was over 2,500 MW, which

went up to 2,776 MW in the evening. Mumbai is currently struggling to check pollution level and improve air quality. A bulk of the power supplied to the financial capital comes from adjoining areas, while the state authorities have recently asked a rival power generation company to halve the emission of particulate matter from its plant to help reduce pollution.

In a statement, Adani Electricity said it had planned the exercise in advance by sourcing power from solar and wind gen-

eration. "Achieving 100 per cent renewable energy is a first and a significant milestone in Mumbai's energy transition, demonstrating that renewables can significantly power Mumbai city with reliable and sustainable electricity at competitive tariffs," the company's managing director Kandarp Patel said. The statement said the company has sourced 38 per cent of the power supplied to consumers from renewable sources in 2023 and reaffirmed its commitment to increase it to 60 per cent by 2027. **PTI**

Nation

Uttarakhand tunnel collapsed: Govt continues for its rescue operation as 40 workers trapped



The Uttarakhand government continues its operation to rescue 40 workers trapped after an under-construction tunnel collapsed in Uttarkashi. A report from the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) says the tunnel had been breached by 21 metres and rescue efforts are continuing. The detailed report on the accident say the Silkyara Tunnel is 4531 meters long and is under construction at a cost of Rs 853.79 crore.

"On November 10, 2023, re-

profiling work was started from Ch. 260m to Ch. 265m at LHS and for the same patch primary lining works for the same were completed. On November 12, breaking work was started from Ch. 260m to Ch. 263m for the next patch of work & around 5:30 AM, early morning collapse occurred from Ch. 205m to 260 meters where re-profiling was completed. 40 workers based on contractor tunnel entry register trapped inside the tunnel," the report said.

The report further stated that

experts from the Authority Engineer, Geological Expert from RVNL and many more visited the collapse site periodically over the night and subsequently all the options were explored. The rescue teams are now focussed on removal of loose muck along with Shotcreting (concrete or mortar conveyed through a hose and pneumatically projected at high velocity onto a surface) and to push a 900 mm Dia MS Steel Pipe with the help of a Hydraulic Jack to evacuate the workforce trapped inside.

"21 meters of loose debris removed. However, minor falls of debris reduce the excavation to the tune of 14 meters. The muck removal is continued followed by shotcreting. Executive Director (P) spoke to the Chief Secretary and they are facilitating 900 mm Dia MS Steel Pipe from Haridwar, which is likely to reach at site by today evening. Expert Team from irrigation Department reaching the project site to assist in successful pushing of steel pipe," the report stated. ANI

Manipur: Govt bans 9 Meitei extremist groups and their associate organisations for its anti-national activities

The government on Monday banned nine Meitei extremist groups and their associate organisations, which mostly operate in Manipur, for their anti-national activities, and launching fatal attacks on security forces. According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the groups that have been banned for five years, are: Peoples' Liberation Army generally known as PLA, and its political wing Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and its armed wing Manipur Peoples' Army (MPA). The Peoples' Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and its armed wing Red Army, the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and its armed wing (also called the Red Army), the Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL), the Coordination Committee (CorCom) and the Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK) have also been banned.

The PLA, UNLF, PREPAK,

KCP, KYKL were banned by the MHA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) years ago and the latest action extends the ban by five years. The declaration as outlawed of the other organisations is fresh. In its notification, the MHA said the Meitei extremist organisations have declared, as their professed aim, establishment of an independent nation by secession of Manipur from India through armed struggle and to incite indigenous people of Manipur for such secession.

The MHA said it is of the opinion that the Meitei extremist organisations have been engaging in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, employing and engaging in armed means to achieve their aforesaid objectives, attacking and killing the security forces, the police and civilians in Manipur, indulging in acts of intimidation, extortion and looting of civilian population for collection of funds for their organisations. PTI

Kerala: Customs seize gold worth over Rs 36 lakh, woman apprehended



Cochin Customs apprehended a woman passenger on Monday with four crude gold bangles worth over Rs 36 lakh, said officials. As per officials, the bangles weighing 640.39 grams were found concealed in "Nivea Creme" boxes by the woman passenger.

"On the basis of profiling done by AIU batch intercepted one lady passenger, Jossy from

Kozhikode, at the green channel, who arrived from Italy to Cochin via Doha vide Flight QR516," said officials. Upon examination of her checked-in baggage, 4 gold bangles weighing 640.39 grams were found cleverly concealed in boxes. The bangles have been seized under relevant sections of the CA, 1962. Further investigation into the case is under process. ANI

Diwali festival: Around 147 cases registered over bursting of firecrackers, despite time restrictions

Defying the Supreme Court's time restrictions on firecracker use, Madurai city witnessed widespread violations during Diwali (Sunday). The city police commissioner revealed that 147 cases have been registered for bursting firecrackers beyond the stipulated time limit.

"147 cases have been registered related to the bursting of firecrackers beyond the specified time limit as permitted by the state government on Diwali in the district," the Madurai city police commissioner said. According to the order of the Supreme Court, on the pleas of the Government of Tamil Nadu, on the occasion of Diwali, people were allowed to use firecrackers for 2 hours only, from 6 am to 7 am and from 7 pm to 8 pm. Meanwhile, the ban on firecrack-



ers beyond the time specified by the Supreme Court was violated in several areas of Chennai as people rejoiced in the celebrations on Diwali night, an official release said on Monday.

A total of 581 cases have been registered so far in Chennai, 554 cases related to the bursting of firecrackers beyond the time specified by the Supreme Court, 8 cases related to running a firecracker shop in violation of Tamil Nadu

Government rules and 19 cases regarding the bursting of firecrackers with excessive noise--a total of 581 cases--have been registered, according to the release.

Post-Diwali, roads in Tamil Nadu's capital city, Chennai, were left littered with fireworks waste and the air quality dipped to poor early Monday morning. The air quality in various areas of Chennai was also recorded as poor this morning. ANI

World

Germany: Foreign minister said, "Aid for Ukraine will be "massively expanded" next year"



Germany's aid for Ukraine will be "massively expanded" next year, the foreign minister said on Monday as Kyiv heads into its second winter since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

Germany has become one of Ukraine's top military suppliers since the war started in February 2022, sending material that includes tanks, armoured personnel carriers, air defence systems and Patriot missile systems.

Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said as she arrived on Monday at a meeting with European Union counterparts that, even as Europe grapples with the war between Israel and Hamas, it's still important to "face the geopolitical challenge here". She said that will include helping Ukraine through the coming winter months and "our support will be massively expanded for next year". Over the weekend, the Bild am Sonntag newspaper

reported that Chancellor Olaf Scholz's governing coalition wants to increase Germany's military aid for 2024 from the 4 billion euros initially planned to 8 billion euros (USD 8.5 billion).

It said parliament's budget committee will need to sign off on the plan later this week. Officials haven't confirmed that. But, asked about the report in an interview on Sunday with ARD television, Defense Minister Boris Pistorius rejected the suggestion that it's due to fears the US could reduce its support. Pistorius said that, based on this year's experiences, the idea was to avoid having to seek more funding if the money available is used up quickly.

"Right now, as Ukraine has to continue its fight and at the same time part of public attention worldwide is directed more toward Israel, this is a strong signal to Ukraine that we won't leave it in the lurch," he said. ANI

Cabinet reshuffle: Former UK PM David Cameron has been appointed as the Foreign Secretary



Former UK Prime Minister, David Cameron after being appointed as the Foreign Secretary in a major comeback, affirmed hope that his experience as leader and in office will help him in assisting the present British PM Rishi Sunak at a challenging juncture. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Cameron posted, "The Prime Minister has asked me to serve as his Foreign Secretary and I have gladly accepted."

"It will be an honour to serve our country alongside our dedicated FCDO staff and provide the continued leadership and sup-

port that they deserve," he added. Cameron cited that the UK is facing "daunting" international challenges due to episodes of the Israel-Hamas war and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and there is a need to ensure stability and security on the global stage. "At this time of profound global change, it has rarely been more important for this country to stand by our allies, strengthen our partnerships and make sure our voice is heard," he said. He further said that despite being out of front-line politics for seven years, he is hopeful that his experience will help him at the new job. ANI

Amid ongoing conflict between Israel- Hamas, Thousands fled from Gaza's largest hospital, dozens of babies are at risk due to lack of power supply

Thousands of people appear to have fled from Gaza's largest hospital as Israeli forces and Palestinian militants battle outside its gates, but hundreds of patients, including dozens of babies at risk of dying because of a lack of electricity, remained inside, health officials said Monday.

With only intermittent communications, it was difficult to reconcile competing claims from the Israeli military, which said it was providing a safe corridor for people to move south, and Palestinian health officials inside the hospital, who said the compound was surrounded by constant heavy gunfire.

The military also said it had placed 300 litres (79 gallons) of fuel near the hospital to help power its generators, but that Hamas militants had prevented staff from reaching it. The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza disputed that, and said the fuel would have provided less than an hour of elec-

China and Pakistan are holding week-long drills in the Arabian Sea

The Chinese and Pakistani navies are holding week-long drills in the Arabian Sea during which the two all-weather allies will also conduct joint maritime patrols for the first time, a media report said on Monday. The Chinese and Pakistani navies at a naval base in Karachi on Saturday kicked off the 'Sea Guardians-3' exercise in the waters and airspace of the northern Arabian Sea in drills that include anti-submarine operations, Dawn News reported on the exercises which will end on Friday. During the exercise, China and Pakistan will conduct joint maritime patrols for the first time, Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence, said.

With the theme of "joint response to maritime security threats", the exercise will include formation movement, VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure), helicopter cross-deck landing,



search and rescue, anti-submarine operations, Wu was quoted as saying by China Military News website in a recent report.

He said some professional exchanges and mutual visits will also be included as part of the exercises. "This is the third time for China and Pakistan to hold such an exercise, aiming to consolidate the all-weather strategic partnership and traditional friendship between the two countries, and strengthen realistic combat training of the two militaries," the Chinese military spokesperson added. PTI



tricity. World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Shifa has been without water for three days and "is not functioning as a hospital anymore," in a post on social media. Both sides have seized on the hospital's plight as a symbol of the larger war, now in its sixth week. The fighting was triggered by Hamas' unprecedented Oct 7 surprise attack into Israel, and Israel's response has brought unseen levels of death and destruction to Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinian residents, nearly two-thirds of whom have had to flee their homes with no safe refuge available in the besieged territory.

For Palestinians, Shifa evokes the suffering of civilians. Doctors running low on supplies perform surgery on war-wounded patients, including children, without anesthesia. Thousands of people displaced by airstrikes that have destroyed entire city blocks have sought shelter in its darkened corridors. Israel says the hospital is the prime example of Hamas's alleged use of human shields, claiming - without evidence - that the militants have a command centre and other military infrastructure in and beneath the medical compound. Hamas and hospital staff deny those allegations. PTI

Expression

Why some jokes are no laughing matter



C.S. Krishnamurthy

Columnist

Humour, in the backdrop of the digital age, spreads like wildfire, leaving no corner untouched. A plethora of messages bombard our screens daily. Yet, in pursuit of laughter, some individuals often forget the cardinal rule that humour should not sting another's dignity. Their defence: "It's all just in good humour... don't take it so seriously and personally." But when does humour cross the line, and become weapon of discrimination?

A recent message shared in a WhatsApp group serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to condemn such jesters who choose to cloak their insensitivity under the guise of joviality. The message behind the video clipping shared reads, "A woman's brain is divided into two sides, the left side and the right side. The brain in the left side is nothing right, and the right side of the woman's brain is nothing left..." This is only a sample.

Cracking jokes or breaking hearts? The message, ostensibly a joke, undermines women, highlighting the fine line between harmless humour and harmful discrimination. Such insults pierce deeper than they amuse, leaving women to bear the brunt of a misguided jest.

The message, designed to elicit chuckles, depicted a scenario when

gender-based usages were shot as punch-lines. What this person might not have realised is that humour at the expense of an entire gender is not just distasteful; it's a deceptive form of discrimination.

The disguise of hilarity

The most intriguing aspect of such messages is the guise of joviality they wear. At first glance, they may appear harmless, even hilarious to some. After all, who doesn't enjoy a good laugh? However, this humour is a double-edged sword. While some may laugh, others may cringe, and many more might be deeply hurt.

The one who propagated this unsavoury message may inadvertently assume the mantle of a satirist, without knowing the inappropriateness between the light-heartedness they intended and the insensitivity they delivered. Such sarcastic slips are indeed comical, but only in their tragically miscalculated execution. The most perplexing aspect of such messages is their deceptive veil of joviality. While some may find them harmless, these jokes can cut deep, leaving behind hurt and offence.

The defence of ignorance

They also often defend themselves by claiming ignorance, insisting that the intent was never to hurt or demean anyone and that it was all in good fun. Yet, this defence is an evasion of responsibility, and ignorance is not an excuse when the impact is real and harmful.

Humour should bring people together, not tear them apart. Instead of hiding behind the "just joking" excuse, acknowledge the harm that



is done and strive for a society where humour is inclusive and free from discrimination.

The power of humour

Humour, a powerful tool, can dismantle stress. A clever diplomat, it can untangle knotty disputes, unite people, and even challenge societal norms. Battlegrounds can turn into playgrounds. However, when humour is misused to perpetuate stereotypes, it becomes a weapon that indirectly contributes to the suffering of a particular group. A misogynistic joke under the facade of joviality is nothing but an insult in disguise.

The said video-clipping message employs the age-old notion of intellectual inadequacy based on gender, reducing the women's mental faculties to a mere punch-line. Such attempts at humour are far from

innocuous; they are sneeringly acerbic, bruising the hard-won progress women have made in their fight for equality. Remember, humour is the handshake of hearts and the secret code of camaraderie.

Condemn discriminatory jesters

Bystanders in these situations can also play a crucial role. Silence is complicity; if you encounter such messages, use your voice to condemn the content and educate those who share it about the harm they may cause. They can create a safer and more inclusive digital space.

True humour uplifts, it doesn't drag anyone down. A wise man once said: "Laughter is the shortest distance between two people". Let that distance brings us closer, not drives us apart.

Entertainment

Actor Holland Taylor spills beans of her relationship with Sarah Paulson



Actor Holland Taylor revealed that the secret to her eight-year relationship with Sarah Paulson is the ability to let each other be, reported Page Six. "I think we each follow our own path so we're not exactly the same," the "Two and a Half Men" alum, 80, told Page Six exclusively at the 2023 Second Stage Theater Fall Gala.

"We do some things separately so everyone gets to be true to what they believe," she continued. "She's much more social, and I like a little bit of alone time, so I have that. She spends some time with friends and not with me, so it's a good balance." The couple, who started dating in 2015, first drew eyebrows due to their roughly 32-year age difference.

According to Page Six, although the 'American Crime Story' star is unfazed now, there was a time when she was skeptical of bringing her relationship into the spotlight because people warned her that it may negatively affect her career. "It occurred to me, 'Should I not?' And then I thought, 'Why would I not?'" she recalled to the Edit in 2017. "The fact I'm having this thought is wrong. But I had a moment of societal concern; wondering if, maybe, people who didn't know that about me would be like, 'Wait, what?' But then, you know, I did it anyway." The couple has been public about their mutual admiration and love over the years. In 2021, Paulson celebrated Taylor's birthday by posting a black-and-white portrait on Instagram. **ANI**

Jr NTR, Mahesh Babu, Venkatesh Daggubati joins Ram Charan and Upasana diwali party



This festive season kicked off in grandeur as the power couple Ram Charan and Upasana played host to a Diwali celebration at their home in Hyderabad. From JR NTR, Venkatesh Daggubati, and Mahesh Babu, celebrities gathered under one roof for a special party. Mahesh Babu's wife Namrata Shirodkar on Sunday gave a sneak peek into the insider moments of this glamorous affair on her Instagram handle.

Along with the pictures, she wrote, "About last night...Diwali done right with the coolest bunch!! Thanks @alwaysramcharan & @upasanakaminienikonidela for being the best hosts!" The first picture showed Ram Charan, his RRR co-star Jr NTR, Venkatesh Daggubati, and Mahesh Babu posing together. Next one featured the actors' wives Namrata Shirodkar, Upasana Konidela and Allu Arjun's wife Sneha Reddy dressed in ethnic wear. **ANI**

"Tiger 3" makes its opening with Rs 94 crore worldwide



Salman Khan-starrer "Tiger 3", which released in theatres on Diwali, has earned the superstar the biggest opening day of his career by amassing Rs 94 crore worldwide, production banner Yash Raj Films (YRF) said on Monday. Directed by Maneesh Sharma and also starring Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi, the film released on Sunday on the festive occasion of Diwali in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. In a post on X, YRF said the film had earned Rs 94 crore in global gross, making the film the highest earning Diwali release in Hindi cinema. **PTI**

Kannada film "Ghost", starring Shiva Rajkumar is all set to release on ZEE5

Kannada film "Ghost", starring Shiva Rajkumar, will start streaming on ZEE5 from November 17. The heist action thriller, written and directed by M G Srinivas, released in theatres on October 19. The Kannada arm of ZEE5 shared the update on its official X page. **PTI**

