



Delhi Pollution: Air quality moves into 'severe' category, records 392

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MahaRERA accepts registration of 823 new projects



AV Team

Good news for the home seekers and developers that the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA) approved the registration of 823 new projects. These projects secured approval and registration with MahaRERA encompass 382 solely from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The remaining projects are distributed across Pune (257), Nagpur (77), Nashik (57), Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (33), Amravati (17), and various other

locations within the state. However, this year, of the 1,208 applications in October, only 645 were approved and of the 414 in November, 178 got approval. The remaining projects could not secure registration due to inadequate documentation submitted with the applications.

MahaRERA conducts weekly open house sessions to inform developers about the necessary documents required for project registration. Over a hundred developers attend these sessions. The session is also available online, ensuring developers from all parts of the state can benefit from them,

as highlighted by the official.

Last year, a total of 769 projects were approved and registered with MahaRERA during October and November. Ajoy Mehta, chairman of MahaRERA, emphasized the authority's commitment to transparency and buyer information by mandating developers to furnish all relevant project details. Stringent checks include the requirement for a dedicated bank account for the project, legal verification of land ownership and title rights, and meticulous examination of project finances, legality, and technical aspects.

MahaRERA also implemented a regulation accepting project applications after June 19 only if the project's Commencement Certificate (CC) is provided by the competent authority via its valid email ID or website to MahaRERA's designated email ID, following an Urban Development Department notification. These stringent measures adopted by MahaRERA have contributed to a four per cent reduction in complaints from homebuyers, with Mehta expressing the authority's ambition to further decrease the number of such grievances.

60-year-old woman in search of a prospective husband was duped

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Senior citizen single women in metro cities these days are looking for companionship. Some are seeking someone to have dinner with, some are looking for someone to travel with them, and others are looking for someone to share their favourite activities. It's always fun to have attraction, romance, and being in a relationship. That gives a sense of security and belonging. A 60-year-old woman in Mumbai who recently retired from a private company was duped to the tune of Rs 24 lakh in a cryptocurrency fraud by a person whom she acquainted with on a matrimonial website. Early in 2022, the woman registered herself

on a matrimonial website. Soon after, she came in contact with a person who claimed to be an engineer in the USA and the two exchanged numbers and chatted often.

Engineer knew what this senior woman wanted and he tried to impress her by all means. Somehow the woman's life blossomed in thought of having a relationship. She was in search of a prospective husband. Gradually the engineer took charge over her emotions, and lured her into investing money in cryptocurrency.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

60-year-old woman in search of a prospective husband was duped

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The woman then called the guide and between April 2022 and December 2022, and invested Rs 24 lakh, said an officer who added that a virtual account was created in her name and it showed that her investment had increased to \$62,000, which is equivalent to Rs 52 lakh over a period of time.

A few days later, the woman realised that she was swindled on noticing that her virtual account had become dysfunctional and that the two accused stopped responding to her calls and messages.

These senior women are not only gullible but at times at life risk. The fear of living alone or loneliness of life drives them towards such traps. Being older than 65, single and looking for romance has never been easy, and for women, who outnumber single men, it's especially challenging.

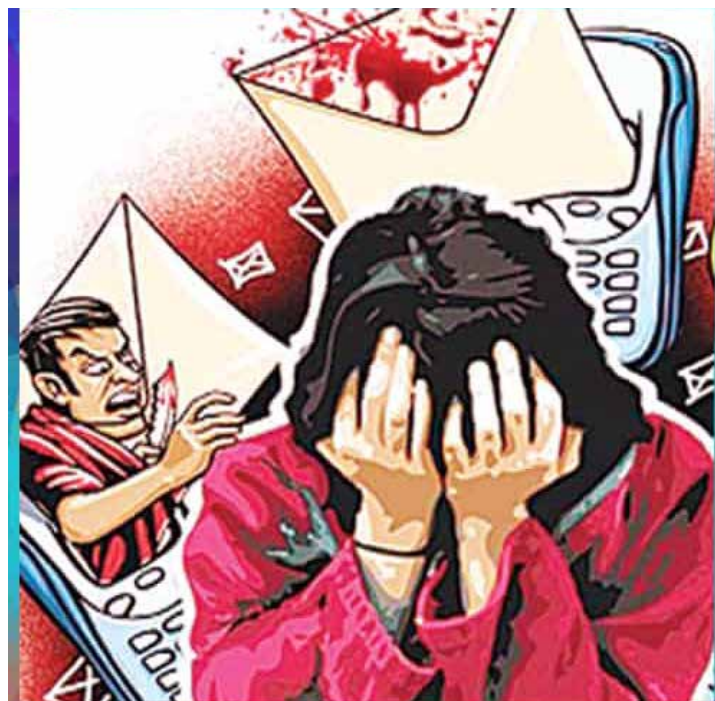
That engineer in March last year explained to the woman the huge returns she would be getting if she invested in a company that deals in cryptocurrency, and went on to coax her to invest in the company where he was getting heavy passive income. He also shared the contact number of a person "who shall guide her" in the investment process, they said. With utmost blind faith, she invested lakhs of rupees. One fine day her virtual account became dysfunctional when she expressed her wish to withdraw some money.

The woman then called the guide and between April 2022 and December 2022, and invested Rs 24 lakh, said an officer who added that a virtual account was created in her name and it showed that her investment had increased to \$62,000, which is equivalent to Rs 52 lakh over a period of time. However, the guide asked for another Rs 12 lakh as income tax and currency conversion fees early this year when the woman expressed her wish to withdraw some money. A few days later, the woman realised that she was swindled on noticing that her virtual account had become dysfunctional and that the two accused stopped responding to her calls and messages. Fine the woman took help from the police and somehow lodged a complaint but the problem won't stop here.

These senior women are not only gullible but at times at life risk. The fear of living alone or loneliness of life drives them towards such traps. Being older than 65, single and looking for romance has never been easy, and for women, who outnumber single men, it's especially challenging. The Internet is making it easier for older women, who didn't grow up with the Web, to get outside their social circles for dating and romance, but it can make them more vulnerable to deception. People are a little generous about themselves in their profiles. When older women go looking online, they are more likely to be targets of Internet scams.

For most 60-year-old women, the whole concept of romance and love is different than in their 20s, 30s, or 40s. Mature single women primarily seek friendship, love, and stability. In addition, a 60-year-old woman wants to be appreciated and accepted for who she truly is. As there is no longer a goal of having children, a 60-year-old woman can relax in her new relationship, looking for a partner who shares similar interests, values, or passions. In addition, they seek emotional closeness, psychological bonding, and intimate connection with someone friendly, caring, and kind.

Most aging women seek someone with whom they can share daily lives, laughter, and adventures; a friend and a lover. Also, if a woman is 60 and up, you are most likely looking for a relationship based on honesty and fidelity, with no drama, addiction, or abuse. Senior women want men to be emotionally honest with them. A mature woman knows that in a relationship there needs to be honesty. It's not worth playing



games with someone who twists the truth. A woman who has been down this road before will not bargain with childish behaviour such as dishonesty. An older woman will know what battles to pursue and which ones to let go of during a dispute. She knows to not react immediately, to choose the right time to talk and to not yell. Senior women's experience of life is their strength, but their emotional weakness makes it disastrous for them. Finding balance, love and commitment is part of a mature woman's mantra. She expects to find the same in her love relationships. She has been through the ropes and is certainly done with the mindless games she's experienced in the past. Is she perfect? No way. Still, she's honest enough to know what she wants in a man and how she wants to live her life.

Vaidehi Tamam

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Sports as an education



- Jayanthi Subramaniam

It is a learning experience of how you make up your mind to become a sportsman during the time your education is also part and parcel of your career. It is a myth that Sportsmen/women make the best citizens of India provided the foundation is laid properly. By getting involved in sports then you can build a bright future, have a high level of fitness and at the same time bring a sportsman spirit in you. Team spirit also leads you to make the most of your life with lots of spadework to the society. As an after thought some of the sportsmen like Sachin Tendulkar build their career based on cricket and build up an empire with sporting background. A game like cricket inculcates knowledge and makes you a complete man. By taking defeat and victory in the same spirit, one faces problems in a balanced state and takes the ups and downs in life with the same frame of mind. One need not get perturbed and frustrated if we face defeat in life or get over joyed when we achieve an ordinary win. For example in a game of cricket, a captain has to imbibe many qualities to become a great leader. He has to have the nerve of a gambler, patience of a saint and the mind of a psychiatrist.

Present day sports personalities lose their temper on and off the field and no exemplary behaviour seen from any of the cricketers. Winning and losing is different but the players should have a good way of representing the country as an ambassador. The game is greater than the individuals. After all, the game provides you all the means to have a great living and hence one should pay utmost respect to the game you love most. Pitching faith in your Guru, parents and coaches in case of sports, you can reap rich dividends for all your hard work. While going on tours to other States or other

countries, you learn their customs, way of living and their culture, which proves to be an education for the youth of this country.

Instead of having a wavering mind towards bad vices, one should have a balanced state of mind and never succumb to the bad vices and understand the realities of life in the best way possible. Being a teetotaler you can help yourselves to sustain for a long time by storing more energy like Sunil Gavaskar. Play the game on merit is the saying and so one should have patience and perseverance and not go beyond the limit to achieve something in a wrong way. Sports can give you a fresh mind, relaxed body and the will to work longer than expected in your career for a longer period as Tendulkar did it in Test match cricket. Once your career is over you can become a coach, commentator, sport scribe or as an expert commentator when you grow in your age. The high level of fitness keeps you moving around in the right direction. In the long and illustrious career one should go miles to bring name and fame to our country. Instead of just being in the side as an also played, working hard can bring results and that will in turn help you to keep our tri-color flying high in the field of sports.

Sports as a career is not a bad option in any way and one should work hard to achieve the goals the best way possible. Early morning workouts and a fit exercise regime can keep you fit most of the time. Pay high attention to diet, which gives you an extra edge and the making of a great player. There is no substitute for experience. Through knowledge, knowing finer points of the game and the intricacies of the values of playing the game will definitely help you to achieve your aim in a very big way.

Letters to the Editor

50 ODI tons & counting, well played Virat Kohli!

Kudos to Virat Kohli on his ODI ton no. 50 which surpasses Tendulkar's record of 49 hundreds, at the Wankhede stadium with master blaster himself cheering from the stands to an standing ovation from the crowds. Records are meant to be broken & proud moment for our country that the record remains with an Indian as Kohli also surpasses Sachin's record of highest runs ever scored in an World Cup tournament.

Virat Kohli took over 100 less innings to surpass Tendulkar's record of ODI hundreds but comparisons can be deceptive as Tendulkar played against top class bowlers like Imran Khan, McGrath, Shane Warne & their tribe but Kohli is an genius apart from being an run machine. Fitness is key to Kohli's achievements & he sure

can add another 25 ODI tons before he decides to hang his boots at 75 ODI tons which will be near impossible for any cricketer to surpass!

S.N.Kabra

Just one step away...

India has entered the final in brilliantly by winning against New Zealand. Along with this, it has also achieved a historic performance by recording many "Virat records". Virat Kohli broke Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries in ODIs in front of Sachin Tendulkar and at Sachin's home ground, and that too in the World Cup. Many new records have been recorded. Mohammed Shami and Shreyas Iyer, architects of yesterday's victory, have also contributed equally. Indian team is now just one step away from the World Cup. No one can stop the winning chariot of Indian team.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Indian Parliament is not serving its purpose these days

Sincere Parliamentarians questioning about Govt Policies and Govt Priorities

really help the Government to set right promptly. Hence constructive criticism is always welcome in the Parliament.

But the Present Government mistakes such MPs and tries to trouble such MPs. Rahul Gandhi of Congress and Ms Mahua of Trinmool Congress of west Bengal are being troubled, as the public is aware of. This should be condemned by one and all. (Outstanding Parliamentarians like Gulam Nawab Azad, Pranab Mukherji, Murali Manohar Joshi, Sushma Swaraj etc were given Awards too. But after 2017, no such award was given) This should be condemned by one and all.

Kantamsetti LakshmanRao

Keep the air clean

Firecrackers were prohibited in four districts, including Patna, on Diwali. Yet this hadn't been put into action. Air pollution increased as a consequence. In Patna and neighboring places, the air has turned poisonous. During the Diwali celebrations, people neglected the environment. We shall have to pay the price for our careless actions if we do not stop. Thus, we should endeavor to keep

up clean air rather than polluting it.

Ibne Ali

Behind the bridge collapse

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday visited the Silkyara-Barkot tunnel site for a review of the rescue operations being carried out there to evacuate 40 labourers trapped inside since Sunday morning following its partial collapse. However, howrah bridge has been standing for decades in same position which was made by British but, now, before being ready a complete bridge, is collapsed. Only because of using raw materials, moreover corruptions. Constructors and political parties all are involved in it equally. The country will be continued to decline instead of progress, until corruption is eradicated from the root.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis said, "People have already made up their minds to give Modi a third term" over 2024 polls



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said people in the country have already decided to give another term to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Talking to reporters at his residence here on the occasion of Diwali, the Bharatiya Janata Party leader also dismissed

speculation that he himself might contest the Lok Sabha elections next year.

"People have already made up their minds to give Modi a third term with a bumper majority in the 2024 general elections. No matter how hard anybody tries, people will not change their minds," Fadnavis said. Asked about speculation that he could

contest the Lok Sabha elections, Fadnavis said he will be contesting the next year's Maharashtra assembly polls from Nagpur. He currently represents the Nagpur South-West assembly seat.

To the question where he saw himself in the next ten years, Fadnavis, a former chief minister, said he will remain with the BJP and carry out whatever responsibility the party assigns to him. On the issue of Maratha quota and activist Manoj Jarange's ongoing state-wide tour, Fadnavis said his priority was to ensure law and order. "I told all the ministers that we have to work as minister of the entire state to ensure there is no tension. The chief minister has promised Maratha quota," said Fadnavis, who also holds the home portfolio. ANI

Dharavi Police have initiated a case against an unidentified individual over Quranic verses in firecrackers



Mumbai's Dharavi Police have initiated a case against an unidentified individual under Section 295 of the IPC after Quranic verses were found in firecrackers. This action comes in response to a complaint from a local resident who found religious text, specifically verses from the Quran, on the remnants of firecrackers during the Diwali celebrations, police said.

During Diwali, the complainant and his friends noticed an individual setting off firecrackers. He stated that pages of the Quran were reportedly used in the making of firecrackers, resulting in verses from the holy Quran being scattered among the

crackers when they burst. "The complainant, Salman stated that when he saw the paper that came out of the burst firecracker, he found something written in Urdu and Arabic. He suspected that it might be verses from the Quran or content from Hadith. Following this, he along with his friend went to a Maulana, showed him all the pieces of paper and expressed their suspicion. The Maulana confirmed that it was indeed a verse from the Quran," police said.

Salman stated that, after this, they lodged a complaint at the nearby Dharavi Police Station. Based on their complaint, the police registered a case against an unknown person. ANI

Uddhav Thackeray says, "Sena has written a letter to the Election Commission of India about relaxation in the Model Code of Conduct" over Ayodhya trip

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday said that after Union Home Minister Amit Shah promised that the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh would arrange a trip to Ayodhya for the state's people if it retained power, the Sena has written to the Election Commission of India asking whether it has relaxed the Model Code of Conduct.

The letter written by the Shiv Sena (UBT) accused the ECI of practising "double standards" in

favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Speaking at a news conference here, Thackeray said the 1987 bypoll in Vile Parle assembly constituency in Maharashtra was fought on the issue of Hindutva which led to the poll body revoking Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's voting rights. "We feel the Model Code of Conduct has been relaxed (this time around). If that is the case, we should know about it," the former Maharashtra chief minister said.

"Giving the BJP a free hit

and dismissing us as a hit wicket does not amount to holding free and fair elections," Thackeray further said, using cricket terminology. Union minister Shah had said earlier this week that if the BJP retained power in Madhya Pradesh, its government will arrange 'darshan' at the Ram temple in Ayodhya for people from the state. The consecration of Lord Ram's idol in Ayodhya has been scheduled for January 22, 2024. PTI

A 38-year-old man held for raping and blackmailing a doctor at South Mumbai

A 38-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly raping a doctor and subsequently blackmailing her in Mumbai, police said. According to the Mumbai police, the woman approached the Gamdevi police station in south Mumbai with a complaint stating that the accused had befriended her during badminton sessions at a club in

the Tardeo area. According to the police, the woman, who was married was not living with her husband due to some domestic issues during this period.

The complainant alleged that the man had offered to speak with her on this matter but when she went to meet him, the accused allegedly spiked her drink, follow-

Bombay HC said, "probe into a case cannot be transferred from police to a special agency" over investigation 'not appealing' to a concerned party

The Bombay High Court has said probe into a case cannot be transferred from police to a special agency merely because the investigation is "not appealing" to a party concerned.

An investigating agency cannot be burdened and is required to appreciate the prosecution's case from all angles for achieving the target of a fair and speedy probe, a division bench of Justices N W Sambre and N R Borkar said on November 6.

It dismissed a petition filed by one Bhagyashree Mote, seeking transfer of probe into the death of her 32-year-old sister from police to the Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department (CID) or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). "Merely because the

investigation of the investigator is not appealing to the party that by itself cannot lead to faulting the investigation by the investigating officer as such the investigation is contrary to their version," the court said.

The HC, while refusing to transfer the probe into the death of the petitioner's sister, noted the power to transfer cases is exercised to provide credibility and instil confidence in the investigations or incidents of national and international ramifications. "It is only in case of reasonable apprehension about the justice becoming a victim because of shabby, partisan and malafide investigation wherein the courts need to be step-in in exercise of extraordinary powers," it said. PTI

Nation

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi has returned bills sent to him by the govt, all set to pass them again



Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi has returned bills sent to him by the government for his assent and the state is all set to get them passed again in a special sitting of the Assembly on November 18. Speaking to reporters at Tiruvannamalai, Speaker M Appavu said a special sitting of the Assembly will be held on Saturday. On the purpose of the special meet, he said he has learnt that Governor Ravi has returned to the government several bills sent to him for his assent. The state government intends getting such bills adopted again immediately, and hence the Assembly will meet on November 18, he added.

The DMK regime has recently approached the Supreme Court accusing the Raj Bhavan of sitting over bills passed by the Assembly. At least 12 bills were pending besides, 4 official orders and a file related to the premature release of 54 prisoners. The number of bills returned to the government by Governor Ravi is not clear.

The Assembly had been adjourned sine die in October. The apex court on November 10 had termed as a "matter of serious concern" the alleged delay by Governor Ravi in giving assent to bills passed by the Assembly. It sought the Centre's response on the state government's petition accusing the Raj Bhavan of "sitting over" 12 bills. **PTI**

BJP leader said, "Four to five other legislators are aspirants for the post of Leader of Opposition" in Karnataka Legislative Assembly



Senior BJP MLA and former Deputy Chief Minister R Ashoka on Thursday said he along with four to five other legislators are aspirants for the post of Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, and whoever is elected, will be acceptable to everyone. The BJP Legislature Party meeting is scheduled for Friday, during which the election of its leader, who will also

be the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, is likely to be announced. "I don't know, the party has to decide. Whoever the party decides, will get the post. None of us have filed an application, such a culture is not there in our party," Ashoka said in response to a question on his name along with MLAs -- Sunil Kumar, Ashwath Narayan and Araga Jnanendra -- doing the rounds for the post. **PTI**

Uttarkashi tunnel incident: Union Minister VK Singh reviews the situation, says "Agencies are making all efforts to complete rescue operation"



Union Minister of State of Road Transport and Highways VK Singh took stock of the operation on Thursday and said that the government and all its agencies are making all efforts to complete within two to three days to rescue 40 workers trapped inside the collapsed under-construction Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi. "Government, all its agencies and experts with whom we can communicate--the efforts of all of us are aimed at rescuing the workers at the earliest. I have spoken with them and their morale is high. They understand that all efforts are being made for them and we are weighing all options to rescue them," Singh told reporters in Uttarkashi.

The tunnel between Silk-

yara and Dandalgaon on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri national highway collapsed in the early hours of November 12. He further said that the labourers were confined in a small space of about 2 kilometres in the debris and they were sending in food and water and oxygen via a pipe to the trapped workers. "Our priority is to rescue them sooner. Efforts are being made for this. All the agencies are putting effort into this. A new machine is working, whose power and speed are better than the old machine. Our effort is to complete this rescue operation within two to three days. We are also taking the help of international experts. They know that the government is working to rescue them," the minister said. **ANI**

Jammu and Kashmir: IAF helicopters were deployed to evacuate survivors of the bus accident

The Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters on Thursday were deployed at the site of a bus accident at Assar in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir. The helicopters evacuated critically injured survivors to Jammu. As many as 38 people were killed and 19 others injured after a bus fell into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda. The bus, carrying 55 passengers, skidded off the road near Trungal-Assar on the Batote-Kishtwar national highway and fell 300 feet downhill, Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the accident Union Minister Jitendra Singh said the state administration would probe the cause of the accident. "It is a very tragic ac-



cident...it is important to make sure this doesn't happen in the future and for that, I'm sure the local administration over there would try to find out the factors responsible for this, they have already announced constituting a committee...how the traffic can be controlled in the accident prone terrains, is something the

govt should address in the years to come" the Union Minister said. Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the tragic Doda bus accident and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the PM's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of each of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured. **ANI**

Delhi Pollution: Air quality to remain in 'severe' category

A thick layer of smog veiled the national capital Delhi on Thursday morning with air quality being recorded in the 'severe' category in several parts of the city As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the air quality at 7 am in Bawana was recorded at 442, RK



Puram was 418 in in Jahangirpuri it was 441 in Dwarka it was 416 in Alipur 415, in Anand Vihar at 412, in ITO it was 412 and near the Delhi airport the AQI was recorded at 401. Visuals from India Gate this morning showed people exercising and working out wearing masks. **ANI**

World

UK: Medical regulators has approved gene therapy to cure two blood disorders-sickle-cell disease



Medical regulators in the UK have approved a gene therapy, that aims to cure two blood disorders-sickle-cell disease and beta-thalassemia. After rigorous testing on safety, quality and effectiveness, Britain's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has authorised the world's first gene therapy, that will work to treat sickle-cell disease as well as B-thalassemia in patients aged 12 and above.

The medicine called Casgevy utilises the innovative gene-editing tool CRISPR. Inventors of the ground-breaking tool, Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna were awarded the 2020

Nobel Prize. Both sickle cell disease and B-thalassemia are genetic conditions caused by errors in the genes for haemoglobin, which is used by red blood cells to carry oxygen around the body. "Sickle cell disease is particularly common in people with an African or Caribbean family background. B-thalassemia mainly affects people of Mediterranean, south Asian, southeast Asian and Middle Eastern origin," Britain's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said on Thursday.

MHRA Interim Director Julian Beach said in the statement that both sickle cell disease and beta-thalassemia are painful, life-

long conditions that in some cases can be fatal. "To date, a bone marrow transplant - which must come from a closely matched donor and carries a risk of rejection - has been the only permanent treatment option," Beach said.

The CRISPR system has been called "genetic scissors", which will be able to resolve the genetic coding holding sickle cell disease and B-thalassemia. These genetic errors can lead to "attacks of very severe pain serious and life-threatening infections, and anaemia" The Casgevy medicine will edit the faulty gene in a patient's bone marrow stem cells, enabling the body to produce functioning haemoglobin. In order to achieve this, the stem cells will be removed from the bone marrow of the patient, edited in a laboratory and then re-infused with the patient, with potentially life-long results.

Chief Executive of the Sickle Cell Society, John James OBE said, "There are limited medicines currently available to patients, so I welcome today's news that a new treatment has been judged safe and effective, which has the potential to significantly improve the quality of life for so many." ANI

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meets new Foreign Secretary David Cameron, talks about UK's support for Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday met UK's new Foreign Secretary David Cameron. During the meeting, Cameron reiterated the UK's support for Ukraine. The two leaders held a meeting focused on weapons, strengthening air defence and protecting the people of Ukraine and its critical infrastructure. It was David Cameron's first visit to Ukraine as UK's Foreign Secretary.

Taking to X, Zelenskyy stated, "Hosted @David_Cameron on his first visit to Ukraine as Foreign Secretary of the UK. We had a good meeting focused on weapons for the frontline, strengthening air defense, and protecting our people and critical infrastructure. I am grateful to the UK for its support!"

In his remarks, Cameron reiterated the UK's support for Ukraine. He stressed that the UK will continue to support Ukraine for "how long it takes." Cameron acknowledged that he had disagreements with former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. However, he added that he fully backed Johnson's support for Ukraine.



David Cameron said, "I admire the strength and determination of the Ukrainian people. And what I want to say by being here is that we will continue to give you the moral support, the diplomatic support, the economic support, but above all, the military support that you need, not just this year and next year, but how long it takes." "I had some disagreements with my friend Boris Johnson, but we've known each other for 40 years and his support was the finest thing that he and his government did. And I back it 100 per cent. And so it's really important to have this meeting to hear what it is emoji to work out how we can work together, how we can get the communications right with all our friends and know to make sure the attention is here in Ukraine," he added. ANI

Malaysian authorities seized drugs worth PKR 5 billion from Pakistani goods, 5 held

Busting a mega smuggling scandal, Malaysian authorities seized drugs worth PKR 5 billion in Malaysia from Pakistani goods and arrested five local suspects, ARY News reported. According to details, a huge cache of drugs was seized from a Pakistani container carrying onions in Malaysia.

The Malaysian authorities said that over 100 kg of cocaine and 411 kg of methamphetamine drugs, which were worth more than five billion Pakistani rupees, were confiscated. Malaysia's Customs and Narcotics Crime In-

vestigation Department conducted a raid and arrested five local suspects. Meanwhile, on the other hand, the Malaysian authorities informed FBR and TDAP in Pakistan via an emergency letter. Pakistan Customs registered an FIR soon after the letter was received and arrested two Pakistani nationals, including the clearing agent, Amir Ali Khan.

Earlier, the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), in a raid in Gwadar, seized large consignments of drugs hidden at different spots, according to ARY News. ANI

Australia: Racial discrimination faced by a Sikh entrepreneur stating 'Go Home'

A Sikh restaurateur living in Australia has alleged that he has been racially targeted several times in recent months, telling him to "go home" and smearing his car with dog excrement. Jarnail Singh, who runs a res-



taurant in Hobart, Tasmania, said he has been continuously

targeted for over the last two, or three months, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported. "Never, ever has this happened to me before, and it's been continuous (over) the last two, three months," Singh was quoted as saying. PTI

China: Fire broke out at coal mine firm leaves at least 26 people killed, 38 injured

A fire ripped through a building of a coal mine company in north China's Shanxi province on Thursday, killing at least 26 people and injuring 38, state media re-

ported. The fire started on the second floor of the five-story building located in Lishi District of Lyuliang City at around 6.50 am (local time). The on-site rescue operation ended at 1:45

pm (local time) on Thursday, according to the information office of the city. An earlier report by the state-run Xinhua news agency said 60 people were sent to the hospital for treatment. PTI

Expression

Corruption in Haryana: Facts defy the CM claim



Jag Mohan Thakur

Columnist

CONTD..

How the facts defying the CM claim?

While celebrating 56th Haryana Day on 01 November, 2021 the Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar said that transparency in jobs is the main aim of his government. Complete transparency is being exercised in the recruitments being done by Haryana Staff Selection Commission and Haryana Public Service Commission. He claimed that the government has provided 83,000 government jobs over a period of 7 years without 'Parchi- Kharchi' (No Recommendation – No Bribe).

But just within two weeks the much-hyped slogan of 'No-Parchi – No Kharchi' dashed to ground when a mountainous multi-crore Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC) scam of corruption in recruitment was unearthed and an FIR was lodged by the State Vigilance Bureau (now Anti-Corruption Bureau), on November 17, 2021, against Commission's Deputy Secretary Anil Nagar and others. As per a report, published in the online edition of The Tribune on November 8, 2023, quoting the Enforcement Directorate (ED) citing a forensic report, the OMR (Optical Mark Recognition) sheets of 13 candidates for the Dental Surgeon recruitment test and 15 for the Haryana Civil Service (Executive Branch) preliminary examination conducted in 2021 were tampered with.

As per ED, version reported in The Tribune, a total of Rs 3.30 crore was recovered, of it Rs 1.08 crore from Nagar's room in the HPSC office and Rs 66 lakh was recovered from the residence of Nagar's friend Ashish Kumar and his father Satish Garg, while another Rs 1.44 crore (belonging to Nagar) was surrendered by Ashish. Another Rs 12 lakh was recovered from Nagar's house.

In an official release on November 8, 2023, the Director General of Police and DG of the Haryana Anti-Corruption Bureau, Shatrujeet Kapur claims that by taking proactive steps this year, the Bureau has underlined



its unwavering and steadfast commitment to providing corruption-free governance. But the figures show that despite the arduous efforts of the bureau to curb the corruption, the number of persons, involved in corruption, nabbed are increasing year by year. It shows that the official machinery has no fear of getting nabbed, reasons are best known to them.

However, the release confirms that the number of registered cases has significantly increased, with 140 trap cases registered by the Bureau from January to the end of October in 2023. In the same period this year, the Bureau arrested a total of 31 gazetted officers, 149 non-gazetted officers, and 30 individuals from the private sector. This reflects a substantial improvement compared to last year when 21 gazetted officers, 140 non-gazetted officers, and 26 private individuals were arrested during the same timeframe. Similarly, in 2021, the Bureau arrested 8 gazetted officers, 40 non-gazetted officers, and 49 private individuals during this period, indicating an increased vigilance against corrupt activities and a proactive approach in tackling corruption.

But the increase in the number of fish caught in the net doesn't reflect the efficiency of the fisherman alone, it also indicates that fish are increasing abundantly. More the fish - More the nabbing. Need of spreading the net for nabbing the corrupt through

appointment of extra 15 CVOs clearly shows that the corruption is growing like unwanted weeds.

The Bureau shared some recent Notable Cases of corruption. The Bureau states -- A corruption case involving government officials and private individuals in the Forest Department and Haryana State Warehousing Corporation is under investigation. Dilip Singh, a former Divisional Forest Officer in Haryana State Forest Department, Charkhi Dadri, was found involved in corrupt activities and bribery of 300,000. Sunil Kumar, Deputy Forest Range, Badhra, Charkhi Dadri, was also implicated in the corruption case.

A major corruption scandal surfaced in Haryana State Warehousing Corporation, Panchkula, involving a high-ranking government official and a private individual engaging in bribery amounting to 300,000. Jaiveer Singh, a senior IAS officer and managing director of Haryana State Warehousing Corporation, Panchkula. Sandeep Ghanghas, a manager at Haryana Warehousing Corporation, Panipat. Manish Sharma, a private individual. Rajesh Bansal, General Manager (Confed), Haryana State Warehousing Corporation, Panchkula. All these individuals face serious charges of bribery and corruption worth 300,000.

Additionally, as part of the anti-corruption drive, the Bureau has arrested 49 police officers for soliciting bribes ranging from 100,000 to 2,000

this year.

These cases are only a sample one. Most of these corruption cases are trapped by the persons, who even after paying the bribe are being harassed. In most of the instances, the Anti-Corruption Bureau comes into fore only when someone complains them. A major chunk of such cases remains hidden as no one complains.

The day-to-day corruption at Tehsils and Sub-Divisions mostly goes on unheeded. There is hardly a case of sale purchase of land, intkaal entry, registration of vehicles, issuance of driving licences etc. where a common man is not looted, but they don't echo their voice and end up with murmuring the words of pain due to fear. Will someone have an eagle eye on these places?

The release by the DGP claims this reflects the government's commitment to eradicating corruption and maintaining transparency within its ranks. However, the campaign by the Haryana Anti-Corruption Bureau plays a crucial role in upholding the highest standards of governance and public service, but why are the efforts of the bureau not succeeding in hammering the corruption?

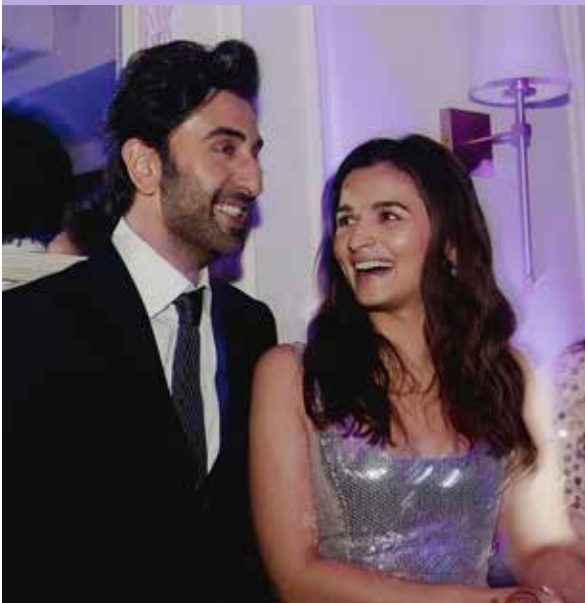
Why does the need for appointment of special Chief Vigilance Officers arise? Isn't the recruitment of 15 CVOs in the Chief Secretary's office enough evidence to understand the current state of corruption in the state, as alleged by Kumari Selja?

Shouldn't the allegation levelled by Congress leader Kumari Selja that the corruption is rapidly increasing in the BJP-JJP alliance government, leading to a continuous rise in corruption records for the state government, be heeded seriously?

Despite all these steps by the state government and its agencies, why the corrupt persons are putting their service and credibility on stake, is the question which asks for the answer and why does the claim of the Chief Minister, Mr. Khattar of 'Zero Tolerance to Corruption' remain a hollow slogan? Now the CM will have to rethink the strategy being adopted to eliminate corruption to succeed in his mission of a corruption free state.

Entertainment

Alia Bhatt opens about her relationship with husband Ranbir Kapoor after 'toxic' trend on social media



The latest episode of 'Koffee with Karan' season 8 saw actors Alia Bhatt and Kareena Kapoor Khan gracing the famous talk show couch. In a candid conversation with host Karan Johar, the 'Raazi' actor reacted to the internet calling her husband Ranbir Kapoor 'toxic'.

Recently, Ranbir was labelled as 'toxic' or a 'red flag' after his wife Alia candidly made a revelation about their equation on social media. Alia revealed that she tries to keep her lipstick faded and minimal as her husband doesn't like it. While Alia seemingly thought she was sharing a cute detail about her relationship with Ranbir, many social media users did not think so.

In the video, she said, "One thing my husband... when he wasn't my husband but when he was my boyfriend as well... he would be like 'wipe that off, wipe that off' because he loves the natural colour of my lips."

Actor said, "I have a very candid way of speaking. So when I talk about anything in my life, I like to imitate the person, give anecdotes, make it personal. I feel a lot of things get picked out of context, which happened recently with the video. My team told me 'ye kuch out of hand jaara hai'. I was like, okay theek hai jaane do. Then I realise that there were serious articles written about how he was a toxic man, and I thought, 'are we serious?' There are many issues in the world to give more attention to."

"The only reason I feel bad is because he is genuinely the opposite... There is a line which I think is being crossed but you cannot say anything about it. Ranbir says this, 'Alia the audience owns you, they can say whatever the hell they want to say about you, as long as your movies are doing well please don't complain sitting in your apartment in Bandra'," she added.

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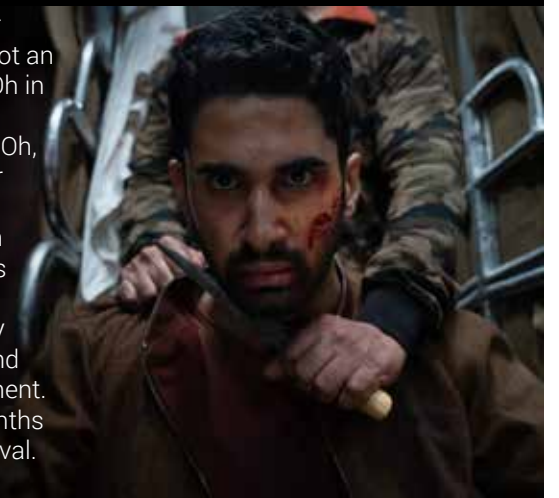
Actor Raghav Juyal talks about importance of 'Kill' film in his life and career

'Kill' film will remain special for actor Raghav Juyal for many reasons. One of the main reasons is that he got an opportunity to work with action maestro Se-yeong Oh in the thriller.

Opening up about his experience working with Se-yeong Oh, Raghav said, "It feels like an important moment in my career as an actor, the chance to work with Se-yeong Oh is nothing short of a dream come true. His mastery in designing action sequences is unparalleled, and I'm thrilled to be a part of this cinematic journey."

'Kill' is directed by Nikhil Nagesh Bhat and is produced by Karan Johar and Apoorva Mehta for Dharma Productions and Guneet Monga Kapoor and Achin Jain for Sikhya Entertainment. The film also stars Lakshya and Tanya Maniktala. A few months ago, it was premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

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Amid dating rumours, Ananya Panday pens a special wish for Aditya Roy Kapur

As actor Aditya Roy Kapur turned a year older today, warm wishes have been pouring in, but the most special wish is finally here. His rumoured girlfriend and actor, Ananya Panday, shared a stunning picture to wish him. Taking to Instagram story, Ananya posted a photo featuring Aditya with the scenic view as a backdrop.

Sharing the image, she wrote, "Happy Birthday AD." Ananya and Aditya have been rumoured to be dating for some time. It all began when the two made a joint appearance at Kriti Sanon's Diwali party last year. However, neither of them has confirmed the reports. The two also reportedly visited Maldives recently to celebrate Ananya's 25th birthday. ANI



TV host Jimmy Kimmel is all set to return to host 'Oscars'



American TV host and comedian Jimmy Kimmel is all set to return as host of the 96th Academy Awards, reported People. "I always dreamed of hosting the Oscars exactly four times," Kimmel said in a release.

He took to X and shared his excitement in the post, "I am enthused to announce that I am returning to host the #Oscars on Sunday March 10th. Please keep it between us, thanks.@TheAcademy"

"We are thrilled about Jimmy returning to host and Molly returning as executive producer for the Oscars. They share our love of movies and our commitment to producing a dynamic and entertaining show for our global audience," said Academy CEO Bill Kramer and Academy President Janet Yang. ANI