



By CM Devendra Fadnavis said, "Lalit Patil's arrest will soon give a

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# Afternoon

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## Aaditya Thackeray's caveat is likely to be listed on October 20



The PIL filed in June this year has not come up for hearing as yet and as per the high court's computerised system, Thackeray's caveat is likely to be listed on October 20. The PIL had also sought direction to the state government to initiate contempt proceedings against the CBI officials who allegedly disregarded and defied specific directions from the Supreme Court in previous cases. Aaditya Thackeray filed a caveat in the Bombay High Court seeking to be heard before any order is passed in a PIL by a lawyer seeking direction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to

probe him in relation to the deaths of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and his former manager Disha Salian in 2020. Salian, 28, died on June 8, 2020, after falling off the 14th floor of a residential building in Mumbai's Malad. Sushant Singh Rajput died by suicide at his Bandra residence on June 14 that year.

Thackeray filed an intervention application through advocate Rahul Arote on October 13, stating that the said PIL was non-maintainable as the investigation in the Sushant Singh Rajput case is already being conducted by the CBI, the Supreme Court is seized of the matter,

and no order can be passed by the high court in this regard.

Petitioner lawyer Rashid Khan Pathan, who claimed to be president of the 'Supreme Court & High Court Litigants Association of India', had sought direction to CBI to conduct a custodial interrogation of Thackeray and that a comprehensive probe report should be submitted by the central agency.

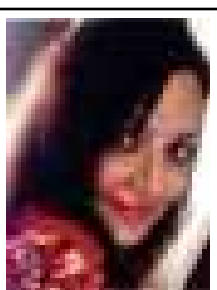
Mumbai police still probing into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput in June 2020, an FIR had been filed in Patna on the complaint of Rajput's father against actor Rhea Chakraborty, his girl-

friend. Chakraborty had approached the Supreme Court seeking transfer of the Patna FIR to Mumbai police as it was already probing the suicide. The Supreme Court transferred the case to the CBI.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is probing allegations of money laundering against Chakraborty and others based on a complaint filed by Rajput's father. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was looking into the drugs case which was filed after Rajput's death. In July, this year, the NCB told the Supreme Court that it was not challenging bail granted to Chakraborty by the Bombay High Court in a drugs case.

### ED and CBI are run as errand boys of the government

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

The success ratio of ED and CBI investigations is less than 5 present in India. They don't reach justified conclusions. The cases are not closed, nor end, they are just kept pending, so that when arm twisting is to be done to gain political support, just open the files again. It happened in Sahar owners Subroto Roy's case, Mayawati and bro's case, jayalalithas case, Mulayam case, Devilal son's and thousands. The people in both these institutions are not saints. They might have made lots of illegal money, but the beauty is none of them ever got caught or punished. The supreme courts fall in the same bracket. All these institutions and heads are the ultimate authorities and their judgements can't be challenged. Let it be UPA or BJP both used CBI to their advantage but since 2014 almost all the central agen-

cies are working as task masters for BJP.

Gradually, the opposition parties are deforming under stress, which is growing strong and becoming a colossal party. The Indian National Congress has shrunk in size and also in its political clout in the country. The party is finding it difficult to save their President and Vice-President from humiliation even after country wide protests. The Enforcement Directorate started targeting Robert Vadra, they summoned Vadra several times in the name of investigation but they found nothing against him. ED questioned Rahul Gandhi and Sonia but no conclusion was drawn so far.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

# ED and CBI are run as errand boys of the government

▶▶ PAGE 1

*All the regional parties are gradually finished, BSP, INLD, RLD, RJD, SP, NCP, are finding it difficult to make their powerful presence.*

*BJP won back-to-back elections twice. In 2024 too these opposition parties do not seem to do any better. This is worrying them more. They do not have a leader who can challenge Modi.*

*The agencies are doing their job but only with opposition leaders. It seems all BJP leaders are honest, no ED inquiry against BJP leader so far.*

All the regional parties are gradually finished, BSP, INLD, RLD, RJD, SP, NCP, are finding it difficult to make their powerful presence. Shiv Sena, too, has joined the group. DMK is surviving, but their end too seems to be near fast. Chandrashekar Rao of TRS is shaking against the might of BJP. Even if he survives the onslaught, it will be a difficult time for him in the future. BJD and YSRCP are clever, developing a friendship with BJP. Also, these two are quite strong in their states. Mamata Banerjee's vigour and drive they once exhibited is lost now. It is not without reason that all of them fear BJP and their political strategy.

BJP won back-to-back elections twice. In 2024 too these opposition parties do not seem to do any better. This is worrying them more. They do not have a leader who can challenge Modi. Some of these parties feel their citadel may collapse under the onslaught of BJP.

Some opposition parties are working on Modi -BJP -RSS hate and some are trying to disturb the Society by unwanted large scale unjustified demonstrations, riots etc and inciting communal disturbances, some which are supported by some states' inaction in these incidents. Therefore, these parties not having any alternative narrative but working on revenge, blind hatred and indulging in above said activities are destroying themselves. BJP need not do anything as they are self-destruction. Family run parties will wither away as they don't have any ideology or plans of development or any alternate narrative.

In most of the cases, the searches have proved that they have been successful in unearthing hidden wealth, unaccounted assets and also property, like in the latest case of Tamil Nadu where they found 4.5 kgs of unaccounted gold and 125 crores investments. The agencies are doing their job but only with opposition leaders. It seems all BJP leaders are honest, no ED inquiry against BJP leader so far.

Shiv Sena was in alliance with BJP in 2014, five years after they ruled the state, but there was no ED inquiry against Sanjay Raut. Now ED has detained Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut? Hundreds of entrepreneurs left the country in the last five years. The Bharatiya Janata Party

has good people as well as business-minded people. Such people are there in all political parties, but the Union government only goes after those who are with the Opposition. This is the death of democracy. The Money Laundering Act restricts ill-gotten gains and their owners. It is to prevent financial turnover in drugs, smuggling, and through hawala channels. However, in our country only the politicians fear being targeted under the Money Laundering Act. Corruption is born out of covering up misdeeds of a few favoured people. From Sonia Gandhi to Rahul Gandhi, many Opposition leaders are on the radar of the central investigation agencies.

NCP leader Praful Patel was also harassed. If tomorrow, he goes to the ruling party and does what the ruling party wants, he will also become 'virtuous'. Just like the 16 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs and 12 MPs from Maharashtra suddenly became righteous. The MLAs and MPs, who left the Uddhav Sena to join the pro-BJP faction, were under the scanner of the ED and Income-Tax authorities and BJP leader Kirit Somayya had planned to send them to jail. However, they have got a clean chit since helping the BJP form the government in Maharashtra.

Patra chal case is of 2008. Shiv Sena was in alliance with BJP from 2014 to 2019 why they did not investigate cases against Raut and other leaders who are under the scanner now. 2019 BJP got annoyed because Sena made alliance with NCP and Congress. What if Shiv Sena would have been in alliance with BJP? I am not stating that the leaders are not corrupt, they could be, but when they were with BJP no one bothered to take action, but why now all of a sudden?

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## Boost Your Confidence In The Workplace



- Vijay Garg

If you struggle with feelings of self-doubt and long to boost your confidence at work, you're not alone. One-third of Americans suffer from imposter syndrome, according to a Moneypenny survey. The study also showed that women (35%) tend to suffer more than men (30%) from feelings of inadequacy in the workplace.

Some common signs of low confidence at work include downplaying your achievements, perfectionism, negative self-talk and a fear of making mistakes, to name a few. You might even turn to over-achieving and taking on more than you can handle to deal with a lack of confidence. Unfortunately, if left untreated, low self-esteem can hinder your professional development and keep you from reaching your full potential.

### Work on your personal brand

Your personal brand reflects how you want people to see you. It exists whether you create it or not. However, ideally, it should be intentional and consistent. To audit your existing brand, then determine what adjustments need to be made. By identifying your target audience and being authentic, you can build a personal brand that helps differentiate you in today's increasingly competitive work environment.

### Volunteer for high-profile assignments

Another way to boost your confidence at work is to volunteer for high-profile assignments. Projects that increase your visibility help you get ahead in your career. One reason is that when people know who you are, they are more likely to consider you for promotions. Also, it's a great way to build relationships with people in other departments.

### Find a mentor

The right mentoring relationship can boost your confidence as well as your career. Start by identifying your goals and asking yourself who your role models are. Is there someone already informally mentoring you? They may be a great source of ongoing assistance and support in a formal capacity.

### Identify what makes you unique

Whether you're an excellent communicator, a gifted problem-solver or a natural leader, everyone has special talents that separate them from the crowd. Think about your core gifts. For example, what qualities do others say they admire in you? What comes easily to you that may be difficult for others? Then, post a comprehensive list somewhere visible to boost your confidence.

### Celebrate small wins

With all the distractions in life, we forget to acknowledge small

victories at work. But celebrating those little wins can help you know your worth. It's also a good way to remind yourself that you are making progress, which keeps you motivated.

### Speak up intelligently in meetings

Whether the meeting is remote or in-person, it pays to prepare beforehand. Remember that you've been invited because you have something valuable to offer. Making your voice heard has multiple benefits, like boosting your confidence, improving your communication skills and strengthening professional relationships. By sharing your ideas with the team, you'll showcase your value and knowledge, which can lead to leadership opportunities down the road.

### Connect with colleagues

When you feel disconnected, it can wear on your self-esteem. Feelings of loneliness can even negatively impact your health. In fact, one study reveals that loneliness increases your chance of stroke or coronary heart disease by 30%. Feelings of isolation have become even more pronounced with the rise in remote work. To combat these emotions, establish social ties at work. Connecting with colleagues will boost your confidence while building trust and cultivating connections.

### Be cognizant of your language

You don't have to be the loudest person in the room to speak with confidence. Instead, focus on your speech habits. Try to eliminate words like "just," "well," or "I think." These words and phrases undermine the point you're trying to make. Also, when people are nervous, they tend to babble. So, take your time when sharing an idea or making a statement.

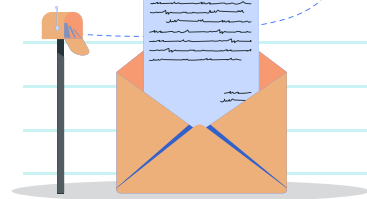
### Stop comparing yourself

Is your organization filled with a bunch of PhDs while you were lucky to finish your undergraduate degree? Or maybe you notice your peers getting promoted more quickly and wonder, "Why not me?" Comparing yourself to others is a waste of time because it makes you anxious and frustrated. Plus, it distracts you from what's important. Instead, take back your power and embrace the competition. There will always be someone more intelligent or successful. The trick is acknowledging the unique value you bring to the table.

### Change your inner dialogue

Do you speak to yourself the way you would to a best friend? If the answer is no, it's time to practice positive self-talk. Be good to yourself. If a negative thought enters your mind, replace it with a positive twist.

## Letters to the Editor



### Unhuman Act

It is heart-rending news that hundreds were killed by a massive blast at Al-Ahli Baptist hospital in Gaza amid the conflict between Israel and Palestine on Tuesday. The hospital was sheltering thousands of displaced people when it was bombed on Tuesday. It is totally unhuman and a major crime against humanity and against the population of Gaza. All nations should contribute to stopping this conflict as soon as possible, but unfortunately, all nations only remain spectacular. The cycle of war must be broken.

Jahangir Shaikh

### Management of Time Table

Many times we think that despite working all day in the office today, why is the work not completed? Today we studied all day but why isn't the lesson over? This is because we studied or did this work just for show. More than half of our attention was focused on other things. There are many things that prevent us from working during works or studying at home. It is better to understand these things and set some rules for ourselves. The most important thing is to stay away from the mobile phone and the Internet. Promise yourself that we will not touch mobile phone until we finish work or finish this chapter of book. This promise is important because people spend most of the time sending messages, checking WhatsApp, or checking Facebook. Set time for each task. Do office work in the office and housework at home. Give time to your family. Give rest your mobile phone as well.

N Ashraf

### Gas balloon sellers be prohibited at crowded places!

A balloon vendor was filling a balloon with gas when the cylinder exploded in Islampura area of Latur in Maharashtra. The balloon seller died on the spot in the explosion. Twelve children were also injured. Prior to this, such shocking incidents of cylinder explosions have happened in other places too. If an accident occurs in a crowded place, there is a possibility of great loss of life. Younger children are more likely near primary schools and playgrounds. Gas balloon sellers should be prohibited from doing business in such crowded places.

Sudhir Kangutkar

### Open public gardens for religious functions like navratri & ganpatti!

Navratri mandap in Borivali is causing massive traffic jam & this is a matter of grave

concern. Citizens should not take undue advantage in the name of religion by erecting mandaps on roads be it for Navratri, Ganpati or any other religious functions. Most of them do not have the required 'permission' from the authorities & cops do not take action because of the involvement of politicians for whom the devotees are the vote banks.

No mandaps should be allowed on roads in a city like Mumbai which already has traffic issues & safety concerns of people too cannot be ignored or compromised. Govt should open public gardens for functions like navratri & ganpati so that roads are free for vehicular movement in a city which is busy round the clock!

S.N.Kabra

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

[afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com)

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

## The three-party alliance MahaYuti locks horns over seat-sharing for 2024 Lok Sabha election



**M**aharashtra has a total of 48 Lok Sabha seats. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena has demanded 22 seats, while deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's NCP is seeking 11 seats. The third alliance partner BJP has 22 MPs in the current

Lok Sabha. BJP and Shiv Sena (Shinde) already held discussions on seat-sharing for Lok Sabha where Shinde's Sena had demanded 22 seats as its current Shiv Sena Lok Sabha MPs are from Shiv Sena.

Senior Shiv Sena leader of Eknath Shinde-led faction Mr

Kadam said "When we were one Shiv Sena (Uddhav-Eknath) we had won the 18 Lok Sabha seats and lost four candidates by close margin, so Shiv Sena should be given more than 20 seats in Maharashtra as per our forte. Out of total 18 Lok Sabha MPs, the majority MPs are with us."

Whereas BJP is the single largest party with 105 MLAs, and with their support, the party with 41 MLAs have Eknath Shinde as the chief minister, while another party with the same number of MLAs' support have Ajit Pawar as deputy chief minister. If Shinde gets 22 seats, and Ajit Pawar-led NCP gets 11 seats, then how many seats are remaining for BJP? 15 seats in total 48 Lok Sabha seats?

## Court allows home-cooked food for Naresh Goyal in jail



**A**SPECIAL court on Wednesday permitted Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal access to home-cooked food while in jail. The 74-year-old is lodged at Arthur Road jail after his arrest by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in September in connection with alleged money-laundering of Rs 538.62 crore loan given by Canara Bank to the company.

Goyal had sought home-cooked food referring to his health issues. The court had last month rejected his plea for home food stating that the medical officer of the jail would decide and fix the jail food suitable for him. He had again approached the court citing the various ailments he has and said that he requires a proper diet. Special Judge M G Deshpande allowed the applica-

tion. "The accused is permitted to avail home-cooked food on a daily basis, as prayed, at his own risk and the risk of his family/relatives, until further order," the court said. On Wednesday, the court extended Goyal's judicial custody till October 30. He was produced before the court through video-conference.

Last month, Goyal had sought proper bedding facilities in jail citing his health issues, including having undergone a bypass surgery, diabetes, asthma, restricted mobility, neck pain and spine issues, due to a fall in June 2022. The ED had said his request must be decided as per the jail rules. The court had then directed the medical officer of the jail to see which bedding suits him and directed the superintendent to provide the same as per his health issues.

## Shinde-led Sena to hold Dussehra rally at Azad Maidan on October 24



**C**hief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena has finalised Azad Maidan grounds in Mumbai to hold the party's Dussehra rally this year. According to party leaders, all the necessary permissions required to hold the Dussehra rally at the Azad Maidan next week

have been granted to the party and the preparations for the rally have begun.

The leaders said the party has got the permission to hold a rally at Cross Maidan and Azad Maidan. However, the party has decided to hold the rally at Azad Maidan on October 24.

## Maratha Quota: A man from Jalna district dies by suicide at Bandra

**A** man from Jalna district who came to Mumbai for the cause of Maratha reservation allegedly died by suicide, police said on Thursday. He allegedly hanged himself with a rope under the Western Express Highway in the Bandra area of Mumbai. The incident is said to have happened on Wednesday night, police said.

The deceased is identified as Sunil Baburao Kawle, a resident of Chikangaon village in Ambad taluka of Jalna district, police said. A purported suicide note and a mobile phone were found in his bag, they added. In the suicide note, the deceased wrote, "People of the Maratha community should gather in Mumbai on October 24 for the movement for the Maratha reservation." At the end of the suicide note, he also apologised, police said.

The Kherwadi Police of Mumbai has registered a case. The body has been sent for a post-mortem examination, po-



lice said.

The Maratha community has been protesting for over a month for the community's inclusion into the OBC list in the state. Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole earlier this month questioned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s stand on the Maratha community's demand for reservations, holding the BJP solely responsible for the ongoing protests in

the state. "The thorns that BJP had sown to win the elections are now coming out, BJP should fulfil the promise it had made in 2014 regarding 16 per cent Maratha reservation. Now there is a BJP government in the Center and the state too. Why are they not giving reservations?" Nana Patole said while speaking to ANI. "BJP is responsible for the protests of the Maratha community," Patole said. ANI

## Nation

### West Bengal : IIT Kharagpur student found dead at hostel, Probe underway



of the Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Hall of Residence and chose the path of self-harm on the night of October 17, 2023," the statement said.

The institute informed that the deceased was with his two roommates in their hostel room and after an hour the other two students left, Chandra was found hanging in his room. He was taken to the BC Roy Technology Hospital where he was declared dead. "Till about 7:30 PM, K Kiran Chandra was with two of his roommates in their hostel room. Later, the other two students left for academic activities. Subsequently, around 8.30 PM, fellow boarders of the LBS Hall found his room locked from inside. The door was forced open and he was found hanging. The Security and other students brought him to the BC Roy Technology Hospital immediately. Despite all efforts by the doctors, Kiran was declared dead around 11:30 PM," the institute said. ANI

A fourth-year student of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in West Bengal was found hanging in his hostel room on Tuesday, police said. According to the police, the deceased has been identified as K Kiran Chandra, from the Electrical Engineering Department of IIT Kharagpur. The deceased is a resident of the Medak district of Telangana.

The deceased's father, said, "Why is there so much stress

among students in IIT? He was stressed due to a project."

A statement issued by IIT Kharagpur noted that the student "chose the path of self-harm," while the police said they are investigating the matter. "With a sense of utter shock, the Students, Staff and Faculty members of IIT Kharagpur deeply mourn the sudden demise of K Kiran Chandra, a 4th year Dual Degree student in the Department of Electrical Engineering. He was a boarder

### Jammu and Kashmir: A person posing as IAS officer dupes a resident over Rs 6 lakh in Budgam, held



A man accused of impersonating an IAS officer and duping a local resident of Budgam of over Rs 6 lakh has been arrested, police said on Thursday. As per Jammu and Kashmir police, on October 18, Budgam police station received a formal written complaint from Ghulam Hassan Malik, a resident of Aalipora Putlibagh, about an alleged impersonation scam.

"The applicant accused an Ayush Koul, also known as 'Vicky', residing at Rose Lane No. 06, Rajbagh, Srinagar, of

posing as an IAS officer and defrauding him of Rs 6.5 lakh under the pretext of securing government job for the applicant's son. In response to the complaint, an FIR No. 302/2023 was registered under sections 419 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in police station Budgam. During the investigation, the primary suspect, Ayush Koul, was apprehended," they added. Moreover, Burhan Bashir, Koul's accomplice and a resident of Nundresh Colony, Beminia has also been arrested in the matter. ANI

### Delhi: A 52-yr-old woman found dead at bathroom, accused held

A 52-year-old woman was allegedly strangled in the national capital's Madangir area by her husband who later placed the body in their bathroom, police said on Thursday. According to police the man had a fight with his wife over her taking up a job and wanted to step outside their home to work. Following the incident on Tuesday, the accused placed the body inside a bathroom in his house. The accused has been arrested and will be presented in court today as per police.

According to the police, Akash, their son, gave a written complaint at the scene of the crime stating that his father murdered his mother. "The patient was brought to hospital in an unconscious state. She had a swelling on her right eyebrow and on the left side of forehead, a bruise on the right clavicle and right forehead and multiple bruises around her neck. The body bore signs of strangulation and nail marks," police said quoting doctors. PTI

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### Newslick case: SC issues notice to Delhi police on pleas of founder and HR head against the arrest

The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice to Delhi police on pleas filed by Newslick founder and Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha and website's human resources head Amit Chakraborty challenging their arrest under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) over alleged Chinese funding to promote anti-national propaganda. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and PK Mishra sought a response from Delhi Police and posted the matter for hearing on October 30.

Purkayastha and Chakraborty moved the apex court challenging the Delhi High Court's order upholding the trial court order remanding them to police custody. They have since been remanded to judicial custody.

The duo were arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police on October 3 after it searched 30 locations connected with the



online news portal and its journalists in a case filed under the UAPA following allegations that it received money for pro-China propaganda. Purkayastha and Chakraborty subsequently moved the High Court challenging the arrest as well as the seven-day police custody and sought immediate release as an interim relief. According to the FIR, a large amount of funds to the news portal allegedly came from China to "disrupt the sovereignty of India" and cause disaffection against the

country. The probe agency also alleged that Purkayastha conspired with a group - People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS) - to sabotage the electoral process during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The High Court last week rejected their pleas and said it is of the view that "the fact that serious offences affecting the stability, integrity, sovereignty and national security have been alleged against the petitioner, this Court is not inclined to pass any favourable orders." PTI

World

# Israel-Gaza war: Britain's King Charles III has made a plea for religious tolerance and the importance of a multi-faith outlook, mourned for the loss of lives

Britain's King Charles III has made a plea for religious tolerance and the importance of a multi-faith outlook as he mourned the loss of lives in times of international turmoil, an indirect reference to the Israel-Gaza conflict in the Middle East. In a speech at Mansion House in the City of London on Wednesday evening, the 74-year-old monarch described the UK as a "community of communities" where shared values are the force holding it together and reminding that "there is far, far more that unites us than divides us". He stressed that British society was nurtured and enriched by citizens from the four corners of the globe, drawing upon deep wells filled with shared histories and experiences.

"One of my first acts as Sovereign, a little over a year ago,



was to open the doors of Buckingham Palace to the leaders of the major faiths represented across these islands; to welcome them, with respect and indeed love, and to re-dedicate my life to protecting the space for faith itself within our shores," said King Charles. "Such understanding, both at home and overseas, is never more vital than at times of international turmoil and heart-breaking loss of life...Even in the

most fractious times – when disagreements are polished, paraded and asserted – there is in our land a kind of muscle-memory that it does not have to be like this; that the temptation to turn ourselves into a shouting or recriminatory society must be resisted," he said.

The King called for the moderating forces of "civility and tolerance, on which our political life and wider national conversation depend" and warned against

the "rancour and acrimony" of social media. In the wide-ranging speech, the monarch also reflected upon the advancement of science and the impact of artificial intelligence (AI). On a lighter note, he highlighted the importance of a healthy sense of humour that characterises British life. "The British sense of humour is world-renowned. It is not what we do. It is who we are. Our ability to laugh at ourselves is one of our great na-

tional characteristics. Just as well, you may say, given some of the vicissitudes I have faced with frustratingly failing fountain pens this past year," he said, with reference to a number of times when his pen malfunctioned while signing important documents in the past year.

The speech at Mansion House marks the symbolic arrival of a new monarch in the City of London, the financial hub of the UK capital. The ceremony dates as far back as the 14th century, in which the Pearl Sword is presented to the monarch who then returns it to the Lord Mayor of the City of London. The sword is in a scabbard covered with 2,600 pearls and the ceremony is a symbolic show of mutual respect between two historical powerbases – the British monarchy and the City of London. PTI

## US: People supporting Palestine hold a protest in Chicago amid ongoing conflict



Several pro-Palestinian groups held an 'emergency protest' in Chicago on Wednesday amid the ongoing conflict with Israel, Reuters reported. Chicago Coalition for Justice in Palestine (CJP) and other groups reportedly blamed Israel for the bombing of a Palestinian hospital in Gaza.

The protests have been taking place all across the US with crowds divided on the recent situation around the Israel-Hamas war that has killed thousands of

people on both sides, including women, children, men and the elderly. Public access to the Capitol complex has been restricted after a sizable number of demonstrators calling for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas disrupted one of the House office buildings, ANI has learned from a source inside the Capitol Hill building. "We have been advised by the police to use the tunnels and not the main entrance and exit doors," a hill staffer told ANI, as the demonstrations unfolded, with mem-

bers from Jewish groups holding placards that read, "Ceasefire", "Jews say, Ceasefire now."

The House sergeant-at-arms sent out a memo to congressional offices that all visitors would be restricted to a single door in an attempt to control public entry into the campus. Several barriers of bike-rack fencing were erected around the Capitol building on Tuesday night as a precautionary measure in anticipation of the protest. Scores of demonstrators inside the building also chanted "ceasefire now" and were arrested by the Capitol Police throughout the afternoon.

The Capitol Police also announced they were closing down roads around the Capitol to ensure the safety of protestors outside. "A group of protesters are demonstrating inside the Cannon Rotunda. Demonstrations are not allowed inside Congressional Buildings," the U.S. Capitol Police said in a post on X.

"Demonstrations are not allowed inside Congressional Buildings," the Capitol Police said after the arrests. ANI

## Several students gathered on streets voicing out issues of injustice, inflation, high unemployment rates in PoK



Despite the heavy rain, a large number of students in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) took to the streets to voice their concerns against injustice, inflation, high unemployment rates and extremism. One of the central demands of the students was the fulfilment of a promise made by Pakistan back in 1962, which was to provide free electricity to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. They also called for subsidies on essential food items, particularly flour.

These issues were emblematic of the economic challenges and disparities faced by the people of PoK. What makes this movement particularly noteworthy is its broad-based support. It's not just the students who are involved; the protests have drawn

participants from all walks of life. Women, men, students, trade unions, and members of civil society are actively engaging in the demonstrations, underscoring the wide-ranging impact of these concerns on the local population.

At its core, this movement reflects a broader aspiration for basic rights and a desire for greater control over the region's natural resources. The people of PoK are making a collective and determined effort to bring attention to their grievances, seeking meaningful change and improvements in their living conditions. The ongoing protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir serve as a reminder of the importance of addressing economic and social challenges in the region and the aspirations of its people. ANI

## Expression

# Court's Same Sex Marriage Decision: A Victory for Indian Culture



Lalit Garg

Columnist

The issue of legal recognition to same sex marriage has been a topic of hot discussion in Indian life for a long time. The Supreme Court has given a truly historic decision by refusing to recognize same sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act. If seen, this decision by the five-judge bench of the Supreme Court is a victory for Indian culture, Indian traditions, life values, ideals and Indian-ness. The Supreme Court has also refused to give same-sex couples the right to adopt children. The court's decision not only re-affirms the sentiments and values of the Indian people, but also warns the foreign forces who are conspiring to spoil the social and family character of India by blurring and hurting Indian values, culture and ideals. Certainly, this commendable decision by the Supreme Court is a unique initiative to keep intact and strengthen India's past marriage tradition and culture.

The Supreme Court has made it clear that it cannot make laws, it can only interpret them. It is the job of Parliament to make changes in the Special Marriage Act. Certainly, this comment by the Supreme Court is worth noting. Respected and learned judges have accepted that persons having homosexual or lesbian tendencies should be given the rights that they have as citizens, and they should also be given equal fundamental rights, like other citizens in the social sphere, but as far as their relations with each other are concerned, if it is a matter of marriage, then this matter should be looked into by the elected representatives of the people sitting in the Parliament. By the way, those who stood or still stand in favour of legalizing same sex marriage should understand that marriage has a deeper meaning in Hinduism, marriage, also called marriage, is a social union between two people of opposite sex. Or a religiously recognized union that establishes rights and obligations between those people, as well as between them and any resulting in biological or adopted children and grandchildren.

Marriage is a very important practice or sociological institution of human society. It is the core of the smallest unit that makes up society – the family. It is also the main biological means of maintaining the continuity of the human species. Marriage is not just an opportunity to enjoy sexual pleasure, but also a medium to carry forward the lineage. In Indian tradition and culture, through marriage, responsible tasks like maintaining physical relations, creating progeny, nurturing them properly, carrying forward the family tradition and making the progeny useful citizens of the society are also done. Whereas getting legal recognition of gay or lesbian marriages would mean attacking the ancient high and ideal values. It is not surprising that the support for such traditions has increased among the general public, as soon as it has entered the country like a storm from western countries, hence in reality there have been two types of perceptions regarding gay or lesbian marriages in the country. A large section of the country has been opposed to recognizing it at the legal and socio-religious level. That is also because such a free, unruly and arbitrary lifestyle is not allowed anywhere in Indian society. Anyway, wherever it comes to making laws, there must be an expectation that culture and traditions should not be ignored. Yes, a few people may also be in favour of legalizing gay or lesbian marriages.

Now the Supreme Court has handed down the issue to the Parliament, but the important question is whether the Parliament will take initiative in this direction and make such a law? Parliament should chart the way forward considering Indian tradition and cultural values in the broader context. The current government's stance on this question is hopeful, because the government argues that gay or lesbian marriages cannot be recognized, because husband and wife are defined biologically in the law. Accordingly, both of them also have legal rights. Legalizing gay or lesbian marriages will create a lot of complications in issues related to adoption, divorce, maintenance, inheritance etc. All statutory provisions relating to these matters are based on marriage between a man and a woman. The responsibility of taking a decision regarding legal recognition of this complex subject, which is entangled in ancient and modern thinking, now rests on the shoulders of the country's legislature. It can be expected that before making any



law on this subject, special care will be taken of the public sentiments and socio-religious beliefs.

India is a country with unity in diversity. There is opposition to same-sex marriages in almost all religions and sects. Recently such clear voices have been heard in the Sikh community. Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh said that there is no place for same-sex marriages under Sikh principles. The Akal Takht has disqualified the priests from conducting religious services at the Bathinda Gurudwara after conducting same-sex marriages last month. The decision was announced by Jathedar of the Akal Takht, the highest secular body of the Sikhs, after a meeting of the 'Panj Singh Sahiban' (five Sikh clergy) in Amritsar a day before the Supreme Court announced its verdict.

Supreme Court has declared same-sex as a non-criminal act in 2018 itself, and inspired by this, many pro-gay organizations had filed petitions before the Supreme Court to legalize their marriages, which were opposed by the Central Government. How can the marriage of gays and lesbians be considered perfect? It may not be a marriage, it may be a mutual relationship, but how can it be given the recognition and all the rights of natural marriages? Therefore, considering the social structure of India, if the Central Government opposes the recognition of gay and lesbian marriages, then it cannot be held wrong in any way. Even though such examples have been found in ancient times in India itself or there are many such examples mentioned in religious texts which

point towards homosexual relationships, Indian society has always considered such relationships to be sexual, against nature and against social norms, placed in the category of sexual disorder. The sexual relationship between man and woman keeps nature dynamic. The meaning of home and family is the broader form of the results arising from the relationship between man and woman. The relationship between man and woman is the great journey of love and the child born from sexual relationship between these two is the basis for taking the family and lineage forward.

Man-woman relationships are not dependent on any religious belief rather they are a person's own scientific need. For new creation, union of opposite sex is natural, otherwise it is distortion. We cannot corrupt our culture and tradition in the name of blind imitation of the West. Even though times are changing, there are radical changes in traditions and new definitions of human relationships are being created, in India too two adult men and women live together without marriage in the form of live-in relationship. Therefore, if two people of the same sex want to live together, then the society can allow it by respecting their privacy; and their civil rights can also be protected. But as far as the Special Marriage Act is concerned, it can happen only between two people of opposite sex. Amending it would mean changing the conditions of marriage as well as destroying the concept of family.

# Entertainment



## Guess whom did Salman Khan collab with for songs of 'Tiger 3'

Singer Arijit Singh and superstar Salman Khan have finally collaborated. Yes, you read it right. Arijit has lent his voice to the superstar for a song titled 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' in 'Tiger 3'. Sharing the update, Salman took to Instagram and wrote, "Pehle gaane ki pehli jhalak. #LekePrabhuKaNaam! Oh haan, yeh hai Arijit Singh ka pehla gaana mere liye. Song out on 23rd Oct. #Tiger3 coming to theatres this Diwali, 12th Nov."

The news of Salman and Arijit's collaboration has left fans extremely excited as it confirmed that the duo has ended their feud. The relationship between Salman and Arijit reportedly turned sour after the two got into a fight during an award function in 2014. Reacting to Salman's post, a social media user wrote, "Wow Super Excited For My 2 FavS @beingsalmankhan Sir and @arijitsingh Sir [?][?] Yoooooo." "Arijit + Salman," another one wrote. **ANI**

## 'Napoleon' film comes up with its new trailer

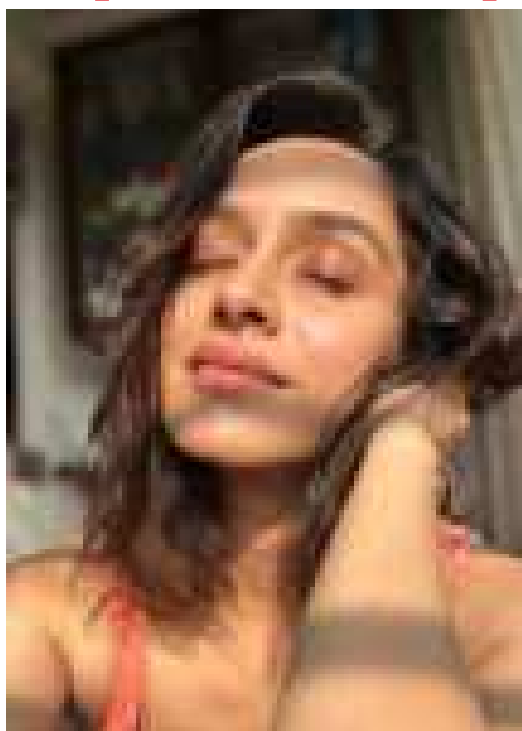
The makers of Joaquin Phoenix-starrer 'Napoleon' unveiled a new trailer for the film. The film stars Phoenix, 48, as French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.

Set against a stunning backdrop of large-scale filmmaking orchestrated by legendary director Ridley Scott, the film captures Bonaparte's relentless journey to power through the prism of his addictive, volatile relationship with his one true love, Josephine, showcasing his visionary military and political tactics against some of the most dynamic practical battle sequences ever filmed.

As per People, the trailer for filmmaker Ridley Scott's latest movie picks up where the first trailer left off with Bonaparte launching a trap against enemy forces on an icy plain. The rest of the trailer, cut to the tune of Black Sabbath's 1970 song "War Pigs," showcases his rise to power in France in the 1790s and his relationship with his wife Josephine (Vanessa Kirby). In the aftermath of the French Revolution, Napoleon seized power of the nation and crowned himself emperor, preceding a years-long reign that featured diplomatic and military confrontations with other major European powers, including Great Britain. **ANI**



## Actress Shraddha Kapoor shares new pictures of 'Dhoop', fans elated



Sunlight exposure is an essential source of vitamin D and our Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor swears by it. On Thursday, she dropped her sunkissed selfies. More than the images, it was her caption that caught everyone's attention.

"Need dhoop like Jaadoo [?]," Shraddha captioned the post, referring to the alien in Hrithik Roshan's 'Koi Mil Gaya', who sourced his power from sunlight.

As soon as Shraddha dropped the pictures, fans flooded the comment section with their reactions. "You are a magician, why do you have a magical sunshine," a social media user commented. "Hahah love that Jadoo thing," another one wrote. **ANI**

## Director Rohit Shetty announces new character of his upcoming cop drama 'Singham Again'



Actor Tiger Shroff is the latest addition to Rohit Shetty's upcoming cop drama 'Singham Again'. Welcoming him on board, Rohit took to Instagram and wrote, "Meet Special Task Force officer ACP SATYA ... the immortal, like Truth! Welcome to the squad...Tiger."

Rohit also shared Tiger's look from the action-packed drama. Tiger is seen flaunting his tone physique. 'Singham Again' also stars Ajay Devgn, Deepika Padukone, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Akshay Kumar and Ranveer Singh. Tiger also received a shoutout from the other members of the 'Singham Again' family. "Welcoming my brother from another mother, @tigerjackieshroff as ACP Satya to the squad," Akshay wrote. "The squad just got stronger, welcome to the team ACP Satya," Ajay posted on his Instagram account. The update of Tiger joining 'Singham Again' has left his fans excited. **ANI**