



Contractual recruitment: Cong leaders Chavan, Patole slam

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## "Cash for query" controversy: BJP leaders demand probe, while oppn mentioned allegations made on TMC MP Mahua Moitra was not correct

AV Team

**B**JP MP Nishikant Dubey has written a letter to Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla that Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra was paid to ask certain questions in the Lok Sabha to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and entrepreneur Adani firm as she received several gifts and cash as bribe from a businessman Darshan Hiranandani after which it also sought that TMC MP should be immediately suspended.

After the complaint letter to speaker Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra mentioned on X formerly known as twitter stating, "I welcome answering to CBI and Ethics Committee (which is directed by majority of BJP members) if and when they call me. I have neither time nor interest to feed Adani directed media circus trial or answer BJP trolls".

When it comes to TMC MP it is mostly seen in the parliament that she has been quite vocal about the issues and has raised several question in the parliament, also asked several question to the ruling government.

To understand more about this ongoing political heated storm we spoke to some of the leaders of her being so vocal about the issues and the allegations coming towards her from the BJP leader.

In this incident it was alleged that Moitra had also



shared login details of the parliament session, responding to it **BJP MP Manoj Kotak** told Afternoon Voice, "The act done by responsible TMC MP was not correct and she shouldn't have shared the login credentials with third party as it is criminal offence".



While **Veteran Congress leader Husain Dalwai** said, "Mahua Moitra is quite straightforward lady and vocal about the issues, also questions government policies. So allegations made on her does not seem correct but this showcases that the act of the ruling government is trying to tarnish the image of her".



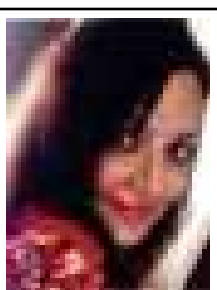
On the side BJP leaders are quite adamant and they have also demanded probe into the matter over which **BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar** said, "If she has guts then she should come out and fight legally against it and clear the relationship between her and businessman Hiranandani".



After this incident BJP leader Mohit Kamboj also mentioned that the situation faced by TMC MP today can also happen to the **UBT Shiv Sena leader Sushma Andhare** over which Shiv Sena leader said, "I am not afraid of these allegations made by them so they are just barking brigades".

## Who is using Darshan Hiranandani against Mahua Moitra?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

**C**ash for query row has gone to new level of controversy, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra has issued a detailed response to the signed affidavit by businessman Darshan Hiranandani that BJP legislator Nishikant Dubey's claims about her receiving money and gifts for posing certain questions in Parliament. Darshan is the son of property tycoon Niranjhan Hiranandani and holds a key position in his father's real estate empire. He is involved in realty projects in cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Hyderabad. In the affidavit, Hiranandani spoke about his friendship with the TMC MP Mahua Moitra. TMC MP Mahua Moitra came in controversy in the 'cash for query' case.

The affidavit by businessman Darshan Hiranandani

which is circulated in the media is written on a white paper without any notarization, prominent businessman like Darshan Hiranandani would not just sign such an important statement on plain white paper without potential external pressure. The affidavit by businessman Darshan Hiranandani claimed to have admitted asking questions about the Adani Group through the official parliamentary credentials of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

# Who is using Darshan Hiranandani against Mahua Moitra?

▶▶ PAGE 1

*Earlier, lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai claimed to possess "irrefutable evidence" of alleged "bribes" exchanged between Moitra and Hiranandani to secure parliamentary queries.*

*Moitra also sought luxury goods and money for travel and renovation at her house from him. Very strategic way Darshan had made all allegations on Moitra. Before this neither he ever made any mention of such demands by Moitra or addressed the media.*

*And Darshan is in energy, data centres and semiconductor chip manufacturing which too depends on government licenses. He has over 30,000 crore investments in UP alone.*

Earlier, lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai claimed to possess "irrefutable evidence" of alleged "bribes" exchanged between Moitra and Hiranandani to secure parliamentary queries. Hiranandani's admission potentially strengthens the case against Moitra. In a sworn affidavit, he revealed using Moitra to raise questions concerning Gautam Adani after the Indian Oil Corporation reserved capacity at Adani's Dhamra LNG import facility in Odisha. Hiranandani's firm sought IOC to book capacity at their own proposed facility.

A copy of Hiranandani's affidavit surfaced in media reports on Thursday in which he claimed that Moitra had shared her parliamentary sign-in credentials with him and he asked those questions related to the Adani Group. He also claimed that Moitra also sought luxury goods and money for travel and renovation at her house from him. Very strategic way Darshan had made all allegations on Moitra. Before this neither he ever made any mention of such demands by Moitra or addressed the media. The question here to explore is why Darshan Hiranandani is all of sudden in the blame game? He and his father are very close to the PM and PMO. Why did they not inform the top authorities about the MP and her demands, what was stopping them? Has anyone threatened Darshan and His father to do so? Darshan Hiranandani has not been summoned by the CBI or the Ethics committee or indeed by any investigative agency yet. Who then has he given this affidavit to?

Hirandani is in real estate which depends on government licenses. And Darshan is in energy, data centres and semiconductor chip manufacturing which too depends on government licenses. He has over 30,000 crore investments in UP alone. They were told they would be finished; the CBI would raid them and all government business would stop and all PSU bank financing would be stopped immediately as per Moitra in the statement. Moitra further said that this is the usual modus operandi of the "BJP

government or rather Gautam Adani's government run by the BJP" and that she would not be silenced and her questions would continue. Meanwhile, Moitra also termed her estranged partner Jai Dehadrai, who BJP's Dubey mentioned in his complaint, as a "jilted ex".

"Three days ago (16.10.2023), the Hiranandani Group put out an official press release stating that all charges leveled against them were baseless. Today (19.10.2023) an "approver affidavit" has been leaked to the press. Whatever Hiranandani's announce but the fact is that they are yet to address media. Why would such a wealthy successful businessman who enjoys direct access to every Minister and the PMO be coerced by a first time Opposition MP into giving her gifts and giving into her demands?

BJP's Nishikant Dubey has requested an inquiry committee to investigate these allegations, contending that most of Moitra's recent questions served Hiranandani's business interests. Moitra denied the charges, suggesting she was targeted for exposing alleged favouritism towards the Adani group.



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

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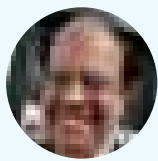
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# Voices



## Festivals are a happy time for families and people of the country



- C.K. Subramaniam

Navaratri, the nine days' celebration of the victory of good over evil, is here; these days are dedicated and worshipped to acquire peace and knowledge. The prayer, chanting, and meditation performed during Navratri connect us with our spirit which helps us invoke positive qualities within us and destroy laziness, pride, obsession, cravings, and aversions. When stress in the form of negative emotions is destroyed, we experience the deep rest of the transforming nine nights. The more you celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate. Happy Navaratri.

Bengalis celebrate by worshipping Kali. The Dussehra festival mood and the spiritual feeling of Bengal came to the satellite city. Dushera is being celebrated all over India in different ways. For example, Gujaratis play Garba during the nine-day festival and some of them observe fast as well. South Indians celebrate Navratri in a unique way by placing beautifully decorated dolls at home.

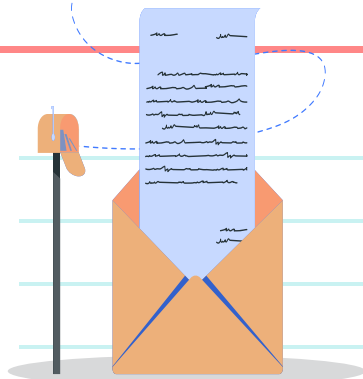
Golu is the word used to describe the dolls that are displayed during the festival of Navratri. Golu variously means 'toy' / 'doll'. Usually girls or young women arrange these wooden and clay dolls in a decorative display for the duration of the Navratri festival. Usually such displays are done for the goddesses Lakshmi, Parvati and Saraswati. Sometimes the

dolls show a married couple, at other times just girls. There is no fixed rule. The arranger of the golu gives full play to her imagination and fancy.

The festival of Durga Puja is colored with devotional zeal, mythological legends, detailed rituals, extravagant pandals and magnificent tableaux of the divine Mother Goddess and her children. The ten-day festivities of Durga Puja provide one and all with a chance to spread festive cheer and wish their loved ones peace as well as prosperity. The nine different forms of the Goddess of Power, Durga or Shakti, as per the Hindu religion are worshipped during this time.

The last six days of the festival, namely, Mahalaya, Shashthi, Maha Saptami, Maha Ashtami, Maha Nabami and Bijoya Dashami are celebrated with great pomp and show. The Durga Puja revelry is not limited to elaborate rituals, but extends to various cultural, music and dance performances given by armature as well as professional artists during this time. On the final day of Vijayadashmi, the devotees bid teary-eyed farewell to the Goddess and her children as it is believed that they leave for their heavenly abode. Their idols are submerged in the water amidst the resonating sound of dhak to symbolize their departure.

## Letters to the Editor



FASTag are billed as well as fined automatically & charges collected from registered vehicle address. Fines need to be hefty & include collection charges as well so that all motorists have valid money loaded FASTag on their vehicles!

S.N.Kabra

of history, because history belongs to a specific time, then why should the current society be punished for the mistakes of the figures of that time? It is upto entire world should do is to at least not kill innocent people.

N Ashraf

HT had on October 11 first reported that the Collegium's recommendations mentioned above have been cleared by the government and that their notifications were expected soon. Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced the appointment of the three new judges on platform X (formerly Twitter).

Tausif Qamar

### Toll booths should be completely automated & no vehicles should be allowed to halt at these places!

Fuel is not just expensive but precious which needs to be used judiciously & preserved. At times we end up burning more value of fuel than the toll charges we pay at Toll nakas like Dahisar, Mulund because of long serpentine queues we witness at these places for reasons that are unknown & mysterious.

We are today living in the world of hi-tech digitization & no vehicle should actually be allowed to halt at Toll booths. We need a system in place where charges are deducted automatically & those without valid

### Violence and Counter-Violence

Five for one, brick for stone, blood for blood or violence for total destruction In the last 2500 years of written history, no problem has been solved by following these slogans and resorting to violence. Human history has been bloody. We have the teachings of Gandhi and Einstein, two thinkers of the modern world. One taught non-violence and the other said that we cannot solve the most complex problems as long as the level of thinking remains the same as when we created the problem. The war between Hamas and Israel has been going on since October 7. But one should ask those innocent children whose parents were killed or those mothers whose children were hit by bombs and bullets and died in their arms and all the others screamed. Today, no problem can be solved by responding to the mistakes

### Manipur high court to get first tribal woman

This is a welcome news for the tribal people who are always waiting for justice towards them. According to data presented by the government in Lok Sabha in March, out of 575 high court judges appointed since 2018, 67 belong to OBC, 17 to the SC category. The Union government recently notified the appointment of three judges in the high courts of Madras, and Manipur, including a judicial officer who would become the first woman from a scheduled tribe to become a judge in the Manipur high court.

The other two names cleared by the Centre are from Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes (OBC) communities, potentially boosting the social diversity and representation of marginalised sections in the higher judiciary.

### Obscenity in Advertisements

Advertisements are used to sell products, but today product advertisements are obscene advertisements. Some advertisements are those in which girls are presented semi-nude. Now what effect will this have on 18-20-year-old boys and girls? What will be the impact on society? To what extent does depicting a woman or girl in an obscene manner to sell a product fall within women empowerment?

N Mateeni

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)

# Contractual recruitment: Cong leaders Chavan, Patole slam Fadnavis; say GR scrapped due to anger among youth

Senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan on Friday refuted the claim by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis that recruitment of staff on contract basis in government departments was started by previous state governments.

Earlier in the day, Fadnavis had announced the scrapping of a government order meant for recruiting staff on a contract basis by nine agencies.

Addressing a press conference, Fadnavis said the first recruitment on contractual basis was done in 2003 when the Congress-NCP government was in power in Maharashtra. He said GRs (govern-



ment resolutions) related to contractual hiring were issued when Congress leaders Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan were chief ministers during the 15-year rule of the Democratic Front (DF) co-

alition (1999-2014).

Hitting back, Chavan, a former chief minister, said, "Now the government tried to fill even tehsildar, police posts on contractual basis. Fadnavis is trying

to put the failure of his regime on previous governments. Today the state is in financial crisis and instead of focusing on administrative matters, old contexts are being taken out just to criticise

previous governments." The scrapping of contractual recruitment was a victory of students who had protested against such a government order, Chavan added.

Chavan said decisions taken by earlier governments were as per prevailing situation, adding that his party was not opposed to privatisation throughout. But all decisions must be taken after thorough deliberations, Chavan asserted.

Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole said recruitment on contract basis was scrapped by the state government due to the opposition from his party and the youth. ANI

## Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde flagged off vehicle transporting the statute of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to install in J&K



Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday flagged off the vehicle transporting the statute of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to be in-

stalled in Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per a release issued by Raj Bhavan, the statue will be presented to the Rashtriya Rifles 41 Maratha Light Infantry Regiment at Kupwara.

The governor and the chief minister flagged off the vehicle transporting the statue from Raj Bhavan, it said. The statue has been sculpted at the instance of the NGO 'Aamhi Puneekar Foundation' and 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Smarak Samiti', the release stated. Maharashtra Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, principal secretary of the Cultural Affairs Department Vikas Kharge, trustee of 'Aamhi Puneekar Foundation' Abhayraje Shirole, president Hemant Jadhav, Rajendra Khedkar and other invitees were present on the occasion, it said. PTI

## The State Board of Wildlife has approved to cut 122 trees



Fearing criticism from environmentalists, the decision that was taken at a meeting of the board chaired by forest minister Sudhir Mungantiwar on Monday was kept under wraps. The pet project of chief minister Eknath Shinde will require 27 holes which will be drilled using explosives. As per the agenda of the meeting, a copy of which is with HT, 68 of the 122 trees have a girth of less than 60 centimetres and the rest have a girth of more than 60 centimetres. As many as 15 holes of six inches will have to be drilled in the protected area and ESZ. The project cost is estimated at ₹18,795.70 crores and MMRDA has been asked to deposit 2% of the it - ₹379.54 crore - as mitigation costs.

The note said the underground tunnels would give a direct connectivity to motorists from Borivali to Manpada and Ghodbunder Road in Thane and also give access to national highways 3 and 8. The wildlife board has said that they will have to conduct a study jointly with the Wildlife Institute of India for the project. Now The State Board of Wildlife has approved a proposal allowing Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) to cut 122 trees in the core area and the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) to build twin tunnels connecting Borivali to Thane, people familiar with the development said.

## Land misuse case: UBT Shiv Sena MLA Ravindra Waikar summoned by EOW

Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Ravindra Waikar has been summoned by the Economic Offences Wing of Mumbai police on Monday in connection with the probe into alleged misuse of a land parcel, an official said. Waikar has been called to record his statement in the FIR registered against him and others for allegedly misleading the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and obtaining



permission fraudulently between January and July in 2021 to construct a luxury hotel illegally, the official said on Friday.

The land, located along Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road, was reserved for sports and entertainment purposes and was allotted to Waikar and others for public utilisation, but they used it for commercial purposes to earn crores of rupees, as per the FIR. The FIR was registered under section 120 B, 406, 420 of Indian Penal Code in September on the complaint of a BMC engineer, the official said. PTI

## Nation

### Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "The entire fund from the state, whether it be land, sand or alcohol, all is under the control of one single family" at Telangana rally



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, while addressing a rally at Jagtial in poll-bound Telangana, said on Friday that the citizens of Telangana thought that with the formation of Telangana, the 'Janata' will rule but after its formation, only one family is ruling the state. Rahul Gandhi, who is on 'Vijayabheri Yatra' took aim at Telangana CM and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief, K Chan-

drashekar Rao (KCR), and said, "You (the people) thought that the 'Janata' would rule in the state of Telangana but when the state was formed, the rule of one single family was established."

He further said, "The entire fund from the state, whether it be land, sand or alcohol, all is under the control of one single family." Thousands of crores of rupees are being made but the Sugar factory over here has remained shut,

said Rahul Gandhi, promising that when Congress will form the government in the state, it will help with the revival of a sugar factory.

He also mentioned that if Congress of Rs 12000-13000 per quintal done for turmeric and whatever is grown, Rs 500 additional per quintal will be given on MSP in Telangana state. The Congress leader further lashed out at BJP and BRS and said, "BJP, BRS and AIMIM are all united and work together. In Delhi, BRS helps the BJP, and in Lok Sabha as well BRS, extends complete support to the BJP, while in Telangana BJP and AIMIA help out BRS." "I fight against the BJP and there are 25-30 cases against me. My Lok Sabha membership was also suspended. They also took my house which I gave happily. I don't need a house, the whole of India is my home," said Rahul Gandhi. ANI

### Anti-corruption campaign: Punjab Vigilance Bureau arrested a health worker for taking Rs 50,000 bribe



The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its anti-corruption campaign has arrested Sanjeev Singh, resident of village Bareke, posted as field worker, civil hospital Mamdot, Ferozepur district for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000. Disclosing this here on Friday, a spokesperson of the VB said the above-mentioned official has been arrested on the

complaint of Jagdish Singh, resident of village Mallwal Kadeem, Ferozepur district who has lodged a complaint on the Chief Minister's Anti-Corruption Action Line in this regard.

Giving details he informed that the said complainant has alleged in his complaint that the above said health official had taken Rs 50,000 for helping him in lieu of amendment in a med-

ico-legal report (MLR) after an enquiry from a special board of doctors. As the accused was making false promises, the complainant has recorded the conversation with the said official regarding payment of bribe money which was submitted to the VB as evidence.

The spokesperson informed that during investigation of this complaint by the VB range Ferozepur, it was established that the accused had received Rs 50,000 as a bribe from the complainant. The above said official was arrested after finding him guilty for taking gratification in the said case. In this regard a case under Prevention of Corruption Act has been registered against the accused official at VB police station Ferozepur range. Further investigation in this case was under progress, he added. ANI

### Tamil Nadu: A man passed away after being attacked by a wild elephant at Thally town



A 50-year-old man died after being attacked by a wild elephant near Thally town in Krishnagiri district on Friday, according to a forest official. The deceased was killed after being attacked by a wild elephant when the man had gone to the field to relieve himself in the morning on Friday in the Alamuru area near Thally town in Krishnagiri district.

After getting information about this incident, the forest department and the Krishnagiri district policemen came to the spot, recovered the body, and sent it to Denkanikottai Government Hospital for an autopsy, an official said. Further details are awaited. Human-wildlife conflicts are on the rise in Tamil Nadu. With civilisation ever-expanding and forest cover shrinking, human-wildlife conflicts have become

inevitable. Earlier, Wild gaur (commonly known as bison) menace and threat began to creep into the town limits of Kotagiri in the Nilgiris district.

The residents in the Kotagiri area fear the bison attacks around the residential areas and want the foresters to be active round-the-clock to tackle the man-animal conflict in the backdrop of drying jungles forcing wild animals to stray out. Speaking about the bison menace, Linda, a resident said, "Although the gaur menace had been confined to forest fringes in the hills so far, now, things have begun to change for the worse as gaurs began to stray into town limits here, spreading panic among the residents. "For the past few days, the gaur menace has been particularly high in the Donnington area of Kotagiri, Nilgiris," she added. ANI

### Harrasment case: SC makes absolute it's order granting interim anticipatory bail to Srinivas BV

The Supreme Court on Friday made 'absolute' its earlier order granting interim anticipatory bail to the Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas BV, in an alleged harassment case filed against him. A bench of Justices BR Gavai, Aravind Kumar, and Prashant Kumar Mishra made its earlier order 'absolute' of granting interim anticipatory bail to Srinivas after being apprised that he had cooperated with the investigation.

On May 17, the top court had granted him interim anticipatory bail. "By order dated May 17, we had granted ad-interim bail. The

Additional Advocate General of the State of Assam vehemently opposes the anticipatory bail application. However, taking into consideration that the petitioner has cooperated with the investigation, we are entitled to allow the application and the earlier order is made absolute," the bench ordered. Srinivas has challenged a Gauhati High Court order rejecting his anticipatory bail plea in an alleged harassment case filed against him. The apex court had granted interim anticipatory bail to Srinivas several times. Srinivas challenged the Gauhati High Court order rejecting his anticipatory bail plea. ANI

World

## Several snow crabs have been disappeared from the ocean around Alaska: Reports



In recent years, billions of snow crabs have disappeared from the ocean around Alaska due to warmer ocean temperatures which likely caused them to starve to death, as per scientists, CNN reported. The finding comes just days after the Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced that the snow crab harvest season was cancelled for the second year in a row, citing the overwhelming number of crabs missing from the typically frigid, treacherous waters of the

Bering Sea.

The study published on Thursday by scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found a significant link between recent marine heat waves in the eastern Bering Sea and the sudden disappearance of the snow crabs that began showing up in surveys in 2021. The study's lead author and fishery biologist at NOAA Cody Szuwalski said: "When I received the 2021 data from the survey for the first time, my mind

was just blown. Everybody was just kind of hoping and praying that was an error in the survey and that next year you would see more crabs." "And then in 2022, it was more of a resignation that this is going to be a long road," Szuwalski told CNN.

The US snow crab fishery was closed in Alaska in 2022. Catchers attributed the population decline to overfishing, but "overfished" is a technical definition that triggers conservation measures, experts told CNN -- it doesn't actually explain the collapse. Szuwalski said: "The big take home for me from the paper, and just the whole experience in general, is that historically, fishery scientists had been very worried about overfishing -- this has been our white whale, and in a lot of places we really solved that with management. But climate change is really throwing a wrench into our plans, our models and our management systems." ANI

## Afghanistan: Taliban's restrictions on women receives heavy criticism at UNGA session



The restrictions imposed on the Afghan women under the Taliban regime received heavy criticism from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, and the Charge d'Affaires of the Afghanistan Permanent Mission to the UN, Naseer Ahmad Faiq, Tolo News reported on Thursday. Speaking at the Third Committee, 78th UNGA session, the representative of Turkey, Turkis Ismail Aydil, said that the fundamental rights of all Afghans,

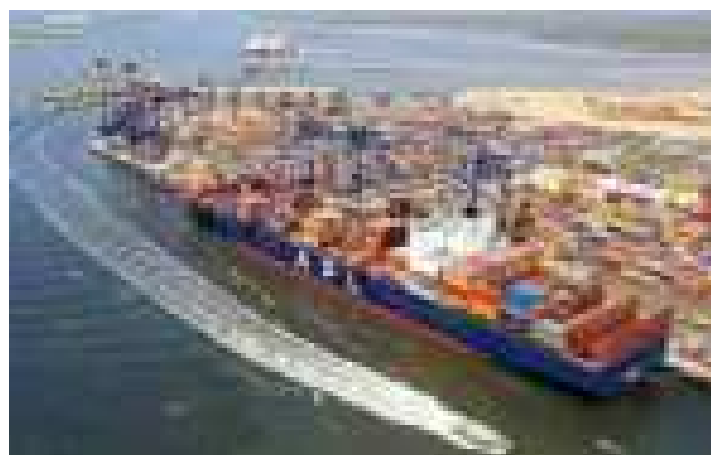
including the right to education, should be fully respected.

"We are deeply concerned by the erosion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan, in particular, for women and girls who have been imposed severe restrictions. The fundamental rights of all Afghans including, the right to education should be fully respected," he said. Aydil also pledged continued assistance to the victims of the earthquake in Herat. "Turkey will continue to stand by the Af-

ghan people to respond to their humanitarian needs and calls for global efforts toward this end," Tolo News quoted him as saying.

The Charge d'Affaires of the Afghanistan Permanent Mission to the UN, Naseer Ahmad Faiq, said at the meeting that restrictions on women erased the gains made by Afghan women over the past two decades. "Of utmost concern is the impact on women's and girls' rights and fundamental freedoms. The Taliban regime imposed systematic discrimination and strict gender-based restrictions, denying women and girls access to education, employment, and public life. These actions erased the hard-fought gains made by Afghan women over the past two decades and undermined their ability to realize their full potential and contribute to economic development. This systemic oppression created a climate of fear, gender persecution and gender apartheid," Tolo News quoted Faiq as saying. ANI

## Pakistan: Around 8,700 containers of commercial goods were stopped at Karachi port, reports



The restrictions imposed by Pakistan on the transfer of goods have raised concerns among Afghan traders, as around 8,700 containers carrying commercial goods have come to a halt at the Karachi port, Khaama Press reported on Friday. According to these businessmen, Pakistan imposes a fine of USD 200 for each container, resulting in significant financial losses for them. "If the containers are not allowed, we have no choice; we either go to the United Nations or the European Union to solve the issue," Khan Agha Gulzad, the head of the Afghan Merchants Union in China said. Meanwhile, Afghan traders have also called upon the Taliban administration to address the issue diplomatically.

"We respectfully request the current administration of Afghanistan to resolve the issue via diplomatic and understanding means. [If it doesn't happen] this is a very economic blow to

Afghanistan's national businessmen and people," Zabihullah, a member of the Afghan Merchants Union in China, said.

Furthermore, officials representing the Afghanistan-Pakistan joint chamber have expressed concern over imposing restrictions and creating barriers to transit goods, according to Khaama Press. They have argued that such actions counter established principles and commercial laws, emphasizing that such practices should be avoided to maintain smooth trade relations between the two countries.

Concurrently, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) has addressed the challenges posed by goods in transit with Pakistan. "Unfortunately, what Pakistan is doing is against all international laws. Therefore, we work on alternative ways and reach the goal we have set for ourselves," Khaama Press quoted MoIC spokesperson Abdulsalam Jawad Akhundzada as saying. ANI

## Amid ongoing conflict between Israel- Palestine, Russia delivers 27 tonnes of food supplies to Gaza

Russia has delivered 27 tonnes of food supplies for civilians in the Gaza Strip set to be transferred from Egypt, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Friday. Taking to X, Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated, "27 tonnes of food supplies delivered by Russia's EMERCOM and transferred to the Egyptian Red Crescent for distribution among the

people of the Gaza Strip in need. Every bit helps."

Russia's Deputy Minister Ilya Denisov in a statement said, "A special plane has taken off from the airport at Ramenskoye near Moscow for El-Arish in Egypt. The Russian humanitarian aid will be handed over to the Egyptian Red Crescent to be sent to the Gaza Strip." He added the aid comprised "wheat, sugar, rice (and) pasta." ANI

## Expression

# Same - Sex: Metropolitan Cities, Town & Rural areas!



Er. Jayesh Rane

Columnist

The country's apex court has become increasingly busy. The reason for saying this is that the doors of the Supreme Court are being knocked repeatedly for the political turmoil that is going on in Maharashtra. Moreover, when will the local Municipal corporations elections be held? These points are long pending. Both these topics are being discussed in the country. Now there are new discussions on the issue of same - sex marriage. Everyone wants justice. This needs to be underlined.

The Supreme Court rejected the recognition of same-sex marriage & bought to notice 'The court has no power to make laws.' The role of the Supreme Court is to interpret existing laws & determine their enforcement. Saying this, the ball has been tolled to Parliament for further action. Parliament has the power to amend laws relating to marriage. Similarly, the Supreme Court has also said 'The central government can form a committee & take a decision.'

Let's say, even if there is a discussion about this in the Parliament, will it be easy in terms of legal approval? This is the question. But the possibility of intense ideological conflict would be ruled out during the discussion. Why is that? Let's see it. Congress MPs Shashi Tharoor & Manish Tiwari have expressed their support for same - sex marriage on a personal level. Tiwari says same - sex couples can live together after a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court struck down Article 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Living together will no longer be a crime. At such a time, the creation of a law to legitimize these relationships is a natural consequence. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has openly supported same-sex marriage.

In this country of 142 crore people, the number of couples who are eager for same - sex marriage is negligible. There is no doubt about it. Now how to recognize this? This is the basic question. If we think about the people around us, how many people are there who are interested in same - sex? In fact, it is noticed that most of these people are in the rich class &

below that in the upper middle class. This will quickly become apparent after a little careful consideration. Then, what about number of them in the poor class? To get an answer to this question, the financial side should also be considered primarily. It seems necessary. 'Same-sex relationships are not just an urban or upper - class affair. To think like this is to reject them in a sense. Same - sex relationship is a matter beyond one's caste or class', said the Chief Justice.

Whenever same - sex marriage seekers & same-sex attractions have demonstrated for their demands, their wealth is striking. When considering their overall living conditions. E.g. High clothes, expensive cars owned by some of them. Should we pay attention to this or not? Because it's easy to do drama for anything but drama for money cannot be done. Things like demonstrations happen publicly in front of everyone. So nothing is hidden there. In such a place, people from villages come & participate. It does not appear so. Therefore, it is not persuasive for the Chief Justice to say 'This is not only a matter related to the upper class.' In rural areas, one does not read or hear that anyone has raised their voice about same - sex relations. Rural areas should not be dragged into this matter. How can it be taken for granted, if something related to this point has been observed in some rural area. Then too taking same thread no one can conclude 'it is happening everywhere like cities.'

Same - sex has a lot of support from urban areas. Even for this, the focus can be on the metropolitan cities of the country. It can also include non-homosexuals. This subject has no place in the rural areas & it feels true. For that, the social situation can also be taken into account. Don't just listen to what is said from the front & sit cold. One should inquire at four places by stressing the intellect. Moreover, what is the condition of the families in the village where we live? This should be contemplated. What is going on in the community outside? It can be known later. But what is going on around us? This will be answered. So much can be done. If questions are to be answered.

In the metropolitan cities, everyone is struggling to live as freely as they want. There is no hesitation in breaking up with family members for that. There is a greater tendency to do so when there is some financial capability has achieved. Until then,



the days are pushed by matching with the parents & once enough money play in hands. Then the decision to suddenly leave home & live separately is announced by the person whom the parents have nurtured till yesterday like a sore on the palm of their hand. Then it might be in the case of live-in relationships, same-sex attraction. Now see, the Supreme Court has said Same - sex people have the right to choose their partner & live with them. So can it be called a live in relationship? The only difference is that couples living together in live-in are of different sexes & this has been recognized by the Supreme Court. In October 2018, the Kerala High Court allowed a lesbian couple to live in a live-in relationship. This has also happened. Seeing all these khichdi, sometimes it seems that our village is better.

Live in relationship has been approved by Supreme Court. So to blame them is like scratching your own itch to face legal action. The financial condition of these couple seems to be good. Also, Same - sex people can be added to this. That's why they come to decision of staying with favourite partner. Why not say so?

What is same - sex marriage? Many people in the country don't know about it. So far, what has the court said about it, has no idea. The dust of this subject is flying more & more in urban areas. Rural

areas are being flooded with unseasonal rains, wet droughts, dry droughts. Many farmers have committed suicide. When will this stop? farmers families are waiting for this. Because this question is mainly asked by the families left behind after suicide of earning member of family. As the agricultural product does not get the proper market price. Manytimes the original investment made to grow the crops does not turn out to be a profit. Then the farmer gets angry. Sometimes farmers get angry & throw away farm produce on the road & also give those produce to people free. Agriculture is still the main source of livelihood in rural areas. Although it is said that development is taking place, no government has been able to prevent farmer suicides. In such rural areas of ours, there is neither interest nor desire to think about same - sex marriage.

Sexual exploitation of women - girls, harassment of farmers by moneylenders, frenzy of thieves, load shedding, unemployment, problem of public transport facilities, lack of quality education, lack of good roads - bridges, unclean drinking water etc. are the problems of rural areas. Please pay attention to solve it. Rural areas should not be defamed in the name of Same - sex.

# Entertainment



## Actor Priyanka Chopra sends her wishes to her cousin Mannara Chopra on social media as she is currently participating in 'Bigg Boss 17'

Actor Priyanka Chopra gave a shoutout to her cousin Mannara Chopra who is currently seen as a participant in 'Bigg Boss 17'. Taking to Instagram Story, Priyanka shared a throwback picture with Mannara and wrote, "Throwback to little @memannara Good Luck little one," followed by a red heart, folded hands, and flexed biceps emoji.

In the image, Priyanka can be seen hugging Mannara. The image must have been clicked in 2000 as one can spot Priyanka wearing her Miss World crown. Mannara is Priyanka's paternal cousin. Her mother is the sister of Priyanka's late father Ashok Chopra. Mannara has acted in South films. She starred in the Telugu film Rouge (2017) directed by Puri Jagannadh, Anubhav Sinha's Zid (2014), Prema Geema Jantha Nai (2014), Jakkanna (2016), Thikka (2016) and Sita (2019).

Mannara's real name is Barbie Handa. Prior to coming to 'Bigg Boss', Mannara was landed in a controversy when her film 'Thiragabadara Saami' director AS Ravi Kumar Chowdary, allegedly kissed her during promotions. Apart from Mannara, celebrities like Munawar Faruqui, Ankita Lokhande, Vicky Jain, Neil Bhatt, Aishwarya Sharma, and Jigna Vora, among others are also part of the 17th season, which kickstarted on October 15. The show is being hosted by Salman Khan. In the image, Priyanka can be seen hugging Mannara. The image must have been clicked in 2000 as one can spot Priyanka wearing her Miss World crown. **ANI**

## British Singer Ed Sheeran will be coming to Mumbai in March 2024 for 'The Mathematics tour'



British pop star Ed Sheeran will be returning to India after six years with his new tour '+ - = ÷ x'. The 32-year-old musician will perform at Mumbai's Mahalaxmi Racecourse on March 16, 2024 as part of Asia and Europe tour, also called The Mathematics tour, the organisers said in a press release. Sheeran's performance in Mumbai will be the final stop in the Asia Tour and also feature a guest, singer-songwriter Calum Scott.

Sheeran's performance in Mumbai will be the final stop in the Asia Tour and also feature a guest, singer-songwriter Calum Scott. The tour will draw from all of his albums since 2011, starting with "Plus", "Multiply" (2014), "Divide" (2017), "Equals" (2021) and "Subtract" (2023). The tour also includes a song from 2019's "No. 6 Collaborations Project" ("Blow"). BookMyShow Live, the live entertainment division of BookMyShow, is the promoter of Ed Sheeran's '+ - = ÷ x' Tour along with AEG Presents. Exclusive pre-sale of tickets for Kotak credit card holders will begin on October 25 at 11 am on BookMyShow. General on-sale of tickets will go live starting October 27 at 3 pm on BookMyShow and Sheeran's official website, the press release stated. Sheeran had first performed in Mumbai in 2015 and had returned to the city with another performance in 2017. **PTI**



## Actor Kangana Ranaut shares adorable pictures with new born baby of her brother

Actor Kangana Ranaut's brother and sister-in-law have been blessed with a baby boy. On Friday, Kangana took to social media and shared the good news with her fans and followers.

In a note written in Hindi, Kangana revealed that the family has named her brother Akshat's son "Akshwathama Ranaut (Ashwatthama Ranaut)".

"We have named Akshwathama Ranaut (Ashwatthama Ranaut) this stunning and attractive boy. May you all bless our new family member, we share our infinite happiness with you all. Thankful to you, The Ranaut family," Kangana wrote. In another post, she gave a shout-out to her sister-in-law Ritu. "My dear @ritu\_ranaut002 it's been a delight to see you transform from a giggle girl to a sublime woman and now a gentle mother. All my love and blessings for this glorious chapter of your and @aksht\_ranaut life. Your happy family makes for a beautiful picture that makes my heart full in a way that I possibly can never describe in words. Love and blessings always. Didi," she added.

Kangana also shared pictures of the newborn. In one of the images, she is seen holding the little one in her arms. **ANI**