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Sanjay Raut and BJP Bawankule locked horn over casino controversy



AV Team

Few days ago, state BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule was seen in a casino in Macau, sharing the photograph Shiv Sena (UTB) leader Sanjay Raut had posted a photograph on X purportedly showing Bawankule in a casino in Macau. He wrote in his post "I do not know whose photo it is. Someone told me he was a prominent personality from Maharashtra. Within a span of two-four hours, he spent ₹3.5 crore. It means there

is suddenly 'acche din' in Maharashtra," he had told reporters two days ago.

While clarifying the allegation Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule said it was a deliberate attempt to defame him and hurt his family. He denied allegations made by Raut that he was seen in a casino in Macau. Bawankule claims the photo was taken to defame him and says it is impossible to take such a large amount of money to a foreign country. Raut has defended his actions, saying he tweeted the photo out of humanity.

"I have reached this stature by hard work and a struggle. I am so busy with the party work that I manage to spend only one day in a month with my family. They (the family) insisted that I stay with them for three days, and hence we planned a trip to Macau. Every hotel there has a casino, and you cannot reach your room without going past the casino. The picture was clicked during that period just to defame me," he said.

Bawankule further explained how anyone could take ₹3.5 crore to a foreign

country. "Even if you carry ₹1 lakh you are made to go through several rounds of checks. Neither do I have any friends there. Therefore, the question of spending such a huge amount does not arise at all."

To counter Bawankule, Raut tweeted only one photograph out of humanity. "Bawankule should teach leaders from his own party about the pain the families of opposition leaders go through after the attack from those in the ruling alliance. What the leaders from his party do is part of their culture."

Most Bangladeshi Muslims are just cultural Muslims observing Islamic rituals

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Most of the Bangladeshi Muslims are all converted Muslims from Hinduism. As a result, the Muslims of Bangladesh are not as strict Muslims as people from the Middle east or even Pakistan. Although present day Bangladeshi's ancestors were Pakistanis at one time in history, the people couldn't remain as Pakistani because of political and cultural clashes with the rest of Pakistanis. A typical Bangladeshi Muslim doesn't know how to read Arabic. For a Bangladeshi Muslim culture of India or Hindu centric culture is more familiar and attracts him more than Arab culture.

It's a secular country with Muslim majority of 90.3% of the country population. Minorities are 8.2% of Bangladesh population.

Bangladesh is a Democratic country as per their constitution. The constitution of Bangladesh recognized secularism as a fundamental right for welfare of the country's citizens. But Bangladesh has declared Islam as official religion of the nation.

Bangladesh is functionally a Muslim country, even if its Constitution pays lip service to secularism. The original Constitution of Bangladesh, written in 1972, enshrined secularism as one of the four pillars of the newly-formed People's Republic of Bangladesh, and defined the word "Bengali" as a demonym for its citizens.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Most Bangladeshi Muslims are just cultural Muslims observing Islamic rituals

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Weak governance under Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the consequent civil unrest propelled General Ziaur Rahman to power in a military coup in 1975.

In 1977, the principle of secularism was removed from the Constitution through the 5th Amendment, as were references to freedom of religion for minorities, and was replaced with the statement: "absolute trust and faith in Almighty Allah".

In 1997, the opening words 'bismillah-ar-rahman-ar rahim' were added to the Constitution. In 2005, the High Court of Bangladesh ruled that the 5th Amendment (1977) was illegal and unconstitutional

However, beginning in the mid-1970s, a wave of Islamization swept over the country. The political forces which had been opposed to the Liberation from Pakistan regrouped under the banner of the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, Jamaat Shibir and other groups.

Weak governance under Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the consequent civil unrest propelled General Ziaur Rahman to power in a military coup in 1975. By 1977, after a series of additional coups and counter-coups, he became head of the armed forces, and eventually became President. In 1978, Rahman and others founded the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which espoused an ideology of Islamism and Bangladeshi nationalism

In 1977, the principle of secularism was removed from the Constitution through the 5th Amendment, as were references to freedom of religion for minorities, and was replaced with the statement: "absolute trust and faith in Almighty Allah". In 1988, the government of Muhammad Ershad passed the National Religion Bill in the Jatiyo Sangsad Bhaban (Parliament of Bangladesh), declaring Islam as the state religion.

By 1991, the hardline Muslim conservatives had already amassed enough power and influence to come to power and form a government (thanks, in part, to generous foreign funding from the Gulf, as well as a widespread system of madrassahs which were constructed starting in the 1970s, creating a pronounced religious-nationalist zeal in the public).

In 1997, the opening words 'bismillah-ar-rahman-ar rahim' (In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful) were added to the Constitution. In 2005, the High Court of Bangladesh ruled that the 5th Amendment (1977) was illegal and unconstitutional, and restored a constitution "in the spirit of the constitution of 1972", which restored secularism as a key principle, but which retained some of the language introduced in 1977 and 1997, namely "absolute trust and faith in Almighty Allah" (1977) and 'bismillah-ar-rahman-ar rahim' (1997).

In 2010, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh upheld the 2005 decision of the High Court, but some of the changes from 1977, as well as the 1997 insertion, still remain. The Court also decided to let Islam remain as the state religion. In August 2015, a petition was filed in the High Court challenging the constitutional provision of Islam as the state religion in light of the constitution's commitment to secularism, but in March 2016 the High Court rejected the petition and retained Islam as the state religion.

Bangladeshis are by ancestry originally descendants of low caste Hindus and Buddhists who just some centuries ago converted to Islam. Due to Bangladeshis being relatively newly converted Muslims the culture is extremely different from mainstream Islamic culture which is seen in the Middle east or even Pakistan. Their culture is a mix of Islam and Hinduism where Hinduism has strong presence in traditional culture, attires, food habits etc. One side has Islam as religion and other side has Hindu-Buddhist culture. Bangladeshis love Islam but majority are not five times Namazi.

A Bangladeshi carries both Indian and Pakistani legacy. Every Bangladeshi was Indian before 1947 and Pakistani before 1971. India and Pakistan both gave birth to Bangladesh. So, there are people who carry Indian sentiments and there are people who carry Pakistani sentiment.



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Waking up early offers several benefits for students



- Vijay Garg

Waking up early in the morning is a practice that has been celebrated throughout history for its various benefits, particularly for students. The early morning hours offer a unique and tranquil environment that fosters a sense of calm and focus. As the world gradually comes to life, students can capitalise on this peaceful time to engage in activities that set a positive tone for the day ahead. Whether it's dedicating time to study, engaging in reflective practices like meditation or exercise, or simply enjoying a nutritious breakfast, waking up early provides students with an opportunity to establish a routine that can enhance their overall well-being and productivity.

Moreover, the early morning hours provide a precious commodity that is often scarce in today's fast-paced world – time. By waking up early, students can carve out additional moments in their day to prioritise tasks, set goals, and plan effectively. This proactive approach allows for a more deliberate use of time, enabling students to manage their responsibilities with greater efficiency. Waking up early can be a challenge, especially for teenagers, but there are many benefits to starting your day off early. Here are the top 10 benefits why students should wake up early in the morning:

Improved Academic Performance

Early risers often find that they are more alert and focused in the morning, which can positively impact academic performance. This increased alertness can lead to better concentration during classes and while studying.

Establishing a Routine

Waking up early helps in establishing a consistent daily routine. A structured routine can contribute to better time management, helping students balance their academic and personal responsibilities more effectively.

Increased Productivity

Mornings are often quieter and less distracted, providing an ideal environment for focused work. This can lead to increased productivity as students can tackle important tasks without the

interruptions they might face later in the day.

Better Mental Health

Establishing a morning routine that includes activities such as exercise or mindfulness can positively impact mental health. Regular exercise in the morning, for example, has been linked to reduced stress and improved mood.

Enhanced Time Management

Waking up early provides students with extra time in the morning to plan their day, organise their tasks, and set priorities. This proactive approach to time management can lead to a more successful and less stressful academic experience.

Optimal Brain Function

Research suggests that the brain tends to function at its best during the early hours of the day. By waking up early, students may be able to harness this period of optimal brain function for tasks that require critical thinking and problem-solving.

Improved Physical Health

Early risers are more likely to engage in regular exercise, which contributes to overall physical health. Morning exercise has been associated with better fitness levels, weight management, and a reduced risk of various health issues.

Increased Exposure to Natural Light

Exposure to natural light in the morning can regulate the body's internal clock, known as the circadian rhythm. This helps in maintaining a healthy sleep-wake cycle, potentially improving the quality of sleep and overall well-being.

Better Sleep Quality

Waking up early is often linked to going to bed earlier, which can contribute to better sleep quality. A consistent sleep schedule is crucial for maintaining good physical and mental health.

Opportunity for Personal Development

Early mornings provide a quiet and undisturbed time for personal development activities such as reading, reflection, or pursuing hobbies. This dedicated time can contribute to personal growth and self-improvement.

Letters to the Editor

Finals was a game of nerves as Pat Cummins overshadowed his counterpart with brilliant mind game!

The finals were always going to be a game of nerves than skills & Aussies Skipper Pat Cummins's brilliant move to put India in to bat after winning the toss was the shrewdest decision which helped Kangaroos win their 6th WC Championships. It was a mind game as Cummins judged the situation well & the pitch did get easy to bat under lights & due factor played in their favor.

Rohit Sharma had the ammunition to blank out the Aussies but slight overconfidence after a perfect ten wins on the trot & underestimating Australia whom we had beaten in the opening game of the tournament did Team India in & we lost the all-important finals rather easily to the shock of the

entire nation. However, let's not feel disheartened & applaud our team for their brilliant display otherwise & kudos to the Australians for their clinical finish to win the tournament!

S.N.Kabra

Food prices in battle against inflation

Core inflation figures, which do not take into consideration food and fuel prices, are still better at 4.28 per cent. Fuel prices have not seen any hike in the last few months. What has raised the red flag is food inflation which at 6.61 per cent is much higher than the general inflation rate. Food inflation is accounted for mainly by cereals, pulses and vegetables whose prices have been volatile in the last few months. Continuing food inflation will hit the poorer sections badly and is likely to give a spurt to general inflation. The fight against inflation should therefore be fought more on the food inflation front than at a general level.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Urgent Call for Protection of Hospitals and Civilians in Conflict Zones

The recent distressing reports from the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Ukraine paint a grim picture of the vulnerability of hospitals and healthcare facilities in conflict zones. The deliberate targeting of medical institutions and personnel, as well as the tragic loss of innocent lives, demands urgent attention and action from the global community. The assault on hospitals, such as the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahiya and incidents in Selydove, Donetsk Region, is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law. These attacks not only result in devastating casualties but also deprive civilians of critical medical assistance in times of dire need.

As outlined by the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the protection of hospitals and medical staff is a fundamental principle of international law. All parties involved in conflicts must honor these protections, ensuring that hospitals are not used as

shields for military purposes and that civilians seeking medical care are not subjected to harm. The staggering numbers of children affected, as highlighted by the Ministry of Health in Gaza, underscore the urgency of safeguarding the most vulnerable amidst conflict. The reported deaths and missing children represent a heartbreaking toll that cannot be ignored. We call upon all nations, organizations, and individuals to unequivocally condemn attacks on hospitals and medical facilities and to work collaboratively to safeguard the lives and well-being of civilians caught in conflict zones. It is our collective responsibility to uphold the sanctity of medical spaces and protect the innocent from the horrors of war.

Maimul Safui

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Fire broke out in a 24-storey residential building, Nine people suffered from suffocation



Nine people suffered from suffocation after a fire broke out in a 24-storey residential building in the Byculla area of Mumbai on Thursday, officials said. The nine people, including five senior citizens, have been admitted to a hospital and kept under observation, they said. The blaze erupted at 3.40 am on the third floor of the building located in New Hind Mill Compound at MHADA colony

in the Ghodapdeo area of Byculla where the government has given flats to people, mainly mill workers, they said. The fire was confined to the electric meter cabin, wiring, cable, scrap material in the electric duct, garbage and material in the garbage duct from the 1st to 24th floor of the building, a civic official said.

He said at least 135 people were rescued from different floors of the building. Out of

them, 25 were evacuated from the terrace, 30 from a refuge area on the 15th floor, and 80 people from a refuge area on the 22nd floor of the building, he said.

Those who got suffocated after the blaze have been identified as Lakshmi Raut (70), Archana More (75), Parvatibai Tambole (85), Lata Tambole (67), Pranay Tambole (28), Archana Nilesh More, Mumtaz (60), Abhish (36) and Vishal Vijay More (34), a civic official said. Five fire engines and three water tankers along with other fire brigade vehicles were rushed to the spot after receiving the call and the blaze was doused by 7.20 am, a fire brigade official said.

The cause of the fire is not yet known, but a short-circuit is suspected to have triggered it, a civic official said.

BMC to inaugurate Delisle Bridge in Mumbai today



Days after the civic body filed an FIR against MLA Aaditya Thackeray and other Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders for “illegally inaugurating” the second carriageway of Lower Parel’s Delisle Bridge, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is slated to officially inaugurate the bridge on Thursday. While the bridge will be inaugurated by City Guardian Minister Deepak Kesarkar, civic officials said Aaditya has also been invited to the event among other leaders.

Situated in Lower Parel, the newly constructed Delisle Bridge comprises three lanes in each direction on Joshi Marg and two lanes in the direction of the Ganpatrao Kadam Marg. According to BMC, the reconstructed bridge has been widened and will now consist of four new staircases as well as two new escalators. “Due to the increase in the width of the service roads and the free space under the bridge, the movement of pedestrians will be smoother than before,” said a statement by the civic body.

4,000 crore expenditure details are not available with the BMC during the Covid Period

All the 4 dept transferred the application to each other



In an event in Mumbai, Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal claimed that 4 thousand crores were spent during the Covid period, but the shocking fact that the details of the expenditure of 4 thousand crores during the Covid period is not available with the BMC has come out from the reply given to RTI Activist Anil Galgali by BMC himself.

RTI Activist Anil Galgali applied to the Municipal Commissioner's office and asked for a copy of the report submitted regarding the expenditure of 4 thousand crores incurred during the Covid period. The commissioner's office transferred Galgali's application to the Deputy Chief Accountant (Health). Deputy Chief Accountant (Health) Lalchand Mane transferred the application to the Deputy Com-

missioner (Public Health) stating that a copy of the report was not available. Administrative Officer C. Adhari transferred the application to the Principal Accountant (Finance). Accounts Officer Rajendra Kakde said the information was not available and transferred the application again to the Deputy Chief Accountant (Health).

On one hand there are allegations of corruption and irregularities during the Covid period and the central team and the Mumbai police are investigating by filing a case and on the other hand the Municipal Commissioner himself is not giving an account of 4 thousand crores. Saying that this is a serious matter, Anil Galgali demanded that the information about the expenses during the Covid period should be published on the website.

BMC has decided not to increase water charges for Mumbai

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided not to increase water charges for Mumbai, following directions issued by chief minister Eknath Shinde to municipal commissioner I S Chahal. The civic body had proposed to increase water charges by 8% per year by passing a resolution in 2012, and the general body was given full rights. The hydraulic engineer had also sent a proposal to increase charges for 2023-24, which was sent to Chahal. BMC gets its water supply from Tansa, Upper Vaitarna, Middle Vaitarna, Modak Sagar, Bhatsa, Vehar and Tulsi lakes, and around 3950 million litres of water is purified at Pise, Yewai and Bhandup complexes. The proposed hike in water charges would cover increased costs of purification, maintenance of dams, electric charges and establishment charges. But the hike in charges was opposed by the Congress and the Samajwadi Party.

“They have already been ruling by appointing administrators



and are now set to increase the water tariff by 8%. This increase is proposed from 25 paise to 6 rupees per thousand litres. We strongly oppose it,” Varsha Gaikwad, president, Mumbai Regional Congress Committee, had said. Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shaikh had written to Chahal, urging that the proposal for hiking water tariff be sent back. He had said that since the BMC did not have any general body, it was not appropriate to sanction the proposal. Eventually, the chief minister

asked the commissioner not to raise charges as it affected all.

Soon after the decision to not hike water charges announced, Gaikwad welcomed the move. “Mumbai Congress will continue to oppose such unjust price hike for the betterment of Mumbaikars. It is expected that the corporation should not take any policy decisions on issues related to common Mumbaikars without consulting people’s representatives or taking them into confidence,” she said.

Nation

Uttarakhand's Silkyara tunnel incident: Rescue operation continues to evacuate 41 workers trapped, 12 to 14 hours more needed

Rescue operations to evacuate 41 workers trapped in Uttarakhand's Silkyara tunnel resumed on Thursday morning after an overnight hurdle delayed the drilling by several hours. Former advisor to the prime minister's office Bhaskar Khulbe said an iron mesh had come in the path of the drilling machine creating an escape passage for the workers was removed in the morning but has delayed the rescue operation by 12 to 14 hours.

Removing the mesh in a claustrophobic environment inside the pipe was difficult and the problem was compounded by the lack of oxygen, Khulbe told reporters. "It took us six hours to remove it. But the good news is that we have cleared the hurdle which came yesterday after drilling up to 45 metres had been done," he said. Now the process of assembling to go beyond 45 metres which requires welding the pipes has been restarted. The drilling will also resume soon, he



said. It will take around 12 to 14 hours more to complete the whole operation of reaching the workers.

After that, it will take three hours to take out the workers one by one. That will be done with the help of NDRF, Khulbe said. Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Gen V K Singh and National Disaster

Response Force (NDRF) Director General Atul Karwal have arrived in Silkyara for an on-the-spot review of the rescue efforts. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is also likely to arrive soon. The drilling of 800 mm diameter steel pipes was halted on Wednesday night after the mesh came in the way of the auger ma-

chine, officials said. Till 6 pm on Wednesday, up to 44 metres of the escape pipe had been inserted into the debris, an official update said in Delhi.

Earlier, officials said the American-made auger machine had to drill through a 57-metre stretch of debris to reach the 41 workers, who were trapped

when a portion of the under-construction tunnel collapsed 11 days ago. The drilling from the Silkyara end was put on hold on Friday afternoon when the auger machine encountered a hard obstacle around the 22-metre mark, creating vibrations in the tunnel that caused safety concerns.

The drilling resumed around midnight Tuesday. As the machine drills through, six-metre sections of steel pipes, just under a metre wide, are pushed into the escape passage. Once the pipe-way reaches the other end, the trapped workers are expected to crawl out. Meanwhile, all arrangements have been made to provide immediate medical care to the 41 trapped workers after they are evacuated, officials said. A 41-bed separate ward has been readied at the Community Health Centre in Chinyalisaur for Silkyara tunnel evacuees and 41 ambulances wait outside the tunnel to rush them there as soon as they crawl out. **PTI**

Andhra Pradesh: Around 15 students from a government school have fallen ill after mid-day meal

More than 15 students from a government primary school at Tekulapalem village in Andhra's Annamayya district were admitted to a hospital after falling ill due to the mid-day meal consumed on school premises. The students alleged that the cause of their illness was a lizard falling into the meal during the rice cooking process.

Authorities, upon receiving information about the incident, shifted the affected children to the hospital. Revenue Division Officer (RDO) Murali, upon reaching the hospital, reassured that the situation wasn't severe, with no reports of vomiting among the students. He affirmed that all children are recovering and will be discharged to their homes once fully recuperated. The Headmaster of the school claimed that no evidence of a liz-

ard was found in the vessels used for cooking and despite thorough inspections, neither the school nor authorities discovered any signs of contamination.

He further said that everyone is safe and vaccinated so there is nothing to worry about. This is not the first instance of students being reported of falling sick after consuming a mid-day meal.

Earlier in the month of October, sixteen students of a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) run school allegedly fell ill after consuming a mid-day meal in Mumbai's Anik village. "The 16 students were brought to the hospital after they complained of vomiting and abdominal pain following the mid-day meal at school. They have been admitted to the paediatric ward," said Sunil Phakle, Dean of Jan Shatabdi Hospital, Chembur. **ANI**

Jammu and Kashmir: One terrorist killed in the ongoing encounter at Rajouri district

One terrorist killed in the ongoing encounter between terrorists and joint forces of the Army and J-K Police in the Bajimaal area of Dharmsal in the Rajouri district entered its second day on Thursday. The killed terrorists have been identified as Quari, a Pakistani national and a hardcore terrorist. He has been trained on the Pakistani and Afghan fronts, as per the PRO Defence Jammu.

According to the PRO Defence Jammu, the killed terrorist is a highly-ranked terrorist leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba. He has been ac-



tive in Rajouri-Poonch along with his group for the past year. He is also believed to be the mastermind of the Dangri and Kandi attacks. He was sent to revive terrorism in the region. He is an expert in IEDs, operating and hiding from

caves, and a trained sniper, the RO Defence Jammu added. This is the second day of the encounter between terrorists and joint forces of the Army and J-K Police in the Bajimaal area of Dharmsal in the Rajouri district. **ANI**

Plea for review of same-sex marriages verdict mentioned in SC

A petition seeking review of the October 17 verdict refusing to accord legal recognition to same-sex marriages was on Thursday mentioned before the Supreme Court for an open court hearing. A bench led by Chief Jus-

tice D Y Chandrachud took note of the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for one of the petitioners, that the review plea needed to be heard in open court to redress the grievances of those seeking validation

of same-sex marriages. The bench also comprised Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. "I have not examined the (review) petition. Let me circulate it (among judges of that constitution bench)," the CJI said. **PTI**

World

Turkish journalist Uze Bulut said, "Jamaat-e-Islami is responsible for militancy and genocide, it not just a threat to Bangladesh but countries aswell"

Jamaat-e-Islami, the Bangladesh-based political party with radical religious ideology and responsible for militancy and genocide, is not just a threat to Bangladesh but also to other countries including in the West, Turkish journalist Uze Bulut has said in his research article for think tank Gatestone Institute. This comes while the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh is upholding the order to cancel the registration of Jamaat-e-Islami as a political party.

Notably, Turkey has been a staunch supporter for Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh. When top Jamaat leaders were being sentenced to death one after another in Bangladesh in the trial of war crimes committed in 1971, the Turkish government not only protested strongly, but at one point



also withdrew their ambassador from Dhaka, Bangladesh-based Bangla Tribune reported. However, despite being a journalist from that Turkey, Uze Bulut has taken a completely different po-

sition in the context of Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh.

Firstly, Bulut said that the the 1972 constitution of Bangladesh provided the legal basis for a "secular government" in

the country. This secularism is a fundamental principle of the governance of the state of Bangladesh and that is why the use of religion in politics is prohibited there. But, the author alleges that

Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh is doing exactly that - "they are using Islam to do politics". Secondly, he also claimed that the ideology of Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh and Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt is "exactly the same".

Both parties talk about establishing Islamic states in their respective countries, where strict Sharia law will be the supreme law of the land, not their own constitutions. The rights of religious minorities and women are also severely curtailed there. Thirdly, just like the Muslim Brotherhood, Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh has its ideological origin from the thought and philosophy of Islamic theoretical leader Abul Ala Al Maududi whose views have always been deemed controversial. ANI

UK: Foreign Secretary David Cameron welcomes temporary ceasefire, says "crucial step" over Gaza strip

British Foreign Secretary David Cameron has welcomed the hostage deal between Israel and Hamas -- which paves for the release of first group of 50 Israeli hostages -- and urged all parties to ensure that the agreement is delivered in full. Calling it a "crucial step", the former Prime Minister said that the pause provides an important opportunity to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza by making greater volumes of food, fuel and other life-saving aid reach the conflict-hit region.

Cameron chaired a meeting of Arab and Islamic leaders in

London on the situation in Israel and Gaza. "This agreement is a crucial step towards providing relief to the families of the hostages and addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza," Cameron said in a statement. "I urge all parties to ensure the agreement is delivered in full. Of course, we want to see all hostages released immediately and families affected by the horrors of the October 7th terror attack reunited," he added.

He further said that UK has doubled its commitment to Palestinians and will continue to work to secure the release of all hostages, restoration of security

and reaching a "long-term political solution" to the conflict. "This pause provides an important opportunity to ensure much greater volumes of food, fuel and other life-saving aid can reach Gaza on a sustained basis. We have already doubled our aid commitment to Palestinians this year and will work closely with the UN to ensure it reaches those who need it," the statement read. It added, "The UK will continue to work with all partners in the region to secure the release of all hostages, restore security and reach a long-term political solution which enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace." ANI

Nepal goes through 4.5 magnitude of earthquake

An earthquake of magnitude 4.5 struck Nepal in the early hours of Thursday, according to the Nepal Seismological Centre With an epicentre at Chitlang of Makwanpur district in the Himalayan nation, the quake was



recorded at around 1:20 am (local time), however, no casualties were reported. Nepal is still trying to overcome the loss of lives and property that took place due to a 6.4 magnitude earthquake that jolted the Himalayan nation on November 3. ANI

Nepal: Clashes erupted between police and pro-monarchy protestors to support businessman Durga Prasai



A clash erupted between Nepal police and pro-monarchy protestors on Thursday, after which the police had to use water cannons and teargas to disperse supporters of businessman Durga Prasai, Kathmandu Post reported. Dozens of rounds of tear gas was fired to control the situation.

The police said that the crowd attempted to cross the area fixed for the demonstration. Notably, Prasai is considered a 'controversial' businessman who is has been organising people under his 'Nation, Nationality, Religion-Culture and Citizen Rescue Campaign.' He has threatened to topple the current Nepal government

and "reinstate the monarchy and Hindu Kingdom," Kathmandu Post reported.

The Police have accused Prasai of inciting the crowd. Protesters allegedly pelted stones targeting security personnel as soon as Prasai left the scene today after addressing the protest at Balkhu. Earlier in the day, CPN-UML's youth wing members and Prasai's supporters clashed during a protest at Balkhu in Kathmandu.

Prasai's supporters pelted stones at UML cadres after the latter reached Balkhu during a motorcycle rally. Vehicles used by demonstrators and those parked on the roadside, were also damaged by Prasai supporters. ANI

Expression

Richer than the Monarch

The richest Prime Minister ever in England is Rishi Sunak, whose forefathers migrated from Gujranwala (Punjab) to England. Washington post writes- 'It's for the first time in the history of Britain that the person (Rishi Sunak) living in the Prime Minister Office at Downing street owns more wealth than Buckingham palace'. His wife, Akshata Murty, herself holds the place in the list of most wealthy women of the country.

Not only abroad but in the India, too, the outlook to the entrepreneurship and resulting prosperity is clearly seen to have undergone transformation. In one of his columns the eminent columnist Swaminathan S Anklesharia Aiyar writes- 'Many believe constant claims by opposition parties and leftists journals that our economy is dominated by two-Modi friendly conglomerates. Rubbish! A research paper by Neelkanth Mishra of Credit Suisse reveals India has spawned 100 "unicorns" — unlisted new companies worth over a billion dollars each. Never before has India witnessed such a broad-based upsurge of massive new businesses unconnected with old wealth, political connects or dirty deals with public sector banks.' as This he wrote in 2021. Now things have gone far ahead, one recent development will be enough to corroborate it. The result of PLI scheme in 14 sectors is before us. This led the cost

of production down by 15 % in India of turbines, electric vehicles, chemicals and other machines as compared to that manufactured in America; the same data in China is only 4% less. The report also says that during 2018-2022 India's export to America increased by 44%(23 billion dollars); whereas that of China decreased by 10%.

The saturnine kind of era of over emphasizing upon the importance to socialism and communism eating into sense of responsibility, creativity, entrepreneurship and productivity gradually getting to be the days of the past soon to be forget. Of course they had never been in consonance with true Bhartiya approach to the 'Artha', with its all components in entirety. "The development of science of chemicals in India was due to growth of Ayurveda and industry. In Gupta- period the industry of India was in a far advanced state and Romans were of the view that in dyeing the clothes; in the binding-work of leather; and in the manufacturing of glass and cement the artisans of India were ahead of all the countries world over. During the 5th -6th century India led the world in the field of Industrial chemical compounds. In the medical science India was, probably, the Guru of ancient world. Sushrut[5th century B.C.]; Charak [2nd century]; Vaagbhatt [6th century] and Bhaavmitr [1550 AD]— These four were the leading Ayurveda acharyas, who made India advanced in physical and chemical



science. Lala Lajpat Rai, the freedom fighter, quoted the views of Lord Amphil in his book 'Unhappy India' that— "The mediaeval and ancient Europe received all the knowledge concerning medicines from Arabs, and Arabs got it from India."— Sanskriti ke chaar adhayaya; p-216-17: Ramdharisingh Dinkar. It was because of this knowledge and technical-skill that India once held sway over the commercial-world.

For instance, see- 'Commerce of the India is the commerce of the world'- Peter the Great of Russia, 1675-1725AD, [Glimpses of world history- JN Nehru]. As also- 'Only cotton industry known to Europe in the early 18th century was that of India, whose products [calicoes] the Eastern trading companies

sold abroad and at home, where they were bitterly opposed by the domestic manufacturers of wool, linen and silk..." [Industry and Empire- E.J. Hobsbawm].

Bringing opposition into an organized form they even made one 'Patriotic society' in Edinburgh in 1775, the mission of which was to boycott Indian goods through arousing swadeshi spirit among the local people. Obviously, since very ancient time India had been prosperous, and was the country resided by the people who were apart from being scientific bend of mind - active and industrious and were of commercial tendency. Therefore, even Greek traveler, Magesthenese, had to say— "I found nowhere in India a man whom we call poor."

Entertainment



Oscar winner Ariana DeBose gives advice to people chasing dream, says "Never give up"

American actor Ariana DeBose attended the UK premiere of her Disney movie 'Wish' and gave some advice to anyone who's chasing a dream, reported People. "Never stop believing," DeBose, 32, told People at the Odeon Luxe in London's Leicester Square. "You know, your dreams don't work unless you do."

"It's hard in the world that we live in, but your dreams have the possibility; they always do; never give up on them," the Oscar winner said. DeBose, who was dressed in a sheer purple gown with silver platforms and hanging earrings, opened up about her personal journey, saying that it's "never the path that's obvious." "Sometimes, in order to be re-inspired, you have to choose a different path and you never know where it's going to take you," she says. "But it's always led me to really interesting places." DeBose, who voices the character of Asha in the Disney movie, was all smiles on Monday's blue carpet as her hair was styled into two braids on either side of her head.

In a reposted video on her Instagram Story, DeBose explained that her gown was inspired by her Wish character, Asha, who also wears a purple dress. "I thought, while she's not a princess, she did deserve a ballgown this evening," DeBose told Oh My Disney UK. **ANI**



Koffee with Karan: Actor Alia Bhatt reveals about Sidharth, says "He's given me the first love of my life"

Karan Johar's 'Students' Varun Dhawan and Sidharth Malhotra were seen gracing the famous 'Koffee' couch on the recent episode of 'Koffee with Karan Season 8'. Varun and Sidharth made their acting debut with Karan Johar's film 'Student of the Year' which also starred Alia Bhatt in the lead role.

During the episode, KJo played a special video message of Alia Bhatt in which she talked about her equation with her first co-actors. Talking about Sidharth, the 'Raazi' actor said, "Sid is actually a really good singer. He is a very healthy person, so he doesn't party at all, but he is the best person to get a party started, so this is the inherent Punjabi-ness in him. He just knows how to get people going, he's really good. Also, he is really hilarious, he is the first person to fall asleep at his own birthday party." Alia thanked the 'Thank God' actor for giving her the first love of her life.

She said, "I'm very thankful to Sid because he's given me the first love of my life which is Edward." Edward is Alia's cat which was gifted by Sidharth. The 'Darlings' actor posts pictures of her cat, Edward on her social media at regular intervals. At times, her pet accompanies her during her gym regime, morning schedules, and me-time. **ANI**

Actor Jamie Foxx sued in sexual assault case, Woman alleges was cornered at a restaurant

Actor Jamie Foxx has been sued by a woman in a case of sexual assault that allegedly happened in the year 2015, as per Deadline magazine. As per Deadline, the unidentified woman alleged that Jamie had assaulted her at a restaurant rooftop in New York City in August 2015. The woman is seeking a trial by jury and compensatory and punitive damages. The case was filed under New York's Adult Survivors Act, reported Deadline.

Foxx has been accused of groping in 2015 the woman, who alleged he cornered her at Catch restaurant in New York City. The anonymous accuser claims assault and battery, among other claims against Catch for negligent supervision and Foxx, whose real name is Eric Marlon Bishop, reported The Hollywood Reporter. **ANI**



Actor Ranbir Kapoor recalls memories of his father Rishi Kapoor, says "I thought of my father, he was a very passionate and aggressive man"

Actor Ranbir Kapoor on Thursday at the trailer launch of his upcoming action thriller film 'Animal' revealed that his fierce role in the film reminded him of his late father Rishi Kapoor. The star cast of the film Ranbir Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, Bobby Deol along with producer Bhushan Kumar and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga arrived at the trailer launch of the film in Delhi and were seen twinning in black outfits.

In the trailer, Ranbir is seen in a completely fierce avatar and in an obsessive love for his father.

Ranbir's character is protective and obsessive about his father's love. He is seen threatening everybody who comes in the way of his love for his father. During the trailer launch event Ranbir remembered his father late actor Rishi Kapoor and said, "Whenever I met Sandeep Reddy Vanga, I always told him to give me a reference. I have never heard or felt like this. I think eventually subconsciously, I thought of my father, the way he used to speak, he was a very passionate and aggressive man." **ANI**