



Congress leaders demanded for "Dadar railway station to be

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The winter session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in Nagpur is set to begin tomorrow



AV Team

The winter session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly will be held from December 7 to 20 and the reservation politics that has polarised Marathas versus OBCs is likely to dominate proceedings. The winter session expected to be thundery on Thurs-

day with several boiling matters, ranging from the Maratha reservation to a loan waiver for farmers. The ruling Mahayuti and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the Opposition may lock horns over several issues— looking to put their best foot forward ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

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Rajasthan Bandh Today



State police yet to find out killers and the motive of murder

AV Team

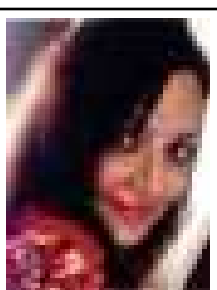
Amid great win in state Assembly Elections, Rajasthan is going through temporary turmoil. On December 5, Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi, the national president of Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena, was shot dead by bike-borne criminals in Jaipur. Entire Karni Sena took to the roads to know the rea-

politically motivated assignation. Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena has issued a demand that until the killers of Sukhdev are not encountered, Gogamedi's body will not be cremated nor will the swearing-in ceremony of the new government be allowed to take place. Also, details are coming out about the three killers, one of whom died in the firing.

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Killing of Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi brings unrest in Rajasthan

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

On December 5, when BJP was celebrating its massive win in assembly elections, Rajasthan was in festive mode, on the other hand some goons killed Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi, a prominent Rajput leader from Rajasthan, was sipping tea with four other men at his Jaipur residence around noon. While in the middle of a conversation, two of the men got up from their chairs and fired extensively at Gogamedi leaving him in a pool of blood on the floor. Navin Shekhawat, a garment trader from Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, came to Gogamedi's house with two youths. Sukhdev was sitting on one side of the sofa. There was a call on Sukhdev's mobile. As soon as Sukhdev picked up the call, the two-youth sitting right in front of Gogamedi opened fire. One of them returned

again and gave the remaining bullets to Sukkhadriv. In spite of having personnel security the shooters reached Gogamedi and killed him, the question arises of the involvement of security guards in the killing plot.

Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi is known as a strong leader of the Rajput community. Before his assassination, he was the president of the Rajasthan organization Shree Rajput Karni Seva. He joined Karni Sena in 2013. He has been associated with this organization since then. Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi is well respected in the Rajput society and followed by the youth. In 2017, a woman accused Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi of rape and intimidation in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Killing of Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi brings unrest in Rajasthan

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Police have identified two accused in the case. Among them, one shooter is Rohit from Makrana and the other is Nitin Fauji, a resident of Mahendragarh in Haryana.

In the Facebook post, it was written- Ram Ram, all my brothers Rohit Godara Kapoor, Goldie Brar. Brothers today Sukhdev Gogamedi has been killed. We take full responsibility for it.

Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi is known for many controversies, Gogamedi's rise to fame was leading protests against the Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh and Shahid Kapoor-starrer 2018 Bollywood film 'Padmavat'.

During this time, the victim also said that she was taken to various places by Sukhdev Singh rape her. However, this case was later proved to be malicious in the police investigation.

The Rajput leader's sensational murder, caught on CCTV, has sparked protests in Rajasthan which is under the process of a regime change after the BJP unseated the ruling Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in the recently held assembly elections in the state. Police have identified two accused in the case. Among them, one shooter is Rohit from Makrana and the other is Nitin Fauji, a resident of Mahendragarh in Haryana. Nitin is still in the army. He shot Gogamedi in the head. After the murder of Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi, a Facebook page created under the name of gangster Rohit Godara took responsibility for the murder.

In the Facebook post, it was written- Ram Ram, all my brothers Rohit Godara Kapoor, Goldie Brar. Brothers today Sukhdev Gogamedi has been killed. We take full responsibility for it. This murder is done by us. Brothers, I want to tell you that he used to get compromised with our enemies. He used to work to strengthen them. It is being said that Nitin is home on vacation in November. After killing Gogamedi with the first bullet, one of the shooters allegedly fired the second bullet at Naveen. It is being said that Rohit Rathod Makrana and Nitin Fauji Haryana are the two shooters who escaped. However, no official confirmation has come from the police so far.

Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi is known for many controversies, Gogamedi's rise to fame was leading protests against the Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh and Shahid Kapoor-starrer 2018 Bollywood film 'Padmavat'. Rajput groups in Rajasthan, including the Mr Gogamedi-led group, protested and vandalised the sets of the film, claiming it portrayed Padmavati, a Rajput queen, in a bad light. The film's director, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, was assaulted by the Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena Jaipur's Jaigarh Fort. The protests made national headlines when a bounty of ₹ 10 crore was placed on Deepika Padukone by a member of another Karni Sena group.

Gogamedi also protested against the police encounter of gangster Anand Pal Singh. Singh's death became a rallying point for Rajputs in the state who claimed that the gangster wanted to surrender but was shot dead by the police in cold blood. During the exchange of fire at Gogamedi's residence, one of the three shooters, identified as Naveen



Singh Shekhawat, was also killed. A security guard of Gogamedi was critically injured in the firing. Gangster Rohit Godara is closely associated with both Goldie Brar and Lawrence Bishnoi's gangs, and has claimed responsibility for the murder.

Godara, a resident of Bikaner's Lunakaran, is believed to be in Canada. He has over 32 cases registered against him at various police stations in India. The Special Operation Group of Rajasthan Police also alerted the ADG Police Security. Gogamedi himself also raised concerns about threats and demanded security everywhere, from public forums to government offices. During this period, weapons were collected from private security in anticipation of the elections. This issue raises questions about fatal negligence or a conspiracy within the government machinery. The main question remains: Why was he not provided with security?

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Voices



Marriages should take place in the country's courtyard only



- Vijay Garg

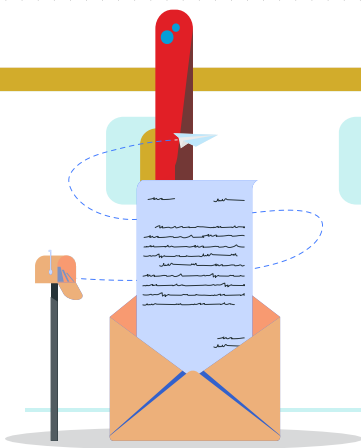
In recent years, whether common or special, the trend of destination wedding has increased in Indian families. Most of these weddings are organized at famous places in other countries. This matter related to marriage ceremonies seems to be just a matter of personal interest and convenience in choosing the venue of the ceremony, but it is affecting every aspect of our lives. Even the economic-social conditions of the country are not untouched by its impact. This is the reason why Prime Minister Modi asked the people to become the people of India in the soil of India. Advice has been given regarding celebrating marriages among the people and keeping the country's money in the country so that the local economy can benefit. The expenses incurred on wedding ceremonies support the livelihood of many people doing small and big jobs. This is the reason why the business class of the country has also agreed to this.

About 38 lakh marriages will take place in India in the next few days. Rs 4.74 lakh crore will be spent on wedding ceremonies organized across the country. This financial flow is very helpful for the economy and Indian business. In the country It is going to give impetus to the market of goods and services. In any wedding, almost 80 percent of the expenditure is on goods

and services. There has always been a tradition of organizing weddings with pomp and show in India. In organizing a wedding, about 50 percent is spent on venue rent and food arrangements, 15 percent on decorations, five percent on entertainment and three percent on the grooming of family and relatives. 10 percent of the amount is spent on other services. It is not difficult to understand how important this season of wedding ceremonies is for the country's economy. There is strength.

In the Indian environment, marriage comes as a lifesaver not only for the economy but also for family relations. Wedding ceremonies also promote social interaction. Whereas even our own people are not able to easily attend the weddings held in distant countries. For the family too, the celebration of nourishing mutual relationships creates a new struggle of preparations instead of bonding. There are many legal problems involved in organizing an event in a foreign country. Such situations increase expenses as well as problems. Whereas marriages taking place in the country are family-owned Creates an environment of ease and social harmony. Events are organized to preserve customs and traditions. In such a situation, it would be pleasant in every way if the wedding ceremony takes place among loved ones in the courtyard of one's own country.

Letters to the Editor



Heartbreaking death

After a week-long ceasefire, the black clouds of war have again formed in Gaza Strip. After the ceasefire, 109 civilians have been killed and hundreds of civilians have been injured in airstrikes carried out by Israel in 200 places. More than 15,000 citizens of Gaza Strip have lost their lives in this war that started on October 7. The death of 6,000 children shows the brutality and horror of war. Israel's airstrikes aimed at eliminating the terrorist organization Hamas are increasing day by day the plight of the Palestinian people.

Leaflets calling for the Palestinian people in the south to leave their homes and move to safer places came from Israeli planes. Eight Israeli hostages held by Hamas have been freed. In return, Israel has released 30 Palestinian prisoners. The war has resumed after the ceasefire expired on Friday. What is the fault of the children who have been injured and killed in this war? Life flourishes. The deaths of young children already ravaged by war are heartbreaking.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Modi magic is here to stay as an Hat-trick for Prime Minister looks inevitable in 2024!

Modi magic is here to stay & assembly election results are a clear indication that the ruling party at the Centre will return to power with a comfortable majority in the upcoming Parliamentary elections next year. Too many cooks spoil the broth & the opposition is in an disarray as ambitions of several party's & their leaders take a hit when it comes to decision making as each one of them have an single agenda of becoming the next Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Modi is on course for a hat-trick in 2024 which he truly deserves after the way he handled not just covid but the economy which is booming after the pandemic & lockdown which was responsible for recession in other countries. Stock markets love stability as well as continuity & Indices at lifetime highs are an indication of inherent strength in our economy. Buying stocks at the current prices & valuations may not be advisable but investors can stay put if one has an long time investment horizon. New investors can wait for some correction to enter the markets as equities gives ample opportunities for both Bulls & Bears to make money if one can time the markets decisively!

S.N.Kabra

Gunfight Between Militant Groups

At least 13 killed in gunfight between militant groups in strife-hit Manipur on Monday. Nearly 200 people have been killed and over 60,000 others have been displaced due to the clashes between the majority Meitei and the Kukis since May. The sporadic incidents have continued despite presence of a large number of central security forces including the Army. No one knows when peace will be restored and environment will be friendly where people could live lives comfortably and fearlessly. Central Govt should pay special attention towards Manipur and use all possible resources to stop conflict.

TKR.Noori

Negligence towards Former Indian Navy Officers in Qatar

In the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament, which began on Monday, the Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, raised the issue of the death sentence against eight former Indian Navy officers awarded by a court in Qatar, and demanded that the government exhaust every resource to bring them back. PM Modi has just come from Climate Change session of the COP28 but there was no discussion on this issue while he could have solved it. It displays his neg-

ligence towards his people, instead, he should always be very pensive regarding his subjects.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Drug Addiction

Today the country's youth are falling into the swamp of drugs. One of the reasons for this is lack of stamina. Young people today lose their morale very quickly, which leads to depression and then falling into the trap of drug addiction. Parents should teach their children to fight situations and make them strong. The second big reason is that addiction has become popular nowadays. In many films, the actor is shown smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol, as a result of which young people are also inspired to become addicted to drugs. The biggest weakness of young people is accepting drugs as a fad by falling into bad company. It is important for young people to empower themselves and share any problem with parents.

Ashraf Nawaz

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Congress leaders demanded for "Dadar railway station to be renamed as Chaityabhoomi"



The Mumbai unit of the Congress on Wednesday urged the Maharashtra government to rename the Dadar railway station in Mumbai as Chaityabhoomi. Chaityabhoomi is the final resting place of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. The death anniversary of Dr Ambedkar on December 6 is observed as 'Mahaparinirvan Din'.

Thousands of people from across the state converge at Chaityabhoomi on this day every year. Mumbai Congress president Var-

sha Gaikwad paid tributes to Dr Ambedkar at the Chaityabhoomi.

Talking to reporters after that, she said, "Earlier, the state government approached the Centre with the demand to rename Elphinstone Road railway station as Prabhadevi. On similar lines, the Dadar railway station should be renamed as Chaityabhoomi. This has been a long-pending demand of lakhs of followers of Dr Ambedkar," she said.

In 2018, the state government renamed the Elphinstone Road station as Prabhadevi. When a

new railway station was being built at Oshiwara, it was named as Ram Mandir, she said. "If we consider that, then the demand of Bhimsainiks to change the name of Dadar railway station to Chaityabhoomi is very old. Their demand was not strong or fierce, but if the above demands were met and if lakhs of followers are demanding the change of name for years, then what is the problem?" Gaikwad asked. The former minister added that Dadar area played a key role in the life of Dr Ambedkar. "He used to live in 'Rajgruha' (his residence in Mumbai) and his final rites were also performed here. Every year, millions of his followers come to Chaityabhoomi. As a result, the state government should respect their demand and move the proposal in this (winter) session (of state legislature) itself," Gaikwad asserted. PTI

Bombay HC said, "no laxness can be accepted" over fire incident

Every other day there is a fire incident in Mumbai in which people lose their lives, the Bombay High Court said on Wednesday, pulling up the Maharashtra government for dragging its feet on implementation of fire safety rules and regulations. A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Arif Doctor said this was a "very very serious" issue and "no laxness can be accepted". "Fire incidents appear to be on a rise. Every other day in this city there is a fire incident and there are reports of people losing their lives," CJ Upadhyaya said.

The court said it was not its job to keep prompting the government on what steps need to be taken. "This is not done. Are we sitting here to prompt you (the government) for every action? Is this our job? What is all this happening here?" CJ Upadhyaya said.

The bench referred to the fire incident which occurred recently in a four-storey residential building in south Mumbai, where an 82-year-old woman and her 60-year-old son

lost their lives. "The manner in which these two deaths have occurred...is this what you (government) want for the people in this city...to lose their loved family members like this?" CJ Upadhyaya asked.

Additional government pleader Jyoti Chavan informed the court that an expert committee, formed last year, had in February 2023 submitted its report. The report is placed before the state Urban Development Department for consideration and to take steps to amend the Development Control and Promotion Control (DCPR) 2034, Chavan said.

The bench noted that the report was submitted in February and no steps have been taken till now. "We are in December now. What is the government doing? Any laxness cannot be accepted," the court said. The bench directed the Principal Secretary of the Urban Development Department to inform the court on Friday the time it would take on the issue. "We want a specific timeline," the court said. PTI

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The winter session of the Maharashtra ...

BJP will also work towards reaffirming its leadership within the alliance ahead of the upcoming polls. After pulling off a massive three-state win in the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the BJP is understandably upbeat and is likely to go all guns blazing in Nagpur – its political bastion and the home ground of Deputy Chief Minis-

ter Devendra Fadnavis and state BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule.

Meanwhile, the MVA, a coalition of the Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Sharad Pawar and the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray, will be gearing up to put up a united and aggressive front against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Mahayuti.

Rajasthan Bandh Today: State police ...

An atmosphere of tension pervades Rajasthan following the murder of Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena President Sukhdev Gogamedi in Jaipur. People of the Rajput community took to the streets and burnt tires at many places. The reports suggest that the shooters used Naveen Singh Shekhawat to reach Gogamedi. Shekhawat was familiar with Gogamedi for a long time and was a frequent

visitor to Gogamedi's house. Taking advantage of this, both the other shooters managed to connect with Gogamedi. After killing Gogamedi with the first bullet, one of the shooters allegedly fired the second bullet at Naveen. It being said that Rohit Rathod Makrana and Nitin Fauji Haryana are the two shooters who escaped. However, no official confirmation has come from the police so far.

Ahead of winter session, Opposition parties boycotted the customary tea party of the commencement of session

Opposition parties on Wednesday boycotted the customary tea party on the eve of the commencement of the winter session of the Maharashtra legislature here alleging that the government has failed to tackle the agrarian distress, riots, and drug crime. Speaking to reporters here, the Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra assembly, Vijay Wadettiwar, cited the latest crime bureau data to target the government. "We received the invitation of the state government for the tea party but we feel it would be highly inappropriate to attend it. We have decided to boycott the event," the Congress leader said.

As per the convention, the winter session of the state legislature is held in Nagpur, the second capital of Maharashtra, every year.



Referring to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, Wadettiwar claimed 22,746 farmers have committed suicide in Maharashtra because of agrarian distress and indebtedness. "The government has failed to address the agrarian distress in Maharashtra. There is no check on the rampant drug supply in the state. The NCRB figures also indicate that 8,218 cases of rioting were reported in the state (in 2022). In such a scenario,

will fresh investment come to our state?" he questioned. The Congress leader further alleged that the state government has not even paid Rs 50,000 financial assistance to every farmer who suffered crop loss last year. "The way this government announced drought in 40 tehsils; raises suspicion that the move is politically motivated. These tehsils are seemingly selected considering certain politicians," he added. PTI

Nation

Senthilkumar's 'Gaumutra' remark: DMK leader Senthilkumar issues apology, Union Minister Giriraj Singh, says "attempting to finish Sanatan"



Sanatan in India. Stop mocking and attempting to finish Sanatan; otherwise you yourself will be finished."

He further said that Nitish Kumar is not capable of being the Chief Minister of Bihar. "I don't think that Nitish Kumar is capable anymore to even be the Chief Minister. The remarks he made in the state assembly and council...he has lost his goodwill...He is not capable of being even a Chief Minister, let alone the Prime Minister," the union minister said. Meanwhile, the third day of the Winter Session of Parliament started with shouts of "Maafi Mango" (Apologise) from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs even before the Speaker could start proceedings for the day in the Lok Sabha. The BJP MPs were offended by a pejorative term used by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP Senthilkumar in Parliament while explaining the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) recent win in the three Hindi heartland states. ANI

On Wednesday DMK MP, DNV Senthilkumar apologised in the parliament for the 'Gaumutra' statement made earlier in the parliament where he said "I regret for the statement and I withdraw it back" over this apology he had also recently posted on X stating, "Commenting on the results of the five recent state assembly elections, I have used a word in an inappropriate way. Not using that term with any intent, I apologize for sending wrong meaning across"

After the 'Gaumutra' remark by DMK member of Parliament DNV Senthilkumar, which has hence been expunged, Union Minister Giriraj Singh said opposition leaders should stop mocking and "attempting to finish Sanatan" noting that doing so would prove detrimental to them. "I would like to tell both Rahul Gandhi and the Stalin father-son duo (MK Stalin and Udhayanidhi Stalin) that 'Ganga' and 'Gau' are the identities of Sanatan in India. 'Gaumata' is the identity of

Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Prahlad Singh Patel step down from their post, BJP decides to bring new face



Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Prahlad Singh Patel resigned from Lok Sabha on Wednesday as the BJP decided that all of its 12 MPs recently elected to state assemblies will quit Parliament, amid strong indications that they may join the new governments in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. The move has given rise

to the view that the party leadership may bring in new faces at the helm in all the three states. Senior leaders, however, declined to comment on such a development. BJP president J P Nadda accompanied 10 of them as they tendered their resignations from Parliament. Two others, Union minister Renuka Singh and Mahant Balaknath, will also be quitting, party leaders said. PTI

Mizoram: Zoram People's Movement leader Lalduhoma, to take oath as CM on December 8



Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader and to be the Chief Minister of Mizoram, Lalduhoma met Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and staked claim to form the government in the state. ZPM leader Lalduhoma will take the oath as CM of Mizoram on December 8 at Rajbhavan.

After meeting the Governor, he told ANI "We talked about the formation of new government. He had asked me to form government which will be done on Friday and next week we'll

have the first session. We are very happy and were very honoured by the Governor. Our priority is to buy agriculture products and we have selected four items for that." Further speaking on Myanmar refugees in Mizoram, Lalduhoma again said that they all are Indian citizens and there is no difference. "Yesterday, I talked to the Home Minister, I will go to Delhi and meet him and discuss the issue. They are all Indian citizens. There is no difference. Home Minister has assured of full cooperation," he said. ANI

Cyclone Michaung: Exam have been postponed in several areas of Tamil Nadu

Half-yearly exams for school students have been postponed in several affected districts of Tamil Nadu due to Cyclone Michaung, said the Tamil Nadu School Education Department on Wednesday. Districts where exams were postponed include Chennai, Chengalpattu, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram. However, in the rest of the districts, half-yearly exams would begin on Thursday as per the schedule, according to the statement.

In those four districts, authority is being given to each school headmaster to conduct exams based on the recovery and to provide separate question papers. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin took stock of affected areas due to Cyclone Michaung on Wednesday and



distributed basic necessities like food and milk to rainfall-affected people in Chennai. "The floodwaters in Chennai's suburbs are still inundated. Many people are working in

the field to ensure that everyone gets basic necessities like food and milk. We are continuing our field work with the hope that the situation will improve soon!" MK Stalin posted on X. ANI

World

UNAMA said, "It is witnessing an increase in violence against the Shia and Hazara communities in provinces of Kabul, Balkh, and Herat"



The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said the country has witnessed an increase in violence against the Shia and Hazara communities in the past month in the provinces of Kabul, Balkh, and Herat, Khaama Press reported. The Khaama Press is an online news service for Afghanistan.

UNAMA called for support for individuals at risk. This comes in response to the recent attack on Shia Muslims in the Herat province, which has prompted strong reactions. Four days ago, six individuals, including four men and two women, were killed as a result of gunfire by unidentified armed individuals in Herat.

As per reports, this incident

occurred in the Hazara-populated area of "Jibril" in the city of Herat, where all the victims were riding in a rickshaw. Before this, on November 23, two Shia clerics were killed in an armed attack in Herat. In the past month, dozens of people, including women have been killed and injured in separate attacks on a bus and a sports hall in the Hazara-populated area of "Dasht-e Barchi" in Kabul. Following the recent attack in Herat, hundreds of people, including women in the province have protested during the funeral processions of the victims.

The Human Rights Defenders Assembly and Richard Bennett, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan for the United Nations Human Rights Council, have also condemned the attacks on Shia Muslims in Afghanistan, according to Khaama Press. ANI

26-year-old Indian man dies in car accident in Australia

A 26-year-old Indian man has died after his car crashed and rolled several times here in Australia and his wife has appealed for help to send his remains back to his parents in India, according to a media report.

Khusdeep Singh was driving along Palmers Road at around 11.15 pm on Monday when his vehicle crossed the median strip and rolled several times in southwest Melbourne, Wyndham TV reported.

Emergency services promptly responded, attempting to revive Singh, but unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries at the scene. While the exact cause of the crash remains under investigation, authorities are considering fatigue as a potential factor.

To send her husband's remains back to his parents in India, Singh's wife, Japneet Kour, an international student who arrived in Australia last



year, has initiated a fundraising campaign on GoFundMe. She shared that her husband worked as a truck driver in Melbourne and was known for his positive outlook on life. Kour is reaching out for donations, big or small, to support the cause and has urged people to share the fundraiser widely. In her plea, she expressed gratitude for the support and condolences received during this heartbreaking time. Investigations into the details of the crash are ongoing. PTI

Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai urges international community to make "gender apartheid" a crime against humanity

Likening the restrictions imposed by the Taliban on women in Afghanistan to the treatment of Black people under apartheid in South Africa, Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai has urged the international community to make "gender apartheid" a crime against humanity. Yousafzai, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 when she was 17 for her fight for girls'

education in Pakistan, was the speaker at the 21st edition of the annual Nelson Mandela Lecture here on Tuesday. At the event, international thought leaders share their views each year on the death anniversary of the global icon who became South Africa's first democratically-elected president after serving 27 years as a political prisoner under the white minority apartheid government. PTI

UNESCO posts an Intangible Heritage List, Adds Garba of Gujarat

Garba, the famed traditional dance form of Gujarat has been declared as an Intangible Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. In a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) on Wednesday, UNESCO posted, "New inscription on the Intangible Heritage List: Garba of Gujarat, India.

Congratulations!"

The decision was made during the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, underway at the Cresta Mowana Resort in Kasane, Botswana. The session, which began on December 4 is scheduled to go on till December 9, according to UNESCO. ANI

Scientists says, "It is setting new record of heat, 2023 a cinch as hottest year" over climate

For the sixth month in a row, Earth set a new monthly record for heat, and also added the hottest autumn to the litany of record-breaking heat this year, the European climate agency calculated. And with only one month left, 2023 is on the way to smashing the record for hottest year. November was nearly a third of a degree Celsius (0.57 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than the previous hottest November, the European Space Agency's Copernicus Climate Change Service announced early Wednesday. November was 1.75 degrees Celsius (3.15 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times, tying October and behind September, for the hottest above average for any month, the scientists said. The last half year has truly been shocking," said Copernicus Deputy Director Samantha Burgess.

"Scientists are running out of adjectives to describe this.' November averaged 14.22 de-



grees Celsius (57.6 degrees Fahrenheit), which is 0.85 degrees Celsius (1.5 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the average the last 30 years. Two days during the month were 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times, something that hadn't happened before, according to Burgess. So far this year is 1.46 degrees Celsius (2.6 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times, about a seventh of a degree warmer than the previous warmest year of 2016, Copernicus scientists calculated. That's very close to the

international threshold the world set for climate change.

Scientists say there are two driving forces behind the six straight record hottest months in a row. One is human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas. That's like an escalator. But the natural El Nino-La Nina cycle is like jumping up or down on that escalator. The world is in a potent El Nino, which is a temporary warming of parts of the central Pacific that changes weather worldwide, and that adds to global temperatures already spiked by climate change. It's only going to get warmer as long as the world keeps pouring greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, Burgess said. And she said that means catastrophic floods, fires, heat waves, droughts will continue.' 2023 is very likely to be a cool year in the future unless we do something about our dependence on fossil fuels," Burgess said. PTI

Expression

Hashtags that heal in monsoon crisis



C.S. Krishnamurthy

Columnist

Chennai faces its most severe rains in a century, turning the city into a landscape of flood and debris, with hundreds evacuated. Amid the chaos, social media (SM) emerges as a vital lifeline for residents, showcasing its potential in disaster management.

As Chennai braces for a chaotic cyclone crisis, the online community steps up in the absence of adequate government responses, mirroring a global trend seen in crises like the Paris terror attacks.

Instant updates

During its relentless downpours and ensuing mayhem, social media becomes a powerful tool for communication, coordination, and aid. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Instagram turn into virtual lifelines.

Hashtags like "MonsoonAlert" and "ChennaiRainsHelp" serve as channels for sharing crucial updates on weather forecasts, flood warnings, and evacuation procedures, providing immediate assistance and creating a sense of solidarity.

Broadcasting urgent needs

Individuals and communities in distress use social media to broadcast their urgent needs, whether for food, water or medical assistance. These pleas reach a wide audience, prompting a rapid response from willing volunteers and aid-providers.

The impact of SM in disaster management is not unique to Chennai; it has played a pivotal role in global events like Hurricane Katrina and the Japanese earthquake.

Journalists, too, leverage SM as a powerful tool for monitoring, reporting, and gathering information on the ground realities of monsoon havoc. The evolving role of audiences, no longer passive



receivers but active contributors, reshapes the media landscape. SM's immediacy becomes relevant for live monitoring of situations. Through flash updates, photos, and videos shared on digital platforms, scribes draw attention to the severity of the situation, urging authorities and the public to take necessary actions.

Support and solidarity

In times of distress, emotional support is as vital as physical aid. Social media becomes a platform for people to share their stories, express empathy, and offer words of encouragement. Virtual communities form, providing a sense of belonging and assurance that no one is facing the disaster alone.

Coordination and relief efforts

Social media's ability to coordinate relief efforts swiftly is one of its greatest strengths. Online communities come together to organise rescue missions, share information about safe

shelters, and mobilise resources for those affected. Hashtags like #MonsoonRelief turn social media into a dynamic space for collective action.

While sceptics might question the reliability of information on social media during crises, the real-time nature of these platforms allows for swift updates. The spontaneous nature of citizen-led initiatives on SM often fills gaps left by traditional communication channels. Critics may argue about potential misinformation, emphasising the need for a balanced approach and recognising social media as a complement not a replacement, for traditional communication methods.

In a world increasingly connected by networks, not leveraging the evolving role of social media in disasters is no longer an option. Embracing this change is a step towards empowering individuals and communities to respond effectively,

especially in regions susceptible to natural disasters like Chennai.

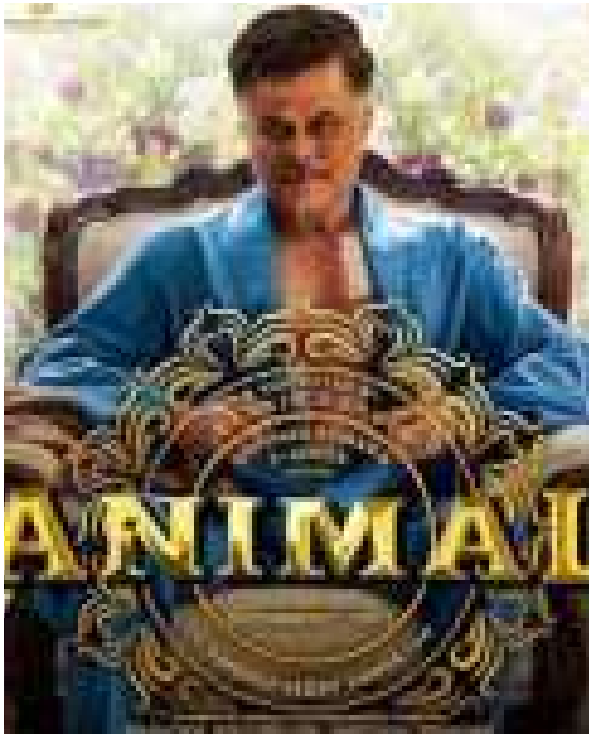
Cautionary note

Users are reminded to exercise caution on social media during disasters. Verifying information before sharing is crucial to prevent the spread of fake news. Reliable sources and official accounts become essential guides in ensuring that disseminated details are accurate and helpful.

Resorting to social media with a discerning approach is not just strategic decision but a step towards building strong communities in an interconnected world. As the monsoon bring both beauty and challenges, social media stands out as a force for good, connecting communities, providing information, fostering a spirit of resilience. In the midst of rain-related disasters, these online platforms, demonstrate the positive impact of technology in times of need.

Entertainment

After film 'Animal', Film-makers unveiled the poster of Anil Kapoor's new project



Makers of the upcoming aerial action thriller film 'Fighter' on Wednesday, unveiled the new poster of actor Anil Kapoor. Taking to Instagram, Anil shared the poster which he captioned, "Group Captain Rakesh Jai Singh.

Call Sign: Rocky, Designation: Commanding Officer, Unit: Air Dragons, Fighter Forever." In the new poster, the 'Animal' actor is seen in a moustache look and donning the Air Force uniform. Helmed by Siddharth Anand 'Fighter' also stars Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone in the lead roles. The aerial action thriller film is all set to hit the theatres on January 25, 2024. **ANI**

Kalki Koechlin takes temporary break from social media, Deletes X

'Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani' actor Kalki Koechlin, on Tuesday deleted the X (formerly Twitter) application from her phone amid the ongoing Israel - Palestine conflict. Taking to Instagram, Kalki shared a picture which she captioned, "Had to do this today. The hate and disinformation, the doom scrolling, the helplessness. But what really crossed the line for me, what really made me draw a boundary was the denial or the justification of Palestinian children murdered in the thousands or the denial or glorification of Israeli women being raped, tortured and murdered, I have had enough. Some places that have helped me get more perspective."

However, the 'Dev D' actor didn't delete her account from the micro-blogging site but only deleted the app from her device. **ANI**



American actress Angelina Jolie says, "Wouldn't pursue acting career, if started today"

Oscar winner Angelina Jolie says she probably wouldn't pursue acting as a career if she was just starting out in the industry today. Born to actor parents Jon Voight and Marcheline Bertrand, the 48-year-old said she really doesn't have a social life in Los Angeles since every time she leaves her house, she is subjected to unwanted attention by the paparazzi, which is also one of the reasons why she eventually wants to move from Hollywood. "I wouldn't be an actress today. When I was starting out, it wasn't as much of an expectation to be as public, to share so much," Jolie told the Wall Street Journal Magazine. **PTI**

Animal film: Film-makers unveiled the full track of Actor Bobby Deol's entry song 'Jamal Kudu' for its audience

Actor Bobby Deol's entry song 'Jamal Kudu' from the recently released action thriller film 'Animal' has gone viral on social media and fans are going completely gaga over it. On Wednesday, the makers of 'Animal' unveiled the full track.

Taking to Instagram, production house T-series shared a post ' which they captioned, "Let the celebrations begin. Abrar's Entry Jamal Kudu song out now. Dance away. "Reportedly, the song is a remake of the Iranian song 'Jamaal Jamaaloo'. The song features Bobby Deol. 'Animal' successfully entered the Rs 250 crore club in India within just 5 days of its official release. **ANI**



Actor Prithviraj Sukumaran on Wednesday shared a glimpse from the dubbing session of his upcoming action thriller film Bade Miyan Chote Miyan's teaser. Taking to Instagram, Prithviraj shared a picture which he captioned, "Dubbing #BMCM Teaser. @aliabbaszafar This is (fire emoticons) See you in the theatres on Eid 2024."

Helmed by Ali Abbas Zafar the film also stars Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff and Sonakshi Sinha in the lead roles. 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' is all set to hit the theatres on the occasion of Eid 2024. Reportedly, the makers will be unveiling the teaser of the film on Republic Day 2024. **ANI**

Actor- Director Prithviraj Sukumaran dropped glimpses from the dubbing session of his upcoming action project

