



Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Three bills to replace the

PG 05 »



# Afternoon

VOICE

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 16, Issue: 111

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023 MUMBAI 08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

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## BMC GETS BIOMETRICS TO RECORD THE ATTENDANCE OF DOCTORS

AV Team

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday issued a directive mandating biometric attendance for doctors in the OPD. With the discrepancy in doctors' attendance causing delays in the morning outpatient department (OPD) schedules in Mumbai hospitals, the biometric fingerprint system to record the attendance of doctors

has come into force from Wednesday. Four main civic-run hospitals made sure that the doctors will log their attendance while entering and leaving the workplace. Their biometric record will be directly linked with their salary — to ensure a timely approach to their professional responsibilities. BMC has also issued a directive mandating biometric attendance for doctors in the OPD. The circular states, "Commencing at 8:00

am, all major medical municipal hospitals will enforce mandatory biometric registration for doctors upon entry and exit. This biometric attendance system will be intricately tied to the salary of every doctor through SAP," as outlined in the notice.

Prominent tertiary care hospitals in city— KEM, Sion, Nair, and Cooper —register a daily footfall of over 10,000 patients from various parts of

Maharashtra. Approximately 40 per cent of these patients come from locations outside Mumbai. A periodic issue has been observed where doctors, particularly seniors, frequently arrive late at the OPDs. This tardiness contributes to a backlog, causing patients to endure long queues. This situation further inconveniences patients who have travelled from distant areas such as Palghar and Navi Mumbai.

## Laws are more in favour of women in most countries

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Divorce is a riotous experience looked down upon by Indian society. It is a very necessary tool to separate oneself from spousal ordeal, or to mutually separate from their partner. Hindu Law recognises the right of the wife to claim many things such as alimony to property. Divorce laws largely favour women. Whereas men in most of the cases get victimised. In the recent past the Bombay HC allowed a woman's plea to transfer divorce proceedings, saying wife's convenience to be preferred over that of husband. Court says important decisions still taken in India with guidance of elders, matter of concern for women to travel alone for divorce proceedings without family members.

The Bombay High Court has allowed a plea by a woman seeking transfer of divorce proceedings filed by her estranged husband before the family court at Nashik to Pune and observed that the wife's convenience has to be preferred over that of the husband. In her application, the woman reasoned that she cannot travel alone to conduct the matter in Nashik since she is staying with her elderly parents in Pune. Since her father has recently undergone eye surgery and is facing other ailments, there is no male member of the family to accompany or escort her from Pune to Nashik for the proceedings and the same should be transferred from Nashik to Pune, she requested.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

# Laws are more in favour of women in most countries

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*considering the respondent-husband's health condition, the court granted him liberty to appear before the family court in Pune through video conferencing on dates where his physical presence is not required.*

*The high court noted, "respondent-husband would also no doubt be undergoing panic and anxiety, as per past Supreme Court judgement, however, in these types of matters*

*the applicant issued notice to the husband seeking a decree of divorce alleging certain wrongs committed by him, and if he wanted to resolve the issue amicably, she would seek a decree by mutual consent upon conditions*

However, considering the respondent-husband's health condition, the court granted him liberty to appear before the family court in Pune through video conferencing on dates where his physical presence is not required. A single-judge bench of Justice Abhay Ahuja on September 8 observed that "in a country like India, important decisions such as marriage, divorce are still taken with the guidance and blessings of elders in the family". The judge added that "for a woman to travel alone for the proceedings to a Court where the fate of her marriage is going to be decided without any family member would definitely be a matter of concern and cause not only physical inconvenience but also emotional and psychological inconvenience."

The high court noted, "respondent-husband would also no doubt be undergoing panic and anxiety, as per past Supreme Court judgement, however, in these types of matters, it is the convenience of the wife that is to be preferred over the convenience of the husband." Advocate Hitesh P Vyas for the applicant-wife submitted that the couple got married in 2019, and there were no issues between the two for three-and-a-half years. Vyas claimed that in October 2022, she was compelled to leave her matrimonial home due to differences of opinion. The applicant argued that while the estranged husband dropped her at her parents' house in Pune, he had assured her he would bring her back within a week and believing the promise, she came to stay in Pune with her parents.

As per the application, in February this year, the husband filed a petition for dissolution of marriage before the family court in Nashik, which the applicant did not know until the husband's cousin came to Pune in April this year to hand over her belongings. After that, the applicant issued notice to the husband seeking a decree of divorce alleging certain wrongs committed by him, and if he wanted to resolve the issue amicably, she would seek a decree by mutual consent upon conditions, including permanent maintenance of Rs 1 crore. Vyas denied allegations made by the estranged husband of his client and sought transfer of divorce proceedings from Nashik to Pune "in interest of justice".

However, advocate Varsha Pichaya for the husband opposed the application and said that her client's condition had deteriorated due to alleged harassment and mental cruelty from the applicant and that she had willingly left her matrimonial home in Nashik. Pichaya also said the applicant had travelled to Nashik in June this year to enquire about the proceedings, and she can



continue to attend the same.

It is important to note that maintenance and alimony are separate legal concepts. Maintenance is financial support provided to a spouse during the subsistence of the marriage or after divorce, while alimony is financial support provided to a spouse after divorce to help maintain the lifestyle and standard of living that was enjoyed during the marriage. It is better to divorce than stay in an abusive relationship. There is a limit to suffering. In India divorces are increasing though divorce rate is less. Mutual divorce is easy. But if it is contested it is difficult. Laws are more in favour of women in most countries, not only India.

Volume No. 16 | Issue No. 111

Afternoon VOICE  
RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332  
VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road,  
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

**Dr. Vaidehi**

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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Email- [afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com) • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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Diary



Looking out for Leg Comfort



- Jayanthi Subramaniam

When people are aging they feel the discomfort of walking and feel the pinch of pain from all the parts of the leg and seek various types of treatment to get rid of such shooting pains. And mostly these pains occur during the night time and the relaxation becomes hazardous and life becomes a hell.

Both the legs together have 50% of the nerves of the human body, 50% of the blood vessels and 50% of the blood is flowing through them. It is the largest circulatory network that connects the body. It has become a daily routine to walk around your housing complex to make sure that you are fitter all the time. Only when the feet are healthy then the convection current of blood flows smoothly, so people who have strong leg muscles will definitely have a strong heart. There is no doubt that aging starts from the feet upwards. As a person gets older, the accuracy and speed of transmission of instructions between the brain and the legs decreases, unlike when a person is young.

In addition, the so-called Bone Fertilizer Calcium will sooner or later be lost with the passage of time, making the elderly more prone to bone fractures. Bone fractures in the elderly can easily trigger a series of complications, especially fatal diseases such as brain thrombosis. Do you know that 15% of elderly patients generally, will die max. within a year of a thigh-bone fracture? So, walk daily without fail. Exercising the legs is never too late, even after the age of 60 years. Although our feet/legs will gradually age with time, exercising our feet/ legs is a life-long task.

We need to walk 10,000 steps to keep fit and winter time is good for walking. Only by regularly strengthening the legs can one prevent or reduce further aging. Please walk for at least 30-40 minutes daily to ensure that your legs receive sufficient exercise and to ensure that your leg muscles remain healthy.

Fall risk is a big concern for many seniors; however, walking can keep that worry at bay. Since this activity engages the hips, core and several other muscles, you'll be able to strengthen your body while working on your stability. This mobility will help you move through life with ease and be more independent. Walking is wonderful for reducing joint strain, which makes it a particularly helpful activity for those with arthritis. This form of exercise lubricates the knee and hip joints, making movement much less painful. Strengthening your body through walking will make everyday movements that much easier.

When your blood starts pumping, your mood will naturally elevate. This is thanks to endorphins, which are hormones released during exercise. Not only does walking release endorphins, but being out in nature is great for your mental health. Never underestimate the power of a good mood — it can change your entire outlook. Take your body to its fullest potential by doing activities that will benefit you for years to come. Walking is a simple and fun way to boost your mental, physical and emotional health. Grab some sturdy shoes and a walking buddy and set out toward your next fitness journey.

Letters to the Editor

India is land of sages, now god men made it world of Scam

This is in reference to "India is land of sages, now god men made it world of Scam". Yes, Tulsidas, Nanak, Kabir, they are all sages. They devoted their life for the sake and welfare of human beings, not for self-profit nor for any business or making a group or community to earn money from the hypnotised or brainwashed people going for miracles today. They preached to god to sacrifice people for their well-being not to sacrifice to those sages. The above said sages sacrificed themselves from every comfort of life, just to give relief to the human being and society and for the good, excellence and well-being from every corner, side, view. Overall their view was the prosperity of society and human beings. Today these god men have thrown out the word humanity from their dictionary and acquired the word publicity to earn more money, fame.

Rathin Kumar Chanda

Govt should end migration with prompt impact and all Transient related benefits right away

Breach of peace resulted in the birth

of migrant, Congratulation to whole KP general learned Community and people of India "Migrant" who had been granted permanent asylum by Parliament of India. The idea of Harmony Had been engraved for all time by the leaders of Hindu majority regime. This peaceful humanitarian act ought to be regarded as extreme objective to remake their lives in pride and harmony.

The Indian Parliament's decision to grant permanent asylum to migrants has been gracefully accepted around the world especially Kashmiri Hindu migrants. The Govt. of India needs to end Relocation/Migration with prompt impact and all Transient related benefits right away. Since parliament of India has engraved authentic choice for fate of Kashmiri migrants thus forward no Kashmiri Traveler/ Migrant has any power to talk for individuals living in Kashmir, the Govt. of India ought to guarantee no traveler/migrant ought to be permitted to intrude in any Kashmir based sanctuary/temple/Kashmir based political issues. The idea of Harmony had been engraved for all time.

Satish Mahaldar

Leave Children alone!

Violence against defenceless children is unacceptable. Parents or guardians should not interfere in the quarrels of young children when they play or fight & let them settle their issues on their own. Violence against young children is unacceptable as it leaves a lasting impression or stigma on young minds which can have grave effect on their growing up years, both mentally & physical growth if they are subjected to injuries.

Counseling for elders is the need of the hour as to the manner in which they need to handle young children. Children are bound to fight & than make up while playing. Why should elders interfere & create bad blood among fellow acquaintance in the same society for no reason on issues that are petty & non consequential?

S.N. Kabra

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)

Need of the hour

The movie 'The Kashmir Files' shows the reality of atrocities against Kashmiri Pandits. The video of many spectators crying in the theater after witnessing the atrocities on Kashmir Pandits was circulating on social media. At such a time, as an ordinary citizen, I wonder who will protect us if this time comes to us tomorrow? Attacks on Hindu religious processions, increasing rape of women, conversions, love jihad, etc. are shocking to the common man. I think 'Hindu Rashtra' is the only option to curb the atrocities against Hindus in Hindu-majority India. This concept of Hindu Rashtra was presented in the 'All India Hindu Convention'. It is hoped that the problems of Hindus will be effectively addressed through this convention. Such conventions need to be held in every district and state today.

Dr.Jyoti kale

## Bombay HC responds to PIL of anti-defection law, says "It does not apply in case of a merger of two parties"



The Bombay High Court on affidavit in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the protection from disqualification granted under the anti-defection law in case of mergers of two parties.

A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Arif Doctor also issued a notice to Attorney General R Venkataramani as the PIL challenged constitutional validity of the paragraph 4 of the tenth schedule of the Constitution of India. The

tenth schedule enshrines the anti-defection law.

The provision says that disqualification on the grounds of defection does not apply in case of a merger of two parties.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Meenakshi Menon, a media and marketing professional and founder trustee of NGO Vanshakti.

The bench directed the Union government to file the affidavit within six weeks.

Menon's lawyer Ahmed Abdi

argued that defection was a "social evil" and legislators switch loyalties not for public interest but for power, money and sometimes due to the fear of investigation agencies.

"In all this, the voter is suffering. The voter cannot go to Parliament...voter can only come to court. Vote is taken on a particular ideology or manifesto but later the party changes. This is a betrayal of the trust of the voter," Abdi argued.

Menon's plea sought that the court declares the paragraph providing for 'split and merger' of political parties in the tenth schedule as illegal, unconstitutional and in contravention of the basic structure.

The provision is used by politicians for group or en masse defections and voters are betrayed in the process, the PIL said.

## No material to suggest Navlakha conspired to commit terrorist act: HC



The Bombay High Court in its judgment granting bail to activist Gautam Navlakha, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, has noted that there was no material on record to infer prima facie that he conspired to or committed any terrorist act. A division bench of Justices A S Gadkari and S G Dige granted bail to Navlakha on Tuesday. The full text of the judgement became available on Wednesday.

"From the material on record, it appears to us that no

covert or overt terrorist act has been attributed to the appellant (Navlakha)," the high court said. Navlakha, arrested in the case in August 2018, was in November 2022 permitted by the Supreme Court to be placed under house arrest. He is presently residing in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

While granting him bail, the bench stayed the order for three weeks so that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) could approach the Supreme Court in appeal. PTI

## Nagpur explosives factory blast: Victims' kin to get jobs and pension, says minister



Maharashtra Labour Minister Suresh Khade on Wednesday said one family member of each of the nine persons who died in a blast at the Solar Industries factory here will be given a job by the company.

The family members of eight victims will also be given pension, while the family of another deceased will be given compensation as per rules, Khade said in the state legislative council.

The kin of the victims will also be provided assistance from

a central government fund, he said. The company will bear the cost of education of the victims' children, the minister said.

An inquiry was on into the incident, he added. Nine persons were killed in a massive blast at the explosives manufacturing factory in Chakdoh area here on Sunday.

The state government had announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of each of the victim and the company announced Rs 20 lakh compensation for them. PTI

## Maharashtra: 4,872 infants died during April-October, assembly told

As many as 4,872 infants died in Maharashtra during April and October this year at a daily average of 23 deaths, Health Minister Tanaji Sawant told the legislative assembly on Wednesday.

He said 795 (16 per cent) of 4,872 infants have died of

breathing-related ailments. Maximum deaths have been reported in Mumbai, Thane, Solapur, Akola and Nandurbar, the minister stated in a written reply to a query by MLA Sachin Kalyanshetti during question hour.

"4,872 infants have died in

Maharashtra during April to October this year. The age of the infants who died was between zero to 28 days. Going by the death figures, daily 23 infants have died on an average," the minister stated. He said 52 special neonatal care rooms are functional in Maharashtra. PTI

## Maharashtra Assembly session 2023: MLC passes a bill to waive electricity duty of Metro

The Maharashtra legislative council on Wednesday passed a bill that proposed to waive the electricity duty on the power consumed by Metro operations in the state.

Tabling the bill to amend the Maharashtra Electricity Duty Act, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also

holds the energy portfolio, said the move aligns with an earlier waiver granted to the monorail services in Mumbai.

The Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation had sought a waiver on duty on energy consumed by Metro services.

Congress member of legislative council Satej Patil raised

questions over the effectiveness of the waiver and sought to highlight what he called fare disparities between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai Metro services.

Despite opposition from NCP member Eknath Khadse, the upper house cleared the bill. PTI

## Mumbai sees mild temperatures and varied air quality levels this week

Data furnished by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday showed that the minimum temperatures on Tuesday touched 21.2 degree Celsius at the Santacruz recording station

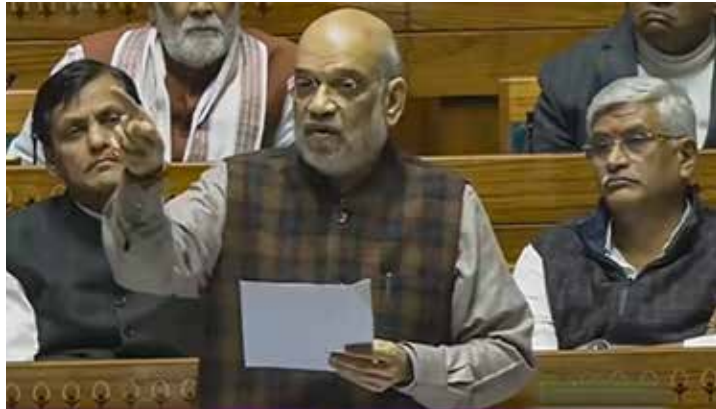
while the Colaba coastal observatory recorded a minimum temperature of 23.5 degrees.

On Wednesday, the AQI in Mumbai stood at 129 which falls in the moderate category. While at one recording station -- located

in BKC -- the AQI touched 220 which falls in the poor quality, all other stations registered an AQI under 200. The best air quality was recorded in Mulund West (91), followed by Kurla (98) and Colaba (99).

## Nation

### Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Three bills to replace the colonial-era criminal laws"



Indian Evidence Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) – were reflective of the colonial mindset with the intention to punish and not impart justice.

"The three news bills seek to establish a justice system based on Indian thinking... Three proposed criminal laws will free people from colonial mindset and its symbols," Shah said. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita seeks to replace the Indian Penal Code-1860, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita will replace the CrPC of 1973 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill will replace the Indian Evidence Act of 1872. "For the first time, the criminal justice system will have the human touch. Till we repeal these old laws, we are still following laws made by the UK government. We still use English words like Her Majesty, British Kingdom, the crown, barrister, ruler after 75 years of independence," Shah said. **PTI**

Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the three bills to replace the colonial-era criminal laws seek to bring comprehensive changes to the criminal justice system with a human-centric approach and a focus on imparting justice instead of imposing penalties. Replying to a debate on the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill in the Lok Sabha,

Shah said the three proposed laws also have a clear definition of terrorism, scrap sedition as a crime and introduce a new section titled "offenses against the state". He said the three bills were drafted after comprehensive consultations and that he had gone through every comma and full stop of the draft legislations before bringing them before the House for approval.

He said the existing criminal laws – Indian Penal Code (IPC),

### Parliament security breach: DMK MP Tiruchi Siva gives suspension of business notice

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva on Wednesday gave a suspension of business notice in Rajya Sabha under the rule to 267 in connection to the security breach of Parliament that took place on December 13. "I seek your consent under Rule 267 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States to suspend rules 15, 23 and 51, and any other business listed under any other rule in the revised list of business on December 20, 2023, to discuss the following issue of urgent importance," the notice read.

Siva in the notice said that the attack on the Parliament raised concerns about the House and safety of the Parliamentarians. "The massive lapse of security in the Parliament on December 13, 2023, hours after leaders and lawmakers paid tribute to those



who died in the line of duty in 2001 during the terror attack on Parliament House.

This not only raises concerns about the sanctity of the House but also the safety of the Parliamentarians and Secretariat officials," it added. Meanwhile, 141 Opposition MPs were suspended for creating a ruckus in both Houses of Parliament demanding a statement from the Home Minister over the security breach incident. **ANI**

### Central government hands over 324 cases to NIA



The Central government has handed over 324 cases to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the last five years, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanad Rai shared the information in a written reply to a query of a member.

The Minister said these 324 cases were handed over to the NIA between December 1, 2018 and November 30, 2023. The MHA handed over the cases to the NIA after considering the gravity of the cases, as the agency has a specialisation in probing terror-related incidents across the country and various other matters under its jurisdiction. Asked

about the number of cases in which court verdicts have been delivered during the last five years and the number of cases in which the accused has been convicted, the MoS shared data showing 84 cases in which judgement was pronounced and 81 cases in which the accused were convicted between December 1, 2018 and November 30, 2023.

As per the data, there are a total of 15 cases in which judgement was pronounced till November 30 this year, followed by 31 in 2022, 15 in 2021, nine in 2020 and 14 in 2019. The data also shows that a total of 15 accused were convicted till November 30 of this year, 30 in 2022, 15 in 2021, nine in 2020 and 12 in 2019. **ANI**

### Tamil Nadu: Passengers stranded at Srivakuntam Railway station due to heavy rains

Passengers stranded at Srivakuntam Railway station for almost three days due to heavy rains from December 18 broke down emotionally when they reached Egmore railway station in Chennai on Wednesday. The special train with rescued passengers from Srivakuntam reached Chennai this noon around 1 pm. Passengers were stranded in Srivakuntam for three days in heavy floods.

When the passengers set foot in Chennai they expressed their gratitude for the Srivakuntam people. "We are alive today because of the Srivakuntam people. We suffered a lot but their help gave us hope. There is a temple near the station where they prepared Lemon Rice and Sambar rice and gave it to 300-plus passengers. In future when I visit Srivakuntam we need to do something for Srivakuntam people" said Nivetha a passen-



ger who was stranded in the train for three days following floods in Southern Districts.

Passengers also said they struggled a lot on the very first day without food and milk. There was even no electricity, no network and they felt they were on some island without any connection. "No Electricity and food was available on the first day. Then in the next two days, Srivakuntam village people helped us a lot by provid-

ing food. Even the government helped with rescue but the support of the village people was crucial," said one passenger Paul Raj. With passengers returning safely to Chennai, they said that they couldn't blame the government as this was a natural disaster. "The government could have made more efforts by reaching us with food as children and women struggled a lot without milk on the first day," a passenger said. **ANI**

World

# Pakistan: Long March against the alleged Baloch genocide



The long March against the alleged Baloch genocide and disappearances started to move towards Islamabad on Wednesday after a successful stop at Dera Ismail Khan where thousands of protesters participated in the rally to raise their voices, Balochistan Yakjehti

committee said.

The committee noted that the Baloch Long March against alleged Baloch genocide, illegal forced disappearance of the people, killing of missing persons by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Fake encounters and the activity of death squads

across Balochistan, had seen widespread support.

In the rally, Pashtun nationalist leader Ali Wazir also participated in the rally and demonstration and expressed solidarity with the Baloch nation against the alleged state massacre in Balochistan. After Dera Ismail Khan, the long march has now left for Islamabad where it will join the camp of missing persons established in Islamabad and the next action plan will be announced in Islamabad, the committee said.

The protest received huge support as it reached the Dera Ismail Khan area and showed its full solidarity with the ongoing struggle of the Baloch people. ANI

# US: Colorado Supreme Court has barred former president Donald Trump from running for president next year



In a stunning verdict, the Colorado Supreme Court has barred Donald Trump from running for president next year in the state citing his role in the unprecedented attack on the US Capitol in 2021 and ordered the exclusion of his name from the state's Republican presidential primary ballot. The disqualification of the 77-year-old former president on Tuesday was based on the Constitution's 14th Amendment, which says officials who take an oath to support the US Constitution are banned from future office if they "engaged in insurrection."

The 4-3 ruling by the sev-

en-member Colorado Supreme Court does not apply outside of the state. Trump is currently the front-runner in the Republican Party's nomination process for the race for the White House in 2024. Trump's campaign has vowed to appeal against the "flawed" ruling by the Supreme Court of Colorado in the US Supreme Court. PTI

# UN Security Council is set to vote on Gaza for increased humanitarian aid



The UN Security Council is set to vote on a resolution for increased humanitarian aid to Gaza today, following a delay from Monday for further negotiations, CNN reported, citing sources familiar with the matter. Diplomats engaged in intensive talks on the draft resolution, initially including a call for a "cessation of hostilities" to facilitate much-needed aid to Gaza.

The US, as of Tuesday, was still reviewing the text, according to CNN. Simultaneously, Israel has proposed a weeklong pause in fighting to Hamas, offering the release of around 40 hostages. The hostages include women, the elderly, and those requiring urgent care. Hamas, however, insists on no further releases until a ceasefire is achieved, CNN reported, citing Axios.

Negotiations at the United Nations focus on securing a vote for the resolution, which was postponed to allow additional time for talks. Originally, the vote was scheduled for Monday, but was delayed by a day to allow more time for negotiations. At the centre of the talks is drafting language that could gain a "yes" vote from the United States -- or at least an abstention, which would allow the measure to pass. The original resolution sought a "cessation of hostilities" to enable crucial aid delivery to Gaza. Diplomats consider revising the language to a "suspension of hostilities" in hopes of gaining American backing. The US has previously vetoed Security Council measures and opposed a ceasefire in the General Assembly. ANI

# China: Schools closed due to snowfall and cold breezes

As China freezes with snowfall and cold breezes, multiple cities in East China's Jiangsu and Anhui provinces suspended schools on Tuesday as a precautionary measure to prioritise the safety of students and teachers, as reported by Global Times. Cities including Jiangsu's Nanjing, Changzhou and Zhenjiang, as well as Anhui's Lu'an, Wuhu and Chuzhou, have suspended classes or implemented flexible school hours to reduce the risk and transportation pressure caused by the cold weather.

Moreover, all primary and secondary schools, kindergartens, vocational and technician schools in Changzhou were closed on Tuesday due to the cold



weather. However, parents can apply for in-school care services if needed, and the schools will coordinate and arrange for care services, according to the Changzhou education authority. Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu Province, has further implemented flexible school hours from Tuesday to Friday, reported Global Times. "Students who don't

meet the conditions for attending school can choose not to come to school, while other students can arrive late or leave early according to their actual situation," the Nanjing education authority said. Several parents from Anhui confirmed that local schools suspended classes on Tuesday due to the snowy weather, according to Global Times. ANI

# UK: PM Rishi Sunak talks about getting "good news" over falling prices

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday welcomed the "good news" of falling prices ahead of the Christmas holiday period as official statistics revealed that inflation had dropped to 3.9 per cent, hitting the lowest level for the economy over two years.

It comes as some much-needed festive cheer for the Brit-



ish Indian leader who had made halving inflation one of his top priorities at the start of the year,

when it was hovering around the 11 per cent mark.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), inflation – or the rate at which prices are rising in the UK economy – dropped from 4.6 per cent last month and is now under double the 2 per cent target aimed for by policymakers at the Bank of England. PTI

## Expression

# How to Encourage Your Child for Scoring Good Marks in CBSE/ICSE/State boards exams Without Building Parents Pressure



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout Punjab

The CBSE/ICSE /State boards Class 10 and 12 Board exams are approaching, and students are preparing with various strategies in a focused manner. This is a crucial time for students as they face a rigorous study schedule and expectations. While schools have counselling mechanisms to help students cope with exam anxiety, it is also a challenging time for parents. They should support their children and motivate them during the board exam preparation stage to prevent excessive stress and enable them to excel in the exam.

Let's explore various strategies parents can employ to maintain their child's motivation level during the Board Exams preparation phase.

### Rewarding children

Parents should celebrate children's achievements, value their hard work, and not shy away from rewarding them during failures. Parents should ensure that their children know that they are always there to support them, ensuring they feel valued and appreciated.

### Helping in strategizing a study schedule

Students often struggle with creating and executing study plans for Board exams. Parents can help by providing guidance on creating an effective and interesting schedule, as well as allowing space for other activities.

### Strengthen relationship with children

Parents should keep communication channels open, allowing their child to express their feelings, including peer pressure. They should be a supportive listener and avoid pressuring them with constant questioning about their performance. Building a healthy relationship with the child involves trusting them through healthy conversations, discussing topics that excite them like sports, food, and friends, and ensuring they can trust their parents.

### Avoid putting undue pressure

"Parents should recognize the pressure students already face and avoid overburdening them with excessive expectations. They should help their children set achievable short-term and long-term goals and break down larger goals into smaller tasks to make progress more manageable."

### Keep encouraging and motivating children



Parents should encourage their children to accept failures gracefully and work harder for the CBSE Board exams, as failures are a part of life and should be seen as a stepping stone to success. Also, they should help their children find personal reasons for studying, such as interest in the subject matter or future career aspirations.

### Being kind

Parents should emphasize the importance of their child's mental and physical wellbeing in preparation for the board exam, emphasizing that they should strive for success without compromising their mental and physical health, and avoid using harsh language.

### Discuss board exam preparation

Parents should discuss the child's progress and offer assistance as needed. They can share their board exam experience and strategies, but avoid imposing them on the child, ensuring they understand and benefit from their guidance.

### Avoid Comparisons

Most importantly, parents need to discourage comparing their child to their peers or siblings. They should highlight their unique talents and accomplishments, emphasizing individual growth.

By focusing on the child's personal development, fostering a positive attitude towards learning, and avoiding comparisons, parents can provide support without creating unnecessary peer pressure during the board exams.

## Empowering Financial Vigilance: Unmasking the Kashmir Investment Scam



Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

Columnist

In the idyllic landscapes of Kashmir, a tale of financial deceit unfolds, underscoring the vital importance of financial literacy and vigilance. Recent revelations expose a significant investment scam, leaving investors disillusioned and prompting broader questions about the need for heightened awareness and regulatory measures in the financial landscape.

The victims, driven by the promise of doubling their

investments in a mere 15 days, now find themselves grappling with profound financial losses. Their stories serve as cautionary reminders of the perils that can accompany unchecked enthusiasm for quick returns. What began as a promising venture, endorsed by a social media influencer, soon turned into a nightmare as the company, initially responsive, ceased communication, leaving investors in the lurch.

Beyond individual investors, the scam has also impacted the livelihoods of local employees who were unwittingly caught up in the web of deception. Their experiences shed light on the intricate dynamics of financial schemes and the far-reaching consequences of such fraudulent

practices.

As the Cyber Police in Kashmir diligently investigate the matter, this incident serves as a rallying cry for increased financial literacy and awareness. It highlights the imperative for cybercrime and related agencies to conduct seminars and workshops, disseminating crucial information to the common masses. By fostering a deeper understanding of online financial risks and scams, these initiatives can empower individuals to navigate the digital landscape more safely.

This episode underscores the need for collaborative efforts between regulatory bodies, law enforcement, and the public to create a robust system that protects citizens from

financial malpractices. It calls for educational initiatives to empower individuals with the skills to make informed financial decisions, reinforcing the adage that prevention is indeed better than cure.

Amidst the challenges, there lies an opportunity for society to unite in its commitment to fostering financial resilience. By sharing stories, educating one another, and advocating for transparent financial practices, communities can build a collective shield against fraudulent schemes. This unfortunate incident can thus become a catalyst for positive change, prompting a renewed focus on financial well-being and the creation of a more secure investment landscape for all.

# Entertainment



## Rashmika Mandanna's fake video case: Delhi Police tracks down four suspects



Four suspects involved in uploading a deepfake video of actor Rashmika Mandana online have been tracked and the hunt is on to nab the main conspirator, police said on Wednesday. However, the four suspects turned out to be uploaders, not creators, the police said, adding that they were looking for the key conspirator in the case.

Out of the four suspects, three have been tracked based on the details provided by Meta, the company that owns and operates social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. The investigation encountered an obstacle since the accused had reportedly removed and deleted information from their accounts, making it difficult for authorities to locate them. The Delhi Police's cyber experts are currently searching for the key conspirator behind the post. The deepfake videos featuring the actor were likely uploaded using a fake identity, and the use of a Virtual Private Network (VPN) adds another layer of difficulty in tracking the perpetrator. It's been a month since the Delhi Police registered a First Information Report (FIR) at the Special Cell in connection with the deepfake AI-generated video of actress Rashmika Mandana. **ANI**



Actor Cameron Diaz has finally addressed long-running rumours that Jamie Foxx's behaviour on the set of 'Back in Action' prompted her to quit acting for the second time, reported Page Six. "I really hate all of the things that were being said about our set at the time," she said on the latest episode of Molly Sims' 'Lipstick on the Rim' podcast.

"You just want to scream at the top of your lungs, like, 'What are you talking about?'" The 'Bad Teacher' actress notably addressed rumours that Foxx was "making everything miserable" behind the scenes, causing her to "never make another movie again." Diaz, 51, insisted that the reports were completely false. "Jamie is the best. I love that guy so much," she said. "He's such a special person and he's so talented, so much fun." There were "hiccups" on set, according to the 'Charlie's Angels' star. They were, nonetheless, "natural things that happen."

Diaz revealed that the only unforeseen delay was caused by Foxx's weeks-long hospitalisation. "That's something that is not my place to speak about," she said, adding that Foxx, 56, is "thriving" now. "When I see and hear people trying to take another person down like that ... [Jamie is] so classy. He's like, 'Nope. Just let them [talk].'"

According to Page Six, 'Back in Action' is Diaz's first Hollywood movie since 2014 when she stepped away from acting to start a family. It is also the third project she and Foxx have co-starred in, having previously worked together on 'Any Given Sunday' and 'Annie.' **ANI**

## Actor Cameron Diaz opens about rumours of Jamie Foxx's behavior on-set



Superstar Shah Rukh Khan on Wednesday expressed gratitude towards actor Suniel Shetty as he heaped praise on SRK's most-awaited film, 'Dunki'. Khan took to X and wrote, "Thank u Anna (Suniel Shetty). Love u and I hope u laugh and cry in the theater with the story that unfolds as always happens with Raju sir's films. Big hug"

Shetty in his post praised the director and the entire cast and crew of 'Dunki'. He mentioned, "Shaahhh...Raju sir...It's definitely a First Day First Show for me. Can't wait for the magic of #Dunki to unfold on the big screen. To the entire cast and crew, break a leg! Let the cheers and applause echo through the theaters. **ANI**

## Superstar Shah Rukh Khan pens a special note for actor Suniel Shetty

