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The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Armed US woman detained after standoff at FBI building in Seattle

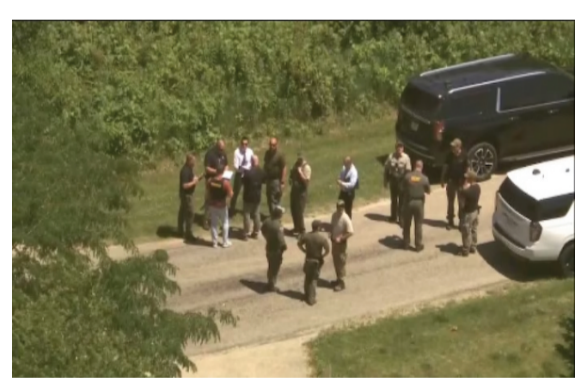
Seattle, US A woman armed with a handgun was taken into custody after an hour-long standoff at the FBI building in Seattle on Wednesday, authorities said. The woman walked into a publicly accessible area where people have to wait to be buzzed into the lobby, according to FBI spokesperson Steve Bernd. "She pointed the gun at herself," the Seattle Police Department said in an emailed statement. A hostage negotiation team eventually persuaded her to lay the gun at her feet and surrender. No hostages were taken and no one was hurt, authorities said. The woman's identity was not immediately revealed. "We are continuing to investigate her motives, and no charging decisions have been made yet", the FBI said in an emailed statement. The FBI has reported an uptick in the number of threats against bureau personnel and facilities in the last few years. A man armed with an AR-15 rifle and a nail gun tried to breach the FBI's Cincinnati field office in 2022 and was killed hours later after a standoff with authorities. And in August, a man rammed a barricade at an FBI office in Atlanta and then tried to follow an FBI employee into the secure parking lot on foot.

Kuwait building fire tragedy claims life of 33-year-old Kollam native

KOLLAM: A devastating fire in the southern Mangaf district of Kuwait claimed the life of Umarudheen Shameer, a 33-year-old native of Kollam, along with 48 others, mostly Indians. The blaze, which occurred on Wednesday, left dozens more injured. Shameer, hailing from Sooranad North, had been working in Kuwait for the past seven years. Relatives were informed of the tragedy around noon on Wednesday. According to family sources, the bodies have been moved to a local government hospital. It is suspected that Shameer died while attempting to jump from the building in a panic. The repatriation of his body is expected to take several days. Shameer had returned to Kuwait only nine months ago after a period of leave. Meanwhile, relatives and friends have been in constant communication with the Kuwait embassy. "We got a call around noon informing us about his death. From the photo we received, it is suspected that he jumped off the building. It was said that the entire building was filled with smoke following the fire outbreak. Another resident of Sooranad who worked with Shameer fractured his leg and has been admitted to a hospital," said Safedu Oyyur, Shameer's cousin. "We are in constant touch with the Embassy and Members of Parliament. As of now, we are not getting clear information on when the body will be repatriated. The official told us that it was not a simple death case but a major incident. Because of this, more time will be required to complete the procedures before repatriation of the body," Safedu added. Shameer was employed as a driver in Kuwait. He was the son of Umarudheen and Sheebna and had one younger brother, Nijaz, who is in class 8. His father, known locally as Raju Mesthiri and has been working as a contractor of home construction. Shameer was married to Surumi, a PSC aspirant. The family had previously resided in Oyoor village for 15 years before moving to Sooranad North Village.

US sheriff deputies responding to distress call shot at, suspect wounded

Dixon, US. Three sheriff's deputies were shot on Wednesday while responding to a northern Illinois home, and the suspect was also wounded, authorities said. Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said the deputies were responding to a report that someone inside the home in the Lost Lake community near Dixon was threatening to kill themselves or others. He

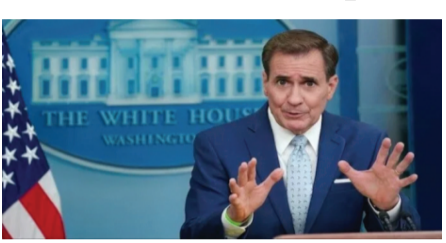


said the suspect was also shot. He did not provide any information about the suspect, including name, age or where the person lives. VanVickle said a family member called police shortly after 8:30 am to report the threats from someone at the home. He said negotiators tried to reach the person by phone and decided to go inside shortly before noon. Immediately upon entering the house, our deputies received fire from inside the house", he said. VanVickle initially tried to walk away from reporters after giving a statement without more details, but responded to shouted questions by saying everyone injured "is in good condition". A spokesperson at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon said three people were taken to the hospital's emergency department, two of whom were treated and released. The spokesperson did not release the condition of the third person. The Illinois State Police will handle the investigation of the shooting, VanVickle said. The agency did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment. Aerial video by local media on Wednesday afternoon showed law enforcement and private cars parked on the side of unpaved roads throughout the neighbourhood and officials occasionally gathering in small groups but little ongoing activity. Yellow police tape blocked at least one driveway and an Ogle County sheriff's mobile command centre was parked at the end of the drive. Lost Lake's property owner's association describes the area as a "country style community" with about 700 owners in an unincorporated area close to the cities of Dixon, Franklin Grove and Oregon, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of Chicago.

US says Hamas seeks changes to Gaza ceasefire plan, terror group denies

Doha/Geneva/Cairo, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday that Hamas had proposed numerous changes, some unworkable, to a US-backed proposal for a ceasefire with Israel in Gaza, but that mediators were determined to close the gaps. Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan denied that the Palestinian Islamist group had put forward new ideas. Speaking to pan-Arab Al-Araby TV, he reiterated Hamas' stance that it was Israel that was rejecting proposals and accused the US administration of going along with its close ally. White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said many of Hamas' proposed changes were minor "and not unanticipated" while others differed more substantially from what was outlined in a UN Security Council resolution on Monday backing the plan put forward by US President Joe Biden. "Our aim is to bring this process to a conclusion. Our view is that the time for haggling is over," Sullivan told reporters. Hamas also wants written guarantees from the US on the ceasefire

plan, two Egyptian security sources told Reuters. Late on Wednesday, Hamas issued a statement stressing its "positivity" in the negotiations and urging the US to pressure Israel to accept an agreement leading to a permanent ceasefire in Gaza as well as full withdrawal from the enclave, reconstruction and release of Palestinian prisoners. The Palestinian group said that while US officials have said Israel has accepted a ceasefire proposal outlined by Biden on May 31, "we have not heard any Israeli official confirm this acceptance." Biden's proposal envisages a truce and a phased release of Israeli hostages in Gaza in exchange for Palestinians jailed in Israel, ultimately leading to a permanent end to the war. At a press conference with Qatar's prime minister in Doha, Blinken said some of the counter-proposals from Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, had sought to amend terms that it had accepted in previous talks. **MONTHS OF TALKS** Negotiators from the U.S., Egypt and Qatar have tried for months to mediate a



ceasefire in the conflict - which has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and devastated the heavily populated enclave - and free the hostages, more than 100 of whom are believed to remain captive in Gaza. "Hamas could have answered with a single word: Yes," Blinken said. "Instead, Hamas waited nearly two weeks and then proposed more changes, a number of which go beyond positions that it had previously taken and accepted." In its late Wednesday statement, Hamas said it had expressed its readiness to cooperate while Israel did not. Blinken's stance was "a continuation of the American policy complicit in the

brutal genocide against our Palestinian people." The group said the U.S. was providing political and military cover for Israel to press ahead with its assault on Gaza. The U.S. has said Israel has accepted its proposal, but Israel has not publicly stated this. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly said Israel will not commit to ending its campaign before Hamas is eliminated. Major powers are intensifying efforts to defuse the conflict in part to prevent it spiralling into a wider Middle East war, with a dangerous flashpoint being the escalating hostilities along the Lebanese-Israeli border. The fighting in Gaza began on Oct. 7 when militants led by Hamas burst across the border and killed 1,200 Israelis and took more than 250 hostage, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's air and ground war since then has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's health ministry, displaced most of Gaza's population of 2.3 million and devastated housing and infrastructure. The head of the World Health Organization said.

Donald Trump's lawyers urges judge to lift gag order in hush money case

Donald Trump's lawyers urged the judge who oversaw his hush money trial to lift a gag order now that he has been convicted, arguing his opponents were using the restrictions on the former US president's speech as a "political sword." In a court filing earlier this week, defense lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove noted that Democratic President Joe Biden's campaign had referred to Trump, the Republican candidate, as a "convicted felon" in a May 30 statement. They said the order might limit Trump's ability to respond to attacks from Biden during their June 27 presidential debate - though the order only restricts Trump's public statements about jurors, witnesses and other individuals involved in the court proceedings, and does not prevent him from criticizing the case in general. President Trump's opponents and adversaries are using the Gag Order as a political sword to attack



President Trump with reference to this case, on the understanding that his ability to mount a detailed response is severely restricted," Bove and Blanche wrote. A Manhattan jury on May 30 found Trump, 77, guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records to cover up his former lawyer Michael Cohen's \$130,000 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels for her silence before the 2016 election about a sexual encounter she says they had a decade earlier. It was the first-ever criminal trial of a US

president, past or present. Trump denies having sex with Daniels and has vowed to appeal the verdict after his July 11 sentencing. Before the trial began in April, Justice issued the order after prosecutors argued Trump's history of making threatening statements showed he could derail proceedings. During the trial, Merchan for each of 10 violations of the gag order. Those included a social media post in which he called Cohen a "serial liar" and an interview in which he said, "that jury was picked so fast - 95% Democrats." Prosecutors in a one-page letter last week urged the judge to keep the gag order in place at least through his sentencing, arguing he was still obligated to "protect the integrity of these proceedings." They are expected to follow-up with a more complete filing in the coming weeks.

AP-NORC poll: About half of US adults approve of Trump's conviction, but views of him remain stable

NEW YORK: About half of U.S. adults approve of Donald Trump's recent felony conviction, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The survey shows some potential vulnerabilities, along with some signs of resilience in his support, as Trump tries to become the first American with a felony record to win the presidency. Less than five months before Election Day, the poll paints a picture of a nation with firmly entrenched opinions of the divisive former Republican president. Overall views of Trump and Democratic President Joe Biden remain unchanged since before the guilty verdict in Trump's New York hush money trial. But the findings also suggest that Trump's conviction is one more weakness among disaffected Republicans. While most people in the United States have heard about the conviction, political independents are less likely to be paying attention and more likely to have a neutral opinion of Trump's conviction, indicating that there may still be room for the campaigns to sway them. Nancy Hauser, a 74-year-old independent from West Palm Beach, Florida, said she approves of Trump's conviction based on the little she followed of the trial. The verdict, she said, suggests that Trump may be willing to engage in criminal activity if he were back in the White House. "I feel if you've been convicted of a crime, especially a felony, a serious crime, how can you run a country?" she said. But she also has concerns about Biden, especially his age and leadership on the economy and the war in Israel. Biden is 81, while Trump turns 78 on Friday. "I'm not sure who I'm voting for," Hauser said. "That's the sad part." Overall, U.S. adults are more likely to approve of Trump's conviction than they are to disapprove, according to a survey of 1,115 adults nationwide conducted over three days beginning a week after the verdict was delivered May 30, and before Biden's son Hunter was convicted in a federal gun case on Tuesday. About 3 in 10 somewhat or strongly disapprove of Trump's conviction, and about 2 in 10 do not approve or disapprove. Perspectives were similar among registered voters, with about half saying the conviction was the right choice. Republicans are less united on the verdict than are Democrats. Roughly 6 in 10 Republicans somewhat or strongly disapprove of the conviction, while 15% of Republican adults approve and about 2 in 10 Republicans neither approve nor disapprove. Among Democrats, by contrast, more than 8 in 10 somewhat or strongly approve. About half of Americans say that the conviction was politically motivated, while a similar share think it was not. Nearly half of Republicans who have an unfavorable view of Trump do not see the conviction as politically motivated, compared with less than 1 in 10 Republicans who have a positive opinion of him.

In initial win for Argentine President Milei, senators approve his key bills after violent protests

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina). Argentina's Senate narrowly approved key state overhaul and tax bills proposed by President Javier Milei, delivering an initial legislative victory to the libertarian leader in his efforts to enact his promises of radical change. Senators voted 37 to 36 late Wednesday to give their overall approval to the overhaul bill after 11 hours of heated debate while protesters - urging lawmakers to reject Milei's harsh austerity plan - clashed with police outside Congress. The Senators still must approve individual measures in an article-by-article vote set to stretch throughout the night. In a reflection of the fierce backlash to the legislation and deep polarization gripping Argentina's Congress, Vice President and head of the Senate Victoria Villarruel cast the tiebreaking vote in favor of Milei's agenda. The legislation delegates broad powers to the president in energy, pensions, security and other areas and includes several measures seen as controversial, including a generous incentive scheme

for foreign investors, tax amnesty for those with undeclared assets and plans to privatize some of Argentina's state-owned firms. If the Senate approves the articles with modifications, the lower house still has to okay them before Milei can claim his first legislative win since entering office last December. As Senators pored over the bills, protesters in downtown Buenos Aires hurled sticks, stones and Molotov cocktails at police who sprayed water cannons, pepper spray and tear gas to disperse the huge crowds. Demonstrators poured gasoline on two cars and set them alight, turning the central square into a smoke-filled battlefield. Authorities reported at least 20 police officers injured and more than a dozen protesters arrested over the violence. Milei rose to power on promises he would resolve Argentina's worst economic crisis in two decades. But his political party of relative novices holds just a tiny minority of seats in Congress and he has struggled to strike deals with the opposition. We have the weakest president we've ever

seen who is trying to pass the biggest bill we've ever seen," said Ana Iparraguirre, an Argentina-based analyst at Washington strategy firm GB&O. "That's the contradiction." Senators approved two bills late Wednesday, a tax package and a 238-article state reform bill that passed the lower house of Congress in late April. Months of negotiations watered down the initial far-ranging proposal, which had over 600 articles. Unlike previous Argentine leaders since the return of democracy in 1983, Milei has failed to pass a single piece of legislation during his first six months in office. Instead, the populist outsider has relied on executive powers to slash state spending and sweep away economic restrictions. "Today, it's almost more important for Milei to demonstrate that he can pass laws in Congress than what he passes," said Lucas Romero, director of Synopsis consultancy. That desperation was clear in some of the Senators' closing speeches. "How can I not give a president a tool that he needs in order to function?" said.

India, China can 'find common space to reduce tensions', says US

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday after assuming office for a second straight term that India would focus on finding solutions to border issues with China, that have long strained ties between the neighbours.



Washington. The United States wishes India well in its efforts to improve strained ties with China, the number-two U.S. diplomat said on Wednesday, while cautioning that Chinese leader Xi Jinping finds it very hard to show any flexibility on territorial issues. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday after assuming office for a second straight term that India would focus on finding solutions to border issues with China, that have long strained ties between the neighbours. US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, who has led U.S. efforts to boost ties with India to push back against China's growing power, was

asked at a Washington think tank about Jaishankar's comments. "I think the truth is that anytime two countries can find a degree of the common space to reduce tensions, I think we have to support that," he said. "I think we wish the Indians well in deliberations," he added, before going on to say that Washington was "very confident and comfortable" about its own bilateral relationship with India "and we want that to continue going forward." Campbell said he would be in India next week with Jake Sullivan, the U.S. national security adviser, to

"advance areas of coordination." "I think we feel very good about this partnership," he said, while adding: "I think there are some structural issues between China and India that frankly will be difficult to resolve." Campbell said he believed that for any rapprochement, or substantial improvement in relations with China, India would expect changes in how Beijing treats their contested borders. "One of the things that we've seen under Xi Jinping on anything that bridges, or touches, territorial matters, I think it's very hard for the Chinese to show any

flexibility, or any desire to find common ground," he said. India and China share a 3,800 km (2,400 mile) border - much of it poorly demarcated - over which the nuclear-armed nations fought a war in 1962. They have engaged in a military standoff since July 2020 when at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops were killed in the worst clashes in five decades. Washington has sought to develop its ties with India in spite of some differences over issues including human rights.

Ajit Doval re-appointed as NSA, P.K. Mishra continues as Principal Secretary to PM

RNS I New Delhi: Ajit Doval has been reappointed as the National Security Advisor (NSA), while Dr. P.K. Mishra will continue as the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, effective from June 10. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved these appointments today. The government announced that these positions are "co-terminus with the term of the Prime Minister or until further orders, whichever is earlier," meaning both officials will retain their posts as long as Narendra Modi remains Prime Minister or until further directives are issued. Both Doval and Mishra will hold the rank of a cabinet minister during their tenure. The committee also approved the reappointment of Amit Khare and Tarun Kapoor as advisors to the Prime Minister for a two-year term starting June 10.



They will serve "in the rank and scale of Secretary to Government of India." These appointments highlight the trust Prime Minister Modi places in these officers, particularly Doval and Mishra, who have played significant roles in their respective positions for many years. Ajit Doval, a former director of the Intelligence Bureau, has been one of the Prime Minister's most trusted aides since becoming NSA in 2014. A 1968-batch IPS officer from the Kerala cadre, Doval was the first policeman to receive the Kirti Chakra, the second-highest peacetime gallantry award. As head of the national security establishment, which includes all anti-terror and intelligence outfits, Doval is among the most powerful officers in the country.

Dr. P.K. Mishra took over as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister in 2019, succeeding Nripendra Misra. A Gujarat cadre IAS officer from the 1972 batch, Mishra previously served as the Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. He holds a PhD in Economics/Development Studies from the University of Sussex in England.

India sends humanitarian aid to landslide-hit Papua



RNS I New Delhi: In response to a devastating landslide in Papua New Guinea's Enga province, India has dispatched 19 tonnes of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) supplies. This shipment is part of a \$1 million aid package announced by India last month, reflecting its strong commitment to supporting its Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) partners. The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, detailed

the aid on social media. The supplies include 13 tonnes of disaster relief materials, such as temporary shelters, water tanks, hygiene kits, and ready-to-eat meals. Additionally, 6 tonnes of emergency medical supplies, including medicines, medical equipment, dengue and malaria diagnostic kits, and baby food, were also provided. India's timely assistance underscores its dedication to aiding the Pacific island nation during this critical time.

NEET-UG Exam Controversy: Grace Marks Withdrawn for 1,563 Candidates; Retest Scheduled for June 23

RNS I New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has announced a retest for 1,563 candidates who received grace or compensatory marks in the NEET-UG examination. The retest is scheduled for June 23.

In a notification issued today, the NTA stated that it will soon issue a public notice and contact the affected candidates via email to ensure they receive the official communication.

This decision follows the Supreme Court's observation on the report by the NTA's High Powered Committee, which led to the withdrawal of the grace marks awarded to these students.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the media in New Delhi, refuting allegations of a NEET-UG examination paper leak. He emphasized that there was no corruption involved in the NEET examination process and welcomed the Supreme Court's decision on the matter.

Pradhan assured that action would be taken against those responsible for any discrepancies in the examination, reiterating the government's commitment to providing justice to students and parents.

Cervical Cancer eradication camp at Gua SAIL Hospital set for June 14



Gua: Gua SAIL Hospital will host a cervical cancer eradication camp today, announced Dr. Bharti Kashyap, President of the Women Doctors Wing IMA Jharkhand and former Co-President of the Women Doctors Wing National IMA. Organized by the National Health Mission Jharkhand in collaboration with the Women Doctors Wing IMA Jharkhand, the camp aims to screen for infections caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), a leading cause of cervical cancer. Dr. Kashyap emphasized the importance of early detection and urged individuals to attend the camp if they exhibit risk factors such as engaging in sexual intercourse before the age of 18, having multiple sexual partners, a personal history of sexual diseases, multiple pregnancies, long-term use of contraceptive pills without medical advice, a weak immune system, smoking, or tobacco consumption. The camp will offer free treatment and consultations. Attendees can dial 108 for ambulance services. For additional health information, a toll-free number, 104, is available.

J & K Terror Attacks

PM Modi Orders Deployment of Full Counter-Terror Capabilities in J&K

RNS I New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting on Thursday to address the security situation in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) following a recent surge in terror attacks. The meeting, attended by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and other senior officials, focused on assessing the current security landscape and formulating an effective response. Government sources cited by news agency ANI reported that Prime Minister Modi received a comprehensive briefing on the ongoing counter-terrorism efforts in the region. He was updated on the strategies and operations being implemented to combat terrorist activities and ensure regional safety. PM Modi emphasized the need to deploy India's full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities, instructing officials to utilize all available resources and strategies for an effective response. He stressed



the importance of a robust and coordinated effort to address potential threats. The Prime Minister also communicated with Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the deployment of security forces and ongoing counter-terror operations. Additionally, he reviewed the situation with J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who briefed him on the local administration's efforts. The meeting comes in the wake of a series of major terror assaults in J&K, raising concerns about regional security. On June 9, terrorists opened fire on a bus in Reasi, causing

it to fall into a deep gorge, resulting in the deaths of at least nine pilgrims, the bus driver, and the conductor, with 42 others injured. Further attacks in Kathua and Doda, where a Special Operations Group (SOG) constable was injured during an encounter with terrorists, have heightened alarm about the deteriorating security situation. In response to these incidents, PM Modi directed officials to deploy the "full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities" and stressed the importance of a coordinated approach to the security challenges in the region.

All Gates of Puri's Jagannath Temple opened after 4 years, BJP fulfills Odisha poll-promise



RNS I Puri: In a significant move, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which recently formed the government in Odisha, has fulfilled its election promise by opening all four gates of the Jagannath Temple in Puri. This marks the first time since 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic began, that all gates have been opened to devotees. Previously, only the Singhadwara (Lion Gate) was acces-

sible, while the other three gates—Ashwa Dwara (Horse Gate), Vyaghra Dwara (Tiger Gate), and Hasti Dwara (Elephant Gate)—remained closed. In its manifesto for the assembly elections, the BJP had pledged to open all gates of the temple if it came to power. Keeping this promise, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi made the decision in his first cabinet meeting on Thursday.

Additionally, Chief Minister Majhi announced a budget of Rs. 500 crore for the temple, further emphasizing the government's commitment to enhancing the temple's facilities and infrastructure.

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Film "Kalima" Released on Hungama OTT



RNS I Mumbai: The much-anticipated film "Kalima," produced by and starring Suman Pandey, has been released on the OTT platform Hungama. This female-oriented film is based on a love story and features Pandey in the lead role, portraying the life, struggles, and ups and downs of the main character. "Kalima," produced under the banner of Sanware Films, is directed by Anubhav Shrivastava, known for his work on films such as "Anth Karma," the music video "Tad-payegee," and the short film "Arey Yaar." This marks Suman Pandey's second film as both lead actress and producer. Pandey describes "Kalima" as a suspenseful drama filled with tragedy and romance, delivering a powerful message about trust. The film also features two romantic songs. The cast includes notable actors Rajesh Prajapati, Radhika Rajput, Radina, Shubham Tiwari, Adil Mallik, Amrita Sinha, Siddharth Shah, and Ritika Shah.

Giridih re-elected MP Chandraprakash Choudhary receives grand welcome at Loyabad



by Ashok Kumar

Loyabad: Chandraprakash Choudhary, re-elected as Giridih MP for the second consecutive term, received a grand welcome from Loyabad BJP Mandal workers led by Dinesh Rawani during his first visit to Ekda. BJP Loyabad Mandal General Secretary Dinesh Rawani and BJP leader Sunil Roy honored MP Choudhary and Shatrughan Mahato, brother of Dhanbad MP Dhulu Mahato, with angvashtas and garlands. BJP leader Satendra Pas-

wan and his wife Indu Devi draped them in shawls. In his address, MP Choudhary expressed gratitude to AJSU and BJP workers and the voters of Ekda Loyabad, emphasizing his commitment to solving the people's problems as his top priority. The event saw the presence of many BJP and AJSU workers, including Arun Gupta, Narayan Sahu, Rajesh Sahu, Govind Vauri, Golu Chauhan, Pawan Paswan, Mintu Paswan, Dheeraj Rawani, Indu Devi, and Geeta Singh.

Chinmaya Vidyalaya Bokaro holds Health and Wellness Workshop for Teachers

RNS I Bokaro: Chinmaya Vidyalaya Bokaro successfully conducted a two-day workshop on School Health and Wellbeing, aimed at inspiring and educating teachers. The event was inaugurated by Secretary Mahesh Tripathi, School Principal Suraj Sharma, Resource Person Dr. P. Shailaja Jaikumar, and Anandita Bhadra, who lit the ceremonial lamp and chanted mantras. Aligned with the new education policy, the Capacity Building Program facilitated this session under the Ayushman Bharat initiative. The workshop, designed by NCERT and UNESCO, aims to equip teachers with the necessary skills to implement its framework in all CBSE-affiliated schools. Principal Sharma emphasized the importance of comprehensive development—cerebral, physical, moral, and emotional—for children, stressing the need



to eliminate gender inequality and nurture capable citizens who contribute to societal evolution. He noted that such workshops are essential for building teachers' capacities to foster healthy citizens, which in turn creates a healthy society. The workshop covered all 11 models developed by NCERT and UNESCO, including Growing Up Healthy, Emotional Well-

being, Interpersonal Relationships, Value and Responsible Citizenship, Gender Equality, and Nutrition Health. Engaging activities kept the teachers enthusiastic and involved throughout the sessions. Scholars and skill trainers Dr. P. Shailaja Jaikumar, Principal of Shri Ayyappa Public School Bokaro, and Anandita Bhadra, Head Mistress of Delhi Public School Bokaro, ensured the

workshop remained engaging and informative. The program concluded with a session on promoting safe online and media use, led by Anandita Bhadra. Teachers' understanding was assessed through a Q&A session. Principal Sharma praised Dr. Shailaja Jaikumar and Anandita Bhadra for their expertise and contributions, presenting them with a keepsake in appreciation.

DPS Bokaro Music Teacher Mayank bags 'Vishwa Ratna Samman'

RNS I Bokaro: Showcasing his musical talent on an international stage and bringing accolades to Bokaro and the state of Jharkhand, DPS Bokaro Music Teacher Mayank Kumar Bhakta has been awarded the 'Vishwa Ratna Samman 2024.' This prestigious honor was conferred by the Delhi-based Worthy Wellness Foundation, affiliated with Niti Aayog and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

(MSME), Government of India. The accomplished Tabla teacher was selected for this esteemed award based on his outstanding contributions to music teaching. Bhakta received a Certificate of Appreciation, a trophy, and a medal for his commendable work. He was recognized for his dedication and passion for teaching music, as well as his efforts to promote the rich Indian

culture among the youth. Mayank has an impressive list of accolades to his name, including the National Talent Hunt Winner, Teacher Innovation Award, Rashtriya Pratishtha Samman, Youth Festival Gold Award, Swar Sangam Award, and the Doordarshan-Akashvani Award, among others. The principal of DPS Bokaro, Dr. A. S. Gangwar, congratulated Mayank on receiving this prestigious award and



wished him continued success in his future endeavors. In response, Mayank expressed his gratitude

for the school's support, highlighting the encouragement and guidance he received under Dr. Gangwar's leadership.

Sahayak Acharya Exam: Candidates Struggle with Difficult Urdu Questions

Ranchi: The Urdu subject questions were difficult for Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission Sahayak Acharya candidates who applied for 26,001 positions. Despite the online examination, students from Ranchi, Jamshepur, Hazaribagh, Bokaro, and Dhanbad complained about being allotted exam sites far from their home districts, such as Jamshepur for Gumla and Godda candidates. The Urdu question paper was



harder than Hindi, English, Bengali, Odia, and Sanskrit, according to Jharkhand State Urdu Teachers Association Central General Secretary

Amin Ahmed. Candidates struggled since the pattern differed greatly from the commission syllabus. Urdu included fewer grammar and passage-based questions than other disciplines, with most focusing on difficult Urdu literature issues. The association's spokesperson, Shahzad Anwar, said they would address these concerns to ensure fairness for Urdu-subject candidates.

Mamata Banerjee announces Rs 2,900 crore aid for over 1 crore farmers in Kharif season

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief also announced that the state government will distribute Rs 293 crore among 2.10 lakh farmers who suffered losses due to adverse weather conditions during the Rabi season.

New Delhi: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday announced that her government has started releasing Rs 2,900 crore directly into the bank accounts of about 1.05 crore farmers under the Krishak Bandhu (Naton) scheme for the

kharif season. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief also announced that the state government will distribute Rs 293 crore among 2.10 lakh farmers who suffered losses due to adverse weather conditions during the Rabi season. In a post written in Bengali on 'X', the chief minister stated: "Happy to announce that we are releasing today onwards Rs 2,900 crore directly into the bank accounts of our about 1.05 crore farmers (including bargadars) enrolled under our Krishak Bandhu (Naton) scheme. This is the first dose of financial assistance for the kharif season of 2024, and an equal second instalment will go for Rabi season later this year." "For cultivable land of 1 acre onwards, a farmer gets Rs 10,000, and for lesser quantum of land, proportionate amount with minimum being Rs 4,000 per year. Since (the Krishak Bandhu scheme) inception in 2019, a sum of Rs 18,234 crore has thus reached the farmers' accounts," she wrote further. Stressing on her government's commitment towards farmers' economic

welfare and social security, Banerjee said: "In addition, for a farmer dying between 18 and 60, his family gets death compensation of 2 lakh. A total 1,12,000 bereaved families in West Bengal have received a total Rs 2,240 crore in the last few years on this account. In a separate post, she wrote: "I am happy to announce that (apart from providing Rs. 2,900 crore assistance to 1 crore 5 lakh farmers and bargadars across the state under the Krishak Bandhu Naton Scheme), we are also releasing today onwards a sum of Rs 293 crore directly to the bank accounts of our 2.10 lakh farmers who suffered crop losses due to adverse weather conditions during current Rabi season."

The CM said the financial assistance was being extended under the state government's Bangla Shasya Bima scheme. "This is done under our unique Bangla Shasya Bima (BSB) which is our unique crop insurance scheme where the State

Government pays the entire premium for all crops... Since (the scheme's) inception in 2019, Rs 3,133 crore have reached the bank accounts of the affected one crore farmers! Jai Bangla!," she wrote. Initially rolled out as the 'Krishak Bandhu' in

scheme was relaunched as 'Krishak Bandhu (Naton)'. Banerjee's announcement comes days after her party bagged 29 out of 42 seats in Bengal. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured 12 seats — a sharp drop from its seat tally in 2019. With TMC sending 29 MPs to Parliament from Bengal, the TMC-led state government is gearing up to sharpen its attack against the BJP-led Centre over the state's pending issues under various welfare schemes. A senior leader of TMC said, "Mamata Banerjee has 29 MPs this time and the BJP is less than half way mark (in Parliament). We will exert pressure on the BJP and will try to secure all dues within a year. The party will be able to capitalize on this victory in the 2026 Assembly elections."

"In an administrative meeting, the Chief Minister has directed officials to prepare a new survey of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana beneficiaries. She said if the Central government does not give the money, the state government will give," he added.



2019, the scheme provides direct financial assistance for cultivation of crops upto a maximum of Rs 10,000 per annum and a minimum of 4,000 per annum. The beneficiaries would receive the amounts in two equal installments during Kharif and Rabi seasons every year. In June 2021, the

'Tanker mafia' at the centre of spat between AAP Minister Atishi and Delhi L-G

New Delhi: Amid reports of severe water shortage in several parts of the city, Water Minister Atishi and the office of the Lieutenant Governor, V K Saxena, on Wednesday traded barbs over the presence of a "tanker mafia" in the national capital. Atishi, writing to Saxena, urged that an enquiry be instituted against senior officials in the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), alleging that they may have illegal ties with the "tanker mafia". She said the reduction in the number of water tankers deployed in the city, despite her instructions, proved her allegations. According to sources, in June 2023, 1,323 tankers were available; this came down to 881 in March this year and finally to 1,211 in June. The Minister wrote on X on Wednesday, "The reduction in DJB tankers could have created scope for illegal private tankers." The office of the L-G, meanwhile, said that despite "knowing that a large-scale water mafia" was operating in Delhi, DJB (Delhi Jal Board) had never filed a complaint with the police; neither did officials ask the L-G to take action.



The L-G's secretariat also wrote to the Delhi Police Commissioner asking him to ensure strict vigil along the Munak Canal to prevent theft by the "water mafia" and to present a compliance report to the Lt Governor's secretariat within a week. His office also blamed Atishi for "lying" and issuing a "patently false statement, blaming Haryana for the scarcity of water in Delhi."

His office said that the Haryana government's affidavit had clearly stated that Delhi's share of

water was being provided. The affidavit submitted in Supreme Court stated that "not even on a single day" had Haryana released less than the mandated 1,050 cusecs to Delhi. On Wednesday evening, Atishi posted on X that the L-G's office had sent a press release where she had been abused. "Very bad things have been said about me... I know that you and the BJP people hate us a lot because the people of Delhi repeatedly make their son Arvind Kejriwal the Chief Minister with a huge majority... But do not stop the water supply of Delhiites because of your hatred towards us... If the BJP government of Haryana provides water to Delhi, then all the people of Delhi will get relief," she posted in Hindi. In response, the office of the Lt Governor posted: "L-G sahab did not abuse you. L-G's office has refuted the abuses and blatant lies you uttered yesterday, with evidence, and exposed your habit of misleading the people of Delhi. He still hopes that you will stop water theft and wastage in Delhi and provide water to the people."

Sharad Pawar Talks Of "Taking Control Of Maharashtra", How He Aims To Do It

New Delhi: Pune: NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar today said it would be his endeavour to "take control of Maharashtra", for which his party must win the state assembly polls scheduled later this year. The Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) helmed by him put up an impressive show by winning eight out of ten Lok Sabha seats it contested in Maharashtra in the recently-concluded general elections. Sharad Pawar's daughter and NCP (SP) candidate Supriya Sule won the high-stake family battle for the Baramati seat for the fourth straight term, defeating her cousin Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar.

Following the Lok Sabha poll results, Sharad Pawar has been meeting people in Baramati and making preparations for the state assembly polls. Addressing people from Shirsuphal village in Baramati, the former Union minister said the people of Baramati constituency



remained silent during the election period. "Our party functionaries used to tell me that people are silent and they are not speaking openly. I asked them not to worry and said that even if they are not expressing themselves, they will press the right button (of EVMs). And the same thing happened. When the EVMs were opened, the magic was seen as you people voted in large numbers," he said. He appealed to people to stay united as the state assembly elections are just around the corner.

"In the next three to four months, state elections are taking place. Come what may, it will be my endeavour to take control of Maharashtra. To achieve this, we must win the assembly polls," he said. Sharad Pawar recalled that he was the chief minister of the state for four terms, Union agriculture minister for a decade and defence minister for two years. "All these things can happen when your collective power is there. The issues you have put forth before me, I will try and resolve them. However, I cannot give assurances now because a different government is in place. But after four months, we can certainly resolve these issues," he said. Sharad Pawar criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks made during the polls. During the polls campaign, the prime minister spoke on the topics that should have been avoided," he said.

PM Modi Heads To Italy For G7 Summit, Ukraine And Gaza Wars To Dominate

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is heading to Italy to attend a summit of Group of Seven, known as the G7, which is likely to be dominated by Ukraine and Gaza ceasefire talks.

The summit will be held between June 13-15 at the luxurious Borgo Egnazia resort in Apulia region, with leaders flying in from the seven member countries, US, UK, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, and France, as well as the European Union.

India, which has been invited to the G7 Summit as an outreach country, has defence and maritime cooperation on its agenda, according to ambassador Vani Rao.

Defence and security will be an important pillar that we want to build here. We are looking at cooperation in critical technologies, linking the defence industries of the two countries and also maritime cooperation," Ms Rao told



ANI. PM Modi, a special invitee, will leave for Italy on Thursday with a high-level delegation, which will be his first overseas tour since returning as the Prime Minister for the third time, said Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra. He will

follow up on some of the key issues discussed during India's G20 presidency, said Ms Rao. With Ukraine expected to be among the talking points at the summit, India has reiterated that the best option to resolve the conflict is dialogue and diplomacy. "We have always been in the forefront to talk about not just the conflict, the need for dialogue and diplomacy but also the way the conflict is impacting on the priorities and interests of the developing countries," said Mr Kwatra.

At the summit in Italy, President Biden will be among the top leaders he will meet. "Biden expects to see PM Modi in Italy and the two leaders will have the opportunity to encounter each other," US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan has said. PM Modi is also expected to hold a meeting with Italian PM Giorgia Meloni and other leaders to review bilateral ties.

Congress' Jairam Ramesh Slams PM Over Failure Of Tackling Food Inflation; Says 'Modi Hai Toh..'

Congress hit out at PM Modi over the increasing inflation figures for the month of May, saying "Modi hai toh mehngai hai!"

New Delhi: The Congress on Thursday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the increasing inflation figures for the month of May, saying "If Modi is there then there is inflation! (Modi hai toh mehngai hai)." This comes a day after government released the data showing that retail inflation had fallen to a one-year low of 4.75 percent in May, attributed to a slight drop in food prices. Calling the newly elected Narendra Modi, a 'one-third' Prime Minister, Ramesh said that "The 'one-third' Pradhan Mantri has no solution to this crisis."

Inflation in the food basket was at 8.69% in May, marginally down from 8.70% in April, reported PTI citing the data released by the



National Statistical Office (NSO). In a post on 'X' Congress' Jairam Ramesh wrote in hindi, "Modi hai toh mehngai hai! Food

price inflation is over 8.5% for four months. Pulses inflation has been consistently in double digits over the past year - more than 10%; prices rose by 17.14% in May."

According to Ramesh the Congress manifesto promised to increase the protein intake for the poor and promised to ensure a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for pulses, calculated as per the Swaminathan Commission's formula. He further added, "In the Congress manifesto we had promised to take two measures to address the problem of inflation, particularly in the case of pulses: 1. Legal guarantee of MSP for pulses with price determined by Swaminathan Commission

formula. This will promote domestic cultivation of pulses - as farmers will get access to market as well as fair and assured price. 2. By including pulses in PDS, the amount of protein in the food of the poor will increase and they can also be saved from inflation."

Headline inflation has gradually decreased from January 2024, ranging between 5.1% in February to 4.8% in April 2024. Data from the NSO also shows that retail inflation was higher in rural areas at 5.28% compared to 4.15% in urban areas. In May, vegetable prices rose compared to the previous month, while fruit prices were lower. The government has instructed the Reserve Bank to keep CPI inflation around 4%, with a tolerance range of 2% in either direction.

Let's make India a knowledge powerhouse by 2047

THE clarion call for Atmanirbharta is for India to become a knowledge hub, discard the colonial mindset and move from a 'labour arbitrage' economy to a 'knowledge arbitrage' economy. Our destination is a 'knowledge powerhouse'.

For this, we have the potential, the size and the demographic dividend, and now the growing economic muscle. With the prospect of a sustained 8 per cent GDP growth and the new-wave boost to 6G, chip design and chip manufacturing, new fuel, hydrogen and bio, wind and solar energy, a clutch of unicorns and startups — all have the potential to carve out a wave of environment-friendly and indigenous products. While 6G and chips will be strategic tools that would lead the digital revolution, it is also time to move away from just being a technology follower. It is time to rise to our potential and lead. We have to be a technology provider.

Corporates, both public and private, will need to invest with a mission-mode mindset. The greatest spinoff will be security, national and citizen; both add to make Comprehensive National Power.

Beyond that, a reality check. There are some critical sectors in the transition journey. As per the Global Knowledge Index report (2023) of the UNDP, our ranking among 133 countries in some critical areas is (the US's corresponding ranking is in brackets): Pre-university education, 96th (ninth); technical and vocational education and training, 119th (second); higher education, 106th (fourth); research & development and innovation, 54th (fifth); information and communication technology or ICT, 83rd (second). Innovation and development are the key. Innovation is a process of one idea building on another, resulting in a novel product, process or service, which is commercialised and put to practical use. Development is one step at a time in the realm of science and technology, striving to instil in future generations an innovative spirit. For this, there is a need to shed the 'rote' model to that of 'inquiry and innovation', which challenges the standard rote answer. Yes, 50+40 makes 90, but when a child says that the total is less than a hundred, he/she has given you an acceptable answer and more. Rote learning is the antithesis of innovation. The Garden City of Bengaluru is our Silicon Valley, nay Colony. We labour, others do a markup, aggregate our work, and we pay for the finished product. It was good for starters; it was good to showcase our skill to the world. It got a boost with Y2K; that era is well past its shelf life. Bengaluru is changing, but ever so slowly. It needs to hasten its pace and be one of a dozen knowledge hubs (Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai and many others) as we journey to 2047. Bengaluru needs to upgrade itself as the 'Chip Net Integration Capital' and lead the way to be the next-wave Silicon Hub. Constraints notwithstanding, we need to build a comprehensive and rewarding innovation system to harness the talent of our GenNext. We have it in abundance at every level. We need to find ways to tap it. Untapped genius is a national loss. GenNext awaits opportunities to be tapped. For when they get them, not just India, entire humanity will benefit. GenNext, wherever it may be, outside India or on MNC campuses within, has untiringly and repeatedly proven that its contribution is world-class. Don't rein it in; loosen the reins and empower it. Get rid of rote learning. How to think is more important than being told what to think. For the Knowledge Powerhouse Mission, five initiatives are essential. First, raise the quality of education. The National Education Policy (NEP) is a start, but its implementation is slow and it does not have the mechanism to learn and adapt. 'One size fits all' is not workable, NEP as a scaffolding is fine. That's it. It will enable pan-India student and labour mobility. Beyond that, states need to innovate to suit their needs and then execute plans. Second, reduce the bureaucratic control over science and technology to facilitate an environment of easy funding that challenges the status quo, encourages creativity and rewards innovation. Third, improve law enforcement to check IPR (intellectual property rights) pilferage and theft.

Our republic's future hinges on democratic education

The cultivation of the faculty of critical thinking is immensely important for democratic education.

AS a teacher/educator, I have always felt that there is something more to democracy than the ritualisation of periodic elections. Of course, these elections are important and we must reflect on the ever-changing nature of power equations, the formation of new political alliances and the questions relating to ideology, politics and governance. But then, amid this intense debate on whether Narendra Modi's popularity has somewhat eroded or whether Rahul Gandhi is emerging as a new icon in Indian politics, I experience the absence of what I would regard as the most important concern: Are our youngsters — the new generation that will shape the destiny of India — getting the kind of education that truly empowers them and makes them capable of sustaining, nurturing and living with the fundamental spirit of democracy? In order to find a meaningful answer to this important question, let me identify three fundamental features of democratic education, and then enquire whether the prevalent practice of education is in tune with this spirit. First, the capacity to engage in a meaningful dialogue is a distinctive feature of democratic education. After all, democracy is not the assertion of a monologue — even the monologue of our 'supreme leader'. Democracy is not the cult of majoritarianism, even if the mathematics of numbers tends to sanctify it. Instead, democracy means the acknowledgement of diverse, plural, subaltern and even conflicting perspectives. In other words, it requires the cultivated skill that sharpens the faculty of mindful observation, promotes the delicate art of listening, and encourages the elasticity of consciousness needed for expanding one's mental horizon, or becoming empathic to others. Although this sort of dialogue does not necessarily guarantee a consensus, it means humility, or the courage to change and amend one's position, if one is convinced by counter arguments. In fact, authoritarian masters all over the world demand 'certainty' or 'homogeneity'; they are afraid of differences, plurality and ambiguities. The subtlety of dialogic education, it has to be realised, is an antithesis of all sorts of authoritarianism. Second, the cultivation of the faculty of critical thinking is immensely important for democratic education. And critical thinking is not merely about solving a mathematics riddle or a physics numerical; it is essentially about the ability to pose new questions, see beyond the 'taken-for-granted' world, celebrate what Brazilian educationist Paulo Freire would have regarded as a 'problem-posing education', and interrogate, say, the normalisation of patriarchy, caste hierarchy, religious bigotry and heightened economic inequality. The question is whether we are really prepared to accept the spirit of critical pedagogy in our classrooms in order to create intellectually alert, active and awakened citizens



— not merely a set of 'toppers' or 'products' with fancy salary packages. Third, it is impossible to sow the seeds of active and participatory democracy without encouraging the kind of education that nurtures the ethic of care. As hyper-competitiveness is becoming the order of the day, we tend to worship aggressive, self-possessive and narcissistic warriors — not compassionate citizens filled with the ethic of love, compassion and egalitarian/democratic living. It is sad that even the educational arena has begun to look like a battlefield — 'exam warriors' running neurotically after mythical 'success'! Can we learn a couple of lessons from the likes of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr and American feminist pedagogues bell hooks, and initiate a movement to save education from the virus of the recklessly aggressive culture that keeps reproducing patriarchy, casteism and racism?

These three ideals indicate that a truly libertarian/democratic education ought to free itself from the discourses of neoliberal market fundamentalism as well as religious fundamentalism implicit in the ideology of hyper-nationalism. If we equate education solely with the acquisition of a set of technical skills the market demands; or, for that matter, if we think that the primary objective of education is to manufacture a brigade of hyper-masculine 'nationalists' intoxicated with the zeal to eradicate the cleverly constructed 'enemies' of the nation, we will end up negating the very purpose of a life-affirming and emancipatory education.

Well, these days, political pundits are continually debating and reflecting on the implications of the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections — the dialectic of the 'NDA vs INDIA' politics. But then, these debates miss what really matters — the realisation that unless the new generation evolves as truly alert and awakened citizens with the vibrancy of democratic education, the future of the republic will be in danger. In fact, if there is democratic education, the new generation will not remain content merely with the ritualistic act of casting their votes and choosing the 'lesser evil' every five years; nor will they transform their representatives into their 'masters'. Instead, they will remain perpetually alert and active; and succeed in making their 'representatives' accountable. Yes, they will refuse to be just passive spectators of the dramaturgical performances of the political bosses; they will not be hypnotised by the propaganda machinery; they will come to the street and ask them many difficult questions — can India really become a vishwaguru, particularly when its rank on the Global Hunger Index is 111 out of 125 countries? Is the set of 'fundamental rights' our Constitution prescribes in tune with our lived experiences, and that too at a time when India's score on the World Press Freedom Index is far from satisfactory? Is there reason to be proud of the prevalent political culture when the latest report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms reveals that 251 of the 543 newly elected Lok Sabha MPs have criminal cases registered against them?

PM's team

Coalition considerations influence choices

AT the helm of a genuine coalition government for the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is heading a 72-member Union Council of Ministers, which has been formed after taking several factors into consideration — experience, youth, caste matrix, upcoming Assembly polls and representation of the BJP's partners in the NDA. The PM's team includes 30 Cabinet ministers, four of whom are from Bihar. This is no surprise as the BJP has three important allies in that state — CM Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). Two allies in southern states, Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party and HD Kumaraswamy's Janata Dal (Secular), have also got one Cabinet berth each.

Among the first-timers are three former chief ministers — Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Manohar Lal Khattar (Haryana) and



Kumaraswamy (Karnataka); Suresh Gopi, the BJP's first

Lok Sabha MP from Kerala, has also made the grade. Over 40 ministers are from Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is significant in the light of the poll reversals suffered by the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, where the Samajwadi Party made major gains on the back of its outreach to the 'PDA' — Pichhra (backward), Dalit and Alpsankhyak (minorities). Maharashtra and Haryana, which go to the polls later this year, have a noticeable presence in the Council of Ministers. The induction of former Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu as a Minister of State shows that the BJP is keen on staging a revival in Punjab after its disastrous performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls. The party contested all 13 seats but drew a blank, with Bittu losing from Ludhiana. It is apparent that the BJP is looking to groom this relatively young leader with an eye on the 2027 Assembly elections. All in all, the BJP has performed a delicate balancing act.

How Modi 3.0 looks from South Asia

The region will hope the PM will move towards rapprochement with Pakistan and revival of SAARC

IN 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi first took up office as the head of a National Democratic Alliance government in which the BJP had a majority of its own, South Asia saw promise in dealing with a strong leader in Delhi for the first time since 1989. Against the background of growing Chinese influence in the region, Modi's invitation to the SAARC leaders, including then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was hailed as a grand gesture of goodwill. South Asia saw in it a sign of new beginnings. Five years later, when Modi invited another group of leaders from the neighbourhood and beyond for the inauguration of his second innings, he had already stamped India and the region with his strongman style of leadership. He was at the peak of his political power, having achieved an even bigger victory on the nationalist wave following India's strike inside Pakistan after the Pulwama attack. And to the dismay of many smaller South Asian nations, Modi had dumped SAARC. On Sunday, as the leaders of five South Asian nations — Pakistan and Afghanistan were not invited — and two Indian Ocean countries, Mauritius and Seychelles, assembled at the Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt at Modi's invitation to watch him being sworn in for a third term, they came fully aware that much had changed since he first took up office. In their own countries, China's influence has grown deeper roots, and their politics have undergone massive churns. And this time, it was almost as if a politically weak Modi needed their presence to bolster the signals being sent out from June 4 that nothing has changed in Delhi. They would, of course, have sized up the new arrangement for themselves, of what has changed and what remains.

But for the diverse people of a region that has seen — and seen off — its share of strongmen and who have held India's pluralism and its secular democracy in admiration, Modi's democratic downsizing is an inspiring moment. There was concern at the erosion of these values in India over the last 10 years and for the fallout on their own polities. They have greeted India's 2024 verdict with relief. Especially in countries

struggling with the authoritarian creep of their own leaders, it has restored faith in India's democracy. Across South Asia, there is admiration for the Indian voter.

In Bangladesh, where five-time PM Sheikh Hasina won a fourth successive term in January in a controversial election marred by an Opposition boycott and a crackdown on dissent, Mahfuz Anam, the editor of The Daily Star, noted, somewhat wistfully, that in "Bangladesh... voters aspire for the same power".

In Sri Lanka, voters had used the ballot to send the authoritarian Mahinda Rajapaksa packing in 2015, only to bring him and his brother Gotabaya back in 2019. After helplessly watching them preside over the country's economic meltdown, Sri Lankans came out on the streets in 2022, and, in a dramatic show of people's power, unseated the Rajapaksa family. But they believe their efforts to bring about real change have been thwarted by the country's entrenched political elite, who have clawed back into positions of power after small rearrangements among themselves.

The Daily FT said the Sri Lankan people could "take heart from the election results in India, where voters have pushed back against powerful forces using the power of the ballot". It pointed to the communal malaise in its own polity and said, "the Mahinda/Gotabaya Rajapaksa brand of politics which brought Sinhala Buddhist supremacy to the fore and demonised ethnic and religious minorities is a replica of what the Modi government has been practising in India since taking power in 2014". In Pakistan, where the struggle for democracy is ranged not so much against politicians as the powerful army, Modi's seemingly unstoppable rise as a Hindu majoritarian leader was seen as mirroring Pakistan's own descent into the Mullah-military alliance. "Tum bilkul hum jaise nikley," a line from Pakistani poet Fahmida Riaz's eponymous poem, was often used to describe India's embrace of Hindutva in the last 10 years. In a country still smouldering from the two-year-long internecine competition among political elites for the army's patronage and an election in February that

resolved none of its problems, there is now surprise, if not admiration, that India's democracy is in the safe hands of its voters. Writing in Dawn, columnist Mahir Ali noted that "Indian voters have now indicated that they resent [the religious fundamentalism] formula in the Hindu context, particularly when it fails to deliver the



promised levels of employment and levelling up." Nepal has had its own concerns about Hindutva, on aggressive display along its border in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Columnist Namrata Sharma, writing before the election in Rising Nepal, observed the 'unease' in the former Hindu kingdom at how a third-term BJP government in Delhi might impact Nepal's own hard-won secular republic with a Constitution that took several years to frame. She also flagged the presence of RSS leaders from India at protest demonstrations for a return to a Hindu monarchy.

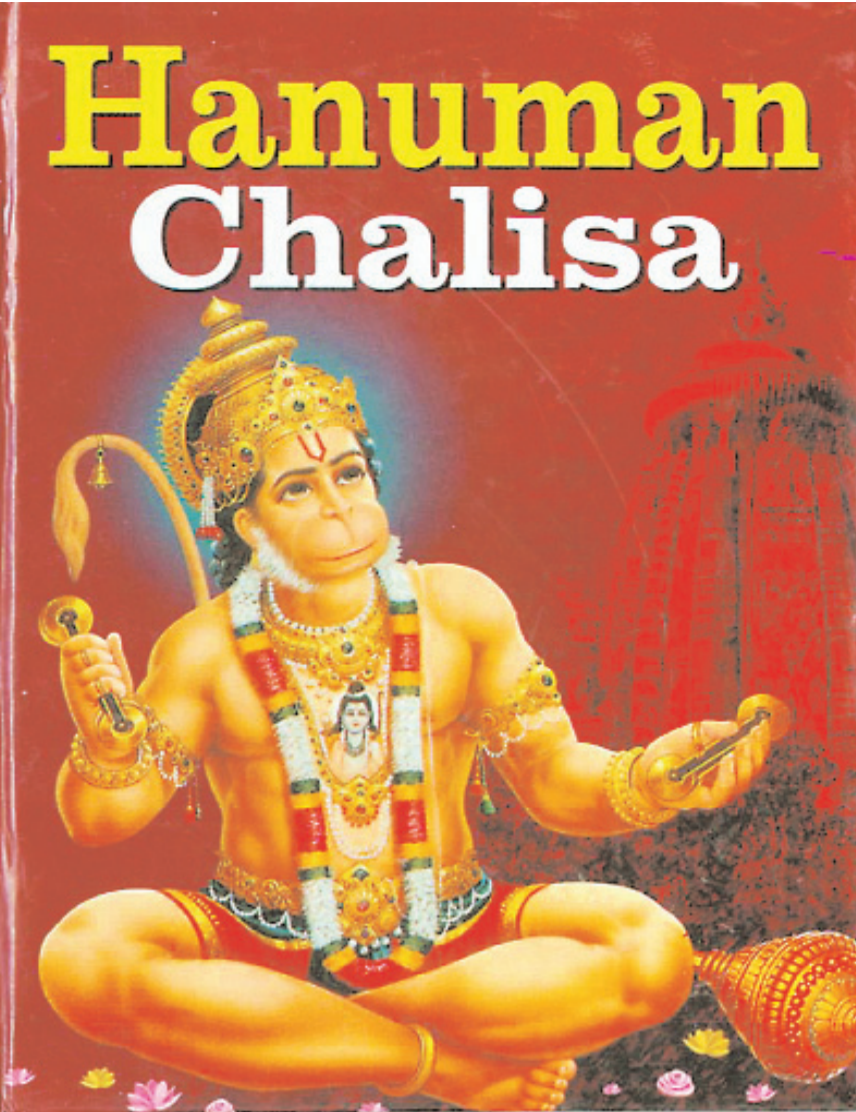
After the Mohamed Muizzu government came to power in the Maldives against a background of resentment against New Delhi and 'India Out' protests, it has been hard for Indians to understand how a small country can stand up to the region's biggest country, that too, a generous one. But even Muizzu's openly Delhi-friendly predecessor, Ibrahim Solih, struggled to explain to voters in this

Islamic republic the bigoted shenanigans of a hate-mongering functionary of India's ruling party or the commandeering of locals by the Indian Embassy in Male for a yoga day event.

At a time when India is trying to push back on China's large footprint in these countries and in countries such as

Seychelles and Mauritius in the wider Indian Ocean region, the BJP's willingness to throw under the bus its 'Neighbourhood First' diplomacy for its electoral gains has not helped. The blockading of Nepal just before the Bihar election of 2016, Amit Shah's description of Bangladeshi migrants as 'termites' in 2018, the PM's 'bheekh ka katora' jibes at Pakistan's economic woes and the gratuitous raking up of India's Katchatheevu agreement in this poll campaign speak of a reckless disregard in the top BJP leadership for how India is perceived by the people of the neighbourhood. Why has Shehbaz Sharif not congratulated Modi yet, some Indians ask, in response to why Modi left out the Pakistan Prime Minister for his inauguration. After

Modi's taunts, Sharif would be risking the little credibility he has left from his tainted election victory to risk any outreach to the new government. India will need to make the first public move, but can a weak Modi do what a strong Modi could not, after signed hands in 2015? Still, South Asia will hope that Modi 3.0 will move towards a rapprochement with Pakistan and a revival of SAARC. After all, it was an NDA coalition government that made the big peace move in 1998 and 2003, which was taken forward by another coalition, this time the UPA, in 2004. South Asia will also hope that Modi 3.0 finds it less easy to denigrate neighbours, or use his social media clout to boss over them, or swing secret deals with their unpopular leaders for Delhi's favourite businessmen. It will hope for an Indian foreign policy that understands the people of the neighbourhood and their aspirations better.



Hanuman Chalisa

हनुमान चालीसा की इन 5 चौपाइयों में है दिव्य शक्ति

हनुमानजी की स्तुति हनुमान चालीसा से हम सभी परिचित हैं। हनुमान चालीसा की रचना गोस्वामी तुलसीदास जी ने की थी। हिंदू धर्म ग्रंथों में उल्लेखित है कि बाल्यकाल में जब हनुमानजी ने सूर्य को मुंह में रख लिया तब सूर्य को मुक करवाने के लिए देवराज इंद्र ने हनुमानजी पर शस्त्र से प्रहार किया। इसके बाद हनुमान जी मूर्छित हो गए। हनुमानजी के मूर्छित होने की बात जब वायु देव को पता चली तो काफी नाराज हुए। लेकिन जब सभी देवताओं को पता चला कि हनुमानजी भगवान शिव के रुद्र अवतार हैं, तब सभी देवताओं ने हनुमानजी को कई शक्तियां दीं। देवताओं ने जिन मंत्रों और हनुमानजी की विशेषताओं को बताते हुए उन्हें शक्ति प्रदान की थी, उन्हीं मंत्रों के सार को गोस्वामी तुलसीदास ने हनुमान चालीसा में वर्णित किया है।

हनुमान चालीसा में मंत्र नहीं है लेकिन हनुमानजी की पराक्रम की विशेषताएं बताई गई हैं। हनुमान चालीसा में ही ऐसी 5 चौपाइयां हैं, जिनका यदि नियमित सच्चे मन से वाचन किया जाए तो यह परम फलदायी सिद्ध होती है। हनुमान चालीसा का वाचन मंगलवार या शनिवार करना शुभ होता है। ध्यान रखें हनुमान चालीसा की इन चौपाइयों को पढ़ते समय उच्चारण की त्रुटि न करें।

भूत-पिशाच निकट नहीं आवे। महावीर जब नाम सुनावे।।

उपाय- यदि व्यक्ति को किसी भी प्रकार का भय सताता है तो नित्य रोज प्रातः और सायंकाल में 108 बार इस चौपाई का जाप किया जाये तो सभी प्रकार के भय से मुक्ति मिलती है।

नासै योग हरे सब पीरा। जपत निरंतर हनुमत बल बीरा।।

उपाय- यदि व्यक्ति बीमारियों से घिरा रहता है तो निरंतर सुबह-शाम 108 बार जाप करके तथा मंगलवार को हनुमान जी की मूर्ति के सामने पूरी हनुमान चालीसा के पाठ से योगी की पीड़ा खत्म हो जाती है।

अष्ट-सिद्धि नवनिधि के दाता। अस बर दीन जानकी माता।।

उपाय- यदि जीवन में व्यक्ति को शक्तियों की प्राप्ति करनी है ताकि जीवन निर्वाह में मुश्किलों का काम सामना करना पड़े तो नित्य रोज, ब्रह्म मुहूर्त में आधा घंटा इन पंक्तियों के जाप से लाभ प्राप्त हो सकता है।

विद्यावान गुणी अति चातुर। रामकाज करीबे को आतुर।।

उपाय- यदि किसी व्यक्ति को विद्या और धन चाहिए तो इन पंक्तियों के जाप से हनुमान जी का आशीर्वाद प्राप्त हो जाता है। प्रतिदिन 108 बार ध्यानपूर्वक जाप करने से व्यक्ति के धन सम्बन्धित दुःख दूर हो जाते हैं।

गीम रूप धरि असुर संहारे। रामचंद्रजी के काज संहारे।।

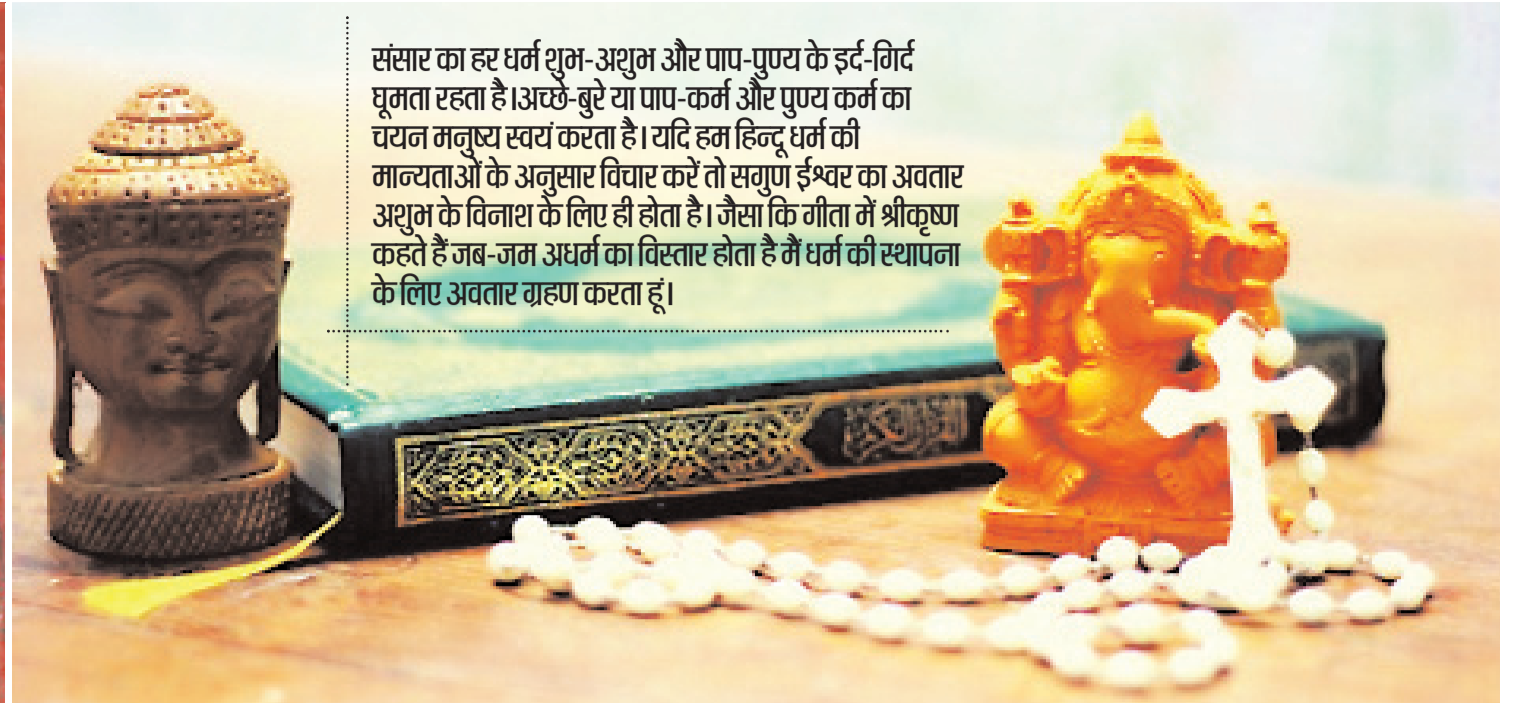
उपाय- यदि कोई व्यक्ति शत्रुओं से परेशान है या व्यक्ति के कार्य नहीं बन पा रहे हैं तो हनुमान चालीसा की इस चौपाई का काम से कम 108 बार जाप करना चाहिए।

मालवा की वैष्णो देवी नीमच की भादवा माता



आज हम आपको एक ऐसे शक्तिपीठ के बारे में बताते जा रहे हैं, जिनके बारे में कहा जाता है कि उनकी कृपा से शहर में कोई भूखा नहीं सोता। किसी के पास पैसे की तंगी नहीं रहती है। लोक कथाओं के अनुसार, हरसिद्धि मंदिर में उज्जैन के राजा रहे विक्रमादित्य की आराध्य देवी का वास है। शिवपुराण के अनुसार दक्ष प्रजापति के हवन कुंड में माता के सती हो जाने के बाद भगवान भोलेनाथ सती को उठाकर ब्रह्ममांड में ले गए थे। इस दौरान माता सती के अंग जिन स्थानों पर गिरे, वहां शक्तिपीठ स्थापित हो गए। कहा जाता है इस स्थान पर माता के दाहिने हाथ की कोहनी गिरी थी और इसी कारण से यह स्थान भी एक शक्तिपीठ बन गया है। स्कंद पुराण के अनुसार, देवी को चंड एवं मुंड नामक राक्षस के वध के लिए भगवान शिव से सिद्धि मिली थी, इसीलिए वह हरसिद्धि कहलाई। गर्भगृह में एक शिला पर श्रीयंत्र उत्कीर्ण है, जो शक्ति का प्रतीक है। यहां माता लक्ष्मी, महासरस्वती के साथ ही अन्नपूर्णा माता विराजमान हैं। यह स्थान

उज्जैन के प्राचीन देवी स्थानों में अपना विशेष महत्व रखता है। वर्तमान में मंदिर के पुनर्निर्माण का श्रेय मराठों को जाता है। मंदिर के सामने मराठा वास्तुकला के अनुसार दीप स्तंभ स्थापित किए गए हैं, जिनमें 1001 दिवे बने हुए हैं। दक्षिण में बनी एक बावड़ी पर 1447 संवत का एक शिलालेख भी उत्कीर्ण है। मंदिर के मुख्य पुजारी पंडित शेषनारायण गोस्वामी ने बताया कि गर्भगृह में सबसे ऊपर विराजमान हैं मां अन्नपूर्णा, जिनकी वजह से उज्जैनी में हमेशा भंडारे चलते रहते हैं। कहा जाता है कि उनकी कृपा से उज्जैन में कोई भूखा नहीं सोता है। बीच में मां लक्ष्मी के स्वरूप में है, जिनकी वजह से किसी को भी लक्ष्मी की कमी नहीं आती। सबसे नीचे विराजित है महाकाली।



संसार का हर धर्म शुभ-अशुभ और पाप-पुण्य के इर्द-गिर्द घूमता रहता है। अच्छे-बुरे या पाप-कर्म और पुण्य कर्म का चयन मनुष्य स्वयं करता है। यदि हम हिन्दू धर्म की मान्यताओं के अनुसार विचार करें तो सगुण ईश्वर का अवतार अशुभ के विनाश के लिए ही होता है। जैसा कि गीता में श्रीकृष्ण कहते हैं जब-जम अधर्म का विस्तार होता है तब धर्म की स्थापना के लिए अवतार ग्रहण करता है।

दुनिया के बड़े धर्मों की नजर में क्या है शुभ-अशुभ

शुभ और अशुभ व पुण्य और पाप की समस्या कर्म-फल-सिद्धांत पर आधारित है। जीव यदि अशुभ कर्मों की ओर प्रेरित होता है तो इसके पीछे उसकी अल्पज्ञता, अज्ञान होता है। संसार का हर धर्म शुभ-अशुभ और पाप-पुण्य के इर्द-गिर्द घूमता रहता है। ईसाई धर्म में

ईश-चितन के संदर्भ में उक्त विचारधारा प्राप्त होती है। ईश्वर परम शुभ है। अतः उस पर पाप या अशुभ का आरोपण नहीं किया जा सकता। बाइबिल में काम-वासना को पाप या अशुभ की संज्ञा दी गई है और उसका शैतान कहा गया है। ईसाई नीतिशास्त्र में पाप या अशुभ

पर विचार करते हुए कतिपय महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उठाए गए हैं। इस संसार का निर्माण परमेश्वर ने किया, किन्तु संसार में सर्वत्र पाप ही पाप है। यदि ईश्वर ने सृष्टि की रचना की और ईश्वर शुभ और सर्वशक्तिमान है तो सृष्टि में शुभ ही शुभ होना चाहिए। ईसाई धर्म के अनुसार ईश्वर ने मनुष्य को कर्म की स्वतंत्रता प्रदान की है। अतः अच्छे-बुरे या पाप-कर्म और पुण्य कर्म का चयन मनुष्य स्वयं करता है। यदि हम हिन्दू धर्म की मान्यताओं के अनुसार विचार करें तो सगुण ईश्वर का अवतार अशुभ के विनाश के लिए ही होता है। जैसा कि गीता में श्रीकृष्ण कहते हैं जब-जम अधर्म का विस्तार होता है तब धर्म की स्थापना के लिए अवतार ग्रहण करता है। बाइबिल में ईसा मसीह को पुत्रेश्वर कहा गया है। परमेश्वर के पुत्र के रूप में ईसा मसीह संसार के पापों को दूर करने के लिये ही धरती पर आए थे।

बुधवार के दिन विघ्नहर्ता गणेश को ऐसे मनाएं

विघ्नहर्ता विनायक भगवान गणेश की पूजा यदि सच्चे मन से की जाए तो हर समस्या का समाधान संभव है। बुधवार भगवान गणेश का दिन होता है। बुधवार को गणेश की पूजा करें तो सतान, शिक्षा और भाग्य समृद्ध होता है। गणपति की उपासना से कुंडली के अशुभ योग भी खत्म हो जाते हैं। इसीलिए कलयुग में उन्हें विघ्नविनाशक के रूप में पूजा जाता है। श्रीगणेश जी की बुधवार को पूजा करने का विधान हमारे धर्मग्रंथों में मौजूद है।

बुधवार को प्रातःकाल में स्नानादि से निवृत्त होकर ताम्र पत्र के श्री गणेश यन्त्र को नमक, नींबू से अच्छे से साफ करें। यंत्र को शुद्ध जल से धोने के बाद पूजा स्थल पर पूर्व या उत्तर दिशा की ओर मुख कर के आसन पर विराजमान हो कर सामने श्री गणेश यन्त्र की स्थापना



करें। आसन पर बैठने के बाद दांयी हथेली में जल ले कर आसन व भूमि पर जल छिड़कते हुए नीचे लिखे मंत्र को पढ़ें....
ॐ अपवित्रः पवित्रो वा सर्वावस्थां गतोपि वा।
यः स्मरते पुण्डरीकाक्षं स बाह्यन्तरः शुचिः।।

अब गणेश यंत्र को शुद्ध जल चढ़ाते हुए मंत्र बोले गये व यमुने वैव गोदावरि सरस्वति।
नर्मदे सिन्धु कावेरि जलस्मिन्प्राप्तिं कुरु।।
यदि आप इस मंत्र की आराधना सच्चे मन से करते हैं तो आपको मनोकामना जरूर पूरी होती है।



जैन मुनि को यह कार्य करवाना है अनिवार्य

हाल ही में गुजरात 12वीं बोर्ड में 99.99 प्रतिशत हासिल करने वाले वरिष्ठ शाह जैन, जैन संत बन गए हैं। वरिष्ठ महज 17 साल के हैं और गुजरात के ही पालड़ी के रहने वाले हैं। वरिष्ठ अब जैन मुनि सुवीर्य रत्न विजयजी महाराज के नाम से जाने जायेंगे। पिछले वर्षों में गोरक्षा जाप तो युवाओं द्वारा संन्यास लेने की सिलसिला काफी बड़ा है। जैन धर्म के अनुयायियों के लिए भले ही यह पूरा घटनाक्रम सकारात्मक हो, लेकिन जैन धर्म के इतिहास पर नजर डालें तो पाएंगे कि जैन धर्म में संन्यास लेने वाले अनुयायी को मुनि की उपाधि दी जाती है। संन्यास लेने के बाद जैन मुनि को निर्ग्रन्थ भी कहा जाता है। मुनि शब्द पुरुषों के लिए तो आर्यिका शब्द स्त्री संन्यासियों को संबोधित किया जाता है। प्रत्येक जैन मुनि को केश-लोच करना अनिवार्य होता है।

तो क्या इतना प्राचीन है जैन धर्म

जैन धर्म ग्रंथों के अनुसार यह धर्म अनादि और सनातन है। यदि आर्यों के भारत आने के बाद से भी देखा जाये तो ऋग्वेद और अरिष्टनेमि को लेकर जैन धर्म की परंपरा वेदों तक पहुंचती है। पुराणों में वर्णित है महाभारत के युद्ध के समय इस संप्रदाय के प्रमुख नेमिनाथ थे, जो जैन धर्म में मान्य तीर्थकर हैं। आठवीं सदी में 23वें तीर्थकर पार्श्वनाथ हुए, जिनका जन्म काशी में हुआ था। काशी के पास ही 11वें तीर्थकर श्रेयांसनाथ का जन्म हुआ था। इन्होंने जैन धर्म पर सारनाथ का नाम प्रचलित है। जैन धर्म में श्रमण संप्रदाय का पहला संगठन पार्श्वनाथ ने किया था। ये श्रमण वैदिक परंपरा के विरुद्ध थे। महावीर तथा बुद्ध के काल में ये श्रमण कुछ बौद्ध तथा कुछ जैन हो गए थे। इन दोनों ने अलग-अलग अपनी शाखाएं बना लीं। भगवान महावीर जैन धर्म के 24वें तीर्थकर थे, जिनका जन्म लगभग ई.पू. 599 में हुआ और जिन्होंने 72 वर्ष की आयु में देहत्यागी। महावीर स्वामी ने शरीर त्यागने से पहले जैन धर्म की नींव काफी मजबूत कर दी थी। अहिंसा को उन्होंने जैन धर्म में अच्छी तरह स्थापित कर दिया था। सांसारिकता पर विजयी होने के कारण वे जिन (जयी) कहलाए। उन्हीं के समय से इस संप्रदाय का नाम जैन हो गया।

आप भी भगवान को फूल चढ़ाते हैं, जानें पाप कमा रहे हैं या पुण्य

राजा राम मोहन राय के बगीचे में बड़े ही सुंदर फूलों के पेड़ लगे थे। एक व्यक्ति था जो हर रोज वहां आता और उनसे पूछे बिना ही पूजा के लिए फूल तोड़ कर ले जाता। यह सिलसिला लगातार कई दिनों तक चलता रहा। रोज की तरह ही एक दिन उस व्यक्ति ने फूल तोड़ने के लिए अपनी चादर उतारी और पेड़ पर लटका कर फूल तोड़ने लगा। उसी समय राजा राम मोहन राय के आदेशानुसार एक सेवक ने उस व्यक्ति की वह चादर उठा ली और राजा राम मोहन राय को दे दी।

फूल तोड़ने के बाद जब वह व्यक्ति अपनी चादर लेने के लिए उस पेड़ के पास गया, जहां उसने उस लटकाई थी, तो वहां चादर न देख वह हيران रह गया और सोचने लगा कि आखिर उसकी चादर गई कहां? वह गुस्से से आग-बबूला हो गया। कुछ देर बाद राजा राम मोहन राय आए और उन्होंने उस व्यक्ति को उसकी चादर लौटाते हुए कहा, 'अब तो खुश है आप, आपको आपकी चादर वापस मिल गई।

उस व्यक्ति ने गुस्से में ही जवाब दिया, खुश? इसमें खुश होने वाली कौन-सी बात है, मुझे अपनी ही वस्तु मिली है।'

राजा राम मोहन राय ने उस व्यक्ति से पूछा, आप रोज फूल तोड़कर कहां ले जाते हैं?

उस व्यक्ति ने जवाब दिया, मैं ये फूल तोड़कर मंदिर में ले जाता हूँ। भगवान को खुश करने के लिए उनको ये फूल अर्पित करता हूँ।

राजा राम मोहन राय ने उस व्यक्ति का यह जवाब सुनकर कहा, पहली बात तो यह कि आप बिना पूछे ही फूल तोड़कर ले जाते हैं। चलो कोई बात नहीं, लेकिन आप भगवान की दी हुई वस्तु भगवान को अर्पित करते हैं, तो इससे भगवान खुश होते हैं क्या?

उस व्यक्ति ने कहा, क्यों नहीं, भगवान को फूल ही तो पसंद हैं, भगवान को फूलों से खुशी मिलती है।

राजा राम मोहन राय ने उस व्यक्ति से कहा, तो आपको चादर मिलने पर खुशी क्यों नहीं हुई?

राजा राम मोहन राय की यह बात सुनकर वह व्यक्ति सोच में पड़ गया और राजा राम मोहन राय बिना कुछ और कहे लौट गए।



NEWS BOX

T20 World Cup: Dismantling of New York venue starts after India-USA clash

New Delhi. The dismantling of the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York has started after Wednesday's clash between India and the United States (USA). It served as a temporary venue only for the Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Back in September 2023, the International Cricket Council (ICC) finalised the venue for the mega event. Given the short timespan, the apex cricket board opted for drop-in pitches that were prepared by Adelaide Turf International in Adelaide. In December 2023, the trays were taken to Florida due to the warmer conditions compared to New York. At the end of April, the pitches were moved to New York for being used.

New York giving batters nightmares

On June 12, after India beat the USA by 7 wickets, the purpose of the venue in New York ended and hence, the dismantling



began. The pitch in New York was not batting-friendly by any means due to indifferent bounce that helped bowlers to a large extent.

T20 World Cup: Full Coverage | Complete Schedule

India recorded the highest-successful run-chase at the venue after chasing down 111 with 10 balls left in their innings. The venue came under scrutiny when Sri Lanka were bowled out for 77, after which the South African batters also found the going extremely tough. Pakistan failed to chase down a target of 120 after Jasprit Bumrah rattled them. The other day, Najmul Hossain Shanto's Bangladesh could not chase down 114 in New York. After India's win over the USA, Rohit Sharma admitted that batters found it extremely tough to get going in New York. "Being in the Super Eight is a big relief — playing cricket here wasn't easy (as) it could have been anyone's game. We had to stick through till the end in all three games. We will take a lot of confidence from these wins," Rohit said.

After playing 3 matches in New York, India will go to Florida where they will face Ireland in their last Group match at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground.

Arshdeep Singh is like Jasprit Bumrah: Sunil Gavaskar backs pacer to play Tests soon

New Delhi. India pacer Arshdeep Singh won the Player of the Match award vs USA in the T20 World Cup 2024. Playing the third match of the tournament, Arshdeep, who had played second fiddle to Jasprit Bumrah till this time, took matters into his own hands and produced a superb spell of 4/9 on Wednesday, 12 June. Former India batter Sunil Gavaskar heaped praise on Arshdeep and backed the seamer to play in the Test format soon. Speaking on Star Sports after USA vs India, Gavaskar said that Arshdeep's ability to swing the ball both ways was similar to Jasprit Bumrah and that the seamer should be considered for Test cricket soon.

"He looked to bowl at hard lengths, looking to get the ball into the right-hander, and a little away for the left-handers. That's been his strength, to be able to get both those



deliveries on the spot and he wasn't looking to bowl too many yorkers today, he was looking to bowl the hard lengths. And his temperament is fantastic," Gavaskar said on Star Sports after the match on Wednesday. Arshdeep picked two wickets in his first spell and two wickets in his second spell at the Nassau County Stadium in New York and helped India restrict the co-hosts to just 110 runs. Arshdeep's economical spell turned out to be crucial for Rohit Sharma's team as batting became extremely difficult during the chase.

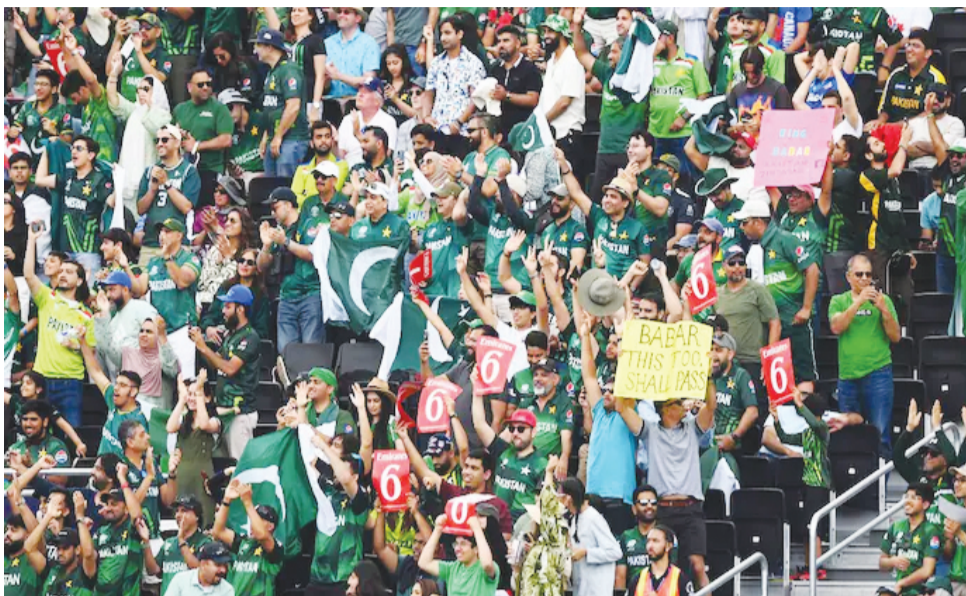
Arshdeep can be very good bowler in red-ball cricket: Gavaskar

"I do believe that he, like, Bumrah can be a very, very good bowler in red-ball cricket as well. Because if he can move the white ball so well, just imagine what he can do with the red ball. So I think the selection committee would do very well to look at him as an option for the red-ball game as well," concluded Gavaskar. India pacers have done well in the New York leg of the tournament. In the first two matches for India, Jasprit Bumrah earned the POTM, and now it was the turn of Arshdeep Singh to shine.

Pakistan fan sells tractor for 3000 USD to watch clash vs India, returns disappointed

← T20 World Cup 2024: A Pakistani fan sold his tractor for 3000 USD to watch the match between India and Pakistan in New York, but returned disappointed after Babar Azam's men lost by 6 runs. The fan also praised Suryakumar Yadav for his knock against the USA.

New Delhi. One of the Pakistani fans present at the Nassau County International Cricket I sold my tractor for \$3000 to watch the India vs Pakistan match, in which we lost. I was very disappointed," the Pakistani fan told ANI. Stadium in New York on Sunday, June 9, returned empty-handed after Pakistan lost to India by 6 runs. The fan revealed that he sold his tractor for 3,000 US dollars to watch the marquee clash in the T20 World Cup 2024. The game was a low-scoring thriller where Pakistan failed to chase down a target of



120. Pakistan were in contention to win for the most part of the game before losing their way completely in the death overs of their run-chase. With 18 runs needed in the final over, Naseem Shah hit Arshdeep Singh for a couple of fours, but his efforts

were not enough to save the day for Pakistan. Mohammad Rizwan was greeted with criticism as he threw his wicket away to Jasprit Bumrah after scoring 31 runs off 44 balls. The fan, who witnessed the roller-coaster ride in New York, said that he was

disappointed after Babar Azam's men lost the match. Surya has won my heart" The Pakistani fan was also present in New York to watch India's match against the United States (USA) on Wednesday. He heaped praise on Suryakumar Yadav, who scored an unbeaten 50 off 49 balls, helping India chase down 111 and win the match by 7 wickets. "Surya has won my heart today. Tractor ke paise India ne vasool karva diye (I got my money's worth after seeing India)," the fan added. India also made their way through to the Super 8 after staying unbeaten following Wednesday's win. Rohit Sharma's men are scheduled to play their last and final Group A match on Saturday, January 15 at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground in Lauderhill, Florida. As far as Pakistan are concerned, they are still in with a chance of qualifying for the Super 8 after beating Canada by 7 wickets. Their last match is against Ireland on June 16 in Florida.

Fans demand ICC to shift T20 World Cup matches from Florida after 'flash-floods' alert

New Delhi. Fans are demanding the International Cricket Council (ICC) to shift the T20 World Cup 2024 matches out of Florida after flash floods warning in the city. Notably, heavy rainfall in South Florida on Wednesday, June 12 left several streets flooded disrupting the life of the citizens. Several images and videos of water logging in the city surfaced on social media showing roads filled with water. With heavy rain and flood warnings issued, fans are demanding the ICC to shift the remaining games scheduled in Florida to New York or Dallas. Notably, three more matches are remaining to be played at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground, Lauderhill, Florida on June 14, 15 and 16. Two of the remaining three matches of Group A will have a major effect on the tournament with USA and Pakistan's qualification to Super 8 on the line. Co-hosts USA will take on Ireland on June 14



in a crucial Group A clash as a win for the USA will help them qualify for the Super 8 stage. Even if the game gets washed out, the Monank Patel-led side will qualify for the next round having five points to their name from four matches. Hence, a washout will prove to be detrimental to Pakistan's chances of qualifying for the next round as they're currently tottering on the third spot on the points table with just one win from three

matches having two points to their name. The Babar Azam-led side is heavily dependent on Ireland to beat the USA in their last fixture to remain in contention for the Super 8.

Rain could spoil Pakistan's party However, if Ireland do manage to beat the USA, Pakistan will also have to win their last game against the same opponent on June 16. Hence, the 2009 champions can't afford to get their last match washed out as it will lead to their elimination from the tournament.

Pakistan started their campaign with a shocking loss against the USA in the super over. In their second fixture, they failed to chase down a low score of 120 and lost the match by six runs. Hence, inclement weather in Florida will take the excitement out of the tournament and will prove to be a huge hurdle in ICC's attempt to promote the game in the USA.

WI vs NZ: Sherfane Rutherford powers West Indies to Super 8, NZ on brink of elimination

New Delhi. West Indies stormed into the T20 World Cup 2024 Super 8 after beating New Zealand by 13 runs on Thursday at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad. With the win, Rovman Powell's men also went to the top of the table with wins in all 3 of their matches.

The Black Caps, on the other hand, kept languishing at the bottom of the table and are on the verge of getting knocked out. For them to stay alive, Uganda have to beat Afghanistan on June 15.

After being asked to bat first, West Indies found themselves in dire straits. With their score at 23 for 4 in the powerplay, the co-hosts looked hapless, to say the least. Nicholas Pooran threw his bat around to score 17 runs off 12 balls and was the only batter to pose a threat to the Kiwi bowlers in the first 6 overs. Pooran also went past Chris Gayle to become the leading run-scorer for the Caribbean in T20is.

T20 World Cup: Full Coverage | Complete Schedule Pooran got out to Tim Southee,

who replaced Matt Henry, while playing an agricultural swiipe. Southee, Trent Boult and Lockie Ferguson hunted in pack to leave the West Indies batting in shambles. But from there on, Sherfane Rutherford put on a single-handed show and guided West Indies



to 149 for 9. Rutherford used the long handle to good effect and stayed not out on 68 off 39 balls with the help of 2 fours and 6 sixes. He made sure that West Indies injected

momentum into the innings by taking 37 runs off the last 2 overs. Akeal Hosein, Andre Russell and Romario Shepherd chipped in with short yet useful contributions lower down the order.

Boult was the pick of the New Zealand bowlers with figures of 4-1-16-3. Southee and Ferguson accounted for 2 scalps apiece.

Motie, Joseph make New Zealand struggle

The Black Caps struggled throughout their run-chase and were restricted to 139 for 9. Finn Allen scored 26 runs off 23 balls with 3 fours and a six before Alzarri Joseph dismissed him. Joseph also picked up the wickets of Southee, Glenn Phillips and James Neesham to finish with figures of 4-0-19-4. Left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie also bowled his heart out with 3 wickets to his name for 25 runs. On the back of their spells, West Indies never allowed the Kiwis to get ahead in the match. Glenn Phillips scored 40 runs off 33 balls and threatened for a while.

With 33 runs needed off the last over, Mitchell Santner hit Romario Shepherd for 3 sixes, but his efforts fell short of saving the day for New Zealand.



at all the skills, be it bowling, batting, or fielding, because you never know when the team need those runs. It can be two runs, four runs, anything. So, you just have to give your best. And I am trying to work as hard as possible with Vikram Bhai regarding my batting as well," Arshdeep said in the post-match press conference. "Went in after asking Rohit Sharma" Arshdeep, who has only 43 T20 runs to his name at an average of 69, said that he was so confident of his batting that he asked Rohit Sharma to promote him ahead of Jasprit Bumrah, who has played a few handy knocks for India. "And an instance from the last game, Jassi Bhai was supposed to go before me, but I just went in after asking Rohit. They were surprised with it, but now I told them I will go up regardless of whatever you say. I will go at nine because I faced the quickest bowlers in the last game. So yeah, that's the plan now. I am very confident about my batting. And be it fielding or bowling, you just try to keep getting better," Arshdeep added. Arshdeep had a stupendous day with the ball against the USA after he won the Player of the Match award. He finished with figures of 4-0-9-4 as India restricted their opponents to 110 for 8. Thereafter, Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten 50 helped the Men in Blue get home with 10 balls to spare.

T20 World Cup 2024: New York leg over, batters breathe a sigh of relief

New Delhi. The New York leg of the T20 World Cup 2024 concluded with India's comprehensive seven-wicket victory over the USA, much to the relief of batters who struggled on the challenging pitch at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium. The last group match began with an "lbw" for a "golden duck," worsened before improving slightly, and ended as expected for the United States cricket team, losing to India after another low-scoring match. The Americans entered Wednesday's match riding high after defeating Pakistan in their previous game.

However, India demonstrated its depth and ensured it did not become another upset victim and chased down the highest total at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium to reach the Super 8 stage. After the match, India captain Rohit Sharma admitted that playing in New York was not the easiest of tasks. "It is a big relief, playing cricket here wasn't easy. We had to stick through till the end in all 3 games. Will take a lot of confidence from these wins," Rohit Sharma said. The drop-in surfaces at Nassau County Stadium played inconsistently across the eight games held there, with balls from the

same length either rearing up or skidding through to the keeper unpredictably. Nassau County's pitch was notorious for its unpredictable behaviour, which kept batsmen and bowlers guessing. Leading up to the match, pundits and players speculated on how the pitch would perform, with past encounters offering little clarity on its temperament. As the tournament went on, the Nassau County pitch developed a reputation for low-scoring encounters filled with dramatic twists and turns. Previous matches at the venue saw teams grappling with erratic bounce, uneven surfaces, and challenging conditions that tested their resilience and adaptability.

PACKED SCHEDULE Over 10 days, from June 3 to June 12, New York hosted eight out of the 16 matches allotted to the USA leg of the World Cup. The schedule was particularly gruelling towards the end, with six matches, including the highly anticipated India-Pakistan clash on June 9, played on consecutive days. Such a packed schedule is unprecedented in ICC event



history. The pitch at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, criticised for its difficulty, consistently produced low-scoring matches. The surface favoured pace bowlers significantly, offering considerable seam movement. Additionally, the stadium's expansive boundaries further compounded the challenges for batters, turning the venue into a pacer's paradise.

T20 World Cup: Full Coverage | Complete Schedule The Twenty20 World Cup organisers have

admitted problems with the New York pitch after it was described as dangerous and batsmen were hit during India's match with Ireland. The drop-in surfaces have played inconsistently with balls from the same length rearing up or skidding through to the keeper. Rohit Sharma, the India captain, retired hurt when he was hit on the shoulder against Ireland, and Rishabh Pant also needed lengthy treatment when he was struck in the arm. India captain Rohit Sharma incurred a new injury concern during a practice session at Catiague Park in New York on Friday, just days before the crucial T20 World Cup match against Pakistan on Sunday. The veteran opener, who had suffered a sore arm and was forced to retire hurt during the match against Ireland on Wednesday, was hit on his thumb by a throwdown from specialist Nuwan in the nets. According to reports, this incident prompted the BCCI to file an "unofficial" complaint with the ICC regarding the pitch conditions.



Sonakshi Sinha

Zaheer Iqbal Relationship Timeline: From Salman Khan's Party To PDA In Andamans

Actor Sonakshi Sinha is tying the knot with her boyfriend, actor Zaheer Iqbal, on June 23 in Mumbai, as reported by India Today. The couple has kept their romance fairly low-key, but their frequent outings and adorable social media posts have given us all the feels. The guest list is said to include close friends, family, and reportedly, the entire cast of her last screen outing, Heeramandi. The wedding invitation, styled like a magazine cover, teases, "the rumours are true." Guests are requested to dress to the nines for the big event at Bastian in Mumbai. Looks like it's going to be a star-studded affair! As Bollywood gears up for another big wedding, here's looking at Sonakshi and Zaheer's dating timeline.

First meeting

Word on the street is that Zaheer and Sonakshi first clicked at a bash hosted by none other than Bollywood's bhaijaan, Salman Khan. From buds to lovebirds, their relationship bloomed into something truly magical. Making their grand entrance as a couple at Aayush Sharma and Arpita Khan's Eid bash in 2023 had heads turning.

Early spotting

A picture of Sonakshi riding a bike went viral on social media. She could be seen riding a Royal Enfield bike in it. Only rumoured to be dating him, Sonakshi also joined him for the wedding celebration of filmmaker Dinesh Vijan's sister Pooja Vijan. After this, they made an appearance together at the wedding reception party of filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's niece, Heeramandi star, Sharmin Segal. Sonakshi celebrated her boyfriend Zaheer's birthday in December 2023 by sharing a sweet video. The clip captured some precious moments between the couple and with this, Sonakshi made the official with Zaheer. Alongside the video, Sonakshi penned a heartfelt note, saying, "The cray to my Z(ee)... this is quite self explanatory. Happy birthday to my very own personal psycho." Recently, during an episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show, which featured the ladies from Heeramandi as guests, Kapil Sharma had asked Sonakshi about her marriage plans, mentioning Alia Bhatt and Kiara Advani recently tied the knot.



How Hit Man Stars Glen Powell And Adria Arjona Planned Their Steamy Sex Scenes



While it may look very creative, sensual and beautifully done on the screen to us, sex scenes in films aren't always easy to shoot. Though one may assume that it might have been shot like any other scene with a set of instructions given to the actors, the reality is slightly different. In fact, the sex scenes require a lot more coordination, creativity and planning for their seamless execution. Actors Glen Powell and Adria Arjona recently shared some interesting behind-the-scenes details of their work, especially regarding their physically intimate scenes, for the film Hit Man. While preparing for these scenes can be a complex process for most actors, Powell and Arjona took a unique approach to it, according to Variety, the duo and their director used Pinterest to help plan the steamy bits of the film. To execute their intimate scenes, Arjona proposed the idea of creating a Pinterest board for Powell and the film's director. On this board, they could share images from their favourite movies and art to get a sense of each other's tastes. "Everyone finds different things sensual," Arjona explained. "It was interesting to see both of our perspectives, hone in and start molding it from that sense. It sparked conversations that you wouldn't normally have, because we were in the process of creating it." Even Glen Powell found this approach beneficial too. "So often, sex scenes feel almost divorced from the movie, like a marketing play or it feels icky. In this movie, those scenes are crucial in the changing and seizing of identity. You have to see a guy who sees the world in such a binary, stale place checking logic at the door and becoming a whole new person. This romantic relationship is really expediting it. It's the catalyst for everything," he told Variety. "It was beautiful and intentional. It didn't feel like we were just doing sex scenes just to do sex scenes; it came from a creative place," added Adria Arjona.

When Joey King's Weight Loss Left Kissing Booth Co-Star Taylor Zakhar Perez 'Worried'



Actress Joey King is renowned for her strict fitness regime, disciplined food habits and regular workouts. The Kissing Booth star takes her preparation for films to the next level. This was evident in her recent miniseries, We Were the Lucky Ones. Joey had to undergo significant weight loss for her role as a "very, very, very thin Jewish woman." While this transformation was just a part of the show, Joey's friend and former co-star Taylor Zakhar Perez expressed concern about her well-being. The Kissing Booth co-stars recently appeared on Variety's Actors on Actors, where they engaged in candid conversation, teasing each other and sharing interesting details. They also discussed their most recent roles, including King's portrayal of a young Jewish woman against the backdrop of World War II in the Hulu miniseries.

When Joey King's Major Weight Loss Left Taylor Zakhar Perez Worried

During their conversation, Joey King recalled the time she was shooting for We Were the Lucky Ones in Romania, and Zakhar Perez came to meet her, making her feel very happy. "You visited me in Romania, where we were filming 'We Were the Lucky Ones' for seven months.

I was so appreciative. I missed you so much, and I was so happy you came," she said.

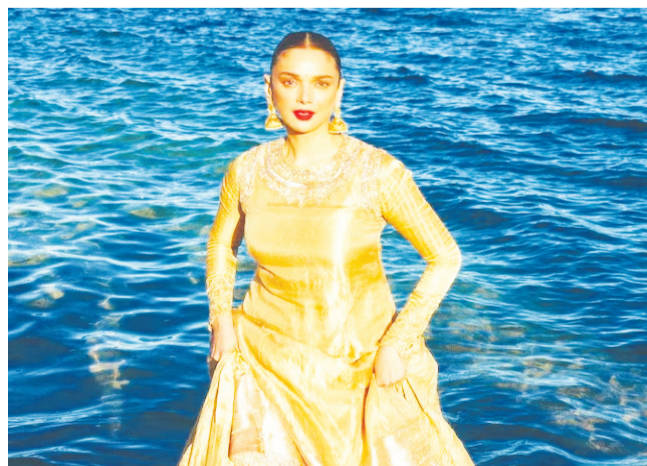
Joining in, the Red, White & Royal Blue star shared how he got worried after seeing her lose so much weight. "When I showed up, I was like, 'Jo, are you OK? Because you've lost a lot of weight,'" he recounted. Explaining her reasons, King said that her character of Halina Kurc had such a demand—someone who has limited resources and is going through the Holocaust.

I got very, very, very thin for that show because my character is a Jewish woman passing as an Aryan woman. But at the beginning of the war, they're living off rations. And then the access to food is so limited... We're not actually going through the Holocaust; we're portraying a family that is. At the end of the day, we should feel uncomfortable when doing these scenes that require such heavy emotion..." she explained.

Aditi Rao Hydari's

Golden Anarkali Ensemble Is Perfect Wedding Wear

Aditi Rao Hydari never fails to strike a chord with fashion lovers. The actress is frequently seen experimenting with her vibrant and striking ethnic styles. Aditi dresses in everything, including lehengas, sarees, and suit sets, and her Instagram handle is the proof. Therefore, we were not surprised by her recent photos. The diva looked flawless in a golden Anarkali ensemble that oozed Bibbojaan vibes. The outfit features a full-sleeved kurta with stunning gold intricate sequin zari hand embroidery adorning the neck and borders. She paired it with a matching tissue skirt, which gives it a complete royal look. Aditi's breathtaking attire is from the wardrobes of renowned fashion designer Manish Malhotra, showcasing his signature elegance and craftsmanship. The impeccable styling was done by celebrity fashion stylist Sanam Ratansi. In terms of accessories, she kept it minimal so that the whole focus stayed on her royal outfit. She chose a pair of big golden statement jhumka earrings that added an extra touch of elegance and tradition to her stunning appearance. Her makeup was done by makeup artist Elton J. Fernandez. It includes pink eyeshadow, mascara-coated lashes, contoured cheekbones, blushed cheeks, a luminous highlighter, and a shade of bright red lipstick. While she completed her look with a neatly parted middle bun and added gajra to it. Adding a touch of ethnicity, she added a little black bindi on her forehead. On Saturday, Aditi took to Instagram and uploaded the series of stunning pictures and wrote, "Bibbojaan is worth it! My first appearance in Cannes was on #lategram, channelling beauty vibes from



my Amma and my Rekha ma. In gold, Malli poo (flowers), and a bottu (bindi)." Take a look at the photos: Well, a few days back, the actress shared another couple of photos from her photoshoot session. In the photos, Aditi is seen in a vibrant suit from the closet of designer Mayyur Girotra's collection. The ensemble includes a kurta, trousers and a dupatta. The violet silk flared kurta has a deep U-neckline and full sleeves. She teamed the kurta with light orange floral work straight trousers. The dupatta was also a standout feature of this outfit, with intricate zari and thread work in yellow, orange, and pink tones.

