

THE ASIAN AGE

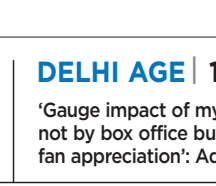
NEW DELHI FRIDAY 7 APRIL 2023



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WB gov Ananda Bose tours parts of Kolkata, reviews security on Hanuman Jayanti



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'Gauge impact of my work not by box office but through fan appreciation': Aditya



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WINDOWS
Union home minister Amit Shah with his family after unveiling the statue of Lord Hanuman on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti in Salangpurdihaan, Gujarat, on Thursday. — PTI

Covid on the rise: 5,335 cases, 13 fatalities in 24 hrs

New Delhi: India on Thursday reported 5,335 fresh Covid infections in the last 24 hours, the highest in the last 195 days as per the health ministry data. On September 23 last year, a total of 5,383 cases were recorded in a single day. In the same time span, the country has also reported 13 Covid deaths — two death each reported from Karnataka and Maharashtra, one each from Kerala and Punjab, and seven deaths reconciled by Kerala. The Covid death toll has climbed to 5,30,929 in the country. **Full report on Page 4**

MHA recommends CBI inquiry against Oxfam

New Delhi: The MHA has recommended a CBI probe into the affairs of Oxfam India for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010. It found that Oxfam India continued to transfer foreign contributions to various entities even after registering under the FCRA, which prohibits such transfers. **Full report on Page 4**

Temple vandalised in Canada, lookout for 2

Toronto: A Hindu temple was vandalised by unknown people with "anti-Hindu and anti-India graffiti" in Canada's Ontario province, in what is described by the police as a "hate-motivated" incident. The police said that it has launched an investigation into the incident and looking for two suspects. **Full report on Page 6**

COUNTERPOINT



They want to sort out their differences before having an alliance!

WEATHER

Max: 33°C
Min: 19°C
RH: 23%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Shobhakar: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Pushya Shuddha
Shashthi till 8.49 pm
Star: Shatabhisham till 12.49 pm
Variyam: From 6.57 to 8.29 pm
Durmuhurtam: 11.56 am to 12.39 pm
Rahukalam: Noon to 1.30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.42 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.05 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 7.56 PM
MOONSET TODAY 6.40 AM

Tells BJP not be 'complacent' in 2024; vows to rid India corruption Opp. 'desperate', is battling 'existential crisis', says PM

YOUNA GUSAI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

Cautioning BJP leaders and workers not to get complacent as there is a view that "no one can defeat" the party in 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attacked the Opposition for its "badshahi" mindset and for insulting the poor and backward classes. In the wake of the Congress and other Opposition parties accusing the Modi government of running away from their demand for a JPC probe on the Adani issue and misuse of constitutional institutions against their leaders, the PM said they have been "battling an existential crisis" and are resorting to levelling allegations and hatching conspiracies against the ruling party. The PM had recently cautioned BJP leaders that the more the party wins electionally, the more aggressive the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addresses BJP leaders and workers on the occasion of the party's 44th foundation day in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

Opposition's onslaught would get. Addressing BJP members at the party's 44th foundation day celebrations, Mr Modi said those fighting an "existential battle" had become "desperate" after the exposure of their corruption and were, therefore, conspiring against his government that was committed to taking tough steps to rid India of corruption, nepotism and law and order challenges. "Full of hate, these people are speaking one lie after another. They have become restless and desperate at the exposure of their corrupt deeds. They can see now only one way out. They are openly saying 'Modi teri kabarr khudgi'. They are issuing threats to dig (my) grave," he said. Cautioning BJP members,

We should not be confined to winning polls. Our goal is to win over the hearts of crores of people. We have to fight every poll with the same hard work that we have put in since the time of the Jan Sangh.

— Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

who listened to his nearly 50-minute address at over 10 lakh locations, Mr Modi said: "Despite being the world's biggest political party, we don't have to be complacent. People have already started saying that no one can defeat the BJP in 2024. This is true, but as BJP workers we have to win the heart of every citizen of the country... We should not

■ Turn to Page 4



Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and fellow Opposition MPs take out a "Tiranga March" towards Vijay Chowk on the last day of the Budget Session in New Delhi on Thursday. — PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

BJP's 1st list on K'taka out on April 13, CEC to meet on Sunday

SANJAY BASAK
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

The BJP's first list of candidates for the Karnataka polls is set to be released by April 13. On Thursday, chief minister Basavaraj Bommai declared that the state core committee meeting had ended on Wednesday and the final list would be released after going through the survey report. The central election committee of the party would be meeting on April 9. The meeting will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah, BJP president J.P. Nadra and other top party leaders at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi. On the issue of the party's star campaigners, Mr Bommai said: "Wait and watch". On Wednesday, Kannada superstar Kichcha Sudeep had extended his support to the BJP and pledged that he would campaign for the party. The chief minister ■ Turn to Page 4

■ Cong releases 2nd list of 41 candidates for K'taka polls: Page 3

20 Opp. parties join Tiranga rally, raise unity hope for 2024

Govt disrupted Parl, says Kharge

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

The last day of the Budget Session of Parliament on Thursday saw a semblance of Opposition unity, with about 20 parties, including the Congress, TMC, BRS and the Samajwadi Party, participating in the "Tiranga March" from Parliament to Vijay Chowk. In a show of unity, parties like the TMC, BRS, AAP and SP that had been blowing hot and cold on sharing the stage with the Congress on earlier occasions not only participated in the march but also the press conference to target the Modi government on issues

■ BRS MP K.K. Rao said the parties on the podium had 'distance and differences' between them but were now coming together

such as the Adani issue, price rise and the alleged attack on democracy. In his remarks at the press conference, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "The Budget of ₹50-lakh crores was passed in just 12 minutes, but they (the BJP) always alleged that the Opposition parties have no interest and they kept disturbing the House." "The disturbance was created by the ruling government on issues

Session ends amid logjam, Houses adjourned sine die

AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

The Budget Session of the 17th Parliament concluded on Thursday after both the Houses were adjourned sine die. Both Houses barely functioned during the Budget Session amid standoff between the Treasury

Benches and the Opposition over demand for a joint parliamentary committee probe on the Adani issue and the "democracy under attack" comment of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in the UK. The session also saw disqualification of Mr Gandhi following his conviction in a criminal defamation case. ■ More on Page 3

A.K. Antony's son Anil enters BJP; father says he's 'pained'

Till last breath, I'll be in Congress, says ex-DefMin

AGE CORRESPONDENTS
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

Months after slamming the BBC and its documentary on the post-Godhra riots and quitting from his posts in the Kerala Congress, Anil K. Antony, the son of veteran Congress leader A.K. Antony, on Thursday joined the BJP in the presence of Union ministers Piyush Goyal and V. Muraleedharan at the party headquarters. While the BJP welcomed the young leader for his "boldness, strength and courage of conviction for a matter of principle that he stood the ground for the nation,"



Anil Antony, son of Congress veteran A.K. Antony, with Union minister Piyush Goyal after the former joined the BJP in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

the former defence minister and Anil's father said he was "hurt" by his son's "very wrong decision." After joining the BJP,

Govt considers changes in IPC, CrPC: A-G

■ Bill may be moved in Monsoon Session ■ Sedition law review likely ■ SC hearing in July

PUNEET DESHWAL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

Attorney-general R. Venkataramani on Thursday told the Supreme Court that the Central government is actively considering amending the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) and the IPC (Indian Penal Code). He said that comprehensive amendments to the criminal laws will be undertaken in the coming Monsoon Session. The attorney-general also indicated that amend-

ments to provisions relating to sedition are under consideration as well. The topmost law officer of the country said that he has personally asked the government to take an active role in bringing the amendments. The Centre is actively considering amendments to criminal laws, the law officer said, adding, "Consultations have taken place... Some of this (the amendments) has to do with the sedition laws". When the bench, com-

prising Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice J.B. Parida, asked the top law officer about the relevance of the submission that a change in sedition law was also in the offing, he said the government was actively looking at amending the CrPC and the IPC. The top court bench posted the matter for further hearing in the last week of July. The A-G made the aforementioned submissions

before the bench in response to a plea that challenged the provision of the CrPC that incapacitates female family members from accepting summons. In November last year, the court issued notice to the attorney-general when a public interest litigation claimed that the present form of Section 64 in the CrPC discriminates against women and delays the delivery of justice, jeopardising the victim's right to a speedy trial

guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. The plea alleged the provision discriminates between male and female and is violative of various fundamental rights, including the right to equality. Earlier, in March 2020, the MHA constituted a national-level committee for reforms in criminal laws, headed by the vice-chancellor of the National Law University, Delhi, to undertake a review of the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act.

Panel wants CT scanners at big airports for fast security checks

ANRESH SRIVASTAVA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

For a hassle-free check-in at the airports, the parliamentary panel for home affairs asked the Union home ministry to install scanners to install scanners based on "computed tomography" in all metropolitan cities. The committee said that with this facility, the passengers will be freed from taking out electronic items from their hand baggage during security checks at the airports. The committee on home affairs said that passenger footfall at airports has increased over the years. During security check-in, the passengers are required to take out laptops, tablets and other electronic devices from their baggage, which causes inconvenience and waste of time. The committee recommended that the MHA take up the matter with the ministry of civil aviation for the installation of such scanners. ■ More on Page 3

Macron appeals to China's Xi to 'bring Russia to its senses'

Beijing, April 6: French President Emmanuel Macron appealed on Thursday to Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who received an effusive welcome from Russia President Vladimir Putin in Moscow last month, to "bring Russia to its senses" and help make "lasting peace" in Ukraine. Mr Macron pointed to Chinese support for the United Nations Charter, which calls for respect of a country's territorial integrity, and for nuclear

agreements. He said peace and stability based on those were threatened by the Russian President's invasion of Ukraine. Mr Xi's government declared it had "no limits its friendship" with Russia ahead of the February 2022 attack but

has tried to appear neutral. Beijing has called for peace talks. "I know I can count on you, under the two principles I just mentioned, to bring Russia to its senses and bring everyone back to the negotiating table," Mr Macron told Mr Xi. "We need to find a lasting peace," Mr Macron said. "I believe that this is also an important issue for China, as much as it is for France and for Europe." — AP



Britain's King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort (centre), attend the Royal Maundy Service at York Minster, York, England, on Thursday. — AP

RAMZAN TIMINGS

IFTAR: Today 06.38 pm SEHRI: Tomorrow 04.46 am

IN BRIEF

Office probing riots case faces court flik

New Delhi: A Delhi court hearing a case of the 2020 northeast Delhi riots has deprecated the conduct of an investigating officer (IO), saying the police officer was playing a game of hide and seek with the court and trying to mislead it.

Govt plans wildlife training for citizens

New Delhi: The Delhi government, starting this year, will provide free training to people interested in forest and wildlife conservation.

PFI chief allowed to withdraw his plea

New Delhi: The Delhi high court on Thursday permitted former Popular Front for the Defence chairman E. Abubacker, lodged in prison under a UAPA case, to withdraw his plea seeking release on account of ill health.

FOREIGN STUDENT FALLS TO DEATH FROM NOIDA FLAT

Noida: A Zambian national died in Greater Noida after allegedly falling off the eighth-floor balcony of his rented apartment, police officials said on Thursday.

National edu policy plans to do away with science, arts, commerce streams

Class 11, 12 board results may take marks of previous class into account

New Delhi, April 6: Board exams in two terms might be back for Class 12 and the final result for classes 10 and 12 will take into account the marks of previous class, according to the draft National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for school education.

Rejjig in assessment, short, long questions' weightage reduced
According to education ministry officials, the draft which is final stages will be put in public domain soon for feedback from stakeholders.

capacities of students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The board is initiating changes in the examination and assessment practices for the academic session 2023-24 to align assessment to competency focused education.

NCF draft addresses fear of mathematics in students

New Delhi, April 6: Mathematics should be integrated with arts, sports and language to make the subject more creative and aesthetic for school students which has traditionally been more "rote" and "algorithmic", according to the draft.

PREVALENT SOCIAL attitudes see girls as incapable of mathematics or association of formal computational abilities with the upper castes," the draft reads.

where students see mathematics as a part of their life, enjoy maths with a greater focus on reasoning and creative problem solving.

Jain could tamper with evidence says HC, rejecting bail



Rejecting the bail plea of former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain, a 2017 money laundering probe by the Enforcement Directorate, the Delhi high court on Thursday observed that the AAP leader is an influential person with a potential to tamper with the evidence.

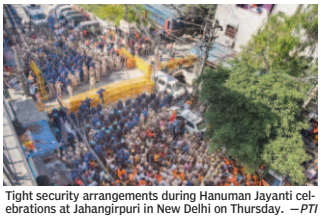
Excise case: HC seeks CBI's reply on Sisodia's bail plea

The Delhi high court on Thursday sought the CBI's response on former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's bail plea in the excise policy scam case.

Jahangirpuri Hanuman Jayanti rallies pass peacefully

New Delhi, April 6: Amidst heavy security, two massive religious processions peacefully passed off the streets of north-west Delhi's Jahangirpuri area on Thursday on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti.

perspectives whether it is having conversation with the members of different communities, keeping communication with the organisers of such religious processions, and keeping the presence of experienced and senior police officers when the procession is being carried out.



Tight security arrangements during Hanuman Jayanti celebrations at Jahangirpuri in New Delhi on Thursday.

Gang of women pickpockets active in Metro busted; 3 held

New Delhi, April 6: With the arrest of three women, the Delhi police on Thursday claimed to have busted a gang of women pickpockets stealing from commuters in the Delhi Metro, an official said.

Jitendra Mani, the deputy commissioner of police (Metro) said, "The team swung into action and apprehended the trio pickpockets without loss of crime."

Man shoots girlfriend dead before committing suicide

Ghaziabad (UP), April 6: A 28-year-old man allegedly shot his girlfriend before committing suicide by consuming poison here on Thursday, police said.

WOMAN'S KIN blocked road for four hours in protest. They dispersed after police assured a fair probe.

DU students protest demanding justice for harassment victims

New Delhi, April 6: Several students of the Delhi University held a rally on Thursday demanding justice for victims of alleged harassment during a cultural festival at the university's Sharda Sangathan in the last week.

Can't believe he can do such a thing, says father of suspect in Kerala train fire attack

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA NEW DELHI, APRIL 6: The entire locality of Shaheen Bagh is incredulous at the news that Shaheerukh Saifi was allegedly suspected of starting a fire on board a train in Kerala which led to the death of three, including a child.

Neighbors described Shaheerukh as a "simple boy" who never got into "hot" arguments with anyone. He said that his son had left home on March 31, saying he had some work in Nihar's sector 31 but did not return.

SHORT TAKES

Cong RS MP Rajani's suspension to stay

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday raised the issue of the extension of suspension of Congress MP Rajani Patil beyond the Budget session with Chairman Jagdeep Dhanekar, calling it a "gross parliamentary misdemeanour" and a "blatant violation" of the rules of procedure. Mr Dhanekar said the suspension of Rajani Patil on filing proceedings of the House has been extended beyond the Budget Session after taking inputs from the privileged panel which is investigating the matter. He said the panel in its meeting held on March 27 sought an extension of suspension of Rajani Patil for a week of the Monsoon session to complete the investigation. Criticising the extension of suspension, Congress MP Rajani Patil said she was "disgraced" and "grossly insulted" by a "deviant" woman parliamentarian. — PTT

AAP moves HC over national party status

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Thursday allowed a petition filed by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleging delay in getting recognition as a national party and directed the Election Commission of India to grant the national party status to AAP by April 13 this year. AAP state secretary Darshan Singh filed a writ petition in the high court challenging the denial of recognition of the national party status to AAP. In order to get recognition as a national party, a party must have its presence in four states and at least 6 per cent vote share in four states and the petitioner stated that AAP is in Delhi, Punjab, Goa and Gujarat and that the party had performed well in the recently concluded Gujarat Assembly polls.

Gateman suspended for sleeping on duty

Bhubaneswar: A loco-pilot's alertness and prompt action had helped avert a major accident in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. The loco-pilot, while passing a level-crossing on Wednesday, found the gateman employed at the crossing sleeping. Falling asleep on duty, the loco-pilot failed to signal the train at Jugupura railway station. He then ensured that the train crossed the crossing smoothly without any damage. The gateman identified as Ratnakar Mahanta was suspended for sleeping on duty following the incident. As per reports, Bangiriposi Rupsa DMU reached Jugupura railway station on Wednesday. Ratnakar was on duty during that period.

KUDMI BLOCKADE IN BENGAL HITS TRAINS SERVICES

Jhargram: Eighty-five trains were cancelled, and hundreds of vehicles remained stranded as different organisations in the Kudmi community continued their rail and road blockade in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district on Thursday. The protesting community demanded ST status, officials said. The protest started at 6 am on Tuesday with the blockade of the old National Highway 6, which connects Kolkata to Mumbai, at Khesmasuli in Kharapur local police station area by Kudmi Samaj West Bengal, they said. Another organisation of the community, Adivasi Kudmi Samaj, joined the protest on Thursday, blocking the railway tracks at Khesmasuli station in Kharapur-Tatanagar section, and Kustaur station in Adra-Chandernagar in Purulia district, they added. Among the trains cancelled on Thursday were Howrah-Pune Duronto Express, Howrah-Jadgalpur Express, Howrah-Pune Azad Hind Express, Howrah-Ahmedabad Express, Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, Howrah-Ranchi Express, Salimnagar-LTT Express, Howrah-Mumbai Rajdhani Express, Santragachi-Rani Kamlati Humsafar Express, the South Eastern Railway said in a statement. Purulia-Delhi Express, Mumbai-CSMT-Howrah Duranto Express and Jadgalpur-Howrah Express were also cancelled, it said.



Artists paint a huge canvas to create Guinness World Record in Kozhikode on Thursday. — PTT

Panel for CT scanners to speed up security checks at airports

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

For hassle-free check-ins at metropolitan airports, the parliamentary panel for home affairs has recommended to the Union home ministry to install scanners based on "computed tomography" — an imaging procedure using special X-ray equipment at the airports so that passengers do not have to take out electronic items from their hand baggage. The parliamentary committee headed by the Rajya Sabha MP Brijlal said that the passenger footfall at airports has increased over the years. During security check-ins, passengers are required to take out laptops, tablets and other electronic devices from their baggage, which causes inconvenience and waste of time. In December last year, air passengers had to face huge troubles due to the slow process of security clearance in major air-



Passengers stand at check-in counters of a private airlines at the Delhi Airport terminal. — PTT

Be more responsible: SC tells BJP Umrao over 'Bihar migrants' tweet

PUNEI DESHWAL NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

The Supreme Court on Thursday cautioned Uttar Pradesh BJP spokesperson and lawyer Prashant Umrao to be "more responsible" and asked him to tender an apology while hearing his plea challenging multiple FIRs registered against him for posting false information on Twitter alleging attacks on Bihar migrant workers in Tamil Nadu. The top court made the apex observations after it granted protection against arrest to Mr Umrao in relation to FIRs filed against him by the Tamil Nadu police for allegedly spreading false information on Twitter. Modifying the condition imposed by the Madras high court directing the BJP leader to report before the apex court every day for a period of 15 days, a bench of Justices B.R. Gawai and Pankaj Mishra said the Supreme Court directed him to appear before the police on Monday and thereafter as and when required by the investigating officer. Issuing notice on a plea for quashing and consolidation of multiple FIRs,

the apex court ordered that Mr Umrao shall not be arrested by the police if named in other FIRs relating to the same cause of action. In his petition before the Supreme Court, the Delhi-based lawyer feared that he might be arrested in other undisclosed FIRs if he appears before the investigating officer, resulting in depriving him of the benefit of anticipatory bail granted by the high court.

Session ends amid logjam, Houses adjourned sine die

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

The Budget Session of the 17th Parliament concluded on Thursday after both Houses were adjourned sine die. Both Houses barely functioned during the Budget Session amid a standoff between the treasury benches and the Opposition over the demand for a joint parliamentary committee probe on the Adani issue and the "democracy under attack" comment by Rajya Sabha member Gandhi in London. The session also saw the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi following his conviction in a criminal defamation case in Gujarat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla held a customary meeting with leaders of political parties in the Parliament after the end of the Budget Session. During the turbulent Budget Session, Lok Sabha has been extended for over 45 hours against a scheduled duration of 13.6 hours while the Rajya Sabha worked for over 31 hours out of 130 hours. This translates to Lok Sabha functioning for around 34.28 per cent of its scheduled duration and 24 per cent of the Rajya Sabha, the PRS legislative research said. When the Rajya Sabha reassembled at 2 pm after an adjournment in the morning, Chairman Jagdeep Dhanekar said the suspension of Congress MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil for filing proceedings of the House has been extended beyond the Budget Session after taking inputs from the privileged committee which is investigating the matter.

Gov on Kolkata tour to review a road order

Says Bengal will set a trend of peace and harmony

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, APRIL 6

Setting an example, West Bengal governor C.V. Ananda Bose travelled across Kolkata and reached out to the common people to check the law and order situation during the Hanuman Jayanti celebration which remained peaceful under the Central forces' watch on Thursday.

Mr Bose also sent a strong message of peace and harmony and assured the return of normalcy. He visited Lake Town first and offered puja at a Hanuman temple. He later went to Ekbalpore in the port area with the Muslim population and interacted with the locals spontaneously. The governor also said, "Let this Hanuman Jayanti be an occasion for all of us to dedicate ourselves to peace and harmony in the society. We will wage peace not war. Lord Hanuman represents wisdom and strength. We are going to bury the past and usher in a glorious pres-

C.V. Ananda Bose

happy to be here. It is going to be a turning point when my brothers and sisters of Bengal will decide to open a new chapter of peace and harmony." The governor also said, "We believe and practise 'Kusudharva Kutumbakam' here. Bengal is going to start a new era. Whatever message the people are giving is loud and clear—'Ishwar Allah Tere Nam, Sab Ko Sammiti De Bhagwan, India is one.' We stand united. Bengal will regain its glory." He added, "Peace will come back. People are all cooperating. I think today will be a very happy day. Bengal will set a trend of peace and harmony."

C.V. ANANDA Bose also sent a strong message of peace and harmony and assured the return of normalcy. He visited Lake Town first and offered puja at a Hanuman temple. He later went to Ekbalpore in the port area with the Muslim population and interacted with the locals spontaneously.

ent. If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" Mr Bose underlined, "We believe and practise 'Kusudharva Kutumbakam' here. Bengal is going to start a new era. Whatever message the people are giving is loud and clear—'Ishwar Allah Tere Nam, Sab Ko Sammiti De Bhagwan, India is one.' We stand united. Bengal will regain its glory."

He added, "Peace will come back. People are all cooperating. I think today will be a very happy day. Bengal will set a trend of peace and harmony."

Rahul may hold rally in Nagpur by end of April

SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, APRIL 6

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is likely to address a public rally in Nagpur, the second capital of Maharashtra and headquarters of the RSS. Mr Gandhi is likely to be held between April 20 and April 25. Mr Gandhi's rally is being planned in view of his disqualification and conviction in a defamation case by a Gujarat court. Apart from Mr Gandhi, Mr Anandiben Deo is also contesting from the Congress party. Congress is also trying to bring Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for the rally. "The rally assumes political significance as Mr Gandhi is also facing backlash in Maharashtra for his alleged disrespect for his Hinduism ideologue Veeni Savarkar. Congress' alliance partner, Uddhav Thackeray faction of Shiv Sena, is upset with him. Other alliance partner, Sharad Pawar-led NCP has also expressed its displeasure.

List includes 3 leaders who had recently quit as legislators Turncoats in K'taka Cong 2nd list

M.B. GIRISH BENGALURU, APRIL 6

Leaders who resigned from the Bharatiya Janata Party, Janata Dal (Secular) and were newly inducted into the Congress party have secured Congress party tickets to contest the ensuing Assembly polls. Prominent leaders who managed to secure their names in Congress' second list are former BJP MLA N.Y. Gopalakrishna, former BJP MLC Baburao Chinchansur, former JDS MLA S.R. Srinivas and JDS leader Devraj. It was widely expected that the Kadur seat would go to senior politician Y.S.V. Datta, who had switched to Congress from JDS(S) recently, but the ticket has been given to Anand K.S. The Congress party announced its second list of nominees to fight the Assembly elections and Mr Gopalakrishna was BJP's MLA from Kudligi in Vijayanagara district in the current Assembly. He is now the Congress nominee for

PROMINENT LEADERS who managed to secure their names in Congress' second list are former BJP MLA N.Y. Gopalakrishna, former BJP MLC Baburao Chinchansur, former JDS MLA S.R. Srinivas and JDS leader Devraj.

Molakalmuru Assembly seat in Chitradurga. Baburao Chinchansur resigned as BJP MLC and joined the Congress party. He is now the candidate for the Gurtmakal Assembly seat on a

Congress ticket. Similarly, Gubbi JDS(M) MLA S.R. Srinivas, who quit JDS and joined the Congress party, is also contesting from the Congress party in the same Assembly seat of Tumakuru district. B.L. Devaraj who was miffed with the JDS(S) leaders after he was denied party in Krishnaraja Pet in Baburao Chinchansur resigned as BJP MLC and joined the Congress party. He is now the candidate for the Gurtmakal Assembly seat on a

Proclamation requiring the appearance of a person accused See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that one Chandu S/o Noor Alam @ Murus Islam, R/o E-1914, J.J. Colony, Bawana, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 2471/16 u/s 457/380/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Chandu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Chandu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Chandu of FIR No. 2471/16 u/s 457/380/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.08.2023.

By Order Ms. Swati Gupta Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North), Court Room No-114, First Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/3530/01/2023 (Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person namely Dinesh, S/o Uchit @ Sachin, R/o Unknown, died during treatment at LHMC Hospital, Delhi on 01.04.2023. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in LHMC Hospital mortuary. In this regard DD No. 35A, dated 25.03.2023, u/s 174 CrP.C., has been registered at P.S. Paharganj, Delhi.

The description of the UIDB is as under: Sex: Male, Age: About 45 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Oval, Build: Strong, Wearing: White kurta pyjama. If anyone has any information about this UIDB, kindly inform the SHO/Paharganj, Delhi.

P.S. Paharganj, Delhi Ph. No.: 8750870427, 8750042525 E-mail: sho-paharganj-d@nic.in DP/3663/CD/2023

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS) STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) BARAMULLA PHONE: 01952294675, E-MAIL: echspolyclinicb@gmail.com

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- 4. Interview Date / Time: Candidate must reach Snr HQ Baramulla at 10:00 AM on 24 April 2023 for the interview to be held between 10:00 AM, to 1:30 PM. Candidates must bring original certificates and supporting documents along with passport size colour photographs at the time of interview. No late candidates will be permitted for the interview.
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THE ASIAN AGE

7 APRIL 2023

SC's TV channel ruling a blow for free press

The Supreme Court order quashing the ban the Union government had imposed on Media One, a Kochi-based Malayalam satellite news channel, and directing the Union ministry of information and broadcasting to renew its licence in four weeks comes across as a reassurance that India remains a democratic nation and that the checks and balances its founding fathers had instituted still work.

The court has reminded the government one too many time on the role of an independent press in a democracy. The crux of the matter, as the court put it, is that restrictions on the freedom of the press would compel citizens to think along with the same tangent as the ruling party which will inevitably result in homogenised views on critical issues.

The takeaway for the government and the press from the judgment is one and the same — fundamental rights are the foundation of our democracy and hence must be handled with utmost care

press must support the establishment.

The court made it unequivocally clear, for the umpteenth time, that two practices for which this government is known are unacceptable: one, to flash 'national security' to deny citizens their rights, and two, push its arguments in sealed covers. The government must take seriously the criticism of the court that it raised the claim of 'national security' in a cavalier manner and make a careful assessment of the reiteration of the court that using the term as a tool to deny lawful remedies to citizens is incompatible with the rule of law.

While reiterating that it will uphold the freedom of the press to the last extent, the court presented the press with a chance to introspect if it is up to its task — to speak truth to power, and provide citizens with hard facts enabling them to make choices that propel democracy in the right direction.

The takeaway for both the government and the press from the judgment is one and the same — fundamental rights are the foundation of our democracy and hence must be handled with utmost care.

BRS must answer for leak

The Telangana state police have arrested BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar in utmost haste, past midnight, accusing him of being a principal conspirator in a SSC exam paper leak. There have been a series of paper leaks in the state, starting with the Telangana state public service commission, whose leaked papers have put the careers and future of lakhs of students in jeopardy.

The Class X exams, which are taken by over half a million students, and their parents and teachers have experienced lots of doubt, anxiety and stress in the last few days when two papers — Telugu and Hindi language — were found to have leaked in two days. The BRS government, which was feeling the heat of public anger on the issue, has found it an easy ploy to distract attention from their own responsibility and failures.

The final responsibility of the safety of question papers, that of the answer sheets submitted by students and the subsequent process till results are announced is the responsibility of the BRS government. They have failed. Blaming the Opposition leader and effecting a dramatic arrest will not serve the purpose of either cleansing the overall process or giving confidence to students, parents, teachers and the general public.

Bandi Sanjay has been remanded to judicial custody and will apply to courts for bail, but is now occupying the political centrestage post his arrest, which comes just a few days before the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Hyderabad.

Legal experts have already pointed out the flaws and loopholes in the remand report. It is, of course, within the powers of the police to register cases, and for the parties accused to submit to the process of law while the courts take a decision. But amidst all this politicking, let us hope that justice is done to students who deserve that the integrity of the exams ahead is not compromised.

THE ASIAN AGE

KASHISH MITTER Editor

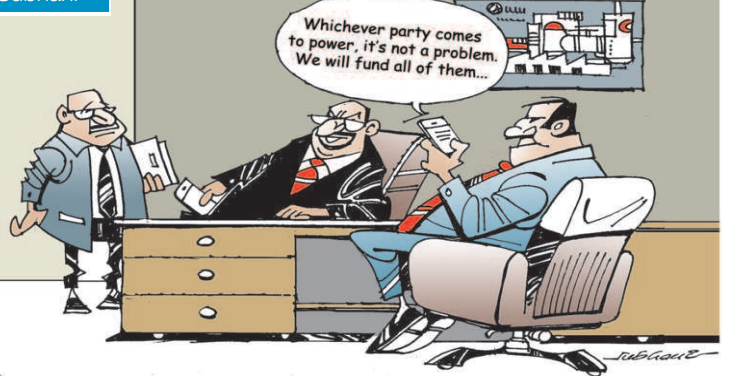
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Subhani



Trump in court a signal US democracy isn't broken yet

Indranil Banerjee

The unthinkable has happened in America. For the first time in history, a former US President has been indicted on criminal charges. Former President Donald Trump appeared before a New York court on Tuesday where he was formally charged with the crime of falsifying business records in an alleged conspiracy to influence the 2016 presidential election by suppressing past extramarital affairs.

No matter what Mr Trump does or does not believe, the fact is that he is set to rewrite American history by becoming the first former US President to face a criminal trial. The next hearing for the case has been set for December this year, but the actual trial might take longer to start. In fact, many have predicted that the hearings could drag on even after the US presidential elections scheduled for November next year.

The fact that the accused plans to run for another term as US President makes this a high-stakes case as well as a defining moment in American history. It is also a story of America's unending battle against powerful wrongdoers. Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg, who is prosecuting the case against the former President, declared: "We today uphold our solemn responsibility to ensure that everyone stands equal before the law...No amount of money, no amount of power changes that enduring American principle."

The case is thus not just a judicial contest but also a political one, with all the elements of a sordid cover-up involving sex and money. According to the charges, Mr Trump had paid hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels as well as to a Playboy model, Karen McDougal, two women he had extramarital affairs with. During the 2016 presidential campaign, Daniels was paid \$130,000 by Mr Trump's lawyer to keep quiet about the affair.

Address, declaring the ideal of a government of the people, by the people, for the people, has long been a source of inspiration to Chinese scholars past and present. We now mourn this broken, unfulfilled American dream.

To be sure, it is fashionable to scoff at American democracy where the sorcery is out in the open, for all to view, judge and respond. In many other countries, China included, such political misdeeds are hidden, ignored or simply condoned.

India is also a case in point. It is reported that the number of criminal cases pending against elected representatives in India is a humungous 5,097 (excluding data from Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, which do not consider such data to be of any public importance).

Worse, the Supreme Court was told that this number is consistently increasing over the years and has risen by 55 per cent in just five years. India's Representation of the People Act 1951 does not bar individuals with criminal cases from contesting elections.

Legislators are disqualified only selectively as in the case of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who was indicted by a Gujarat court for defaming people with the surname "Modi" and was awarded the maximum possible sentence of two years in jail. At the same time, hundreds of legislators suspected of heinous crimes, including murder and blackmail, are sitting

In the 10 years since the 2013 Indian Supreme Court ruling that any MP, MLA or MLC convicted of a crime and given a two-year term loses membership of the House immediately, only 15 have been disqualified...

unperturbed in our legislative bodies, enjoying all the perks of office. India's political class have steadfastly refused to decriminalise the political system. In July 2021, the Supreme Court had observed that the legislature was "not likely to do anything" to prevent criminals from entering politics and standing for elections.

In response to the court's comments, a lawyer representing the Bahujan Samaj Party had ranted: "Because a candidate has criminal antecedents does not mean he is not doing social work or the people are not choosing him to win." He maintained that laws that allow the freezing of an erring political party's symbol and contempt proceedings against it were too stringent!

Even the present law under which convicted politicians are automatically disqualified from holding office was the result of an earlier legislation, which was overturned by a judgment issued by the Supreme Court in 2013. The then Congress government wanted to overturn this ruling through a hasty ordinance, but this was thwarted by Rahul Gandhi. It is ironic that Mr Gandhi has been punished by a law that he helped to institutionalise.

Interestingly, in the 10 years since the Supreme Court ruling, only 15 politicians have been disqualified for being convicted by a court of law. Not an inspiring record by any means.

The Trump indictment and the political ecosystem that surrounds it is certainly not inspiring and reflects a dark aspect of US democracy. However, the one elected representative who has been convicted and dragged to a New York courthouse to face criminal charges suggests that some things are still not broken in the US political system. The pillars of America's democracy might appear wobbly from time to time, but they appear to have endured a lot better than anywhere else.

The writer is an independent commentator on political and security issues

LETTERS FRIEND OF LIBERTY

The Supreme Court has acted admirably in nullifying the Centre's ban on the Malayalam news channel Media-One. The Supreme Court vocalised its disapproval of the sealed cover procedure accepted by the high court, claiming it is not in line with a transparent and accountable system. A bench of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli ordered the ministry of information and broadcasting to renew the channel's broadcasting permission within four weeks, emphasising a refusal to do so would be an infringement of freedom of the press. Bravo!

N.J. Ravi Chander Bengaluru

UTILITY OF BUFFERS THE SOVIET UNION, the largest nation with a sixth of earth surface, in January 1991, splintered within a year and ceased to exist. As for its western peripheral nations, they had stayed neutral acting as a buffer to big power wrangles. And largely because of this they prospered without splurging enormously on defence. But hawks on either side had since progressively induced the buffer to shrink too rapidly. If Moscow was reckless to invade Ukraine, the Western coterie is being as cavalier, politically, Finland embracing NATO being the latest. A nuclear-armed Russia is more powerful than ever and unpredictable, unknown as it is like a black hole.

R. Narayanan Navi Mumbai

FRIVOLOUS PETITION OPPOSITION PARTIES approaching the Supreme Court complaining that they are being targeted by the CBI and ED at the instance of the BJP was misguided and a futile exercise. The Supreme Court has rightly dismissed their petition. No entity, including political parties, can seek freedom from investigation. A proper defence is available to all in the court. All citizens including politicians must cooperate with the investigative agencies and keep faith in the judiciary.

D.B. Madan New Delhi

L. Ravichander

Incorporate right to political opinion in the right to life

To find the thematic essence of the paramount parchment is arguably to zero in on the fundamental rights guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution of India. And the essential slide under the constitutional microscope that will reflect this philosophy is surely Article 21.

The right to life as enshrined in our Constitution is cryptic and skeletal. No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. This implies that if "life or personal liberty" is to be denied that there must be a procedure which is "by law established". The corollary is that such law must be live up to constitutional tests and judicial scrutiny. While in its very limited wording the right to life was envisaged as "life simpliciter", it is so no longer. So expansive has been the judicial recognition of this guarantee that it has come to be the fulcrum of civilised existence as well as limited government.

A push of the recall button would reveal that this guarantee was in Article 15 of the embryonic parchment. A good part of the debate hovered around whether the phrase "procedure established by law" should be employed or the phrase "due process of law".

The first milestone in this debate was reached in the Supreme Court as early as in 1950 in A.K. Gopalan vs State of Madras when the communist leader was detained and challenged the Preventive Detention Act. In that case, the

Supreme Court ruled that Article 21 of the Constitution did not require Indian courts to apply a due process of law standard. It also held that there is no connection between Article 21 and Article 19 (rights to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, etc.) of the Constitution, as contended by the appellant. It would not be until 1970, however, that this position would be revisited, and revised, first in RC Cooper vs Union of India (aka the bank nationalisation case) and then, later, in Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India. The court would conclude that Article 21 and Article 19 did not collide and need to be read together. The seizure of Mr. Gandhi had alleged violation of Articles 14 (right to equality), 19 and 21. The activist limb of the judiciary introduced flesh and blood to the seemingly pedantic sweep of Article 21.

Cooper vs Union of India (aka the bank nationalisation case) and then, later, in Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India. The court would conclude that Article 21 and Article 19 did not collide and need to be read together. The seizure of Mr. Gandhi had alleged violation of Articles 14 (right to equality), 19 and 21. The activist limb of the judiciary introduced flesh and blood to the seemingly pedantic sweep of Article 21. The seizure of the passport without assigned reasons (due process) was overruled. The message was clear. The golden era of Justices Krishna Iyer, O. Chinnappa Reddy and P.N. Bhagwati gave the system new direction. A return from A.K. Gopalan was now complete.

More milestones followed the first blush of Article 21's meaningful interpretation. The idea that the right to life encompasses far more than the right to mere animal existence was iterated by the apex court often. In a case filed by People's Union for Civil Liberties (PULIC), the court held that the right to food is essential and the State cannot escape the responsibility to ensure it.

A few years before that in Chameeli Singh (1985), the court went to the extent of upholding the right of the poor for housing and the State's constitutional duty to acquire land to provide it. The ordeal of pavement dwellers having to bathe in public four expressions throughout. Chief Justice of India Y.V. Chandrachud's wise judgment in Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985), Hussainara Khatoon vs State of Bihar (1979) provided for the right to speedy justice.

The seeds of the Right to Education Act, 2009, were contained in the judgment to the 1992 Mohini Jain vs State of Karnataka case that challenged a state government notification letting private medical college charge exorbitant fees. Article 21(A), which contained this right since 2002 was made effective in 2010. Later in 2014, the apex court upheld the right to basic primary education in State of UP vs Pavan Kumar Divedi (1985), the court went to the extent of upholding the right of the poor for housing and the State's constitutional duty to acquire land to provide it. The ordeal of pavement dwellers having to bathe in public four expressions throughout. Chief Justice of India Y.V. Chandrachud's wise judgment in Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985), Hussainara Khatoon vs State of Bihar (1979) provided for the right to speedy justice.

(1991) the Supreme Court came down on two steel companies creating a health hazard by dumping waste into nearby rivers, enjoining the 'polluter pays' principle. It was echoed in Consumer Education Research Centre (1985) wherein the health and safety of workers exposed to asbestos was brought in the ambit of the right to life. Even handcuffing and producing a criminal to the court was found to be a violation of this right. Sexual choices found sensitive watershed in Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India (2018). The duty of the state to compensate a citizen who dies in prison was a further recognition of this right. The right against prison torture and against solitary confinement was upheld in our jurisprudence time will tell. However, more important in India is the right to political opinion. A growing tendency is being witnessed to move court against political statements. Such cases must be quashed on the ground that they are in breach of the right to life. As a democracy, India would then have come full circle.

The writer is a senior counsel of the Telangana high court

SHORT TAKES

JAPANESE ARMY COPTER CRASHES WITH 10 CREW

Tokyo, April 6: A missing Japanese army helicopter carrying 10 crew members is believed to have crashed into the sea off a southern island after objects appearing to be aircraft parts were spotted in the area, an official said on Thursday. The UH-60A Black Hawk helicopter disappeared from radar on Thursday afternoon while on a reconnaissance mission north of Miyako Island.

SA PLANE LANDS SAFELY AFTER COBRA SCARE

Johannesburg, April 6: Pilots are normally trained for a number of worst-case scenarios, but certainly not for dealing with a snake in the cockpit. But South African pilot Rudolf Erasmus has just done that. Erasmus has been lauded by flight experts for his emergency landing after a highly venomous Cape cobra reared its head in the cockpit mid-flight.

Erasmus, who has been flying for the past five years, maintained his nerve as the cobra slid back under his seat as soon as he took it. It was a small Beachcraft plane with four passengers.

BERLUSCONI DIAGNOSED WITH LEUKAEMIA

Milan, April 6: Four-times Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi has been diagnosed with leukaemia, a source close to the matter said on Thursday, a day after he was admitted to intensive care with problems related to breathing. The 86-year-old, whose media empire has made him a billionaire, is being treated in a cardiac unit of Milan's San Raffaele hospital.

There has been no official comment on his condition. Leukaemia is a cancer of the blood cells. Berlusconi's Forza Italia party is part of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing coalition.

AZERBAIJAN ARRESTS 6 OVER 'COUP PLOT'

Baku, April 6: Azerbaijan on Thursday arrested six men it said were linked to Iranian secret services and were plotting a coup in the Caspian nation, in the latest tensions between Baku and Moscow. Relations between the neighbours have long been strained, with Azerbaijan being a close ally of Iran's ruling leadership. Baku said the six Azerbaijani nationals were "recruited by Iranian secret services to destabilise" the country.

It announced the arrests in a joint statement by the interior ministry, state security service and prosecutor-general's office. It said the group was plotting armed unrest.

INDO-AMERICANS PROTEST AGAINST BILL ON CASTE

Washington, April 6: Scores of Indian-Americans held a peaceful rally in California to register their protest against a Democratic senator for introducing a bill in the state's Senate seeking to explicitly ban caste-based bias.

State senator Alisha Wahab, the first Muslim and Afghan American elected to the state legislature, introduced the bill in the California senate on March 22. If the bill gets passed, California, America's most populous state, could also become the country's first state to outlaw caste-based bias.

At the rally, participants said the legislation goes against the principles of equality.

MACRON'S FAV. EATERY TARGETED BY PROTESTERS

Paris, April 6: Clashes erupted in Paris next to a Left Bank brasserie favoured by French President Emmanuel Macron during a day of nationwide protests against a pension bill that he has pushed through despite widespread opposition. La Rotonde, whose awning was briefly on fire as protesters threw bottles and paint at police, is well known in France for hosting a much-criticised celebratory dinner for Macron when he led the first round of the 2017 presidential election. Protests since January have gathered huge crowds against the flagship reform, which lifts the retirement age by two years to 64.

Xi willing to call Zelensky, Macron seeks China's help

French Prez urges Chinese counterpart not to deliver weapons to Russia

Beijing, April 6: China's Xi Jinping expressed willingness to speak to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, the head of the European Union said on Thursday, after French President Emmanuel Macron urged Beijing to talk sense to Russia over the war in Ukraine.

In closely watched talks, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and Macron met with Xi in Beijing. Macron said the West must engage China to help end the crisis and prevent "spiralling" tensions that could split global powers into warring blocs.

Xi, who has sought to position China as a potential mediator in the conflict but has been seen by the West as favouring Russia, responded by saying he hoped Moscow and Kyiv could hold peace negotiations as soon as possible.

"It was interesting to hear that President Xi reiterated his willingness to speak" to Zelensky, Von der Leyen said. Xi said a conversation could happen when the "conditions and time are right", she added.

Xi did not mention a possible conversation with Zelensky in his own comments after the meetings. Zelensky has repeatedly asked Xi to meet him, including after the Chinese leader visited Russia's President Vladimir Putin in Moscow last month. A French diplomatic source told Reuters that Xi was "ready" to call Zelensky.

"The Russian aggression in Ukraine has dealt a blow to international stability," Macron told Xi, standing alongside the Chinese President outside the Great Hall of the People at the start of their bilateral meeting. "I know I can count on you to bring Russia back to its senses and everyone back to the negotiating table."

Beijing's reputation as a diplomatic player was reinforced in March when it brokered a deal for Iran and Saudi Arabia to resume talks after years of hostility that had fuelled insecurity in the Gulf. China has proposed a 12-point peace plan for the Ukraine crisis that calls on both sides to agree to a



French President Emmanuel Macron (L) and Chinese President Xi Jinping take part in a Franco-Chinese business council meeting in Beijing on Thursday. — AFP

N-weapons in Belarus: Kremlin defends decision

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov defended its decision to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, rejecting criticism of the move by Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. He said that the US-led transatlantic alliance was the one expanding towards Russia, not the other way round, and therefore Moscow had to take steps to defend its own security.

In comments after the Macron-Xi meeting, which lasted one-and-a-half hours, Xi called for Ukraine and Russia to find a political solution to the war. China was ready to work together with France in obtaining a negotiated end to the fighting, the French source said. However, more than a year into a conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives, there is little sign either Russia or Ukraine are keen to negotiate. — Reuters

Saudi, Iran take steps toward reconciliation

Beijing, April 6: Iran and Saudi Arabia have agreed to jointly pursue economic stability as Moscow, Iranian foreign minister said on Thursday, as well as reopen missions in their respective countries as the regional rivals stepped toward reconciliation after seven years of tension. Iranian foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian made the announcement in a tweet after talks with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Fahd bin Farhan Al Saud, in Beijing. The ministers also agreed on Thursday to reopen embassies in the countries' respective capitals and representative offices in two other major cities.

The rapprochement not only lowers the chance of armed conflict between the Mideast rivals — both directly and in proxy conflicts around the region — but also represents a major diplomatic victory for the Chinese as Gulf Arab states perceive the United States slowly withdrawing from the wider region.

The official Iranian news agency, IRNA, said that as part of Thursday's agreement, the two long-time regional rivals would reopen representative offices in their respective capitals and in two other major cities — Mashhad in Iran and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. The report said both sides also agreed to study the prospects of resuming flights and official and private visits between the two nations, in addition to how to facilitate the visa process for their people.

On Thursday morning, Saudi Arabia's state-run Al-Ekhabar TV showed the Iranian and Saudi ministers shaking hands and sitting side-by-side. It was the first formal meeting of senior diplomats from the two nations since 2016, when the kingdom broke ties with Iran after protesters invaded Saudi diplomatic posts there.

Saudi Arabia had executed a prominent Shiite cleric with 46 others days earlier, triggering the demonstrations. The warning ties shows that regional countries have the will and ability to take the lead" in maintaining peace, Mao said at the briefing. She said China is ready to support both sides in fostering good relations, urging the two to resolve their differences. "The colonial hegemon-ic tactics of stirring up contradictions, creating estrangement and division should be rejected by the people all over the world," she said. — AFP

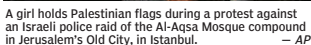
NO PROSPECT OF MEDIATION BY CHINA: KREMLIN

Moscow, April 6: The Kremlin on Thursday said it saw no "prospect" for China to mediate the Ukraine conflict and said it had "no other way" than to press on with its offensive. The comments came as French President Emmanuel Macron was in Beijing to try to dissuade China from supporting Moscow's campaign.

"Undoubtedly, China has a very effective and commanding potential for mediation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "But the situation with Ukraine is complex, so far there are no prospects for a political settlement" he said.

"At the moment, there are no other ways for us to resolve the conflict, the operation of the special military operation," Peskov said, using the Kremlin term for its offensive against Ukraine. He said that China's potential role of mediator after Macron told Chinese leader Xi Jinping he was counting on him to "bring Russia to its senses." Xi visited Moscow last month, during which he was with President Vladimir Putin presented a united front against the West.

China has outlined a proposal for peace in Ukraine, but it remains vague and the United States has dismissed it as opening the path for Russia to keep territories it has seized. China has been officially neutral on Ukraine and Xi has not condemned the Russian offensive. — AFP



A girl holds Palestinian flags during a protest against an Israeli police raid on the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City, in Istanbul. — AP

Jerusalem unrest on for 2nd night

Jerusalem, April 6: Violence resumed for a second night in Jerusalem on Wednesday when Palestinian worshippers barricaded themselves inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque at the Old City's sensitive compound and Israeli police used force to remove dozens of worshippers.

The unrest was less intense than the previous night. But the situation there is still volatile. Muslims marked the Ramadan holy month and Jews began the weeklong Passover holiday. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported at least six people were injured in the latest violence.

The Islamic Waqf authorities, which manages the compound, said police fired stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds. — AP

ROCKETS FIRED FROM GAZA RAISE TENSION

Jerusalem, April 6: Palestinian militants fired a barrage of rockets early on Thursday, setting off air raid sirens. The barrage came after another tense night at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, where Israeli police clashed with Muslim worshippers. — AFP

The compound, said police fired stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds. — AP

measured from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations around the world. It said temperatures were above average over southern and central Europe and below average over most of northern Europe. They were far warmer than average over much of North Africa, southwestern Russia, Asia, northeastern North America, South America including drought-stricken Argentina, Australia and coastal Antarctica. Conversely, it was much

gradual de-escalation leading to a comprehensive ceasefire. "The plan has been largely dismissed by authorities to her estranged mother, an official said. The case involving 13-year-old Maria Moskalova has garnered international attention, as Moscow cracks down on criticism in Ukraine.

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Pak Parliament rejects SC order on snap election

Islamabad, April 6: Pakistan's Parliament on Thursday passed a resolution rejecting the Supreme Court's decision about the Punjab elections delay case and demanded a full court to decide this issue as the row between the judiciary and the government deepened in the country.

A three-member bench of the apex court led by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Tuesday fixed May 14 as the new date for the elections to the Punjab Assembly, as it quashed the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision to extend the poll date from April 10 to October 8.

The coalition government reacted angrily to the judgment and rejected it, while the ECP issued a revised schedule to hold the election as per the verdict.

In the latest development, the National Assembly or the lower house passed a resolution to reject the decision of the apex court.

The resolution was moved by lawmaker Khalid Magsi of Balochistan Awami Party which is part of the ruling coalition and it was adopted by the lower house. It called upon the prime minister and the federal Cabinet not to implement this judgment as it is contrary to the Constitution.

It said that the House "considers the conduct of general elections simultaneously across the country as the panacea to all the problems". — PTI

SAUDI NOD TO FUNDING FOR PAK'S IMF LOAN

Islamabad, April 6: Cash-strapped Pakistan has received the nod for funding of up to \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia, a move that will help the country secure the much-required bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to a report on Thursday.

The IMF has imposed the condition on Pakistan that it should secure \$3 billion from other countries for revival of its \$6.5 billion bailout package. Earlier, Pakistan received a loan of \$2 billion from the "problems". — PTI

Temple vandalised in Canada's Ontario

Toronto, April 6: A prominent Hindu temple in Canada's Ontario province has been vandalised by unknown people with "anti-Hindu and anti-India graffiti", in what is described by police as a "hate-motivated incident".

In a statement, the police in Ontario's Windsor city said on Wednesday that it has launched an investigation into the incident and looking for two suspects. Windsor Police Service said officers were dispatched to the temple in the 1700 block of the Northway Avenue following a report of hate-motivated vandalism. — PTI



The sarcophagus of Pharaoh Ramses II displayed on the opening day of the exhibition titled "Ramses and the Gold of the Pharaohs" at the Grande Halle de la Villette in Paris, Ramses II, also known as Ramses the Great, ruled for more than 60 years during the 13th century BC. — AFP

EXTREME WEATHER

Antarctic sea ice shrinking to second-lowest extent, finds EU agency

Earth has second warmest March on record

Paris, April 6: Earth had its second-warmest March on record with Antarctic sea ice shrinking to its second-lowest extent for that month, the European Union's climate monitoring agency said on Thursday. The month was also the second-warmest March globally, tied with 2017, 2019 and 2020, the Copernicus Climate Change Service said. The warmest March on record was in 2016. Its report is based on a combination of satellite analyses using billions of measurements from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations around the world. It said temperatures were above average over southern and central Europe and below average over most of northern Europe. They were far warmer than average over much of North Africa, southwestern Russia, Asia, northeastern North America, South America including drought-stricken Argentina, Australia and coastal Antarctica. Conversely, it was much colder than average over western and central North America, the agency said. Global warming is causing sea ice to decline and sea levels to rise, raising warnings that dangerous tipping points could be reached. Copernicus said Antarctic sea ice extent was the second lowest for March in the 45-year satellite data record, at 28 per cent below average. It reached 3.2 million square kilometres on average, 1.2 million sq km below the 1981-2020 average for the month.



Antarctic ice extent was the second lowest for March in the 45-year satellite data record. — AFP

It had reached the smallest area on record in February for the second year in a row, continuing a decade-long decline. In the north meanwhile, Arctic sea ice extent was four per cent below aver-

age and joint fourth lowest for March on record, though concentrations were above average in the Greenland Sea. Sea temperatures rise globally because of human-caused climate change, Copernicus data show the past eight years were the eighth warmest on record. A United Nations report warned in March that those record-breaking temperatures would figure among the coolest within three or four decades, even if planet-warming emissions drop quickly. — AFP

SL ANTI-TERROR BILL DELAYED IN PARLIAMENT

Colombo, April 6: Sri Lanka's justice minister Wijevadasa Rajapakse on Thursday announced that the presentation of the new anti-terrorism bill that would replace a draconian counter-terrorism law in Parliament would be delayed further, a day after a powerful body of lawyers said it would not hesitate to challenge any legislation that would undermine the rule of law. The Anti Terrorism Act will replace the much-maligned Prevention of Terrorism Act, 1979. — PTI

tollywood

Nani joins elite club

10 >>



delhi THE AGE

FRIDAY | 7 APRIL 2023

VINTAGE SALMAN

The actor was in his element at a press meet on Wednesday, making his first public appearance after the most recent threat to his life. He wears his 'I give-a-damn' attitude on his sleeve. He said he uses his awards as "door stoppers" at times and doesn't really care about them

Salman Khan's security has been doubled after the recent threat to his life. But the actor side-stepped the question when asked about it. However, he was in a jolly mood and spoke freely about many other things in the film industry. *Excerpts:*

AWARDS FUNCTIONS AND MONEY

Salman had some insights to share about awards functions, and how actors who perform at them are treated. "The first time I was told I had won an award, I told my dad, and he too wore a suit and we all reached the venue — only to see another actor, Jackie Shroff, win it," he recalled. "I had been asked to perform at the event and when I refused, they told me that they would pay me a certain amount. I asked for five times more, and they gave me a cheque. I went backstage and found Juhi Chawla and Akshay Kumar and told them they should also ask for more because I had got it. They got paid too. I made sure that after that day, every awards function paid us to host and dance and not just do it free under the ruse of getting an award. They are all making money from sponsors, from TV telecasts; and we should do so too," he asserted.

HINDI FILMS NOT DOING WELL

"I have been hearing that Hindi films are not doing well. If you make bad films, how will they work? Everyone thinks they are making a *Mughal-E-Azam*, *Sholay*, *HAHK* or *DDLJ*. But that's not what they're doing."

TURN TO PAGE 11



“

I HAVE BEEN HEARING THAT HINDI FILMS ARE NOT DOING WELL. IF YOU MAKE BAD FILMS, HOW WILL THEY WORK? EVERYONE THINKS THEY ARE MAKING A MUGHAL-E-AZAM, SHOLAY, HAHK OR DDLJ. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THEY'RE DOING

'USE AWARDS AS DOOR STOPPERS'


Salman may be a show stopper, but the actor says he uses awards as door stoppers! "Honestly, I have never been interested in these awards, because I've seen so many of them — my father Salim *saab* has won a lot of them. I myself got two. Sometimes, we use them as door stoppers at home. And we would give them away if we couldn't find a place for them at home. I've often lost awards to other actors after being nominated. I was once even given an award which I left behind on the stage. The organisers may have it now. I was never interested in awards. Even today, I am not," the actor reiterated. However, he went on to say, "I am interested in rewards. That's what I get from my fans and from the Hindi film audience."

— Sanskriti Media



PCJ signs Idris Elba, John Cena starrer

Heads of State is a political thriller

 Priyanka Chopra Jonas seems to be the new flavour of the studio backing *Citadel* for the Russo Brothers.

In July 2020, Amazon Studios concluded a multimillion-dollar deal with her in an effort to feature South Asia on the global platform. And now, PCJ has signed a big project with John Cena and Idris Elba.

The film, called *Heads of State*, is slated to take off next month. Priyanka's spy show is expected to drop on the platform by the end of this month.



Idris Elba and John Cena

"The title *Heads of State* clearly indicates that the film is a political thriller. It is being billed as a marriage between Air Force One *Midnight*


Run, starring Harrison Ford and Robert De Niro. The idea was Harrison Query's. He developed it and handed it over to director Ilya Naishuller who has got Josh Appelbaum and André Nemecek to write the script. Peter Safran and John Rickard are producing the film," we are informed.

PCJ has other projects coming up, including *Love Again* filmed in the UK, and *See Le Zara* co-starring Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif — the principal shooting of the latter will start in Rajasthan after Priyanka wraps her Hollywood biggie.

— Sanskriti Media

Sam was the original choice for Rainbow

...Rashmika came on board later

 The Telugu-Tamil romantic fantasy entertainer, *Rainbow*, starring Rashmika Mandanna, which was launched a few days ago, will commence shooting on Friday. However, apparently, Rashmika wasn't the original choice for the female-centric film. It was Samantha!

Sam was approached for the part one-and-a-half years ago, and it was assumed that she was on board. But that's not how things turned out.

Sam was excited by the offer, but it came at around the time when she and Naga Chaitanya decided to separate, and she suffered some health problems, which pre-


vented her from taking up work. Since she didn't want to keep the filmmakers waiting, she asked them to look at other options.

"Samantha herself advised the producers to go ahead with another actress, because she wanted her space, she didn't want to overwork herself during that time," says a source. And even when she returned to work, she had pending projects to complete, like *Citadel* and *Khushi*. Since the heroine of *Rainbow*, directed by Shantharuban, is a strong character, the makers wanted someone suited to that part. They believed Rashmika, who has risen to stardom in the last two years, would be an ideal choice.

SAMANTHA HERSELF ADVISED THE PRODUCERS TO GO AHEAD WITH ANOTHER ACTRESS, BECAUSE SHE WANTED HER SPACE, SHE DIDN'T WANT TO OVERWORK HERSELF DURING THAT TIME," SAYS A SOURCE. AND EVEN WHEN SHE RETURNED TO WORK, SHE HAD PENDING PROJECTS TO COMPLETE, LIKE CITADEL AND KHUSHI

'I WANTED TO BREAK ALL INHIBITIONS'

...Sushanth reflects on his filmography


 When the makers of *Ravanapura* approached Sushanth Anumolu for a significant role, he was excited about coming on board. He, however, suggested they tweak his role a bit so that it would be more impactful and add intensity to the narrative.

"The producer Abhishek Nama agreed that the new layer / dimension to my character validates my role and was happy to incorporate it," shares Sushanth.

While Ravi Teja plays *Ravanapura* in the Sudheer Varma directorial, Sushanth plays Ram. However, he says all the characters in the film have grey shades.

"I felt my role in the film stands out, and I believed *Ravanapura* would give me a chance to showcase a new me," he explains, adding that he was equally excited to see Ravi Teja in a character he hasn't done so far.

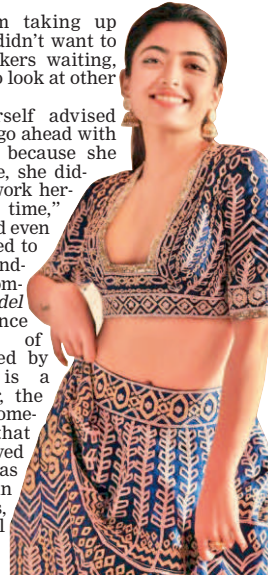
After playing a vital role in *Ala Vaikuntapuramlo* (2019), Sushanth will also be seen in Chiranjeevi's upcoming film *Bhola*. "I wanted to break all my inhibitions and am game to push myself to do something quirky. I have been picking different roles from what I am. I felt I needed to prove something as an actor and believed *Chi Law Sow* gave me that break. Then *Ala Vaikuntapuramlo* happened," he reveals, adding that sharing screen with the Megastar in *Bhola* was like a dream.

 There's hardly anyone from the film industry who hasn't raved about Dasara. The Nani-starrer has been getting positive reviews from Rajamouli and Prabhas to Mahesh Babu and Chiranjeevi, ever since its release last week.

The Srikanth Odela directorial has become a humongous hit at the box office and has joined the '100-crore club. This is the first time a Nani-starrer has entered this league. The cash registers have been ringing overseas too.

"What worked for the film was Nani's unique characterisation," comments the director, adding that the freshness in the rustic story complemented the characters well.

Talking about the super success, Nani said the collections were a validation of how important it is to stay true to the script. "We were honest in our storytelling and gave our best shot. The characters were designed meticulously keeping the story in view," the actor shares.



Nani joins elite club

...Dasara reaches ₹100 cr mark



Virinchi's period drama

...Script work in progress

His first two films *Uyyala Jampala* and *Manju* went on to become super hits. Both belonged to the romance genre. But now, director Virinchi Varma wants to move on to something else. We learn that the filmmaker is working on the script of a period drama. It is reportedly set in the 1970s and Virinchi is currently doing the necessary research.

"The director is gathering references relating to that period from libraries and newspaper clips and meeting people," says a source, adding that an official announcement is likely to be made soon. "The film, currently in pre-production, will be headlined by a star hero, the source adds.



Men and the statement necklace

It might be tempting to dismiss men's jewellery as something that only a Ranveer Singh or a Harry Styles could wear. But the fact is, the trend is growing. So much so that it is being made abundantly clear that jewels are not just for the ladies.



LIL NAS X
This singer's Instagrammable bejewelled looks make us wonder what else he's capable of.

HARRY STYLES
loves his pearls. He has made jewellery his signature fashion statement.

BRAD PITT
Nobody makes a better case for men's jewellery than veteran actor Brad Pitt.

SWATI SHARMA

THE ASIAN AGE

Brown Munde singer AP Dhillon and Hrithik Roshan recently turned heads with their neck jewellery at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) fashion gala. The singer wore a pair of necklaces from Mahesh Notandass Fine Jewellery with his red Gucci blazer and black T-shirt while the actor sported ornate neck jewellery he arrived at the event in all-black ethnic Jade by MK ensemble.



Samarth Bajaj

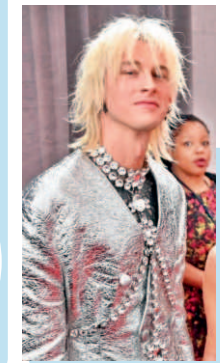
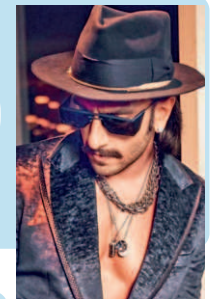


Kunal Rawal

"Men's jewellery has been a part of our culture and many other cultures. It was always regarded as a symbol of wealth and style. Even today, men in several subcultures of India wear *balis* in their ears. Hip hop artistes all over the world have made men's bling fashionable," says Samarth Bajaj, Co-Founder &

RANVEER SINGH'S
eclectic ensembles aren't complete without jewellery. The actor has worn everything from dainty neckpieces to layered, chunky ones, as well as dangler earrings and ear cuffs

BILLY PORTER'S
dazzling diamond and emerald necklace worn at Emmys 2021 red carpet was worth \$1 million. He also wore diamond bracelets and ear cuffs

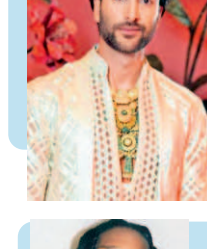


JARED LETO
enjoys shimmer and glitter. His red-carpet looks are nothing short of a visual feast. He doesn't often wear jewellery, but when he does, he does so elegantly

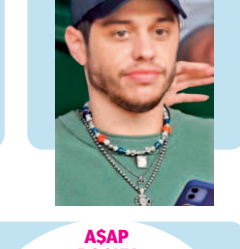


MACHINE GUN KELLY
opted for a corset-style Dolce & Gabbana top and vinyl leather trousers for his red carpet walk, teaming it with a gem-set choker by House of Emmanuele

MEEZAN JAFRI
wore a heavy necklace at NMACC event recently



PETE DAVIDSON
The comedian has been sporting some very fashionable beaded accessories of late



ASAP ROCKY
is the undisputed champion of men's jewellery. As someone who has always been a 'fashion killa,' he was the first to jump on the jewellery bandwagon. Rocky wears jewellery like it's no big deal on the red carpet or at a runway show

CEO, The Designer's Class. Yes, there was a time when jewellery was considered primarily a feminine adornment, but this isn't the case anymore. Men's jewellery is an extremely exciting space right now, and it allows men to express their fashion identity. It lets the men have fun

with their looks, add an element to their personalities and style statements, and make them look extremely cool. Jewellery for men has been around since the beginning of time, particularly in India. "Men have avoided wearing jewellery in recent decades because there

has been discussion about, and so many questions raised about Masculinity — how a man is supposed to look, how a man is supposed to dress, and all of these regressive thoughts that have been prevalent in recent decades," says the ace Bollywood designer Kunal Rawal. "And

what you're seeing now in this decade is a beautiful evolution, evolution in young India, evolution in thinking and prejudices that have gone off the rails. It's liberating and refreshing to be a young designer in India, especially if you do menswear.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

My film *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan* is coming up and if it is not good, you are going to throw my comment on bad content back at me. But the truth is that we have worked hard on this film. Films that have done well have been those that families have gone to watch," said Salman.

GEN NEXT ACTORS

Talking of the younger genera-

VINTAGE SALMAN

tion of actors, he said, "these guys are talented but we five are not going to give up so easily — Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir, Akki, Ajay and me. We are going to give them a run for their money, tire them out. Our films do well and we increase our prices. When filmmakers can't

afford us, and go to them, they increase their prices."

VULGARITY ON OTTS

"I agree with the view that a lot of actors who did not get work at one point found work on the OTT. It happened when TV started too. Parallel cinema has now

become OTT and people think it is a lot cooler. I think Ram Gopal Varma was the first one who made digital content and then people started watching it," said Salman, who is known to abhor OTT content. "I have been here since 1989 I have never done this kind of stuff. I think there should be censorship for OTT and the vulgarity, nudity and expletives should stop, because everyone has this on his phone. There are 15 and 16-year-old boys

watching it. How will you react when your young daughter watches this under the pretext of studying? It will be good if the content is clean," he stressed.

"We have censorship for films and when there is more blood or action, we get an A certificate. Censorship works on TV also. I host *Bigg Boss*. There are many expletives used and there are physical fights too. But we cannot and do not show those."



A BALANCED, HEALTHY DIET MAINTAINS THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OF VITAMINS AND MINERALS IN OUR BODY THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR A HEALTHY BODY AND A HEALTHY MIND. THE LACK OF ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS IN YOUR DIET IS LIKELY TO FIRST AFFECT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND THEN YOUR PHYSICAL BODY.

Poor gut health is the cause for many ailments

On this World Health Day, take a pledge to take care of your gut and your mental health. You must've heard people say, "You are what you eat." There is a significant amount of truth in this saying.

ANALI KOCHHAR

If you've been worrying a lot or have been depressed for a long time, you might be having gastric issues as well. Though the real reason behind it is still debated, doctors, through studies, believe that anxiety and depression can cause serious gastric issues — especially acid reflux. A famous saying among many doctors is that 'worry, hurry and curry can cause gastric ulcers'. While your anxiety is causing gastric issues, you must also know that your depression may be directly linked to your stomach. Studies have shown that people who don't eat regular and healthy diets are most likely to develop psychiatric issues like depression and anxiety. If your diet lacks essential vitamins and minerals, their deficiency can cause serious mental health issues. You may feel that something is seriously going wrong in your life leading to your depression, but more often than not, it is the unbalanced diet that causes these problems.

Few things to keep in mind

Eat a balanced and healthy diet



A balanced, healthy diet maintains the necessary amount of vitamins and minerals in our body that are required for a healthy body and a healthy mind. The lack of essential nutrients in your diet is likely to first affect your mental health and then your physical body. So if you've been in a terrible mood and can't find the reason, change your eating habits, and you might be surprised with the results. "The deficiency of iron can cause fatigue and a sense of not being able to cope with routine. Or the slow-burning fibre from vegetables and whole grains that lend the prebiotics needed for a well-functioning gut that eventually benefits mental health," said **Anupama Menon**, wellness coach and founder of Right Living. **Dr Sanjaya Mudgal**, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, Max Hospital, Gurugram, believes Vitamins like B12, B1, B6 have a major role in maintaining neuronal health and the deficiencies can cause depression. Multiple somatic complaints to even psychosis. Like thiamine deficiency in Alcoholics can cause psychosis. B12 deficiency can cause a tingling sensation in arms and feet also multiple aches and pain. Minerals like manganese and magnesium are again important for neurotransmission and brain well-being, mode stabilisation," she adds.



Go out in the sun

Vitamin D is a nutrient that is essential for the proper functioning of our mental health. A lack of vitamin D can significantly lower one's happiness quotient. Since the Sun is the only source of Vitamin D, you may want to spend more time outside in the sun. If your job requires you to stay in or work from home, take out time from your routine to especially be under the sun. If things have already gone out of hand, you may want to consult a doctor and get tested for nutrients you're deficient in. The doctor may be able to help you regain those nutrients through supplements or a diet chart. "One must have good exposure to sunlight to avoid having Vitamin D deficiency as it leads not only to calcium deficiency but also many systemic and mental health problems such as depression and anxiety, asthma in children, neurological problems in the elderly, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and eclampsia in pregnancy," says **Dr Deepika Malik**, a general physician working with Delhi Government.

Take care of your gut

It is in our digestive tract that food is broken down and absorbed. If your gut is in any way compromised (and this is unfortunately very common these days) you will not be able to get the nutrients you need into your cells, no matter how healthy your diet is. "Your gut houses the body's second brain: the enteric nervous system. The enteric nervous system and your brain are in constant communication and any issues within the gut can impact your mental well-being," says **Monique Jhingon**, Functional Nutritionist and Lifestyle Consultant.

Jhingon adds, "You have an entire ecosystem of microbes in your digestive tract. This microbial community, also known as the gut microbiome, impacts many of your body's biological processes, hormone and neurotransmitter levels and your brain chemistry." Hence, restoring balance by eating a diverse, whole foods diet with plenty of colourful plant foods, fibre and fermented foods has a positive ripple effect on our general and mental health and well-being.



Indulge in flow experiences

Studies have shown that people who indulge in more flow experiences a day are happier in comparison to ones who have none. If you feel sad, or depressed, you may also feel like you have no purpose. Indulging in flow experiences gives you purpose and makes you feel fulfilled. Activities like sports, reading, singing, playing music, and listening to podcasts are some of the many ways you can start experiencing flow. Flow is the same thing that you experience after a competitive game of tennis or while finishing a suspense novel.



Practice yoga and meditation

A routine yoga and meditation practice can help young people to manage stress and improve focus and concentration. The latter is an extremely helpful skill for those trying to succeed academically. It can help them become more self-aware and better able to understand and regulate their thoughts and emotions. Regularly practising yoga and meditation can also help in improved sleep quality, which is important for overall mental health and wellbeing. **Nimish Dayalu**, CEO and co-founder of Zoga Wellness App says, "Traditional Hatha yoga is good for youth. This type of yoga focuses on physical postures and breathing exercises. Restorative yoga focusing on slow, gentle movements is especially helpful for those suffering from anxiety or depression. It helps practitioners get fitter and healthier on the inside-out." "Gratitude meditation which involves sending feelings of love and compassion to oneself and others can help young people to develop positive relationships with themselves and others," he adds.



"YOUR GUT HOUSES THE BODY'S SECOND BRAIN: THE ENTERIC NERVOUS SYSTEM. THE ENTERIC NERVOUS SYSTEM AND YOUR BRAIN ARE IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION AND ANY ISSUES WITHIN THE GUT CAN IMPACT YOUR MENTAL WELL-BEING."

— MONIQUE JHINGON, Functional Nutritionist and Lifestyle Consultant.

NUTRITION FAQS: BY DR BLONZ

A lid on hot broths or gravies — Yes or No?



DEAR DR. BLONZ: My cooking class instructor mentioned that broths or gravies should never be covered with an airtight lid until they are cold, because botulism toxins can form in anything lukewarm and covered tightly. How should one handle hot broth that you want to keep for a day or two? **F.C., Sacramento, California**

DEAR F.C.: Botulism is an often-fatal form of food poisoning. It's caused by eating foods that contain a toxin from the bacteria *C. botulinum*. These bacteria multiply by giving off spores, which produce the botulism toxin. *C. botulinum* differ from other bacteria, such as *E. coli*, *listeria* and *salmonella*, in that they can grow without air (oxygen). In addition, the botulism-producing spores are heat-resistant. Food preservation techniques such as canning must include a heat treatment that lasts long enough to kill *C. botulinum*, knocking out the ability to produce spores. Ten minutes of boiling will destroy the toxin that causes the disease. Outbreaks of botulism from canned foods are usually traced to inadequate heating times or temperatures.

Placing food in an airtight container does not increase the risk of botulism unless the bacteria are already present. It's doubtful that these particular bacteria would be a problem in cooked foods when good sanitary practices have been followed. In fact, leaving the lid off increases the chances that other airborne bacteria can enter any nutrient-rich food or broth. It also increases the likelihood of picking up errant room or refrigerator odors.

It's a good practice to refrigerate leftovers immediately in a sealed container. By rapidly cooling leftovers to refrigerator temperature (40 degrees F), you help ensure that the food will remain safe. Consider cooling your broth in a covered container with a large surface area, such as a shallow baking dish. One technique I use is to have several flexible, reusable ice packs at the ready in my freezer. That way when some food needs to be chilled rapidly, the ice packs can be placed under, around or on top of the container. Other sensible approaches are never eating or tasting from containers with bulges, or from any that spurt liquid when opened. (Note that this is different from vacuum-packed items, which suck in air when opened for the first time.) Find out more about botulism at b.link/hv67cc.



HOW TO WASH FRUITS AND VEGGIES

DEAR DR. BLONZ: You, and other experts, always say to "wash your fruits and vegetables." But I haven't seen much about what that really means: Splash them with water? Run water over them for an amount of time? Do the rules change for produce sprayed with pesticides, or for members of the so-called "dirty dozen"? Should any be washed with

dish soap, or is water sufficient? I heard once that fruits and vegetables should be scrubbed as well as rinsed. That seems to make sense for veggies like potatoes, which have relatively hard surfaces, but what about delicate fruits such as raspberries and blueberries? How about a one-time primer on what exactly "washing" fruits and vegetables means? **AF**

DEAR A.F.: Produce has lots of opportunities to pick up unwanted elements: from the soil, or from various local animals, while it is growing; at the store where it is stored and sold; and even in your vehicle on the way home. Doing a wash at home helps remove any contaminants hitchhiking on your whole-some foods. This is even more important for children, the elderly or anyone with an ailment or condition that might weaken the immune system. I worked in the produce department at a local supermarket while in high school, getting fresh fruits and vegetables ready for customers and removing any produce past its prime. Fruits and vegetables are usually washed before being packed, but the handling from field to store is always a bit of a wild

card. There is nothing wrong with any added measure of cleanliness. Wash produce with clean hands in a clean area — one that is not used as a resting place for dishes waiting to be washed or other questionable items. Rinse items in cold, potable, running water for at least 15 seconds. Do this before the produce is sliced, as cutting can transfer unwanted elements from the surface into the flesh. (Cutting tools should also be freshly washed.)

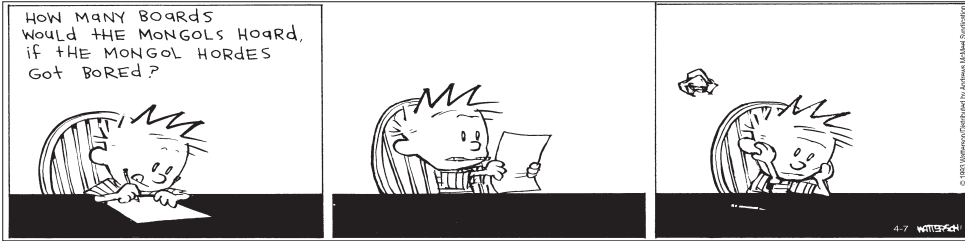
If the flesh of the produce is eaten and not the peel — think citrus, bananas, melons, avocado and pomegranates — a wash of the outside is prudent. A produce brush can provide extra abrasion, but ensure it, too, gets cleaned and is allowed to dry between uses. Regarding delicate fruits, I typically have berries with my breakfast. After purchase, I give them a cold soak for several minutes, gently agitating with a clean hand, followed by a generous rinse in a colander. I then transfer them to a container with a good-fitting lid. Fruits and vegetables are not waterproof, of course, and can absorb liquids to varying degrees. Any fluid you use to wash your vegetables should be approved for food use; dishwashing detergents, for example, are not generally advised.

(Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and an assistant clinical professor at the University of California, San Francisco) Copyright: Asia Features

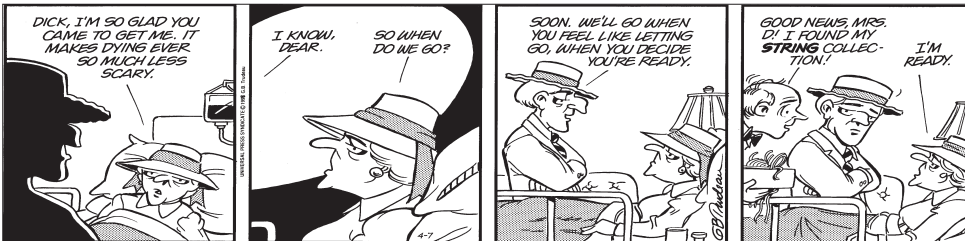
coffee-break

Delhi Age

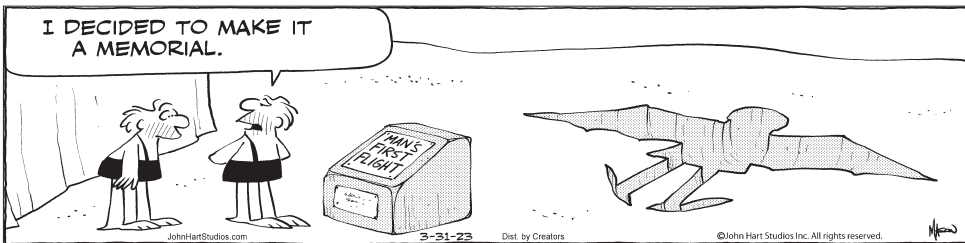
CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



DOONESBURY | Garry Trudeau



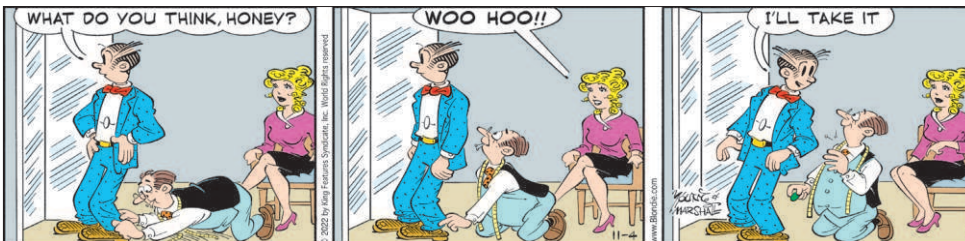
B.C. | Johnny Hart



UP AND RUNNING | Gray and Shack



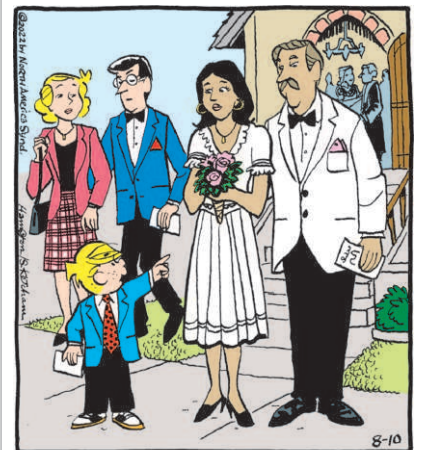
BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



Dennis the Menace



"WOW, HE MUST HAVE A LOT OF MONEY IF THIS IS HIS SECOND WEDDING. MY DAD STILL CAN'T AFFORD HIS FIRST."

hocus focus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Back of chair is wider. 2. Mouth is different. 3. Earring is smaller. 4. Hairband is different. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Curtain is not as wide.

jumble

WRNCO
 ○○○○

AUGGE
 ○○○○

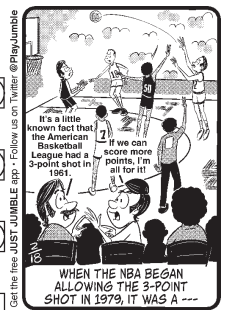
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(Answer Monday)


Yesterday's Jumbles: ONION HOIST WEIGHT ROTATE
 Answer: He was gradually going bald because his follicles were vanishing — INTO THIN "HAIR"



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'Connection with the audience is my validation'

Actor Aditya Roy Kapur says he gauges the impact of his work not by box office collections or the views on streamers, but through the appreciation he receives from his fans

 The actor, who is awaiting the release of his next film *Gumraah*, is on cloud nine after garnering praise for his debut series *The Night Manager*, adapted from John le Carre's novel of the same name. "People seem to like and appreciate the work. Things are good and positive for me. The most important feedback or validation is my connection with the audience. There's been an appreciation for the work that has been put out in the last two-three years.

"There's box office and OTT where you get to understand if something is doing well. But the feeling that you get from people in general who are watching your work is an old-school way to gauge if they liked you, and it works. As an actor, I am working for the audience. I am not putting out work in a vacuum, so I care about what the audience thinks," Roy told.

The 37-year-old actor, known for *Aashiqui 2*, *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani*, and *Malang*, said he is fortunate to have been given opportunities to experiment with different genres.


"*Malang* was the first time I did action and thriller and that opened the door for other thrillers. But you have to make those decisions and then branch off into something else. With *Ludo*, it was comedy and romance in light-hearted space, which I did after a long time," he added.

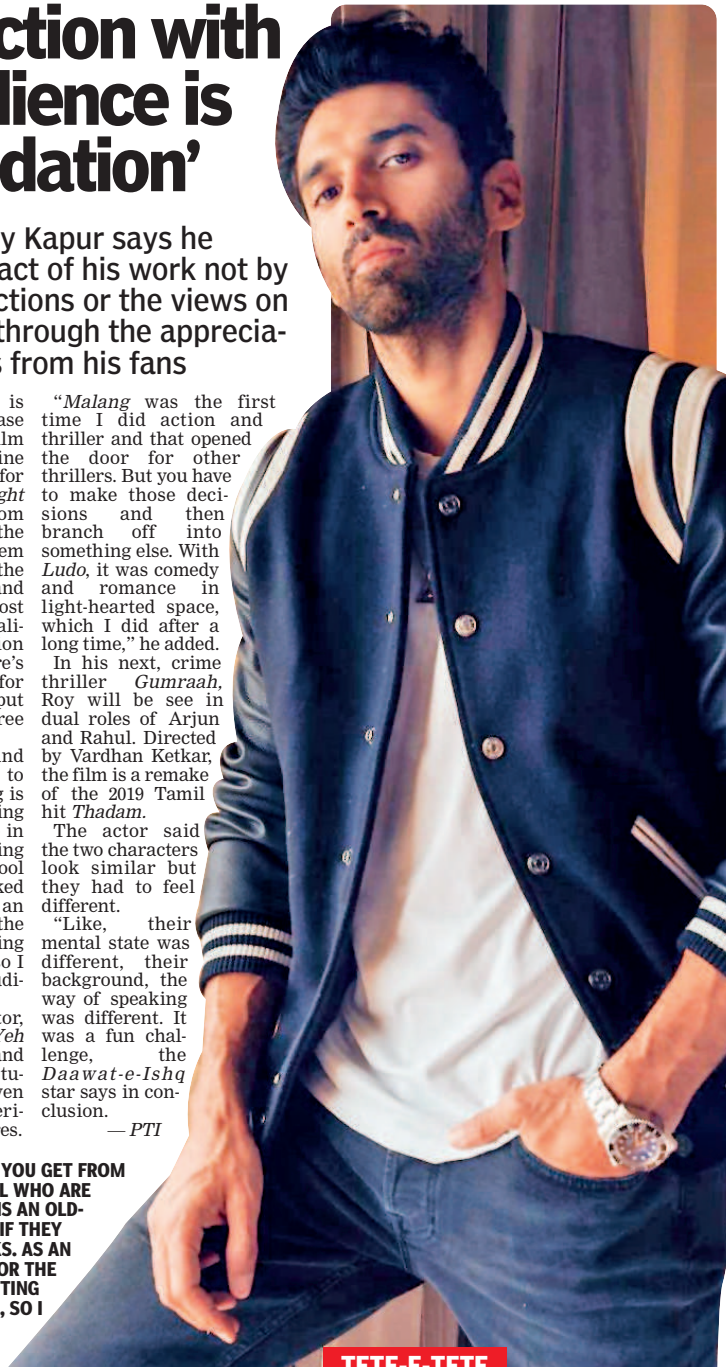
In his next, crime thriller *Gumraah*, Roy will be seen in dual roles of Arjun and Rahul. Directed by Vardhan Ketkar, the film is a remake of the 2019 Tamil hit *Thadam*.

The actor said the two characters look similar but they had to feel different.

"Like, their mental state was different, their background, the way of speaking was different. It was a fun challenge, the *Daawat-e-Ishq* star says in conclusion.

— PTI


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TETE-E-TETE

'Honoured to be part of a music video'

LIPIKA VARMA

 Maliaka Arora shares her latest experience of doing a video album, *Tera Ki Khayal* after many years. She remembers her peppy and foot-tapping number, *Chal Chaiyya Chaiyya* with Shah Rukh Khan that became a sensational hit 25 years ago!

Excerpts from a tete-e-tete

FEW ACTORS WHO WERE OFFERED

CHAIYYA CHAIYA... (IN 1998) REJECTED IT. AND THEN YOU WERE OFFERED...

(smiles) It proved beneficial for me. I believe in luck, it was meant to happen. I got to work with the best technicians and actors. Right from Farah Khan to Shah Rukh Khan, Mani sir A.R Rahman, I had the opportunity to work with the best. 25 years later too, if people from this generation also love it and feel like dancing to this song, I

would say I am loving it as they are showering so much love on me. I feel happy that the song is still loved by this generation.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW ALBUM, TERA KI KHAYA


This is a wonderful music video. The experience of performing in a music video is interesting and I felt a kind of *nasha* performing to Guru Randhawa's music. He has a beautiful voice. I felt happy and honoured to be

part of this song. Choreographer Bosco has killed it. I hope the audiences will love it like we have. Also, doing a video after such a long time — good to keep audiences waiting because they will now look forward to watch it more. There needs to be certain mystery for the audiences to feel hungry to watch us after a long gap. I had a gut feeling from within that I should do it and here we are.



Varun Dhawan dislocates jaw

...Run of injuries on sets continues

 Varun Dhawan, who injured his arm while shooting for the Indian version of the web series *Citadel*, has suffered another injury on the sets. "I had a minor jaw dislocation," he says. The problem has been corrected. But this is the 11th time in five years that Varun is being injured on the sets.

Meanwhile, the actor is thrilled about being part of the Indian version of the show starring Priyanka Chopra in the international iteration, which premieres later this month. The Indian project with Samantha Ruth Prabhu is directed by Raj and DK.

"It is great to work under the leadership of Raj and DK, not just for me, but for Samantha as well. It is amazing to be a part of the process created by the Russos. What can be better than the Russo Brothers coming together with Raj and DK?" says Varun. He says it was he who

approached them for work. "Everyone went Wow! about *The Family Man*. I remember messaging and speaking to DK about it, in 2021. It has been a long time coming; we had a lot of discussions, readings and training. We can't wait to bring our show to the audiences after *Citadel* (America) comes out," he adds.

Varun however refuses to divulge anything more than Priyanka did at the press meet a few days ago.

— Sanskriti Media

