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VISIT: www.thesikhtimes.in Email:sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

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LAC standoff made us realise that China is No. 1 threat

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, February 11: Former Army Chief General MM Naravane has said Chinese activities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in 2020 led to a more 'focused' approach on where the 'threat lies' and realisation that China was the 'number one threat'.

Nitish Kumar-led NDA Government wins trust vote in Bihar Assembly

Simmi Kaur Babbar Patna, February 12: The newly formed NDA Government in Bihar on Monday won the trust vote in the state Assembly, amid a walkout by members of the 'Mahagathbandhan'.

into it. Kumar also claimed that during RJD's tenure, several communal riots took place in Bihar. "There was no law and order. The RJD indulged in corrupt prac-

return to the BJP-led NDA. "I always considered Nitish Kumar as 'Dashrath' (character from the epic 'Ramayan'). I don't know what reasons forced him to ditch the Mahagathbandhan."

Kumar-led NDA government in the assembly, Yadav also taunted his ex-boss for having been sworn in "for a record ninth time, and also for the third time within a five-year term, something which has no precedent!"



Government examining FDI flow from China in Paytm Payments Services

New Delhi, February 12: The government is examining foreign direct investment from China in Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PPSL), the payment aggregator subsidiary of One97 Communications Ltd, sources said.

8 former Indian Navy personnel jailed in Qatar released

New Delhi, February 12: Qatar has released eight jailed former Indian Navy personnel nearly three-and-a-half months after they were handed down death sentences in a case of suspected espionage.

BJP-RSS spreading hatred, while love is in India's DNA: Rahul Gandhi

Navdeep Singh Sahni Raigarh, February 12: The BJP and RSS are spreading hatred while love is in the DNA of this country, said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' resumed in Chhattisgarh on Sunday after a two-day break.

peacefully with love," Gandhi asserted. He slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not visiting strife-torn Manipur so far despite hundreds of people dying

me not to get Kuki security personnel, while Kukis said the same for Meitei personnel," he said. Offering toffees to children who clambered onto his multi-utility vehicle, Gandhi asked a girl if she wanted justice or injustice.



Woman injured in acid attack in Navi Mumbai

Thane, February 12: The Navi Mumbai police have registered a case against a man for allegedly throwing acid on his wife following an argument, an official said on Sunday.

CM Ashok Chavan resigns from Congress

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, February 12: Former Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan has resigned from the Congress in a pre-election jolt to the party.

Congress is a personal one and he does not want to ascribe any reason to it. Chavan also refuted claims that the white paper tabled in Parliament prompted him to resign from Congress.

Modi thumps his chest saying his party would win 400 seats in 2024 (Lok Sabha polls), then why is he breaking other parties. With so many Congress leaders being inducted into the BJP, there will be a day when its national president will be from Congress," he claimed.

Police station to come up on land freed from encroachment: CM Dhamsi

Haridwar, February 12: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, on Monday, said a police station would be constructed on the land freed from encroachment in Haldwani's Banbhoolpura, where violence erupted last week after authorities razed an "illegally built" madrasa.

Union ministers, farmer leaders to hold talks shortly tractor-trolleys start from Punjab to join 'Dilli Chalo' march

Naresh Malhotra Chandigarh, February 12: Tractor-trolleys in large numbers on Monday set out from different parts of Punjab to join a planned farmers' march towards Delhi, even as a team of three Union ministers are scheduled to hold crucial talks here with a delegation of farmer leaders over their demands.



as many as 15 districts, prohibiting the assembly of five or more people and banning any kind of demonstration or march with tractor-trolleys. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha

have announced that more than 200 farm unions would head to Delhi on February 13. The meeting between Union ministers Piyush Goyal, Arjun Munda and Nityanand Rai, and the farmer leaders was scheduled to start at 5 pm at the Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration in Sector 26 in Chandigarh—the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab.

Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, withdrawal from the World Trade Organisation, compensation for families of farmers who died during the previous 2020 agitation, among others. Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher said a convoy of tractor-trolleys set out in the morning from Beas in Amritsar to assemble in Fatehgarh Sahib district.

Telangana commando electrocuted by trap set up to capture wild animals

Hyderabad. A commando belonging to Telangana's anti-Naxalite Greyhounds special forces unit was electrocuted by a trap set up by villagers to capture wild animals in Jayshankar-Bhupalpalli district. The commando, A Praveen, was on combing duty when the incident occurred. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has expressed condolences on the sudden demise and conveyed sympathies to the victim's family.

5 in car burnt to death after collision with bus on Yamuna Expressway in Mathura

Mathura In a horrific accident on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura, five people travelling in a car were burnt alive after the vehicle rammed a passenger bus which went out of control and collided with a divider. The victims were travelling in the Swift Dzire car, which hit the bus from behind. A fire broke out in the bus after it hit the divider. Police and fire brigade teams reached the spot after the accident. A video from the accident spot, shows flames coming out of both the bus and car, with thick, black smoke billowing out.

Security Personnel Electrocuting During Anti-Maoist Operation In Telangana

Hyderabad. A 30-year-old constable of Greyhounds, an elite anti-Maoist force of the Telangana Police, died due to an electric shock during combing operations in a forest area of Jayshankar Bhupalpalli district, officials said on Monday. The incident happened Sunday night in Kataram mandal, when the Greyhounds Commando A Praveen came in contact with the electric wire put up by poachers to hunt wild animals and was electrocuted, they said. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed condolences on the death of the commando, an official release said. The Chief Minister conveyed his deep sympathies to the bereaved family member, it said. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com. Meanwhile, Forest officials were asked to conduct a thorough inquiry into the incident.

More Harmful Than Cigarettes": Telangana Passes Bill Banning Hookah Parlours

Hyderabad. The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a Bill banning hookah parlours. State Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu, who moved the bill on behalf of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, said the organisers of hookah parlours are taking advantage of the craze for hookah smoking among youth, including college students, and that there is a possibility of youth getting addicted to it. Smoking hookah is more harmful than smoking cigarettes and it makes the smokers take toxic substances, he said. It also causes harm to passive smokers and hookah parlours pose a health hazard in public places, he said. Therefore, tough measures like banning hookah bars are needed and the government felt that a quick decision should be taken. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com.

The cigarette and other tobacco products (prohibition of advertisement and regulation of trade and commerce, production, supply and distribution) (Telangana Amendment) Bill, 2024 was passed unanimously without discussion.

Gujarat Chief Minister Stays Overnight At Village As Part Of BJP's 'Gaon Chalo' Campaign

Banaskantha. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has urged the residents of Jalotra village in Banaskantha district to adopt drip irrigation and organic farming and appealed to the youth to stay away from addiction and pursue education. The CM spent a night in the village as part of the ruling BJP's 'Gaon Chalo' campaign. Mr Patel on Saturday launched the campaign with prayers at a temple in the village and took part in a cleanliness drive there. "The zeal with which the BJP government is working, all the pending works will also be completed in the near future," he said. With the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, everyone should work to strengthen the party so that the slogan of a 'developed Gujarat with a developed India' can be realised, Mr Patel said. He had dinner with the family members of local leader Dineshbhai Bhatola, said a government release.

Through the initiative, the BJP aims to strengthen all the booths in Gujarat ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Farmers protest 2.0: Demands, Centre's readiness, and impact on Punjab

Chandigarh. Farmers affiliated with the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and the non-political Samyukta Kisan Morcha are set to embark on a journey from various regions of Punjab. This comes even as security has been tightened in Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi borders ahead of the farmers' 'Chalo Delhi' protest on February 13. The Union ministers Piyush Goyal, Arjun Munda, and Nityanand Rai will meet the farmer leaders in Chandigarh on February 12 to hold talks with a delegation of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha. The farmers are back on the streets demanding: Legislation to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops, aligning with the recommendations of the Dr Swaminathan Commission. Implement a comprehensive debt relief program, including a complete waiver of debts for farmers and labourers.

Reinstate the Land Acquisition Act of 2013 on a national scale, requiring written consent from farmers and providing compensation at four times the collector rate. Hold accountable those responsible for the Lakhimpur Kheri massacre and ensure justice for affected farmers. Withdraw from the World Trade Organization and halt all free trade agreements to safeguard domestic agriculture. Introduce a pension scheme for farmers and agricultural labourers to provide

financial security in their later years. Offer compensation to the families of farmers who lost their lives during the Delhi agitation and provide employment opportunities to one family member. Reject the Electricity Amendment Bill 2020 to protect the interests of farmers and ensure equitable access to electricity. Enhance the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to offer 200 days of employment annually with a daily wage of Rs 700, integrating it with agricultural activities. Enforce stringent penalties on companies involved in the production of counterfeit seeds, pesticides, and fertilisers, while improving seed quality standards.

Establish a national commission dedicated to spices such as chilli, turmeric, and other aromatic crops to support and promote their cultivation. Sources indicate that after the union government presented to farmers that they had already complied with various demands of farmers. Out of 3300 cases, over 3077 were withdrawn, 98 cases are pending in court and 53 cases are pending withdrawal which amounts to only two percent. In many cases, compensation has been given but there has been an issue when it comes to next of kin where immediate family relation is not established. Union Ministers also assured farmers that they will be kept out of the Electricity act. They also said that the



government is on the same page as far as the action of fake seeds and fake pesticides are concerned. However, the main concern remains the MSP. At a time when the Lok Sabha polls are near, neither state nor centre wants to be at loggerheads with the farmers. But there seems to be no middle path - BKU leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal said "Our demands are long pending - and now there cannot be a middle path. But we are willing to meet the government for a second round of talks. The AAP and Congress have already sided with protesting farmers. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann accused the Haryana government of creating a border "between Punjab and India", referring to the concrete blocks, nails, and barbed wire placed on some roads to scuttle the farmers' proposed 'Delhi Chalo' march. He said the Manohar Khattar-led Haryana government

has placed as much barbed wire at the state's borders with Punjab as there is at the country's border with Pakistan. Similarly, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday had Prime Minister Narendra Modi over reports of barricading and laying of nails on roads at certain points near the Delhi border ahead of the farmers' proposed 'Delhi Chalo' march. According to one assessment, some 20,000 farmers from Punjab and 1500 from Haryana are part of the protests. Chaudhary Dalbir Singh Indoor Stadium in Sirsa, and Guru Gobind Singh Stadium in Dabwali will serve as temporary jails to keep detained farmers. CAPF has been deployed in Haryana, a senior officer told India Today. "While agitating is part of democracy, threatening to block Delhi with tractors and to cause inconvenience is not good," he said. But India Today has accessed an internal report on recurring protests in Punjab, mostly done by the farmers who seem to be harming the interest of the state. Punjab, once a beacon of prosperity and agricultural abundance, now stands on the precipice of economic collapse, haunted by the spectre of recurring protests that have wreaked havoc on its development and stability. The aftermath of the farmers' agitation of 2020-21 continues to cast a long shadow over the state.

DMK Stands For Dynasty, Money Swindling, Katta Panchayat": BJP Chief

Chennai. BJP chief JP Nadda on Monday slammed the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu as a party that stands for "dynasty, money swindling and katta panchayat (kangaroo courts)". A rich state like Tamil Nadu has poor leaders, he said during a statewide footmarch by his party in Chennai. "Do you know the meaning of DMK? DMK stands for dynasty, money swindling, katta panchayat. Karunanidhi, Stalin, Udhayanidhi... only Stalin family. They are not ashamed of corruption. A state minister is languishing in jail for 200 days and still keeps his post. What type of democracy you're having?" he said. The BJP chief was pointing to Chief Minister MK Stalin, his father and former chief minister M Karunanidhi and minister-son Udhayanidhi Stalin. Further sharpening his attack on the DMK, a key contender in the opposition's INDIA alliance, Mr Nadda said that instead of a promised Horticulture



Research Centre, DMK has established a "Corruption Research Centre". "The state's contribution can't be forgotten. DMK leadership lacks wisdom and respect for democracy," he added. Mr Nadda, however, remained silent on AIADMK, a former ally. The AIADMK, a rival of the DMK, had snapped all ties with the BJP last year following setbacks in two consecutive elections that it had contested

in alliance with the saffron party.

The BJP chief also pointed to Bharat Ratna being awarded to late agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan and said, "Tamil Nadu is special for the Prime Minister and it is the heart of the BJP leadership." Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com. The DMK has termed Mr Nadda's criticism as "signs of jittery" with party spokesperson A Saravanan saying, "JP Nadda is frustrated that they are losing.

Let them first list what have they achieved in the last 10 years." The BJP, which neither has a prominent presence in the state nor an alliance with a major regional party, is counting on its state chief and former IPS officer K Annamala's footmarch to rally support ahead of the national elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to participate in the outreach event later this month.

Tribal Man Beaten Up, Made To Pose As "Murga" In Madhya Pradesh

Betul. A tribal man was brutally assaulted and made to pose as a "murga" in Madhya Pradesh's Betul, approximately 178 kilometres from state capital Bhopal. The victim, identified as Raju Uikey, was subjected to physical violence and casteist slurs by a group led by Chanchal Rajput, an alleged member of Bajrang Dal. The incident, which took place near Subhash School in the city, was caught on camera and the disturbing footage has sparked outrage and condemnation.

The video shows Raju Uikey being forced into a demeaning pose and subsequently being beaten by Chanchal Rajput and three others. Even when Raju was bleeding, the attackers continued their brutal assault. Raju, who works as a DJ, narrated the harrowing experience: "At around 11:30 pm, while I was on my way home, I was picked up near Subhash School by Chanchal Rajput and his Bajrang Dal friends. They assaulted me physically and verbally, and used casteist slurs against me." State Congress President Jitu Patwari



brought the incident to light by sharing the video on social media. His tweet triggered immediate action from the police, who swiftly filed an FIR against Chanchal Rajput and the three other accused. Betul Superintendent Of Police (SP) Siddharth Chaudhary confirmed that the incident took place on Saturday, and efforts are underway to apprehend the perpetrators.

Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com. Mr Patwari, expressing his outrage, pointed to the irony between Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent speeches in Madhya Pradesh on the elevation and respect of tribal people and the stark reality of tribal discrimination in the state. On one hand, the speech of PM Narendra Modi in which lies were being told about the elevation and respect of tribal people! On the other hand, Betul Bajrang Dal supporters torturing tribal brother Raj Uike! The Prime Minister is gone! But, now you see with your own eyes the truth of tribal honour of BJP! Don't commit so much oppression that you lose faith in justice!" Mr Patwari wrote on X.

Latest In DMK vs Tamil Nadu Governor: He Doesn't Deliver Customary Speech

Chennai. In the latest flashpoint between the MK Stalin government and Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan, Governor RN Ravi today refused to deliver the customary address to the Assembly at the beginning of the first session every year.

The translation of the speech prepared by the state government, which reviewed its work and outlined the agenda for the session, was read by Speaker M Appavu. The Governor did not even wait for the national anthem at the end of the speech and walked out in a huff. He made the exit when senior DMK Minister Durai Murugan moved a resolution to not record the Governor's remarks and it was adopted. Responding to the Governor's remarks, Mr Appavu said Tamil Nadu Assembly has followed a tradition of playing the state anthem "Thamizh Thai Vaazhthu" before the Governor's address and the national anthem aaled out. The Speaker said personal opinions should not be shared in the House and added that the Governor could instead get the Centre to release a 50,000 crore flood relief from the PM Cares fund. Last year, too, dramatic scenes had played out during the Governor's



address when he skipped portions of the official speech prepared by the ruling DMK. He had not mentioned parts of the address that mentioned leaders such as Periyar, BR Ambedkar, K Kamaraj, CN Annadurai, and K Karunanidhi. Chief Minister Stalin had responded by moving a resolution to record only the official speech. The Governor had then w refusal to deliver the customary address is the latest face-off between the Raj Bhavan and the DMK government, which has repeatedly accused the Governor of creating hurdles in its work. Earlier, the Governor and the state government were locked in a tug of war, with the latter accusing him of acting like a BJP

spokesperson and not clearing Bills and appointments. The Governor had then said the Constitution empowers him to indefinitely withhold Bills. The matter had reached the Supreme Court, which ruled that the Governor must act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Thereafter, the Governor had cleared some of the Bills. The tussle had also reached Rashtrapati Bhavan, when Chief Minister Stalin wrote to President Droupadi Murmu last year, seeking Mr Ravi's removal from the top post. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com. Mr Stalin has accused the Governor of breaching his oath of office by acting against the state's people and the Constitution. A Governor searching for an opportunity to bring down an Opposition-ruled state government will only be seen as an "agent of the Centre", he had said. Mr Stalin had also flagged the Governor's action to dismiss Senthil Balaji as a minister after he was arrested by Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. The Governor had accused Mr Stalin of "unhealthy bias" in the Senthil Balaji case.

Fashionable Now To Demolish Homes": High Court On Ujjain Bulldozer Action

The Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court has also ordered action against civic officials for carrying out the demolition

Bhopal. In strong remarks on bulldozer action against those accused in criminal cases, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has said it has become "fashionable" for civic authorities to demolish homes without following proper procedure. The Indore bench of the high court made the observations earlier this month in a case relating to the demolition of the home of Rahul Langri, who faces a case of voluntarily causing hurt to extort property. He is accused of threatening and assaulting a man, who later died by suicide. Langri was arrested and sent to jail. Police then got in touch with the civic body and his two-storey house in Ujjain was razed. Langri's wife



Radha approached the court and said in her petition that a notice in the name of Raisa Bi, the previous owner, was served and the house was razed the next day without hearing them out. The house, she said in her petition, was not illegal. She said the house was registered with the housing board and they had taken a bank loan. Justice Vivek Rusia ruled that the demolition was illegal



and awarded a compensation of 1 lakh each to Radha Langri and her mother-in-law Vimla Gurjar. The court also ordered action against civic officials for carrying out the demolition. The petitioners have now decided to move the civil court for higher compensation. "As observed repeatedly by this court, it has become fashionable now for local administration and local bodies to

demolish any house by drawing up proceedings without complying with the principal of natural justice and publish it in the newspaper.

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Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.sikh-times.in
Email : sikh-timesindia@gmail.com
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Legal Advisors:
Advocate Mohd. Sajid
Advocate Dr. A.P. Singh
Advocate Manish Sharma
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

NEWS BOX

5-year-old boy, man injured in shooting at Texas church, accused woman killed

Houston. A female shooter was shot dead by two off-duty law enforcement officers after she opened fire at a megachurch in the city of Houston in Texas, which left a five-year-old boy critically injured, and another man wounded but in stable condition. According to Troy Finner, the city's police chief, the incident occurred on Sunday at the Lakewood Church run by prominent evangelical Christian pastor Joel Osteen. He confirmed the child is in critical condition while the 57-year-old man shot in the hip is stable. In a post on X, Lakewood Church said there was an active shooter situation that included shots being fired and law enforcement arriving on the scene. The woman, in her early 30s and wearing a long trench coat, holding a long rifle and a backpack, entered the church, accompanied by a boy, and started shooting, Finner said. Two off-duty law enforcement officers who were at the church when the shots were fired at 1.50 pm opened fire and killed the woman, he added.

The woman's identity has not yet been revealed. If law enforcement gunfire is responsible for striking the child, Finner said "I'm going to put that blame on her" for putting the boy in danger. At the press conference, Osteen said he would pray for both the victims and the shooter, saying he was grateful the shooting happened between services when fewer people were in the building. The police believe the shooting was an isolated incident and there is no further danger to the public. The woman threatened that she had a bomb and sprayed an unknown substance as first responders arrived, the police chief said. It is still not clear what the substance was, as fire department personnel arrived to investigate and clear the scene, he added.

The police checked a vehicle and backpack for possible explosives but none have been reported. Houston Mayor John Whitmire lamented that the violence took place while people were preparing to practise their faith and others looked forward to the Super Bowl encounter between the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Nawaz Sharif, Bilawal Bhutto alliance likely, move to anger Imran Khan supporters

Lahore. Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) are likely to form a coalition to claim the new government in the South Asian country, despite independents, backed by jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, winning the most number of seats. The PML(N) and PPP, which held a meeting on Sunday, agreed in principle to "save the country from political instability". In principle, consensus on political cooperation between the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan Peoples Party. In the meeting, the overall situation of the country and political cooperation in the future were discussed in detail. The leaders agreed to cooperate politically to bring the country to political stability," Nawaz Sharif's party said in a statement.

PAKISTAN ELECTION RESULTS | LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Nawaz Sharif's PML(N) and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's PPP, which emerged second and third in the Pakistan election 8 with 75 and 54 seats respectively, have decided to work together to bring political stability to the country. The parties announced the decision in a statement, fuelling discussion about a possible post-poll coalition between them. A final picture regarding the alliance is likely to emerge on Monday. Out of the 101 independents who won National Assembly seats, 93 were backed by Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf after the party was barred from taking part in the election. Imran Khan also claimed victory in the election, and his party claimed that President Arif Alvi would invite them to form the government. Notably, independent members cannot form a government on their own under Pakistan's complex election system.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin hospitalised again with bladder issue

Washington. UPDATED US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin was hospitalised in Washington on Sunday for treatment of "symptoms suggesting an emergent bladder issue", a Pentagon spokesperson said. Austin, 70, later transferred the duties of his office to Deputy Secretary of Defence Kathleen Hicks, Pentagon Press Secretary Major General Pat Ryder said in a statement. Both Republican and Democratic lawmakers criticised Austin last month for failing to disclose a cancer diagnosis and subsequent hospitalisations in December and January, including to President Joe Biden. Some prominent Republicans, including former President Donald Trump, called for Austin to be removed from his job. The incident was an embarrassment for Biden, and Austin apologised during a televised news briefing. He



is scheduled to testify before Congress on February 29 about the situation. Biden, a Democrat, has said he has confidence in Austin despite what the president agreed was a lapse in judgment. With its announcement of the secretary's trip to the hospital and the quick decision to transfer his duties to a deputy, the Pentagon appeared determined to avoid a repeat of last month's political uproar. Austin, a retired four-star general who led forces in Iraq and is America's first Black defence secretary, was still in hospital last month as U.S. forces launched a retaliatory strike against an Iranian-backed militia leader in Baghdad. There are now three different investigations into Austin's behaviour, including one by the office of the Pentagon's Inspector General, a watchdog agency that tracks military waste, fraud and abuse. The Republican chair of the House Armed Services Committee, Mike Rogers, has called Austin to testify. Austin is scheduled to travel to Brussels for a Wednesday meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group.

Israel rescues 2 hostages from Gaza's Rafah in overnight operation

In an overnight operation, Israeli forces rescued two hostages from Rafah in Gaza, 128 days after they were captured.



Gaza The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced on Monday that two Israeli hostages were rescued from Rafah city in southern Gaza in an overnight operation. More than 100 people still remain in captivity after Hamas took them hostage following the October 7, 2023 attack against Israel. The two men were rescued from a residential building in the southern border town of Rafah in a raid that also killed at least seven people, according to

Palestinian officials. Witnesses reported at least 17 airstrikes, flares and Apache helicopter fire. The army identified the two rescued hostages as Fernando Simon Marman, 60, and Louis Har, 70, and said

both were in good medical condition. It said both men were kidnapped by Hamas militants from Kibbutz Nir Yizhak in the October 7, 2023 cross-border attack that started the Israel-Hamas war, now in its

fifth month. They are just the second and third hostages to be rescued safely.

Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said the operation was based on "precise intelligence", and that the site, located on the second floor of a building, had been watched for "some time." He said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joined Israel's military chief and other top officials as the raid unfolded. Hamas militants killed an estimated 1,200 people and kidnapped 250 others in the October 7 raid that triggered the war. An Israeli air and ground offensive has killed over 28,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials.

Over 100 hostages were freed during a week-long cease-fire in November. Israel says about 100 hostages remain in Hamas captivity, while Hamas is holding the remains of roughly 30 others who were either killed on October 7 or died in captivity.

Israeli attacks kill 37 in Gaza's Rafah, many were asleep when strikes hit

Doha/Jerusalem. Israel launched a special forces operation that freed two Israeli hostages in Rafah amid air strikes early on Monday, which local health officials said killed 37 people and wounded dozens in the southern Gaza city. An air strike was carried out to allow the forces to be extracted, he said. The air strikes caused widespread panic in Rafah as many people were asleep when the strikes started, said residents contacted by Reuters using a chat app. Some feared Israel had begun its ground offensive into Rafah. Israeli planes, tanks and ships took part in the strikes, with two mosques and several houses hit, according to residents.



The Israeli military said on Monday it had conducted a "series of strikes" on southern Gaza that have now "concluded", without providing further details. Before previous assaults on Gaza cities, Israel's military has ordered civilians to leave without preparing any specific evacuation plan. US President Joe Biden told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday that Israel should not launch a military operation in Rafah without a

credible plan to ensure the safety of the roughly 1 million people sheltering there, the White House said.

Aid agencies say an assault on Rafah would be catastrophic. It is the last relatively safe place in an enclave devastated by Israel's military offensive. Biden and Netanyahu spoke for about 45 minutes, days after the U.S. leader said Israel's military response in the Gaza Strip had been "over the top" and expressed grave concern over the rising civilian death toll in the Palestinian enclave. Netanyahu's office has said that it had ordered the military to develop a plan to evacuate Rafah and

destroy four Hamas battalions it says are deployed there.

Hamas militants killed 1,200 people in southern Israel and abducted at least 250 in their Oct. 7 incursion, according to Israeli tallies. Israel has responded with a military assault on the Gaza Strip that has killed more than 28,000 Palestinians, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. Netanyahu said in an interview aired on Sunday that "enough" of the 132 remaining Israeli hostages held in Gaza were alive to justify Israel's war in the region. Hamas-run Alqsa Television on Sunday quoted a senior Hamas leader as saying any Israeli ground offensive in Rafah would "blow up" the hostage-exchange negotiations.

Egypt warned on Sunday of "dire consequences" of a potential Israeli military assault on Rafah, which lies near its border. "Egypt called for the necessity of uniting all international and regional efforts to prevent the targeting of the Palestinian city of Rafah," its foreign ministry added in a statement.

Joe Biden comes to Nikki Haley's defence against Donald Trump mocking her husband

Washington. US President Joe Biden lashed out at his predecessor Donald Trump for questioning his Republican rival Nikki Haley over the absence of her husband from the campaign trail. Coming to the defence of the former South Carolina Governor, the President said "Major Haley is abroad, serving his country right now". In a post on X on Sunday, the President said, "The answer is that Major Haley is abroad, serving his country right now. We know he (Trump) thinks our troops are 'suckers', but this guy wouldn't know service to his country if it slapped him in the face." While campaigning in the Indian-American Republican presidential candidate's home turf of South Carolina, Trump on Saturday questioned "What happened



to her (Haley) husband?" "Where is he? He's gone. He knew. He knew," Trump said.

In response, Haley lashed out at her former boss asking him to engage in a direct debate and if he had something to say then "say it to my face".

Addressing a campaign event on Sunday, she said, "Michael is

deployed serving our country, something you know nothing about... Donald, if you have something to say, don't say it behind my back. Get on a debate stage and say it to my face."

She urged her supporters to elect a President who "supports our troops and understands the sacrifices our military families make." "Getting involved in this election has never been more important. This is a battle for the soul of our country." Haley is Trump's last remaining rival for the Republican presidential nomination.

They have both held events across South Carolina in the past few days, during which they attacked each other, ahead of the February 24 Republican primary.

Israeli military says it has rescued two hostages from captivity in Gaza Strip

RAFAH. The Israeli military said it rescued two hostages from captivity in the Gaza Strip early Monday, marking a small but symbolically significant success in its quest to bring home over 100 captives believed to be held by the Hamas militant group. The two men were rescued from a residential building in the southern border town of Rafah in a raid that also killed at least seven people, according to Palestinian officials. Witnesses reported at least 17 airstrikes, flares and Apache helicopter fire. The army identified the two rescued hostages as Fernando Simon Marman, 60, and Louis Har, 70, and said both were in good medical condition. It said both men were kidnapped by Hamas militants from Kibbutz Nir Yizhak in the Oct. 7 cross-border attack that started the Israel-Hamas war, now in its fifth month. They are just the second and third hostages to be rescued safely. Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said the operation was based on "precise intelligence," and that the site, located on the second floor of a building, had been watched for "some time." He said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joined Israel's military chief and other top



officials as the raid unfolded. Hamas militants killed an estimated 1,200 people and kidnapped 250 others in the Oct. 7 raid that triggered the war. An Israeli air and ground offensive has killed over

28,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials. Over 100 hostages were freed during a weeklong cease-fire in November. Israel says about 100 hostages remain in Hamas captivity, while Hamas

is holding the remains of roughly 30 others who were either killed on Oct. 7 or died in captivity. Israel has made the rescue of all hostages one of the main goals of the war.

Mob vandalises, sets driverless Waymo car ablaze in San Francisco

San Francisco. Google spinoff and Alphabet-owned Waymo said the crowd surrounded the white sport utility vehicle in San Francisco's China Town area on Saturday. According to authorities, this was the most destructive attack on self-driving vehicles in the US so far. Michael Vandi, a witness who posted videos of the incident, told Reuters that people were celebrating China's Lunar New Year by setting off fireworks. A person jumped onto the hood of the Waymo vehicle and broke its windshield. Another person also jumped on the hood 30 seconds later as some in the crowd clapped in approval, he told Reuters in an X direct message. That was when it went WILD," he wrote, describing people with skateboards breaking the glass and others graffitiing the car. There were two groups of people. Folks who encourage it - and others who were just shocked & started filming. No one stood up - I mean there wasn't anything you could do to stand up to dozens of people. His video showed the vehicle engulfed in flames with a huge plume of black smoke. Waymo said someone threw a firework inside, which set the vehicle on fire. The fire department posted pictures on social media of the charred remains of the car, and said a firework started the blaze. "The vehicle was not transporting any riders and no injuries have been reported. We are working closely with local safety officials to respond to the situation," the company said. It did not say what caused the attack. The San Francisco Police Department said it was investigating the cause of the fire and did not say whether arrests have been made. The electric car, a Jaguar I-PACE, is equipped with 29 cameras and other sensors. The latest incident came a day before the Super Bowl NFL championship involving the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs. "This was a one-off event," the Waymo spokesperson told Reuters, adding it will "continue serving riders during today's festivities". The incident was not the first time people have harassed self-driving cars, but its severity may illustrate growing public hostility following a pedestrian-dragging accident last year involving a vehicle operated by General Motors' Cruise unit. On previous occasions in San Francisco and Phoenix, Arizona, groups have disrupted the operations of self-driving vehicles, blocking their path, trying to enter the vehicles and jumping on their hoods. Videos that went viral showed people putting orange traffic cones on top of vehicles to obstruct their sensors and force them to stop abruptly. Last week, a driverless Waymo car collided with a cyclist in San Francisco, causing minor injuries.



G.S. KOHLI & CO. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Phones: Off. 26741330, 26745445, 48665927. E-mail: gskohli@gsco.co.in, R.739 (Basant)

Independent Auditors' Report

To The Members of Ramgarhia Cooperative Bank Limited, New Delhi Report on the Financial Statements

Adverse Opinion

- 1) We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ramgarhia Cooperative Bank Limited ("the Bank") & its branches at Pahar Ganj, Vishnu Garden, Tri Nagar & Krishna Nagar, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2023, the Statement of Profit and Loss for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information (hereinafter referred to as "Financial Statements").

Basis for Adverse Opinion

3) We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Bank in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under the provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAI's Code of

Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for adverse opinion on the Financial Statements.

a) As stated in Schedule 1 of the financial statements there was an increase in share capital from Rs. 5,37,19,250/- to Rs. 10,83,71,050 during the financial year. As per Delhi Co-operative Society Rules (DCS Rules) 2007, applicable to Urban Co-operative Banks under the NCT of Delhi, the share capital limit per member is Rs.20,000/-. However, the bank has accepted share capital in excess of the limit stated above which is not in line with DCS Rules. The share capital has been increased by the bank after imposition of All Inclusive Directions (AID) by RBI.

b) As per RBI norms bank is required to create a provision of 5% on investments held in AFS & HFT category. The bank has not created any provision during the year. However, the accumulated provision as on 31/03/2023 as per the books was Rs. 6,40,661/- instead of Rs. 1,60,78,166/-.

Accordingly, by not creating appropriate provision the bank has overstated its profit by Rs. 1,54,37,505/-.

c) That the financial statements have been materially misstated due to wrong application of policies relating to Income Recognition and Provisioning Norms, thereby resulting in inadequate disclosure in financial statements.

i) In the Loan A/c's of Sh. Shaktar (A/c No- 03260000901), Sh. Narendra Singh- (A/c No-020700047101) and Sh. Gurmeet Singh (A/c No-012602043601) recovery made by the bank has been directly set off with principal outstanding and no cognizance was given to litigation expenses and interest lying in memorandum accounts.

The effect of the observation on financial statement could not be ascertained.

ii) In the cases grouped under the head "Advances" forming part of Schedule 8 of the financial statements wherein the amount was transferred from Non Banking Assets

acquired account in Loan Account as per RBI instructions, the amount of interest provided in memorandum account has not been reinstated.

The effect of the observation on financial statement could not be ascertained.

iii) That an amount of Rs. 27,45,616/- which was due from Neon Constructions (A/c No-040700009301) has been written off during the year. The loan was given against the property situated at Plot No-226/B, Third Floor with Roof Rights, Prakash Malviya, East of Kailash, New Delhi. The said property was last realized in July 2013, where the market value was ascertained at Rs. 42,75,000/-. The property was released to the borrower without recovering the full amount outstanding against the loan.

Accordingly the writing off the loan amount the loan/assets of the bank as well profit of the bank has been reduced.

The effect of all the aforesaid observations represent a substantial proportion of financial statements and that the misstatements are both material and pervasive to the financial statements.

Emphasis of Matters

4.a) Attention is invited to Schedule 2 of the financial statements wherein the bank has realized its office land from Rs. 8,63,48,214/- to Rs. 9,82,28,000/- on the basis of valuation report obtained from bank empanelled valuers. The last revaluation was done by the bank in year F.Y. 2015-2016. That due to this revaluation the balance in revaluation reserve account has increased by Rs. 1,13,79,786/-. However, our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter stated above.

b) Attention is invited to Schedule 7 of the financial statements wherein in terms of master circular on Investments/ the total SLR securities held in the HTM category should not be more than 25 percent of the NDTL, as on last Friday of the second preceding fortnight. However, the bank was having total HTM investments exceeding the stipulated percentage of 25% of NDTL. However, our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter stated above.

c) Attention is invited to Schedule No 9 of the financial statements wherein an amount of Rs. 71,46,053/- after making provision of Rs. 17,83,516/- in the current financial year was shown as Litigation Suspense (Receivable) which includes amount incurred towards property insurance, verification, legal charges, visit charges which is to be adjusted against NPA recovery pertaining to earlier year. These expenses should have been charged to profit & loss account in the concerned year itself. The reserve of the bank has been overstated to such extent. However, our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter stated above.

d) Attention is invited to point no. 1 of schedule-13 Notes to Accounts wherein the bank has informed "Capital to Risk- Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)" as 21.33% considering the capital balance of Rs. 10,83,71,050. If the capital would not had been increased and capital of Rs. 5,37,19,250 had taken then the CRAR would be -2.78%. However, our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter stated above.

Key Audit Matters

5) Key audit matters are those matters that in our professional judgment were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole and in forming our opinion thereon and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

6) The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible with respect to the preparation of these financial statements that give true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of the Bank in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, including the Accounting Standards issued by ICAI, and provisions of section 29 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and circulars and guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the Act for safeguarding of the assets of the Bank

and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Bank or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The Board of Directors is also responsible for overseeing the Bank's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

7) Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these Financial Statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal financial controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Bank's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the Financial Statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Bank to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the Financial Statements, including the disclosures, and whether the Financial Statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Other Information

8) The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Board's Report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

9) Except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section, in our opinion, the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account have been drawn up in accordance with Section 29 Banking Regulations Act, 1949 as far as it appears from our examination of those books.

10) The bank as per AID was required to report acceptance of share capital to RBI on a monthly basis which was not adhered to.

11) The bank was per RBI Norms was required to get IS Audit conducted every year. However no audit was undertaken during the financial year.

12) The bank was placed under (All Inclusive Directions) AID from the close of business on July 08, 2022 due to deteriorating financial position. The RBI had

Other Information

8) The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Board's Report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

9) Except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section, in our opinion, the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account have been drawn up in accordance with Section 29 Banking Regulations Act, 1949 as far as it appears from our examination of those books.

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11) The bank was per RBI Norms was required to get IS Audit conducted every year. However no audit was undertaken during the financial year.

12) The bank was placed under (All Inclusive Directions) AID from the close of business on July 08, 2022 due to deteriorating financial position. The RBI had

placed withdrawal limit of Rs. 50,000/- per person. However in some cases increase of share capital was through transfer entry from deposits to share capital in CBS which is in excess of withdrawal limit permitted by RBI.

13) The bank expenditure limit had been capped at Rs 1000/- for non recurring expenditure but the bank had paid one consultant an amount of Rs 51,000/- which was not in line with AID instructions. Further the consultant was allowed to convert his account to staff account & permitted withdrawal of more than Rs. 50,000/-.

14) The bank had delayed filing of DICGC certificate within 45 days from date of AID.

15) Subject to the matters as mentioned in the audit report above and as required by the sub section (3) of section 30 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 we report that:

a. We have sought and except for the matters described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section, obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of our audit;

b. Except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section, in our opinion, the transactions of the Branch, which have come to our notice, have been within the powers of the Bank; and

c. Except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section, in our opinion, the returns received from the Branch have been found adequate for the purposes of our audit;

d. Except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section, in our opinion the profit and loss account shows a true balance for the period covered by such account.

16. We further report that:

a) Except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section, in our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Bank so far as it appears from our examination of those books;

b) The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss account dealt with in this report are in agreement with the books of account;

c) Except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section, in our opinion, the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account comply with the applicable accounting standards, to the extent they are not inconsistent with the accounting policies prescribed by RBI.

For G.S.KOHLI & CO.

Chartered Accountants

Firm Registration No. 0142N

(Ankur Gulati)

Partner

M.No. 544061

Place: New Delhi

Date: 28/06/2023

UDIN: 2354061BG0ZC2759

RAMGARHIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED 1/4, DESH BANSHU GUPTA ROAD, PAHARGANJ, NEW DELHI-110005 BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2023

Table with 4 columns: Particulars, Schedule No, As At 31st March 2023, As At 31st March 2022. Rows include Capital & Liabilities, Assets, and Contingent Liabilities.

Deljit Singh (Chief Executive Officer), Amarjit Singh (Director), Satpal Singh (Director), Baldev Singh (Director), G. S. Sandhu (Vice-Chairman), Ranjeet Kaur (Chairperson)

Place: NEW DELHI Date: 28.06.2023

As per our Audit Report of even date For G. S. Kohli & Co. Chartered Accountants FIRM 00142N

(Ankur Gulati)

Partner

M.No.544061

UDIN: 2354061BG0ZC2759

RAMGARHIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED 1/4, DESH BANSHU GUPTA ROAD, PAHARGANJ, NEW DELHI-110005 PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2023

Table with 4 columns: Particulars, Schedule No, Amount As At 31st March 2023, Amount Year Ended 31st March 2022. Rows include Income, Expenditure, and Profit/Loss.

Deljit Singh (Chief Executive Officer), Amarjit Singh (Director), Satpal Singh (Director), Baldev Singh (Director), G. S. Sandhu (Vice-Chairman), Ranjeet Kaur (Chairperson)

Place: NEW DELHI Date: 28.06.2023

As per our Audit Report of even date For G. S. Kohli & Co. Chartered Accountants FIRM 00142N

(Ankur Gulati)

Partner

M.No.544061

UDIN: 2354061BG0ZC2759

Remembering Khushwant Singh, provocative but honest

I must be one of the few academics living in Delhi and interested in Indian English writing who never met Khushwant Singh. And to think that we lived quite close to each other for a long time, and that later in life, I would have an office in-charge who used to type for Khushwant Singh in the olden days! I promptly began to type all my writing myself instead of leaving me open to comparison with the great man!

Make no mistake, Khushwant Singh was a good writer, even if he is known to a majority of his readers for his collections of jokes and his popular newspaper columns. According to official records, he was born in Hadali (now in Pakistan) on February 2, 1915, though he always claimed August 15 as his birthday. This column is because I am going with the official birthday and celebrating his birth anniversary, even if about 10 days late! Khushwant Singh was, perhaps, the most well-known Indian English writer of his day, his columns read religiously by people who would look for jokes submitted by them or people known to them. He was appreciated both for his humour, which could be directed against himself or his community, as well for the interactive nature of his column. He was read for his views on sex, politics and religion. He was seen as the genial sardar, one who was provocative but honest.

His stint as editor of the Illustrated Weekly of India is the stuff of legends. He turned a staid magazine into one of the most-read weeklies, with his collectible issues on various communities of India, even while others read him for the freedom he brought to his discussion of various orthodoxies and social mores. He was an agnostic who was fascinated by faith, a scholar of Sikhism, one who also translated the scriptures. He also had a lasting interest in Urdu poetry and has some significant translations into English. I must add that his career as editor of the Illustrated Weekly also saw his fondness for Sanjay Gandhi expressed during the Emergency. He did not distance himself from the Gandhis when the Congress lost the elections after the Emergency was lifted and paid the price for it.

Mentioning the Emergency brings me to notice that his life spanned World War II (he once said that his village provided more soldiers to the Imperial forces in terms of percentage of population than any other village!), Partition and Independence, Emergency, the Khalistan movement, Operation Blue Star, Indira Gandhi's assassination and the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, the many Hindu-Muslim riots, and the rise of religious fundamentalism (which he abhorred and wrote against, warning his readers about those he called 'fundoos').

Khushwant Singh published more than a dozen literary works but even if he had not published any after his first novel, 'Train to Pakistan' (1956), his place in our literary canon would have been pukka. This is a modern classic, one which depicts the events leading to Partition and Independence, simply one of the best novels on the period. His understanding of the place and time, of societal forces, of the contingent nature of order, the nature of human beings, allows him to write a taut, well-paced narrative. The novel illustrates one of Khushwant Singh's life-long beliefs that only love and sex can bring communities together, that love was what we needed, not tolerance. This novel speaks to all who have experienced such partitions — I once spoke on the novel (and showed the film version) to a packed hall in the buffer zone between Greek and Turkish Cyprus where people from both sides congregate for cultural events. The audience was hugely appreciative of the book and people spoke of their own experiences of such a divide.

Khushwant Singh died on March 20, 2014, but he had already written an obituary for himself in 1943! He also wrote an epitaph that read, "Here lies one that spared neither man nor God; Waste not your tears on him, he was a sod; Writing nasty things he regarded as great fun."

Love, sports and dhokha

Hockey isn't particularly glamorous. Actresses and models, seeking parity in status and glamour, thus flock to cricket, not hockey or other earthy sports. In cricket, some relationships do result in marriage

Cop accused of rape — if you heard such news, you'd not fall off your chair in surprise. But if the cop is a national hockey player, celebrated winner of a bronze medal at the Olympics, you'd be forced to take note — for didn't he, along with others, make your eyes moist when he raised the Indian flag at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago? Can such a man be a criminal?

Just days after being appointed a DSP in Punjab Police for his heroics with the national team, Varun Kumar was accused of rape by a Bengaluru woman; it is alleged that she was 17 when Varun started a relationship with her after they got in touch on Instagram. She alleges that their relationship lasted five years, ending when he refused to marry her and 'ghosted' her — a term signifying termination of communication on electronic devices. A POCSE case was slapped on Varun and he's out of the national team for now and could miss the Paris Olympic Games.

Hockey isn't particularly glamorous, a poor cousin to cricket — actresses and models, seeking parity in status and glamour, thus flock to cricket, not hockey, let alone more earthy sports like wrestling or weightlifting. In cricket, some relationships do result in marriage. But hockey stars, donning the national colours, have charisma, too; weighed with gold and silver won on the field, akin to wounds on the bodies of ancient warriors, they too exert certain gravitational pull on the opposite sex. Varun's case has eerie parallels with the case of former India captain Sardar Singh, who got engaged to Ash Bhogal, who had become the first Sikh girl to play for the junior England hockey team. Just a teenager, Ash Bhogal fell for Sardar and they got engaged a decade ago. At the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, they were often seen together, and she would wave his No. 8 jersey wildly. She visited him in India, and photos of her observing 'karwa chauth' appeared on social media. They made an interesting couple — the teen and the relatively avuncular India star, possibly the last great Indian player. Then things went insanely awry — she accused him of raping her on the false promise of marriage; she alleged that Sardar would beat her up, and that he forced her to undergo an abortion. Ash spent months in India, seeking justice — then it seemed she saw the futility of it all: long-drawn investigation and judicial processes, which could possibly affect her mental health. She gave up and went back to the UK.

At that time, one wondered if it were a case of a relationship going horribly wrong; but the case never went to court, for a Punjab Police panel gave him the



clean chit in the absence of evidence. But what if her allegations, especially of physical abuse and forcible abortion, had some substance and were not figments born of pique and anger? Was Ash Bhogal denied justice? In the case of the cricketers, it's possible that girls who chase them won't file police cases. Most of them probably know that they're just making up numbers for the players — that flings won't turn into relationships, and certainly not into marriages. Five years back, the Hardik Pandya-KL Rahul controversy flared up after the two made 'misogynistic' comments about women in a TV talk show — about girls who make themselves available to cricketers for a brief fling, only to be discarded for more girls who're simply queuing up for a brush with fame and infamy. There was a maelstrom of controversy, and the two were accused of 'misogyny' and demeaning women.

They apologised and were punished by the cricket board. But it's essential to understand the context fully, including the modern sexual mores of the young, the transitory nature of love and relationships, and the ignominy of — horror, horror! — being single and deemed undeserving of love. cricketers turn

millionaires overnight in these days of T20 leagues, some of them barely out of their teens, and they're immediately faced with the temptation very difficult to resist. At the IPL parties during Lalit Modi's times, people paid to get in, and the most beautiful girls, including models and cheerleaders, would have access to an exclusive area where they could hobnob with the stars.

The players had beautiful girls throwing themselves on them, and it's not difficult to understand why the players consider them as just a number, to be discarded. Is it misogyny, or hatred for women, then, that Pandya was exhibiting when he talked about picking up girls at parties or nightclubs? It wasn't hatred, surely! It was, if we are to crudely apply business terms to human beings, a case of diminishing value of the girls due to their easy availability. Five years after the Pandya-Rahul controversy, it seems that in these days of easily available substitutes after breakups, the devaluation of love and lovers is much more mainstream — it would be hard to call that misogyny. It's leading to distrust, insecurity and mental distress; but then, perhaps love never lacked such accompaniments.

Mauled by dogs

Distressing cases warrant decisive action

TWO fatal attacks by stray dogs in a week at Passan Kadim village in Kapurthala district of Punjab exemplify the complete lack of sincerity of civic bodies across the state in keeping cities and towns clean as well as safe. That such incidents — pedestrians becoming victims of assaults and canines turning man-eaters due to various reasons — are regularly reported across the country is distressing and has spread fear and insecurity among residents of localities abounding with packs of stray dogs.

It calls for a review of the policies so as to effectively mitigate the conditions that trigger a proliferation of stray dogs and make some of them turn killers. Rapid urbanisation, inefficient waste disposal and poorly enforced animal control measures are largely to blame for the sorry state of affairs. The ill-maintained carcass dumping yard (hadda rori) at Passan



Kadim is believed to have led the strays to become feral scavengers.

The sterilisation and vaccination of stray dogs and shelter and adoption programmes are among the compassionate solutions that strike a balance between ensuring public safety and respecting animal rights. However, there seem to be gaps in the implementation of these policies. Technology should be leveraged to execute the plans, with the stray dogs being monitored with GPS tracking collars. Efficacious strategies can then be devised to address the problem.

If all else fails and the aggressive dogs continue to imperil human lives, it would not be wrong to consider the contentious option of culling the killers. The frequent fatal attacks on children and adults, especially the elderly, by dogs warrant decisive action.

Letters from a forgotten past

The art of letter writing was like inscribing a gourmet meal on paper

Some of my generation, and almost all those that remain of an older one, have lamented the end of the art of letter writing. I cannot recall the last time I handwrote a letter, put it in an envelope, gummed a stamp, thumped it down and slipped it all into a letterbox. And no, one did not perform that criminal activity, taking that awful shortcut of stapling shut the casing, so that those who had to open it would require extreme caution to prevent their fingers from being pricked. For that matter, the only envelopes one seems to see now, are those that hold money to be passed on at weddings, birthdays and other occasions. Thicker ones, perhaps several, as one is told, go to those beyond the pale of friends and relatives, and are handed over for reasons beyond the scope of this column.

A few may recall how a handwritten letter was prepared. It was like inscribing a gourmet meal on paper. The choice of letter-paper mattered. Fine onion-layered or light-weight airmail; pale blue Oxford, or heavy paper in light cream or stark white for regular letters. For an expensive indulgence, something like Irish vellum could be bought at select stationers. Often enough, the letter-sheet was personalised with the name and address. For convenience, the readymade inland letter and the airmail could be purchased at the post office — and still can. On demand, the readymade inland letters came ruled, and in those equally readymade lines, we wrote to family, friends and preceding today's slick dating sites, made pen-pals with strangers and learnt of other lands. If one was really hard-pressed, then sheets torn from an exercise book would suffice. The writing format on all was similar. The address up on the right, the date just below it — and one never ever used just a numerical format, the month had to be spelt out either in English or if you preferred and



were writing in Hindi, then in the Vikrami calendar. One was taught how to end the letter, who was sent this 'Lovingly', who received this 'Faithfully' and who had to settle for a 'Yours Truly'.

Practically, all personal letters began by enquiring after the person's health — no matter how robust he or she was. This would be followed by information about one's own health, whether the reader was interested or not. Then, living in the hills, one always spoke about the weather. At a time like this, when snow has finally dusted the hills, we would have gone overboard. We would have explained how we

managed when the power went off, or when the waterpipes froze. How doors always opened inwards, so that the household did not remain trapped inside and could worm its way out. How one slipped on compacted snow or tied rope over shoes to keep them from slipping. That there was a special technique to tie chains on car tyres for greater traction. It was only years later that my cousins and friends, who lived in the big cities of the plains, asked, "What was all this about the weather? We were not interested." That was that. The opening lines of years of letter writing were thrown out of the

window. The old inland letter form had half its size left blank on the reverse. As children, we'd make drawings there. To my seven-year-old mind, a drawing of the standard two hills with the sun wedged between them, a plane overhead and additions of a house, a tree and a stream were an exceptional achievement. This was coloured and sent to a favourite aunt. When she showed this to me years later, I had scrawled below that masterpiece, "Please keep this drawing." While she had, this may have been a cheap way on my part of avoiding buying a picture-postcard, or one may have had secret ambitions that one day this would appear in a frame in a gallery. But this was not a patch on what my sister sent. This was work done systematically and diligently, and as far and as wide as the Indian postal system could carry it — additions, subtractions and multiplication tables, basically a repetition of her homework, were sent off as gentle loving missives. 'A correspondence course' to edify and educate the extended family, as our mother put it.

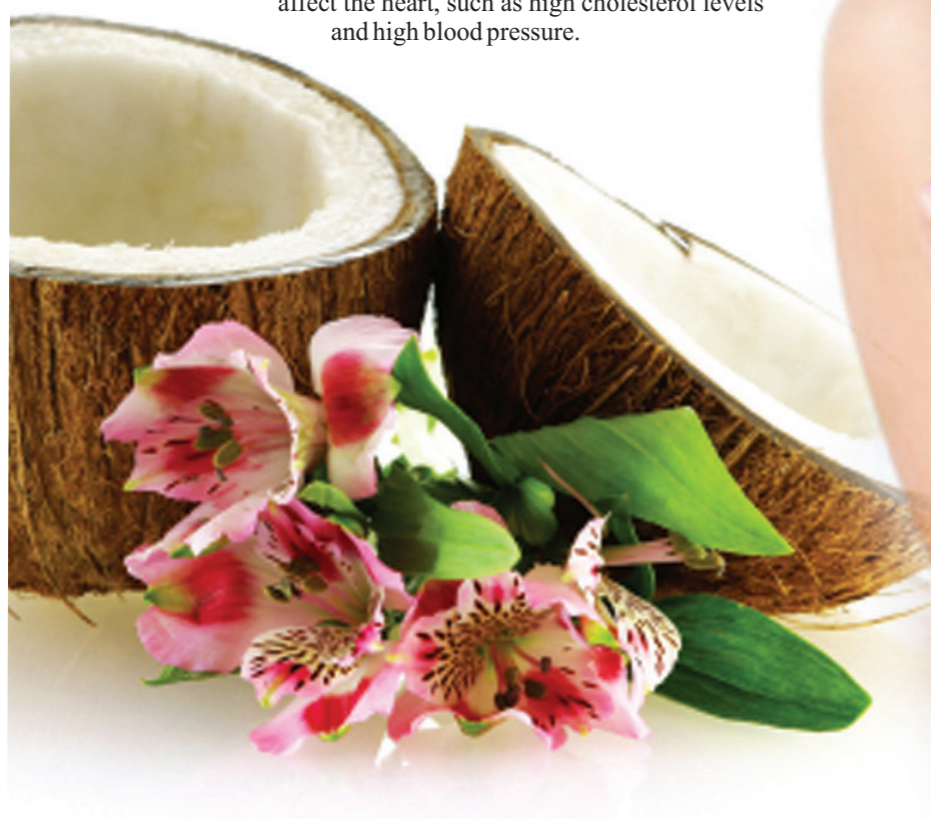
Both our grandfathers wrote to our parents and I still have some of those letters that were once extraordinarily neat, and then, became somewhat illegible as these men aged. In green ink from a fountain pen, our Dadaji exhorted my father or complained about certain things. In what I assume was chaste Urdu (as I can't read that wonderfully calligraphed script), my Nanaji must have filled the pages with kind words for his son-in-law and much-loved daughter. There was another set of letters. These were from me sent to my parents while I was at hostel. Apart from the standard refrain, 'send money', these also had bits of news of how one was doing. Thanks to those letters, and thanks to my father who decided these should be preserved, I met another me. Someone one was so many decades ago.

The many benefits of raw Coconut oil

Coconut oil is also an effective makeup remover. Regularly using coconut oil on your body not only helps lighten the skin, but also helps rid scars and dark patches. Massage it onto your skin after a bath every day and you can do without a body cream.

Its also an excellent hair tonic. A massage with warm coconut oil brings back lost shine and makes hair soft and manageable. It also helps reduce protein loss, which makes your hair healthy and attractive. Trying to grow your hair? Then use coconut oil regularly.

This oil is also good for loosing weight, maintaining cholesterol level, boosting the immune system, aiding in proper digestion and regulating metabolism. There is a misconception that coconut oil is not good for the heart because it contains large quantities of saturated fats. But this is far from the truth. Coconut oil contains about 50% lauric acid, which actively prevents various problems that affect the heart, such as high cholesterol levels and high blood pressure.



If you are struggling with dry skin and hair, a jar of coconut oil could be your best friend. Its light texture, moisturizing properties and easy availability make it one of the best remedies to dry skin.

Home remedies for bright White teeth



Banana peels:

Bananas are considered to be a wholesome fruit that houses loads of nutrients. But do you know that banana peels are a great source of teeth whitening as well. So the next time preserve that banana peel to get a pearly white teeth. Rub the peel on your teeth for about a minute or two twice daily. The minerals in bananas such as potassium, manganese and magnesium, are absorbed into your teeth, which keeps your pearly whites in their best health. Orange peels are also considered to be a great source of teeth whiteners.

Berry berry strawberry:

Did you know that those bright red strawberries are a great source of teeth whiteners? Well, now that you know it, start stocking up fresh strawberries. All you have to do is take one or two strawberries, mash them up and apply them on your teeth for 2 to 3 minutes. Rinse properly after this procedure or you can even brush your teeth. Strawberries being a rich source of natural enzyme known as malic acid, helps in whitening teeth, while the fiber found in strawberries act as a natural cleanser that helps in removing the bacteria especially, from the mouth and teeth.

Munch in the crunchy carrots:

The next time you see those crunchy carrots, simply wash them well and eat them raw. Raw carrots are very beneficial in scrapping off plaque from your teeth and are also known as natural cleaner. Also rubbing raw carrot sticks on your teeth will brighten them up. They also kill the bacteria while giving you healthy gums and whiter teeth. Apart from carrots,

apples and celery are also considered equally important sources of teeth whiteners, which prevents gum disease and gingivitis and kills odor-causing bacteria.

Quit smoking:

Surely it is easy to say than actually doing it and sticking to it. But, all said and done, quitting smoking has more benefits. Smoking, yellows your teeth along with imparting you with other deadly diseases. So if you want to bring back the pearly white shines, quit smoking.

Use a straw:

Sipping anything extremely hot or cold is not good for your teeth. So as far as possible try sipping your tea or cold coffee through a straw as it cuts down the direct contact of your teeth and hot beverages.

Pearly whites gone pale!

One of the most common problems that every dentist comes across. Though we all wish to have pearly white smile, going for crazy expensive treatments definitely burns a hole in our pockets, thank goodness there are some home remedies which are not only easy but very reasonable.

How to hide dark circles with Makeup

Dark circles make your eyes and the skin around look dull. Here are a few tips to hide those marks.

Makeup not only highlights your best features, but hides blemishes and marks. However, makeup can also hide dark circles and eye bags. Here's how you can conceal those dark patches around your eyes...



Use a concealer:

Dot a few drops of liquid concealer under your eyes and blend it well. Choose one that corresponds well with your skin tone.

Apply a mousse or foundation:

Set your concealer using a lightweight mousse or a compact powder. Take a brush to dust little powder under your eyes. Use your fingers to blend it well. If the area is looking too stark, use a tissue to wipe the area.

Play with your eye makeup:

Sweep a thick eye liner on your upper and lower lids. Blend a heavy coloured eye shadow. Apply a mascara on your upper as well as your lower lash lines. How to keep eye makeup intact Choose a liquid eyeliner while doing

your eye make-up. These are safe to use and also stay on for a longer duration of time. Apply a bit of translucent powder before you do your eye makeup so that it stays on. Go in for water-proof makeup that does not wash out easily. These products are available in most cosmetic stores. Before going to bed every night, massage the eye area with a lightweight moisturiser to keep it hydrated.



Sandeshkhali horror: Allegations of systemic rape against Trinamool members

Sandeshkhali has been in the news since the attack on ED officials who had gone to raid Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan. Now, women are alleging systemic sexual exploitation by Trinamool members. BJP leaders are demanding action.

New Delhi. The party (Trinamool) men would come and survey a home that has a beautiful wife, whose girl is young. Then they take the women to the party office... Nights after night they would be kept there... till they are satisfied," alleged a woman in a video that has now gone viral. Allegations of systemic sexual exploitation and land grabbing against local Trinamool Congress leaders are emerging from Sandeshkhali in West Bengal. Sheikh Shahjahan, a member of the local Zila Parishad, is the prime culprit, the women alleged. It is the same Sheikh Shahjahan who is absconding after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) tried to raid his

premises. Sandeshkhali is in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district. It is an island in the Sunderbans, close to the Bangladesh border, and is reachable only by boat. "Sheikh Shahjahan and his gang established a 'reign of terror' where the dignity and modesty of women belonging to the SC & ST Communities have been repeatedly violated. They forcefully captured swathes of land belonging to the Janjatiyas & Tribals," Suwendu Adhikari, BJP's leader of opposition in West Bengal and Nandigram MLA wrote on X, on February 11.

According to reports, Section 144 of the CrPC is imposed in some parts of Sandeshkhali, because of the recent protests by the locals, mainly women, armed with lathis, against the exploitation by Shahjahan Sheikh and his men. The police order prevents more than four people from assembling in public. Some parts of Sandeshkhali have also experienced internet closures for the past few days.

ED TEAM ATTACKED DURING SHEIKH SHAHJAHAN RAIDS

The village of Sandeshkhali came up in the



headlines following the attack on Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials who were on their way to raid a powerful local Trinamool Congress leader, Sheikh Shahjahan. The ED action was regarding an alleged ration scam. Sheikh Shahjahan absconded as a mob of hundreds attacked the ED convoy, injuring the officers on January 5. It is February 12 -- over a month since the attack on the ED team -- and Sheikh Shahjahan is still absconding. BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari also gave the West Bengal Governor CV Anand Bose, a 24-hour

ultimatum to intervene in Sandeshkhali on Sunday (February 11). The situation in Sandeshkhali is such that West Bengal Governor CV Anand Bose is on his way to Sandeshkhali and the State Women's Commission chairperson Leena Gangopadhyay has reached Sandeshkhali on Monday, February 12, which can only be reached using a ferry. There are no bridges across.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN SANDESKHALI

The recent protests by the women of Sandeshkhali erupted in the past few days after the allegations of sexual abuse against the powerful Trinamool Congress leader Shahjahan Sheikh and his associates became more pronounced. The women, seemingly emboldened by the absence of Sheikh Shahjahan, have come out narrating the horrors they have been facing.

"One might be the husband, but without rights. One would have to let go of his wife," the woman said in the video. "They mistreat us, the women here cannot live in safety. We

women fear going out. We want safety. My husband, who runs a bank CSP (micropayment kiosks in villages), had hinted earlier that the leaders were eyeing all the money. He usually tells me that he might not live long." Sandeshkhali local Kanika Das told Aaj Tak Bangla. "The miscreants, accompanied by the police, about 20-30 of them, came home at 3 am. They kicked hard on my door, broke my window, pulled me by my hand, and hair and even snatched away my baby daughter and threw her away," added Kanika Das, recollecting an incident on February 10. They used to take the women to the party (TMC) office and let them off in the morning," said another woman in the viral video.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMENSEEKSACTION

The National Commission for Women (NCW) said it was "deeply disturbed" by the reports and sought immediate intervention from the state police. "NCW is deeply disturbed by reports alleging the wrongful confinement and rape of Hindu women in Basirhat, West Bengal by Sheikh Shahjahan at the TMC party office.

'Will blow up on Feb 13': Amity school in Delhi's Saket gets bomb threat mail

New Delhi. The Amity International School in Delhi's Saket received a bomb threat via e-mail on Monday, causing panic. Following this, the bomb squad and fire brigade were rushed to the scene. The e-mail received at around 9 am warned that the school would be bombed on February 13 and also demanded money. The entire school was thoroughly checked but nothing suspicious has been found so far. The police team is still on the scene. A few days ago, Delhi Public School located in south Delhi's RK Puram had received a bomb threat via mail. Despite a thorough search by the police and SWAT teams, nothing was found.

Section 144 In Delhi For A Month: Are Weddings, Other Events Allowed



New Delhi. Determined to prevent any law and order situation due to the mega farmers' march tomorrow, Delhi Police today clamped prohibitory orders for a month, banning public processions and bringing several other restrictions. Here's a look at what is allowed and what is not. Any form of protest rally or public meeting with more than five people stands prohibited unless there is specific permission. Any march for political, social or any other purpose is barred. The order says no tractor trolleys or trucks transporting people or materials, especially those carrying sticks or any items that can be used as a weapon of violence, shall be allowed to enter Delhi. The order also bars collecting or carrying any form of explosives, boulders, acid, petrol, sodawater bottles or any item that can be used to cause danger to anyone. Wedding and funeral processions and religious rallies are allowed as long as they are organised after permission from authority concerned. But the use of any amplifier or loudspeaker on any private vehicle or building or a public area is prohibited unless specifically allowed. The order adds that vehicles moving between Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi will be thoroughly inspected at checkpoints. It also says the dissemination of any provocative slogan or message through verbal, written or electronic means will be considered unlawful. Delhi Police has said non-compliance of the order will attract criminal prosecution under Section 188, relating to disobedience of an order issued by a public servant.

Appointment Of Deputy Chief Minister Not Unconstitutional: Supreme Court

New Delhi. The appointment of a Deputy Chief Minister in a state is not unconstitutional, the Supreme Court said on Monday while rejecting a petition.

The practice of appointing a Deputy Chief Minister is adopted in many states to give slightly more importance to senior leaders in the party or coalition of parties in power, said a bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud. "Even if you call someone Deputy Chief Minister, it is still a reference to a minister. A Deputy Chief Minister is the first and most important minister in the state government. It does not violate the Constitution," Chief Justice Chandrachud said during the hearing. The petitioner had claimed that the Constitution prescribes no post for a Deputy Chief Minister and that it violates Article 14 (Right to Equality) of the Constitution. This sets a wrong example, the petition alleged, questioning the basis to make such an appointment. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com. Deputy Chief Ministers are often appointed to assist the Chief Minister of a state and to accommodate senior coalition leaders in the cabinet. Some states have more than one Deputy Chief Minister while some have none. Andhra Pradesh has five - the most in an Indian state.

Mani Shankar Aiyar calls Pakistanis 'biggest asset of India', row erupts

New Delhi. Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar has courted fresh controversy by calling the Pakistanis the "biggest asset of India". He also reiterated a call to open communication channels between the two nations. He made the remarks while addressing an event in Lahore on Sunday. Citing Pakistani daily Dawn, ANI reported that the former Union Minister said, "the Pakistanis, from my experience, have been the people who react, perhaps, overreact, to the other side". If we are friendly, they are overfriendly and if we are hostile, they get over hostile," he said.

Aiyar further said that he had never been to a country where he was welcomed "with such open arms as he was in Pakistan". According to the Pakistani newspaper, the Congress leader also



reminded about the time when he was posted as the Consul General in Lahore and said that everyone had looked after him and his wife. He also spoke about his book, 'Memoirs of a Maverick', in which he mentioned several incidents that showed "Pakistan as a completely different country to what the Indians imagine". The Congress leader also reiterated a call for the civil society in both Pakistan and India to "continue

dialogue" and suggested that businessmen, students and academics should continue meeting outside the two countries, "bypassing the governments". The fresh controversy came less than two weeks after a complaint was filed against the Congress leader's daughter, Suranya Aiyar for a social media post, condemning the January 22 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

On January 19, Suranya Aiyar wrote on Facebook that she would be observing a fast for three days, starting from January 22, in support for the "Muslims of India" against what she called was being done "in the name of Hinduism and nationalism in Ayodhya".

Bengal Governor's convoy on way to Sandeshkhali stopped by Trinamool supporters

New Delhi. West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose's convoy was stopped midway by Trinamool Congress supporters as it was en route to Sandeshkhali on Monday. The supporters protested against the matter of the central government not releasing funds, which has been the focus of a long-standing impasse between the Trinamool Congress-led Bengal government and the BJP-headed Centre. Visuals showed people gathered around the convoy and showing posters while standing close to the vehicles in the convoy of the Bengal Governor amid much commotion. Police also stopped the media from visiting Sandeshkhali. Bose cut short his Kerala trip on Sunday for his visit to Sandeshkhali. Bengal BJP MLAs are also slated to visit the village today, where Section 144 banning large gatherings was imposed. Tension escalated in the region after local women recently held protests demanding the arrest of on-the-run Trinamool Congress leader Sheikh Shahjahan and his aides. The Left parties have called for a strike in Sandeshkhali today. Located in North



24 Parganas district, Sandeshkhali has been the epicentre of political action in the state with women protesting against alleged sexual harassment by Sheikh Shahjahan. Left parties, meanwhile, have called the strike after the arrest of CPI(M) leader and former MLA Nirapada Sardar on Sunday morning. Most of the shops and markets in the region were closed earlier in the day. CV Ananda Bose landed at Kolkata's Netaji Subhash Chandra International Airport on Monday morning and started his

journey en route to Sandeshkhali. "I was in Kerala. When I heard the shocking story of Sandeshkhali, I cut short my scheduled and (planned to visit) Sandeshkhali to know the real messages of the locals over there," he told reporters. Meanwhile, a team of the West Bengal Women's Commission visited "troubled spots" in Sandeshkhali earlier in the day, and spoke to several women in the area who had levelled sexual harassment charges against Sheikh Shahjahan and his aides.

What's Not Allowed In Delhi Ahead Of Mega Farmer's March On Tuesday

Delhi Farmers Protest: Delhi Police have issued an order prohibiting large gatherings at all borders between Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

New Delhi. Ahead of the farmers' mega protest march on Tuesday, the government has intensified security arrangements along the Singhu, Ghazipur and Tikri borders in the national capital region. Earlier this month, Samyukta Kisan Morcha leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal claimed that over 200 farmers' unions from across the nation would participate in the "Delhi Chalo" march.

The farmers, preparing for the Delhi march on February 13, demand the central government enact a law guaranteeing minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

Now let's take a look at what is allowed and what is not:

What is not allowed?

- Delhi police have issued an order prohibiting large gatherings at all borders between Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.
- The entry of tractors, trolleys, buses, trucks, and commercial vehicles into the National Capital from Uttar Pradesh is
- No protestor is allowed to bear arms, including firearms, swords, trishuls, spears and rods. - Suspension of mobile



internet services and bulk SMS has also been ordered by the Haryana government in seven districts, including Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa. - In several districts, the Haryana government has also suspended all dogle services provided on mobile networks, except voice calls.

What is allowed?

As per the traffic advisory issued by the Delhi police, "Traffic from Delhi going to Ghaziabad through the Gazipur border may take Pushta Road in front of Akshardham temple or Patparganj Road/Mother Dairy Road or Chaudhary Charon Singh Marg ISBT Anand Vihar

and exit from Maharajpur or Apsara border in UP Ghaziabad." The officials will impose diversions around the Singhu Border, for people going to Haryana from Delhi. While the movement of heavy/commercial vehicles/trucks going towards Bahadurgarh and Rohtak is allowed, they are advised to use Najafgarh Nangloi Road from Nangloi Chowk to enter Haryana via Najafgarh Jharoda Border. In conversation with NDTV, police sources revealed that more than a thousand Delhi Police personnel have been deployed on the borders. To stop farmers from entering the national capital, the officials have installed security barricades at the borders. In addition, an official revealed that nails have been put on roads to stop protesting farmers from entering the city in vehicles. The police sources told NDTV, "As many as 1,000 to 1,500 Delhi Police personnel will be deployed in each of these border areas. However, the pattern of deployment and the number of personnel will change as per the situation in these areas."

How to get a Fresh Look this season

Summer is the season to keep your daily make-up at bay as you have to deal with harsh sun rays and sticky sweat. Managing that fresh and pretty look all summer long is not an easy task. However, here are some make-up tricks to help you breeze through this season...

1 YOUR CLEAN AND PREP SKIN

Clean your face by using citrus perfumed non-oil based face wash and cleanser. Moisturising is a key step to have the fresh look because it creates a great base for any makeup. Hydrate by applying moisturiser to your face



and neck. Do not forget to use a thick coat of sunscreen lotion of a higher SPF value.

2 TONE CORRECT YOUR SKIN

Apply liquid foundation, using a foundation sponge only where you need it - covering any redness or blemishes --so your natural skin is exposed as much as possible. Delicately tap concealer under your eyes to even out any darkness with a brush or a finger. Then apply translucent powder at T-zone to create a matte finish.

3 BROWS ENHANCE YOUR

Shape your brows for symmetry in length and colour using a thin brow pencil and short, slanted strokes to match their natural growth.

4 LASHES CURL YOUR

Define your eyes by subtly pressing eyeliner very near to the lash line with a flat brush. Apply a coat of mascara, thicker at the base of your eyelashes to add volume.

5 ADD CHEEKS COLOUR ON

Apply a shade of powder blush that goes with your complexion to the apples of your cheeks with a brush. Avoid using cream based blush in summers.

6 GLOSSY LIPS

Define your lips using a liner in a shade close to your natural lip colour. Dab on a lip gloss or balm to finish off your look. You are ready with a natural look that works well for hot days and nights as well.

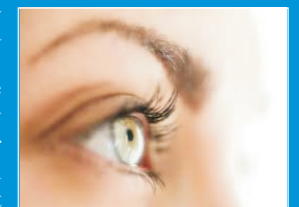
4 ways to thicken scanty brows

Aloe vera gel Extract fresh aloe vera gel by horizontally dissecting an aloe vera leaf; apply the same on your eyebrows. Let the gel dry for about ten to fifteen minutes; and then wash it off with lukewarm water. Involve this in your beauty regimen twice a week; repeat it for a couple of weeks. This is very effective thickening your eyebrows in the most natural way.

Coconut oil Known for its several benefits, coconut oil is a popular therapy that helps hair growth. Massage coconut oil on your brows everyday while going to bed; you will see your brows thicken in less than a fortnight and this will also lend a natural glow to your skin.

Onion juice Well, you must be wondering how can you apply such a smelly thing on your eyebrows and leave it there; in fact you might also think that your brows will stink for days to come. Dip some cotton in onion juice and apply the juice evenly on your eyebrows, let it dry for a few minutes and wash it off with rose water (to get rid of the smell). However, onion juice is known to have amazing benefits on hair growth and also in improving skin tone.

Milk If there's something that really works wonders that too in a very less time, that's milk. Warm up some milk and let it become lukewarm; then dip a cotton into warm milk and then dab it on your eyebrows. Let it dry and then wash it off with cold water; repeat the step every two hours, you will notice a drastic change in five days.



7 deadly skin sins

How you age is not just a matter of your genes. Your skin is pretty much a reflection of your lifestyle, which, in turn, is all about how you eat, drink and live. If you are moaning and groaning over why your skin is suddenly looking dull, lifeless, tired or just old, check if you haven't committed one or more of the seven deadly skin sins.

1. Dehydration

Are you getting enough water? Dehydration could be the reason why you look older than you are, and wrinkled. Lack of this wonderfully-replenishing lifesaver dries out your skin — your body's largest organ — and dry skin is more susceptible to wrinkling than hydrated skin. You need about 8-12 glasses or about 2-3 litres of water a day. It will help you slow down, or even reverse, the aging process.

2. Foods high in sugar and fat

You see the effects of oxidation all around you - the rotting of fruit is the best example. When oxygen in the air comes in contact with the fruit, it slowly turns brown and eventually rots. Oxidation, while occurring naturally outside the body, is harmful if it occurs inside your

body. Inside, the process of oxidation releases 'free radicals' that slowly damage organs, including the skin, aging it. Certain things we eat and drink, like fried or sugary foods, are oxidants. Antioxidant foods (green teas, fresh fruits and vegetables) reverse the oxidation process.

3. Caffeine

Caffeine, found in teas, coffees, cola drinks etc., cause oxidative stress and are also dehydrating. They leave you more thirsty than when you started.

4. Alcohol

Like caffeine, alcohol is the ultimate aging double whammy - it is high in sugar, which causes oxidative stress, and dehydration. Alcohol strips your skin of nourishment.

5. Smoking

Vitamin C is an excellent antioxidant, and is also known as a free radical scavenger. Smoking depletes your body's quota of Vitamin C, and adds even more free radicals, fast-tracking the aging process. Add leafy greens and citrus fruits in your diet. Quit smoking.

6. No vegetable juice

Vegetable juices are fantastic antioxidants that brim with nourishing and healing properties. In a mixie, not a juicer, blend the juice of three raw vegetables. Add about half the pulp back to the glass, some water and season to taste. Drink up daily to look younger.

7. Sleep deprivation

Sleep is when your skin repairs itself. If you are not clocking enough sleep hours, you may be aging ahead of your time. There's a reason it's called 'beauty sleep'.

Now, the good news. All of the above are self-induced, lifestyle choices, old habits that can be broken. It doesn't matter how old you are, the power to look young, fresh and healthy is more in your hands than you think.



Vegetables to free you from tanned skin

Hotter days are not too far away, there is absolutely no way out but to protect your skin. And tanning is part and parcel of summers. Here are home remedies to get rid of your tan.

Tomato

Take two tomatoes and puree it in a blender to make a fine paste. Now apply this paste on the affected area. Once the paste partially dries apply the second coat.

Goodness: The antioxidant in tomatoes fights cellular damage and reddening of skin, they also function like natural sunscreen.

Aloe vera gel

Squeeze out the gel from aloe vera stems and mix it with a few drops of lemon. Mash the lumps in the gel so that it becomes easy to apply. Leave the pack for 20 minutes and then wash it with luke warm water.

Goodness: The gel works like a protective layer on the skin and also heals damaged skin.

Potato



Put a potato and lemon juice in a mixer, till it reduces to a paste like consistency. Now apply it on the affected area. Leave it for 15 minutes and

wash it with plain water. Goodness: This is considered the best vegetable to get rid of tanned skin.

People shifting from chemical-cosmetics to natural one

India, from ages back, is known to be the land of Ayurveda, but in recent past, it became more dependent on chemical laden cosmetic products.

Chemical laden products, as known, brings different side-effects with it, hence, in last five year, notable shift of consumers have been seen from chemical laden cosmetics to natural products, according to expert from natural organic cosmetics brand 'Soul Tree.'

The problem with natural beauty products have always been their price range, but again according to Soul Tree marketing expert, they have noticed quite a lot of upgradation in the middle class society, who now spends quite a lot for quality products.

Soul Tree is India's first and the only range of certified natural beauty and personal care products developed by Vedicare Ayurveda Pvt Ltd.

Natural products do have their own complications like manufacture and preserving problem, but with time and technology, the natural beauty product brands are trying to overcome the problems.





Jiya Shankar

Gives a Befitting Reply To Troll For Taking a Dig At Her: 'It Is So Orthodox of You..'



Actress Jiya Shankar recently took to her X (formerly known as Twitter) handle to school a troll who attacked her for one of her old statements. In the old video, Jiya was heard saying she does not need anyone because she is an independent woman who earns and can handle her life on her own. However, the troll attacked Jiya for her statement and argued "This is the difference between girls and boys." Reacting to the troll, Jiya highlighted her journey and emphasized that success knows no gender boundaries. She further criticized the troll for perpetuating outdated stereotypes. "The girl after getting a job only dreamed of supporting her single mother so that one day she could buy a house for her mom and tell her not to work anymore and guess what - she did! This isn't even about men/women and it's so orthodox of you to do this comparison in this generation and century. May god make you capable enough to get a real job and support your family instead of doing this on X :)" she wrote. In the wake of her response, Jiya received an outpouring of love and encouragement from her supporters, who lauded her for her strength and positivity. Many reacted to her reaction to express their admiration for Jiya's resilience and to share their own stories of overcoming adversity. Jiya Shankar started her journey in the showbiz world with the 2017 television show Meri Hanikarak Biwi. She later became a household name with Kaatelal & Sons and Pishachini. Jiya then made a significant breakthrough in the Marathi-language love drama titled Ved, where she shared the screen with Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia D'Souza. However, it was her participation in the second season of Bigg Boss OTT that skyrocketed her popularity.



Disha Patani

Breaks The Internet In A Black Top And Briefs, Hottest-Ever Photo Goes Viral

Disha Patani surely knows how to break the internet, thanks to her bold fashion statements. The Bollywood actress is once again raising the heat on social media with her sexy picture. Disha, who became a household name after MS Dhoni: The Untold Story, on Friday dropped a jaw-dropping picture and the netizens have surely gone gaga after seeing it. Taking to her Instagram handle, Disha Patani shared a picture, only sporting a sizzling combination of a black full-sleeved top and matching briefs. Posing with one hand on her thigh, Disha Patani kept her eyes closed and flaunted her toned, perfect 10 body in style. Needless to say, Disha Patani exuded elegance, charm and oozed sexiness! She opted to keep the caption minimal and just dropped a black heart emoji. BFF Mouni Roy was quick to comment. She dropped fire emojis. Soon after she dropped her sexy photo, fans flooded the comment section with compliments. A fan wrote, "It's getting hot in February." Another one commented, "You have the best figure in Bollywood." A third fan wrote, "No one is as hot as you." Meanwhile, as her film Malang with Aditya Roy Kapur completed 4 years on Friday, Disha took to her Instagram handle to celebrate this milestone. Directed by Mohit Suri, the thriller featured Disha Patani in the role of Sara Nambiar. Apart from Disha and Aditya, Malang also featured an ensemble cast of Anil Kapoor, and Kunal Khemu. To mark 4 years of its release, Disha shared a steamy still from the film, where she can be seen almost kissing Aditya Roy Kapur's character. She wrote, "4 years of #malang". Meanwhile, on the work front, Disha Patani will be seen in Sagar Ambre and Pushkar Ojha's action drama Yodha, where she will share the screen with Sidharth Malhotra and Raashii Khanna.



Shekhar Kapur Reveals Anil Kapoor, Boney Were Scared During Mr India: 'Humara Sara Paisa Khatam...'



Director Shekhar Kapur recently revealed that actor Anil Kapoor was very scared while filming their famous 1987 movie, Mr. India, worried about whether it would do well at the box office. Written by Salim-Javed, Mr. India was produced by Boney Kapoor and Surinder Kapoor. In an interview with Ranveer Allahbadia, Shekhar Kapur said Anil Kapoor and Boney Kapoor were really nervous before Mr. India because they had put all their family's money into making the superhero film - which was a new concept at that time - and revolved around an invisible man. "Anil Kapoor was scared the day the film began and also when it released. Woh darta bohot hai. Boney Kapoor and him were very scared, would wonder whether the film would work. 'Humara saara paisa laga hua hai, puri family ka, khatam ho jayega.' So that fear was there. There was no certainty if it would work," he recalled. During the production of Mr. India, the director mentioned that he would engage in discussions with his 11-year-old self, employing this younger version as a gauge to determine whether a shot or a line would resonate with children or not. "I have never made a film where all the characters are not me. I was Mogambo, I was hawa-hawai as well, and Mr India and all the kids. How else will you make it?" he said. Mr India was released in 1987 and was produced by Boney Kapoor. The film starred Anil Kapoor as a man who manages an orphanage and gains access to a watch that makes him invisible. The film also starred Sridevi, who played the role of a stern journalist. Directed by Shekhar Kapur, the film also starred Amrish Puri as Mogambo, Satish Kaushik as Calendar, Harish Patel as Roopchand, and Annu Kapoor as Editor Gaitonde. Mr India was a super hit at the box office.

Kiran Rao On Being Referred To As Aamir Khan's Wife: 'They Might Not Even Know My Name, But...'



Kiran Rao and Aamir Khan, who got married in 2005, separated in August 2021. In a recent interview with Zoom, Kiran, who has been occupied with promoting her upcoming Laapataa Ladies, talked about needing to correct people when they refer to her as 'Aamir Khan's wife'. She mentioned that 'everyone perceives her only as a wife or an ex-wife', but if she didn't have 'a strong sense of self', she would have 'felt down by being only seen as a wife'. Kiran Rao said that the tag hasn't left her. She said, "I am routinely asked, even now at the airport... people go like, 'You are Aamir Khan's wife, right?' They might not even know my name, but the association is directly with Aamir, and I have become accustomed to that. Though now I have to say, 'Ex-wife'. It doesn't bother me honestly, because personally, I have always had my own interests, my own friends, and my own life, which I actually actively worked at having. I think for anyone in marriage, it is very important to have their space and identity." Kiran Rao, who has a son named Azad Rao Khan with Aamir, said that working with Aamir at Aamir Khan Productions for Laapataa Ladies has always been easy. "He is very welcoming of opinions, he looks at me as a creative partner. It's very heartening, because though everybody sees me as a wife or an ex-wife, if I didn't have a very strong sense of self I would have been depressed by being reduced to just a wife. But, I have quite a laugh about it, honestly." Recently, during News18 India Chaupal, speaking about working together after their divorce, Aamir had said, "Yeh koi doctor ne kaha hai ke divorce ho jata hai toh aap foran dushman ho jaate hai? Yeh meri khushnaseebi hai ke mere zindagi mein Kiran aayi aur humara safar bahut hee fulfilling raha mere liye. Bahut kuch banaya humne saath mein, personally and professionally aur agge bhi hum saath mein hee hai. Hum insaan aur jaazbaati taur pe jude huye hai aur humesha rahenge. We are like a family." Kiran added that they enjoy working with each other.