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Fadnavis promised to groom Aadiya as Chief Minister

Pakistan blundered into an unwinnable conflict

Very few are like T Natarajan...

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researchers.asia@gmail.com



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Donald Trump calls off North Carolina rally due to incoming storm

Wilmington. US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump abruptly cancelled a campaign rally in North Carolina on Saturday because of an incoming storm, telling the crowd he was "devastated" and promising to return to the battleground state soon. Trump called into the outdoor rally from his private jet about 30 minutes before he was due to appear at an airport in Wilmington, instructing everyone to leave immediately because of safety concerns as lightning flashed overhead. "I'm devastated that this could happen but we want to keep everybody safe," Trump said, his voice amplified by speakers to thousands of supporters, many of whom had lined up since early morning in hot and humid conditions. "...I think we're gonna have to just do a rain check. I'm so



sad," Trump said. The event was due to occur after the first week of Trump's historic criminal trial in New York stemming from a hush-money payment to a porn star. With jury selection completed, opening statements were expected to begin on Monday. Trump, who is set to face Democratic President Joe Biden in the November 5 general election, also faces criminal cases in Washington, Georgia and Florida, but the New York case is the only one certain to go to trial this year. Both the Biden and Trump campaigns have set their sights on winning North Carolina, one of six or seven swing states that will likely determine the outcome in November. Trump narrowly won the state in 2020 over Biden.

2 Japanese navy helicopters, carrying 8, 'crashed' in Pacific Ocean, search on

Tokyo. Two Japanese navy helicopters carrying eight crewmembers were believed to have crashed in the Pacific Ocean south of Tokyo during a nighttime training exercise, and rescuers were searching for the missing, Japan's defence minister said. The two SH-60K choppers belonging to the Maritime Self Defense Force and carrying four crew each, lost contact late Saturday near Torishima island in the Pacific about 600 kilometres (370 miles) south of Tokyo, Defence Minister Minoru Kihara told reporters. One of the eight crewmembers was recovered from the waters, but his or her condition was unknown. Officials were still searching for the other seven. The cause of the crash was not immediately known, Kihara said, adding that officials are prioritising the rescue operation. The MSDF deployed eight warships and five aircraft for the search and rescue of the missing crew. They recovered fragments believed to be from one of the SH-60Ks, Kihara said. "We believe the helicopters have crashed," he said. The helicopters, twin-engine, multi-mission aircraft designed by Sikorsky and known as Seahawk, were on nighttime anti-submarine training in the waters, Kihara said. One lost contact at 10:38 p.m. (1338 GMT) after sending an emergency signal. The other aircraft lost contact about 25 minutes later. One belonged to an air base in Nagasaki, and the other at a base in Tokushima prefecture. The SH-60K aircraft is usually deployed on destroyers for anti-submarine missions.

Saturday's training only involved the Japanese navy and was not part of a multinational exercise, defence officials said. They said no foreign aircraft or warships were spotted in the area. Japan, under its 2022 security strategy, has been accelerating its military buildup and fortifying deterrence in the southwestern Japanese islands in the Pacific and East China Sea to counter threats from China's increasingly assertive military activities. Japan in recent years has extensively conducted its own naval exercises as well as joint drills with its ally the United States and other partners.

Saturday's apparent crash comes a year after a Ground Self-Defense Force UH-60 Blackhawk crashed off the southwestern Japanese island of Miyako, leaving all 10 crewmembers dead. In January 2022, a Air Self-Defence F-15 fighter jet crashed off the north central coast of Japan, killing two crew. Japan's NHK public television said no weather advisories were issued in the area at the time of Saturday's crash.

US House approves aid package for Ukraine and Israel

Washington. The House swiftly approved \$95 billion in foreign aid for Ukraine, Israel and other US allies in a rare Saturday session as Democrats and Republicans banded together after months of hard-right resistance over renewed American support for repelling Russia's invasion with an overwhelming vote, the \$61 billion in aid for Ukraine passed in a matter of minutes, a strong showing as American lawmakers race to deliver a fresh round of US support to the war-torn ally. Many Democrats cheered on the House floor and waved blue-and-yellow flags of Ukraine.

Aid to Israel and the other allies also won approval by healthy margins, as did a measure to clamp down on the popular platform TikTok, with unique coalitions forming to push the separate bills forward. The whole package will go to the Senate, which could pass it as soon as Tuesday. President Joe Biden has promised to sign it immediately. "We did our work here, and I think history will judge it well," said a weary Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., who risked his own job to marshal the package to passage. Biden, in a statement, thanked Johnson, Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries and the bipartisan coalition of lawmakers "who voted to put our national security first." "I urge the Senate to quickly send this package to my desk so that I can sign it into law and we can quickly send weapons and equipment to Ukraine to meet their urgent battlefield needs," the president said. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine said he was "grateful" to both parties in the House and "personally Speaker Mike Johnson for the decision that keeps history on the right track," he said on X, formerly Twitter.

US House votes to force TikTok's China-based owner to sell stake or face ban

Washington. The House of Representatives passed a legislation on Saturday that would ban TikTok in the country if the popular social media platform's China-based owner doesn't sell its stake within a year, but don't expect the app to go away anytime soon. The decision by House Republicans to include TikTok as part of a larger foreign aid package, a priority for President Joe Biden with broad congressional support for Ukraine and Israel, fast-tracked the ban after an earlier version had stalled in the Senate. A standalone bill with a shorter, six-month selling deadline passed the House in March by an overwhelming bipartisan vote as both Democrats and Republicans voiced national security concerns about the app's owner, the Chinese technology firm ByteDance Ltd.

The modified measure, passed by a 360-58 vote, now goes to the Senate after negotiations that lengthened the timeline for the company to sell to nine months, with a possible additional three months if a sale is in progress. Legal challenges

could extend that timeline even further. The company has indicated that it would likely go to court to try and block the law if it passes, arguing it would deprive the app's millions of users of their First Amendment rights. TikTok has lobbied hard against the legislation, pushing the app's 170 million US users -- many of whom are young -- to call Congress and voice opposition. But the ferocity of the pushback angered lawmakers on Capitol Hill, where there is broad concern about Chinese threats to the US and where few members use the platform themselves. "We will not stop fighting and advocating for you," TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew said in a video that was posted on the platform last month and directed toward the app's users. "We will continue to do all we can, including exercising our legal rights, to protect this amazing platform that we have built with you." The bill's quick path through Congress is extraordinary because it targets one company and because Congress has taken a hands-off approach to tech regulation for decades. Lawmakers have failed to act



despite efforts to protect children online, safeguard users' privacy and make companies more liable for content posted on their platforms, among other measures. But the TikTok ban reflects widespread concerns from lawmakers about China. Members of both parties, along with intelligence officials, have worried that Chinese authorities could force ByteDance to hand over American user data or direct the company to suppress or boost TikTok content favourable to its interests.

The US government has not publicly provided evidence that shows TikTok

shared American user data with the Chinese government or tinkered with the company's popular algorithm, which influences what Americans see. The company has good reason to think a legal challenge could be successful, having seen some success in previous legal fights over its operations in the US. In November 2023, a federal judge blocked a Montana law that would ban TikTok use across the state after the company and five content creators who use the platform sued. In 2020, federal courts blocked an executive order issued by then-President Donald Trump to ban TikTok after the company sued on the grounds that the order violated free speech and due process rights. His administration brokered a deal that would have had U.S. corporations Oracle and Walmart take a large stake in TikTok. The sale never went through for a number of reasons; one was China, which imposed stricter export controls on its technology providers. Dozens of states and the federal government have put in place TikTok bans on government devices.

US aid for Ukraine 'will cause more damage, deaths', warns Russia

world. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Saturday that US House of Representatives' approval of security aid to Ukraine would lead to more damage and deaths in the conflict there.

The decision "will make the United States of America richer, further ruin Ukraine and result in the deaths of even more Ukrainians, the fault of the Kyiv regime," Peskov was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies.

The House approved a legislative package providing \$60.84 billion to Ukraine, including \$23 billion to replenish US weapons, stocks and facilities. The package now goes to the US Senate, which passed a similar measure two months ago, for expected approval next week. It then is passed on to President Joe Biden to sign. Peskov also said that provisions in the legislation allowing the US

administration to confiscate seized Russian assets and transfer them to Ukraine to fund reconstruction would tarnish the image of the United States.

Russia, he said, would enact retaliatory measures. Former Russian President



Dmitry Medvedev, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said the approval of US aid for Ukraine was expected and grounded in "Russophobia".

"We will, of course, be victorious regardless of the bloodsoaked \$61 billion, which will mostly be swallowed up by their insatiable military industrial complex," wrote Medvedev, one of Russia's most vociferous hawks as deputy chairman of the Security Council. Maria Zakharova, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, said the approval of aid in the legislation to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan would "deepen crises throughout the world". "Military assistance to the Kyiv regime is direct sponsorship of terrorist activity," Zakharova wrote on Telegram. "To Taiwan, it is interference in China's internal affairs. To Israel, it is a road straight to escalation and an unprecedented rise in tension in the region."

Israelis Urged To Remember Hostages Held In Gaza With Empty Chair For Seder

Tel Aviv: The families of hostages held in the Gaza Strip appealed on Saturday for Jewish Israelis to leave an empty chair at their traditional Seder meals marking the beginning of Passover on Monday. "The Seder night is approaching and this year we will have to leave an empty chair," said Ofir Angrest, whose brother Matan was kidnapped on October 7, during the weekly gathering of hostage families in Tel Aviv with hundreds of onlookers. Declaring that he was addressing the Israeli cabinet, he said: "Enough! After more than six months, you're simply



disrespecting me and the families of the hostages." The idea was backed by Israeli President Isaac Herzog in a video posted to X. Hamas took around 250 hostages during its unprecedented attack on

southern Israel on October 7. Israel believes that 129 remain in Gaza, including 34 who are presumed dead. Around 100 were released during a ceasefire in November. Sofi Cohen Ben Dor, daughter of the famous Israeli spy Eli Cohen, also spoke at the gathering. Her father was hanged in Damascus in 1965 after infiltrating elite circles in Syria in the early 1960s and his body was never returned to Israel. "His body is still kept for 60 years in an unknown place in Syria. Israel did not create the opportunity to return his body for burial in Israel," she said.

14 Palestinians killed during Israeli raid in West Bank, Gaza attack continues

Palestinian health authorities said at least 14 Palestinians were killed during the raid, one of the heaviest casualty totals in the West Bank in months.

Gaza/Jerusalem. Israeli forces killed 14 Palestinians during a raid in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, while an ambulance driver was killed as he went to pick up wounded from a separate attack by violent Jewish settlers, Palestinian authorities said. Israeli forces began an extended raid in the early hours of Friday in the Nur Shams area, near the flashpoint Palestinian city of Tulikarm and were still exchanging fire with armed fighters well into Saturday. Israeli military vehicles massed and bursts of gunfire were heard,

while at least three drones were seen hovering above Nur Shams, an area housing refugees and their descendants from the 1948 war that accompanied the creation of the state of Israel.

The Tulikarm Brigades, which groups forces from numerous Palestinian factions, said its fighters exchanged fire with Israeli forces on Saturday. The West Bank, a kidney shaped area about 100 km (60 miles) long and 50 km wide that has been at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since it was seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. The Gaza war has overshadowed continuing violence in the territory, including regular army raids on militant groups, rampages by Jewish settlers in Palestinian villages, and street attacks by Palestinians on Israelis. Thousands of Palestinians have been arrested and hundreds killed during regular operations by Israeli army and police since the start of the Gaza war, most members of armed groups, but also stone-throwing youths and uninvolved civilians. On Saturday, Palestinian health authorities said at least 14 Palestinians, two of whom were identified by Palestinian sources and officials as a gunman and a 16 year-old boy, were



killed during the raid, one of the heaviest casualty totals in the West Bank in months. Another man was killed on Friday. The Israeli military said a number of militants were killed or arrested during the raid, and at least four soldiers were wounded in exchanges of fire.

In a separate incident, the Palestinian health ministry said a 50-year-old ambulance driver was killed by Israeli gunfire near the village of Al-Sawiya, south of the city of Nablus, as he was making his way to transport people injured during the attack on the village. It was not immediately clear whether he was shot by settlers. There was no immediate comment from the military.

GAZASTRIKES CONTINUE

In Gaza, where fighting has continued despite the withdrawal of most of Israel's combat forces earlier this month from southern areas, the death toll passed 34,000, Palestinian health authorities said on Saturday. Israeli strikes hit the southern city of Rafah, where over one million Palestinians are sheltering, as well as Al-Nuseirat in central Gaza, where at least five houses were destroyed, and the Al-Jabalia area in the north, health officials and Hamas media said. In Rafah, a strike hit a house and killed a father, daughter and pregnant mother, Hamas and Palestinian media outlets said. Doctors at the Kuwaiti hospital were able to save the baby, medics said, making the baby the family's only surviving member. Five other Palestinians were killed in a separate Israeli air strike on the city before midnight, health officials said. The Israeli military said troops were carrying out raids in central Gaza, where they were engaged in close quarter combat with Palestinian fighters. Overall, Israeli strikes in Gaza killed 37 Palestinians and wounded 68 over the past 24 hours, Palestinian health authorities said.



to prolonged UN sanctions over its weapons programmes and seasonal natural disasters. Ri, who is considered a career technocrat in the agricultural field according to the South Korean government database, was promoted to chairman of the Agricultural Commission at the Workers' Party meeting. The two countries have exchanged a number of delegations since their leaders' meeting in September and the frequency has increased in recent months, according to North Korean state media.

US and South Korean officials have expressed concern that the centrepiece of closer cooperation is military, accusing the North of shipping weapons to Russia for use in its war in Ukraine. Both Moscow and Pyongyang have denied the accusations even though their leaders have vowed to deepen military cooperation.

A North Korean delegation led by a high-ranking agricultural official is visiting Russia, the North's official KCNA news agency said on Sunday, in the latest exchange between Moscow and Pyongyang, which is grappling with chronic food shortages. Vice premier of the cabinet Ri Chol Man left for Russia on Saturday leading an Agricultural Commission delegation, KCNA said. The Russian ambassador to North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, said in a Facebook post Ri's schedule will be "very heavy." Ties between the two countries have strengthened dramatically following North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's visit to Russia's far east in September and a summit with President Vladimir Putin.

At a major policy-setting meeting of the ruling Workers' Party in December, Kim devoted a considerable portion of his remarks to the need to boost agricultural productivity, calling for modernization of farm equipment and improved irrigation system. While he touted success in efforts to improve farm production, North Korea has long grappled with food shortages, in part due

DVC to supply addition 250 MVA power to BSL to support its expansion plans

by Ashis Sinha

RNS: Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) will provide an additional 250 MVA (Megavolt-Ampere) of power to Bokaro Steel Limited (BSL), a unit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between DVC and BSL officials at Bokaro Steel City on Saturday.

Currently, DVC is supplying 220 MVA of power to BSL. However, with this new agreement, the additional supply is set to commence from the financial year 2027-28. This decision is seen as a response to the anticipated expansion of BSL, necessitating an increased demand for power.

According to the sources,

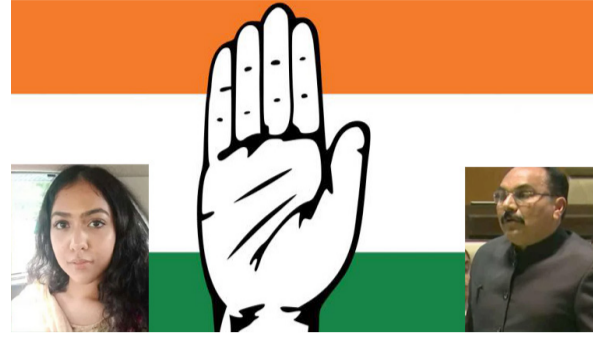


DVC will meet this augmented demand through its upcoming brown field thermal power projects, which are being developed at various locations. The agreement underscores the commitment of both DVC and BSL to support the growth

and expansion of the steel industry in the region. The signing ceremony was attended by key officials from both organisations. Representing DVC were Member (Finance) Arup Sarkar, Executive Director (Commercial) Sanjeev

Srivastava, ED (System) DK Singh, and ED (Finance) Joydeep Mukherjee. BSL was represented by its ED (Works), ED (Projects), ED (Finance), and other senior officials, highlighting the importance of this agreement for both parties.

Congress Nominates Yashaswini Sahay for Ranchi, Pradeep Yadav for Godda LS Seats



RNS I Ranchi: The Congress Party has announced its candidates for two Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand on Sunday night. Yashaswini Sahay, the daughter of former minister Subodhkant Sahay, has been nominated for the Ranchi seat. Meanwhile, Pradeep Yadav has been chosen as the candidate for the Godda Lok Sabha seat. Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal issued a noti-

fication regarding these nominations. It is worth noting that on April 16, the party had initially nominated Deepika Pandey Singh for the Godda seat. However, Singh's ticket has been canceled, and Pradeep Yadav has been named as the new candidate for the constituency. Recently Congress Party has announced Anupma Singh as a candidate for Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat.

IRDAI eliminates health insurance age limit

Implements major changes in pre-existing disease policies



RNS I New Delhi: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has made significant changes to health insurance regulations, including the elimination of the age limit for purchasing health insurance plans. This decision, set to take effect on April 1, 2024, marks a major shift in the industry.

Previously, individuals aged 65 and older were restricted from purchasing new health insurance coverage. However, the recent regulatory changes now allow individuals of any age to access new health insurance coverage. In a notice issued by IRDAI, insurers are encouraged to expand their services to cater to various demographic groups, such as senior citizens, students, children, and maternity needs. The aim is to promote inclusivity in healthcare coverage by offering individualized plans that meet specific age-related requirements.

The decision reflects IRDAI's commitment to improving the availability of affordable healthcare coverage across all age groups and enhancing accessibility to such coverage. By removing age restrictions, IRDAI hopes to stimulate innovation among insurance companies, leading to a wider range of product offerings and improved customer service.

Additionally, IRDAI mandates that health insurance carriers develop customized plans for older individuals, including dedicated channels for managing claims and complaints from senior citizens. This proactive approach aims to address the unique healthcare needs of elderly policyholders. Industry professionals have welcomed the potential of this regulatory reform to extend healthcare coverage to individuals over the age of 65. With established underwriting procedures, insurance companies can now offer coverage to senior citizens based on affordability and viability criteria. Another significant reform prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage to individuals with severe medical conditions such as cancer, heart or renal failure, or AIDS. The waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions has also been reduced from forty-eight months to thirty-six months. After this period, all pre-existing conditions must be covered, regardless of initial disclosure. Furthermore, IRDAI has mandated a transition from indemnity-based health policies, which reimburse hospital bills, to benefit-based policies, which provide predetermined payments upon the diagnosis of covered illnesses. This change aims to enhance the clarity and predictability of insurance products, ensuring that policyholders receive timely and transparent benefits.

Violent clash between Congress & RJD workers mars 'Ulgulan Nyaya Maharally' in Ranchi



RNS I Ranchi: During the Ulgulan Nyaya Maharally in Ranchi, a clash erupted between workers of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress, both part of the INDIA alliance. The incident occurred while alliance leaders were addressing the crowd, leading to injuries among some individuals. Reports indicate that the clash occurred over an unspecified issue, resulting in workers from both parties attacking each other with chairs and sticks. Despite efforts by the attendees and security personnel to intervene, several people were injured, leading to chaos and panic at the rally. Many attendees were seen running, and some fell to the ground in the commotion. The clash reportedly involved

RJD workers and a group supporting Congress candidate KN Tripathi, who is part of the India Alliance from Chatra. Gopal Tripathi, the brother of KN Tripathi and a key figure in his campaign, was among those injured. He alleged that 10-15 outsiders had instigated the violence deliberately to disrupt the rally. The incident unfolded in the presence of prominent leaders from the India Block, adding to the gravity of the situation. Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kerjwal on Sunday claimed that there was a conspiracy to kill her husband inside Tihar jail. She also said that every meal of the Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) chief is being monitored by the authorities. "Cameras are installed on his meals. Every bite he takes is being monitored. This is so shameful. He is a sugar patient and is taking insulin for 12 years, but he is being denied insulin in jail. They want to kill the Chief Minister of Delhi," Sunita Kerjwal said while addressing the rally in Ranchi. Notably, opposition's I.N.D.I.A bloc on Sunday displayed its show of strength in Jharkhand's Ranchi as the Lok Sabha elections have kicked off with first phase polling concluded on April 19. The Ulgulan rally was participated by several groups of people who had gathered from far and wide places including West Bengal.

Mithila Academy Public School Celebrates 34th Foundation Day with Grandeur



by Arun Pathak

Bokaro: The 34th foundation day celebration of Mithila Academy Public School, named "Abhyudaya," was held on Saturday evening with great enthusiasm. The event was organized by the social and cultural organization Mithila Sanskritik Parishad, Bokaro. The school is affiliated with the CBSE board up to the Plus Two level. The celebration took place at the school's Sector 4 E auditorium, where various dignitaries graced the occasion. Hari Mohan Jha, Chief General Manager (Personnel) of Bokaro Steel Plant and co-chairman of the School Management Committee, at-

tended as the chief guest. Special guests included BSL BP Baranwal, General Manager, and Avinash Kumar Jha, Vice President of Mithila Cultural Council, among others. The event began with dancing kids performing a worship of Lord Shiva. A cake was cut to mark the school's founding day, and wishes for continued success were expressed. The teachers' collective song and a PowerPoint presentation showcasing the school's achievements were well-received by all attendees. A dance performance by Shradha conveyed the message that hindering women's aspirations is futile. The chief guest praised the school's progress, emphasizing that

its growth is organic and not artificially constructed. He stressed the importance of a strong work ethic for the school's development. Secretary Pramod Kumar Jha 'Chandan' expressed confidence that every member of Mithila Academy would continue to serve and dedicate themselves until they achieve success. The school's administrator, Ashok Pathak, highlighted the unique educational environment offered by the school, which aims to make learning successful, meaningful, and enjoyable. The staging of the event was led by Surabhi Kumari and Ashmit Kumar Jha.

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- Use netting for windows and gaps
- Clear clogged drain
- Light up your home and use air conditioning
- Wear long clothing

PM Says Congress Turned "Tech City Into Tanker City", Siddaramaiah Replies

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has asked where the Prime Minister was when Karnataka suffered due to floods and droughts.

Bengaluru: Weeks after Bengaluru made national headlines for a crippling water crisis, with visuals of people queuing up near tankers flashing on TV screens, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a scathing attack on the ruling Congress in Karnataka, saying the party turned "tech city into a tanker city". Hitting back, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has asked where the Prime Minister was when Karnataka suffered due to floods and droughts. The 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka are voting in two phases in this election, with the polling due on April 26 and May 7. All Bengaluru seats will go to polls on April 26. At a rally in the city days before polling, the Prime Minister said he wants to take the country ahead and accused the Congress of being "anti-investment, anti-entrepreneurship, anti-private sector, anti-taxpayer, anti-wealth creator".

"Modi says he will make the country a green energy hub, pharma hub, electronics hub, electrical vehicle hub, semiconductor hub, and a global innovation hub so that India becomes a hub of Global economy. But the people of Congress and the INDI alliance say they will remove Modi," he said. "It is Modi's guarantee that after 5G, we will now launch 6G, they say they will remove Modi. It is Modi's guarantee that we will bring AI, but they say they will remove Modi. It is Modi's guarantee that after Chandrayaan, we will

now make India proud of Gaganyaan, they say, they will remove Modi. Congress is anti-youth because it is anti-investment, it is anti-entrepreneurship, it is anti-private sector, it is anti-taxpayer, it is anti-wealth creator," he added. The Prime Minister said the BJP and Janata Dal-Secular have come together to fulfil the dreams of Karnataka's people.

"I guarantee that your dreams are my resolve. My life is dedicated to you and the country. I promise 24x7 for 2047," he said, referring to the goal of making India a developed country by 2047. "Congress has turned tech city into a tanker city. The budget is being cut from agriculture to urban infrastructure. Congress is only focused on corruption, and not on the problems of Bengaluru. Only the projects of the central government are moving ahead fast," he said. "The kind of thoughts and ideology being promoted by Congress government in Karnataka is very dangerous. Our daughters are being attacked, bombs are exploding in markets, and people are being attacked for listening to religious songs, these incidents are not common. I urge my brothers and sisters to stay very alert of the Congress," he added. The statements come in the wake of the murder of a Congress leader's 21-year-old daughter in Hubballi, and a blast in Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe and the thrashing of



three youngsters, allegedly for raising "Jai Shri Ram" slogans.

In a sharp response, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah posted on X, "Claims of working 24x7 for the people, yet where was



he during Karnataka's floods and droughts? So, what's the real story behind this '24x7'? Sounds like it's all PR, all the time!" The Chief Minister also hit back at the Prime Minister's remarks in Karnataka's Chikkaballapur,

where he said Karnataka is the biggest example of how the Congress "deceives" the farmers. "We started the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme for small and marginal farmers. When Karnataka had a BJP government, the farmers of the state received ? 10000 each, ? 6,000 from the central government and ? 4000 from Karnataka's BJP government. But as soon as Congress formed government in the state, it stopped giving ? 4000 to the farmers," the Prime Minister said.

The Chief Minister replied that the Prime Minister must ask his conscience if he is really a well-wisher of farmers. Referring to the 2020-21 farmers' movement on Delhi borders, he asked about 700 farmers who died during the protest and questioned the Prime Minister's moral position to talk about farmers. The Centre, he said, was still not ready to fulfill the farmers' demand for a law to guarantee Minimum Support Price and has imposed GST on seeds and fertiliser. The BJP, he said, was anti-farmer from the beginning. "It is the party of capitalists, businessmen and traders. Anti-farmer poison is in the DNA of this party," he said, questioning what the Narendra Modi government has given to Karnataka farmers during its 10-year-rule. He said Karnataka's farmers are intelligent enough to understand who their well-wisher is and will teach "anti-farmer" forces a lesson in the election.

Nitish Kumar's veiled dig at Lalu Yadav for having 'too many children'

While campaigning for an NDA candidate in Banmankhi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took a jibe at RJD chief Lalu Yadav and said he "produced so many children".



New Delhi: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has triggered a controversy for taking a jibe at RJD chief and former Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav for having "too many children". The Chief Minister slammed Lalu Yadav for involving his children in politics, stating that it hinders productivity. Speaking at an election rally in Banmankhi, Nitish Kumar on Saturday took a dig at Lalu Yadav and said, "He appointed his wife

when he was removed. Now, it is his children these days. He has produced so many offspring. Does anyone need to produce that many offspring? But he did. Now he has involved their sons, daughters, and everyone".

Nitish Kumar's jibe was an apparent jibe at Lalu Yadav's wife, Rabri Devi, taking up the role of

Bihar Chief Minister in 1997 after her husband faced corruption charges. Lalu Yadav's son Tejashwi Yadav was Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar when Nitish Kumar left the NDA in 2022 and formed the government. He lost his post after Nitish Kumar snapped ties with the RJD and went back to the NDA earlier this year. Further, Lalu Yadav's two daughters, Rohini Acharya and Misa Bharti, have been fielded by the RJD as Lok Sabha candidates from the Saran and Pataliputra seats respectively. Nitish Kumar accused Lalu Yadav's children of merely working to "trigger headlines with their sensational remarks".

Misa Bharti reacted to Nitish Kumar's statement and said the voters of Bihar will evaluate his remark. She appeared perplexed when asked about the remark and said, "I'm not sure what to say about my Chachaji. He is spearheading the onslaught against us after Prime Minister Narendra Modi stopped commenting".

Devendra Fadnavis promised to groom Aadiya as Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray



Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday claimed the then chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had told him in 2019 that he would groom his son Aadiya Thackeray as the next Chief Minister of Maharashtra as part of the power-sharing agreement between the two parties. Thackeray also said Fadnavis, a senior BJP leader, had told him that he would move to the Centre in the next two to three years. Addressing a rally in Dharavi, Thackeray claimed the then BJP chief Amit Shah had come to Matoshree, the private residence of the Thackerays, to seek an alliance with Shiv Sena (undivided). At that time, Fadnavis was made to sit outside the room of late Bal Thackeray while the two leaders (Shah and Thackeray) discussed modalities," he claimed. It was assured to me that the post of chief minister will be shared for 2.5 years (between BJP and Sena-undivided), he said. "Later, Devendra Fadnavis told me, Uddhav Ji, I will groom Aadiya for 2.5 years. We can make him CM after 2.5 years. I told him (Fadnavis) that he (Aadiya) is just starting his electoral career. Do not put anything like this in his mind," Thackeray said. When I asked Fadnavis how a senior leader like him would work under Aadiya, he (Fadnavis) said he would move to Delhi, he added. Thackeray's claim evoked a sharp reaction from Fadnavis, current Deputy Chief Minister in the Mahayuti government of BJP, Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde and NCP led by Ajit Pawar, who said Thackeray has "lost his mind". "Uddhav Thackeray has become 'bhamrishta' (delirious). He is hallucinating. Initially, he said Amit Shah promised him a chief ministership in some room. Now he says I promised to make his son a CM. To hide one falsehood, another lie is being told," Fadnavis said. He, however, admitted to having told Thackeray that Aadiya should be trained as he will eventually take control of the party (Shiv Sena) one day. "Leave alone making him (Aadiya) a chief minister, I wouldn't make him even a minister. He (Aadiya) became a minister later (when MVA was in power) which landed the Shiv Sena (UBT) in its current situation today," Fadnavis said.

Siddaramaiah Not Committed To Any Party, But...": HD Kumaraswamy

In an exclusive interview with ANI, HD Kumaraswamy, who is contesting for the Mandya Lok Sabha constituency said that the Karnataka chief minister has no control over his cabinet.

New Delhi: Former Karnataka Chief Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader HD Kumaraswamy launched scathing attacks on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and said that the latter is not committed to any party, but to his chair only.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Kumaraswamy, who is contesting for the Mandya Lok Sabha constituency said that the Karnataka CM has no control over his cabinet. "In today's Congress government, Siddaramaiah has no control over his cabinet. After the 2024 election results, Siddaramaiah will take whatever decision he wants to continue as the Chief Minister. We know his character. He is the product of the Janata Dal. He is not committed to any party but only to his chair. There is no personal opposition against Siddaramaiah but only politically we criticized him. He developed his political strength through our party but has always said that he wants to finish the JD (S)," he said. Recalling his experiences of working with both the BJP and Congress, the JD(S) leader said that it was a sweet and bitter experience



working with these two political parties. "I had a good and bad experience aligning with Congress and BJP in previous times. From 2004-2006, we supported Congress and at times, people rejected Congress. Their party got 62 seats and we got 58. As Congress was running the central government, they said that they were not going to give the Chief

Minister's post to the JD (S). Ultimately we come together to avoid the BJP in coming to power," HD Kumaraswamy said. He also recalled that after coming to power in 2004, the way Congress treated him was a 'bad experience'. "My father wanted to go for fresh elections by giving the support of the JD(S) to the Congress. He met Sonia Gandhi also. At that time, BJP friends requested us even our MLAs put pressure on me to form a new government for a temporary period. I had an alliance with them (BJP) and we formed the government. We ran a good government with the BJP and it was a good experience we had. But after 20 months, when it was decided to hand over the power to Yediyurappa, some people in our party mischieved to destroy the coalition," he added.

In 2018, Congress friends publicly criticized us during elections and said that JD(S) is the b-team of BJP. But at that time we were fighting against both, the BJP and the Congress," Kumaraswamy added.

Top INDIA bloc leaders to attend mega 'Ulgulan Nyay' rally in Ranchi

Top leaders of the Opposition INDIA bloc will attend the mega 'Ulgulan (uprising) Nyay' rally in Ranchi today, with the main focus on Arvind Kejriwal and Hemant Soren's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.

New Delhi: At least 14 leaders of the Opposition INDIA bloc, including Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, will attend the 'Ulgulan (uprising) Nyay' rally in Ranchi on Sunday. The main focus of the mega event will be on the arrests of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren by the Enforcement Directorate. Some 5 lakh people are likely to attend the rally in Ranchi's Prabhat Tara ground slated to commence at around 3 pm. It has been organised by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) as a joint show of strength amid the Lok Sabha polls. Sunita Kejriwal and Kalpana Soren, the wives of Arvind Kejriwal and Hemant Soren, are also expected to address the event, along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Rashtriya Janata Dal supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, and National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah.

Posters of INDIA bloc leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Arvind Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee, Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana Soren, have already been put up at the rally venue.

A day before the rally, Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren said, "We need to stop the dictatorship and save our democracy and the constitution. Everyone knows what happened in Jharkhand and Delhi. We will expose the dictatorial approach of the Centre at the mega rally." The Chief Minister also said that they got the people's mandate in the name of Hemant Soren, "but attempts were made to destabilise his government from the beginning, and finally he was sent to jail", PTI news agency reported. "Delhi's people also experienced a similar situation. From the dais of Ulgulan rally, we will tell the people of the country about the dictatorship of the Centre," he added. Speaking to the ANI news



agency, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi said, "We are together in this fight against BJP's growing autocracy. They are not allowing the opposition to function properly; what they are trying to do is to silence the opposition." "We are seeing a high rate of inflation, joblessness and women not getting a safe environment. In the first phase of the election, not many people, but

those who have come out to vote have come out to change these people (BJP), who have been showing this dictatorial tendency," she added. Meanwhile, CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury wrote to Kalpana Soren, saying that he would be unable to attend today's rally due to election-related commitments. Firstly, Yechury thanked Kalpana Soren for extending the invitation and said,

"Unfortunately, I am in the midst of the election campaign in Kerala, where voting is scheduled for April 26. You are surely aware of the importance of Kerala for the CPI(M)... Therefore, I will not be able to attend..." In his letter, the CPI(M) General Secretary reiterated that he continued to "denounce the detention of Hemant Soren". "The CPI(M) will resolutely work for the defeat of the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections in cooperation with all the secular democratic parties of the INDIA bloc." However, Jharkhand BJP president Babul Marandi criticised the Ranchi rally, saying "all those who were against development and Sanatan Dharma are gathering here". "Jharkhand would not have been created if there was no BJP government at the Centre. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee created the state on November 15, 2000, after the formation of the BJP-led NDA government in 1999.

Heady cocktail of religion & politics

RADHARAO Gracias is a firebrand lawyer in Goa. He speaks his mind whenever the occasion merits this course. Last week, I received via email a sample of his activism. Radharao, a former MLA, had lambasted local BJP supporters on X (formerly Twitter) for offering people free tickets on a train from Goa to Vailankanni (Tamil Nadu), the passage paid for by 'vested interests'. The pilgrimage to Vailankanni is much sought after by Catholics as some miracle was reported to have occurred in that coastal town in Tamil Nadu in the past. Since I do not believe in miracles, I had not taken the trouble to ascertain what exactly drives the believers to frenzy. But the bulk of our believers do believe in the supernatural. That is the reality.

Radharao's lament is that BJP supporters conceived of a Machiavellian plan to despatch a substantial number of Catholic voters to a destination where they would love to go. The train to Vailankanni from Goa departs every week on Mondays. All the tickets for May 6 were bought, probably by 'vested interests', soon after election dates were announced. Radharao alleged that they were being offered free of charge to Catholic voters to ensure their absence on this, then, is a new tactic to ensure poll victory. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Goa, Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, alerted his flock not to travel on May 6 since it was their duty to vote the next day.

Whether diabolical or just plain funny, stories like the one circulated by Radharao are doing the rounds elsewhere in India too. A parrot picked the name of one Thangar Bachan, a PMK candidate, as the winner from the Cuddalore Lok Sabha seat in Tamil Nadu. The DMK government led by CM MK Stalin promptly arrested the owner of the parrot for spreading fake news.

Tribal women in Palghar (Maharashtra) returned to the BJP pracharaks in their area the saris and the shopping bags with Modi's picture that were obviously given to them as inducements, proclaiming that they wanted employment and not these items. The Catholic Archbishop of Idukki in Kerala favoured a public screening of the Kerala Story, which depicts the story of girls from his state who were subjected to 'love jihad'. They were not only converted to Islam but also joined the ISIS in Syria, where their husbands were fighting the 'kafirs'. In a multi-religious country like India, instances of romance between Muslim, Hindu and Christian boys and girls are inevitable. The Sangh Parivar has raised its hackles over such marriages, terming them cases of 'love jihad'. I know of many Muslim women married to Hindu or Christian men. No objections were raised, except perhaps by the parents of the girls. Protests are heard mainly when Hindu girls marry Muslim boys! The induction of the Kerala girls and their Muslim bridegrooms into the outlawed ISIS is, of course, another matter. That is truly sinful. If that wicked angle is not present, love between man and woman should not be interfered with only on the ground that they belong to different religions. Talking of Kerala, AK Antony, a former Congress Chief Minister who later became the Defence Minister, has a son who joined the BJP and is fighting the Lok Sabha elections on the saffron party's ticket. Antony was known for his uprightness and integrity. He publicly announced that he wished for his son's defeat. In a country where politics has become a family profession and where tickets are sought by politicians for their sons or daughters, a father disowning his son is a rare occurrence. But Antony is made of a different timber. Our Prime Minister makes statements against his opponents every day, sometimes more than once or even twice a day. Usually, he accuses them and their parties of corruption. They, in turn, accuse the BJP of the same evil. Here, the party in power is in the driver's seat. It can make it extremely difficult for Opposition parties to collect funds for fighting elections. The BJP is using its pole position quite liberally in its quest for a third term. But the PM has now stepped beyond corruption to territory on which, by law, he is not allowed to enter. Any reference to religion is out of bounds during electioneering. Oblique references are deftly made by politicians like Modi.

Need to review functioning of food & drug regulatory agencies

We are in this mess not because our laws are inadequate or toothless, but because their enforcement by the government is lax.

THE ongoing legal battle in the Supreme Court over misleading claims made in advertisements by Patanjali Ayurved has evoked great interest for several reasons. The SC's insistence on personal and repeated apologies by the Patanjali promoters, Ramdev and Balkrishna, for contempt of court is unprecedented. We are yet to hear the last word in this case, but the proceedings thus far have several important lessons for all concerned — drug manufacturers, regulators, the government and, above all, consumers. At the heart of the case are the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the rules made thereunder in 1945. The 1954 law prohibits the advertisement of drugs for some conditions and regulates how certain drugs can be advertised. The diseases for which remedies can't be advertised include cancer, diabetes, infertility, AIDS, obesity, premature ageing, blindness, etc. The law specifically deals with misleading advertisements that claim miracle cures for diseases or make false or exaggerated claims about the effectiveness of certain drugs. Under this law, the Central Government is empowered to take action against those who violate its provisions. The 1940 Act and the rules made thereunder are the primary legislation governing the manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs, cosmetics, medical devices and other related products in India.

Patanjali has been advertising several herbal products that claim to 'cure' a range of diseases and conditions, including diabetes, thyroid-related problems and even cancer. During the Covid-19 pandemic, it launched Coronil, which it claimed could cure the disease. The product was endorsed by Dr Harsh Vardhan, then India's Health Minister. When objections were raised, the marketing claim was changed from 'treatment' to 'management.' While claiming cures for several diseases, Patanjali advertisements also targeted the modern system of medicine, saying that it had no cure for them. This irked not only health activists but also the Indian Medical Association (IMA). The company was dragged to court for the violation of the two drug laws and reprimanded. Yet, it continued with misleading advertisements, in contempt of a court order.

Misleading advertising related to drugs, remedies and health is a major problem, going beyond Patanjali. Newspapers and television channels (during certain time slots) across India are filled with advertisements and sponsored content containing tall claims about cures and treatment for everything, from constipation to heart disease. Online platforms like YouTube, Instagram and Facebook are inundated with such claims from doctors and companies, in complete violation of the law. So-called 'social media influencers' have joined the bandwagon of promoting potentially harmful health products. Though large pharmaceutical companies



mostly refrain from direct advertising, they indulge in unethical marketing practices like paid news, sponsorship of medical conferences and gifts for the doctors who prescribe medicines. A few years ago, even the IMA was accused of endorsing certain products without sufficient evidence about their efficacy or addressing the ethical questions involved in doing so.

We are in this mess not because our laws are inadequate or toothless, but because their enforcement by the government is lax, and the regulatory bodies have decided to look the other way. The laws are old and have been amended from time to time, and several committees have looked into their relevance and the need to make the rules more stringent. While the process of change will take its course, there is no reason why the existing provisions cannot be put to the best use. This columnist flagged the claims made by Ramdev about a cure for HIV/AIDS in 2008. Anbumani Ramadoss — a trained medical doctor who was then the health minister — got the ministry to serve a notice on Ramdev. But very soon, he did a U-turn and attended a yoga session of Ramdev in Gurugram, where the latter repeated his claim about the HIV/AIDS cure. Brinda Karat, a CPM MP at that time, too, raised the matter of misleading claims with the Uttarakhand Government, but no action was taken. In the present case, the Central and state regulatory agencies delayed action and then acted in cohesion to give Patanjali free rein with its misleading claims. Dr Babu KV, a Kerala-based health and RTI activist who filed a series of complaints against Patanjali, first wrote to the state licensing authority in

Uttarakhand, urging action for violation of the 1954 Act. The authority wrote to the company to withdraw the advertisements in question but took no action when Patanjali refused to act, though it had the power to do so. Not only this, the authority gave an escape route to Patanjali. The company was served the notices not under the 1954 Act but under a specific rule of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, which was sub judice in the Bombay High Court. Patanjali cited the legal case and did not budge. The rule in question was added through an amendment in 2018, and it mandated the pre-approval of advertisements with health claims.

Celebrity endorsements and health claims over food products are also a major challenge. In this case, too, the food safety regulator has been sluggish. The advertising of nutraceuticals and food supplements is a problem area that needs urgent attention. Given the changing contours of the media landscape and forms of direct and indirect advertising, we need a comprehensive review of all laws and rules relating to the marketing and advertising of medicines, food products and supplements, including those of the Indian systems of medicine. The law against misleading advertising, claims and celebrity endorsements of harmful products (including surrogate advertising) needs to be very stringent. We should review the functioning of Central and state food and drug regulatory agencies and provide them with adequate resources, authority and independence to effectively monitor and enforce compliance. The Patanjali case is a wake-up call for all the parties concerned. After all, it is directly related to the health and wellbeing of people.

Haryana hospitals

Mismanagement, staff shortage plague healthcare

THE dire state of facilities at hospitals in Haryana paints a grim picture of a system in desperate need of attention and reform. It is evident from recent reports that the health infrastructure is failing to meet the needs of the public. This negligence not only perpetuates suffering but also erodes trust in the institutions meant to safeguard public health.

The case of the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Hospital in Faridabad stands out as a glaring example of inefficiency and mismanagement. Despite substantial investments and the passing of two years since its establishment, the hospital remains largely inactive, failing to offer essential in-patient and emergency services. While outpatient services may be operational, the lack of comprehensive care facilities severely undermines its purpose and renders it incapable of



fulfilling its potential as a referral centre. In Rohtak, patients at the PGIMS endure hours-long wait and chaotic scenes due to a severe shortage of medical and paramedical staff. As a result, vulnerable patients are

subjected to hardships and delays in receiving even basic medical care. Meanwhile, the scarcity of tuberculosis medicines in Karnal underscores the systemic challenges in drug procurement and distribution. TB patients, already burdened by the challenge of managing a chronic illness, are facing hurdles in their treatment due to the unavailability of essential medicines. Along with compromising individual health outcomes, this jeopardises public health efforts aimed at combating the spread of infectious diseases.

It's time for concerted action to revitalise healthcare in Haryana and ensure that patients have access to quality treatment. Immediate steps must be taken to address staff shortage and ensure timely availability of essential medicines. Additionally, greater accountability and transparency are needed to prevent wastage of public funds and resources.

Pakistan blundered into an unwinnable conflict

At the time of the Partition, the Muslim League had argued that 'India' was a thing of the past and the two 'successor' states should be known as 'Pakistan' and 'Hindustan'.

ON February 20, 1999, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee embarked on a landmark diplomatic visit to Pakistan at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif. The next day, the two PMs signed the Lahore Declaration, embodying their shared vision of peace and stability between their countries and of progress and prosperity for their peoples.

The declaration was enthusiastically hailed on both sides of the border, emerging from the shadows of the 1998 nuclear tests that had heightened tensions. Regrettably, the optimism turned out to be illusory. Even as Sharif was greeting Vajpayee at the Wagah border, Pakistani soldiers were crossing the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kargil sector and entrenching themselves on heights like Tololing and Tiger Hill, names that would become ingrained in public memory.

The geography of Kargil, with heights reaching 18,000 ft, posed extraordinary challenges. The war in such extreme conditions was a true test of resilience, and success was achieved because officers and soldiers displayed superhuman tenacity and a willingness to die for the country. After the initial discovery of intrusions on May 3, a bloody battle lasted nearly three months before India declared victory on July 26. The Pakistan army denied involvement in the fighting and refused to acknowledge its fallen men, an ultimate dishonour to their sacrifice. Although limited in scale and geographical spread, the Kargil War prompted a deep strategic analysis in both countries. There was a great deal of debate in Pakistan on the miscalculations that led to the conflict and in India on the national security gaps, including an intelligence failure due to which intrusions went undetected. Looking back, we can now assess how effectively the lessons that were learned have been applied by both countries. Three days after the war, the Indian government constituted the Kargil Review Committee (KRC) to review the events leading to the Pakistani aggression and recommend measures to

safeguard national security against armed intrusions. The committee noted that the political, bureaucratic, military and intelligence establishments had developed a vested interest in the status quo. It emphasised the need for a comprehensive review of the national security system, considering the Kargil experience, the ongoing proxy war and the nuclearised security environment.

The Group of Ministers' (GoM) report, which followed the KRC, was arguably the most comprehensive examination of national security issues undertaken in independent India. Four task forces were established to evaluate the intelligence apparatus, internal security, border management and defence management, underscoring the seriousness of the post-war assessment. The two reports led to many changes in the management of national security. The National Technical Research Organisation was formed in 2004 to handle centralised communication and electronic intelligence. The Defence Intelligence Agency was formed to cater to the military's specific intelligence needs. A multi-agency centre was set up to foster better inter-agency information-sharing and coordination.

The defence establishment underwent some restructuring. This included the creation of an Integrated Defence Staff, the founding of the Strategic Forces and Andaman and Nicobar Commands, and the devolution of financial and administrative powers to the three services. The appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff, as recommended by the GoM, was made in 2020. Some recommendations remain only partially implemented. The GoM had noted: "Multiplicity of forces on the same border has led to a lack of accountability on the part of the forces. To enforce accountability, the principle of 'one border, one force'

may be adopted while considering the deployment of forces at the border." This principle has yet to be applied to the Line of Actual Control with China, where the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police are deployed under different command arrangements.



The GoM pointed out weaknesses such as the absence of a national security doctrine and the lack of commitment of funds to the military beyond the financial year. Other problems that needed to be addressed were greater integration of the service headquarters into the government and jointness in the armed forces. These shortfalls persist. On the Pakistani side, there was much public debate on the Kargil debacle. The war exposed the skewed nature of civil-military relations, where military objectives were framed without political and diplomatic considerations. Nasim Zehra, in her book From Kargil to the Coup, writes that the army gave then PM Sharif the first detailed briefing on the operation on

May 17. By this time, soldiers had already occupied positions across the LoC. After the war, the role of the Generals who plotted it should have come under scrutiny. Instead, the Pakistan military sought to shift the blame to the political leadership, and growing distrust finally led to the military coup that ousted Sharif from power in October 1999. The Kargil fiasco brought out forcefully that Pakistan's use of the military option against India carried no gains. Not only would India react with superior force, but the international community would isolate Pakistan over such action. Rather than finding ways to reduce tensions with India, the Pakistan army fell back on the use of terrorists, and violence escalated in Jammu and Kashmir after the war.

Many experts opined that Pakistan should refrain from becoming obsessed with Kashmir and focus on building a strong economy. Shahid Amin, a former Pakistani diplomat, wrote that the country should become ruthlessly realistic about its limitations and priorities. Pakistan's survival must precede everything else.

Nevertheless, the core issues that drove Pakistan into an unwinnable conflict remain largely unaddressed. The military still controls the reins in the country, the rhetoric over Kashmir continues, the economy is in dire straits and state support to terrorist organisations persists. Today, India is a far stronger nation, and a Kargil-type scenario appears unlikely. However, the 1999 conflict revealed a level of recklessness in the Pakistani establishment, and the current state of affairs in that country does little to dispel that impression.



जीव-जंतुओं की दुनिया के सबसे अनोखे सदस्य

दोस्तों जीव-जंतुओं की दुनिया बड़ी ही निराली है। इस दुनिया के बारे में हम जितना भी जानते हैं उतनी ही हमारी और जानने की खाहिश बढ़ती चली जाती है। हमारी दुनिया में कई छोटे-बड़े जीव ऐसे हैं जिनकी खासियतें बड़ी ही अनोखी और निराली हैं। आज ऐसे ही कुछ जीवों से हम आपको रूबरू करा रहे हैं। हम इन जीवों की खासियतें भी आपको बताएंगे। अगर आप उन लोगों में से एक हैं जिन्हें जीव-जंतुओं की दुनिया में घुसने में मजा आता है तो यकीन जानिए, ये आपके लिए ही है।

रोसी मेपल मोथ



ये उत्तरी अमेरिका में बहुतायत में पाया जाने वाला एक कीट है। आम बोलचाल में इसे रोसी मेपल मोथ कहा जाता है। वहीं वैज्ञानिक भाषा में इसे ड्रायोकैम्पा रुबीक्यूडा कहा जाता है। ये रेशम का का कीट है। इसलिए इसे फेब्रीसियस भी कहा जाता है। इस तस्वीर में दिखाई दे रहा ये कीट अपना एक पैर उठाए हुए है जिसे देखकर लग रहा है जैसे ये हेलो कर रहा है।

अमेरिका में कई किसान इन्हें पालते भी हैं।

एर्जेन्थिक ब्लू इगुआना



इगुआना एक प्रकार की छिपकली होती है। एर्जेन्थिक ब्लू इगुआना सभी प्रकार की इगुआना में सबसे खूबसूरत होती है। ये इतनी खूबसूरत होती है कि अमेरिका जैसे देशों में इसे लोग शौक से पालते भी हैं। अमेरिका में इसके पालने पर प्रतिबंध नहीं है और लोग इसे बाजार में बेच भी सकते हैं। गुलाब की खुशबू सूंघती इस इगुआना की तस्वीर काफी वायरल हुई थी।

वॉम्बेट



इसलिए इस तामरीन बंदर को सम्राट तामरीन कहा जाता है। ये बंदर अमेजन के जंगलों में बहुतायत में पाए जाते हैं।

ये बेहद अनोखा और बेहद प्यारा जीव इन दिनों बेहद खतरनाक हालात से जूझ रहा है। ये ऑस्ट्रेलिया में पाया जाता है। और जैसा कि आप सभी जानते हैं कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया में इन दिनों बेहद भीषण आग लगी है जिसमें 50 करोड़ से भी अधिक जीव जलकर खाक हो गए हैं। ये एक छोटा वॉम्बेट है। वॉम्बेट के पैर और पूंछ इनके शरीर की तुलना में काफी छोटी होती है। इनका शरीर 1 मीटर तक लंबा हो जाता है। ये पहाड़ी, मैदानी और जंगली इलाकों में पाए जाते हैं।

सम्राट तामरीन

ये मूछों वाला बंदर तामरीन बंदरों की कई प्रजातियों में से एक है। इसे सम्राट तामरीन कहा जाता है। कहा जाता है कि जर्मन सलतनत के सम्राट विल्हेम द्वितीय की मूछे भी इसी तरह की हुआ करती थी। इसलिए इस तामरीन बंदर को सम्राट तामरीन कहा जाता है। ये बंदर अमेजन के जंगलों में बहुतायत में पाए जाते हैं।

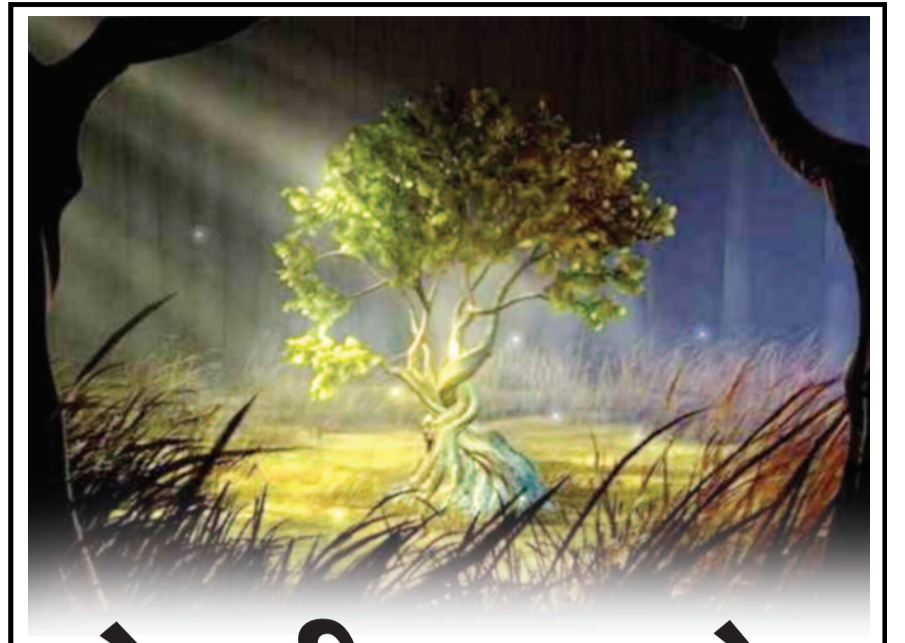
स्कॉटिश भेड़

स्कॉटलैंड में बहुतायत में भेड़ पालन करने वाले किसान वास करते हैं। स्कॉटलैंड में इंसानों से ज्यादा भेड़ें रहती हैं। यहां के 15000 भेड़ फार्म में 70 लाख के आस-पास भेड़ें रहती हैं। किसान इन भेड़ों को दूध, ऊन और मांस के लिए पालते हैं। पिछले दिनों एक शीप फार्म से इस भेड़ की ये अनोखी तस्वीर सोशल मीडिया पर खूब वायरल हुई थी।

नौवीं क्लास में पढ़ने वाले मेहुल को हाल ही में उसके मामा ने मोबाइल गिफ्ट में दिया था। इसकी भी एक वजह थी। मामा ने उससे वादा किया था कि अगर वह आठवीं क्लास में फर्स्ट आएगा तो वह उसे उसका मनचाहा गिफ्ट देंगे। मेहुल क्लास में फर्स्ट आया। उसके मामा ने भी उससे वादा किया हुआ वादा निभाया। मोबाइल पाकर मेहुल की खुशी का ठिकाना नहीं रहा। उसने अपने सभी दोस्तों को मोबाइल दिखाया और दिन भर उनके साथ सेल्फी का मजा लिया। देर शाम को जब वह घर आया तो मां ने उसे टोका भी, 'यह क्या बात हुई कि तुम नए मोबाइल के साथ दिन भर गायब रहे। न खाने-पीने की चिंता, न गर्मी की चिंता। कहीं बीमार हो गए तो स्कूल से छुट्टी लेनी पड़ेगी।' मां ने उसे ज्यादा नहीं डांटा, उन्हें लगा कि यह दो-तीन दिन का बुखार है, बाद में सब ठीक हो जाएगा। अगले दिन सुबह रोज की तरह मेहुल उठा और तैयार होकर स्कूल जाने लगा। उसने अपने बैग में

मोबाइल से कुछ सेल्फी ले रहा था, दोस्तों को दिखाने के लिए। 'क्या मतलब, क्या तुम्हें यह मोबाइल इतनी घूष में सेल्फी खींचने के लिए मिला है?' मां ने उसे डांटते हुए कहा। 'चलो नीचे, मां उसका हाथ पकड़ कर ले जाने लगीं।' मेहुल अनमने मन से मां के साथ चलने लगा।

अपना नया मोबाइल भी रख लिया। मां ने उसे ऐसा करते हुए देख लिया। उन्होंने उसके बैग से मोबाइल निकालते हुए कहा, 'तुम स्कूल पढ़ने जा रहे हो या मोबाइल पर बातें करने या फिर सेल्फी खींचने के लिए।' मां उसकी ओर गुस्से से देखते हुए मोबाइल लिए किचन में चली गईं। मेहुल गुस्से से पैर पटकते हुए स्कूल की ओर चल दिया। आज उसका मन क्लास में नहीं लग रहा था। उसे बस यही इंतजार था कि कब स्कूल की छुट्टी हो और वह घर जाकर अपने मोबाइल से तरह-तरह की सेल्फी ले। आखिर उसके इंतजार की घड़ी खत्म हुई। स्कूल की छुट्टी हो गई। घर पहुंचते ही मेहुल सीधा मां के पास पहुंचा और कहा, 'मां, मेरा मोबाइल कहा है?' मां ने उसकी तरफ देखते हुए कहा, 'पहले कपड़े बदलो और खाना खा लो फिर तुम्हारा मोबाइल भी तुम्हें मिल जाएगा।' यह कहकर मां किचन की ओर चल दीं। मेहुल समझ गया कि अगर उसे मोबाइल चाहिए तो मां का कहना मानना ही पड़ेगा। उसने जल्दी से कपड़े बदल कर खाना खाया। मां ने उसका मोबाइल लाकर उसे दे दिया। मोबाइल देखकर उसकी खुशी का ठिकाना नहीं रहा। जाते-जाते मां ने उसे हिदायत दे दी कि इस गर्मी में वह छत पर या बाहर न जाए। मेहुल ने मन ही मन सोचा, यह भी कोई बात हुई। घर पर भी कोई सेल्फी लेता है। असली मजा तो बाहर सेल्फी लेने में है। मोहित के डोंगी रॉकी के साथ या फिर राहुल के भैया की बाइक पर। सोसाइटी में बने स्वीमिंग पूल पर सेल्फी का तो अलग ही मजा जाएगा। यह सोचकर मेहुल बाहर जाने लगा। मां ने उसे बाहर जाते हुए देखकर कहा, 'इस दोपहर में कहा जा रहे हो?' मां, मैं मोहित के घर जा रहा हूँ, थोड़ी देर में आ जाऊंगा।' मां ने उससे कहा, 'जल्दी आ जाना। शाम को तुम्हारे मामा आने वाले हैं। हम सब उनके साथ बाहर घूमने जाएंगे।' पक्का मां, मैं जल्दी आ जाऊंगा।' यह कहकर मेहुल तेजी से मोहित के घर



रोशनी वाला पेड़



रात से अमावस्या तक इसके सारे पत्ते गिर जाते हैं और यह रात को चमकता है। कुछ पेड़ हैं, जिनके तनों से विशेष किस्म का द्रव्य बहता है, यह द्रव्य अंधेरा घेर कर चमकता है। मशरूम की भी कुछ किस्में ऐसी होती हैं, जो रात को चमक देती हैं।

कहां जाएं ध्रुवीय भालू

इनसानी दरखल का असर अब ध्रुवीय भालू की जिंदगी पर पड़ने लगा है। बर्फीले आर्कटिक क्षेत्र के निवासी ये भालू गरम होते क्षेत्र के कारण अपने रहने के स्थान खोने लगे हैं। बर्फ पिघलने से इन्हें खाने के लिए भी ठीक से नहीं मिल पा रहा है। उस पर बड़ी कंपनियां लगातार उनके इलाके में घुसपैठ कर रही हैं, जिस कारण इन भालूओं को लगातार अपने रहने का ठिकाना बदलना पड़ रहा है। ऐसे में खाने की कमी को ये दूसरे भालूओं को मारकर पूरी कर रहे हैं। बड़े भालूओं का शिकार आमतौर पर मादा भालू या बच्चे बन रहे हैं। ऐसी घटनाएं पहले कभी-कभार ही होती थीं। इससे ध्रुवीय भालू के लुप्त होने का खतरा बढ़ गया है।

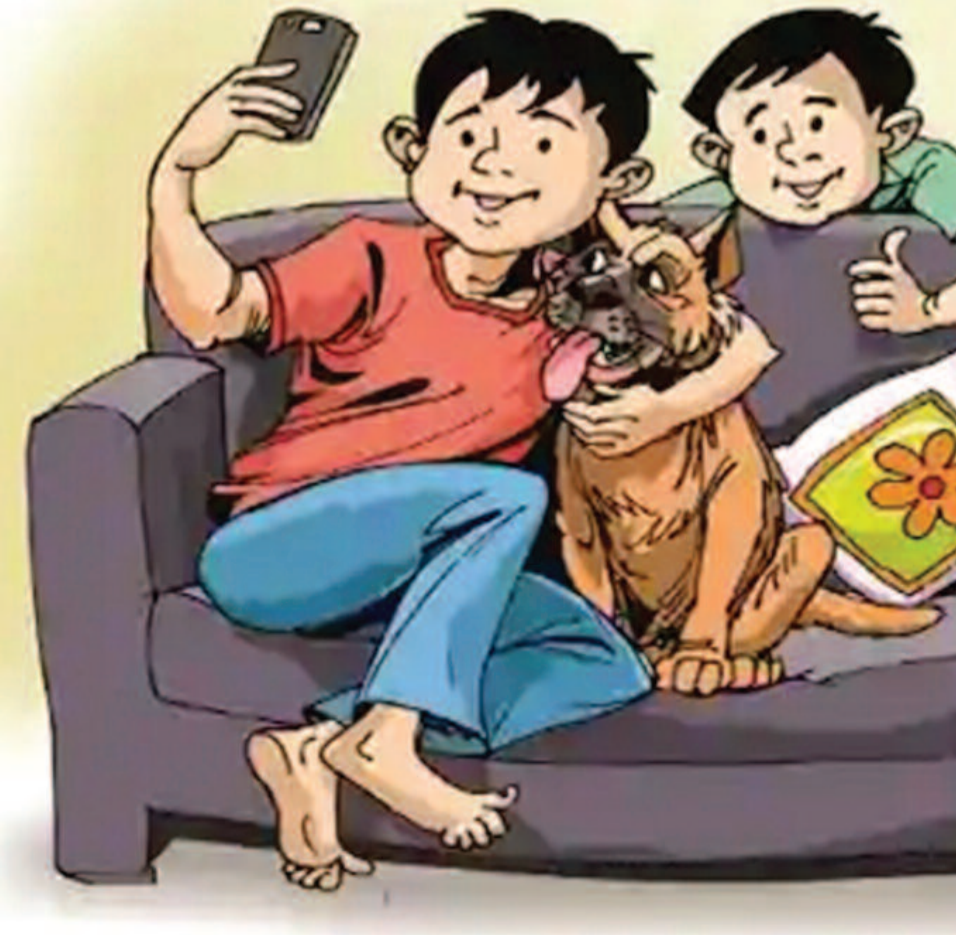


की ओर भागा। मेहुल को देख मोहित खुश हो गया। मेहुल और मोहित दोनों मोबाइल से सेल्फी लेने लगे। तभी मेहुल को मोहित का डोंगी दिखाई दिया। उसने मोहित से कहा, 'क्यों न रॉकी के साथ सेल्फी ली जाए।' मोहित ने उसकी हां में हां मिलाई। फिर क्या था कि दोनों रॉकी के साथ सेल्फी लेने लगे। पहले तो रॉकी को भी उनके इस खेल में मजा आ रहा था लेकिन जल्दी ही वह उनकी हरकतों से उकता गया। वह एक-दो बार उन पर गुरांया भी लेकिन उन्होंने इस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया। तभी सोफे पर बैठे मेहुल ने अपनी बगल में बैठे रॉकी को गर्दन से लगभग खींचते हुए अपने पास लाकर सेल्फी खींचनी चाही तो रॉकी भड़क गया और उसने मेहुल के हाथ पर काट लिया। मेहुल के मुंह से चीख निकल गई। मोहित की मम्मी बगल के कमरे से दौड़ी-दौड़ी आई। रोते हुए मेहुल और खून से सना हुआ उसका हाथ देखकर वह घबरा गई। उन्होंने जल्दी से उसके घाव को साबुन से धोया और उसे डॉक्टर के पास ले गईं। रास्ते में उन्होंने मोहित से पूछा, 'यह कैसे हुआ?' 'मां, रॉकी ने काटा है' मोहित ने कहा। 'ऐसे कैसे काट लिया, सच-सच बात बताओ?' 'मां, मेहुल रॉकी के साथ सेल्फी ले रहा था, तभी पता नहीं इसे क्या हुआ और इसने मेहुल को काट लिया।' 'तुम अपने सेल्फी के मजे में यह भूल गए कि तुम्हारी इन हरकतों से रॉकी को परेशानी हो रही है। उसे जब कुछ समझ नहीं आया होगा तो उसने मेहुल को काटकर अपना गुस्सा जता दिया।' मां ने नाराज होते हुए कहा। डॉक्टर से पट्टी करवाने के बाद मेहुल घर पहुंचा तो उसे इस हालत में देखकर मां एकदम घबरा गई लेकिन जब असली बात पता चली तो उसे मां की डांट भी खानी पड़ी। उसे समझ आ गया था कि काश उसने सेल्फी की बीमारी को अपने सिर पर चढ़ने नहीं दिया होता तो यह सब नहीं होता।

मेहुल की सेल्फी

'मेहुल.ओ.मेहुल। कहां हो तुम?' मां मेहुल को काफी देर से ढूढ़ रही थीं, लेकिन वह कहीं नजर नहीं आ रहा था। जब मेहुल उन्हें अपने कमरे में भी नहीं दिखाई दिया तो वह सोच में पड़ गई कि इतनी गर्मी में मेहुल बिना बताए कहां गया है। तभी उन्हें ख्याल आया कि एक बार छत पर जाकर भी देख लिया जाए। वैसे इस भरी दोपहर में उन्हें उसके छत पर होने की उम्मीद कम ही थी, लेकिन उनका मन नहीं माना। पर यह क्या! जैसे ही वह छत पर

पहुंची तो देखा कि मेहुल छत पर खड़ा अपने नए मोबाइल से सेल्फी खींचने में व्यस्त है! वह सेल्फी में इतना खोया हुआ था कि उसे न तो मां की आवाज सुनाई दे रही थी और न ही उनके छत पर आने का पता था। मां ने उसके करीब जाकर उसकी पीठ पर थपड़ मारते हुए कहा, 'यह क्या कर रहे हो तुम इतनी घूष में?' तो वह चौंका। 'कुछ नहीं मां, बस यूँ ही।' 'यूँ ही क्या?' मां ने गुस्से से उसकी तरफ देखते हुए कहा। 'मां, अपने इस नए





Divya Bharthi

Amps Up Summer Ethnic Style In Blue Sheer Sequin Saree



Divya Bharthi is a well-known model-turned-actress from Coimbatore. She came into the limelight for her outstanding fashion quotient before entering the world of Tamil films. The actress is quite active on social media and often shares beautiful pictures on Instagram with her fans. Recently, the diva dropped a couple of pictures from her photoshoot session, which has taken the internet by storm. In the latest snaps, Divya is seen in her traditional avatar. She draped a royal blue netted saree with sequin detailing. She teamed it with a matching sleeveless blouse. For makeup, the actress chose nude makeup, left her traces open in soft curls, and is seen posing striking poses for the camera.

The actress looked droopy and gorgeous. The photos went viral in no time. One of her fans commented, "Killing it with the look." Another one said, "Beautiful." While "gorgeous" wrote the third user. A few days ago, the actress took the internet by storm with her casual-looking photoshoot. In the photos, she is seen wearing a white full-sleeve shirt, which she paired with ribbed denim. In the pictures, she is seen sitting on the floor as she clicks for the lenses. She chose minimal makeup and left her hair open to round off her look. "Oh, hey you," reads the caption.

On the professional front, Divya has worked on popular TV shows such as Sweat and Anand. She played her first female lead role in the romantic movie Madhil Mel Kaadhala. Vebbam filmmaker Anjana Ali Khan directed it. The movie also featured Mukhin Rao, the Bigg Boss Season 3 winner, and Sakshi Agarwal in the lead roles, along with Nizhalgal Ravi, Subbu Panchu, Kasthuri Shankar, and Anuradha Hasan in the supporting roles. The film revolved around two extraordinary people as they fell in love and enjoyed life. A few unexpected events derail their romantic stride. Can they continue to be strong and happy together?

Director Lingusamy Accuses YouTube Channel Of Spreading False Information



The renowned filmmaker and scriptwriter N. Lingusamy has accused a well-known YouTube channel of spreading false news, sparking controversy. The famous director has directed some famous films like Run, Bheemaa, and Paiyaa working with some famous artists in the Tamil Film industry. He also directed Anjaan, starring Suriya, which faced massive criticism. In 2018, he directed Sandakozhi 2, starring Vishal and Keerthy Suresh, but failed to leave a mark. Lingusamy also runs a production house named Thirupathi Brothers. The production house produced a movie named Uttama Villain in 2015 starring Kamal Haasan but failed to leave its mark at the box office. Recently controversies sparked as the director accused a famous YouTube channel of spreading false and inappropriate information regarding the film.

The renowned director released a statement recently regarding the controversy. He mentioned 'Dear worldwide cinema fans, Greetings from my end. Thirupathi Brothers production company has produced and released various successful movies like Deepavali, Pattalam, Paiyaa, Vazhaku Enn 18/9, Kumki, Vettai, Ivan Veramathiri, Manja Pai, Sathuranga Vettai. We have also received national awards and Tamil Nadu State Film Awards. We were honoured when we produced the film Uttama Villain featuring Padma Shri Kamal Haasan, which couldn't perform well at the box office resulting in significant financial loss. Mr. Kamal Haasan knew about the losses we faced. He, along with his brother Mr. Charuhasan, has decided to act in another film for our production house to overcome the losses. Thirupathi Brothers would like to inform everyone that the popular YouTube channel Valai Pechu has provided fake information naming our production house.' Lingusamy further stated that the YouTube channel has mentioned that Thirupathi Brothers is making a huge profit from the film which is completely false. The director requested netizens to stop spreading fake information like this on social media platforms as it may have adverse effects. Lingusamy mentioned that it is unacceptable to spread such fake information about anyone on social media platforms.

Not Thalapathy Vijay And Trisha, This Duo Was Director Dharani's First Choice For Ghilli



Tamil cinema boasts a rich history of successful films that leave a lasting impact on audiences. Among these, Ghilli stands out as a timeless classic that continues to offer viewers an exhilarating experience every time they watch it. Ghilli is one of the most successful films of Tamil cinema. The film continues to enthral audiences long after its debut. Released in 2004, Ghilli directed by Dharani, emerged as an action-packed romantic narrative featuring Vijay, Trisha, and Prakash Raj in lead roles. The movie Ghilli portraying Vijay as an action hero gained immense popularity among fans for its compelling storyline, thrilling fight scenes, captivating music, and heartwarming romance. It is a Tamil remake of the Telugu movie Okkadu, featuring Mahesh Babu and directed by Dharani. Interestingly, Ghilli has outperformed the original Okkadu at the box office, earning twice as much. As per reports, before casting Vijay and Trisha for the film Ghilli, the makers offered the role to Vikram as the main lead. Director Dharani, known for his successful films with Vikram like Dhill and Dhool decided to cast him initially.

He even planned to cast actress Jyothika as the female lead. However, both Vikram and Jyothika declined the offer due to prior commitments. As per recent reports, the makers are planning to re-release the film Ghilli tomorrow, April 20. In the film, Vijay portrays a young man striving to make a career in Kabbadi, facing several challenges along the way. While Vijay's role mirrors that of Mahesh Babu's from the original version, the Tamil actor's performance surpasses the original in several key scenes. On the other hand, Trisha played the female lead in Ghilli and was paired up with Vijay for the first time in the film. Trisha's character added more power to the film's story as she drove the film ahead from a certain point. The team up worked well and the duo then was seen together in multiple films.

Deepika Padukone

In Cop Avatar, Recreates Ajay Devgn's Iconic Pose In Singham Again Photo

Deepika Padukone had left everyone in awe with her first look as the lady Singham in Singham 3. In Rohit Shetty's latest cop film, she will portray the character Shakti Shetty. As the excitement is mounting regarding the next addition in the supercop franchise, Rohit Shetty has amped everyone's expectations by unveiling yet another swagger look of Deepika Padukone in his latest social media post. Taking to his Instagram handle on Friday, Rohit Shetty dropped a still from his upcoming film and it featured Deepika Padukone donning the Khakhi uniform. With a colourful backdrop, Deepika can be seen emulating the famous hand gesture of Ajay Devgn from the first Singham, with sunglasses on. Sharing the same, Rohit Shetty penned the caption, "MY HERO... REEL MEIN BHI AUR REAL MEIN BHI LADY SINGHAM!!!"

@deepikapadukone."

Deepika has a prominent role in the movie. Back in 2023, Rohit Shetty had said that Singham Again will feature Deepika as one of the heroes. He said, "She is like one of the heroes and what we are doing with it is that we will go with her story. We will make a film which has only Deepika... it is her story... Like Sooryavanshi, Singham and Simmba, the films had already been made and people knew about them but with Singham Again we are introducing these characters and then we will tell their stories."



The film, featuring Ajay Devgn in the lead role, along with Ranveer Singh, was announced by the director on the first day of Navratri in October last year. Rohit, while unveiling the first look, revealed that Deepika would be essaying the role of the most 'brutal and violent' cop in his cop universe. In the first-look poster, Deepika was seen suited up in a police uniform, holding a gun in her hand. The gun was placed in a man's mouth while Deepika had a sinister smile while blood was seen oozing from her forehead and shoulders. Sharing the poster, Rohit had written, "Naari sita ka bhi roop hai aur durga ka bhi... Meet the most brutal and violent officer of our cop universe... Shakti Shetty... My lady Singham... Deepika Padukone." Meanwhile, Deepika Padukone is expecting her first child with actor-husband Ranveer Singh. The two announced their pregnancy in February this year when Deepika shared an adorable poster with "September 2024?" written on it. The poster also had children's clothes, toys and balloons as the border. Deepika and Ranveer have been married for over five years now. She will soon be seen alongside Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan in Kalki 2989 AD.

