



SAUMYA KHANDELWAL FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Workers in Beed, India, near NSL Sugars, which is a Coca-Cola and PepsiCo franchisee supplier that has mills around the country.

Trapped in the Brutality of India’s Sugar Cane Fields

By MEGHA RAJAGOPALAN and QADRI INZAMAM

BEED, India — Archana Ashok Chaure has given her life to sugar. She was married off to a sugar cane laborer in western India at about 14 — “too young,” she says, “to have any idea what marriage was.” Debt to her employer keeps her in the fields.

Last winter, she did what thousands of women here are pressured to do when faced with painful periods or routine ailments: She got a hysterectomy, and got back to work.

This keeps sugar flowing to

companies like Coke and Pepsi. The two soft-drink makers have helped turn the state of Maharashtra into a sugar-producing powerhouse. But a New York Times and Fuller Project investigation has found that these brands have also profited from a brutal system of labor that exploits children and leads to the unnecessary sterilization of working-age women.

Young girls are pushed into illegal child marriages so they can work alongside their husbands cutting and gathering sugar cane. Instead of receiving wages, they work to pay off advances from their employers — an arrange-

Women Feel Pressured Into Hysterectomies

ment that requires them to pay a fee for the privilege of missing work, even to see a doctor.

An extreme yet common consequence of this financial entrapment is hysterectomies. Labor brokers loan money for the surgeries, even to resolve ailments as routine as heavy, painful periods. And the women — most of them uneducated — say they have little choice.

Hysterectomies keep them working, undistracted by doctor visits or the hardship of menstruating in a field with no access to running water, toilets or shelter.

Removing a woman’s uterus has lasting consequences, particularly if she is under 40. In addition to the short-term risks of abdominal pain and blood clots, it often brings about early menopause, raising the chance of heart disease, osteoporosis and other ailments.

But for many sugar laborers, the operation has a particularly grim outcome: Borrowing against

Continued on Page 12

Princess Kate Wrests Control Of Rumor Mill

By MARK LANDLER

LONDON — For more than two months, Catherine, Princess of Wales, had lost control of her story to a spiral of wild, baseless online rumors. On Friday evening, with a stark two-minute, 13-second video, she set out to reclaim it.

To do so, the princess had to deliver the wrenching news that she was battling a life-threatening cancer, the kind of deeply personal disclosure that she and her husband, Prince William, have long resisted.

Catherine, 42, made the decision to record the video herself, three people familiar with the planning process said on Saturday. Earlier, she had decided to post an apology for digitally altering a photograph of herself with her three children, which set off a new round of conspiracy theories after it was released on Mother’s Day in Britain.

“This was pitch perfect from her perspective,” said Peter Hunt, a former royal correspondent at the BBC. “The fact that it was a video was a rebuke to all those questions about her whereabouts.”

In opting to go public this way, Catherine has etched a place for herself in the annals of the British royal family and among the women of the House of Windsor. The video, in its frankness and barely concealed emotion, recalled Queen Elizabeth II’s televised message days after the car crash

Continued on Page 6



ERIN SCHAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Hudson the Goldendoodle has helped the Boltons heal since Nashville’s school shooting last year.

Warm Hearts and Cold Noses Help a School Heal

By EMILY COCHRANE

NASHVILLE — Two of April Manning’s children, Mac and Lilah, had just survived the mass shooting at the Covenant School in Nashville. They needed stability and time to grieve.

So she did everything she could to keep the family dog, Owen, their sweet but ailing 15-year-old golden retriever, with them for as long as possible. She pushed back his final trip to the vet, keeping him comfortable as he slowly

moved around the house.

Getting another dog was the furthest thing from her mind. But a few weeks after the shooting, her children sat her down for an important presentation.

Prepared with a script and a PowerPoint — “Why We Should Get (Another) Dog” — they rattled through research showing the mental health benefits of having one. It could limit their chances of developing PTSD and help them feel safe. Playing together would get them outside and boost their happiness.

Ms. Manning and her husband considered. Maybe a second dog was possible.

First came Chip, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel. Then, after Owen succumbed to old age, came Birdie, a miniature poodle and Bernese Mountain dog mix. And in taking them in, the Mannings were far from alone.

In the year since Tennessee’s worst school shooting, in which three third-graders and three staff members were killed by a former student, more than 40 dogs have

Continued on Page 18

ARRESTS IN ATTACK ON RUSSIAN VENUE; TOLL SURPASSES 130

Though ISIS Branch Took Responsibility, Putin Claims Ukraine Had a Role

By PAUL SONNE and IVAN NECHEPURENKO

The Russian authorities said on Saturday that they had arrested the four individuals suspected of setting a suburban Moscow concert on fire and killing at least 133 people, one of the worst terrorist attacks to jolt Russia in President Vladimir V. Putin’s nearly quarter century in power.

The Islamic State has taken responsibility for the brutal assault in three different messages issued since Friday. But Mr. Putin, in his first public remarks on the tragedy more than 19 hours after the attack, made no mention of the extremist group or the identities of the perpetrators, broadly blaming “international terrorism,” while Russian state media quickly began laying the groundwork to suggest that Ukraine and its Western backers were responsible.

The Russian leader did take a swipe at Ukraine, saying that the suspects were apprehended while traveling to the Russian border, where he alleged a crossing was being prepared for them from “the Ukrainian side.” Kyiv has denied any involvement in the attack.

Russian state news broadcasts largely ignored or cast doubt on the ISIS attribution, and commentators focused on trying to blame Ukraine. As of Saturday, the authorities had not disclosed the identities of the alleged gunmen.

But state news media did show what it described as footage of interrogations of at least two of the suspects, including one who spoke in Tajik through an interpreter and another who said he carried out the killings for money after being recruited over the messaging app Telegram. Russia’s Interior Ministry said the four suspects were all foreign citizens.

In his video address, Mr. Putin said the four main perpetrators had been apprehended, as well as seven other individuals.

“The main thing now is to prevent those who were behind this bloody massacre from committing new crimes,” he said.

The Russian leader designated Sunday as a national day of mourning and vowed retribution against those who organized the attack.

“All perpetrators, organizers and commissioners of this crime will receive a just and inevitable punishment,” Mr. Putin said. “No matter who they are, no matter who directed them, I repeat, we will identify and punish everyone who stood behind the terrorists.”

By Saturday, the vast concert venue had been reduced to a heap of burned rubble, dust and smoke, after a mammoth fire engulfed the premises in the hours after the attack and pulled down the roof.

Continued on Page 10



NANNA HEITMANN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

An impromptu memorial on Saturday at Crocus City Hall.

Testing Limits In Calling Out Antisemitism

By VIMAL PATEL

In the early 2000s, as the uprising known as the second intifada instilled fear in Israelis through a series of suicide bombings, Kenneth Marcus, then an official in the U.S. Department of Education, watched with unease as pro-Palestinian protests shook college campuses.

“We were seeing, internationally, a transformation of anti-Israel animus into something that looked like possibly a new form of antisemitism,” Mr. Marcus recalled in an interview, adding that U.S. universities were at the forefront of that resurgence.

Ever since, Mr. Marcus, perhaps more than anyone, has tried to douse what he sees as a dangerous rise of campus antisemitism, often embedded in pro-Palestinian activism.

He has done it as a government insider in the Bush and Trump administrations, helping to clarify protections for Jewish students under the 1964 Civil Rights Act and broadening the definition of what can be considered antisemitic.

He has also been an outside agitator, filing and promoting federal claims of harassment of Jews that he knows will garner media attention and put pressure on college administrators, students and faculty.

The impact of his life’s work has never been more felt than in the last few months, as universities

Continued on Page 17

Range of Issues On E.V.s Stokes Partisan Battle

This article is by Coral Davenport, Lisa Friedman and Jack Ewing.

The electric vehicle, a breakthrough achievement in automotive technology, has driven into this year’s presidential election, inflaming partisan fights that have come to define much of American culture.

One reason is that President Biden has made electric vehicles central to his strategy to combat climate change. Last week, his administration announced the most ambitious climate regulation in the nation’s history: a measure designed to accelerate a transition toward electric vehicles and away from the gasoline-powered cars that are a major cause of global warming.

The political war over electric vehicles has been fueled by an incendiary mix of issues: technological change, the future of the oil and gas industry, concerns about competition from China and the American love of motorized muscle. And in the rural reaches of America, where few public charging stations exist, the notion of an all-electric future feels fanciful — another element to the urban-rural divide that underlies the nation’s polarization.

Mr. Biden’s opponent, former President Donald J. Trump, has for months escalated attacks on electric vehicles broadly and the new regulation in particular, falsely calling the rule a ban on gasoline-powered cars and claiming

Continued on Page 20

INTERNATIONAL 4-14

In a Bunker in Avdiivka
A Ukrainian private desperately struggled to survive for 41 days, many of them alone, at the front. PAGE 4

Cartel Is Targeting Seniors
A criminal group in Mexico offers to buy retirees’ timeshares. Then it empties its victims’ bank accounts. PAGE 8

NATIONAL 15-26

Bracing for a Crowded Eclipse
Some in northern Maine are wary of the solar eclipse’s path of totality. “Where are 20,000 people going to pee?” one shopkeeper asked. PAGE 15



BASEBALL PREVIEW

It’s a New Ballgame
Talented rookies, expensive free agents and tweaks to last year’s rule changes herald a new season. SPORTS, PAGE 1

METROPOLITAN

Menagerie on the Tarmac
Animals arriving in the United States often make a stop at a Kennedy Airport center called the ARK. PAGE 1

Checkout Time Is Never
A Manhattan hotel guest took advantage of a state housing law to make himself a long-term resident. PAGE 1

SUNDAY STYLES

Of Recipes and Relationships
The supermodel Gisele Bündchen talks about her post-divorce life and about food as she readies to release her first cookbook. PAGE 11



ARTS & LEISURE

Pete Townshend and ‘Tommy’
As the stage musical prepares for a revival, the musician is also looking back on his life, his traumas and his time with the Who. PAGE 4

SUNDAY OPINION

Maureen Dowd PAGE 3

SUNDAY BUSINESS

A Force Beyond Finance
The hedge fund titan Bill Ackman has a big following on X, and he used it to wage a campaign against Harvard’s president that was similar to those he’s used against company C.E.O.s. PAGE 4

Cancel Those Smartphones?
The N.Y.U. professor Jonathan Haidt has a very big idea for “fixing” Gen Z, and it’s safe to say that they are probably not going to like it. PAGE 1

