



"Congress has zero-tolerance against corruption": Sachin Pilot ends ...

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## NCP can regain their nation party status



### Their performance in future electoral in Lok Sabha elections can decide the status

The ECI revoked the NCP's national party status on the basis of its election performances in 2014 and 2019 and the party will now have state party status only in Maharashtra and Nagaland. Election Commission officials said parties can regain their national and state party status based on their performance in future electoral cycles as also the Lok Sabha elections due next year. A national party tag allows an organisation to get a common poll symbol across the country, more star campaigners, and free air time on national broadcasters for election campaigns and by convention office space in Delhi.

"The party is waiting to receive the order from the Election Commission of India on this. We will issue our official reaction after we go through the order." The EC had asked NCP to submit its statement as the commission was reviewing the national status of various political parties in the country, NCP Lok Sabha member Sunil Tatkare said

The NCP was formed by Sharad Pawar, a former Congress leader, in 1999 and became a national party in 2000 following its success in various elections. In 2000, it earned national party status conforming to the Election Commission

of India (ECI) rules. In Maharashtra, the NCP's ability to make or break political alliances and government has remained constant. Under the leadership of Sharad Pawar, 82, the NCP has embarked on unprecedented political experiments. The NCP state leaders have set an ambitious target of 100 out of the 288 seats in the 2024 Assembly elections. The party is determined to bring the like-minded Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) to work together under the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) banner.

NCP MP Supriya Sule said, "We accept the Election Commission decision.

We will study the EC order and then respond in detail."

Irrespective of its numbers elections since 1999, Pawar's influence at both the Centre and the state has remained undimmed. As a result, both the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) nor the opposition parties the Congress and Shiv Sena are writing off the NCP. Although the Congress and the BJP are the two mainstream political parties with pan-India acceptance, the NCP's electoral base in Maharashtra has remained loyal when it comes to Assembly polls.

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## The news channel that misleads, leads the viewership

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

In the recent past many news channels are under criticism for spreading fake news. Most of the news channels are supporting the propaganda of the ruling party. There is a famous saying that, "Perception is reality." Your perception and understanding of the reality in India come largely from the news media, often referred to as the MSM, MainStream Media. As a result, perception of India is completely projected wrongly. The MSM is a business that exists to make money for the owners. That's what business does-make money for the owners. The way the MSM does that is by offering something they call "news," which is what you read or watch. In order to attract viewers, such as you, they present the news in such a way as to make it hold your attention. "Sensationalize" is the word

to use, so they have a series of "rules" that they use to attract and keep your attention.

At the arrival of television in India, there used to be a single channel - Door-Darshan. It served as a jack of all trades - fictionalized serials, cartoons, musical programs, documentaries, and news. Back then, the news was broadcast once or twice a day, far from the 24x7 coverage we are used to now. News was also about impartially reporting the facts. There were no debates, speculations, or subjective analysis. But nothing good lasts forever. Along came cable with its catalogue of dozens of channels.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

# The news channel that misleads, leads the viewership

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*Like any other possibly profitable scheme comes corporate greed. TV wasn't going anywhere. In fact, it was only becoming ever more popular.*

*Currently, Indian television reaches an average of 615 million individuals every week. This, out of a total universe of 675 million (people in TV households), means 9 out of 10 people with access to TV are watching it every week.*

*Mark Twain once said that if you don't read the news you are uninformed, but if you do read the news, you are misinformed. That was true a hundred years ago, just as it is true today.*

Now you had specific channels dedicated to specific categories of TV programs, news being one of them. But with 1440 minutes of the day dedicated to "news", factual content became a scarcity. What would the producers do? News wasn't just facts anymore. They were special reports, group discussions, and expert analysis. And it was still fine.

Like any other possibly profitable scheme comes corporate greed. TV wasn't going anywhere. In fact, it was only becoming ever more popular. Historically, TV has been on an upward trend in India over the years. From the days of only Door-Darshan, we are a country of more than 800 channels today. From two channels in 1991 (DD National and DD 2), India grew to 50 channels by 1996 and 130 by 2004. This was around the time private channels emerged. In just five years, the number of channels had increased to 521, reflecting the growing strength of the small screen. This growth was all round: news, regional, music, lifestyle, food, travel, science, wildlife, fashion, films and, of course, English entertainment channels. There has been no looking back since. Today, there are around 826 channels across various genres covering all regions of India.

Currently, Indian television reaches an average of 615 million individuals every week. This, out of a total universe of 675 million (people in TV households), means 9 out of 10 people with access to TV are watching it every week. In comparison with the earlier years, urban TV reach has increased from 245 million individuals in 2013 to 300 million by 2016, an increase of 22%. If spliced to just the Hindi speaking urban audience, TV has reached 200 million individuals in 2016. Conflicts of interest were inevitable. And what we see today is a culmination of decades of corporate poisoning of what was conceived as a key outlet for the fourth pillar of our democracy.

Mark Twain once said that if you don't read the news you are uninformed, but if you do read the news, you are misinformed. That was true a hundred years ago, just as it is true today. A bench of Justices K M Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said the role of TV anchors was "critical" and it is their duty to discourage hate speeches during news programmes. We have so much repetition, under-investigated information, opinions,

and worst of all... fear mongering. Don't be fooled; both sides of any issue can be guilty of the above. We need to enact some legislation that holds our freedom of the press (or any outlet) more accountable. We had no mass usage of social media. Facebook had less than 20 active users at the beginning of 2002 and Twitter did not exist. At that time our networks were in a much better financial position to be able to report responsibly without all the financial pressure that motivates them today. Isn't that what Federal Regulations are supposed to protect the citizens from? The media made people afraid of shark attacks during the "Summer of the Shark" — that was sensationalism, rightly criticized.

The media telling people about all the new infections, deaths, precautions, rules, political responses, etc in a deadly pandemic that's deeply affected the whole world and continues to spread, especially in the United States where it's killed more Americans in 6 months than two entire Vietnam Wars, where 3 million Americans have been infected, where it's infecting another 75,000 people per day, where infection rates are rapidly rising in about half the states, where hospitals are running out of beds, where major cities are running out of morgue space, where some people have to wait in line 12+ hours to get tested, where about half the states are mandating the wearing of face masks, where millions of people and some politicians dismiss reality and continually act recklessly, where the entire country is debating how to safely re-open schools, where there's no expectation of the viral spread slowing any time soon — that's called responsible journalism. We need to stop feeding the Mainstream Media and letting them manipulate and divide us against each other.

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Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road,  
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

**Dr. Vaidehi**

Vaidehi has received several Awards like I Congo-karmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

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Email- [afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com) • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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# Voices



## Letters to the Editor

### Prioritize water for drinking at times of acute shortage!

Water is an essential commodity for survival & it is the duty of every govt to at least provide drinking water to every citizen on a priority basis. The City of Mumbai is facing an acute shortage of water due to the ongoing repair work announced & it has now been confirmed that the cut in supply is up to 50% in areas far from filtration units.

Water supply to swimming pools across the city needs to be stopped & citizens should cooperate as much as possible by not using precious water for cleaning vehicles & saving every drop of water where ever possible till supply is normalized. 50 % rebate on water charges demanded by activists is valid as those without water have to buy mineral bottled water for drinking & also shell out a lot of money for tankers for urgent use!

S N Kabra

### Safe Water Scarcity

Water is an essential commodity fundamental to life, livelihood, and human survival. According to a report released by UNESCO India's water quality ranks 120th among 122 nations. Unsafe water has severe implications for human health. Emanates innumerable diseases from polluted water that affect human health. According to a report around 38 million Indians are affected by waterborne diseases annually. Government should adopt policies that reduce the harm caused by water pollution to human health.

Muzakkir Khan

### At G:20 Summit, Top Priority should be given to Employment Generation Service Sector in India

The Golden Sparrows organization organized G:20 Meeting of Scholars in New Delhi. Dr. Uppal suggested service sector should be developed more to give more employment to the youth. Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a prolific writer, a Man of Letters, an acclaimed academician, research stalwart, and the more ingenious guide has won accolades not only in the academic field but also in the genre of research. Presently, he is serving in the most exalted institution, Baba Farid College of Management and Technology (Punjab), as a Professor-cum-Principal. He is also visiting Professor in Indus International University, Himachal Pradesh. The Golden Sparrows organization organized G:20 Meeting of Scholars in New Delhi. Dr. Uppal suggested service sector should be developed more to give more employment to the youth. G:20 is a big Economic Forum of twenty developed and under developed countries which represents 65 percent of population, 75 percent of global trade and 80 percent of global GDP. Any decision taken by this group will affect other courtiers also. India is a very lucky country which got this opportunity to preside over G:20 Summit in September 2023. But India got this opportunity when world is passing through adverse effect of Russia- Ukraine War, Post- COVID 19's and World Recession. Now whole world is watching India's vision, what strategies to be made to overcome these problems. If India is able to suggest some effective strategies, India will become a leading country in the world. Our honorable prime minister Sh. Narinder Modi Ji allow 200 organizations to hold G:20 meetings before Sept. 2023. The various suggestions regarding what should be priorities for India" will be suggested. In this regard in my opinion service sector should be given more importance for development where only 25 percent population in India is working. The elasticity of employment is much more in the service sector; this is contributing 60 percent of GDP. It is more developed in advanced countries and this is the reason our youth prefer advanced countries. In G:20 Summit, should be discussed various strategies how to develop service sector. The various MOU should be made with member countries.

Professor R. K. Uppal

# Kozhikode the coastal city



Spice root gave a good account of Kozhikode (called Calicut) about the importance of the place in Indian History. From Vasco da Gama days to the present day set up, the place is considered a business spot for years. As I belong to the Thali area of Kozhikode I followed the development of the place from my younger days. As a Bank officer I was working in Quilandy branch and was able to visit the Kappad beach, through which Vasco da Gama entered India.

When I was watching Surabhi programme of Siddharth Kak through Doordarshan, I came to know that Hooka manufactured at Quilandy was exported to Persia and other countries. Whenever I return from Kozhikode I used to buy the Aluwa (Sweet) specially made in different colours for my children. When I was leaving Kozhikode Railway Station, I saw repairs were being made in a grad scale to make the station as a model one for the Indian Railways.

There are many facets of the place in the northern part of Kerala and if you want a quiet holiday and somewhere you can unwind and get away from the stress of metropolitan life then Kozhikode is the ideal place. It is a place

of the erstwhile capital of the Zamorin Kings of Yore. Calicut as the old name suggests is literally meaning a cockerel crowing, is a city of contrasts. A city that showcases wide-open spaces and lush, green countryside as well as narrow, tightly wound streets that teem with activities. This is not only Kerala's commercial hub and centre for its timber industry but also the home of Ayurveda-an ancient system of medicine that operates in tune with nature.

In fact about 50 kilometres from Kozhikode lie the largest herbal gardens in the world. Kerala's verdant forests have, for long years, nourished a profusion of herbs, plants and trees that extremely valuable in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicines. Not surprising therefore, that the ancient tradition of Ayurveda has been kept alive in this State by master Vaidya. The Chief Vaidyas belonged to just eight families and were calls Ashta Vaidyas due to their competence in all the eight branches of Ayurveda.

If you are looking for the bright city lights then Kozhikode is not really your kind of the place. On the other hand, if you want a quiet holiday and somewhere you want to unwind and get away from the stress of metropolitan life then this is the

ideal getaway and there is no doubt about it. There is the sea, rather quiet beach and a few good museums like the Pazhasiraja Museum and the Krishna Menon Museum whose exhibits include an excellent selection of paintings as also wood and ivory carvings.

A large number of the population here is Muslim and in Kuttichira possibly the oldest quarter in the city you can hear the muezzin call the faithful to prayer. Visit the Muccunti Mosque and discover some interesting facets in history of the Zamorins of Kozhikode and their patronage of Islam in Kerala. Better still, see the Mananchiri Maidan and the Manachira tank. Once the bathing are of the Zamorin Kings, it stands amidst the hustle and bustle of the city. The musical fountain the Maidan is a local favourite. Kozhikode is a city that exudes all our expectations.

- C K Subramaniam

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

[afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com)

No postal letters will be entertained  
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

# Babri masjid demolition was carried out by Hindus not as members of Shiv Sena or BJP Maha minister

With his remarks that not a single Shiv Sena worker was present when the Babri Masjid was being brought down caused a flutter, Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Chandrakant Patil on Tuesday clarified those who razed the structure were Hindus and they cannot be segregated as Shiv Sainiks or BJP men.

Following Patil's remarks, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray has demanded that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde either step down or ask Patil to resign.

Patil revealed that CM Shinde called him on Tuesday morning after his remarks caused a row



and asked him to clarify.

"Nobody participated in 'kar-seva' (movement to demolish the Babri structure) as members of their parties but as Hindus. At the time of the demolition (in December 1992), there was no separation between Shiv Sena workers and non-Shiv Sena workers. All participated as Hindus," Patil

told reporters in Pune on Tuesday.

When asked whether workers of Bharatiya Janata Party also didn't participate in the demolition, Patil said, "Neither BJP nor Shiv Sena (then undivided) was present there. All were present under the leadership of Vishwa Hindu Parishad as Hindus".

"Does it mean Shiv Sena did not participate in the demolition?" Patil wondered. "From leaders like Satish Pradhan (of undivided Shiv Sena) all were part of the 'Ram Janmabhoomi Andolan' but it was always led by the VHP and its leader (late) Ashok Singhal. (Late) Anand Dighe (veteran Shiv Sainik and mentor of CM Shinde) had sent a gold brick from Thane to Ayodhya," Patil added.

The former state BJP president also said he didn't mean to disrespect Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray in any way during his interview released on Monday evening by a Marathi news channel. "Balasaheb Thackeray had

even taken the onus of the entire incident (demolition of the masjid). However, I will not react to the comments made by Uddhav Thackeray today against me," he added.

Notably, Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray has often been quoted as saying he was proud if any of his Sainiks had taken part in the demolition of the structure.

The Shiv Sena led by Shinde and the BJP share power in Maharashtra. Patil revealed that CM Shinde called him on Tuesday morning and asked him to clarify.

"He even told me that his mentor Anand Dighe had sent a gold brick to Ayodhya," the minister added.

## Court refuses pre-arrest bail to NCP's Hasan Mushrif in ED case



A court on Tuesday rejected an anticipatory bail application filed by former Maharashtra minister Hasan Mushrif in an alleged money laundering case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The special court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases, however, granted the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader interim protection

from arrest till April 14. Mushrif had moved the special court stating that he apprehended arrest under the garb of investigation and the recording of statement under the PMLA.

The MLA from Kagal Assembly constituency in Kolhapur had served as rural development minister in the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. The ED has claimed that there was a suspicious flow of

several crores of rupees from two companies "without having substantial business" to Sar Senapati Santaji Ghorpade Sugar Factory in which Mushrif's sons Navid, Aabid and Sajid are directors or stakeholders.

In his pre-arrest bail plea filed through advocates Prashant Patil, Swapnil Ambre and Atit Soni, Mushrif claimed that the entire prosecution case was the result of a political campaign launched by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya against him.

The central probe agency, in its reply, denied this. "The applicant has wrongly asserted that the entire case of prosecution is the result of the political vendetta of Somaiya. The applicant is trying to shift the culpability on others. But shifting the culpability does not absolve the crime," the ED said.

## Maha govt issues order for schools to screen movie on Swachh Bharat Mission

In an attempt to sensitise children about cleanliness, the Maharashtra government has asked schools to screen "Let's Change", a movie based on the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission, an official said on Tuesday.

The Maharashtra school education and sports department is-

sued a government resolution (GR) in this regard on Tuesday.

As per the GR, schools have been granted permission to screen the film "Let's Change" in Marathi in the academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The movie is based on the Union government's Swachh Bharat Mission and hence, stu-

dents should be encouraged to watch it, it stated.

A post-movie screening report also needs to be submitted to the education minister, it said.

No student can be asked to pay more than Rs 20 for watching the film, which has to be screened without disturbing the teaching schedule, the GR stated.

## Maha sees 328 fresh Covid-19 cases, one fatality

Maharashtra on Monday reported 328 fresh Covid-19 cases, a fall of more than 50 per cent compared to the previous day,

taking the overall tally of infections to 81,50,257. With a single fatality in Mumbai city, the cumulative Covid-19 death toll in the state rose to 1,48,460.

### NCP can regain their nation party...

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In 1999, the year of its birth, the NCP faced the first Assembly polls and won 58 seats with a 22.60 per cent vote share. The Congress emerged as the largest party with 75 seats and a 27.20 per cent vote share. Shiv Sena won 69 seats (17.33 per cent vote share) and the BJP 56 seats (14.54 per cent vote share). Five years later, the NCP stumped Congress as the leading party, bagging 71 seats with a vote share of 18.75 per cent. Despite being the leading party, Pawar handed the chief minister post to the Congress. In the bargain, Pawar got important portfolios for his candidates, including home, finance, energy, rural development, and water resources. The Congress-NCP coalition government in Maharashtra lasted from 1999 to 2014. The Nationalist Congress Party on Monday said it would react to the Election Commission stripping the Sharad Pawar-led outfit of its 'national party' status after receiving the order in written form. In separate orders issued during the day, the EC recog-

nised Aam Aadmi Party as a national party while stripping NCP, Trinamool Congress and Communist Party of India of the coveted status. The NCP lost its state party status in Goa, Manipur and Meghalaya, as per the EC order. NCP Sachin Sawant told Afternoon Voice, "NCP has decided to challenge the decision of national status been given to AAP. It is trying to prepare for elections upcoming elections in other states".

NCP spokesperson Clyde Crasto said, "We will be coming back again and right now we are preparing for other state elections. We have got the national for a long time. Earlier we did not have the numbers for the requirement of national party but we are working on it".

AAP worker Dhananjay Shinde said, "AAP is trying imply Delhi government working model in all the states and none other party was able to fulfil the demand of citizens. The agenda of AAP is to work for citizens over education and unemployment which most of them are facing today in the country".

## Nation

### "Congress has zero-tolerance against corruption": Sachin Pilot ends day-long fast



Asserting that the Congress has been fighting against the issue of corruption, party leader Sachin Pilot on Tuesday demanded investigation from his own government in cases of alleged corruption related to the previous Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in the state.

Pilot made these remarks as he ended his day-long fast on Tuesday around 4 pm at Shaheed Smarak in Rajasthan's Jaipur, calling for action by the incumbent Ashok Gehlot government against alleged

corruption during the previous BJP rule under former chief minister Vasundhara Raje.

He held a day-long hunger protest despite warning from his party that his action is against the interests of the party. Talking to the mediapersons, Pilot said, "I am protesting against the corruption that took place under the Vasundhara Raje government. I have been raising this issue for quite a long. This is the same issue, which Rahul Gandhi voiced both inside and outside the Parliament. This is the same issue for

which Congress and other Opposition parties came together".

"The allegations are not new, and I have not revealed anything new. They are already in the public domain. I wrote twice for action but no action was taken. So, I want that action should be taken so that people don't think that there is a difference between what we promise and what we do," he added.

Responding to AICC incharge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa's claims that Pilot never discussed the issue with him, Sachin Pilot said, "Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa became in charge a few days ago. I had also talked to the earlier in-charge but this corruption issue is still there. We should speak against corruption and our fight against corruption will continue".

Notably, the protest has not gone down well with the party, as Congress said that it is against party interests and an "anti-party activity". BJP on the other hand, has attacked the Congress-led government and has called it the "last nail in the coffin" for the Gehlot government in the state.

### Over 100 shops gutted in fire at vegetable market in Bihar's Bodh Gaya



A major fire broke out at a vegetable market in Bihar's Bodh Gaya on Tuesday morning turning 115 shops of the market into ashes, officials said.

The intensity of the fire was such that in no time it engulfed dozens of shops, leaving no time for locals to control it. Powered By PlayUnmute Fullscreen Locals who are present at the spot claimed that a couple of LPG cylinders also exploded after which fire engulfed the whole area.

People also alleged fire tenders of reaching late even after getting information. Muhammad Raju, a food outlet operator in the market said, "Fire was so massive that no one dared to douse it and after the cylinder blast, it spread further gutting our shops. A total of 115 to 117 shops were destroyed in the fire causing a loss of several lakhs of rupees. Only one fire brigade reached here that too was late, till then most of the market was under fire."

### SC dismisses TN Govt's appeal against Madras HC order allowing RSS marches



The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed Tamil Nadu Government's appeal against the Madras High Court's order allowing RSS route marches in the state.

A bench of justices V Ramasubramanian and Pankaj Mithal upheld the Madras High Court order which allowed RSS route marches.

The Tamil Nadu govt stressed issues concerning law and order, saying that some balance should be maintained and that neither everything can be banned nor allowed.

The lawyer for the Tamil

Nadu Govt said that there is no absolute right to hold a procession, which is subject to various restrictions, and asked how can there be the direction that marches can be held wherever desired.

Senior Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for RSS, said that the state is prohibiting the route marches saying that someone might come and attack. He stressed that due to someone else's specious conduct, fundamental rights cannot be regimented in this fashion. It has earlier passed off peacefully, and no complaints were there, the lawyer said.

Earlier the Tamil Nadu Government told the Supreme Court that they are not totally against the RSS route march but can't permit it in sensitive locations.

The court was hearing the appeal against the Madras High Court order permitting RSS for its route marches in the state.

### Anti-national forces put Sisodia, Satyendar Jain in jail: Delhi CM Kejriwal

Anti-national forces worked together to put former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in jail, Aam Aadmi Party convenor Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday. Addressing AAP party workers in the national capital, the chief minister of Delhi said that the party getting the status of national party in a short span of 10 years was a "miraculous and incredible" achievement.

He also urged people to join the AAP in order to make India the number one country in the world. The Election Commission of India recently granted national party status to AAP. "All the anti-national forces that want to stop the progress of the country are against the AAP, but the almighty is with us," Kejriwal said.

"Today, on this occasion of happiness, I am missing Manish ji and Jain Saheb a lot. They are fighting for the country and for all of us. Today all anti-national



forces are opposing AAP. Manish Sisodia urged poor children to dream, that was his fault. It was Satyendar Jain's fault that he wanted everyone to have access to good medical conditions, and anti-national forces worked together to put them in jail," Kejriwal said.

The chief minister added, "Many of our comrades were beaten, put behind bars. Many people lost their lives during this journey and I pray for them all. Many people struggled a lot, left their jobs and joined the party. I thank all our workers and most of all our critics for everything."

Kejriwal further added, "Earlier they used to say that money is needed to contest elections, but we have shown that we can contest elections honestly and run the government. Back when we started, there was no money, there were no men, even today there is no money but there are many men."

In significant decisions, the Election Commission on Monday recognised Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as a national party and withdrew this recognition given to the Nationalist Congress Party, CPI and Trinamool Congress.

World

# Macron visits Netherlands after Taiwan comments make waves



French President Emmanuel Macron begins a two-day state visit to the Netherlands on Tuesday and is making a speech on his vision for the future of Europe. The speech Tuesday afternoon at a theatre in The Hague comes after Macron raised eyebrows with comments on Taiwan after his recent visit to China. The question we need to answer, as Europeans, is the following: Is it in our interest to accelerate (a crisis) on Taiwan? No, Macron was quoted as saying in an interview published Sunday in French newspaper Les Echos and Politico Europe. The worst thing would be to think that we Euro-

peans must become followers on this topic and take our cue from the US agenda and a Chinese overreaction.

The remarks raised questions about whether Macron's views are in line with the European Union's position and whether the bloc of 27 is able to become the third superpower that Macron says he hopes to build within a few years.

The interview was Friday, before China launched large-scale combat exercises around Taiwan that simulated sealing off the island in response to the Taiwanese president's trip to the US last week. Macron and European

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited Beijing last week for talks and urged Chinese leader Xi Jinping to bring Russia to its senses over its war in Ukraine.

He emphasised the concept of strategic autonomy for Europe which he has promoted for years. He warned of what he called the trap that would lead to the bloc getting caught up in crises that are not ours. China and Taiwan split in 1949 after a civil war, and the government in Beijing says the island is obliged to rejoin the mainland, by force if necessary.

Macron's trip to Amsterdam and The Hague is the first state visit by a French leader since Jacques Chirac 23 years ago and underscores the close links between the Netherlands and France and the two leaders. After arriving in Amsterdam, Macron is scheduled to lay a wreath at the national monument near the royal palace in the historic heart of the city. He later travels to The Hague for a meeting with leaders of both houses of the Dutch parliament before delivering his speech. PTI

## Israel: Netanyahu reinstates Gallant amid security tensions



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday reinstated Defense Minister Yoav Gallant amid escalating security crisis, reversing course over an earlier decision to fire the minister who publicly called to freeze plans to overhaul the judicial system, reported The Times of Israel (ToI). Netanyahu's decision to keep Gallant in place is seen by many as a major achievement for the anti-government protesters, who held spontaneous demonstrations in support of the Defence Minister after his firing was announced two weeks ago.

It also comes after recent

polling that suggested that Netanyahu's decision to get rid of Gallant was significantly hurting him politically. He is facing dire polls and growing public anger and anxiety over a wave of attacks on several fronts, reported ToI.

"Minister Gallant and I are working together on countering the security challenges. We had tough differences but I decided to put our differences behind us," Netanyahu said at a press conference on Monday. Shortly after Gallant tweeted a photo of himself with Netanyahu and wrote: "We are moving full speed ahead - for Israel's security." ANI

## Bhutan: Women-friendly mini tillers may shift gender-based division of labour in agriculture

Under the Food Security and Agriculture Productivity Project Bhutan introduced women-friendly Indian-made mini tillers, that are used to uproot weeds in fruit gardens and vegetable fields, which may shift the gender-based division of labour in agriculture, according to The Bhutan Live. For generations, ploughing fields has been traditionally viewed as a job reserved for men while harvesting and processing crops were seen as a job for women. However, with more and more women utilising mini tillers, the gender-based division of labour may be shifting.

In Bhutan's Samtse, the women-friendly power mini tillers were distributed. One of the residents of Dorokha village in Samtse district, Chimi Dema, (41), has travelled to Samtse town to purchase one of the mini tillers, which was distributed by

## UN to review presence in Afghanistan following Taliban ban

The United Nations said Tuesday it is reviewing its presence in Afghanistan after the Taliban barred Afghan women from working for the world organisation a veiled suggestion the U.N. could move to suspend its mission and operations in the embattled country. Last week, Afghanistan's Taliban rulers took a step further in restrictive measures they have imposed on women and said that Afghan women employed with the U.N. mission could no longer report for work. They did not further comment on the ban. The U.N. said it cannot accept the decision, calling it an unparalleled violation of women's rights.

It was the latest in sweeping restrictions imposed by the Taliban since they seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO troops were withdrawing from the country after 20 years of war. The Taliban have banned girls from going to school beyond the sixth grade and women from most public life and work.

In December, they banned Afghan women from working at local and non-governmental

groups a measure that at the time did not extend to U.N. offices. Tuesday's statement by the U.N. said its head of mission in Afghanistan, Roza Otunbayeva, has "initiated an operational review period" that would last until May 5. During this time, the U.N. will conduct the necessary consultations, make required operational adjustments, and accelerate contingency planning for all possible outcomes, the statement said.

It also accused the Taliban of trying to force the U.N. into making an appalling choice between helping Afghans and standing by the norms and principles it is duty-bound to uphold. It should be clear that any negative consequences of this crisis for the Afghan people will be the responsibility of the de facto authorities, it warned. Aid agencies have been providing food, education and health care support to Afghans in the wake of the Taliban takeover and the economic collapse that followed it. But distribution has been severely impacted by the Taliban edict banning women from working at NGOs and, now, also at the U.N. PTI



the district agriculture sector. These tillers are part of the Food Security and Agriculture Productivity project aimed at improving agricultural productivity in the district, according to The Bhutan Live. Prior to her purchase, Chimi takes the initiative to thoroughly study the mini tiller and become well-versed in its operating procedures.

As a mother of two, Chimi sees the mini-tiller as a means of achieving self-dependency and empowerment. "Since the normal power tillers are big in size

and strong, women cannot easily operate them. But this mini tiller is different. It is small and user-friendly. It can be easily used by any woman," she said. In addition, Chimi recognises that the mini tiller has the potential to address the issue of limited labour in rural villages. "Since the machine can do the work of ten people, we now do not have to worry about hiring labourers for our agriculture works. It is very difficult to get labourers these days and their wages are also very expensive," she said. ANI

# Career

# Importance of Career Planning



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout Punjab

Our career planning decisions and the career path we choose will determine the patterns and texture of our life and career. Nevertheless, after years of research and work were done in career planning, it has been concluded that most students leave high school and college without any clear plan in their mind which guide them in selecting and pursuing a career or occupation.

It has been estimated that when people feel overwhelmed by a job or career, they sometimes become overconfident and often fail to plan adequately for the changes which they need to make for restoring balance in their lives. Many students face a career problem and also struggle so much to achieve their goals in life. But, students should become more strong and capable for following the path of difficulties which will lead them to their career and for sure alleviate their problems.

Good career planning provides a plan that is marked with intelligence, hard work, focus determination, strong will-power and aim to achieve the best output. It requires the integration of Career Factors which combine to make every individual unique and best – his innate abilities, his skills, his interests, his values, his goals, his family history, his personal style and characteristics, and his position in the Career Development Cycle.

Career planning is a lifelong process which includes first- choosing an occupation, second- getting a job, third- growing in a job, fourth- changing careers, fifth- rotating job and lastly- retiring from a job. For planning our career we have to first define ourselves and our goals in a systematic way. At present, the level of competition is increasing day-by-day due to which students should need to plan their careers actively and valiantly. And also they should be taught now how to shift from one organization to another now for gaining maximum industry experience. The task and path of career planning are quite laborious, significant, organized, optimistic and well-defined. It requires systematic planning at every step and calculated execution of every plan. The most important step in career planning for students is to collect information about their own-self while deciding about a particular career option in their life. Students should always analyze their interest, skills, abilities, personal traits, thoughts so that they can easily understand and study the relationship between their career and themselves.

### Three Aspects of Career Planning for Students

**Career Option in Life:** Students should give straight direction towards their career and choose a particular one by involving themselves completely in it and should gain correct information with the help of the decision-making process. You should analyze the career option by keeping in mind about your present educational skills and qualifications.

**Action Oriented Plan:** Students should



make plans in detail and wide range so, that they can become more determined and put all their efforts into it. Whenever you get an opportunity to prove yourself and get a chance to get into your desire career, that time always tries to maintain it.

**The setting of Goals:** Students should set their goals according to their qualifications, priorities, work experience and expectations in life. Well, you should always remember that a successful professional is really an opportunistic in his/her moves, thoughts by examining every opening to turn easily to his/her way.

Career planning is the most important step that needs to be considered in totality and in a wide range. Students should not feel hesitant to seek the help from professional and find out the best and suitable career planning for yourself. At present, every day different careers, routes and professional opportunities are emerging, so only you have to choose the best and suitable option for yourself. Unique strengths, abilities, interests, aspirations, weaknesses will help you to decide which are the suitable options for you. The process of career planning is vital to your success. The entire process of career planning should be ideally done in a systematic manner with your career counsellor so that you will get professional help at every step of your career. A trained career counsellor can help you identify several professions in which you can be good. It is the sole responsibility of every student to make themselves so capable that nobody should dare to say you that 'YOU ARE GOOD FOR NOTHING'.

At last the real fact is that we all have talents in ourselves that are hidden in us, so it is important to identify that and then work hard to develop them further. Another equally important aspect of self-assessment is self-analysis or soul-searching. We are the best judge for ourselves. If you concentrate and decide to be honest with yourself the self-analysis can project remarkable results. Students who will work-hard towards their studies, acquire new skills, make efforts will definitely get success and recognition in their life. Every student should identify his/her goals, values, aspirations and ambition. Now-days, as the organizations are becoming more demanding and mature which is obviously counted as a serious problem in our career path. So, students must gain expe-

rience as quickly as possible at this stage of their career so that they can move with their peers in same speed of pace. It is truly said that without good career development opportunities, you can't achieve your long term goals in life. Always keep an open eye for every opportunity and be ready to take them as they come to you every time.

### Advantages of Career Planning for Students

#### Decide What you want to Achieve in your Career:

Goal setting is time-consuming and also involves more soul-searching, which will help to bring focus on your personal aspirations and goals. It will help you to crystallize what you want to achieve and how you will utilize your all efforts.

**Testify your Current Position:** Well, it is very much important to understand where are you at present so that you become more realistic in identifying the number of options which are open to you due to which you can use all the available resources which you are having in the best manner. You should have complete knowledge, skills and experience.

#### Find out your Strength & Research your Options:

For, knowing And identifying your career options, it is important to do some basic research on your own. Students should always need to know whether the career which they have chosen is increasing or decreasing in importance. So, that it becomes easy for you to know how well you will be paid in it.

**Plan your Career & Approach:** Identify the most intermediate steps that you need for utilizing your skills, experience, desires, will-power, thoughts, actions and education. Always try to work out in a systematic manner to know how you will easily position yourself. Therefore, if you need new skills to make the change, then without any doubt you need to begin for acquiring them.

#### Become Independent & Take Action:

Students should have a good idea of all the actions which they need to take to progress their career. All the efforts which are involved by the students will determine its values and bring out the quality role for each of them. The best careers come out through a mixture of careful planning and useful opportunities.

All the students take this into consideration that while you are implementing your career plan, always make sure that you do not ignore good and active career opportunities. It is conducted that Planning your career will

helps you to avoid stress, monotonous atmosphere, boredom, frustration which fails your will-power to achieve your potential. Career planning is the most significant and first step for achieving success in your career. It is the responsibility of the students to use reliable resources which will help them to learn more about their areas of interest.

A valuable career self-assessment is only done by them who are really honest and mindful in life. Students should cover their career gaps and shortcomings so that they can achieve their goals in the best possible manner. Well, the essence of a career plan is knowing and also what you want and always determining how to get it.

Always choose that decisions which will take you to achieve your career goals. In-fact your career should be a series of calculated steps which leads you to an end result.

These decisions and actions basically include formal education, training, internship, certification and work experience. Some of the cases required a change of job, attitude, work environment or location. You should always consider all these steps properly and choose the best ones that you only believe will definitely work for you. Students should own the process, set their course and stick with it. Don't ever avoid challenges in life because to succeed you always have to face the challenges and vanish away the obstacles to achieve your career goal.

We should always set our priorities first so, that we can move ahead easily towards our career path. The order which we follow is often determined by opportunities and resources which are available to us. It is not enough to plan only, we must follow it also and try to implement our career advancement preferences. For, planning our career it is not only about decision making but also about collecting career information in a wise, intelligent and purposeful manner. Students can also discuss their career goals with their teachers, parents, counsellors, and instructors. They can also visit on different websites and online career guides for their choice of subjects. Every student should keep this thing in their mind that career planning should be dynamic, and not static. All should be sensitive while doing changes in your career path by being flexible and twister.

The continual study of different and new technologies has become necessary to keep update our computer skills on the current basis. It is our own responsibility to keep on investing ourselves. We should always look out for different ways to grow in our career and skills, through the medium of skill development, by attending career-related training in MNC's, by taking online courses etc. Career planning is all about taking your destiny in your hands.

It is very truly said that nobody can succeed with career planning if they approach their life in an unplanned, useless, careless manner and by just hoping for the best to be done. Always try to approach your career planning with full sincerity, honesty, and wisdom. Well, career planning is neither difficult, boring nor much time to consume, it is just you simply need to be focused and active.

# Entertainment

## Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas watch baby Malti Marie play in new pic from Easter celebration



American singer and actor Nick Jonas on Tuesday shared a couple of pictures from their Easter celebration. Taking to Instagram, Nick shared the pictures which he captioned, "Happy Easter."

The first picture showcases Nick and wife Priyanka looking at their cute kiddo Malti Marie Chopra Jonas playing. The little one can be seen excitedly watching an unboxing of a gift. Her doll is also lying alongside her. Nick also shared a picture of the customised Easter luncheon menu, which Priyanka also shared on her Instagram story saying, "So happy you're home daddy."

Soon after the singer-actor shared the pictures, fans swamped the comment section and dropped red heart emoticons. "She is so darn cute!!!! God bless you guys!," a fan commented. Another fan wrote, "She is so precious." "The Sweetest!," a user wrote. Recently, the 'Fashion' actor also shared some glimpses from her daughter's first Easter. ANI

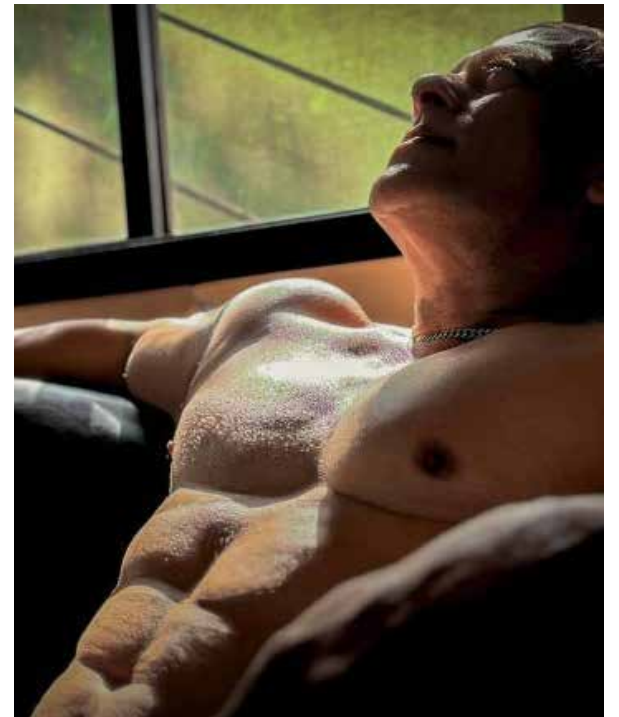
## Actor Millie Bobby Brown drops cosy picture with a ring

Actor Millie Bobby Brown dropped a cosy picture with her boyfriend Jake Bongiovi. The 'Stranger Things' star beamed with joy as her beau posed with his arms around her shoulder. She is seen wearing what appears to be an engagement ring on her left hand. "I've loved you three summers now, honey, I want 'em all," she captioned the post.

The post surprised everyone. Reacting to the picture, a social media user commented, "Are they both engaged?" "So happy for you both," another one wrote. "you deserve nothing but happiness millie I love you so much so happy for you guys," a fan wrote. Brown made her relationship Instagram official with Jake in November 2021 by posting a picture of Bongiovi kissing her on her cheek.

Jake also took to his Instagram page to share a string of snaps of the happy couple as he wrote: "Forever."

Earlier this year, Brown hinted that their relationship was heating up as she branded Jake her "partner for life" in a gushing Instagram post after they welcomed the new year together. Brown penned, "Endlessly in love with the year I've had! grateful for my friends, family, donkey (bernard), my doggies, my puppies teeth, and my partner for life. "Here's to another year with you and the wonderful people and animals around us let's do it again but better," she wrote. Jake is the son of legendary singer Jon Bon Jovi. ANI



## Actor Salman Khan shares his six pack abs pictures stating "Tumhare ko lagta hai VFX se hota hain"

Superstar Salman Khan on Monday unveiled the much-awaited trailer of his upcoming action entertainer film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'. During the trailer launch event, Salman wowed his fans, as he showcased his washboard abs in front of the media shutting down all the social media trolls.

Several videos from the event are currently getting viral in which the 'Dabangg' actor could be seen unbuttoning his black shirt and showing off his abs to the screaming audience.

Previously, Salman faced a lot of backlash on social media as few users had commented that the 57-year-old actor's toned physique was a result of visual effects (VFX) and not the gym. In the video, the 'Kick' actor told the audience, "Tumhare ko lagta hai VFX se hota hain (You think this is done through VFX)" and also hinted that his body was achieved after working out only. Soon after the video went viral, fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons.

"#SalmanKhan going shirtless live in front of everyone. Big slap on those people who think SK uses vfx in his movies," a user wrote. Another user commented, "No VFX Real 6 Pack Abs of MEGASTAR Salman Bhai. The OG Bodybuilding Icon of India." "Look At His Abs Man," a fan commented. ANI