



Raut not spokesman of Cong he should stop interfering in other parties' affairs

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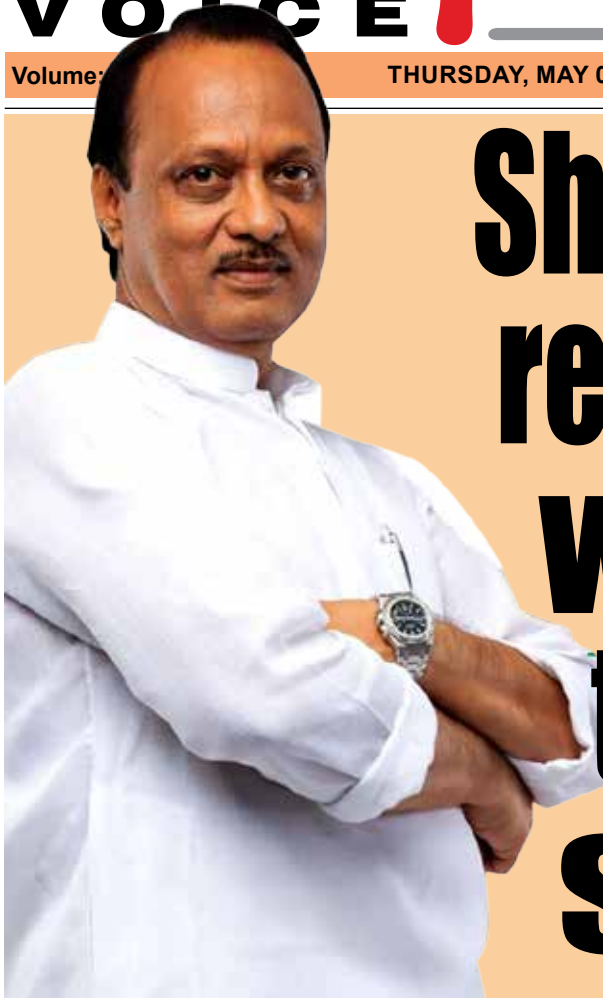


Afternoon

V O I C E

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

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Sharad Pawar announces resignation as NCP chief; will take 2-3 days to reconsider decision, says Ajit Pawar

In a major political development, Nationalist Congress Party supremo Sharad Pawar on Tuesday announced that he has decided to step down as party chief drawing emotional reactions from thousands of NCP leaders, workers and supporters who urged him to reconsider the decision.

The move also came as a surprise in political circles with Pawar, a former Maharashtra Chief Minister and union minister, seen as a key architect of moves towards opposition unity ahead of 2024 electoral battle.

Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar,

who had earlier said that "Pawar Saheb himself had said about the necessity of change in guard a few days back" later said that the NCP veteran would take two to three days to rethink his decision.

Pawar, who founded the NCP in 1999, has held the post of party chief for the past 24 years. Sharad Pawar, while announcing his decision, said he will not contest elections.

He recommended a committee of senior NCP leaders to decide on the future course of action. The committee will include Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare, PC Chacko, Narhari Zirwal, Ajit Pawar, Su-

priya Sule, Jayant Patil, Chhagan Bhujabl, Dilip Walse-Patil, Anil Deshmukh, Rajesh Tope, Jitendra Awhad, Hasan Mushrif, Dhananjay Munde, Jaydev Gaikwad and chiefs of party frontal cells, he said.

"Since the formation of the Nationalist Congress Party in 1999, I have had the privilege of being elected as its President, which today is in its 24th year. This entire journey of being in public life, which began on May 1, 1960, has continued unabated for the past 63 years, having served Maharashtra and India in various capacities during this period," Pawar said.

"I have three-year tenure remaining in Rajya Sabha. I will not contest elections henceforth. In these three years, I will concentrate more on issues concerning to state and the country. I will not take any additional responsibilities. I started my political career on May 1, 1960. Yesterday we celebrated May Day. After this prolonged political career, one must think about stopping somewhere. One must not be greedy. I will never take the position of sticking to a post after so many years. Therefore, you might feel uneasy. But I have decided to retire from the post of the NCP chief," Pawar added.

Technology can be sometimes a public jeopardy?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Despite the government's persistence may not be as clear-cut as a case of state domination and over-reach. It turns out that the Indian government might be right to fear that technology, for all the very real benefits it's brought India, could also help to magnify ancient communal tensions in a way that costs lives and, perhaps even worse, might destabilize the delicate social balance within the world's second-largest country. Technology didn't cause any of this, of course. But social media and text messaging, both of which are becoming increasingly common in the reaches of India's enormous lower and middle classes, accelerated the flow of rumors and of inflammatory images.

The government, unable to counter the destabilizing rumors, shut down some of the means of their dispersal. Whether the Indian government's

censorship does anything to calm this crisis, their apparent desperation is understandable. Still, India's willingness to censor the web is part of the government's longer-running effort to standardize the Internet, to which Western governments and web freedom advocates have persistently objected. Some of India's sweeping restrictions compel web companies like Google and Facebook to self-police, and then self-censor, any content that could be perceived as profane or offensive to ethnic groups.

In the recent past #censorship was a big debate on social networks; the social network authorities deactivate or block these days. Censorship in India, which involves the suppression of speech or other public communication, raises issues of freedom of speech, which is protected by the Indian constitution.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Technology can be sometimes a public jeopardy?

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The Cinematograph Act, 1952 governs the censorship of films. It assigns certification as Universal, Adults, and Parental Guidance to films in India before public exhibition.

Web freedom activists distinguish this as little more than an excuse for online authoritarianism, and they're probably often correct. We cannot isolate ourselves from this but can make a safe distance to access genuine information.

Censorship has become a weapon in the hands of the State to make people agree with its ideology. Now is the time to look into the role that healthy criticism, analysis, and cinema literacy, posts, cartoons, blogs or tweets

A classic example of censorship in India is the Central Board of Film Certification or Censor Board, which comes under the purview of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Board regularly orders directors to remove anything it deems offensive or subjects considered to be politically subversive.

The Cinematograph Act, 1952 governs the censorship of films. It assigns certification as Universal, Adults, and Parental Guidance to films in India before public exhibition. The Indian government has earlier blocked around 250 websites, ordered Google and Facebook to pull content, threatened legal action against Twitter if it doesn't delete certain accounts, and has arrested several people for sending provocative text messages, all in the name of public safety.

Web freedom activists distinguish this as little more than an excuse for online authoritarianism, and they're probably often correct. We cannot isolate ourselves from this but can make a safe distance to access genuine information. A parallel system needs to strict its security norms so that any state against information and data is not in the reach of the common citizen of the country.

Being a person from Cyber Security, I know how much it is for us to fool inexperienced people on the internet and then use those resources to do something illegal and improper. There should be a body which will not only work towards security of cybercrime in government and Militant organizations but also work towards enforcement of awareness of cybercrime. It is always better to take precautions.

Rapidly increasing two-edged sword, Social media has created a vibrant online community and widened public discourse, allowing a platform for activists with a thousand causes. On the flip side, it has also become a vehicle of skewered misinformation. The perspective of an individual using a social networking site enigmatically is much more in a social networking site than in a social media. There is no procedure for registration and ownership. And so there is no way to pin down the culprits.

Censorship has become a weapon in the hands of the State to make people agree with its ideology. Now is the time to look into the role that healthy criticism, analysis, and cinema literacy, posts, cartoons, blogs or tweets rather than relying on controllers that act as moral police can play, stopping the dissent. Information technology seems to be the latest weapon of waging proxy wars.

Countries have borders and restrictions to each other's jurisdiction, but cyberspace has no boundaries. Recent NE exodus was a disastrous moment for Indian Citizens and the Government. With 2-3 online

users and a couple of hours of editing work, various groups could trigger the most massive internal exodus of People in India and nationwide protests. Most of the public who does this assumes that they do this with a false sense of secrecy.

While Cyber War between India and Pakistan is not new, something limited it to hacking off each other's websites. Interestingly, this time it may not have been carried out by so-called hackers. Since it was easier to spread hatred than to block websites, 4-5 Social Media addicts have carried the whole episode out. The law is there to prevent this, but enforcement is far from adequate. There are many such instances and evidence that one country rages its anger or one particular religion condemns another religion, hurting its sentiments online.

But we did not do so. It was our prejudice and lack of unity that contributed to the success of the mischief-mongers. To control the situation and stabilize the country, the Government opted for censorship. There is no point in blaming the government. At least the educated should take pains to verify the truth. Pointing a finger at Pakistan will not solve the problem. The crisis has brought social media to the forefront, relegating the print and electronic media to the background. Perhaps it is one more revolution in the history of humanity. People today believe in non-stop, one-to-one communication/conversation, rather than the mass media.

Anyway, censorship might help control the situation, but this will remain as superficial of the problems that country is facing. Making the people aware of the "cyber threat" takes an hour but censorship can't be the exact way out. India really requires proper systems to be adopted in order to be safe or else this might really create colossal disasters in the future. In the information age we cannot lock our cyberspace because it is among one of the primary tools for the sustainable development of the state. But curbing cyber-attack in any form, either cyber war or putting illegitimate material on the web has really become necessary around the globe. Though we are having strict policies, we are still not guarding our information web properly and which causes recent NE exodus type events.

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Letters to the Editor

Kalai Tasmal Namah!

Sharad "Chandraji" Pawar has hinted at retirement and a political "Chandra" not only in Maharashtra but in the country's political sky is on the verge of retirement.

It has to be said that the decision due to age is correct. However, his contribution to the country and Maharashtra is not to be forgotten. After Yashwantrao Chavan and Shankarrao Chavan, Sharad Chandraji Pawarji is the only leader of Maharashtra who has political weight in Delhi. All the politics in Maharashtra do not avoid Sharad Pawar's participation or his instructions. The people have seen it. As they were neglected by the Congress, they established their own party (NCP) and took it to the status of a national party. It was possible only under the skillful leadership of Sharad Pawar. Because he is a leader who works at the national level. From the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, he served as the Defense Minister in PV Narasimha Rao's cabinet. He has worked in the Union Council of Ministers as Agriculture Minister in Manmohan Singh cabinet. The equation of age and moving time has not been solved till date. Shining Moon (Chandra) in Maharashtra and Indian politics "Kalai Tasmal Namah!"

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Blaming Uddhav is ridiculous!

Experienced MP Sharad Pawar advised the activists that one should learn to read people as we read a book. Pawar also evinced his opinion that Uddhav Thackeray's experience in politics was lacking, due to which the Maha Vikas Aghadi government collapsed. Actually, Uddhav had joined hands with Sharad Pawar on the dint of Sharad Pawar's experience in politics. Why did Pawar remain silent when the Maha Vikas Aghadi government was collapsing? Why Pawar could not read the faces of those who were plotting to pull down the government then? In such a situation, it seems ridiculous to blame Uddhav Thackeray.

Sudhir Kangutkar

Virat Kohli is a great cricketer but a poor sportsman!

Virat Kohli may be a great cricketer but poor sportsman on the field of play. He was involved in an ugly interaction with Gautam Gambhir at an IPL game & washing dirty linen in public is not good for his reputation. A cricketer however great he may be should be humble on a cricket field. Aggression is important but that should be shown with your abilities as far as the game is concerned but tussle with fellow cricketers brings disrepute to the game.

Both, Virat Kohli & Gautam Gambhir should apologise to their fans & BCCI for the public outcry though both cricketers were penalized by the Board. Both need to figure out their issues in a close-door meeting & come out smiling after addressing whatever problems they have between themselves!

S. N. Kabra

Employ new technology

A gas leak in the crowded Giaspura neighborhood of the industrial city of Ludhiana has tragically claimed 11 lives, including those of children, and sent several people to the hospital. The state investigation team not yet determined what the gas was or how it formed, but all indications point to it escaping from a sewer. The modernization of India's economy, as well as the expansion of manufacturing, must be accompanied by more effective regulation. New mechanisms for monitoring and surveillance that utilise cheap and readily available data connections and other technological advances need to be piloted and evaluated. The government cannot long postpone a reckoning when it comes to regulating toxic pollution.

Vijay Kumar H K

Making of May Day Mayhem Dying Slowly

The relevance of the philosophy of communism is totally lost in the modern times -- because, what was the dire need of that era (during industrial revolution and later) has turned into a painful process. Neither the present day leaders adhere to the tenets nor the membership is aware of the implications of the philosophy of communism -- people would readily say communism is dead -- it is not dead, it will remain as long as the industries last and the people depend on these industries for their livelihood.

But extensive automation and AI would throw the people out of the workplace; then how will communism help the machines? The present day is experiencing the impact of the transition from human labour to automation -- and probably the next generation would feel the real pinch. Simple example, when a house is built, the number of labourers employed were many, and during the roof laying exercise, it was a treat to watch droves of labourers (men and women) working and chatting for the whole day, and at the end, a small feast was arranged by the owner for them, and today, the cement and



gravel mixer lands at the site and pumps the cement as required, and a handful of guys would spread it and in a few hours the whole job is done, without any ado; while it is a blessing to deploy the cement mixers, but what about the food security for the labourers who have lost their jobs-- excavation job was manually carried out, but no the Poclair or JCB does the job in a few hours, at a very cheap cost; so people who came from villages looking for jobs, after dumping agriculture activity, find themselves struggling to find jobs -- who will absorb these hands and what about

their future? So Soros and his fraternity will suck them into the whirlpool of destruction and use these people as pawns to make his moves and fulfill his objectives. Automation is required, but where to relocate these hands? so it is a real S-O-S situation -- Mayday. Now the politicians are also using the slogan S-O-S (screw or be screwed) to their benefit. Mayday may be relevant but the celebrations are meaningless.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Columnist

Bhiwandi Building Crash

Callous attitude - reason for Building crashes

Bhiwandi and Bhandup are the oldest residential places, which form the best part of old buildings and monsoon rains every season cause the residents fear to factor all the time. BMC has failed to follow construction norms strictly and educate the residents of dilapidated buildings in a better way to avoid such fatal mishaps and that made matters worse in fatal mishaps.

Residents on the other hand fail to adhere to Municipal instructions and pay a heavy price for that. The residents not only lose their property as well dear life of near and dear ones. Now BMC should check and on erring builders, who resort to illegal construction without proper plan alterations done without permission. Building crashes in Bhiwandi and other similar incidents have created a fear of psychosis among

the residents. The death toll touched 6 and eight people are still trapped inside the debris.

- C.K. Suresh Ramani Dorai

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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

Cong demands special session of Maha legislature to discuss sunstroke tragedy deaths Barsu refinery protests

The Maharashtra Congress has demanded that a special session of the state legislature be convened to discuss issues including the death of more than a dozen people due to sunstroke last month and protests against a proposed oil refinery project at Barsu in Ratnagiri district.

A Congress delegation made the demand to Governor Ramesh Bais during a meeting with him at the Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday.

Notably, 14 people died due to sunstroke after attending the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' award event in Kharghar area of Navi Mumbai on April 16. A section of residents in and around Barsu in



Ratnagiri have been opposing the proposed refinery as they fear the mega project will adversely affect the fragile biodiversity of the coastal Konkan region and also hit their livelihood.

Speaking to reporters after meeting the governor on Tuesday, state Congress president Nana Patole alleged the incident that took place in Kharghar during the 'Maharashtra Bhushan'

award ceremony was a "state-sponsored murder" and till date no case has been registered in this connection.

"Poor planning of the government was responsible for the in-

cident. It should be investigated by a high court judge," he said.

Patole also claimed that the Barsu refinery project was being imposed by the government on locals despite their opposition. The state government was using police force to oppress the locals and it wants to destroy the pristine environment of Konkan, he further claimed.

Patole further said farmers have suffered losses due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms and they should be given immediate help. The cultivators have been devastated by the weather change and the rate of farmer suicides has increased in the state, he said.

Raut not spokesman of Cong he should stop interfering in other parties' affairs says Patole



Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole on Wednesday hit out at ally Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, saying that he should stop "interfering in other parties' affairs", a statement that drew a sharp reaction from the latter.

The Congress, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) are partners in the opposition alliance Maha Vikas Aghadi

(MVA). The government headed by this alliance ruled Maharashtra from November 2019 to June 2022.

On Tuesday, Raut said that decisions in the Congress are ultimately taken by Rahul Gandhi although Mallikarjun Kharge currently occupies the post of the grand old party's president. When asked about Raut's remark, Patole told reporters at his residence in Nagpur that the Shiv Sena (UBT)

leader should stop interfering in the affairs of other parties.

"Sanjay Raut is not a spokesman of Congress. How can he raise question marks over the capability of Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge? It is wrong to level false allegations against the Gandhi family," he said.

"I would suggest that he (Raut) should not interfere in our party's affairs," Patole added. Reacting to Patole's statement, Raut said, "No one has talked about his (Patole's) party.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar made observations about his (Congress) party in his book...If we start talking about you (Patole), then it will be revealed who is a sycophant and who indulges in flattery. I don't want to talk about him."

Mumbai police bust ring of cybercriminals say 12th pass mastermind made more than Rs 5 crore a day

Mumbai police have exposed a ring of cybercriminals that stole money from people from across the country by posing as police personnel and arrested its kingpin, who has studied till Class 12 and used to do transactions of more than Rs 5 crore a day in his accounts, an official said on Wednesday.

Mastermind Shrinivas Rao Dadi (49), who has sound technical knowledge despite limited education, was taken into cus-

tody by a team of Bangur Nagar police station from a plush hotel in Hyderabad, the official said.

Besides Dadi, police also arrested four more members of his gang, including two from neighbouring Thane and as many from Kolkata, he said. Dadi pretended to run a real estate business and used to communicate only through the Telegram app. Police have so far frozen 40 bank accounts used by Dadi and recovered cash of Rs 1.5 crore from him, the official said.

Woman paramour held for killing her husband in Thane

Police have arrested a 24-year-old woman and her paramour for allegedly killing her husband and dumping the body in a hill section in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Wednesday.

On April 24, the decomposed body of an unidentified man was found behind a temple in the Kasara Ghat valley on Nashik-Mumbai highway, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sahapur division, Vikas Naik told PTI.

A police probe team sent the body for postmortem. The police later identified the victim as Sunil Kothere (28), a vegetable vendor from Cholegaon in Dombivli area, he said.

The police worked on various

inputs and on Tuesday arrested the accused's wife Komal Sunil Kothere and her paramour Monukumar Triloknath Kharvar (28), who was also a vegetable vendor, the official said. According to the police, the deceased doubted his wife's character and the couple used to have frequent quarrels over the issue.

The woman later hatched a conspiracy along with her paramour and his associate to kill her husband, the official said. The trio allegedly killed the victim by hitting him with an iron rod on the intervening night of April 12 and 13. They then transported the body in a tempo from Dombivli to the ghat section and threw it in the valley, the official said.

Maha Cabinet nod for scholarships to 75 students for research in mangroves and marine biodiversity

The Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to provide scholarships to a total of 75 students over a period of three years for carrying out research in mangroves and marine biodiversity in prestigious universities abroad.

A statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that as part of this exercise, every year 25 students will be given scholarships by the forest department's

Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation. These scholarships will be given to students who have taken admissions in educational institutions abroad which are within 150th ranking of Times Higher Education (THE) or Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

The statement said 30 per cent of these scholarships will be given to female students. Of these 25 students, 15 will be post-

graduate and 10 PhD students from the fields of marine science, marine ecology, oceanography, marine biology, marine biotechnology, microbiology, biodiversity subjects.

The minimum age of post-graduate students should not exceed 35, while for the PhD students, it should not be more than 40. Their annual income limit should not be more than Rs 8 lakh, the statement said.

Nation

Will form committee to look into issues faced by LGBTQIA+ community: Centre to SC



The Centre on Wednesday apprised the Supreme Court that they will constitute a committee headed by the Union Cabinet Secretary to look into the issues faced by the LGBTQIA+ community. This was informed to a Five-judge Constitution Bench by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who was appearing for Centre.

The five-judge Constitution Bench comprising of the Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Justice S Ravindra Bhat, Justice Hima Kohli and Justice PS Narasimha is dealing with a batch of petitions pertaining to

'marriage equality rights for LGBTQIA+ community. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta apprised the Supreme Court that a committee headed by the cabinet secretary will be formed to look into the issues faced by the same-sex couple. SG Mehta further submitted that petitioners can submit suggestions so that the committee can apply their minds to it. The bench observed that it appears that people do have a right to co-habit and basis of that there may be certain incidents of that cohabitation like bank accounts and insurance policies. SG Mehta submitted before the Supreme Court

that the government is positive about the concerns raised by the top court for giving some social benefits to same-sex couples. He further said that this would need coordination between more than one ministry.

In the last hearing on April 27, the Supreme Court asked the government to give a response on social benefits that can be given to same-sex couples even without legal recognition of their marital status. CJI DY Chandrachud has suggested that there are ministries dedicated to this purpose like social justice and empowerment such as Ministry for Women and Child Development.

The court has asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to see if there can be separate legislation taken which would protect the rights of same-sex couples. Solicitor General had expressed his acknowledgement that concerns such as having a joint bank account, nomination in insurance, etc are all human concerns and there can be deliberation to find a solution. Solicitor General had indicated that he could attempt to undertake this exercise since the suggestion has come from the Bench.

Gangster murder: 6 arrested, 20 detained during police raids in Delhi, Haryana



The massive early morning raids by Dwarka District Police in the national capital and Haryana concluded with the arrest of six people and detention of 20 others, officials said.

Those arrested have been identified as Nitin Narulla, Nikhil, Rajpal, Deepak, Mohit, and Jitender Dahiya.

"They have been arrested for various offences under the Arms Act and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act", said officials.

The raids were carried out at around 21 places including 15 in the national capital, and six others in Haryana, in search of gangsters and their associates. The raiding teams also recovered a bulletproof luxury car, firearms, cash, and heroin in raids officials said.

"Dwarka District Police detained 20 people and arrested six others based on the recovery during the raids and searches today," Deputy Commissioner of Police M Harshwardhan told media after the massive operation.

The Kerala Story: SC declines to entertain pleas seeking to stop film's release, asks them to approach HC



The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain pleas seeking a stay on the release of the movie 'The Kerala Story' in theatres and OTT platforms and allows the petitioners to approach the Kerala High Court.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha said a similar plea is pending before the Kerala High Court and asked them to move the High Court with their pleas.

The high court is scheduled to hear the case against the film on

May 5. Advocate Vrinda Grover mentioned the petition before the bench seeking urgent listing tomorrow saying the film is getting released on May 5. The petition mentioned by Grover sought a modification in the disclaimer of the film to state that it is wholly fictional. Grover said, "The opening shot says the film is true. It has been advertised as a true story. That movie vilifies the entire community. There is no disclaimer. It's a pan India release."

Advocate Nizam Pasha, appearing for Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind, also mentioned the plea for an urgent hearing, saying his petition is seeking different reliefs to stop the film's release and not just a modification of its disclaimer. The bench, however, asked them to approach the High Court where a similar petition is pending.

K'taka polls: Bajrang Dal stages protest against Cong manifesto

Bajrang Dal workers staged a protest near the Congress office and burned the party manifesto released for the upcoming Karnataka elections.

This comes after the Congress on Tuesday in their Karnataka election manifesto said it will take "decisive action" as per law including banning organisations like Bajrang Dal, the Popu-

lar Front of India and others.

"We will take decisive action as per law including imposing a ban on any such organisations, read the Congress manifesto released by the party president Mallikarjun Kharge here.

"The Congress party is committed to taking firm and decisive action against individuals and organisations spreading ha-

tried against communities on the grounds of caste and religion," read the Congress manifesto.

"We believe that law and Constitution are sacrosanct and cannot be violated by individuals and Organisations like Bajrang Dal, PFI or others promoting enmity or hatred, whether among majority or minority communities," it added.

PT Usha meets with protesting wrestlers; assures support

Ace wrestler Bajrang Punia on Tuesday said that Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha has assured the grapplers of her solidarity with their protest against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Chief and said that she will help them to "get justice."

The IOA president arrived at Jantar Mantar earlier today where the wrestlers have been stag-

ing a protest for the last 11 days demanding that action be taken against the WFI chief Bushan-sharan-singh" Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is facing allegations of sexual harassment.

"She (Usha) said that I am with you and I will help you get justice," Punia told media persons after the meeting. The Olympic 2021 Bronze medalist further added that the wrestlers will continue

their protest till the time the WFI Chief is put behind bars.

"We will stay here until he goes to jail," Punia said.

Previously, Usha had ruffled feathers with her remarks that the wrestlers should have approached the IOA instead of going out in the streets against the WFI and its president, whom the wrestlers accused of sexual harassment and mismanagement of athletes.

World

Sudan's warring sides 'agree seven-day truce' from today

The warring parties in Sudan have agreed to the seven-day truce, South Sudan's foreign ministry in Juba said in an official statement on Tuesday (local time). In a telephonic conversation with South Sudan's President Salva Kiir Mayardit, the warring parties agreed to the seven-day truce from May 4 to 11.

"The two principals, General Abdel Fatah Al Burhan, the Chairman of the Sovereign Council and Commander in Chief of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo Leader of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), have agreed in principle for a seven-day truce from May 4th to 11th. They also agreed to name their representatives to the talks," the statement read. In the telephone conversation, South Sudan's President stressed the importance of a longer ceasefire and naming of representatives to peace talks to be held at an agreed venue. This statement came as Sudan continues to face bloodshed as a result



of clashes between the army and paramilitary forces.

"President Salva Kiir, who is the team leader of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State tasked with consultations with the Sudanese leaders, has urged the Sudanese leaders to name their representatives and propose a date to commence the talks as soon as possible," the statement read.

"The rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Khartoum

makes it imperative for the leaders to de-escalate, President Kiir told the Sudanese leaders. While expressing his appreciation to General Al Burhan and General Dagalo for heeding regional and international calls for a ceasefire, President Kiir urged them to take advantage of the 7-day truce to name representatives and propose the date for beginning the talks," the statement added. In line with the initiatives of South Sudan's President, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International has also been in contact with his counterparts regionally and internationally.

The Acting Minister conferred with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Uganda, Kenya, and Canada, in addition to the British Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, dwelling on the issues of ceasefire, cessation of hostilities, humanitarian situation and evacuation of affected Sudanese and foreign nationals as well as the coordination efforts at various levels.

Israel strikes Gaza after Palestinian Rocket Fire

The Israeli Defense Forces struck a number of Hamas sites in Gaza overnight in retaliation for Tuesday's rocket-fire">rocket fire. According to unconfirmed Mideast media reports based on Palestinian sources, Israel and the Gaza terror groups agreed to a ceasefire. Palestinians fired rockets at Ashkelon, Sderot and other communities adjacent to the Strip on Tuesday following the death of Sheikh Khader Adnan, a senior figure in the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group who died following an 86-day hunger strike in an Israeli prison.

Three people in Sderot suffered shrapnel wounds when a Palestinian rocket struck a construction site. A 25-year-old Chinese labourer was seriously injured when one of the rockets struck a construction site in Sderot. Another two people were lightly wounded. The other rockets landed in open areas, causing no damage. A military spokesperson said the IDF struck a munitions warehouse, weapons production facilities, training sites

and a concrete factory used to build Hamas infrastructure. Also hit were an underground tunnel and a Hamas naval outpost

"Hamas bears responsibility for what is happening in the Gaza Strip and it is the one who will pay the price for the security violations against the State of Israel," the IDF statement said. After the initial air strikes, Palestinians fired rockets, triggering sirens in Sderot, Netiv HaAsara, Yad Mordechai and other Israeli communities near the Gaza border.

The 45-year-old Adnan spent many years in Israeli prisons during 10 different terms. He popularized the use of hunger strikes by Palestinian prisoners. The Israeli Prison Service said that Adnan was found unconscious in his cell at the Nitzan Prison early Tuesday morning. CPR was performed and he was taken to the Assaf HaRofeh Hospital in Beer Yaakov where he was pronounced dead. The IPS stressed that Adnan had refused to undergo medical tests or receive medical treatment during his hunger strike.

Pakistan violates FATF redline by letting JeM seek funds for jihad

A UN-proscribed global terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), openly sought funds for jihad in Peshawar and other cities during the Eid celebrations.

By letting this happen, Pakistan has violated a key redline set by the global anti-terrorist financing watchdog, FATF, in letting the country off the greylist last year, European Times reported.

According to local residents, members of JeM were reportedly seeking funds for carrying out jihad in Kashmir and Palestine in Bagh-e-Naran, a suburb on the outskirts of Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in April this year.

Several Pakistani Twitter users have since pointed out that similar fundraising activities by extremist groups were happening in other areas as well. Many of them said these fund-raising had

been a regular feature at many mosques, sometimes under the protection of security personnel. There were other Twitter statements showing terrorist groups openly seeking funds in mosques in Karachi, European Times reported. The Eid fundraising by JeM clearly proves that Pakistan has failed to keep its promise to FATF to curtail terrorist funding.

According to European Times, in June 2021, FATF declined to let off Pakistan from the greylist citing laxity in taking action against proscribed terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT), JeM and similar entities. The FATF said that despite completing 26 of the 27 tasks it had been handed, Pakistan's failure to complete the last task on convicting terrorists and terror entities meant it would not be delisted for now.

Violence against journalists in Afghanistan increasing, says media body

The plight of journalists in Afghanistan is deteriorating with every passing day as the violence against the community has increased manifold in the nation under Taliban rule.

According to Khaama Press, the Afghanistan Journalists Centre (AFJC) released a study on the deteriorating state of the media in Afghanistan, noting that violence cases against journalists have climbed by 64 in the previous year.

The report was released on

the occasion of World Press Freedom Day. The majority of violent incidents, including threats against and arrests of journalists and media personnel, have been conducted by Taliban government agencies, according to the AFJC.

One person was killed, 21 people were hurt, six people were physically harassed, 115 people were threatened, and 70 journalists were detained, of which at least two (Murtaza Behbudi and Khairullah Parhar) are still in Taliban custody, Khaama Press

reported.

According to the Afghan news agency, the centre has also stated that the media environment in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime has been unfavourable, adding that after the previous government was overthrown in August 2021.

About half of Afghanistan's 600 media outlets ceased operations because of financial difficulties and restrictions put in place by the ruling regime, according to Khaama Press.

'Operation Kaveri' flight carrying 231 stranded Indians reaches Mumbai

As 'Operation Kaveri' continues to bring stranded Indians back to the country from conflict-hit Sudan, another flight with 231 passengers landed in Mumbai on Wednesday. Taking to Twitter, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of

External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi informed about the flight's arrival and said that citizens are back home now.

"Another #OperationKaveri flight brings citizens back home. Flight carrying 231 passengers lands in Mumbai," Bagchi tweeted.

The 12th flight carrying 231 stranded Indian evacuees, departed from Jeddah earlier today. "12th outbound flight departs from Jeddah. 231 passengers are heading to Mumbai," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted on Wednesday

Expression

The Rise of Digital Media



Vijay Garg

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Today amidst the immense popularity and prevalence of electronic and digital media we find it difficult to imagine that there must have been a time when print media was invented. The earliest civilizations relied on oral communication. If there was news to be told they ran to spread the word to others who did the same finally spreading the news to everyone. After that people began to write the news in picture form and in crude languages where symbols stood for words and letters. And then with the invention of paper and printing press print media came into existence. And after that, there was no turning back.

Print media is the printed version of telling news primarily through newspapers and magazines. Before, the coming of the printing press, printed materials had to be written by hand. It was quite a long process which made mass distribution impossible.

Until a few years ago, print media (newspapers, magazines) was the main source of news and entertainment. But now digital media (websites, apps, social media) is giving a tough competition to print media resulting in debates on the importance of both of them.

ADVANTAGES OF PRINT MEDIA

1. Print media is more trustworthy because once the news is published, it cannot be modified and deleted. But in digital media, we can modify or delete the content. Newspapers and magazine publishers are extra careful when publishing news or articles. So print media is more trustworthy than digital media.
2. Reading print media can save a lot of time because all the content is compiled in a newspaper or magazine.
3. These days all the study and work involve screen time for many. In this situation, print media is like a break and relief. Now more and more people want some Digital Detox time. And then print media is super useful for them.
4. When we read newspapers there will be no distractions and we can totally focus on it. It is an advantage of print media over digital media.
5. In some remote areas in India internet access is still very limited. And then print media is a blessing for them to stay updated with the latest

happenings around the world.

DISADVANTAGES OF PRINT MEDIA

1. It is just a one-way communication. It gives information to the public but consumers cannot share their opinions. It's in a way not user-friendly.
2. To search for an old article in a newspaper or magazine archive is a very difficult task.
3. Print media cannot target a specific audience but digital media can show different ads to a different type of audience and thus generate more revenue.
4. Print media is not helpful for people with disabilities. For eg, digital media helps people with visual impairment by giving audio versions of the content.

ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL MEDIA

1. Digital media gives fast updates and keeps us aware and abreast with the latest happenings, while print media is a slower version than digital one. It makes digital media a more proper option to get news instantly, in a more hassle-free manner.
2. Digital media is two-way communication. Consumers can share their opinions, thoughts, and feedback in an instant. It gives readers a sense of community.
3. It is eco-friendly while print media needs paper got from trees resulting in their destruction on a large-scale level.
4. The famous newspapers are also establishing their own online news portals. It is because of the growing importance of digital media.
5. Small companies can advertise easily on digital media platforms because it is less expensive than advertising on print media.
6. Digital media platforms can generate revenue from old content too. So they will get more revenue and can invest more to update the quality of content.
7. Digital media is democratic unlike print media which is privatized and often run by big businesses.
8. Smartphone users are increasing rapidly and so many digital media platforms are offering content for free due to advertisements.

DISADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL MEDIA

1. As anyone can generate content easily for digital media, fake news is on the rise. So unless they are famous and have a good name digital media platforms are not trustworthy by the public.
2. Print media publishes only important news. But digital media platforms



publish everything small to big so they contain a lot of unnecessary news.

3. Staring at the screen for a long time results in health problems too.
4. Many digital media publish content throughout the day. So people can check for new content always and so people are getting addicted to news and entertainment content a lot too much. It is causing 'Headline Stress Disorder' for most of them.

DIGITAL VS PRINT MEDIA

Today consumers are exposed to a lot of digital media as much as print. There is a growing prevalence of smartphones and tablets and the wireless networks that connect them mean that more and more people view digital devices. It also means more and more consumers view ads on digital devices. For marketing and advertising digital media has many benefits. It can be less expensive than print media depending on the details of each campaign. Digital campaigns can also be produced, launched and updated faster than print. Digital media is interactive in multiple ways. Promotion on social media allows marketers to communicate directly with consumers using messaging, commenting, tweeting, wall posting etc to answer questions and offer incentives. Users are able to search for a digital document. Digital ads allow for more control over who sees than print ads so marketers can target them more easily towards specific demographics. Many digital ads can generate consumer information as well offering insight over who exactly is viewing the ads. For e.g, Google AdWords and Facebook Ads offer analysis on user trends and successful referrals generated by the advertisements.

But yes there is a particular charm in print media which can never die out. It offers a more physical, tangible medium to consumers. It engages them on a more personal level and provides old-school charm which cannot be done by digital media. Print ads have a localized presence that's much harder to achieve by digital media. Signs and banners create attention and help consumers to physically find you. Posters, flyers and other print media can be distributed in a community to help generate exposure and direct consumers to you.

Now if we pop up a question which of the media is better, print or digital we can have a balanced and justified answer--- it's both.

CONCLUSION

Each medium has unique advantages so a good campaign should incorporate both digital and print media. The best ad campaigns use the right combination of media, depending on market size and scope, demographic targets, products or services on offer, budgetary considerations and other factors. Certain consumers are best reached on digital media but others still prefer print. The right combination of media channels allows best communication with the entire consumer audience and also maximizes the campaign's return on investment.

Both print and digital media have their own advantages and disadvantages and have a solid user base. So if we consider the present trends the consumers of digital media are increasing at a rapid rate and the share of print media is going down. But it is not exactly dying. With the increasing literacy rates print too is having a stronghold. So we can say that print and digital media are co-existing quite happily.

Entertainment



"I felt a bit caged," Emma Watson on her almost 5-year break from acting

Emma Watson hasn't acted since December 2018, when she wrapped production of Greta Gerwig's beloved "Little Women" adaptation. Considering the Harry Potter actor's break from acting would touch five years at the end of 2023, she was asked about the reason for her staying away from the camera.

In a recent interview, she said that she "wasn't very happy" with the profession, reported Variety.

"I think I felt a bit caged," Watson said.

"The thing I found really hard was that I had to go out and sell something that I really didn't have very much control over. To stand in front of a film and have every journalist be able to say, 'How does this align with your viewpoint?' It was very difficult to have to be the face and the spokesperson for things where I didn't get to be involved in the process."

Our film industry is at cusp of global greatness: Ayushmann

The Indian film industry is making great strides internationally, said actor Ayushmann Khurrana on Wednesday as he endorsed going global with local content.

Citing the example of the Oscar-winning "The Elephant Whisperers", the actor said he had never imagined that a bond between man and animal will win India an Academy Award.

"Ten years ago, I had gone to this wildlife sanctuary at the trijunction of Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, and witnessed first hand the relationship between man and animal. I never thought that in 2023, that relationship would've been told worldwide and give us an Oscar."



Alia gets mistaken for Aishwarya by paps at Met Gala 2023

Alia Bhatt, who made her debut at the Met Gala 2023 in New York, was called Aishwarya (Rai Bachchan) by the paps on the red carpet. The 'Raazi' star won the hearts of millions with her sartorial choices at Met Gala. Alia opted for a pristine white gown with a billowing silhouette from the shelves of Prabal Gurung.

Prabal has shared many pictures and videos of Alia on his Instagram account.

Among those, there's a video, in which, Alia was called by a paparazzo as 'Aishwarya this way'.

However, Alia posed for the paps, smiled at them, and walked off. Prabal also helped her with her gown on the stairs of the red carpet.



Backstreet Boys arrive in Mumbai ahead of their DNA world tour

Ahead of their show in Mumbai, the members of the famous band Backstreet Boys arrived in Mumbai on Wednesday. They were photographed by the paps. Apart from getting papped, the enthusiastic band members were also seen with cameras clicking pictures of their welcome in Mumbai.

Celebrating the thirty glorious years of their musical journey, the Backstreet Boys will perform this month with their DNA world tour.

The band is going to perform after 13 years in India.

According to the press statement, Book My Show along with Live Nation is bringing Backstreet Boys: DNA World Tour to the country in a two-city tour, making a stop at the entertainment capital, Mumbai, and the national capital, New Delhi.

For India's leg, Backstreet Boys: DNA World Tour will play at Jio World Gardens, Mumbai on May 4th and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi on May 5th, 2023. AJ McLean, Brian Littrell, Nick Carter, Howie Dorough and Kevin Richardson have been enthralling fans across the globe for over three decades and are expanding their massive world tour to India on popular demand.

