



Cong will stage protests if special session of Maha legislature not called Patole

PG 04 >>



# Afternoon

VOIC E

NEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 15 Issue: 205

FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 MUMBAI

08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com



## NCP panel set up by Pawar to decide next party chief today

A committee formed by Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar to decide on his successor will meet on Friday, a senior NCP leader said on Thursday. The meeting will take place at 11 am at the party office in south Mumbai, the leader said.

The committee members include Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, his nephew Ajit Pawar, Praful Patel, Chhagan Bhujbal, among others. Pawar on Tuesday dropped a bombshell by saying he is stepping down as chief of the NCP which he founded and helmed since

1999, but not retiring from public life.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin spoke to Sule over phone to enquire about developments in the NCP after Sharad Pawar's announcement to quit as its chief, according to party sources. Political circles are abuzz with speculation on whether the next NCP president will be from the Pawar family - daughter Supriya Sule or nephew Ajit Pawar - or any other party leader.

NCP workers and party leaders have demanded that Sharad Pawar reconsider

his decision. Ajit Pawar on Tuesday said his uncle will need two to three days to "think over" his decision. NCP's national vice president Praful Patel on Wednesday said Sharad Pawar has not relented despite repeated appeals from party leaders and supporters that he withdraw his decision to step down. The party committee, which Sharad Pawar himself set up on Tuesday to decide on his successor, did not meet on Wednesday, he said.

"If the situation arises, the committee will decide on Pawar's successor and the decision will be unanimous. He sought

time to think over his decision after the party asked him to reconsider it, and till the final decision is arrived at, there is no question of deliberating on his successor," Patel said.

On speculation about Supriya Sule emerging as the choice for NCP's national president and Ajit Pawar as the Maharashtra unit chief, Patel said, "There is no vacancy. Whether Sharad Pawar remains president or not, he is the party's identity and soul." The party was trying to persuade Sharad Pawar to reconsider his decision, he said.

## Majority of Indian Sikhs don't want Khalistan – Part 1

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Sikh don't want to separate from India soil, what they want is basic respect and acceptance. In this book I have written how Sikh's are politically betrayed in India. Some Sikh leaders had a lot of political ambitions but they were not fit for the party-political itinerary, while some sections of Sikhs wanted to push the agenda of Khalistan but that can never happen. Some issues are here to stay for not to be solved or resolved, same like separate Tamil Nadu, Hindu Rashtra and Kashmir. These issues are political gasses; they are used for burning political agendas only during elections. With the matured voters such issues have also lost their relevance. Go

to Punjab and ask the average Punjabi or Sikh, if they really crave for Khalistan. Likewise, ask an average Hindu voter about Hindu Rashtra, they don't even know what Hindu Rashtra is all about. The Indian Middle-class has routine challenges and their life goes by dealing with them.

Those minute and rather insignificant number raising slogans can't be construed to be speaking for the whole community. 1984 was indeed a dark year for Sikhs as well as India. It shouldn't be forgotten, but one must make sure that there is no repeat of such incidents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

# Majority of Indian Sikhs don't want Khalistan – Part 1

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

*In recent times the idea of Khalistan is fuelled by some sections of NRI Sikhs, who fled from the country a long time ago, and Pakistani ISI agents who want to disrupt peace and harmony in India.*

*Since 1984, that young generation has now grown up and many old ages people have departed. Then the young generations Sikhs are now entrepreneurs, government employees, farmers and army cadres. The overall mistrust of the Indian state has been restored to an utmost confidence in them.*

*There is no chance of being able to do trade without aligning with either Pakistan or India. Punjab has no power sources or mineral resources of its own.*

In recent times the idea of Khalistan is fuelled by some sections of NRI Sikhs, who fled from the country a long time ago, and Pakistani ISI agents who want to disrupt peace and harmony in India. Sikhs demand basic respect from other communities. Sikhs have made selfless sacrifices to shield others from cruelty, torture & death in the past and even present. Their charitable work is enormous, they are known for helping people of India irrespective of caste, religion or creed. They feel hurt when you make jokes on them and treat them as entertainment entities. They don't want to be labelled as Khalistanis or extremists. A small vocal section sharing hashtags on social media, raising loud slogans or wielding kirpans are not representative of the entire Sikh community.

Since 1984, that young generation has now grown up and many old ages people have departed. Then the young generations Sikhs are now entrepreneurs, government employees, farmers and army cadres. The overall mistrust of the Indian state has been restored to an utmost confidence in them. The injustice to the community still irks and spills out on social media, is because of the Indian policy of going with skirmish against its own people, in the name of teaching them a lesson, murdering a bunch of them and denying justice to them recurrently. This in the case of all other minorities, the riots are well propagated plans to demoralize and break the minorities.

With time, the memories of this massacre may fade, but it will rank in Sikh History with the likes of the one orchestrated by Ahmad Shah Abdali, who also attacked the Golden Temple and massacred a large number of Sikhs. Punjab is a landlocked state, with two nuclear powers on both sides and the destabilized region of Kashmir to the North. There is no chance of being able to do trade without aligning with either Pakistan or India. Punjab has no power sources or mineral resources of its own. The state major assets are its rivers and fertile lands, and the rivers blocked by the dams and water is distributed around. Most Sikhs don't bother with the idea of Khalistan but they are bothered by the idea of sharing their water and resources.

Congress party was solely accused for 1984 Sikh riots; there were many congress leaders who found participating in passing the orders. But to my surprise, ever since 1984 Punjab has been electing the Congress Party time and again, which means 1984 allegations against Congress hold no ground? Most of the Chief Ministers of Punjab where Sikhs are Congress loyalists, and voters are also most of the Sikhs. Why is the anger against Congress translated as votes? Why Sikh politicians are supporting Congress? Punjab has endured the dark decade of 1980. The violence took a toll on both Hindu and Sikh communities. That is the reason the vast majority of Sikhs in Punjab do not want a separate homeland and that war-like situation. The occasional shrill voices for Khalistan separation come from those NRIs in Canada or UK who have nothing to lose in India. They faced no brunt during 1980, nor have anything to lose if those dark days return to Punjab.

Maybe some misguided youth who were born in the 1990s and who don't know what it was to live and grow up in Punjab of the 1980s. The movement in the 1980s lost because Sikhs never identified themselves with the movement for a separate homeland. Mind you, even after Operation Bluestar many Sikh Generals in the Indian Army only resigned in protest, imagine what would have happened had they revolted? Their protest was against the Indian States and authorities but not the Indian Nation.

Volume No. 15 | Issue No. 205

Afternoon VOICE  
RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332  
VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

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.

[www.afternoonvoice.com](http://www.afternoonvoice.com)  
[www.beyondthenews.biz](http://www.beyondthenews.biz)  
[www.mumbaimanoos.com](http://www.mumbaimanoos.com)

[www.newsmakers.co.in](http://www.newsmakers.co.in)  
[www.nbcaward.com](http://www.nbcaward.com)  
[www.hackers5.com](http://www.hackers5.com)

Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

Disclaimer : The views expressed in the edit are solely of the editor. The publication do not necessarily share the opinions expressed. Any litigation against the content or publication will be entertained under the Jurisdiction of Mumbai only.





## Letters to the Editor

### Kalai Tasmai Namah!

#### The fiasco over Sharad Pawar's resignation is unwarranted!

The fiasco over Sharad Pawar resigning as NCP President is unwarranted. Sharad Pawar is one of the tallest politicians our country has ever produced but the old man of Indian politics is 83-Yrs-Old & now deserves rest to live his life in peace. He has served the country in many capacities & perhaps respected by all Parties. He even served Maharashtra in the capacity of a Chief Minister & was even the Defense Minister of the country.

NCP itself is a divided party at the moment & each top leader of the party is using Pawar's name to pursue their own political gains & mileage. Sharad Pawar should remain firm and quit politics for the better. He has played a memorable inning in Indian politics & should hang his boots like all sportsmen do after certain age and let NCP figure out their new leader to take Pawar's legacy forward in the days to come!

S N Kabra

### Be kind to animals. Treat them with dignity

The research on elephants over the last few years has proven that they are among the most intelligent and emotionally sensitive creatures on the planet, rivalling humans in their need for companionship and a comforting environment. This research offers clues as to what caused the death of 17-year-old Noor Jehan at Pakistan's Karachi Zoo two weeks ago.

The elephant was separated from her parents at a very young age and was raised in captivity. This is on top of the poor conditions she was forced to live in. A fundamental problem is the perception of our relationship with animals in general, and zoo animals in particular. We see zoo animals as a source of our entertainment, a notion that robs animals of their dignity and a lifestyle conducive to their needs. We should be kind to animals and treat them with dignity.

Jubel D'Cruz

### Intriguing contest in Karnataka

The BJP and the Congress in Karnataka both have a slew of freebies in their election manifestos. Despite PM Modi's open disdain for the revdi culture, the BJP has promised to provide three free cooking gas cylinders to all BPL families during the months of Yugadi, Ganesh Chaturthi and Diwali. The Congress has promised free travel for women in government-run buses, Rs 2,000 in monthly assistance for each woman head of a family, 200 units of free electricity for all households, and a dole for unemployed graduates and diploma holders aged 18 to 25. The JDs' manifesto is primarily aimed at the farming community and women's self-help groups. With religion being a sensitive subject in Karnataka, the BJP has promised to establish a state wing to combat fundamentalism and terror, while the Congress has named the Sangh Parivar organisation Bajrang Dal, vowing firm and decisive action against individuals and organisations that spread hatred among communities.

Overall, an intriguing contest is on the horizon, with polarisation and populism playing key roles.

Vijaykumar H K

# Role of RRBs in Upliftment of Neglected Segment

Those were the days when the rural people, especially the farmers and agricultural labourers, were feeling hesitant even to enter the doors of commercial banks despite their nationalization. Smelling the essence of the ground reality, the then Indira Gandhi government decided to set up such banks whose entry doors always remain open for this neglected segment of the society.

So, the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established under the provisions of an ordinance passed on 26 September 1975 and the RRB Act 1976 to provide sufficient banking and credit facility for agriculture and other rural sectors. As a result, five RRBs were set up on 2nd October 1975 on the recommendations of the Narsimhan Committee on Rural Credit, during the tenure of Indira Gandhi's government. The purpose was to include rural areas into the economic mainstream since around 70% of the Indian population was rural.

Prathama Bank, with head office in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh was the first RRB. The other four RRBs were Gaur Gramin Bank, Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank, and Jaipur-Nagaur Anchalik Gramin Bank. These RRBs were owned by the central government, the sponsoring bank and the state government, with 50%, 35%, and 15% shareholding respectively.

But as these RRBs were restricted to finance the priority sector only, the low interest earning sector, some of these banks slipped into the red zone and became non-viable. To bring these banks out of the red ditch, the central government in 1991 decided to allow them for financing under non-priority sector umbrella also. Despite this step, some RRBs were still facing the closure risk, so the GOI started merger of small RRBs to make viable big entities and almost all such banks were merged to make state level RRBs, except in some bigger states, reducing their present number to 43 against previous number 196.

Now most of these RRBs are not only earning larger profits, but also competing with their counterpart Nationalised banks.

If we take up the study case of Haryana's only RRB- Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank, despite all headwinds – crop loss due to untimely heavy rains & hailstorms in the state, audited business figures of FY 2022-23 show that Bank's operating profit has increased from Rs. 392.76 Cr to Rs. 569.24 Cr with a growth of 44.93% and Net Profit has increased from Rs. 140.73 Cr to Rs. 275.53 Cr with a growth of 95.78%.

While addressing a press conference on Wednesday at Rohtak, Pranaya Kumar Mohanty, Chairman of the bank informed that the bank has achieved its targets under all the major parameters i.e. deposits, advances, NPA reduction and profit.

Highlighting the important business figures, he said that bank's total business has increased from Rs. 30369 Cr to Rs. 34112 Cr with growth of 12.32% over previous year. Total deposits have increased from Rs. 18534 Cr to Rs. 20555 Cr with a growth of 10.90%. Similarly, loans & advances have increased from Rs. 11835 Cr to Rs. 13557 Cr showing growth of 14.55%. Bank's Gross NPA has decreased from 7.19% of last year to 4.29% and Net NPA is nil. Bank's operating profit has increased from Rs. 392.76 Cr to Rs. 569.24 Cr with a growth of 44.93% and Net Profit has increased from Rs. 140.73 Cr to Rs. 275.53 Cr with a growth of 95.78%. The CRAR of the bank is 14.17%.

Mr. Mohanty also shared the targets of the next year. He said that they have fixed target of total business of Rs. 40000 Cr for the year 2023-24 out of which target of Total deposits is Rs. 24000 Cr and Loans & Advances is Rs. 16000 Cr. Gross NPA of the bank is to be brought down to 2.5%. More emphasis will be laid on increasing Retail and MSME loans along with Agricultural loans.

Talking about technological aspects, Mr. Mohanty said that their bank is providing services

such as ATM, Mobile Banking, RTGS, NEFT etc. to all its customers through 680 branches and 1241 BC Banking Outlets using latest technology like other public and private sector banks so that the customers can transfer funds and pay bills etc. without visiting the bank's branches. He also said that the bank is going to start Internet Banking service very soon.

A retiree of RRB alleges that GOI and RBI are playing double standards in allowing the RRBs and Commercial banks to finance under non-priority sector, which plays a major role in profit making of the bank.

As still the Government of India and RBI are curtailing the scope of profit making by the RRBs through guidelines of mandatory Priority Sector Lending (lesser rate of interest loans) as minimum 75% of total loans. RRBs are forced to lend non-priority sector loans (High interest earning loans) maximum upto 25% of their total loan portfolio. Whereas the commercial banks, mandatory primary sector lending is 40%, leaving behind the scope of financing higher interest rate loans (non-priority sector loans) upto 60% of their portfolio.

As per RBI Master Directions – Priority Sector Lending (PSL) – Targets and Classification (Updated as on October 20, 2022), Total mandatory Priority Sector lending for Commercial banks is 40 per cent of ANBC and 75 per cent of ANBC for RRBs. For the purpose of priority sector lending, Computation of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC), where ANBC denotes the outstanding Bank Credit in India. Will the GOI & RBI look into the matter?

- Jag Mohan Thaken

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.)

## Cong will stage protests if special session of Maha legislature not called Patole



The Congress will take to the streets if a special session of the Maharashtra legislature was not called to discuss issues including crop loss due to unseasonal rains and the Barsu refinery row, the party said on Thursday.

A party delegation has met Governor Ramesh Bais requesting him to direct the state government to convene a two-day session, and it was expected that

he would consider the request positively, said state Congress chief Nana Patole. Farmers have suffered a lot due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms but the government is not helping them, police are repressing the agitation against the Barsu refinery project, and no action has been taken even after 14 persons died due to sunstroke at the Maharashtra Bhushan award function, he said.

A special session was needed to discuss these and other issues, Patole told reporters.

"If a special session is not convened, the Congress will take to the streets and protest across the state," he said.

The 'Vajramuth' rallies of the Maha Vikas Aghadi of the Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and NCP have been rescheduled due to inclement weather, Patole said. "The Vajramuth rallies are getting a great response from the public. Three rallies have been held in Aurangabad, Nagpur and Mumbai. Further meetings will be held in Pune, Nashik, Kolhapur and Amravati. But for the last few days it has been raining along with strong winds in many parts of the state. Therefore, we thought of changing the schedule. The rallies have not been cancelled," he said.

## Elgar Parishad case: SC issues notice to Maha NIA on activist Jyoti Jagtap's plea for bail



The Supreme Court on Thursday sought the responses of the Maharashtra government and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on a plea filed by activist Jyoti Jagtap, arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, challenging a Bombay High Court order declining her bail.

"Issue notice. List in the 2nd week of July, 2023," the bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia said. Jagtap has moved the top court challenging the October 17, 2022 order of the high court which had refused to grant her bail saying the NIA's case against her was "prima facie true"

and that she was part of a "larger conspiracy" hatched by the banned outfit CPI (Maoist). The high court had said Jagtap, an active member of Leftist group Kabir Kala Manch (KKM), gave "aggressive and highly provocative slogans" during a play at the 'Elgar Parishad' conclave on December 31, 2017 in Pune.

"We are of the considered opinion there are reasonable grounds for believing the allegations/accusations of the NIA against appellant (Jagtap) having conspired, attempted, advocated and abetted the commission of a terrorist act as prima facie true," the court had said.

## Barsu refinery row: Prohibitory orders against 8 protesters to be withdrawn; Maha govt tells HC

The Maharashtra government on Thursday told the Bombay High Court it would immediately withdraw two orders prohibiting eight people from entering their villages in Ratnagiri district and posting any comment on social media against the proposed Barsu refinery project.

The statement was made before a division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Sharmila Deshmukh which was hearing a petition filed by the eight residents of different villages in Rajapur taluka against the orders.

The state government in its two

## Developments in NCP won't impact MVA says Uddhav

Uddhav Thackeray, who heads a faction of the Shiv Sena, on Thursday expressed confidence that Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar's decision to step down as the party chief will not dent the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance.

Addressing a press conference here, the former Maharashtra chief minister assured that he will not do anything that hurt the opposition alliance's unity. Thackeray also said he was not opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi but was against dictatorship, and urged all political parties to come together to defeat it.

"The developments in NCP won't dent the MVA," Thackeray said. He, however, declined to comment on Pawar's decision to step down as the party chief.

Pawar on Tuesday sprang a



surprise as he announced his decision to step down as the NCP president, jolting his party and the opposition alliance. The Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), NCP and Congress are partners in the MVA. The government headed by this alliance ruled Maharashtra from November 2019 to June 2022. MVA leaders earlier expressed shock over Pawar's decision and said his guidance was needed at this juncture. Pawar was instrumental in the formation of the unlikely alliance of his NCP, Congress and their then-ideological foe Shiv Sena in 2019.

orders dated April 22 and April 25, 2023 prohibited the eight persons from entering their villages till May 31 and also restrained them from posting any comment or remark on social media that would create confusion or incite law and order situation there.

The petitioners and a section of other residents have been carrying out protests against the proposed Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd on the ground that it would affect their livelihood.

The high court on Thursday accepted the government's statement that the prohibitory orders

would be withdrawn and disposed of the petition. A section of villagers from Rajapur taluka have been protesting against the proposed refinery. The prohibitory orders were violative of the petitioners' fundamental rights, they said in the plea.

The petitioners said they depend on farming activities being carried out in their village for their livelihood. "The proposed Barsu refinery will have a long term effect on agriculture due to pollution. The petitioners and others have been carrying out peaceful protest against the refinery," the plea said.

## Sangli: Four killed one injured as bus collides with car

Four persons were killed and one sustained injuries after a private bus entered the wrong lane and collided with a car in the Sangli district of western Maharashtra on Thursday morning, an official said.

The incident took place on the Vita-Nevari-Mahabaleshwar road when the bus was going towards Nevari from Vita, while the car was moving in the oppo-



site direction.

At a place around 60 km from the district headquarters, the bus entered the wrong lane and col-

lided with the car, killing four of its occupants, the official said.

The deceased have been identified as Yogesh Kadam (35), Sunita Sadanand Kashid (61), Chandrakant Kashid (62), and Ashok Suryawanshi (64), all Mumbai residents. The person driving the car, Sadanand Kashid, was injured due to the impact, the official said. The driver of the bus has been arrested, he added.

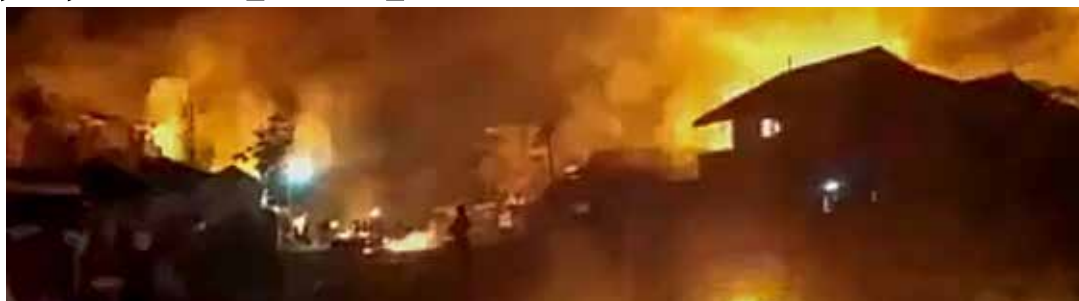


Nation

# Violence-hit in Manipur: Gov nod to shoot at sight orders, 7,500 people shifted to safer places

The Governor of Manipur on Thursday authorised all District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and all Executive Magistrates/Special Executive Magistrates to issue Shoot at sight orders 'in extreme cases whereby all forms of persuasion, warning, reasonable force etc has been exhausted', an official statement issued by the office of Manipur Governor said.

"In view of the prevailing law and order situation, following the unwanted incidents that occurred at the Tribal Solidarity March 2023 held on 03-05-2023 and in order to maintain public order and tranquillity in the State, the Governor of Manipur is pleased to authorize all District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and



all Executive Magistrates/ Special Executive Magistrates detailed by the District Magistrates concerned to issue Shoot at sight orders in extreme cases whereby all forms of persuasion, warning, reasonable force, etc. had been exhausted under the provisions of law under CrPC, 1973 and the situation could not be controlled," the official order said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Union

Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh and took stock of the situation in the State where law and order were disrupted after tribal groups took out rallies in several districts.

A total of five companies of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were airlifted on Thursday to violence-hit Manipur on the

directions of the Union home ministry. After clashes in various parts of Manipur after a mass rally held by tribal groups, Chief Minister N Biren Singh said that the incidents were a result of a "prevailing misunderstanding between two communities".

"The government is taking all the measures to maintain the law and order situation in the state. Paramilitary forces have been de-

ployed in sensitive areas. We are committed to protecting the lives and property of all our people. Long-term grievances of different communities will also be suitably addressed in due course in consultation with the people and their representatives," Singh said.

Earlier violence had broke out during the 'Tribal Solidarity March' called by the All Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM) in the Torbung area of Churachandpur district to protest the demand of non-tribal Meiteis, who dominate the Imphal Valley, for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Thousands of tribals -- who make up about 40 per cent of the state's population joined the processions, waved placards and raised slogans opposing ST status for the Meitei.

## Wrestlers Protest: Scuffle broke out between Delhi Police and Protesting Wrestlers



A scuffle broke out between the protesting wrestlers and Delhi Police at the protest site on Wednesday night. The wrestlers claimed they were manhandled and abused by the police personnel.

World Championships and Commonwealth Games medalist Vinesh Phogat and other wrestlers protesting against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Thursday accused Delhi Police of working in favour of the federation's president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and urged them to release the protestors being detained.

"Delhi Police is working in favour of Brijbhushan Sharan Singh," said Vinesh to the media in a press conference.

Vinesh said that the wrestlers are extremely grateful to Supreme Court for the support they

have shown them so far. "We will follow whatever orders they issue. They have also said that we can go to Delhi High Court or Magistrate. We will do it in case timely action is not taken," added the wrestler.

Amid the ongoing protest by top wrestlers in the national capital, the Delhi Police told the Supreme Court that proper security has been provided to the grapplers including a minor complainant.

Supreme Court on Thursday noted that the purpose of the petition has been served as FIR has been registered and that security has been provided to wrestlers. SC said that the proceedings have been closed at this stage and if petitioners wish for something else, they can approach the magistrate or the High Court in its jurisdiction.

Bajrang Punia, the Olympic medalist asserted that the wrestlers do not have any issues with any government, but the WFI and its president itself. He also urged Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to come and support the wrestlers.

"I urge him (Haryana CM) to come here and support us, it is about giving justice to the daughters of this country," said Bajrang.

Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia also accused the protestors are being detained and urged Delhi Police to release them. 15 people including a leader of Bharatiya Kisan Union on their way to Delhi's Jantar Mantar to support the wrestlers' protest were detained by the police at Haryana's Singhu border on Thursday.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Abhimanyu Kohar and others were on their way to join the wrestlers' protest against the WFI chief Brij Bhushan Singh over alleged sexual harassment complaints against him. Some of India's top wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, have been protesting against the WFI chief and BJP MP Singh over allegations of sexual harassment, demanding his arrest.

## Cyclonic circulation over north TN, shifts to coastal part of state: IMD

Cyclonic circulation that was hovering over north Tamil Nadu on Wednesday now lies over coastal Tamil Nadu, said India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai.

"Yesterday's cyclonic circulation over north Tamil Nadu and neighbourhood now lies over coastal Tamil Nadu and neighbourhood and extends upto 3.1 above mean sea level," said the Regional Meteorological Centre in a statement issued on Thursday.

"Yesterday's trough/wind dis-

continuity from southwest Madhya Pradesh to south Tamil Nadu across Marathwada and interior Karnataka extending upto 1.5 km above mean sea level has become less marked," the statement added

A cyclonic circulation is likely to develop over the Southeast Bay of Bengal around May 6. Under its influence, a Low-Pressure Area is likely to form over the same region around May 7. It is likely to concentrate into a Depression over the Southeast Bay of Bengal on May 8.

## MP: Bajrang Dal activists attack Cong office in Jabalpur

Activists of the Bajrang Dal on Thursday vandalised the Congress's office in Jabalpur city of Madhya Pradesh.

A video of the incident also went viral.

The Congress in its manifesto for the Karnataka polls has promised to take action as per law, including banning organisations like this right-wing Hindu outfit and the PFI, accusing them of spreading hatred.

The manifesto sparked a strong protest from the Sangh Parivar. The local unit of the Bajrang Dal had said a day before that it would stage a protest in front of the Congress office in Baldeo Bagh area.

After protesting for 30 minutes, its activists barged inside office and ransacked it, Congress leaders alleged. Local Congress MLAs and leaders visited the Kotwali police station in the city demanding action against the culprits.

World

## Russia reaffirms of right to take countermeasures against "assassination attempt" on Prez Putin



After two UAV strikes, Russia also released videos claiming attacks on an Oil Depot in Krasnodar and also on the Senate Palace. The Foreign Ministry has firmly condemned the attempted terrorist attacks against the Moscow Kremlin on the night of May 2, when it was targeted by unmanned aerial vehicles. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia in an official statement said that there was no doubt that the Kyiv regime is behind these attacks.

"Kyiv has a long-standing record of intentionally supporting and employing terrorist methods against civilian infrastructure and civilians, including the October 8, 2022, explosion on the Crimean Bridge, strikes against non-military targets in the Bryansk, Belgorod and Rostov regions, as well as many acts of sabotage. Now comes Moscow. The terrorist activity and acts of sabotage by the Ukrainian Armed Forces have been gathering unprecedented momentum," the statement said.

"This crime is aggravated by the fact that the Moscow Kremlin serves as the residence of the head of state. What makes the actions of the neo-Nazi Ukrainian authorities especially cynical is that they made an attempt to assassinate the President of Russia ahead of Victory Day and the May 9 Parade, where Great Patriotic War veterans, who had shed their blood in the fight against Nazism and fascism, including on Ukrainian territory, will be present," it added.

## 9th Day of Operation Kaveri: Total 3,584 Indians evacuated from Sudan



A total of 3,584 Indians have been evacuated from the strife-torn Sudan under "Operation Kaveri" which completed nine days of operations on Thursday, according to the Indian embassy in Sudan.

Nine days have passed since the Government of India launched its ambitious rescue mission, "Operation Kaveri" to evacuate stranded Indians in conflict-ridden Sudan.

The operation was carried out using 5 Indian Naval Ships and 16 Indian Air Force aircraft including one from Wadi Sayyidna military airbase

The Embassy of India in Sudan tweeted, "As on today 3584 Indians have been evacuated from Sudan. Embassy of India mobilized and facilitated move-

ment of 67 buses from various parts of Sudan to reach Port Sudan. So far Indians have moved out of Port Sudan using 5 Indian Naval Ships and 16 Indian Air Force aircraft including one from Wadi Sayyidna military airbase."

The Indian embassy in Sudan also informed about the evacuation of 80 Indians from El Fashir in Western Sudan to Port Sudan, after they travelled for almost 48 hours.

In a tweet the Indian embassy in Khartoum stated, "9th day of Operation Kaveri, one of the most herculean task of bringing Indians stranded in El Fashir was achieved today. Indian Embassy mobilised its resources and coordinated with various stake holders in conflict zones to ensure safe travel for its citizens over an arduous journey of over 1800 km."

## Jaishankar holds talks with Chinese counterpart focus on resolving border row



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday conveyed to his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang the importance of resolving the eastern Ladakh border row and ensuring peace and tranquillity along the frontier for development of bilateral ties. Jaishankar held bilateral talks with Qin at a beach resort in Benaulim on the sidelines of a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

In a tweet, the external affairs minister said the focus remained on resolving outstanding issues and ensuring peace and tranquillity in the border areas. "A detailed discussion with State Councillor and FM Qin Gang of China on our bilateral relationship. Focus remains on resolving outstanding issues and ensuring peace and tranquillity in the border areas," he said. Jaishankar said the discussions were also held on issues relating to the

SCO, G-20 and BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa). The meeting between the two foreign ministers was their second in the last two months.

The Chinese foreign minister visited India in March to attend a meeting of the G20 foreign ministers. On the sidelines of the meeting, Jaishankar held talks with Qin during which he conveyed to his Chinese counterpart that the state of India-China relations is "abnormal" because of the lingering border row in eastern Ladakh.

## Pak FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived in Goa for SCO meeting

Pakistan Minister of Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday arrived in Goa to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Foreign Ministers meeting.

In a video shared on Twitter, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said he will hold meeting with his counterparts from Russia and Uzbekistan and attend a dinner hosted for all the Foreign Ministers in Goa.

"Assalamualaikum, we have reached Goa, India on the occasion of Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation (SCO). I will first hold meeting with Russian Foreign Minister. Then, he will hold a meeting with Uzbekistan Foreign Minister. I will attend the dinner hosted for all the foreign ministers and there are one-two interviews lined up in the day," Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said in a video shared on Twitter.

Sharing the video on Twitter, he stated, "Salaam, from Goa, India." The two-day-long meeting of Foreign Ministers of SCO member states began in Goa on Thursday.

The first Pakistani foreign

minister to visit India in almost 12 years, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said he looks

The Pakistan politician is attending the SCO meeting at the invitation of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The theme of India's Chairmanship of SCO in 2023 is 'Secure-SCO'. India attaches a special importance to SCO in promoting multilateral, political, security, economic and people-to-people interactions in the region. The last meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

## Chinese Communist Party's control over country's technological development raises concern

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s control over the country's technological development raises questions about the potential use of these technologies for military purposes and underscores the need for greater transparency from China on its strategic goals and intentions.

China recently undertook a significant reorganization of its Ministry of Science and Technol-



ogy, creating a Central Science and Technology Commission that is directly overseen by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

This move by China raises concerns about the country's

intentions and underscores the need for the international community to closely monitor China's technological advancements. The move was recommended by the State Council of the People's Republic of China, as it recognizes the importance of technology competition with the United States and the need for the CCP to have direct control over the ministry.



## Expression

# If you want to win yourself, then you become Buddha!!

(The Buddha's practice says avoiding extreme methods and walking the middle path of rationality is the need of the hour. For example, the ongoing Ukraine war where Russia and NATO are trying to achieve their own goals.)



*Dr. Satyawani Saurabh*

Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, All India Radio & TV panelist, Haryana

Buddhism has a strong individualistic component: everyone is responsible for their happiness in life. The Buddha presented the Four Noble Truths as guiding principles: there is suffering in life; The cause of suffering is desire; To end desire means to end suffering; And by following a controlled and moderate lifestyle, desire will end, and therefore suffering will end. To achieve these goals, the Buddha presented the Noble Eightfold Path: Right Faith, Right Resolve, Right Speech, Right Conduct, Right Business, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, and Right Samadhi—or Meditation. According to Buddhist practice, following the Eightfold Path will ultimately lead to liberation from the cycle of samsara, rebirth, and suffering.

Buddhist philosophy and doctrine, based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha, provide meaningful insights into reality and human existence. Buddhism teaches the Middle Way, eschewing extreme steps such as indulgence and strict abstinence. According to him, everyone is responsible for his happiness in life, emphasizing the individualistic component of Buddhism. The Middle Way is the core of the Buddha's teaching and can be followed in all areas of life.

This essentially means avoiding extremes, such as what we see today—narrow nationalism and unbridled liberalism, religious fanaticism and shoddy religion, obsession with a glorious past, and

justification of all that is considered modern. G: Indiscriminately targeting a section of people of a particular faith regarding dress, food, etc. In short, its blind belief in what is right without consideration of others' points of view. The Buddha's practice says avoiding extremes and walking the middle path of rationality is the need of the hour. For example, the ongoing Ukraine war where Russia and NATO are trying to achieve their own goals.

Contemporary Buddhism does not include the caste system – it teaches equality and that everyone is capable of reaching nirvana through personal improvement. By converting to Buddhism, members of a lower caste can avoid discrimination under the caste system and be treated equally by other Buddhists. The practice of untouchability has been declared illegal by the Constitution of India. This is the oldest system of the fall of man. And, it is still practiced in rural and urban India. It is also clear that the degree of assertion has increased among the Scheduled Castes across India. They are opposing hierarchical hierarchy and inequality in every possible way.

The Buddha himself criticized caste as an institution; And, in the 20th century, many lower-caste Hindus, under the influence of Ambedkarite teachings, rediscovered and converted to Buddhism to escape caste discrimination. The Ambedkarite movement is influenced by the ethos taught and practiced by Babasaheb Ambedkar. This movement is being influenced by Buddhism after the great conversion movement started by Babasaheb Ambedkar in 1956. This is the reason why thousands of Dalits follow Buddhism even today. Revival Buddhism is a symbol of radical change in modern India. Buddhism has become a mainstream religion after a gap of several centuries. Apart from SCs, tribals and OBCs are slowly turning towards it.

Buddhism is holding the flag of democracy.

Buddhism provides much-needed confidence and respect to those who are forced to feel inferior and condemned by the caste-based social system. This self-confidence is

evident in his rise from the hell of caste and his arrival in the land of faith and respect. The Buddha taught, after all, that freedom of mind and wisdom is not a secret to a class

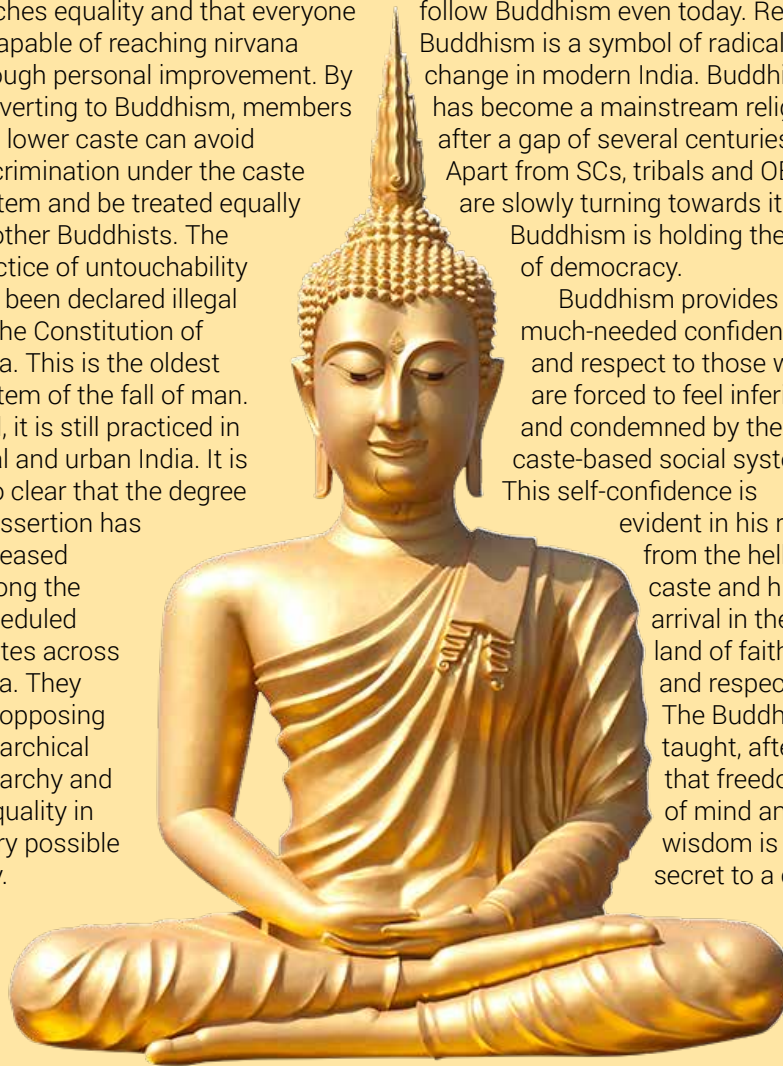
of people, it can be achieved by all who struggle and strive to transform not only themselves but also those around them. Are.

Buddhism develops a higher system of ethics and what is laid out in the Eightfold Path is a simple yet powerful guide for all individuals, including those in high positions—political and business leaders, religious sages, bureaucrats, and professionals. Are. In today's world of bitter religious and political conflicts, rising inequalities and inequalities, and unscrupulous business competition, the 'middle way' laid down by the Buddha is the only way to save mankind from the evils of hatred, humiliation, and violence. One of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations to be achieved by 2030 is 'peace and justice'.

Since peace and sustainable development are intertwined, the Buddha's Prism can be a guiding light for every stakeholder, from local to global institutions and leaders, to promote dialogue, harmony, and justice based on compassion and wisdom. can work together. Buddhist teachings create compassion, peace and stillness, and joy in humans and they can help maintain a sustainable balance between humans and nature. Buddha's teachings can transform societies into better and more human forms of them as Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has shown "The 20th century was a century of war and violence, now we all need to work and talk to see that That the 21st century is of peace.

The war of the mind always distracts you!

If you want to win yourself, you become Saurabh Buddha!!



# Entertainment



## PC was 'deeply depressed' after botched nose surgery

Actor Priyanka Chopra has opened up about how a botched nose surgery impacted her health. On the Howard Stern Show, Priyanka revealed that the botched nose surgery drove her into a 'deep depression', and she even thought it could end her career, E! Online reported.

"It was a dark phase," Priyanka said on the Howard Stern Show May 1.

"This thing happens, and my face looks completely different, and I went into a deep, deep depression."

Despite being hesitant to go under the knife again, Priyanka's late dad, Ashok Chopra, encouraged her to get corrective surgery. "I was terrified of that, but he was like, 'I will be in the room with you,'" she confessed. "He held my hands through it and helped me build back my confidence."

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh attended the 2023 Premier League Hall of Fame, where he met stalwarts of the football fraternity.

Taking to Instagram, Ranveer dropped a picture in which he is seen standing next to Peter Schmeichel, Rio Ferdinand, Arsene Wenger and Peter Cech.

"legends of football," he captioned the post.

View this post on Instagram A post shared by Ranveer Singh (@ranveersingh) He also bumped into fellow "gooner" and Hollywood actor Idris Elba at the Hall of Fame in London.

"Nice to meet my Fellow Gooner," Ranveer wrote. A day ago, Ranveer attended The North London derby between Premier League giants Arsenal and Chelsea at the Emirates. Attending the sell-out clash in London as an ambassador for the English Premier League in India, Ranveer cheered the players on, demonstrating his love for the beautiful game.

Taking to the Instagram story, the actor dropped an image of himself at the Emirates stadium. He wrote, "The Glorious Emirates Stadium! Home of the Gunners!@plforindia @premierleauge #ARSCHE."



## When Ranveer Singh met fellow "gooner" Idris Elba



## This is how mom-to-be Ileana D'Cruz enjoying her pregnancy phase

Mom-to-be Ileana D'Cruz on Thursday dropped a relaxing video of herself and her pet. Ileana took to her Instagram story and shared a video, in which she gave a sneak peek into her pregnancy phase.

The actor can be seen with a cup while she relaxes in bed and also showed his dog in the video.

In the end, she also gave a glimpse of her tummy. Sharing the video, she wrote, "Life lately." Ileana also shared a picture of her dog sleeping and captioned it "Apparently this is comfortable? Recently, the actor gave her fans a glimpse of how she is satisfying her cravings during pregnancy."