



**ATS arrested DRDO scientist on espionage**

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# Afternoon

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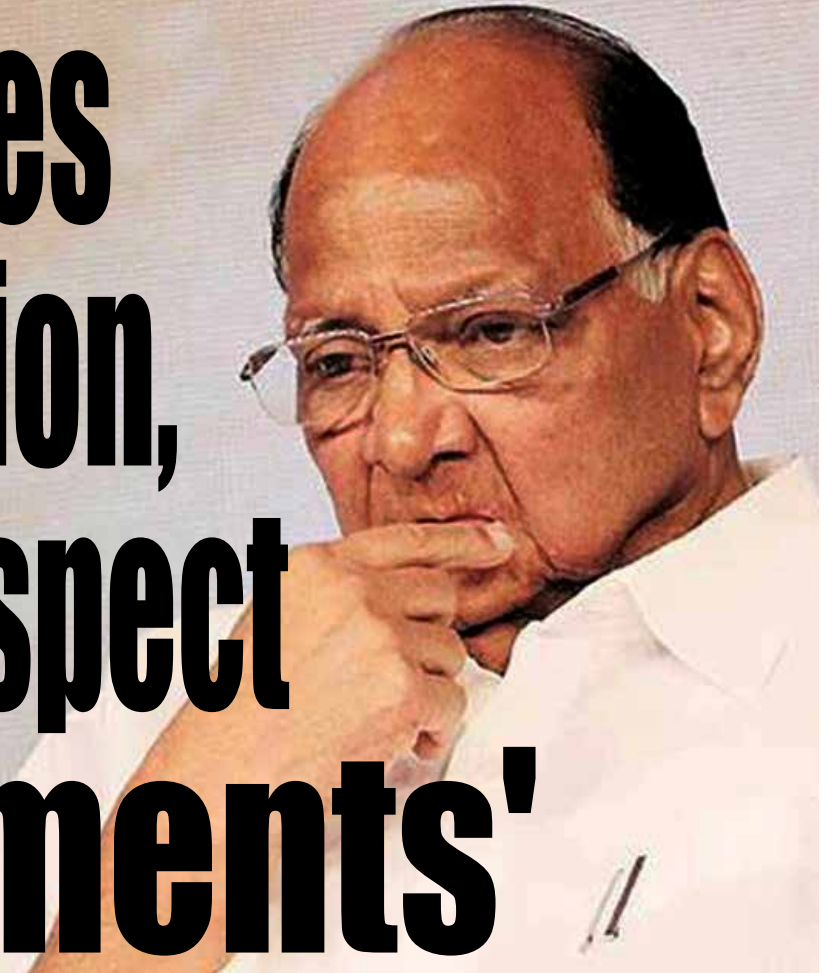
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## Sharad Pawar takes back his resignation, says 'I can't disrespect party sentiments'



**S**harad Pawar Resignation Live Updates: Sharad Pawar on Friday took back his resignation as the national president of NCP. "I'm taking my decision back," he announces at a press conference. Earlier, as a Nationalist Congress Party panel formed to choose the next party president announced on Friday that it had unanimously rejected Sharad Pawar's decision to step down, jubilant NCP workers broke out in celebration outside the outfit's office. They

burst crackers, raising slogans "Ekach saheb" (there is only one boss). Others are here. Committee took this decision and after their decision, I took my decision back. All are united and discussed this. Senior leaders are there in the committee: NCP chief Sharad Pawar when asked about the absence of Ajit Pawar at the press conference where he withdrew his resignation.

Everyone can't be present in one press conference. Some of the people

are here and some others are not. But this morning, senior leaders of the party, took a decision unanimously and made me aware of it. Everyone expressed their sentiments through that decision. So, raising a question as to who is present here and who isn't or looking for meaning into this, is not correct: NCP chief Sharad Pawar when asked about the absence of Ajit Pawar in his press conference.

As a Nationalist Congress Party

panel formed to choose the next party president announced on Friday that it had unanimously rejected Sharad Pawar's decision to step down, jubilant NCP workers broke out in celebration outside the outfit's office. They burst crackers, raising slogans "Ekach saheb" (there is only one boss). Scores of party workers had gathered outside the NCP office at Ballard Estate in south Mumbai demanding that Pawar reconsiders his decision.

## Majority of Indian Sikhs don't want Khalistan – Part 2

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

**M**aybe some misguided youth who were born in the 1990s and who do not know what it was to live and grow up in Punjab in the 1980s. The movement in the 1980s lost o 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.

Congress was always unfair to Sikhs since the pre-independence era but the anger against them has almost faded in the struggle of choosing a lesser enemy. They prefer to vote for secular political parties rather than trusting communal politics. Punjab is mostly ruled by the

Congress. Captain Amarinder Singh former Chief Minister was once a scion of Patiala state and former Indian army officer. He was the first Indian parliamentarian; who resigned as a mark of protest after Operation Blue Star operation in Punjab. But later on until early 2021 he was Congress veteran and Chaired as CM of Punjab.

Decade old Aam Aadmi Party made their political debut from Punjab, and Sikhs across the globe kept lot of hopes from them as they thought this new party may deliver some justice to them by releasing political prisoners from Jail. The Aam Aadmi Party turned out to be the biggest disappointment. Instead of sticking to its anti-corruption agenda, AAP got into unwanted politics.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

# Majority of Indian Sikhs don't want Khalistan – Part 2

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*Above all some political motivators were successful enough in creating a perception in urban voters that AAP is being supported by fringe elements like Khalistani supporters.*

*Why are they not allowed to disassociate with all other beliefs and adhere to Sikhism? Why do we try to establish their ancestry in Hinduism? Why is the Indian media also mostly biased against their faith? Why is their descent translated as Khalistan?*

*India's Sikh population stands at 20.8 million, which is 1.72 per cent of the country's total population. Sikhism is the fourth largest religion in India contributing 1.7% of the population and has existed since the late 15th century.*

Now Punjab wants peaceful governance and Congress has managed to do so. Above all some political motivators were successful enough in creating a perception in urban voters that AAP is being supported by fringe elements like Khalistani supporters. Some unfortunate events also led to this like the Sucha Singh Chhotepur event. Chotepur was Punjab AAP convener and biggest leader of AAP in Punjab but he was caught selling tickets. In India being good and doing everything right doesn't guarantee you electoral success. Even those who considered AAP to be a reasonable alternative did not vote for AAP, in apprehension that Akalis may return to power hence those irritated with Akalis and supporters of AAP also voted Congress.

Apart from political dilemmas and social stigmas, India Sikhs are still fighting for their religious and traditional identity. Why are they not allowed to disassociate with all other beliefs and adhere to Sikhism? Why do we try to establish their ancestry in Hinduism? Why is the Indian media also mostly biased against their faith? Why is their descent translated as Khalistan?

To some extent, the politically motivated media houses hardly have anything to offer when it comes to the Minorities of India. Hindu supremacy is the prime agenda of mainstream media channels. Spewing venom against minorities, and creating disturbing narratives about them is routine assignments of some sold-out media houses. And in this race recent victims are Sikh farmers; their protest was deduced as Pakistan-sponsored and Khalistan sympathizer's event. There are many Sikhs who proudly serve India, they belong here and calling them terrorists was disgraceful.

During farmer's agitation one old farmer said on the allegation of extremism, मैं अपने जमीर और जमीन दोनों से ईमानदार हूँ, कैसे यकीं दिला दूँ? (I am honest with both my conscience and my motherland; how can I make one believe?) The right to protest against the establishment is a fundamental right in Democracy. We all Indians have equal rights in this democratic country. Thankfully some parallel media houses were bold enough to echo farmers' voices and gather support across the globe. These are the people who are holding democratic values against authoritarian elements.

India's Sikh population stands at 20.8 million, which is 1.72 per cent of the country's total population. Sikhism is the fourth largest religion in India contributing 1.7% of the population and has existed since the late 15th century. The Sikhs are present in all over the parts of India and their contribution is equally huge to all the state's economy and welfare.

During Farmer's agitation, the headlines were made to project Sikh farmers as Khalistani terrorists', showing one viral video of a Sikh man threatening Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the entire agitation was branded as an anti-BJP protest. To counter this bias and menace, the agitating Sikhs came up with their own social media page called Kisan Ekta Morcha. Facebook temporarily shut down that page, and then they printed

their news and circulated amongst farmers. Kisan Ekta Morcha was the official update on the agitation, and was restored in three hours following social media outrage.

Social media played an important role in Farmer's agitation. While all kinds of media either refused to show them initially, and later on to demoralize farmers they were peddling fake news. Likewise, YouTube gave voices to agitating farmers. The powerful use of social media and the strong will of farmers finally forced our PM to repeal the farm Laws. Some see it as a political gimmick ahead of elections in crucial states. Some farmers are still agitating for a complete conclusion.

Till today no media person was made accountable for making those derogatory statements and running those schemes. No media dared to talk, about what has forced the Modi government to repeal those laws? Some Media anchors were seen crying in their programmes questioning Modi's soft approach, some went on tomtoming how kind hearted Modi is but none of them were absolutely responsible for drawing accurate conclusions.

The seva by Sikhs was translated as picnic, the voices of Sikhs were anticipated as voice of Khalistan extremists and the participation of Sikh women was fated as sold-out protesters. Film actors, media channels, anchors, IT cells and celebrities were unleashed against one community, and finally, most of the common citizens started believing that the protesting Sikhs were terrorists.

This is not the one and only issue, be it of releasing political prisoners or Sikh agitators, the media either remained mute or displayed their double standards. When Sadhvi Pragya was released from jail for health reasons Congress leaders coined a term called "Hindu Terrorists." Entire media, social media, political leaders, Hindu religious preachers and Sanyasis all took to the prime-time debates with rabble-rousing media anchors by calling it 'Hindu-phobia.' Some went on cursing the fate of other minorities in India. I am not passing any judgement here, but if we feel bad to be coined as terrorists then why the minorities of India had to be tagged arbitrarily?

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Editor

**Dr. Vaidehi**

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

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## Letters to the Editor

### Inspirational deed!

A boy from Palghar dug a well near his house, so that, his mother should not have to go far to fetch water. In present days, it has been more common to send parents to old age homes instead of serving them. Increasing number of old age homes proves so. Today's young generation needs to be convinced that service to parents is like service to God. In such a case, the son digs a well with manual labor to ease his mother's toil is not only admirable but also inspiring fact. Newspapers as well as other media should give prominent publicity to such inspiring matters from time to time. So that, good culture will happen on the young generation.

Sudhir Kangutkar

### Better sense prevails as IOA Chief PT Usha finally finds time for protesting wrestlers

Call it damage control but it is better late than never as Rajya Sabha MP & Indian Olympic Association Chief PT Usha finally paid a visit to meet the protesting wrestlers who are seeking the arrest of the WFI Chief. Sexual harassment is a serious crime, more so if it is on sportsmen who do India proud by a sporting federation Chief. Govt should suspend Brij Bhushan &, investigate the claims of protesting wrestlers.

Corruption rules roost in Indian sports & sexual favors in return for selection is the most common crime. Sports suffer if the selection is based on such ugly criteria & Supreme Court should intervene to cleanse the system.

Former sportsmen who have done India proud should be heading the sporting federation & PT Usha who herself was a world-class athlete should take the lead in transforming the system now that she is IOA Chief as well as a parliamentarian!

S.N.Kabra

### Welcome move

According to central intelligence agencies, 14 mobile apps were being used by terrorists and their supporters in J&K. According to a source, the concerned department has blocked Wickrme, Mediafire, Briar, BChat, Nandbox, Conion, IMO, Element, Second line, Zangi, Threema, Crypviser, Enigma and Safeswiss on the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which seems to be a welcome move. According to the central intelligence, they recommended action after discovering that terrorists and their supporters were using these apps to communicate with on-the-ground workers in J&K. The majority of these apps were designed to provide users with anonymity, and their features make it difficult to identify the entities associated with these apps. Further these mobile apps enabled terrorists and their affiliates to engage in activities that are detrimental to India's sovereignty and integrity and can disrupt peace and harmony.

Vijaykumar H K

# Sewage-Septic tank Cleaners need a Better Treatment

The sewage and septic tank cleaners suffer a miserable life and they suffer deaths when on the job at death traps within these focal points. Every year the number of deaths due to suffocation is on the increase and there should be an amicable solution to this pressing problem. The number of people who died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in the country this year has been reported to be 22 and that is alarming. The main cause for manual scavenging were insanitary latrines that required to be cleaned by hand. This, he said, was being addressed by the Swachh Bharat Mission, through which insanitary latrines were being identified and converted to sanitary ones.

Septic tank gasses contain methane, hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, nitrogen dioxide and traces of carbon monoxide. It is a dangerous and life threatening one and unless preventive measures are taken well in advance, entering into such a septic tank, sewage outlet is most dangerous. Deaths due to poisoning continue to haunt the medical practice. Poisoning could be due to accidental, suicidal or homicidal reasons. Certain poisons do not have antidotes and can be rapidly fatal. The victims generally succumb either due to the deleterious effects of the toxic substance per-se or due to secondary phenomenon or multi-organ failure. Septic tanks are dangerous as they contain a variety of sewer gasses which can be highly toxic when inhaled and result in various complications, including death. Septic tank gas poisoning can be fatal if inhaled in high concentrations or for prolonged periods.

According to the Commission's reports, 2019 saw the highest number of cases in the past five years, with 110 deaths. The reports showed that there had been 68 deaths in 2018, 93 in 2017, 48 in 2016 and 57 in 2015. These cases were reported from 18 States and Union Territories, while 13 States and UTs submitted "nil reports. As part of the national policy for mechanized sanitation, 1,416 sanitation workers (1,383 in Andhra

Pradesh and 33 in Rajasthan) had been assisted with concessional loans through State channelizing agencies to buy equipment for cleaning of drains in the past three financial years and this Financial Year. In addition, a capital subsidy of ₹5 lakh had been given to 142 workers across nine States or UTs. From 2018-2019 till December 15, 24,609 sanitation workers had been given up skilling training

There is paucity of literature on the diagnosis and management of septic tank gas poisoning. In several areas, especially developing nations, there are no standard guidelines or protocols for designing, construction, cleaning and maintenance of septic tanks. Casualties occurring due to septic tanks may not even be reported, which may be responsible for the lack of accurate statistical data on the health hazards caused by them. All septic tanks should have a display board highlighting the dos and don'ts as well as the possible hazards due to sewer gasses. Only authorized and trained personnel wearing personal protective gear should be allowed inside the septic tanks. All necessary precautions should be taken by the septic tank workers to prevent themselves and others from getting trapped inside the septic tanks. The government agencies should formulate special rules and regulations for safe use and maintenance of septic tanks. Measures for quick evacuation must be ensured in the event of any accident.

Septic tanks are quite common in residential and industrial areas to cater to sewage wastes. Natural decomposition and mixture of sewage leads to production of sewage gasses. These gasses can be toxic if inhaled in high concentrations or for a prolonged period of time. Septic tank gasses contain methane, hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, nitrogen dioxide and traces of carbon monoxide. Hydrogen sulfide has a characteristic smell of rotten eggs, which is easily identifiable by human olfactory organs and serves as a warning signal for sewer gas leakage. It is a colorless gas, heavier than air, corrosive and flammable. Exposure to even low

concentrations of hydrogen sulfide can cause irritation of the eyes, sore throat, dyspnea and cough. Prolonged exposure can even cause pulmonary edema, headache and dizziness.

Even a single breath of a concentration higher than 1000 ppm can cause immediate collapse ("knock-down") and death. The toxicity of H<sub>2</sub>S is due to inhibition of oxidative phosphorylation and cytochrome oxidase resulting in a reduction in cellular ATP (adenosine triphosphate). Inhalation leads to a multitude of respiratory complications like organizing pneumonia and adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Exposure to high concentrations of methane can be dangerous as it reduces the percentage of oxygen in the air and causes hypoxia. Methane gas inhalation can cause asphyxia, loss of consciousness and pneumonitis. It is high time to have a high-level study to bring out the cause of death and find out a permanent solution to the pressing problem.

Deaths due to poisoning continue to haunt the medical practice. Poisoning could be due to accidental, suicidal or homicidal reasons. Certain poisons do not have antidotes and can be rapidly fatal. The victims generally succumb either due to the deleterious effects of the toxic substance per-se or due to secondary phenomenon or multi-organ failure. Septic tanks are dangerous as they contain a variety of sewer gasses which can be highly toxic when inhaled and result in various complications, including death. Septic tank gas poisoning can be fatal if inhaled in high concentrations or for prolonged periods. It is time to have a high-level study to bring out the cause of death and find out a permanent solution to the pressing problem.

- C.K. Subramaniam

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.)

City

## Nigerian national held with drugs worth over Rs 11 lakh



Mumbai police arrested a Nigerian national, who does not have a valid visa or passport, in the Talaja area of the city with possession of 116 grams of drugs named Methaquinone worth more than Rs 11 lakhs, the police said.

The accused, identified as Boniface Emenike, was arrested for peddling drugs by Thane police in 2022, and having come out on bail four months back, and started the illegal activity again, said the Police.

The arrest and seizure of the drugs were made in a search operation at his rented apartment in Shrikripa Residency in Talaja, sector 2 after the police got a tipoff regarding his drug peddling.

In his interrogation, he told the police officers that he received the drugs from another Nigerian identified as Ogbona Paul, said the police adding that they started zeroing in on arresting Ogbona Paul.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Crime

Branch has arrested two drug peddlers and seized drugs worth Rs 71 lakh from them. The arrests were made in Andheri and in Jogeshwari East of Mumbai city, said the Crime Branch. A case has been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), and the accused was sent to Police custody till May 6 by a court in Mumbai, said the police.

In Mumbai, on Thursday four people including a Nigerian national were arrested for allegedly selling drugs. Police said that narcotics with an estimated value of Rs 32 lakh in the international market were seized from their possession.

The arrested persons were identified as Suraj Habib Sheikh, Zaheer Wahabuddin Qureshi, Riyaz Nasir Ali Sayyad and Sunday John Ambaze who was a Nigerian national, the police said.

A case has been registered against them under the NDPS Act after which all of them were sent to police custody till May 6.

## Sharad Pawar all praise for his driver Gama serving him for more than four decades

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar has in his book fondly mentioned about his driver 'Gama', who has been taking him to various parts of Maharashtra for the last 43 years. In his revised autobiography 'Lok Majhe Sangati' launched on Tuesday.

"I have found some very close colleagues in my successful public life including my personal driver Gama, who has been

with me for the last 43 years. He has taken me to all the corners of the state, but we never met with an accident. It underscores how seriously he has taken his responsibility. Gama is at times my guardian as well. He takes all the necessary care, including about my clothes, travel items, medicines and diet. He has even scolded officials if I somehow miss my lunch or medicines." he wrote.

## Centre trying to destroy not just Mumbai, but entire state, says Nana Patole

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Nana Patole on Friday accused the Central government of trying to weaken Maharashtra by transferring business activities to Gujarat.

While talking to ANI, Patole said, "The financial hub in Mum-

bai is transferred to Gujarat. Our business activities are also being transferred to Gujarat. The main hub of the stock exchange is being taken to Gujarat. Centre is trying to weaken Mumbai financially. Centre is trying to destroy not just Mumbai, but the entire Maharashtra."

## ATS arrested DRDO scientist on espionage charges



A Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientist arrested on charges of allegedly providing crucial information to a Pakistani intelligence operative was on Friday brought to the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) office for questioning.

According to ATS sources, the accused scientist has been identified as Pradeep Kurulkar.

The scientist was arrested from Pune on charges of espionage on Thursday.

According to police, the DRDO scientist, while carrying out his official duties, was allegedly found to have had contact with the operatives of Paki-

stan's Intelligence Agency (PIO) through WhatsApp messages and voice and video calls.

"Despite holding a responsible position, the DRDO official has misused his post thereby compromising sensitive government secrets, which could pose a threat to India's security if it falls into the hands of the enemy nation," read an official statement.

Maharashtra ATS Kalachowki, Mumbai filed a case under the Official Secrets Act 1923 and other relevant sections.

The arrested accused was produced before a special judge in Pune and sent to ATS custody until May 9. Further investigation in the matter is under progress.

## Mumbai Customs seized foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 41 lakh

Mumbai Airport Customs booked 55 cases of smuggling of foreign-origin cigarettes and seized around 9,36,700 cigarettes in the month of April, informed officials on Thursday. The cigarettes seized by the customs were valued at Rs 41 Lakhs.

"During the month of April 2023, Mumbai Airport Customs booked 55 cases of smuggling of foreign-origin cigarettes and seized around 9,36,700 cigarettes valued at Rs 41 Lakhs," read the tweet from Mumbai Customs. On Wednesday, the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of the Customs Department seized 3038.79 grams of gold worth Rs 1.4 crores at Kochi airport in two instances, said an official statement.

In the first instance, on the basis of specific information, DRI and AIU, a passenger coming from Malaysia to Kochi Airport by flight AK 039 was intercepted at the green channel by the officers of the Kochi Customs batch, added the statement.



During the examination of the said passenger, four capsule-shaped packets of gold in paste form totally weighing 1199.34 grams concealed inside his body and 584.75 grams of gold in paste form concealed in the specially stitched cavity of the waist portion of jeans worn by him were recovered and seized.

The accused has been identified as Mohammed Shameer, a native of Palakkad. He has been taken into custody. Further investigations are going on. In the

second instance, on the basis of profiling done by the officers of Kochi Customs AIU batch, a passenger coming from Dubai to Kochi Airport by flight EK532 was intercepted at the green channel.

During the examination of the said passenger, 4 capsules of gold in a compound form totally weighing 1254.70 grams concealed inside his body were recovered and seized. The accused has been identified as Shereef, a native of Malappuram district. He has been taken into custody.



Nation

# Y20 Consultation summit concludes at AIIMS Rishikesh



The Youth-20 Consultation summit concluded at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here on Friday, with Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar dubbing it as a much-needed platform to empower young minds. "The youths are the country's real capital. They are directly linked with the nation's economy," Pawar said in her address on

the last day of the summit, which was attended by young delegates from G-20 nations and noted physicians of the country. "Such a platform is needed to empower young minds. I hope the discussions held at the event will help the young participants come up with recommendations on how to forge partnerships and deal with a range of contemporary global challenges," she added.

The Union minister said foreign delegates participating in the event will also experience the cultural, religious and spiritual aura of Rishikesh. Pawar spoke of efforts being made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in creating an ecosystem conducive to the development of youngsters.

The minister also said digital health innovation has taken quality healthcare to the remotest of villages and leveraging of artificial intelligence in hospital settings has changed the way patients are screened, diagnosed and treated today.

Earlier, Pawar inaugurated an eye bank and a geriatric ward at the hospital. Y20 chairperson Anmol Sovit said the contribution of every citizen was needed to make India a global power. He said youngsters should contribute to the country's journey from Amrit Kal to Swarnim Kal.

# Manipur Violence: Situation under control, says Indian Army



Following the violence in the northeastern state, the Indian Army on Friday said that the situation in Manipur has been brought under control through coordinated actions by all stakeholders.

"The situation has been brought under control through coordinated actions by all stakeholders. IAF undertook continuous sorties from two airfields in Assam employing C17 Globemaster and AN 32 aircraft," Indian Army stated.

Meanwhile, the evacuation

of civilians from all communities from affected areas carried on throughout the night and flag marches in Churachandpur and other sensitive areas are underway.

"Induction commenced on the night of May 4 and additional columns commenced domination with effect from the wee hours of May 5. Domination and evacuation of civilians of all communities from affected areas continued throughout the night. Flag march in Churachandpur and other sensitive areas underway," said Indian Army.

# MP: 6 shot dead, 2 injured in firing between two groups over dispute in Morena



Six people were shot dead while two others were seriously injured after a clash between two groups of people over an old dispute in Madhya Pradesh's Morena on Friday morning, the police said.

The incident occurred in Lepa village under Sihoniya police station limits in the district around 10 am, and a video of the same also went viral on social media.

Doctors at Morena district hospital confirmed the deaths. "Six people were brought dead, and two others in seriously injured condition. Both the seriously injured were referred to Gwalior for further treatment," Dr Kulshrestha of the hospital told ANI.

On getting the information

about the incident, the police rushed to the spot and sent the injured to the district hospital.

Speaking to ANI over the phone, Chambal range Inspector General (IG) Sushant Kumar Saxena said, "Two groups clashed with each other and opened fire due to an old dispute in Lepa village in Morena district. The clash broke out around 10 am on Friday. There have been cases registered against both the parties in the past as well."

Reacting to the incident, former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said, "The law and order is in disarray in the entire Madhya Pradesh. Every day some incidents happen here. Women are being tortured. It has become a routine and the identity of the state."

# Kerala HC refuses to stay release of 'The Kerala Story'

Kerala High Court on Friday refused to issue a stay order on the release of the film 'The Kerala Story'. Asserting that secular Kerala society will accept the film for what it is, the High Court today asked petitioners how the movie, which it observed is fiction and not history, would create sectarianism and conflict in the society.

The court sought to know whether the entire trailer was against society. "Nothing will happen just because the film is screened. The teaser of the film was released in November. What was offensive in the film? What is wrong in saying that Allah is the only God? The country gives the citizen the right to believe in their religion and God and spread it. What was offensive in



the trailer?," the court observed while considering a batch of petitions seeking to cancel the censor certificate of the film.

"So many movies have already come out about such organizations. There have been references against Hindu monks and Christian priests in many films before. Did you see all this in the way of fiction? What is so special now? How does this movie cre-

ate sectarianism and conflict in the society?" the court observed.

The petitioners argued that the film would inject poison into the minds of innocent people. The petitioners argued that no agency has yet detected the existence of 'Love Jihad' in Kerala. A Division bench comprising of Justice N Nagesh and Justice Mohammed Nias CP has considered the matter.

# J&K: 5 soldiers lost lives in Rajouri encounter

A total of five soldiers lost their lives in the ongoing anti-terror operation in the Kandi area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri, officials said.

"Three more soldiers who were injured earlier have un-

fortunately succumbed to their injuries. A total of five soldiers have lost their lives in the joint operation in Rajouri, J&K," said the officials.

According to the officials, the operations are still in progress In-

dian Army is conducting relentless intelligence-based operations to flush out a group of terrorists involved in an ambush on an army truck in the Tota Gali area of Bhata Dhurian in the Jammu region, an official release stated.



World

# Terrorism must be stopped in all forms including cross-border terror: Jaishankar at SCO meet

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said that the menace of terrorism continues "unabated" and must be stopped in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism. In his opening address of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Council of Foreign Ministers meeting here today, Jaishankar said that as the world was engaged in facing Covid and its consequences, the menace of terrorism continues unabated.

"Taking our eyes off this menace would be detrimental to our security interests," he said.

"We firmly believe that there can be no justification for terrorism and it must be stopped in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism. Combating terrorism is one of the original mandates of SCO," Jaishankar said.

"The channel of activities for terrorist activities must be seized



and blocked without distinction. Members need not be reminded that combating terrorism is one of the original mandates of the SCO," the external affairs minister added.

In his address at the SCO-CFMs meeting, Jaishankar also pursued the support of member states for the long-standing demand of India to make English the 3rd official language of SCO.

"I am pleased to note that the discussion on issues of reform and modernization of SCO has already commenced. I also seek the support of member states for the long-standing demand of India to make English the 3rd official

language of SCO, to enable a deeper engagement with English-speaking member states," said Jaishankar in Goa.

Joint Secretary (JS) ER Dhammu Ravi and MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, were sitting behind Jaishankar during his address. Joint Secretary (JS) SCO Yojna Patel was also present. "As SCO chair we've initiated an unprecedented engagement with SCO observers and dialogue partners by inviting them to participate in more than 14 social-cultural events," Jaishankar said.

The foreign minister also made a mention of Afghanistan in his speech "Unfolding situa-

tion in Afghanistan remains at the centre of our attention. Efforts should be directed towards welfare of Afghan people," he said.

"Our immediate priorities in Afghanistan include providing humanitarian aid, ensuring truly inclusive govt, combating terror," Jaishankar said.

Earlier today, Jaishankar greeted Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari with a "Namaste" ahead of the CFM meeting. Visuals showed the Jaishankar greeting Zardari in Indian tradition with a "Namaste", avoiding a handshake. On his arrival in Goa yesterday Zardari had said he looks forward to

constructive discussions with his counterparts from friendly countries.

"I am happy to arrive in Goa for participating in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. I am leading the Pakistan delegation at SCO and hope that the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) will be successful," Zardari said in a video on Thursday shared by Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson.

On Thursday, Jaishankar held a meeting with Chinese counterpart Qin Gang. The discussions focussed on resolving outstanding issues and ensuring "peace and tranquillity" in the border areas. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 2001. The SCO has India, Russia, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as its members. India took over the rotating presidency of the SCO at the summit held in Samarkand in 2022.

## Bhutan exploring ways to incentivize tourism industry

Bhutan government has been looking into incentives for travellers to come and stay longer in the Himalayan country.

According to Bhutan Live, Prime Minister Lotay Tshering suggested granting promotional reductions on the sustainable development fee (SDF) for visitors who stay longer than their original reservation during a recent

meeting with officials from several industries.

In order to position Bhutan as a family destination for people, the Bhutanese PM also vouched for waiving the SDF for tourists under 18 years of age

The notion put up by the tourism sector that the SDF for foreign workers coming to Bhutan is waived was also put forth by

the Prime Minister. Immigration regulations currently pose substantial challenges to recruiting foreign specialists to Bhutan to assist in employee training, Bhutan Live reported.

The government intends to provide the suggested incentives, which may include waiving the SDF for the first five days of a visitor's stay, until December 31, 2024.

## India closes Operation Kaveri; 3,862 persons rescued from conflict-torn Sudan



As many as 3,862 persons were rescued from strife-torn Sudan under Operation Kaveri, which has now come to a close.

The transit facility, which was created at a school in Jeddah, has also been closed, the Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia informed.

India in Saudi Arabia tweeted, "Today, we closed down the transit facility created at the International Indian School Jeddah @IndianPage for Sudan evacuees during #OperationKaveri. The facility provided comfort to more

than 3500 evacuees & served as the nerve centre for planning their onwards movement to India."

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar on Friday morning, confirmed the return of 47 passengers in an Indian Air Force (IAF) C130 J flight.

In a tweet, Jaishankar wrote, "An Indian Air Force C130 J flight carrying 47 passengers has landed in India. With this arrival, 3862 persons have been moved out of Sudan through #OperationKaveri."

## Temple in Sydney vandalised by pro-Khalistani elements

The BAPS Swaminarayan temple in Australia's Sydney was found vandalised in the early hours on Friday (local time). The Australia Today reported.

This comes almost two months after temples in Melbourne and Brisbane were vandalised by pro-Khalistan supporters.

According to The Australia Today, a news outlet focused on

multicultural communities and the Indian subcontinent, authorities at the temple in Western Sydney's Rosehill suburb said they found unwanted graffiti on the structure's front wall and a so-called 'Khalistan flag' hanging on its gate.

"When I went this morning for prayers, I saw ugly vandalism on the front wall," a local resident of Harris Park and a daily visitor

to the Swaminarayan temple told the Australian media outlet.

The Australia Today media report said it understands that local police were notified by the temple management as early as 7 am, and the latter has told the media outlet that NSW Police officers have attended the temple and CCTV footage has been provided to assist them in the investigations.

# Mobile has become integral in the lifestyle of people



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout Punjab

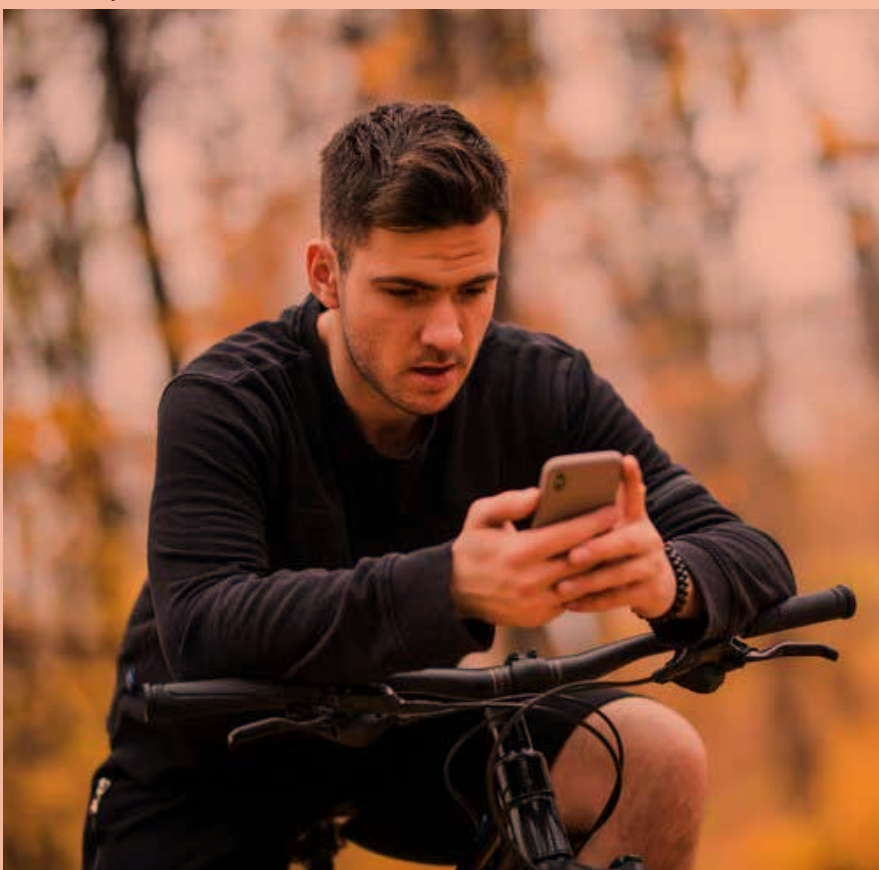
Mobile has become integral in the lifestyle of people from cities-metropolis to villages. But if an item proving to be a convenience is creating a multi-level challenge for our health, then there is a need to stop once and be aware of its use. The kind of concerns that have been expressed in a recent study about mobile and its use, show that the mobile with you all the time, due to minor carelessness, secretly creates many risks for the health of the people. is doing, invites many diseases Used to be. It was found in the study that the mobile which

has become an integral part of our hands, looks clean, but is actually dirtier than a toilet seat. Along with using the phone while doing some work or eating, it is also kept on all kinds of surfaces, due to which germs accumulate on it. It can be guessed that after coming in our hands, in what forms its effect would go into our body? Thus, many concerns are often expressed in the context of redundancy in the use of mobile phones. She is Despite this, the level of awareness about it is still not sufficient and negligence towards its risk is common among people. While the world of bacteria and viruses is such that it is not even known and its infection causes some major damage in the body. Several studies on the microbial colonization of mobile phones



have reported that they can be contaminated with many different types of potentially pathogenic bacteria. These bacteria can become carriers of everything from skin infections, diarrhea, tuberculosis to urinary tract infections. of new researches Such indications should be a cause for greater concern given that many pathogenic bacteria on phones are resistant. That is, the disease caused by these cannot be treated with conventional medicines and if it causes infection in the skin, intestine or respiratory tract, then one's life can also be lost. It is obvious that, as convenient as the mobile which has become an integral part of the lifestyle of people from cities-metropolis to villages, it is also full of health risks. However, apart from the aspect of infection through it, many serious diseases are also caused by its radiation. There has been a possibility of

being c. Through this, awareness has also been given about the harm of electromagnetic waves. Radiation can cause the brain cells to shrink, due to which sufficient amount of oxygen does not reach the brain. Then the psychological consequences related to the habit of its use have also become a problem for people today. It is not hidden that if a person uses the smartphone excessively then he gets addicted to picking up his mobile again and again even without work. as a result of From losing concentration and patience in a work to irritability, many behavioral problems are arising. Obviously, it is the need of the hour to be a little careful about the use of mobile phones, which have become necessary in almost every case today, because if a person is fit on the health front, then only he will be able to take better advantage of any technical resource.





## Entertainment

# Ed Sheeran wins Marvin Gaye's 'Let's Get It On' copyright trial case



'Shape of You' singer Ed Sheeran won the copyright trial case on Thursday which alleged that he plagiarized the Marvin Gaye hit 'Let's Get It On' for his 'Thinking Out Loud' song.

According to Variety, a US-based media house, after just a few hours of discussion on Thursday, the jury issued a decision clearing him of copyright infringement, capping a case that lasted just under two weeks.

Sheeran gave a statement to the media outside the courthouse in which he expressed his frustration at being charged with plagiarism and having the case go to trial.

Sheeran said, "I am obviously very happy with the outcome of the case, and it looks like I'm not going to have to retire from my day job after all. Alluding to a probably exaggerated comment he had made earlier this week on the witness stand that if the verdict was against him, he would feel obligated to stop playing music.

"But at the same time, I am absolutely frustrated that baseless claims like this are allowed to go to court at all... If the jury had decided this matter the other way, we might as well say goodbye to the creative freedom of songwriters."

## Brad Pitt to drive Formula 1 car

Get ready to witness actor Brad Pitt in the driver's seat of real Formula One car. Yes, you read it right. The 'Fight Club' star will drive at British Grand Prix as part of shooting for Joseph Kosinski's directorial, Variety reported.

During a panel about the untitled film at the F1 Accelerate Summit in Miami, Kosinski and producer Jerry Bruckheimer shared production details of the Apple Studios movie, which stars Pitt and counts seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton among its producers.

According to panel moderator Will Buxton, Kosinski and Bruckheimer are "creating an 11th team filming on track and on event from Silverstone to the end of the year." Silverstone is the track where the British Grand Prix takes place. This year, the event will be held on July 9.



## Turkish star Burak Deniz in Mumbai

Renowned Turkish star Burak Deniz is currently in India and he has been making the best use of his time exploring the nation's culture.

And of course, as he is in the entertainment hub, he also added Bollywood tadka to his trip.

On Thursday, Burak attended the 23rd edition of FICCI Frames in Mumbai, where he met veteran actor Anil Kapoor and Aditya Roy Kapur.

Sharing a picture of hugging Anil Kapoor, Burak took to Instagram Story and wrote, "Thank you (smiley emoji)." Burak looked handsome in a white shirt that he paired with white trousers and white sneakers.

