



Aaditya Thackeray hits out at BJP for poll campaigning amid violence in Manipur

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Kerala: 22 dies after Tourist boat capsizes off Tanur coast, CM announces Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia for victims' kin



Twenty-two people, including a police officer, were killed after an overloaded double-decker tourist boat capsized at Parappanangadi on Sunday (May 7).

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday visited the Taluk Hospital, Tirurangadi in Malappuram district where survivors of the boat capsizing incident near the Tanur coast a day ago were

admitted.

The Kerala government has also ordered a judicial probe into the incident. The chief minister announced Rs 10 lakh compensation to the kin of victims and said the government will bear the treatment expense of the injured people.

Kerala Revenue Minister K Rajan earlier today said that 22 people have died so far in boat capsizing incident. The

minister informed that a search operation by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and rescue teams is underway.

"37 people have been identified. 22 people died. 10 people have been identified in different hospitals. Five people were confirmed to have swum in. A total of 37 people were identified," said the State minister.

"The exact number of people who

travelled on the boat could not be recorded. Let there be no more," he said.

"However, all searches are ongoing. NDRF, fire and rescue and scuba team are conducting the searches. The Navy's team has also come forward. The Coast Guard arrived yesterday. Only other help will be received from them. A second team of NDRF will also arrive here," the minister said.

Milk adulteration scam is on rise

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

India is the largest milk producing country but almost 70% of the milk sold and consumed in India is adulterated by contaminants such as detergent and skim milk powder, but impure water is the highest contaminant. Milk adulteration techniques will be invented to meet the demand for milk products during the festival season. Farmers generally mix milk powder/oil, Urea and detergent to provide whiteness and levelling SNF. Detergents are added to emulsify and dissolve oil in milk.

Adulteration in milk is not new thing, I remember when I was small child a milk man used to carry those typical measurements and a big milk can on bicycle to deliver milk door to door, my

grandmother used to pore few drops on the floor by questioning milkman " aaj bhi dudh me paani milaya kya? Doodh patla lag raha hai". (Have you added water to the milk? its consistency is thin). This was a repetitive question to the milkman. Since childhood we have known that the milk is most commonly diluted with water - this not only reduces its nutritional value, but contaminated water can also cause additional health problems. But as the time changed and we adopted modern ways of storing or packing milk the adulteration has gone on dangerous levels.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Milk adulteration scam is on rise

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Does pasteurization & homogenization, store milk for a day or two before selling it. Milk brands get milk from agents, reconstitute it with skimmed milk powder to create variants and supply it after packing to customers.

A few quick and easy tests can tell you if your milk is laced with any adulterant. There are also adulteration test kits available in the market today.

The other adulterants used are mainly detergent, foreign fat, starch, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), sugar, urea, pond water, salt, maltodextrin, sodium carbonate, formalin, and ammonium sulphate. It has been a cause of concern for both the Government and the Dairy Industry.

Collection agents Collects substandard milk from farmers. Due to poor cold-chain infrastructure, it adds formalin and hydrogen peroxide to prolong its freshness. Does pasteurization & homogenization, store milk for a day or two before selling it. Milk brands get milk from agents, reconstitute it with skimmed milk powder to create variants and supply it after packing to customers. Adulteration techniques are business secrets. But there is no rocket science to understand that adulteration happens on every level. It doesn't take much to find out if your milk is adulterated. A few quick and easy tests can tell you if your milk is laced with any adulterant. There are also adulteration test kits available in the market today.

The other adulterants used are mainly detergent, foreign fat, starch, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), sugar, urea, pond water, salt, maltodextrin, sodium carbonate, formalin, and ammonium sulphate. It has been a cause of concern for both the Government and the Dairy Industry. The Indian Council of Medical Research has reported, "Milk adulterants have hazardous health effects. The detergent in milk can cause food poisoning and other gastrointestinal complications. Its high alkaline level can also damage body tissue and destroy proteins. Other synthetic components can cause impairments, heart problems, cancer or even death. While the immediate effect of drinking milk adulterated with urea, caustic soda and formalin is gastroenteritis, the long-term effects are far more serious.

Contaminated milk continues to be sold in Maharashtra despite crackdown measures taken by authorities. The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (fda), had, in a study, found that 20 percent of the milk is adulterated. Though the study prompted immediate action and licences of 21 dairies to be suspended, yet, there is no respite. India produces a little over 105 million tonnes (mt) of milk annually and out of this Mumbai consumes 1.65 mt. Of that, 0.61 million tonnes are substandard & adulterated. The problem is not restricted to just within the state. Milk adulteration takes place, in the open in areas like Andheri, Antop Hill, Saki Naka, Kurla, Kurar village, Dahisar Baithi chawl and Dharavi in Mumbai. The laws are weak, that is the reason such practices are not stoppable. Moreover, FDA does not have a dedicated food testing laboratory of its own.

Reports of substandard and adulterated food frequent the front pages of newspapers. Samples of items we consume daily—milk,

pulses, oils, vegetables, sugar, among many others—have been rated substandard. While it is difficult to track the production process and locate the item's source, simple tests can help you distinguish a pure sample from an adulterated one.

To find out water in milk, put a drop of milk on a polished, slanting surface. Pure milk either stays or flows slowly leaving a white trail behind.

Milk adulterated with flow immediately without leaving a mark.

To find detergent in milk, Take 5-10 millilitres (ML) of milk sample and equal quantity of water and shake the mixture thoroughly, if the milk is adulterated with detergent, it forms dense lather pure milk will have a thin layer of foam. The easiest and domestic way to identify if a milk is adulterated or not is dip your finger in milk and pour the drop on the opposite of a clean palm. If it slides too fast and leaves behind a water trail, the milk is added with water. If it is too thick and massy it is added with starch. However, if it is thin and stays: cow milk genuine, if it is thick and stays: buffalo milk genuine. This experiment holds well with your experience.

Detecting starch in milk and milk products, Boil 2-3 ML of the sample (milk, khoya, chenna or paneer) with 5 ML of water for other ghee and butter, water need not be added. Add 2-3 drops of tincture of iodine after letting it cool. Formation of blue color indicates the presence of starch.

Food adulteration is a global concern and developing countries are at higher risk associated with it due to lack of monitoring and policies. However, this is one of the most common phenomena that have been overlooked in many countries. Unfortunately, in contrast to common belief, milk adulterants can pose serious health hazards leading to fatal diseases. Just reading the news and condemning the act is not enough, we as responsible citizens need to be more alert and smart in diagnosing what we receive and consume.

Stay healthy and stay fit.



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

Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

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

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Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Stock markets have run up too much too soon!

Stock prices have run up too much too soon as Indices climb up to 2023 Peak & nifty are almost at 18 months high. Most top companies have reported a stellar set of numbers but global markets are interrelated & recession in Europe along with the US will have some effect on our country, more so when inflation & interest are climbing on our shores as well. However, India is far better placed to take on the challenges head-on. The average age of our population is far less than in other countries which means that we have a huge number of people who can be employed for strenuous work which would help India grow faster. India is a hub for software & brilliant brains come from our shores which helps India develop faster.

We are one-sixth of the world population which means we have a ready market for whatever gets manufactured on our shores. Correction in stock prices at peak levels is an opportunity to buy stocks for the long term if one has a longer horizon & money in stocks can only be made if one has the patience to wait for a long period of time & capacity to take risks!

S.N. Kabra

Animal cruelty

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.

Jubel D'Cruz

Climate change the menace

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), India is expected to pay the most for the consequences of the climate crisis. Aside from extreme weather events like flash floods and widespread wildfires, the country frequently experiences long heatwaves and droughts that deplete the country's water supplies and jeopardise crops. The North West and South West regions have been dealing with a prolonged wave of scorching and record-breaking heat since 2020, which was the hottest and driest month recorded in 130 years. Residents were subjected to temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius for several days in a row, with surface land temperatures reaching up to 60 degrees Celsius in some areas. Experts are unanimous in their belief that this unprecedented heatwave is a direct result of climate change.

Vijay Kumar H K

Insight into women travelling alone for vacations Part 1

Gender inequality is the idea and situation that women and men are not equal. Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals wholly or partly due to their gender. It arises from differences in gender roles. Gender inequalities, and its social causes, impact India's sex ratio, women's health over their lifetimes, their educational attainment, and economic conditions. Gender inequality in India is a multifaceted issue that concerns men and women alike. Some argue that some gender equality measures place men at a disadvantage. However, when India's population is examined as a whole, women are at a disadvantage in several important ways. In India, discriminatory attitudes towards either sex have existed for generations and affect the lives of both sexes. Although the constitution of India has granted men and women equal rights, gender disparity still remains.

India's Daughter is a powerful and sensitive documentary that is part of a global campaign against rape, violence against women, and gender inequality. It explores the life and dreams of an extraordinary young woman, brutally ended. The tension between her story and the outrageously reactionary social attitudes expressed on camera gives the documentary its power. The government's ban has no leg, social, moral, or legal, to stand on. It takes a special political talent and habit of mind to ban something that you haven't seen, that the rest of the world will not just see but is set to centre-stage as part of a global campaign against rape, other forms of violence against women, and gender inequality. The grounds cited to justify the government's decision to ban India's Daughter, Leslee Udwin's documentary on the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case and the responses to it, which NDTV was scheduled



to broadcast on International Women's Day, suggest a pathology of arbitrariness, irrationality, fact-denial, and confusion. To be fair, the vilification of the film, sight unseen, and why and how it was made came not just from the government but also from other political parties, some feminists, and, of course, rival television channels.

Political reforms are needed so that more women can enter legislatures and positions of power. This region has produced a number of women Presidents and Prime Ministers. More women in power at every level will ensure that women's needs get higher priority than they currently do. The gender gap is the difference between women and men as reflected in social, political, intellectual, cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes. The Global Gender Gap Index aims to measure this gap in four key areas: health, education, economics and politics. So the gap in economics, for example, is the difference between men and women when it comes to salaries, the number of leaders and participation in the workplace.

In India women are the main target for eve teasing, molestation, rape, acid throwing,

ragging and honour killing and that is unbecoming of a country where women are most respected in a society. A new study has found that nine in 10 women have suffered some form of sexual discrimination at the workplace, which is alarming and India is not an exception to this. The researchers at the Michigan University found that 10% of the women surveyed had experienced the most severe form of harassment, in which they were promised promotion or better treatment. The purpose of this article is not to dampen women's spirits. Society is not saying that you stop celebrating this special day. All we are saying is that this Women's Day, look around you. Do you see or know someone who needs help? A woman, who is probably not as lucky as you? Lend her a hand, help her out. If that's not feasible, because you know a lot of such women are just not ready to come out of the situation, then lend them a shoulder or an ear.

- Jayanthi Subramaniam

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

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

SC refuses to interfere with HC verdict granting bail to ex-Mumbai top cop in NSE phone tapping case



The Supreme Court on Monday refused to interfere with the Delhi High Court verdict granting bail to former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey in a money laundering case related to alleged illegal phone tapping and snooping of National Stock Exchange (NSE) employees.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A Amanullah said the observations made by the high court in its December 8 last year judge-

ment granting bail to Pandey will not have any effect during the trial in the case.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had challenged the high court verdict before the apex court.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the ED, told the bench that the high court had done a "mini trial" while deciding the bail plea. "Let it be," the bench observed, adding that order granting bail to Pandey was

six months old.

Raju then requested for a direction that the observations made by the high court should not affect the trial in the case. "Needless to say that the observations made while granting bail will not in any way affect the trial," the bench observed. In its verdict, the high court had observed that Pandey was prima facie "not guilty" of acquiring or retaining the "proceeds of crime". It had ordered his release on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh with two sureties of the like amount subject to certain conditions.

The high court had said while tapping phone lines without consent was prima facie a breach of privacy, the scheduled offences under the under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) are not made out and the ED has "not substantiated" that Pandey "derived or obtained any property" from a criminal activity.

Will meet Nitish Kumar during his Mumbai visit: Pawar



Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Monday said he would meet Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during the latter's visit to Mumbai on May 11, adding their outlook is that the country needs an "alternative" to the current BJP-led government.

Pawar, who on Friday revoked his decision to quit as NCP chief, was speaking to reporters in Solapur before heading to Nipani in Karnataka where he will hold a rally for his party candidate in the Assembly polls to be held in the neighbouring state on May 10.

Asked about a possible meeting with Janata Dal (United) leader and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Pawar said, "I have received a message that Nitish Kumar will visit Mumbai on May 11. We will meet, though I do not have all the details with me. Our outlook is that an alternative (to the BJP government) is needed in the country."

"Those who wish to contribute to it, be it Nitish or Mamata (West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress leader), in my view we all need to work together for the same," the NCP chief said.

Malpractices reported during police recruitment exam in Mumbai; four cases registered



Four offences have been registered against people who indulged in malpractices during the written examination for recruitment of constables in Mumbai police, an official said on Monday.

At least 78,522 out of 83,847 candidates appeared for the written examination held at 213 exam centres on Sunday, the official said.

Although no untoward incidents were reported during the exam, malpractices came to light at centres in Bhandup, Kasturba Marg, Meghwadi and Goregaon, he said.

In one such incident, a

24-year-old candidate from Maharashtra's Jalna district was caught using a small electronic device while appearing for the examination at the centre in Bhandup, and was taken into custody, the official said.

The accused was taking help from an aide using the device to answer the exam paper, he said.

A case under section 417 (cheating) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Maharashtra Prevention of Malpractices at University, Board and Other Specified Examinations Act has been registered against the accused, the official added.

Special flight carrying Maha students stuck in Manipur to reach Mumbai

A special flight carrying students from Maharashtra who are stranded in violence-hit Manipur, will reach Mumbai on Monday evening.

The flight will leave Guwahati around 4.30 pm for Mumbai, according to Maharashtra Chief Minister's office. The flight is expected to land in Mumbai at 6.30 pm.

The students are leaving for Guwahati from Manipur's capi-

tal Imphal to board the flight. On Sunday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde interacted with students of the state who are stranded in Manipur. Shiv Sena released the video of Shinde talking with the students.

"The students thanked the Chief Minister for helping them so promptly and said that we are all safe," the party said.

Meanwhile, Air India has extended a full fee waiver on

rescheduling or cancellation of tickets for all flights to or from Manipur till Monday.

The decision was taken in view of the situation in the north-eastern state. The airline started to offer the concession on May 4. Several state governments are working on plans to move their residents out of the violence-hit Manipur. Internet services remain suspended in Manipur after ethnic clashes.

MoU signed for developing four stations along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor

Union Housing and Urban Affairs and Railways ministries have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for building four stations along the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (Project-SMART) corridor, a statement said on Monday.

The four stations will be Sabarmati, Surat, Virar and Thane, said the statement issued by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban

Affairs (MoHUA).

According to the ministry, Project-SMART envisages developing surrounding areas of the stations to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters and other stakeholders, and to promote economic activities in their vicinities.

The project would facilitate and enhance the institutional capacity of state governments, municipal corporations and urban development authorities to plan, develop and manage surrounding areas of the

stations, the ministry said.

The ministry, governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra, and JICA are organising a series of seminars and field visits for Project-SMART in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

The first seminar saw deliberations by officers from MoHUA, Railways ministry, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited, Japanese embassy and JICA's headquarters and India office, and JICA's expert team, the statement said.

Nation

BJP moves EC against Sonia Gandhi's 'sovereignty' remark



strong message to 6.5 crore Kannadigas".

"The Congress will not allow anyone to pose a threat to Karnataka's reputation, sovereignty or integrity," the tweet read.

A day after Sonia's comments went viral, Prime Minister Modi accused the Gandhi family of advocating "secession" of Karnataka from India and said, "The disease of the 'Tukde Tukde' gang will reach this high in Congress, I had never thought."

He further accused the Congress party of "insulting" the Kannada freedom fighters who participated in India's freedom struggle."

"Congress has a history of dividing brothers, making states fight among themselves, and leaving no stone unturned in inciting communal violence. Whenever Congress party comes to power, the confidence of terrorists and criminals gets emboldened. They are assured of being protected by the Congress party. We have seen how Congress has repeatedly come in support of terrorists," he said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday filed a complaint with the Election Commission demanding immediate action against former Congress president Sonia Gandhi over her remarks that her party will now allow anyone to pose a threat to Karnataka's "sovereignty" at a recent poll rally.

In the run up to the Karnataka Assembly polls, the BJP also has asked the commission to direct the filing of an FIR against her.

Sonia Gandhi has breached the Model Code of Conduct, according to Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, who submitted the

complaint.

"It is shocking and unacceptable. I appeal to the EC to take strict action against her for making such a statement," the minister said. Karandlaje, the convener of the BJP Election Management Committee, asked the poll body to demand the filing of a police report against the former Congress president and the imposition of severe penalties.

With reference to Gandhi's address at a campaign rally in Hubballi on Saturday, the Congress on the same day tweeted that the Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson "sends a

K'taka Assembly polls: Priyanka Gandhi holds roadshow in Bengaluru on last day of campaigning



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday held a roadshow in Bengaluru's Vijayanagar on the last day of campaigning for the Karnataka Assembly elections which are scheduled to be held on the May 10. In a grand roadshow, Congress workers and supporters across the state participated while a large number of people also gathered on the streets to attend the event.

Standing on a vehicle bedecked with flowers, Priyanka greeted the crowd thronging on both sides of the road.

Notably, the high-voltage campaign for the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka will come to an end on Monday as all three major political parties in the state -- BJP, Congress and JD(S) - have

the last chance to woo the voters.

Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge held various roadshows, rallies and elections campaigns.

The Congress is working hard to wrest power from the BJP that is striving to break the 38-year-old pattern of alternating governments and retain its power in the state. With the war of words between top guns of all the major political parties, the campaigns of the election of the southern citadel saw games of allegations and accusations. Several issues of the state were promised to be solved.

However, the most discussed one- the issue of Bajrang Dal which was mentioned in the Congress manifesto took centre stage for political campaigning.

Rajasthan: 3 civilians killed in IAF MiG-21 crash, pilot ejects

A total of three civilians were killed after the wreckage of the Indian Air Force MiG-21 aircraft fell on a house in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district on Monday morning, the IAF said today.

The aircraft had taken off from the Suratgarh airbase for a routine exercise when it crashed near Bahlol Nagar in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh due to an "on-board emergency."

The mishap took place at around 9.25 am. "Soon after the



take-off, the pilot experienced an onboard emergency, following which he attempted to recover the aircraft as per existing pro-

cedures. Having failed to do so, he initiated an ejection, sustaining minor injuries in the process. The pilot was recovered from about 25 kilometres North East of Suratgarh's base," IAF said in the statement.

"The aircraft wreckage fell on a house in Bahlol Nagar in Hanumangarh District, unfortunately leading to the loss of three lives. The IAF regrets the loss of lives and offers its deepest condolences to the bereaved families," it added.

Tajpuriya murder: TN DGP orders inquiry into Tihar Jail incident

Tamil Nadu Director General of Police C Sylendra Babu has ordered an inquiry into the Delhi Tihar Jail incident where gangster Tillu Tajpuriya was murdered, an official of the Tamil Nadu Special Police said on Monday.

CCTV footage of the incident that surfaced purportedly shows some policemen in uniform standing as mute spectators during the May 2 incident.

Tamil Nadu Special Police said that the Additional Director General of Police, TN, HM Jayaram

would be visiting Tihar jail on Monday to investigate the matter.

Meanwhile, a Quick Response Team (QRT) armed with anti-riot equipment has been placed at Tihar Jail after the recent murder of gangster Tajpuriya, officials said on Sunday.

Air India urination case: SC issues notice on woman victim's plea for guidelines to deal with unruly passengers

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre and others on a plea filed by a 72-year-old woman, who was urinated upon in a New York-Delhi Air India flight last November by an allegedly inebriated passenger, seeking direction to DGCA and all airlines to frame mandatory SoP and zero tolerance rules to deal with unruly passengers and onboard sufferers.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala posted the matter for hearing in July.

Hema Rajaraman sought direction that the Directorate General Civil Aviation (DGCA) to include in the CAR an explicit zero-tolerance policy with respect to "unruly/disruptive behaviour", which

would mandate reporting to it and to law enforcement, failing which action would be taken against the airlines in all cases.

"Direct the Respondent No.2 (DGCA) that the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) dated May 2017 of the DGCA should consider "drunkenness" or "inebriation" on its own to be considered unruly/disruptive behaviour on an aircraft," the plea read.

"Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA to solicit the SoPs and the Operations Manuals as required under the law from the airline companies laying down procedures for handling unruly/ disruptive behaviour in airports and on aircraft, and to ensure that the same is in compliance with the DGCA norms," the plea added.

World

UK's Coronation celebrations to conclude with Big Help Out volunteering drive



The long celebratory Coronation weekend in the UK will conclude on Monday with a nationwide volunteering initiative entitled the Big Help Out, made up of around 8 million opportunities for charities and local communities to participate in volunteering initiatives.

Conceived by Buckingham Palace as a tribute to the newly crowned King Charles III's focus on public service, the Big Help Out encourages people from all walks of life to try volunteering for themselves and join the work

being undertaken to support their local areas.

While British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty joined the initiative at a lunch club, Opposition Labour leader Keir Starmer answered calls for the National Health Service (NHS) volunteer responders programme.

The King and Queen finally get a day of rest after the hectic activities of the weekend, with other royals deputed to support various volunteering initiatives. William and Kate, the Prince and

Princess of Wales, joined volunteers in renovating the Upton Scout Hut in Slough, Berkshire, with works including resetting a path, digging a new soakaway, sanding and revarnishing the front door, adding planters to the front of the building and adding a mural to create a Big Help Out legacy.

"The 3rd Upton Scouts Hut was built in 1982 and is used by a variety of community groups in the area, including the local mosque, a senior citizens contact group for members of the South Asian community and the Scout group themselves," the palace said.

"The building is also used by 'Slough All Nations', a group with heritage spanning across St Kitts & Nevis, and which provides recreation and leisure activities to improve health and wellbeing and promote community cohesion. The Princess of Wales has been Joint President of the Scouts since 2020," it said.

Israel renovating Samaria National Park



The Israel government confirmed that 32 million Shekels will be allocated for the restoration and development of the Samaria (Sebastia) National Park to make the site a center of attraction for visitors while restoring archaeological findings, building an access road, and building a sustainable model to finance the current expenses of the site.

Also, areas that have not yet been exposed will be mapped and measures will be promoted to prevent damage to the national park, increase law enforcement in the area and prevent illegal construction.

At the initiative of Minister of Environmental Protection Idit Silman, Minister of Tourism Haim Katz and Minister of Heri-

tage Amichai Eliyahu, a plan will be drawn up for the reopening of the Tel Shomron National Garden, after years in which it was closed in light of the extensive destruction of antiquities that took place there.

The Nature and Parks Authority will formulate within 60 days a plan for the preservation and rescue of the existing heritage assets on the site. A committee will be established with the participation of the directors of the ministries: of environmental protection, tourism and heritage, to implement the decision and monitor its implementation.

At the same time, measures will be promoted to prevent damage to the garden, deal with illegal construction and increase law enforcement in the area.

Pakistan considering to stop financing provincial development projects

The Pakistan government is mulling stopping financing provincial development projects amid a tight fiscal position. The country has decided to instead focus on five strategic sectors, exports, energy, equity, e-Pakistan and environment (5Es), in the next year's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), Dawn reported.

A senior government official told Dawn that the planning and development ministry had moved a summary to the prime minister for his consent to cap the provincial development projects in the PSDP

2023-24 to be presented to parliament as part of the next year's budget and also restrict the PSDP to 5Es.

The decision was taken at a recent meeting, presided over by Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal, with a view to moving forward to finalising the next year's development budget with clarity after the prime minister's consent.

According to Dawn, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been given a suggestion that only those projects should be included in the PSDP which have strategic importance and no pro-

vincial project of devolved responsibilities should be part of the PSDP, except for the projects of compelling significance which should be funded on a 50:50 basis by the Centre and provinces.

"The provincial development projects in federal PSDP should be capped forever," the meeting concluded.

The media recently reported that as Pakistan continues to grapple with economic challenges due to a shortage of foreign exchange reserves, citizens find it tough to buy everyday essentials like flour, oil, and gas.

Hyderabad woman among 9 killed in shooting incident in US

Indian-origin engineer Aishwarya Thatikonda, was among the nine people killed when a gun-wielding man opened fire at shoppers outside a mall in Dallas area in the US on Saturday, The New York Post reported.

Thatikonda, a project manager with a private company in Dallas and a resident of Saroornagar in Hyderabad had moved to the

US from India.

According to local media reports the 27-year-old was shopping with a friend at the Allen Premium Outlets in the northern suburbs of Dallas when a gunman opened fire.

The assailant identified as Mauricio Garcia was later shot dead by a police officer. Thatikonda, 27, lived and worked in McK-

inney, Texas while her family was in India, Texas-based WFAA television station reported.

According to a family representative, the Indian-origin girl was with a friend at the outlet mall when the shots rang out. Her friend who also sustained injuries is currently in stable condition at the hospital, the network was cited in the WFAA report.

Peru: 27 people killed in gold mine fire in Arequipa

As many as 27 people died after a fire broke out in a small gold mine in southern Peru on Sunday, in the country's single deadliest mining accident in more than two decades, CNN reported citing the local government.

In a statement, the local government said a short-circuit sparked the fire in the early morning hours of Saturday in the southern region of Arequipa.

"It's been confirmed by the Yanaquihua police station, there are 27 dead," local prosecutor Giovanni Matos told local television on Sunday.

The Peruvian Council of Ministers expressed solidarity with the families of miners who died after a fire broke out in the shaft of the Yanaquihua mine in Arequipa, as per the CNN report.

Peruvian Council of Minis-

ters tweeted in Spanish tweeted, "We express our solidarity with the families of the miners who died after a fire in the shaft of the Yanaquihua mine in the Arequipa region."

Images on local media and on social media showed dark plumes of smoke pouring out of the site. Peru's Presidency in a statement on Twitter said that the ministries have been working to rescue and transfer the bodies, as per the CNN report.

Further, the Peruvian government will provide all the necessary support to the regional government and the Municipality of Condesuyos. Peru's Presidency tweeted, "We express our condolences to the relatives and the people of Arequipa for the death of the 27 miners, an event that occurred in the Yanaquihua sector, Condesuyos province in Arequipa."

Expression

Journalism - A Thrilling Career - I



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational
Columnist Malout Punjab

Journalism is an exciting occupation that allows the person to meet different kinds of people, communities and also gives in a chance to travel to new and exciting places. Journalism can be defined as the activity or product of journalists or other professional engaged in the preparation of written, visual, or audio material intended for telecasted to be viewed by general public through public media like newspaper, magazine, news channel or online news etc. with reference to factual, ongoing events of public concern. These events may be some events of political concern or some sports tournaments etc. Journalism is intended to inform society about itself and to make public, things that would otherwise be private or things that would not come to the knowledge of the people. Journalism or media helps to explain the events that impact the lives of the common man and is developed in a number of forms and styles. Each journalistic form and style uses different techniques of investigation and publishing and writes for different purposes and audiences keeping in mind the relevance and language to be used.

For a journalist to do justice to his work he needs to possess some basic qualities of discovering, collecting the information, assembling, analyzing and presenting information in an attractive way. To do this effectively, journalists require highly developed skills in language, a good understanding of the media and local languages, an interest in current affairs and a broad general knowledge. A journalist can only perform well if he is able to communicate clearly, concisely, accurately and quickly, and have an inquiring nature and well-developed people skills. A lot of media houses is entering into the market every day and hence competition is rising day by day. To stand out from the crowd, successful journalists need to enhance their all-round competence skills with personal enterprise, innovation, imagination and creativity. Only those who have skills and passion towards the job and are willing to take a calculative amount of risks can perform well in this field.

Modern Society and Journalism

A journalist is a professional who collects, writes, and distributes news and other information to be processed and finally telecast through one medium or the other. A journalist's work towards



collecting information and adding some relevant views and facts is referred to as journalism. Journalism is directed at the consumers of media products, who may comprise nonspecific general audiences or narrower market segments. In modern society, news media have become the chief purveyor of information and opinion about public affairs and important events from the fields of sports, politics, entertainment and world, but the role and status of journalism, along with other forms of mass media, are undergoing some rapid changes resulting from the Internet.

Internet these days is playing a major role in giving a tough competition to media and information sector. There was already a tough ongoing competition among print media and electronic media, but with the internet becoming so popular these days, the competition has even increased. As a result of rapid technological growth, the technology these days has become really affordable and this has resulted in a shift toward reading on I-pads, e-journals, e-readers, smartphones, and other electronic devices rather than print media and has faced news organizations with the ongoing problem of monetizing digital news. These days there are a lot of internet-based applications available for media which is giving a new dimension to reporting and publishing. Within seconds of some major events, we can have full information about the event. This has made the process of journalism even more challenging.

Role of a Journalist

In this modernized and sophisticated age of information, every individual

wants to be aware of what is happening around them in the world. Everyone wants to have information related to every genre of human life. It is the media that is the source of all that information. Dimensions of media these days are spreading day by day, be it print media like the newspapers and magazines; electronic media like the Internet or Audio/Visual Media like TV, Radio everyone is working hard day and night out to keep us updated with every single event of importance around us. And it is the 'journalists' who are the ones actually responsible for all that information. Journalists hold the power to influence the crowds with the first-hand information that they possess. However, there can be some just sitting in their office and collecting some random stuff for the internet and publishing out in their columns, which is something that a real journalist would never do.

Journalism is a highly responsible job, and highly thrilling at the same time. There are times when one needs to be fearless and present the truth in front of the public, no matter how harsh the truth is. Sometimes it becomes difficult due to the involvement of some prominent people in some scandal or a crime, a true journalist is one who without any fear carries on his investigation and brings out the truth in front of the public. If someone is looking for a career in journalism, they should have a presentable and confident personality, along with the ability to write and present information accurately and concisely without any fear or external pressure.

Other essential requirements that highlight a good journalist are: an

inquisitive bent of mind, good writing and communication skills in the local as well as national language, strong ability to differentiate effectively between fact and fiction, tact to collect information and take some calculative risks, high intelligence level, awareness towards the general issues and facts, interest in current affairs and happenings around the world. One of the most important qualities needed is the capability of handling the unforeseen situations efficiently. Journalists may expose themselves to danger to cover in all aspects of information about a particular event, particularly when reporting in areas of armed conflict or in states that do not respect the freedom of the press. There can be some cases of corruption or bribery where some high-rank officials are involved, hence in these situations, journalists do risk in themselves to get the truth out. Organizations such as the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters without Borders publish reports on press freedom and advocate for journalistic freedom.

Different fields of life including politics, art, economics, business, history, sports, entertainment and many other areas are covered by journalists and provide you with news about the latest happenings in these fields. If you are talented and hard-working, a bright career in journalism is awaiting you, which can take you to a good salary package and perhaps even fame and recognition. With the growing importance of media today, the opportunities in the field are numerous and the job is also demanding and exhilarating at the same time.

Entertainment

Rajinikanth's first look as Moideen Bhai in 'Lal Salaam' garners mixed response



Megastar Rajinikanth's first look from his upcoming film 'Lal Salaam' is out. The poster shows Rajinikanth as Moideen Bhai walking in the middle of what is believed to be communal riots in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1993.

Sharing the first look, Rajinikanth's daughter Aishwaryaa, who has helmed the film, took to Instagram and wrote, "#Moideenbhai ...welcom ...#lalslaam cannot caption when your heart is racing ! #blessed."



Alia Bhatt meets mother of a paparazzo, wins heart of netizens

A little kind gesture from a celeb wins the heart of the netizens. Alia Bhatt met the mother of a paparazzo at an event in Mumbai on Sunday. The videos of the meet went viral already. In the video, Alia is seen shaking hands with the lady and saying, "Bada acha laga aapse milke" (Nice to meet you).

Pointing at the photographer, Alia said to the lady, "Aap ka beta mujhe bohat pareshan karta hain. (Your son keeps irritating me). But then the 'Gangubai' actor said with a broad smile, "Nehi woh accha kam bhi karta hai." (He is good at his job)

And the MTV Movie & TV Awards for Best Song goes to...



Music is one word that automatically comes to the mind of those who grew up in the 80s and 90s listening to MTV. The channel was undoubtedly responsible for a music video revolution.

And now, on Sunday night, the 2023 MTV Movie and TV awards were held. And guess what? singer Taylor Swift won big at this year's edition.

Her song 'Carolina' was named Best Song at the MTV Movie and TV awards, Variety reported. Released in 2022, 'Carolina' was featured in the film 'Where the Crawdads Sing'.

Written solely by Swift, 32, and produced by frequent collaborator Aaron Dessner, "Carolina" features chilling vocals from the 11-time Grammy winner as she sings about sneakily moving through various locations without being seen, which is reminiscent of the film's plot.

"Into the mist, into the clouds / No, you didn't see me here," croons Swift on the downtempo soundtrack cut. "They'll make a fest, I'll make it count / Carolina knows."

"You can be my wingman any time", Tom Cruise to King Charles



Tom Cruise showed his support to the newly coronated King Charles through his virtual presence. During the Coronation Concert on Sunday, the Top Gun: Maverick star, 60, appeared in a video cameo, giving King Charles III a shoutout while sitting in a fighter jet.

Pilot to pilot, Your Majesty, you can be my wingman any time," Cruise said.

The part-time U.K. resident has spent many years there shooting the Mission: Impossible franchise, reported People.