



**Uddhav Thackeray has extended support to the demands made by**

**PG 04 >>**



# Afternoon

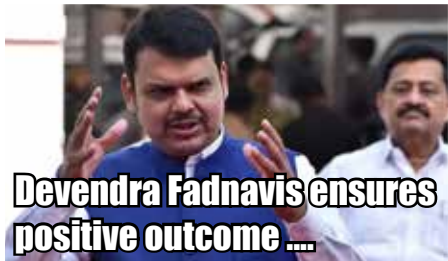
**VOICE** VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 16, Issue: 29

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 MUMBAI 08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com



**Devendra Fadnavis ensures positive outcome ....**



**TDP MLAs under house arrest in Andhra clampdown**



**Bangladesh and France signed bilateral ....**



**two-day celebration for Dev Anand's birth anniversary...**

Page 04

Page 05

Page 06

Page 08

## EOW FREEZES 11 bank accounts, 5 properties linked to Scam Mehta Couple



**AV Team**

In a significant development, the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has taken decisive action against the purported masterminds of a Ponzi scheme. 11 bank accounts linked to Bliss Consultants, its owner Ashesh Mehta, and his wife Shivangi have been frozen by the EOW.

Krishna Hegde, a former MLA and spokesperson for the Shiv Sena party,

who has been actively pursuing the case, claims that they have also frozen five residential properties connected to the elusive couple.

The homes, which have a combined value of about 16 crore rupees, are situated in Kandivali, Goregaon East, and Santacruz West. The EOW is investigating additional properties and bank accounts that might require a similar course of action. With the assistance of the Mumbai Police and Krishna Hegde,

this freeze has resulted in the immobilization of nearly 170 crore INR.

Ashesh Mehta and Shivangi Lad Mehta have gone into hiding after allegedly defrauding over 4,000 investors out of over a thousand crores.

"The Mumbai Police and EOW have responded quickly to my complaint," Krishna Hegde said, "and I now implore them to expedite the legal process for the release of these frozen assets, which can then be rightfully distributed among the

investors who have suffered significant financial losses."

Hegde also demanded that the frozen properties be liquidated and the proceeds returned to the investors via a police-managed process.

"The EOW has additional information, and it would be in Ashesh Mehta's best interests to come forward, cooperate with the ongoing police investigations, and aid in resolving this matter," Hegde added.

## #MaleSuicides is on rise in India

**Editoritis**



**Dr. Vaidehi**

3.2 per cent of men ended their lives because of family problems and 4.8 per cent due to marriage related issues in the year 2021 in India. Out of these, 81,063 people who ended their lives were married men. Around. In this year total 1,18,979 men have committed suicides which are about (72 per cent) and total 45,026 women have committed suicides which are about 27 per cent. Recently a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking guidelines to deal with suicide by married men subjected to domestic violence and a 'National Commission for Men'. In 2021, the total number of male suicides was 1,18,979 and female suicides accounted for 45,026. Among males, maximum suicides were by daily wage earners (37,751), followed by self-employed persons (18,803)

and unemployed persons (11,724). The petition has also sought direction to the National Human Rights Commission to deal with the issue of suicide by married men and accept the complaints of men suffering domestic violence. Issue direction to the respondent no.1 (Union of India) to issue proper guidelines through the Ministry of Home Affairs to the police authority/Station House Officer of every Police Station to accept/ receive the complaint of victims of domestic violence or those are under stress due to family problems and marriage related issues and refer the same to the State Human Right Commission for its proper disposal, till the proper legislation is enacted by the Government of India.

**I CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**

# Editoritis

# #MaleSuicides is on rise in India

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

*India has a high suicide rate, with around 71% male and 29% female accounting for total number of suicide deaths in the country in 2020, said the latest report*

*Irony is that, Indian society does not give men emotional support; they give it to girls and women of any age. We are more feminists and conditioned to believe that the men are here to take everything that is thrown at them.*

*After Marriage, it becomes difficult for many Indian men to take care of their family because either they are unemployed or employed with a very low salary which could enable them to sustain his family.*

India has a high suicide rate, with around 71% male and 29% female accounting for total number of suicide deaths in the country in 2020, said the latest report prepared by health ministry on National Suicide Prevention Strategy. On a high youth population base, in the last 3 years, the suicide rate has increased from 10.2 to 11.3 per 100,000 population.

Irony is that, Indian society does not give men emotional support; they give it to girls and women of any age. We are more feminists and conditioned to believe that the men are here to take everything that is thrown at them. They are treated like wish fulfilling assets or the providers of the house. These days even at work places men are dominated by women. After marriage men's life takes a U turn where he starts facing numerous problems. Even most of the laws are in favour of females rather than male in divorce. They can not report or discuss abuse from their spouse. Social conditioning does not believe that men too can get harassed. There is always a high expectation from men to make family life luxuries. There is always an emotional blackmail and threat from women and their families. Above all the threat of misuse of Laws is the biggest challenge. These days extra marital affairs are another big issue.

After Marriage, it becomes difficult for many Indian men to take care of their family because either they are unemployed or employed with a very low salary which could enable them to sustain his family. The increasing number of farmers' suicide is best example to support this reason. One other factor is lack of education especially in rural areas. After marriage, they go on increasing their number of children uncontrollably. They do so as they assume that more children would mean more hands for their work. But they forget that they will have to first raise their children which ultimately increases their burden. Men being bread earners of the house, most of the load comes on him.

Men commit more suicide than women across the world. Most of the suicides committed by the men do not get registered whereas woman's suicide grabs the limelight. Men are more oppressed than any other human or animal on this planet. All their feelings are stifled by the society, by the laws, by their own mindsets. Men are not allowed to cry in pain, they aren't allowed to vent out their anger, their frustrations, their sadness, so much boil down inside due to surrounding situations and conditions (social/family, or financial). In countries like India boys are been taught from a very small age "Mard ko dard nahi hota" (Men never feels pain), "Mard kabhi rote nahi hai" (Men never cry), "Ladka hoke rota hai?" (Boys don't cry)



and so on and so forth. Such type of conditioning is done right from a tender age which gets imprinted and makes a negative impact in the long term. Even our celebrities propagate this kind of mockery which people take as inspiration. Whereas women on the other hand are considered as most sensitive and are given all the rights and freedom to express themselves and their emotions by crying, moaning by getting all the necessary attention and support from every side. Since men are aggressive and fearless once they intend to commit suicide its almost sure that they're willing to die. They make up their mind and then take up the drastic steps for a quick exit without any noise. Women are socialised to talk about how they feel and be more open with emotional states. Men are brought up with the emphasis on 'being strong'. That being the case women are more likely to seek support for depression whereas men are more likely to struggle on without seeking help. This could account for the difference in numbers. In my experience depression doesn't discriminate, it's a human problem.

*Vaidehi Tamam*

Volume No. 16 | Issue No. 29

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

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.

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

www.afternoonvoice.com  
www.beyondthenews.biz  
www.mumbaimanoos.com  
www.newsmakers.co.in  
www.nbcaward.com  
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.





## Wow, what a week- MERA BHARAT MAHAN

- C.K. Subramaniam  
Columnist

A replay of the good v/s bad, a replay of government v/s opposition, a replay of one-man v/s the whole army, a replay of religion v/s atheism. We are going to focus on two issues, the anticipated renaming of India as Bharat and the nonsensical ranting. Starting with I v/s B, highlighting speeches by the luminaries who got us our freedom.

### 1. Speech by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:

"We should consider renaming our beloved country as Bharat. This name has a historical significance and is deeply rooted in our cultural and traditional values. Bharat represents the richness of our civilization and the unity of our diverse society. It is a name that every Indian can identify with and be proud of. Let us embrace our ancient past and acknowledge our strong national identity by adopting the name Bharat."

### 2. Speech by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

"The name India is a colonial legacy that reminds us of our subjugation under foreign rule. It is time to shed this reminder and assert our independence. Bharat is a name that has been used for centuries by our ancestors. It signifies the spirit of our nation and our struggle for freedom. Let us reclaim our heritage and rename our country as Bharat, to truly reflect our sovereignty and aspirations."

### 3. Speech by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

"As we build a united India, it is important to include the aspirations of all our citizens. Renaming our country Bharat will be a unifying step, as it brings together the diverse cultures, languages, and traditions that exist within our nation. Let us showcase our strength in unity by adopting a name that honours our shared heritage and brings all Indians together as proud citizens

of Bharat."

### 4. Speech by Rajendra Prasad:

"Bharat is a name that resonates with our glorious history and timeless values. It symbolizes the ancient knowledge, spirituality, and wisdom that have guided our nation for millennia. Let us leave behind the vestiges of colonial rule and embrace our true identity. Renaming our country as Bharat will not only be a reclamation of our past but also an acknowledgement of the immense potential and greatness of our country."

### 5. Speech by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

"The name Bharat carries a deep sense of pride and inclusivity. It transcends religious boundaries and unites all Indians under its umbrella. In a diverse and pluralistic society like ours, renaming our country as Bharat will be a powerful symbol of unity. It will reinforce the idea that India belongs to all its citizens, regardless of their backgrounds, and instill a sense of belonging and equality among all."

These speeches reflect the sentiments of various prominent leaders and founders of our great nation, who were in favour of renaming India as Bharat, highlighting its historical importance, cultural significance, unity, and inclusivity. For whatever reason, these luminaries were not able to implement the name change. Today 76 years after independence, if the wishes of the founders of the nation are being fulfilled, who would have objections to it?

We conveniently forget that they have changed Bombay to Mumbai, Madras to Chennai, Calcutta to Kolkata, Bangalore to Bengaluru and so on. When they changed the name, it was a master stroke. Now, it is considered Bharat that is India.

## Letters to the Editor

### Ganeshotsav mandals request to the authorities to keep roads clean during Ganesh festival

The Ganeshotsav mandals request to the authorities to remove abandoned vehicles blocking the way of processions and to keep the roads clean during Ganeshotsav is fair. However, one needs to ask why cannot the authorities cannot make this an ongoing task, throughout the year, irrespective of festivals. Demanding clear, good quality pot-hole free roads and other civic amenities is the right of every citizen in this country. We do not want just lipstick, which will fade away in time. Are the authorities listening?

Melville X. D'Souza

### India is Bharat and Bharat is India

In an unprecedented twist, the name 'India' has been swapped out for 'Bharat' on the Government of India's official exclusive dinner invitations.

The name 'India', evokes a lot of respect globally and has an indelible "brand value" in the comity of nations.

As far as Indians are concerned, India is Bharat and Bharat is India.

If we start changing names, there will be no end to it. Like the English language, the word 'India' has taken deep roots in Indian society and culture. Every Indian identifies with it. If we start cancelling everything with foreign roots, we will have to stop drinking tea and eating potatoes and chillies.

Can Indians live without tea, potatoes and chillies? In the same way, Indians can't live without "India". We have a 76-year-long history of internalising the word 'India' as a free, independent, diverse, multilingual nation.

The word 'India' is as foreign as the word 'Hindu'. Both were coined by outsiders. Both are etymologically said to refer to the river Indus, or Sindhu, now mostly in Pakistan. What can be so bad about being named after a river, especially one that today Indians have a mythical, emotional attachment?

If we had only one name — India —, there could even be an argument about changing it. But we already have both

names. It is a tribute to our ability to live with multiple identities, even if they are sometimes in conflict.

Jubel D'Cruz

### No debate on real issues

Amidst the preparations for hosting the G20 conference, a distracting Bharat vs. India debate has taken center stage, revealing a frustrating aspect of our political landscape. Our representatives seem to squander valuable time and resources on daily debates that serve little purpose, while pressing public issues like education, healthcare, employment, and the environment remain neglected. It's high time for both the ruling party and the opposition to unite and address these critical concerns instead of engaging in a never-ending cycle of political flip-flopping. Such partisan politics obstructs our nation's progress and demands a reevaluation.

Ashraf Nawaz

### G20 summit has turned out to be a festival & celebration under India's presidency!

G20 summit has turned out to be a festival & celebration under India's presidency this

year under the watchful eyes of PM who is at the forefront & leading the show to see its success. This year's summit promises to be the best in its history with record participation as over 1 Lakh delegates from 125 countries will be in action at the National capital. It is humanity at its very best as human-centric globalisation projects unfold to benefit mankind. Global peace will be at the center stage though premieres from China & Russia will be absent but represented by their subordinates.

Politics should take a backseat & Govt. in power along with Opposition Parties should unite at such a memorable moment as the event is about India's integrity & success than anything else. Stock markets too are fired up going into the event & every citizen should be excited as the mega event unfolds to take our nation to a new high!

S.N.Kabra

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)

# Uddhav Thackeray has extended support to the demands made by Marathas

Even as the BJP-Shiv Sena Maharashtra government has called for an all-party meeting on Monday night to discuss the Maratha reservation issue, the Opposition has already extended support to the reservation but with a rider that the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) is not affected.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar had

said that the 50 per cent cap on reservations should be done away with. An additional 15-16 per cent quota to accommodate Marathas should be considered without hurting reservations for OBCs. "Some people say that making more people (communities) beneficiaries of the OBC quota is an injustice to the poor people in the (existing) OBC quota. This cannot be ignored.

The option is to make amendments by the Centre in the Parliament to the existing 50 per cent cap and add 15-16 per cent to it," Pawar said at a press conference in Jalgaon last week.

Former chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, too, has extended support to the demands made by Marathas. Thackeray has asked the Centre to provide reserva-

tions to Marathas and OBCs in the special session of Parliament convened later this month. The Sena, which has a support base among lower-class Marathas and the OBCs, has been maintaining that OBC reservation should not be affected.

The Congress, which has the OBC leaders both as the state unit chief (Nana Patole) and Leader of Opposition in the state As-

sembly (Vijay Wadettiwar) has said the 50 per cent reservation limit should be increased to accommodate Marathas. Congress state unit chief Nana Patole said the party stands with Marathas in their struggle to demand the reservation. "It is the central government which can solve the issue by increasing the reservation limit above 50 per cent," Patole had said.

## Devendra Fadnavis ensures positive outcome in Maratha reservation



Marashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Monday said the government will ensure no injustice is done to the OBC community while building consensus for Maratha reservation. The state will not take any decision that will create confrontation between the two communities, Fadnavis added. Fadnavis said, "On certain issues such as

Maratha reservation, it is important to look beyond politics. Everybody should view this issue from a social angle. The primary goal is to ensure that the Maratha community's demands are addressed through consensus. Through adequate consultations, the state government wants to strike a consensus to take the issue forward to its logical end." Reacting to Maratha activist

Manoj Jarasange Patil's recent 'threat' to give up water in order to scale up his indefinite fast over the reservation issue, the deputy chief minister said, "CM Eknath Shinde has already taken measures to resolve the issue by holding discussions with the Maratha organisation representing Manoj Jarasange Patil, among others."

"While making a decision on the Maratha reservation, the state government has to ensure that it withstands legal and constitutional validity. If the state government takes any decision in a hurry to please the Maratha community and if it is challenged in court, it will be a setback. While giving reservations, there are several aspects that will have to be factored in carefully to ensure a positive outcome," he added.

## Social activists oppose giving plots in Mumbai on adoption basis



Social workers in Mumbai held a meeting at the Santacruz residence of former Central Information Commissioner Shailesh Gandhi on Sunday regarding the draft prepared by the Mumbai Municipal Corporation to provide plots to caretakers, long-term adoption and 11-month adoption. In this meeting, it was unanimously decided that the municipality will maintain the land while opposing the new draft and will soon meet the municipal officials in this regard.

Former Central Information Commissioner Shailesh Gandhi said, "We discussed this issue on Sunday. There is no reason in the draft why the municipality wants to frame this policy for adoption. Why does the municipality want to give public land to private bodies? It has had a bad experience in the past. Even after a long follow-up, the municipality has not been successful in taking back the land given by the private

organization under the caretaker policy. Why would anyone spend their money without considering the return?

On Friday we are going to meet Jitendra Pardeshi, Garden Superintendent of the municipality. We do not understand why the municipality wants to give public land for adoption. We will oppose this policy. We demand to reserve the land," said Anil Galgali. It has been recommended in the proposed grounds and playgrounds policy to take over the plots by determining the capital value of the constructions and other services erected on the plots given on the new caretaker basis and giving 50 percent of the amount as compensation to the concerned. Therefore, the municipality will have to pay crores of rupees to take over the plots given to the political leaders on caretaker basis a few years ago, Galgali mentioned. Sharad Wagle and Ashok Doshi were present in this meeting.

## Maratha outfits announce bandh in Thane, State Govt calls all party meet

Maratha outfits have called for a bandh today in protest against the recent lathi charge by the police in Jalna district against protesters demanding reservation in Maharashtra. The call for a bandh (shutdown) has received widespread support from various political parties. Suhas Desai, the head of the city unit of the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad

Pawar faction), has voiced his support for the Bandh. Similarly, Pradeep Shinde, the city president of the Shiv Sena (UBT), has also backed the move.

The leaders of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), Ravindra More, and Avinash Jadhav, also extended their support. Ramesh Ambre, the city chief of Maratha Kranti Morcha, and Vikrant Chavhan,

the city unit president of Congress, have also spoken in support of the Bandh.

Earlier on September 9, Pimpri Chinchwad city in Maharashtra's Pune district observed a bandh against last week's lathi charge on people agitating in Jalna district demanding reservation for the Maratha community. The bandh was called by the 'Maratha Kranti Morcha.' ANI



## Nation

# TDP MLAs under house arrest in Andhra clampdown



and police on the TDP rank and file has prevented their protests from snowballing as a slew of its leaders were taken into preventive custody. The police rounded up protesters across the state and took them to police stations.

Naidu was arrested by the state CID from Nandyal early on Saturday in connection with the multi-crore AP State Skill Development Corporation scam allegedly involving his government's tenure during 2014-19. An Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court in Vijayawada sent Naidu to 14-day judicial custody on Sunday evening. He was shifted to Rajahmundry Central Jail, 200 km from Vijayawada, after the court order.

Defying heavy police deployment and Section 144 of CrPC prohibiting the assembly of people, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) workers and supporters held demonstrations in different parts of the

YSRCP-ruled Andhra Pradesh as part of the statewide bandh called by the TDP to protest the arrest of party supremo and ex-chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

However, an unprecedented crackdown by the administration

# Kerala: Govt agrees to discuss the case of late CM Oommen Chandy in the state assembly



The Kerala government on Monday agreed to discuss in the state assembly the issue of the alleged conspiracy to implicate late Chief Minister Oommen Chandy in a sexual exploitation case in connection with the solar scam.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan agreed to discuss the issue as sought by the Congress-led UDF opposition in a notice

moved by it to adjourn the House and take up the matter in view of a recent CBI report.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which was probing the matter, has reportedly named the political leaders who were allegedly behind the accusations against Chandy by a woman who is the prime accused in the sensational solar scam. PTI

# PDP president Mehbooba Mufti asks PM Modi to reconsider the decision to remove additional duties on some food products imported from US



PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider the decision to remove additional duties on apples, walnuts and almonds imported from the US, saying it will have a devastating effect on the horticulture industry in Jammu and Kashmir.

The government last week announced its decision to remove additional duties on US products like apples, walnuts and almonds

among other items. The additional levies were imposed in 2019 as a retaliatory measure to the United States raising tariffs on certain steel and aluminium items "GOI's decision to remove additional duties on apples, walnuts & almonds will have a devastating effect on local growers in J&K already grappling with huge losses post 2019. Hope @ PMOIndia reconsiders," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister posted on X. PTI

# Tamil Nadu Accident case leaves around 13 people injured and 7 dead

At least 7 women returning from Karnataka were killed in a freak accident in this district on Monday when a stationary van crushed them after being hit from the rear by a lorry, police said. The victims were seated on the road side when the accident happened, they said.

About 13 persons who were injured in the mishap involving the two vehicles were admitted to local government hospitals.

According to a senior police official, the victims were part of a group from Onanguttai village, near Ambur in Vellore district, who had embarked on a trip to Dharmasala in Karnataka on September 8. While they were returning home in two vans, the tyre of one of the vehicle burst stranding the passengers at Natrampalli on the Bengaluru-Chennai national



highway. "The van driver was attending to the repair work after asking the tourists to disembark. Suddenly, a speeding lorry coming from Bengaluru hit the van from behind, and due to the impact the van overturned crushing seven women," he said. The deceased have been identified as Meera, Deivanai, Sithammal alias Selvi, Devaki, Savithri, Kalavathi and Geethanjali, said police.

Ten others who had travelled in the ill-fated van and three persons from the lorry have been

admitted to the Tirupathur and Vaniyambadi government hospitals. The Natrampalli police have registered a case. Expressing heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin announced a solatium of Rs one lakh to each of the affected family.

Also, Rs 50,000 will be paid through the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the injured undergoing treatment, he said in a statement. PTI

# A man stabs his wife to death over suspected affair in Delhi

A 36-year-old man allegedly stabbed his wife to death on suspicion of infidelity in Maujpur area of northeast Delhi, police said on Monday. "A PCR call regarding

a man stabbing his wife in Vijay Mohalla, Maujpur was received at 1.06 am on Monday. Nisha (32) was stabbed multiple times at her house by her husband Sajid," Deputy Commissioner of

Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said. She was taken to GTB Hospital where the doctors declared her dead. She received multiple stab injuries on her neck, chest and left hand, police said. PTI



## World

### PoK: Grievances reported which includes lack of potable water, electricity amid abundance of natural resources



A variety of grievances such as high inflation, arbitrary imposition of taxes, soaring electricity bills and many other issues have been continuously troubling the residents of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). Residents blame government departments serving under Pakistan's illegal regime in the region for host of issues such as load shedding, unavailability of safe drinking water and heavy taxation on wheat flour among several other concerns.

Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan,

President of Traders Association in Muzaffarabad said, "Our demands are 100 per cent reasonable. There is no demand that is not possible for them (PoK government). A total of 3000 Megawatts of electricity is produced in PoK, 400 Megawatts of hydel electricity should be provided to the locals of PoK. The issues of Mirpur division like (Rathoa Haryam) bridge should be resolved and other commitments done by (WAPDA) should be fulfilled." He added, "Likewise issues in Poonch division should

also be resolved. In Muzaffarabad Division, Neelam-Jehlum Project was constructed amid a lot of corruption. That corruption should be disclosed, and water bodies and treatment plants should be constructed."

Although the resource-rich PoK generates more than enough Megawatts of electricity to address power issues of the region, the general public has to look towards Pakistan to fulfil their basic needs. For more than 70 years Pakistan has been continuously exploiting the resources of PoK and Gilgit Baltistan. In return the illegally occupied territories received not an iota of benefit. Sardar Abdul Razzaq said, "The river (Neelam) has turned into a narrow stream of water. And all the local residents, the secretary of WAPDA (The Pakistan Water & Power Development Authority) from Pakistan has admitted that this has been an overexertion on the public". ANI

### Pakistan accuses Afghanistan, says "unprovoked and indiscriminate" firing leading to embolden terrorists

Pakistan on Monday accused Afghanistan of "unprovoked and indiscriminate" firing leading to the closure of a key border crossing, and said such attacks embolden terrorists who already have sanctuaries in the Taliban-led nation. Torkham border crossing -- the main point of transit for travelers and goods between Pakistan and landlocked Afghanistan -- was closed on Wednesday last week after security forces from both countries exchanged fire. The incident forced hundreds of vehicles laden with goods to line up and people scrambling to cross over. The two sides have failed to sort out differences over the construction initiated by the Taliban government on the border. In a statement issued on Monday, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan cannot accept the construction of any structure by

the interim Afghan government inside its territory since it violates its sovereignty.

The spokesperson said on September 6, instead of a peaceful resolution, Afghan troops resorted to indiscriminate firing, targeting Pakistan military posts, damaging the infrastructure at the Torkham Border Terminal and putting the lives of both Pakistani and Afghan civilians at risk, when they were stopped from erecting such unlawful structures. "Such unprovoked and indiscriminate firing on Pakistani border posts cannot be justified under any circumstances. The unprovoked firing by Afghan border security forces invariably emboldens the terrorist elements. These elements are enjoying sanctuaries inside Afghanistan as confirmed by the UN Security Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team in its latest report," Baloch said. PTI

### Bangladesh and France signed bilateral agreement in infrastructure and satellite system



Bangladesh and France on Monday signed two bilateral agreements to improve cooperation in infrastructure and to build the first-ever earth observation satellite after French President Emmanuel Macron held wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here. Macron arrived in Dhaka on Sunday from India after participating in the

G20 Summit in New Delhi. It was the first visit by any French president to Bangladesh since 1990. Francois Mitterrand was the last French president to visit Bangladesh in February 1990. Hasina said France expressed support for Bangladesh's sovereign policy independence, particularly in the context of the ongoing geopolitical instability and economic uncertainty.

"We both hope that this new strategic move between Bangladesh and France will play an effective role in establishing regional and global stability and peace," she said in a joint press briefing after holding talks with Macron.

"The Government of France has expressed its satisfaction with the responsible and committed activities of the Government of Bangladesh in protecting the fundamental and human rights of its people," Hasina was quoted as saying by UNB News.

As leading and responsible resident powers in the Asia and Pacific, the prime minister said, Bangladesh and France will act to ensure geopolitical stability of the region. As a trusted development partner of Bangladesh, Hasina said, France has assured Bangladesh of its continued cooperation in infrastructure development, she said. PTI

### A climate protestor is charged with criminal trespassing over disruption of US Open

A 50-year-old Indian-origin climate protestor who glued his bare feet to the stadium floor as part of the protest to end the use of fossil fuels during the prestigious US Open here last week has been charged with criminal trespassing along with another activist, according to media reports. According to the New York Police Department, two men were charged after their protest at the US Open disrupted a tennis match held at the Arthur Ashe Stadium on September 7. Sayak Mukhopadhyay of White Plains, New York, was charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct, and Gregory Schwedock, 35, of New York City, was charged with criminal trespass, NBC News reported.

Mukhopadhyay was among the four environmental activists

who disrupted the Arthur Ashe Stadium stands on September 7 interrupting the tennis match between American Coco Gauff and Czech Karolina Muchova for about 50 minutes.

The activists belonged to a group called Extinction Rebellion and wore shirts that read, "End Fossil Fuels." Police said the two men were arrested and charged on September 7. Mukhopadhyay told NBC News he glued his feet to the ground to "achieve a significant and sustained disruption that's going to make people stop and think that business as usual cannot continue." "There is no tennis on a dead planet. There is no art on a dead planet, everything that we take for granted as our way of life will cease to exist," Mukhopadhyay was quoted as saying. PTI

## Expression

# Interviewing with Integrity: Balancing Empathy and Objectivity



Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

Columnist

Interviews, in their various forms, have become a ubiquitous part of modern life. Whether it's interviewing renowned personalities or job candidates, or even the rise of armchair interviews on social media platforms, the art of interviewing has evolved and expanded. In this article, we will explore the essential qualities required for both types of interviews while addressing the ethical considerations in today's media landscape.

### Qualities for Interviewing:

**Qualities for Interviewing Job Candidates:** Knowledgeable Insight: An interviewer should have a profound understanding of the job, the company, and industry trends to ask relevant questions. As Socrates said, "To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom."

**Empathy and Respect:** Treat candidates with empathy and respect, regardless of the outcome. Kant's categorical imperative applies: "Act in such a way that you treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never merely as a means to an end, but always at the same time as an end."

**Fairness and Objectivity:** Be fair and objective in assessing candidates' qualifications. John Stuart Mill's utilitarianism advises, "The creed which accepts as the foundation of morals, Utility, or the Greatest Happiness Principle."

**Effective Communication:** Communication should be clear and effective, aligning with Aristotle's wisdom: "The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance."

**Patience:** In the quest to find the right fit, patience is a virtue. As Lao Tzu said, "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." Give candidates time to express themselves fully.



**Conflict Resolution:** Sometimes, conflicts or differences of opinion may arise during interviews. The ability to navigate such situations calmly and diplomatically is vital for a fair assessment.

**Cultural Sensitivity:** In today's globalized world, understanding and respecting diverse cultural backgrounds is crucial. Confucius wisely said, "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."

### Qualities for Interviewing Renowned Personalities:

**Mastery of Subject:** Deep knowledge of the interviewee's work and life is essential to ask insightful questions. Friedrich Nietzsche reminds us, "He who has a 'why' to live for can bear almost any 'how'."

**Empathy and Constructive Criticism:** When interviewing renowned personalities, empathy is key, but constructive criticism can also be valuable. As Voltaire said, "To hold a pen is to be at war."

**Authenticity:** Remain authentic in your approach. Søren Kierkegaard suggests, "Life can only be understood backward; but it must be lived forwards."

**Adaptability:** Be prepared for unexpected developments during the interview. Heraclitus' philosophy, "You cannot step into the same river twice," reminds us of the ever-changing nature of dialogue.

**Courage:** Interviewing renowned personalities may require the courage

to ask challenging questions. Remember Mark Twain's words, "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear."

**Interpersonal Skills:** Building rapport and establishing a genuine connection with the interviewee can lead to more profound insights. Dale Carnegie's advice, "You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you," is apt.

**Humility:** Approach interviews with a sense of humility, recognizing that every individual has a unique perspective to offer. In the words of Rumi, "Do not be satisfied with the stories that come before you. Unfold your own myth."

**Ethical Considerations in Modern Media:** In an age where anyone can assume the role of an interviewer, it is crucial to uphold the ethics of journalism. Public criticism, one-sided narratives, and personal attacks must be scrutinized through the lens of fairness and objectivity. We must remember the words of Joseph Pulitzer: "Our Republic and its press will rise or fall together." In this age of armchair interviews, ethical journalism remains the bedrock upon which an informed and just society is built.

**The Rise of Armchair Interviews:** In an era where information flows faster than ever before, armchair interviews have become increasingly prevalent. Anyone can seize a

microphone, metaphorical or literal, and broadcast their views to the world. While armchair interviews have their challenges, they also provide a platform for diverse voices and discussions, democratizing the interview process.

### The Pitfall of One-Sided

**Narratives:** One of the glaring issues with armchair interviews is the prevalence of one-sided narratives. When individuals take it upon themselves to criticize or defame others without allowing the accused party to present their side of the story, it erodes the fundamental principles of fairness and objectivity that ethical journalism upholds.

### The Press Enclave Paradox:

A concerning parallel to this phenomenon can be observed in cases where individuals resort to public shaming or personal attacks without due process. The comparison to "Press Enclaves" like Srinagar's, where grievances are aired publicly, raises the question: Are these armchair interviews any different from public humiliation, except that they occur in a virtual space?

### The Ethical Imperative:

Ethical journalism requires adherence to principles such as fairness, balance, and objectivity. Interviewers must provide a platform for all sides of a story, allowing the accused party to respond. As journalists, we are guided by the words of Walter Lippmann: "There can be no higher law in journalism than to tell the truth and to shame the devil."

**Tailpiece:** In an age where anyone can assume the role of an interviewer, it is crucial to uphold the ethics of journalism. Public criticism, one-sided narratives, and personal attacks must be scrutinized through the lens of fairness and objectivity. We must remember the words of Joseph Pulitzer: "Our Republic and its press will rise or fall together." In this age of armchair interviews, ethical journalism remains the bedrock upon which an informed and just society is built.



# Entertainment

## 'The Drew Barrymore Show' is all set to return amid strikes

'The Drew Barrymore Show' will return to TV screens sooner than planned due to the writers' and actors' strikes, despite the WGA's threat to picket the show's studios on Monday and Tuesday, reported The Hollywood Reporter. Drew Barrymore revealed in a lengthy Instagram post that her daytime chat show will begin its fourth season shortly, in compliance with the conditions of the Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) strikes. However, a Writers Guild official told The Hollywood Reporter that Drew is a struck show, and union members are planning to picket outside of Barrymore's studios in New York City on Monday and Tuesday.

"It has stayed off the air since the strike began on May 2 but has now (unfortunately) decided to return without its writers," the spokesperson said in the statement. "The Guild has, and will continue to, picket any struck show that continues production for the duration of the strike." **ANI**



## Actor Manoj Bajpayee drops pictures on social media of his upcoming project



Manoj Bajpayee is all set to start shooting for his much-anticipated film 'Bhaiyaaji' on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi in Lucknow. Taking to Instagram, Manoj shared a picture with cast and crew of the film.

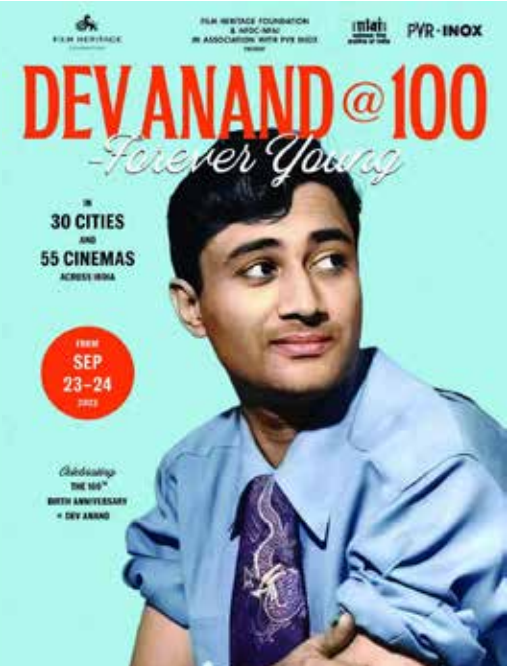
Manoj Bajpayee and the rest of the cast and crew are rigorously working on their readings, action rehearsals, look tests and getting in character, leaving no stone unturned to deliver a cinematic entertainer. Sharing the picture, he wrote, "Ye hai Bhaiyya Ji ki team, jo hai puri tarah se tayaar." **ANI**

## Film Heritage Foundation announced a two-day celebration for Dev Anand's birth anniversary

A film festival celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of screen icon Dev Anand will be held later this month, the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) announced Monday.

Dev Anand, star of films such as "Hum Dono", "Tere Ghar Ke Samne", "CID", and "Guide", will be honoured ahead of his birthday on September 26 with a gala titled 'Dev Anand@100 - Forever Young'.

The two-day celebration, held jointly in association with NFDC-NFAI (National Film Development Corporation Of India - National Film Archive of India) and PVR Inox will be conducted on September 23 and 24 across 30 cities and 55 cinema halls all over India, according to a press release. **PTI**



## Jawan Movie: Actor Tiger Shroff congratulates SRK on social media, calls it "historic success"



Superstar Shah Rukh Khan is getting a lot of praise for his recently released action thriller film 'Jawan'. On Sunday, actor Tiger Shroff took to X (formerly known as Twitter) and congratulated SRK for the "historic success".

SRK came up with his characteristic witty reply. "Kya karoon Tiger... no bar is high enough!! Waiting to see u somersault over it with ease... Ha ha... love u and thank u..." the 'Chak De India' actor wrote.

Talking about 'Jawan' the film has garnered positive reviews from the fans as well the critics. **ANI**