



Sanjay Raut slams BJP over Ramesh Bidhuri's

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# Afternoon VOICE

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

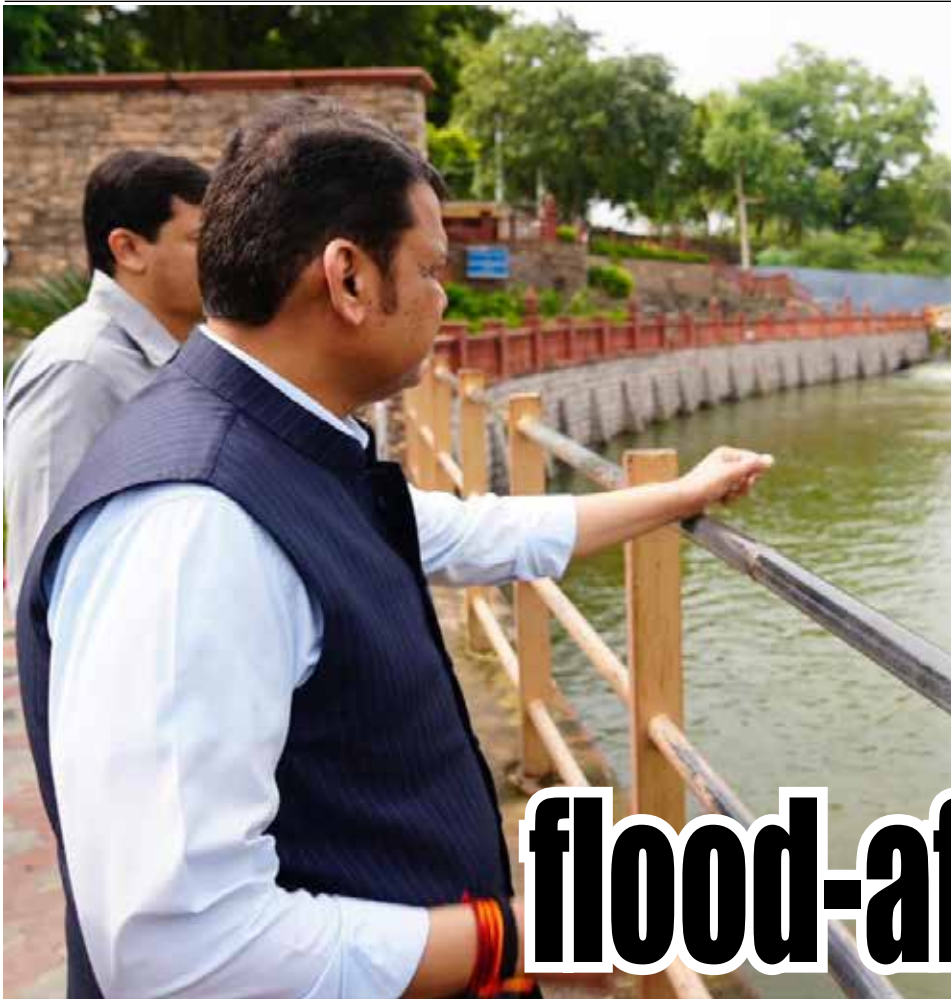
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## Nagpur Floods: Dy CM Fadnavis visit homes to interact with flood-affected families

**M**aharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday morning took stock of the rain situation in Nagpur and visited homes to interact with flood-affected families. Extremely heavy rainfall of 109 millimetres in three hours, including 90 mm between 2am and 4am on Saturday, inundated several areas of the city, he said. The National Disaster Response Force and its state counterpart SDRF

are undertaking rescue and relief operations across Vidarbha's largest city, he informed.

"As many as 10,000 homes have been affected. Mud has entered houses. The administration is providing medicines and help in cleaning up flood affected areas. The level of damage is serious. The amount of rainfall was higher than carrying capacity of the area," he told reporters. "We could have minimised the dam-

age if some measures were taken earlier. The IMD had given an orange alert but it could not predict this much rain would fall in such a short time. There is always something to learn from such disasters," he said.

In the morning, Fadnavis visited areas in the vicinity of Ambazari Lake, the city's largest waterbody, which breached its boundaries on Saturday due to heavy rains. "The protective wall and others structures of

Nag river will have to be rebuilt. The state government will also plan some infrastructure to minimise the damage when Ambazari Lake overflows," Fadnavis informed. Four persons, including a 53-year-old paralysed, bedridden woman, died in rain-related incidents, while more than 400 people had to be shifted to safety on Saturday. Late Saturday night, Fadnavis and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari chaired a meeting to review the situation. **PTI**

### Challenges of survival and running a parallel media

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

**T**he newspaper was successfully launched, but circulation was challenging. We used to print 7000 copies and that was not enough to reach every corner of Mumbai. Meanwhile ADC also raised their circulation to exhaust us. One fine morning we got one paid feature on some health initiative of an NGO. We promoted it because it was for the welfare of the people. Next day the NGO reached stall to pick their copies, but the vendors told them morning 7 am all the copies got sold, it was hundred percent sale. They were impressed but I couldn't believe this. I decided to monitor our circulation and found out that some random agency picks up all the papers from the stalls as soon as they depart from depots and whatever number of copies available are purchased making sure no copy remains on stall for sale.

My readers and contributors thought it was new publication and single handedly managed so I might not be printing enough copies to send it on stalls. We were alert, one day our circulation guys caught some random guys picking our newspapers. They posed as buyers and we had no argument. But still I made a complaint to Mumbai CP, a few days cops visited depots and since then this bulk purchase of copies was stopped and they were becoming visible on the stalls. The stall owners got confused because Afternoon Voice had 16 pages in 2 Rupees and ADC was 24 pages in 3 rupees. One paper was confused with another, they were the old players, unless people don't ask for Afternoon Voice, they used to promote Afternoon (ADC).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

# Challenges of survival and running a parallel media

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

*The old staff of ADC could never digest the fact that I joined their publication and soon became its city editor.*

*There were many people waiting for their elevations but I became a hindrance.*

*I wanted to quit the job but when I received that letter, I was in unknown pain. I was troubled to get my experience letter from them, my dues and full final settlements were kept pending.*

*I know what I wanted to do but I was clueless of how to do it. I wanted to reach that sky but also wanted to find the stairs to climb towards my aims.*

We were very small entities, so there was no subscription or gifts, or any perks to lure the vendors. The newspapers vendors have no additional benefits from us. circulation was limited and sale was even more limited. People discouraged us by saying, newspaper is not the prerogative of the common man, unless you have money to pump in.

Paper was growing but funds were shrinking. We had no money to advertise our banner or give goodies. I wanted to work on a parallel business module to generate funds and take care of the Newspaper expenses. We came up with two exclusive magazines, one Maritime Bridges and another one Beyond the News. One was in the marine sector and another was in socio-economic sectors. Both these magazines were completely paid contents. Maritime Bridges, used to carry exclusive interviews of shipping industry people. The magazine used to get shipping events to cover, their brands, news and each content was paid.

Similarly, Beyond the news was targeting NGO's, Builders and the marketing sectors, films promotions and individual brandings. Both the magazines did well for the short term and gave me some sustainability. Advertising our banners was great concern, we did cheap and best marketing. We gave Afternoon Voice printed T-shirts to our reporters, circulation guys. People started noticing us. We gave huge umbrellas printed with our logos and plastic sheets to those stalls who sold maximum copies of Afternoon Voice. That is how we promoted our paper for sale. We gave T-shirts to some students who were looking out for the sponsors to pay their fees. The students wearing T-shirts in college gave us a lot of publicity, then we voluntarily distributed huge plastic sheets in slums near the airport, so that while the plane was landing our logo used to be visible. We worked on a barter system with some agencies, they gave us visibility and we gave them space in print.

Many political parties approached us with funds during elections, through various occasions but I never surrendered to that lure. I struggled but never compromised my newspaper. The funds were also shrinking and I had to withdraw that fixed amount kept for emergencies. My CA recommended me to make a private limited company. I wanted directors, and that's how Vishshwajeet and Abheejit, two investors, made entry into the company as directors. In the meantime, we started receiving election campaign advertisements, BMC and DGIRP advertisements, Brand promotion articles, adverts and agency classifieds. All that was comfortably taking care of the news-

paper. But all that was hand to mouth.

We also moved to a new office in Gundecha Industrial estate, Kandivali (east). It was hardcore commercial complex; many newspapers had their marketing offices here. I wouldn't realize how time was flying. In 2009 December, some well-wishers gave us suggestions to start an activity to promote our banner and earn some decent funds. Such as an award event or some conclave. There are many people like us who hardly get noticed, because we are a very tiny part of this media industry. No one appreciates us or awards us, I thought why not start an award event and felicitate all unsung heroes.

So, we decided to do "Newsmakers Achievers Award" on 1st may 2010, which is also Maharashtra Day. From 2008 we were doing some small award events but that was not on a large scale. Those awards were done as part of some activity. You will read about "Newsmakers Achievers Award" in a separate topic but to cut short, the first event was done in Mumbai, in the presence of all tall personalities. We got good sponsorships that could take care of my paper for a few months and also, I could get my house released from the bank. The event was a super-duper success. This event made me breath under my own roof (of course given by my parents).

2010 was very comfortable, by now I learned almost all the gimmicks of running a newspaper business. I gave opportunities to many trainee journalists; my newspaper was a platform to grow and when they matured at their job, I used to encourage them to join big banners or most of the time I used to find suitable placements for them. Thankfully I am very well connected to my fraternity. In Maharashtra until 2014, journalism was very fair and the fraternity was not divided on political ideologies.

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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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## How Safe Is Our Money in the Cashless Economy?



- Jaswinder Pal Sharma

In an increasingly digital world, cashless transactions have become the norm. From online shopping to contactless payments, the convenience of electronic transactions has transformed the way we handle money. However, with this convenience comes the question of security. How safe is our money in the cashless economy? In this article, we'll explore the various aspects of security in the digital financial landscape and provide tips to ensure the safety of your hard-earned money.

### Digital Payment Methods

The shift towards digital payment methods, such as mobile wallets, credit/debit cards, and online banking, has made financial transactions more accessible and efficient. However, these methods are not without their vulnerabilities. Here are some key security considerations:

- A. Phishing:** Be cautious of phishing emails and fraudulent websites that aim to steal your financial information. Always verify the authenticity of websites and emails before sharing sensitive data.
- B. Secure Passwords:** Use strong, unique passwords for your accounts and consider using a password manager to keep them safe.
- C. Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Enable 2FA wherever possible to add an extra layer of security to your accounts.

### Mobile Wallets

Mobile wallets like Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Samsung Pay have gained popularity for their ease of use. However, they store your card information digitally, making them susceptible to hacking.

### To enhance security

- a. Enable biometric authentication, such as fingerprint or facial recognition, for accessing your mobile wallet.
- b. Regularly monitor your transactions and report any suspicious activity to your bank or wallet provider immediately.

### Online Banking

Online banking offers convenience but requires vigilance to ensure your financial safety

- a. Use a secure and private network for online banking to prevent eavesdropping on your transactions.
- b. Keep your login credentials confidential, and avoid sharing them with anyone.
- c. Frequently check your account statements for unauthorized transactions.

### Contactless Payments

Contactless payments, through methods like NFC-enabled cards or smartphones, are swift but can be vulnerable to unauthorized scans or theft.

### Protect yourself by

- a. Using RFID-blocking wallets or card sleeves to prevent unauthorized scanning of your contactless cards.
- b. Setting spending limits on contactless transactions to minimize potential losses in case of theft.

### Digital Currency

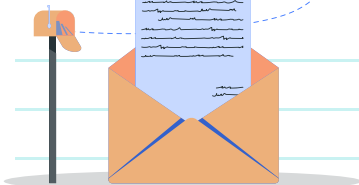
Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin have gained traction, but their security relies heavily on personal responsibility

- a. Use reputable cryptocurrency wallets and exchanges.
- b. Safeguard your private keys, which are essential for accessing your crypto holdings.
- c. Be cautious of cryptocurrency scams and fraudulent schemes.

### Conclusion

The cashless economy offers numerous advantages, but it's crucial to remain vigilant about the security of your money. While digital payment methods provide convenience, they also come with risks. By adopting best practices such as strong passwords, two-factor authentication, and monitoring your financial accounts regularly, you can help ensure the safety of your money in the cashless economy. Staying informed and cautious is the key to enjoying the benefits of a digital financial world while keeping your finances secure.

## Letters to the Editor



### Give respect to women

The issue of women's reservation is definitely an important issue. The government needs to think about it properly. And while doing it, politics should not be brought into it. That way, a big controversy can be avoided if a right decision is taken about it. The women of the country should have a positive attitude about it.

Uday Waghvankar

### Hate Speech in New parliament

Delivering hate speeches in Parliament is against spirit of democracy, earlier these were done against farmers and minorities outside of House, but now the hate speech has been given against a Muslim MP in new Parliament. It shows that a MP has no stature for his fellow MP in Parliament which is heart of country for the sake of dirty politics and in revenge. Now, it is upto speaker of Lok sabha to take serious ac-

tion about such speech who made it, for the restoration dignity of Parliament.

M Junaid Qasmi

### Supriya Sule' alertness!

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the Nationalist Congress Party has committed an irrigation scam worth seventy thousand crores. Prime Minister's target was Ajit Pawar. In next few days, Ajit Pawar left the Nationalist Congress Party and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party and became Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Since then PM did not utter a single word about irrigation scam. Now Member of Parliament Supriya Sule has raised this question again asking to the central government that the irrigation scam should be investigated. Supriya Sule is always vigilant in her work in the Lok Sabha, other MPs of Maharashtra should learn some points from Supriya Sule.

Sudhir Kangutkar

### The DM who brought water

A recent incident in Uttar Pradesh has left everyone puzzled as Divya Mittal, the

district magistrate of Mirzapur was transferred just after she did a commendable job of arranging a piped water connection to Lahuria village. It is to be noted that the people of Lahuria village got access to tap water after 76 years of Independence. Divya Mittal happened to irk some local politicians as she did everything single-handedly without involving the politicians. She also did not invite the local politicians to the joyous event. She did something that no government in these seventy-odd years of Independence even tried to implement. We have heard just big words for these seventy-odd years and every government that has come to power has only put lipstick on the pig which is still happening. The "change" is still an alluring dream but officers like Divya Mittal know how to make those dreams a reality. The going is tougher for good people but we should not stop our march.

Noopur Baruah

### Why Justin Trudeau skipped the G-20 Gala dinner?

"Today, it is becoming clear why Justin Trudeau skipped the G-20 Gala dinner and

did not hold bilateral talks with Modi Ji during the G-20 Summit in New Delhi. To form a government in the lower house of the Canadian parliament, 170 seats out of 338 members are required. However, Trudeau's liberal party currently holds only 158 seats, making it a minority government. The New Democratic Party is led by Jagmeet Singh Dhaliwal, who is a pro-Khalistani politician. In 2013, the Indian government rejected his visa due to his links with Khalistani terrorists. It appears that Justin Trudeau is taking pro-Khalistani steps to save his government and improve his falling approval ratings, as seen in his accusations regarding Niger's murder, expelling a senior Indian diplomat from Canada, or pausing trade talks with India."

Md Mofidul Ali

Readers are requested to mail  
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(The views expressed are authors' own)

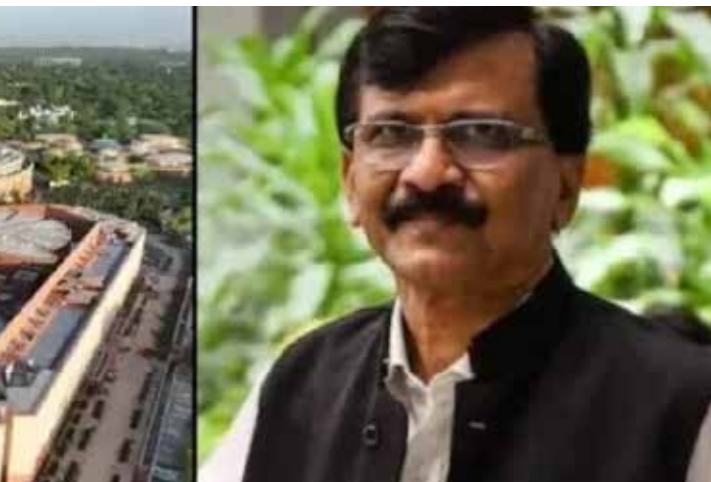
# Sanjay Raut slams BJP over Ramesh Bidhuri's communal remarks, says "Parliament is chaotic without facilities"

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party for objectionable remarks made in Parliament by the ruling party's MP Ramesh Bidhuri. Raut also said he agreed with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh's dim view of the new Parliament complex, adding that his heart was still in the old one. He said a lot of money was spent on erecting the new Parliament but it was "chaotic" without "facilities". Bidhuri used objectionable terms for Bahujan Samaj Party MP Kunwar Danish Ali during a Lok Sabh debate, leading to outrage across the country.

"One Lok Sabha member calls another MP a terrorist and extremist. He goes further and makes comments on his religion and caste. Had such foul lan-



guage been used by any opposition MP, my stand would have been the same," Raut told reporters. "It is wrong and such a person must not be in Parliament. It is the responsibility of everyone to maintain the sanctity and honour of the new Parliament," he said. Raut brushed aside talk of



Bidhuri and Ali becoming "poster boys" of the BJP and opposition, respectively, after the incident. "The rules of Parliament must be the same for everyone. You suspend (AAP MPs) Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh as well as Rajni Patel and Congress' Adhit Ranjan Chowdhury but send a

mere notice to Bidhuri," the Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP questioned.

Speaking about the new Parliament, Raut said, "I agree with Congress Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh's opinion about the new parliament building being a Modi multiplex. After I

spent the last three to four days in the new Parliament building, I felt the same way as Ramesh has described it." "I did not feel it like it is a parliament building. I have been visiting the parliament building for last 20 years. I used to feel the history of the country is with me as I used to pass through the old building. I do not get the same feel in the new building," Raut claimed.

The new complex has no past or present and feels like it was erected because a "king" wanted to do so. "The new building looks grand and one can see that a lot of money has been spent. But it is chaotic inside. There are no facilities for parliamentarians, no corridor, no good library, no central hall. Why did they make it then? Our mind is still in the old building," he claimed.

## Mumbai international airport receives threat calls from unidentified caller, search underway

A hoax call was received at Mumbai International Airport in which an unidentified caller claimed that there was a bomb in a blue bag inside the premises of the airport, police said on Sunday. Police said that a bomb squad team was immediately deployed after the call was received however nothing was found during the search.

"A hoax call was made to Mumbai International Airport saying there was a bomb in a blue bag at the airport, Mumbai police officer and bomb squad team reached the airport and investigation was done, nothing was found during the probe," police said.

Police said that a search for the caller is underway. Earlier in August a hoax bomb threat was

received by the Mumbai Police from an unidentified caller claiming the possibility of a blast or untoward incident at Mumbai and Delhi Domestic and International Airports.

Shortly after receiving this call, the police and other agencies got the entire airport checked but did not find anything suspicious. ANI

## Nagpur: Heavy rains and floods, one woman dead, more than 400 people rescued

Heavy rains over a span of few hours flooded many parts of Nagpur city, following which more than 400 people, including 70 students from a school for the speech and hearing-impaired, were rescued, said Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday. An elderly woman lost her life due to the downpours, he said. Water gushed into homes and residential areas and roads looked like rivers after the city received about 90 mm of rain between 2 am and 4 am.

The weather department has issued an orange alert in the district for the next 24 hours. The administration has declared a holiday for schools and colleges as a precautionary measure. Teams from the National Disaster Response (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were engaged to carry out rescue

operations. Fadnavis told reporters in Mumbai that more than 400 citizens were moved to safer areas by NDRF and SDRF personnel.

These include 70 students from a school for the speech and hearing-impaired and 50 girls from LAD College. He said an elderly woman and 14 cattle lost their lives following the heavy rains. The deputy CM said those rescued have been shifted to temporary shelters and provided food and other necessary things.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Fadnavis spoke to the Nagpur collector to take stock of the situation. The CM directed authorities to give the required facilities to the people affected by the heavy rains, said officials. Shinde also directed officials to seek additional teams of NDRF and SDRF if the water level increases in the flooded areas. PTI

## Ganesh festivities: More than 80,000 idols were immersed on fifth day

More than 80,000 idols were immersed between Saturday, which was the fifth day of Ganesh festivities, and the early hours of Sunday in Mumbai, a civic official said. As per a release from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, 80,969 idols were immersed till 3am on Sunday, comprising 1,410 'sarvajanik' or public idols, 71,821 household ones and 7,738 Gauri Ganesh idols. Of these, 32,509 idols were immersed in artificial waterbodies, comprising 581 public idols,



29,620 household ones and 2,308 Gauri Ganesh idols, it said.

The immersions took place in Girgaum, Dadar, Juhu, Marve and Aksa beaches and 73 natural spots as well as 191 artificial ponds created by the civic body. In a statement, Mumbai police said 2,094 officials, 11083 constables, 32 platoons of State Reserve Police Force (SRPF), Quick Response Team (QRT), Rapid Action Force and Home Guards have been deployed in the city in view of festivities. It said no untoward incident was reported through the day during immersion. PTI

## Nation

### Ramesh Bhiduri's communal remarks: Rahul Gandhi says, "This remark against BSP MP is a "distraction strategy" of BJP"



real issues BJP leaders are giving such statements, advocating one nation one election, asserted Gandhi adding, "These are all distractions. We understand it. And we're not going to let them do it." The Congress leader also expressed confidence in winning the assembly elections in the four states scheduled later this year, and said that at this point, "we are probably winning Telangana, certainly winning Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and are very close in Rajasthan."

Hitting out at the BJP, the Congress leader said that the party wins elections by distracting, and not allowing them to construct their narrative. "We learned a very important lesson in Karnataka, and the lesson was that the BJP wins elections by distracting and not allowing us to construct our narrative. And so what we did in Karnataka, we fought the election in a way where the BJP could not define the narrative," he said. ANI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that the objectionable remark made by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Ramesh Bidhuri in the Lok Sabha was just another way for the saffron party to distract the people from the idea of the caste census. "What you're seeing today, Bidhuri, and then suddenly this Nishikant Dubey, this is all the BJP trying to distract from the idea of the Caste census," the Congress leader said while addressing an

event in the national capital on Sunday.

Further speaking on 'One Nation, One Election', scion of the Gandhi family said, "It's one of the BJP's distraction strategies. The main issues in India are the concentration of wealth, huge inequality in wealth, massive unemployment, and huge unfairness towards the lower caste, OBCs, and tribal communities. These are issues. Now, the BJP can't contest those," he said.

To distract the people from

### Tamil Nadu: After a barricade collapse several people were injured in Madurai



A hoard of people were injured after a barricade collapsed at an event in Tamil Nadu's Madurai district. The incident took place during the inauguration of the 'Happy Street' program in the Annanagar area of Madurai.

Visuals show people struggling to rescue each other, while others check over their injured relatives.

Speaking to ANI, Kanchana, who was present at the event said, "This event was organized

by Madurai Corporation. The police department did not properly provide security in the event."

As Tamil Nadu Information Technology Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan along with Minister P Moorthy and District Collector M S Sangeetha inaugurated the program, people tried to rush to the front, she said. "Shortly after, the stage barricade collapsed and injured several people. Some people got suffocated and some were left unconscious in the incident," she added. ANI

### Punjab: BSF finds a Pakistan drone carrying on packet of heroin of 500 grams in Amritsar



A Pakistani drone was recovered in a joint operation conducted by Border Security Force and Punjab Police in Amritsar, an official statement said on Sunday. BSF said that the drone was carrying one packet of Heroin weighing 500 grams.

A Pakistani drone was recovered in a joint operation conducted by Border Security Force and Punjab Police in Amritsar, an

official statement said on Sunday. BSF said that the drone was carrying one packet of Heroin weighing 500 grams.

Earlier last week a joint team of Border Security Force (BSF) and Punjab Police recovered a Pakistani drone in the Tarn Taran district of Punjab. According to an official statement, the drone was recovered from a paddy field in Rajoke village in Tarn Taran district on Saturday. ANI

### Kerala: No new cases reported, five samples tests negative for Nipah virus

Five more samples sent for lab tests have been tested negative for Nipah virus, Kerala Health Minister's office said in a statement on Sunday. Kerala Health Minister Veena George's office in its statement said that the results of samples collected from five patients came in as 'negative' for the Nipah virus.

"New cases are not reported. A number of 915 people are under isolation at their residences," the statement added. Also, Minister Veena George analysed the current situation in the core committee meeting this morning.

Earlier in a press briefing, Minister Veena George said that the state government has decided to strengthen the healthcare system. "We have started to strengthen the 'One Health' activities in the district. We have started training



people for the same. 'One health' means all the departments will come together. We have also taken the decision to establish an institution where all the departments will be well-coordinated. So, community surveillance will be there throughout the year", she said.

Six cases of the Nipah virus have been so far found in the state of which two persons died while four others, including a nine-year-

old boy, are under treatment. The health minister said that ICMR and WHO had conducted studies and found that Kerala and eight other states in India have the probability of Nipah occurrence. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that the state will conduct a seroprevalence study on the Nipah virus being repeatedly found in Kozhikode district. ANI

World

## Pakistan train incident: Passenger train collided with a freight train, at least 31 people injured



At least 31 people were injured when a passenger train collided on Sunday with a freight train parked on the main railway line in Pakistan's Punjab province, according to media report. The accident took place near the Qila Sattar Shah Station in Sheikhpura district. The Lahore-bound passenger train coming from Mianwali was travelling on the same track where a freight train was already parked, resulting in the crash, Geo News reported.

The train driver attempted to

avoid the crash but to no avail, it said. According to the rescue personnel, 31 passengers were injured in the accident. Five injured passengers have been transferred to the district headquarters hospital, they added.

The railway officials said an investigation into the crash had been launched. A railways spokesperson said in a statement that train operations are running smoothly in the Lahore division following the crash. The track was cleared after the accident, the spokesperson added.

According to the spokesperson, four railways officials including train driver Imran Sarwar and his assistant Muhammad Bilal have been suspended. An inquiry commission led by a deputy principal officer has been formed, which will submit its report on the incident in 24 hours, the spokesperson added. The railways chairman said legal action will be taken against those responsible for the incident. CEO Railways Shahid Aziz said no compromise will be made on the safety of passengers. Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif expressed sorrow over the incident and demanded action against those responsible for the crash. Accidents on Pakistan's decaying rail system are common. In the past decade, the country has witnessed a number of deadly train accidents. **PTI**

## UN holds a session to recognize the "gender apartheid" in Afghanistan

The United Nations held a session to recognize the "gender apartheid" in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule, for the first time as part of their efforts to support human rights, Khaama Press reported. Representatives from different countries attended the session, and the speakers referred to the current situation in Afghanistan, after the return of the Taliban, as an example of "gender apartheid" and called for practical actions to end this situation.

This session took place on Friday. It featured speeches by Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur for Afghanistan; Rina Amiri, the US Special Representative for Afghan Women's Rights; Adela Raz, former Afghan representative to the UN; Melanie Weaver, the US Deputy Representative for Global Affairs, and several other country representatives, on the sidelines of the 88th UN General Assembly.

Richard Bennett remarked that the global community has

betrayed the women in Afghanistan, adding that the current situation in Afghanistan can only be remedied through practical actions, not condemnations and expressions of sympathy. It should be noted that the activism of women's rights advocates, which began with the resurgence of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan to recognize gender apartheid officially, is ongoing and has recently been accompanied by hunger strikes by some girls in European countries and Pakistan, Khaama Press reported. Hunger strikes by Tamana Zaryab Paryany, and her supporters in Cologne, Germany, the silent hunger strike of Mina Rafiq in Norway, the hunger strike of Mohra Fabi in Sweden, and a collective hunger strike by women's rights activists in Islamabad, Pakistan, have recently joined the campaign of women's rights activists. Their common demand from the global community is to recognize "gender apartheid" in Afghanistan. **ANI**

## Sikh death case: US provided Canada with intelligence after the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar



The US provided Canada with intelligence after the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, but communications intercepted by Ottawa were more definitive and led it to accuse India of orchestrating the plot, The New York Times has reported citing sources. The report came on Saturday as the top US diplomat in Canada confirmed that there was "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners" that had prompt-

ed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's offensive allegation against India in the killing of a Khalistani extremist on Canadian soil. The allegations have infuriated India, which rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case. India also accused Canada of being a safe haven for terrorists. **PTI**

## Bangladeshi diaspora people protest outside UN building over Pakistan interim PM addressing UNGA

During Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar's address at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), members of the Bangladeshi diaspora staged a protest against the atrocities committed by the Pakistan occupation army during the Bangladesh Liberation War.

The protest that began at 13:00 Hrs (local time) saw participation by more than 250 diaspora people, including community activists and freedom fighters. Protesters held banners and placards with the slogan 'UN-high time to recognize Genocide in Bangladesh 1971; annihilation of 3 million in only 9 months'; 'Pakistani occupied forces Butcher of Bangladeshis'; 'UN recognize Genocide in Bangladesh 1971'; 'We want to recognize the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide'; 'We demand official recognize of 1971 Genocide' and



'Pakistan step down'.

During the protest, they specifically highlighted the atrocities committed by Pak-occupied forces on innocent Bangladeshis, freedom fighters and women, who were molested, targeted, treated barbarically, and carried out massive killings during the Bangladesh Liberation War and inter-alia they demanded that

the United Nations to recognise Bangladesh Genocide of 1971 in which more than 3 million innocent people were killed, according to the release. Between March 25 and December 16, 1971, the Pakistani occupation army and its local collaborators conducted a systematic genocidal attack against the Bengali nation and Hindu religious groups. **ANI**

## Expression

# Advanced Digital Skills through upskilling to keep up with the fast pace of technological changes



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout Punjab

The rapidly changing nature of jobs and skills requirements. Across the world is creating a skills gap that hinders employment opportunities. Business leaders need to quickly identify this gap and prepare their workforce for the future by providing clear direction to employees on how to build the skills they need to succeed. In the Asia-Pacific region, approximately 86 million workers need to acquire advanced digital skills through upskilling or reskilling to keep up with the fast pace of technological changes.

The UNDP's Human Development Index ranks India at 132 out of 191 countries. This is a critical concern, as companies face a shortage of skilled workers while millions of educated individuals remain unemployed. To address this problem, India has been working to transform into a skill-based economy over the past decade. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the National Skill Development Corporation have been established to bring skill development to the forefront. The Skill India Mission, which began in July 2015, aims to address the shortage of skilled workers in the country. However, there is still a huge mismatch between the numbers of candidates. Trained, certified, and finally placed, with the International Labour Organization predicting a shortage of around 29 million skilled personnel in India by 2030.

Employees across various industries are facing pressure to upskill and reskill, but many find it challenging to take time out for learning due to long work hours. A lack of support systems that prioritize worker well-being can hinder motivation for upskilling and reskilling. Organizations can create new financial incentives through skills-based compensation to encourage employees to self-learn new skills.

A skilled workforce is critical for higher growth, but only 45% of trained individuals in India are employable,



with only 4.69% of the workforce having vocational training. This indicates a significant skill gap in the country,

Which can be attributed to a lack of training infrastructure and limited private-sector participation. The lack of a monitoring body for these training institutes is also a contributing factor.

India's demographic advantage will become a challenge if the young population is not skillfully upskilled, reskilled, and skilled. By 2025, an estimated 70% of India's population will be of working age, and without prop-employment opportunities, unemployment will remain a significant challenge. The National Education Policy (2020) needs to make sincere efforts in skill development from the school level. There is a need to create a sound National Vocational Education and Training System that provides every child with an option to go for vocational education and training after 10 years of schooling. Most developed countries have a well-defined national vocational education and training system that facilitates job readiness among youth and encourages skill-empowered entrepreneurship.

Inadequacies in skills are directly linked to the kind of education that is being imparted right from the school level and the ecosystem we put in place to equip every job seeker with market-

driven skills. If someone wishes to be a carpenter, plumber or electrician, he or she needs to have undergone at least a globally certified course for which we need to have a skill training centre in every high school where job seekers should be trained in the fields of their interest during non-school hours. Similarly, education providers must support students with knowledge and skills relevant to the world of work to make them productive and able to be employed. All skill courses at school levels must be synchronised with employment for a wholesome integration between skill providers and industries will be of paramount importance.

Today, education is not confined to what is taught in schools and colleges, but the scope of learning has become wider, owing to the evolving market and technological advancement. To secure a career in the competitive and evolving job market, upskilling and remaining industry-relevant are crucial for youths. Acquiring market-driven skills will offer great placement opportunities to the youths and help them build promising careers.

India currently lacks an effective vocational education and training system that is both aspirational and accessible to all young people. To address this issue and achieve

the national goal of making India the skills capital of the world, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship should establish a National Skills University (NSU), as proposed in the National Skills Universities Bill 2015. This university would offer industry-relevant curricular and skill-based certificates, diplomas, and degree programs to enhance employability.

In addition to the NSU, state governments can establish Multi-skills Development Centres (MSDC) in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. These centres can identify skill gaps in major industrial clusters and provide cluster-specific Skill Development Centres to upgrade the skills of existing workers. Advanced Skill Development Centres can also be set up to provide the latest know-how and courses to meet the high-end skill requirements of the industry. The World Bank has approved the \$250 million Skill India Mission Operation (SIMO) to improve the marketability of short-term skill development courses of 3-12 months.

To keep pace with the rapidly evolving technological landscape, it is essential to conduct global skill gap mapping and shift recruitment from "degree-based" to "skill-based". According to a report by The World Economic Forum, 150 million new technology jobs will be created globally over the next five years, with 77% of all jobs requiring digital skills by 2030. Currently, only 33% of technology jobs worldwide are being filled by skilled workers, which could hinder technological advancements on a global scale. Therefore, it is crucial to bridge the skills gap by providing training in emerging technologies. Such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), block chain, robotics, 3D printing, drones, and data analytics. A skilled workforce capable of understanding, implementing, and driving innovation is essential to the success of these technologies and the industries that rely on them. By focusing on vocational education and the latest skills training, India can create a workforce equipped to meet future demands.

## Entertainment

### Parineeti-Raghav wedding: Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray says, "Aaj Rajneeti nahi, Ragneeti hai"



**A** AP leader Raghav Chadha and actor Parineeti Chopra are all set to tie the knot in the presence of their close family members and friends in Udaipur on Sunday. Many guests arrived in Udaipur to attend the wedding.

On Sunday, former tennis player Sania Mirza arrived at Udaipur. Designer Manish Malhotra was also papped at the Udaipur airport.

Sania can be seen donning a printed-pink kurta, while Manish wore a stylish white jacket paired with a black t-shirt and matching pants. Sania was accompanied by her sister.

Later, other celebrities including former cricketer Harbhajan Singh with his kid and wife and actor Geeta Basra were also spotted at Udaipur airport. Singh wore a simple T-shirt and black joggers paired with a black cap. Geeta, on the other hand, chose an orange dress. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray was also spotted at the Udaipur airport. He wore a check shirt with pants. Talking to reporters, Aaditya said, "I am very happy that both of them are getting married. Aaj Rajneeti nahi, Ragneeti hai." **ANI**

### Wedding festivities: Raghav Chadha's baraat arrives in a boat, several leaders present



**P**arineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha's wedding festivities began in magnificent style in Udaipur. The groom and baraat have reached Leela Palace. They received a warm welcome from Parineeti's family. In the viral videos, Raghav was seen being joined by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and several other politicians.

The baraat had started from the Taj Lake Palace in their boats. Many guests have reached to attend the wedding ceremony. From Sania Mirza, and Harbhajan Singh, to several politicians including Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Aaditya Thackeray are also among the attendees. Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh also arrived to attend the special day of the couple. **ANI**

### Bipasha Basu shares adorable video to mark daughters day, says "Our biggest blessing"

**"O**ur biggest blessing": Bipasha Basu shares adorable video of Devi on Daughter's Day. On the special occasion of Daughter's Day, actor Bipasha Basu penned a sweet message for her daughter Devi on social media. Taking to Instagram, Bipasha shared a playful video of Devi and Karan Singh Grover.



Sharing the video, she wrote, "Blessed are those who have daughters, Daughter's day is everyday for us, Our biggest blessing ... Our Mishti Devi." Bipasha and Karan Singh Grover welcomed their first child, on November 12, last year, six years after their marriage. **ANI**

### Savannah Chrisley pays emotional tribute to late Nic Kerdiles after his accidental death

**T**V Personality Savannah Chrisley paid tribute to her ex-fiance former Pro Hockey player Nic Kerdiles after he died in a motorcycle accident on Saturday. The 'Chrisley Knows Best' star took to her Instagram story to share a video of herself with Nic. "I'm still hoping you respond to my text." she wrote alongside the video.

In another story, she penned a heartfelt tribute alongside a photo of the couple. "Heaven gained the most beautiful angel today. I miss and love you. I'll forever save our last messages of 'I love you,'" Chrisley wrote.

She added, "Please send me a sign that you're ok. maybe it'll be through a ham and cheese crepe. Or pasta with white sauce. or maybe even your favourite carrot cake."

Kerdiles died on Saturday after allegedly running his Indian Motorcycle through a stop sign in a residential area north of central Nashville, according to WRKN News 2. **ANI**

