



Ek Nath Shinde, Fadnavis, Ajit Pawar expected to share stage at 'Shasan

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Digvijaya Singh to call for state-wide agitation demands BJP candidate's arrest in murder case

AV Team

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh continued his sit-in agitation outside a police station here for the second day on Sunday to demand the arrest of a BJP candidate in connection with the alleged murder of a Congress worker on the election day. Congress's Digvijaya Singh launched the sit-in protest in front of the Khajuraho police station along with local Congress workers and leaders on Saturday. A person, identified as Salman Khan, died during a clash between BJP and Congress workers in Rajnagar constituency in Chhatrapur district of Mad-

hya Pradesh when the assembly elections were held in the state. The Congress leader also claimed that Pateria has been changing his statements since the incident. Additional Superintendent of Police Vikram Singh earlier said the case was being investigated and action will be taken accordingly. Singh said there will be a state-wide agitation if no action is taken in the case.

He launched the sit-in protest in front of the Khajuraho police station along with local Congress workers and leaders on Saturday. Singh along with Congress MLAs Alok Chaturvedi and Vikram Singh and other leaders stayed overnight

in a tent outside the police station. According to police, Khan was run over by a vehicle. Police registered a case of alleged murder against Arvind Pateria, the BJP candidate from Rajnagar constituency, and some other persons late Friday night. Madhya Pradesh BJP chief V D Sharma had claimed that Khan's death was an accident. Talking to reporters on Sunday morning, Singh said an FIR was registered against 20 people in the case but none of the accused was arrested so far. Even the vehicle used to crush Salman was not seized, he said. The Congress leader said Khan's family and he himself believe that justice cannot be done under

the BJP government.

By now, least one person could have been arrested or at least one or two vehicles could have been seized, he said. "Had it been anyone else, bulldozers would have used (to demolish property of accused) by now," he said. Singh claimed BJP leaders and the government want the case against Pateria to be withdrawn, but it will not be allowed to happen. It was not an accident, but a murder, he further claimed. If the administration does not take cognisance of this case and no proper action is taken, the agitation will be spread across the state, Singh said. People from other parts of the state are also reaching here, he added.

Journalists of India are more divided than ever before

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Indian media (then the newspaper and press) has played a crucial role in guarding our country's democracy since its independence from Britain in 1947. After 76 years of Independence journalists feel under threat. The only journalists who could make safe haven for themselves are either the BJP mouthpieces or staunch followers of Modi. Independent minds are under attack because they question the government. They talk about policy failures and the falsehood of the Prime Minister and his leaders. In a diverged environment, journalists are more divided than ever before.

Much of the mainstream media passes a message that holding the government answerable is not part of the press's responsibility. Rather

questioning the government is condemned by these media houses. For them the PM is God and his party is a set of holy disciples. Their narrative of BJP is sadly very selective. You might have witnessed how some lap anchors sitting in their dramatic prime time debates troll honest media entities just because they are different from them.

Since Modi came to power in 2014, his government succeeded in controlling the news media, especially the broadcasting frequencies, like no other prime minister in decades. Modi has cleverly cultivated the media to build a cult of personality that portrays him as the nation's altruistic protector.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Journalists of India are more divided than ever before

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Advertising restricted, tax investigations ordered— to ignore the uglier side of BJP's campaign to transform India from a tolerant, religiously diverse country into an assertively Hindu one.

More than hundred journalists were arrested and nearly 200 physically attacked in 2020. If you read various reports of atrocities on journalists, your brains will numb.

Many believe India has become unsafe for journalists. Especially, when a female journalist critical of the government - faces fierce online trolling and threats. Many female journalists are stalked and openly threatened with rape and murder, viciously trolled”

None of these journalists feel ashamed of carrying BJP's agenda as their prime time topic. None of these anchors feel responsible for the people while misleading them. Sadly they take it as an honor to do so. Sometimes they all gang up and speak the same language and effectively create a perception that suits their political master and party.

People like Ravish Kumar and others like him suffer, their telecasts are interrupted. Advertising restricted, tax investigations ordered— to ignore the uglier side of BJP's campaign to transform India from a tolerant, religiously diverse country into an assertively Hindu one. They are openly bullied and ignored just because they refuse to speak their language. They were trolled to death on social media because they use their brains to speak the truth.

More than hundred journalists were arrested and nearly 200 physically attacked in 2020. If you read various reports of atrocities on journalists, your brains will numb. Many believe India has become unsafe for journalists. Especially, when a female journalist critical of the government - faces fierce online trolling and threats. Many female journalists are stalked and openly threatened with rape and murder, viciously trolled” and an attempt made to break into their building. Freelance journalist Rohini Singh is a recent example.

We live in polarized times where critics of the government are branded as anti-nationals. It is the job of journalists to ask questions to people in power. But sadly eighty percent of the media believes in boot licking as the prime focus of media houses. There is an atmosphere of unceasing jeopardy. Most brutal example is BulliBai App, how Muslim journalist are systematically attacked and auctioned. To be sure, these threats are not limited to the Hindutva ecosystem around the BJP. Ruling parties in some states have exhibited similar tendencies, but none of these parallel the organized scale of the online harassment of journalists by the Hindutva ecosphere.

Female journalists are prime targets of these bigots because the ruling-party is inherently misogynistic. They can't stand the success of women who are assertive, successful, and have an opinion. Ironically, the intellectual (mortgaged) female supporters of BJP and their female leaders maintain utmost silence when it comes to the security of these female journalists. They don't see them as fellow women but enemies of Modi/BJP and

sometimes Hindutva. Sorry for the unkind, depressed lives they lead. What they believe as their freedom of speech to slander, to abuse, to spread hate speech.

In the protruding social media era, Hindutva and Narendra Modi – who follows a number of abusive Twitter users and has felicitated some – has been eroding public interaction. Journalists may no longer be the main arbitrators of this discourse, but they remain important enablers. The smartphone has allowed about a billion active mobile subscribers to participate in India's daily conversations. But instead of expressing diverse opinions, these voices coalesce around a handful of ideological spoils, none currently more influential than those operated by the ruling establishment.

With two decades of my experience in media, this is the first time I am seeing Journalists in India face attacks, legal action, threats and sometimes auctioned. The rising attacks against India's independent journalists and media over the last seven years are a matter of grave concern but their lives hardly matter to the government because they refuse to dance on their tune.

News Laundry like YouTube channels found them receiving tersely worded show-cause notices, their broadcasts were blocked. They were openly thrown with many adjectives, later years witnessed a gradual choking of independent voices in the media through criminal cases, pressure to self-censor and drop opinion pieces by columnists that the government found uncomfortable. Top editors were fired over disagreements on censorship by owners. The more I write, the more the agony, parallel media houses like us become Ping-Pong balls, our neutrality grossly misunderstood, and our government advertisements are stopped completely. Many newspapers faded in the race; some just resorted to bogging, apathy and appalling situations.



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Diary



Bihu Best of the Best



- Jayanthi Subramaniam

Performed in a group, the Bihu dancers are usually young men and women, and the dancing style is characterized by brisk steps, and rapid hand movements. The traditional costume of dancers is colorful and centered round the red color theme, signifying joy and vigour. It is a festival of joy and happiness.

One cannot describe Assam without talking about the world famous Bihu dance, which has become the identity of the north-eastern state. Performed mostly during the annual Bihu festival celebrated around April, it is Assam's most popular folk dance. Performed by both men and women, this cheerful dance sees participants clad in traditional attires. The dancers sway their bodies gracefully to the rhythm of folk music, which leaves the audiences entertained and enchanted. Bihu dance has been an integral part of the culture of various ethnic groups in Assam like the Deoris, Sonowal Kacharis, Moran, Borahis and others. Out of the three Bihu festivals in the state namely Rongali Bihu, Kongali Bihu and Bhogal Bihu, the dance is performed by young men and women during Rongali Bihu to express their joy on the arrival of the spring. According to Assamese history, the first ever Bihu dance performance was done in 1694 when the Ahom king Rudra Singha (1696-1714) invited Bihu dancers on the special occasion of Rongali Bihu.

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The dancers adorn the traditional mekhela chador during their performance. While mekhela is a cylindrically shaped outfit worn on the lower half of the body, the chador is draped like a shawl to cover the upper half. The attires are usually made from Muga silk, which is exclusively produced in Assam. Women dancers also wear ethnic heavy jewellery and beautify their braids with colourful flowers. The dance form has gained immense popularity not only in India but also in different parts of the world. It was a proud moment for the state when professional Bihu dancers performed at the London Olympics in 2012. Bihu dance is the best of the best dances and most colourful. Generally, we found the people to be smart and trendy. While they could be emotionally rooted to Bihu, they could easily catch up with the latest in the world of design and fashion. The Bihu dance is an indigenous folk dance from the Indian state of Assam. It is related to the Bihu festival and is an important part of Assamese culture. Performed in a group, the Bihu dancers are usually young men and women, and the dancing style is characterised by brisk steps and rapid hand movements.

Letters to the Editor

Heart breaking final for team India

Really a heartbreaking final for Team India cricket fans. If at least one of the so called 'super batsmen' who are known to create miracles and records realised it was a 'mega final' and had the patience not to throw their wickets so carelessly and had the determination to bat for some more overs definitely the score card would have shown something else.

Cricket is a mind game too and the more the patience the players show the more the team benefits and this was followed faithfully by Australian batsmen who even after three quick wickets resolved to stay and fight. As for the men in blue when the leader and the experienced senior players who ought to have led the whole lot and shown them how to play unfortunately could not do it the team very sadly lost in the final, breaking the

hearts of millions of Team India cricket lovers. Whatsoever, cricket lovers shall always remember some beautiful memories and records of their favourite team and players.

M Pradyu

Maratha Quota takes a new turn

Almost all parties are agreed even OBCs have no objection for providing maratha quota while Maharashtra Minister Chhagan Bhujbal on Friday urged the State government not to yield to pressure from the Marathas and ensure that reservation for the OBCs is not curtailed while fulfilling the community's demand for a quota. It is not right from any point of view that two big societies of Maharashtra should clash with each other. They all should solve the matter from all the angles.

TKR.Noori

False promises of election

In the assembly elections of five states, inflation is currently an important issue and in this context, especially

in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, the election manifesto issued by the BJP has given special importance to domestic gas cylinders. In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the party has promised to provide gas cylinders for Rs 450. It should be noted that the price of a gas cylinder that an average income household currently getting is around Rs.900. If the government can provide a gas cylinder for 450 to 500 rupees then why is it not feasible for the country. Why is this announcement being made only for electoral states?

Tauqueer Rahmani

(Head)ache for India in the finals

It was a very painful sight to watch almost 1.3 lakh Indian supporters in the Narendra Modi stadium and a billion outside with sulking faces and drooping heads. Who would have imagined a team that has performed so phenomenally well in the whole series would have to bite the dust on the night of the final? The Indian team got off to a flying start with Rohit Sharma un-

leashing mayhem on the Australian bowling attack smashing a quick-fire 47 off 31 balls but after his dismissal, it was like we were watching a white ball test match. The intent was not visible the last night which is hurting more than the loss. The Australian team on the other hand proved that no matter how they performed the whole series they are a completely different side when they are in the finals. Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne made it look so easy which was looking difficult for the Indian team. We are sad but it doesn't mean that we are not proud of our Men in Blue. We will keep supporting and bolstering their courage so that they get the Yellow brigade the next time.

Noopur Baruah

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

City

Eknath Shinde, Fadnavis, Ajit Pawar expected to share stage at 'Shasan Aaplya Dari' program



Meanwhile, even though Mumbai is witnessing moderate Air Quality Index (AQI), several pockets of the city are still struggling on the front with poor AQI readings. After a gap of almost a month, all three top ministers of state cabinet – CM Eknath Shinde and deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar – are likely to share the

stage at Bhandara in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region to participate in Shasan Aaplya Dari (Government at your doorstep) program where benefits of government schemes are handed over to beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, even though Mumbai is witnessing moderate Air Quality Index (AQI), several pockets of the city are still struggling on the front with

poor AQI readings. As per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Mumbai's overall AQI readings stood at a 'moderate' 160 on Sunday, but several pockets remained over the 200 mark. The worst was Shivaji Nagar in Mankhurd with an AQI of 244, followed by 239 in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), 232 in Bandra (East), 211 in Mazgaon, 205 in Byculla and 202 in Malad (West).

Civic officials have also said that in the coming week, CM Eknath Shinde may visit some pockets of the city to check ongoing measures implemented to alleviate air quality. As a mitigation measure, the BMC is daily washing 240 kms of roads and by December 1, the civic body aims at washing 1,000 km of Mumbai roads.

Woman's body found in suitcase near Mumbai metro construction site

A woman's body was recovered from a suitcase found near a metro railway construction site in Mumbai, police said. The discovery was made after the police were alerted about a suspicious suitcase near a barricade along CST road in Shanti Nagar. "The discovery was made after the police were informed around 12.30 pm about a suitcase lying abandoned on the CST Road at Shanti Nagar, where work for a Metro project is underway," ANI quoted an official as saying.

The police reached the spot and found a woman's body inside the suitcase, according to the official. The body was sent to a civic hospital for autopsy. The woman's identity is yet to be established. Preliminary reports suggest that the woman could be between 25



and 35 years old, but concrete details are pending forensic examination. "The woman has not been identified yet, but looking at her body, it is being estimated that her age could be between 25-35 years, the woman was wearing a T-shirt and track pants," they added.

The law enforcement is scrutinizing the CCTV footage from the surrounding area for a valuable lead in the case. A case has been registered under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against an unknown perpetrator. Further investigation is underway.

Protest erupted over inauguration of a police station at Wangeturi village, 8 detained



Eight people were detained by police after they protested over the inauguration of a police station at Wangeturi village located at the Chhattisgarh-Maharashtra border in the Etapalli taluka of Gadchiroli district on Monday, police said. "It was proposed to open Police Station Wangeturi on the Chhattisgarh border in Etapalli Taluka today. When the Gatta Police parties along with C60 parties were going towards Wangeturi through Todgatta, agitators at Todgatta stopped them from going ahead," Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police (SP) Neelotpal said narrating the incident.

"Police parties were pushed by some 10-15 people out of which eight people have been detained by police. There has not been any

use of force by police. The offence in this matter is being registered by Gadchiroli Police," he added.

The SP said that some local villagers complained to the police that they were being forced to sit for protest by Naxalites and naxal front organisations. The villagers also said that they want roads and mobile towers in the area, the SP added. Neelotpal said that after the police assured the villagers that they would be given protection, the villagers removed the encroachment themselves. The Gadchiroli Police appealed to people not to get instigated by Naxalites and to take the law into their own hands, he said. The police station is being opened in that area to end the naxal menace and make citizens live their lives without any fear or fervour, the SP said. ANI

Cops register case against Shakeel's aide, Bhati for threatening extortion case witness

Gangster Chhota Shakeel's aide, Riyaz Bhati, has been booked for allegedly threatening a witness in an extortion case filed in Mumbai. The witness claims to have received a call from Bhati threatening dire consequences if he did not testify in Bhati's favor. The police are investigating the matter and have registered a case against Bhati, his son, and his friend. The Khar police have registered a case against gangster Chhota Shakeel's aide, Riyaz Bhati, for allegedly threaten-

ing a witness in an extortion case filed in Versova in 2021.

The complainant, who is a businessman from Khar, told the police that on November 4, when he was about to depose against Bhati in court, he allegedly received a call threatening him of dire consequences if he did not depose in favour of Bhati. The complainant said that the call was made by Bhati, while he was allegedly in prison. He had recorded the call after putting it in speaker mode and submitted the recording to the

police. The 43-year-old complainant, who owns a plastic manufacturing company, is a witness in the extortion case, where Bhati had introduced his wife to the complainant's friend.

Later, Bhati accused the friend of having sexual relationships with his wife and extorted money from the friend and the complainant to pay him money, however, Bhati had allegedly threatened his wife and forced her into the sexual relationship, by luring her with money.

Maharashtra govt to set up forest industrial development corporation

The Maharashtra government has decided to set up Maharashtra Forest Industrial Development Corporation (MFIDC), under the state forest ministry, to promote and develop manufacturing industries based on forest products from the state.

Planned on the lines of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), the

government has constituted an advisory committee to conduct a comprehensive study for setting up the MFIDC. According to officials, the objective would be to develop and promote industries based on forest products such as wooden furniture, bamboo furniture and non-timber forest products (NTFP), as well as to empower the people associated with it.

Mumbai likely to experience warmer winter this year, say experts

Mumbai is likely to experience a warmer winter is what meteorologists and weather experts are indicating as the city is reeling under higher maximum temperatures than the average normal for this time of the year. Even with December approaching, Mumbai is reeling under high temperatures with the maximum temperatures hovering over 34 degrees Celsius. Between Friday and Saturday, the IMD Santacruz observatory recorded a maximum temperature of 34.8 degree Celsius, one degree above the average normal for this time of the year.

Nation

Silkyara tunnel incident: A six-inch pipe has been laid to supply nutritious food and medicines



A six-inch pipe has been laid at the Silkyara tunnel through which nutritious food and medicines could be supplied to the 41 labourers, trapped for over a week after parts of the under-construction structure collapsed following a landslide. The Director of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), Anshu Manish Khulko, said that the 'alternative 6-inch lifeline' reached the labourers after drilling 53 metres.

He said that an atmosphere of joy erupted among the trapped labourers after they came to know

about this breakthrough. "This 6-inch pipe is 53 meters long. This is a breakthrough for us. Apart from being an alternative lifeline, this will give us the facility that now we will be able to send both oxygen and food. And food which has nutritional value can be sent to the trapped labourers," Anshu Manish Khulko said. On his talks with trapped labourers after the installation of 6-inch pipe, he said, "A relative of Deepak Kumar, who is one of the trapped labourers, talked with them and he told me that there is an atmosphere of happiness

among the workers inside the tunnel."

On November 12, it was reported that a collapse occurred in an under-construction tunnel from Silkyara to Barkot due to a muck falling in the 60-meter stretch on the Silkyara side of the tunnel, trapping 41 labourers. The NHIDCL Director said now the rescuers will go with full force to evacuate the labourers.

"Earlier there was doubt that what would happen if the first lifeline was closed. But now that we have established an alternative lifeline, now we will go with full force," Khulko said. Meanwhile, two robotics machines-- One of 20 Kg and other of 50 Kg-- of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) arrived at the site. On the use of robotics machine from DRDO, the NHIDCL Director said, "An attempt was made to use that machine inside, but as I told you, the strata and rubble inside (the tunnel) are very loose, so it was not successful there." ANI

Telangana: Wall of an under-construction private indoor stadium collapse leaves Two dead, 10 injured



Two people died and 10 were injured after the wall of an under-construction private indoor stadium collapsed in Moinabad, officials said on Monday. The police said that the body of one person has been retrieved from the debris, while searches for the other are underway.

According to Rajendernagar Deputy Commissioner of Police,

Jagdeeshwar Reddy, "Two died and around 10 were injured after a private indoor stadium that was under construction collapsed. One body was retrieved and authorities are trying to recover another body under debris." The police officer said that the injured people have been shifted to a local hospital for treatment. The rescue operation is underway. Further details are awaited. ANI

Liquor irregularities case: SC issues notice to ED on Sanjay Singh's plea against remand and arrest order

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate on AAP leader Sanjay Singh's plea against the Delhi High Court order rejecting his plea challenging his remand and arrest in the alleged liquor irregularities case. A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti sought a response from ED on Sanjay Singh's petition and kept the matter for the second week of December.

The court also kept it open for the petitioner to file for regular bail, if so advised and made it clear that it shall be considered on its own merits in accordance with law without being influenced by the impugned judgment. Delhi High Court had last month rejected Aam Aadmi Party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh's plea

in which he had challenged his remand and arrest in the alleged liquor irregularities case.

The ED had arrested Sanjay Singh after a day-long questioning by the ED officials at his Delhi residence. ED claimed that Singh and his associates played a part in the Delhi government's decision to give licenses to alcohol shops and merchants in 2020, causing losses to the state exchequer and violating anti-corruption laws. ED previously searched a number of locations including the homes and offices of Sanjay Singh's close associate Ajit Tyagi and other contractors and businessmen who allegedly benefited from the policy. In its nearly 270-page supplementary charge sheet, the ED has called Sisodia "a key conspirator" in the case. ANI

Land Over-Valuation case: Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar files defamation case in Delhi HC seeking direction to take down an article published by a news portal

Delhi's Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar has filed a defamation suit in Delhi High Court and sought direction to take down an article published by a news portal 'The Wire' and the author of an article alleging links between Kumar's son and the beneficiary's family in the Land Over-Valuation matter. The said article alleged a link between Chief secretary's son and a family that benefited from an "over-valued" plot of land when it was acquired by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for the Dwarka Expressway project.

After hearing the initial arguments, the bench of Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri posted the matter for Tuesday for detail hearing. Senior Advocates Maninder Singh and Raj Shekhar Rao appeared for the Chief Secretary Naresh



Kumar. According to the suit, the allegations made in said article are patently false, baseless and misleading, and entirely divorced from true and correct facts.

Recently, Naresh Kumar, through lawyer Bani Dikshit, sent a legal notice to the news portal and stated that "First and foremost, the attempt at a 'sensational' headline of the Defamatory Publication incorrectly portrays a perception of guilt against my client and would mislead any reader into wrongly believing

that my client is involved in some illegal activity." It also stated that the contents of the Defamatory Publication contain egregious inaccuracies and misleading information, coupled with a selective quotation of my client's statement given to you on your approach and insistence. It is pellucid that you have been reporting misleading news in a manner that is malicious and vindictive, apart from being highly sensationalised, despite the clarifications provided by my client. ANI

World

US: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said that the presidency is "not a job for somebody that is pushing 80", Report



In a jibe at the presidential frontrunners -- Donald Trump and Joe Biden -- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said that the presidency is "not a job for somebody that is pushing 80", CNN reported. DeSantis who currently trails Donald Trump in the race for the Republican nomination, sought to contrast his relative youth to former President Donald Trump, 77, and President Joe Biden, who turns 81 on Monday.

DeSantis, 45, told CNN, "I just think that that's something that has been shown with Joe Biden. Father Time is undefeat-

ed. Donald Trump is not exempt from any of that." The Florida governor argued that he is in the "prime of my life" while noting that Trump would be older than Biden was at the start of his term if he were to take office in 2025. Notably, age has quickly become a central theme of the 2024 presidential race. Trump has mocked Biden and questioned his mental fitness for office as a core part of his campaign, according to CNN.

The Florida governor's campaign has leaned into this dynamic, launching an "accident tracker" for Trump gaffes last month that

highlights apparent verbal slip-ups, such as when Trump appeared to confuse Biden with former President Barack Obama. Beyond age, DeSantis said these "accidents" point to Trump not being "the same guy" he was when he first ran for president. Pressed by Tapper on Trump's mental acuity and his ability to beat Biden in a general election, DeSantis said, "I wouldn't be running unless I thought that the Democrats would beat Trump if he were the nominee." Democrats, DeSantis said, are "going very easy" on Trump as the Republican primary plays out but insisted that would change if Trump captures the GOP nomination. "You're gonna see scorched earth. You're gonna see all this stuff brought out from the past," he said. "The whole election will end up being a referendum on Donald Trump, and Biden will be able to hang out in the basement, and I think he'll be able to get away with it again," CNN quoted DeSantis as saying. ANI

Bangladesh: Dengue cases crossed the 300,000 mark, worst outbreak



Dengue cases in Bangladesh have crossed the 300,000 mark as the nation grapples with its worst outbreak of the vector-borne disease, media reports said on Monday. Bangladesh's overall tally of dengue infections stood at 301,255, with the country logging 1,549 deaths by the viral disease this year, the bdnews24.com news portal reported, citing data from the Directorate General of Health Services. On Sunday alone, 1,291 new cases of the viral fever were reported, according to the report. A total of 4,949 patients, including 1,127 in Dhaka, are receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

After August saw 71,976 cases and 342 deaths, a record

79,598 dengue cases and 396 deaths were recorded in September amid the worst outbreak of the disease, while 67,769 cases and 359 deaths were reported in October. The death toll in the first 19 days of November was 201, while 30,080 new dengue cases were recorded during this period. According to the report, experts blamed a prolonged monsoon, rising temperatures and a lack of effective measures to kill the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the known carrier of the dengue virus, for the outbreak. It said an alarming surge of the Aedes aegypti mosquito was recorded in a government-funded pre-monsoon survey of Dhaka, fuelling the worst spread of the disease over the past five years. PTI

Afghanistan: Takhar province have demanded the release of women's rights activists

A group of women in Afghanistan's Takhar province have demanded the release of women's rights activists currently detained by the Taliban-led administration, Afghanistan-based Khaama Press reported. These activists have been champions of gender equality and women's empowerment in Afghanistan, calling for women's fundamental rights and opportunities. However, their recent arrest has sparked concerns regarding their safety and the future of women's rights in Afghanistan.

Women in Takhar have called for the immediate release of women activists and stressed the importance of preserving the progress made in women's rights. On Sunday, women, under the banner of the "Independent Coalition of the Protest Movement," gathered at an undisclosed loca-

tion and called on the Taliban to release the detained women. The video that surfaced on social media showed women from the "Independent Coalition of the Protest Movement" saying, "The current regime cannot silence the voice of justice by detaining and suppressing protesting women." Meanwhile, the Political Participation of Women Network in Kabul has condemned the recent detention of women's rights activists. It urged human rights organisations to make efforts for their release.

Notably, four women's rights activists, including Neda Parwani, Julia Parsi, Manizha Sadiqi, and Parisa Azadi, have been kept in custody and there is no information shared regarding their detention or whereabouts, according to Khaama Press report. ANI

Pakistan: Party organised with alcohol and meat in Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara

In a shocking incident that has caused uproar among the Sikh community, a party was allegedly organised in the premises of holy site of Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara hurting the religious sentiments. Jagdip Singh Kahlon, the General Secretary of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, has alleged that alcohol and meat were served during the party, which goes against the beliefs of the Sikh community.

He strongly condemned the incident and urged the Pakistan government to take action against those responsible. "Unacceptable! I strongly condemn the sacrilegious incident within the sacred premises of Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib where a party organised involving alcohol & meat. @GovtofPakistan should take swift action against all responsible people," Kahlon posted on X (formerly Twitter). In a similar incident in 2021, a Pakistani model's bareheaded photos within the



Gurdwara complex sparked widespread criticism on social media.

Expressing concern over the incident, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Harjinder Singh Dhani and Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) president Harmmeet Singh Kalka have taken note of the video and its potential implications, Khalsa Vox reported. SGPC president Dhani emphasized that if the event occurred within the Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib complex, it would constitute a violation of 'maryada' and Sikh sentiments, particularly in a place so closely associated with Guru Nanak Dev. Expressing disappointment, he said, "The author-

ities should have refrained from indulging in such a kind of act as it would lead to hurting the sentiments of the global Sikh community." DSGMC spokesperson Manjit Singh Bhoma demanded a public apology from the organizers, emphasizing that the event took place near the PMU office, an integral part of the Gurdwara Kartarpur complex. The call for an apology underscores the seriousness with which Sikh organizations view any actions that may disrespect the sanctity of the religious site.

This incident has reignited concerns about the need for strict adherence to Sikh 'rehat maryada' and the responsible management of religious sites. ANI

Expression

Science Journalism and Mass Media in India: I



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Retired Principal Educational
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SCIENCE JOURNALISM AND MASS MEDIA

Print Media: Such as newspapers, magazines, wallpapers, books, posters, folders, booklets.

Audio/Visual Media: Mainly radio and TV, besides, films, slide shows, bioscope.

Folk Media: It has been a common observation, that through folk media, it is possible to achieve penetration to the segments where other media have limitations. Puppet shows, street plays skits, stage performances, folk songs and folk dances, nautanki and other traditional means of communication belong to this category. This media is cost effective, entertaining and offers two-way communication.

Interactive Media: Science exhibitions, science fairs, seminars, workshops, lectures, scientific tours, conferences, vigyan jathas, etc. The advantage here being man-to-man and two-way communication.

Digital Media: Information technology has given birth to comparatively a new media, known as digital media. It includes Internet, CD-ROM, multimedia, simulations, etc. It has also made science communication simpler to handicapped segments of the society.

That apart, we are popularizing science through our 18 regional languages, to penetrate into local populace effectively. Selection of target audience has greatest significance. Our science communication efforts are aimed at various target groups, such as, common man, children, students, farmers, women, workers or specialists, etc. Various forms for presentation are being used to making science communication more interesting and enjoyable, such as science news, report, article, feature, story, play, poem, interview, discussion, lecture, documentary, docu-drama, scientoon (science +cartoon), satire, etc.

Today there are popular science magazines in almost every Indian language, barring a few. Science programmes appear on radio and TV. Online popular science magazines, science news on Teletext, ready-to-print science page are some of the new developments in the area of science journalism.

The use of broadcast and digital media has opened new vistas of science journalism. The revolution in information technology has made possible to get scientific information from around the globe within seconds, on our fingertips.

More concerted, coordinated and integrated efforts have started to cater to large and all cross-sections of the society.

TRENDS IN SCIENCE WRITING/ REPORTING

Science articles published in the newspapers/ magazines today are not too different from what they used to be years ago, i.e. with prosaic style, technical jargon and excess of avoidable statistics. Obviously, complicated and uninteresting articles lacking in liveliness, lucidity and without a continuous flow cannot be expected to attract a large readership. Occasionally, the articles are immersing from the point of view of subject matter but lacking in presentation. Due to phenomenal technical advances and narrow specialization in various fields today both authors and editors alike, find themselves at bay while dealing with a particular scientific/ technical topic. The articles in Indian languages often are mere translations of the original English ones. It is necessary to encourage original science writing in Indian languages.

Then, how should a science article be like! ? In the age of technological advancement today, most people prefer article which are informative, analytical, critical and having a continuous flow. To write an article on a particular topic, one needs to read and understand the available literature and discuss the topic with concerned experts and incorporate their suggestions. Necessary statistics, diagrams, photographs, etc. also need to be collected. It is necessary to bear in mind that an integrated and balanced view of the topic/ issue needs to be presented along with a proper analysis in a language easily intelligible to the common public. An article must necessarily reflect alertness and the investigative bent of mind of the reporter. Undoubtedly, even the laymen appreciate such articles and reports. Needless to say, the titles and sub-titles need to be interesting and eye catching – nobody likes dry and unattractive titles.

Sharma K (1993) has commented on popular Hindi science magazines – “most of the popular science magazines are depending upon translations that creates a lot of distortion in the presentation.” He also rightly commented on science writers- “they tend to prepare a story or a report only sitting inside the room, without going outside or interacting with scientists, who are associated with the story, or covering on-the-spot events.”

Not only in print, but in broadcast media also, the misleading scientific information, a continuous decay of creativity in presentation, distortion in translation, inconsistency in organizing the contents, lapses in the use of language, and many more deviations can be seen frequently.

Singh (1993) contends – “that popular science writing in India is still shackled



by complacency and over dependence on foreign sources, they are unfortunately used for plagiarism”.

Very often, it has been seen that a writer uses the popular article of another writer as a source for his writing and subsequently a third writer is using his article and a chain of substandard articles is formed, without consulting the primary source. Thus a series of such distorted communications appear in the media, as if it were original science writing. In case of translations, other writers generally misinterpret the technical terms, especially in their subsequent versions.

Usage of technical terms could occasionally give rise to difficulties, and hence it is advisable to select and explain explicitly various terms used. For example, in an article published in a Hindi newspaper, “Satellite DNA” was referred to as “Upagraha DNA”, where it should have read “Vahak DNA”. Usage of improper technical terms would hence need to be given due attention by the science journalists. Terminologies on all technical subjects in regional languages are available today, however, the usage of a particular term would require the proper judgement and discretion on the part of the author or the editor.

Science dissemination is not limited to newspapers and magazines alone. We have a host of publications on scientific topics that include science books at popular levels, feature services, encyclopaedias, reference books, monographs, technical reports, special reports, souvenirs, annual reports and more. A common thread that needs to run through all these different types is the authenticity and simplicity and at the same time, a presentation that is acceptable and readable.

Nav Bharat Times, a leading Hindi daily, started a science column in the year 1948. Today, unfortunately, in most of the dailies, weeklies and monthlies, we do not see much coverage of science and technology. It is desirable and imperative to introduce science columns in newspapers/ magazines. A few newspapers, however, cover science/ technology news and also have introduced regular science columns. But, in a country like ours, where not

many people are exposed to the basic principles of science and technology, this, by itself, is not sufficient. Rarely, a science editor or a science reporter is associated with a newspaper or a magazine. It is desirable to have science correspondents with all newspapers. This would, in due course, help evolve a policy on editing and reporting of contemporary topics on science and technology in different modes of presentation in the media.

One of the reasons for the science reporting to have remained underdeveloped in our country may be due to the fact that except for a few dry and drab articles, technical information/ news, and hardly any other modes of science writing were employed. May be this is why common man could not come to terms with science and technology. If science were presented in the form of stories, poems, etc, common man not only would be able to read, but, also would understand and appreciate science. Poetry is a powerful medium for communication, which could be used for communicating science to children and neo-literates. Explaining science in the form of poetry is not as difficult as it may seem. Science dramas and skits are also under utilized. Only rarely one comes across science drama and skit in print medium.

Upcoming science writers need to give a try to communicating science through these unconventional modes. Humour and satire are other areas still untreated in science reporting. In fact, these modes have not been exploited in science communication at all! Newspapers/ magazines do publish debates on political and social issues, but rarely a science reporter or an editor has shown interest in publishing debates on any scientific issue. Today, there exist several possibilities of publishing debates on a current issues based on interviews with scientists and articles based on the same. Apparently, the readers show a keen interest in scientific topics if presented in such an exciting manner. The use of the various modes in science reporting would not only generate an interest in science but would also inculcate scientific attitude into them.

to be Contd....

Entertainment



Canadian actress Iman Vellani says, "Not worried about the below-par box office collections" over film "The Marvels"

Iman Vellani says she isn't worried about the below-par box office collections of her latest film "The Marvels" and the actor would rather celebrate the positive feedback coming her way for the Marvel Studios movie. The Canadian actor, who plays Kamala Khan/superhero Ms Marvel in the feature film from director Nia DaCosta, referenced Bob Iger, the CEO of Marvel Studios' parent company Disney, when asked about the box office returns of the film. Also starring Brie Larson, Teyonah Parris and Samuel L Jackson, "The Marvels" hit the screens on November 10 and earned USD 46.1 million in North America on day one, marking the worst opening in the history of the Marvel Cinematic

Universe. **PTI**

Karan Johar drops a new post of guests, says "THE BOYS ARE BACK!!! .."



Karan Johar's 'Students' Varun Dhawan and Sidharth Malhotra will be seen on his coffee couch in the next episode of 'Koffee with Karan Season 8'. On Monday, KJo took to his Instagram and dropped the new promo of the season's next episode. He captioned the post, "THE BOYS ARE BACK!!! All suave, all madness & love...stay tuned because they are stirring up a storm!! #HotstarSpecials #KoffeeWithKaran Season 8 - new episode drops 23rd November only on Disney+ Hotstar! #KWKS8OnHotstar."

In the new promo, Varun could be seen talking about how Karan Johar initiates controversies and quirked, "In my dad's film there is a character called Shaadiram GharJode. He is Karan Johar ghar tode"

Welcoming the handsome hunks on the couch, Karan Johar said, "They're ideal husbands to the world, but on my couch, these boys are nothing but just Kens without their Barbies." The trio, in the promo, also took a stroll down memory lane and shared Varun's fun banter on the sets of KJo's film 'My Name is Khan' where he used to charge fans for a picture with Shah Rukh Khan. Karan Johar also asked Varun, "One thing Varun has that you don't?" to which he jokingly answered, "A big ass." "He has a bubble butt", Karan added. **ANI**

Actor Alia Bhatt shares motivating post for Team India



Actor Alia Bhatt on Monday shared a motivating message for Team India after their defeat against Australia in the World Cup 2023 final match and said, "Our hearts are forever won". Taking to Instagram, Alia re-shared the Team India players' picture and wrote, "Our hearts are forever WON! Well played team India. We hold our heads up high." **ANI**

Film Tiger 3 goes upto Rs 376 crore in eight days



Superstar Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif-starrer action film "Tiger 3" has raised Rs 376 crore worldwide gross in eight days, the makers said on Monday. A Yash Raj Films' project, "Tiger 3" is directed by Maneesh Sharma. The movie released worldwide in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu on November 12. "Tiger 3' Rs 376 crore (8 days) worldwide gross. India Rs 280 crore gross, overseas Rs 96 crore gross," the studio posted on X. **PTI**

Actor Saloni Batra shared behind-the-scenes with Ranbir Kapoor from the film 'Animal'

Actor Saloni Batra, who will be playing Ranbir Kapoor's on-screen sister in the upcoming action thriller film 'Animal' on Monday shared behind-the-scene from the sets. Saloni took to Instagram and treated fans with a new glimpse.

Sharing the pictures, she wrote, "Sibling vibes with the one and only #rk !! Thrilled to share some behind-the-scenes moments from @animalthefilm with the charming Ranbir Kapoor Grateful to be part of this incredible journey as Reet, his on-screen sister. Get ready for a rollercoaster of emotions!" As soon as the pictures were shared, fans chimed in the comment section with heart and fire emojis. Earlier today, makers announced the film's trailer release date. Taking to Instagram, director Sandeep Reddy Vanga shared a new picture which reads, "Trailer on November 23rd." **ANI**

