



Uttar Pradesh: Chief food information officer of Gorakhpur

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Afternoon VOICE

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 16, Issue: 86

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023 MUMBAI 08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com



Mumbaikar can reach Pune in 90 minutes with Trans Harbour Link opening

AV Team

The long-expected Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) in Mumbai is all set to commence operations on December 25th, revolutionising travel between Mumbai and Pune. This innovative project is expected to significantly reduce travel time, enabling commuters to cover the distance in just 90 minutes. The BJP announced on the social media post that the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link will be

thrown open for public use on December 25. However, officials of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) have expressed surprise over the claim, saying several components of the project that will allow the stretch to be pliable are yet to be complete, and it will be difficult to meet the December 25 deadline.

The MTHL is not only a game-changer for commuters between Mumbai and Pune but also offers a swift solution to

ease traffic congestion during peak hours in the Nhava Sheva area of Navi Mumbai. By providing a short 1.5 km detour, the MTHL allows vehicles to bypass congested areas, potentially eliminating up to 45 minutes of traffic-related delays.

Regular travellers to Pune, habituated to the regular route involving P D'Mello Road, Freeway, Sion, Panvel Expressway, and Mumbai-Pune Expressway, can now opt for a more efficient alternative. The suggested route includes P D'Mello Road-

Freeway (exit before Sewri)-MTHL, connecting to the Mumbai-Pune Expressway via Chirle and passing through the under-construction Navi Mumbai International Airport route. This transformative infrastructure project is expected to reshape daily commuting patterns, offering a time-saving and more efficient alternative for travellers between Mumbai and Pune. The MTHL is poised to redefine connectivity and contribute to a smoother travel experience for thousands of commuters.

World Cup: Indian cricketers lost game but won hearts

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

It was expected because Newland and Australia players have more strategy and less show off. Indians have always pampered the cricketer's way beyond the game. There are many reasons why India lost the final to Australia. Even after the defeat, the Indian team has proven themselves as one of the greatest ever in ODIs. However, it was also an imperfect team from the beginning. Stadium was full of celebrities and politicians, including PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. The moment India lost the toss, Australia had the advantage of batting second, on a settled pitch, with no challenge around, swing or seam for most part of the 2nd innings. India had the best ever World Cup outing as a

campaign. But it always comes down to the clutch moments, and sometimes conditions can scuttle plans. But we should adapt. I felt India's bowling in the final was consistent, but 240 is very hard to defend in the dew. Let's not take credit away from the Australian team. They played very well, they grabbed the key moments - the hallmark of any winning side.

Australia is a tough opponent in any cricket format, and they have a proven track record of success in World Cups. They are currently ranked number one in the ICC ODI rankings and have a strong batting lineup, a potent bowling attack, and a well-rounded fielding unit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

World Cup: Indian cricketers lost game but won hearts

▶▶ PAGE 1

Their experience and ability to perform under pressure make them a serious threat to India's World Cup aspirations. Moreover, New Zealand is another excellent team, particularly in white-ball cricket.

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Their experience and ability to perform under pressure make them a serious threat to India's World Cup aspirations. Moreover, New Zealand is another excellent team, particularly in white-ball cricket. They are the runner-up of the 2019 Cricket World Cup edition, and they possess a destructive batting lineup, a versatile bowling attack, and a dynamic fielding unit. Their ability to score big totals and chase down targets effectively makes them a dangerous opponent for India.

When it comes to India, most players are too over pampered and glorified by the media and diehard fans who don't have anything in life but cricket. We are too obsessed with personal records of players which is not the case with any country or player. As a result, if you see every player and whole team was over optimistic and undervalued opponents. This attitude worked well until the final day. Reality hit hard in the final. Rohit thought he could hit every ball of each bowler out of the stadium. Virat thought of playing a big knock even if it is in 200 balls. KL Rahul couldn't do much. And finally the greatest t20 player of all time SKY though he is Maxwell to hit every ball with reverse sweep into the stands.

On other hand AUS maintained cool and did their job. Their fielding was fabulous. Stopping every boundary frustrated Indian players to the core. In the second inning after taking three wickets Indian players were overconfident, they almost thought that they won the match. Even the people in the stadium were in celebration mode. India almost lost its game here.

Overconfident Indian Bowlers kept on giving extra runs in a rush to take wickets. Once Head and Labuschagne built a good partnership it was too late. By this time our ego was punctured but it was too late to do anything. Australia completely outplayed India with their excellent fielding in the first innings. The bowlers were accurate and thanks to their fielding, were economical. With regard to field placements and bowling, they made plans for each Indian Cricketer and executed them successfully. They knew their game and their target. There was tremendous sink and coordination in the players.

The fourth-wicket partnership between Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne completely pulled the tide in their

favour. Head took an unbelievable catch of Rohit Sharma that certainly was the turning point of the match. After Rohit's wicket, India could only score four boundaries in 40 overs after the first powerplay. In the second innings, Indian bowlers began well but lost the steam after reducing Australia to 47/3. They looked nervous and hopeless with every passing over. They failed to show determination on the field. It was evident from their body language that they were already panicking. Presence of the PM and big stars actually created pressure on them, at this point they were just playing to save their souls but not as sportsmen. Except for Rohit, no one showed courage. 4 boundaries in 40 overs of cricket - that's where India lost the match.

Besides these two teams, India could face challenges from other strong contenders like New Zealand, South Africa, and Pakistan. However, Australia and England stand out as the most likely threats to India's World Cup hopes based on their current form and overall strengths.

Entire nation was sad but for a change this time no cricketer's wife was verbally assaulted for the loss but the PM was blamed for it. He was tagged as an unlucky person and a bad omen on social media. But still to control the damage and for the sake of makeover, After the World Cup final, Narendra Modi lauded the Indian men's cricket team for their 10 consecutive wins in the tournament and asked them to motivate each other as he met them after their loss to Australia. Sharing a brief video on social media of his meeting with the squad soon after the final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium. Even the Indian public was also kind to them and people showered their love on players.



Volume No. 16 | Issue No. 86

Afternoon
VOICE

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

VIEWES & VISION OF CITY

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

Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

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

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Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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Diary



Heart Breaks - Head Rolls



- C.K. Subramaniam

It was indeed total annihilation and heart break for Team India as their ten match streak came to an end and the World Cup slipped out of our hands. The stadium was raining blue but in the end, it was reined by the yellow brigade as the fortune favours the brave proved right. There was no excuse for the push and prod play in a match of high octane level by a team invincible. We somehow won 9 in a row and qualified for the semifinal stage of the championship and there was lightning struck on the much fancied side. The Indian bowlers failed to wag the magic wand and the batsmen perished in equal intervals.

Both Head and Labuschagne played to a plan, build a partnership and hit a purple patch to dethrone the home challenge. They put up a brave front and made a match of it whereas the Indian team lost in the wilderness once power hitting started. Our spin combination failed miserably at a crucial time and it was a cakewalk thereafter. India surrendered to Australian dominance. And for the Indian fans it was heartbreak as they left the stadium. Hype hoopla and hysteria all over in end as Australia ran home victorious.

The 29-year-old Head, who also claimed a game-changing catch, smacked 15 boundaries and four sixes during his heroic

knock, becoming the seventh cricketer and third Australian to score a century in a World Cup final. Australia are World Cup champions once again, defeating India by six wickets in front of 92,453 fans at Narendra Modi Stadium to lift the coveted trophy for a sixth time.

Travis Head, named player of the match, pummelled India's world-class bowlers throughout the run chase, scoring a masterful 137 (120) to help Australia chase the 241-run target with 42 balls to spare. Head, who missed the first half of the tournament with a wrist injury, combined with Marnus Labuschagne (58* from 110 balls) for an epic 192-run stand, the second-highest partnership in World Cup finals, to rescue Australia after an early collapse of 3-31 during the Powerplay. The Australians fielded superbly in the first innings and judged the conditions to perfect, bravely choosing to bowl first and executing an assortment of slower balls and off-cutters to tame India's rattled middle order.

Belief and focus ingrained as habit is a key part of the Australian winning mindset. Great organized work by the team, captain, Head coach and support coaches. India too were brilliant all the way through and were well led by Rohit but there can be only one winner on the day.

Letters to the Editor

'Atithi Devo Bhava' goes for a toss!

Winning & losing is part and parcel of the game but it was unsporting on part of the partisan Ahmedabad crowd to boo not just the Australian side after their brilliant win but also the Umpires when they were invited to collect their mementos. Crowds went silent when Travis Head reached his hundred when they should have actually applauded his milestone. Finals of major tournaments should be held at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata or the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai where there are not just top facilities but also a knowledgeable crowd to cheer both teams.

PM Modi left in a rush after presenting the trophy to Pat Cummins when he should have actually stayed on the podium for a photo opportunity to the winning Aussie side. It may not have been intentional but the organizers including both the ICC & BCCI should have requested the Prime Minister to spend a couple of more minutes at the podium.

S.N.Kabra

Citizen matters for pollution control

Air pollution is a major destruction for health. A good step taken by the Supreme Court on November 7 banned firecrackers across India, especially those made with barium and banned chemicals. This was a major effort by a proactive judiciary to reduce air pollution and protect the environment. However, Reckless citizens who continue to burst firecrackers in violation of the rules are not only a risk to themselves but also to their families and their neighbours. Rising air pollution is harmful to all of us as a community. It's up to us as vigilant citizens to ensure that everyone works in tandem, to keep the air quality good, and to keep air and noise pollution under control so that the air we breathe is safe for everyone.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Security systems must be sturdy!

When the final cricket match between India vs Australia in the World Cup series was going on, a spectator suddenly entered the ground. This spectator had a flag in his hand of Palestine. He went up to the batsman Virat Kohli and placed his hand on his shoulder. This exposed the negligence of the security system there. World Cup matches are telecasted globally. So, the security system should also be sturdy

enough for this.

Sudhir Kangutkar

Reopening of Delhi Schools on November 20

The proposed reopening of schools in Delhi on November 20, following the end of the winter break. As the official statement is awaited, there are various considerations that need attention and clarity. While the resumption of in-person classes is a positive step towards normalcy, ensuring the safety and well-being of students, teachers, and staff should remain the top priority. It's imperative that comprehensive guidelines, considering the ongoing COVID-19 situation, are communicated clearly and effectively to all stakeholders.

With the uncertainty surrounding new variants and the need for continued vigilance, the protocols in place, such as adequate ventilation, sanitation measures, mask mandates, and vaccination drives, should be robustly enforced within school premises. Additionally, contingency plans for any potential resurgence of the virus need to be well-defined to prevent disruptions in education. The mental health and emotional resilience of students, who have endured prolonged periods of remote learning, should also be addressed. Providing adequate support systems within schools to help students

readjust to the physical classroom environment will be crucial.

Maimul Safui

What lesson we can learn in current war?

What lessons we can learn in irregular warfare tactics from Hamas's attack on Israel? The first lesson is that high tech weapons or tools do not guarantee victory, and even today low tech and unconventional methods can't be ignored. The tactics used by Hamas were not new but their coordination and combination were very lethal, which is the second lesson, to watch out for the evolution of these old tactics. The lesson is that, if the irregular enemy can't win in a direct attack, then it definitely learns to overwhelm the capabilities of its target, like overwhelming Hamas's Iron Dome with 5,000 rockets. The last lesson is to develop nonmilitary strategies which is especially important in case of irregular warfare, information operation and economic tactics are used.

Md Mofidul Ali

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

City

Civic body slapped a Rs 10,000 fine on a man for dumping trash at Gateway



The Mumbai civic body on Tuesday slapped a Rs 10,000 fine on a man for dumping trash in the sea near Gateway of India while the police registered a case against him and another person following an outrage caused by a video of the incident which has gone viral. The video clip shows two men emptying gunny bags containing trash- mainly flowers- in the Arabian Sea near the iconic structure

in south Mumbai.

Based on the video clip, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Mumbai police launched a search for the man. He was traced and identified after tracking the taxi in which he had reached the Gateway of India, according to a release issued by the civic body.

After tracing him, officials of the Solid Waste Management Department slapped a Rs 10,000

penalty. The action was taken by A ward official, it said. The garbage dumping video led to a huge outrage on social media with several distinguished individuals, public representatives, and others expressing anger and demanding action. "It hurts just to see this. No amount of improvement in physical infrastructure can improve the city's quality of life if the civic attitude isn't transformed," industrialist Anand Mahindra said on X while posting a video clip and tagging it to the Mumbai Police and the city civic chief. A police official said a case was registered against two persons, including a 62-year-old former taxi driver, under section 3 (2) (d) of the Maharashtra Prevention of Defacement of Property Act. The former cabbie was detained. He was allowed to go after a notice was issued to him, the official added. PTI

Yellow Gate police have arrested six people for allegedly attempting to smuggle diesel



The Yellow Gate police have arrested six people, including sailors, for allegedly attempting to smuggle diesel in a boat via the Arabian Sea, near Sewri jetty in Mumbai, officials said on Monday. The Mumbai police found 19,500 litres of diesel, which has a market value of Rs 18 lakh.

"The matter was first reported by the coastal guard officers who, on the night of November

15, noticed an unknown boat on the Arabian Sea," Mumbai Police said.

The coastal guard officers immediately alerted the police, who shortly reached the spot and took over the investigation. The boat that they used to smuggle, which is valued at up to Rs 3 lakh and the other items found inside the boat have been seized by the police. Further investigation is underway. ANI

India's longest sea bridge Mumbai Trans Harbour Link to be thrown open on December 25 says BJP

The Maharashtra State BJP on Monday put out a video claiming that the state government will throw open the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link which is India's longest sea bridge, for public use on December 25.

The 1.17-minute-long video terms the project as a dream project of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. "The touch of "Vikas Dev" is turning Mumbai into a city of gold," the video states.



Incidentally the Maharashtra Government has not yet declared

when the project will be officially opened.

Rajasthan men posing as Unani docs held for duping people of lakhs of rupees, promising cure

Mumbai police crime branch arrested four persons from Rajasthan who posed as high profile Unani Ayurvedic doctors and took lakhs of rupees from patients on the pretext of curing them by sucking impure blood from them.

In one case, a Wadala-based senior citizen paid Rs 14.5 lakh to cure the tremors he felt in his hands only to realise he had been duped. So far, police have found that the accused from Kota in Rajasthan have duped at least seven more persons, all senior citizens suffering from various health ailments.

Kurla murder case: Police arrested one person

Mumbai Police arrested a person in a murder case of a woman whose body was found in a suitcase in the Kurla area. Mumbai Crime Unit 5 arrested a suspect in this case. The woman has been identified and is a resident of the Dharavi area.

Earlier, a woman's body was found in a suitcase in Kurla in central Mumbai, the police said on Sunday. According to the Mumbai Police, the discovery of the body was made after the

police were informed around 12.30 pm about a suitcase lying abandoned. "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, an official said.

The police reached the spot and found a woman's body inside the suitcase, the official said. The body was sent to a civic hospital for autopsy, police said, adding that the woman's identity is yet

to be established. "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. Moreover, police are also examining footage of CCTV cameras installed in the area. The case has been registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Section 302 (murder) and a search is on to track those who killed her, police added. More information is awaited. ANI



Gurukul students in Mumbai were seen offering prayers through their painting for 41 workers who are trapped at Silkyara tunnel due to sudden collapse in Uttarakhand while they were working.

Pic Credits: Sagar Kamblia

Nation

Tamil Nadu: Five Sri Lankan fishermen held for entering Indian waters illegally



here are on constant vigil to prevent these incidents. In October last week, the Indian Coast Guard and Customs Department officers jointly arrested eight Sri Lankan fishermen with five boats and four Indians for smuggling sea cucumbers and edible turmeric off the coast of Rameswaram.

The Indian Coast Guard arrested four fishing boats from Sri Lanka and eight fishermen for fishing across the border while smuggling 600 kg of edible turmeric and 250 kg of processed sea cucumber to Puttalam in Sri Lanka. "In an operation along the international border, the Indian Coast Guard and Customs Department officers jointly arrested four people from Mandapam who smuggled sea cards and edible turmeric to Sri Lanka," the Indian Coast Guard tweeted, informing the operation. ANI

The Indian Coast Guard apprehended five Sri Lankan fishermen on Tuesday for illegally entering Indian waters off the coast of Rameswaram, said the officials. The Indian Coast Guard handed over the fishermen, who crossed the border into Indian waters near the 5th sandbar in the Adam Bridge sandbar near Arichalmunai, Dhannushkodi in the Rameswaram

island region, to Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group Police for further legal action.

The Coastal Security Group Police are investigating whether they entered the Indian waters only for fishing or to transport any contraband to India, said officials. There have been incidents of smuggling via sea from Sri Lanka to India and vice versa and Coast Guard personnel posted

Uttar Pradesh: Chief food information officer of Gorakhpur conducts raid, imposes ban on Halal-certified food



Close on the heels of the Yogi Adityanath government imposing a ban on Halal-certified food items in the state, the chief food information officer of Gorakhpur conducted a raid at City Mall and AD Mall on Tuesday. While the team carried out raids at 7 to 8 places in the city, no Halal-certified food items were found anywhere, according to officials.

Speaking to reporters, Chief Food Information Officer Hitendra Mohan Tripathi said, "Apart from the FSI logo on fertilizers and beverages, we received a tip-off about some Halal-certified

food items, the sale of which has been banned by the state government, entering the market. As part of the crackdown, we are checking food stores and other places. Any Halal-certified food items that we find will be banned from sale."

He informed that raids were conducted at seven to eight places but no food items with Halal certification were found. Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak told reporters, "Our government has a zero-tolerance policy against crime and corruption and we will have a similar approach in this matter as well." ANI

Silkyara tunnel collapse incident: Officials successfully developed communication with the trapped workers

The workers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel at Uttarkashi received some amount of relief as some of the workers spoke to their relatives for the first time after being stuck in the tunnel for 10 days. In a major breakthrough in the ongoing Silkyara tunnel collapse rescue team officials successfully developed communication with the trapped workers through the 6-inch pipeline on Tuesday morning.

One of the trapped workers,

Jaidev, while speaking to the supervisor at the tunnel collapse site, said in Bangla, "Please record, I will tell something to my maa. Maa, tension koroni aami thik achi. Time a kheyne nebe. Babakeo time a kheyne nite bolbe (Mother, do not worry about me, I am fine. Please you and father eat your meals on time)." The supervisor could be heard asking those trapped inside the tunnel to not worry and that they would be evacuated soon. The supervi-

sor asked the worker whether he wanted to tell anything to his parents as the voice recording would be relayed to his parent's back home.

Some of the other trapped workers also established contact with their relatives, and despite being trapped in the tunnel for 10 days now, they displayed an unexceptional level of patience and courage as they asked their relatives to not worry about them. ANI

SC slams Delhi government for a breach of undertaking given for providing funds for RRTS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday slammed the Delhi government for a breach of undertaking given to it to provide funds for the Regional Rapid Transport System (RRTS) project and directed it to transfer the funds meant for advertising to the project. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia however put the order in abeyance for

a week and said that the order would come into force if the Delhi government did not provide the required funds for the project.

While hearing an application filed by NCRTC against not releasing the funds for the project despite the court's order, the bench pulled up Delhi's AAP government and warned it of attaching its advertisement budget.

"Why you (Delhi government) have not complied with (court's) order? We will stay your (Delhi government's) advertising budget. We will attach it and take it here," said Justice Kaul said. Expressing disappointment with the stand of the Delhi government, the apex court observed that there was a "gross breach" of the assurances given by the Delhi government. ANI

Delhi Air Pollution: Environment Minister Gopal Rai says, "People need to be alert"

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday said that he expects an improvement in air quality in the upcoming days in the national capital and said that people need to be alert to curb air pollution. "An improvement can be seen in the pollution level in Delhi, which was in the 'Severe' category before. Further improvement will be seen in it in the coming days. As per the predictions of the weather department, there is no possibility of going into the 'Severe' category. But people need to be alert to curb air pollution. The government is keeping watch over everything," Gopal Rai said. "The Punjab government has controlled stubble burning by more than 50 per cent as compared to last year," the Min-

ister added.

Earlier, Rai said that a 6-member special task force has been formed, under the leadership of the Environment Special Secretary for proper implementation and monitoring of GRAP rules. "The task force includes the Special Commissioner of Transport, DCP (HQ) Traffic Police, Deputy Commissioner, Revenue (HQ), Chief Engineers of MCD and PWD. The main work of this task force will be to coordinate daily with the concerned departments, remove the problems faced by them and give the implementation report to the government," he said after a review meeting at the Delhi Secretariat with the concerned officers to ensure strict compliance with GRAP-IV rules in the city. ANI

World

Over 200 mobsters have been sentenced to a total of 2,200 years in prison



Over 200 crime gang members have been sentenced to a total of 2,200 years in prison by an Italian court, following the country's largest mafia trial in three decades, CNN reported. The trial began in January 2021 taking place in a purpose-built bunker in the southern Italian town of Lamezia Terme

among safety concerns.

The 338 defendants accused were represented by more than 400 lawyers, whilst the case in total had some 900 witnesses providing testimony. A panel of three judges deliberating the fate of the accused delivered their verdict Monday 20, after over a month- with the trial ending on

October 16. The three judges had been living under police protection during the trial, which lasted two years and 10 months, CNN reports. It took the court one hour and 40 minutes to hand down its rulings, Italian news outlet Ansa reported.

Some 207 mobsters were jailed and more than 100 were acquitted. The total jail time includes five life sentences and three 30-year sentences, CNN has reported. 42 women were tried during the case, a record for a mafia trial, with 39 of them being convicted. Many of the defendants had colourful nicknames - including "The Wolf," "Fatso," "Sweetie" and "Lamb Thigh" - that were caught on some 24,000 wiretaps, according to the testimonies presented during the trial. ANI

Vaccine regulators officials meet to strategize integration of COVID-19 vaccines



To integrate pandemic vaccines in national immunisation programme in countries of the WHO South-East Asia Region, vaccine regulators, and officials from WHO began deliberating strategies to enable member countries to transition from the use of COVID-19 vaccines under Emergency Use Authorization to a regular marketing authorization. "Even though the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic is over, the virus is still circulating. We need to make sure people continue to stay protected from existing and future variants. For this, it is crucial that regulatory authorities of Member States are better equipped to take con-

sidered decisions to grant long-term authorization to COVID-19 vaccines and introduce them in national immunisation programmes as per requirements," said Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh at the start of the three-day meeting.

Following unprecedented global collaboration and efforts to combat COVID-19, multiple vaccine products were developed. To facilitate their availability and use during the health emergency, most national regulatory agencies established Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for COVID-19 vaccines based on the Emergency Use Listing (EUL) by WHO. ANI

Ukraine: President Volodymyr Zelensky has refused to accept any notion of entering peace negotiations in Russia

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has repudiated any notion of entering peace negotiations with Moscow, despite an increasingly deteriorating Ukrainian force on the combat line of engagement, TASS reported. In Zelensky's opinion, Russia is not ready to halt combat, "therefore, we [Ukraine] are not speaking about peace at any price."

"Is it difficult on the battlefield? Yes. But making friends or entering diplomatic table now with Russia? No!", TASS reported citing The Sun newspaper. On November 4 there were reports coming out of Ukraine that US and European Union officials were discussing with



Ukraine about possible peace talks with Russia and what Kyiv might have to give up for a compromise. Nevertheless, Zelensky denied these claims, expressing his "irritation" at media reports about the pressure to negotiate

with Russia, saying he had "no idea" where those claims came from, reported TASS. "Time has passed, people are tired...But this is not a stalemate," Zelensky said at a news conference on November 4 in Kyiv. ANI

Nepal receives the fourth tranche of emergency aid from India

Three weeks after back-to-back earthquakes rattled the remote western mountain region killing over 150 persons, Nepal on Tuesday received the fourth tranche of emergency medical aid and equipment for the quake-affected families. As part of

the continued "humanitarian efforts" as first responder to support people of the Himalayan nation in their times of need, India has regularly sent aid to Nepal since the 6.4-magnitude earthquake on November 3 that jolted Jajarkot and Rukum districts killing 153 peo-

ple and injuring over 260 others. The November 3 quake caused the worst human and infrastructure losses since the devastating jolt of April 2015. On November 7, three tremors of over magnitude 4 hit Jajarkot injuring at least 16 people. PTI

Israel has announced to ban the terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba, calls it 'deadly'

Amid the 15th year of commemoration of the Mumbai terror attacks, Israel has announced to ban the terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba to symbolise the occasion and called it a 'deadly' and 'reprehensible' terror organisation on Tuesday. The action has been taken without any request by the government of India. The state of Israel has formally completed all necessary procedures and satisfied all required checks and regulations as a result of introducing Lashkar-e-Taiba into the Israeli list of illegal terror organisations, the Israel Embassy in India said in an official press statement.

Highlighting that Israel only lists terror organisations that are actively operating against it form within or around its borders, or in

a similar manner to India - those globally recognised by UNSC or the US state department, said, "Israel ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs have jointly worked in last few months towards an expedited and extraordinary listing of the Lashkar -e- Taiba organization on this date, to highlight the importance of a Unified Global Front in combating terrorism." The release affirmed that the terror organisation is responsible for murder of hundreds of Indian civilians as well as others. It noted, "Lashkar -e- Taiba is a deadly and reprehensible terror organization, responsible for the murder of hundreds of Indian civilians as well as others. Its heinous actions on November 26, 2008 still reverberate in force, through all peace seeking nations and societies." ANI

Expression

Science Journalism and Mass Media in India: II



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational
Columnist Malout Punjab

REPORTING ON LOCAL ISSUES OF SCIENTIFIC IMPORTANCE

Often, local scientific/ technological issues do not find a place in mass media at state or national levels. It is worth noting that there has been considerable success in addressing local issues/ problems/ technologies through local/ regional level science journalism, which could even help in adopting/ transferring traditional technologies/ processes prevalent in one part of the country to other parts. A few examples are noteworthy. In a workshop on science writing/ journalism at Rampur, U.P., a group of participants discovered during the course of preparation of their story as an exercise of on the spot reporting that untreated effluents from Kashipur and nearby industries were being discharged in the Kosi river. Animals died as a result of drinking the polluted water of the river. Even trees and plants did not survive.

Moreover, the ingress of polluted river water in the wells of the nearby 60 villages rendered the water undrinkable. This group of reporters made a thorough investigation of this problem during the course of the workshop. Specimens of polluted water were collected and analysed. When the reports appeared in media, the authorities were alarmed and forced to take a number of steps at different levels to solve the problem. This is how such local level science journalists can help bring to the fore the local issues/ problems and help address/ solve the same.

Here is yet another example. During the course of a workshop in Himachal Pradesh, a group of writers/ journalists came across a traditional technique for storage of water (Khatriyan in the local language). Often, tanks for storing rainwater are constructed under the houses, sometimes in an open area. Rainwater collected from the roofs of the houses is collected through pipes in these tanks. In case it snows in the area, after the snowfall, the water gets collected when the snow melts. This stored water is used for doing a variety of jobs for the whole year. This technique was

being used in the past in some other parts of the country as well and it still could be used. Surely, such traditional technologies existed/ are existing in different parts of the country. As a matter of fact, indigenous techniques/ technologies were develop/ are developed depending on need arising from time to time, or were modified/ improved upon for better efficiency and utility. The practitioners in science journalism could report on these aspects as well.

INVESTIGATIVE SCIENCE JOURNALISM

The scientific writing in our country today is chiefly limited to describing various aspects of a particular topic, either in a descriptive manner or in praise of it. A large number of our science writers and scientific journals are from the public sector and hence it is difficult to expect them to be analytical or self-critical. Further most of the R&D in our country is being carried out in government laboratories and there is hardly any means for the common people to know what scientists are doing. To bring public awareness in our country in the field of research, there is a need for investigative journalism in this field. Whatever is happening in this field, good or bad, proper or improper must be brought before the people, only then science journalism in our country would flourish in its complete form.

Science journalism in India is nearly devoid of any investigative journalism. This form of journalism is attractive in its own way and retains readers' interest in the article to read further. Normally, a journalist publishes an article after a thorough investigation on political, social, or an economic issue. This aspect, however, is largely absent in the case of scientific topics. Perhaps, scientific issues are considered as being free of any human weaknesses, or not important enough to deserve investigative reporting!

The various forms of science journalism become clear only when aspects like proper or improper uses of science and technology and good or bad impact of the same on society are brought to the fore. Science reporting then will develop into a form of an alert guard and adviser, say, the case of introduction of new technology, genetically modified food, CNG fuel, and so on. This could become possible only when an enthusiastic science journalist/ reporter takes



science journalism as a profession. Such reporters could visit a scientific laboratory and interact with scientists in order to know the current scientific research and developmental work going on and bring it to the people. It is necessary to realize that investigative journalism does not imply investigation of any irregularity alone in a laboratory/ organization, but bringing to the people those useful technologies also still not known far and wide.

SCIENCE JOURNALISM AND SCIENTIFIC LITERACY

Scientific literacy is necessary for the economic and healthy well being of the social fabric and every person, and for the exercise of participatory democracy. It also implies the ability to respond to the technical issues that pervade and influence our daily lives. It does not mean detailed knowledge of scientific principles, phenomena or technologies, however, it rather points out to the comprehension of what might be called the scientific approach, or the scientific way of conduct or the method of science. Science journalism keeps people aware about the latest in the field of research and development and helps them lead a life with better knowledge and understanding of newer advancements. The last two decades have been characterized by the rapid development of new scientific and technological advancements across a wide range of fields. Access to these advancements is distributed unevenly within the country. Even people in far-flung areas often lack access to not only traditional but also modern scientific knowledge. Effective localized science journalism can help enhance public awareness about science and technology confronting their day-to-day lives.

CREATING THE CREATORS

In order to develop trained manpower in the area of science journalism/ writing/ communication, training/ educational programmes are being offered at various levels in our country: i) Short term courses, which are of 3 to 7 day's duration; the participants are science activists and enthusiasts, whether students of science at higher level or not; ii) Medium term courses, which are of two to four month's duration; usually for those who wants to improve their science communication skills; and iii) Long term courses, which are of 1 to 2 year's duration; run at different universities/institutions and offer post graduate degrees or diplomas in science communication. Besides, a correspondence course in science journalism of one-year duration is also available.

As part of short-term courses, 3-5 days' training-cum-orientation workshops of local/ regional writers, journalists, illustrators are organized and they are exposed to various techniques of science writing, reporting, and illustrations. The idea behind this programme is to develop grass root science writers/ journalists who can eventually write on local issues of scientific importance with the help of locally available resources/ experts for the local/ regional level mass media. This is our way to enhancing science coverage in local/ regional press. Some 200 such workshops have been organized so far and our target is to have similar programmes at all the 500 districts. Through the implementation of this idea, a number of skilled science writers and journalists are coming to the fore from different regional languages. At some places, these grass root science writers have formed Regional Science Writers' Associations as chapters of the Indian Science Writers' Association (ISWA). **to be Contd....**

Entertainment

Star Nicolas Hoult is all set to play a key role in Superman: Legacy

"The Great" star Nicolas Hoult will reportedly essay the role of Superman's arch nemesis in Superman: Legacy, to be directed by James Gunn. If the deal is signed, Hoult will join previously announced cast members David Corenswet and Rachel Brosnahan set to play Superman/ Clark Kent and Lois Lane, respectively, in the reboot based on the popular DC character. According to entertainment website Variety, Hoult was one of the actors who was reportedly in the running for the titular role. Gunn also confirmed that Maria Gabriela de Faria was recently cast as another villain, the Engineer, following the end of the actors strike. Also part of the Superman: Legacy cast are Nathan Fillion (Green Lantern), Isabela Merced (Hawkgirl), Edi Gathegi (Mister Terrific), and Anthony Carrigan (Metamorpho). The film is scheduled to be released on July 11, 2025. **PTI**



Shefali Shah loses best actress award

Actor Shefali Shah on Monday (local time) lost out the Best Performance by an Actress award to Karla Souza. Karla bagged the award for her performance in the 'La Caida [Dive]'. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), International Emmy Awards shared a post and wrote, "The International Emmy for Best Performance by an Actress goes to "Karla Souza in La Caida [Dive]" produced by Madam / Filmadora / Infinity Hill / Amazon." **ANI**

Sara Ali Khan talks about "Ae Watan Mere Watan" and its impact on today's generation



Actor Sara Ali Khan on Tuesday said her upcoming movie "Ae Watan Mere Watan" is a timeless story of India's freedom struggle that has the ability to inspire the current generation. Directed by Kannan Iyer, the period drama is backed by Dharmatic Entertainment Production, and produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta and Somen Mishra. The makers presented an exclusive showcase of the thriller drama film, inspired by true events, at the ongoing 54th edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) **PTI**

Sonam Kapoor talks about her inspiration into fashion



Actor Sonam Kapoor who never fails to impress fans with her sartorial choices and impeccable sense of styling has credited her mother Sunita Kapoor for instilling in her an inherent sense of style and fashion. She says it was Sunita Kapoor who encouraged her passion for style which has led her to become the fashion icon that she is today. "You know, being born in the film industry, you are so used to seeing beautiful people in and out of your house, and I feel films have such a big hand in dictating trends, especially in a country like India. I feel that was one of the reasons that I got so much into film and fashion," Sonam said. **ANI**



Bengali actor Tota Roy Choudhury opens up about being a fan of Neeraj Pandey

Acclaimed Bengali actor Tota Roy Choudhury says he has been a fan of Neeraj Pandey since "A Wednesday" and working with the director on the second season of "Special Ops" has been an honour. Pandey recently wrapped the Georgia schedule of the upcoming season of his blockbuster thriller series "Special Ops". Choudhury, who received great reviews for his performance in Karan Johar's "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani", shared a photograph from the sets of the Disney+ Hotstar show on X. **PTI**