



Electric water taxis in Mumbai for daily commuters

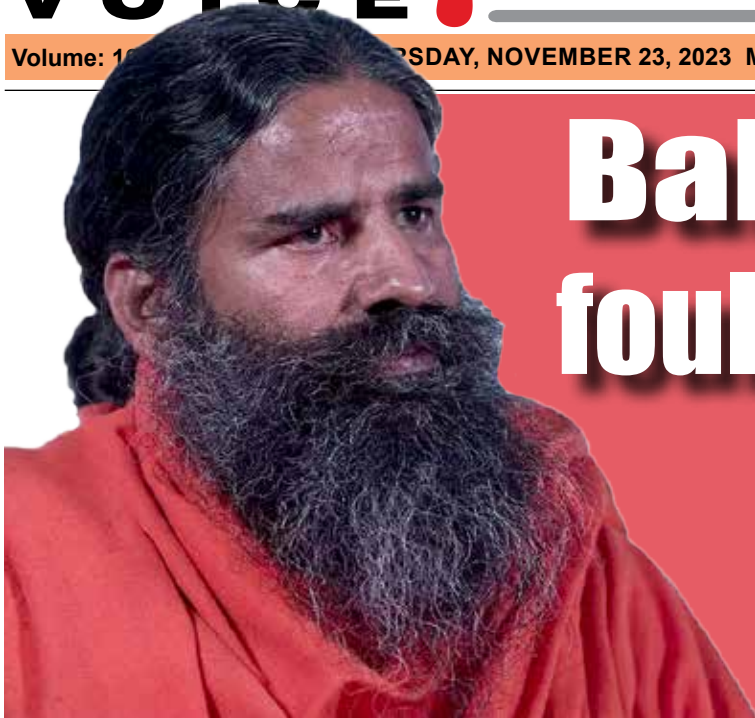
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# Afternoon VOICE

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

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## Baba Ramdev cries foul stating propaganda by doctors to SC's warning

AV Team

After the Supreme court's warning Baba Ramdev, addressed a press conference to slam doctors. He said that a propaganda was being carried against Ayurveda and that he and his associates were ready to even "face death penalty" but would still keep exposing the "propaganda by a group of doctors" against Ayurveda. Ramdev successfully deviated the topic by playing sympathy card. His remarks came a day after the SC came down heavily on Patanjali Ayurveda over false advertising.

Speaking to the press, Ramdev said that though Allopathy might be powerful and have more hospitals and resources as well as a vocal lobby, he added that Ayurveda had a rich legacy and vowed to keep on fighting those spreading lies against Ayurveda. Ramdev further said that he and his company respect the Su-

preme Court, but added that action should be taken against those indulging in spreading lies about Ayurveda.

"If we are liars, fine us Rs 1,000 crore, and we also don't mind facing the death penalty. But if we are not liars, then punish the ones who are spreading false propaganda. For the past 5 years, Ramdev and Patanjali have been targeted," said Baba Ramdev in his comments in the PC, alleging that he was being targeted by "multinational companies" who fear that Patanjali is eating into their revenues. The Supreme Court's comments

The apex court on Tuesday (November 21) had issued a warning to the Patanjali company and said that the Ayurveda company should refrain from claiming that it has cure for diseases with no remedy. The court also said that a penalty of Rs 1 crore would be slapped for every claim if the practice is not stopped. The petition was filed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA).

The Supreme Court Tuesday cautioned Patanjali Ayurved, a company co-founded by yoga guru Ramdev and dealing in herbal products, against making "false" and "misleading" claims in advertisements about its medicines as cure of several diseases.

"All such false and misleading advertisements of Patanjali Ayurved have to stop immediately. The court will take any such infraction very seriously...", a bench comprising justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra orally observed while hearing a plea of the Indian Medical Association (IMA).

The top court, on August 23, 2022, had issued notices to the Union health ministry and Ministry of Ayush and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, on the plea of the IMA alleging a smear campaign by Ramdev against the vaccination drive and modern medicines. During the brief hearing, the bench asked Patanjali Ayurved not to

publish misleading claims and advertisements against modern systems of medicine. The top court, while issuing notices on the plea, had come down heavily on Ramdev for criticising allopathy and allopathic practitioners, saying he needed to be restrained from abusing the doctors and other systems of treatment.

IMA had referred to several advertisements which allegedly projected the allopath and the doctors in poor light, saying that "disparaging" statements have also been made by firms, engaged in the production of ayurvedic medicines, to mislead the general public. These commercials say that the medical practitioners themselves are dying despite taking modern medicines, the counsel for the IMA had said. IMA had said that a concerted effort was being made to discourage the vaccinations, including the COVID-19 jab drive, and the use of allopathic medicines in the country.

## Varanasi- a small ancient city became the epicenter of politics; it is a major change

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

The government should be praised where credit is due. While on one hand, they are playing Hindutva card in order to attract the votes of people who consider their religion more important than public welfare but at the same time, what the BJP government is doing in Varanasi, even just for the sake of getting votes in the UP election is still a commendable job. Not the entire Varanasi is modified and changed. Still, it's the same, garbage piles, clogged streets, encroachments and above all too much commercialization. Temple complexes are still unclean. You will find stray dogs and cows roaming within the temple complexes, dirt accumulating here and there, water running down from an un-

known source. While Modi hasn't turned Varanasi into Kyoto or even Gujarat yet, there is no denying that things have changed here, though not by the magnitude the outsiders may expect.

Varanasi (Kashi) is the most ancient City in the world and one of the Holy places for Hindus because of the Kashi Vishwanath temple and the Holy River Ganga, according to the Hindu Mythological beliefs if you take bath in Ganga then you will be pure. People take the water of Ganga to their homes for the purification of the place where they live.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

*The National Waterway developed under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) will generate around 1.55 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities, thereby impacting the rural economy positively.*

*Modalities of ferry services, small jetties and vessels are being worked out to facilitate the movement of smaller cargo like agricultural produce like bananas, marigold flowers, betel leaf, and vegetables.*

*Inland waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is working with State Livelihood Missions for imparting skill training to youth, boatmen and other community members so that they could benefit from the employment opportunities.*

# Varanasi- a small ancient city became the epicenter of politics; it is a major change

▶▶ PAGE 1

Today after so many development activities completed & so many in its last stage of completion & many new projects also launched & on the ground lots of changes can be noticed, still Ganges is much cleaner than before. Modi Launched the program Namami Ganga for the purification of the Ganga water. In fact he made one separate Ministry for Ganga and then the in charge of that ministry was Uma Bharti but after the three years when Modi realized that the work is not up to the mark then he transferred that department to Nitin Gadkari, and some progress could be seen.

The National Waterway developed under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) will generate around 1.55 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities, thereby impacting the rural economy positively. As part of NW-1 project, the Multi Modal Terminal (MMT) has been constructed on River Ganga in Varanasi. The project is expected to create 55,000 employment opportunities in UP and 50,000 each in Bihar and Jharkhand, he added. Also, it will benefit local communities and farmers along the banks of the Ganga.

Modalities of ferry services, small jetties and vessels are being worked out to facilitate the movement of smaller cargo like agricultural produce like bananas, marigold flowers, betel leaf, and vegetables. Inland waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is working with State Livelihood Missions for imparting skill training to youth, boatmen and other community members so that they could benefit from the employment opportunities.

From the ghats to railway stations, public places are becoming more bearable and cleaner now. Thanks to the Swacch Bharat Abhiyan, certain places of Varanasi like BHU and Assi Ghat are being paid attention, and are much cleaner. Though this needs to spread over the whole town, and this is the responsibility of the municipality.

Upcoming elections forced to pull the socks; BJP is trying it level best to deliver something so that they can talk about hardcore development. Old rulers of state, BSP and SP keeping no stone unturned, Congress trying its hand and Pritanka Gandhi successfully revived Congress's fate in

Uttar Pradesh. AAP is not very active this time, thousands of Volunteers of BJP and Congress working for their respective leaders in state, online promotions, social network campaigns, news, word publicity, everything is random for both the ministers. Without a strong performance in this belt, the BJP will not be able to come anywhere near the 272-seat target it has set, and it feels that Modi attending some rallies induce some kind of a swing. BJP policymakers feel that with the western UP already polarized, they need one more boost for eastern UP, so as to bag the entire state. For Yogi people have mixed reactions, e is most hated by some and loved by few.

Uttar Pradesh is a very important state for BJP, BSP and SP. But since there is division of votes it is possible for an individual to get elected to the Parliament (or to the Legislative assembly) with just about 22 to 30 per cent of total votes cast. This is a regular but unwelcome aspect of elections in caste-ridden states, particularly in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier the Congress was benefiting from division of votes. Now BJP may be a beneficiary. But there is still uncertainty.

Meanwhile, good roads, 24 hrs. electricity, many new road projects like ring road, airport to junction railway station road etc., all roads in city have lights now, underground wiring, incinerator and ghat cleaning, many trains from Varanasi to different places of India, trade facilitation center, many colonies now got interlocking brick roads, sewer connection to every house. These are the things which can fetch fortune for BJP. But demolished temples and traditional houses of people may dent Yogi's votes. Above all Brahmin Voters are not happy with BJP and whichever side they go, that party wins. BJP has done some development in Kashi but otherwise, irresponsible leaders of the party never established any communication with people. They never visited their constituency, Yogi failed at various levels. Lets see how BJP regains power in 2022.

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Editor

**Dr. Vaidehi**

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

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

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Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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## Worrying factor about water

Their name is life and water is part and parcel of our life. Three fourths of earth's surface is covered by water and only one fourth is land mass as per geographical survey. Most people know it and it is time to keep an eye on the water position available at our disposal. What many of us do not know is that 97.5% of the water available on earth is salt water and unworthy of drinking and bathing. Only 2.5% of earth's water is sweet water of which roughly 68% is held as ice in the Arctic and Antarctic region. Of the remaining 32% of 2.5% most quantities are stored underground and in various kinds of organic and inorganic matters. It is only a minuscule part, precisely 0.26% of the entire water of the world which is in all the rivers, lakes, ponds and other water bodies which are the only sources of sweet surface water available to living beings and the need to preserve and protect it is of paramount importance. So preserving water and not polluting it is of paramount importance and each and every one of us in a thickly populated country like India should realize this and control usage of water to the optimum level.

It is reliably learnt that levels of live water storage across drought hit Maharashtra are at 7.7%, the lowest in the decade for this time of the year and that is alarming. In Marathwada, it is down to 0.7%. Add to the water shortage, a severe heatwave continued to sweep India's northern plains as 10 places in the region figured on the list of 15 hottest places in the world. Rajasthan's Churu and Sri Ganganagar, where the mercury shot up to 48.9 and 48.6 degree Celsius, were the hottest places in the world followed by Jacobabad (48 degree Celsius) in Pakistan, according to El Dorado Weather website. Uttar Pradesh's Banda (47.4 degree Celsius) and Narnaul (47.2 degree Celsius) in Haryana also featured on the list. The water level will come down drastically in these areas following the heatwave.

In a reality check we observe on World Water Day that the source of ground water is drying up in this country and the alarming worry about water levels continues. Many of the proposed smart cities in India lack basic infrastructure and the decision to include them is defeated with the drawbacks particularly lack of drinking water and usable water. Thus we are in troubled water and India's largest state UP tops the list. Wells and borewells serve the purpose when there is water shortage.

As water levels go down considerably we should plan for Rain Water Harvesting as in Tamil Nadu and other neighbouring states. All through our childhood and growing up years, whenever we had an opportunity to play in water or leave the tap open with water flowing down the drains, as elders always used to reprimand us for stating that with every drop of water, wasted it was money that was getting wasted. Never we did realise the consequences or the connection between water and money, but now with the sorts of situation that we are

heading towards and placed on the brink of a catastrophe and buying water with ground water drying up, remember the golden words. It is time for retrospection at this crucial juncture as the water shortage threat throughout the world is catching up thick and fast.

We believe, in India we have not taken the issue of water as a top priority. Still there is no proper and concrete guidelines to restrict the malpractices of misutilisation of water. There is no segregation of water in India. Drinking water is used for washing clothes, gardening, cleaning cars, roads and the most important usage is huge and bulk by the housing sector. No policy for industrial water and the wastage continued in every field without anybody bothering about water. The worrying factor about water is the main concern all over the world and India with the highest population may find the way tough.

There is no policy of restricting the usage of drinking water for multi-purpose requirements. It is a matter of great regret that we pay water tax and impure water is supplied at doorstep which is then purified by various process to obtain drinkable water. Despite the fact that water is supplied by Government Agencies, we talk big and hardly believe in doing minimum. Adjust your daily habits to save litres of clean fresh water every day.

While brushing your teeth, use a glass of water instead of a running tap for wetting the brush and rinsing. A running tap can waste about 16 litres of water each minute. When taking a bath shower instead of a bath and limit your showers to a maximum of four minutes. For shaving use a cup, sink or container of warm water to clean the shaver in rather than a warm running tap. Never shave in the shower. Clearing dishes after the meal requires more water and so scrape and compost your food waste instead of rinsing it off plates and dishes. At the time of washing dishes, rinse dishes in a bucket and use the water on the garden after wards. In the dishwasher do not rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. It is time to save water or we will have to face acute water shortage if monsoon rains fail miserably this time.

Ensure you only do full loads of washing, if possible using cold water and adjusting water levels to suit the size of loads. Instead of waiting for the warm water to arrive try and capture the water that flows out of the shower or tap prior to it being the right temperature and put it on the garden. Fix dripping taps and toilets quickly. They can waste up to 13 litres of water a day.

Fresh water is the life blood of nature. Without it, we would not have clean air, food, drink and many aesthetic and recreational benefits. Therefore, we need to ensure we use water in a sustainable way – we need to share it with all life on the planet and respect and value this 'life blood'. The consequences of doing otherwise can be seen in the spreading deserts across the world and the resulting drought and famine that can soon follow.



- C.K. Subramaniam

## Letters to the Editor

Suresh Raina and Irfan Pathan.  
**Tauqueer Rahmani**

### Trade and security ties with India and Australia gathering pace!

India and Australia are expected to strengthen their economic and friendly ties, leading to progress and prosperity in both countries. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong criticized China, stating that it is the biggest trading partner for both Australia and India and also the "biggest security anxiety." She emphasized the importance of the partnership for the region.

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh expressed consensus on the benefits of a strong India-Australia partnership for peace, security, and prosperity in the In-

do-Pacific. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar noted that the bilateral relationship has implications for the region's stability and security, especially in times of increasing uncertainty.

They also discussed the shared love of cricket by both countries as a symbol of their bilateral relationship and strategic alignment. The ministers highlighted the transformation in the relationship in recent years, including the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) which entered into force last December.

**Md Mofidul Islam**

### Focus on swadeshi

Every society and every country in the world dreams of becoming self-reliant and

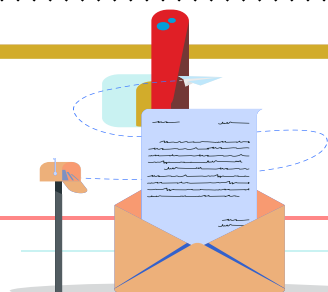
exporting as much as possible. Prime Minister Modi gave such a dream to the country in the form of the slogan 'Vocal for Local'. Promoting indigenous goods will be helpful in achieving this goal in the festive season. Using local products not only strengthens the local identity and market, it also keeps the country's money in the country and strengthens the economy. To make indigenous goods world class, it is necessary to further increase its quality.

**N Mateeni**

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

[afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com)

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



### Not now but Surely next

Although Australia won the World Cup but Indian players conquered the hearts of all cricket fans. Fascinating innings of Virat Kohli, Shami's sizzling bowling and good captaincy of Rohit will always remain in all fans's heart. Not now but surely, we will be next champion. Australia has left many learning points for Indian players, they have enough optional all-rounder bowlers and batsmen. Hence, they played fearlessly a big clash that makes them deserve to receive this great honour. Indian team management should work over making players like Yuraz Singh,

## Electric water taxis in Mumbai for daily commuters



Electric water taxis in Mumbai to cost from Rs 100 to Rs 150 for daily commuters Infinity Harbour Services, which has been assigned to operate electric water taxis in Mumbai from December, Tuesday said that fares for daily com-

muters on these electric vessels will vary between Rs 100 and 150 per seat.

Sohel Kazani, Managing Partner at Infinity Harbour Services, highlighted that while permissions have been secured for routes from Gateway of India to Belapur, Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) to Belapur- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), and DCT to Mandwa, they are awaiting permissions for Gateway of India to Mandwa, Elephanta.

Kazani emphasized that for the routes from Gateway of India to Belapur and DCT to Belapur and others, fares will range between Rs 100 and Rs150 due to its appeal to officegoers.

## Rahul Gandhi's Panauti remark: Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis said, "It's the corrupt leaders and evil-doers who are living in fear of him.."



Hitting back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remark, blaming Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's defeat to Australia in the final of the cricket World Cup, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said the latter may bring bad luck to 'corrupt' leaders in the Opposition but people regard him as a 'messiah'. Addressing a public meeting at Barmer in poll-bound Rajasthan on Tuesday, the Congress MP called PM Modi a 'Panauti' (conveyor of bad luck) and linked India's loss in the World Cup final

to his presence at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Responding to Rahul's remark, Fadnavis told ANI on Wednesday, "Who all are running scared of PM Modi these days? It's the corrupt leaders and evil-doers who are living in fear of him. Hence, it is quite normal for them to feel that way about him. However, for the common man, PM Modi remains a messiah, the country's saviour from corruption. They regard Prime Minister Modi as a leader who is determined to take the country forward." "As far as Rahul Gandhi is concerned, not even his own party leaders take him seriously. So, even I don't take him seriously," the Maharashtra deputy CM added. ANI

## BMC to introduce 'Gym on Wheels' for women next month

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) plans to ferry a 'Gym on Wheels' for women, a bus replete with gym equipment, across Mumbai slums on a pilot basis by next month. An idea mooted by the Mumbai's Guardian Minister



Mangal Prabhat Lodha, the project is currently in its final stage.

According to civic officials, the project was conceptualised to cater to the needs of housewives and working women who end up neglecting their health amidst busy daily routines.

## Aaditya Thackeray to begin 2-day Konkan region tour tomorrow



Shiv Sena UBT leader and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray will embark on a two-day tour of the Konkan region from Thursday, said party leaders Wednesday.

According to the itinerary, on Thursday, Thackeray will be touring from Doda Marg to Sawantwadi, Sawantwadi to Kudal, Kudal to Bambarde, Bambarde to Kankavali, Kankavali to

Rajapur, Rajapur to Karbude and on Friday, he will visit Chiplun to Khed, Khed to Mahad and Mahad to Nagothane.

Although the tour is considered to be significant owing to the upcoming election of the Konkan Graduate Constituency, a party functionary said the aim is to strengthen the young cadre of the Konkan region for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

## National Herald case: ED attached properties worth Rs 751 crores, Nana Patole says, "no stake in the seized properties"



Day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached properties worth Rs 751 crores in connection with the National Herald Case, Congress leader Nana Patole on Wednesday said party heavyweights Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have no stake in the seized properties and they were acquired with monetary contributions from the cadre.

Speaking to ANI on Wednesday, the senior Congress leader and the party's Maharashtra chief said, "The properties seized in the National Herald case were acquired through

monetary donations from Congress workers across the country. The Gandhi family has no stake in the properties attached by the ED. It has already been proved that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are not involved in the matter. However, the top BJP leaders in Delhi are trying to create a perception that the properties belong to the Gandhi family. However, nothing is going to come from this deliberate ploy to drag our top leaders into this matter. The BJP know they are losing the five states where elections have been or will be held." ANI

# Nation

## Silkyara tunnel collapse incident: Jharkhand government is set to airlift all 15 workers



The Jharkhand government is set to airlift all 15 workers, belonging to the state, trapped in the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi. A total of 41 workers are trapped inside the collapsed Silkyara tunnel, out of which 15 workers belong to Giridih, Ranchi, East Singhum, and Khunti districts of Jharkhand.

"A team of the Jharkhand government is on standby in Uttarakashi. The workers will be airlifted from Dehradun to

Ranchi once they are declared medically fit by the doctors", said Rajesh Prasad, Joint Labour Commissioner, Government of Jharkhand. Meanwhile, as rescue operations have intensified at the Silkyara tunnel collapse site in Uttarkashi, where 41 workers remain trapped, about 67 percent of augur drilling has been completed, with horizontal pipe being inserted up to 45 metres, an official statement said on Wednesday. Former advisor to the

Prime Minister's Office, Bhaskar Khulbe, said on Wednesday that work for the next phase will start in another two hours.

Khulbe, who is also the Special Executive Officer in the Uttarakhand Tourism Department, said, "I am very happy to tell you that with the work we were doing for the last hour, we have drilled another 6-metre length with an American Oger machine. I am hopeful that in the next 2 hours, work will start for the next phase." ANI

## Tamil Nadu: Indian Railways suspends train services on the Nilgiri Mountain route due to heavy rainfall and landslides



Indian Railways on Wednesday suspended train services on the Nilgiri Mountain Rail Route (NMR) between Coonoor and Mettupalayam following heavy rainfall and landslides, that affected the century-old rail route. Because

of the bad climate, a mudslide occurred and debris blocked the track at Hillguro between Kallar and Runnimeedu, officials with railways South Salem Division said.

As the Meteorological Department has announced that

the rain will continue in this situation, the mountain train service has been cancelled as a precautionary measure.

Notably, several areas of the state of Tamil Nadu remain inundated after hours of heavy to moderate rainfall in the region. Water entered houses and markets in the low-lying residential areas of Erode district due to heavy rainfall throughout the night. Water entered almost fifty houses in the Annai Sathya Nagar locality in Erode after moderate to heavy rain last midnight.

The IMD has predicted heavy rainfall in over 10 districts of Tamil Nadu for the next two days. IMD stated that more than 10 districts in Tamil Nadu are more likely to receive heavy rain from time to time due to weather change. ANI

## NIA raids 14 places over attacks on Indian Consulate at San Francisco

NIA raids 14 places in Punjab, Haryana in connection with attacks on Indian Consulate in San Francisco

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out raids at 14 locations in Punjab and Haryana in connection with its probe into attacks on the Indian Consulate in San Francisco in the US earlier this year, an official spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said these places located in north India were raided to unravel the complete conspiracy behind the at-



tacks on March 19 and July 2, involving criminal trespass, vandalism, damage to public property and attempts to cause hurt to the consulate officials and set the building on fire through acts of arson. ANI

## Delhi: A youth was stabbed to death, probe underway



A youth was found stabbed to death at Janta Mazdoor Colony in the Welcome police station area of Delhi's North-East district, police said on Wednesday. According to preliminary investigation, the deceased appeared to have been dragged some distance, the sleuths informed further.

The victim, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, was found

with multiple stab wounds and his throat slit.

Police took custody of the body and sent it for post-mortem examination. "We are going over the CCTV footage from surrounding areas in a bid to identify the culprit and establish the motive for the crime," a police officer told ANI. A case was registered and an investigation is underway, the police said. Further information is awaited. ANI

## DGCA imposes a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Air India for its failure to comply with norms

Aviation watchdog DGCA has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Air India for its failure to comply with norms pertaining to facilities that are required to be provided to passengers, including non-payment of compensation to international business class passengers who were made to travel

on unserviceable seats. After carrying out inspections of airlines at Delhi, Kochi and Bangalore airports, the regulator observed that Air India was not complying with the provisions of the relevant Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR). Later, a show-cause notice was issued to Air India on November 3. PTI

World

## North Korea claimed to have launched its military spy satellite, Japan issues missile warning for residents



After North Korea claimed to have launched its first military spy satellite into space, Japan issued a missile warning for residents in Okinawa and lifted it after sometime, Kyodo News reported on Wednesday. The office of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said a ballistic missile had passed over the Japanese prefecture of Okinawa into the Pacific Ocean.

Japan, which had urged Pyongyang not to conduct a launch using ballistic missile technology, said it had not confirmed whether the payload had

entered space. The Japanese government said the projectile split into multiple parts, one of which flew over the southern prefecture of Okinawa. Japan lodged a protest via its embassy in Beijing over the launch, saying it violated U.N. resolutions banning the use of ballistic missile technology by Pyongyang, Kyodo reported. North Korea had notified Japan of its plan to launch a satellite during a nine-day window commencing Wednesday, before it fired the projectile prior to the start of the period, the Japanese news agency reported. It cited

Tokyo's top government spokesman, Hirokazu Matsuno as saying that no damage was reported in Japan as a result of the launch.

The launch took place around 10:42 pm on Tuesday and the Mallyong-1 reconnaissance satellite was placed in orbit about 12 minutes later, Kyodo reported citing the official Korean Central News Agency. In response to the launch, the Japanese Ministry of Defence/Self-Defence forces (MOD/SDF) has said that the country will "strengthen" its air and missile defence capabilities.

They further took fire at North Korea claiming that they have been, "repeatedly launching ballistic missiles in new ways at an unprecedentedly high frequency." "Even if the purpose is to launch a satellite, using ballistic missile technology is a violation of a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions," the Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had previously said. "This is also a major national security concern," The Japan Times reported. ANI

## Singapore: Four Indian nationals imprisoned for conspiring to steal apparel from a retail store



Four Indian nationals in Singapore were sentenced to between 40 and 65 days in jail for conspiring to steal over SGD 1,700 worth of apparel from a retail store by removing the items' price tags.

Shihora Ridham Mukeshbhai, 20, Hun Smit Ashokbhai, 21, Kuvadiya Milan Ghansyambhai, 26, and Chauhan Ruchi Sanjaykumar, 25, studied at different schools but lived together in the same apartment in Singapore.

They removed the price tags that contained radio-frequency identification (RFID). By removing it, they contrived to steal the items without setting off the store's security alarm, The Straits Times newspaper reported. They

then bought tote bags at the self-checkout area, stuffed the apparel into the bags, and pretended they had paid for all of their items. The four shoplifters were on student passes in Singapore. The youngest, Ridham, pleaded guilty to one count of theft in dwelling and another count of attempting to commit a similar crime. He was dealt the heaviest sentence.

The other three admitted to one count of theft in dwelling or attempted theft each. Other similar charges were taken into consideration for sentencing. Deputy Public Prosecutor Maximilian Chew told the court that one of the shoplifting incidents happened on October 12 at the Uniqlo outlet in Orchard Central. ANI

## Afghanistan: Around 52 per cent of visual media outlets have ceased operations in two years

Under the Taliban regime, at least 52 per cent of visual media outlets have ceased operations in Afghanistan over the past two years, Khaama Press reported. The Media Support for Afghanistan's Free Media (NAI) announced on Tuesday, coinciding with World Television Day, highlighting that more than half of the visual media outlets in the country have remained inactive.

The NAI has expressed its deep concern about the state of media, especially visual media, and has called for the support of national and international institutions in addressing the media crisis, the Khaama Press said. After the Taliban took control of Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, press freedom in the country has taken a backseat, with several restrictions put into place for journalists. Moreover, according to local media reports, after the



political change in the country, 94 per cent of women journalists have become unemployed due to restrictions on their work.

Meanwhile, according to a survey undertaken by the NAI, at least 77 television stations out of 147 visual media outlets have suspended operations owing to "economic challenges," reported Khaama Press. In order to prevent the destruction of the media outlets, NAI has encouraged interim government authorities to examine taxation and financial guarantees. ANI

## Spanish Ambassador Jose Maria Ridao Dominguez says, "Spain is the right country to be a partner of India in building its strategic autonomy"

The Spanish Ambassador to India, Jose Maria Ridao Dominguez, emphasised on Wednesday that Spain is the right country to be a partner of India in building its strategic autonomy, stressing that "we don't have any issue in this part of the world." "We are fully aware that India wants to build its strategic autonomy and we think that Spain is the right country to be a partner because we don't have any issues in this part of the world. We are very transparent," he said.

Jose Maria Ridao Dominguez attended the third edition of the Spain-India Forum in New Delhi on Wednesday, along with Juan Ignacio, Chairman of Spain-India Council Foundation and Sanjay Verma, Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (West). He further said that Spanish companies are



one of the most important companies in the world. "In this field, we have exported to many other countries like Saudi Arabia, Australia, and the UK..." Moreover, Dominguez told ANI that Spain is working in the defence industry and has a tender for six submarines for the Indian Navy.

"We are working in another field in which we are really engaged, which is the defence industry...we have this tender in front of us, which is the tender for six sub-

marines for the Indian Navy," he said. Furthermore, he highlighted that the Spanish company Navantia is engaged in this tender and "they offer the latest technology for this kind of submarine." "We are very happy to have this kind of cooperation in this particular area, the defence industry because it's not only a question of market or trade but it's also about our contribution to stability in this part of the world in the Indo-Pacific," he added. ANI

# Expression

## Science Journalism and Mass Media in India: III



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout Punjab

### EMERGING PERSPECTIVE

In spite of a number of efforts for developing science journalism in India, there are certain challenges before us, to be met. Some of them are listed below:

- a) As an average, the science coverage in India is around 3%, which we intend to enhance up to 15%, as per a resolution of Indian Science Writers' Association.
- b) The number of capable science journalists/ writers and popular science magazines is alarmingly low and hardly sufficient to cater to the large target audience.
- c) The science has still not succeeded in attracting the media to the extent that it could appear on the front page or become a lead story, like the politics, films or sports. Mass media has its commercial compulsions, which superimpose all the science communication efforts and leave a negative impact in the minds of the audiences. Instead of including scientific information, they prefer to generate more revenue by including non-scientific, meta-scientific or occult information, etc.
- d) It is rather disappointing to note that leading science magazines have ceased their publication, like Science Today, Science Age, Bulletin of Sciences, Research and Industry, etc. and Indian editions of foreign science magazines, like Vigyan (Scientific American), World Scientist (La Recherche), etc. could not survive, however, recently Indian edition of Popular Science has been started from New Delhi.
- e) India has 18 recognized regional languages. Science writing in many languages is yet another great challenge, as scientific information is generally available in English. The quality of scientific translation could not achieve the level of excellence.
- f) The science writing is still dry and boring, and interesting styles of writing, like fiction, poetry, satires, skits, discussions, etc. have not found adequate space and time

in the media. Even most of the science writers could not contribute sufficiently such an interesting science material. Merely occasional appearance of something in the name of science fiction cannot serve the purpose.

- g) 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 on media frequently.
- h) There has been emerging conflict between scientists and journalists, which is a great impediment towards the progress of science journalism in India. This can be resolved by way of organizing scientists-journalists meets on regular basis.
- i) As far as science writing and science journalism are concerned, there is ample scope for furthering such efforts in developing countries, especially in South Asian Region. A common science and technology news and features pool can be formed to facilitate writers/ journalists to get/ exchange information on scientific research.
- j) There is a great shortage of properly trained science writers, journalists, communicators, illustrators in various parts of the world, though, a number of training programmes are conducted at various places. Therefore, more training programmes are needed, which may preferably be conducted to give more opportunity to developing countries.
- k) Popular science writing in India is still shackled by complacency and over dependence on foreign sources. It is very difficult to get information from a scientific laboratory. The scientists in some organizations are not allowed to talk to the media about the research being carried out by them or in their laboratory. This requires a science media centre, including a centralized website to facilitate media persons to get research reports well in time.
- l) All India Radio has started science news based on the research papers appearing in Indian research journals. Print media can follow similar practice as well.
- m) Following the industrial revolution in the western countries, the level



of science coverage in mass media was exponentially increased. As such, India is passing through the same stage, in the present time. As the technology advances, the need of scientific information would also increase. Accordingly, the industrial India would soon witness the high time of science journalism, but the scientific community, media persons and public have to be vigilant enough to harness this opportunity.

- n) Generally, science journalism is misunderstood merely as communication of data; it must go beyond data. The logical and rational interpretation must come up to the fore, enabling the target audiences to shape their lives, ideas and thinking, as well.
- o) There is a need of debates in mass media on emerging issues of science and technology which are relevant to the people and are of their immediate concern to enable them to take informed decisions to lead their life in a democratic society.

Though, challenges are many, we could see some rays of hope, as India has been able to take initiatives in a number of newer programmes in the area of science communication, such as, Vigyan Jatha, Children's Science Congress, and Scientific Explanation of So-called miracles, etc., which were not tried out elsewhere and can take lead in these innovative areas of science communication to better serve the mankind.

### CONCLUSION

In order to identify and evaluate the present status of science journalism in India, various parameters were used. On the basis of a survey conducted, some interesting inferences were drawn. Near about 12.66% respondents were interested in science and technology coverage. This inference seems to be exactly in conformity with the desired level (10-15%) of science coverage in the country. While looking at the demand

and supply analysis, the demand seems to be very less in some cases. This however, is a false situation limited by the necessary expansion, which may leap many times in near future.

Science certainly does not fare well when we talk of readers' interest but it is also true that we need to work in the direction of making science interesting. A lot more creativity is required in the field of science writing and journalism; perhaps this is what we lack at the moment. Science fiction has achieved the status of best sellers in the west, whereas we hardly have anything significant of this type of science writing. Low interest in sciences can be traced to another reason that we are not prioritising two important segments of our readers, the students and the farmers, in the manner that is of interest to them. There is reasonable interest in the folk media, especially in the rural areas and this media does not find enough attention vis-à-vis science journalism.

It is time to recognize the shift in target population's interest, i.e. towards television, and science programmes should be created in enough number through formats, which are most attractive to them. It may not be incorrect to say that docu-drama would be the most sought after format of science communication through television. When, India is passing through a crucial turning point of its development, we must take emerging trends into our stride and redraw our policies and plans, to be a nation of scientifically thinking and scientifically informed people. Hence, the efforts directed towards enhancing science coverage in mass media through effective and creative science journalism need to be given more priority. This is an issue, which scientists, media persons and the public have to take seriously and other side of the coin needs to be focussed now.

# Entertainment

## Koffee with Karan: Varun reveals some interesting stories about Sidharth and Kiara



The famous chat show 'Koffee with Karan' has witnessed several celebrities revealing personal details about their life. The ongoing eighth season is no exception. During the show, Varun revealed some interesting stories about Sidharth and Kiara from their dating phase. Even though Sidharth and Kiara did not make their relationship public until they tied the knot, the small gestures from them both at private parties and events definitely left some hints for Karan and Varun to get thinking about it.

Speaking about it, Karan Johar said, "I remember they (Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani) were having a fight, he was having a high fever, and he had come to my party. But it was very sweet, because two hours later, they were sitting together, eating this meal and she was feeding him. At that point, I realized that this is going to happen, they are going to happen." Varun Dhawan added, "Exactly, we were shooting a song, we finished shooting and we were heading back. She (Kiara Advani) was so happy, like Sid is going to come there, bechara he has a high fever. She had told me you were unwell. Someone was telling me that Sidharth with a high fever coming to a party to meet a girl matlab kuch toh hai yaar". **ANI**

## Ranbir Kapoor says, "It is important for actors to evolve and surprise audiences" ahead film 'Animal' release

Ranbir Kapoor is preparing for the global release of the action-crime drama 'Animal'. The film brings a different side of the actor which is different from his popular on-screen image and he said that it was his "deliberate choice", reported Variety. He said, "It was a deliberate choice on my part to explore a different side of myself on-screen with 'Animal'. As an actor, I always strive to challenge myself and push the boundaries of my abilities. 'Animal' presented a unique opportunity to break away from my previous on-screen image and delve into a character that is multi-dimensional and complex."

"I believe it's important for actors to constantly evolve and surprise audiences and 'Animal' allowed me to do just that. I hope viewers will appreciate this new facet of my performance and enjoy the film as much as I did while working on it." The actor further talked about his film and said that it is a gripping and intense tale. **ANI**



## Actor Divyendu Sharma, a lead character in 'The Railway Men' talks about the reason to do this film

Actor Divyendu Sharma, set to star in the character-driven series 'The Railway Men', opened up about his decision to take on this project and what led him to say "yes" on Wednesday. Divyendu Sharma, one of the lead actors in the series shared what attracted him to the series.

"One thing I liked when I heard about the series, was the intention to make this and the honesty of the director. When I used to study in the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), there was a friend whose father was at the Bhopal station that night, he used to work with Railways. So, he served his duty throughout the Bhopal Gas leak tragedy and lost his life. So, somewhere an indirect personal touch was there... Sometimes, the story is more important than the character, so I wanted to be associated with the story," he said while speaking to ANI.

Helmed by debutant director Shiv Rawail, the series is set against the backdrop of the Bhopal gas leak tragedy, showcasing the unshakeable courage of Indian Railways employees and their efforts to save countless lives during the city's darkest hours. **ANI**



## Filmmaker Vetrimaaran talks about awareness of viewers expectations, trying to stay away from hype



Filmmaker Vetrimaaran, known for his nuanced take on pertinent social issues through films such as "Asuran", "Vada Chennai" and "Visaranai", says he is aware of the expectations that viewers have from him but he tries to stay away from the hype surrounding his work. Vetrimaaran presented his latest film "Viduthalai: Part One" at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) here on Wednesday. "I'm not responsible for the expectation and the hype, and I'm not working on it or creating it. I don't have Twitter (now X), I was on Facebook but I'm happy someone hacked my account. So I'm trying to keep myself intact," Vetrimaaran told reporters at a press conference here. But there are times when the pressure gets to him, the filmmaker admitted. **PTI**