



Delhi's AQI continues to remain in 'very poor' category

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Parliament security breach: the accused had started planning in January, and one of them carried out a recce during the Monsoon Session



Seeking 15-day custody, the Delhi Police Special Cell stated they needed to conduct an in-depth investigation to unearth the larger conspiracy behind their acts. A Delhi court Thursday sent the four arrested persons for the Parliament security breach to seven-day police custody. Manoranjan D, Sagar Sharma, Neelam Verma, Amol Shinde — were booked under sections of the anti-terror Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and produced

before Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur's Court in Patiala House. As per the eye witness in the house Manoranjan and Sagar jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors' gallery, and Neelam and Shinde opened smoke canisters outside Parliament.

Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) Atul Srivastava stated in court that the accused were carrying a pamphlet showing the PM as a missing person and that the reward for finding him would be

paid by a Swiss bank. APP Srivastava also stated that the shoes in which the accused hid the smoke cans were bought from Lucknow and the smoke cans from Mumbai. Further, the APP underlined that the accused had created a group called 'Bhagat Singh Fan Club'. "We need to take the accused to these places. We wish to find out who are the people behind it, what is the funding they got," added Srivastava.

Counsel Umakant Kataria, repre-

senting the accused, said that 3-4 days of custody is enough for the investigation. The FIR was registered against the accused persons under IPC sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with an intent to cause riot), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 452 (trespass), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servants from discharge of his duty) and Sections 16 and 18 of UAPA.

Moral Policing is the ugly truth of modern India

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Until you learn self-worth, and find beauty in the things you already do have, you are always going to be terrorized by the moral police. You must know that you are somebody who is truly of value, correct? It does not matter how you look or act or think or what others think of you. Your parents should have taught this to you at a young age, but I guess they didn't, so let me spell it out for you. These moral cops can be anyone from family to unknown acquaintances. My male friend came to my house to assist me on a writing project, just because I stay alone and single. The agony aunts who always sit in the corridors gossiping with each other were not only curious to know who that guy was but they were silently gossiping about all imaginary stuff. My friend is a smoker. He just finished

smoking and entered the lift. All the aunts were staring at him as if he was some dreaded criminal. Well! We single girls have no right to invite anyone at home because society thinks it immoral to be at home with the opposite sex.

Our society right now is in a phase of transition, India is transiting from a web of traditional values to a more liberal value system. There are patrons at both sides, and the general plebe population have apathy for change. Young rebels would shun the traditional values and adopt the newer convenient values and the old sentinels will try to uphold the traditional system. I don't see anything inherently faulty with this, except the fact that people tend to become hypocritical.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Taking charge of your thoughts, especially when it's an emotional state about yourself, can be one of the toughest things to do when you don't feel confident. Sometimes you critique yourself and feel shy around others

India is in a very crucial stage of its growth now, young generations are finally freeing themselves from the clutches of age old traditions and orthodoxy

When you use force, violence or try to make someone feel bad about them using your own morals you are guilty of moral policing. What is right according to you or for you is not necessarily right for someone else.

Moral Policing is the ugly truth of modern India

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Moral policing, anytime, anywhere, is wrong, it is repulsive, obnoxious. It is a set of self-styled cops trying to impose their own drive on others. It happens whenever religious forces try to impose their will on society, because they claim that they do not answer to the law, only to some god that they find acquiescent. Taking charge of your thoughts, especially when it's an emotional state about yourself, can be one of the toughest things to do when you don't feel confident. Sometimes you critique yourself and feel shy around others when you can't find ways to feel comfortable in your own skin, rather than embracing yourself for who you are. But why put yourself through that kind of stress when you're already perfect?

India is in a very crucial stage of its growth now, young generations are finally freeing themselves from the clutches of age old traditions and orthodoxy. Politicians have been an integral part of the whole 'Moral Policing' drive which has been predominant in our country for quite some time now. Their aim is to prevent a person from doing anything which is against our so called 'sanskaar'. There have been innumerable cases of politicians, especially those belonging to the Right wing, who have publicly made comments which suggest hostility towards people, who they think are immoral.

We, being independent and self-made individuals, should stop seeking validation from irrelevant People. Are you a perfectionist? There is no harm in living the life as you want and decide for yourselves, whatever is the outcome just face it. We are going to make mistakes. If other people think they can change you to get you to act in a certain way, well, that is an example of the other person making a serious mistake. Thank them for their opinion, and then move on; associate with people who can love you for who you are.

When you use force, violence or try to make someone feel bad about them using your own morals you are guilty of moral policing. What is right according to you or for you is not necessarily right for someone else. Hence we should abstain from forcing anyone to agree to our or society's terms of what

is acceptable and what isn't.

We should build our Self-Worth. Become Self-Aware. This won't happen overnight. Become aware of who you really are. Be willing to see the good, the bad and the ugly, your strengths and weaknesses, and don't judge, but accept it. People come and go, no one is permanent in your life, but it's only you who can be with yourself until your last breath. Many lives are unnecessarily ruined in the name of do and don'ts.

We all are allowed to make mistakes. Instead of punishing yourself, brush it off and make fun of your actions whenever you can. The more easy-going you are with yourself, the better you may feel. Be kind to yourself. Do nice things for yourself. Be compassionate when you make a mistake and tell yourself 'it's okay.' Let others love you. When people see this person who is comfortable in their own skin (you), then they are going to want what you have. Surround Yourself With Positive People. While not everyone is perfect, surrounding yourself with people who put you down, or are constantly negative won't help with your self-esteem.

We should stop worrying about what other people think about us. If you place too much value on what others think you will feel more uncomfortable with who you are. As you work to develop self-worth and self-love, you will find you can let others' opinions go. You're using too much of your precious energy stressing out how others are viewing you. Just be yourself and the right people will be attracted to you for the right reasons. One of the defining characteristics of fascism is its unqualified contempt and hatred of free thought and liberalism. In moral policing we see the same trend.



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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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Easy Ways To Spot Career And Job



- Vijay Garg

Employees are itching to move and progress. Gone are the days of working the same job for 15, 20, or 30 years straight. Today's workers desire career progression and opportunities to stretch their skills, with younger workers including Gen Z and millennials more likely to prioritize career progression and development when considering their next job opportunity, than any older generation. Approximately 76% of employees are seeking opportunities for career expansion, a Zippia study revealed, while another 2019 survey showed that 86% would switch jobs if offered the chance to progress at another employer.

And to make the situation even more favorable, the opportunities available are endless. Today there are several high-growth industries with multiple career paths and a strong future outlook including technology, healthcare, science, logistics, and fitness. The challenge exists in navigating the plethora of opportunities and knowing how and where to find the one that is right for you, as you take the next step in your career journey.

If you're looking to challenge yourself this coming year and are ready to embrace a new opportunity to spearhead your career growth, here are five easy ways you can identify career and job opportunities and expedite your career potential:

1. Study Trends

There are two main types of career trends: the global kind (one which has worldwide impact and can trickle into affecting your job or industry) and industry-specific trends, which are smaller-scale and are limited to changes in that industry alone. It's important to identify both of these trends and keep pace with them.

For instance, we already know that technology is a rapidly evolving industry; but with AI creating global impact, this is something you need to consider even if you don't work in tech because it could have major significance to your job and its future. Study labour market information, conduct targeted interviews with people in various industries and roles, and do some digging and analysis online to understand what's moving in the world of work. Through conducting this research you can identify opportunities to upskill and jump in early while labor demand is high.

2. Identify Market Gap

Become eagle-eyed and put your creative problem-solving skills to work. Analyze an industry as an entrepreneur would, and ask yourself,

"With the wealth of my years of experience, varied expertise, and unique skill set, what unique contributions can I make to the economy from my vantage point?"

3. Seek Mentorship

Actively seek out a mentor in your job, preferably someone who is more senior or experienced in your industry and has already navigated a significant portion of their career. They will be able to advise you on various career paths you can explore and offer you valuable insights from their personal experience.

4. Self-Assess

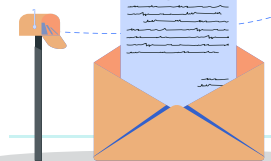
Online career assessments are invaluable tools that enable you to explore career opportunities aligned with your core values, personality, working preferences, and skills. Consider combining online assessments with getting the assistance of a coach. The right career coach can be a useful resource as they will guide and empower you towards your goals, and through their input and expertise you will be able to uncover your hidden talents, locate emerging job and career opportunities, and think outside the box.

5. Network

Networking is proven to yield exponential benefits for career growth and new job opportunities. In fact, according to a 2022 survey, 18% of professional's credit finding their job to reaching out to their network directly without ever needing to go through the standard process, 24% were headhunted due to their online personal branding or a network referral, and 55% believe that referrals made a significant difference in getting them to the job interview stage.

Never underestimate the power of your network and what jobs and career opportunities might be available when you reach out and build relationships with the right people. However, it's important to remember to network with the right people, those who can contribute in some way in adding value to your life and career. Think strategically about adding a variety of people to your network including industry-specific recruiters, decision-makers, and other professionals who work in organizations similar to yours.

Letters to the Editor



International Tea Day

Every year on December 15, tea-producing countries celebrate International Tea Day. The day seeks to draw the attention of governments and citizens around the world to the impact that tea trade has on workers and growers. The tea-producing countries that celebrate International Tea Day are Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, Tanzania and India. Apart from water, tea is the most popular beverage in the world. The primary types of tea include white, black, green, oolong, herbal, and pu'erh. Tea is believed to have originated in China. There, drinkers used tea for medicinal reasons. In the 17th century, tea made its way to the UK.

Because of the large number of tea drinkers in the world, tea demands a massive production scale.

Unfortunately, in many tea-producing countries, production comes with many challenges. Some of the obstacles tea-pro-

ducing countries face include low wages for tea workers, lack of medical care for tea workers in rural areas, and a lack of clean and potable water on tea plantations. There is also a need for improved sanitation on tea plantations. Additionally, women make up 50 per cent of the workforce on tea plantations. These women usually don't have access to education.

The first International Tea Day was held in New Delhi in 2005. However, in 2015, the Indian government proposed to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to expand International Tea Day across the world.

Tea is the most popular of all drinks. Nowadays, some people can go without food, but they cannot go without a morning cup of tea. Tea is made from the leaves of a tea plant. This plant is an evergreen shrub. It grows up to four or five feet in height. For some people, every time is tea time. Whenever a guest drops in, he/she expects to be entertained with a cup of tea. After a day's hard work, a cup of tea is very refreshing. When taken hot, it gives warmth to the body. It is also sometimes used as a medicine for cold and fever. But drinking too much of tea is harmful.

This theme for this year's International Tea

Day is "Be engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production".

Jubel D'Cruz

Strict Action Against Fraudsters

Police in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana on Tuesday arrested a 'serial killer' who was allegedly involved in the murders of as many as 11 people by deceiving them on the promise of unearthing hidden treasures for them in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Mostly it happens with innocent people because fraudulents and cheaters easily deceive and take them in their trap. Therefore, very strict initiative should be taken against such fraudsters and common people should have some information about it to identify so they could not be deceived.

MT.Farooqi

Our next goal should be to win back POK by hook or by crook!

India has a vibrant democracy & scrapping Article 370 which gave 'special status' to Jammu & Kashmir by the SC must be welcomed by one & all. Article 370 was misused by the politicians in their own interest & the

benefits never really reached the poor people of the State. Elections under Article 370 were never free & fair but now is the time to rejoice for the people of Kashmir to elect leaders & party of their choice for better governance & development.

Kashmir is very much a part & parcel of our country. It cannot be differentiated from other States & the landmark SC judgement will allow many investment opportunities for citizens which would speed up the States progress & development. People opposing scrapping of Article 370 obviously were politicians with vested interest & having connections with our foe nation across the border. SC verdict has not just silenced these people but also will help improve law & order situation in J & K. The unity of the people is our strength & our next goal now should be to win back 'Pakistan Occupied Kashmir' (POK)!

S.N. Kabra

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)

Minister Uday Samant said, "safety of the members of the House and people outside is the responsibility of the state govt"



Reacting to the threat perception to NCP leader (Ajit Pawar faction) Chhagan Bhujbal, Maharashtra Industry Minister Uday Samant said that the Home Department will take the necessary action after talking to him. Maharashtra Minister Uday Samant said, "The safety of the members of the House and people outside the house is the responsibility of

the government. Our Home department will take the necessary action after talking to Chhagan Bhujbal as this government is ready to provide safety to everyone...The CM will reply on the Maratha Reservation as soon as possible"

On the statement of the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Ambadas Danve that Chhagan Bhujbal

was trying to depict himself as the god of the Other Backward Castes so he was giving such statements, he said that Danve said so as he was in the opposition. "The job of the opposition is to defame the government so Danve is giving such statements," he added.

During a session in the state Assembly Chhagan Bhujbal had claimed that he was receiving threats as he opposed giving reservations to Marathas under the OBC category. Earlier Maharashtra Minister Sambhuraj Desai (Shinde faction) condemned the statement of Minister Chhagan Bhujbal and further said that Bhujbal Saheb has done the work of creating a rumour. "Bhujbal Saheb has done the work of creating a rumour. Bhujbal's statement regarding reservations is 100 percent wrong," said Sambhuraj Desai. ANI

Committee to be formed on issue of converted tribals who get dual benefits: Maharashtra minister



Maharashtra minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha on Thursday said the state government will form a committee to study the demand of the delisting of the tribals who get dual benefit after converting to another religion.

The tribals who convert get benefits as members of a minority community and also as members of a Scheduled Tribe (ST), he said, speaking in the Legislative Council.

Many tribals are being converted through coercion and inducement, the BJP leader claimed, adding that conversions

hollow out the tribal culture.

A committee headed by a retired vice chancellor will be formed to study the issue of delisting of the persons who get such dual benefit, Lodha, the minister for skill development and employment, stated, adding that it will have members from all political parties.

He was responding to a calling attention motion moved by BJP legislators Niranjan Davkhare and Pravin Darekar demanding removal from the ST list of the tribals who convert to Islam and Christianity, and the withdrawal of reservation benefit for them. PTI

Two Naxals killed in encounter with police in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli



Two Naxals including a senior leader involved in the 2019 Jambulkheda blast were killed in an encounter with police in eastern Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district on Thursday, an official said.

Durgesh Watti, deputy commander of Kasansur Dalam (squad) who was one of the main conspirators of Jambulkheda blast in which 15 police personnel of Gadchiroli Police were killed in 2019 was among the two slain Naxals, he said.

Police had received intel-

ligence inputs that a large contingent of Naxals was camping near Bodhintola on the Chhattisgarh border near Godalwahi outpost with an intention to cause sabotage and ambush police forces, said district superintendent of police Neelotpal.

During a combing operation, Naxals opened fire on the police team, he said in a release.

After the exchange of fire which went on for almost one hour ended, the bodies of Watti and another male Naxal were found from the spot, he said.

PTI

17 lakh Maharashtra government employees to go on strike today for OPS

Around 17 lakh Maharashtra government employees will go on a one-day strike on Thursday over their demand to implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Though state government officials held a meeting with representatives of the employees' unions on Wednesday evening, the talks were inconclusive, following which the unions decided to go ahead with their original plan of going on strike from December 14. This is the second strike by Maharashtra government employees demanding OPS.

Parliament security breach: Just shows how serious job condition is in country, says Aaditya

The youth who jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber risked their future and lives to highlight the lack of jobs, which shows how serious the situation in the country is, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said on Thursday.

In a major security breach on

the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack on Wednesday, two men -- Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D -- jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during the Zero Hour, released a yellow-coloured smoke from canisters and shouted slogans, before being overpowered by the MPs.

Around the same time, two other accused -- Amol Shinde and Neelam Devi -- also sprayed coloured smoke from canisters while shouting "tanashahi nahi chalegi" outside Parliament premises. Sagar, Manoranjan, Amol and Neelam are now in police custody. Their accomplice Vishal, in whose house the accused stayed before reaching Parliament, has been detained from Gurugram while a hunt is on for their other accomplice Lalit. (PTI)

Decision on old pension scheme to be taken in next budget session: Maharashtra CM in assembly

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday told the legislative assembly that the government will study the recommendations of the Subodh Kumar committee over the issue of old pension scheme (OPS) and take a decision on it in the next budget session of the legislature.

He said two additional chief secretaries will study the committee's report before the decision is made. The CM's announcement came hours after the government as well as semi-government employees and officials launched a strike to press for their demand of restoring the OPS.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar told reporters in the Vidhan Bhavan premises here that CM Eknath Shinde has assured government employees demanding restoration of the OPS that a decision on it will be taken before the upcoming budget session, which is generally held in February-March every year. PTI

Nation

Delhi's AQI continues to remain in 'very poor' category

The overall air quality in the national capital continued to hover in the 'very poor' category on Thursday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). As per the CPCB, the AQI at IGI Airport (T3) was recorded in the 'very poor' category at 334 on Thursday morning. The AQI in the New Moti Bagh area was recorded in the 'very poor' category at 343 at 7 a.m. The air quality in Punjabi Bagh was recorded in the 'very poor' category at 405 at 7 a.m. on Thursday.



According to data shared by the CPCB, the AQI at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was recorded in the 'very poor' category at 345 on Thursday morning at 7 a.m. The AQI for R. K. Puram was recorded at 360 in the 'very poor' range. Further, as per the CPCB, the AQI was recorded in the 'very poor' range at 358 in the Anand

Vihar area at 7 am. The Supreme Court on Wednesday stressed the need to stop crop residue burning, which affects air quality in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and asked state governments to take steps to curb pollution. "Let us at least make an endeavour for the next winter

to be a little better," a bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia said.

Crop burning "must stop," Justice Kaul said while underscoring the need for judicial monitoring to ensure people do not face the same scenario every winter. The apex court observed that farm fires were

still significant. The top court was hearing a matter related to an air pollution issue in Delhi-NCR during the winter, year after year.

The bench took note that several meetings of the committee chaired by the Union Cabinet Secretary were held and it has prepared an action plan for states,

including Punjab and Haryana, to deal with the issue. The bench asked the states concerned to implement the action plans and submit progress reports before the apex court within two months. "Possibly, this matter needs continuous monitoring. What happens is that when the problem arises, we suddenly take it up. The court must monitor it for some time," the bench observed.

Attorney General R Venkataramani also submitted a note on the Centre's behalf about the steps to be taken to check farm fires and also placed the minutes of meetings of the committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. "There is something to be done by Punjab, something to be done by Haryana, something to be done by Delhi and something to be done by different ministries," the court said. ANI

Parliament security breach incident: Accused family members urged PM Modi for a fair investigation



Day after the Parliament security breach incident, the mother and sister of one of the accused Sagar Sharma has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a fair investigation as Sagar is innocent and has been framed in the conspiracy. Sagar Sharma's mother, identified as Rani Sharma and sister, Mahi Sharma also claimed that Sagar is a patriot.

Rani Sharma said, "On yesterday's crime, we would like to say that our child has been framed; my son is not like that he used to drive an e-rickshaw, I have only one son, he is my support, our child is innocent, he has been framed." "Someone has framed him, he is our only son, he used to drive rickshaw, he is a patriot

and a very good boy," she added. On the question of whether she knows the people with whom his son committed the crime, Rani said, "I don't know about it but I know that he is innocent, he can never do this, all this has been filled in his mind." "He told me at home that he was going to Delhi to meet his friends for two days and would come back to work. He used to earn Rs 500 by driving an e-rickshaw." While appealing to PM Narendra Modi, Sagar's sister Mahi Sharma said, "There should be a fair investigation, my brother is innocent and those who manipulated him for the crime should be punished." "My brother studied till intermediate and a patriot and always talked about the progress of the country.

Whenever it was 15th August, he used to go out in a rickshaw with the tricolour on it" Sagar's sister said.

On the other hand, according to Police sources all the accused were associated with the social media page 'Bhagat Singh Fan Club'. Everyone met in Mysuru about one and a half years ago. Sagar came from Lucknow in July but could not go inside the Parliament House. On December 10, one by one everyone reached Delhi from their respective states. Everyone met near India Gate where colored crackers were distributed to everyone. Police is continuously interrogating them to find out who is the mastermind behind them, as per initial investigation, main conspirator is someone else. Sagar Sharma, a resident of Lucknow's Manaknagar area, is said to be inspired by left-wing ideology and use to share and comment on similar posts using two Facebook accounts.

Both Facebook accounts of Sagar have not been active for several months. His Facebook pages revealed that Sagar was also in contact with many people from Kolkata, Rajasthan and Haryana via Facebook. ANI

Lok Sabha security breach incident: Lalit Jha is suspected mastermind of the conspiracy, Sources reveal this date was decided

Abducting accused in the Parliament Security breach case Lalit Jha is suspected to be the mastermind of the entire conspiracy, however Police officials say this aspect will become clear only when the Police apprehend Lalit Jha. Police sources on Thursday also revealed that it was Lalit Jha who had decided on the date to carry out the breach incident inside Parliament.

"Lalit Jha had called everyone for a meeting in Gurugram. Before carrying out the incident, Lalit himself took possession of the phones of the four accused and ran away," police sources said. According to sources, the accused Lalit Jha was last traced in Rajasthan's Neemrana. Police sources further said that the absconding accused might be trying to erase the evidence from the mobile phone of all four accused which he earlier took away with him. Lalit Jha also sent a video of the incident to Nilaksha Aich, an NGO founder. Nilaksha Aich who runs an NGO working on tribal education in West Bengal's



Purulia district said that the accused Lalit Jha was a member of that organisation. Asked about the accused behaviour's pattern, Aich said, "He never said anything about anything himself to me. He has always kept his details shady. He never mentioned his whereabouts who are in his family or not. I have not seen him being violent personally." According to Police sources all the accused were associated with the social media page 'Bhagat Singh Fan Club'. Everyone met in Mysuru about one and a half years ago. Sagar came from Lucknow in July but could not go inside the Parliament House. On December 10, one by one everyone reached Delhi from their respective states. Everyone met near India Gate where colored crackers were distributed to everyone. ANI

World

Vivek Ramaswamy speaks on Universal values of Hinduism on being asked if the US can accept a Hindu President

Indian-origin and Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy on Thursday responded to a question about whether the US will accept a president of different faith at the CNN town hall. Starting by saying he respectfully disagrees, Vivek went on to say he is not a 'fake convert' and won't lie to ramp up his political career, "I am a Hindu".

Going on to add, Vivek asserted that Hinduism and Christianity "share the same value set in common" "If I wanted to map out my political career and really solve for now, I could fake convert. I'm not going to do that. I'm going to tell you about my faith," he said.

"My upbringing was quite conventional. My parents taught me that marriages are sacred,



families are the cornerstone of society, abstinence before marriage is a viable option when things don't work out, and adultery is wrong. that enjoying life's pleasures requires giving something up. Are those values not from elsewhere?" the US presidential candidate added.

Ramaswamy emphasised that there is only one true god and highlighted the values of the Hindu religion. He said, "There's one true God. Don't take his name in vain. Observe the Sabbath. Respect your parents. Don't kill. Don't lie. Don't cheat, don't steal. Don't commit adultery.

Don't covet. That's when it hit me. We share the same value set in common. There's another core teaching in my faith, which is that we don't get to choose who God works through. God chooses who God works through."

He added, "Based on my religious beliefs, I understand that ev-

ery person is here for a reason and it is our moral obligation to fulfill that reason because God lives within each of us, even though God works through us in various ways, we are all equal." Ramaswamy once again reiterated his call to ban birthright citizenship for illegal immigrants and asserted saying, "we shouldn't reward those who violate the law."

He said, "I say this as the kid of legal immigrants: I favor ending birthright citizenship for those whose parents entered the country *illegally* because we shouldn't reward those who violate the law with the intent of exploiting the citizenship rules. The best border policy is to end incentives for illegal migrants to be here. Democrats created them but Republicans aren't blameless either." ANI

China: Economy struggles to recover as unemployment remains high



Amid China's economy struggles to recover and unemployment remains high, the country's indebted population is growing at a rapid rate, Voice Of America reported. VOA quoting a report from the Financial Times said that defaults by Chinese borrowers have surged to a record high since the pandemic, with authorities blacklisting 8.54 million people from economic activities ranging from

using toll roads to purchasing airline tickets and using payment applications.

According to the report, the number is up from 5.7 million defaulters in early 2020 and amounts to about 1% of working-age Chinese adults. After online payment platforms like Alipay and WeChat replaced cash as the most used payment method in China, many stores refused cash payments, and some defaulters said

it had become difficult for them to even buy food. Those blacklisted by authorities for debt have difficulty obtaining other loans and, in some cases, are even banned from working as civil servants. A Changsha businessman, Zhang Congzhi started borrowing money two or three years ago when online loans were easy to get. Now, the he has no money to repay those loans. "I'm in debt for more than 100,000 yuan [approximately \$13,700]," Zhang told VOA Mandarin. "Nobody can help me. The only solution I can think of is to delay repayment."

Zhang is one of the millions of Chinese people who are in debt from loans they took out to get by during the economic disruption caused by the COVID pandemic and China's strict lockdowns. VOA reported quoting a banker, Lu Xiaojuan that China's general public does not borrow money directly from the banks because they do not have collateral like a house or car. ANI

PoK: Contingent employees in the education department staged a protest alleging discrimination in wages



Contingent employees in the education department of PoK's Gilgit Baltistan staged a protest outside the office of the chief secretary recently, demanding the 'promised' hike in their minimum wages. Alleging discrimination, the protesters blamed the process of issuing a notification for the increment, which has been facing bureaucratic blockade, and excuses like 'low budget'.

They said they would continue protesting for their rights which they claimed to be deprived of. "If they don't have a budget for us, they should cut down on their needless expenses. These administrators in the assembly have increased their salaries to up to 600 per cent, they should cut down on that! They should cut down on

their lavishness and immorality. They are dropping the 'bomb of inflation' on the poor employees," Muhammad Khan, a government employee said.

Another protester, Ejaz, said despite waiting patiently for five months, the government in the region has failed to notify the minimum wage. "It is not a big amount. If the secretary to the Finance Ministry cannot even sanction (PKR) 25 crore, then he doesn't deserve to occupy his chair in my view," he added. People working in different government departments in Gilgit-Baltistan often complain that their overdue salary hikes and promotions are routinely put on hold while the same allowances are given to their counterparts in Pakistan. ANI

Expression

Economic views of Sardar Patel for Sashakt Bharat



Er. Prabhat Kishore

The Author is a technocrat and educationist

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man, has been the foremost among the national heroes of India. In 1946, in view of the possibility of getting independence soon, 13 out of 15 provincial committees of the Congress proposed the name of Sardar Patel for the national president, so that he could become the first Prime Minister of independent India. But despite the proposal of an invincible majority, this could not happen due to the insistence of Gandhi in favour of Nehru and the country was deprived of a strong and practical leadership. This adversely affected the policies of the nation in various domestic and foreign matters, for which we are suffering till date.

Sardar's view towards the economic affairs of the country was very practical. It was full of humanity and the need of the hour. More production, equitable distribution, and fair treatment of all the means of production were the mainstays of his economic policy. He made it clear that achieving industrial dexterity and self-reliance through progressive development would be the first goal of the nation, which would increase the prosperity of the common mass and ensure a high standard of living for them. In a speech given in Kolkata on January 5, 1948, he stressed that before nationalization of industries it is necessary to first establish them properly and such people cannot be patriots who believe that workers should reduce production, but they should be given more money.

Sardar Patel had realistic views on the planning and economic policy of India. He had emphasized on the co-operation between the three stakeholders, the government, the industrialist and the workers, to counter the economic sickness spreading in the country. He was a staunch supporter of the abolition of control and supported the government's plan to decontrol food and clothing and provide industrial relief. He was opposed to the planning framework which went beyond the country's capacity and resources.

He wanted to organize the country's economy on the basis of villages. He firmly believed that once the facilities were provided to the villagers, they would take care of themselves and then their grain production would increase much more than we expected.

Patel was against instilling in the people such hope which would never be fulfilled. He was not against taking foreign loans when needed, which could be spent on production related plans and industrialization. According to Shri N. G. Ranga, in 1936, Rajaji and Sardar Patel had rehearsed that Jawaharlal's socialism would create problems for the social economy of India, so he presided over the Congress and opposed their campaign of socialism from a favorable position. As a result of which Nehru had to wait till the year 1951 i.e. Sardar's death before launching his campaign against the economy of the Indian peasantry and the enterprise of its people.

In a meeting of Chief Ministers and heads of provincial Congress Committees, Patel clarified that the plan for this country would be different from that of industrialized countries, which were either small in extent or highly developed. Machine is not the complete solution to the problem of this country. Millions of useless hands cannot get work from the machine, because the machine itself displaces man. He emphasized on the expansion of cottage industries, but at the same time called for rapid industrialization in the country to generate sufficient resources, so that the country does not face a serious crisis.

Sardar Patel was accused by the so-called socialists of being a friend of the capitalists. He made it clear that on the basis of Gandhiji's teachings, he behaves workers, industrialists, princes, farmers and landlords in equal measure and lovingly inspires them to do the right thing. In the current situation, he was against nationalization. He said that it is necessary to establish industry and increase production in the country before nationalisation. Socialism in England has come there rightly by following the path of industrialization. In India, socialism in true sense lies in the development of cottage industries, which can provide employment to crores of people. By making the spinning

wheel more ubiquitous, the concept of Swadeshi can be developed through Khadi.

Patel urged the traders not to import foreign clothes and urged the citizens not to wear it. In order to take a step towards self-reliance, he wrote a letter to the then Industries and Supplies Minister Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee to manufacture the necessary equipments and weapons for the army in the country itself and his idea was supported by the eminent scientist S.S. Bhatnagar. He was of the clear opinion that the pharmaceutical manufacturing industries in India should flourish and there should be no excise duty applicable on inter-provincial trade. He stressed the importance of improving livestock and increasing agricultural production in the country.

Sardar Patel wanted to have a good relation between industry and labour, because the differences arising at that time could turn out to be a severe blow to India's industrial future. He insisted on adopting the policy of mediation to solve the problem prevailing between industry and labour, as he had done earlier in Ahmedabad. Although there was a labour government in England and they were far ahead in the field of industrialization, they were moving very slowly towards nationalization. This was likely to lead to industrial peace and good conditions of production. He was strongly against the strike and criticized the organizers who resorted to strikes merely to give importance to their leadership & politics. A strike stops production and less production means promoting poverty. He inspired those who wanted to break this endless cycle.

Patel tried to allay the apprehensions of the industrialists regarding nationalization and assured them that since the industry is yet to be established and expanded, the question of nationalization does not arise. He appealed to the resourceful businessmen to come forward and help the government in improving the condition of the poor and said that when there are crores of people in the country who are hungry, it is a sin to eat comfortably twice a day.

Patel fixed a certain amount for the salary and allowances of the ministers and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and suggested to the Prime Minister that

there is no need to deploy more than two security personnel apart from a few policemen to them from the point of view of security. He refused the demand for increase in the allowance payable to the Governor of Odisha. He praised those, who gave up their luxuries to serve the country as a minister or speaker.

In the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Council of Industries, Patel told that there is a lot of foreign capital in the country, but after independence it has decreased significantly due to post-World War II inflation, which has increased the prices and taxes have become high. He advised the Finance Minister to re-evaluate the entire taxation according to the current situation in the next budget.

Sardar Patel insisted that a committee of experts should be constituted, consisting of industrialists, economists and representatives of the government, who should be entrusted with the task of implementing the framework and policies laid down by the government. The then Prime Minister, Nehru, who had earlier decided to create a separate ministry for social and economic affairs, changed his mind after hearing Sardar's views and agreed to set up a board or special advisory committee, which will monitor the economic situation at every step and submit its suggestions to the government for consideration.

Sardar Patel's advice on the economic policies of the nation was not followed after his death. India adopted a so-called socialist framework, due to which there were dire consequences and the country had to pay a heavy price. Communist Russia, which Nehru regarded as the ideal state, had to face unimaginable difficulties and eventually due to its disintegration, it had to return to a free economy in mid-Ninety.

The liberal steps taken by the Narsimha Rao government shortly before the disintegration and economic ruin of Soviet Russia confirms Patel's foregoing thought and realistic approach. Nehru's socialism had brought the country to such a place that the Congress Government at the Center had to reverse the policies and liberalize the economy, which was not thought of forty years ago.

Entertainment

A documentary related to British colonial policy is all set for its screening

A documentary about British colonial policy and its impact on modern India will be screened at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture on Thursday. Titled "Looted India: Cost of an Empire", the film will be presented by Ekaterina Yakovleva, head of RT (Russia Today) documentary broadcasting, and Artem Vorobey, the director. The screening of the documentary will take place at 7.30 pm at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture at Firoz Shah Road. It will be presented in two languages: Hindi and English (subtitles), according to a press release. **PTI**



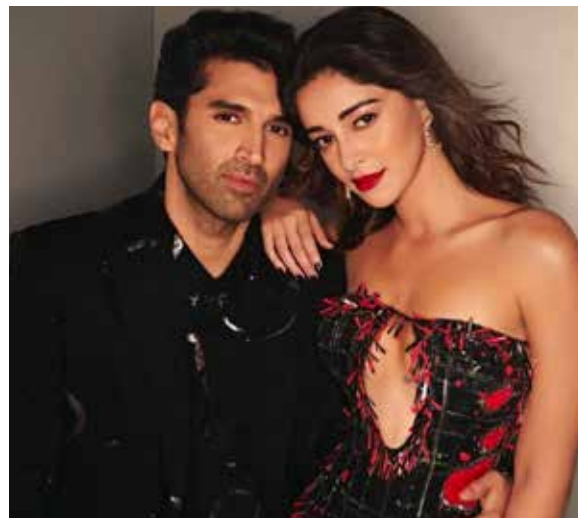
Mrunal Thakur drops pictures with 'Harry Potter' fame Daniel Radcliffe



Actor Mrunal Thakur shared a fan-girl moment as she met the 'Harry Potter' actor Daniel Radcliffe in New York. Taking to Instagram, Mrunal shared a video on her stories in which Daniel Radcliffe is seen clicking selfies with his fans and Mrunal can be heard screaming from in the background, "Daniel, we love you, Daniel."

In another post, she posed with Radcliffe for a selfie along with her sister Lochan. **ANI**

Actors Aditya Roy Kapur spills beans about rumours of dating with Ananya Panday



Actors Aditya Roy Kapur and Arjun Kapoor graced the famous 'Koffee' couch in the recent episode of the popular talk show 'Koffee with Karan Season 8'. During a conversation with the 'Aashiqui 2' actor KJo addressed the rumours of him dating actor Ananya Panday to which he wittily replied, "You see Karan you said on your show 'Ask me no secrets and I'll tell you no lies.' Karan also told Aditya that in the earlier episode of 'KWK 8' Ananya said on she was feeling "very Ananya Roy Kapur," to which the 'Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani' actor said "And I am Aditya Joy Kapur as of now."

"You mean you're joyously in a situationship?" Karan asked Aditya to which he replied, "I'm quite joyous". Karan also asked him the first word that comes to his mind when he say Ananya is "joy"? To which, Aditya responded, "Joy, pure joy and bliss". Ananya and Aditya have been rumoured to be dating for some time. It all began when the two made a joint appearance at Kriti Sanon's Diwali party last year. However, neither of them has confirmed the reports. **ANI**

Emraan Hashmi pens a special wish for his wife on their anniversary



Actor Emraan Hashmi on Thursday penned an adorable wish for his wife Parveen Shahani on the occasion of their 17th wedding anniversary. Taking to Instagram, Emraan dropped a string of throwback pictures which he captioned, "You are and will always be my most happy place! It's been such a joy irritating you for 17 years (actually 20 years since we first started dating). You look particularly pissed off in the last pic. Happy anniversary baby !!" The 'Jannat' actor shared pictures from their different vacations. Emraan and Parveen tied the knot in December 2006, and they are also parents to a baby boy Ayaan. **ANI**