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Desist from shooting the messenger: It has to stop now!

Amid rising concerns related to press freedom, an Al Jazeera journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, was shot on May 11 by Israeli soldiers. This incident occurred while she was reporting on the Israeli military assault on the occupied West Bank of Jenin. Reports emerged of Israeli snipers attacking journalists wearing vests which mentioned the word 'PRESS' on them. Similar assaults on journalists have raised questions about freedom of the press.

Al-Samoudi, another journalist who was with Abu Akleh at the time of the firing, said that there were no Palestinian militants present, directly contradicting an Israeli statement implying that Palestinian fire was involved. "We were going to film the Israeli army operation and suddenly they shot us without asking us to leave or stop filming," he said.

The execution of Abu Akleh

was a "planned systematic targeting of a journalist" according to Anthony Belanger, secretary of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

Journalists must be able to do their jobs safely to safeguard press freedom, which is important for democracy. However, journalists are increasingly exposed to danger and even death, particularly in conflict zones and in several countries around the world. Even in India, there are countless cases where journalists were killed for exposing the truth. Gauri Lankesh, the editor and publisher of Lankesh Patrike, a Kannada weekly was killed for being an outspoken left-wing journalist, and a critic of right-wing Hindu extremism. Due to the inefficiency of government, those responsible for the murders of journalists are not held accountable. Failure to respond on time to such



Candle light vigil held for journalist Shireen Abu Akleh

Starreinder.Info

incidents will only jeopardise journalists' safety even more. Directly or indirectly, this can be a reason for attackers being so fearless and can lead to many more violent attacks on journalists.

After BJP, a right wing political party came into power in

2014, the number of assaults on journalists are on the rise. Journalists have been arbitrarily booked under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and Sedition Act. India has become a dangerous country for a journalist as the government has become inefficient

in safeguarding the lives of journalists. These instances prove the fact that freedom of press is being violated. Journalists should never be a target in a conflict zone; an intentional attack on them is a violation of international law, and those who transgress the

law with impunity should be held accountable.

They go to extreme levels to bring out the truth and keep people informed. But if their lives are under threat, the idea of press freedom itself is questionable.

Trupti Khillare

Is crypto market swinging between the bull and the bear phase?

Niharika Bajaj & Moksha Garg

Following the crypto market crash in the past two days, The Beacon spoke to **Adaiza Prisca, a cryptocurrency and blockchain researcher based in Nigeria.**

Can you explain the current havoc in the crypto market? The balance in the crypto market has been destroyed as over \$200 billion was wiped off the market in the past 24 hours. The global market capitalisation of all the crypto tokens fell by \$1.2 trillion, that is 65 per cent from its peak of \$3.2 trillion at the end of 2021.

What has led to this crisis?

The reason for the market's fall after December 2021 is that it has entered the 'bear phase.' The fall has affected a lot of investors leading to huge losses. Liquidity has dried up as central banks across the world are hiking interest rates, due to which trading activity in cryptos has fallen, and so have their prices.

How do you think this is going to impact the trust of people in crypto?

This market is a very risky place; whoever enters the world of crypto, aims to make money. You cannot make

money here without risk. I know people who have lost \$52 Billion overnight due to Terry Luna (a type of Cryptocurrency) falling from \$100 to \$0.009. It is a game of risk.

What do you think is the future of the crypto market as a researcher?

Crypto markets are mirroring traditional financial markets as both are seeing a slump. It indicates that crypto markets are attaining maturity and just like other markets they also have a bear and bull cycle. My prediction is that crypto market will boom once again in mid 4th quarter.

Lastly, **what is your advice**



Representational image

varchev.com

to anyone considering investing in crypto?

Before you buy this dip, first of all do research.

Go back to 2018 bear market. Check how many cryptos sur-

vived the bear market then and later did well

Also, note down the name of the crypto. If you don't research before investing again you might end up broke.

'Data from EHT key for future space research'

Siddhant & Mukesh

As astrophysicists celebrate the confirmation of a black hole in the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy the research data collected from the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) might prove to be key for future endeavours of Indian space research.

On Thursday, a team of astronomers from Harvard and the Smithsonian, Centre for Astrophysics released the image of the black hole at the heart of the galaxy. This is the same team who published the first direct image

of the black hole three years ago. The supermassive black hole in our cosmic backyard has been observed with the EHT in collaboration with the world's astrophysicists. The telescope combines the data from different geographic regions of the world to create a complete image. "this is not the first time we have taken the image of a black hole, but the difference now is, it is right in our galaxy," commented Dr Rabbi Akkiba Angiras, Dean of Physical Science, St. Joseph's College (Au-

tonomous), Bengaluru. He added that this research will help astronomers around the world including India to observe more astronomical objects. Dr Arun Varma T, assistant professor from the Department of Physics said, "Even though Indian scientists are not involved directly in the EHT collaboration, they have immensely contributed to the foundational research. The works of Dr Amal Kumar Raychaudhuri from Presidency College, Kolkata, have helped in better understanding of black holes."

Annadaatas call for action from corporates

Bincy Joseph

The Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) of Horticulture Department calls for action from corporates to assist farmers through various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in the wake of unprecedented rains affecting mango season in Bengaluru.

North Karnataka has 25,000 hectares of land where mangoes are grown. Torrential rains in May have destroyed mango blossoms resulting in enormous damage this year. Experts say the yield of the

mango crop has reduced to 20 per cent. Kemparaju, president of the FPO, spoke to The Beacon, "Due to unseasonal rain in parts of Karnataka, mango farmers are in severe distress as they did not receive a productive yield. Only 20 per cent of the areas including Chintamani and Kolar remain unaffected. In the rest of the areas, farmers had to compromise on the price. Some top CSR initiatives like Krishi Mitra and mKrishi sponsored by TATA are not reaching farmers as per their expectations."

Medical fraternity neglected: Dr Ghosh

A.S Mandira

The medical fraternity is concerned about not being a part of the wider discussion before the policy decisions on matters like Covid are taken, even as they bore the brunt of handling the unprecedented crisis during multiple waves of the pandemic, said Dr Dipshika Ghosh of Neuro Department at Apollo Hospitals, Kolkata.

Global Covid-19 Virtual Summit was hosted by the US President, Joe Biden on Thursday. The theme of the event was 'Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritising Preparedness'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected on the existing Covid scenario and suggested 'people-centric' strategies to combat it. He further mentioned reforming World Health Organization and said the organisation has 'to build a more resilient global health security architecture.' Dr Dipshika said, "It makes sense if we are to follow the policies and the precautions that we put in place only after consulting with the medical community. Bringing up a few numbers or initiating preparedness is extremely detrimental."