

Society cannot evolve without freedom of expression

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI



Amit Singh

India ranked 140 among the list of 180 nations.

Furthermore, Singh said that there is necessity of keeping public sphere free from state coercion and intimidation. Citing recent incidence worrisome where MP Kailash Vijavargiya threatened a journalist who was asking questions about his son who had beaten a public official in Indore. In his statement, social scientist also held a section of media responsible for constantly taking the side of rich and powerful people and termed the same as 'yellow journalism'.

According to him, the biased media are equally responsible for the degradation of press freedom. Defending the freedom of expression, he said, degree of freedom of expression is a measurement of progress of any civilisation and this fundamental right must be protected and respected by the government and society alike. In a vibrant democratic society such as India, attack on freedom of expression and increasing self-censorship by media and civil society on critical issues, shall be matter of

national concern and must be seen as national security threat, he added.

Before leaving for Leiden University in the Netherland, he said 'rights come with responsibilities irresponsible use of freedom of expression can create havoc in society particularly where communal tension is high, and people are divided on religious and caste lines'.

VBS HOLDS PROGRAMME: The social organisation Vishal Bharat Sansthan on Sunday held a programme at Lamahi here in memory of historian Prof Surendra Nath Sinha.

Recalling the contribution of Prof Sinha in writing regional history, the participants said that Prof Sinha had established Society for Historical & Cultural Studies & Research in Varanasi at his last time and also got published The Original Source Research Journal. Prof Sinha was worried about regional history.

Prof Sinha gave a new direction to the writing of regional history as he wanted to change the nature of national history through regional history, the participants said adding that Prof Sinha always advocated for presenting right history of country by collecting scattered historical evidences.

The participants said that Prof Sinha advocated for reaching out history to common men from elite class. Among those present on the occasion were Prof Mridula Jaiswal, Dr Rajiv Srivastava and Dr Niranjan Srivastava.

BOY DROWNS: A

teenager was reportedly drowned while bathing in Ganga at Tulsi Ghat. The police sent body for postmortem examination.

According to information, the deceased identified as Sachin (16) of Sudamapur has gone to above mentioned ghat to take holy dip in Ganga along with their friends. It was said that while bathing he went deep in the river.

His friends raised an alarm and the others bathing tried to save his life but to no avail. With the help of boatmen the body was fished out and the police sent it for the post-mortem examination.

FELICITATION FUNCTION HELD: To mark the Doctors Day and Chartered Accountant Day, the Rotary Club Varanasi Central on Sunday held felicitation function at a hotel here.

Welcoming the guests the president of club Sanjay Gupta said that it was doctor that not only keep us healthy but also instill a sense of trust to live and added that a chartered accountant makes financial creation with confidence despite playing an role in making economy of nation strong. The chief guest Dr Bajinath Prasad said that the main intention of doctor is to serve the society and appealed chartered accountants to use their commercial skill to serve society as family and nation could progress only with the development of society. He felicitated doctors and CAs with mementos. Amit Agrawal, Vijay Sharma and Dr Prithviraj Sen were prominently among present on the occasion.