Why West's propaganda and China's state-controlled media share a common anti-India bias

The media is considered to be the fourth pillar of democracy. However, this does not mean that there exists no press in non-democracies. In the world's two most powerful countries, which follow two completely different models of governance, the media does exist. The US boasts, or at least used to boast of, a free press, while China also has media, albeit state-controlled primarily. In the internet age, wherein access to information has become truly available at our fingertips, the lines between the conventional tenets of journalism, new media, citizen journalism, propaganda, and state-led disinformation, as well as misinformation, have all become blurred. The job of a journalist thus becomes much more tedious and painful, even though it is assumed that access to technology and the internet makes it easier. In this context, the importance of fact-checks has become more important than ever before.

In reporting on foreign policies, while the coverage is supposed to be objective, the recent conflict between India and Pakistan revealed that the media from China as well as from the West have similar biases. While it is understandable as to why state-controlled media from China would not conduct fact checks and support a narrative provided by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), supporting its all-weather friend, Pakistan, understanding why free press from the West, which touts values of freedom, objectivity and balanced coverage, would propel Pakistani propaganda.

Reuters, CNN, Bloomberg, The New York Times, Washington Post, and the BBC have all been accused of peddling Pakistani propaganda without fact checks, even though India was conducting regular media briefings and the Press Information Bureau was actively countering Pakistani and Chinese disinformation online.

One of the most glaring examples was when all the prominent media houses from China and the West were propelling the narrative of India's jets being shot down by Pakistan. To date, neither has Pakistan provided photographic or videographic evidence of the apparently shot-down jets from India. It is simple logic that if Pakistan had to bolster its narrative, it would circulate evidence of the shot-down jet that landed in its territory. To give due credit, Reuters did publish a story of how a low-quality image of an Indian fighter jet engulfed in flames after a crash in September 2024 has been falsely claimed online to show an Indian jet downed in the recent conflict between India and Pakistan. However, China Daily still continues with its disinformation. China economically benefitted from the disinformation as well. Pakistan Today reported that the shares of Chengdu Aircraft Corporation, the Chinese aerospace company behind the J-10 fighter jet used by

Pakistan, surged by 20 per cent on May 12, after reports of Pakistan shooting down India's jets were circulated.

Nevertheless, Avic Chendu's aircraft shares plummeted following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address on India's Operation Sindoor, while Indian defence stocks rose. Given that Chinese media is state-controlled and will always follow the orders of the CCP and support Pakistan, it can be understood why it will not conduct fact checks.

Fact checks are not hallmarks of state-controlled media in any case. Also, China sought to economically benefit from the disinformation. China's abuse of the democratic media space in India in pushing its malicious disinformation, while other countries cannot or do not do the same to China, owing to its tightly controlled media environment, is a sad reality the world lives with.

To understand why the West's, the so-called beacon of democracy, narratives aligned with China's, against India's, a longer look has to be taken. The World Press Freedom marked India at 151, ignoring the vibrant media landscape that India has. The index, to begin with, relies heavily on perceptions and opinions rather than hard data, making it susceptible to bias. Also, the specific weighting of indicators and the sources of data are not always fully disclosed, leading to concerns about transparency and potential biases. The Press Council of India (PCI) has attempted to engage with Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the organisation behind the index, to understand the methodology and inputs but has not received a response.

The question here is why has there been no response from RSF? The answer here is also the answer to why so-called free press will align with state-controlled Chinese media in tarnishing India's image. But it is also pertinent to understand how free the free press in the West truly is.

In Turkey, in 2025, over 1100 people, including journalists, were arrested during a crackdown on anti-government protests. BBC correspondent Mark Lowen was detained in March and deported to London for reporting on these protests. At least 14 journalists were also injured in these protests. In Poland, a journalist was arrested and handed over to Ukrainian authorities; in Romania, an Irish RT journalist was detained in Bucharest while covering elections and deported to Istanbul, and this actually is a big issue with media suppression within the EU. In Estonia, Andrea Lucidi, a Russian-Italian reporter, was detained by Estonian border guards for his criticism of Nazism in the Baltic states; in the UK, British journalist Kit Klarenberg was arrested by anti-terrorism police and interrogated for at least five hours for his political views; and Vanessa Beeley had a similar incident. In 2022, in Germany, two Italian journalists were detained while reporting on a climate protest in Rome, and a Swedish journalist, Markus Jordö, was arrested in Stockholm while covering a climate demonstration. In Turkey in the same year, the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom documented 40 cases of journalist arrests or detentions in Turkey, which remains a significant hotspot for the criminal prosecution and imprisonment of media personnel.

Axis Securities Recommends 'Buy' on Signature Global Stock

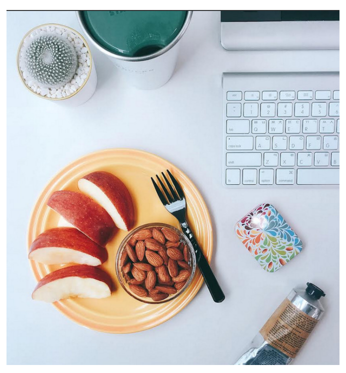
Ahmedabad, Brokerage firm Axis Securities has recommended a 'Buy' on Signature Global (India) Ltd. with a target price of ?1,330, which is a 10% upside from the stock's current market price. Signature Global (India) Ltd. is one of the largest real estate development companies in the NCR/Delhi regions in the affordable and mid-income segments. The company has now shifted its focus to mid and premium housing and has been successful in doing so, said Axis Securities in its report. Signature Global's stock closed at ?1,229.75 per share on June 2, 2025. The stock is drawing attention from investors amid growing optimism about the company's future prospects.

Pre-sales for FY25 stood at ?10,290 crore, surpassing the company's guidance of 10,000 crore and showing a strong 42% year-on-year growth. During the year, Signature Global launched projects with an approximate Gross Development Value (GDV) of ?13,800 crore and added around 8 million sq. ft. of new projects. (1-7)

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Launches Fortuner and Legender

Ahmedabad, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the introduction of the Fortuner and Legender in a new Neo Drive avatar/grade. Equipped with an advanced 48 Volt system, the new Neo Drive Variants offer improved fuel efficiency, enhanced driving performance, and greater comfort-delivering a more refined experience in urban settings and off-road conditions. Since its debut in 2009, the Toyota Fortuner has set the benchmark in the premium SUV segment, celebrated for its bold design, formidable performance, and unmatched all-terrain capability. Over the years, the SUV has built a strong and loyal following, from urban adventurers to hardcore off-road enthusiasts. Together with its stylish and feature-enhanced counterpart, the Legender, the Fortuner embodies Toyota's core values of Quality, Durability, Reliability, and a relentless focus on customer-centric innovation. (20-4)

Foods You Must Add to Your Daily Diet



Ahmedabad, With the rising COVID and flu cases across the country, it is important to keep your immunity strong and well-supported. This seasonal spike in infections brings with it a host of health challenges such as persistent coughs, colds, digestive issues, and overall weakened immunity. Dr. Rohini Patil, MBBS and Nutritionist, suggests that incorporating nutrient-rich superfoods like almonds, turmeric, and ginger into your daily routine can significantly help in bolstering the immune system and maintaining good health during this vulnerable time. Let's explore the immunity-boosting superfoods Dr. Rohini recommends incorporating into your regular diet to help your body stay protected during this wave of infections. California Almonds: California almonds, the king of dry fruits, are rich in 15 essential nutrients including healthy fats, protein, zinc, magnesium, antioxidants, and vitamin E. These nutrients promote heart health and help boost energy levels. As recommended by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), incorporating almonds into your daily diet can help strengthen immunity, leading to improved overall well-being. Additionally, consuming California almonds regularly can support healthy skin and aid in effective weight management, thanks to their natural satiating properties.

Queen Farah Khan can't stop raving about Madhav Mishra

Ahmedabad, You wouldn't normally expect courtroom drama to be the breeding ground for Bollywood's next big obsession. But here we are and the unlikely heartthrob at the centre of it all? Pankaj Tripathi, aka Advocate Madhav Mishra from Criminal Justice: A Family Matter. The soft-spoken, slipper-wearing lawyer with a jhola and a whole lot of heart has not only won another case he's won over Farah Khan. Yes, that Farah Khan. Not just a choreographer, but a hit-making director, reality show favourite, and someone who can deliver a punchline better than most stand-up comics. She's the life of any room — and now, officially, a Madhav Mishra fangirl. Farah Khan said, "Pankaj Tripathi just walks in with his chappals, that jhola, and steals the entire show without even raising his voice! No overacting, no hero-giri… bas ek line bolta hai, 'Main wakil hoon, judge nahi' and you're hooked! This guy wins your heart with sipping chai and throwing one-liners that hit harder than a dance number! When he says 'System pe bharosa nahi hai, lekin koshish toh karni padegi na', I literally clapped. That's real hero stuff. Full paisa vasool! Pankaj Tripathi ne toh ek simple, middle-class lawyer ko national crush bana diya!" This season of Criminal Justice throws Madhav Mishra into the deep end once again juggling messy legal battles, complicated family dynamics, and a justice system that often feels like it's working against the very people it's meant to protect. But somehow, with that calm stare and cup of chai in hand, he makes you believe there's still hope. It's that mix of vulnerability and quiet strength that's got everyone talking from legal buffs to Bollywood royalty. (19-8)

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Harrier.ev unleashes a Bold New League of SUVs

Ahmedabad, Tata Motors, the leader of India's electric vehicle revolution and the nation's leading SUV manufacturer, today launched the Harrier.ev - India's most powerful, most capable, and most intelligent SUV yet. Crafted to embody the SUV of tomorrow, the Harrier.ev ushers in a new mindset-where capability meets sophistication. It's an SUV, that doesn't make you choose between adventure and indulgence; it delivers both. From conquering untamed terrains to gliding through urban landscapes, the Harrier.ev envelops every journey in a cocoon of unmatched luxury. With 504 Nm torque and a QWD dual-motor, the Harrier.ev is the best homegrown SUV in India, yet. Available in four striking colour options, the Harrier.ev starts at an introductory price* of ? 21.49 lakh. Powered by the next-gen acti.ev+ pure EV architecture, it's an SUV in a league of its own - capable of super-sprinting from 0-100 km/h in just a segment-best 6.3 seconds with boost mode. Its six advanced terrain modes coupled with exceptional ground clearance allows the Harrier.ev to decimate roads less travelled, all while its occupants indulge in opulent luxury inside the Zenith Suite, aided by an advanced collection of features that are not just segment-first or industry-first, but even world-first. It is the most intelligent SUV created by Tata Motors - from Digi Access using Ultra Wide Band for hands-free unlocking, to an e-Valet, to a 540° Surround View system that reveals even what's underneath, this tech first product is designed not just to assist, but to anticipate. (1-7)

Valvoline™ as Official FIFA World Cup 26™ Supporter

Ahmedabad, Valvoline™ Global, a worldwide leader in automotive and industrial solutions, has been announced as an Official FIFA World Cup 26™ Supporter ahead of the global extravaganza set to take place across Canada, Mexico and the United States next year. Valvoline Global's sponsorship of the FIFA World Cup 26 builds on its rapid international growth. As the company approaches its 160th anniversary with sales in more than 140 countries and territories, Valvoline has become one of the fastest growing lubricants brands worldwide.

"The FIFA World Cup 26 will bring people together like nothing else – through passion, performance and the power of possibility," said Valvoline Global CEO Jamal Muashsher. "As we approach our 160th anniversary, Valvoline Global is proud to be part of an event that celebrates not just the greatness of the game, but the potential within us all to move the world forward." "We are thrilled to welcome Valvoline Global, a respected global force in the automotive and industrial sectors, as an official supporter of this historic tournament," said FIFA Secretary General Mattias Grafström. Set to be the biggest and most inclusive edition of the FIFA World Cup™, the 2026 tournament will feature 48 national teams from across the globe competing in 104 matches in 16 Host Cities throughout Canada, Mexico and the United States. (19-10)