



Mumbai BJP has taken the initiative to celebrate Gudi Padwa with greater PG 04 >>



Afternoon

VOICE

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IEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 15, Issue: 172

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 MUMBAI

08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com

BILKIS BANO CASE:



SC agrees to constitute a special bench to hear plea against releasing of 11 convicts



The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to constitute a special bench to hear a plea by Bilkis Bano, who was gang-raped during the 2002 Gujarat riots, against the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the case. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala assured Bano, represented through her lawyer Shobha Gupta, that the new bench will be formed. Gupta mentioned the matter for urgent

hearing and said that a new bench needs to be constituted. "I will have a bench constituted. Will look at it this evening," the CJI said.

Earlier, on January 24, the hearing on Bano's plea challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the gang-rape case by the Gujarat government could not be held in the top court as the judges concerned were hearing a matter related to passive euthanasia as part of a five-judge

Constitution bench.

Besides the plea challenging the release of the convicts, the gang-rape survivor had also filed a separate petition seeking a review of the apex court's May 13, 2022 order on a plea by a convict. Seven members of Bilkis Bano's family were also killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

In its May 13, 2022 order, the apex court had asked the state government to

consider the plea of a convict for premature release in terms of its policy of July 9, 1992 which was applicable on the date of conviction and decide it within a period of two months. All 11 convicts were granted remission by the Gujarat government and released on August 15, last year. Bano's review plea against the May 13, 2022 order, however, was dismissed by the top court in December last year. PTI

Lalbaug Murder : Crime Patrol inspires daughter to kill her Mother

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

This is one of the very depressing murders of a mother by her 23-year-old daughter Rimple Jain in Mumbai. On 27th December there was some dispute between Rimple and her mother. The mother was pushed hard to death out of anger. After killing Veena, Rimple wanted to dispose of the body, she tried to dissolve the body parts using phenyl and acid but when it didn't work as fast as she expected it to, she stopped trying it and kept other body parts in the cupboard packing them in a polythene bag. Rimple, and her mother Veena, lived in the Ibrahim Kasim Chawl in Lalbaug. The bustling 100-year-old chawl is home to scores of families and is also located right on the main road.

She first separated her mother's hands from the body, after which she chopped off the lower legs and then the thighs. Subsequently, she severed her head and stuffed the torso into a gunny sack, which was placed inside the cupboard that it was recovered from. She would douse the entire house with room fresheners and perfume every day to keep the stench at bay.

Rimple, however, had spent all her money on the cutting machine and started getting food on credit from the Shri Sai Fast Food Centre on the ground floor of the chawl.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Lalbaug Murder : Crime Patrol inspires daughter to kill her Mother

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Khavare has told the police that Rimple claimed to have spent all her money on sending Veena to Kanpur for treatment after her fall. As the days passed, Rimple even made Khavare recharge her mobile phone.

The constant milling around of her neighbours, as well as her increasing fear of getting caught, kept matricide accused Rimple Jain confined to her house for four months, even as the stench of the rotting dismembered corpse grew stronger with each passing day.

When police probed the reason, Rimple said she was scared that her uncle and relatives had found out that my mother was dead; they would have thrown her out of her Lalbaug home and appropriated her parent's bank balance and property.

The eatery manager, Umesh Khavare, is now a key witness in the case and the police have recovered text messages he exchanged with Rimple. Khavare has told the police that Rimple claimed to have spent all her money on sending Veena to Kanpur for treatment after her fall. As the days passed, Rimple even made Khavare recharge her mobile phone. From January to March 10, Rimple racked up pending dues of Rs 2,006.

She even lied to her boyfriend who worked as a manager at a Chinese restaurant in her building. She told him that her house was emitting a foul smell due to her bathroom being choked up. She didn't allow anyone in the house, especially after the chopping of the body. She told her boyfriend that her mother had gone to Rajasthan with her brother. She, however, told the sandwich stall owner that her mother died and the body had been taken away for last rites

The constant milling around of her neighbours, as well as her increasing fear of getting caught, kept matricide accused Rimple Jain confined to her house for four months, even as the stench of the rotting dismembered corpse grew stronger with each passing day. Rimple was getting increasingly paranoid as some of her relatives stayed in the same locality and could come visiting any time. In fact, this was exactly how the crime was discovered in the first place, when her cousin visited her, smelled a rat due to her behaviour and informed the cops.

Veena's prolonged absence had started raising their suspicions as well. To further keep the impression of normalcy alive, Rimple started strolling up and down the common passage outside her house with her phone stuck to her ear every evening, pretending to talk to her mother on the phone. There are always people present in and around the chawl till 2 am and the tea stall outside the chawl opens up for business at 4 am. Hence, Rimple was unable to find a suitable time to dispose of the corpse, as she feared that she would be spotted and caught.

Her neighbours had already started becoming suspicious, after two staffers of a restaurant outside the chawl took Veena to her house following her fall on the morning of December 27, 2022. The staffers had offered to take Veena to a doctor, but Rimple had refused their help. Subsequently, when her neighbours started asking about Veena, she made up a story about her mother having

gone to Kanpur.

When police probed the reason, Rimple said she was scared that her uncle and relatives had found out that my mother was dead; they would have thrown her out of her Lalbaug home and appropriated her parent's bank balance and property. That's why she cooked up a story of her mother's Kanpur visit instead. Rimple continued to deny killing her 55-year-old mother, Veena. Meanwhile, the police probe revealed that Rimple had decided to dispose of the body and had bought a marble cutter within six hours of her mother's fall.

Rimple was uncooperative in the probe and police wanted to know from her how exactly she had killed her mother. Also, they wanted to determine the role of six of her close contacts, of which her boyfriend and the sandwich seller are important people yet to be questioned. The sandwich seller who has been grilled by cops for the third consecutive day revealed he knew that Rimple's mother was dead. On December 27, when he went to Rimple's home, he saw the mother lying on the bed. He told Rimple that she was dead to which Rimple responded positively. However, the sandwich seller denied helping Rimple hack the body. The man went to UP on January 7, 2023, 12 days after the death. Veena Prakash Jain, was last seen alive by one of the neighbours on December 26. The alleged murderer, Rimple Jain, lived with her, and after the murder, used to spray perfumes and room fresheners to suppress the foul smell. A Class 12 dropout, Rimple lost her father around 20 years ago.

Since then, she and her mother were not only staying alone, but mostly dependent on her uncle. Though this is not the first such case, somewhere the relations are deteriorating and bringing such extreme repercussions to their hate and anger. It is getting difficult to understand the psyche of this young generation and they have gone so insensitive in their conduct.

Volume No. 15 | Issue No. 172

Afternoon VOICE
RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332
VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

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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Voices



Letters to the Editor

World Meteorological Day

World Meteorological Day takes place every year on 23 March and commemorates the coming into force on 23 March 1950 of the Convention establishing the World Meteorological Organization. It showcases the essential contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to the safety and wellbeing of society and is celebrated with activities around the world. The themes chosen for the World Meteorological Day reflect topical weather, climate or water-related issues. This year's theme is "The future of weather, climate and water across generations."

Jubel D'Cruz

AI IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Artificial Intelligence In Education Systems is becoming more and more popular, with the market expected to expand significantly over the coming years. Artificial intelligence (AI) has the power to completely alter how we educate and learn. using tools like intelligent tutoring systems, learning management systems, and virtual learning environments to offer individualized and adaptable learning experiences. These tools enhance student engagement by providing real-time feedback and customized learning experiences, and they analyze student performance to offer tailored materials for better academic outcomes.

The growth of AI in education is driven by several factors, including the ability to provide personalized learning experiences that result in improved engagement and learning outcomes. Real-time analysis of student performance enables efficient teaching methods, while AI automation of administrative tasks frees teachers to focus on more meaningful interactions with their students. AI can automate repetitive tasks like grading assignments and quizzes, freeing up teachers' time for other tasks such as lesson planning and providing more individualized attention to students.

Ahura, Knewton, and Querium are examples of AI-powered learning platforms that offer personalized and adaptive learning experiences for students. Ahura tracks learning habits through observation, Knewton offers adaptive learning experiences, and Querium provides step-by-step tutoring and personalized lesson plans for math problems. AI-powered educational tools provide access to high-quality learning resources regardless of location or socioeconomic status. Advances in AI and machine learning technology allow for more efficient learning experiences and reduce traditional education costs. This makes education more affordable and accessible to a wider range of students.

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

separate track for the cyclists!

Air pollution in cities has increased. Cycling provides physical exercise, besides reduces pollution. The number of vehicles in the city is also increasing day by day. It has become impossible to cycle through such heavy traffic. Perhaps, due to the increasing traffic jam, the number of cyclists might have decreased. For this, local municipalities in every city should plan a separate route for cyclists, which will make cycling easier. The use of bicycles will also be increased.

Sudhir Kangutkar

Early childhood Education is a golden period for opportunities

The formative years, starting from conception up to eight years of age, is a period of extraordinary growth and development in a child's life. A sizeable body of research suggests that nearly 90% of brain growth occurs before kindergarten. Children at this age are incredibly impressionable and, therefore, the social, emotional, and cognitive skills that they pick up during this time are likely to lay the foundation of their adulthood.

Nations around the world have acknowledged the need for and the importance of Early Childhood Education (ECE). Finland, notably, has earned accolades for its 'educare' model, which is an integrated approach to education and care. Here, the Finnish government supports the child's learning and development without necessarily pressuring kids to learn too much, too soon.

In essence, the purpose of early years of education goes beyond earning good grades, prestigious degrees, and hefty salary packages. Its aim is to provide children with strategies to help them develop a lifelong love for learning.

India's standing on education front

With over 158.7 million children under the age of six years, the country has a unique opportunity to accelerate its overall growth by improving the quality and access to early childhood programmes. Last year, the Union Education Ministry introduced the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for the foundational education of children in the three to eight years age group. Taking cues from ancient Indian traditions, NCF proposes a Panchakosha Vikas (five-fold development) model, where the curriculum is centered around physical

development, development of life energy, mental development, intellectual development, and spiritual development. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) has also proposed several structures for pre-school education, including standalone Anganwadi centres and Balvatikas as well as the co-location of Anganwadi centres and Balvatikas with primary schools for functional linkage.

Undeniably, there have been policy efforts to reform the existing education model. However, there are still several issues which need to be addressed. To begin with, the pervasive and deeply ingrained culture of rote learning and exam-centric approach, where learning takes a backseat in the mad race for marks. The evaluation system requires a re-look.

Innovative ways to rehaul the existing system

We are currently grading students on their ability to regurgitate the subject matter which may not necessarily be an accurate reflection of their abilities or knowledge. There are several key strategies that educators, policy-makers and other stakeholders can leverage to improve the quality of education.

Equal respect for all subjects: We need to ensure that children understand the importance of every subject and cultivate curiosity around it. This will help build skills that are required for healthy self-expression and growth in life.

A more meaningful evaluation system: Shift focus from mugging to improving learning outcomes. This could be done by creating more engagement through classroom discussions and activities involving logic, problem-solving skills, analytical abilities, creativity and rational

decision-making.

Learning through play: Play is healthy, and educators can encourage learning by providing children with resources that stimulate divergent thinking. Consider a good blend of indoor and outdoor activities which can be played safely by every child.

Improving budgetary allocation: India spent only 0.1% of its gross domestic product (GDP) on early childhood education in 2020-21, according to a report released by the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) and non-profit Save the Children foundation. We need to increase the fund allocation and ensure its proper implementation so that children receive age-appropriate care and education.

Better teacher training: Teaching young children is a highly skilled work that requires a sensitive understanding of child development. We need courses that are both accessible and affordable. And let us not forget competent compensation.

Early childhood is a window of opportunity for us to help children lead more enriching lives. It plays a key role in improving our economy and is one of the most critical investments a country can make for its overall development. It is about time we accord it the importance it deserves and work towards introducing more innovation into the early growth and development of children. The benefits will be for all to see.

Vijay GarG

Retired Principal Educational Columnist

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

City

Special Judge D D Almale sent Jaisinghani and Nirmal to police custody till March 27



“The bag and the money are yet to be recovered. The investigation shows that the video was shot by accused Anil Jaisinghani and it was from his number that they were sent to the complainant (Amruta). Aniksha has not cooperated with the probe when asked about the number but our technical evidence showed that it belongs to Jaisinghani. The number was also found saved as ‘papayaaa’ in the phone of Aniksha,” special public prosecutor Jaysing Desai told the court. He also claimed that the phone, an iPhone 8, with the SIM card of the same number was found with Jaising-

hani when he was arrested.

Even as Anil Jaisinghani was declared an absconding accused, the bookie is believed to have shot one of the videos sent to blackmail Amruta Fadnavis, the wife of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Mumbai Police told a special court on Tuesday.

Jaisinghani, his cousin Nirmal, and daughter Aniksha were produced before the special court where Special Judge D D Almale sent Jaisinghani and Nirmal to police custody till March 27 and Aniksha till March 24. The police also submitted in its remand application that Aniksha’s voice

samples were taken to recognise a voice heard in the videos. Police also claimed that Aniksha had written “coded chits” to Amruta. The police said that Aniksha’s handwriting samples were taken to confirm the identity of the writer of the chits and also to decode them to interpret their meaning. Jaisinghani’s lawyers claimed that he was arrested illegally and produced before court only 36 hours later. The court, however, said that the reasons put forth by the investigating officer were “satisfactory” and his arrest could not be said to be illegal.

The Malabar Hill police had claimed that multiple videos and voice notes were sent to Amruta in February, including a video where Aniksha is purportedly seen filling a bag with currency notes amounting to Rs 1 crore. The police have alleged that the money was offered as a bribe to Amruta in lieu of getting the cases pending against Jaisinghani dropped. The police alleged that the video was manipulated further to falsely claim that the bag was given to a staffer of Amruta.

Solanki’s family has alleged that caste-based discrimination against him



Two students’ collectives along with alumni from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay have written to Maharashtra Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis, requesting him to direct the state police to register an FIR in case of the death of Darshan Solanki, an IITian who died by alleged suicide last month.

On the occasion of what would have been Solanki’s 19th birthday on Tuesday, Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle (AP-PSC), Ambedkarite Students Collective (ASC) along with a group called “concerned alumni of IIT Bombay” have jointly written to Fadnavis, stating: “Till now, the SIT based their investigation on the Accidental Death Report (ADR) filed by the police.

The refusal of the SIT to base their investigation on FIR is a failure to recognize the rights of the family to register a complaint in respect of cognizable offense as provided under the law.” The letter further stated, “We fear this angle of investigation will reiterate IIT Bombay’s Interim Report where they put blame on Darshan’s merit, ignoring possible atrocities that he might have endured.” Tweeting a picture of Solanki, APPSC, IIT Bombay, wrote: “Darshan would have turned 19 today, if the institute had implemented all the policies mandated by law, reservation in faculty, mental health support, sensitization of savarnas, proper grievance redressal mechanism etc. IIT Bombay has failed you. #justicefordarshansolanki.”

Mumbai BJP has taken the initiative to celebrate Gudi Padwa with greater zeal



Gudi Padwa, the Maharashtra New Year, is celebrated across urban and rural areas of Maharashtra with pomp and show. Cutting across class and community lines, people welcome the new year in the traditional way personally or through public celebrations.

This year, Mumbai BJP has

taken the initiative to celebrate Gudi Padwa with greater zeal. The party has decided nearly 1 lakh karyakartas will hoist gudis on their houses across the city to mark the festival. Ashish Shelar, Mumbai BJP President, said, “We have decided to celebrate Gudi Padwa. It is one of the three-and-a-half auspicious muhurtas as

per the Hindu calendar. To welcome the New Year, BJP activists have hoisted gudis on their houses”. Apart from that, both chiefs and activists also carried out shobha yatras or processions in various parts of Mumbai. The processions displaying state culture were carried out in Lalbaug, Parel, Worli, Vile Parle, Borivali, Dombivali, Kalyan, and Dahisar. While CM Shinde hoisted a gudi in Thane, Deputy Chief Minister Fadnavis celebrated in his home in Nagpur.

The party’s decision to reach out to people through Gudi Padwa is part of its strategy to make deeper inroads amongst the Marathi voters in the city. In Mumbai, where the BJP’s biggest challenge is the upcoming BMC polls, Marathis account for up to 30 per cent of the population, North Indian voters are 20 per cent, and Gujaratis are 17 per cent. The remaining 33 per cent includes various other communities.

Mumbai sees wettest March day since IMD started recording rainfall in 1944

Mumbai on Tuesday received heavy rain coupled with thunderstorms and gusty winds as the city recorded the highest-ever rainfall in the month of March since the Santacruz observatory of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) was established in 1944.

According to the IMD data,

the Santacruz observatory recorded 17 mm of rainfall on Tuesday. Before this, the highest rainfall in the month of March was 13.1 mm in 2006. IMD officials said the all-time highest rainfall recorded in Santacruz prior to the establishment of the observatory was 34.1 mm, which was in 1918, recorded through rain gauges.

Maharashtra: People celebrate Gudi Padwa with pomp to welcome traditional new year

The Gudi Padwa festival is being celebrated with enthusiasm and pomp in Maharashtra on Wednesday with people hoisting “gudis” at their houses and processions were taken out to welcome the beginning of the traditional Marathi new year. The day is

marked by people cleaning their houses, decorating them with colourful rangolis and hoisting the gudi- a bamboo stick decorated with a colourful cloth tied to a ‘kalash’ at the top and a garland of flowers attached to it along with mango leaves and neem leaves. PTI

Nation

AAP leader Manish Sisodia's judicial custody extended by 14 days in excise policy case



Jailed AAP leader and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's judicial custody has been extended for 14 days in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. Special Judge M K Nagpal sent Sisodia to jail till April 5 after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) produced him on the conclusion of his custodial interrogation in the matter. On Monday, the CBI, too, had opposed his bail plea and told a court that a "person

is a saint till the time his illegalities are discovered".

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot presented a Rs 78,800 crore budget in the Delhi Assembly for the financial year 2023-24, a short while ago. The Delhi government's budget size for 2022-23 was Rs 75,800 crore and Rs 69,000 crore in the previous year and has increased by 8.9 per cent.

The minister said the budget

is dedicated to a clean, beautiful and modern Delhi ahead of the G-20 summit late this year. "I would have been happier if it this budget was presented by Manish Sisodia who is like my elder brother. The budget is an expression of expectations and aspirations of the people," Gahlot said in his budget speech. He announced that the government planned to remove all three landfill sites in the national capital in the next two years. A loan of Rs 850 crore has been earmarked for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for the removal of garbage. "The three mountains of garbage are a black spot in Delhi's image. Though it is MCD's duty to tackle the garbage mountain for the people of Delhi, the Kejriwal government will work in tandem with MCD to tackle the issue. We will provide all possible support to ensure the end of these mountains," Gahlot said.

Over 8.89% of Haryana's geographical area affected with twin problem of water-logging, salinity: Govt



Of the total 1.1 crore acres of geographical area in the state, 9.8 lakh acres (8.89 per cent) is affected with the twin problem of waterlogging and salinity, according to the data provided by the Ground Water Cell. The data also revealed that of the total area, 1.7 lakh acres is under critical condition.

The information was revealed in a response to the question raised by INLD MLA Abhay Chautala during Question Hour of the ongoing Budget session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha. Abhay had asked Agriculture minister JP Dalal about areas that were affected with the problem of 'Sem' in Haryana, district-wise details and

steps taken by the government to solve the problem.

Dalal, in his reply, stated, "According to data provided by the Ground Water Cell in 2020, 0.8 lakh acres is affected with the twin problem of waterlogging and salinity in Haryana, of which 1.7 lakh acres is under critical condition."

The minister added that the problem of waterlogging can be tackled through sub-surface drainage (SSD), vertical drainage, bio-drainage and aquaculture depending upon the nature and extent of the problem and the affected area can be reclaimed within 3-4 years. "Most affected areas are in Rohtak (61.47%), Jhajjar (40.77%), Sonipat (32.95%), Bhi-

wani (13.19%), Hisar (7.13%), Jind (9.27%), Charkhi Dadri (9.56%), Fatehabad (1.81%), Ambala (3.96%)," the minister said, adding that the ground situation fluctuates depending on rainfall and cropping pattern.

Elaborating on the steps taken by the state government to ease the situation, the minister added that CM's directions to reclaim water logged and saline land has already been taken up from 2021-22 onwards. "A web portal was developed for farmers to reclaim their waterlogged and saline soils and 4,355 farmers have so far shown interest in reclaiming 25,426 acres on the portal. A Detailed Project Report is also being prepared by Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal. The reclamation work of waterlogged & saline soils was started in 1996 in Haryana, under which, only 28,100 acres was reclaimed in 24 years," he said, adding that a target to reclaim 25000 acres had been fixed for this year, of which 20,839 acres has already been reclaimed through Sub Surface & Vertical Drainage technology and remaining is in progress.

Cement block barricades in front of British High Commission, British High Commissioner's residence removed



Cement blocks that acted as barricades in front of the British High Commission in Delhi and the British High Commissioner's residence were removed, in what was seen as a retaliation for the lack of visible security at the Indian High Commission in London. The Indian High Commission in London does not have any visible security outside the premises, and a group of people chanting pro-Khalistan slogans had vandalised the consulate on Sunday.

The Indian government had lodged a protest by calling in

the senior-most diplomat at the British High Commission. The Ministry of External Affairs had demanded an explanation for the complete absence of British security that allowed these elements to enter the High Commission premises. "She [Deputy High Commissioner Christina Scott] was reminded in this regard of the basic obligations of the UK Government under the Vienna Convention," MEA had said, adding that "India finds unacceptable the indifference of the UK Government to the security of Indian diplomatic premises and personnel in the UK."

Delhi guest teachers association protest over salary, job security

Thousands of guest teachers Tuesday gathered at the Delhi Assembly to hold a demonstration to demand salaries for guest teachers equal to that of regular teachers and job security but were prevented from protesting.

All India Guest Teachers Association (AIGTA) stated in a statement it has demanded equal pay

for equal work from 2017 and job security for all guest teachers for 60 years. The statement added, "No representative or leader or MLA from the government's side listens or solves the demands we keep forward during our demonstration, which shows how insensitive this government has become. The future of the guest teachers is being pushed into darkness."

Anti-Modi posters in Capital: 44 FIRs, 4 arrests

The Delhi Police has registered 44 FIRs and arrested four persons, including two printing press owners, after posters including some seeking the ouster of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ('Modi hatao, desh bachao'), were found pasted on walls and poles in several areas of the Capital. At least 2,000 posters were removed and 2,000 more seized after a van was intercepted.



Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order of Northern Zone) Dependra Pathak told The Indian Express that police intercepted a van in I P Estate when it was coming from the AAP headquarters on DDU Marg and arrested a man

World

Denial of women's right to education in Afghanistan not justifiable, says UN experts



The denial of women's rights to education by the "Taliban de facto authorities" in Afghanistan has no justification on any grounds as it has harmed not only them but also the country's future in a crucial way, the UN experts said in a statement.

The continued "denial of girls and young women's right to school in Afghanistan marks a global low in education, harming an entire gender, a generation, and the future of the country," TOLONews reported citing the statement.

"On 22 March 2023, schools

should be reopening to girls across Afghanistan. Instead, it appears that for the second successive school year, teenage girls will be banned from resuming their studies - making Afghanistan the only country in the world that forbids girls and young women from attending secondary school and places of higher education," the statement said.

"Education is an enabling right, which is crucial in and of itself and for realising other human rights such as the rights to work, to an adequate standard of living, to health, to participate in society and communities, to

equality before the law and to fundamental freedoms. Denying this right to half the population effectively denies women and girls most other human rights," the statement read, as per TOLONews.

Qatar hosted talks on the future of education in Afghanistan and the challenges and obstacles facing it, the Qatar foreign ministry said in a statement.

The statement said that Assistant Foreign Minister Lolwah Al Khater, with the participation of the CEO of Education Above All Foundation, Fahad Al Sulaiti, represented Qatar in the talks held in Doha, where a delegation from the Afghan Ministry of Education, led by Education Minister Mawlawi Sayyid Habeeb Agha, a delegation of the UNICEF organization headed by UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia George Laria, and the Chief of Strategic Partnerships at Education Cannot Wait Organization Nasser Fakhri also participated.

Corrupt, civil, military elites responsible for Pakistan's destruction: MQM leader Altaf Hussain

Founder and leader of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Altaf Hussain has said that the corrupt, civil and military elites are responsible for the destruction of Pakistan. They have been crushing the people to maintain their system of plunder and oppression.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) is a secular political

party in Pakistan that was founded by Altaf Hussain in 1984.

Hussain said that he did not compromise on his ideology, mission and purpose, so the establishment turned against him and conspiracies were made to destroy MQM and groups were formed. His house was held under siege and was burnt to ashes.

"The military generals while

enjoying power have been doing everything to forcibly remove him from the political canvas," Hussain said while speaking to a charged gathering in London on the occasion of the 39th foundation day of MQM.

A large number of people from London, Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham and other cities of England were part of the gathering.

In Putin and Russia, Jinping sees counterweight to American, NATO influence: White House

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby has said that in President Vladimir Putin and Russia, Chinese President Xi Jinping sees a counterweight to the American and NATO influence in the world. The statement by Kirby came as Putin hosted the Chinese leader Jinping.

"I think you've seen over the years that these two countries are growing close together. I wouldn't go so far to call it an alliance. ... (it's) a marriage of convenience, because that's what I think it is. In President Putin and Russia, President Xi sees a counterweight to American influence

and NATO influence, certainly on the continent and elsewhere around the world," Kirby said.

"In President Xi, President Putin sees a potential backer here. This is a man who doesn't have a whole lot of friends on the international stage. They can count them on one hand mostly. He really needs and wants President Xi's support for what he's trying to do, because he's blowing through inventory," he said.

Kirby also said that the US has in some cases, significant concerns about China's behaviour, particularly its coercive and aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea.

"In some cases, we have significant concerns about China's behaviour, particularly their coercive and aggressive behaviour for instance in the South China Sea in pursuing false maritime claims, concerns about intellectual theft and some trade practices," Kirby said.

The NCS further said: "There are other areas where we believe there is room for cooperation with China and we want to be able to pursue that, too, but in order to do that, you gotta keep those lines of communication open, you gotta have that ability to talk, particularly when things are intense like they are right now."

Activists raise concerns over human rights situation in PoK, Gilgit Baltistan



Political activists from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Tuesday organised an event to discuss the worsening human rights situation in the occupied region during the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Organised by the United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) at John Knox Center, the participants including intellectuals and researchers discussed about radicalism, exploitation of resources, enforced disappearances and other issues concerning the region.

Amjad Yousuf, President, UKPNP (Europe Zone) said: "The human rights situation in PoK is very poor and Pakistan continues to keep its hold on the entire region. Islamabad has appointed its own officials who are called Lent officers. They have

no sympathy with the local people and are unable to take care of their rights".

The activist also blamed Pakistan for systematically destroying the history and culture of the indigenous people. He added, "They have put a ban on several books and maps and people are not allowed to read about their history".

He said that the Pakistan army is using terrorists in the region to harass the locals, especially the students who have been demanding their fundamental rights. "Terrorists have recently carried out attacks on local student organisations who were demanding the opening of border route with India to get cheap products as they are facing high inflation. These terrorists are backed by the army and they are used to attack the local people," said Amjad Yousuf.

11 dead as powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake jolts Pakistan, Afghanistan

A strong 6.8 magnitude earthquake with the epicentre in Afghanistan shook Pakistan, killing at least nine people in the country and injuring over 160 others and causing many buildings to collapse, according to media reports on Wednesday.

Two persons were also killed in Afghanistan, the Associated Press reported. The earthquake's epicentre was Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region, while its depth was 180 kilometres, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department.

Tremors were also felt in many parts of north India, including the Delhi-National Capital Region.

In Pakistan, earthquake tremors were felt in Lahore, Islamabad,

Rawalpindi, Quetta, Peshawar, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Kot Momin, Madh Ranjha, Chakwal, Kohat and Gilgit-Baltistan areas. Television footage showed panic-stricken citizens out on the streets.

The earthquake killed nine people, including two women, and injured over 160 others in Pakistan as well as causing many buildings to collapse, Geo News quoted officials as saying.

At the time of the earthquake, a stampede was reported in the markets of Rawalpindi, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif has asked disaster management officials to remain vigilant to handle any situation.

Column

Earth warming, existence in crisis



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, All India Radio & TV panelist, Haryana

In India, nine of the 10 warmest years have been recorded in the last 10 years, and all since 2005. Last year was the fifth warmest year on record. Induced stress due to heat waves increases respiratory and mortality rates, reduces fertility, modifies animal behavior, and suppresses the immune and endocrine systems, increasing susceptibility to certain diseases. Since 1992, there have been over 34,000 heatwave-related deaths in India. Heat waves also increase the likelihood of animals experiencing heat stress, especially when temperatures are high at night and animals are unable to cool down. Heat-stressed cattle may experience a decline in milk production, slower growth, and lower conception rates. Heat waves can exacerbate droughts and wildfires, which can hurt the agricultural sector. For example, in past years cattle herders had to sell their stock due to a shortage of fodder. This special report points to some startling facts revealed in some recent reports. It also talks about the steps taken by the government to reduce the ground suffering arising out of the stress of climate change/heat waves in India.

Around the world, hot days are getting hotter and more frequent. Over the past decade, daily record high temperatures have been twice as high as record lows across the continental United States, up from a ratio of about 1:1 in the 1950s. Heat waves are becoming more common,

and intense heat waves are more frequent in the US West, although some parts of the country still hold records for the number of heat waves dating back to the 1930s. In India, nine of the 10 warmest years have been recorded in the last 10 years, and all since 2005. Last year was the fifth warmest year on record. Induced stress due to heat waves increases respiratory and mortality rates, reduces fertility, modifies animal behavior, and suppresses the immune and endocrine systems, increasing susceptibility to certain diseases. Since 1992, there have been over 34,000 heatwave-related deaths in India. This special report points to some startling facts revealed in some recent reports. It also talks about the steps taken by the government to reduce the ground suffering arising out of the stress of climate change/heat waves in India.

If greenhouse gas emissions are not cut significantly, daily high and low temperatures will increase by at least 5°F in most regions by the middle of the century, rising to as much as 10°F by the end of the century. The National Climate Assessment predicts more than 90 degrees Fahrenheit in most areas by mid-century. Heat waves are more dangerous when combined with high humidity. The combination of temperature and humidity is measured by the heat index. A recent study projected that the annual number of days with a heat index above 100 °F will double, and days with a heat index above 105 °F will triple nationwide, compared to the end of the 20th century. Extreme heat is one of the leading causes of weather-related deaths, killing an average of more people per year in past decades than all other effects (except hurricanes) combined. lists heat waves as six of the top 10 deadliest US disasters since 1980.

Extreme heat can increase the risk of other types of disasters. Heat can exacerbate drought, and hot, dry conditions can in turn create conditions for wildfires. Buildings,

roads, and infrastructure absorb heat, which can cause temperatures to be 1 to 7 degrees F warmer in urban areas than outside—a phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect. This effect is most intense during the day, but at night the slow loss of heat from infrastructure (or an atmospheric heat island) can keep cities warmer than surrounding areas. Rising temperatures across the country pose a threat to people, ecosystems, and the economy. Heat stress occurs in humans when the body is unable to cool itself effectively. Normally, the body can cool itself through sweating, but when the humidity is high, the sweat will not evaporate quickly enough, potentially leading to heat stroke. High humidity and elevated nighttime temperatures are major factors in heat-related illness and mortality. When there is no break from the heat at night, it can cause discomfort and lead to health problems, especially for people who do not have access to cooling, which are often low-income people. Other groups that are particularly vulnerable to heat stress include older adults, infants and children, people with chronic health conditions, and outdoor workers.

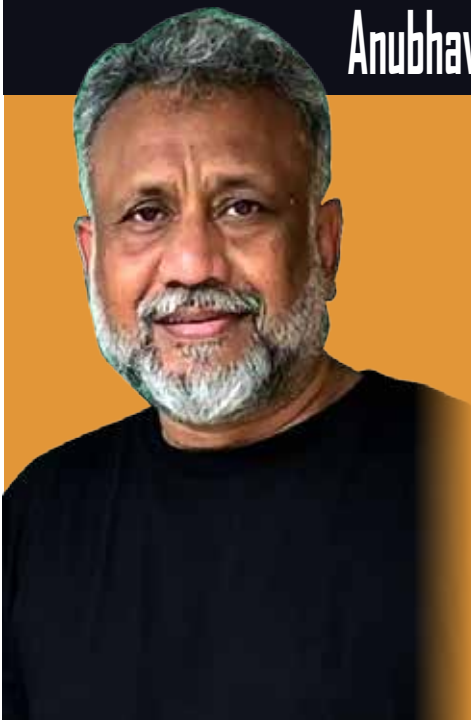
Hotter days are also associated with an increase in heat-related illnesses, including cardiovascular and respiratory complications and kidney disease. Air quality is also affected by extreme temperatures. Hot and sunny days can increase the production of ground-level ozone, a harmful pollutant that is a main component of smog, which can damage the respiratory system and is particularly harmful to people with asthma. In addition, increased use of air conditioning requires more electricity, which, depending on the source of electricity, emits other types of pollution, including particulates that also affect air quality. These increases in ozone and particulate matter can pose serious risks to people, especially the same vulnerable groups directly affected by the heat mentioned above. Higher

temperatures can be harmful to agriculture. Plant growth is negatively affected by high daytime temperatures and some crops require cool nighttime temperatures. Heat waves also increase the likelihood of animals experiencing heat stress, especially when temperatures are high at night and animals are unable to cool down. Heat-stressed cattle may experience a decline in milk production, slower growth, and lower conception rates. Heat waves can exacerbate droughts and wildfires, which can harm the agricultural sector. For example, in past years cattle herders had to sell their stock due to a shortage of fodder.

Warmer temperatures affect many aspects of the US energy system, including generation, transmission, and demand. While higher summer temperatures increase electricity demand for cooling, at the same time, they can reduce the capacity of transmission lines to carry electricity, potentially leading to power reliability issues such as rolling blackouts during heat waves. may cause. Although warmer winters will reduce the need for heating, modeling shows that overall energy use will increase in a warmer future. In addition, as rivers and lakes warm, their ability to absorb waste heat from power plants decreases. This can reduce the thermal efficiency of power generation, making it difficult for power plants to comply with environmental regulations regarding the temperature of their cooling water, and may lead to plant shutdowns. Identifying vulnerable populations to build resilience to extreme heat and creating a heat preparedness plan for all residents, including opening cooling centers during periods of extreme heat and adopting workplace heat stress standards Can Installing cool and green roofs and cool pavements to reduce the urban heat island effect, planting trees to provide shade and cooling the air through transpiration, pursuing energy efficiency to reduce demand on the electricity grid, can be especially effective during heat waves.

Entertainment

Anubhav Sinha director says, "There's a sanctity to his film and he would not like to disturb it"



There's a sanctity to his film and he would not like to disturb it, says Anubhav Sinha, sidestepping the controversy over the trailer of "Bheed" for drawing parallels between the lockdown and Partition. The first trailer of the movie was pulled off and re-released with changes, including the omission of a speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a dialogue referencing Partition. "Of course, these changes are obvious. The trailer was off air for two days (and) the changes mentioned are correct. But that reason is the filmmaker's business.

"There is a sanctity to the film and I would not like to disturb it," Sinha told PTI in an interview. "Bheed", a black and white film starring Rajkummar Rao and Bhumi Pednekar, is Sinha's take on the mass migrant movement during the March 2020 lockdown in India.

He termed the "lockdown" the trigger for the film. "Sometimes I get attracted by the headlines, or something that has been probably bothering me for sometime...I don't like being angry but I am angry towards who we have become and who we are becoming."

Referring to the controversy over his film's trailer, the director said audiences these days are provoked into talking about gossip surrounding a movie when all they should care about is whether they like it or not.

"Unfortunately, these days, they are being provoked into talking about this because it is gossip. And human nature likes gossip, likes sensational news, even if it is untrue. (But) art should be excluded from that. What is important is, did you like the film?" Referring to "Bheed" being labelled "anti-India" by a section of social media users, he said "... there are enough people thumping their chest and celebrating it, which is great" but someone has to speak up about the issues too. "Those people who thought my film is anti-India, I love them for being Indians and I try to be better as an Indian myself... Don't you criticise your mother? You criticise your mother, father, sister, but you love them dearly. Why do you criticise them? Because you want them to be better, you think they can be better. PTI

Rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine hospitalized after attack at gym in Florida



American rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine was hospitalized on Tuesday after being ambushed by a group of attackers at a gym in South Florida. According to Variety, a US-based media outlet, Tekashi's attorney Lance Lazzaro said that the rapper was attacked in and outside the LA Fitness gym sauna by three or four men who beat him up, though he tried fighting back. "He had cuts to his face and bruises," Lazzaro said. The attorney said that the perpetrators fled after employees heard the disturbance.

According to Lazzaro, police in South Florida were contacted, and Hernandez was taken by ambulance to a local hospital. As of now, it is unclear if the rapper remains hospitalized, reported Variety. Lazzaro told TMZ, a US-based tabloid, that he plans to ensure Hernandez gets some protection, since he was released from federal prison in April 2020. Hernandez was arrested and sentenced to two years in prison in 2019 on nine charges, including racketeering, drug trafficking and firearm offenses in relation to his involvement with the Nine Trey Bloods gang, as per Variety. Recently an Indian actor, Aman Dhaliwal, was also attacked by a man wielding a hatchet and a knife outside a gym in Los Angeles. ANI

Steve Martin has treated fans with a new peek at the upcoming season of 'Only Murders in the Building'. The 77-year-old actor took to Twitter to post a picture where he rocked a tuxedo as he posed with his co-star Selena Gomez, who donned full-on wedding attire with a vintage lace gown and matching veil, reported People, a US-based media company. "Guess what just happened!" Martin captioned the snap.

"The neighbour of the bride," one fan wrote as another added, "Wasn't there a movie called ... oh yeah, I get it. Congrats." One Twitter user joked, "Steve, you're going to go broke with all these weddings!" while one asked, "Life imitates art?" Martin Short, 72, also happily posed with the gorgeous bride in another photo Martin posted. "Turns out this happened, too." Martin wrote.

Gomez, also made the most of the moment as she struck a few fun poses in the gown in her own Instagram post. "I have no caption. Just a regular day at work" she wrote. In the comment section, the show's official Instagram page sweetly asked, "First things first, am I invited?" Martin and Gomez's photo comes weeks after he revealed that filming for season 3 had officially started, with Meryl Streep, 73, joining the cast. ANI



Steve Martin and Selena Gomez having blast during shoot of 'Only Murders in the Building' new season