



Bathinda Military station firing: ADGP says "No terror angle involved"

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Members of Kharghar federation to appeal in Supreme court

Following the decision of the Bombay High Court, the Kharghar Federation held a meeting on Sunday in Kharghar, and the majority of the members decided to appeal against the decision to the Supreme Court. It means that the battle between citizens and the PMC on the property tax issue is now not going to end anytime soon. Senior member and retired Commander S. H. Kalawat informed the court's decision to members of the federation. The further course of legal action was also discussed about the legal position taken in the court. Out of 175 members, only 2 members disagreed to appeal in the Supreme Court while others supported challenging the decision. Now, in the next meeting, the legal issues will be decided including appointments of lawyers. Meanwhile, after the High Court dismissed the writ petition of the Kharghar Federation, the PMC received a whopping Rs. 3 crores in property tax in one day. The civic body said that the court's decision has encouraged citizens to come forward in the development of the city.

The Municipal Commissioner Mr. Ganesh Deshmukh has appealed to all the property owners in the PMC area to cooperate with the corporation by paying their property tax through online or offline whichever is easy for them. The Panvel Municipal Corporation (PMC) has also made available an online facility for paying taxes for the financial year 2023-2024.



Demand for creating a separate 'Sindhudesh' is increasing

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Amidst the atrocities against minorities in the Sindh province of Pakistan, the demand for creating a separate 'Sindhudesh' once again is cumulative. This is the reason why the partition of Pakistan is necessary. The issue of Sindhudesh is heating up at a time when Pakistan is on the verge of default and TTP and Baloch insurgent forces are carrying out bloody attacks in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. This is the reason that the danger of dividing an unstable Pakistan into four countries has arisen.

Pakistan's friend Taliban has also become a menace for it and

wants to capture the tribal areas of Pakistan through TTP. Meanwhile, Shayan Ali, a supporter of 'Sindhudesh' born in Pakistan and living in America, has announced that this time there is going to be a strong protest in the urban areas of Sindh. Not only this, in view of the injustice done to the minorities in Sindh, unpredictable demonstrations are taking place continuously.

Last year there was a huge rally to make Sindhudesh. In this, PM Modi, Joe Biden and other leaders were demanded to help in creating a separate 'Sindhudesh' for the Sindhi people.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

According to experts in the internal politics of Pakistan, if the Sindhis together with PoK and Baluchistan demand a separate country, it can be difficult for the Pakistani Government and the Army.

For years, people of Sindhi and Baloch communities have been tolerating the atrocities of the Pakistani Army, in such a way that if the Sindhis and Baluchis got together and started a movement for a different country

first time that the demand for separate Sindhudesh has gone from Karachi. In fact, Ghulam Murtaza Saeed, the leader of the Sindhis, had fought for a long time demanding a separate Indus.

Demand for creating a separate 'Sindhudesh' is increasing

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

Amidst atrocities against Hindus in the Sindh province of Pakistan, the demand for creating a separate 'Sindhudesh' is increasing. The supporters of the movement claim that only Sindhudesh will be able to give rights to the Hindus living in the Sindh province of Pakistan. Since it was annexed by the Pakistan Army in 1948, Balochistan has existed as a colony of Pakistan. Over the last seven decades, Pakistan, especially the military and bureaucratic elite from Pakistan's Punjab province.

According to experts in the internal politics of Pakistan, if the Sindhis together with PoK and Baluchistan demand a separate country, it can be difficult for the Pakistani Government and the Army. In fact, for years, people of Sindhi and Baloch communities have been tolerating the atrocities of the Pakistani Army, in such a way that if the Sindhis and Baluchis got together and started a movement for a different country, then it was very difficult for the Government and Army of Pakistan to maintain it. It will happen because due to inflation and worse economic conditions, dissatisfaction is developing within the Pakistani people.

The demand for independence from Pakistan has arisen from Karachi, the economic politics of Pakistan, where thousands of people have protested vigorously, repeating the demand for separate Sindhudesh. For your information, let us tell you that this is not the first time that the demand for separate Sindhudesh has gone from Karachi. In fact, Ghulam Murtaza Saeed, the leader of the Sindhis, had fought for a long time demanding a separate Indus.

The history of Pakistan has witnessed that in Pakistan, the Army has overthrown elected governments many times. Protecting and training of terrorists by the government and the military, atrocities against religious and linguistic minorities, and poor economic conditions to prove that Pakistan is a failed nation. There is democracy in Pakistan to show the whole world, but in fact, the Army in Pakistan has complete control over the elected government there.

There was a massive rally to commemorate the 117th

birth anniversary of GM Syed, the founder of modern Sindhi nationalism. People took out a pro-independence rally in Syed's home town of Sindh. The Sindhi people consider themselves the descendants of the Indus Valley Civilization. This society kept moving forward in different forms and religions for the last 5000 years. Sindhi nationalists say that their province was forcibly occupied by the British and illegally given to Pakistan in 1947 against the will of the people.

It is said that the Muslims of Sindh were quite different from the Muslims of other parts of India. The Hindus here were also heavily influenced by Buddhism. Sindhi nationalists want this area to be separated from Pakistan like Sindhudesh of Mahabharata. Its demand first intensified in the year 1967. GM Syed and Pir Ali Mohammad Rushdie took it forward. After the independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan in the year 1971, the demand for this Sindhudesh gained more momentum. The demand for Sindhi language and identity was inspired by the Bengali language movement.

Meanwhile, an infamous Pakistani Army is persecuting the people of its own country. The atrocities of Pakistan's military against people living in areas such as PoK, Balochistan, and Sindh are increasing, and now the people living in these areas are loudly demanding to be freed from Pakistan. The atrocities of the Pakistan Government and the Army on people demanding a separate Sindhudesh are increasing. To suppress the demand for separate Sindhudesh, the Government of Pakistan has registered cases against the people of the movement alleging nation, government, state institutions under various sections of slogans, rebellion, terrorism and criminal conspiracy against.

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Letters to the Editor

The Future of Space Tourism

With the rapid growth of space tourism, traveling to outer space has become one of the best desires of people. Space Travel is defined as any air travel beyond 50 or 60 miles above sea level. For this motive, Suborbital Space Travel is used which takes people into space and then returns to Earth. Under this, Commercial space tourism has the potential to boost the economy by encouraging investments and creating jobs. It could help in solving some of the most baffling mysteries about the universe. The perspective of Space Tourism is to enable more people than ever before to go to space. But it has a hefty price tag which will be a major downside in today's space travel. It may also be bad for the environment. As per the study, the carbon released by 1000 private suborbital flights per year would increase the temperature over the poles by 1 degree Celsius and reduce the polar sea level by 5% each year. On the other side, it will encourage further innovation and exploration of our solar system. It would create opportunities to invent new space technology, conduct groundbreaking research and establish new frontiers in galaxies.

Anushka Panwar

Effort to bring back Kohinoor

The 46-page document, obtained by The Guardian, explains how priceless pieces were extracted from India as trophies of conquest and later given to Queen Victoria. Some of those items were displayed or worn by the royal family members over the years. Sharing details about the jewels in its Cost of the Crown series, the publication wrote that a long gold girdle inlaid with 19 large emeralds once used by an Indian maharajah to decorate his horses was on display on the occasion of Prince Charles's 70th birthday. Today, Koh-i-Noor – the most precious stone once owned by Singh – sits in the crown of Queen Elizabeth. Besides the Koh-i-Noor diamond, the British also looted many valuable jewels from India. Now the Indians and the Indian Government should make every effort to bring back Kohinoor diamond to India!

Aparna Jagtap

Another deadly virus called Marburg

Another deadly virus called Marburg is in the air. Marburg and Ebola viruses are both members of the Filoviridae family (filovirus). Though caused by different viruses, the two diseases are clinically similar. Both diseases are rare and have the capacity to cause outbreaks with high fatality rates.

The illness caused by the Marburg virus begins abruptly, with high fever, severe headache and severe malaise. Muscle aches and pains are a common feature. Symptoms become increasingly severe and can include jaundice, inflammation of the pancreas, severe weight loss, delirium, shock, liver failure, massive hemorrhaging, and multi-organ dysfunction.

Severe watery diarrhoea, abdominal pain and cramping, nausea and vomiting can begin on the third day. Diarrhoea can persist for a week. The appearance of patients at this phase has been described as showing "ghost-like" drawn features, deep-set eyes, expressionless faces, and extreme lethargy. Many patients develop severe haemorrhagic manifestations between 5 and 7 days, and fatal cases usually have some form of bleeding, often from multiple areas. Fresh blood in vomitus and faeces is often accompanied by bleeding from the nose, gums, and vagina.

Spontaneous bleeding at venepuncture sites (where intravenous access is obtained to give fluids or obtain blood samples) can be particularly troublesome. During the severe phase of illness, patients have sustained high fevers. Involvement of the central nervous system can result in confusion, irritability, and aggression. Orchitis (inflammation of one or both testicles) has been reported occasionally in the late phase of disease (15 days).

In fatal cases, death occurs most often between 8 and 9 days after the symptom onset, usually preceded by severe blood loss and shock.

There is no specific treatment for the Marburg virus disease. Supportive hospital therapy should be utilized, which includes balancing the patient's fluids and electrolytes, maintaining oxygen status and blood pressure, replacing lost blood and clotting factors, and treatment for any complicating infections.

Jubel D'Cruz

Buy best from Property deal



A country's economic health rides on how well its primary industries perform. It depends on how encouraged these industries are to expand, how many jobs they create in the bargain, to what degree foreign funds are attracted and encouraged to invest in various industries, and how much consumption increases because of all these factors.

The four-day property exhibition of the CREDAI Builders Association of Navi Mumbai (BANM) was a success at CIDCO Exhibition Centre in Vashi. This is the first exhibition at the CIDCO exhibition centre after the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020. Many property dealers participated in the weekend extravaganza and the prospective buyers lined up to get the best quotes for their choicest place of preference.

This year's exhibition will feature the latest and most sought-after properties and projects by Navi Mumbai's top developers, providing visitors with the unique opportunity to engage with developers and industry experts, gain insights into the latest market trends, and identify the best investment opportunities in the thriving Navi Mumbai real estate sector. Apart

from new projects, there will be projects available from the redevelopment. Around 15 percent of projects in the exhibition will be from redevelopment. However, those who are searching for properties under the affordable segment or around Rs 20 lakh, have to make a choice out of Navi Mumbai like Khopoli and Karjat.

Navi Mumbai is a preferred place to stay and invest due to its phenomenal infrastructural developments such as the Airport, Metro, and other road connectivity. Visitors can explore a diverse range of properties on display, including affordable housing, luxury apartments, commercial spaces, and more. Properties ranging from Rs. 20 lacs to 15 Crores will be showcased. Home buyers were offered an advantage of exclusive deals, discounts, and offers on property purchases, as well as enter a lucky draw for the chance to win fabulous prizes.

The real estate industry has reasons to cheer as the Union Budget has announced infrastructure status for affordable housing. Housing companies acknowledged the beneficial changes to the affordable housing segment as it would give a boost to housing construction for

low-income groups. But what is affordable housing? We need to have Rs50 lakhs for a reasonable flat. The real estate developers suck the benefits as their profits, common people are made fools.

Besides, timely delivery of infrastructure development as promised is one demand that all stakeholders are hoping from the government. The delay in infrastructure jiggles the entire risk and return dynamics for investors, developers, buyers as well as for occupiers. There are high hopes from smart cities initiative as well, thus everybody is expecting a well thought out implementation plan. For the industry to thrive, the economy needs to grow, jobs need to be created, and more income needs to drive demand for bigger offices, new homes, retail, and hospitality. Thus, more than real estate incentives we are looking forward to the economy to grow.

- C K Subramaniam

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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

Maha minister Chandrakant Patil shouldn't have made Babri-Shiv Sena workers' remark: Mumbai BJP chief



Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar on Wednesday said it would have been better had his party colleague and Maharashtra minister Chandrakant Patil not made his remark about the role of Shiv Sena workers in the Babri Masjid demolition.

Patil's statement that not a single Sena worker was present when the Babri mosque in Ayodhya was demolished in 1992 has put the Bharatiya Janata Party in a spot, as it is a partner of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in

the Maharashtra government.

Shelar's reaction came after he met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. "Patil made those comments in personal capacity. Perhaps it would have been better had he not made those comments," he told reporters.

"All were working to bring together various communities and groups. Balasaheb's (late Sena founder Bal Thackeray) role in it (Ram Janmabhoomi movement) was helpful and supportive. We have welcomed it, re-

spected it and honoured his (Bal Thackeray's) views in this movement," he said.

"I want to ask Uddhav ji (Uddhav Thackeray) what was his role in the whole (Babri Masjid demolition) operation," Shelar, a former Maharashtra minister, further said.

The BJP believes that the Babri structure demolition was a spontaneous reaction of Hindus, he said. "The party neither took any credit for it, nor does it seek it now," he said, adding that religious leaders had started the Ayodhya movement.

Following Patil's remarks, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray had demanded that Chief Minister Shinde, himself a Shiv Sena worker, either step down himself or ask Patil to resign.

Bal Thackeray had often been quoted as saying that he was proud if any of his party workers were involved in the demolition of the mosque.

Crops over one lakh acres damaged due to hailstorms rains in state: Ajit Pawar

Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Ajit Pawar on Wednesday said crops over more than one lakh acres have been damaged due to the recent unseasonal rains and hailstorms in the state.

The state government should provide aid to the affected farmers, he demanded while speaking to reporters here.

"Onion, papaya, grapes and other crops have been destroyed," the Nationalist Congress Party leader said.

He would be meeting, in his capacity as Leader of Opposition,

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for the meeting of a committee set up to make certain appointments on Wednesday, Pawar said.

"I will also apprise them of the losses faced by farmers," he added.

To a question about reports that the Enforcement Directorate has given him a clean chit in the alleged Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam, Pawar said it was not true and the probe was still going on.

Asked about Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray meeting NCP president Sharad

Pawar on Tuesday, the former deputy chief minister said he was not aware of what transpired during the meeting.

"The two leaders had not met for a long time. The rally of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (of which the NCP and Thackeray-led Sena are constituents) is also scheduled in Mumbai on May 1," he said.

To a question about Congress leaders criticising the NCP, Pawar said the MVA allies should resolve their differences among themselves and not speak to the media. He will speak on this issue at a rally in Nagpur on April 16, he said.

Technical snag hits Mumbai local train services

The Western Railway on Wednesday informed that Mumbai suburban local train services were affected due to a technical snag after an overhead wire snapped between Dahisar and Borivali on the Churchgate-bound fast line. "Over Head

Equipment (OHE) wire snapped at around 10.02 am between Dahisar and Borivali.

Announcements were made at stations as well as on trains. Work was carried out on war footing & services have now been restored," Sumit Thakur,

CPRO, Western Railway said.

According to the officials, three trains were held up and others were diverted. Earlier in December, Mumbai's Jui Nagar faced a technical glitch in the signals, informed the Central Railway officials.

MVA should work together irrespective of difference of opinion Sharad Pawar

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), of which his party is a constituent along with the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress, should work together unitedly even though the allies may have differences of opinion.

Talking to reporters here, Pawar said the issue of unity among the allies was discussed during his meeting with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday.

Pawar said some programmes have been decided for the unity of the alliance. "Everyone should participate in these programmes. This is the policy we agreed on yesterday," he said.

The meeting between Pawar and Thackeray took place days after the NCP chief favoured a probe by a Supreme Court panel into allegations against the Adani Group over a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).

The Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) have been insisting on a JPC probe. Pawar had earlier said although the NCP did not agree with the demand of anti-BJP parties for a JPC probe, it



would not go against their stand for the sake of Opposition unity.

Pawar had said if a JPC is formed, looking at the BJP's numerical strength in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the ruling party will have 14-15 members in the panel, while the Opposition will have five to six MPs.

"The panel will also be headed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). So who will control the panel and what will be its influence on the report?" Pawar had asked, seeking to drive home the point that a parliamentary probe committee will have a limited scope. Instead, a Supreme Court-appointed panel should probe the issue, the NCP leader had added. In an interview with a Marathi news channel, which was telecast on Tuesday,

Pawar said Thackeray had quit as chief minister (in June 2022) without consulting the MVA constituents.

Thackeray-Pawar meeting positive they discussed political developments in country and Maha Sanjay Raut

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said Uddhav Thackeray and Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar discussed political developments in Maharashtra and the country during their meeting a day before, which he termed as "positive".

Thackeray had visited Pawar's residence in south Mumbai on Tuesday late evening. Talking to reporters, Raut said Congress general secretary K C Venugopal has sought Thackeray's time for a meeting. He said Venugopal will meet Thackeray as a representative of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

and the priority is to maintain the Opposition unity.

The possible meeting between Thackeray and Venugopal will be held amid strained ties between Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) after Rahul Gandhi's remarks on late Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar, which were objected to by Thackeray.

"A long and important meeting took place. Discussions took place on political developments in Maharashtra and the nation, and changing the direction of the future. It was a positive meeting," Raut said when asked about the meeting between Pawar and Thackeray.

Nation

Bathinda Military station firing: ADGP says "No terror angle involved"



There is no terror angle in the shooting incident that took place on Wednesday morning at Bathinda Military Station where at least four persons have been reported killed, said Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Bathinda Range Surinder Pal Singh Parmar.

"This morning the news of firing in the army cantonment of Bathinda was received, and it was found that four people died. Top army officers and police officers reached the spot and the investigation is still going on," ADGP Parmar said. Completely ruling out a terror angle in the incident, the ADGP said, "There

is no terror angle to the incident. Two days ago, they lodged an FIR in the police station Cantt that a rifle was stolen. That too is being investigated. When the army men will give us the complete information, we will file an FIR on that and the investigation will also be done. This is also a matter of the army, it will be investigated separately from their side also." "We are cooperating with the army officers, and our officer Ajay Gandhi, Superintendent of Police (SP), and detective are investigating," he added. "The dead bodies have reached the Civil Hospital in Bathinda for post-mortem," the ADGP further informed."

As per initial reports, the firing at the Bathinda Military Station appeared to be an internal issue since a rifle with ammunition had been missing for the last two days, Indian Army sources said. Search operations are underway inside the military station where there is a thick plantation in some areas, they said. The Indian Army said that four army jawans of an artillery unit succumbed to gunshot injuries sustained during the incident. According to the Army statement, no other injuries to personnel or damage to property have been reported in the incident.

The Army said that an IN-SAS rifle along with 28 rounds were reportedly missing for the past two days and some Army personnel might be behind this incident. Meanwhile, the area has been cordoned off and the Army is conducting joint investigations with Punjab Police to establish the facts of the case. According to the sources, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has also been briefed by Army Chief General Manoj Pandey on the firing incident. ANI

Rahul's conviction 'Litmus Test' for Indian judiciary, hope it will be reversed: Anand Sharma



Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma on Wednesday said Rahul Gandhi's conviction and disqualification from Lok Sabha is "deeply flawed" in law and hoped it will be corrected as it will be a "litmus test" for the Indian judiciary. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, the senior party spokesperson said though much has been said about the decision of conviction and disqualification of Rahul Gandhi, it "is deeply flawed in law and in the Constitution". "If the same yardstick were to be applied, perhaps the Indian Parliament would have been hollowed out. Most major leaders of political parties would have been out of Parliament for decades. That has not happened," he said.

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Kerala HC rejects plea for ED, customs probe against CM in gold smuggling case

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea seeking a Customs and Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into the alleged involvement of high-ranking political functionaries, including Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in the gold smuggling through diplomatic bags case. Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas rejected the petition by Aji Krishnan, the founder secretary of NGO Highrange Rural Development Society (HRDS) India, which had briefly employed Swapna Suresh -- one of the accused in the case. The dismissal of the plea was confirmed by a lawyer associated with the case. The lawyer said the petition was dismissed as being non-maintainable and on merits. The detailed order is not yet available.

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SC agrees to hear plea challenging provision of Maternity Benefit Act relating to maternity leave of adoptive mothers on April 28

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear on April 28 a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging a provision of the 'Maternity Benefit Act' which says that adoptive mothers will be eligible for maternity leave only if they adopt children who are less than three months old. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said it would post the matter for hearing on April 28 after an advocate for the petitioner mentioned the case for early listing.

Earlier, the apex court had sought a response from the Central government on the plea that the provision is "discriminatory and arbitrary" towards the adoptive mothers. The petitioner, Hamsaanandini Nanduri,



challenged the Constitutional validity of Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, as per which, a person has to be an adoptive parent to a child below three months to avail the benefit of 12 weeks of maternity leave

"There is no provision for maternity leave at all for a mother adopting an orphaned, abandoned or surrendered child above the age of three months,"

the plea said, adding that "Such a distinction will lead to parents preferring to adopt a newborn child as against older children."

It said, "Section 5(4) therefore discriminates not only between biological and adoptive mothers but also between children who are adopted." The plea also raised objections to the period of maternity leave provided to adoptive mothers as compared to biological mothers. "The adoptive mother gets 12 weeks of maternity benefit but the maternity benefit of 26 weeks is provided to biological mothers," it added. It also highlighted that Adoption Regulations involve a minimum duration of two months for a child to be declared "legally free for adoption" in accordance with the law. ANI

World

Saudi Arabia's plan to cut oil production will be risky for global economy: Fatih Birol



The analysis of the International Energy Agency has predicted that the effect of Saudi Arabia's plan to cut oil production will be risky for the global economy and that the markets would be very tight in the second half of this year.

On Saudi Arabia's announcement of cutting oil production, Fatih Birol, Executive Director of, the International Energy Agency said, "Saudi Arabia, Rus-

sia and others- the OPEC plus producers decided to cut the oil production. And when we look at the International Energy Agency's analysis and the analysis of almost every serious institution looking at the oil markets, the second half of this year markets would be all very tight."

"I found this decision risky for the global economy," he added.

Responding to a question on

the impact of cut of oil production on countries like India, Birol said, "India is an energy importer country, oil importer country. The majority of the oil consumed in India is imported. Such a move could increase India's oil import bill and as such, a burden on the Indian economy and Indian consumers."

On the impact of Ukraine's war on energy, he said, "Renewable energies are energies of peace. In addition to that, we also see that as a result of this war, Russia was a major world's number one natural gas exporter. More and more countries are producing and exporting gas. And we expected in the next two, three years of time, there will be a float of LNG coming to markets and as such would put downward pressure on the prices and ease gas supply security concerns."

100 killed in airstrike by military junta on Myanmar village



As many as 100 people, including many children, were killed in an air raid by Myanmar's military in Sagaing Region's Kanbalu Township, reported The Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) citing a witness of a local pro-democracy group and independent media.

The attack occurred on Tuesday morning around 8 am during the ceremony held to mark the opening of a People's Administration Team office in Pa Zi Gyi village, junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun confirmed, as reported by malaymail.

He said some of the dead were anti-coup fighters in uniform while acknowledging "there could be some people with civilian clothes." Sagaing region near the country's second-largest city, Mandalay has put up some of the fiercest resistance to the military's rule, with intense fighting raging

there for months. "According to the ground information we got, people were killed not because of our attack only. There were some mines planted by PDF around that area," malaymail quoted him saying, adding the airstrike had also hit a storage area for gunpowder and mines.

However, The Irrawaddy reported that 50 civilians including children were killed and 30 injured. Meanwhile, Myanmar Now, a News agency stated that the airstrike killed 80 people. Reacting to the incident, UN rights chief Volker Turk said on Tuesday he was "horrified" by the deadly air strikes, whose victims he said included schoolchildren performing dances, with the global body calling for those responsible to be brought to justice. It was the junta's deadliest attack since seizing power in 2021.

China warns as US, Philippines stage combat drills



China warned on Wednesday that a deepening security alliance between the United States and the Philippines should not harm its security and territorial interests and interfere in long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

When asked to comment on the combat exercises between American and Filipino forces that started on Tuesday in the Philippines, the Chinese Embassy in Manila on Wednesday issued a statement by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, who said that such drills

should not target any third party and should be conducive to regional peace and stability."

Wang did not say how China would respond if it concludes that the US-Philippine security cooperation was hurting Beijing's core interests.

In Washington, the US and Philippine defence and foreign secretaries met on Tuesday to discuss the development of nine Philippine military camps, where American forces have been allowed to stay indefinitely under the 2014 Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement.

China pushes Sri Lanka to sign FTA in guise of debt restructuring

Negotiations for a possible FTA between China and Sri Lanka were launched in 2014 in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa when both sides continued to have several rounds of talks, Daily Mirror reported. China had "awarded" Sri Lanka with a delayed response to its request for debt restructuring and now appears to pressure Sri Lanka into signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) under the guise of helping to restructure debt repayments.

The 5th round of China-Sri Lanka FTA negotiation was held in Colombo on Tuesday where the two sides exchanged views on issues concerning trade in goods, trade in service, investment, economic and technical cooperation, rule of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade (TBT), sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) and trade remedy.

According to experts, the disadvantage for Sri Lanka is that China's FTAs restrict the use of para-tariffs, such as the import levy used by Sri Lanka, Daily

Mirror reported. For a country like Sri Lanka, whose exports are limited to a few products, an agreement that reduces barriers to trade on thousands of other products but excludes these key exportable products from the world and from China will fail to facilitate Sri Lanka's export growth.

Since the end of the Sri Lankan civil war in 2009, China has extended numerous loans to Sri Lanka for various infrastructure projects, including a port, an airport, highways, and other significant projects.

Ukraine Prez Zelenskyy writes to PM Modi

Ukraine's First Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova has conveyed to her Indian interlocutors Kyiv's desire to build a stronger and closer relationship with New Delhi. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dzhaparova handed over the letter to Minister of State for Ex-

ternal Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi during a meeting on Tuesday.

The MEA said the next round of foreign office consultations between the two sides will be held in Kyiv on a mutually convenient date. Next Stay The First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine wrapped up her three-day visit to India on Wednesday.

It was the first visit from Ukraine to India after Russia began

its invasion of the east European country on February 24 last year.

The MEA said Ukraine requested for additional humanitarian supply, including medicines and medical equipment. In her meeting with Secretary (West) in the MEA Sanjay Verma, the Ukrainian deputy foreign minister also proposed that rebuilding infrastructure in Ukraine could be an opportunity for Indian companies

Education

Why should you Study in India



Vijay Garg

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The land of the ancient Nalanda University, India, is a rising star in the education world. With over a billion people, countless talents and opportunities, it is just obvious to choose it for your higher education. Whether you are an Indian or some foreigner, Indian universities have something to offer you. Other than that, you get affordable places to live, dine and the chance to travel a lot. Which country in the world has such a diverse culture? You not only learn the subject matter but also gain true practical knowledge. You know how to break the ice. You know how to interact with people who have no idea of your language. Isn't it intriguing to know that India has 22 official languages and countless dialects? You can never get enough of the cultural diversity throughout the country. And, at the top of all these, the medium of education in most Indian universities is English which makes you comfortable if you are a foreigner. **Studying in India can be explained in the of Indian students and foreigner students. Indian students should continue here rather than going abroad due to a number of factors. Here are some of them:**

Advantages of Studying in India - For Indian Students

You are at Home: When you travel abroad, there is always a strong possibility of you feeling homesick. You miss all the festivals, ceremonies and above all, your family. But when you study in your own country, no matter which part you live in, you can always afford to go and visit your parents. Homesickness is rather uncommon here. You get friends whom you don't need to explain about the cultural gap. That actually makes the life easier. You get to gel up easily. Otherwise, wouldn't it be tough to explain to your foreigner friends when you are travelling home for Bihu? They can't share the same enthusiasm. But back in India, you will get a reciprocatory answer.

You know Better about the Courses and Colleges: The recent years have seen an upsurge in a number of students getting duped abroad in fake colleges. You cannot really investigate so much in the colleges there. As a result, not only the students lose too much of their money but also valuable career years. But when you decide to study in India, you can always go for yourself and check the college. You can look put for the comprehensive list of fake universities and colleges on UGC website. Also, you will most probably have some family friends who know about the college of your choice. You save money and your important time.



You can get a Course of Your Choice: India has a unique combination of traditional and latest courses. You can learn Sanskrit, ancient history and classical music in a number of universities. On the other hand, you can also go for research and development at institutes in IISc, IITs, and IISERs. These offer you the most recent fields to work upon. As a matter of fact, most of these institutes have professors who get their education abroad. So, you also get the international exposure. Also, many Indian universities are continuously working to upgrade their syllabus and course structure. So, the gap between the Indian and abroad education will soon be a thing of past. As a matter of fact, in some areas like space research, India is already a pioneer. We have always been a leader in traditional science topics.

You get equal Global Exposure: It is actually just a misconception that you cannot get global exposure if you study here. As a matter of fact, many Indian universities like BHU, DU, Manipal University etc. see a surplus number of foreign students. Also, students from Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh etc. get big scholarships here. So, they are in good number here. And when you have so much of students from different countries, how will you not get global exposure? Don't you think it is a little biased of us to think of getting global exposure only when we are abroad? So, no need to ponder about this, you can get this even in the premier Indian institutes.

You Save Money: And at last, but not the least, you save money. If you are not from some rich family, it is going to cost your family a fortune to get you in a foreign university. Not to mention the living cost and other expenses. In India, you can get bank loans at an affordable rate. You also get a number of scholarships. So if you come from the economically weaker section, you will get lots of financial aid to complete your

education.

So far we discussed the benefits of studying in India from an Indian point of view. These all imply if you are already living in India. But what if you are a resident of some other country and wish to complete your education abroad. There are a lot of lucrative options in Nordic countries, Singapore, European nations and above all USA. But studying in India has its own perks. So, why a foreigner should choose to study here? Here are some of the points:
Advantages of Studying in India - For Foreigner Students

Affordable Education: Education in India is affordable when compared to a course of the same level in the top world universities. You shell out almost a fourth of what you would have in the USA. Also, the living cost is way lesser than the major world cities. Of course, the places like New Delhi and Mumbai are expensive. But still, they are cheaper than New York and London. The food is always cheap, fresh and easily available. You can get the food to suit your palate. So, for very less money, you can get an education which could have cost too much anywhere else.

Some of the Best Universities in the World: India is gradually catching up on the university ranking front. She has some of the best universities in the world. IISc, Bangalore is a premier centre for science research in the world. You can get traditional courses like yoga, ancient martial arts, Ayurveda only in the Indian universities.

International Medium of Education: The biggest problem any foreigner faces in another country is language. Thankfully English is the medium of education in most Indian universities. Also, most people especially the students are quite fluent in English. So you will have no problem in mixing up with them.

Hospitable Place: India is undoubtedly the most hospitable place in the world.

You will get all sort of help from the people around you. Your teachers, friends, colleagues, neighbours and even the people on the streets will always help you. So, you will never feel being away from the home.

New Experience: India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world. But it is also home to the second highest economic inequality in the world. You can witness the high-rise buildings just next to dingy slums. If you belong to the first world countries, you can never understand the true difficulties faced by poor people. India is the perfect place to learn more about them. You can work in conjunction with the various NGOs, government agencies and research institutes to help overcome this inequality. This will enrich your view of life. You will gain new knowledge and will definitely be better equipped to face the hardest times of life.

Spirituality: No matter how much you try to keep yourself away, India will give you a sense of spiritual enlightenment. You will be unable to keep yourself away from the charm of mental peace and tranquillity. You will learn to inculcate the habit of meditating. In, long run, it will help you in coming up with the lifestyle stress and stay healthy.

You get to Explore: With cheap living expenses, you can save much to travel through the country. The wide rail network will allow you to travel distances in very less budget. So much travelling will definitely broaden your understanding. India as a nation has a diversity found nowhere else. You can explore the Thar desert and then go for the water rafting over the mighty Ganges in Rishikesh. You will definitely get experiences of your lifetime.

These are all the reasons for studying in India from both perspectives; as an Indian student and as a foreigner. Both get an equal share of the advantages of studying in this wonderful country. Do let us know which college you would love to study. Just don't forget to double-check about the college's degree validity. Have a bright future!

Entertainment

"I thank god for a brother like you," Sanjay Dutt wishes bestie Paresh Ghelani Happy Birthday



A best friend is no less than a brother! Sanjay Dutt took to Instagram on Wednesday to wish his bestie producer and entrepreneur Paresh Ghelani a happy birthday. Sharing a string of pictures from their jungle safari, Sanjay wrote in the caption, "Dear brother Parya happy birthday and may god bless you and give you all the success & health, god has blessed me with a brother such as you, you are my strength, and no matter what you have stood by me through thick and thin I thank you for that and I thank god for a brother like you, love you brother and happy birthday, these photos we have to be there every year. pareshghelani."

For the unversed, the character of Kamli (in Sanjay's biopic 'Sanju') was based on Paresh Ghelani. Sanjay's daughter Trishala Dutt also wrote on his post, "Happy Birthday Paresh Uncle I love you. pareshghelani"

Fans also loved his post of Sanjay. One wrote, "How sweet!", Another one wrote, "Love you baba!" ANI

Ariana Grande addresses body-shaming comments, says "Healthy can look different"



Ariana Grande took to TikTok on Tuesday to shed light on her mental health, addressing recent comments about her body in a three-minute video. "I don't do this often. I don't like it. I'm not good at it. But I just wanted to address your concerns about my body, and talk a little bit about what it means to be a person with a body and to be seen and to be paid such close attention to," she began.

As reported by People, a US-based media company, the Grammy-winning singer added, "There are many different ways to look healthy and beautiful. And personally, for me, the body that you've been comparing my current body to was the unhealthiest version of my body."

Sharing her past habits, the singer said, "I was on a lot of anti-depressants and drinking on them and eating poorly and at the lowest point of my life when I looked the way you consider my healthy, but that, in fact, wasn't my healthy."

Ariana felt that talking about her body would free her from inner insecurities and vulnerabilities. "Healthy can look different," continued Grande. The second thing is you never know what someone is going through, so even if you're coming from a loving place or a caring place, that person probably is working on it or has a support system that they're working on it with. You never know, so be gentle with each other and yourselves," she added. ANI



Sushmita Sen goes shopping with ex-boyfriend Rohman Shawl, daughter Alisah

Sushmita Sen went shopping with ex-boyfriend Rohman Shawl and younger daughter Alisah on Tuesday. Posted by a paparazzo, the video went viral. Sushmita was seen in a red tee and black pants. Her hair was tied in a neat bun and the former Miss Universe also sported shades. Sushmita exchanged pleasantries with the photographer before getting into the car. She was asked by the photographer how she was doing. Sushmita replied, "Absolutely fine".

In the video, a plastic bottle was thrown from Sushmita's car, for which, the actor faced criticism online.

A couple of days back, the former Miss Universe dropped a workout video where she was accompanied by younger daughter Alisah and Rohman Shawl. Sushmita's caption read, "Will is the only way" #36days. Now allowed more training!!! I leave to shoot for AARYA in Jaipur shortly...and here are my loved ones, keeping me company & helping me get back in the zone!!! Kisses Alisah Shona & rohmanshawl... I love you guys!!! #duggadugga" Sushmita suffered a cardiac arrest in February and following that she has undergone angioplasty.

The 'Aarya' actor informed her fans through social media that she was diagnosed with a 95 per cent blockage in the main artery. Since then, the actor has been updating with her health details on Instagram. In one of her live sessions, Sushmita requested the younger generation to get their hearts checked at regular intervals. ANI