



Maharashtra stares at a water crisis due to rain deficit

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Sharad Pawar continues to Confuse India and MVA

AV Team

The way Sharad Pawar is rendering a statement is really worrisome for the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (India) and Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra where NCP is in alliance. Over a month after Ajit Pawar split the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and joined the BJP camp, Sharad Pawar says that there is no conflict between them and his nephew Ajit Pawar and he remains to be their leader. Sharad Pawar also denied a split in the party and said that a split happens when a major chunk of the party steps out at the national level.

Sharad Pawar has said "There is no conflict that he (Ajit Pawar) is our leader, there is no split in NCP. How does a split happen in a party? It happens when a big

group separates from the party at the national level. But there is no such situation in NCP today. Yes, some leaders took a different stance but this can't be called a split. They can do so in a democracy," he said ahead of the INDIA alliance meeting in Mumbai. This comes a day after NCP working president Supriya Sule also said that there was no split in the party and that the BJP had only managed to get some of the party MLAs in the ruling alliance.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut slammed the BJP saying they are afraid of the INDIA alliance. The comment comes ahead of the INDIA alliance's meeting in Mumbai scheduled on August 31 and September 1. Sharad Pawar's confusing statements indicate that in future he would be the first person to sabotage INDIA to favour BJP in state politics.

Shiv Sena MLA Sunil Shinde told Afternoon Voice, "Our alliance of Maha Vikas Aghadi is going smoothly and accepted by the people because of our performance during Uddhav Thackrey government". "NCP which is in alliance with MVA should clarify their stance to avoid confusion" Shinde further added.

Former MLA of MNS, Nitin Sardesai said, "Earlier MNS chief Raj Thackeray predicted that, at present only few leaders of NCP had done alliance with BJP but in future entire NCP party will be getting in alliance with BJP". "While these ongoing issues of alliance seen in the NCP this situation is only misguiding people of Maharashtra" Sardesai further added.

Congress leader Manikrao Thakre, "If some leaders of NCP has moved with Ajit Pawar for the alliance of BJP this has

not caused any harm to the alliance of I.N.D.I.A and people of Maharashtra has lot of hopes on the alliance of I.N.D.I.A"

"According to me, the statement given by NCP Chief Sharad Pawar was his own opinion and earlier NCP chief had supported the alliance of I.N.D.I.A so this won't affect the alliance MVA" Thakre further added.

National spokesperson of AAP, Preeti Menon said, "NCP chief is the senior leader into politics and alliance of I.N.D.I.A has complete hopes as he is leading the alliance".

Eknath Shinde Shiv Sena faction spokesperson Krishna Hegde said, "This matter raised in Maharashtra is NCP's internal matter but NCP leader joining hands with BJP has made the alliance of 'Mahayuti' strong".

First animals travelled in space to make way for human - II

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

On August 15, 1951, Dezik and Tsygan ("Gypsy") were launched. These two were the first canine suborbital astronauts. They were successfully retrieved. In early September 1951, Dezik and Lisa were launched. This second early Russian dog flight was unsuccessful. The dogs died but a data recorder survived. Korolev was devastated by the loss of these dogs. Shortly afterwards, Smelaya ("Bold") and Malyska ("Little One") were launched. Smelaya ran off the day before the launch. The crew was worried that wolves that lived nearby would eat her. She returned a day later and the test flight resumed successfully. The fourth test launch was a failure, with two dog fatalities. However, in the same month, the fifth test launch of two dogs was successful. On September 15, 1951, the sixth of the two-dog launches occurred. One of the two dogs, Bobik, escaped and a

replacement was found near the local canteen. She was a mutt, given the name ZIB, the Russian acronym for substitute for Missing Dog Bobik. The two dogs reached 100 kilometers and returned successfully. Other dogs associated with this series of flights included Albina ("Whitey"), Dymka ("Smoky"), Modnista ("Fashionable"), and Kozyavka ("Gnat").

Gordo, a squirrel monkey, was catapulted 600 miles high in a Jupiter rocket, also on December 13, 1958, one year after the Soviets launched Laika. Gordo's capsule was never found in the Atlantic Ocean. He died on splashdown when a flotation mechanism failed, but Navy doctors said signals on his respiration and heartbeat proved humans could withstand a similar trip.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

First animals travelled in space to make way for human - II

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In 1948, a rhesus macaque monkey named Albert flew inside a V2 rocket. In 1957. There the Russians sent a dog named Laika into orbit.

In 1973, however, a Skylab space project studied circadian rhythm. This experiment used several mice. From there, the Space Shuttle program evolved, which included a more suitable environment for animals.

The Soviets kept close tabs on what the U.S. was doing with their V-2 and Aerobee missile projects during the early 1950's.

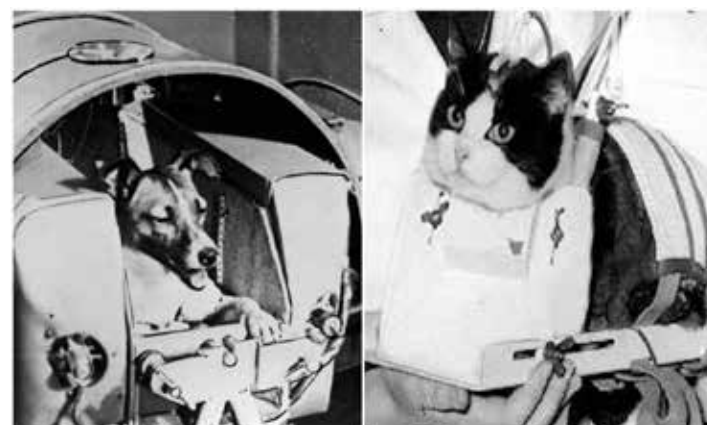
Able, an American-born rhesus monkey, and Baker, a South American squirrel monkey, followed on May 28, 1959, aboard an Army Jupiter missile.

Four black mice were launched on June 3, 1959, on Discoverer 3, part of the Corona program of U.S. spy satellites, which was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base on a Thor Agena A rocket. This was the only Discoverer flight with an animal payload. Miss Sam, another rhesus monkey and Sam's mate, was launched on January 21, 1960, for another test of the LES. Goliath, a one-and-a-half-pound squirrel monkey, was launched in an Air Force Atlas E rocket on November 10, 1961. Enos became the first chimp to orbit the earth on November 29, 1961, aboard a Mercury Atlas rocket. His mission concluded the testing for a human orbital flight, achieved by John Glenn on February 20, 1962. Enos died at Holloman Air Force Base of a non-space related case of dysentery 11 months after his flight. On October 18, 1963, French scientists launched the first cat into space on a Veronique AGI sounding rocket No. 47. The cat, named Félicette, was successfully retrieved after a parachute descent, but a second feline flight on October 24 ran into difficulties that prevented recovery.

Back in the Soviet Union, the dogs Veterok ("Breeze") and Ugoyok ("Little Piece Of Coal") were launched aboard Kosmos 110 by the Soviet Union on February 22, 1966. The flight was an evaluation of prolonged effects during space travel of radiation from the Van Allen Belts on animals. Twenty-one days in space still stand as a canine record and was only surpassed by humans in June 1974 with the flight of Skylab 2.

From 1973 to 1996, Russia, or its predecessor, the Soviet Union, launched a series of life sciences satellites called Bion. Research partners have included Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, the European Space Agency, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, and the United States.

Bion missions are typically put under the Kosmos umbrella name, used for a variety of different satellites including spy satellites. The first Bion launch was Kosmos 605 launched on October 31, 1973. The satellite carried tortoises, rats, insects,



and fungi on a 22-day mission. Other missions have also carried plants, mold, quail eggs, fish, newts, frogs, cells, and seeds.

Starting with Bion 6 (Kosmos 1514), these missions have carried pairs of monkeys. Bion 6/Kosmos 1514 was launched December 14, 1983, and carried the monkeys Abrek and Bion on a five-day flight. Bion 7/Kosmos 1667 was launched July 10, 1985 and carried the monkeys Verny ("Faithful") and Gordy ("Proud") on a seven-day flight. Bion 8/Kosmos 1887 was launched September 29, 1987, and carried the monkeys Yerosha ("Drowsy") and Dryoma ("Shaggy") on a 13-day flight. Bion 10/Kosmos 2229 was launched December 29, 1992, and carried the monkeys Krosh ("Tiny") and Ivasha on a 12-day flight. A biological payload record was set on April 17, 1998, when over two thousand creatures joined the seven-member crew of the shuttle Columbia (STS-90) for a sixteen-day mission of intensive neurological testing (NEUROLAB). And that's how humans made entry into space explorations.

Inputs form various agencies.

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Letters to the Editor

Good Health Tip

We have seen actors turning into politicians and successful ones at times. It seems now, politicians are venturing into other fields like medical, etc. Vijay Kumar Gavit urging people to eat fish if they

wanted eyes as beautiful as that of actress Aishwarya Rai is a case in point. Stressing upon the importance of fish though, is a good health tip, but specifically for having beautiful eyes, is something only an expert can tell us.

Melville X. D'Souza

Mission accomplished

India, which is called the country of snakes and sages, today stands with the most powerful countries of the world in space technology and has become the fourth country in the world to successfully soft-land on the moon with the Chandrayaan-3 mission. The Chandrayaan-3 mission is designed to inspire the younger generation of India to take an interest in science and technology. I'm sure many students studying in schools and colleges will be excited to learn more about this mission and its developments.

Jubel D'Cruz

Guardian Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha's pledge to review hefty fine for banned plastic is ridiculous.

Reviewing hefty fines makes no sense & we need alternatives to dissuade people from using harmful plastic bags. Paper bags are an alternative to plastic but they are manufactured by cutting trees which is equally harmful for environment.

Reusable jute or cloth bags are the alternative that must be explored to replace plastic bags. Elected representative in each ward should distribute such bags free of cost to each family in their locality. Shopkeepers & roadside vendors too should stock these bags and customers who come without bags to buy their products can be given these bags after charging a nominal deposit (which covers the cost of bag) which can be refunded once the bags are returned back by customers. This will form a habit among people to replace plastic bags to other environmental healthy alternatives to safeguard mother earth!

S.N. Kabra

Utilise Science for Climate Crisis

Twin exercises being considered in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh can offer a template for how authorities can respond to climate emergencies. Uttarakhand has announced that it will conduct a comprehensive survey of disaster-prone cities and towns, and has invited tenders for the exercise, which will include geophysical and geo-mapping investigation of regions. this week, forecasters predicted that more rainfall will pound the two hill states in August, while likely leaving large chunks of India dry-scientific decision-making will have to take centre stage.

They mark a significant first step. But if the fragile systems in the two states have to be safeguarded, such piecemeal action will not do. The Supreme Court on Monday correctly flagged the need for studying the carrying capacity of hill stations in terms of tourists, traffic and construction work. In the fight against the climate crisis, science is the only weapon humanity has. We should use it well.

Tauqueer Rahmani

The great Indian space Odyssey



It's truly a milestone and giant achievement in Indian space Odyssey and a matter of pride for us Indians as the indigenously made Chandrayaan mission reached the Moon's South Pole, until now not explored by any other nation. This is definitely an accomplished achieved with cent per cent perfectness and accuracy. Kudos to ISRO for the historic feat.

The issues Chandrayaan 2 had met in fact made our ISRO scientists analyse and study the strengths and the glitches to be corrected and this played a pivotal role in the current mission. These lessons can now be made useful in all its future interplanetary and other space missions.

The great Chandrayaan mission's success is sure to

be an impetus in the ISRO's ambitious space exploring plans like launching our own space station, projects like Aditya L1 - mission to explore the sun's corona, another mission to explore Venus and so on.

The biggest plus point is that the other nations have begun to keenly observe our low cost space technology. When big nations spent crores and crores, including NASA, for space missions we were able to do the same with a low budget but precisely and flawlessly. Now many nations rely on ISRO to launch their satellites into space using our rockets.

Starting from a simple rocket, whose parts were transported in bullock carts and bicycles to the launch pad at

Thumba, Trivandrum in 1963 and slowly taking further steps -exploring space and even moving on to the moon and the red planet and now getting ready to explore more of space we are making our father of space research, Vikram Sarabhais dream come true and the vision of our father of Indian missile technology, APJ Abdul kalams famous words "dream dream dream, dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action" come into reality.

- Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma
Columnist

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

City

RPF firing case: An accused cannot be forced to undergo narco test only for the sake of "smooth investigation"



A magistrate's court here which denied permission for subjecting dismissed RPF constable Chetansinh Chaudhary, accused of shooting four persons dead on a moving train, to narco tests has said in its reasoning that to remain silent is an accused person's fundamental right.

An accused cannot be forced to undergo such tests only for the sake of "smooth investigation,"

the court said in the order passed on August 11. The full order became available on Friday.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) had sought the Borivali magistrate court's nod for subjecting Chaudhary to narco tests, brain mapping and polygraph. He is currently in judicial custody, lodged in a jail in neighboring Thane district.

The prosecution had said that he was accused of committing a

serious offence and to complete the investigation, narco and other tests were necessary. Chaudhary's lawyers Surendra Landage, Amit Mishra and Jaywant Patil opposed the application, saying that narco tests are a violation of the fundamental rights and cannot be conducted if an accused does not consent to undergoing them. The court said in the order that the accused was, admittedly, arrested in connection with a heinous crime. Referring to a Supreme Court judgement, the magistrate noted, "If we minutely go through the entire judgment, it clearly reveals that only in external circumstances, that too with the consent of the accused, a test can be conducted. But, there is no room for compelling the accused to go for a test without his content. Since the accused is not ready to face such tests, to protect his fundamental rights, the application deserves to be rejected." The court further said that to remain silent is a fundamental right of an accused. **PTI**

Maharashtra stares at a water crisis due to rain deficit



With water stock in 964 dams in the Marathwada region just 31.62 per cent of its full capacity, Maharashtra stares at a water crisis due to rain deficit. The Indian Express reported on Thursday that in actual terms, water in these dams collectively is 22,94,970 million litres as against their maximum capacity of 72,58,830 million litres. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP Supriya Sule Thursday de-

manded that the state government declare a drought in Maharashtra. "Maharashtra has not witnessed rain in June and July. The rain is less than 68 per cent of the average, while in August till now, the rain is less than 80 per cent of the average. Majority of places have not witnessed rain. This is a terrible situation and farmers will lose their crops," Sule said on X, formerly Twitter, adding that these farmers must get benefits of crop insurance.

Inauguration of Pallavi Sound Studio in Kurla



Prabodhan Kurla School 'Pallavi' Sound Studio (Studio) of Kurla West was inaugurated by famous playback singer Vaishali Samant. Founder President Dr. Bhau Korgaonkar, Trustee Shalaka Korgaonkar, Musician Prashant Thackeray, Dr. Maya Malhotra Parihar, Industrialist Manoj Nathani, RTI Activist Anil Galgali, Nilesh Korgaonkar, Jaideep Hande, Principal Vidya Phalke, Visakha Parab were present.

Hiked duty on onion exports must be lifted: Sharad Pawar

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar has said the 40 per cent duty on onion export must be revoked, and also claimed that the Union government might impose restrictions on sugar exports too. Speaking at an event in Purandar tehsil of Pune district on Thursday, the former Union agriculture minister said it was the government's responsibility to ensure a fair price for onions.

"For the last few days, farmers in the Nashik region are protesting...they are demanding fair prices for their onion produce.



Onions from the country are exported, but the government has imposed a 40 per cent duty on the export. It is the responsibility of the government to give a

fair price to onion growers considering the input cost and it is farmers' right to demand it, but no concrete decision has been taken," he said. **PTI**

EOW summons BMC deputy municipal commissioner

The Mumbai police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has summoned Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Deputy Municipal Commissioner,

Zone-2, Ramakant Biradar for questioning in connection with an FIR the agency has filed to probe alleged irregularities involved in purchasing body bags for the deceased

Covid-19 patients. Biradar, who was in charge of the civic body's central purchase department during the pandemic, was summoned to remain present before EOW on Friday

Nation

Centre tells SC that there was no "constitutional fraud" in abrogating Article 370



With the constituent assembly having become extinct, Article 370 acquired a permanent status, they have said. "We cannot postulate a situation where ends justify the means. The means have to be consistent with the ends," the CJI observed when Attorney General R Venkataramani said it was necessary to abrogate Article 370 and there were no infirmities in the process adopted.

There was no constitutional fraud, as alleged, in abrogation of the provision, said Venkataramani, who opened arguments on behalf of Centre. "Due process was followed. There was no wrong-doing and there was no constitutional fraud as alleged by the other side. The step was necessary to be taken. Their argument is flawed and inconceivable," Venkataramani told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant. PTI

Commencing their arguments in support of abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court, the Centre's top law officers Thursday asserted there was no "constitutional fraud" in annulling the provision that accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, which heard their contentions at length, told

them they will have to justify the procedure adopted for abrogation as the court cannot postulate a situation "where the ends justify the means". The petitioners opposing the repeal of Article 370 have been insisting that the provision could not have been abrogated, as the term of the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly, whose concurrence was required before taking such a step, ended in 1957, after it had drafted the erstwhile state's Constitution.

SC: SEBI files fresh status report mentions out 24 investigations 2 are final in nature and 2 are interim in Adani-Hindenburg issue

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has filed a fresh status report before the Supreme Court apprising it that out of 24 investigations arising out of the Hindenburg report, 22 are final in nature and 2 are interim in nature. SEBI submitted that with respect to the interim investigation reports SEBI has sought information from external agencies and entities and upon receipt of

such information will evaluate the same vis-a-vis the interim investigation report to determine further course of action, if any, in the matters.

SEBI submitted that it shall take appropriate action based on the outcome of the investigations in accordance with law in various aspects. The investigation was carried out in compliance with the directions of the top court's order dated March 2,

2023, SEBI has investigated 24 matters.

SEBI has conducted its probe in the matter relating to the violation of rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 (Minimum Public Shareholding) and alleged non-compliance with minimum public shareholding ("MPS") requirements specified in rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 (SCRR). ANI

Cauvery river dispute: SC mentioned that it doesn't possess expertise on this issue; seeks report from water management authority on water supply to TN

The Supreme Court on Friday refrained from passing any order on the Tamil Nadu government's plea on the release of Cauvery water, saying it doesn't possess any expertise on this issue and sought a report from the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on the quantum of release made by Karnataka. A bench of Justices BR Gavai, PS Narasimha and Prashant Kumar Mishra asked CWMA, which is meeting on August 28, to decide

release of water for the next fortnight in the Cauvery water-sharing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The apex court posted the matter for hearing on Friday. The bench said the contention of Tamil Nadu is that though the authority has passed orders, the water which is to be supplied to it is not being supplied by the state of Karnataka. They took into note the submission of Karnataka that water earmarked by CWMA

has been discharged but it takes time of three days to reach Tamil Nadu. "We do not possess expertise on the matter. ASG informs authority is meeting on Monday to decide the discharge of water for the next fortnight. We find that it will be appropriate that CWMA submits its report on whether the directions issued for discharge of water has been complied with or not and in the meantime their next order will also be in the record," the bench stated. ANI

G20 Summit: Advisory on vehicular movement restriction to be seen in Lutyens' Delhi



Delhi Traffic Police on Friday advised people to use the metro for commuting during the two days of the G20 Summit since bus movement will be restricted in Lutyens' Delhi where the venues of the summit are located. The restriction order will come into effect on September 7 at midnight and will stay on till September 10 at midnight.

Addressing a press conference, Special Commissioner of Police, Traffic, SS Yadav said a virtual helpdesk will be launched on the Delhi Police website that will list out available transport facilities and nearby medical facilities. "There will be no effect on ambulance movement or essential services. However, there will be restrictions on the plying of city buses in the New Delhi

area. But there will be no restrictions on the Delhi Metro. People are advised to use the Metro for commuting to their destination," he said. Aalap Patel, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic, New Delhi, said people living in Lutyens' Delhi or tourists with hotel bookings there will be allowed to commute through auto rickshaws and taxis. "People coming from Delhi Airport to Lutyens' Delhi will only be allowed entry after proper verification of ID cards," he said. Officials said that interstate buses will be allowed to enter Delhi but not allowed to terminate at the Inter-state Bus Terminals. "For ambulance assist service, people can call 6828400604. The service will be launched from the night of September 7," Patel said. PTI

SC posted CBI's plea against Lalu Prasad Yadav's bail in October in 'Fodder scam' case

The Supreme Court on Friday posted the CBI's plea, challenging the grant of bail to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Lalu Prasad Yadav, for hearing in October, in the fodder scam case of Jharkhand in which he was sentenced to five years jail term. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal appearing for Yadav opposed the appeals of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), seeking cancellation of bail granted to him saying he has got kidney transplant. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju representing CBI told the apex court that Yadav was recently seen playing badminton.

Sibal told a bench headed by Justice AS Bopanna that Yadav has served 42 months in jail and he has a kidney ailment and

now they want to put him back. To this, ASG Raju replied, "He is playing badminton. Bail has been granted on erroneous assumption considering that sentences are concurrent and not consecutive. I will demonstrate High Court order (granting bail) is bad in toto." The CBI had challenged the Jharkhand High Court's order granting bail to 74-year-old Yadav in the case. The former Bihar Chief Minister is currently out on bail due to ill health after his conviction in various fodder scam cases. Yadav was sentenced to five years in prison with a fine of Rs 60 lakh by a special CBI court in Ranchi in connection with the fifth fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore by Doranda Treasury. ANI

World

Ahead of constitution day Kazakhstan envoy said, "Adoption of Constitution forms most important basis of country's political system"

Ahead of Kazakhstan's Constitution Day, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India Nurlan Zhalgasbayev said that beyond establishing independence the "adoption of a constitution forms the most important basis of a country's political system and processes". In an exclusive interaction with ANI, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India said, "The journey of any great nation includes several key milestones that collectively influence its national identity. Beyond establishing independence, the adoption of a constitution forms the most important basis of a country's political system and processes, as it outlines the very principles responsible for guiding the nation's future path."

On 30 August, Kazakhstan will celebrate Constitution Day. This year's Constitution Day



celebration is special as it is celebrated for the first time after the amendments to the constitution, which were approved following a nationwide referendum in June last year, have come into

force. Zhalgasbayev stated that with the new amendments, more powers are granted to parliament and the local government, while presidential powers have been limited, which means the govern-

ment is now more accountable to the people who elected the parliament. He further added that in line with the updated Constitution, the President of Kazakhstan is now elected for only a

single seven-year term, without the right to re-election, which is completely unique for our region.

"Kazakhstan has established and further strengthened mechanisms that protect human rights and democracy by enhancing the role and status of the Ombudsman for Human Rights, the Ombudsman for children's rights, and the Ombudsman for protecting people with disabilities," the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India said. "We have also re-established the Constitutional Court, which ensures further protection of human rights and freedoms. Kazakhstan's citizens, including the Prosecutor General and the Ombudsman, can now directly apply to the Constitutional Court to declare unlawful norms that, in their view, contradict the principles of the Constitution," he added. ANI

Gilgit-Baltistan: Situation worsens after protest against Scholar's derogatory statement



Law and order situation in Gilgit-Baltistan has worsened after protests that started in Chilas (Diamer) expanded to other areas of the region. Additionally, protests were organised in the area of Upper

Kohistan, Pamir Times reported. In Chilas, the Karakoram Highway is still blocked while traffic on Babusar Road was also stopped. Additionally, protesters shut down several routes in Gilgit city. Sit-ins continue to take place

around Gilgit city.

In the Astore district, there were additional sit-ins and protest demonstrations reported Pamir Times, a community news and views portal of Gilgit – Baltistan, Chitral, Kohistan and the surrounding mountain areas. Sheikh Baqir Al-Hussaini, a prominent Islamic expert living in Skardu, is reported to have sparked protests with his sacrilegious comments. He has been charged with making disparaging statements about religious and historical figures, as reported by Pamir Times. Demonstrators want the academic to be detained and a complaint will be lodged against him. They have vowed to keep the roads blocked till the scholar is arrested. ANI

US: Justice dept files lawsuit against Tesla chief officer's 'Space X' for discrimination in hiring people



The United States Justice Department has filed a lawsuit against Tesla Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk's Space X for allegedly discriminating in hiring the people, CNN reported. The lawsuit claimed that SpaceX, from September 2018 to May 2022, aircraft had discouraged the asylees and refugees from applying and refused to hire or consider them because of their citizenship. This falls under the violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)," according to an August 24 DOJ news release.

It further claimed that SpaceX, in its job listings, has posted that only green card hold-

ers and United States citizens could work at the company because of federal export control laws. As per CNN, there are specific laws in the US— such as the International Traffic in Arms Regulations — that apply to companies manufacturing spacecraft and rockets and limit foreign nationals from accessing key information about the vehicles for national security reasons. But the new lawsuit states that regulations such as ITAR do not prevent SpaceX from hiring refugees, whose "permission to live and work in the United States does not expire, and they stand on equal footing with US citizens," according to the DOJ. ANI

PM Modi's visit to Greece: India agrees to elevate their bilateral ties to a "Strategic Partnership"

In a joint statement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Greece at the invitation of his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis, both countries have agreed to elevate their bilateral ties to a "strategic partnership". The two countries agreed to work to further expand

bilateral cooperation in political, security and economic spheres, the India-Greece joint statement underlined.

"Building on the foundation of the long-standing warm and close relationship between their countries and peoples, the two leaders decided to upgrade Greek-Indian

bilateral ties to the level of a "Strategic Partnership" and agreed to work to further expand bilateral cooperation in political, security and economic spheres."

The two Prime Ministers also decided to take steps to further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries. ANI

Expression

'Prayas' to give fillip to Children's Creativity



Lalit Garg

Columnist

The Union Ministry of Education is giving start to a scheme called as 'Prayas' or 'Promotion of Research Attitude in Young and Aspiring Students' with the aim of providing opportunities for research and discovery to the school students through introducing them to scientific methods and experiments during the education. The objective of the scheme is to generate scientific temper among young students and develop evidence based on scientific process, innovation and creativity. This 'effort' to give an open sky to the creativity and imagination of the students is worthwhile. As a result, widespread positive changes will be seen in the school education of India and this will remove the imperfections of traditional education.

There are limitless possibilities to boost creativity, skills, originality and efficiency amongst children. If the child is confined within a limited framework, then his talent also remains confined within the given scope. Therefore, by identifying the interests in childhood and adolescence itself, if a child is given an opportunity to know, understand and do something in the field of his interest, then there are full possibilities that the talent of a large number of children will come to the fore and the country and society will benefit from it. Although this should be a basic aspect in the educational system, and it has been taken care of to some extent, now the government is formally going to take a concrete initiative in this direction.

We can't do everything. But it

is also true that we can do much more than what we think about our abilities. How many times do we hold back ourselves just thinking that we will not be able to do it? Many of those who are less than us go ahead, while we cannot take a step forward. This situation is a tragedy during student life, and it is ironic. Until now educationalists were not able to pay attention to these basic things, now efforts have started in this direction, so it should be welcomed. It is a fact that the process of discovery and learning is very intense amongst children and adolescents. Especially if the subject of their interest is allowed to develop freely during studies, their creativity often brings out something new. But our prescribed syllabus is an essential part of the educational structure for most of the children, and they have to complete their studies accordingly, suppressing their inherent creativity. Due to negligible conditions to move ahead from bookish knowledge, children's talent does not blossom and manifest properly. In this, the talent of many such children remains suppressed, whose interests do not get the right direction and opportunity to understand them. Such cases are common, rather rampant in which many times during schooling, parents force children to study such subjects, which they have to study forcibly. It is assumed that children should be educated according to the prescribed curriculum and the wishes of the parents, while they are discouraged to understand and learn something new in the subject of their choice.

To meet this situation, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared a guideline for the 'Prayas' scheme 2023-24, which is to start from 10 October 2023. According to the guidelines of 'Prayas', its objective is to generate scientific temper among

young students, to give them an opportunity to grow according to their true potential, skill, ability and talent. Psychological consultant Dr. Robert Woods said, 'Who is at the forefront of your priority? If you are, you will not intentionally make mistakes. If the mistake is being made under a well-thought-out conspiracy, then its consequences can be bad. Unintentional mistakes, whether in work or talk, can be handled in time.'

According to the effort, a total incentive grant of Rs. 50,000 will be given for each selected research proposal. Out of this amount, Rs 10,000 will be given to the student. If there are more than one student, this amount will be divided. Out of this, Rs 20,000 will be given to schools and Rs 20,000 to experts of higher educational institutions to facilitate students to do research work. In the project, a science teacher from the school will be appointed to guide the students in their research work throughout the term.

After observing and assessing all the situations, this fact has been coming to the fore again and again that now education should be given a new form. This is a great expectation to remove the incompleteness and inadequacy of education. The effort is a step towards fulfilling such an expectation. Often the creative talents of many children are suppressed in a way during their schooling. The children, who can become carriers of new discoveries in the field of knowledge and science, remain followers of a ready-made pattern. From this point of view, the importance of 'Prayas' can be recorded in the form that it emphasizes on the development of the ability of the students to do research, or discover individually or in groups. In fact, children learn the most by observing and understanding the environment around them. That is

why according to the Prayas plan, any local problem will be identified and the studies would be conducted in it. The emphasis is on examining the scientific reasons behind it and finding solutions and researching any solution, idea or concept. Zen Master Marie Jacsch says, "Facing our conflicts and embracing the unknown leads us to growth, and that makes us move forward."

Under 'Prayas', an effort will be made to solve a local problem or to find a research-based solution with the help of an expert from higher educational institutions along with school students and teachers. The age of the participating learners will be 14-18 years. It will be mandatory for them to study in class 9th to 11th. Obviously, if opportunities are made available in the right direction under the well thought out guidance of experts who understand the psychology of children and adolescents, then this scheme can prove to be a significant initiative in expanding the horizons of imagination and creativity of the students. Nothing happens just by knowing; we have to work on that too. In the same way nothing is achieved by merely thinking or having desires. We also have to take steps towards fulfilling those desires. But what happens is that we have a lot to do, but we do nothing. Due to this kind of educational process, the overall talent of the students was not being revealed, if attention is paid to this lack of education, then its results will also be good. Whatever we want through education, such elements have to be put in education. Acacia seed was being sown and mango fruit was expected. How was it possible? Kudos to our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, now these things are being taken care of in the new education policy!

Entertainment

69th National Film Award: Actor Allu Arjun expresses gratitude for the wishes pouring in and said "Feeling honored"



Actor Allu Arjun who is beaming with pride as he won the Best Actor for his performance in 'Pushpa: The Rise' at the 69th National Film Award on Friday expressed gratitude for the love and wishes pouring in from all corners of the country. Not only that he also congratulated other National Award winners. Allu Arjun took to Instagram and shared a picture captured at the precious moment.

In the picture, Allu Arjun can be seen giving a tight hug to 'Pushpa' director Sukumar. Sharing the picture, he wrote, "A huge congratulation to all the national award winners across various categories and languages throughout the nation. Your accomplishments are truly commendable. & I would like to express my gratitude for the love and wishes pouring in from all corners of the country. Feeling honored and humbled by it all. Thank you for the love. Humbled." ANI



Actor Aishwarya Lekshmi opens up on signing three films; says, "'Ponniyin Selvan' opened a lot of doors for me"

Actor Aishwarya Lekshmi, who played boat woman "Poonguzhali" in Mani Ratnam's period drama "Ponniyin Selvan", says her performance in the film has been so loved that fans are now revisiting her past work. The two-part historical epic, based on author Kalki Krishnamurthy's hugely popular 1955 Tamil novels of the same name, features the actor as a fierce boat woman, who helps the central protagonists. "Ponniyin Selvan" featured a bevy of stars including Vikram, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Jayam Ravi, Karthi, and Trisha Krishnan. Lekshmi had a relatively small screen time but the actor is grateful for the recognition that has come her way. "The role of 'Poonguzhali' gave me so much love, I was not expecting this. I'm grateful to everyone, who loved me as 'Poonguzhali' because it has opened a lot of doors for me, not just about the opportunity but people loving and knowing me, and then going back and seeing my other work," Lekshmi told PTI in an interview. The actor, who has appeared in films like "Mayaanadhi", "Varathan", and "Jagame Thandhiram", said she didn't want to do too many films after "Ponniyin Selvan" despite the many offers. PTI

69th National Film Awards: Actor Ram Charan pens sweetnote and extends wishes to winners

Actor Ram Charan on Friday penned down a sweet note and extended heartfelt wishes to the winners of the 69th National Film Awards. Ram Charan conveyed his sentiments, saying, "A moment of pride, as we celebrate the winners of the 69th National Film Awards. A Clean Sweep by my near and dear. Heartiest Congratulations to: Team RRR and the visionary SS Rajamouli Garu on their six National Awards. MM Keeravaani Garu, Prem Rakshith, Kaala Bhairava, Srinivas Mohan, King Solomon, DVV Entertainment, DV Danayya Garu, It's been a remarkable journey. My brother Vaishnav Tej and my next director Buchi Babu Sana for the success of Uppena. Double Cheers for team Pushpa, my brother Allu Arjun and DSP. My dearest co-star Alia Bhatt for Gangubai. To all the other winners, Thank You for making Indian cinema proud." ANI

