



Jammu and Kashmir: SC uphold
govt's decision to abrogate

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45,000 posts of teachers remain vacant in Maharashtra

AV Team

There was lot of uproar on the vacant posts of teachers across Maharashtra. The school education department, stated that 45,000 posts of teachers remain vacant, of which 30,000 vacancies will be filled once the recruitment process is over.

Maharashtra School Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar told Afternoon Voice that "The recruitment process for teachers in government schools would be completed in the next two months. We have received many applications and soon government will fill the vacancies."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 04

Retired encounter specialist cops are deputed to pressure Dharavi residents to vacate houses: MLA Varsha Gaikwad



AV Team

Dharavi MLA Varsha Gaikwad said in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly that the "former encounter specialists" are pressuring Dharavi residents to vacate their houses, Monday. She was speaking on the issue of Dharavi redevelopment at the Winter Session of the

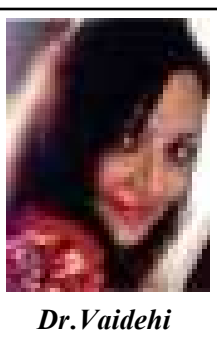
House held in Nagpur.

The Congress MLA said the state government paid Rs 800 crore to the Indian railways for land to rehabilitate Dharavi residents, but the slum dwellers were not finding themselves eligible to be part of the redevelopment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 04

Milk adulteration scam is on rise

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

India is the largest milk producing country but almost 70% of the milk sold and consumed in India is adulterated by contaminants such as detergent and skim milk powder, but impure water is the highest contaminant. Milk adulteration techniques will be invented to meet the demand for milk products during the festival season. Farmers generally mix milk powder/oil, Urea and detergent to provide whiteness and levelling SNF. Detergents are added to emulsify and dissolve oil in milk.

Adulteration in milk is not new thing, I remember when I was small child a milk man used to carry those typical measurements and a big milk can on bicycle to deliver milk door to door, my grandmother used to pore few drops on the floor by questioning milkman " aaj bhi dudh me paani milaya kya? Doodh patla lag raha hai". (Have you added water to the

milk? its consistency is thin). This was a repetitive question to the milkman. Since childhood we have known that the milk is most commonly diluted with water - this not only reduces its nutritional value, but contaminated water can also cause additional health problems. But as the time changed and we adopted modern ways of storing or packing milk the adulteration has gone on dangerous levels.

Collection agents Collects substandard milk from farmers. Due to poor cold-chain infrastructure, it adds formalin and hydrogen peroxide to prolong its freshness. Does pasteurization & homogenization, store milk for a day or two before selling it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Milk adulteration scam is on rise

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Milk brands get milk from agents, reconstitute it with skimmed milk powder to create variants and supply it after packing to customers.

Adulteration techniques are business secrets.

The Indian Council of Medical Research has reported, "Milk adulterants have hazardous health effects. The detergent in milk can cause food poisoning and other gastrointestinal complications.

Milk adulteration takes place, in the open in areas like Andheri, Antop Hill, Saki Naka, Kurla, Kurar village, Dahisar Baithi chawl and Dharavi in Mumbai. The laws are weak, that is the reason such practices are not stoppable.

Milk brands get milk from agents, reconstitute it with skimmed milk powder to create variants and supply it after packing to customers. Adulteration techniques are business secrets. But there is no rocket science to understand that adulteration happens on every level. It doesn't take much to find out if your milk is adulterated. A few quick and easy tests can tell you if your milk is laced with any adulterant. There are also adulteration test kits available in the market today.

The other adulterants used are mainly detergent, foreign fat, starch, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), sugar, urea, pond water, salt, maltodextrin, sodium carbonate, formalin, and ammonium sulphate. It has been a cause of concern for both the Government and the Dairy Industry. The Indian Council of Medical Research has reported, "Milk adulterants have hazardous health effects. The detergent in milk can cause food poisoning and other gastrointestinal complications. Its high alkaline level can also damage body tissue and destroy proteins. Other synthetic components can cause impairments, heart problems, cancer or even death. While the immediate effect of drinking milk adulterated with urea, caustic soda and formalin is gastroenteritis, the long-term effects are far more serious.

Contaminated milk continues to be sold in Maharashtra despite crackdown measures taken by authorities. The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (fda), had, in a study, found that 20 percent of the milk is adulterated. Though the study prompted immediate action and licences of 21 dairies to be suspended, yet, there is no respite. India produces a little over 105 million tonnes (mt) of milk annually and out of this Mumbai consumes 1.65 mt. Of that, 0.61 million tonnes are substandard & adulterated. The problem is not restricted to just within the state. Milk adulteration takes place, in the open in areas like Andheri, Antop Hill, Saki Naka, Kurla, Kurar village, Dahisar Baithi chawl and Dharavi in Mumbai. The laws are weak, that is the reason such practices are not stoppable. Moreover, FDA does not have a dedicated food testing laboratory of its own.

Reports of substandard and adulterated food frequent the front pages of newspapers. Samples of items we consume daily—milk, pulses, oils, vegetables, sugar, among many others—have been rated substandard. While it is difficult to track the production process and locate the item's source, simple tests can help you distinguish a pure sample from an adulterated one.

To find out water in milk, put a drop of milk on a polished, slanting surface

Pure milk either stays or flows slowly leaving a white trail behind Milk adulterated with flow immediately without leaving a mark.

To find detergent in milk, Take 5-10 millilitres (ML) of milk sample and equal quantity of water and shake the mixture thoroughly, if the milk is adulterated with detergent, it forms dense lather pure milk will have a thin layer of foam. The easiest and domestic way to identify if a milk is adulterated or not is dip your finger in milk and pour the drop on the opposite of a clean palm. If it slides too fast and leaves behind a water trail, the milk is added with water. If it is too thick and massy it is added with starch. However, if it is thin and stays: cow milk genuine, if it is thick and stays: buffalo milk genuine. This experiment holds well with your experience.

Detecting starch in milk and milk products, Boil 2-3 ML of the sample (milk, khoya, chenna or paneer) with 5 ML of water for other ghee and butter, water need not be added. Add 2-3 drops of tincture of iodine after letting it cool. Formation of blue color indicates the presence of starch.

Food adulteration is a global concern and developing countries are at higher risk associated with it due to lack of monitoring and policies. However, this is one of the most common phenomena that have been overlooked in many countries. Unfortunately, in contrast to common belief, milk adulterants can pose serious health hazards leading to fatal diseases. Just reading the news and condemning the act is not enough, we as responsible citizens need to be more alert and smart in diagnosing what we receive and consume.

Stay healthy and stay fit.



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Sabarimala Ayyappa Season Springs Spiritual Sanctity



- C. K. Subramaniam

Ayyappa pooja assumes greater importance during the Mandala period and Ayyappa Bhkthas conduct Maharavillakku in a most religious way. The devotees observe fast during this period and follow lots of customs before taking up the route to Sabarimala. The annual pilgrim season to Sabarimala begins with the Mandalakala season, which commences usually in the months of November-December followed by the Makaravilakku season during December-January. The temple at Sabarimala can be accessed via many traditional routes. Pamba is the main halting point on the way to Sabarimala. As per tradition a dip in the sacred river Pamba cleanses the pilgrims off sins and after that they proceed to the sannidhanam or the sanctorium of Lord Ayyappa. A truly riveting spiritual experience in the lap of pristine nature, Sabarimala has become a major destination of the faithful in India.

Mandala Puja is an important ritual observed at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple in Kerala. It is observed from the 1st day of the 'Vrishchikam' month till the 11th or 12th day of the 'Dhanu' masam in the traditional Malayalam calendar. The day of Mandala Puja marks the end of the 41 days long austerity that is observed by the followers or devotees of Lord Ayyappa. The fast begins 41 before the observance of Mandala Puja, that is, the first day of the Malayalam month of 'Vrishchikam'. Mandala Puja along with 'Makar Vilakku' are the two major events held at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple that draws devotees from all

over Kerala and neighbouring states. During this time the temple remains open on most of the days for the devotees. As a tradition, devotees visiting the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple during the Mandala Puja also visit the 'Guruvayur Temple'. During this time special 'Abhishekam' ceremony is organized in the 'Guruvayur Temple'.

Pathinettapadi (18 divine steps) to the sanctum sanctorium is divine in all aspects. Every Ayyappa devotee, before he sees the Sanctum Sanctorium, has to lay his footsteps over eighteen sacred steps. Initially the 18 steps were made of granite. It was later covered with Panchaloha (a special composition of gold, silver, copper, iron and tin), in the year 1985 to prevent it from deterioration. Pilgrims initiate their ascent up the Pathinettam Padi by placing their right foot on the first step. As per the tradition, only those who undertake the penance for 41 days and those who carry the irumudi on their heads are allowed to use the steps

Apart from devotion, one has to have tremendous will power, determination and self-control over the pleasantries, comforts and pleasures of life. Even the onward journey to the place of sanctity is not simple. Devotee's extreme faith in Lord Ayyappa is called for in the entire scheme of things. The sight of Makar Jyothi that appears in the sky at Sabarimala on the 14th of January every year is a mystery in itself till this very day. Truly, a holy place like Sabarimala should be beyond controversies, political voices and social media cynics.

Letters to the Editor

It's Time to See Mr. Reddy's Readiness towards People Welfare

The time has come for establishment of 'Indiramma Rajyam' to fulfil the aspirations of the people through the sacrifice of the martyrs, students' agitation and the firm determination of Ms. Sonia Gandhi," Mr. Reddy said in the invitation. Congress has an opportunity to show its governance model in Telangana. It must strive to gain the confidence of the people if it has desire to emerge victorious next. In this regard, it must fulfill its given words and display its sincerity earnestly. It should not be like paying lip service.

Shahnawaz

Empowering Marshals to do the job of RTO would be overlapping of duties!

Mumbai's experience with Marshals have not been a pleasant one during covid when people were forced to

pay bribes instead of 'official fines' & the same would be repeated if they are being entrusted with multiple tasks. Also, it is the job of the R.T.O department to look after traffic infringement like illegal parkings etc & empowering Marshals to do the job of RTO would be overlapping of duties.

State govt & BMC should make use of technology like CCTV cameras, live streaming of busy areas to monitor violations & fine offenders!

S.N. Kabra

Relief to parents and relatives

Children's school, college fees and big hospital bills will now be easier and easier through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). This is going to be very convenient and easy for the benefit of the customers and the relatives of the students and patients. Presently the UPI system is widely used. Such UPI payments are verified from time to time through the Reserve Bank. The parents of the students and the grand children of the patients will get relief from this decision. Currently UPI payments are popular because there is no need to keep cash in the pocket and even if you don't have

a wallet, you need a smart phone because this smart phone scans all the payments and makes the payments. Such small retail users i.e. the recurring payment limit has been increased from 15 thousand to 1 lakh. RBI has tried to provide relief to the parents and relatives of students by increasing the limits of UPI payments which are easy and convenient.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Name Junior but was Senior!

Renowned film actor Junior Mehmood passed away. The 1970 and 1980, these two decades are believed to be the top period of Hindi cinemas. In those days, it was a great fun to go to the cinema halls to watch movies. It was the span of famous artists. At such competitive time, Junior Mehmood made an impression with his amazing acting. His roles with Rajesh Khanna in the films Aan milo Sajana and Kati Patang as well as he acted with Jeetendra in the films Judaai and Caravan are memorable. His effortlessly beautiful acting kept the audience laughing. Everyone likes people who make others laugh. His acting used to generate a waterfall of laughter in cin-

ema hall, so great his acting was. He made his fans laugh through his every film. So, Junior Mehmood will remain in the memory of film lovers forever.

Sudhir Kangutkar

Ban on Export of Onion

India has prohibited the export of onions till March 2024, a government notification said. However, it will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the central government to other countries based on their requests. Onions are being sold at around 60 per kg in retail markets at present. Export of onions increases somehow in farmer's budgets and stocking it only benefits stockholders but public faces inflation. Present onion price is also above poor class' s capacity, so govt should make sure both-side's benefits and think about poor families.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Jammu and Kashmir is integral part of India: Fadnavis



The abrogation of article 370 was the bold decision taken by centre under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and union home minister Amit Shah in 2019.

Supreme Court has said President has all the rights to revoke article 370 as thus was temporary provision. This not

only vindicated the stand of the Centre but also a huge victory for India and Indians. These were the observations made by deputy CM Devendra and on Monday. Fadnavis comments came shortly after SC verdict upholding the revoking of article 370. The deputy CM voiced his views at Nagpur where he is attending the ongoing

winter session of state legislative assembly.

Fadnavis said, "Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. There was no question of compromising the Indian territory. To the contrary the BJP government was committed to safeguarding the interests and aspirations of the people who have always wanted scrapping of article 370. In any case it was a temporary provision."

"We thank the Hon Supreme Court and Hon PM Narendra Modi ji, our leader Hon Amit Shah ji for such a bold and much needed step. This is a moment for people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to look forward to even more brighter life ahead in the Naya Jammu Kashmir" he further added.

Bombay HC hearing on air quality: Advocate General Birendra Saraf submits a chart of AQI levels in past few days



Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya led bench: Mr. AG, even if we go by this chart, between Nov 21 to Dec 6, most of the areas are showing moderate AQI. It is also quite high between 100 to 200. Even if we take entire city to be moderate, that's fine. It is only to flag you the situation. What we are trying to convey is. It has to be brought down to 50 at least. On that scale. This order has generated

some revenue to the government (with fines/penalties).

Amicus Curiae Darius Khambata submits that there are certain sites which still do not have dust management. I have also taken a video of one of the sites of a public project with huge clouds of dust coming. Lot remains to be done to actually implement court directions. Are they removing debris within 24 hours at such public project sites that have to be checked and monitored.

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

45,000 posts of teachers remain

He further said that a survey by the education department revealed that 3,214 children were out of school in the state, of which 1,624 were boys and 1,590 girls. Of these students, 875 boys and 765 girls have been enrolled at nearby schools, Kesarkar said.

Kesarkar was responding to a query by NCP MLA Jayant Patil and Leader of Opposition Vijay Wadettiwar over the issue

of teachers' recruitment during the question hour in the legislative assembly. The minister said the recruitment process is underway and will be completed in the next two months. Meanwhile, an official from the finance department said the state spends around Rs 63,000 crore in salaries for teachers, and this sum will increase significantly once the 30,000 vacancies are filled.

Retired encounter specialist cops

Veasha Gaikwad, is the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee (MRCC) president, warned that the party will protest if the residents of Asia's largest slum are not rehabilitated before the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) kicks off. Earlier, we used to watch in movies that a builder has an eye on habitation and wants to usurp the land by oppressing people. But Dharavikars have been witnessing and experiencing the same kind of oppression in reality," she said.

Versha Gaikwad said there

is an atmosphere of fear among Dharavi residents. "Many retired police officers and encounter specialists are roaming around Dharavi and they issue some or the other notices to settlements. There is an air of oppression in the area. It is necessary to rehabilitate the people there before doing the project. The government should direct such groups and tell the people where they will be rehabilitated. If they are not given what they deserve before the project begins, we will protest," she declared.

CM cancels visit to hospital, a disappointing wait for many

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was scheduled to visit a hospital in Ghatkopar as part of a clean-up drive last week where some school-children and senior government officials were waiting since 8am. A senior hospital official who was to visit another state had to reschedule to be present on time. However, a few hours later it was

announced that the CM would not be able to make it. Awaiting for a guest, the kids started clapping even as the BMC ward officer arrived. Later everyone left the spot disappointed.

The infighting within the ruling coalition has led to the cancellation of contract under Matoshri Gramsamruddhi Shet Panand road scheme in Murbad

and Shahapur tehsils of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Thane district. When the present government came to power, it stayed works approved by the previous MVA government. A year-and-half later, the infighting seems to be growing in the CM's den and contracts that have been approved by this govt only, are seeing cancellations.

Will govt continue action on seized properties of Praful Patel for gangster Mirchi link, asks Uddhav

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday wondered whether the government will take action regarding the properties of NCP leader Praful Patel which were seized for alleged link with gangster Iqbal Mirchi. Patel, a former confidant of NCP founder Sharad Pawar, is a member of the NCP camp led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Thackeray's attack on Patel comes days after Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis wrote an open letter to Ajit Pawar conveying his reservation about including former minister Nawab



Malik in the ruling 'Maha Yuti' alliance. Malik, an NCP leader who had served as a minister in the MVA government, is an accused in a money laundering case and is currently out on bail on medical grounds.

"My question is whether the government will take action on the seized properties of Praful Patel in connection with underworld don Iqbal Mirchi," Thackeray told reporters on the premises of the Vidhan Bhavan. PTI

Nation

Jammu and Kashmir: SC uphold govt's decision to abrogate Article 370



The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the government's decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and said steps should be taken to conduct elections in the assembly by September 30 next year. Writing the judgement for himself and Justices Gavai and Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said Article 370 of the Constitution was a temporary provision and the president has the power to revoke it. The apex

court also upheld the validity of the decision to carve out the union territory of Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir does not have internal sovereignty different from other states of the country, he said. "... all provisions of the Indian Constitution can be applied to J-K," the CJI said. "We hold the exercise of presidential power to issue constitutional order abrogating Article 370 of Constitution as valid," the CJI said.

Jammu and Kashmir became

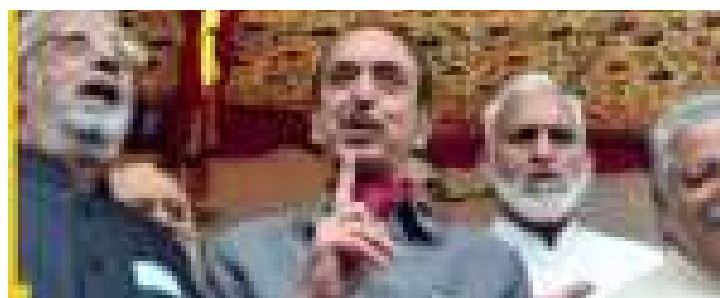
an integral part of India and this is evident from Articles 1 and 370, he said while pronouncing the judgment. "The Constituent Assembly of J&K was never intended to be permanent body," the CJI stated.

Article 370, which was abrogated on August 5, 2019, was an interim arrangement due to war conditions in the erstwhile state, Justice Chandrachud said. The princely state had become an integral part of India and this is evident from Articles 1 and 370, the CJI said.

The bench comprising CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Gavai, Surya Kant, Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, assembled at 10.56 am to pronounce the three separate and concurring judgements. Justices Kaul and Khanna wrote their judgments separately.

The apex court reserved its verdict in the matter on September 5 after a 16-day hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370. The pronouncement of the verdict by the CJI is underway. **PTI**

Article 370 case: Former CM Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed disappointment, says "People of the region were not happy"



Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and said people of the region were "not happy". He, however, welcomed the limit set by the apex court for holding assembly polls. Azad, who is chief of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), said that the unemployment scenario in Jammu and Kashmir can worsen on account of the removal of 35A

as people from other parts of the country can apply for jobs.

"We are disappointed over the Supreme Court verdict," Azad told reporters. The former union minister said he has been stating that only the central government or the Supreme Court can decide on the matter. The central government, he said, took the decision to abrogate Article 370 (the attendant Article 35A was annulled) and it would not have changed its stance. "This was our last hope... It is a unanimous decision. I think people of Jammu and Kashmir,

whether in Kashmir or Jammu, are not happy," he said. Azad said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had a "sentimental" link with Article 370 and 35A and it was "historical" for the region.

He said article 35A was incorporated in the "constitution of Jammu and Kashmir" in line with the decisions taken by Maharaja Hari Singh, the erstwhile ruler, so that outsiders cannot purchase land in the state or get employment. He said the removal of Article 35A will "cause great harm to Jammu and Kashmir's economy, lands will get costlier," and people from all over the country can apply for jobs, making it difficult for the locals to get them. He said Jammu and Kashmir does not have a big industry and a lot of people depend on tourism for their livelihood. "Unemployment will rise," he said. **ANI**

Gyanvapi mosque case: Varanasi district court grants a week's time to ASI for submitting scientific survey report



The Varanasi district court on Monday granted one more week to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to submit a scientific survey report of the Gyanvapi mosque complex. This comes after ASI asked for one week's time to file the survey report. The court fixed December 18 as the next date of hearing in the matter.

On the previous date, the court had given the ASI 10 days' time on November 30 and ordered it to file the report within the "provided time." The Court had earlier asked it to submit its survey report by November 17. Later, ASI was granted time until November 28 to file its report. The survey has been held for 100 days, during which the ASI has asked for several extensions. The survey had concluded almost a month ago and the ASI had sought extra time to file its report.

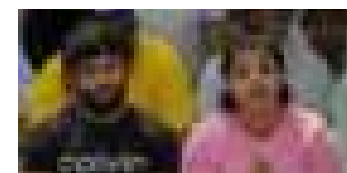
The last extension was on November 18, when the ASI asked for another 15 days. The court had allowed it 10 days. The ASI had been conducting the survey since August 4 on the mosque premises. It leaves out the Wuzukhana area, which has been sealed by the orders of the Supreme Court.

On November 2, the ASI told the court it had "completed" the survey but would need some more time to compile the report, along with the details of the equipment used in the survey. The court had granted additional time till November 17 for submitting the document. The survey was ordered by a Varanasi court on July 21, following a petition by four women who sought permission to pray at the Shringar Gauri Shrine which is behind the western wall of the temple. **PTI**

Wrestlers protest: Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik meets Minister Anurag Thakur requesting to stop anyone contesting polls related to Brij Bhushan Singh

Olympic medal winning grapplers Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, on Monday, met Sports Minister Anurag Thakur to once again request him to stop anyone related to former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh from contesting the upcoming polls of the national body. The much-awaited WFI elections are scheduled to be held on December 21 during its General Body Meeting and the results will be declared on the same day itself.

Bajrang and Sakshi are among the wrestlers, who spear-



headed the protest against Brij Bhushan for two months, on allegations of multiple charges of sexual harassment against the BJP MP from Kaiserganj, Uttar Pradesh. As per Tokyo Games bronze medallist Bajrang, they withdrew their protest after the government assured that no one related to Brij Bhushan will contest the polls. **PTI**

World

Hong Kong went from its highest-ever voter turnout to its lowest ever in local district elections



Within the span of just four forlorn years, Hong Kong went from its highest-ever voter turnout to its lowest ever in local district elections. In 2019, 71.2 per cent of the population turned out - mostly to vote for pro-democracy candidates and thereby slamming government arguments that only a "noisy minority" was protesting - whereas the participation rate plummeted to 27.54 per cent in elections held on 10 December 2023.

The results speak for them-

selves. As Carmen Lau, an exiled former Hong Kong district councillor commented, "The decline of the turnout rate exactly mirrors the deterioration of Hong Kong's democracy." Voter turnout has typically bounced between 30 per cent and 45 per cent over the past 40 years, but for public involvement to shrink by a factor of more than 2.5 in just four years is simply unprecedented.

This year, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-controlled government slashed democratic representation to just 20 per cent,

and even then candidates were pre-vetted to ensure they were "patriots".

Furthermore, opposition was barred, constituencies were redrawn and most councillors were chosen by the city's leader or government-appointed committees. As Nathan Ruser of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute pointed out, "Over 1.2 million Hong Kongers marched on the street against Beijing's rule multiple times during the 2019 mass protests. [That is] more Hong Kongers than who voted in this 'patriots-only' election. Even in a 'quiet' Hong Kong, Beijing's imposed dictatorship is immensely unpopular." Turnout on 10 December was 1.19 million voters.

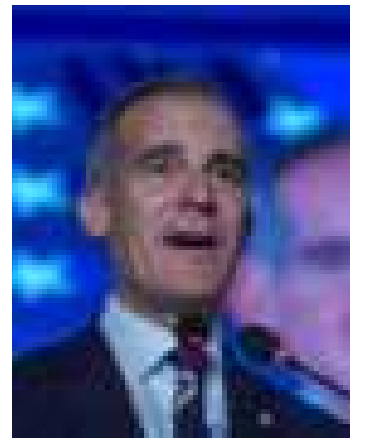
Remember too that civil servants were "urged" to vote by the likes of Chief Secretary Eric Chan, which amounted to 170,000+ likely participants for starters. Voters received a "thank you" card from the government, leading many to fear they would be forced to show these to employers to prove that they did in fact vote. ANI

US: Amid the growing challenges in cybersecurity, joint workshop was convened under GCTF

Amid the growing challenges in the field of cybersecurity, a joint workshop was convened under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) on Monday, said the US embassy in India in an official press statement on Monday. During the workshop, representatives from the United States, India, and Taiwan are meeting on December 11-12 to deepen operational expertise and share best practises on cybersecurity issues.

The event has been co-hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti, Taiwan's Representative to India Baushuan Ger, former National Cyber Security Coordinator of India Lt. Gen Rajesh Pant, and the United Service Institution of India, which represented the first in-person GCTF programme held in India under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF).

Ambassador Eric Garcetti said, "The United States is committed to working closely with



partners like India and Taiwan to enhance cybersecurity and protect our shared interests in the digital space. When we connect, protect, and detect with technology, instead of fearing what it can do to divide or oppress us, we can take full advantage of the nearly limitless potential that these advances will bring." During the meeting, Taiwan's Representative to India, Baushuan Ger, highlighted GCTF's importance as a platform to utilise Taiwan's strengths and expertise to address issues of global concern. ANI

Pakistan: PPP approached SC requesting a live telecast of the hearing challenging the death sentence of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto



The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has approached the Supreme Court (SC) requesting a live telecast of the hearing on a presidential reference challenging the death sentence of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, according to ARY News. A nine-member, larger bench of the Supreme Court is set to address the long-pending presidential reference on December 12, aiming to re-

assess the 'controversial' death penalty imposed on Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

The plea was submitted by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, emphasising that the legacy of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto endures despite the death sentence handed down in 1979. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the apex court to allow live telecast of the hearing, as reported by ARY News. ANI

Vienna: Tibetan Diaspora staged a protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in Austria human rights abuses

Members of the Tibetan Diaspora in Vienna staged a symbolic protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in Austria, condemning China for ongoing human rights abuses against Tibetans in Tibet. The demonstration held by the Tibetan community in Vienna on the eve of Human Rights Day, which is observed globally on December 10, sought to draw attention to the deliberate violations of their fellow Tibetans by the Chinese government.

"Four representatives from the local Tibetan Diaspora organisation took a stand, raising slogans condemning China for its ongoing human rights abuses against Tibetans in Tibet," an official statement said. "The protest staged by the Tibetan community in Vienna aims to shed light on these delib-



erate violations perpetrated by the Chinese government against their brethren in Tibet," according to the statement.

The systematic disregard by the Chinese government for the fundamental rights of Tibetans shows a blatant violation of international human rights law. China is obligated to respect and adhere to mechanisms safeguarding people's rights and has been accused of widespread human rights violations in Tibet, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong. China's Third Periodic Review by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights in March 2023 brought out these violations very clearly.

The country has been facing criticism for its cruel acts, including the forced resettling of Tibetans and engaging in forced labour. "China faced scrutiny on multiple fronts, including allegations of persecuting human rights defenders, forcibly resettling Tibetans, engaging in forced labour, fostering workplace discrimination, curtailing religious freedom and language rights, assimilating Tibetan children in boarding schools, and perpetrating cultural genocide," the statement said. ANI

Advantages and Disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence



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Artificial Intelligence is the ability of a computer program to learn and think. Everything can be considered Artificial intelligence if it involves a program doing something that we would normally think would rely on the intelligence of a human.

The advantages of Artificial intelligence applications are enormous and can revolutionize any professional sector.

1) Reduction in Human Error:

The phrase "human error" was born because humans make mistakes from time to time. Computers, however, do not make these mistakes if they are programmed properly. With Artificial intelligence, the decisions are taken from the previously gathered information applying a certain set of algorithms. So errors are reduced and the chance of reaching accuracy with a greater degree of precision is a possibility.

Example: In Weather Forecasting using AI they have reduced the majority of human error.

2) Takes risks instead of Humans:

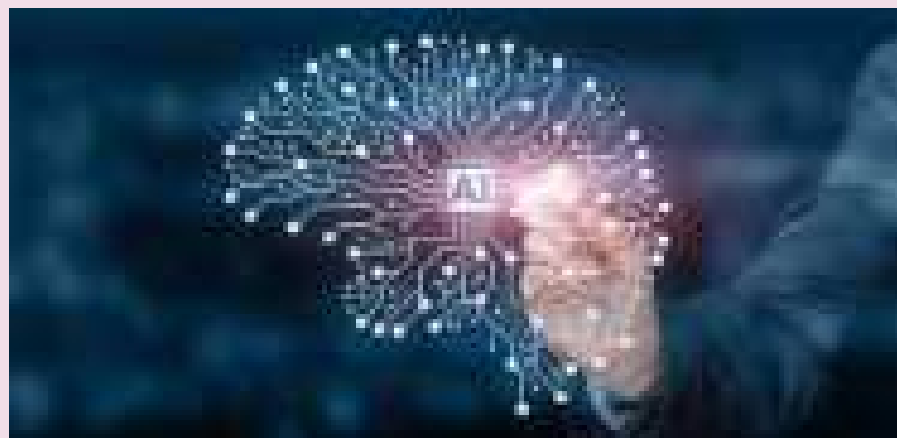
This is one of the biggest advantages of Artificial intelligence. We can overcome many risky limitations of humans by developing an AI Robot which in turn can do the risky things for us. Let it be going to mars, defuse a bomb, explore the deepest parts of oceans, mining for coal and oil, it can be used effectively in any kind of natural or man-made disasters.

Example: Have you heard about the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in Ukraine? At that time there were no AI-powered robots that can help us to minimize the effect of radiation by controlling the fire in early stages, as any human went close to the core was dead in a matter of minutes. They eventually poured sand and boron from helicopters from a mere distance.

AI Robots can be used in such situations where intervention can be hazardous.

3) Available 24x7:

An Average human will work for 4-6 hours a day excluding the breaks. Humans are built in such a way to get some time out for



refreshing themselves and get ready for a new day of work and they even have weekly offed to stay intact with their work-life and personal life. But using AI we can make machines work 24x7 without any breaks and they don't even get bored, unlike humans.

Example: Educational Institutes and Helpline centers are getting many queries and issues which can be handled effectively using AI.

4) Helping in Repetitive Jobs:

In our day-to-day work, we will be performing many repetitive works like sending a thanking mail, verifying certain documents for errors and many more things. Using artificial intelligence we can productively automate these mundane tasks and can even remove "boring" tasks for humans and free them up to be increasingly creative.

Example: In banks, we often see many verifications of documents to get a loan which is a repetitive task for the owner of the bank. Using AI Cognitive Automation the owner can speed up the process of verifying the documents by which both the customers and the owner will be benefited.

5) Digital Assistance:

Some of the highly advanced organizations use digital assistants to interact with users which saves the need for human resources. The digital assistants also used in many websites to provide things that users want. We can chat with them about what we are looking for. Some chatbots are designed in such a way that it's become hard to determine that we're chatting with a chatbot or a human being.

Example: We all know that organizations have a customer support team that needs to clarify the doubts and queries of the customers. Using AI the organizations can set up

a Voice bot or Chatbot which can help customers with all their queries. We can see many organizations already started using them on their websites and mobile applications.

6) Faster Decisions:

Using AI alongside other technologies we can make machines take decisions faster than a human and carry out actions quicker. While taking a decision human will analyze many factors both emotionally and practically but AI-powered machine works on what it is programmed and delivers the results in a faster way.

Example: We all have played Chess games in Windows. It is nearly impossible to beat CPU in the hard mode because of the AI behind that game. It will take the best possible step in a very short time according to the algorithms used behind it.

7) Daily Applications:

Daily applications such as Apple's Siri, Window's Cortana, Google's OK Google are frequently used in our daily routine whether it is for searching a location, taking a selfie, making a phone call, replying to a mail and many more.

Example: Around 20 years ago, when we are planning to go somewhere we used to ask a person who already went there for the directions. But now all we have to do is say "OK Google where is Visakhapatnam". It will show you Visakhapatnam's location on google map and the best path between you and Visakhapatnam.

8) New Inventions:

AI is powering many inventions in almost every domain which will help humans solve the majority of complex problems.

Example: Recently doctors can predict breast cancer in the woman at earlier stages using advanced AI-based technologies.

As every bright side has a darker version in it. Artificial Intelligence also has some disadvantages. Let's see some of them

1) High Costs of Creation:

As AI is updating every day the hardware and software need to get updated with time to meet the latest requirements. Machines need repairing and maintenance which need plenty of costs. It's creation requires huge costs as they are very complex machines.

2) Making Humans Lazy:

AI is making humans lazy with its applications automating the majority of the work. Humans tend to get addicted to these inventions which can cause a problem to future generations.

3) Unemployment:

As AI is replacing the majority of the repetitive tasks and other works with robots, human interference is becoming less which will cause a major problem in the employment standards. Every organization is looking to replace the minimum qualified individuals with AI robots which can do similar work with more efficiency.

4) No Emotions:

There is no doubt that machines are much better when it comes to working efficiently but they cannot replace the human connection that makes the team. Machines cannot develop a bond with humans which is an essential attribute when comes to Team Management.

5) Lacking Out of Box Thinking:

Machines can perform only those tasks which they are designed or programmed to do, anything out of that they tend to crash or give irrelevant outputs which could be a major backdrop.

Summary:

These are some advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence. Every new invention or breakthrough will have both, but we as humans need to take care of that and use the positive sides of the invention to create a better world. Artificial intelligence has massive potential advantages. The key for humans will ensure the "rise of the robots" doesn't get out of hand. Some people also say that Artificial intelligence can destroy human civilization if it goes into the wrong hands. But still, none of the AI applications made at that scale that can destroy or enslave humanity.

Entertainment

'Animal' film starring Ranbir Kapoor crosses Rs 700 crore at box office



Ranbir Kapoor's action drama film "Animal" has minted over Rs 700 crore at the worldwide gross box office in nine days, the makers said on Monday. Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga of "Arjun Reddy" and "Kabir Singh" fame, the film released on December 1 in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. Production house T-Series shared the collection update of "Animal" on X, stating that the film earned Rs 717.46 crore in worldwide gross in 10 days. **PTI**



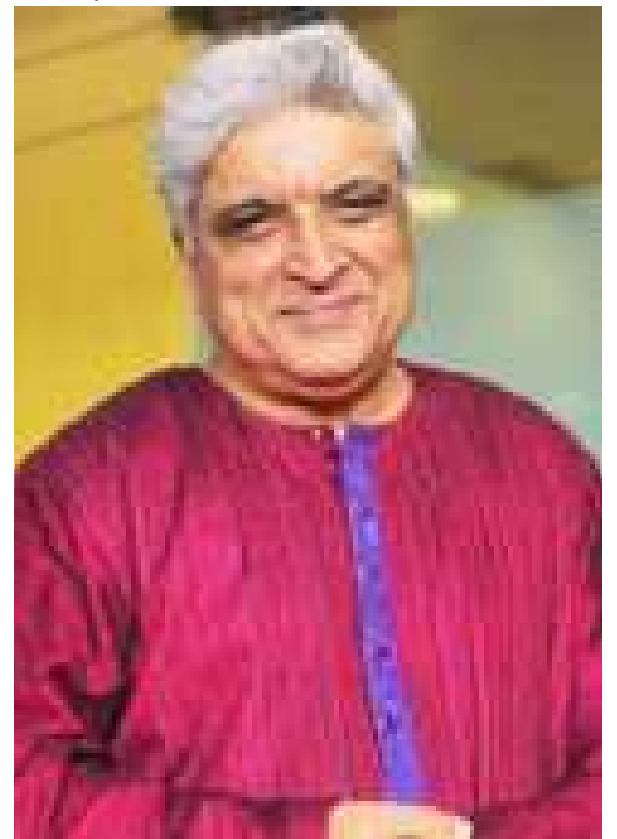
Actor Parineeti Chopra drops pictures of Christmas celebration

Actor Parineeti Chopra has shared glimpses of her preparation for Christmas, post her marriage with Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha last September. Taking to her Instagram stories she shared several pictures of her preparation for the festivity at home.

She posted a beautiful picture of Christmas trees covered with baubles, hearts, and lights in a series of stories. Furthermore, the actress created a Santa Claus town theme park complete with Christmas trees and fake snow. **ANI**

Veteran writer Javed Akhtar will be honoured at Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival

Veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar will be felicitated with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival. Akhtar, the co-writer of Hindi cinema classics such as "Zanjeer", "Deewaar", "Sholay", "Don", "Kaala Patthar" and "Mr India", will be honoured for his contribution to the Indian film industry on the opening day of the festival's ninth edition, a press release said. The award ceremony will take place at Rukmini Auditorium in MGM University campus of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on January 3, 2024. **PTI**



WWII drama series 'Combat' fame Jack Hogan passes away at 94



Jack Hogan, best known for starring in the WWII drama series 'Combat!', is no more. As per Variety, Hogan died of natural causes on December 6 at his home in Washington. He was 94.

Hogan played PFC William G. Kirby on the ABC series 'Combat!' starring Rick Jason, Vic Morrow and Pierre Jalbert. The show, which ran for five seasons, follows a squad of American soldiers fighting the Germans in France during WWII. Hogan made his onscreen debut with the 1956 film 'Man From Del Rio', starring Anthony Quinn. He was also featured in multiple television series during the '50s and '60s, including 'Dr. Christian', 'The Rough Riders', 'Sea Hunt', 'Tombstone Territory' and more. **ANI**

Veteran actor Jackie Shroff advises son Tiger Shroff to "take it easy" in film industry business



Veteran Bollywood star Jackie Shroff says he has advised actor son Tiger Shroff to "take it easy" as film business is unpredictable. Tiger emerged as an action hero following the box office success of films such as "Heropanti", and "Baaghi". But his last few films such as "Munna Michael", "Heropanti 2", "Ganapath" underperformed at the box office. Jackie Shroff said hits and flops are part of the movie industry and he has faith in his son's capabilities. **PTI**