

Facebook Owner Meta Fires 11000 Employees



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Two Arrested In a \$12 Million Crypto Scam in India



(SAI Bureau) Police in the western Indian state of Maharashtra have arrested two people on suspicion of running a crypto scam thought to have conned more than 1,400 investors of between \$6 million and \$12 million. The arrests were made on Aug. 10 after raids in Thane and Powai, two regions in the Mumbai area, said the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Thane Police.

(Contd. on page 23)

"Prepare For War", "Fight And Win It" Xi Jinping Tells Chinese Army

Holding the three powerful posts of the head of the party, the military, and the Presidency, Xi is the only leader besides the party founder Mao Zedong to continue in power after completing 10-year tenure, while all his predecessors retired

Beijing: President Xi Jinping has said that China's national security is facing increased instability and ordered the PLA to devote all its energies to enhancing capability and maintaining combat readiness to fight and win wars as he took charge of the military for a record third five-year term. Xi, 69, has been reappointed as the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and head of the Central Military Commission (CMC) — the overall high

(Contd. on page 23)



"Sanjay Raut Arrested Illegally": Court Shreds Probe Agency, Grants Bail



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Page 23

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IIFA WEEKEND
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Entire Story on Page 30

Indian National Charged in \$8 Million COVID-19 Relief Fraud Scheme

(South Asian Insider Bureau) A federal grand jury in Newark, New Jersey, returned an indictment today charging an Indian national for fraudulently obtaining millions of dollars in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration (SBA) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

According to court documents, Abhishek Krishnan, 40, previously resided in Wake County, North Carolina, before returning to his home country

of India. After returning to India, Krishnan allegedly submitted numerous fraudulent PPP loan applications to federally insured banks, including on behalf of purported companies that were not registered business entities. The fraudulent PPP loan applications allegedly included false statements about the companies' employees and payroll expenses, as well as falsified tax filings. As part of the fraud scheme, Krishnan allegedly used the name of another person without that

person's authority. Krishnan allegedly submitted at least 17 PPP loan applications seeking over \$8.2 million and received more than \$3.3 million in loan proceeds. Following receipt of the funds, Krishnan allegedly laundered the proceeds of the fraud.

Krishnan is charged with two counts of wire fraud, two counts of money laundering, and two counts of aggravated identity theft. If convicted, Krishnan faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each of the top counts and

a mandatory minimum of two years in prison on each count of aggravated identity theft. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Polite, Jr. of the Justice Department's Criminal Division; U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger for the District of New Jersey; Special Agent in Charge Mark Morini of the U.S. Treasury Inspector

General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), Southeast Field Division; Special Agent in Charge Kyle A. Myles of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Office of Inspector General (FDIC-OIG), Atlanta Region; U.S. Marshal Michael East for the Eastern District of North Carolina; and Special Agent in Charge Amaleka McCall-Brathwaite of the Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General (SBA-OIG), Eastern Region made the announcement.

San Joaquin County Man Sentenced to 14 Months in Prison for Committing Bankruptcy Fraud

(South Asian Insider Bureau) — Kulvir Singh Cheema, 61, of Ripon, was sentenced today to 14 months in prison, a \$4,000 fine, and was ordered to pay \$259,031 in restitution for filing a false bankruptcy declaration, U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

According to court documents, Cheema lied about various material facts in a declaration and other documents in a bankruptcy proceeding, which he initiated in 2011. Cheema's numerous lies in the bankruptcy proceeding—all made under penalty of perjury—created the false impression that he was bankrupt with no assets and deceived his creditors, the bankruptcy trustee, and the bankruptcy judge. Cheema's lies

were extensive. He lied about his business, income, employment, and assets. For example, before filing for bankruptcy, Cheema transferred his business to a new company purportedly run by his ex-wife and concealed his association with the new company. Cheema also falsely claimed he lost his residence in foreclosure when, in fact, he sold it to a close friend in a short sale while continuing to reside there. Through his lies, Cheema successfully discharged over \$2 million in debt while managing to conceal \$259,031 in assets from his creditors and electing to pay a close friend for a personal loan. This case was the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Chief Information Officer of Publicly Traded Pharmaceutical Company Charged for Insider Trading Scheme

(South Asian Insider Bureau) An indictment was unsealed today charging a Pennsylvania man for his alleged role in an insider trading scheme involving the securities of Mylan N.V. (Mylan), a publicly traded pharmaceutical company. According to court documents, Ramkumar Rayapureddy, 54, of Upper Saint Clair, conspired with his former colleague, Dayakar Mallu, to fraudulently trade in Mylan securities based on material nonpublic inside information Rayapureddy obtained through his position at Mylan in advance of market-moving corporate announcements for their own financial gain. At the time of the alleged scheme, Rayapureddy was Mylan's chief information officer. From 2017 through 2019, Rayapureddy allegedly tipped Mallu on multiple occasions with material nonpublic inside information about Mylan concerning, among other things, FDA drug approvals, financial earnings, and a merger with a division of Pfizer, Inc.

Mallu allegedly used the inside information to execute trades in the company's securities and in return Rayapureddy or his designee received cash payments. Rayapureddy is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud and three counts of securities fraud. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each of the securities fraud charges and five years in prison on the conspiracy charge. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors. In September 2021, Mallu pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit securities fraud and aiding in the preparation of a false tax return and is awaiting sentencing. Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Polite, Jr. of the Justice Department's Criminal Division and Assistant Director in Charge Steven M. D'Antuono of the FBI Washington Field Office made the announcement. The FBI is investigating the case.



VFS Global to participate in Indian Consular Camp in Plaincity, Ohio on November 12, 2022

(South Asian Insider Bureau) As part of its "Consulate @your doorstep" initiative the Consulate General of India, New York in association with VFS Global, and FIA – Ohio will participate in a Consular Camp in Plaincity, Ohio at USASPORTZ, 9525 SR 161 E, on November 12, Saturday from 09:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The consular camp is part of a series of events the Consulate General of India, New York and VFS Global, are organising with the support of local Indian Associations and Federations over the next few months to facilitate access to consular services for the Indian diaspora. The process can be completed in 6 simple steps using 'How to apply guidelines' on the VFS Global website followed by scheduling an appointment for the camp.

Applicants need to determine the type of service they need from Passport, OCI, Renunciation, Police Clearance Certificate, Visa, and GEP and meet the eligibility criteria for it. Complete the online application form on the Govt. of India website based on the service required and print & sign the hard copy of the form. Create a profile on the VFS Global website, pay fees and generate the payment confirmation letter.

Book an appointment for the consular camp online. Arrive at the consular camp at your designated time and carry the printed form, supporting documents, proof of the online payment or money order and appointment confirmation email to the camp.

VFS Global will review the applications and accept the

completed applications at the Consular camp itself. Applicants will receive application process notifications via email/ SMS (if opted) October 18 onwards. Sonia Dhayagude, Regional Head - Americas at VFS Global

required documents."

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions. VFS Global is the trusted partner of 66 client governments, operating a global network with more than 3,300 Application Centres in 144 countries. The company has processed over 248 million

applications since its inception in 2001. The company manages non-judgmental and administrative tasks related to applications for visa, passport, and consular services for its client governments, enabling them to focus entirely on the critical assessment task. VFS Global has its headquarters in Zurich/ Switzerland and Dubai/United

Arab Emirates. VFS Global is majority-owned by funds managed by Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager. Blackstone seeks to create positive economic impact and long-term value for their investors, the companies in which they invest, and the communities in which they work. Blackstone's USD 915 billion in assets under management include investment vehicles focused on private equity, real estate, public debt and equity, infrastructure, life sciences, growth equity, opportunistic, non-investment grade credit, real assets, and secondary funds, all on a global basis. The Swiss-based Kuoni and Hugenboller Foundation and EQT, a global investment organisation, headquartered in Stockholm/ Sweden, hold minority stakes in VFS Global.



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Services, says, "The Consular camps have been successful in letting us connect with the community and accept the applications closer to their homes. Our team of experts and trained staff visits these locations prior to the camp and sets up an appointment system. This ensures we facilitate processes systematically and people are prepared and ready with the

Toledo Area Physician Charged with Fraudulently Billing More Than \$8.4 Million to Medicare

(South Asian Insider Bureau) The indictment states that the Acting U.S. Attorney Michelle M. Baeppler announced that a federal grand jury returned a six-count indictment charging Ankita Singh, 39, formerly of Maumee, Ohio, with fraudulently billing Medicare \$8.4 million. According to the indictment, the defendant was a state-licensed physician practicing in Maumee and Toledo. From June 2018 through May 2021, it is alleged that the defendant participated in a scheme to bill Medicare approximately \$8.4 million in durable medical equipment, prosthetics/orthotics and supplies (DMEPOS) that were medically unnecessary. As part of the scheme, it is alleged that telemarketers and call centers would contact or cold-call Medicare beneficiaries in an attempt to convince the beneficiaries to agree to receive DMEPOS, specifically braces, in the mail. The call center operators and telemarketers often told beneficiaries that the braces would be provided at no cost and that a doctor would be contacting them.



would then use general information about the beneficiary, including their name, Medicare number and purported diagnosis, to prepare DMEPOS order forms that certified that the equipment and supplies were medically necessary. According to the

indictment, the defendant received these order forms and signed them, even though the defendant had never spoken to, examined, assessed or otherwise established a doctor-patient relationship with the beneficiary. As a result, DMEPOS suppliers shipped the items listed on the order forms to the beneficiaries and submitted a corresponding claim to Medicare. An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt.

Home Health Aid Admits Stealing U.S. Savings Bonds from Elderly Woman

(South Asian Insider Bureau) Vanessa Roberts Avery, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that JHANANNIE SINGH, also known as "Jasmine" and "Sharmala Persaud," 52, a citizen of Guyana last residing in Queens, New York, pleaded guilty today before U.S. District Judge Kari A. Dooley in Bridgeport to a conspiracy offense relating to the theft of hundreds of thousands of dollars in U.S. Savings Bonds from an elderly woman who had purchased the bonds for her grandchildren and other family members. According to court documents and statements made in court, Singh stole hundreds of thousands of dollars in U.S. Savings Bonds from an elderly woman

for whom she provided home health services. The victim had purchased the bonds for her grandchildren and other relatives. After the victim died, Singh contacted Glen Campbell, also known as "Nick," who enlisted the help of another individual to redeem the stolen bonds at a financial institution and provide Singh and Campbell with a portion of the proceeds. Between October 2020 and January 2021, as part of an undercover investigation, law enforcement coordinated the purchase of more than 100 savings bonds, with face values ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, from Singh and Campbell. Campbell traveled to Connecticut to complete the transactions.

Indian national sentenced for government impersonation call center scam

(South Asian Insider Bureau) – A 38-year-old Indian citizen who was illegally residing in Houston has been ordered to prison for conspiracy to commit mail fraud, announced U.S. Attorney Jennifer B. Lowery. Waseem Maknojiya pleaded guilty Sept. 13, 2021. Today, U.S. District Judge U.S. District Judge Lynn N. Hughes ordered him to serve 60 months in federal prison. Not a U.S. citizen, Maknojiya is expected to

face removal proceedings following his imprisonment. Between April and October 2019, Maknojiya was involved in a telemarketing scheme via Indian call centers to extort money from victims in the United States. Maknojiya acted as a runner in these schemes, using aliases and fake identification documents to pick up more than 70 parcels containing cash the scheme's victims had mailed. One common script used in the scheme involved coercing victims into believing federal agents were investigating them. The "agent" on the phone would convince the victim the only way to clear his or her name from investigation was to send cash in a parcel shipped through FedEx to a name and address they provided. Runners in the United States like Maknojiya would then pick up the parcels. At the time of his plea, Maknojiya agreed to pay restitution to the scheme's identified victims. Maknojiya will remain in custody pending transfer to a U.S. Bureau of Prisons facility to be determined in the near future.

Indian employees at Twitter on H1B visa face tough time after layoffs, have only 60 days to find new jobs

(South Asian Insider Bureau) Thousands of employees at Twitter have lost jobs in the last week, which is right after billionaire Elon Musk took over the company. The company sent emails to people impacted by the layoffs but hasn't shared the termination letter yet or stated their last day at the organization. It is said that those laid off will remain employed by Twitter and receive compensation and benefits until the first week of January 2023. Although, the last day may vary for employees. Twitter laid off employees from nearly all markets, including India. When it comes to India, the company is said to have fired 90 per cent of the workforce of around 200 employees. While all impacted employees are going through a tough time and looking for a new job, as they share their experiences on social media, the most affected are the foreign citizens holding H1B visas, many Indians, in the United States.



Several H1B visa holders have taken to social media platforms like Twitter and LinkedIn to talk about the 60 days deadline that they have to find a job. The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US-based companies to employ foreign workers for a period of time, typically three to six years. In this case, many H1B visa holders are among the impacted Twitter employees, and they will need to find a job within 60 days from the time they receive their termination letter. Twitter hasn't issued a termination letter yet. Employees have only received emails stating whether they have been impacted by the layoffs or not. So, all H1B visa holders who lost their job will need to get a job in roughly around 2 months to be able to continue living in the United States. And in case the visa holders do not find a job they will be forced to go back to their home country, and the original employer (in this case, Twitter) will need to pay for the return flight to

Nirav Modi loses appeal against extradition to India. What's next for him?

(South Asian Insider Bureau) Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi lost his appeal in a UK high court against extradition on mental health grounds. In a judgment handed down on Wednesday, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Justice Jay concluded, "We are far from satisfied that Nirav Modi's mental condition and the risk of suicide are such that it would be either unjust or oppressive to extradite him." Nirav Modi, who is currently behind bars at Wandsworth prison in London, had fled India when the Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam was unearthed. Nirav Modi is the prime accused in the Rs 13,000 crore PNB scam. Since the diamond merchant fled the country, the Indian government has been trying to extradite him to face charges of fraud and money laundering. In a big win for India, a UK court on Wednesday rejected fugitive diamondaire Nirav Modi's plea against extradition to India.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR NIRAV MODI?

With the High Court rejecting Nirav

Modi's appeal against the extradition order, what recourse does Nirav Modi have?

As he has lost this appeal hearing, Nirav Modi can approach the Supreme Court on a point of law of public importance, to be applied for to the Supreme Court against the High Court's decision within 14 days of a High Court verdict.

Human Rights Barrister and head of Trent Chambers, Usha Sood, spoke to India Today about what steps Nirav Modi can take. "Once the



court of appeal has rejected Mr Modi's appeal then only recourse is to try and appeal to the Supreme Court on the grounds of – the court overlooking a point of public importance. This is extremely difficult to surmount. In most cases lawyers do not advice this route," Usha Sood said. She added, "There is also a possibility of approaching the European Court of Human Rights to try and apply for an injunction against the UK government on the basis of his fundamental human right being at stake."

AAP's 16th Annual Global Healthcare Summit 2023 In Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

GHS and Pre-GHS/CME Family Tour to Vietnam, Cambodia and Kuala Lumpur Registration is Open and Filling up fast



(South Asian Insider Bureau) : "The registration for AAP's 16th annual Global Healthcare Summit 2023 at the prestigious Novotel Visakhapatnam Varun Beach, Andhra Pradesh, India from January 6th to 8th, 2022 and the Pre-GHS/CME tour to exotic destinations, Vietnam, Cambodia and Kuala Lumpur is filling up fast," Dr. Ravi Kolli, President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAP)

announced here today. "Physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country and internationally will meet and participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, to develop health policy agendas, and to encourage legislative priorities in the coming year. We look forward to seeing you in Visakhapatnam!" said Dr. Ravi Kolli. The GHS 2023 by AAP is being organized in collaboration with Andhra Medical College Alumni Association, Andhra Medical College, Indian Medical Association, AP, Association of Telugu Medical Graduates in the USA and Rangaraya Medical College Alumni Association and the Government of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

5 Indian-Americans In Race For US Congress's Midterm Elections

(South Asian Insider Bureau) : Five prominent Indian-American politicians are in the race for the US House of Representatives when the country goes for its midterm polls on November 8. If the pollsters and opinions of political pundits are to be believed, Indian-American candidates are likely to have a 100 per cent strike rate for the House of Representatives. The four incumbents - Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna and Pramila Jayapal - are likely to be re-elected. All four are from the Democratic Party. Adding to the so-called Samosa Caucus of Indian-Americans in the House of Representatives would be the entrepreneur and businessman Shri Thanedar, who is seeking his election from the 13th Congressional District of Michigan. Mr Bera, 57, the senior of all, is seeking his sixth term in the House of Representatives from the 7th Congressional District of California. Mr Khanna, 46, who represents the 17th Congressional district from California, Mr Krishnamoorthi, 49, (8th Congressional District of Illinois) and Ms Jayapal, 57, from the 7th Congressional District of Washington State, are seeking their fourth consecutive terms. According to political experts, all four are comfortably placed against their Republican opponents. So does Mr Thanedar, 67, who is seeking his maiden entry into the House of Representatives from the heavily African American portion of Detroit.

Logo Unveiled For India's G20 Presidency Summit 2023

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today unveiled the logo, theme and website of India's G20 Presidency for the Summit 2023 which is the highest-profile international gathering ever to be hosted by India. The global muscle of G20 can be gauged by the fact that its member nations account for around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about 67% of the world population. With the release, India is set to take over the G20 presidency from December 1, 2022, till November 30, 2023. The presidency offers India a unique window to get counted as a nation that matters in the global agenda on pressing issues of international value. The logo is in the vibrant colours of India's national flag - saffron, white and green, and blue with the Earth reflecting India's pro-planet approach to life, one in perfect harmony with nature. The lotus is symbolic of what is auspicious, pure, eternal, and detached. Below the G20 logo is the word "Bharat", as India is referred to in Sanskrit and figures in the Devanagari script. The theme for India's G20



importance. India's G20 logo juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower, thus representing a uniquely Indian approach to the G20 Presidency, with reverence to Mother Earth as the core template of PM Modi's foreign policy - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth-One Family-One Future". This again is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text - the Maha Upanishad.

Kannada Koota of New York Celebrated Kannada (Karnataka) Rajyotsav

(South Asian Insider Bureau) Deputy Commissioner Dilip Chauhan Conveyed a Congratulatory Message on behalf of NYC Mayor Eric Adams to all the members of KKNY on the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava Celebration. In the event of 67th Kannada Rajyotsava, the Kannada Koota New York organization

celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava on November 5th, 2022 at Alley Pond New York. Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner for Trade, Investment, and Innovation from New York City Mayor's Office participated in the event. Deputy Commissioner hoisted the Karnataka flag along with members of

Kannada Koota. The Deputy commissioner appreciated the community and emphasized the cultural importance for future generations. On behalf of NYC Mayor Eric Adams Mr. Chauhan conveyed Mayor Eric Adams message to all the members. Several cultural events followed after that like

signing Karnataka Nada geethe (State Song) and other Kannada patriotic songs were performed by members. Kannada Rajyotsava is a public holiday in the Karnataka state of India. It is always celebrated on November 1st. It is also known as Karnataka Formation Day



Grand Diwali Celebration Celebrated By Gujrati Samaj of New York

NYC Mayor ERIC Adams and NYC Deputy Commissioner Dilip Chauhan were in Attendance

(South Asian Insider Bureau) Traditional dresses, authentic food and musical programs and a happy crowd, all went into making the Gujarati Samaj of New York's Diwali

celebrations a very successful event in Queens. The celebrations were capped by a visit from the Mayor of New York City Eric Adams, and Deputy Commissioner Dilip

Chauhan along with President Harshad Patel and Executive Committee members who lit the traditional lamp. Emceed by Dr. Sheetal Desai, the event highlighted the

accomplishments of Gujarati Samaj of New York since the last 5 decades which includes a number of community activities including health camp, cultural program and many more.



Gujarati Samaj of New York Committee pose with NYC Mayor Eric Adams and Deputy Commissioner Dilip Chauhan from Left Shailesh Pathak, Ameet Trivedi, Bhaat Patel, Virendra Banker, Hiren Vyas, Raju Patel, Ajay Patel, Deputy Commissioner Dilip Chauhan, NYC Mayor Eric Adams, President Harshad Patel, Mahesh Patel, Divyesh Tripathi, Manikant Patel, Bipin Patel, Jatin Upadhyaya

Nassau County Goes Red-Decoding New York's Election Results

(South Asian Insider Bureau Exclusive) The GOP has won all four Congressional races on Long Island. Republican Anthony D'Esposito, Rep. Andrew Garbarino, George Santos &

Nicholas LaLota all declared victories.

Nassau GOP Chairman Joseph G. Cairo, definitely is the man of the hour for ensuring this stunning victory.

And Republicans

appear to have busted up Democratic 'supermajority' in New York. Long Island Republicans Steve Rhoads, Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and Jack Martins all declared victory during speeches at the Nassau County GOP's election night party at the Coral House in Baldwin.

The GOP's hoped-for red wave looked a lot more like a national ripple in the wake of Election Day — except for deep blue New York, where

Republicans picked up three House seats — including defeating the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.



she prepares to begin her own full term in office. But look closely at the New York City results. GOP candidate Lee Zeldin did astoundingly well. It's a lesson for Hochul: She'd best heed what moderate swing voters told her Tuesday night on crime control and job growth. Also Incumbent Ed Ra was declared Winner Over Kumar Jindal In Assembly District 19. Incumbent Ed Ra (R) was challenged by Sanjeev Jumar Jindal (D) in the Nassau County Assembly District.

And even though Representative Lee Zeldin didn't win, but he made it close — and sent a message to Gov. Hochul. Obviously, a win is a win, and Gov. Kathy Hochul deserves New Yorkers' goodwill as



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Solid like a Rock

He Chose Chai Over Degree. He Now Owns Million Dollar Firm In Australia

(South Asian Insider Bureau) In an ideal world, Sanjith Konda House would have been completing his Bachelors in Business Administration (BBA) from a leading Australian University, and applying for a white-collar internship. But a cushy corporate job became a distant reality when the 22-year-old decided to become a "tea-seller", or "chaiwala", as he loves to call himself. Melbourne, known for its coffee fetish, is now binging on tea and samosas as the Nellore-born Sanjith, with his maiden start-up venture 'Dropout Chaiwala', has turned his business into a million (Australian) dollar company in just about a

year.

It's a bustling Sunday morning in Melbourne's busy CBD (Central Business District) area Elizabeth Street and one can see Indians, native Australians and a few Hispanics enjoying their favourite morning poison -- a steaming cup of tea. The glow sign 'Dropout Chaiwala' piqued an Indian tourist's interest as he stopped by for a cursory second glance. If anyone thinks what's there in a name, think again as a small tea joint has become one of the favourite hangout places of the Indian community in Melbourne. "I came here to study Bachelors in Business

Administration at the La Trobe University but I failed to complete my course. I became a college drop out and then I wanted my own start-up. "I was fascinated about tea from childhood and then conceived the idea of Dropout Chaiwala," Sanjith narrated his story. "My parents were initially shocked that I had dropped out and then apprehensive that I am planning my own business venture. Melbourne is the world's coffee capital and I was planning to open a tea joint," Sanjith could now afford to smile. Asrar, an NRI, believed in his project and decided to become an angel investor. "I think next month, our revenue

is going to roughly hit 1 million AUD (Rs 5.2 crore approx) after tax deductions and paying all overheads. The profit should be roughly 20 percent. In Australia, there is ease of doing business if your ideas are in place," Sanjith was now beaming. He still imports from India as the aim is to give locals a taste of Indian tea. "Among the Indian community, the 'Bombay Cutting' is a big hit and the Australians love Indian 'masala chai' and 'pakodas'. Now we are about to open our second outlet in Melbourne," informed Sanjith, who has employed Indian students, who do part-time jobs to supplement their incomes.

Delhi's air quality to improve further but remain within upper end of Poor category as curbs end

Though Delhi's air quality has been improving, it is likely within 'Very poor' or upper end of 'Poor' categories till Wednesday (November 9)

(News Agency) Even as Delhi's air quality improved slightly on Tuesday, it is likely to remain within 'Very poor' or upper end of Poor till Wednesday (November 9). According to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) data, at an AQI of 321, the national capital continued gasping for fresh air.

The air quality will remain within the upper end of Poor category due to weak upper-level wind flow, reduction in local emissions, and moderate dispersion of pollutants leading to dilution of near-surface pollution, the SAFAR forecast mentioned.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO REOPEN TOMORROW

As the air quality improved in Delhi, the state government announced the reopening of schools on November 9 and lifted a few other restrictions, including curbs on the entry of trucks and small goods carrier vehicles into the national capital. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that the ban on private demolition and construction work will continue. However, schools have been asked to remove outdoor

activities from their routines. The state government also brought back the work-from-home policy in offices.

The environment minister also said that the 'Paryavaran Bus Service', which includes 500 privately-run CNG buses, will keep operating. The Centre's air quality panel has asked pollution control boards in Delhi-NCR to ensure the deployment of anti-smog guns at

construction and demolition sites in view of poor air quality in Delhi, an official statement said on Monday. The Commission for Air Quality Management has also recommended other measures, such as the use of wind brokers, dust barrier screens, covering of construction material and its debris, and proper disposal of construction wastes, including transportation in covered vehicles, at these sites, it said.

The panel noted that these sites are a major and consistent source of air

pollution in Delhi-NCR.

"At least one anti-smog gun is necessary for a total construction area between 5,000 to 10,000 square metre. Two anti-



smog guns for area between 10,001 to 15,000 square metre.

"For construction area between 15,001 to 20,000 square metre, at least three anti-smog guns are necessary. At least four anti-smog guns should be deployed for a total construction area above 20,000 square metres," the statement from CAQM said.

BAN ON BS III PETROL, BS IV DIESEL VEHICLES TO CONTINUE TILL NOV 13

Movement of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles in Delhi will remain

banned till November 13, while trucks will be allowed to enter the national capital, according to officials. As the city's air quality improved, the Delhi government on Monday also decided to reopen primary classes from November 9 and revoke the order that asked 50 per cent of its staff to work from home.

STUBBLE BURNING INCIDENTS IN PUNJAB CROSS 30K-MARK

Stubble burning is one of the major contributors to air pollution in north India. Farm fire incidents crossed the 30,000 mark in Punjab with the state witnessing 2,487 stubble-burning cases on Monday. With fresh crop residue burning incidents, the cumulative farm fire cases from September 15 to November 7, rose to 32,486, according to the Ludhiana-based Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data.

NOIDA, GURUGRAM CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE TO BREATHE EASY

At 354, Noida recorded a very poor AQI and lagged behind Delhi in improvement. Meanwhile, Gurugram recorded an overall AQI of 326, still requiring betterment.

UP govt orders CBI probe into Ayush admission scam

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday recommended a CBI investigation into the Ayush admission irregularities, in which ineligible candidates got seats in colleges via NEET-2021 in the state

(By Staff Reporter) The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday recommended a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into the Ayush admission irregularities in which ineligible candidates got seats in Ayurveda, Unani, and homoeopathy colleges via NEET-2021 (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) in the state. The

decision came on the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, an official statement said.

The recommendation for the CBI probe came even as two officials were suspended and departmental action was recommended against two others. The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) and the Ayush Department were already investigating the case. A total of 891 candidates were suspected

of having gotten admission wrongfully, as per the initial probe. Now, the documents related to the case will be

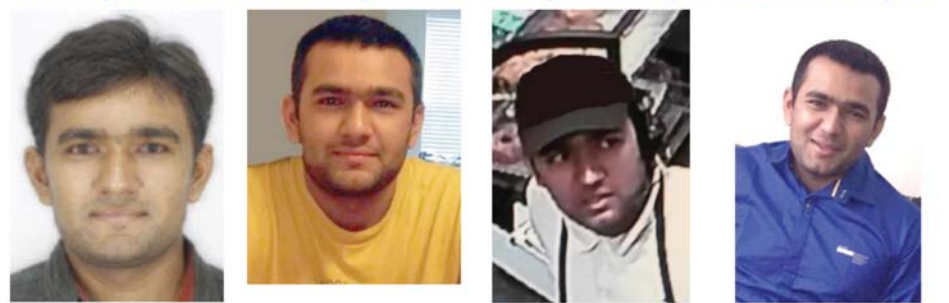


handed over to the CBI team. Prof SN Singh, director of Ayurveda, and Dr Umakant Yadav, the nodal officer for counselling, have both been suspended. Departmental action has been recommended against Dr Mohd Wasim, in charge of the Unani directorate, and Dr Vijay Pushkar, joint director (education) at the Homeopathy directorate, the spokesperson said in a press statement on Monday.

FBI TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE

BHADRESHKUMAR CHETANBHAI PATEL

Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution - First Degree Murder, Second Degree Murder, First Degree Assault, Second Degree Assault, Dangerous Weapon with Intent to Injure



Photograph taken April 2015

DESCRIPTION

Alias: Bhadreshkumar C. Patel	Place of Birth: Kantrodi Ta Viramgam, Gujarat, India
Date(s) of Birth Used: May 15, 1990	Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown	Weight: 165 pounds
Height: 5'9"	Occupation: Employee of donut shop
Sex: Male	
Nationality: Indian	

REWARD

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$100,000 for information leading to the arrest of Bhadreshkumar Chetanbhai Patel.

REMARKS

Patel was last known to be in the Newark, New Jersey, area.

CAUTION

Bhadreshkumar Chetanbhai Patel is wanted for allegedly killing his wife by striking her multiple times with an object while they were both working at a donut shop in Hanover, Maryland, on April 12, 2015. A local arrest warrant was issued in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County on April 13, 2015, and Patel was charged with first degree murder, second degree murder, first degree assault, second degree assault, and dangerous weapon with intent to injure. A federal arrest warrant was issued in the United States District Court, District of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, on April 20, 2015, after Patel was charged with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

Field Office: Baltimore

Indian defense firms working towards achieving USD 5 billion exports target set by Centre

After PM Modi asked the defense companies to achieve the target of USD 5 billion in exports, Indian entities, including both private and public firms, are taking steps to enhance their foreign sales

(News Agency) After Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the defense companies to achieve the target of USD 5 billion in exports, Indian entities, including both private and public firms, are taking steps to enhance their foreign sales. In this regard, the biggest public sector unit, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), has tasked its officers to do export promotion.

"HAL has a set of senior officers who look after export-related issues of the company. The countries and regions of the world are assigned and divided among these officers to explore the export opportunities," a senior official from HAL told India Today.

"The group, though not named as an export promotion council or something similar, functions under HAL Corporate Marketing. It is tasked to work towards export promotion activities," he said.

Meanwhile, the BrahMos Artispac has also started finding new



markets and started identifying regions which can be useful for it in selling its world-class supersonic cruise missile. "The corporate marketing division has a number of officers under it who are specially looking after export promotion as per directives of the PM," BrahMos officials said.

BrahMos Aerospace chief, Atul Rane, recently told India Today

that while the prime minister had set a target of USD 5 billion for the whole country, BrahMos alone would be working towards achieving that target. "BrahMos missile export target is set at USD 5 billion by 2025. BrahMos made the first export deal with the Philippines at USD 375 million," he stated.

Another successful private firm, Solar

Industries, which won a deal in Armenia to export its multi-barrel rocket launcher system, stated that it has started focusing on export markets along with the Indian market. "We realise that if we are able to provide solutions which the friendly countries are looking for, there would certainly be a market for Indian weapon systems as we have lot of advantages over others," a senior defence ministry official dealing with export promotion told India Today. India had achieved exports of defence items and technology worth a record Rs 13,000 crore in 2021-22, which is likely to rise to Rs 17,000 crore in 2022-23," the Defence Secretary had recently stated.

Defence exports grew by 334 per cent in the last five years and India is now exporting to over 75 countries due to collaborative efforts, the government has recently stated while upping the targets for further growth in the sector.



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Here's why only 2 cheetahs were released in Kuno National Park's bigger enclosure

According to the National Park Management, only the task force committee formed for the cheetahs decides when to release them in the big enclosure

(By Staff Reporter) Ever since two cheetahs were released into a bigger enclosure in the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday evening, questions are being raised about why these cheetahs were released and when the remaining six cheetahs will be released.

According to the National Park Management, only the task force committee formed for the cheetahs decides when to leave them in the big enclosure. The committee is working on a strategy to release the remaining cheetahs in a phased manner. A large enclosure of 5 sq km was built in the national park where the cheetahs were released. Earlier, all the cheetahs were kept in the quarantine enclosure.

The experts are continuously monitoring



the two cheetahs and after they analyse their status and the way they adapt to the environment of Kuno and when they are no longer threatened by any other animal, the rest of the cheetahs will be released.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Prakash

Verma, said, "Out of the 8 cheetahs quarantined by the task force committee, 2 cheetahs have been released, who have shown normal behaviour since their release. Along with this, they also hunted a cheetah on Monday morning."

The decision to release the cheetahs in the big enclosure was taken after monitoring the facilities and inspecting the enclosure. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reacting to the release of the cheetahs to a larger enclosure, said he was glad to know that all cheetahs are healthy, active and adjusting well.

"Great news! Am told that after the mandatory quarantine, 2 cheetahs have been released to a bigger enclosure for further adaptation to the Kuno habitat. Others will be released soon. I'm also glad to know that all cheetahs are healthy, active and adjusting well," PM Modi wrote on Twitter. Eight cheetahs were reintroduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park on September 17 - his birthday - as part of Project Cheetah.

Some facts about made-in-India Light Combat Helicopter IAF Prachand



(News Agency) To end China's heartiness and Pakistan's wrong intentions, India needs to strengthen its defence further and the result of it is 'Prachand'. Recently Indian Air Force welcomed its first indigenously designed Light Combat Helicopters at its Jodhpur airbase in the presence of Defence minister Rajnath Singh, General Anil Chauhan (CDS) and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari. Here are some facts about the helicopter.

What is "Prachand"?

As the name suggests, the word Prachand means "fierce". These helicopters can destroy the enemy's air defences within a minute and can counter insurgency operations, along with combat search and rescue tasks. It is developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Total of 15 LCH helicopters have been acquired, out of which 10 are given to the Indian Air Force and 5 for the Indian Army.

Facts about "Prachand"

The importance of this helicopter

was realized at the time of the Kargil War of 1999 when the Indian Army felt the lack of an effective light combat helicopter in the high altitude areas.

1. The only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres.
2. LCH Prachand is fitted with a 5.8-tonne twin-engine named Shakti engine, primarily designed for deployment in high-altitude areas.
3. It has the best stealth features, armored-shield systems, and dark-mode attack capability.
4. Its crash-resistant landing gear gives it an added edge for better survivability among other technologies like radar and IR signature.
5. Its maximum speed is 268 kilometres per hour, range of 550 kilometres and endurance of over three hours.
6. A pressurised cabin offers protection from nuclear, biological and chemical contingencies.
7. The helicopter is equipped with a countermeasure dispensing system that protects it from enemy radars or infrared seekers of enemy missiles.

16 Indian sailors 'unlawfully' detained in Equatorial Guinea for over three months



(News Agency) Families of 16 Indian sailors held hostage by the Guinea Navy are worried about the safety of the sailors and have pinned their hopes on the government. The Indian sailors have been held hostage for nearly the last three months, and the families have demanded an immediate release of the sailors. Gaurav Arora, a resident of the Govind Nagar area in Kanpur, is among the 16 Indian crew of the ship detained by the Navy of Equatorial Guinea, a country located on the west coast of Africa.

As per Gaurav's family, he had recently joined the merchant navy as a third officer and he was on a Norway-based ship 'MT Heroic Idun' that reached AKPO Offshore, a conventional gas development located in ultra-deepwater in Nigeria on August 8 when he was held hostage along with other crew members of the ship. The ship had anchored on the international maritime boundary of Nigeria on August

8. The ship crew of 26 people including 16 Indians was waiting for their turn when the Guinea Navy detained the ship and the crew the next day on suspicion that they had come to

steal oil, his family said.

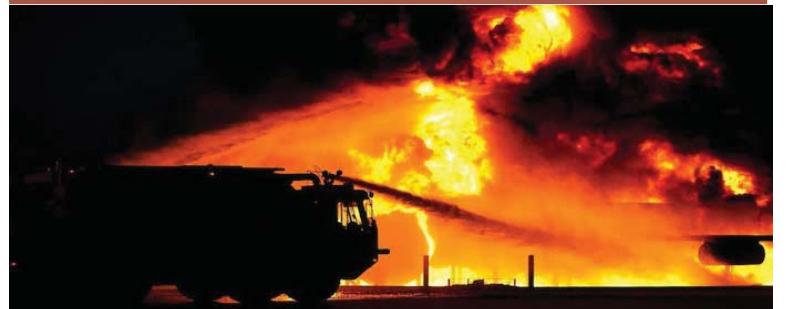
Of them, 15 were taken to a hotel, and 11 have been kept on the ship, they claimed.

The family said they are worried because the Guinean Navy is going to hand over the ship crew to Nigeria any movement. "It's a nerve-racking time for us. We are really worried about the safety of my brother and the 15 Indians of the ship crew," Gaurav's sister Komal Arora told ANI.

She said that the Indians might be charged with false allegations and the Guinea Navy will hand them to Nigeria.

Fire breaks out in plastic manufacturing factory in Patna, no casualties

A fire broke out in a plastic manufacturing factory in Patna on Monday night. No casualties were reported in the accident



(News Agency) A fire broke out following which fire tenders were in a plastic manufacturing factory rushed to the spot. The blaze was brought under control by 10.30 pm, according to news agency ANI. Amitabh, Indian Oil terminal in charge at Patna said, "Indian Fire erupted around 8 pm, oil terminal is completely safe."

10% EWS quota: Indian Supreme Court upholds reservation for economically poor in colleges, govt jobs



India Uday Umesh Lalit (OBC) from EWS Quota. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, who read the judgement for himself, said the constitutional amendment cannot breach the 50 per cent ceiling limit because the limit is not inflexible. Justice Bela M Trivedi said the 103rd constitutional amendment cannot be struck down on grounds of being discriminatory, calling for the need to revisit the system of reservation in the larger interests of the society. Justice J B Pardiwala concurred with their views and upheld the validity of the amendment. The law, which

gives 10 per cent reservation for poorer sections of India's "upper castes", was passed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government months before the 2019 general elections. The Cabinet decided that this would be over and above the existing 50 per cent reservation for SC/ST/OBC categories. The petitioners had questioned several aspects of the EWS quota, including how it could cross the 50 per cent national cap on reservation set by the Supreme Court in 1992 and whether it changed the "basic structure" of the constitution.

The majority of the judges held that the 103rd Constitutional Amendment did not violate the basic structure of the Constitution. The judges had to decide if the law breached the 50 per cent ceiling limit while granting benefits; whether it erred while granting reservation solely on the basis of economic criteria; and whether it excluded the poor among the oppressed categories like the Scheduled Castes (SC)/ Scheduled Tribes (ST)/ Other Backward Classes

gives 10 per cent reservation for poorer sections of India's "upper castes", was passed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government months before the 2019 general elections. The Cabinet decided that this would be over and above the existing 50 per cent reservation for SC/ST/OBC categories. The petitioners had questioned several aspects of the EWS quota, including how it could cross the 50 per cent national cap on reservation set by the Supreme Court in 1992 and whether it changed the "basic structure" of the constitution.

The SC Constitution Bench upheld the law with a 3-2 majority, with Justice S Ravindra Bhat passing a dissenting judgement, and Chief Justice of

(By Staff Reporter) The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the law that provides 10 per cent reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in educational institutions and government jobs in India. The SC Constitution Bench upheld the law with a 3-2 majority, with Justice S Ravindra Bhat passing a dissenting judgement, and Chief Justice of

Jharkhand: ED Issues Fresh Summons To CM Hemant Soren For November 17 In Mining Case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren in a money laundering case linked to the alleged illegal mining

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a fresh summon to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren for November 17.

The ED has summoned Soren to appear before it in Ranchi in a money laundering case linked to the alleged illegal mining in Jharkhand, said official sources to PTI. Soren, 47, was initially summoned by ED for November 3 but he did not depose citing official engagements. He had then sought a three-week deferment of the summons.

The ED will question Soren and record of his statement under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED has arrested Soren's political aide Pankaj Mishra and two others —local muscleman Bachhu Yadav and Prem Prakash— in this case.

The ED has said it has "identified" proceeds of crime relating to illegal mining in the state to the tune of more than Rs 1,000 crore till now. After the first summons was issued, Soren had dared the ED to arrest him.

He had said, "The ED has summoned me following a conspiracy. Come and arrest me if I have committed a crime instead of sending summonses for questioning. I am neither afraid nor worried. Rather I am emerging stronger. If people of Jharkhand wish, opponents will not find a place to hide." The ED probe began after it raided Mishra and his alleged associates on July 8, covering 19



locations in Sahibganj, Barhait, Rajmahal, Mirza Chauki, and Barharwa in Jharkhand in the case linked to alleged instances of illegal mining and extortion.

"The PMLA investigation revealed that Mishra, who enjoys a political clout, being the representative of the chief minister, MLA from Barhait, Sahibganj, Jharkhand controls the illegal mining businesses as well as inland ferry services in Sahibganj and its adjoining areas through his accomplices. He exercises considerable control over the mining of stone chips and boulders as well as installation and operations of several crushers, set up across various mining sites in Sahibganj," the ED had alleged after filing a charge sheet in the case before a special court in Ranchi.

In the charge sheet, the ED stated that it recovered "a sealed envelope containing a passbook and two cheque books containing

two signed cheques, all pertaining to A/c...in the name of Shri Hemant Soren held with Bank of India, Sahibganj".

Among other items seized by the ED include "one yellow color file marked as April 2019 to June 2022 having all bank details of Hemant Soren" and his family members, the ED said in the charge sheet.

Forty-seven search operations have been conducted and cash worth Rs 5.34 crore has been seized, bank balances worth Rs 13.32 crore have been frozen, and an inland water vessel worth Rs 30 crore has been seized.

Five stone crushers, two trucks, and two AK 47 assault rifles have also been seized till now, the ED said. The weapons were later claimed by Jharkhand police as its own.

Some banking documents and cheques that purportedly bore the name of Soren were also recovered from the searched premises, officials had said.

The action was initiated after the ED filed a case under the PMLA against Mishra and others in March, alleging that the former "illegally grabbed or amassed huge assets in his favour". It took cognisance of a state police FIR filed against Mishra at Barharwa police station in Sahibganj district and some other police complaints filed in the illegal mining trade instances under various sections of the Arms Act, and Explosive Substances Act, among others.

A second instance where cash linked to alleged illegal mining in the state was unearthed pertains to the ED action against suspended Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Pooja Singhal in May. Apart from the 2000-batch IAS officer, her businessman husband, a chartered accountant linked to the couple and others were raided by the ED as part of the money laundering probe linked to a case of alleged corruption in the MGNREGA scheme.

Singhal, who was holding the charge of Jharkhand mining secretary, was suspended by the state government following her arrest by the ED.

Suman Kumar, a chartered accountant linked to Singhal and her husband, was also arrested by the agency and cash amounting to Rs 19.76 crore was seized by it.

Besides the ED probe, Jharkhand has already seen political tensions in recent months over the potential disqualification of Soren as an MLA and alleged attempted poaching of the ruling coalition's MLAs by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"Just Killed It": Elon Musk On Twitter's 'Official' Tag, Hours After Launch

"Please note that Twitter will do lots of dumb things in coming months. We will keep what works and change what doesn't," Elon Musk said



ished as abruptly as it appeared on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official handle was among the select handles which bore the new tag. In an attempt to clear the obvious confusion that this created, the social media giant's "Complaint Hotline Operator" Elon Musk said, "Please note that Twitter will do lots of dumb things in coming months. We will keep what works and change what doesn't."

When American YouTuber

Marques Brownlee shared a tweet confirming that the label had disappeared, Elon Musk said, "I just killed it ... Blue check will be the great leveler." Twitter on Wednesday morning announced that it would introduce an 'Official' label for select verified accounts including major media outlets and governments, when it launches its new \$8 service with the blue verification mark. "Not all previously verified accounts will get the 'Official' label and the label is not available for pur-

chase. Accounts that will receive it include government accounts, commercial companies, business partners, major media outlets, publishers and some public figures," Twitter's early stage products executive Esther Crawford had tweeted. Twitter's coveted blue badge is undergoing a major makeover with billionaire Elon Musk sticking with his \$8 fee despite heavy criticism. "Trash me all day, but it'll cost \$8," Elon Musk tweeted recently.

(News Agency) New Delhi: introduced an "Official" label for Twitter's latest update, where it select verified accounts, van-

"Don't Agree With Sonia Gandhi": Congress On Rajiv Gandhi Killers' Release

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991, at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group

(By Staff Reporter) :The Congress today seethed at the Supreme Court decision to free Nalini Sriharan and five other convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case and said it "disagreed with Sonia Gandhi", who had pleaded for their release from prison. The Congress said it would seek legal remedy. "Sonia Gandhi, above all, is entitled to her personal views. But with greatest respect, party doesn't agree and has made our view clear. In this case, the Congress' views are the same as that of the cen-

tral government. The party does not agree with Sonia Gandhi's view, has never agreed with that view, and has made this view clear for years," said Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi, responding to NDTV's question. "Rajiv Gandhi's assassination was not like any other crime. This is a national issue, not a local murder." Nalini Sriharan approached the Supreme Court when in May, it used special powers to free one of the convicts, AG Perarivalan. All seven convicts in the case have spent more than 30 years

in prison.

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991, at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu, by a woman suicide bomber of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group. Seven convicts were sentenced to death for their role in the killing.

In 2000, Nalini Sriharan's sentence was reduced to a life term on the intervention of Sonia Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi's wife and former Congress president. Sonia Gandhi had filed a clemency petition that pointed out that



Nalini was pregnant when she was arrested. The sentence of six more convicts was also commuted in 2014. The same year, then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha initiated moves to free them.

In 2008, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the daughter of Rajiv Gandhi, met with Nalini in a prison in Tamil Nadu's Vellore. "The big learning from that meeting was that I was still... Though I was not angry anymore, I did not hate her... and I wanted to meet her, I was still thinking that I was somebody who could forgive her for something she had done. And then I met her, and I realized, what am I talking about...?" Priyanka Gandhi told NDTV.

"We are consistent about our stand. This is an institutional matter. The sovereignty, integrity and the identity of a nation is involved in the assassination of a former Prime Minister," said Abhishek Manu Singhvi. "That is why the central government has also never agreed with releasing the convicts. Either the previous government (Con-

gress) or this (BJP)," the Congress leader added.

Asked whether the party also disagreed with its ally DMK, which rules Tamil Nadu, Mr Singhvi shot back. "They are our allies. We don't agree with even Sonia Gandhi."

Mr Singhvi questioned why the Supreme Court would invoke special powers "that it doesn't have" to free convicted assassins of a former Prime Minister. "Has the larger issue of sovereignty and integrity of a nation been taken into account? It was an attack on India's integrity," he said. Earlier, another Congress leader, Jairam Ramesh, had said: "The decision of the Supreme Court to free the remaining killers of former PM Rajiv Gandhi is totally unacceptable and completely erroneous. The Congress party criticises it clearly and finds it wholly untenable." He added: "It is most unfortunate that the Supreme Court has not acted in consonance with the spirit of India on this issue."

Foreign Jaish Terrorist Killed In Encounter In Kashmir's Shopian: Police

(By Staff Reporter) Security forces on Friday shot dead a foreign terrorist of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in an encounter in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

A police spokesman said the security forces, acting on specific information generated by police regarding the presence of terrorist in the Kapren area of Shopian, launched a joint cordon and search operation.

"To avoid any civilian casualty or injury, the joint team of forces evacuated teachers and students from a nearby madrasa to safer places," he said. The spokesman said as the search party approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter.

"In the ensuing encounter, one foreign terrorist, identified as Kamran Bhai @Hanees, linked with

proscribed terror outfit JeM was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter," he said.

According to police records, the killed terrorist was categorised ultra and involved in several terror crime cases, including attacks on police and civilians.

"It is pertinent to mention here that the killed terrorist was active in Kulgam-Shopian area and was trying to revive the terror folds of JeM terror outfit by recruiting & motivating the gullible youth to join terror folds, besides planning to execute terror attacks," the spokesman said. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of Kashmir Vijay Kumar congratulated the joint team of police and security forces for conducting the successful operation without any collateral damage.

Biden's Afghanistan exit decision looks even worse a year later

In 1961, after a CIA-backed invasion of Cuba failed spectacularly, President John F. Kennedy said of the Bay of Pigs fiasco, "Victory has 100 fathers and defeat is an orphan." Last week, President Joe Biden took a victory lap when he announced that the US had tracked down and killed its most wanted terrorist, al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, who was living in a house in Kabul, Afghanistan. Don't expect a similar celebration on August 30, the first anniversary of the US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, which ended the longest war in American history. Any realistic assessment of that action shows that it will long be seen as a defeat rather than a victory – and it's likely no one will own up to the responsibility for the decision.

The US launched a war against Afghanistan in 2001 after the Taliban regime harbored Osama bin Laden, giving him the ability to plot and carry out the 9/11 terrorist attacks which killed almost 3,000 Americans.

As US and NATO troops battled Taliban and al Qaeda forces, the new US-backed government in Kabul also presided over two decades of progress in Afghanistan. To be sure, Afghanistan wasn't Norway, but it was becoming a somewhat functional, democratizing Central Asian state that saw striking progress in reducing child mortality and increasing life expectancy, one that provided jobs for women and education for millions of girls; it nurtured scores of independent media outlets, and held regular, if flawed, presidential elections.

All of that changed when the US began withdrawing and the Taliban took over the entire country on August 15, 2021. Women's rights evaporated. They have no right to work, except in a narrow set of female-related jobs such as cleaning women's toilets in Kabul; when they travel distances of more than 45 miles they must be accompanied by a male relative, and the Taliban have ordered women to stay at home and to cover themselves completely should they ever venture out. Their male relatives will be punished by the Taliban if women don't follow these directives. Girls do not have the right to be educated after the age of 12.

On the Taliban's management of Afghanistan, one data point suffices to underline the group's gross incompetence: Around half of the Afghan population are today "facing acute hunger," according to the UN. On the Taliban's respect for other ethnic Afghan groups: There is no evidence that the Taliban are creating an "inclusive" government as their leaders claimed they would. Pashtuns make up almost all the leadership of the Taliban, while other ethnic groups in Afghanistan such as the Hazaras, Tajiks and Uzbeks are almost

entirely excluded from leadership roles.

On their respect for democracy: The Taliban, conveniently, don't believe in elections. Instead, they are a theocracy; their leader is known as the "Commander of the Faithful," a title that claims he is the leader of all Muslims. In the past year under Taliban rule, 40% of Afghanistan's independent media outlets have closed.

On the Taliban's alliance with al Qaeda: Well, last week's news made clear the relationship is thriving. The fact that the leader of al Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri was living in downtown Kabul for months – with what the Biden administration describes as the awareness of some Taliban officials – speaks for itself. Zawahiri was killed late last month in a US drone strike. After the news broke that Zawahiri had been hiding in Kabul, Lisa Curtis, the top official at the White House for Afghanistan during the Trump administration, tweeted "#Taliban basically asserting Doha agreement allows them to shelter #AlQaeda. Proves it was the worst agreement in US history. Not worth the paper on which it's written." This was a particularly damning assessment coming from a senior American official who was working on Afghanistan while the Doha agreement between the US and the Taliban was being negotiated.

One of the most powerful men in Afghanistan today is the acting Minister of Interior, Sirajuddin Haqqani, who has ties to al Qaeda, according to a United Nations report that said he is "assessed to be a member of the wider Al-Qaida leadership, but not of the Al-Qaida core leadership." A February 2020 opinion piece in The New York Times with Haqqani's byline blandly identified him only as "the deputy leader of the Taliban." What the Times didn't tell its readers is that Haqqani was also on the FBI's most wanted list and that his men had kidnapped a reporter for ... The New York Times.

This op-ed featured ludicrous lies including, "We together will find a way to build an Islamic system in which all Afghans have equal rights, where the rights of women that are granted by Islam – from the right to education to the right to work – are protected" and "reports about foreign [terrorist] groups in Afghanistan are politically motivated exaggerations by the war-mongering players on all sides of the war." Why Biden went through with the withdrawal plan that he had inherited from Trump is still something of a puzzle since there was no large, vocal constituency in the Democratic Party that was demanding a total US pullout from Afghanistan, and Biden's top military advisers had clearly warned him of the risks of doing so.

People said voters wouldn't care about this issue. Midterm election results tell a different story

For the past several weeks, pundits warned that Democrats had peaked too early. True, Americans did not like the Supreme Court's decision this summer to reverse Roe v. Wade and destroy abortion rights. But we were all told that June was a long time ago. Other issues were now front of mind, and the old truths that have always defined American abortion politics hadn't changed: Most Americans want abortion to be legal, but it won't sway their vote. After Tuesday's midterm elections, the outlook looks a bit different. The abortion-rights side seemingly went a perfect five-for-five when it came to ballot initiatives, recognizing a state right to abortion in Michigan, California and Vermont. Kentucky, a deep red state, turned away an attempt to say that the state constitution did not protect a right to abortion. Montana's abortion measure, which threatened to impose criminal penalties on health care providers, was rejected by voters in Tuesday's referendum. Abortion ranked second on the list of voters' top issues and led the way for Democrats.

This summer's Dobbs decision is hardly a magic bullet for Democrats, who still seem likely to lose control of the House of Representatives and may, depending on the outcome of three outstanding races, ultimately cede the Senate too. But despite those outcomes, the midterm shows a clear path forward for supporters of abortion rights: If a ballot initiative can win in Kansas or Kentucky, almost any place is fair game. But can Democrats really manage the same feat across the country? There are clear limits to this plan of attack. It's much harder to get a proposal before voters in certain key states like Virginia, Wisconsin, Texas and Loui-

siana. And voters in conservative states have not become full-blown supporters of reproductive rights overnight. If Kentuckians had been asked to vote for a constitutional abortion right, their answer may be different than the one we heard Tuesday night.

Perhaps the biggest wild card is Dobbs itself. Not what the decision said – that has been baked in since May, when a draft leaked from the court and then went fundamentally unchanged before the Supreme Court reversed Roe in June. What we don't know is what Dobbs will mean in the lives of Americans. Midterm voters were certainly reacting to what the Supreme Court did. There is no real precedent for the court to destroy what was long recognized as a constitutional right – much less to do so in a way that was mocking and dismissive. In his opinion for the court, Justice Samuel Alito observed that more than half the electorate was female. If people didn't like what the court had done, he suggested, they could just go out and vote. Last night, voters certainly took Alito's advice.

But they were not just reacting to what the court wrote. They were also responding to what legislators were making Dobbs mean on the ground. More than a dozen states implemented trigger laws that banned all abortions, most without exceptions for rape or incest; others revived 19th century laws that barred almost all abortions. State laws made it harder for physicians to defend themselves when they intervened in cases of medical emergency, narrowing the kind of health threats to which physicians could respond or requiring physicians, rather than prosecutors, to prove that they needed to save a patient's life.



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BJP's Determination To Win Elections Pays Off

It is always risky to read too much into by-election results of any kind, be it assembly or parliamentary. It is impossible to tell which way the political wind is blowing based on a few seats scattered across states. But an estimate can always be made at a macro level. A few pointers can be underlined about results of the just-concluded assembly by-elections in seven seats for six states. The BJP has won four seats. The TRS, RJD and Shiv Sena have won one each. The Congress has drawn a blank. The results clearly indicate the following:

One, the BJP's election machine is still going strong. The BJP has not only retained its seats in Bihar, in UP and in Odisha, but also snatched one in Haryana. In Bihar, after the breakup of the BJP and JD(U), this was the first election of what amounts to as BJP versus the rest. The Nitish Government is now supported by seven parties including the formidable RJD. It is true that the BJP had won this seat last time with more than 35,000 votes, but even so, its victory is important due the changed alliances. There is another reason for the RJD to worry. Asaduddin Owaisi's candidate, Abdul Salam, was

also in the fray and got 12,214 votes. Without him, the Muslims would have as a bloc voted for the RJD which means it would have taken the seat. So Owaisi can create problems

for the Nitish-RJD alliance not only in Muslim-dominated seats but also where victory is decided by a thin margin. Owaisi may have the ability to cost the ruling alliance a few seats.

In Odisha, the BJP has been trying to emerge as a serious

challenger to Naveen Patnaik who has been winning assembly elections since 1998. His party, the BJD was expected to win the Dhampur by-election but it did not, despite Naveen Patnaik campaigning for the seat. Perhaps the sympathy factor created the BJP win as the seat was vacant due to the death of the BJP MLA; his son was given the ticket by the BJP. One cannot read too much into the victory of the BJP candidate in Adampur in Haryana as the seat has been with former Haryana Chief

Minister Bhajan Lal's family since 1968. This time, Bhajan Lal's grandson Bhavya Bishnoi was the BJP's candidate. His father Kuldeep



Bishnoi recently defected to the BJP from the Congress and the seat was vacant due to his resignation.

But the BJP has given a clear warning to the TRS in Telangana. Although the BJP candidate, Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, lost the election in Munugode, the margin was narrow. Rajagopal Reddy was a Congress MLA who had defected to the BJP. The Congress in this constituency could not save its deposit. The BJP has been leaving no stone unturned in Telangana to

replace the Congress as the main Opposition party. After Karnataka, the BJP has sensed that it can replace the Congress in Telangana and emerge as a powerful force. The TRS knew that a victory in Munugode would allow the BJP to claim that the TRS is losing its grip on the state. Therefore, the TRS marshalled all its resources and deputed more than a dozen ministers and more than 50 MLAs in the constituency. Two, there is a lesson for the Opposition that it cannot take voters for granted. The BJP under Modi is always in election mode, and it fights every election with a gladiatorial instinct. So Nitish-Tejashwi should realise that their combined might not be enough in 2024 parliamentary elections, a fact which many political analysts have been underlining. The BJP will put up a tough fight. Three, the results show that the Congress has not learnt any lesson. Its pathetic show continues. Adampur and Munugode were held by the Congress, but it lost both. Munugode should be more worrisome as Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' passed through Telangana, and attracted a large crowd. Does it mean that without follow-up action, the Yatra is no guarantee for reanimating the Congress?



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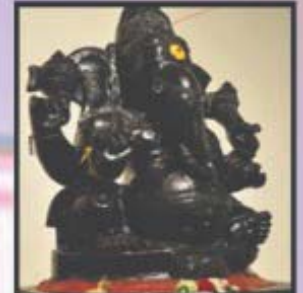
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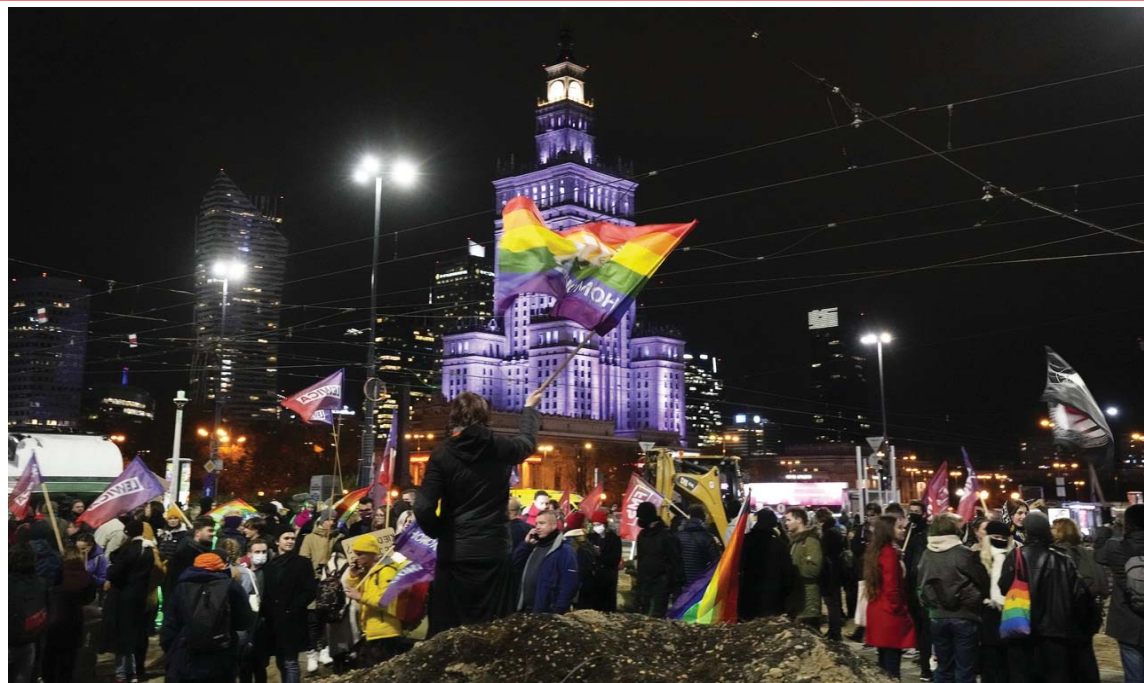
What Poland Tells America About Abortion Politics

Democrats and Republicans alike can learn from the only other country to roll back the legal right to abortion in the last 15 years

It happened like this: A dogged religious right and a determined set of anti-abortion movers and shakers poured years of work into curbing abortion access. Their efforts swayed conservative politicians, who adopted opposition to abortion as a central ideological goal in a vicious culture war. They appointed conservative judges to the courts, and when the topic of abortion crossed those judges' dockets, they made a shocking yet predictable ruling that vastly curtailed abortion access.

No, I'm not talking about the U.S. This is what happened in Poland. In 2020, Poland became the first nation in nearly 15 years to buck the liberalizing trend around the globe and roll back abortion rights. Two years later, when the Supreme Court's controversial decision in Dobbs struck down Roe and 50-plus years of legal precedent vanished, the United States became the second. Now, as Democrats face dismal prospects in this week's midterm elections, they're hoping that Republican overreach on abortion will stave off a red tidal wave. They did over-perform in special elections over the summer, and there's been a hike in new Democrats registering to vote. But Republicans are betting that the political fallout over Dobbs is losing steam, and that despite the abortion issue, their message on inflation and crime will hand them more governor's mansions, the House and possibly even the Senate.

Exactly how the end of Roe will affect the midterms won't be clear until the results trickle in after election day. But both Democrats and Republicans could draw valuable lessons from what happened in Poland, chief among them: Throwing abortion to the judiciary doesn't take it out of the realm of politics. In fact, it makes the debate even more political than it was before. Under communist rule in the '60s and '70s, abortion



was readily available. But after the Soviet Union's fall, lobbying by the Catholic Church led to a 1993 law restricting abortion to cases of rape, incest, fetal abnormality and threat to the mother's health. Support for legal abortion spiked in 1993 before dipping through the rest of the decade, suggesting Poles quickly became accustomed to a new — stricter — status quo.

In the U.S., Republican-controlled states rolled back abortion access with laws that sidestepped Roe — mandating ultrasounds and waiting periods, forcing some clinics to widen their hallways and abortion providers to obtain admitting privileges at local hospitals to keep their doors open. Meanwhile, Poland's Law and Justice Party (or PiS, for Prawo i Sprawiedliwość) would take a more direct route. In 2016, they endorsed a harsher ban on abortion, prohibiting the procedure even in cases of rape, incest and of fetal abnormality — the latter of which accounted for 98 percent of abortions in the country after the 1993 law — but preserving the exception for cases posing danger to the mother's life. The move triggered a national wave of demonstrations, dubbed the "Black Protest." One hundred-thousand Poles — wearing dark clothing and holding black flags and umbrellas —

thronged in city streets. Spooked by the outrage, Law and Justice backed off and tried another option, one that ultimately proved fruitful for U.S. conservatives as well: the courts. In a yearslong process, they replaced liberal justices with conservatives, locking in PiS acolytes to the Constitutional Tribunal — the panel that monitors compliance of statutory law with Poland's constitution. When abortion was delegated to the Tribunal, the panel's October 2020 decision was no surprise: Abortion on the grounds of fetal abnormality would be banned, partly on the basis that a right to life was already enshrined in the Polish constitution.

Abortion numbers plummeted by 90 percent. But the political impact was significant, too: Law and Justice's approval rating tanked from the mid-40s to the low-30s. It's only partly recovered since.

The abortion decision wasn't only to blame — the government had mishandled the pandemic amid other political blunders. But the ruling itself hemorrhaged PiS support among women and "massively accelerated" a process of secularization among young Poles, says Aleks Szczerbiak, author of the forthcoming Political Parties and Religion in Post-Communist Poland.

The overturning of Roe v. Wade this year was an eerie echo of the Polish scenario. In both countries, the anti-abortion camp secured judicial wins — Dobbs was "precisely the kind of victory that was achieved in Poland," says Agnieszka Graff, author of *Anti-Gender Politics in the Populist Moment*. And in both cases, the driving arguments were the same: "That this is for the protection of unborn life, that unborn life begins at conception, the desire to protect that life trumps the rights of women to abort," says Anna Grzymala-Busse, a Stanford University political scientist.

To be sure, the Polish and American contexts differ. First of all, in Poland, the Tribunal deemed abortion an issue of rights; in America, the Supreme Court judged it an issue for states. America "politicized the issue," says Szczerbiak, while Poland "judicialized" it. Second, religion has a tighter grip on Polish politics. And third, political structures differ — Poland has a unitary, multi-party system; America's is federal and two-party.

But the similarities remain striking, nonetheless. And if what happened in Poland after the abortion ban is any indication of what will happen in the U.S., Democrats and Republicans alike are facing a thornier calculation on abortion politics than either party anticipated.

Poland's slow acceptance of the restrictive 1993 law could spell trouble for abortion rights supporters. "It's not as if we're going to accept living in Gilead," Grzymala-Busse says, "But ... I think this federal patchwork might just get accepted over the course of the next 10 years or so as the new status quo, the new normal."

There is evidence of the Polish effect migrating to the U.S. already: The proportion of women aged 18-44 who believe abortion is one of the top three issues facing America fell from 29 percent right after the Dobbs decision to just 12 percent by mid-September. "If Poland is anything to go by, these issues tend to eventually die down," Grzymala-Busse says.

Poland also tells Democrats that the anti-abortion movement doesn't end with the American religious right. "American women need to understand that they're facing not just a Republican Party, but part of a global movement that's been very strong in Europe," says David Ost, a political scientist at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

This movement was born in America: In the '70s, the political arms of the Protestant and Catholic churches cohered "around opposition to women's rights and also gay rights" and influenced conservative politics, Graff explains. This "culture wars coalition" evolved to infiltrate politics globally, looking for weak spots in legislation: If it's difficult to overturn abortion rights in a country, the lobby will focus on overturning gay rights, and vice versa. Now, anti-abortion organizations in America have strong bases across the Atlantic, though the sister organizations may operate under different names. For example, the highly influential Catholic *Ordo Iuris* group in Poland is part of the Tradition, (Contd on page 22)

Trump Is a Bust for Republicans

The party's midterm disappointment is a spectacular reminder that Trump is a drag on the GOP

Donald Trump lost his second midterm.

That may be a little reductive and unfair, but the former president, who got shellacked while in office in 2018, played an outsized role in the GOP fizzle in 2022.

He picked the candidates who lost. He helped make himself an issue. He changed what should have been a pure referendum on Joe Biden into what was more of a choice between Biden and a Trumpified Republican Party that couldn't make itself palatable enough to suburbanites and independents.

Biden got elected president to bring normalcy from chaos, and he hasn't managed to do it. But Republicans fell down at the task of looking normal themselves, with neophyte, underprepared candidates sometimes beholden to conspiratorial thinking in high-profile races and the ringmaster of it all a volatile force inclined to enjoy uncertainty and conflict.

Trump did his part to make the Senate primaries so treacherous and potentially painful that first-tier candidates — incumbent senators, popular governors — stayed out. Why should they risk the humiliation and psychodrama? Then, Trump pretty reliably put his thumb on the scale for the riskiest and most flawed candidates who actually ran because they were willing to do the most to prostrate themselves to him, or they were celebrities, or both.

The party almost could have drawn its candidates by lot and not done any worse, and perhaps better, because some of the more appealing candidates would have won.

Litmus tests have their role in politics. They establish an orthodoxy in a political party, and once a party has uniformly adopted a position, the chances of it eventually getting realized in legislation or executive action goes up dramatically.

But there is no case for making a belief in — or a willingness



to pretend to accept — Trump's lurid fantasies about the 2020 election the price for entry for winning a GOP nomination for federal office. The more passionately sincere a candidate is about buying into the Trump view, the more likely it is he or she will lack mainstream appeal.

This accounts for the symbiotic relationship between Democrats and Trump this primary season. Democrats favored and supported MAGA candidates because they believed (rightly) that they'd be easy to beat; Trump supported them because they lined up with his obsessions and assuaged his ego.

In the future, the GOP might think twice about nominating candidates that the Democrats desperately want as opponents. It's true that Democrats erroneously made the same calculation about Trump in 2016, but that doesn't mean Republicans are going to get the same expectation-defying results with, say, a Don Bolduc or John Gibbs.

Trump's endorsements had all the hallmarks of his usual erratic and transparently calculating style.

He endorsed out of vengeance, and out of fear of being left out. He endorsed and unendorsed based on standing in the polls. He slyly endorsed at the end when it was clear that one of his adversaries was going to win.

The common thread through

the endorsements, and much else, was the pursuit of his idiosyncratic personal interests.

What goal of the party was advanced by having candidates devoted to Trump's "Stop the Steal" gospel?

How did it contribute to the party to have Trump attacking one of its candidates, Colorado Republican Joe O'Dea, who was trying to make a blue state competitive? Or to insult the Senate minority leader and his wife?

Who did it help to have Trump teasing his potential presidential bid in the days before the election?

In what world was it helpful or appropriate for Trump to come up with a derisive nickname for a rising star in the party in the days before the election and then threaten him with damaging revelations? In all these instances, of course, Trump was thinking only of himself. Republicans have looked past his selfishness in the belief that Trump is the GOP's unique electoral savior, a view that was dubious when he was at his height and is less convincing now.

You nominate FDR for a third time after he's won the first two times (and wash, rinse and repeat). You make a romantic icon of a promising young leader cut down in his prime, like JFK. You revere the two-term presidents, like Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama, who went out on high notes.

It's passing strange to become similarly devoted to a political figure who barely won a fluky presidential election, then lost a winnable reelection bid, before dragging the country through a bonkers attempt to overturn the result, with the episode ending in futility and bloodshed.

The natural response of a party to all this shouldn't be, "Please, let's try that again, and in the meantime, allow the former president to be the most important arbiter of our political fate."

It's not a coincidence that the two most impressive Republican performers in the 2022 midterms, Brian Kemp and Ron DeSantis, were both governors who could forge an identity distinct from the party's national brand. They both had the opportunity as executives to demonstrate competence (and did). They both are hard workers and shrewd operators. And neither bent a knee to Trump; indeed, they got attacked by him.

It is telling that Trump was more favorably inclined to no-hoper Doug Mastriano, the Jan. 6-attending Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate whose dreadful performance helped sink Mehmet Oz, than two conservative stalwarts whose electoral and governing success are a tribute to the party.

Trump doesn't have ideological differences with Kemp or DeSantis; it's just that they've

defied him, so they must be destroyed. Kemp didn't bend to his will in the wake of the 2020 election, then crushed his hand-picked challenger, and DeSantis may challenge him for the 2024 nomination.

If Trump had succeeded in knocking off Kemp with David Perdue in the primary earlier this year, he might have added electing Stacey Abrams to his resume.)

Kemp and DeSantis both show that being widely palatable and broadly normal don't require compromising or losing a combative edge. That Trump is incapable of pulling this balance off doesn't mean that it can't be struck.

Trump started out promising winning and now specializes in explaining away losses. He began as a stunningly fresh presence in American politics whose act now runs in well-worn ruts. He initially brought a focus to neglected issues that people cared about, but now devotes inordinate attention to his just-so story about 2020.

Elected Republicans who hope to have a future in the party are still too afraid to say what many of them think privately. They won't lead any anti-Trump effort, but will wait for the voters to give them permission by notably cooling on Trump. It hasn't happened yet, and perhaps won't even now.

The choice has come into clearer focus, though. There is the kind of Republicanism that Kemp and DeSantis represent, which has a demonstrated record of success, and then there's Trump's, which fell short again. Who knows what will happen between now and 2024, and what will be the exact circumstances in a general election? Perhaps Trump would be stronger than he looks now, but nominating a candidate that only 35 percent of people have a favorable view of would be a risk comparable to nominating Mehmet Oz, Herschel Walker, or Don Bolduc for the Senate.

And how has that turned out?

Nepal earthquake is a reminder that Uttarakhand is a ticking quake bomb

The Wednesday tremor brings to mind the devastating 2015 Nepal earthquake and makes us ponder over the risks ahead

(By Staff Reporter) Nepal was rocked by a 6.3 magnitude earthquake in the wee hours of Wednesday, claiming six lives. Tremors were felt across north India, including Delhi, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Lucknow.

The epicenter of the earthquake was in Nepal, about 90 km east-southeast of Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand, said the National Centre for Seismology (NCS).

At least two earthquakes of 4.9 magnitude and 3.5 magnitude late Tuesday evening were experienced in the region, the NCS data showed. On Sunday, a 4.5 magnitude earthquake hit Uttarakhand with its epicenter 17 km east-southeast of Uttarkashi.

RECALLING 2015 NEPAL QUAKE

The Wednesday quake brings to mind the devastating April 25, 2015 earthquake which struck near the city of Kathmandu in Nepal. The 7.8 magnitude quake, which took place just before afternoon, killed over 9,000 people and thousands were injured. It also triggered deadly avalanches around Mount Everest.

The massive earthquake left a trail of destruction, with 600,000 structures destroyed in Kathmandu and other nearby areas. The northern parts of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Tibet also felt shocks.

Countless Nepalese were rendered homeless as entire villages were flattened. Buildings at Unesco World Heritage sites in Kathmandu, including some at the Kathmandu Durbar Square,



the Patan Durbar Square, the Bhaktapur Durbar Square, the Changu Narayan Temple, the Boudhanath stupa and the Swayambhunath stupa, were damaged.

Aftershocks were felt throughout Nepal. One of the aftershocks reached a magnitude of 6.7 a day after the quake. Initial damage due to the earthquake was estimated to be \$5 billion to \$10 billion.

UTTARAKHAND SITS ON 'QUAKE TIMEBOMB'

The hill state has witnessed 700 minor earthquakes in the last decade, experts said. It is feared that the "big one" is round the corner. The earthquakes have been of less intensity (3 magnitude) in the last 10 years, according to a data collated by Doon-based Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG).

A 4.5 magnitude earthquake was felt in Tehri on Sunday. A massive earthquake is pending in the Central

Seismic Gap (CSG), experts have noted.

After the Nepal quake in 2015, seismologists warned that Uttarakhand was "sitting on a quake timebomb".

Simon Klemperer, professor of geophysics and geological sciences at Stanford University in the US, reportedly said, "The earthquake that happened in Nepal is much smaller in magnitude than the earthquake we worry about that could happen here. We don't know when the earthquake will happen, tomorrow or in 200 years. What we do know is that it will happen and millions of Indians will lose life."

"We are expecting a major earthquake, something above six on the Richter scale, which can cause considerable damage. Uttarakhand will be hit by a major earthquake. It can happen today, tomorrow or in the near future but it will happen," Dr Anil P Joshi,

founder of the Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO), reportedly said sometime back.

Of the 13 districts in Uttarakhand, Chamoli and Bageshwar come under 100 per cent hyper sensitive seismic zones while five districts, including Dehradun, Champawat, Nainital, Uddhamsingh Nagar and Haridwar, come under 100 per cent sensitive zone, a report has said.


WHY IS THE REGION PRONE TO QUAKE?

The central Himalayan region is one of the most seismically active in the world.


In 1905, Kangara was hit by a massive quake. In 1934, there was a Bihar-Nepal quake, which measured 8.2 and claimed 10,000 people. In 1991, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake in Uttarkashi killed over 800 people. In 2005, 80,000 people were killed in Kashmir after an earthquake of 7.6 magnitude hit the region.

There has been tectonic stress in the region for over 700 years that might be released now or after 200 years, studies indicated in 2016. This will have a huge impact on the central Himalayas.

These quakes are a manifestation of the convergence between the Indo-Australian and Asian tectonic plates that has built the Himalayan mountains in the last 50 million years, seismologists believe.



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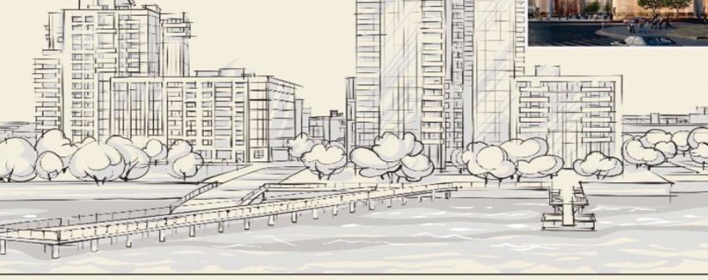
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China Says Done 'Utmost' and Will Continue to Do So to Stabilise Pakistan's Weak Economy



Quoting Xi Jinping, Dar said the Chinese President in his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his recent visit to Beijing on November 3 had assured him, "don't worry, we will not let you down". Replying to a query on his reactions to Dar's assertions, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here, "China has done its utmost to help Pakistan stabilise its financial situation. We have been doing so, and we will continue to do so."

Zhao declined to comment on the current political crisis in Pakistan following the failed assassination attempt on former prime minister Imran Khan, saying, "China has noted relevant reports. We express our sympathies to Imran Khan and wish him a speedy recovery."

Khan, 70, suffered bullet

injuries in the right leg when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others mounting on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area of Pakistan's Punjab province where he was leading a long march against the Shehbaz-led government. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman underwent surgery for bullet injuries at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital in Lahore and was discharged on Sunday. Pakistan owes Paris Club countries a combined sum of around USD 10.7 billion. The Paris Club is a group of officials from major creditor nations whose role is to find coordinated and sustainable solutions to the payment difficulties experienced by debtor countries. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan's total non-Paris

Club bilateral debt currently stands at about USD 27 billion, of which Chinese debt is about USD 23 billion. During Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz's visit to Beijing, the Chinese leadership promised to roll over USD 4 billion in sovereign loans, refinance USD 3.3 billion commercial bank loans and increase currency swap by about USD 1.45 billion.

Sharif was among the first foreign leaders to visit China following the recently-concluded historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in which President Xi won an unprecedented third five-year term in power.

Xi, 69, was re-elected as the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) last month, becoming the first leader after party founder Mao Zedong to continue in power after a 10-year tenure.

(By Staff Reporter) China, which has offered a USD 9 billion bailout package to Pakistan, on Monday pledged more support for the cash-strapped nation, saying that it has done its "utmost" to stabilise the financial situation of its all-weather ally and will continue to do so.

Pakistan had been engaging with China and Saudi Arabia for financial support, including rolling over maturing loans as part of arrangements for about USD 35 billion putouts against debt and liabilities during the current fiscal year.

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday last said that Islamabad would be getting about USD 9 billion from China and USD 4 billion from Saudi as the government tries to steady the nation's weak economy.

China pledges more support to cash-strapped Pakistan after \$9 billion bailout package

As the Pakistan government tries to steady the nation's weak economy, China said it will continue to help the cash-strapped country stabilise its financial situation

(News Agency) Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian addressed the media in Beijing on Monday and said, "China has done its utmost to help Pakistan stabilise its financial situation. We have been doing so, and we will continue to do so."

Zhao's statement comes days after Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said China offered a USD 9 billion bailout package to the cash-strapped country. Pakistan will also receive about USD 4 billion from Saudi Arabia as the government tries to steady the nation's weak economy.

Dar also said Chinese President Xi Jinping in his meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his recent visit to Beijing on November 3 had assured him, "Don't worry, we will not let you down".

During Sharif's visit to Beijing, Xi Jinping promised to give around USD 4 billion in sovereign loans, refinance USD 3.3 billion of commercial bank loans and increase currency swaps by about USD 1.45 billion.

PAKISTAN'S DEBT

According to a report by PTI, Pakistan owes the Paris Club countries a combined sum of around USD 10.7 billion. The Paris Club is a group of officials from major creditor nations whose role

is to find coordinated and sustainable solutions to the payment difficulties experienced by debtor countries. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan's total non-Paris Club bilateral debt currently stands at about USD 27 billion, out of which its Chinese debt is about USD 23 billion.

Pakistan is currently in the midst of political turmoil after its former prime minister Imran Khan was shot in the legs at a political rally in Wazirabad on November 3. Two gunmen fired a volley of bullets while he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief was treated at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital in Lahore and was discharged on Sunday.



Pak SC grants Imran Khan one week to make submission in contempt of court case

The Pakistan Supreme Court has granted the country's former Prime Minister Imran Khan one more week to file his submission in the contempt of court case

(News Agency) Pak's apex court grants Imran Khan one more week to submit a reply in contempt of court case

Pakistan's top court on Monday granted former prime minister Imran Khan one more week to submit a detailed reply in the contempt of court case presently pending in court against him.

A five-judge larger bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, heard the contempt case against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party chairman.

During the proceedings, the court nonetheless admitted that a "painful incident" had occurred last Thursday and permitted Khan's lawyer's request for adjournment, the Express Tribune newspaper reported. Khan, 70, suffered bullet injuries in the right leg on Thursday when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others mounting on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area of Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the

Shehbaz Sharif government. He underwent surgery for bullet injuries at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital in Lahore, owned by his charitable organisation.

Khan's lawyer, Salman Akram Raja, informed the court that he managed to only hold a short meeting with the PTI chief due to the circumstances and requested the court for more time, even though Khan's answer, he said, "is ready and if the court so pleases, can be submitted".

The chief justice admitted the serious nature of the events and granted the counsel's request for more time. The court then adjourned the hearing of the contempt case until next week and gave Khan a week to submit a detailed reply, the paper said. Earlier, the federal government had approached the apex court to initiate contempt proceedings against Khan for violating its May 25 order wherein the PTI was restricted from holding its Azadi March near Peshawar Mor between the H-9 and G-9 areas of Islamabad.

More than 50 US high school students may have to retake tests as SATs 'fly out of truck'



(News Agency) To some extent, examinations can be a headache for students, but giving a test twice can be irritating. A bizarre incident happened in the United States as more than 50 high school students in Texas might have to take the tests again after test papers were lost in transit as they apparently flew out of a UPS truck.

In the US, the SAT is a standardised test that is widely used for college admissions across the nation. But some of the Texas high school students are in a state of confusion as their test papers are either flown out of the truck which was transporting them. They were lost or destroyed. US media outlets reported on Monday (November 7) that the incident related to El Paso Independent School District will impact the students

of the school who took their SATs on October 27. The reports

mentioned that the staff recovered all but 55 tests. The school told CNN that they are working on determining a "remedy" for those students who are impacted by the incident. The school also added that it is currently working with the College Board to find a solution. As quoted by media reports, the El Paso ISD officials stated: "El Paso ISD is working closely with the College Board to determine

a remedy for the El Paso High School students whose SAT exams were lost in transit after they were securely submitted to UPS." UPS apologised to the students and in a statement to CNN, it said that "our employees are working to recover as many tests as possible, and we will work with the school to resolve the situation." "The driver's actions in this case

are not representative of UPS protocols and methods, and we are addressing this with him. Safely meeting our service commitments is UPS's first priority," the statement added. As per the school district, those students whose papers are lost will be able to take the ACT on December 10 at no cost. It is also a standardised test used for college admissions in the US.

Crypto giant files for bankruptcy, megadonor CEO resigns

(News Agency) Beleaguered crypto exchange FTX said Friday that it filed for bankruptcy and that its CEO Sam Bankman-Fried stepped down, just days after revealing a devastating financial crunch that has started to take down the broader digital currency market. FTX filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the U.S., meaning it will try to restructure its ailing business. The company — once one of the world's largest crypto trading platforms — halted customer withdrawals earlier this week after hints of financial instability triggered a run on the exchange. "The immediate relief of Chapter 11 is appropriate to provide the FTX Group the opportunity to assess its situation and develop a process to maximize recoveries for stakeholders," John Ray III, the company's new CEO, said in a press release. The bankruptcy filing was poised

to deal another blow to the crashing crypto market and further destroy the industry's standing in Washington, where FTX and political megadonor Bankman-Fried in recent months led a campaign to influence emerging laws and regulations. Regulatory agencies around the world are circling FTX and Bankman-Fried in the aftermath of the trading scandal. Crypto startups with ties to FTX have also suffered disruptions to their operations. The bankruptcy filing indicates that Bahamas-based FTX and more than 130 affiliates and subsidiaries, including Bankman-Fried's investment firm Alameda Research, have between \$10 billion to \$50 billion of liabilities versus \$10 billion to \$50 billion of assets. The company disclosed more than 100,000 creditors, which likely include customers, and indicated that funds

will be available for them. Bankman-Fried will "assist in an orderly transition," according to FTX. The 30-year-old former billionaire saw his fortune wiped out this week. "The FTX Group has valuable assets that can only be effectively administered in an organized, joint process," said Ray, who was also involved in winding down Enron. "I want to ensure every employee, customer, creditor, contract party, stockholder, investor, governmental authority and other stakeholder that we are going to conduct this effort with diligence, thoroughness and transparency." The company is pursuing Chapter 11 protection in Delaware federal court only hours after the Securities Commission of the Bahamas, where FTX is located, announced it was freezing the company's assets.

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ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੁਨੀਆ

Since April 2005 Editor : Sharanjit Singh Thind

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ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਦਾ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ

ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਦੇ ਵਿਵਾਦ 'ਚ ਪੰਜ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਕਿਹੜੇ ਮੌੜ ਆਏ

ਭੋਜਪੁਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਪੱਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਨੌਕਰੀ ਨਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਨਹੀਂ। ਇਸ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਖੂਨ ਭੁੱਖਿਆ ਹੈ, ਜੀਵਨੀਆਂ ਹੜ੍ਹਾਂ ਲਾਗੀ ਸ਼ਰਮਲੇ ਗਈਆਂ। ਭਾਵੁਕ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਅਰਬਿੰਦ ਕੋਰ ਬੋਲਦੇ-ਬੋਲਦੇ ਚੁੱਪ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। 23 ਜੁਲਾਈ 1990 ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਐਲਾਨ ਉਪਰ ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਵਿਖੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਗੱਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ। ਪੀਜੀਆਈ ਨੇ ਕੇ ਜਾਣਾ ਸਮੇਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਗਈ। ਐਮਐਲ ਸੋਬਲੀ ਉਪਰ ਵੀ ਗੱਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਸੋਬਲੀ ਸਰਜਨ ਯੁਨਾਨ ਲਿੰਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੇ ਚੀਫ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਐਲਪ ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ। ਇੱਕ ਹੋਰ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਐਸ ਕੇ ਗੋਇਲ ਇਸ ਹਲਕੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਜ਼ਖਮੀ ਹੋ ਗਏ ਸਨ। 1990 ਵਿੱਚ ਹੋਈ ਇਸ ਘਟਨਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਸਰਜਨ ਯੁਨਾਨ ਲਿੰਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਉਸਾਰੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਤੁਰ ਗਈ ਪਰ ਇਸ ਉਪਰ ਚਰਚਾ, ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ, ਬੈਠਕਾਂ, ਵਿਵਾਦ ਸਭਾ ਸੈਨ ਸਮੇਂ ਅਵਤਾਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਣਾਵਾਈ ਖੜੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੇ।

ਅੱਜ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਭਗਵੰਤ ਮਾਨ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਮਨੋਹਰ ਲਾਲ ਖੱਤਰ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸਰਜਨ ਯੁਨਾਨ ਲਿੰਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਨੂੰ ਨੇ ਕੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਬੈਠਕ ਹੋਈ ਗਈ ਹੈ। 6 ਸਤੰਬਰ 2022 ਨੂੰ ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਦੋਵਾਂ ਸੂਬਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਬੈਠਕ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੋ

ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਕੀ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ?

ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਲ ਸਰੋਤੀ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਤਿਗਿਆ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ। ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਸਮਿਟਿਸ ਸੇਕੇ ਇਨਨ ਕੌਂਸ ਵਾਲੇ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਸਮਿਟਿਸ ਕੌਂਸ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਮਦਨਜਰ ਕੁਦਰਤੀ ਸਰੋਤ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਨਸੇ ਦੀ ਅਗਲੀ ਸੁਣਾਵਾਈ 15 ਜਨਵਰੀ, 2023 ਨਿਰਧਾਰਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਕੇਂਦਰ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਨੁਮਾਇੰਦਗੀ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਅਟਾਰਨੀ ਜਨਲਡ (ਹੋਸੀ) ਕੇ ਕੇ ਬੇਨਤੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਨੂੰ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਯੁਨਾਨੀਅਨ ਆਫ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਯੂਐਨੀਐ) ਨੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਕਈ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖੇ ਸਨ, ਪਰ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਿਆ। ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਅਹੁਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਅਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ।

ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਸੂਬਿਆਂ ਵਿਚਾਲੇ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਵਿਵਾਦ, ਮੁੱਖ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਐਲਾਈਨਮੈਂਟ-ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਜਸਥਾਨ, ਆਂਧਰਾ, ਤੇਲੰਗਾਨਾ, ਛੱਤੀਸਗੜ੍ਹ, ਉਤੀਸਾ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਗੋਦਾਵਰੀ ਪੱਛਮਕੁਮ ਬੋਰਸ ਪ੍ਰੋਜੈਕਟ ਦੇ ਹੱਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਣਾਵਾਈ ਕਰ ਰਹੀ ਸੀ। ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਅੱਜ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਅਤੇ ਕਈ ਸੂਬਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਦੇ ਹੱਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਸਲ ਰਹਿਣ ਲਈ ਆਪਣੇ ਹੱਥੀਂ ਲਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਸਬੋਧਤ ਸੂਬਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਆਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਮੁੱਦੇ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਲਭਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਿਹਾ।

ਪਹਿਲਾਂ 7.2 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਟ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਆਇਆ। ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਬਣਨ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਇਸ ਨੇ ਵੀ 4.8 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਟ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਰੱਖੀ। ਇਸ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਪੂਰੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨੂੰ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਸਰਜਨ ਯੁਨਾਨ ਲਿੰਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਨਿਰਮਾਣ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਸਤਾਵ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ। ਸਿੰਧੀਆਂ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬਣਦੀ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ। 2022 ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਨੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਸ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸ ਦੀ ਇਸ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਦੇ ਸੁਰਮਾਤ ਵੇਲੇ ਹੋਣ ਵੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੀ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਪਿਛੇ ਇਹ ਲੜਾਈ ਸਿਰਫ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਕ ਮੁੱਦਾ 1990 ਵਿੱਚ ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮਾਜ ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਐਲਾਨ ਦਾ ਕਰਮਨੀਤਕ ਮੁੱਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਪਰਿਣਾਮ 1966 ਵੱਚ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਬਣਨ ਤੋਂ

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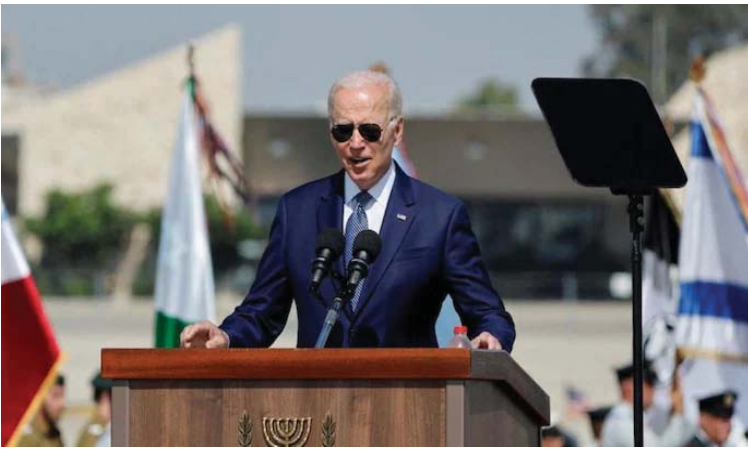
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Biden, Trump make final pitches to US voters ahead of midterm elections

Joe Biden will travel to reliably Democratic Maryland on Monday, where the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, Wes Moore, is widely expected to win back the Republican-held governorship



(News Agency) One day before midterm elections that could usher in a new era of divided government in Washington, President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump will hold competing rallies in a final effort to mobilize supporters, continuing a wave of campaign events ahead of Tuesday's vote. Biden, whose sagging popularity has made him unpopular in several swing states, will travel to reliably Democratic Maryland on Monday, where the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, Wes Moore, is widely expected to win back the Republican-held governorship.

Trump, meanwhile, is headed to Ohio to campaign alongside the

Republican Senate nominee, J.D. Vance, who emerged from a crowded field of candidates on the strength of Trump's endorsement. Weighed down by voter frustrations over rising prices, Biden's Democrats fear Tuesday's elections could see them lose control of one or both chambers of Congress.

That would spell the end of Biden's legislative agenda - including Democratic priorities such as abortion rights, family leave and climate change - and open the door for two years of Republican-led investigations that could potentially damage the White House. A Republican-led Senate could also block Biden's nominations for judicial or administrative posts.

If Republicans secure a House majority, they plan to use the federal debt ceiling as leverage to demand that Biden accept deep spending cuts. The US Treasury is expected to hit its \$31.4 trillion borrowing limit in 2023, and any protracted stalemate that risks default on the US government's debt could roil financial markets.

A Republican Congress would also seek to make the 2017 individual tax cuts passed under Trump permanent. That law slashed top-line tax rates on corporations, a permanent feature that Democrats failed to reverse with control of Congress over the last two years.

Control of Capitol Hill would give Republicans the power to block aid to Ukraine, but they are more likely to slow or pare back the flow of weapons and economic assistance to Kyiv than stop it. Biden has warned that a Republican victory could weaken the foundations of U.S. democracy itself. "Democracy is literally on the ballot," he said at a rally in Yonkers, New York, on Sunday.

Many Republican candidates have echoed Trump's baseless claims of fraud in his 2020

election defeat. Some of them could end up as governors or election administrators in battleground states and play a central role in the 2024 presidential race.

Trump, whose endorsements played a critical role in shaping the Republican field, remains the party's dominant figure, and he has repeatedly hinted that he plans to launch another presidential run soon.

With narrow control of the House and the Senate, Biden's Democrats helped him to fulfil campaign promises to boost clean energy, fight the COVID-19 pandemic and finance the rebuilding of some crumbling roads and bridges.

But surging inflation and concerns about high crime have led many voters to sour on his leadership. Only 40% of Americans approve of his job performance, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll completed on Tuesday.

Despite Biden's warnings about democracy, many of his fellow Democrats have emphasized more practical matters, such as their work to lower prescription drug prices and defend the Social Security safety-net

program.

While Democrats also campaigned on abortion rights, opinion polls show that has faded as a top voter concern.

Democratic candidates in many of the most competitive states have sought to distance themselves from the unpopular Biden, with some declining to campaign with him or say whether they would back him for re-election.

More than 40 million Americans have already cast their ballots, either in person or through the mail, according to the U.S. Elections Project, which tracks early voting.

Because some states allow ballots to be mailed on election day, experts say it might be days or weeks before the outcome of some close races - and control of Congress - is clear.

Thus far, polling problems have not been widely reported. In Georgia, where one of the nation's most closely contested Senate races is unfolding, election officials acknowledged on Friday that they erroneously failed to mail 1,046 absentee ballots to people who had requested them.

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FBI Arrests NY Crypto Platform CEO for Alleged Fraud

Ponzi schemes continue to infest the cryptocurrency sector, adding to the industry's growing challenges

(By Staff Reporter) U.S. tax authorities have said they were following 50 separate leads into scams involving nonfungible tokens and other aspects of the crypto industry. Tax investigators also said on May 13 that they were pursuing evidence of a \$1 billion Ponzi scheme in the crypto market.

Beware of Crypto Fraud and Scams

The FBI additionally on May 12 arrested the CEO of New York crypto trading platform EminiFX on one count of commodities fraud and one count of wire fraud related to an alleged Ponzi scheme that defrauded investors out of about \$59 million.

Eddy Alexandre, 50, of Valley Stream, N.Y., according to the New York Business Journal, was arrested on charges which can carry a combined maximum sentence of 30 years in prison. The FBI complaint alleged that

Alexandre from September 2021 to May 2022 solicited over \$59 million in investments from hundreds of individual investors through the eminiFX.com website, guaranteeing they would double their money within five months by earning 5% to 9.99% weekly returns on their investment. The FBI complaint claimed that Alexandre's representations about weekly profits were false and EminiFX had not earned its investors any profit. Alexandre allegedly marketed EminiFX as an investment platform through which investors would earn passive income through automated investments in cryptocurrency and foreign exchange trading by using a "Robo-Advisor Assisted account," which he described as new technology that was a trade secret, the complaint said.

The complaint said that Alexandre received \$59 million from people to invest

and misdirected \$15 million of the funds to his personal checking account. He allegedly transferred \$9.04 million to an electronic trading platform that he had opened in his name in December 2019, which was before he established EminiFX, and sustained about \$6.27 million in trading losses. He also transferred \$30,000 of investor funds to a digital cryptocurrency wallet account registered in his name, according to the complaint.

Alexandre allegedly used \$155,000 to purchase a BMW car, and spent \$13,000 on other car payments, including \$10,000 for a Mercedes Benz. Another \$15,000 was spent on a charitable donation and spent other investor funds on rent, to furnish office space for EminiFX and to hold events on behalf of the company.

A substantial amount of investor funds

were also used to pay attorney fees, including checks for \$100,000 and \$20,000, each with the word "retainer" written in the subject line, the complaint said.

Some Investors Able to Cash Out

While many investors are likely to lose money on their EminiFX investments, the FBI complaint said certain investors successfully withdrew funds from the platform. Bank account activity shows that EminiFX failed to invest the majority of investor funds, and it appears that the only way the platform could fund investor withdrawals was to use funds of existing investors in a classic Ponzi-type scheme. The FBI investigation discovered that EminiFX accepted investor deposits in U.S. dollars and accepted investor funds and made payments in bitcoin as well, the complaint said.

Iran teaches Russia its tricks on beating oil sanctions

The West has been unable to beat the smokescreens Tehran uses to rake in oil income. The danger is Putin will be equally successful

(News Agency) Iran is preparing to hand the Kremlin the blueprints for its most effective weapon against the West: the underground financial network it relies on to evade sanctions.

For years, the Islamic Republic has frustrated American efforts to isolate it and starve its economy by constructing a parallel universe of front companies and foreign banks — including major financial institutions based in Europe and the U.S. — that Iranian companies use to evade international controls and conduct business abroad.

As Russia faces increasing international isolation over the war in Ukraine, Iran, which is already providing Moscow with weapons, has offered to share its expertise in the art of sanctions evasion, Western diplomats say. A series of recent meetings between senior Russian and Iranian officials, including Iranian central bank chief Ali Salehabadi and Deputy Economy Minister Ali Fekri, involved laying the groundwork for that collaboration, the diplomats argue. If Moscow manages to copy the Iranian system it could hope to blunt the impact of many of the sanctions it faces, especially in its oil and gas sector, which forms the backbone of its economy. Such a system would give Russian President Vladimir Putin much more flexibility — and time — to continue to wage his war against Ukraine by keeping oil revenue flowing. "Anyone interested in changing the Russian state of mind should understand that paralyzing the Russian-Iranian financial abilities is essential," one of the Western officials said.

The diplomats who issued the warning on sanctions evasion techniques also noted that Western banks, such as Germany's Commerzbank and



Deutsche Bank, as well as Citigroup in the U.S., played a role in helping Iran continue to rake in export earnings through underground transactions. The risk is that the same Western banks — either wittingly or unwittingly — could be sucked into the same style of trade by Russia.

Trans-Caspian comrades

Over the summer, Tehran and Moscow held talks about using Iran as a backdoor for Russian oil once Tehran and world powers went back to a nuclear deal, under which the Islamic Republic would rein in its atomic program in return for sanctions relief. But amid the Iranian regime's brutal crackdown on protestors in recent weeks and growing skepticism about renewing the accord in Washington, the likelihood of a breakthrough has faded.

Relations between Russia and Iran, which collaborated in Syria to support the regime of Bashar al-Assad in that country's civil war, have intensified on other fronts, however. Iran has become a major supplier of the "kamikaze" drones Russia is using in Ukraine, for example. Meanwhile, Tehran asked the Kremlin for help in advancing its nuclear program, CNN

reported last week, citing U.S. intelligence.

Iran has decades of experience in finding ways to avoid American sanctions but made particular strides since 2018 after U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal and reimposed restrictions. Trump argued that the arrangement with Iran was insufficient to prevent Tehran from building a bomb. European countries, led by Germany and France, objected to the U.S. decision but were powerless to stop it.

Even before Trump's move, however, European banks and companies had been reluctant to reengage with Iran because many U.S. sanctions remained in place and most firms assessed the risk of U.S. legal exposure as too high.

Iran's remedy was to go underground. A cache of recent transaction data reviewed by POLITICO between Iranian clearing houses and foreign-registered front companies controlled by the regime suggests that the volume of sanctions-evading transactions handled by the network is at least in the tens of billions of dollars annually. The data, authenticated by Western officials, underscores the degree to which Iran succeeded in circumventing

the so-called "maximum pressure campaign" Washington initiated in 2018. "This explains how Iran won the maximum pressure campaign," one of the Western officials said.

It might also explain why Iran, despite significant concessions by the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden, resisted re-entering the nuclear deal. The talks reached a stalemate even before the recent surge in protests in Iran.

While American sanctions have taken a toll on Iran's economic output, Tehran's shadow financial network has ensured the economy continues to fire, if not on all cylinders, then at a pace that keeps it moving, while also securing the elite's privileges. Though inflation and unemployment in Iran are high — factors that have contributed to unrest — its economy has recently shown signs of life, growing by more than 4 percent in the last fiscal year alone, according to the World Bank. While Iran's oil exports have roughly halved under the sanctions to about 1 million barrels per day, it has succeeded in maintaining robust trade in other areas, such as petrochemicals and metals. At about \$100 billion last year, Iran's foreign trade reached its highest level since the U.S. reimposed sanctions. Despite the drop in oil volumes, the country has recently benefited from rising prices, with export revenue last year more than doubling to about \$19 billion. What's driving Iran's oil recovery, according to the World Bank, are "indirect exports to China." Iranian oil is attractive to China, mainly because it's relatively cheap. The illicit nature of sanctioned Iranian crude means it sells at a steep discount to market prices.

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'Sorry To Those Impacted' Facebook Parent Meta Sacks 11,000 Employees

The company is also likely to extend the freeze it has imposed on new hiring. Facebook's parent company Meta Platforms has sacked 11,000 employees, nearly 13% of its staff globally.

The company is also likely to extend the freeze it has imposed on new hiring. The Facebook parent company reported over 87,000 employees at the end of September.

"I want to take accountability for these decisions and for how we got here. I know this is tough for everyone, and I'm especially sorry to those impacted,"

Meta chief executive officer Mark Zuckerberg said.

Meta layoffs come a few days after Elon Musk-led Twitter sacked around 50 per cent of its employees globally in an effort to reduce costs.

In June, Meta said it planned to cut its hiring of engineers by at least 30% this year.

In July, Meta posted its first quarterly revenue decline in history, followed by another, bigger decline in October.

In September, Meta announced a pause in hiring and a subsequent restructuring with Mark Zuckerberg hinting at further

downsizing, adding "there are probably a bunch of people at the company who shouldn't be here."

"I had hoped the economy would have more clearly stabilised by now, but from what we're seeing it doesn't yet seem like it has, so we want to plan somewhat conservatively," Zuckerberg told employees during the Q&A session.

Meta has worried investors by pouring over \$10 billion a year into the "metaverse" as it shifts its focus away from social media.

A Bloomberg report said Meta will also reduce its real estate footprint, review

its infrastructure spending and transition some employees to desk sharing. This is likely to be followed by more cost-cutting announcements in the coming months.

Meta, whose stock has plunged 71% this year, is taking steps to pare costs following several quarters of disappointing earnings and a slide in revenue. There's also the challenge of Apple's privacy tools, which make it more difficult for social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Snap to track people without their consent and target ads to them.

What Poland Tells America About Abortion Politics

Family, Property network that originates in Brazil but has a powerful U.S. contingent.

"We haven't seen anything yet," Ost says. The U.S. religious right — part of the global anti-abortion web — will not back off after the midterms, and there may be a coordinated campaign to attack states where abortion is legal. "They have a lot of resources. They're absolutely committed to deepening this, to pursuing this," Ost adds. Republicans may be buoyed by the backstop that this global abortion lobby presents. And despite the hit Law and Justice took after the ban, especially among women, Republicans might still be encouraged by their trajectory since then — even after the backlash, the party remains the most popular in Poland and is still in power. "One lesson for the Republicans would be that it's possible to survive this, like PiS did," says Jason Wittenberg, a UC Berkeley professor who specializes in post-Soviet politics. But Republicans shouldn't get too excited — conservative Polish voters have greater loyalty to Law and Justice than their American counterparts do to the Republican Party, Wittenberg says, and Law and Justice has successfully enacted redistributive policies that have been popular with their rural base. The key takeaway for the GOP? "Don't draw the wrong lesson from Poland. I think the Republicans are made more vulnerable by this than PiS was," Wittenberg says.

The Polish example also warns Republicans of the Democratic Party's strength when it comes to abortion messaging. After the Tribunal's decision, Polish opposition parties failed to coalesce against the ruling — no party was

articulating an abortion rights position. So while Law and Justice took a hit in the polls, it wasn't terminal. Compared to the Polish opposition, the Democrats appear clear and consistent: Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, they've positioned themselves as the party of abortion rights and have reaped the benefits in special elections.

This should scare Republicans, who have already shied away from a national party position on abortion. Sen. Lindsey Graham's proposal for a nationwide ban met a cold reception from fellow conservatives who are vulnerable to pro-abortion rights Democrats. Plus, a sweeping federal policy would undercut the states-rights rhetoric embraced by most of the GOP.

Despite these ill omens for Republicans, the differences between the Polish and American party systems reveal an opportunity for both liberals and conservatives stateside: Polish opposition parties are considering running jointly in next year's election, meaning they must straddle the interests of broad voting blocs — leaving contentious issues like abortion vulnerable to being jettisoned from the agenda. "The lack of a single opposition that stands for that position is a real drawback in Poland," Ost says. The fractured opposition in Poland makes the polarization of the U.S. two-party system look like an opportunity: There is space for an anti-abortion rights party and a party in favor of abortion rights. Neither side has to abandon the issue to appeal to other parties in its coalition. For abortion rights activists and the Democratic Party — which has centered its midterm campaigns on abortion, running more than 132,000 ads on the topic in September alone — this

is particularly good news.

Finally, for both parties, the Polish example emphasizes that judicializing the abortion issue winds up with it becoming ever more intensely politicized, with unintended consequences for the anti-abortion lobby. In America and in Poland, "it was a judicial decision which was the one that the anti-abortion camp wanted. And in both cases, it's actually

set off a debate which, at the moment at least, is very unhelpful to them," Szczerbiak says.

This is a natural fallout of delegating the abortion issue to the judiciary. "Courts are fundamentally counter-majoritarian institutions — they're basically non-democratic institutions," Grzymala-Busse says. "As a result, there's always a disparity between what people want, and what the courts rule."

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Two Arrested In a \$12 Million Crypto Scam in India

The police arrested Ritesh Dilip Kumar Sikligar, alias Pancha; and Mohan Patil, an agent who lured customers from around the country into the scheme, said an EOW officer investigating the case. The Economic Offences Wing secured custody of Kumar, thought to be the mastermind, and Patil until Aug. 20 for questioning. The two have been in jail since then. "In court, while securing custody, we stated that based on currently available information the scam is worth 6 crore (\$750,000), but we estimate the amount to be upwards of 50 crore and below 100 crore," the officer said. "Some discrepancies in the amount of money associated with each of the 1,400 or so investors have emerged." One crore is the equivalent of 10 million. The scheme involved luring investors with promises of massive rates of return. The more they invested, the higher the rate of return. The crypto tokens were named SMP and Magic 3x. These were not listed on any exchange. So far 24 investors have said they've lost a total of 4.4 million rupees. The investigating officer said the police expects the number to rise as more people come forward. The scheme involved luring investors with promises of massive rates of return. The more they invested, the higher the rate of return. The crypto tokens were named SMP and Magic 3x. These were not listed on any exchange. "The culprits would lure customers promising rates of interest ranging from 0.05% to 1% per day depending on the amount invested," one police officer said. "If 24,000 rupees were invested, the rate of return was 0.05% per day with the promise that within 20 months that amount would triple to around 72,000 rupees."

"Sanjay Raut Arrested Illegally": Court Shreds Probe Agency, Grants Bail

Sanjay Raut's release was also cleared by the Bombay High Court, which refused to put the bail on hold as requested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED)

Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP He emerged from the Arthur Sanjay Raut was released Road Jail in central Mumbai from jail on Wednesday, to a huge welcome from hours after he was granted members of the Uddhav bail by a court in an alleged Thackeray faction of the money laundering case Shiv Sena, waving a saffron filed by the Enforcement scarf from the sunroof of an Directorate (ED) that was SUV. sharply rebuked for "The observations of the to put the bail on hold as arresting the politician court are in front of you. I requested by the central "illegally" with a "pick-and- have never done anything agency tasked with probing choose attitude". wrong in my life. I will never financial crimes.

"Prepare For War", "Fight And Win It" "Xi Jinping Tells Chinese Army

command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) for an unprecedented third five-year term by the party's once-in-a-five-year Congress here last month. Holding the three powerful posts of the head of the party, the military, and the Presidency, Xi is the only leader besides the party founder Mao Zedong to continue in power after completing 10-year tenure, while all his predecessors retired. On Tuesday, Xi inspected the joint operations command centre of the CMC here which provides vital support to the strategic command of the CPC Central Committee and the CMC. Upon arriving at the command centre, the Chinese leader was given a briefing, the official media reported. In his first address to the two million-strong military — the largest in the world — as he kicked off his third term as head of the CMC, Xi said the world is undergoing more profound changes unseen in a century and stressed that China's national security is facing increased instability and uncertainty, and its military tasks remain arduous. He said the entire military should devote all its energy to carry out all its work for combat readiness, enhance its capability to fight and win, and effectively fulfill its missions and tasks, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Xi instructed them to resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests, and successfully

complete various tasks entrusted by the party and the people, the report said. He said the military leadership must focus on realising the PLA's centennial goal - to make the PLA a world-class armed force by 2027, which is broadly interpreted as making it on par with the US armed forces.

"We must do all we can to make this happen," he said.

During his speech at the party congress last month, Xi also set "victory in local wars" as a goal and told the PLA to "improve training and preparation for war in all aspects and improve the ability of the army to fight and win".

"We will strengthen the normal and diversified use of military forces, carry out military struggles with determination and flexibility, shape the security posture, contain crises and conflicts, and win local wars," he said. Commenting on Xi's address to the military, retired Air Force General Xu Qiliang, who was the former vice-chairman of the CMC, said in a commentary that the PLA must prepare for a rapid transformation from peace to wartime. "Always maintain a high readiness posture like arrows on a taut string ready to go, to ensure that the troops are prepared to fight at all times," Xu, who retired from the top post in the CMC, was quoted as saying by Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

Stating that it cannot pass Raut is arrested for pure civil litigation, whereas Sanjay Raut for no reason. This truth is glaring," the order read.

The ED arrested Sanjay Raut, a Rajya Sabha MP and a vocal critic of the BJP government at the centre, on August 1 accusing him of financial irregularities in connection with the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl tenement in suburban Goregaon. A special court earlier in the day granted bail to Mr Raut and co-accused Pravin Raut while rejecting the ED's request to stay the effect of the order till Friday.

In scathing observations in the order against the Enforcement Directorate, judge MG Deshpande called the agency's actions a "witch-hunt", and said, "I hold that both accused are basically arrested illegally." "Simply labelling pure civil disputes with 'money laundering' or 'Economic Offence' cannot automatically acquire such status and ultimately drag an innocent person into a miserable situation in the guise of arrest... Court has to do what is right, irrespective of who is before it," the judge said.

"From the records materials and the detailed discussion made, it is clear how Pravin Raut is arrested for pure civil litigation, whereas Sanjay Raut for no reason. This truth is glaring," the order read. The ED arrested Sanjay Raut, a Rajya Sabha MP and a vocal critic of the BJP government at the centre, on August 1 accusing him of financial irregularities in connection with the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl tenement in suburban Goregaon. The court said the conduct of the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA), which filed the case, was "suspicious right from the beginning". "MHADA's attitude of lodging such an FIR (First Information Report) one fine can neither throw dust in the eyes of the court nor can it brush and wash out long civil litigations," it said. It was an "astonishing admitted fact that main accused Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan of HDIL, who had not only generated over ? 1,000 crore, but also allegedly placed, layered and integrated the same, were never arrested by the ED," the court said. "At the same time, Sanjay Raut and Pravin Raut were arrested. This clearly indicates disparity, and ED's pick-and-choose attitude," it said.

India-Pakistan Cricket Diplomacy Takes a Back Seat

Unlike present times, cricket diplomacy has been effectively used by India-Pakistan to not only break the ice in bilateral relations but also avert an all-out war or scale down the rhetoric on both sides of the border



Cricket is part and parcel of the India-Pakistan diplomatic toolkit, used by successive governments to reflect the state of political relations between the two countries. With ties between the two in deep freeze since 2016, matches are played in neutral venues and bilateral visits are off the table. Yet cricket has, in the past, helped to break the ice and lead to an overall easing of tension.

No one can forget late Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee's, advice to captain, Sourav Ganguly, and the Indian team when they called on him before a path-breaking visit to Pakistan in 2004. "Khel hi nahin, dil bhi jeetiye, shubhkaamnaye" (Win hearts too besides matches). Vajpayee, who was keen on reviving talks with Pakistan, had written on a bat he presented to the team. The visit was controversial, as many within the BJP opposed it. Former home minister, L. K Advani, fought tooth and nail to scuttle the ODI and test series.

Sports diplomacy is not confined to the subcontinent but is prevalent across the world. Since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his military to invade Ukraine, Russian athletes are being shut out of all Western international sport. The International Olympic Committee had asked sports federations to exclude Russian and Belarusian (for helping Moscow) players and officials from international events. The Russian team is out of the football World Cup and the club, Spartak Moscow, was thrown out of the Europa League. South African sportsmen were banned from all international competitions during apartheid.

But sporting events also led to major breakthroughs in relations between sworn enemies. A prime example is the ping-pong diplomacy between China and the US. In April 1971, nine players from the US table tennis team visited China and became the first US delegation to visit the Communist nation. In fact, after the 1949 Communist revolution, China and the US had no

diplomatic ties. This was a bolt from the blue for the US, as for the rest of the world, as no one knew yet about the secret moves that were being made for Henry Kissinger, the then US secretary of state to visit Beijing in July that year. Kissinger's hush-hush trip was preceded by the table tennis players. Next year in 1972, President Richard Nixon met Mao Zedong in Beijing and the rest is history.

Nothing so dramatic has happened between India and Pakistan. After the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, India decidedly cooled towards Pakistan. Yet there have been attempts from time to time, even after the Mumbai attacks, to normalise ties. The last attempt by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, was when he stopped over for an unscheduled visit in Lahore to greet then Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, on his birthday. The PM was on an official visit to Kabul. The attack on India's frontline airbase in Pathankot, followed by

a strike on a Brigade Headquarters in Uri, ended all attempts at peace-making. The 2019 car bomb blast in Pulwama, where nearly forty Indian security personnel were killed further hardened India's stand. At the moment, there is another flashpoint in cricketing ties between the two sub-continental neighbours. Jay Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), announced recently that the Indian team would not travel to Pakistan where the Asia Cup is scheduled to be held next year. Pakistan hit back by saying that it will pull out of the ODI World Cup to be played in India in 2023. Roger Binny, the new BCCI chief, was quoted as saying, "That isn't our call. We can't say where our team has to go. We need to take clearance from the government if we leave the country, or if other countries come here. We can't take that decision on our own, we've to rely on the government."



India-Pakistan Cricket Rivalry: A War Without Shooting

On the eve of India's opening match of the T20 World Cup in Australia against Pakistan Virat Kohli was in the nets just outside the cavernous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG or simply 'The G'). He had taken a few throw-downs from the support staff and was about to face the bowlers for a proper hit.

"Pakistan Zindabad," yelled a group of 25 or so fans in green shirts. "Bharat Mata ki Jai," came the response, the sound of which drowned out any Pakistani support. Cricket has always triggered jingoism in India. Though lovers of the sport might be familiar with the Orwellian phrase "war minus the shooting", as applied to a India-Pakistan clash, these days the situation is more shooting minus the war. Skirmishes happen across the border all the time with both countries stopping just short of an all-out war. However, social



media and TV channels whip up emotions which are more often than not toxic and which come camouflaged as nationalism. Despite the changing nuances of the India-Pakistan relationship, a big game

between the two nations always brings an edge and pressure. At the MCG, while Kohli appreciated the support and the sentiment, it was hardly conducive for batting. Out in the middle, the fans are at

least 100 m away, often more. Here at the nets, they were barely 10 m away. Vikram Rathour, the batting coach, had to walk over to the fans and request them to pipe down, at least for the time between ball being delivered and bat meeting it. "Fans at the stadium play a massive part, especially at the MCG when the majority of 90,000 fans came together the other day and sang the national anthem in unison. It just lifts you and motivates you," says Robin Uthappa, who was part of the Indian team that beat Pakistan to lift the T20 World Cup in South Africa. "It makes you want to perform that much more. When the crowd is behind you or is chanting your name, it gives you goose bumps. Equally, if a player is feeling down and he hears his name being chanted, it can change the way he looks at things."

India-Pakistan Sports Rivalry: Make The Best Enemies On And Off The Field

Speaking of the high-voltage drama that a cricket match between the two neighbours ensues, Suresh Menon tells how sports rivalry is not confined to the Asian archrivals alone. It is rather our version of the England-Australia and Australia-New Zealand rivalries, except that they are not kept alive by politicians and media for political and commercial gains

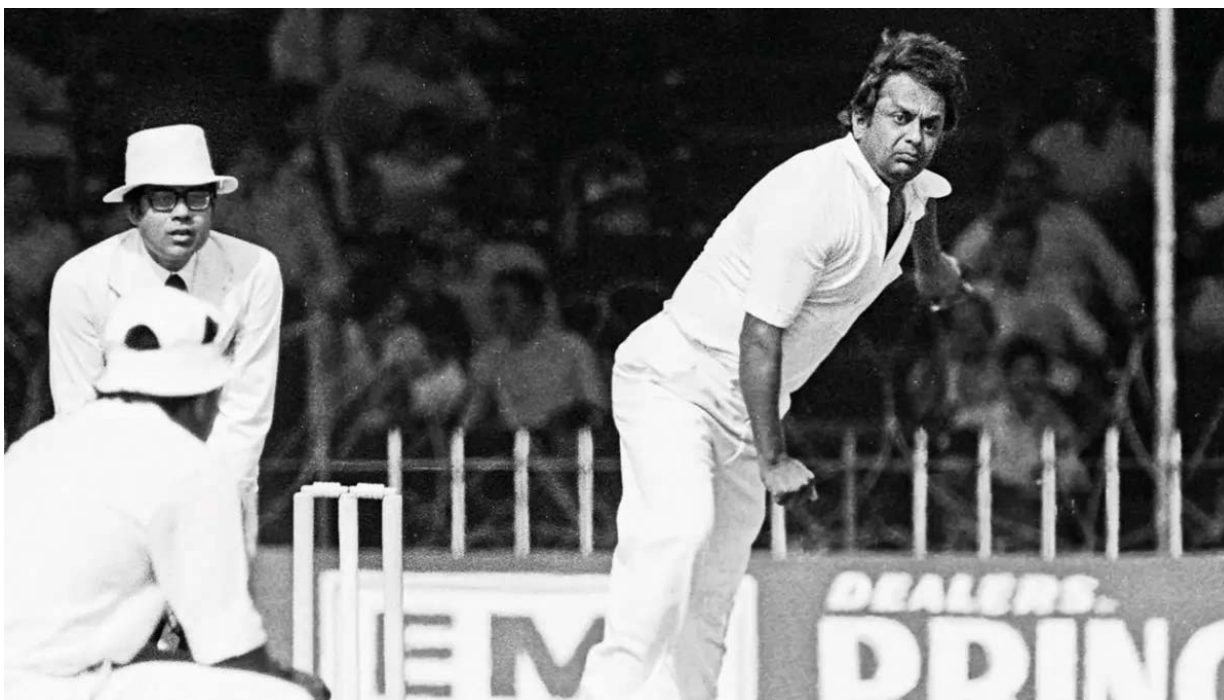
Sport is mostly about competition and rivalry. If human beings were not combative, wrote the former England captain and psychoanalyst, Mike Brearley, no one would have invented sport.

Rivalry is stitched into the fabric of sport; you cannot have competition without rivalry. A round of golf or tennis or table tennis at your club or among friends loses all meaning if rules are not followed and if allowance is not made for winning and losing. "I am not letting you win" is as much a challenge among friends as it is, in a more sophisticated way, about professional sportspersons playing for their national teams. Cricket has its hierarchy of rivalries. When I was in school in Bangalore, it was Baldwin's vs Bishop Cotton's. Hundreds,

sometimes thousands, turned up for the inter-school finals. In college, it was St. Joseph's against everybody else, with matches often attracting international players too.

At club level, it was Bangalore United Cricket

Club (BUCC) vs. Swastic Union. The two teams between them had many Karnataka players, as did the State Bank vs. Syndicate Bank encounters in the local league. And then at the Ranji level, there was Karnataka vs. Tamil Nadu. The Ranji Trophy was played as a league in the five zones then, and although in



Hyderabad Karnataka had rivals just as tough, it was the Tamil Nadu game that always carried an edge. This may have been because the teams were led by the two off spinners vying for a place

in the Indian team, Erapalli Prasanna and Srinivasa Venkataraghavan. Perhaps, it was because someone at some time did not wish someone else good morning—rivalries have developed from less—the point being that they need not evolve from anything rational or logical. Context is important, of course. Historical

reasons often exist and if they do not, they are easily invented. Successful teams tend to find themselves becoming unpopular among their peers. Choosing a team to support is, for most fans, a matter of hometown familiarity. But the motivation for choosing a specific rival is more complex and not always amenable to straightforward explanation. Not only should the local team do well and, therefore, become deserving of

praise and cheer, but also the rival team must be hated with a passion. This behaviour is borrowed from English football. But, to be honest, one sees less of that fervour today.



How Deccan's Politics Is Turning Into David Versus Delhi's Goliath Battle

Regional parties like the Trinamool Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Biju Janata Dal, and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi appear to have come up with their own unique optics and strategies involving regional pride. For these regional political Davids, this could be a formula to take on the rampaging Goliath of Delhi's Deen Dayal Upadhyay marg

Telangana, the heart of the Deccan, is not unaccustomed to hostility with Delhi.

Between 12th and 14th century AD, the Kakatiya dynasty spanned present-day Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The regime's later rulers staved off the might of the Delhi Sultanate, until the defeat of its last king Prataprudra Deva II by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq in 1323.

Rudra Deva's brother Annama Deva, who was being hauled back to Delhi after the defeat, slipped his captor's clutches along with a band of followers in the Danadakaranya forests, now in Chhattisgarh, where he founded the Bhanj dynasty.

In July this year, the Bhanj dynasty's 22nd titular head and a Kakatiya heir, 38-year-old Kamal Chandra Bhanj Deo, arrived in Telangana, amid state government-orchestrated fanfare to kick-off a seven-day Kakatiya festival, to celebrate the glory of the Kakatiya regime. The Kakatiyas were headquartered out of Warangal, Telangana's second largest city. Deo's trumpeted return to Telangana, a region where his ancestors reigned, may have linkages to history, but the visit also appears to be rooted to contemporary politics too.

For K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), supremo of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS, formerly known as the Telangana Rashtra Samithi — TRS), the Kakatiyas and their iconic lineage, suits well as a convenient political body armour to take on the BJP's pan-India nationalism artillery.

About the Kakatiya dynasty

Venetian adventurer and trader Marco Polo arrived in Mutfili, a flourishing port in Kakatiya empire in 1292 AD. His account of travels during the reign of the Kakatiya

dynasty's third sovereign, Rudrama Devi, glitters with tales about the riches of the land.

"No other country but this kingdom of Mutfili (now in Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh) produces them (diamonds), but there they are found both abundantly and of large size. Those that are brought to our part of the world are only the refuse, as it were, of the finer and larger stones. For the flowers of the diamonds and other large gems as well as the largest pearls, are all carried to the Great Kaan (Khan) and other Kings and Princes of those regions; in truth they possess all the great treasures of the world," according to the adventurer's notes documented in the book Travels of Marco Polo.

But diamonds alone were not the calling card of the Kakatiya clan, nor was their penchant for constructing temples, some of which are considered architectural marvels. The regime was better known for developing an intricate system of water tanks. Successive kings built as many as 70,000 water tanks across their kingdom to facilitate potable water and irrigation for their kingdom's denizens.

Kakatiya to KCR

The BRS is quick to draw parallels between this legacy of the Kakatiyas and KCR's much trumpeted 'Mission Kakatiya', an elaborate plan to rejuvenate the ancient water tank network.

"Telangana is known for water tanks which are linked. Development of the irrigation sector was a great achievement of the Kakatiya dynasty. They have built more than 70,000 tanks. After the formation of Telangana, our Chief Minister undertook a mission called 'Mission Kakatiya' to restore the tanks, which has contributed a lot to minor irrigation. Lakhs of acres of land could be irrigated and the ground

water is now recharged. It's a great achievement. The Kakatiyas had done it then and after centuries our Chief Minister has done the same," BRS spokesperson Ravula Sridhar Reddy told Outlook.

The water tank legacy

According to Telangana-based historian Aravind Pakide, the impact of the Kakatiya dynastic rule can still be felt in the lives of the state's residents, right down to the water they drink.

"The water we are drinking today is because of the Kakatiyas and the tank system which they built. Many of these tanks are still in use even after centuries. The water we are using for agriculture or drinking purposes is because of the Kakatiyas, if not Telangana would have been an arid region like Rayalaseema," Pakide told Outlook.

Telangana accounts for 46,531 such water tanks, most of which slipped into a state of disuse over time. Mission Kakatiya plans to restore 9,306 water tanks every year.

Why regional icons?

When Telangana was carved out as a separate state out of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the thoran, an emblem of the Kakatiya dynasty found its way into the state's official insignia along with the Charminar, built by the Qutb Shahi dynasty.

Telangana is a cradle of a medley of cultures, which assimilate into the larger Dakkhini identity, that bears influence of Islamic rule as well as regimes like the Kakatiyas or much later the British.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has brooked little stopping in its march across the country, using Hindutva and nationalism as its battering rams. With the Congress, the BJP's principal national opponent, in a state of perennial crumble,

regional parties like the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Biju Janata Dal (BJD), and the BRS appear to have come up with their own unique optics and strategies involving regional pride, as a shield against the BJP's pan-India nationalism mantra. And with the saffron party more adept at critiquing Islamic icons, the BRS's use of the Kakatiya empire makes for a much more complex target of a target for the BJP to attack. It also allows Rao's party to use the regional icons as a bulwark against the tide of nationalism engineered by the BJP, more effectively so during election campaigns.

BRS's Reddy also draws a stark contradiction between the inclusive regime of the Kakatiyas versus BJP's nationalism, which he said propagates a divisive approach.

"Kakatiyas are known for their liberal and democratic approach, even then. They have ruled all sections equally and allowed freedom of whatever faith or religion that you practice...An ideology should work for the nation's integrity, development and people's welfare. It should not be used to divide people. In the name of nationalistic approach or cultural nationalism, BJP propagates the divisive approach," Reddy claimed.

Tough to beat regional trump card According to BJP's chief spokesperson for Telangana K. Krishna Sagar Rao, it is not easy for a national party to take on a regional party which uses its sub-national identity to parry his party's constant nationalistic punches. "It is hard to beat a regional trump card especially when you have two regional parties operating in the state. But if there is one regional party, it is not impossible to beat them, but it takes a long time," Rao told Outlook.

Elon Musk Warns Twitter Staff: 80-Hour Weeks, No Free Food, No WFH...

The warning came amid a tumultuous start to Elon Musk's reign at Twitter -- a two-week period in which he has fired half of the company's staff

Elon Musk, in his first address to Twitter employees since purchasing the company for \$44 billion, said that bankruptcy was a possibility if it doesn't start generating more cash, according to people familiar with the matter. The warning came amid a tumultuous start to Musk's reign at the social media company -- a two-week period in which he has fired half of Twitter's staff, ushered out most of the top executives and ordered the remaining employees to stop working from home.

One executive, who until Thursday had emerged as part of Musk's new leadership team, Yoel Roth, departed, people familiar with the situation said. Another, Robin Wheeler, also resigned -- but Musk persuaded her to stay on, said some of the people, who requested anonymity to protect personal and professional relationships.

While the buyout has removed Twitter from the scrutiny of public markets, Musk loaded the company with almost \$13 billion of debt that's now in the hands of

seven Wall Street banks that have been unable to offload it to investors.

Confidence in the company has eroded so rapidly that, even before Musk's bankruptcy comments, some funds were offering to buy the loans for as little as 60 cents on the dollar -- a price typically reserved for companies deemed in financial distress, Bloomberg News reported on Thursday.

In his address to staff, Musk issued multiple dire warnings. Employees should brace for 80-hour work weeks. There will be fewer office perks like free food. And he ended the pandemic-era flexibility that allowed employees to work from home.

"If you don't want to come, resignation accepted," he said, according to a person familiar with the matter.

When he was asked about the prospect of attrition, Musk said, "We all need to be more hardcore."

In discussing Twitter's finances and future, Musk said the company needed to move with

urgency to make its \$8 subscription product, Twitter Blue, something users will want to pay for, given a pullback by advertisers who are concerned about harmful content.

Musk has in the past used the threat of financial ruin in an attempt to motivate workers, according to a person familiar with his management style. He's trying to convey the notion that if people don't work hard, Twitter will be left in a very difficult spot, this person said.

The Information and Platformer earlier reported Musk's bankruptcy statement.

He also hinted at products he'd like to introduce, including payments, ads that are more conversational and interest-bearing checking accounts. Onboarding to the Twitter app should be smoother, as is the case with TikTok, he said.

Earlier Thursday, Twitter's chief information security officer, chief privacy officer and chief compliance officer departed, raising concerns about the

company's ability to keep its platform secure and comply with regulations. Twitter is currently bound by a consent decree with the Federal Trade Commission that regulates how the company handles user data, and could be subject to fines for violations.

Roth had since taken over all of the social network's Trust and Safety efforts, while Wheeler, a sales vice president, had recently stepped up to oversee relations with jittery advertisers. She hinted at her decision to stay in a tweet, as well as a post on an internal Slack channel.

The debt Twitter took on to finance Musk's buyout is leaving it with interest costs that, by one estimate, will surge to \$1.2 billion a year.

The social network has seen a pullback from some advertisers that are concerned about Musk's plans for content moderation.

Debt investors and credit raters are also showing little confidence. The company's banks have been quietly sounding out hedge funds and other asset managers for their

interest in buying a chunk of the company's debt.

Discussions so far have centered around the \$6.5 billion leveraged loan portion of the financing, people with knowledge of the talks said. Banks had seemed unwilling to sell for any price below 70 cents on the dollar, according to one of the people. Even at that level, losses could run into the billions of dollars, Bloomberg calculations show. Moody's Investors Service, meanwhile, recently cut Twitter's credit rating deeper into junk territory.

"Twitter's governance risk is highly negative reflecting Moody's expectation for aggressive financial policies and concentrated ownership by Elon Musk," the ratings firm said. Musk in an email late Wednesday warned employees of "difficult times ahead," with "no way to sugarcoat the message" about the economic outlook for the company. He ended employees' ability to work remotely unless he personally approved it.

A predicted 'red wave' crashed into wall of abortion rights support on Tuesday

A surge in turnout among people motivated by the erosion of abortion rights carried Democrats to victory in multiple races

A surge in turnout among people motivated by the erosion of abortion rights carried Democrats to victory in races for governor, Senate, attorney general and state legislatures — defying predictions that the issue had faded for voters in the months since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade.

Tuesday's results likely ensure that millions of people will be able to legally terminate a pregnancy going forward — and bolster progressives' arguments that reproductive rights is a winning issue that Democrats and their allies should pursue aggressively in the years ahead. "There are lessons here for 2024 that I hope the administration will take to heart," said Morgan Hopkins, the leader of All* Above All, an abortion-rights advocacy group. "We showed up, especially young voters of color, in record numbers. Now, we need these elected officials to show up for us." The abortion-rights campaign also prevailed in ballot measure fights in swing states like Michigan and GOP strongholds like Kentucky, while candidates up and

down the ballot in Pennsylvania benefited from voters concerned with preserving access.

Soaring inflation, which pre-election polls showed was, by far, the most important issue for voters, just barely outpaced abortion in exit polls, 31 percent to 27 percent, according to the National

Election Pool exit poll, conducted by Edison Research. And about 60 percent of voters said they were dissatisfied or angry with the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, according to both that exit poll and AP VoteCast.

Citing these results, abortion-rights advocates who have been frustrated with the Biden administration's cautious

response to the fall of Roe v. Wade wasted no time in pushing Democratic leaders in



Washington, D.C., and around the country to pursue bolder policies to protect the procedure going forward, arguing it's not the political risk many believed it to be. Some top Democrats rushed to echo that message Wednesday. Despite the likelihood of a divided government in Washington next year, assistant House Speaker Katherine

Clark (D-Mass.) said it's clear voters "want leaders who stand up for reproductive freedom and defend women's rights — leaders who will not allow women to be sidelined in our economy or singled out as second-class citizens." Abortion's impact was especially evident in two swing states — Pennsylvania and Michigan — where Democrats in tight races at all levels of government won following campaigns that contrasted their opponents' anti-abortion views with pledges to defend the procedure.

Michigan Democrats, who campaigned on their opposition to the state's 1931 near-total abortion ban and ran on newly drawn maps that made districts more competitive, flipped control of the state Legislature for the first time in decades. And in Pennsylvania, where Democrat John Fetterman flipped a red Senate seat blue, 36 percent of voters said abortion was the most important issue to them, compared to 29 percent for inflation, according to the National Election Pool exit poll.

Excessive drinking by women to blame for low birthrate, claims Polish leader, gets schooled

Poland's leader of a governing party claimed that excessive drinking by women was the reason for low birthrate in the country

(News Agency) Poland's leader from a ruling party, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, on Monday ruffled the feathers of the majority of the Polish population while claiming excessive drinking by young women was the reason behind the country's low birthrate. The comment drew flak from people from sections of society, including politicians and celebrities, calling the comments nonsense and patriarchal. "If we see a continuation of the situation where, until the age of 25, young women drink as much as men their age, then there will be no children," Kaczynski was quoted as saying by the Guardian. Making a weird assertion, the leader

claimed that men need to drink excessively for 20 years on an average to become an alcoholic, while for women just two.

Kaczynski claimed his contention was based on a doctor's experience who cured a third of his male alcoholic patients but failed to cure a woman. Official statistics put the current birthrate at just over 1.3 children for each woman – a figure below both the EU average and the threshold of generational renewal, reported the Guardian. Critics see financial stability and abortion restrictions as possible reasons why Polish women are not confident about having children.



Boost Your Immunity: Black-eyed bean salad

In today's segment of Boost Your Immunity, we bring to you a tasty and healthy recipe of Black-eyed bean salad. It is easy to make and has high nutritional value.

(By Staff Reporter) Health has taken precedence over everything else in today's world. It's of utmost importance to boost our immunity in order to safeguard ourselves from diseases and also build the strength to fight them. Today, in our Boost Your Immunity segment, we bring you a protein-rich recipe made with black-eyed beans, also known as black-eyed peas or lobia. Manisha Aggarwal, a Delhi-based nutritionist, shares a recipe of Black-eyed bean salad with IndiaToday.in and also informs us about the great nutritional value of these pulses. The dish overall benefits health, builds immunity

and can be enjoyed as a snack anytime.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup dry Lobia or black-eyed beans
1 medium tomato finely-chopped
1 cucumber finely-chopped
1 ripe mango
50g chopped cottage cheese
¼ cup roasted and coarsely chopped peanuts
Chopped coriander leaves for garnishing
Seasonings:
Juice of 1 lemon
¼ tsp cinnamon powder
¼ tsp black pepper powder
¼ tsp roasted cumin powder
¼ tsp chaat masala

1 tsp honey

Black salt as per taste

HOW TO MAKE

Soak lobia overnight or for 4-6 hours. Pressure-cook it along with salt for 2-3 whistles. Keep a check on the amount of water used, it shouldn't be more than 1-1/2 cups. Take a large mixing bowl and add the drained and cooled lobia followed by chopped, tomato, cucumber, mango and cottage cheese. Add all the seasonings and mix well. Sprinkle coarsely grounded peanuts and fresh coriander.

BENEFITS

The main ingredient, lobia/cowpea/black-eyed pea, is high



on protein, zinc, folate, magnesium and potassium. High soluble fiber and insoluble fiber content makes it desirable as an antidiabetic and antihypertensive product. Since many Covid patients are experiencing high sugar levels, this chaat can be helpful. Cottage cheese and peanuts further increase protein and zinc value of the dish.

Lemons and tomatoes used here add much-required vitamin C. Cinnamon and black pepper are perfect for boosting immunity. Black salt aids in digestion. Tomatoes, mangoes and cucumber are all rich in phytochemicals which are extremely important in reducing inflammations in our body.

Is walking 10,000 steps every day really necessary?



(By Staff Reporter) When it comes to being fit and healthy, we're often reminded to aim to walk 10,000 steps per day. This can be a frustrating target to achieve, especially when we're busy with work and other commitments. Most of us know by now that 10,000 steps is recom-

mended everywhere as a target to achieve -- and yet where did this number actually come from? The 10,000 steps a day target seems to have come about from a trade name pedometer sold in 1965 by Yamasa Clock in Japan. The device was called "Manpo-kei", which translates to "10,000

steps meter". This was a marketing tool for the device and has seemed to have stuck across the world as the daily step target. It's even included in daily activity targets by popular smartwatches, such as Fitbit.

Research has since investigated the 10,000 steps a day target. The fact that some studies have shown this step target improves heart health, mental health, and even lowers diabetes risk, may, to some extent, explain why we have stuck with this arbitrary number.

In ancient Rome, distances were actually measured by counting steps. In fact, the word "mile" was derived from the Latin phrase milia passum, which means

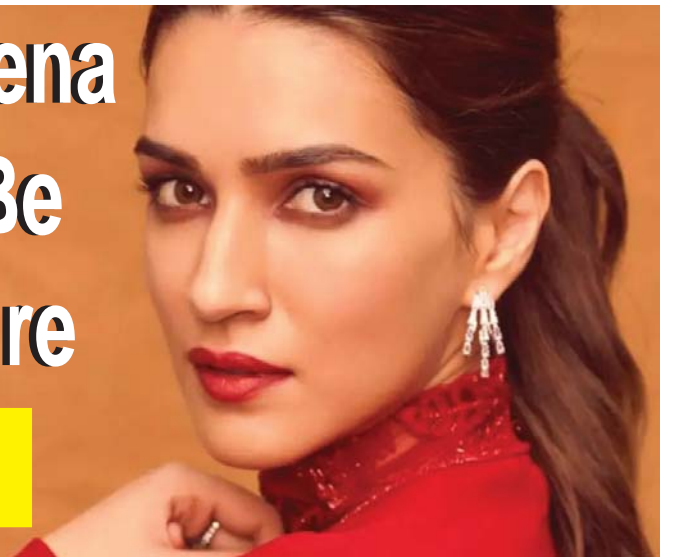
1,000 paces -- about 2,000 steps. It's suggested the average person walks about 100 steps per minute -- which would mean it would take a little under 30 minutes for the average person to walk a mile. So in order for someone to reach the 10,000 step goal, they would need to walk between four and five miles a day (around two hours of activity).

But while some research has shown health benefits at 10,000 steps, recent research from Harvard Medical School has shown that, on average, approximately 4,400 steps a day is enough to significantly lower the risk of death in women. This was when compared to only walking around 2,700 steps daily. The

more steps people walked, the lower their risk of dying was, before leveling off at around 7,500 steps a day. No additional benefits were seen with more steps. Although it's uncertain whether similar results would be seen in men, it's one example of how moving a little bit more daily can improve health and lower risk of death. While the World Health Organization recommends adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week (or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity), research also shows that even low-intensity exercise can improve your health -- though moderate-intensity exercise improves it to a greater extent.

Kriti Sanon On Working With Kareena Kapoor Khan, Tabu: So Rare To Be Cast Alongside Women You Admire

I'm eager to watch the organic chemistry develop between these three characters, says Kriti



(News Agency) Actor Kriti Sanon has come onboard with senior actors like Kareena Kapoor Khan and Tabu for Rhea Kapoor and Ekta Kapoor's next film 'The Crew'. Sharing her excitement level of working with such senior names in the industry, the 'Heropanti' actor says that she is over the moon.

"I feel like we always get to work with the men we want to, but never with the women we look up to. It's so rare to be cast alongside women you admire in an

industry where male-dominated films rule the box office," says Kriti. In a conversation with Rhea Kapoor for the Vogue, she adds, "I think that's also one of the reasons why I don't have too many female actors who are friends. When you told me about this project—even before you revealed the rest of the cast—I remember how keen I was to be a part of it solely because it would have two other women in leading roles. When I got to know who the other two actors would be, I was even more thrilled

because I've been a fan of both Tabu and Kareena.

"I've bumped into Tabu at various events, parties and award functions, and she has always been so warm. Bebo is simply iconic. Who doesn't want to work with her?"

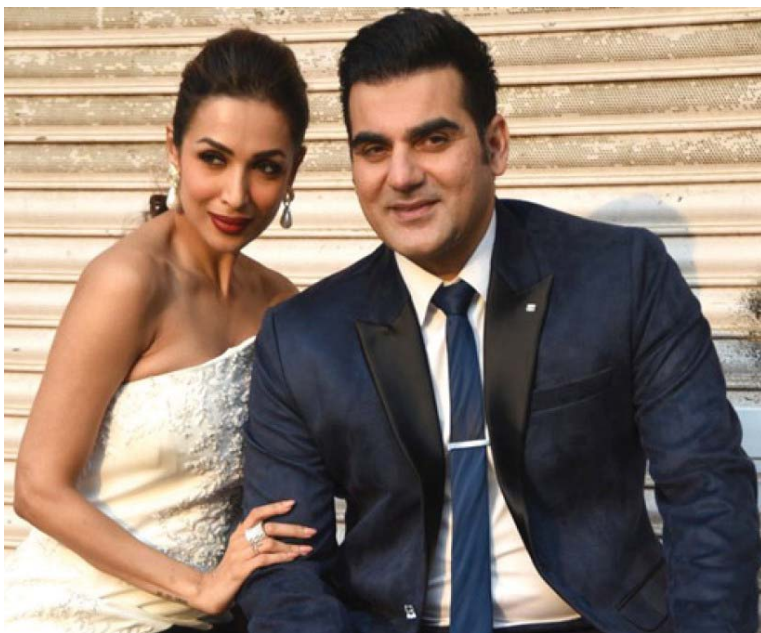
The film is being touted as a cocktail of drama and comedy and is set against the backdrop of the struggling airline industry. The official statement reads, "Three women work and hustle to make it in life.

However, their destinies lead to some unwarranted situations and they get caught in a web of lies. The Crew is a rib-tickling ride of comedy of errors and mishaps! Life comes to you with its set of challenges, are you up for it?"

Kriti adds that the script of the project is the USP as well. "It doesn't have set lines and dialogues, and I'm actually very excited about that. I'm eager to watch the organic chemistry develop between these three characters," she says.

Arbaaz Khan On Relationship With Malaika Arora Post Divorce: We've Grown To Appreciate Each Other's Choices

Arbaaz Khan also quashed Katrina Kaif's comment that he is the most romantic of the three Khan brothers



(News Agency) Actor-filmmaker Arbaaz Khan will next be seen in thriller series 'Tanaav', an adaptation of Israeli show 'Fauda'. During one of the promotional interviews, he opened up on his relationship with ex-wife Malaika Arora, and how they're in a better place now that time has passed. Arbaaz added how they are both providing a good environment for the upbringing of their son Arhaan, who turned 20 on November 9. During a chat with Siddharth Kannan, Arbaaz was asked if he has a much better relationship with Malaika post divorce, to which he said, "We have a child together, so we have to be in a

nice state of mind, and that's how we've always been. And yes, we've both grown to be different people, and we've matured over the years, and have been a little more accepting about each other's... a lot of things"

Arbaaz, who tied the knot with Malaika in 1998 and split up in 2017, added, "We've got to move on in life, we have to accept things in life, and there are a lot of things about me that she may have accepted and a lot of things about her that I may have accepted. But we have one common interest, and that's our child. And he doesn't deserve any kind of scenario where there's a discord while he's

growing up." He also mentioned that Malaika and he have been mature about a lot of things. "We've grown to appreciate each other's... Choices, let's put it that way, and life decisions." Meanwhile, he certainly rejected the tag of being the most

'romantic' of the three Khan brothers after Katrina Kaif termed him that years ago on 'Koffee with Karan'. Arbaaz said, "I don't like that title, because I'm not a very romantic person. It seems like maybe, it gets projected that way, but no. As in, in the Mills and

Boons way. I make my concern and care felt in different ways. Bouquets and cards are irrelevant to me."

Arbaaz is reportedly in a relationship with Giorgia Andriani, while Malaika is dating actor Arjun Kapoor.

Rebel Wilson Takes Surrogacy Route To Have A Baby Girl

Australian actress-comedian Rebel Wilson, who has been in the news for her dramatic weight loss and giving the middle finger to Russian President Vladimir Putin at the 2022 BAFTA Awards, has announced the birth of her first child via surrogate

(News Agency) Australian actress-comedian Rebel Wilson, who has been in the news for her dramatic weight loss and giving the middle finger to Russian President Vladimir Putin at the 2022 BAFTA Awards, has announced the birth of her first child via surrogate, reports BBC News.

The 42-year-old "Bridesmaids" and "Pitch Perfect" star shared the first picture of daughter Royce Lilly online, describing her as a "beautiful miracle". She also thanked the "gorgeous" surrogate for carrying her. Taking to her Instagram handle, Wilson shared her all-bundled-up newborn daughter's picture along with a long caption: "Beyond proud to announce the birth of my first child, Royce Lillian, born this past week via surrogate. I can't even describe the love I have for her, she's a beautiful miracle! "I am forever grateful to everyone who has been involved, (you know who you are), this has been

years in the making ... but particularly wanted to thank my gorgeous surrogate who carried her and birthed her with such grace and care. Thank you for helping me start my own family,

it's an amazing gift. The BEST gift!!" I am ready to give little Roycie all the love imaginable. I am learning quickly ... much respect to all the Mums out there! Proud to be in your club." The comic actor, according to BBC

News, revealed in June that she was in a relationship with female fashion designer Ramona Agruma. She said at the time: "I thought I was searching for a Disney Prince ... but maybe what I really needed all this time was a Disney Princess." Wilson hosted the BAFTAs for the first time this year, cracking jokes about her dramatic weight loss, the Royal Family and her flop film "Cats", and of course, showing the world how she felt about Putin.



BOLLYWOOD SUPERSTAR RANVEER SINGH TO MESMERIZE YAS ISLAND WITH HIS ELECTRIFYING PERFORMANCE AT IIFA WEEKEND AND AWARDS 2023



(News Agency) 8th November 2022, Mumbai: Bollywood's biggest superstar and global icon Ranveer Singh is all set to dazzle at Yas Island, Abu Dhabi with his electrifying performance for the prestigious IIFA Awards next year! Ranveer, who is the Brand Ambassador of Yas Island, will deliver a never seen before onstage performance at the 23rd edition of IIFA Awards at the magnificent Etihad Arena in 2023. Ranveer is regarded as the undisputed best live performer of his generation and the energy is set to be off the scale when he takes the stage at the IIFA awards night.

This already popular & high-demand event, the IIFA awards and weekend, will return to Yas Island in Abu Dhabi on February 10th and 11th, 2023. IIFA is the world's biggest celebration of Indian cinema and it is set to bring together the very best in music and entertainment under one roof. Ranveer Singh, who has become the cultural ambassador of India

given his soaring popularity the world over, will give audiences attending the IIFA Awards at Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, a performance that they will never forget.

Talking about the event Superstar Ranveer Singh says, "I'm excited to be headlining IIFA again with a performance that hopefully will be memorable to all those attending it. I'm thrilled for this one because I will be performing at Yas Island, my home away from home. As the Brand Ambassador for such a spectacular destination, I cannot wait to showcase the island to my friends from the industry, as well as to those attending this event as an audience. I'm anticipating the most incredible IIFA experience to date at Yas because I know it will be epic in every way possible!"

The grandiose global event will take place at the Middle East's largest state-of-the-art indoor entertainment venue, Etihad Arena, part of Yas Bay Waterfront on Yas Island, Abu Dhabi.

About IIFA (International Indian Film Academy)

IIFA is dedicated to building bridges across cinemas, businesses, communities and nations, creating everyone's dream: "One People. One World". IIFA is the most appreciated South Asian film academy and a global platform that gives the Indian film fraternity an opportunity to reach

audiences in international territories. The alliances made via the platform of IIFA provide huge benefits and gain to India and an equally important objective is to create similar benefits in the host country. The aim is to establish a system of mutual benefit to both India as well as the host destinations by boosting tourism, economic development, trade, culture, cross-border investments and film co-productions. The IIFA Weekend & Awards each year and travels to new, exciting and beautiful destinations, taking the film fraternity to unite and celebrate the best of Indian film and culture, thereby taking Indian Cinema and India to a wider audience. www.iifa.com

About Miral

Miral is Abu Dhabi's creator of destinations, uniting people and places through unique, immersive and exciting experiences. Responsible for the development and management of Yas Island, Miral's assets encompass entertainment, hospitality, leisure, sport, dining and retail destinations. Today, Yas Island is home to Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi, Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi, CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi, Yas Links Golf Course, Yas Mall, Yas Marina Circuit, Yas Marina and eight hotels, including Hilton Abu

Dhabi Yas Island located on Yas Bay, the soon to be Abu Dhabi's premier waterfront destination. For more information, visit <http://www.miral.ae>

About the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) drives the sustainable growth of Abu Dhabi's culture and tourism sectors and its creative industries, fuelling economic progress and helping to achieve Abu Dhabi's wider global ambitions. By working in partnership with the organizations that define DCT Abu Dhabi's position as a leading international destination, DCT Abu Dhabi strives to unite the ecosystem around a shared vision of the DCT Abu Dhabi's potential, coordinate effort and investment, deliver innovative solutions, and use the best tools, policies and systems to support the culture, tourism and creative industries. DCT Abu Dhabi's vision is defined by the emirate's people, heritage and landscape. We work to enhance Abu Dhabi's status as a place of authenticity, innovation, and unparalleled experiences, represented by its living traditions of hospitality, pioneering initiatives and creative thought.

For more information about DCT Abu Dhabi and the destination, please visit tcaabudhabi.ae and visitabudhabi.ae.

About Yas Island

Located on the golden shores of Abu Dhabi - just 20 minutes from downtown Abu Dhabi and 50 minutes from Dubai, Yas Island Abu Dhabi offers holiday makers a diverse mix of award-winning leisure and entertainment experiences. From award winning theme parks Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi, and Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi to the record-breaking attraction CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi, Yas Marina Circuit (home to the FORMULA 1 ETIHAD AIRWAYS ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX™), Yas Bay Waterfront, Abu Dhabi's vibrant day to night destination, visitors will discover a world of entertainment options, all within the 25 sq km Island. Yas Island also boasts world-class shopping and superb dining, a links golf course, exciting water and motor sports, and a year-round line-up of spectacular musical, entertainment and family events at venues including the Etihad Arena. With SeaWorld Abu Dhabi due to open on Yas Island during the next year, Yas Island continues to add more attractions, cementing the wide appeal of the destination.

Fans react to Zeenat Aman's new pics from a shoot, call her evergreen: 'All-time favourite diva'

Zeenat Aman's latest photos left fans speechless. Many praised the veteran actor for her look, and called her 'charming' and 'beautiful'

(News Agency) Zeenat Aman made her Bollywood debut with the 1971 film Hulchul. The veteran actor, who recently completed work on two web series, was seen posing with actor Akanksha Puri, who was seen in the reality show, Swayamvar: Mika Di Vohti. Akanksha shared new photos of herself with Zeenat from a shoot, leaving fans of the veteran actor impressed with her look. Many left comments like 'wow' and 'beautiful' on Zeenat's photos. On Sunday, Akanksha took to Instagram to share two photos of herself standing behind Zeenat Aman, who was seated on a chair, as they posed for the camera.

Sharing the post, she wrote in the caption, "Feeling blessed to share screen with the most beautiful, charming and charismatic personality of all time. Totally spellbound by your evergreen beauty Zeenat Aman ma'am." Fans dropped fire and heart emojis in the comments section of the post. Zeenat wore black sunglasses with a silver and white outfit. She also wore pearl necklaces and flaunted silver hair. Akanksha was seen in a blue outfit. Reacting to Zeenat's look, a fan commented on the photos, "All-time favourite diva." Another one wrote, "Evergreen charming diva." Praising the two women, a fan wrote, "Two strong

personalities in one frame." Another comment read, "Best pictures of the day." Some fans also said they could not wait to see the veteran actor on the big screen again. Zeenat Aman was the first South Asian woman to win the title of Miss Asia Pacific in 1970. At 20, she starred in her third film, which went on to become her first hit – Dev Anand's Hare Rama Hare Krishna (1971). Zeenat is known for featuring in iconic songs like Chura Liya from Yaadon Ki Baaraat (1974) and Aap Jaisa Koi from Qurbani (1980), among many others. Zeenat was last seen in Ashutosh Gowariker's period drama Panipat in 2019.



Salman Khan, Sohail Khan, Arbaaz Khan may 'come together' for film 'very soon', Arbaaz reveals exclusive details

Arbaaz Khan talks about discussing work with brothers Salman Khan and Sohail Khan and how soon the three will collaborate for one film



(News Agency) Apart from their appearance on the couch of Koffee With Karan years ago, Salman Khan, Sohail Khan, and Arbaaz Khan have never starred together in a film. The different permutations of two brothers together have appeared in a number of films over the years but the trio is yet to be seen in one frame. Recently, chatting exclusively with Hindustan Times, Arbaaz revealed that that may soon be about to change. Salman is currently busy with two films-- Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan and Tiger 3, while Arbaaz is gearing up for his web series--Tanaav, the Hindi adaptation of Israeli show Fauda. Sohail, who has been active as a producer, saw his last film release last year-- Salman-starrer Radhe. Arbaaz Khan says most of the brothers' conversations are about films and work. "Most of our discussions are about the work that each of us does. So when we meet, it's all about how that shoot is going, how many schedules are left for that one, when is the release, what are the songs like etc. We keep asking each other about the films we are doing because we are all doing our own thing. That is where we get our information from. Otherwise, we don't normally know much about the latest updates on each other's work. Sometimes

people presume we know all that in and out. We all have our own lives and do our own things," he says. Arbaaz says that contrary to popular opinion, most of the time, the siblings are unaware of how the other brother's latest project is shaping up. "He explains, "People think we must be privy to every detail in bhai's film as it is being made. But sometimes, we watch it with everyone else when it is finally made. That's because we sometimes don't want our siblings to see something that's not ready." He adds, "Of course we talk about films but we don't talk about just films. Like any family, we have all the jokes and masti, joke with each other. Sometimes it's generic like with any family." Salman and Sohail starred in the 2005 film Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya, where Arbaaz had a brief cameo, making it the only film where the three appeared but never together. Apart from this, Arbaaz and Salman have worked together in films like Hello Brother, Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya, and Dabangg, while Arbaaz and Sohail have appeared together in Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na.

Arbaaz mentions that the something. And that might brothers are all doing their not be too late. It'll be quite own things. But is there a soon."Arbaaz will soon star project in the near future in Tanaav, which will stream where they will collaborate on SonyLiv from November and do the same thing 11. The action-thriller is set together. Arbaaz responds, in Kashmir and deals with the "Yes, there is a big possibility insurgency and of that. Whenever that counter insurgency opportunity or window is operations in the Valley. The there, we don't miss it. It's show also stars Manav Vij, just that right now, we are all Shashank Arora, Rajat engaged in our own things. Kapoor, Waluscha De Sousa, But there will be a time when Ekta Kaul, Sukhmani Sidana, finally Sohail, Salman and I Sumit Kaul, Zarina Wahab, will come together for and MK Raina.

A Menace To society': Raj Kundra For Sherlyn Chopra

In October last year, Sherlyn had filed a complaint against Raj and his wife, actor Shilpa Shetty for fraud and mental harassment

(By Staff Reporter) While reacting to a tweet about actor SherylN Chopra producing adult content, businessman Raj Kundra has called actor-model Sherlyn Chopra a 'menace to society'. A tweet mentioned how Sherlyn in producing videos on streaming site Only Fans but the police filed a complaint against Raj. Retweeting the original tweet, Raj posted, "This is my exact point! Who is she blaming for her own produced X rate content on only fans that she has monetised! She is talking about vulgarity and women rights yet producing this kind of filth! She will be arrested soon...matter of time! She is a menace 2 society! @MahaCyber1."

In October last year, Sherlyn had filed a complaint against Raj and his wife, actor Shilpa Shetty for fraud and mental harassment. The businessman was being investigated for his connection to apps that created content that has been alleged to be pornographic in nature. Raj,

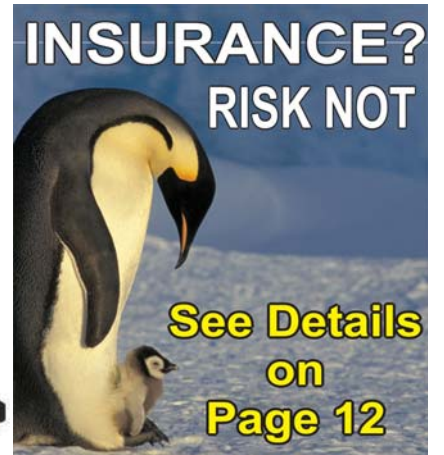
in his defense, had reportedly said that it was simply adult content.

Previously, Sherlyn said how officials asked her about her relationship with Raj. 'Raj Kundra ke sath mere kaise sambandh the' and what about the other



companies owned by him, 'do you have any information about them'? The whole day was spent sharing the information. Even I asked if there are any more questions, please ask as I want justice for all the women, artists who have been victims of this pornography racket." Later, Raj and Shilpa filed a Rs. 50 crore defamation suit against Sherlyn and demanded a public apology.

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India-Pakistan Cricket Rivalry: A War Without Shooting

In the times of social media and TV channels, which whip up emotions that are more often than not toxic and come camouflaged as nationalism, a big game between India and Pakistan relationship always brings an edge and pressure.

